

Press Release

Handelsbanken Fonder and Xact to license Solactive ISS ESG Screened Index Series

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Solactive is pleased to announce that Handelsbanken's two fund management companies, Handelsbanken Fonder AB (active management) and Xact Kapitalförvaltning AB (passive management) license several ESG indices for benchmarking purposes, effectively switching index providers for 20 equity and fixed income indices over the next few months. Handelsbanken Fonder and Xact are Solactive's first clients to adopt its recently established Solactive ISS ESG Screened Index Series, an index family that aims to track various size and regional segments of the global capital markets, including only companies operating with market standards on ESG controversy screens.

To create the new index series, Solactive teamed up with ESG Provider ISS ESG, which provides independent and high-quality ESG data and analytics. The ESG screen takes into account several factors, which are, among others, derived from the United Nations Global Compact and include a *norm-based* screening such as verified violation of human and labor rights, involvement in controversial weapons like biological and nuclear weapons as well as anti-personnel mines, and business operations in sectors including fossil fuel, military, cannabis and tobacco.

"We are excited that Handelsbanken Fonder and Xact adopted the indices only a few weeks after their introduction", says Timo Pfeiffer, Head of Research at Solactive. He continues: "With more global players providing ESG-screened services for their clients, there is clearly a development towards impact investing; ESG is not a trend."

In a first step, the following funds are set to track Solactive ISS ESG Screened benchmark indices going forward with more index transitions occurring over the next months:

Fund Name	Solactive Index	Index Status
Handelsbanken Global Småbolag Index Criteria	Solactive ISS ESG Screened Developed Markets Small Cap	Switch from existing MSCI index
Handelsbanken Euro Corporate Bond Fund	Solactive ISS ESG Screened Euro IG Corporate Bond Index	Switch from existing Bloomberg Barclays index

Pär Nürnberg, CEO at Xact Kapitalförvaltning, comments, *"We are pleased to move our range of global ESG Index Funds to the newly launched ESG index suite by Solactive and ISS ESG. This partnership will facilitate existing as well as upcoming product development in line with growing client demand for sustainable indices we see from our clients."*

Solactive AG
German Index Engineering
Guiollettstr. 54
60325 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Timo Pfeiffer
Head of Research
+49 (69) 719 160-320
pfeiffer@solactive.com

Fabian Colin
Head of Sales
+49 (69) 719 160-220
colin@solactive.com

Phil Wiedbrauck
PR & Communications
+49 (69) 719 160-311
phil.wiedbrauck@solactive.com

For further information, please visit: www.solactive.com

Note to editors

About Solactive

Solactive AG is an innovative index provider that focuses on the development, calculation and distribution of tailor-made indices across all asset classes. As at January 2019, Solactive AG served approximately 400 clients in Europe, America and Asia, with approximately USD 200 billion invested in products linked to indices calculated by the company globally, primarily via 380 exchange-traded funds from a number of well-known providers. Solactive AG was established in 2007 and is headquartered in Frankfurt.

About Handelsbanken Fonder AB

Handelsbanken Fonder AB administers SEK 400bn distributed among approximately 100 funds. For further information, please visit www.handelsbanken.se/funds

About Xact Kapitalförvaltning AB

Xact Kapitalförvaltning administers approximately SEK 130bn distributed among approximately 32 funds. For further information, please visit www.handelsbanken.se/funds

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Solactive AG, Guiollettstr. 54, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Registered Office: Frankfurt am Main, Registration Court: Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main, HRB: 79986, USt-IdNr.: DE 255 598 976. Management Board: Steffen Scheuble, Christian Grabbe, Christian Vollmuth, and Dirk Urmoneit, Head of Supervisory Board: Dr Felix Mühlhäuser.

Solactive AG
German Index Engineering
Guiollettstr. 54
60325 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Timo Pfeiffer
Head of Research
+49 (69) 719 160-320
pfeiffer@solactive.com

Fabian Colin
Head of Sales
+49 (69) 719 160-220
colin@solactive.com

Phil Wiedbrauck
PR & Communications
+49 (69) 719 160-311
phil.wiedbrauck@solactive.com