



Index Guidelines relating to the

Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index

Version 1.2 dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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This document contains the underlying principles and regulations regarding the structure and operating of the Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index. Solactive AG shall make every effort to implement regulations. Solactive AG does not offer any explicit or tacit guarantee or assurance, neither pertaining to the results from the use of the Index nor the Index value at any certain point in time nor in any other respect. The Index is merely calculated and published by Solactive AG and it strives to the best of its ability to ensure the correctness of the calculation. There is no obligation for Solactive AG – irrespective of possible obligations to issuers – to advise third parties, including investors and/or financial intermediaries, of any errors in the Index. The publication of the Index by Solactive AG is no recommendation for capital investment and does not contain any assurance or opinion of Solactive AG regarding a possible investment in a financial instrument based on this Index.

# Introduction

This document is to be used as a guideline with regard to the composition, calculation and management of the Elston Smart Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index. Any changes made to the guideline are initiated by the Committee specified in section 1.6. The Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index is calculated and published by Solactive AG.

## 1 Index specifications

The Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index is a rules-based, systematic strategy index comprised of Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

The Index is calculated and distributed by Solactive AG. The selection of the index components is done by the index sponsor.

The Index is calculated as price and total return indices. Both indices are published in GBP.

### 1.1 Short name and ISIN

The Total Return version of the ESBGMV is distributed under ISIN DE000SLA5TT2; the WKN is SLA5TT. The Index is published in Reuters under the code <.ESBGMV> and in Bloomberg under the ticker ESBGMV Index.

### 1.2 Initial value

The Index is based on 1000 at the open of trading on the start date 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

### 1.3 Distribution

The Index is published via the price marketing services of Boerse Stuttgart AG and is distributed to all affiliated vendors. Each vendor decides on an individual basis as to whether the vendor will distribute/display the Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index via the vendor's information systems.

### 1.4 Prices and calculation frequency

The price of the Index is calculated on each Business Day based on the prices on the respective Exchanges on which the Index Components are listed. The most recent prices of all Index Components are used. Prices of Index Components not listed in the Index Currency are translated using spot foreign exchange rates quoted by Reuters. Should there be no current price available on Reuters, the most recent price or the Trading Price on Reuters for the preceding Trading Day is used in the calculation.

The Index is calculated every Business Day from 9:00am to 10:50pm, CET. The Index price is calculated continuously in 15-second intervals during these hours. In the event that data cannot be provided to Reuters or to the pricing services of Boerse Stuttgart AG the Index cannot be distributed.

Any incorrect calculation is adjusted on a retrospective basis.

### 1.5 Weighting

On each Adjustment Day each Index Component of the Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index is weighted according to a proprietary methodology based on a portfolio optimisation strategy to minimise the ex-post combined volatility of the portfolio subject to various constraints.

The weighting methodology may be amended by the Committee from time to time to ensure appropriate index representation and index compliance with financial product regulations in the United States and other jurisdictions.

## **1.6 Decision-making bodies**

A Committee, composed of members as determined by Elston Consulting is responsible for decisions regarding the composition of the Index as well as any amendments to the rules (in this document referred to as the "**Committee**" or the "**Index Committee**"). The Committee shall decide if any Extraordinary Events should occur and the implementation of any necessary adjustments.

Members of the Committee can recommend at any time changes to the composition of the Index or to the guideline and submit them to the Committee for approval.

## **1.7 Publication**

All specifications and information relevant for calculating the Index are made available on the web page of Solactive AG (<http://www.solactive.com>) and Elston Consulting (<http://www.elstonconsulting.co.uk>).

## **1.8 Licencing**

Licences, if any, to use the Index as the benchmark for collective investment schemes or other financial products, or as the underlying value for derivative instruments can be issued to stock exchanges, banks, financial services providers and investment houses by Elston Consulting.

## **2 Composition of the Index**

### **2.1 Selection of Index Components**

The initial composition of the Index as well as any ongoing adjustment is based on the following rules:

- The components of Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index are selected from a security pool consisting only of ETFs.
- The selection is purely based on an automatic quantitative model which measures the past performance and inter-relationship of all available securities in the security pool.

Selection Days are five business days before the Adjustment Days. On the Selection Days, the index sponsor provides the new composition. The index sponsor provides the weightings to the composition on the last business day of each month.

### **2.2 Ordinary adjustment**

The composition of the Index is reviewed on the Selection Day and the necessary adjustments are announced. The composition of the Index is reconstituted and reweighted on the last Business Day of each month and implemented on the close of the second business day of each month.

The Constitution Date of the Index is 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014. The first adjustment will be made in the second business day of January 2015 based on the Trading Prices of the Index Components on the Adjustment Day.

