

2 May 2007

## **Allenbridge Group plc acquires EPIC Investment Advisers**

Allenbridge Group plc, the specialist investment advisory company, is pleased to announce that it has become the largest single shareholder in EPIC Investment Advisers (EIA), the leading independent consultant to pension fund trustees, having purchased 51% of the equity from Syndicate Asset Management. The new company is known as AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers (AEIA).

EIA was originally established by a group of senior City fund managers in 2003 to serve the growing demand for independent advice on governance and investment-related issues in the pensions arena. It currently advises pension funds with total assets under management of £8 billion.

The Myners review in 2001 (and a further report in 2004) highlighted the need\* to raise the level of knowledge and competence in trustee boards and to strengthen the decision-making processes of investment committees.

Chris Edge, Chief Executive of AEIA, said: "We are delighted to have joined Allenbridge. Our move to a recognised impartial adviser establishes an independent base, underlining the integrity of our advice. We believe the timing of the merger is particularly significant, in a market where research by the Economist Intelligence Unit# shows that trustees need access to good quality expert advice in a number of specialist areas. We are particularly looking forward to working closely with Allenbridge's highly regarded hedge fund research team, adding to our knowledge of alternative asset classes."

Anthony Yadgaroff, Group Managing Director of Allenbridge, said: "The fit of AEIA's business model with our established advisory business to banks, funds and institutions is attractive. We are excited by the prospect of working with AEIA's talented and experienced team to develop the many opportunities for growth in the pensions market."

### **Notes to Editors**

#### About Allenbridge

Allenbridge Group plc was founded in 1985, and provides a performance measurement and fund management selection service for the wealth management industry.

Its Hedgeinfo division provides rating, research and consultancy on the hedge fund market to banks, institutional investors, and family offices.

Allenbridge also offers advice to private individuals on investment products and tax shelter vehicles.

Allenbridge won the "Best EIS Research" EISA award in 2005 and won "Best EIS Publisher" in 2006. In the past two years, Allenbridge Hedgeinfo co-organised the North American and the European MARHedge Annual Performance Awards

(MAPAs), providing the hedge fund research used to compile the category shortlists and also being a member of the judging panel.

Allenbridge is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

<http://www.allenbridge.co.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.hedgeinfo.com>

#### About AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers



AllenbridgeEPIC Investment Advisers will now be based in London's Mayfair, with representative offices in Glasgow and Lancaster. Its advisers provide proactive assistance with all investment matters including:

- Developing and reviewing investment policy
- Long term strategic asset allocation and tactical advice on shorter term investment strategy
- Helping trustees discuss and understand investment terminology and strategies
- Helping assess and question advice provided by actuaries and other service providers
- Constructive monitoring and review of investment managers
- Improving market timing – for example, switching key asset classes
- Tailored trustee training and education

AEIA, through its panel of investment experts, provides each client with an experienced adviser to act as their knowledge bridge between trustees and company management, who are responsible for decisions and actions, and the actuarial consultants and investment managers, who provide a range of inputs and potential solutions.

<http://www.allenbridgeepic.com>

*\*"All told, there is a desperate need for trustees, who have been thrust into the limelight by the Myners report, to get access to more advice – not just to safeguard the interests of members, but to protect themselves against legal and regulatory action." Philip Coggan, FT March 2004.*

# Economist Intelligence Unit Report -

[http://graphics.eiu.com/files/ad\\_pdfs/eiu\\_Pensions\\_wp.pdf](http://graphics.eiu.com/files/ad_pdfs/eiu_Pensions_wp.pdf)

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