



RiskMetrics Group

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RiskMetrics Group Opens Institutional Policy Formulation Process

Expanded Universe of Institutions, Corporations and Industry Constituents Invited to Provide Policy Input for the 2009 Proxy Season

New York, NY (July 1, 2008) - RiskMetrics Group, a leading provider of risk management and corporate governance services to the global financial community, today kicked off its annual policy formulation process by inviting its institutional governance clients and all U.S. corporate issuers to participate in its 2009 proxy voting policy survey.

Each year, RiskMetrics embarks upon a comprehensive, multi-dimensional policy formulation process that includes a broad-based global survey, issue and market-specific discussion roundtables and an open comment period in which institutions, corporations and various industry constituents are invited to provide input on the key governance issues that are likely to dominate the upcoming proxy season. From this effort, RiskMetrics formulates its proxy voting policies, ensuring that its policy guidelines include the most informed thinking across the corporate governance community and reflect the collective voice of its institutional clients.

"Through a strong commitment to transparency and an "open dialogue" attitude toward corporate governance, RiskMetrics firmly believes in the value of obtaining multiple viewpoints on key issues, particularly in the development of wide-reaching policies like ours, said Richard Leggett, Head of RiskMetrics Governance unit. "In the past, institutions provided initial policy input then feedback from corporate issuers was sought primarily during the open comment period as a way of ensuring that our policies could be reasonably implemented. This year, recognizing that good corporate governance is better achieved when investors and issuers engage constructively from the start, we are expanding our survey universe and soliciting initial policy input from institutions and corporations alike."

Setting the standard for policy outreach and transparency since 2004, RiskMetrics continues to improve upon its process annually and still today is the only proxy advisor to solicit such broad-based input into its institutional voting policies. Last year, over 300 institutions ranging from traditional asset managers to alternative hedge funds to small and large public pension funds completed the policy survey. A mix of another 50 institutions and corporations weighed in during RiskMetrics' three-week open comment period to ensure that policies could be reasonably implemented before they were finalized.

The survey period is open through August 8 and will be followed in October by an open comment period after RiskMetrics publishes its draft policies. The open comment period, similar to that used by the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, is designed to solicit objective, transparent feedback on the practical implementation of proposed policies. Although RiskMetrics has made this open comment period available in the past, this will be the first year in which comments will be publicly available via RiskMetrics web site.

“Interaction on a regular basis among investors and issuers is central to advancing the corporate governance dialogue,” said RiskMetrics’ Policy Board Head, Dr. Martha Carter. “Although we will always view corporate governance best practices through the lens of our institutional clients, we think it makes good sense to expand our survey universe this year and solicit input from U.S. corporate issuers at the same time institutional investors are being surveyed.”

To learn more about RiskMetrics Group’s Policy Formulation Process, please visit:
<http://www.riskmetrics.com/issgovernance/policy/survey08.html>.

About RiskMetrics Group

RiskMetrics Group is a leading provider of risk management and corporate governance products and services to participants in the global financial markets. By bringing transparency, expertise and access to the financial markets, RiskMetrics Group helps investors better understand and manage the risks associated with their financial holdings. Our solutions address a broad spectrum of risk across our clients’ financial assets. Headquartered in New York with 19 global offices, RiskMetrics Group serves some of the most prestigious institutions and corporations worldwide. For more information, please visit: www.riskmetrics.com.

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