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New emerging market dividend fund

Friday, 2 November 2012 9:00am
By Ben Collins | In Investment



Two Australian institutional investors, one a super fund, have been the first to invest in a newly available emerging markets dividend fund.

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Emerging market equities specialist Somerset Capital has launched the registered Australian managed investment scheme, which gives Australian investors access to Somerset's emerging market dividend strategy.

While the investors can not be disclosed, negotiations with a third are under way, said Dennis Mothoneos, managing director, Clearway Capital Solutions, which markets Somerset Capital in Australia and New Zealand.

"We believe that Somerset Capital's Emerging Markets Dividend Growth strategy offers something new and different," he said.

"This can be seen in the stock names, industry sector weights and regional exposures held in the portfolio compared to other core emerging market strategies.

"The fund manager has also demonstrated the potential for this approach to produce steady returns in volatile markets."

More targeted approaches to emerging market equities are being sought by Australian institutional investors, he said.

While interest in emerging markets remains strong many Australian institutions already have an exposure to core emerging market strategies that closely reflect the main indices.

In an effort to diversify away from the commodity cycle and evolve portfolios, many are looking for different strategies for their emerging markets allocations, said Mothoneos.

Some are choosing small cap and regionally focused strategies, whilst others are focusing on ways to target companies that try to grow their dividends through better control of cash flow.

Many of these approaches have the ability to significantly diversify portfolio risk exposure whilst adding to performance, he said.

Somerset Capital Management established the Somerset Emerging Markets Dividend Growth Fund at the beginning of 2010, which it said was probably the first emerging market fund to focus on dividend growth investing.

Somerset Capital is an emerging market equities specialist with offices in London and Singapore.

It manages approximately US\$1.8 billion. The Somerset Capital Dividend Growth strategy is managed by Edward Lam.



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