

Media Release

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ASCALON ADDS GLOBAL QUANT MANAGER HELIX PARTNERS

Ascalon Capital Managers Limited (Ascalon) today announced that it has established a boutique hedge fund called Helix Partners Limited (Helix).

Helix specialises in global equities and invests through a quantitative process developed by partners Brandt Leahy, Justin Webb and Matthew Perone.

Prior to starting up Helix, the three founders worked as an investment team in quantitative strategies at Macquarie Funds Group and separately at large investment firms like Citadel Investment Group and Delaware Investments. All three achieved advanced academic qualifications at Harvard University.

Andrew Landman, CEO of Ascalon, said: "It is a great opportunity to partner with a quant team whose leaders have such a strong academic background and performance track record."

"Importantly, the Helix team has a process that has withstood the best shock test we could have hoped to run. The last 18 months has seen huge value destroyed for investors backing many other quant strategies," Mr Landman said.

"In the last six months, we have positioned Ascalon to be a contemporary funds management business that offers an attractive value proposition for boutiques, including our own dedicated business development team that targets wholesale and retail markets.

"As an incubator of boutique firms with great prospects, Ascalon will provide all the necessary support Helix requires to attract domestic and international institutional clients," Mr Landman added.

Helix partner Justin Webb said: "The Helix quantitative investment model has been under development for many years, and we are excited about launching our global equities fund with Ascalon."

"Having access to Ascalon's experience and knowledge means we can focus on the business of investing and research," Mr Webb said.

"The time we have spent with one of Ascalon's existing boutiques, H3 Global Advisors, has also been very helpful as this group highly values the Ascalon model and the specific contribution of Andrew Landman and Harvey Carter (Westpac) at their Board level," he added.

Ascalon

Capital Managers

Nelson Lam, Ascalon's Head of Investments, said: "Helix fulfils an asset class gap (global equities) and style (low index correlation and quant) that adds diversity to Ascalon's portfolio of boutiques."

"This transaction sends a clear signal that Ascalon is actively reviewing opportunities and is able to make decisions in a relatively short time frame," Mr Lam said.

Westpac announced last week that it will take 100% control of Ascalon after reaching an in-principle agreement to purchase the half share held by Kaplan Equity. This transaction is expected to be completed in October.

Media contact:

Ascalon Capital

Andrew Landman (02) 9017 9701

Helix Partners

Matt Perone 0417 245 713 or

Justin Webb 0434 630 952