

**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT**

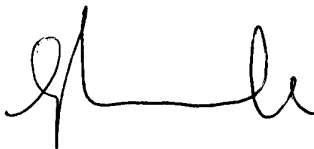
**The following is a Company Announcement by HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. pursuant to Listing Rule 8.6.5 and 8.47:**

***Quote***

The Board of Directors of HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. ('the Bank') announces that it has decided to commence the process for the merger by acquisition of its subsidiary HSBC Home Loans (Malta) Limited with the Bank.

The merger will streamline administration of the mortgage business and reduce solo company financial and regulatory reporting. There will be no negative impact on pre-tax Group profitability.

***Unquote***



**Dr George Brancalone LL.D.**  
**Company Secretary**

**1 November 2005**

**HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.**  
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*Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 233 Republic Street, Valletta VLT 05  
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