

## **Smartshares teams up with BlackRock to offer new ETFs for NZ investors**

Smartshares today announces its intention to list eight new exchange traded funds (ETFs) on the NZX this June. From new investors to professionals alike, these funds will mean New Zealanders can invest in environmentally and socially responsible global equities, megatrends and global bonds for the first time.

Smartshares CEO Hugh Stevens, said: “We have been approached by many investors concerned about where their money is being invested. Many are wanting to invest, but not at the expense of the environment or socially irresponsible practices.”

“Smartshares is offering ESG-friendly ETFs because we want to see more investment options in New Zealand that tailor to different values and beliefs, and we believe it is good for the environment and promoting a fair and responsible commercial landscape.”

“We are proud to work with iShares by BlackRock to offer New Zealand investors an innovative suite of funds. Local investors will also benefit from a tax efficient investment structure, and ease of access to iShares through a simple NZD purchase online or via their broker.”

### **The all-new ETF suite**

*Funds for investors seeking purpose and performance*

To satisfy the growing demand from New Zealand investors for socially responsible investment options, five new funds will provide international equity exposure to the US, European, Japanese, Emerging Markets and Global markets. Each fund screens-out environmentally or socially harmful activities:

- Smartshares Global Equities ESG ETF (NZX:ESG)
- Smartshares US Equities ESG ETF (NZX:USA)
- Smartshares Europe Equities ESG ETF (NZX:EUG)
- Smartshares Japan Equities ESG ETF (NZX:JPN)
- Smartshares Emerging Markets Equities ESG ETF (NZX:EMG)

The screens exclude companies that engage in contentious activities, including controversial weapons, civilian firearms, nuclear weapons, thermal coal, nuclear power, tobacco, oil sands and companies who have failed UN Global Compact rulings.

### *Access to innovative global investment themes*

Two ETFs in the new suite will invest into the robotics and automation, and healthcare ‘Megatrends’:

- Smartshares Automation and Robotics ETF (NZX:BOT)
- Smartshares Healthcare Innovation ETF (NZX:LIV)

BlackRock describes ‘Megatrends’ as powerful, transformative forces that could change the global economy, business environment, and society. The Automation & Robotics ETF will give investors access to business areas including artificial intelligence and e-commerce logistics, while the Healthcare Innovation ETF will tap into areas such as personalised medicine and immunotherapy.

### *Exposure to global bonds*

Smartshares will also offer a Global Aggregate Bond ETF hedged to the NZD, offering New Zealand investors with access to a passive fixed income exposure which tracks a benchmark containing over 24,000 different bonds globally:

- Smartshares Global Aggregate Bond ETF (NZX:AGG)

Christian Obrist, Head of BlackRock's iShares business in Australasia said: "We are pleased to collaborate with Smartshares to enhance access for New Zealand investors to offshore listed ETFs and provide more choice for increasingly sophisticated investors in the market.

"We see more and better uses of ETFs being fuelled by demand from investors themselves, who are continually looking for innovative ways to access new exposures, achieve portfolio outcomes and make progress toward their investment goals."

### **Register your interest to invest**

Smartshares intends to list the eight ETFs on the NZX Main Board on 6 June 2019. Once registered, investors can download the product disclosure statement on the Smartshares website: [www.smartshares.co.nz](http://www.smartshares.co.nz). Investors can register their interest by emailing [smartshares@smartshares.co.nz](mailto:smartshares@smartshares.co.nz).

### **About Smartshares**

Smartshares is the pioneer of ETFs in New Zealand, launching the first ETF (the NZ Top 10 Fund - TNZ) in 1996. Smartshares is New Zealand's only issuer of ETFs listed on the NZX Main Board, and across six registered schemes manages over \$3.1 billion on behalf of more than 70,000 investors.

Smartshares offers access to a comprehensive selection of global and domestic ETFs across the main investment asset classes of cash, bonds, shares and property. Funds are listed on the NZX so you can buy or sell them just like individual shares. The listed funds are designed to 'track' (or, in some cases, outperform) an index. Each Smartshares ETF is designed to provide investors with similar returns to a direct investment in all the securities that make up the ETF.

### **About BlackRock**

BlackRock helps investors build better financial futures. As a fiduciary to investors and a leading provider of financial technology, our clients turn to us for the solutions they need when planning for their most important goals. As of 31 March 2019, the firm managed approximately US\$6.52 trillion in assets on behalf of investors worldwide.

### **About iShares**

iShares unlocks opportunity across markets to meet the evolving needs of investors. With more than twenty years of experience, a global line-up of 800+ exchange traded funds (ETFs) and US\$1.9 trillion in assets under management as of 31 March 2019, iShares continues to drive progress for the financial industry. iShares funds are powered by the expert portfolio and risk management of BlackRock, trusted to manage more money than any other investment firm<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Based on US\$6.52 trillion in AUM as of 31/03/19