

# Bringing Clients New Capabilities Through Technology

## **Featuring:**

*David Hill, OneMSCI Platform Engineering, MSCI*

*Ruta Pithwa, Program Management Lead for Real Estate, MSCI*

## **Q:**

Where is investment industry technology headed?

## **David Hill:**

MSCI has been a leader in serving the global financial community for many years, and we've spoken to many investment leaders about the impact that technology's having, or could have, on their businesses. What they tell us is that they need to marry our industry-leading data, quantitative analysis, research and modelling capabilities with next-generation technologies that allow them to more easily integrate our data and services with theirs, so that they can innovate faster, identify trends and risks and gain back insights faster, and more easily anticipate and address key strategic investment challenges, and respond quickly and decisively to a rapidly changing global financial investment landscape.

In February 2021, MSCI announced that we're rolling out the first set of applications as part of our Investment Solutions as a Service (or ISaaS) platform. Our ISaaS platform provides an on-demand, self-service, customizable, scalable set of solutions that leverages next generation cloud technologies, including advanced analytics and data visualizations, Big Data, AI and Machine Learning.

Having leading data analysis research modelling capabilities is great. Making the technology available to our clients so that they can quickly and effectively use them to solve their investment challenges is a truly powerful combination.

## **Q:**

How does ISaaS benefit clients?

## **Ruta Pithwa:**

ISaaS allows clients to leverage MSCI's leading data, analysis, research and modelling capabilities to address their unique challenges, and empowers them to make better investment decisions. For example, Climate Lab help users understand how to accelerate or take advantage of the Net Zero transition, or deeply understand ESG risks due to climate change. Or they can use Data Explorer and Developer Community to find the right data sets or APIs so that they can integrate directly into their own solutions. And using Index Builder, clients are able to design, simulate, analyze, and license MSCI custom indexes in a few simple steps.

**Q:**

Why is the partnership with Microsoft so important?

**David Hill:**

Microsoft and MSCI both share a deep commitment to accelerating innovation in the financial services industry. Microsoft Azure provides a foundation on which MSCI can deliver global scale, on-demand, self-service, customizable solutions very quickly, which in turn means that we, and our clients, can innovate much more rapidly.

So Microsoft Azure is a very important part of our technology initiatives. A number of MSCI applications and services have already moved to Azure as they're integrated into our Investment Solutions as a Service (or ISaaS) platform. We have a very close relationship with Microsoft, and Azure is really enabling us to deliver on the promise of our ISaaS vision.

**Q:**

How do MSCI's global teams work together to develop applications?

**Ruta Pithwa:**

Our shared service engineering team works across data and services teams to provide architectural oversight, process and design guidelines, and reusable components, thus enabling faster time to market for our products while still maintaining a high level of quality. There's a great deal of knowledge sharing and collaboration that happens across teams – both in terms of technology and subject matter expertise.

**Q:**

How does MSCI's technology stand out from the competition?

**David Hill:**

MSCI has been a leader in serving the global financial community for many years, and we have industry leading data, quantitative analytics, research and modeling capabilities. Those capabilities – coupled with our cloud-based technology strategy and our Investment Solutions as a Service (or ISaaS) vision – truly make MSCI stand out.

The partnership with Microsoft underscores MSCI's continued commitment to develop new and innovative solutions, and we're already seeing this partnership bear fruit. For example, we're focused on climate and fully committed to being client leaders in the industry. MSCI recently joined the Financial Alliance for Net Zero, and did a lot of exciting work around COP26 in Glasgow.

So we're combining Microsoft's technology with our robust data and analytical capabilities, along with a rigorous understanding of client challenges to create a suite of services and applications designed to enable clients to address their unique challenges and empower them make better investment decisions.

## About MSCI

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 50 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process. To learn more, please visit [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com).

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