

Persbericht – Buiten beurstijd – Gereguleerde informatie*

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Brussel, 18 maart 2013

KBC Bank zet zijn belang van 16,2% in Bank Zachodni WBK in de markt terwijl Banco Santander tot 5,2% van zijn Poolse entiteit zal verkopen

KBC Bank NV ("KBC") en Banco Santander S.A. ("Santander") kondigen vandaag de secundaire aanbidding via een gedocumenteerde markttransactie (de 'aanbidding') aan van maximum 19 978 913 aandelen van Bank Zachodni WBK S.A. ("BZ WBK"). KBC wil in het kader van de aanbidding 15 125 964 aandelen van BZ WBK verkopen, wat neerkomt op 16.17% van de momenteel uitstaande aandelen. Santander zal naar verwachting ten minste 195 216 bijkomende aandelen te koop aanbieden (wat neerkomt op 0,21% van de momenteel uitstaande aandelen) en tot 4 852 949 aandelen van BZ WBK te koop aanbieden (wat neerkomt op 5,19% van de momenteel uitstaande aandelen). Als de aanbidding volledig wordt afgerond, zal de free float van BZ WBK na de aanbidding ongeveer 30% bedragen.

De plaatsing van deze aandelen zou Santander moeten toelaten zijn verplichting ten aanzien van de Poolse toezichthouder na te komen dat voor eind 2014 30% van het kapitaal van BZ WBK zich bevindt in de handen van andere minderheidsaandeelhouders. Santander zal de grootste aandeelhouder van BZ WBK blijven.

De verkopende aandeelhouders verlenen de onderwriters een overtoewijzingsoptie ("reverse greenshoe") voor 10% van het finale aanbiddingsvolume. KBC en Santander zullen zich engageren voor een lock-up van 90 dagen na de afsluiting van de aanbidding, en BZ WBK voor een periode van 180 dagen.

De aanbidding is uitsluitend bestemd voor ervoor in aanmerking komende institutionele beleggers en valt binnen een indicatieve prijsvork van PLN240 tot PLN270. De uiteindelijke verkoopkoers wordt bepaald door een bookbuildingproces dat vandaag, maandag 18 maart 2013, begint en naar verwachting ten laatste op donderdag 21 maart 2013 afloopt.

Deutsche Bank, Citi, Morgan Stanley, BofA Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, KBC Securities en Santander Investment treden op als Joint Global Coordinators en Joint Bookrunners. Dom Maklerski BZ WBK is Joint Global Coordinator, Joint Bookrunner en Offering Agent. Goldman Sachs International en UBS treden op als Joint Bookrunners, terwijl Dom Maklerski PKO BP, ING, Royal Bank of Canada en Société Générale als co-lead managers optreden.

Voor meer informatie kunt u contact opnemen met:

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Information about BZ WBK (uitsluitend in het Engels)

BZ WBK is a universal bank offering a wide range of products and services to both retail and corporate customers. Historically, the strength of BZ WBK has been in business and corporate banking and BZ WBK has achieved strong market positions in this market segment. Over the past few years BZ WBK has expanded its presence in retail banking by increasing its branch presence and its retail loan book. As of 31 December 2012, the BZ WBK Group's market share in terms of total gross loans and deposits stood at 4.3% and 5.3%, respectively, according to data from the National Bank of Poland. BZ WBK's traditional banking product range has been supplemented by other financial products and services offered by BZ WBK subsidiaries, including Dom Maklerski BZ WBK. The BZ WBK Group has established a strong presence in brokerage (a 7.3% market share in equity market trading and 11.9% market share in future contracts market trading according to data from the WSE for 2012).

The core pillars of the BZ WBK Group's strategy are a strong capital and funding position, a focus on risk management and efficiency, and a strong corporate culture. The BZ WBK management team has over the past several years focused on diversifying the income of BZ WBK, targeted growth in the most profitable market segments, and placed a strong emphasis on customer service and satisfaction. The results of this strategy and approach to business have been a balanced growth in loans and deposits and an increased presence in the profitable retail and SME segments, all of which have led to a strong and stable financial performance. BZ WBK has been one of the most profitable banks in Poland in terms of ROE and has had one of the strongest net income growth rates in the Polish banking sector in recent years.

On 4 January 2013, BZ WBK merged with Kredyt Bank, a medium sized credit institution with a strong focus on retail banking and the mortgage market. The Merger resulted in the BZ WBK Group becoming (together with Poland's two largest banks, PKO Bank Polski and Bank Pekao) one of the three leading banks in the country, with a significant gap between them and the rest of the market in terms of the size of their respective branch networks. The BZ WBK Group's market share in terms of total loans and total deposits increased to 7.5% and 8.7% respectively according to data from NBP, and the BZ WBK Group improved its position in retail banking and, in particular, in the mortgage market.

As of 31 December 2012, the BZ WBK Group had a network of 889 branches comprising 519 BZ WBK branches and 370 Kredyt Bank branches. In addition, the BZ WBK offers its services through SME and Business & Corporate Centers located in all the major regions of the country. The BZ WBK Group also utilizes other distribution channels, including online banking, call centers, mobile banking and an ATM network. The customer base of the BZ WBK Group following the Merger increased substantially as a result of acquisition of the Kredyt Bank Group customers. As of 31 December 2012, the aggregated customer base of the BZ WBK Group and the Kredyt Bank Group had approximately 4.1 million clients, including 3.8 million individual customers, 274.5 thousand SME customers and 7.3 thousand corporate customer groups.

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*** Dit nieuwsbericht bevat informatie waarop de Europese transparantieregelgeving voor beursgenoteerde bedrijven van toepassing is.**

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