

 **Erste Bank Shares Launch Trading  
on the PSE**

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The trading in shares of Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG on the Prague Stock Exchange started today. The Erste Bank share is the first foreign share traded on the PSE and carries the ISIN AT0000652011. The timing for the launch reflects the requirements of the issuer, the Stock Exchange as well as trading participants.

"The Czech Republic is a crucial market for Erste Bank. It is thus highly logical that Erste Bank wanted its shares to be traded on the PSE. No doubt this is a historical moment for Erste Bank, for the PSE and for local investors. The Erste Bank share offers a combination of stability and growth potential," Andreas Treichl, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the CEO of Erste Bank, said on the occasion of the listing.

"The listing of Erste Bank is the opening of the new era for the Prague Stock Exchange and no doubt will bring new impuls to the capital market in the Czech Republic," Dusan Baran, the Chairman of Prague Stock Exchange Chamber and CFO of Ceska sporitelna, said, saying he was convinced that the listing of Erste Bank will attract further investors or other companies to follow the example of Erste Bank.

The Erste Bank shares are included in the PSE's PX 50 and PX-D indices from October 2nd, 2002. In the PX 50 index, the index for the maximum 50 most important Czech companies, Erste Bank will have a weighting of 20% (the maximum for the index). In the PX-D index, for blue chip companies, the weighting is expected to be around 33%.