

PRESS RELEASE

5th July, 2006

Erste Bank network continues to expand

Network now includes 171 branches

Budapest, 5th July, 2006. – Erste Bank Hungary has opened a new branch in Budapest in June, bringing the overall number of its branches to 171. The bank remains Hungary's second largest in terms of the size of its branch network.

In the first half of 2006 Erste Bank opened 11 new branches, with ten new branches in Budapest and Pest County, and one in Kaposvár. The latest branch opened its doors in the last week of June.

Of the two branches opened in June, one is in the Multiplaza office building at 89-95 Fehérvári út, the other is at 130 Fehérvári út. The branches are open between 8am and 6pm on Mondays, 8am and 4pm on Tuesday through Thursday, and close at 3pm on Friday.

Erste Bank has introduced special offers for clients in the new branches. Clients arranging bank accounts within the first three months of opening will not be charged account management fees for the first six months. Clients arranging standing orders within the first three months will not be charged for these for the first six months. Clients applying for new Visa Electron or Maestro cards will not be charged card management fees for the first year. Furthermore, the first hundred clients to open bank accounts in the new branches will be given presents.

Erste Bank will continue to expand its branch network in the second half of the year, and expects to serve clients in 200 branches nationwide by the end of the year.

Further information:

Adrienn Illés – External communications
Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.
1075 Budapest, Rumbach S. u. 19-21.
Tel: (+36-1) 268-4371 Mobile: (+36) 20-468-8709
Fax: (+36-1) 268-4085
e-mail: adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu

Linda Szabó – Spokesperson
Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.
1075 Budapest, Rumbach S. u. 19-21.
Tel: (+36-1) 268-4347 Mobile: (+36) 20-468-8782
Fax: (+36-1) 268-4085
e-mail: linda.szabo@erstebank.hu