



Press Release

Standard & Poor's Names BlackRock Its 2009 Fund Manager Of The Year

Melbourne, Oct. 30, 2009—Standard & Poor's Fund Services, in association with *Professional Planner* magazine, has named BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Ltd. its 2009 Fund Manager of the Year. H3 Global Advisors was named Emerging Manager of the Year, while Macquarie Professional Series picked up the other group award for Product Distributor of the Year. The 2009 S&P Fund Awards were announced at a business luncheon in Sydney earlier today.

Standard & Poor's managing director, John Bailey, said that the S&P Fund Awards were one way of acknowledging the quality of investment management capabilities available in Australia. "At a time of challenging market conditions, it is important that we celebrate our successes. The managers recognised today are those that, in S&P's opinion, are more likely to outperform as markets turn around."

Leanne Milton, director of fund research, said: "The majority of funds management firms tend to specialise in one or two asset classes and it is often hard to find a fund manager that has strong capabilities across a range of asset classes. S&P considers BlackRock to be an innovative manager with high quality, differentiated products across equities, alternative strategies, multisector, and fixed interest asset classes. A number of these capabilities reviewed by S&P are rated four and five stars.

"BlackRock continually evolves its investment teams and processes. This progressive culture is complemented by proprietary risk management systems that S&P considers exceptional within the industry," Ms. Milton continued.

Of Emerging Manager of the Year, H3 Global Advisors, Ms. Milton said: "S&P has been rating the firm since early 2007 and has seen it grow in stature and profile in that time. Although we have seen more elaborate models, there is no doubt of its effectiveness for its purpose, as the funds have outperformed their objectives by wide margins particularly in down markets."

Winners were announced in eight sectors and three group categories, as follows:

SECTOR WINNERS

Australian Fixed Interest

UBS Global Asset Management (Aust) Ltd.

International Fixed Interest (including Diversified)

PIMCO (Equity Trustees Limited)

Property

ING Clarion Real Estate Securities

Alternative Strategies

BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Ltd.

Australian Equities - Large Cap

Ausbil Dexia Limited

Australian Equities - Small Cap

Eley Griffiths Group Pty Ltd.

International Equities - Developed Markets

Walter Scott & Partners Limited (Macquarie Professional Series)

International Equities - Emerging Markets

Schroder Investment Management Australia Limited

GROUP FINALISTS

Emerging Manager of the Year

H3 Global Advisors

Product Distributor of the Year

Macquarie Professional Series

Fund Manager of the Year

BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Ltd.

The methodology for the 2009 S&P Australian Fund Awards is based on a qualitative assessment of specific investment-management capabilities within a sector, rather than being based on past performance of individual funds.

Standard & Poor's Fund Awards are now in their sixth year in Australia. Further information can be found at www.standardandpoors.com.au, select Fund Services, then S&P Fund Awards.

About Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE:MHP), is the world's foremost provider of financial market intelligence, including independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With approximately 8,500 employees, including wholly owned affiliates, located in 21 countries and markets, Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial infrastructure and has played a leading role for nearly 150 years in providing investors with the independent benchmarks they need to feel more confident about their investment and financial decisions. For more information, visit <http://www.standardandpoors.com.au>

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