

Media Release

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ASCALON TO PARTNER GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY INVESTOR ARKX

Ascalon Capital Managers Limited (Ascalon) today announced a strategic partnership with Sydney-based boutique fund Arkx Investment Management Limited.

Arkx (pronounced Ark-X) offers investors exposure to the growing clean energy industry through a concentrated portfolio of global stocks.

Established in 2007, Arkx has achieved returns substantially higher than any benchmark. The Arkx investment team owns the majority of the equity with Ascalon and Social Ventures Australia both minority shareholders.

Andrew Landman, CEO of Ascalon, said: "With this investment Ascalon will lead the incubation of a new category of boutique investment managers."

"The global appeal and higher margin of this asset class combined with Arkx's boutique approach is consistent with Ascalon's growth strategy," he said.

"In this asset class it makes sense to specialise and that is best achieved via a boutique structure. The investment process, business objectives and what the brand stands for needs to be strongly aligned and represent a definite value proposition for investors," Mr Landman added.

Chris Cuffe, Chairman of Arkx and Chairman of Social Ventures Australia, said: "The partnership with Ascalon will strengthen Arkx's brand and provide the commercial support needed to meet its growth objectives."

"This investment by Ascalon further demonstrates the group's commitment to sustainable businesses, and their belief that there will be strong returns in the clean energy sector. I am very excited about the prospect of working with the team at Ascalon on the Board of Arkx," Mr Cuffe said.

Geoff Evison, Managing Director of Arkx, said: "This is the right time to partner with Ascalon given its significant commitment to many other successful boutique fund managers."

"The clean energy sector has a number of long-term growth drivers that offer investors attractive rates of return well into the future. Arkx has a proven track record of choosing smart, profitable ways of playing these themes – whether the focus is on energy demand, energy security or concerns about climate change," Mr Evison said.

Ascalon

Capital Managers

Nelson Lam, Ascalon's Head of Investments, said: "With Ascalon now having an active role with Helix Partners, this latest investment in Arkx represents our second transaction since Westpac moved to 100% ownership."

"The fact that both managers offer investors access to global equities reinforces Ascalon's view that as the outlook for the international economy improves, overall allocations towards global equities will increase over the medium term," he said.

"The performance of Arkx to date shows that this is a sector where active managers can genuinely outperform," Mr Lam added.

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