



Morningstar and Il Sole 24 ORE, partners in investment services

The leading global player in the evaluation of funds will distribute some of its top services for banks, financial advisors, and retail investors via the Il Sole 24 ORE sales network and site.

Morningstar, the global leader in the analysis and evaluation of mutual funds and in analytical tools supporting financial institutions, has concluded an agreement with Il Sole 24 ORE, **leader in business and financial news and in the sale of financial products to the public, for exclusive distribution of some Morningstar services and products via its sales network and on-line via the site www.shopping24.com.**

The Il Sole 24 ORE network will distribute Easy Funds and Morningstar Advisor Workstation Office Edition. The first of these items is a tool for bank branches, permitting fast analysis, selection, and classification of mutual investment funds. The second is an advanced service for banking networks and for networks of financial advisors and private bankers that **combines all tools necessary for analysis of funds, creation of investment plans, and presentation of simple reports, useful for commercial utilisation.**

The agreement – signed with the Multimedia Division of Il Sole 24 ORE, headed by Matteo Cascinari – also includes creation by Morningstar of the “Funds” section for the site www.ilsole24ore.com/money24, on-line since 15 February this year, with information, data, and analyses. It is later planned to launch a premium, paid section, featuring value-added services for sophisticated investors and advisors having needs exclusively relating to information.

“Morningstar and Il Sole 24 ORE have the common feature of a known and recognised brand, as well as authority and long experience in the financial sector”, stated **Davide Pelusi**, managing director of Morningstar Italy. “The agreement is an important step forward in the strategy of increased circulation of Morningstar services throughout Italy. In the Il Sole 24 ORE sales network, we have found a very professional and competitive structure, well-established nationwide and therefore right for distribution of our solutions”.

“The agreement with Morningstar is part of our strategy to relaunch and develop professional products for the financial sector”, commented the head of Il Sole 24 ORE’s Multimedia Division **Matteo Cascinari**. “Il Sole 24 ORE’s partnership with Morningstar, global leader in the specific investment-fund segment, assures the market of a top-quality and totally reliable offering”.

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Morningstar

Morningstar is global leader in the analysis and evaluation of investment funds and in analytical tools supporting financial institutions, i.e. fund supermarkets, sales networks, asset management companies, private banking divisions, banks, and insurance companies.

Right from the start, Morningstar has exploited the technological progress that has revolutionised global markets. Today it is the first-choice brand in the financial services industry, not only in the USA but also on a global level. Its mission is to provide information that is always clear, objective, and independent, as well as analytical tools that aid understanding of the numerous investment products available today, in order to facilitate investment processes.

Last year it acquired the Standard & Poor's global fund databank, a division of The McGraw-Hill Group, thereby becoming the most extensive global databank for managed investment vehicles.

In Italy, Morningstar provides information to numerous financial players and is also present with its analyses on Msn.it, Yahoo!, Alice, and Finanza.com.

Its services and tools are used by AAA Bank, Alpen Bank, Allianz GI, Allianz Bank, Anima Sgr, Avanzi, Azimut, Banca della Rete, Banca Generali, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo, Banca di Bologna, the Bank of Italy, Banca Ponti, Banca Popolare di Cividale, Banca San Marino, Bancoposta, BG Sgr, Bipitalia, BNY Mellon, BSI, CAAM Sgr, Capitalgest, Cariparma, Consultinvest, Credem, Euresa Life, Fidelity, Fideuram Sgr, Fortis Bank, Fundstore, Generali AM, the Unicredit Capitalia group, the Carige group, the Deutsche Bank group, the Ersel group, the Eurizon group, the Fondiaria-SAI group, the ING group, Hypo Alpe Adria, IGM sim, Il Sole 24 Ore, Inarcassa, IW Bank, Lemanik, McKinsey, Morgan Stanley, Morley, Simgenia, UBI Pramerica, UBI sim, Unicredit Xelion, Università di Brescia, Università di Modena, and Veneto Banca.

Il Sole 24 ORE

The Il Sole 24 ORE Group is an integrated publishing system that exploits different media's potential to provide authoritative and always up-to-date business, regulatory and financial news, sensitive to the varying information needs of its users. Over six million people use the Sole system every week via different media and channels, i.e. the daily newspaper, press agency, professional and specialist publishing, training, seminars, conferences, on- and off-line financial products, radio and Internet.

The Il Sole 24 ORE newspaper is one of the top newspapers in Italy and one of the most-read business newspapers in Europe, with over 340,000 copies circulated every day, over 150,000 subscriptions, more than 1,200,000 readers, and over 3,000,000 users/month.

The newspaper's information is supplemented and enhanced by the news provided by the business press agency Il Sole 24 ORE Radiocor, leader in business news; by the Radio 24 station, the top Italian news & talk radio, which broadcasts 360-degree news services; by the contents and services of the portal www.ilssole24ore.com; by the generalist free press newspaper Ventiquattro Minuti, distributed every afternoon from Monday to Friday in Milan and Rome; and by on- and off-line financial products.

Completing the Group's offering there are specialised publishing products and services – featuring technical and regulatory content – for professionals, companies, and the Public Administration. These range from books to magazines, from databanks to management software, and from conferences to master courses and training courses.

THE MULTIMEDIA DIVISION of Il Sole 24 ORE is dedicated to (a) the collection, production, and distribution – in digital format – of specific information content for the world of financial institutions, (b) management of the Group's on-line activities, (c) distribution of the Radiocor agency's newscasts, and (d) content provision to third parties.