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## Criteria CaixaCorp is quoted on the Stock Exchange

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The Chairman of "la Caixa", Isidro Fainé, at the Madrid Stock Exchange, and Ricardo Fornesa, Chairman of Criteria CaixaCorp, at the Barcelona Stock Exchange, presided today over the launch on the trading floor of Criteria CaixaCorp.

### **Barcelona/Madrid, 10 October 2007**

In two simultaneous ceremonies held today at the Madrid and Barcelona Stock Exchanges, Criteria CaixaCorp, the company that brings together most of the portfolio of the subsidiary, quoted and non-quoted companies of "la Caixa", began its life as a publicly traded company.

Numerous representatives of the economic and financial worlds of Madrid and Barcelona attended the ceremonies. In presenting "la Caixa" in Madrid, its Chairman, Isidro Fainé, expressed his gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of people who decided to accompany "la Caixa" in the Criteria CaixaCorp project. He also highlighted the participation of the vast majority of the Group's employees and showed his confidence in the perspectives for revaluation of the shares in the future.

At the Barcelona Stock Exchange, Ricardo Fornesa, Chairman of Criteria CaixaCorp, was accompanied by Juan María Nin, CEO of "la Caixa". Ricardo Fornesa explained at the ceremony this morning "the success of the Stock Exchange launch", listing the strong points of the operation. Among these, he emphasised "the creation of an instrument that is appropriate for international expansion, the increased resources gained, the improvement in the current ratio and customers' confidence in the project which received requests for a sum of nearly €9bn, with an extraordinary 360,000 new shareholders added".

Juan María Nin, the CEO of "la Caixa", emphasised that Criteria's Stock Market launch "is a very important landmark in the life of "la Caixa". First, because this means a commitment that we assume to our new shareholders, which will have an impact on the management of the entire group as it introduces market scrutiny." And second, "because it gives "la Caixa" the ability to continue growing, which is key to maintaining its leadership position in retail banking and its position as an exemplary financial organisation"; and finally, "because it is easier to undertake a process of internationalisation if you are a quoted company," Nin concluded.

The shares were first quoted today at 5.25 euros, which represents a total sum subscribed of about 3,500 million euros and the addition of 360,000 new shareholders. This sum is the biggest ever placement in a Spanish Stock Market launch operation. The new Criteria CaixaCorp shares issued through the Public Share Issue (PSI) account for 20% of the company's share capital.

The PSI of Criteria CaixaCorp was initiated on 21 September after the registration and approval of the information leaflet by the National Stock Market Committee (CNMV) on 20 September.

Criteria CaixaCorp is the company that brings together most of the subsidiary, quoted and non-quoted companies of "la Caixa". The company maintains holdings in quoted companies that are leaders in the infrastructure and service industries (Gas Natural, Telefónica, Repsol YPF, Abertis and Agbar), in non-quoted assets (Port Aventura and development capital operations) and in the banking and financial sectors (BPI, Boursorama, The Bank of East Asia, InverCaixa Gestión, Finconsum, CaixaRenting, GestiCaixa and CaiFor).

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