

# MSCI Expands its Risk Premia Index Family with New Quality Indices

## New Indices Seek to Capture the Performance of Equities with Quality Growth Characteristics

**London – December 18, 2012** – MSCI Inc. (NYSE: MSCI), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, today launched the MSCI Quality Indices, a new category within the MSCI Risk Premia suite of strategy indices.

The MSCI Quality Indices are designed to reflect a quality growth investment 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 capture two underlying risk premia factors - growth and low leverage. They complement existing MSCI Risk Premia Indices and can play an effective diversification role in a portfolio of risk premia strategies.

"There has been a clear acceleration of demand for such indices from MSCI's institutional investor clients, and increasing numbers of financial products are being launched based on risk premia categories," said Baer Pettit, Managing Director and Global Head of the MSCI Index Business.

The MSCI Quality Indices aim to capture the quality factor with an objective and transparent methodology, while ensuring reasonably high trading liquidity, investment capacity and moderate turnover of index constituents.

From today, MSCI will offer a first series of five indices:

- MSCI ACWI Quality Index
- MSCI World Quality Index
- MSCI Emerging Markets Quality Index
- MSCI Europe Quality Index
- MSCI USA Quality Index

The MSCI Quality Indices may be licensed for use as benchmarks for quality growth investment strategies, or as the basis for financial products such as exchange traded funds and structured products.

-Ends-

## 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 basis<sup>1</sup>; 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; FEA valuation models and risk management software for the energy and commodities markets; and CFRA forensic accounting risk research, legal/regulatory risk assessment, and due-diligence. MSCI is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

<sup>1</sup>As of March 31, 2012, as published by eVestment, Lipper and Bloomberg in September, 2012.

For further information on MSCI, please visit our web site at [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com)

**Media Enquiries:**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Jo Morgan, MSCI, London                                   | + 44.20.7618.2224 |
| Kristin Meza, MSCI, New York                              | + 1.212.804.5330  |
| Sally Todd   Christian Pickel, MHP Communications, London | + 44.20.3128.8515 |

**MSCI Global Client Service:**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| EMEA Client Service         | + 44.20.7618.2222                           |
| Americas Client Service     | 1.888.588.4567 (toll free)/+ 1.212.804.3901 |
| Asia Pacific Client Service | + 852.2844.9333                             |

This document and all of the information contained in it, including without limitation all text, data, graphs, charts (collectively, the “Information”) is the property of MSCI Inc. or its subsidiaries (collectively, “MSCI”), or MSCI’s licensors, direct or indirect suppliers or any third party involved in making or compiling any Information (collectively, with MSCI, the “Information Providers”) and is provided for informational purposes only. The Information may not be reproduced or disseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI.

The Information may not be used to create derivative works or to verify or correct other data or information. For example (but without limitation), the Information may not be used to create indices, databases, risk models, analytics, software, or in connection with the issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing of any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles utilizing or based on, linked to, tracking or otherwise derived from the Information or any other MSCI data, information, products or services.

The user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information. NONE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDERS MAKES ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION (OR THE RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE USE THEREOF), AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, EACH INFORMATION PROVIDER EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ORIGINALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE INFORMATION.

Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event shall any Information Provider have any liability regarding any of the Information for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential (including lost profits) or any other damages even if notified of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not by applicable law be excluded or limited, including without limitation (as applicable), any liability for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from the negligence or wilful default of itself, its servants, agents or sub-contractors.

Information containing any historical information, data or analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

None of the Information constitutes an offer to sell (or a solicitation of an offer to buy), any security, financial product or other investment vehicle or any trading strategy.

MSCI’s indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (“ISS”) is a Registered Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Except with respect to any applicable products or services from ISS (including applicable products or services from MSCI ESG Research Information, which are provided by ISS), none of MSCI’s products or services recommends, endorses, approves or otherwise expresses any opinion regarding any issuer, securities, financial products or instruments or trading strategies and none of MSCI’s products or services is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such.

The MSCI ESG Indices use ratings and other data, analysis and information from MSCI ESG Research. MSCI ESG Research is produced by ISS or its subsidiaries. Issuers mentioned or included in any MSCI ESG Research materials may be a client of MSCI, ISS, or another MSCI subsidiary, or the parent of, or affiliated with, a client of MSCI, ISS, or another MSCI subsidiary, including ISS Corporate Services, Inc., which provides tools and services to issuers. MSCI ESG Research materials, including materials utilized in any MSCI ESG Indices or other products, have not been submitted to, nor received approval from, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any other regulatory body.

Any use of or access to products, services or information of MSCI requires a license from MSCI. MSCI, Barra, RiskMetrics, ISS, CFRA, FEA, and other MSCI brands and product names are the trademarks, service marks, or registered trademarks of MSCI or its subsidiaries in the United States and other jurisdictions. The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor’s. “Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)” is a service mark of MSCI and Standard & Poor’s.