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Index Info:

Joseph LaCorte, CFA
S-Network Global Indexes, LLC
646-467-7927
Info@snetworkllc.com

Jim Rogers and S-Network Partner on New Benchmark Index for Hard Assets

Index Covers over 15% of World's Stock Market Capitalization



(New York, June 18, 2008) The *Rogers™* Van Eck Hard Assets Producers IndexSM (Ticker: RVEI) commenced real-time price dissemination today.

The RVEI will serve as a comprehensive, data-rich equity benchmark for the global commodities sector, which is also referred to as the hard assets sector. Says commodity investor Jim Rogers, Chairman of the *Rogers™* Van Eck (RVE) Index Committee, "With this index we provide a reliable and comprehensive benchmark for measuring the performance of the global hard assets industry, which is central to the world economy, accounting for approximately 14% of world economic output."

The RVEI comprises 310 stocks from around the world that together account for nearly 15% of the world's total stock market capitalization. The RVEI is a capitalization-weighted index, adjusted for free float. It is divided into six sectors: a) Energy, b) Agriculture, c) Base and Industrial Metals, d) forest products, e) Precious Metals and f) Alternatives (Renewable Energy and Water). The sectors are weighted based on estimates of global consumption of the respective commodities. Over 90% of the global stock market capitalization of each sector is captured.

Data will be available through most data vendors. The RVE Family of Indexes is published by S-Network Global Indexes, LLC and S&P Custom Indexes serves as its calculation agent.

In recent years, the hard assets sector has experienced significant growth due to steadily rising commodity prices. Based on back tests, the RVEI has risen over 300% over the past five years. Says Rogers, "We think the bull market in commodities still has a long way to go, especially when you look at growth rates in China, India, the MENA countries and throughout most of the developing world, where demand for just about every commodity is rising at unprecedented rates."

Companies, except for those in the water sector, contained in the RVEI must derive at least 50% of their revenues from the applicable commodity sector. Altogether, these companies own or control most of the world's production of energy and metals, and play central roles in world agricultural

production. The RVEI includes stocks from 39 sovereign jurisdictions, including the United States, China, Russia, Brazil and a number of European countries. Says Joseph LaCorte, Managing Member of New York-based index publisher S-Network Global Indexes LLC, “The RVEI is global, comprehensive and pure-play. It is also forward-looking, because it covers sectors, such as alternative energy and water, which have not been included in the hard assets category until now.”

In addition to the RVEI, S-Network Global Indexes will also publish five related indexes: The RVE Hard Assets Producers Composite of 845 stocks (TICKER: RVEC); the RVE Hard Assets Producers Liquid Index of 50 stocks (TICKER: RVEXL); the RVE Energy Producers Index (TICKER: RVEE); the RVE Agricultural Producers Index (TICKER: RVEA) and the RVE Metals Producers Index (TICKER: RVEM).

Detailed information, including constituent data, rules and price information, on the *Rogers*TM Van Eck Hard Assets Producers IndexSM is available at www.rveindexes.com.

Bios and Backgrounds

Jim Rogers

Jim Rogers is the well-known commodity investor, financial author and commentator. He was a founder of the Quantum Fund and served as a professor of finance Columbia University School of Business.

S-Network Global Indexes, LLC

S-Network Global Indexes LLC is a publisher and developer of proprietary and custom indexes. Since its founding in 1997, S-Network has worked with many of the leading financial services firms in the world on index development, indexation and index-based products, including ETFs and ETNs. S-Network currently publishes over twenty benchmark indexes that are licensed to asset managers and investment banks throughout the world.

Van Eck Global (“Van Eck”)

Van Eck, an investment firm with over 50 years experience investing in hard assets, has endorsed the index.

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