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Reference **Erste Bank, Commission file no. 82-5066**
"Rule 12g3-2 promulgated under the Securities Exchange
Act 1934, paragraph (b)(1)(i)"
Date **1.07.2008**
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including this one **2**



Please find attached the following Erste Bank release:

Investor Information:
Erste Bank acquires 9.8% stake in Russian Bank Center-Invest

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INVESTOR INFORMATION

Vienna, 1 July 2008

Erste Bank acquires 9.8% stake In Russian Bank Center-Invest

Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG (Erste Bank) announces the signature today of a share purchase agreement (SPA) to acquire 9.8% of the outstanding share capital of Bank Center-Invest from existing shareholders. In line with the SPA Erste Bank will nominate one member to the supervisory board. At the request of the existing shareholders, the pricing of the transaction remains confidential; the acquisition will have no material impact on Erste Bank's capital ratios. Closing of the transaction and transfer of the shares is expected in July 2008.

Bank Center-Invest is a leading regional bank in the Southern Federal District of Russia, which is home to nearly 23 million inhabitants and major cities such as Rostov, Krasnodar, Volgograd and Sochi. The region which borders Ukraine and the Black Sea in the west and covers 591,000 km², is considered one of the most economically diversified regions in Russia, with limited reliance on the oil and gas industry and particular strength in agriculture. Founded in 1992, Bank Center-Invest is headquartered in Rostov, employs approx 2,000 staff and has the second largest branch network (110 branches) in the Southern Federal District. Its total asset market share in the region is about 6%. At year-end 2007, total assets amounted to EUR 1.1 billion and shareholders' equity to EUR 145 million. At the same time ROE stood at 15% and the cost/income ratio was 55%.

This strategic investment in Bank Center-Invest provides an ideal opportunity for Erste Bank to gain first-hand experience of the highly promising Russian market and more importantly, is in a region that perfectly complements Erste Bank's existing geographic footprint. In addition, the bank's strong orientation towards transparency and corporate governance as well as its young but experienced management team has been one of the key determining factors for the investment decision.

The bank has a diversified ownership structure, which includes respected international financial institutions; apart from the founding Vysokov family who own 17.9% of the bank, EBRD (27.5%) and DEG - Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (22.5%) are the largest shareholders.

For more information, please contact:

Erste Bank, Investor Relations

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Gabriele Werzer, Tel. +43 (0) 5 0100 Ext. 11288, E-mail: gabriele.werzer@erstebank.at

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This release is also available on our website at <http://www.erstebank.com/investorrelations> in the news section.



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Nachricht/Message

Erste Bank, Commission file no. 82-5066
"Rule 12g3-2 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act 1934, paragraph
(b)(1)(i)"

Please find attached an Erste Bank investor release.

Kind regards

IR Team
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Announcement

Vienna, 23 June 2008

Trading in the new shares will start on 23 June 2008

A total of 722,918 shares were issued under the bank's Employee Share Ownership Programme (ESOP) and Management Stock Option Programme (MSOP) on 27 May 2008. As a result, the total number of Erste Bank shares rose from 316,288,945 to 317,011,863. Trading in the new shares will start on 23 June 2008 in Vienna, Prague and Bucharest. Shares purchased under the programme must be held for a minimum of one year.

For more information, please contact:

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This release is also available on our website at <http://www.erstebank.com/investorrelations> in the news section.



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Nachricht/Message

„Rule 12g3-2 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act 1934, paragraph (b)(1)(i)“

Please find attached today's IR-Release.

Best regards,
Investor Relations Team
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