



Press Release

S&P Expands Custom Index Offering Through Agreement with ABN Amro

New York, January 24, 2006 – Standard & Poor's, the leading provider of independent investment research, ratings and indices, announced today that it has signed an agreement with ABN Amro's Retail Trading & Structuring Desk (Structured Derivatives) in London under which ABN Amro will use S&P Custom Indices to value their equity derivative strategies. ABN Amro will specify the securities and weighting methods for the custom indices.

Standard & Poor's Custom Indices draws upon Standard & Poor's family of global indices including the S&P/Citigroup indices covering 10,000 companies globally, the S&P Emerging Markets Database (EMDB) defining the universe of emerging market stocks, and Standard & Poor's world-leading tradable indices including the S&P Global 1200. Under the agreement, the Custom Indices for ABN Amro will build on the data supporting these Standard & Poor's indices.

In addition, ABN Amro has chosen to utilize the "*S&P Custom*" title in the name of a number of the new indices, leveraging Standard & Poor's reputation as the leading index provider within the global financial marketplace, and further emphasizing that the index is independently calculated by the Standard & Poor's Custom Index Group.

"The number of customized equity strategies and structured products being offered to the market continues to grow at a rapid pace," says Tim Eisenhauer, Senior Director at Standard & Poor's Index Services. "As a result, structured product desks are increasingly looking to Standard & Poor's for the analytical rigor, independence and experience needed to construct and calculate indices based upon these customized strategies."

Paul Thind, Executive Director, New Product Development at ABN Amro stated that, "ABN Amro continue to adopt Standard & Poor's custom indices to take advantage of their independence, experience and expertise in the custom index arena, allowing us to provide greater transparency and credibility in the products we offer to our clients."

The Standard & Poor's Custom Index Group calculates various custom indices on behalf of ABN Amro, including the following:

- S&P Custom/ABN Amro Water Index
- S&P Custom/ABN Amro Metals & Mining Index
- S&P Custom/ABN Amro Clean Renewable Energy Index
- ABN Amro Oekoinvest Index
- ABN Amro Super Yield Index
- ABN Amro Alpha Indices
- ABN Amro Vastgoed Index
- ABN Amro Oil Shares Index

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About Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE:MHP), is the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With approximately 6,300 employees located in 20 countries and markets, Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial infrastructure and has played a leading role for more than 140 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>.

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