Guideline relating to

BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index

Version 1.3 dated March 11th, 2019

# Contents

**Introduction**

This document contains the underlying principles and regulations regarding the structure and operation of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index. Solactive AG shall make every effort to implement the relevant 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 given point in time nor in any other respect. The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is the sole property of BlueStar Indexes. Solactive AG 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 calculation and publication of the index by Solactive AG is not a 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. The index provider does not accept any payments from potential index components for inclusion in the index.

# Introduction

This document is to be used as a guideline with regard to the composition, calculation and management of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index. Any changes made to the guideline are initiated by the Committee specified in section 1.6. The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is the sole property of BlueStar Indexes. The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is calculated and published by Solactive AG. The name "Solactive" is copyrighted.

# 1 Index specifications

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is a rules-based, market value weighted index engineered to mirror the performance of Israel government bonds denominated in USD. At any point time, the index will be composed of at least two constituents.

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is calculated as a Total Return Index with coupon payments being directly reinvested into the index.

## 1.1 Name and ISIN

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is distributed under ISIN DE000SLA2NX4; the WKN is SLA2NX. The Index is published in Reuters under the code .BIGUBND and in Bloomberg under the code BIGUBND Index.

## 1.2 Initial value

The index will be calculated every Business Day starting on the 23rd of September 2016. Before this date the index values are backfilled until 30th of June 2011, with the index value based on 100 as at the close of trading on 30th of June 2011.

## 1.3 Distribution

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is published via the price marketing services of Boerse Stuttgart AG and is distributed to all affiliated vendors.

## 1.4 Prices and calculation frequency

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is calculated based on the Evaluated Bid Price (see 4.2 Further Definitions) of the respective Index Components. The index is calculated and distributed once every Business Day. Bond and index analytical values are calculated each Business Days using the Last Evaluated Price.

If there is an interruption in availability of Evaluated Bid Prices the index will be based on the Last Available Evaluated Bid Price. In the event that other data required for index calculation purposes is not available or that there are troubles regarding the price marketing of Solactive AG or Stuttgart Stock exchange the index cannot be distributed.

## 1.5 Weighting

The Index Components are weighted according to their respective Market Value in proportion to the aggregated Market Value of all Index Components in the index, whereas the maximum weight is capped at 50% per bond. For the avoidance of doubt if less than 2 bonds are a component of the index, the cap at 50% per bond does not apply.

The weighting methodology may be amended by the Committee if required due to legal framework.

## 1.6 Decision-making bodies

A Committee composed of staff from Bluestar Indexes is responsible for decisions regarding the composition of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index, as well as any amendments to the rules (hereinafter referred to as the "**Committee**" or the "**Index Committee**"). The Committee will also determine the future composition of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index if any Extraordinary Event (see chapter 2.3) occurs, as well as 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. Any change of the guideline will be announced on the web page http://www.solactive.com.

## 1.7 Publication

All specifications and information relevant for calculating the index are made available on the http://www.solactive.com web page and sub-pages.

## 1.8 Historical data

Historical data will be maintained from 30th of June 2011.

## 1.9 Licencing

Licences to use the index as the underlying value for derivative instruments are issued to stock exchanges, banks, financial services providers and investment houses by BlueStar Indexes.

# 2 Composition of the Index

## 2.1 Selection of the Index Components

At the launch of the index, all financial instruments which meet the requirements of the Selection Pool are eligible for inclusion in the index. Instruments issued prior to the Selection Day and which meet the criteria of the Selection Pool as defined under 4.1 will be added on the Adjustment Day to the Selection Pool. Additionally, on the Selection Day, the Index Committee will evaluate whether all current Index Components still meet the requirements of the Selection Pool.  Any Index Components that do not pass this screen will be removed from the Index on the next Adjustment day.

Extraordinary adjustments are possible as described under 2.3.

## 2.2 Ordinary adjustment

The composition of the index is ordinarily reviewed on the Selection Day. Any change to the index will be announced on the Announcement Day and implemented after COB on the Adjustment Day.

## 2.3 Extraordinary adjustment

The Index Committee will decide about the future composition and the implementation of any necessary adjustments of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index if an Extraordinary Event (early redemption, credit event etc.) regarding one or more index constituents occurs. See details under 3.3 Adjustments

The Index Committee will decide on the future composition of the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index as well as the Business Day which marks the starting of the new adjusted index composition.

# 3 Calculation of the Index

## 3.1.1 Index formula

The BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index is an index whose value reflects the relative changes in bond values. Therefore, the composition and weighting may be adjusted every month.

