

Press release / 26 October 2015



Vontobel Asset Management expands its fixed income offering into the global corporate bond space with top hire and new strategy

Christian Hantel has been appointed to Vontobel Asset Management's Fixed Income team as senior portfolio manager for the Global Corporate Bond Mid Yield strategy, a new addition to Vontobel's credit offering. This appointment, alongside the new strategy, underlines Vontobel Asset Management's commitment to further expand its USD 20 billion Fixed Income offering.

Drawing upon the success of its multi-billion Mid Yield EUR Corporate Bond strategy, Vontobel Asset Management launches a Global Corporate Mid Yield strategy with Christian Hantel, one of the top performing portfolio managers in this segment. Vontobel is convinced that this asset class will continue to grow considerably in importance amongst investors.

Vontobel Asset Management was one of the first asset managers to recognise and capture the opportunities in the Mid Yield segment (bonds with a rating between A+ and BBB-) by launching the Vontobel Fund - EUR Corporate Mid Yield Bond more than a decade ago. "Mid Yield is one of the most attractive pockets within the credit markets," said Mondher Bettaieb, Head of Corporate Bonds and portfolio manager of the Morningstar awarded Vontobel Fund - EUR Corporate Mid Yield Bond. "Over the past decades, we have seen considerable growth in this investment universe due to significant credit rating migration, today making up nearly 70% of the global index. This allows us to identify attractive investment opportunities at the regional, sector and issuer level".

Christian Hantel, who will be the lead portfolio manager of the new strategy, brings with him a wealth of experience in global corporate credit. In the management of the fund he will be supported by Mondher Bettaieb and Jamil Bouallai, Portfolio Manager/Credit Analyst. Christian joins Vontobel from Swisscanto Asset Management, where he was responsible for global and euro credit portfolios, multi-currency mandates and also lead managed the Global Corporate Bond fund. Prior to that, he worked as Head of Corporate Credit for BNY Mellon Asset Management with performance responsibility for approximately six billion EUR in corporate credit investment grade and crossover mandates. Christian holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Cologne and a Master's Degree in International Management from CEMS (HEC, Paris).

Vontobel

Vontobel's mission is to protect and build the wealth our clients have entrusted to us over the long term. Specializing in active asset management and tailor-made investment solutions, we provide responsible and forward-looking advice. In doing so, we are committed to Swiss quality and performance standards. With their good name, our owner family has stood by these principles for generations. As of 30 June 2015, Vontobel held CHF 181 billion of client assets. Over 1,400 employees worldwide provide first-rate, customized services for clients with an international focus. The registered shares of Vontobel Holding AG are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. The Vontobel families and the Vontobel Foundation hold the majority of shares and votes in the company.
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