

iShares lists 24 Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) on SIX Swiss Exchange

iShares, the leading provider of ETFs from BlackRock Inc., is listing 24 ETFs on SIX Swiss Exchange from the beginning of July. With the eight new bond ETFs and sixteen equity ETFs, it is clear that iShares is committed to offering institutional and private investors in Switzerland innovative solutions and the highest level of service. Investors can also profit from the flexible and efficient platform of the Swiss Stock Exchange.

For iShares, the world's leading ETF provider, Switzerland represents a core market in Europe. iShares has been successfully represented in Switzerland since 2000. With the extension of our family of funds and a bigger team, we will be significantly strengthening our presence in Switzerland. We now have representative offices in Zurich and Geneva, allowing us to serve clients locally in the regional language and thus best meet client needs.

We have concentrated in recent months on talking with our clients about their needs and on introducing suitable, innovative products to the Swiss market. Thanks to the Cross-Listings on SIX Swiss Exchange, not only Swiss ETF investors, but also those from the rest of Europe, can take advantage of the high degree of liquidity on SIX Swiss Exchange and the chance to trade in ETFs denominated in different currencies. Indeed, SIX Swiss Exchange has seen constant growth in ETF turnover with trades by institutional as well as private investors.

The listing of 24 physical replication iShares ETFs on the Swiss Stock Exchange takes the iShares ETF family from 48 to 72 ETFs. Specifically, 8 new bond ETFs and 16 new equity ETFs are being offered, which, thanks to the tried and tested Multi-Dealer Model, will be characterised by excellent liquidity. Among the newly listed funds are several highlights: such as the iShares Markit iBoxx Euro High Yield Bond, the only High Yield Bond ETF using physical replication in Europe. With over 200 high yield bonds in the portfolio, the fund is broadly diversified, promises attractive yields and is accompanied by only limited interest rate risk. As well as this, iShares offers not simply the only Emerging Markets Small Cap ETF in Europe but also the largest and most liquid FTSE 100 ETF. Moreover, the iShares BarCap Euro Corporate Bond is one of the largest ETFs investing in corporate bonds. Overall, the range of iShares bond ETFs in Switzerland has been significantly widened and has grown to a total of 18 ETFs. The iShares product range includes ETFs on government and corporate bonds, emerging market bonds and high-yield bonds as well as on inflation linked bonds. iShares can offer a wide range of ETFs which track the MSCI Indices and has just added accumulation ETFs to its product range.

The advantages of ETFs – liquidity, diversification, transparency and low costs – will continue to ensure high rates of growth in these instruments as we move forward. In this respect, these iShares Cross-Listings are to be seen as merely the first wave. iShares is planning to introduce more innovative products on SIX Swiss Exchange.

Christian Gast, Head of iShares Switzerland

Dr. Christian Gast has been head of iShares Switzerland since 1 November 2010. Christian Gast has more than 14 years' experience in Swiss wealth management business. Before joining iShares he was Executive Director of UBS Global Asset Management, where he had worked since 1999 heading up ETF business. Prior to this, he worked with the St. Galler Cantonal bank as Senior Portfolio Manager responsible for managing private and institutional assets. Christian Gast studied business economics at the University of Saarbrücken and has a doctorate in Banking from the University of Zurich.



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