

26 March 2013

Cofunds starts new chapter under Legal & General

Cofunds, the UK's leading platform for financial services, has welcomed the decision by Legal & General to acquire the remaining 75 per cent shareholding in the business.

The platform, which has over £50bn AUA and a market share of 22 per cent*, believes having a single parent with the size, scale and financial security of Legal & General will provide enormous benefit to its full range of clients.

The deal, still subject to regulatory approval, is expected to be completed by the end of June and will see the platform run as a distinct business unit within the Legal & General Savings Division and retain the Cofunds brand. There will be no change to Cofunds' focus on its range of clients as a whole of market platform. The current range of funds will be kept, as will third party product provider relationships.

Cofunds Chairman Charlie Eppinger commented: "Legal & General's decision to acquire the remaining 75 per cent of the business is a welcome one and marks the start of an exciting new chapter in the future growth and development of the Cofunds proposition. The consortium ownership has served Cofunds extremely well for a long time, providing market knowledge, know-how and capital, however the platform needs to move to the next stage and it will greatly benefit from the focus of a single shareholder with a long-term commitment to the UK market."

Legal & General Chief Executive Savings Mark Gregory, said: "Our association with Cofunds goes back years and we've seen firsthand the great work the staff has done to grow AUA to over £50bn and to gain a 22 per cent market share. We've also seen how Cofunds clearly benefits from having a diverse range of retail and institutional clients and we recognise that each

client group is unique and highly important to the business. That's why we're committed to supporting the full range of clients and to continuing to invest in and grow the platform."

Cofunds CEO Martin Davis added: "This shows great faith in the future of the platform market and in Cofunds in particular. For our clients it means two things: one, it gives the added security that our financial strength, already a very strong B+, will be further bolstered; and two, it secures significant long-term funding for our development. This is a new chapter for us and with Legal & General's backing we can really pull ahead by focusing on what our clients tell us is important to them."

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Notes to Editors:

Cofunds' shareholders were advised by Evercore Partners

About Cofunds

Cofunds is the leading investment platform for advisers and other financial institutions, with assets under administration over £50bn (as at 14.03.13). It provides flexible administration and management services for advisers and their clients as well as dealing and custody services for financial institutions. It does not offer investment management or advice, nor does it compete with advisers by offering its services direct to the end client. Cofunds exists to serve the needs of institutions, advisers, their clients, and fund managers. Cofunds is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

* Platform market share based on Q4 2012 Fundscape figures