

Press Release

Solactive Acquires Minority Stake in Green Financial Technology Platform Spark Change

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Solactive is pleased to announce the acquisition of a minority stake in Spark Change. Inflows in ESG linked investments are at their all-time peak, and more investors are well-disposed towards integrating ESG factors into the investment process. At the same time, product providers' and institutions' ESG requirements are many-faceted, and one-size-fits-all solutions are simply non-existent. To facilitate investors and institutions in finding bespoke ESG solutions that fit their needs, Spark Change developed their technology platform to create a new class of green financial instruments, enabling investors to develop their own innovative ESG solutions.

Initially, Spark Change aims to broaden access to the previously hard-to-reach carbon emissions market by providing exposure to the value of physical carbon emissions allowances through green financial products. Beyond facilitating investment, Spark Change's solution makes it easier to blend exposure to carbon pricing into portfolios, thus opening up new ways to hedge carbon price risk and meet ESG goals while leaving higher allocative freedom compared to traditional ESG screening approaches.

Solactive's investment recognizes the disruptive access Spark Change creates as well as its direct applicability in Solactive's solutions. The investment was part of a \$4.5m funding round led by Barclays and included FinLab AG, one of Germany's largest FinTech-focused VCs.

"Previously, access to the carbon emissions markets worldwide was highly restricted," states Steffen Scheuble, CEO of Solactive. "Spark Change expands the boundaries of green investing, allowing investors to act in this increasingly important field of sustainable finance. Solactive's mission matches well with the disruptive attitude of Spark Change, and we are looking forward to providing our clients with new and innovative ways to build their ESG product suites."

Joff Hamilton-Dick, CEO at Spark Change, comments: "We're delighted such a forward-thinking company like Solactive shares our values of environmental stewardship and financial innovation. The growing demand from institutions seeking innovation in the ESG space illustrates we've struck a chord that resonates around the

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world. We believe that market-driven pressures combined with our platform can directly impact the price of carbon and help have a greater impact."

For more information please visit: <http://www.solactive.com>

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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, and Dresden, we innovate and disrupt the status quo as the partner of choice for our clients.

The unique blend of our 250 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 14,000 indices calculated daily, we offer a full suite of solutions, including market-leading ESG and thematic indices.

As at April 2020, Solactive served approximately 450 clients across the world, with approximately US\$200 billion invested in products linked to our indices. Solactive is registered with ESMA as a benchmark administrator and is supervised by the BaFin.

About Spark Change

Spark Change is a technology platform that simplifies access to green financial products designed to accelerate the world's transition to a low carbon economy. For more information visit www.sparkchange.io.

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