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MeritaNordbanken - first in the world to introduce WAP equity trading

MeritaNordbanken's internet banking services continue to expand. From today MeritaNordbanken customers in Finland can buy and sell securities over their WAP telephone.

The "Investments" alternative on the WAP-Solo service menu allows the user to give trading instructions and view portfolio and quotation data. The service is available to all users holding a SOLO pin code and portfolio agreement. Portfolio agreements are currently held by almost 40 000 customers. Since MeritaNordbanken first introduced WAP-banking services in October 1999, it has been possible to handle account transfers and invoice payments as well as shop by WAP-phone.

MeritaNordbanken, Europe's leading provider of internet banking services, already has 1.1 million customers handling banking business electronically.

- Since the WAP-service routine is similar to the already familiar Internet service routine, it's not a big step to use the new tool, says Bo Harald, Executive Vice President responsible for MeritaNordbanken's Internet banking services. He believes that share trading via WAP-phones will become increasingly popular since already the share of Internet trading orders in Finland has occasionally exceeded 60 per cent.

In March WAP-account and payment services will also be available in Sweden.

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MeritaNordbanken, the leading bank group in the Nordic region, provides a broad spectrum of financial products and services to more than 6.5 million private individuals and 400,000 companies and institutions. The Group's service network comprises some 700 branch offices in Finland and Sweden, over 1,000 Swedish post offices and a wide range of effective telephone and Internet banking facilities. More than a million customers use the Group's electronic banking services. Household savings under management total almost EUR 45 billion. Outside the Nordic region, the Group has a presence in 19 countries. Nordic Baltic Holding (NBH) AB (publ) is the Group parent company. It is quoted on the Stockholm Stock Exchange and as an FDR on the Helsinki Exchanges.