

## Erste Group finances the completion of Phase III of the M6 motorway in Hungary

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Erste Group, one of the leading banks in Central and Eastern Europe, supports substantial infrastructure projects in Central and Eastern Europe. Thus, Erste Group financed the completion of Hungary's M6 motorway (Phase III), inaugurated today. The M6 Phase III section, which was built in a record period of 20 months, connects the towns of Dunaújváros and Szekszárd and has a length of 65.1 km, comprising 58 bridges (6 of them viaducts), 4 rest areas and an operation and maintenance centre.

The construction of M6 Phase III is one of the largest Public Private Partnership projects (PPP) in Hungary, a country considered to be a pioneer of privately financed infrastructure projects in the region. This concrete PPP project was conducted as a 30-year concession by the Hungarian state to the consortium formed of Bilfinger Berger, Porr and Egis, which is responsible for building and operating the M6 Phase III. The total project volume amounts to EUR 520 million. Financing was ensured by EIB and a syndicated bank loan granted by Erste Group, Bayern LB, Caja Madrid, Commerzbank, DekaBank, Depfa, DZ Bank, MKB Bank, Raiffeisen Landesbank Oberösterreich and SMBC. Erste Group acted as lead arranger and financier of EUR 35 million.



„We consider the Phase III of M6 as a perfect example that an infrastructure project can be successfully completed within the scheduled time-frame and budget even amid the crisis. Moreover, M6 stands as a landmark project for the whole Central and Eastern Europe, proving that Public Private Partnerships are a winning solution for improving the infrastructure in the region. Erste Group's participation in financing such a high-profile infrastructure project is part of its long-standing commitment to support the economies and the people of Central and Eastern Europe,” explained Werner Weihs-Raabl, Head of Infrastructure Finance and Public Sector at Erste Group.



The four-lane M6, which is 257 km long, is a high-speed connection between Budapest and Pécs, the third largest city in Hungary, running further south to the Croatian border. The motorway is aimed at improving a heavily congested traffic route and facilitating the connection between Central Europe and the Balkans.

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