

UK Structured Products Association launches

www.ukstructuredproductsassociation.co.uk

The UK's leading retail structured product providers have united to create the UK Structured Products Association.

The UK Structured Products Association's key objective is to inform and educate the investment community. It will achieve this by offering independent commentary on the broad range of issues involving structured products and the role of structured products in an appropriately diversified investment portfolio.

The UK structured products market has experienced significant growth over the last five years with more than £42 billion in assets under management*, as structured products are increasingly seen as playing an important role in diversifying portfolios and offering a wider range of alternative investment solutions to retail investors.

The creation of the UK Structured Products Association is a unified response from the members who believe that whilst structured products form an increasingly integral part of financial planning for investors, they are sometimes misunderstood and misrepresented, and that any lack of understanding can and should be addressed.

The role of the UK Structured Products Association is not to promote individual firms, products or structured products professionals, but to demonstrate the value of Structured Products as investments.

The UK Structured Products Association is also committed to publishing structured products research to support the educational objective and create greater awareness of the benefits and suitability of structured products.

The launch membership includes leading providers and distributors active in the structured product market: Citi, Credit Suisse, Legal & General, Morgan Stanley, Prudential, Royal Bank of Scotland, Santander and Skandia.

The Association is also creating a committee for independent plan managers and distributors to advise on matters concerning these specific parts of the structured products industry. The committee will include Gilliat Financial Solutions, Jubilee Financial Products, Meteor Asset Management and Walker Crips Structured Investments.

The UK Structured Products Association will be working closely with other organisations, such as the Association of Independent Financial Advisers (AIFA) and the European Structured Investment Product Association (EUSIPA) to achieve its goal.

The UK Structured Products Association comments on the launch:

"The Association gives providers an opportunity to inform and educate the investment community, and we believe its efforts will help them to better understand how these products work and how they can be incorporated sensibly into a well constructed investment portfolio. The Association is a positive step forward for the UK structured products market. As a unified voice, it will offer commentary and insight covering all aspects of structured products and we are committed to the aims of the organisation."

Robert Sinclair, AIFA Director, says:

"AIFA supports the launch of this initiative which will help ensure that all participants in this market are continually better informed."

*Source: Structured Retail Products, November 2009.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

About the UK Structured Products Association

The UK Structured Products Association (UK SPA) is an organisation established by companies that create and distribute structured products to the UK financial services market in order to provide a useful and responsive source of information, education and comment on structured products by promoting their contribution to effective financial planning.

The Association's formation is a direct response to the members' belief that structured products are sometimes misunderstood and misrepresented and that this lack of understanding can prevent structured products forming an integral part of financial planning for investors.

The UK SPA is committed to publishing research, information and educational material about structured products and so create greater acceptance about their potential.

The UK SPA is not a commercial organisation and education and research are its core activities.

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