

S&P Dow Jones Indices and ASX Make S&P/ASX 200 VIX Available in Real-Time

Sydney, 20 February, 2013 – From 28 February, Australia’s equity market volatility benchmark, the S&P/ASX 200 VIX (VIX), will be made available in real-time. This will provide the market with intra-day volatility information and importantly, enables ASX to create derivative products for hedging and trading the volatility asset class.

The real-time S&P/ASX 200 VIX will replace the current end-of-day VIX index by using the real-time bid/ask prices of S&P/ASX 200 index options to calculate the VIX index value.

The VIX is a tool for investors, financial media, researchers and economists to monitor the level of near-term volatility in the Australian benchmark equity index. The level of the VIX implies market expectations of volatility in the S&P/ASX 200 over the next 30 days and provides an indicator of investor sentiment.

ASX Deputy CEO Peter Hiom said: “Over the past few years of global economic uncertainty, volatility has emerged as an asset class in its own right. As a consequence, we have seen the global development of derivatives products that can hedge, trade and diversify investment portfolios against volatility.

“In Australia, customer appetite for derivative products over the VIX has grown since the launch of the end-of-day VIX index in 2010. The real-time VIX is an important pre-requisite for ASX to launch VIX futures, which we are on track to deliver towards the second half of this calendar year.”

“The real-time S&P/ASX 200 VIX constitutes an exciting step forward in the development of the Australian financial services industry,” said Guy Maguire, Head of S&P Dow Jones Indices in Australia. “The Index will allow Australian investors to gauge equity market volatility, while also serving as the basis for future investment products.”

-ends-

About ASX

ASX Group (ASX) is one of the world’s leading exchange groups, ranked among the top 10 by market capitalisation.

- We operate a fully integrated exchange across multiple asset classes – equities, fixed income and derivatives.
- We service a wide range of retail, institutional and corporate customers, directly and through intermediaries.
- We offer a broad range of services that allow our customers to invest, trade and manage risk. This includes listings, trading, post-trade services, and technical and information services.
- We operate infrastructure that supports the systemic stability of Australia’s financial markets and which is critical for the efficient functioning of the nation’s economy, economic growth and position in the Asia Pacific region.
- More information about ASX can be found at: www.asxgroup.com.au

About S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies is the world’s largest, global resource for index-based concepts, data and research. Home to iconic financial market indicators, such as the S&P 500® and the Dow Jones Industrial AverageSM, S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC has over 115 years of experience constructing innovative and transparent solutions that fulfill the needs of institutional and retail investors. More assets are invested in products based upon our indices than any other provider in the world. With over 830,000 indices covering a wide range of assets classes across the globe, S&P Dow Jones Indices

LLC defines the way investors measure and trade the markets. To learn more about our company, please visit www.spdji.com.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones, and their respective affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, directors, officers, shareholders, employees and agents (collectively "S&P Dow Jones Indices") does not sponsor, endorse, sell, or promote any investment fund or other vehicle that is offered by third parties and that seeks to provide an investment return based on the returns of any S&P Dow Jones Indices index. This document does not constitute an offer of services in jurisdictions where S&P Dow Jones Indices or its affiliates do not have the necessary licenses. S&P Dow Jones Indices receives compensation in connection with licensing its indices to third parties.

For further information:

Kristen Kaus
Media and Communications Executive
ASX Limited
Tel: +61 2 9227 0410
Mobile: 0421 380 773
Email: kristen.kaus@asx.com.au

Guy Maguire
Head of S&P Dow Jones Indices - Australia
Tel: +61 2 9255 9822
Mobile: 0408 107 997
Email: guy_maguire@spdji.com

David R. Guarino
Director of Global Communications
S&P Dow Jones Indices
(+1) 201 755 5334
dave_guarino@spdji.com