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Erste's public tender offer for Rijecka banka's remaining minority shares successfully concluded

On June 15, 2002, the binding period for Erste Bank's mandatory tender offer for ordinary shares in Rijecka banka d.d. expired, marking the end of a successful transaction.

A total of 7,90 % or 399.984 shares were tendered to Erste Bank, which represent more than 50 % of the 14,98 % outstanding minority shares. Erste Bank now holds a total of 92,92 % of the total share capital of Rijecka banka in combination with the 85.02 % it had bought from the State Agency for Deposit Insurance and Bank Rehabilitation earlier this year.

Erste Bank sees the results of the Mandatory tender offer as a success. As a next step Erste Bank will ask for a capital decrease at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting at the End of July 2002 in order to cover for operating losses of the past. The capital decrease will immediately be followed by issuing of new shares in a capital increase of EUR 80 million in order to ensure a sound capital base of Rijecka banka.

JPMorgan has acted as exclusive financial advisor to Erste Bank for the acquisition of Rijecka banka.