



Press Release

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Establishment of Select Asset Management

Select Asset Management Limited (SELECT) has been created to offer innovative, absolute return focused portfolio solutions to the Australian financial planner and investor community.

The newly formed group will initially be looking to make available two flexible fund portfolios - defensive and growth - that will invest across a range of 'best investment ideas' within broad asset constraints. The funds will differ from traditional diversified funds by focusing on absolute return and risk and take a more flexible attitude to asset allocation.

SELECT is a joint venture between an Australian-based executive management team, including Dominic McCormick as chief investment officer, and the Swiss-based Gottex Group (Gottex) represented by Clayton Freind, as chief executive officer.

SELECT is forming strong alliances with independent dealer groups and financial planners to enable them to access SELECT's products directly or via the master trust and wrap account platforms that they support.

SELECT's management team also includes Brendan Foley, Roger Campbell and David Yale. Together this team has experience and expertise in traditional and hedge fund management, investment research, portfolio and product construction, and operation and compliance of Australian and international regulated investment firms (see attached biographies or www.selectfunds.com.au).

"We are focusing on building absolute return portfolio solutions designed to preserve capital and accumulate wealth over the medium to long term," Mr McCormick said. "Our philosophy will permit a departure from many of the issues faced by more conventional funds. Their approach leads to short-term performance comparisons which in turn leads to index hugging portfolios. Retail investors do not want to hear that they only lost 15 per cent even if the index lost 20 per cent.

"SELECT will invest across traditional and alternative asset classes via high quality absolute return focused managers (including boutiques) as well as some direct and listed investments. The hedge fund expertise and access provided by Gottex is an important component, albeit only a part of this."

The Select Diversified Portfolios will obtain a portion of their exposure to alternatives via Gottex's fund of hedge funds. SELECT will also be looking to make available, on a standalone basis, the SELECT Gottex Market Neutral Funds, which will feed directly into Gottex's international fund of hedge funds.

"We are pleased to be able to announce this venture, which will offer retail investors easy access to a professionally managed portfolio which incorporates both traditional and alternative asset classes and investment styles," Mr Freind said. "SELECT combines the capital, track record and funds management expertise of Gottex with a high calibre local management team."

Gottex is an independent financial services and hedge fund management group headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland (www.gottex.com) with other offices in London, New York, Munich, Milan, Bermuda, Perth and Sydney. From 1992 through 1998, Gottex managed a dedicated fixed income relative value hedge fund before launching its fund of hedge funds business in June 1999. Gottex specialises primarily in conservative fund of hedge funds that have historically generated consistent returns with little correlation to the broader markets (www.gvaf.com).

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www.selectfunds.com.au

Biographies

Clayton Freind – Chief Executive Officer

Clayton, born in 1963, has over 14 years experience in finance and hedge fund management. Clayton started his career as a consulting structural design engineer specialising in multi-story building design and space frame structures and is qualified as a Chartered Professional Engineer.

After completing an MBA, Clayton changed careers and worked as an executive in mergers and acquisitions for Ernst & Young Corporate Finance in London. It was at this time that Clayton met and worked with Brendan Foley (see below), who was a manager in the same department. Clayton then worked for CIBC in Australia specialising in corporate and project finance before moving to Switzerland where he commenced working for Gottex.

When Clayton joined Gottex in February 1992, he was the first employee of the new hedge fund management group that was being established. Initial orientation of this business was to offer a dedicated fixed income relative value hedge fund. Clayton championed the development of the fund of hedge funds business at Gottex, which has now replaced the original single strategy business. Since joining Gottex, Clayton has been involved in, and responsible for, many aspects of Gottex's funds management business including: systems design, operations, portfolio management, risk management, investment research and due diligence, product structuring, prospectus development, production of marketing and investor reports, and new product development.

From his base in Perth, Clayton travels regularly to SELECT's head office in Sydney as well as Gottex's head office in Lausanne, Switzerland. Clayton remains a member of Gottex's executive committee, and chairs Gottex's asset allocation committee.

Clayton has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and an MBA, both from the University of Western Australia.

Dominic McCormick – Chief Investment Officer

Dominic, born in 1964, is the key person driving the concept of the SELECT Diversified Portfolios. He has Bachelor of Economics and Master of Finance Degrees and is an Associate of the Securities Institute of Australia. Dominic has worked in the area of financial services and investment for 17 years having commenced at AMP in 1985 before moving to Lend Lease /MLC.

From 1990 he worked in the research area of Pembroke Financial Planners before moving to Bridges early in 1993. Starting as a senior researcher then a research manager at Bridges he was promoted to the head of research position in 1996. As head of research his role involved management of the Research team consisting of eight people, including three equity analysts and responsibility for overall investment strategy and fund manager selection. Specifically in this role he was responsible for development and presentation of asset allocation and investment strategies to investment advisers and clients. He was also critically involved in the selection, development and promotion of a range of funds employing external managers for the Bridges investment schemes, which totalled around A\$1.4 billion in size when he left. As head of research, Dominic was the Research Department's representative on the Bridges Management Investment Committee.