The Index is calculated using the following formula:

$$Totalreturn_{t,i} = \frac{Price_{t,i} + ACCInt_{t,i} + PaidCash_{t,i}}{Price_{t-1,i} + ACCInt_{t-1,i}} - 1$$

$$weighting_{t,i} = \frac{(Price_{t,i} + ACCInt_{t,i}) * Amount_{SD,i} * Cap_{SD,i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{a}(Price_{t,i} + ACCInt_{t,i}) * Amount_{SD,i} * Cap_{SD,i}}$$

$$Index_t = Index_{t-1} * (1 + \sum_{i=1}^{a}(Totalreturn_{t,i} * weighting_{t-1,i}))$$

Whereas:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $Totalreturn_{t,i}$ | = | Total return of the bond i on trading day t |
| $Pricereturn_{t,i}$ | = | Price return of the bond i on trading day t |
| $Index_t$ | = | Value of the index on trading day t |
| $Index_{t-1}$ | = | Value of the index on trading day t-1 |
| $Price_{i,t}$ | = | Price of the bond i on trading day t |
| $Price_{i,t-1}$ | = | Price of the bond i on trading day t-1 |
| $ACCInt_{i,t}$ | = | Accrued Interest of the bond i on trading day t (for the avoidance of doubt the index takes into account a settlement convention of t+3) |
| $ACCInt_{i,t-1}$ | = | Accrued Interest of the bond i on trading day t-1 (for the avoidance of doubt the index takes into account a settlement convention of t+3) |
| $Weighting_{t,i}$ | = | Weighting of the bond i on trading day t |
| $Amount_{SD,i}$ | = | Amount Outstanding of bond i on the last Selection Day SD |
| $PaidCash_{i,t}$ | = | a) Value of the coupon payment for bond i on trading day t |
| | | b) If a bond i will be removed from the index, the resulting payment of the bond will be included in the paid cash component |
| $Cap_{i,SD}$ | = | Parameter used to scale the weighting of bond i to fulfill weighting requirements described in 1.5 defined on Selection Day SD |

## 3.2 Accuracy

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

According to the terms of the bond, the Index Calculator will take the following conventions into account:
Act/Act
Act/360
Act/365
30/360
ISMA 30/360

The index does not take into account taxes and assumes gross coupon payments.

Accrued Interest is calculated with settlement convention t+0. If a bond does not pay any coupons (e.g. zero-coupon bonds or T-Bills) the Accrued Interest as well as the coupon payment will be set to 0.

## 3.3 Adjustments

Indices need to be adjusted for systematic changes in prices once these become effective.  The Committee will decide from time to time if the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index needs to be adjusted.

The following corporate actions will result in changes or adjustments to an index as indicated below between Adjustment Days:

(a) Early Redemption or Full Call: The bond proceeds will be reinvested into the index on the effective date. For the avoidance of doubt a Tender must be mandatory, the pure offer to tender a bond will not lead to an adjustment of the index.*

(b) Flat Trading: A bond is flat trading if the bond issuer will not meet its coupon payment obligation which means that the buyer of a bond is not responsible for paying the interest that has accrued since the last payment. If a bond is defined to be "flat trading" between two Adjustment Days the respective accrued interests and coupons will be set to 0. The bond will not be removed until the next Adjustment Day.

(c) Defaulted Bonds: If the status of a bond changes to "In Default", the bond will remain as part of the index or portfolio at the last available evaluated price provided by the pricing source until the next regular index adjustment day.

(d) Exchange Offers:
1) Optional Exchange Offers:  Optional Exchange Offers will not result in an adjustment of the index.*
2) Mandatory Exchanges Offers:
    a. In case more than 90% of the Amount Outstanding is exchanged the exchange will be considered in the index calculation by exchanging the relevant bonds, so that the new bond will receive the weight of the old exchanged bond.
    b. In case less than 90% of the Amount Outstanding is exchanged the exchange will not be considered to be an event that affects the relevant bond's position in the index.

(e) Fungible Bonds:
1) The parent bond and the sub-tranche are both index constituents: Both bonds are kept in the index until the next Adjustment Day. On the next Adjustment Day, the new bond will be removed and the Amount Outstanding of the parent bond will be increased by the amount of the new bond issue.
2) The parent bond is an index constituent and the sub-tranche is not: On the next Adjustment Day, the Amount Outstanding of the parent bond will be increased by the amount of the sub-tranche.
3) The parent bond is not an index constituent but the sub-tranche is: On the next Adjustment Day, the sub-tranche leaves the index and the parent bond enters the index including the Amount Outstanding added from the sub-tranche (assuming that it meets the requirements of the Selection Pool).

