

BlackRock Japan Selects MSCI for First Factor-Based ETFs in the Region

New York – October 20, 2015 – [MSCI](#) Inc. (NYSE: MSCI), a leading provider of portfolio construction and risk management tools for global investors, announced that BlackRock has licensed the [MSCI Nihonkabu \(Japan ex-REITs\) Minimum Volatility \(JPY\) Index](#) and the [MSCI Japan High Dividend Yield Index](#) as the basis for two iShares exchange traded funds (ETFs) to be listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange:

- iShares MSCI Japan Minimum Volatility (ex-REITs) ETF
- iShares MSCI Japan High Dividend Yield ETF

Jason Miller, Head of iShares Japan, said, “We are delighted to continue our global partnership with MSCI for the launch of the first factor-based ETFs that will provide the institutional and retail market access to “smart beta” investing. The two smart beta strategies based on MSCI’s innovative indexes are aimed at global and Japanese investors, particularly meeting regional bank demand for products that can diversify Japanese equity allocations away from traditional exposures.”

These new funds expand on Blackrock’s iShares ETF franchise based on MSCI indexes, bringing the number to 48 ETFs globally.

“We are delighted that iShares has chosen the MSCI for the first factor-based ETFs listed in Japan. Smart Beta is a growing in popularity and awareness among investors and these two indexes in particular have already been adopted by a significant number of pension funds and financial institutions,” said Seiichiro Uchi, Managing Director, MSCI Japan.

With over 730 ETFs tracking MSCI indexes globally, more equity ETFs track MSCI indexes than those of any other index provider.

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About MSCI

For more than 40 years, MSCI’s research-based indexes and analytics have helped the world’s leading investors build and manage better portfolios. Clients rely on our offerings for deeper insights into the drivers of performance and risk in their portfolios, broad asset class coverage and innovative research.

Our line of products and services includes indexes, analytical models, data, real estate benchmarks and ESG research.

MSCI serves 97 of the top 100 largest asset managers, based upon P&I data as of December 2014 and MSCI client data as of June 2015.

For more information, visit us at www.msci.com.

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