

News Release
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EIRIS launches new toolkit for UN PRI signatories

Global responsible investment specialist EIRIS today launched a new suite of products specifically designed to help asset owners and asset managers implement the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

Support for the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is growing rapidly. In the year since the start of the credit crisis, the number of institutions signing the PRI has grown by 65%, and the rate of growth since the start of 2008 has continued at 37%. So far over 400 global investors have signed the PRI (representing \$15 trillion in assets).

The PRI creates both challenges and opportunities for investors and many are now looking at how best to implement the principles. But as signatories to a voluntary scheme, what can asset owners and asset managers do in concrete terms to promote the main goal of the PRI: to embed the idea of sustainability into investment management and encourage better corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices? And how can they provide concrete evidence of their implementation process for the PRI's annual report on progress?

Recognising these challenges, EIRIS has developed a PRI toolkit to help signatories implement the PRI. The toolkit focuses specifically on the first three PRI principles which centre on incorporating environmental, social and governance issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes; engaging with companies; and encouraging better corporate disclosure of ESG issues.

The EIRIS PRI Toolkit consists of three tools **EIRisk**, **Global Compact Engager** and **Report Monitor**. Each offers practical, easy to integrate solutions designed to fit in with a variety of responsible investment approaches.

EIRisk helps investors incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and meet their commitments under Principle 1 of the PRI. Based on issues encapsulated by the UN Global Compact, it categorises companies into different levels of risk (according to risk exposure and management response), making it easy for investors to factor ESG risks into their investments.

Global Compact Engager provides investors with the resources they need to engage with companies and meet their commitments under Principle 2 of the PRI. The tool highlights leaders and laggards (according to each company's ESG risk mitigation practices) and generates detailed reports highlighting each company's strengths and weaknesses.

Report Monitor focuses on the quality of corporate ESG disclosure to help investors encourage better reporting practices and meet their commitments under Principle 3 of the PRI. The tool provides an overall score and grade on each company's reporting practices (taking into account the level of each company's exposure to ESG issues) to identify good and bad performers and facilitate engagement on ESG reporting.

Mairead Hancock, Head of Client Services at EIRIS, said: "The PRI is a very positive initiative, but implementing the principles can be a challenge. EIRIS' PRI toolkit provides investors with practical tools they need to implement the PRI and move from commitment to practical action. The global reach of the Principles and their success in attracting high level support makes PRI one of the most exciting developments in our 25 year history".

EIRIS is organising an informative half-day seminar for asset managers and asset owners focussing on how they can implement the UN PRI. Making it happen: Implementing the UN Principles for Responsible Investment will take place on Friday 31 October from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL. The event will feature keynote addresses from Georg Kell, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact and Donald MacDonald, Chair of the UN PRI. It will include a presentation on EIRIS' latest research which takes a global snapshot of responsible business practices and examines the implications for PRI

signatories. The event will also include a presentation on EIRIS' PRI toolkit. For further details of this event, or for more information on EIRIS' products and services, please contact David Hill on 020 7840 5742 david.hill@eiris.org.

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Note 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 an office in the US 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.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. The United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) is an investor initiative undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the United Nations Global Compact. Launched in April 2006, the Principles are designed to align the goals of institutional investors with the sustainable development objectives of the United Nations. The PRI has succeeded in drawing support from the investment community. Upon launch 20 mainstream institutional asset owners signed up, representing USD 2 trillion in assets under management. As of September 2008, the value of assets managed by the signatories to the PRI exceeded USD 15 trillion. See www.unpri.org

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