

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Erste Bank: Loan opportunities for enterprise development with favourable conditions**

Financing solutions with state subsidies and no exchange rate risks within Új Magyarország Hitelprogramok [New Hungary Loan Programs]

**Budapest, 16 February 2009 – Erste Bank Hungary has devised a comprehensive solution to utilise Új Magyarország Hitelprogramok, offering loans with government subsidy and favourable conditions predominantly to micro businesses as well as small and medium enterprises mostly. By using these long-term loans with favourable interest rates, enterprises may accomplish their development and investment objectives even amid the financial crisis.**

Erste Bank is offering its customers the refinanced credit line ensured by Magyar Fejlesztési Bank Zrt. [Hungarian Development Bank Co. Ltd.] in order to increase their weight in employment, to meet the financing demands of their investments in the scopes of innovation, environment protection, and health care, and also of their development applications.

As a unique feature of the loans offered within the scope of Új Magyarország Hitelprogramok, exchange rate risks are borne by the government, inoculating loan repayment against the volatility of the euro/forint rate. Owing to preferential interest conditions, Erste Bank ensures rates similar to those of euro loans.

As a result of Kis- és Középvállalkozói Hitelprogram [Loan Program for Small and Medium Enterprises] available within Új Magyarország Hitelprogramok, enterprises engaged in manufacture, commerce or services alike could realise their investment plans. These loans could finance a wide range of development projects, including purchase, construction, or development of real estate; procurement of machinery, equipment or computer software; purchase of durable current assets directly linked to the investment or development in question. The Loan Program also facilitates supplementary funds for development and investment applications, particularly those invited within the scope of Nemzeti Fejlesztési Terv [National Development Plan].

When utilising Kis- és Középvállalkozói Hitelprogram, the amount of a loan to be spent on the aforementioned development objectives may range between HUF 10 million and HUF 100 million with a maturity up to 10 years. Allowing to delay the start of loan repayment, a grace period up to two years is ensured by Erste Bank upon request. Customers are charged no loan handling fees or prepayment fees.

Loan facilities offered by Új Magyarország Vállalkozásfejlesztési Hitelprogram [New Hungary Enterprise development Loan Program], a loan design with similarly favourable interest rates, are recommended by Erste Bank to customers in need of a loan less than HUF 10 million or more than HUF 100 million. The minimum loan amount of this investment loan design with preferential conditions and a term of more than one year is HUF 5 million and capped at HUF 3 billion. The term of the loan may be up to 15 years with a grace period of two years.

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