### **2.3 Extraordinary adjustment**

If a security included in the Elston Strategic Beta Global Minimum Volatility Index is removed from the Index between two Adjustment Days due to an Extraordinary Event, if necessary, the Committee shall designate a successor. The Index is adjusted on the same day. This is announced by Solactive AG after the close of business on the day on which the new composition of the Index was determined by the Committee.

### 3 Calculation of the Index

#### 3.1 Index formula

The Index Value on a Business Day at the relevant time is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$Index_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,t} * p_{i,t} * f_{i,t}}{D_t}$$

with:

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t

$p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t

$f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t

The initial Divisor on the Start Date (22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014) is calculated according to the following formula:

$$D_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}{100}$$

After the close of trading on each Adjustment Day t the new Divisor is calculated as follows:

$$D_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}{Index_t}$$

This Divisor is valid starting the immediately following Business Day.

#### 3.2 Accuracy

The value of the Index will be rounded to two decimal places.

The Number of Index Shares of the Index Components will be rounded to integers.

Trading Prices and foreign exchange rates will be rounded to four decimal places.

Divisors will be rounded to six decimal places

#### 3.3 Adjustments

Indices need to be adjusted for systematic changes in prices once these become effective. This requires the new Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component and the Divisor to be calculated on an ex-ante basis.

Following the Committee's decision the index is adjusted for distributions, capital increases and stock splits.

This procedure ensures that the first ex quote can be properly reflected in the calculation of the Index. This ex-ante procedure assumes the general acceptance of the Index calculation formula as well as open access to the parameter values used. The calculation parameters are provided by the Index Calculator.

### 3.4 Dividends and other distributions

Dividend payments and other distributions are included in the Total return version of the Index. They cause an adjustment of the Divisor. The new Divisor is calculated as follows:

$$D_{t+1} = D_t * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t}) - (x_{i,t} * y_{i,t} * g_{i,t})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}$$

with

$p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t

$f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t

$y_{i,t}$  = Distribution of Index Component i with ex date t+1 multiplied by the Dividend Correction Factor

$g_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the amount of the distribution of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t

$D_{t+1}$  = Divisor on Trading Day t+1

### 3.5 Corporate actions

#### 3.5.1 Principles

Following the announcement by an issuer of Index Components of the terms and conditions of a corporate action the Index Calculator determines whether such corporate action has a dilutive, concentrative or similar effect on the price of the respective Index Component.

If this should be the case the Index Calculator shall make the necessary adjustments that are deemed appropriate in order to take into account the dilutive, concentrative or similar effect and shall determine the date on which this adjustment shall come into effect.

Amongst other things the Index Calculator can take into account the adjustment made by an Affiliated Exchange as a result of the corporate action with regard to option and futures contracts on the respective share traded on this Affiliated Exchange.

#### 3.5.2 Capital increases

In the case of capital increases with ex date t+1 the Index is adjusted as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_i * \frac{1+B}{1} \quad \text{with:}$$

$x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of Index Component i on Trading Day t

B = Shares received for every share held

$$p_{i,t+1} = \frac{p_{i,t} + s * B}{1 + B} \quad \text{with:}$$

- $p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t  
 $p_{i,t+1}$  = Hypothetical Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1  
 $s$  = Subscription Price in the Index Component currency

$$D_{t+1} = D_t * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t}) + \sum_{i=1}^n [(x_{i,t+1} * p_{i,t+1} * f_{i,t}) - (x_{i,t} * p_{i,t} * f_{i,t})]}{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}$$

with

- $p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t  
 $f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency  
 $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t  
 $p_{i,t+1}$  = Hypothetical price of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1  
 $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t+1  
 $D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t  
 $D_{t+1}$  = Divisor on Trading Day t+1

### 3.5.3 Share splits

In the case of share splits with ex date on Trading Day t+1 it is assumed that the prices change in ratio of the terms of the split. The new Number of Index Shares is calculated as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_{i,t} * B$$

- $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t  
 $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t+1  
 $B$  = Shares after the share split for every share held before the split

### 3.5.4 Stock distributions

In the case of stock distributions with ex date on Trading Day t+1 it is assumed that the prices change according to the terms of the distribution. The new Number of Index Shares is calculated as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_{i,t} * (1 + B)$$

- $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t  
 $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t+1  
 $B$  = Shares received for every share held

## 3.6 Calculation of the Index in the event of a Market Disruption Event



The Index is not calculated in the event of a Market Disruption Event or Force Majeure Event. If the Market Disruption Event or Force Majeure Event continues over a period of eight Trading Days, then the Committee will determine the necessary action (including but not limited to taking into account the market conditions prevailing at this point in time, the last quoted Trading Price for each of the Index Components as well as any other conditions that it deems relevant for calculating the Index value) such that the affected securities resulting from the Market Disruption Event are no longer causing such disruption to occur.