(f) Debt issuances: Debt issuances of an existing bond will not be considered until the next Adjustment Day.

*For the avoidance of doubt, an optional tender or exchange offer may lead to an index adjustment after the end of the submission period. In case the tender or exchange has been successful for at least 90% of the amount outstanding, the bond will be removed from the index/exchanged into the relevant bond.

## 4. Definitions

### 4.1 index-specific definitions

The **"Selection Pool"** comprises bonds that fulfill the following conditions:

(a) Israeli government bonds
(b) Denominated in USD
(c) Remaining time to maturity of 5 months to 10 years
(d) Amount Outstanding of at least 250 million USD
(e) Exclusion of Convertible Bonds, Inflation-linked Bonds, Equity-linked Bonds, Contingent Convertible Capital Securities, Covered Bonds, Preferred Securities, Securitized Bonds
(f) For a bond to be included in the index, a price must be available from a recognized bond price provider as determined by the Index Committee

### 4.2 Further definitions

**"Adjustment Day"** last Business Day of each month.

**"Amount Outstanding"** is the face value of the respective bond.

**"Announcement Day"** is the Business Day following the Selection Day.

A **"Business Day"** in relation to the index is any day other than a Saturday or Sunday where the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading.

**"Call"** means that a bond with a callable feature will be redeemed before the actual maturity date of the bond. The callable feature allows the issuer of the bond to retain the privilege of redeeming the bond before the actual maturity date.

**"Contingent Convertible Capital Securities"** are bonds that will be converted into equity if a certain trigger event takes place or written down.

**"Convertible Bonds"** are bonds that can be converted into a predetermined amount of the company's equity at certain times during its life.

**"Covered Bonds"** are bonds backed by cash flows or mortgages or public sector loans.

A **"Credit Event"** is the suspension of debt service, insolvency or failure to pay on time.

**"Early Redemption"** includes every event that leads to a redemption of a bond before the actual maturity date.

**"Exchange Offer"** means that the holder of a bond is invited to exchange the existing bond to another debt security.

In particular an **"Extraordinary Event"** is
- an early redemption of the bond
- a credit event

A bond is **"Flat Trading"** if the bond issuer will not meet its coupon payment obligation which means that the buyer of a bond is not responsible for paying the interest that has accrued since the last payment.

A **"Fungible Bond"** is a new issue that has all the same specifications as an existing issue (bonds with the same parameters can be issued in different tranches). At a specific date, the tranches will be combined into one bond. After this date, the parent tranche will include the Amount Outstanding of all new tranches.

A bond is "**In Default**" if the issuer is not able to fulfil its bond payment obligations anymore after the 30 days grace period.

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

**"Index Components"** are all bonds in the Selection Pool.

The **"Index Currency"** is USD.

**"Inflation-linked Bonds"** are bonds whose principal is indexed to inflation.

**"Issuer"** is the issuing entity of the respective bond.

**"Last Evaluated Price"** is (aside from the rules referred to in „Extraordinary Events") the last available Evaluated Bid Price from the Pricing Data Provider.

**"Paid Cash"** is either the value of the coupon payments between Adjustment Days or the resulting payment when a bond is removed from the index between Adjustment Days. Paid Cash is invested directly on the effective date into the index.

**"Preferred Securities**" combine both debt and equity characteristics.

**"Pricing Provider**" for this index is Interactive Data Corporation  part of the ICE group.

**"Securitized Bonds"** are bonds secured against specific assets or receivables (ABS), mortgages (MBS) or cash flows.

**"Selection Day"** is the 15th of each month. If the 15th is not a Business Day the Selection Day is pushed to the next Business Day.

The **"Target Equal Weight"** is defined as 100% divided by the number of Index Components.

**"Tender Offe**r**"** means that a holder of a bond is invited to tender the bond for a specific price at a specific time before the actual maturity date.

# 5 Appendix

## 5.1 Contact data

**Information regarding the BlueStar Israel Government USD Bond Index concept**
Joshua Kaplan
Director of Research and Finance
Jkaplan@bluestarindexes.com
BlueStar Indexes
1350 Ave of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

## 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 composition and 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. The Index calculator will make announcements regarding the amendment of the index guideline.  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.