

BlackRock Licenses MSCI USA Quality Index for New iShares ETF

New York – July 23, 2013 – [MSCI](#) Inc. (NYSE: MSCI), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, announced today that BlackRock has licensed the [MSCI USA Quality Index](#) as the basis for a new exchange traded fund (ETF), the iShares MSCI USA Quality Factor ETF (NYSEArca: QUAL).

Diana Tidd, Managing Director and Head of the MSCI Index Business in the Americas, said, “We have seen increasing demand from our clients for our Risk Premia indices, reflecting the growing trend for strategy indexing. BlackRock’s latest addition of the MSCI USA Quality Index is proof of that continued trend and we look forward to working with them as they expand their iShares MSCI Factor ETF suite.”

The MSCI USA Quality Index is based on its parent index (the [MSCI USA Index](#)) and includes large and mid cap stocks in the US equity market. The MSCI Quality Indices are designed to reflect a quality growth strategy by identifying stocks with high quality scores based on three main fundamental variables: high return on equity (ROE), stable year-over-year earnings growth and low financial leverage. The MSCI Quality Indices aim to provide exposure to the quality factor, which factor is complementary to other systematic risk premia such as size, value, or low volatility and may provide diversification to a portfolio of risk premia strategies.

[In April 2013](#), MSCI announced that BlackRock licensed the MSCI USA Momentum, MSCI USA Risk Weighted and MSCI USA Value Weighted Indices for a new series of iShares MSCI Factor ETFs. The MSCI USA Quality Index is the fourth in that series.

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About MSCI

MSCI Inc. is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investors globally, including asset managers, banks, hedge funds and pension funds. MSCI products and services include indices, portfolio risk and performance analytics, and governance tools.

The company’s flagship product offerings are: the MSCI indices with close to USD 7 trillion estimated to be benchmarked to them on a worldwide basis¹; Barra multi-asset class factor models, portfolio risk and performance analytics; RiskMetrics multi-asset class market and credit risk analytics; IPD real estate information, indices and analytics; MSCI ESG (environmental, social and governance) Research screening, analysis and ratings; ISS governance research and outsourced proxy voting and reporting services; and FEA valuation models and risk management software for the energy and commodities markets. MSCI is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

¹As of September 30, 2012, as published by eVestment, Lipper and Bloomberg on January 31, 2013

For further information on MSCI, please visit our web site at www.msci.com

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