## 4. Definitions

“**Selection Pool**” in respect of a Selection Day are those securities that fulfill the following conditions:

- Is an ETF that tracks a global or regional index of equity, bond, real estate, commodity or alternative market.
- Is an ETF that is listed on a regulated stock exchange.

“**Index Component**” is each share currently included in the Index.

“**Number of Shares**” is in respect of an Index Component and any given Business Day the number or fraction of shares included in the Index. It is calculated for any Index Component as the ratio of (A) the Percentage Weight of an Index Component multiplied by the Index value and (B) its Trading Price.

“**Percentage Weight**” of an Index Component is the ratio of its Trading Price multiplied by its Number of Shares divided by the Index value.

“**Dividend Correction Factor**” is calculated as 1 minus the applicable withholding tax rate and/or other applicable tax rate currently prevalent in the respective country.

In particular an “**Extraordinary Event**” is

- a Merger
- a takeover bid
- a delisting
- the Nationalisation of a company
- Insolvency.

The Trading Price for this Index Component on the day the event came into effect is the last available market price for this Index Component quoted on the Exchange on the day the event came into effect (or, if a market price is not available for the day the event came into effect, the last available market price quoted on the Exchange on a day specified as appropriate by the Index Calculator), as determined by the Index Calculator, and this price is used as the Trading Price of the particular Index Component until the end of the day on which the composition of the Index is next set.

In the event of the Insolvency of an issuer of an Index Component the Index Component shall remain in the Index until the next Adjustment Day. As long as a market price for the affected Index Component is available on a Business Day, this shall be applied as the Trading Price for this Index Component on the relevant Business Day, as determined in each case by the Index Calculator. If a market price is not available on a Business Day the Trading Price for this Index Component is set to zero. The Committee may also decide to eliminate the respective Index Component at an earlier point in time prior to the next Adjustment Day. The procedure in this case is identical to an elimination due to an Extraordinary Event.

An Index Component is “**delisted**” if the Exchange announces pursuant to the Exchange regulations that the listing of, the trading in or the issuing of public quotes on the Index Component at the Exchange has ceased immediately or will cease at a later date, for whatever reason (provided delisting is not because of a Merger or a Takeoverbid), and the Index Component is not immediately listed, traded or quoted again on an exchange, trading or listing system, acceptable to the Index Calculator,

“**Insolvency**” occurs with regard to an Index Component if (A) all shares of the respective issuer must be transferred to a trustee, liquidator, insolvency administrator or a similar public officer as result of a voluntary or compulsory liquidation, insolvency or winding-up proceedings or comparable proceedings affecting the issuer of the Index Components or (B) the holders of the shares of this issuer are legally enjoined from transferring the shares.

A “**Takeover bid**” is a bid to acquire, an exchange offer or any other offer or act of a legal person that results in the related legal person acquiring as part of an exchange or otherwise more than 10% and less than 100% of the voting shares in circulation from the issuer of the Index Component or the right to acquire these shares, as determined by the Index Calculator based on notices submitted to public or self-regulatory authorities or other information considered by the Index Calculator to be relevant.

With regard to an Index Component a “**Merger**” is

- (i) a change in the security class or a conversion of this share class that results in a transfer or an ultimate definite obligation to transfer all the shares in circulation to another legal person

- (ii) a merger (either by acquisition or through forming a new structure) or a binding obligation on the part of the issuer to exchange shares with another legal person (except in a merger or share exchange under which the issuer of this Index Component is the acquiring or remaining company and which does not involve a change in security class or a conversion of all the shares in circulation),
- (iii) a takeover offer, exchange offer, other offer or another act of a legal person for the purposes of acquiring or otherwise obtaining from the issuer 100% of the shares issued that entails a transfer or the irrevocable obligation to transfer all shares (with the exception of shares which are held and controlled by the legal person), or
- (iv) a merger (either by acquisition or through forming a new structure) or a binding obligation on the part of the issuer of the share or its subsidiaries to exchange shares with another legal person, whereby the issuer of the share is the acquiring or remaining company and it does not involve a change in the class or a conversion of the all shares issued, but the shares in circulation directly prior to such an event (except for shares held and controlled by the legal person) represent in total less than 50% of the shares in circulation directly subsequent to such an event.

The **“Merger Date”** is the date on which a Merger is concluded or the date specified by the Index Calculator if such a date cannot be determined under the law applicable to the Merger.

**“Nationalisation”** is a process whereby all shares or the majority of the assets of the issuer of the shares are nationalised or are expropriated or otherwise must be transferred to public bodies, authorities or institutions.

With regard to an Index component (subject to the provisions given above under **“Extraordinary Events”**) the **“Trading Price”** in respect of a Trading Day is the closing price on this Trading Day determined in accordance with the Exchange regulations. If the Exchange has no closing price for an Index Component, the Index Calculator shall determine the Trading Price and the time of the quote for the share in question in a manner that appears reasonable to him.

