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Brief: FIRSTFOLIO

## Firstfolio to buy eChoice

HOME loan provider Firstfolio has agreed to buy Australia's biggest online mortgage broker, eChoice, for \$4.68 million in shares and cash, as well as income from the mortgage book.

Firstfolio said it would pay eChoice's shareholders, including funds managed by Allen & Buck-eridge and Macquarie Group, 60 million shares, and \$3 million cash over four years.

Firstfolio shares gained 1¢ to 3¢ yesterday.

Firstfolio also will pay a yet to be agreed share of income from eChoice's \$2.6 billion loan book.

The takeover, which is expected to be settled on October 31, will increase Firstfolio's loan book to more than \$10.5 billion and the Sydney-based company will gain eChoice's online sales and processing platform.

Firstfolio's loan portfolio has grown from \$2 billion in 2006.