

Press Release 29th June 2010

Ilott launches UK's first specialist multi-manager research service

Paul Ilott, formerly Head of Communications for Fidelity International's multi-manager business, has launched the UK's first independent consultancy dedicated to researching multi-manager funds.

Scopic Research will offer a due diligence report service providing a detailed, objective examination of eleven key areas of a multi-manager firm's capabilities and, an investment monitoring service offering regular assessments of an individual fund's performance, risk pattern, underlying holdings and asset allocation. Monitoring also takes account of any changes in qualitative factors relating to the firm, the investment team and process. Scopic Research will also undertake bespoke consultancy work.

It is also set to launch the UK's first reports and rating service focused solely on multi-manager funds. The web-based subscription service, which is due to be launched later in 2010, will provide qualitative reports that include a unique ratings system for individual unfettered multi-manager funds.

Scopic's services are designed for clients including IFAs and wealth managers, product providers, third party administrators, fund management groups and platform providers.

Paul said: "The Treating Customers Fairly initiative and the likely shape of the Retail Distribution Review mean that many intermediaries are reshaping their business models and an increasing number are delegating investment management to multi-manager specialists.

"Given the ever expanding universe of investment opportunity open to them; multi-managers are increasingly adopting more sophisticated strategies, investing in asset classes that were previously unavailable or hard to access, and targeting a wider range of investment objectives. Inevitably this means there is a real and growing market for greater transparency and wholly independent qualitative-based research. I believe this can only be achieved by having face to face manager interviews at the core of the research process.

"Intermediaries have the reassurance of knowing the research we publish is entirely impartial; fund managers do not pay us to award ratings or to publish research on their funds. While those offering funds will recognise the advantages of detailed analysis by specialists with a real understanding of the unique characteristics of multi-manager."

Paul has more than 20 years' experience in financial services, which includes 10 years as an IFA specialising in investment. In 2001 he joined Bates Investment Services as Head of Communications. In October 2007 he began work as Head of Communications for Fidelity International's Multi-manager business, a role in which he remained until March 2009.

He said: "My background working as an IFA, in investment research and, in working intimately alongside the members of a major multi-manager team has provided me with a good all round perspective on multi-manager.

"As a result Scopic Research has the insight and experience to provide a service that delivers demonstrable value both for intermediaries and product providers."

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The dedicated multi-manager research consultancy

Notes to Editors

Scopic Research is an independent research consultancy dedicated solely to researching multi-manager solutions.

Our qualitative based research aims to offer deeper insight, greater transparency, and an information advantage to businesses that advise clients on, manage, or have other interests in unfettered multi-manager investment solutions.

We are a wholly independent business with no conflicts of interest. Fund managers do not pay us to award ratings or to publish research on their funds.

Further information about Scopic Research can be found at www.scopicresearch.co.uk.

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