

AWARDS: EASYBANK AND START:BAUSPARKASSE NUMBER 1 IN AUSTRIA

- ▶ **easybank honored as "Best Direct Bank in Austria 2018"**
- ▶ **start: bausparkasse honored as "Best Building Society in Austria 2018"**

VIENNA, 3 December 2018 – "Börsianer", a financial specialist magazine, has awarded two BAWAG Group subsidiaries: For the fourth time in a row, easy-bank has been awarded the title of "Best Direct Bank", for the first time start: bausparkasse has been awarded as "Best Building Society".

Sat Shah, board member of the BAWAG Group and CEO of easygroup, explains: *"We are delighted to receive this award as 'Best Direct Bank in Austria 2018'. Worldwide, we are one of the few direct banks and in Austria we are even the only direct bank, from which customers can expect the full range of banking services. The most valuable asset of easybank is our loyal and growing customer base. Through its current brands, subsidiaries and partnerships, easybank operates in an ecosystem of over 3 million customers. The investments made in recent years have allowed easybank to build up the capacity to offer a full range of customer-friendly and convenient consumer products."*

Herbert Messinger, Chief Executive Officer of start: bausparkasse and **Werner Rodax**, Chief Operating Officer of the BAWAG Group and CFO of start: bausparkasse, sum up: *"We are delighted to receive this award as 'Best Building Society in Austria 2018'. Our team has been tirelessly transforming the company over the past two years and is very proud of this recognition. After a complete reorganization and realignment, an exemplary turnaround to the most efficient and most profitable building society in Austria was created."*

About the award

The award "Best Financial Companies in Austria 2018" is determined by the trade magazine "Börsianer" according to qualitative and quantitative methods, in a three-pillar scoring model (first peer group, secondly key figures, third editorial office) and evaluated by BDO Austria. In total, 13 overall and category winners from five sectors have received awards.

About BAWAG Group

BAWAG Group AG is the listed holding company of BAWAG P.S.K., which is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, with the main banking subsidiaries *easybank* and *start:bausparkasse* in Austria as well as *Südwestbank* and *Deutscher Ring Bausparkasse* in Germany. With more than 2.5 million customers, BAWAG P.S.K. is one of Austria's largest banks operating under a well-recognized national brand and applies a low-risk, efficient, simple, and transparent business model focused on Austria, Germany, and developed markets. The Bank serves retail, small business, and corporate customers offering comprehensive savings, payment, lending, leasing, investment, building society, and insurance products and services through various online and offline channels. Delivering simple, transparent, and best-in-class products and services that meet our customers' needs is the consistent strategy across all business units.

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