

Vienna, 28 September 2007

Top-Ranking for Erste Group-Research Team:

Number 1 in investment recommendations for Poland and Central Europe, Number 2 in Austria

The Research team of the Erste Group has done it another time: According to the "Austria and Central Europe Research Yearbook 2007" recently published by the independent research analysis firm "AQ Research" based in London, the Research Team of Erste Group takes top spot in investment recommendations for Austria, Poland as well as in Central Europe.

The strong share analysis team of the Erste Group are in a commanding position on the podium: they took top spot for share recommendations on the Polish market, as well as in CEE and a second position in Austria. In the aggregate evaluation, which is based on the highest hit rates of all the institutions involved, Erste Bank emerged way out in front for the 2007 calendar year.

This renowned survey of AQ Research was carried out for the third time this year on Austria and four Central European markets, examining the investment recommendations (Buy/Hold/Sell) of 28 analysis houses in relation to 45 reviewed businesses. This means people are sitting up and taking notice of the rising significance of Central Europe as an investment and growth region.

"We are delighted about this excellent result", said Fritz Mostböck, Head of Group Research. "It demonstrates that our organisational structure is the key to success: using our sector research approach for the region and with our specialised teams in Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Vienna and Zagreb we cover Central Europe very effectively and are thus able to offer our clients genuine and sustained added value."

TOP RQ BROKERS

Best houses for recommendations in major European markets

Austria/Central Europe	Erste Bank
Benelux	Kempen & Co
France	CM-CIC (ESN)
Germany	MM Warburg
Greece	Proton Securities
Iberia	Citigroup Invest Res
Italy	Citigroup Invest Res
Scandinavia	SEB Enskilda
Switzerland	Berenburg Bank
UK/Ireland	ABN AMRO

TOP RQ BROKERS IN AUSTRIA/CENTRAL EUROPE: 8 ELIGIBLE

Broker	Overall Average RQ	Rec Type	No of Recs	No of Highest RQs
Erste Bank	27.72	A	19	9
BRE Banku	17.16	A	11	3
Dom Maklerski BZ	16.73	A	13	6
Bank Austria	15.38	A	12	8
Raiffeisen Centrobk	8.62	A	24	6

TOP ANALYSTS IN COUNTRY

Score	Analyst	Broker	No of Recs	No of Highest RQs
42.3	Pawel Puchalski	Dom Maklerski	4	3
18.8	A Szymanski	Dom Maklerski	4	2
16.6	V Urbankova	Erste Bank	4	2
14.7	Z Betlewski	AmerBrokers	4	1
14.6	Peter Bauernfried	Bank Austria	5	2

HIT RATES: 8 ELIGIBLE

Broker	% Rec's Adding value
AmerBrokers	100.0
Erste Bank	79.2
Raiffeisen Centrobank	72.2
Bank Austria	68.8
Dom Inwestycyjny BRE Banku	67.7
Dom Maklerski BZ WBK	64.7
CDM Pekao S.A. Securities	58.8

Already in the last 2 years Erste Bank Group Research was placed a several times: in CEE (2x), and for the whole Europe (1x), each time the first place - based on the European MidCap Report compiled by AQ Research.

2007 the analysis team of Erste Group did their credit again: Number 1 in Poland, again Number 1 in Central Europe (CEE) as well as Number 2 in Austria.

POLAND TOP RQ BROKERS: 8 ELIGIBLE

Broker	Overall Average RQ	Rec Type	No of Recs	No of Highest RQs
Erste Bank	26.09	A	8	4
BRE Banku	17.16	A	11	3
Dom Maklerski	16.73	A	13	6
AmerBrokers	1.62	A	10	4
UBS	1.38	A	4	1

AUSTRIA TOP RQ BROKERS: 7 ELIGIBLE

Broker	Overall Average RQ	Rec Type	No of Recs	No of Highest RQs
Oppenheim Research	37.34	A	5	1
Erste Bank	29.43	A	7	3
Berenberg Bank	25.62	A	7	3
Bank Austria	15.38	A	12	8
Goldman Sachs	13.53	A	3	0

Source: AQ Research

Erste Group, Press department

1010 Vienna, Graben 21, Fax: 0043-50100-19849

Michael Mauritz, Tel: 0043-50100-19603, e-mail: michael.mauritz@erstebank.at

Hana Cygonková, Tel: 0043-50100-11675, e-mail: hana.cygonkova@erstebank.at

Ionut Stanimir, Tel: 0043-50100-11676, e-mail: ionut.stanimir@erstebank.at

You can also download this text from our homepage at <http://www.erstebank.com/Press>.

Erste Bank is with its more than 50,000 employees serving over 16 million clients in some 2,700 branches in 8 countries one of the leading financial providers in CEE. As of 30 June 2007 Erste Bank has reached 198 billion EUR total assets, net profit of EUR 566 million and ROE of 13.8%.