

17th February 2010

NOVIA EXPANDS ETHICAL INVESTMENT OFFERING BY ADDING ALQUITY TO THE PLATFORM

Novia, the online wealth management proposition, is pleased to announce that from the 17 Feb, a new fund manager - Alquity Investment Management will be added to its platform which will make available to new and existing clients the Alquity Africa Fund. Alquity launched the Alquity Africa Fund in June 2010, which invests in equities on a pan-African, pan sector basis in companies operating predominantly in the African continent. Africa is home to 53 countries, with a fast growing population exceeding 1 billion people, a GDP of \$2.8 Billion and has an abundance of natural resources and commodities helping to drive economic growth.

The Fund is a UCITS III fund which deals "Daily" and will be available to use within Novia's model portfolio's, SIPPS, ISAs and Bond wrappers. Alquity since its launch, has delivered returns of 15.5% growth in US\$ (+5.4% in Euro), while the

GBP share class, launched on the 25th August has delivered a +10.3% growth.

Alquity offers a new approach to investment, focusing not only on attractive returns but also on sustainable investment and transforming lives. To help transform lives, Alquity, the investment manager, will donate a minimum of 25% of its net management fees to help create jobs and develop local communities in Africa. The aim is to create 100,000 jobs by the end of 2010 and 100,000 annually thereafter by funding microfinance projects through its partnership with the One Foundation (a UK registered charity).

Paul Robinson, Chairman at Alquity said: "This is the first time Alquity has been made available via a UK wrap platform and we are pleased to be able to significantly enhance our distribution model by using the Novia Platform. Novia is a forward looking, online wealth management proposition with a superb suite of investment tools, it is just the distribution model we are looking for and the addition of Alquity to the platform will help us to increase the awareness and accessibility of the fund".

Novia recently added to its list of discretionary managers who can manage assets via the platform as well as funds available and is constantly reviewing its portfolio of assets.

Scott Beasley at Novia said: "The addition of Alquity further broadens the choices of investment funds available to IFA's providing an ethical investment opportunity along with the potential for attractive returns. We have seen considerable adviser demand for this particular fund so we are pleased to be able to offer Alquity for Advisers interested in Ethical investing."

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For further information please contact:

Pippa Russell

Novia

Head of Corporate Communications

07740 933 120

Fleur Howard

Tavistock Communications

fhoward@tavistock.co.uk

020 7920 3150

Notes to editors:

The African Opportunity

Ten African countries have a GDP *per capita* greater than China; 18 have a GDP *per*

capita greater than India.

Africa's total stock market capitalisation grew from US\$245 billion in 2002 to more than US\$1,000 billion in 2010 – equivalent to compound annual growth of around 22% per year.

Today, over 150 stocks in Africa have a market capitalisation above US\$500 million – most of them in countries other than South Africa. Twenty sub-Saharan African countries now have a stock market - up from five in 1989.

Africa is home to approximately one billion people, and is also the region with the world's youngest population. Under-25s account for 60% of the total, compared with around 30% in developed countries.

Africa holds a significant share of the world's resources, including 89% of its platinum, 74% of its chrome, 60% of its diamonds, and 12% of its oil reserves.

By 2030, China, India, Brazil and Russia are all forecast to be in the top eight global economies. BRIC-Africa trade is by then expected to reach US\$4 trillion a year, representing 45% of Africa's total trade.

Alquity Investment Management www.alquity.com

Alquity Investment Management is part of the Alquity Group, which also includes Smoothed Growth Investment Management. It is a long-standing investment management group with approximately US\$110 million of assets under management.

Alquity Investment Management offers a new model for investment management built around three core principles: attractive returns, sustainable investment, and transforming lives.

To transform lives, the group donates a minimum of 25% of its net management fees to microfinance projects in Africa. The aim is to create 100,000 jobs by the end of 2012 and 100,000 jobs annually thereafter by funding microfinance projects.

As an emerging markets investment manager, Alquity Investment Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is also a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment. Alquity's investment team has over 20 years of experience in emerging markets.

The Alquity Africa Fund is the first in Alquity's planned range of emerging market funds, and was launched in the UK in June 2010. It is available internationally and has been approved for retail sale in the UK by the Financial Services Authority as well as in Hong Kong by the Hong Kong SFC.

Potential investors seeking more information about the fund are asked to contact their financial advisor or, for institutional investors, please contact Paul Freer, Chief Executive Officer, on +852 6393 5953 or by email at: paul.freer@alquity.com; or Allan Piper at First City on +852 2854 2666 or mailbox@firstcitypr.com.

David McIlroy, Chief Investment Officer, Alquity Investment Management

David has been involved in investment management in emerging markets for 15 years, most recently with Utilico Emerging Markets, a specialist investor in infrastructure assets, and prior to that with Foreign & Colonial (F&C). During his time at F&C, David was a director of Alternative Investments, where he was responsible for a Global Emerging Markets Absolute Return fund. Before that, he was F&C's Director of Emerging Europe, Middle East and Africa region, with responsibility for the South African portfolio. He previously also ran F&C's New York-listed Emerging Middle East Fund Inc which invested throughout North Africa, Turkey, and the Gulf states.

David holds a BSc (Hons) in Applicable Mathematics from Abertay University (Dundee) and is an Associate of the Society of Investment Professionals, and an Associate of the Institute of Bankers (Scotland).

Alquity Investment Management Limited
5th Floor, 9 Kingsway
London WC2B 6XF

Alquity Asia Limited
66/F, Suite 01, The Center
99 Queen's Rd, Central
Hong Kong