

Press Release

Solactive Launches World's First Blue Bond Index, Tracking Bonds that Aim to Support Clean Water and Oceans, Based on Climate Bonds Initiative Data

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FRANKFURT AM MAIN – Blue bonds are financial instruments designed to support and finance sustainable marine and water-related projects. They are debt securities issued by governments, development banks, or other financial institutions with the specific aim of funding initiatives promoting marine conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, protecting ocean ecosystems, and improving water management. Solactive is delighted to announce that it has just launched the first ever **Blue Bond Index**, based on data provided by the **Climate Bonds Initiative**.

The release comes a decade after Solactive introduced the world's inaugural green bond index, which marked the first partnership with the data provider. Several launches of green bond index variations followed over the years, serving as the basis for ETFs, amongst others. Earlier this year, the German index provider unveiled the **Solactive Social and Sustainable Bond Index**, offering a standalone strategy for the 'S' in ESG. Alongside green bonds, social and sustainable bonds offer a way of investing with impact in a traditional asset class.

Expanding on this trajectory, the new **Solactive Blue Bond Index** now enables clients and investors to partake in financing the protection of water and ocean life. It comprises bonds from the Climate Bonds Initiative Green Bond or Social & Sustainable Bond databases that are self-labeled as Blue Bonds. Inflation-linked bonds, convertible bonds, US municipal bonds, ABS, MBS, and other structured securities are not eligible to be included in the index.

Timo Pfeiffer, Chief Markets Officer at Solactive, said: "We are extremely proud to be at the forefront of launching the Blue Bond Index, underscoring Solactive's commitment to innovation, the same way we did with the Green Bond Index and the Social and Sustainable Bond Index. While the blue bonds' segment is still in its early stages, we aim to provide greater visibility and transparency into this vital market's development and effectively respond to the needs and expectations of society."

The blue economy, encompassing sectors such as shipping and aquatic resources, contributes to approximately 5% of the global GDP, equivalent to around USD 3 trillion annually and comparable to the world's seventh-largest economy, according to the UN Global Compact. This sector plays a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of approximately three billion people worldwide.

While water and maritime ecosystems hold such importance, there are many risks affecting ocean and water systems worldwide. For example, an analysis from the Food and Agriculture Organization revealed a concerning trend in the

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sustainability of global fish stocks between 1974 and 2013. During this period, the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90% to 68.6%, indicating that 31.4% of them were overfished. In another realm, according to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as of 2020, over a quarter of the global population still lacked access to safe and easily available drinking water.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.solactive.com>

Note to editors

About Solactive

Solactive is a leading provider of indexing, benchmarking, and calculation solutions for the global investment and trading community. Headquartered in Frankfurt and, with offices in Hong Kong, Toronto, Berlin, Dresden, and Amsterdam, we innovate and disrupt the status quo as the partner of choice for our clients.

The unique blend of our 300 staff's expertise in data, data science, financial markets, and technology enables our clients' continued success through the delivery of a superior experience, unique customization capabilities, and the best value for money available in the industry. With more than 26,000 indices calculated daily, we offer a full suite of solutions, including market-leading ESG and thematic indices.

As at January 2023, Solactive served approximately 500 clients across the world, with approximately US\$300 billion invested in products linked to our indices. Solactive is registered with ESMA as a benchmark administrator and is supervised by the BaFin.

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