

Bank Of Georgia Opens First Of The 23 Service Centers At The Tbilisi Metro Stations

Bank of Georgia (GSE: GEB), a leading Georgian universal bank, opened the first of the 23 service centers it will open at the Tbilisi Metro (subway) stations during September. The first such service center in the newly renovated Avlabari station was opened on September 4, 2006, with Tbilisi mayor Gigi Ugulava and the management of the Tbilisi Metro attending.

The bank is the sole servicing bank of the Tbilisi Metro. MetroService+, wholly-owned by Galt & Taggart Capital and the bank, has provided an outsourced fare collection solution to the metro, whereby tokens and coins will be sold exclusively through the bank's on-site service centers. The bank has therefore gained regular access to the estimated 350,000 residents of Tbilisi who use the subway regularly, generating approximately 110 million passenger-trips per annum. In 2007, the bank and MetroService+ plan to roll out a contactless card-based fare collection solution (MetroCard), which will be offered to the passengers on a standalone basis, as well as in a co-branded format, doubling as a debit card linked to a Bank of Georgia current account; RFID-enabled card readers will be installed at all Metro stations. The passengers will benefit from the access to the regular banking services such as foreign exchange, consumer loans, remittances and other products and services popular among the low and middle income passenger base of the Tbilisi Metro.

“The introduction of the banking services at the metro stations combined with a modern card-based fare collection solution will bring the bank closer to its customers and expand significantly our footprint in Tbilisi. This initiative demonstrates yet again the significant growth potential that can be harnessed through innovative alliances between the bank and its strategic distribution partners”, noted **Lado Gurgendze**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board.



About Bank of Georgia

Bank of Georgia is a leading Georgian universal bank. The bank markets and distributes a wide spectrum of retail products through its extensive branch network, and offers a full range of commercial banking and investment banking services to corporate clients. Additionally, BCI, the wholly-owned insurance subsidiary of the bank, offers a wide range of corporate and retail insurance products (through its newly launched *Chemebi* retail brand). As at August 31, 2006, the bank had GEL 800.7 million in assets and GEL 123.0 million in equity. In 1H 2006, the bank earned consolidated net income of GEL 9.4 million. The bank has a B-/B with Positive outlook from FitchRatings, B3/NP (FC), Baa3/P-3 (LC) ratings with Stable outlook from Moody's and B+/B with Stable outlook from Standard & Poor's.

For more information, please contact:

Lado Gurgendze, Chairman of the Supervisory Board
Irakli Gilauri, Chief Executive Officer
Irakli Burdladze, Chief Financial Officer
Macea Ektzashvili, Head of Investor Relations

+995 32 444 103
+995 32 444 109
+995 32 444 111
+995 32 444 256

lgurgendze@bog.ge
irilauri@bog.ge
irburdladze@bog.ge
ir@bog.ge

Or visit our investor relations page at www.bog.ge/ir

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