Since leaving Bridges in May 2001, Dominic has divided his time between acting as an independent investment consultant to financial services groups, such as Snowball Financial Group and Western Pacific Portfolio Planning, and establishing SELECT. At SELECT, Dominic is responsible for the overall investment strategy, fund manager selection and portfolio construction for the Select Diversified Portfolios.

Dominic has made significant contribution to industry investment issues via articles in financial media and industry presentations and conferences.

Brendan Foley – Chief Financial Officer

Brendan, born in 1963, qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young in South Africa. In 1988, he relocated to their London office where he managed disposals, acquisitions, and financing of businesses for clients.

In late 1991, Brendan joined the Man Group PLC (the “Man Group”) as Divisional Treasurer of its Fund Management Division, based in Switzerland. The Man Group had a growing alternative fund management business with major subsidiaries, Adam, Harding and Lueck (“AHL”) and MINT, and is today a FTSE 100 company with over A\$30 billion under management. Brendan implemented the complex international corporate structure required by the regulatory, tax and legal framework within which the Fund Management Division operated, including obtaining authorisation in 1994 by the UK regulatory body, the Securities and Futures Authority, for AHL to conduct investment business in the UK. Brendan was appointed in 1993 as the finance director of AHL, based in London, and after its IPO in 1994 as the youngest divisional director in the Man Group on the formation of Man Investment Products.

In April 1995, Brendan left the Man Group to co-found Inventure Holdings Limited (“Inventure”) with Michael Adam (former CEO of AHL) and another partner. Inventure acquired the Fenics business in February 1996 (the developer and distributor of the de facto global market standard software for the pricing and analysis of foreign currency derivatives) and the Ranger business (patented data manipulation and analytics technology) from Tudor Investment Corporation in July 1996.

Brendan participated in the development of strategy and executive management of these two international software businesses from both London and New York, with specific responsibility for all corporate transaction, financial, legal, taxation, and employee incentive aspects.

After the successful sale of Fenics Limited (renamed from Inventure) in April 2001 to the GFI Group, a leading derivatives inter-dealer broker, he relocated to Sydney in late 2001 where, trading as Camyris, he advised emerging businesses and their owners. Brendan became involved in the development of SELECT early in 2002 and has been influential in developing a sound overall business structure for it.

Brendan has Bachelor Degrees in Science and Accounting from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Roger Campbell – Chief Operating Officer

Roger, born in 1967, has worked in the Australian financial services industry for the

past 12 years. He has spent over half of this time with two major Australian financial planning organizations. Main areas of involvement included investment and financial market analysis and portfolio implementation.

Roger commenced employment with a small funds management organization as a technical and research analyst. Main tasks included analysing financial products and portfolio management. He also worked on special projects such as development of the master trust / superannuation administration system and analytical financial model building.

He was then employed by two of Australia's premier financial planning organizations, Godfrey Pembroke and Bridges Financial Services as a Senior Research Analyst. It was at Bridges where Roger met Dominic McCormick and worked in the same team. As a member of the research teams he analysed and advised on different types of investments and financial markets and reported the findings to the financial planner networks and other outside parties. At Bridges he was also involved in newsletter, annual report and prospectus production, client presentations, systems development, administration and compliance.

After leaving Bridges, Roger became involved in the development of SELECT and also acted as an independent financial consultant specialising in investment process design and implementation and funds management operations with emphasis on regulatory compliance.

Roger holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Tasmania.

David Yale – Chief Technology Officer

David, born in 1962, has specific experience in creating and growing software business units, with over 13 years within the finance sector.

David's previous background was as software analyst and architect for a number of software houses, including EDS Scicon and MKI.

David then started a research and development unit at AHL, to create analytical software used to research and implement automated trading systems. The Man Group acquired this business in 1994 to form Man Investment Products and he was appointed Head of Information Technology. Today a fund in excess of A\$6 billion is managed using the system. It was during his time at the Man Group that David worked with Brendan Foley.

After leaving the Man Group, David founded the Software business line at CWB Plc in 1996, where he was appointed Executive Director in 1997. Over the 5 years leading to a trade sale in 2001 the Software business grew steadily to over 70 professional staff with a turnover in excess of A\$25m and operating profit consistently around 40% of revenue. Primarily, the unit developed bespoke and packaged Financial Risk Management systems for the investment banking industry, as well as creating Internet solutions in areas such as trading over the Web.

David immigrated to Australia in early 2002, and joined the SELECT Management Team in August 2002. David received a joint honours degree in Physics and Computer Science from Manchester University in 1984.