

News



Merrill Lynch Capital Markets AG
Stauffacherstrasse 5
8004 Zurich

Sustainable Asset Management
Zollikerstrasse 60
8702 Zollikon-Zurich

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For further information:

Martin Meier-Pfister

+41 43 244 81 40

Albert Stürm, Merrill Lynch

+41 1 297 77 00

Christian Siegfried, SAM

+41 1 397 10 06

GLOBAL MEGATRENDS MAKE SUSTAINABILITY ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT –
COOPERATION BETWEEN SAM AND MERRILL LYNCH PROVIDES INVESTORS WITH
ACCESS TO TOP-QUALITY SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

Frankfurt am Main/Munich/Zurich, May 6, 2002 --- The independent asset management company SAM Sustainable Asset Management, Zurich-Zollikon, and the US financial institute Merrill Lynch have presented their first joint project. The new Top 50 Sustainability Europe Certificates, a strategic investment product launched by Merrill Lynch, represent a unique, liquid, tradable, transparent, and diversified instrument for investing in 50 European blue-chip companies that are leaders with regard to sustainability. Stock selection is based on the new SAM Top 50 Sustainability Europe Index, which consists of 50 European companies that excel in their respective sectors while maintaining a strong commitment to stringent sustainability criteria.

This cooperation between Merrill Lynch and SAM enables investors to take a stake in a broad range of companies that create sustainable, long-term value by adhering to economic, social and environmental criteria. These 50 companies acknowledge the increasing importance of sustainability trends and are accordingly distinguished by attributes ranging from innovative technologies and

2-Top 50 Sust. Certificates

services to long-standing relationships with their customers and suppliers to competent and motivated employees. They additionally strive to maintain and continually build on an excellent reputation, for example through dedication to best practice environmental management policies.

All stocks in the SAM Top 50 Sustainability Europe Index are equally weighted. The index includes companies from a diverse range of sectors such as the financial, retail, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications sectors and its nearly identical to the STOXX 50 in this regard. A compilation of hypothetical historical performance from September 1999 to March 2002 shows that the SAM Top 50 Sustainability Europe Index would have outperformed the DJ STOXX 50 Index by around 18 percentage points during this period.

The certificates can be subscribed through any bank at the issue price of EUR 101 during the subscription period from May 2 to June 6, 2002. Their five-year term to maturity begins on June 11, 2002; their repayment date is June 6, 2007. Swiss securities number: 1404242.

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Note for editorial staff

The following companies currently belong to the SAM Top 50 Sustainability Europe Index:

Volkswagen	GlaxoSmithKline
UBS Group	Roche Holding AG
Deutsche Bank AG	Coloplast
HSBC Holdings Plc	Smith & Nephew plc
UniCredito Italiano S.p.A.	SKF AB
Royal Bank Of Scotland Group	Swiss Re
Barclays Plc	Aegon
FoereningsSparbanken Ab	Allianz AG
ABN-AMRO Holding NV	Munich Re
adidas-Salomon AG	Storebrand ASA
Koninklijke (Royal) Philips Electronics	Boots Co.Plc
BASF AG	Henkel KGaA
Skanska AB	J. Sainsbury Plc
The Royal Dutch	Svenska Cellulosa AB
Shell Transport and Trading	L.M. Ericsson
Norsk Hydro ASA	Siemens AG
BP p.l.c.	ST Microelectronics
Unilever	Nokia Oyj
ING Groep N.V.	British Telecommunications Plc
HypoVereinsbank	Deutsche Telekom AG
Credit Suisse Group	Telia
Lloyds TSB Group Plc.	Swisscom
Novozymes A/S	Sonera Oyj
Novo Nordisk A/S	Vodafone Group
Novartis AG	Suez