

## **INVESTOR INFORMATION**

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## Strong demand leads to early closing of Retail-book

Strong retail demand for the new shares of Erste bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG being offered in its current capital increase, has led to an early closing of the retail-book. The deadline expires today at 5 p.m - a day earlier than originally announced.

"This press release does not constitute an offer of securities, nor a solicitation for an offer of securities. A prospectus that was approved by the Austrian Financial Markets Supervisory Authority was published on 10 January 2006. Interested persons can obtain a free copy of the prospectus from Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, Graben 21, A-1010 Wien (Kassensaal, Information desk) during business hours. In connection with the offer of securities of Erste Bank only the information contained in the prospectus is binding. This announcement may not be published or distributed in the United States, Canada, Japan or Australia. The securities and subscription rights to which this announcement relates have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an exemption from registration under the Securities Act. No public offering of the securities or subscription rights will be made in the United States."

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