

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CFSGAM Appoints ASSET4 as ESG Research Provider**

Australia, 31 March 2010 – Colonial First State Global Asset Management (CFSGAM) has appointed ASSET4, a Thomson Reuters business, as its new environmental, social responsibility and governance (ESG) research provider. ASSET4 will support CFSGAM's commitment to integrate ESG considerations into its investment processes across all asset classes.

David Dixon, Chief Investment Officer at CFSGAM said: "The appointment of ASSET4 means our investment teams will have some of the world's best quality ESG data and tools to help them make the best possible investment decisions for our clients."

"We favoured ASSET4 because their broad coverage includes sovereign and unlisted companies that can be used by the credit and fixed income teams. They also have in-depth coverage of emerging markets companies," Mr Dixon said.

ASSET4, which was acquired by Thomson Reuters in November 2009, has developed the world's largest database of transparent, objective and auditable ESG information covering over 3,000 publicly listed companies worldwide, as well as a variety of other entities including countries, local authorities, state-owned companies and supranational entities.

Amanda McCluskey, Head of Sustainability and Responsible Investment at CFSGAM said: "What distinguishes ASSET4 from other ESG research providers is that they look to present the facts about a company's ESG performance in a way that can be used in investment processes across the business, rather than to make value judgments on the ESG credentials of a particular company."

"ASSET4 will be gradually rolled out across the listed equity and credit and fixed interest teams at CFSGAM. Every analyst will eventually have access to the ASSET4 database. This is a critical next step in the mainstreaming of ESG across our business," Ms McCluskey said.

Henrik Steffensen, co-founder of ASSET4 and Vice President, Marketing, Business Development and Services said, "We are pleased to be making our first step into the Australian market with Colonial First State Global Asset Management. Their commitment to integrating ESG across its mainstream investment processes makes them an ideal client to benefit from ASSET4 data and tools. This appointment is a perfect example of how ASSET4 being a part of Thomson Reuters enables us to meet the needs of the investment community around the world as ESG data continues to become increasingly integrated into mainstream financial analysis."

**About Colonial First State Global Asset Management**

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is the consolidated asset management division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia group, one of the largest financial institutions in Australia. At 31 December 2009, Colonial First State Global Asset Management managed A\$149 billion. In March 2007, Colonial First State Global Asset Management signed the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, which provide a framework for including environmental, social and governance issues for investment decisions.



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#### **About ASSET4**

ASSET4, a Thomson Reuters business, is the leading provider of objective, comparable and auditable extra-financial information. ASSET4 provides professional investors and corporate executives access to the world's largest database of ESG information and the analysis tools to integrate that information into their everyday decision making. ASSET4 is a proud signatory of the UN's Principles for Responsible Investment. For more information, please visit [www.asset4.com](http://www.asset4.com).

#### **CONTACTS**

Jeanette Volpi  
PR Director, Investment & Advisory  
Thomson Reuters  
+1 646-223-5517  
[jeanette.volpi@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:jeanette.volpi@thomsonreuters.com)

Felicity Goodwin  
Wealth Management Communications  
02 9303 7690  
[Felicity.goodwin@cba.com.au](mailto:Felicity.goodwin@cba.com.au)