

Press release

It is with great pleasure that the Association of National Numbering Agencies, ANNA, learns that three major European financial markets, Austria, France and Germany, have decided to replace their present domestic securities identifiers with ISIN.

Mr. Niels Hougaard, chairman of ANNA states: *'We are extremely pleased with the fact that Austria, France and Germany have decided to take this important step. Even though ISINs have been assigned to all securities for many years, many countries are still using their old numbering systems domestically and this is one of the major reasons why so many trades need repair in order to be settled correctly. If the industry shall achieve real STP, one of the first steps is to use common standards. Of course, we are aware that this involves significant investments in new IT for many players on the scene, but can't we all agree that a one off investment here and now is better than continuing paying the repair cost in an unforeseeable future.'*

For many years, ISIN has been recognised as the unique global identifier for securities and used widely in cross-border trades. Throughout the STP discussion, which has been the headline for the industry during the past 3 - 4 years, everybody has learned that standards - global, not local - are a must in order to achieve STP.

The global use, presence and dissemination of the ISIN and its function within integrated software solutions will certainly accelerate the demand for a permanent update of the standard and the guidelines of 6166 in order to be in line with the growing demand of the market. ANNA, ANNA Service Bureau and its members are certainly obliged to put their main focus on this task.

ANNA is an association counting 64 countries as direct members and 15 partners, assigning ISINs to more than 99% of all securities world-wide.

ANNA Service Bureau, ASB, is a corporation between ANNA, Standard & Poors and Telekurs offering access to a comprehensive database containing basic information on 1.6 million active securities. And the number increases with approximately 50,000 new ISINs per month. This enables the National Numbering Agencies and interested information providers to supply up-to-date ISIN service to the market.

For further information please contact

Mr. Niels Hougaard
VP - Securities Services
Phone +45 43 58 87 85
Mail nwh@vp.dk