



## Press Release

### **Standard & Poor's To Expand Dividend Index Series To Include Asia-Pacific Markets**

Hong Kong, October 30, 2008 – As investors throughout the world continue to focus greater attention on downside risk protection during increasingly volatile marketing conditions, Standard & Poor's Index Services announced today that it is set to expand its Dividend Investor Index Series to include markets in Asia-Pacific, including China, Australia, Japan and Korea. The S&P Dividend Investor Index Series is part of the S&P family of strategy indices.

The S&P Dividend Investor Series is a premier suite of indices designed to offer investors the most comprehensive range of dividend based indices, meeting the needs of investors looking to capture dividend exposure. The series brings together three dividend families to cover all dividend capabilities:

- S&P Dividend Aristocrats -- An index series which focuses on long term dividend growth
- S&P Dividend Opportunities -- An index series which focuses on absolute high dividend yield
- S&P Dividend Alternatives -- An index series which focuses on higher income or dividend stories with lower correlation to traditional equities.

"Dividends are increasingly important during times of market volatility as they provide a cushion against falling equity prices. In addition, Standard & Poor's research has shown that dividend-paying issues have outperformed non-paying issues more in down markets than in up markets," says Tim Eisenhauer, Vice President of Strategy Indices at Standard & Poor's.

"The S&P Dividend Investor Index Series offers one of the most comprehensive range and types of dividend based indices to suit investor needs including that of dividend growth, dividend yield, and dividend alternatives," adds Eisenhauer. "No other index provider offers the same breadth of dividend based indices."

A table showing the performance of the S&P Dividend Investor Index Series can be found here. For more information on the S&P Dividend Investor Index Series, please visit [www.standardandpoors.com/indices](http://www.standardandpoors.com/indices).

#### **About Standard & Poor's Index Services**

Standard & Poor's Index Services, the world's leading index provider, maintains a wide variety of investable and benchmark indices to meet an array of investor needs. Its family of indices includes the S&P 500, an index with \$1.5 trillion invested and \$4.85 trillion benchmarked, and the S&P Global 1200, a composite index comprised of seven regional and country headline indices. For more information, please visit [www.standardandpoors.com/indices](http://www.standardandpoors.com/indices).

**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 23 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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