

Press Release

Amid Stagflation worries, Merk launches ETF tracking Solactive Index

3 May 2022

FRANKFURT AM MAIN – The term stagflation has recently gained a lot of press, as the market have been fearing surging inflation, failing employment, and slow or negative economic growth in the last months. Amid the possibilities that world economies face this challenge in the near future, Merk launches now the Merk Stagflation ETF (STGF), which seeks to replicate as closely as possible, before fees and expenses, the price and yield performance of the Solactive Stagflation Index (SOLSTAGF). The index pursues to track the performance of components that are expected to benefit, either directly or indirectly, from persistent inflation, including in an environment of weak economic growth (stagflation), such as U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, real estate, gold, and oil.

Timo Pfeiffer, Chief Markets Officer at Solactive, commented: *"We are pleased that Merk chose us as the index providers for such an important and innovative product in times of uncertainty. This ETF offers the possibility for investors to hedge their portfolios allocating their assets in industries like gold, oil, and real estate, which can protect them during periods of slow/no growth."*

Axel Merk, President and Chief Investment Officer of Merk Investments, stated: *"The **Merk Stagflation ETF (STGF)** is designed to provide appreciation potential and inflation-sensitive income in an environment of stagflation like that of the 1970s — characterized by high inflation rates, a bull market in commodities, and rising real estate prices. The strategy holds a basket of exposures across three asset classes: inflation-protected bonds, commodities, and real estate."*

Nick Reece, Vice President of Merk Investments, said: *"STGF is the first stagflation-themed ETF in the market. We think it will be embraced by advisors and retail investors concerned about inflation and about the outlook for traditional 60/40 portfolios more broadly—and that might be looking for an alternative to traditional fixed-income allocations."*

For more information, please visit:

Solactive AG
German Index Engineering
Platz der Einheit 1
60327 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Steffen Scheuble
CEO
+49 (69) 719 160-20
steffen.scheuble@solactive.com

Lindsay Wang
Director Americas Sales
+1 (647) 608-8446
lindsay.wang@solactive.com

Maria Seifert
PR & Communications
+49 (69) 719 160-311
maria.seifert@solactive.com

<http://www.solactive.com>

Note to editors

About Solactive

Solactive is a leading provider of indexing, benchmarking, and calculation solutions for the global investment and trading community. Headquartered in Frankfurt and, with offices in Hong Kong, Toronto, Berlin, and Dresden, we innovate and disrupt the status quo as the partner of choice for our clients.

The unique blend of our 250 staff's expertise in data, data science, financial markets, and technology enables our clients' continued success through the delivery of a superior experience, unique customization capabilities, and the best value for money available in the industry. With more than 20,000 indices calculated daily, we offer a full suite of solutions, including market-leading ESG and thematic indices.

As at January 2022, Solactive served approximately 500 clients across the world, with approximately US\$250 billion invested in products linked to our indices. Solactive is registered with ESMA as a benchmark administrator and is supervised by the BaFin.

Disclaimer

The information in this document does not constitute tax, legal or investment advice and is not intended as a recommendation for buying or selling securities. Solactive AG and all other companies mentioned in this document are not responsible for the consequences of reliance upon any opinion or statement contained herein or for any omission.

Solactive AG, Platz der Einheit 1, 60327 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, Alexander Steiner, and Timo Pfeiffer, Head of Supervisory Board: Dr Felix Mühlhäuser.

Solactive AG
German Index Engineering
Platz der Einheit 1
60327 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Steffen Scheuble
CEO
+49 (69) 719 160-20
steffen.scheuble@solactive.com

Lindsay Wang
Director Americas Sales
+1 (647) 608-8446
lindsay.wang@solactive.com

Maria Seifert
PR & Communications
+49 (69) 719 160-311
maria.seifert@solactive.com