

MUFG and First Sentier Investors appoint head of First Sentier MUFG Sustainable Investment Institute

Tokyo, 14 September 2021 – MUFG and First Sentier Investors have appointed Velina Karadzova to lead the recently-launched [First Sentier MUFG Sustainable Investment Institute](#).

Velina will be responsible for developing the institute’s research programme which will include macro-level research on sustainable investment topics, market trends and industry practices. The studies will look at how these developments affect the performance of companies, sectors and economies and their influence on investor capital allocation. Velina will work closely with the institute’s external advisory board of prominent sustainability academics and industry leaders, appointed to inform its research agenda and ensure its research meets high standards of rigour.

Velina was previously an ESG analyst and utilities sector lead at MSCI, where she was responsible for utilities sector and company research, ESG ratings, ESG methodology enhancements and developing new products. She has also held roles as a credit ratings analyst at Moody’s and was a senior associate in audit at PwC.

The institute was launched in May 2021 to publish proprietary, high-quality research on emerging sustainable investment topics that have yet to see significant industry focus. Its aim is to enhance industry awareness of and action on these sustainable investment themes, report on market trends and best practice, and promote a greater understanding of how such issues can impact long-term investment performance.

Its inaugural research report, titled [“Microplastic Pollution: Causes, Consequences, and Issues for Investors”](#), explores the critical and growing problem of microplastic pollution, one of the most significant and neglected threats to the health of our oceans. The research outlines the important role investors can play in encouraging companies and governments to take action to prevent microplastics entering the environment.

Publication of the next report, which will focus on the emissions of synthetic microfibers into the environment and the damage they are causing, is planned for Q4 2021.

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About First Sentier Investors

First Sentier Investors manages US\$180.9 billion in assets (as at 30 June 2021) on behalf of institutional investors, pension funds, wholesale distributors, investment platforms, financial advisers and their clients worldwide.

The firm operates as a standalone global investment management business with offices across Europe, the Americas, and Asia Pacific. First Sentier Investors' expertise spans a range of asset classes and specialist investment sectors focused

on delivering sustainable investment success based on responsible investment principles.

Formerly known as First State Investments, the firm was acquired from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in August 2019 by Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.

For more information, visit www.firstsentierinvestors.com

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