

## Media release

### Ahead becomes first Liechtenstein company authorised under new UCITS law

Vaduz, 5 December 2011 | Ahead Wealth Solutions AG has become the first Liechtenstein investment fund management company to receive authorisation from the Liechtenstein FMA (Financial Market Authority) under the new *Law on Certain Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities* (shortened to "UCITS Act" or "UCITSA"). This authorisation is the culmination of an intensive process lasting several months during which Ahead restructured its organisation in line with the new organisational requirements of the EU.

As a result of its authorisation by the FMA, Ahead is permitted to establish and administer investment funds directly in all 30 European Economic Area (EEA) member states. The previous authorisation applied only to Liechtenstein. In addition, Ahead is now permitted to make investment funds available for public distribution within the EEA and to offer them for purchase by investors – without further formalities or authorisations!

Wolfgang Mayer, CEO and Member of the Board of Directors of Ahead: "We are delighted that, effective immediately, we can now offer our clients the huge benefits of the new European arrangements. And the fact that we are the first Liechtenstein-based investment fund company to meet the strict requirements of the FMA is, of course, particularly encouraging."

As part of the adjustment to the FMA's new organisational requirements, the Management Board of Ahead has also been expanded to four members. Bianca Sprecher (Fund Setup, Legal & Compliance) and Thomas Mähr (Administration) – both of whom have been part of the senior management team since Ahead was founded in 2008 – will henceforward join the existing members Peter Bargetze (CFO & CRO) and Wolfgang Mayer (CEO) on the Management Board.

The Board of Directors of Ahead sees the company's authorisation under the new UCITS law and the expansion of its organisation against the backdrop of rapidly evolving markets and radically changed operating conditions in Liechtenstein as laying the best possible foundation for the further successful growth of the Ahead Group.

**Wolfgang Mayer**  
CEO | Partner

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#### Facts and figures | The Ahead Group in brief...

Ahead Wealth Solutions AG is a Liechtenstein-registered management company established in accordance with the relevant European law in 2008. On 21 February 2008 it was licensed to act as a fund manager by the Liechtenstein Financial Market Authority (FMA) in accordance with the Liechtenstein *Investment Undertakings Act (IUA)* and on 1 December 2011 became the first management company in Liechtenstein to receive FMA authorisation under the new *Law on Certain Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITSA)*, enabling it to establish and administer investment funds under both these pieces of legislation. In addition, Ahead is licensed by the FMA to manage individual portfolios and provide investment advice. As well as being authorised in Liechtenstein, Ahead is also registered in Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Italy.

Ahead specialises in structuring and managing investment funds. These may be configured as UCITS – with the option of distribution throughout Europe (EU passport) – or as non-UCITS vehicles. The clients of Ahead are exclusively institutional investors, i.e. primarily trust companies, asset managers, family offices, banks and insurance firms.

The Ahead Group [www.ahead.li](http://www.ahead.li) is made up of the holding company Ahead Management AG and two operating subsidiaries: Ahead Wealth Solutions AG, whose share capital totalling CHF 1 million is 100% owned by Ahead Management AG, and Ahead International Portfolio Management AG, 25% of whose total share capital of CHF 200,000 is owned by Ahead Management AG. For its part, Ahead Wealth Solutions AG owns two investment companies with variable capital (SICAVs): Ahead Multi Manager QI Anlagegesellschaft AGmvK and Ahead Multi Manager UCITS Anlagegesellschaft AGmvK. The Ahead Group currently has 12 employees and administers more than 70 investment funds with total assets under management of approximately CHF 500 million. Ahead Wealth Solutions AG and Ahead International Portfolio Management AG are subject to supervision by the Liechtenstein Financial Market Authority (FMA) [www.fma-li.li](http://www.fma-li.li). Its appointed external auditors are ReviTrust Revision AG [www.revitrust.li](http://www.revitrust.li).

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