

MEDIA RELEASE
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Introducing the New Bond – IXIS Loomis Sayles Global Bond Fund for Australian Investors

IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited (“IXIS Australia”) today announced the redesign and renaming of its IXIS Loomis Sayles Global Corporate Bond Fund to the new and improved IXIS Loomis Sayles Global Bond Fund.

In response to demand from local investors, the new Fund has undergone a review and re-design by IXIS Australia to ensure that the Fund has increased flexibility to capture the best investment ideas of Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P. (“Loomis”), the Fund’s investment manager.

The Fund's investment guidelines now allow more flexibility to invest in high-yield bonds, emerging market debt and senior bank loans. This increased exposure is anticipated to build upon the already strong investment returns the Fund has delivered since its inception in 2002.

Loomis portfolio manager Kenneth Buntrock said: "These changes allow us to enhance returns when we believe we are being paid for risk, and we will continue our usual style of total return investing.

“Limited active currency decisions of up to plus or minus 15 per cent will provide an additional source of potential excess return that was previously not available to us. The Fund is also able to opportunistically short individual securities and markets to provide additional downside protection.”

The benchmark for the Fund will be the Lehman Brothers Global Aggregate Bond Index (Australian dollar hedged). The Fund has more than A\$300 million in assets under management and is an Australian registered scheme for wholesale investors.

IXIS Australia Managing Director Karyn West, said: "The work on this Fund began in 2006 following extensive discussions with clients and consultants with the goal of delivering to the marketplace a superior global bond portfolio that reflects the evolution of both the bond markets and client needs."

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For more information, interviews or pictures, please contact:

Campbell Fuller or Arianne Hamilton
evolution media
p +61 (0)2 8969 6077
e campbell@evolutionmedia.com.au, arianne@evolutionmedia.com.au

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NOTES TO THE EDITORS:

About IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited:

IXIS Asset Management Australia Limited ABN 60 088 786 289 AFSL No. 246830 ("IXIS Australia"). IXIS Australia is part of the international IXIS Asset Management Group, which as at December 2006, managed US\$617 billion worldwide. Commencing operations in 2000, IXIS Australia provides integrated portfolio solutions to wholesale investors through its affiliation with 12 boutique managers, including Harris Associates L.P., Harris Alternatives L.L.C and Loomis, Sayles & Company L.P. The investment management affiliates mentioned above are licensed to provide investment advisory services in the US and conduct any portfolio management activities in and from the US.

About Loomis, Sayles & Company L.P. ("Loomis"):

Based in Boston, Massachusetts Loomis is a specialist fixed income and equity manager. In operation since 1926, Loomis is best known in the Australian institutional market for its global corporate bond fund which has grown to include A\$300 million in assets since inception five years ago. As at December 31 2006 Loomis manages over US\$97 billion in equity and fixed income assets.

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