

PRESS RELEASE

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Erste introduces contactless bankcards

Budapest, 8 November 2011 – Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. starts to issue bankcards that can be used for contactless payment. The new plastics will be equipped with *PayPass*TM, a technology used by global card organisation MasterCard. The technology that makes card payment easier will be introduced by the bank for Erste for SuperShop cards first.

Imre Sztanó, Deputy CEO of Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. in charge of the bank's retail business, says all Erste SuperShop Credit Cards and Bankcards—to be used for card payment, cash withdrawal and SuperShop loyalty points collection—will be equipped with the technology to ensure contactless payment, be they newly issued, replaced, remanufactured or renewed cards. The development has been carried out in order to allow more secure, more convenient, and faster use of the cards for customers of the bank.

When making payment in a contactless way, the card needs to be moved within a range of a couple of centimetres from the terminal, and payment is initiated. The card can be used without having to supply a PIN code below a limit of HUF 5,000. The new technology allows card payment to be effected in less than 5 seconds, reducing the time spent at checkout. Contactless payment is possible for amounts higher than that limit, but customers have to key in their PIN codes in those cases.

Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. introduces contactless technology in SuperShop card products first: Erste SuperShop Bankcard is a Maestro bankcard with which a special SuperShop bank account is also offered. The card can be used for payment at every merchant accepting Maestro cards both in Hungary and abroad, and also for cash withdrawal and buying minutes for mobile phones. An unlimited number of cash withdrawals with Erste SuperShop Bankcard are free of charge in Hungary and abroad if at least HUF 90,000 is credited to the bank account each month.

Erste SuperShop Credit Card is an embossed MasterCard card which does not require a bank account, and its HUF 3,900 issue fee may be purchased off within three months from the date of issue. The plastic comes with a credit line of at least HUF 100,000 and up to HUF 1 million, free SMS service, and free insurance for luggage, sickness, and injury.

Imre Sztanó adds that Erste SuperShop Credit Cards and Erste SuperShop Bankcards equipped with the *PayPass*TM logo can be used for contactless payment at all points of sale displaying the *PayPass*TM sticker. The number of points of sale is growing continuously across Hungary, and Interspar, Spar, and Kaiser's shops as well as Burger King fast food restaurants among SuperShop program partners offer contactless payment with the aforementioned cards.

Further information:

Ms. Katalin Bánhegyi – Communication Specialist
Erste Bank Hungary Zrt.
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.
Phone: (06 1) 268 4371 Mobile: (+36) 30 529 9529
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705
E-mail: katalin.banhegyi@erstebank.hu

Ms. Emese Danks –Director of Communication
Erste Bank Hungary Zrt.
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.
Phone: (06 1) 268 4347 Mobile: (+36) 30 499 6358
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705
E-mail: emese.danks@erstebank.hu