

# BABCOCK & BROWN CAPITAL

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**1 March 2006**

## **ASX Announcement**

### **Babcock & Brown Capital – Group holding in eircom increased to 21.6%**

Babcock & Brown Capital Limited (ASX: BCM) confirms it has lodged a further disclosure of interest notice with eircom Group plc (eircom).

As at the close of trade in the United Kingdom on Friday, 24 February 2006, BCM and its associates (the “Group”) held 231,629,639 ordinary shares in eircom representing 21.6% (previously 18.0%) of the issued capital. BCM’s average entry price is now EUR 2.00 per share. The maximum price paid was EUR 2.20 and the current price is EUR 2.20.

BCM’s share of the Group’s 21.6% shareholding is 19.9% at a cost of approximately \$A690 million. eircom has 1073 million shares on issue representing a market capitalisation of approximately \$A3.8 billion. The other major shareholder in eircom is the Employee Share Ownership Trust with a 22% holding.

BCM now expects to announce its interim result for the half-year ended 31 December 2005 before 16 March 2006.

For further enquiries please contact:

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### **About Babcock & Brown Capital**

Babcock & Brown Capital is an Australian-based investment company that focuses on a concentrated portfolio with a flexible investment horizon. The Company’s mandate allows it to build positions in domestic and overseas companies and both listed and private entities. Babcock & Brown Capital concentrates on growing the value of its investments over time. Investments are held while they continue to meet the Company’s investment objectives. Babcock & Brown Capital listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in February 2005.

For further information please see our website: [www.babcockbrowncapital.com](http://www.babcockbrowncapital.com)

**About eircom (EIR.I)**

eircom was privatised in 1999, and was then the subject of a private equity buy out in 2001. It was re-listed in 2004 on both the London & Irish Stock Exchanges. eircom owns Ireland's copper and fibre backbone telecommunications network. It is the dominant provider of fixed line wholesale and retail telecommunication services. eircom has recently acquired Meteor, a mobile telecommunications business, which has a rapidly growing 13% share of the mobile market. It also has 77% market share in the fast growing DSL market.