

ВЕДОМОСТИ

ИЗДАЮТСЯ СОВМЕСТНО С
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL & FINANCIAL TIMES

Deal. Center-invest has another shareholder Another Austrian Bank

Ekaterina Strukova
03/07/2008

The Austrian Erste Bank has signed the agreement to purchase 9,8% of the shares of the Rostov Center-invest Bank and will introduce its representative to the Board of Directors, as Erste Bank informed. Dmitry Gorchakov, the head of the Public Relations department of Center-invest Bank, proved the fact that the agreement had been signed but refused to give any other comments till the end of the deal. The amount of the deal and the selling party are kept secret, according to the plan it is to be finished in July. Vladimir Mechryakov, the deputy general director of the Ursa Bank, the chairman of the Regional Policy Committee of Association of Russian Banks, considers that the sum of the deal is likely to exceed 1bn rubles. The share of the Vysokovs and other largest shareholders of Center-invest, i.e. EBRD and DEG, hasn't changed, Maxim Osadchy, the analyst of Atlanta PioGlobal, informs referring to the management of Center-invest. Richard Wallace, Senior Advisor of the EBRD President, has proved that the EBRD's share in Center-invest hasn't changed.

Strategic investment into Center-invest will help Erste Bank to get an experience in the challenging Russian market, as it is stated in the message of the Austrian Bank. We didn't manage to get through to the representatives of the bank. As at 01.01.08 according to the data of Center-invest, its market share in the Rostov region by assets is 13,73%, by loans – 15,29%, by deposits – 14,56%. Erste Bank is the largest public bank in Austria. Appearance of another foreign shareholder will make the Rostov bank more recognized abroad and ease its access to the foreign capital market, as Wallace underlines. Mechryakov and Osadchy believe that in perspective Erste Bank will be able to increase its share in Center-invest, e.g. when the EBRD and DEG decide to sell their shares.