



A PART OF CAISSE DES DÉPÔTS ■

Novethic Named France's Best ESG Research House

September 10 2009 - Novethic has been awarded top honours in this year's World Finance Awards. Created in 2007 by *World Finance* magazine, the Awards are designed to identify industry leaders, individuals, teams and organisations that represent the benchmark of achievement and best practice in the financial world.

This year, Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) was highlighted for the first time. The panel of independent awards adjudicators considered a range of criteria including adoption of the UNPRI principles, meeting the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) demand of institutional investors, quality of research, and proof of market development.

As the only source of analytical and statistical information on the French SRI market, Novethic provides the information that investors need to make informed decisions on their ESG investments, and guides SRI fund managers in enhancing their transparency and management processes. Working papers usually focus on an issue raised by a specific asset class or the integration of ESG criteria into new financial sectors. Past topics have included ESG integration in private equity, crossovers between Islamic finance and SRI, and the challenges of SRI money markets funds.

In an attempt to reach a wider audience and to mobilise the financial community outside of France, in early 2008, Novethic began translating its research into English: studies, working papers and surveys can be downloaded free of charge on novethic.com and novethic.fr. These resources are also available on Bloomberg and Thomson research portals. Since its adherence to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) in April 2009, Novethic shares its resources with fellow signatories to help further their understanding of ESG issues.

"We hope to continue to accompany, through our research and conferences, an increasing number of investors and asset managers, both in France and abroad, in their adoption of an SRI approach," comments Caroline Estimé, Novethic's Head of development.

For the latest thinking and best practices on ESG issues, don't miss Novethic's 2009 Annual Event "ESG Strategies for Responsible Investors" that will be held in Paris on November 27.

To access Novethic's SRI Studies, <http://www.novethic.com/novethic/socially-responsible-investment/french-sri/sri-market.jsp>

For more information on the World Finance Awards, visit www.worldfinance.com.

About Novethic: As the sole source of analytical and statistical information on the French SRI market, Novethic is the leading research center in France on Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Created in 2001 as a subsidiary of Caisse des Dépôts, Novethic produces research studies and organises events to mobilise business leaders, investors and NGOs on these key issues related to CSR and SRI. www.novethic.com

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