

## Press Release

### VanEck Merk Gold Trust ETF (OUNZ) to track Solactive Gold Spot Index

15 May 2023

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN – Solactive is pleased to announce the launch of the Solactive Gold Spot Index (ticker: SOLAGOLD) in collaboration with Merk Investments. The index will serve as the reference price for the VanEck Merk Gold Trust ETF (ticker: OUNZ), which tracks the gold spot price, by holding physical gold.**

Amidst today's volatile and highly correlated bond and equity markets, commodities as an asset class provide investors with a much needed portfolio diversification option. Due to a global regime characterized by rising interest rates and inflation, demand for products using gold as the underlying has increased across markets all over the world. Historically, gold prices have been uncorrelated to the stock market, and have typically risen during some of the worst market crashes, giving gold the 'reputation' of a safe-haven investment in the eyes of many investors.

The Solactive Gold Spot Index (SOLAGOLD) provides reliable and transparent time weighted gold spot price fixing (with a local NY 4PM close). It is a USD denominated index that tracks the daily gold spot price quoted as US Dollars per Troy Ounce using time weighted average prices between TWAP fixing start and TWAP fixing end time.

Timo Pfeiffer, Chief Markets Officer of Solactive, comments: *"We are excited to cooperate with Merk Investments and provide them with the optimal reference index for this important building block in their product offering. At Solactive our goal is to provide our clients with the exact indexing solutions they require across all asset classes including the commodity space."*

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.solactive.com>

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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 280 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 25,000 indices calculated daily, we offer a full suite of solutions, including market-leading ESG and thematic indices.

As of 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.

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