

Post Reports

• A special eight-page supplement to mark the public flotation of Irish Sugar on the Irish stock market



Greencore success will provide basis to privatise other state industries

The success of the privatisation of Irish Sugar is expected to result in the speeding up of the process for further privatisations, according to government sources.

Apart from Irish Life, which is expected to come to the market later this year, it is believed that a number of other privatisations may take place within the next two years.

Companies being considered for privatisation are believed to include Aer Rianta, which manages Great Southern Hotels, Industrial Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Credit Corporation and Aer Lingus.

A valuation of almost £500 million is being indicated for Irish Life and

capital re-structuring is taking place at the moment which will enable the state to reduce its holding from 90 per cent to 34 per cent in the autumn.

The level of public interest in the Greencore flotation has surprised the company, its bankers, stockbrokers and underwriters.

According to an executive at the Bank of Ireland, a lot of customers were provided with temporary extra overdraft facilities to buy Greencore shares.

The arduous task of allocating shares to subscribers is taking place throughout the weekend so that shareholders will know their allocations prior to the first trading in Greencore shares next Friday.

Since its formation in

1933, the issued ordinary share capital of Irish Sugar has been beneficially owned by the Minister for Finance on behalf of the state.

Last year the government decided it should no longer retain a majority shareholding in the company. "As a result, the development of Irish Sugar will no longer be constrained by the fact that it has a single ordinary shareholder which, for policy reasons, may not be in a position to provide funding in the future," the company has said.

The exchequer will recoup from the proceeds of the offer some of the investment in Irish Sugar made by the state in the past. In addition, the company will raise new capital

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Greencore will lead