A **“Trading Day”** is in relation to the Index or an Index Component a Trading Day on the Exchange (or a day that would have been such a day if a market disruption had not occurred), excluding days on which trading may be ceased prior to the normal Exchange closing time. The Index Calculator is ultimately responsible as to whether a certain day is a Trading Day with regard to the Index or an Index Component or in any other connection relating to this document.

A **“Business Day”** is a day on which Stuttgart Stock Exchange is open for trading.

The **“Index Calculator”** is Solactive AG or any other appropriately appointed successor in this function.

The **“Index Currency”** is GBP.

**“Market Capitalization”** is with regard to each of the shares in the Selection Pool on a Selection Day or Adjustment Day the value published by Reuters (or a successor) as the Market Capitalization for this day.

As at the date of this document Market Capitalization is defined by Reuters as the value of a company calculated by multiplying the number of shares outstanding of the company by its share price.

**“Free Float Market Capitalization”** is with regard to each of the shares in the Selection Pool or in the Index on a Selection Day or Adjustment Day the Market Capitalization for this day multiplied by the ratio of (A) the number of shares in circulation and (B) the number of shares outstanding of the respective company.

If Reuters (or a successor):

- (i) does not publish for a Selection Day a Market Capitalization for a share or
- (ii) adopts another method for calculating the Market Capitalization for all shares or only with regard to the share in question or uses different assumptions in calculating the Market Capitalization for all shares or only with regard to the share in question, and in the reasonable assessment of the Index Calculator involves material changes (the Index Calculator makes the decision as to whether such changes are to be deemed **“material”** by applying factors that in his reasonable assessment appear appropriate to him),

the Index Calculator will determine the Market Capitalization in respect of the shares or of a share included in the Selection Pool and the respective Selection Day either from another publicly accessible source specified at his sole discretion or from other sources that in his assessment are reasonable and appropriate in the event that no other publicly quoted suitable prices are available.

**“Adjustment Day”** is the second business day of each month.

**“Selection Day”** is the last business day of each month prior to Adjustment Day.

**"Index Sponsor"** is Elston Consulting Limited.

An **“Affiliated Exchange”** is with regard to an Index Component an exchange, a trading or quotation system on which options and futures contracts on the Index Component in question are traded, as specified by the Index Calculator.

A **“Market Disruption Event”** occurs if

1. one of the following events occurs or exists on a Trading Day prior to the opening quotation time for an Index Component:
  - A) trading is suspended or restricted (due to price movements that exceed the limits allowed by the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange, or for other reasons):
    - 1.1. across the whole Exchange; or
    - 1.2. in options or futures contracts on or with regard to an Index Component or an Index Component that is quoted on an Affiliated Exchange; or
    - 1.3. on an Exchange or in a trading or quotation system (as determined by the Index Calculator) in which an Index Component is listed or quoted; or
  - B) an event that (in the assessment of the Index Calculator) generally disrupts and affects the opportunities of market participants to execute on the Exchange transactions in respect of a share included in the Index or to determine market values for a share included in the Index or to execute on an Affiliated Exchange transaction with regard to options and futures contracts on these shares or to determine market values for such options or futures contracts; or
2. trading on the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange is ceased prior to the usual closing time (as defined below), unless the early cessation of trading is announced by the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange on this Trading Day at least one hour before
  - (aa) the actual closing time for normal trading on the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange on the Trading Day in question or, if earlier.
  - (bb) the closing time (if given) of the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange for the execution of orders at the time the quote is given.

**“Normal exchange closing time”** is the time at which the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange is normally closed on working days without taking into account after-hours trading or other trading activities carried out outside the normal trading hours; or
3. a general moratorium is imposed on banking transactions in the country in which the Exchange is resident if the above-mentioned events are material in the assessment of the Index Calculator, whereby the Index Calculator makes his decision based on those circumstances that he considers reasonable and appropriate.

## **5 Appendix**

### **5.1 Contact data**

#### **Information regarding the Index concept**

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London WC1R 4JS  
United Kingdom

### **5.2 Calculation of the Index – change in calculation method**

The application by the Index Calculator of the method described in this document is final and binding. The Index Calculator shall apply the method described above for the calculation of the Index. However it cannot be excluded that the market environment, supervisory, legal, financial, or tax reasons may require changes to be made to this method. The Index Calculator may also make changes to the terms and conditions of the Index and the method applied to calculate the Index, which he deems to be necessary and desirable in order to prevent obvious or demonstrable error or to remedy, correct or supplement incorrect terms and conditions. The Index Calculator is not obliged to provide information on any such modifications or changes. Despite the modifications and changes the Index Calculator will take the appropriate steps to ensure a calculation method is applied that is consistent with the method described above.