



## MSCI BARRA TO CONSULT ON PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS TO THE STANDARD AND SMALL CAP EQUITY INDICES

### *PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS WOULD RESULT IN A GLOBAL INVESTABLE EQUITY MARKET INDEX FAMILY*

**Geneva – March 2, 2006** - MSCI Barra, a leading provider of benchmark indices and risk management analytics products, announced today that it will consult with the investment community on a proposal to potentially enhance its existing Standard and Small Cap Indices. With the proposed enhancement, the Standard Index would provide exhaustive coverage of the large and mid-cap segments of the universe. The proposed enhanced Small Cap Index would target for inclusion all companies with a market capitalization less than that of the companies in the enhanced Standard Index, subject to minimum investability and size criteria. The proposed enhanced Standard and the enhanced Small Cap indices would be combined to create an investable market index. The investable market indices would form a global investable equity market index family providing broad market coverage with meaningful size and style segments.

MSCI Barra has posted a consultation document describing the proposed enhancements and the proposed family of indices on its website at [www.msci.com/consultation/](http://www.msci.com/consultation/) and welcomes any feedback from the investment community. MSCI Barra also plans to directly contact some market participants to solicit feedback.

Please note that this consultation may or may not lead to any changes to the existing MSCI indices and/or to the creation of a family of global investable equity market indices. MSCI Barra's final decision will be announced in advance providing ample lead time for any changes.

### **About MSCI Barra**

MSCI ([www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com)) develops and maintains equity, fixed income, multi-asset class, REIT and hedge fund indices that serve as benchmarks for an estimated USD 3 trillion on a worldwide basis. In 2004 MSCI acquired Barra, Inc. ("Barra"). Barra analytics ([www.barra.com](http://www.barra.com)) help the world's largest investors analyze, measure and manage portfolio and firm-wide investment risk. MSCI Barra is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world. Morgan Stanley, a global financial services firm and a market leader in securities, asset management, and credit services, is the majority shareholder of MSCI, and Capital Group International, Inc. is the minority shareholder. MSCI Barra is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Capital International Inc. ("MSCI" or "MSCI Barra").

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**For further information on MSCI indices or MSCI data, please visit our web site at [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com) or for Barra products, please visit our web site at [www.barra.com](http://www.barra.com)**

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