



# **BANK OF SAINT LUCIA LIMITED**

## **INVESTMENT BANKING DIVISION**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **ECFH seeking to issue new shares**

The East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited (ECFH) is seeking to issue new shares on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange (ECSE).

ECFH possesses a comprehensive understanding of the local and sub-regional economic and financial landscape and boasts a successful track record in the financial services sector. Steady asset growth and sustained earnings, position the Group to advance operations beyond the local environment, while expanding its various lines of business in the local market.

At the end of 2006 the ECFH Group recorded a net profit of EC\$40.1 Million before allocations for staff profit sharing and taxation. Net profit after tax and profit sharing were reported at EC\$35.3 Million, with a return on equity of 22.21% and a return on assets of 2.44%.

The Group is well positioned to expand its business into the wider region, maintaining its leadership in the local banking industry and strengthening its position in the insurance industry

Since its listing on the ECSE on 19th October 2001, ECFH stock price rose from EC\$8.69 to its current trading price of EC\$11.00. This represents an increase of EC\$2.31 or 26.6%, which shareholders would have enjoyed over the last 5 ½ years. Shareholders have also enjoyed substantial dividend returns, which increased from 1.85% in 2002 to 10% in 2006. With a current market price of \$11.00, the Price Earnings (P/E) ratio for ECFH shares is computed at 4.53.