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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIC TO INCREASE PROFILE OF INVESTMENT COMPANIES ON BROKING AND RESEARCH SITES

- **Investment company centre launched on www.DigitalLook.com**
- **More websites to carry enhanced investment company data**

The **Association of Investment Companies (AIC)** today launched an initiative to improve the prominence and quality of data available on investment companies through online trading and research sites. This project has been supported and funded by fund managers and investment companies representing **132** investment companies, one third of the industry (see list of participating companies in Notes to Editors).

By linking up with **Fundamental Data**, a leading provider of investment company data, the website, **Digital Look**, and other data platforms, the AIC aims to provide investors with access to investment company centres, which offer up to date investment company data, analysis and news. It is expected these centres will increase the availability and quality of investment company information, thereby offering greater investment opportunities.

The genesis for this initiative came from the managers of investment companies, who proposed that the AIC investigate how the industry could raise the profile and accessibility of investment companies on broking and research sites. The AIC would particularly like to thank **Aberdeen Asset Managers, Baillie Gifford, Henderson Global Investors** and **JPMorgan Asset Management** for their help and financial commitment in developing this project.

The online investment company centre is live on **DigitalLook.com** and will soon be available through a number of other broking and research sites including **Alliance Trust Savings, Charles Stanley Fastrade** and **The Share Centre**. To see the centre up and running on Digital Look, please [click here](#). The AIC plans to add investment company centres to other broking and research sites.

Daniel Godfrey, Director General, Association of Investment Companies said: “With an ever growing number of people managing their finances and researching investments online, it has never been more important to have up to date information and data available across the internet to allow both new and existing investors to find out more about investment companies.

“This project is an excellent example of how the industry and the AIC work together to enhance the awareness of investment companies. In these uncertain times it’s encouraging to see the industry working together and investing for the future.”

Managers from some of the largest investment company providers have offered comment on the significance of this project.

James de Sausmarez, Director and Head of Investment Trusts at Henderson Global Investors, said: “There can be no doubt that the investors of tomorrow will be doing their transactions online and it is essential that they have all the information they need at their fingertips to make the right choices for their investment portfolios. Investment trusts and investment companies have always been an investment of choice for knowledgeable investors with their experienced managers, low charges and attractive discounts. This crucial initiative will ensure that every online research house or share dealing service can ensure that their investors will have access to the quality information they need to choose their investment trusts and investment companies.”

David Barron, Head of Investment Trusts at J.P.Morgan Asset Management said: “The service will provide timely and appropriate online information about investment companies. Online investors will be able to make informed decisions about investing in investment companies with more relevant information and analysis.”

Chris Fletcher, Head of Retail Investments at Baillie Gifford said: “We can all see the increase in financial products being bought online through broker sites and adviser platforms, and the increasing use made of the web as a research tool. The data on which those decisions are based must be complete and useful both for individuals and for advisers. Investment companies can now be properly researched using this new service alongside other savings products and we hope that the benefits that investment companies can bring will thus be available to a wider circle of advisers and personal investors.”

- Ends -

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Note to Editors

1. The Association of Investment Companies was founded in 1932 to represent the interests of the investment trust industry – the oldest form of collective investment. Today, the AIC represents a broad range of closed ended investment companies, incorporating investment trusts and other closed ended investment companies and VCTs. The AIC's members believe that the industry is best served if it is united and speaks with one voice. The AIC's mission statement is to help Members add value for shareholders over the longer term. The AIC has 350 members and the industry has total assets of approximately £79.7 billion.
2. List of Participants in AIC Online Project - 20 January 2008

Aberdeen Asset Managers
Alliance Trust
Allianz Global Investors
Asset Management Investment Company PLC
Baillie Gifford & Co
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
Blue Planet Investment Management Ltd
Brevan Howard Asset Management LLP
Caledonia Investments plc
Dunedin Capital Partners Limited
Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust
F&C Capital and Income Investment Trust PLC
Fidelity International Limited/ FIL Investments International
Framlington Innovative Growth Trust PLC
Franklin Templeton Investment Management Ltd
Frostrow Capital LLP
Gartmore Investment Management Limited
Hansa Trust plc
Henderson Global Investors
ING UK Real Estate Income
INVESCO Asset Management Limited
JPMorgan Asset Management
Law Debenture Corporation p.l.c. (The)
Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd
Progressive Asset Management Limited
RIT Capital Partners plc
Schroder Investment Management Limited
Thames River Capital (UK) Ltd
The Scottish Investment Trust PLC
Witan Investment Services

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The Association of Investment Companies (AIC) is a company limited by guarantee whose registered office is 9th floor, 24 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4YY. Its trading and registered office address are identical. The AIC is a company registered in England and Wales and its company registration no. is 4818187. The AIC is registered for VAT and its registration no. is 396992669.