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Sloane Robinson kicks off new long/short product range

The London headquartered Sloane Robinson group is in the process of launching a new equity long/short fund range, SRH Eclipse, which it believes offers a similar yet differentiated approach with regard to the firm's existing products.

SRH Eclipse will launch with a broad Asia including Japan portfolio as the first offering. Further classes will be added in due course, including Europe, the United States, Global and International.

The fund is effectively a joint venture with HOLT Investment Partners, a division of Credit Suisse Asset Management. The new fund combines the skills of Sloane Robinson's top-down,

active balance sheet management approach and HOLT's bottom-up, Industrial Life Cycle approach to security selection.

HOLT employs a proprietary database framework that helps managers analyse stocks within a real economic framework. Sloane Robinson has worked with HOLT over the past 12 years, and has developed a strong degree of understanding of this approach to stock analysis. It is through this framework that companies will be systematically scored as potential investment candidates.

This approach is not just the melding of the two organisation's capabilities, but encompasses the ability and willingness to

hold significant levels of cash for extended periods during times of market stress. This is particularly relevant in the present market environment, where a more cautious approach has been adopted by Sloane Robinson, which differs from the usually fully invested portfolio positioning that the firm has maintained since early 2003.

This initial portfolio has been seeded by Sloane Robinson partners and individuals from Credit Suisse and is expected to be rolled out to external investors in April. The strategy has no significant limits to size although the firm is mindful of the liquidity characteristics of the markets it invests in.

Blue Pool brews special opportunities Asian fund, looks to grow analyst team

Alexander West's Blue Pool Capital is planning its second offering, an Asian special opportunities fund. It will invest in the likes of pre-IPOs, PIPEs and strategic stakes in promising companies, similar to the type of investments West and his team did at Investor Asia, the subsidiary of Investor AB, where he and his team gained their Asia-Pacific trading experience.

The Hong Kong-based firm, which has four analysts in Shanghai and an investment



Alexander West

team of four in Hong Kong, plans to add two analysts in each location to support the launch. The fund is expected to start with \$50-100 million, with a soft-close target of \$300-400

million. West is targeting a second quarter launch.

Also, Blue Pool has launched a second share class for its flagship offering, the Asia ex-Japan long/short Absolute Partners Fund. This share class will have a 90-day notice period instead of 30 days as is the case with the original share class.

Singapore-based Octagon rolls out Japan strategy

Octagon Capital in Singapore is coming out with a Japan long/short fund that will follow the same opportunistic investment model as its flagship Octagon Pan Asia Fund. The firm runs \$430 million in assets and, besides the pan-Asia fund, manages a dedicated tactical short strategy in the region.

The Japan fund is believed to have a launch size of \$10-20 million and target returns of 10-12% per annum.

The \$400 million pan-Asia fund has been closed to new investors since October 2006.

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