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EANS-Adhoc: Österreichische Post AG / Large Contract for Parcel & Logistics Division

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Vienna, Austria, 14 April 2009 - We are pleased to announce that, starting from June 1, 2009, Hermes Austria has decided to use also the parcel logistics services of Austrian Post. "Based on the assumption of a stable parcels market, we expect volume growth of several million parcels on an annual basis resulting from this contract", says Carl-Gerold Mende, Member of the Management Board of Austrian Post in charge of the Parcel & Logistics Division.

Over the last 18 months, Austrian Post has substantially modernised its parcel logistics operations. The clearly defined goal of the redimensioning process was to ensure an optimal service mix and an outstanding price-performance ratio.

"The hard and consistently high quality work of our employees and local management has really paid off. Following the necessary shock at the end of 2007, we have now achieved a competitive cost level and represent the quality benchmark in the parcels sector", says Carl-Gerold Mende. "The combination of these two factors convinced Hermes to contract Austrian Post with this parcels volume. The bar has been raised high. We will not rest on our laurels, but persistently pursue our strategy of further improving our cost structure and quality management."

Carl-Gerold Mende concludes: "We are convinced of our ability to achieve our ambitious growth target in market share for business customers (B2B parcels) and for European combined freight. The earnings contribution made by this new contract will help to secure the planned operating result of the Parcel & Logistics Division in 2009".

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