

EIRIS News Release

London, Monday 14 September 2009

EIRIS named UK's best ESG Research House

Global responsible investment specialists EIRIS has been awarded top honours in this year's World Finance Awards. Created in 2007 by *World Finance Magazine*, the Awards are designed to identify industry leaders, individuals, teams and organisations that represent the benchmark of achievement and best practice in the financial world.

This year, the awards highlighted Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) for the first time. The panel of independent awards adjudicators considered a range of criteria including adoption of the UNPRI principles, meeting the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) demand of institutional investors and quality of research. Other criteria included innovation, originality and quality of products, as well as proof of market development and excellence in client representation.

Over the last few years, EIRIS has continued to develop the scale and scope of its research to match the needs of investors wishing to mitigate ESG risks and maximise investment opportunities. EIRIS' extra-financial research is based on a fully transparent and robust methodology and in 2008 EIRIS became the first ESG research house in the UK to be awarded the CSRR-QS 2.1 Quality Standard.

EIRIS' global extra-financial research is used by more than 100 institutional investors around the world. Developed with direct input from investors, EIRIS has recently launched a new Climate Change Toolkit to enable investors to fully integrate climate change, as well as a UN PRI Toolkit to help asset owners and asset managers implement their commitments to the Principles for Responsible Investment.

Peter Webster, EIRIS' Executive Director said 'We welcome this award as a reflection of EIRIS' dedication to producing high-quality, relevant research on a broad range of environmental, social, governance and other ethical issues.'

For more information on the 2009 World Finance Awards visit www.worldfinance.com

Press contact: mark.robertson@eiris.org, +44 (0)20 7840 5741, +44 (0)7950 931313

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EIRISNews>

Notes to Editors

1. EIRIS (www.eiris.org) is a leading global provider of independent research into the social, environmental governance and ethical performance of companies. EIRIS, a UK-based organisation with offices in the US and France together with its international research partners, has a wealth of experience in the field of responsible investment research. EIRIS provides comprehensive research on around 3,000 companies in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region. EIRIS is already retained by 100 institutional clients including pension and retail fund managers, banks, private client brokers, charities and religious institutions across Europe, North America, Australia and Asia. EIRIS has developed a comprehensive suite of products to help investors assess their portfolios and design investment strategies in response to the challenge of a carbon-constrained economy. For more information on EIRIS' products and services visit www.eiris.org or email: clients@eiris.org
2. EIRIS has developed a [Climate Change Toolkit](#) to help investors assess their portfolios and design investment strategies in response to the challenge of a carbon-constrained economy. The toolkit comprises of 1) Carbon Profile - assesses the climate change performance of a portfolio against major market indices by considering both climate change impact and company responses. It is designed to help investors understand the quantitative climate change impact of their portfolios. It provides a qualitative assessment of company responses to climate change. 2) Carbon Engager – helps investors to target their engagement on climate change and identify key priorities. It provides detailed reports on individual company performance and best practice examples to support a variety of engagement approaches. 3) Carbon Risk Factor – quantifies individual company performance on climate change. It provides a risk-weighted score based on each company's carbon impact and management response to climate change. It is designed to be easily integrated into analysts' models.
3. [EIRIS PRI toolkit](#) offers practical solutions for investors looking to implement the UN PRI, and in particular Principles 1, 2 and 3. The EIRisk tool assigns companies an ESG risk management grade that can be integrated into investment analysis and decision making processes. It helps investors meet their commitments under Principle 1 of the PRI. The Global Compact Engager assists investors who have adopted an engagement strategy, and meet their commitments under Principle 2 of the PRI. The Report Monitor focuses exclusively on companies' reporting practices to assist signatories to identify leaders and laggards on ESG disclosure, and meet their commitments under Principle 3 of the PRI. Further information on the toolkit is available [here](#).

(ENDS)