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## Press Release

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### **NORDEA HIRES HERMES EQUITY OWNERSHIP SERVICES**

Nordea Fund Companies and Nordea Investment Management, the leading financial services group in the Nordic and Baltic Sea area, have hired Hermes Equity Ownership Service ("Hermes EOS") to represent their engagement interests, as part of their approach to responsible investing.

Hermes EOS will assist Nordea by engaging with companies within its portfolios in order to improve their behaviour in areas of social responsibility, with the aim of adding long-term value to Nordea's investments.

Commenting on today's announcement, Colin Melvin, Chief Executive Officer of Hermes Equity Ownership Services, said:

"We are delighted to welcome Nordea as a new Hermes EOS client, our second in the Nordic region. Our appointment by Nordea is a sign of the increasing relevance of Hermes Equity Ownership Services to global asset managers."

Other Hermes EOS clients include PKA, the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme and the BBC Pensions Trust.

### **Notes to Editors**

**Hermes Equity Ownership Services** - Hermes Equity Ownership Services (Hermes EOS.) Hermes EOS offers a comprehensive and unified responsible investment and corporate governance advisory service on a client's equity investments wherever they are managed. The services provided by Hermes EOS include voting, engagement and public policy for institutional shareholders.

As the executive arm of the BT Pension Scheme, the UK's largest pension fund, Hermes has over the past decade developed an expertise in responsible investment and corporate governance. This stems from the belief that for a long-term equity investor, it is particularly important to be an active and engaged owner of companies. Hermes' unique ownership means that it has a commonality of interests with other pension funds and thus a focus on achieving superior absolute returns.

The premise underlying Hermes EOS is that companies with informed and involved shareholders are more likely to achieve superior long-term performance than those without. Hermes EOS aims always to represent to directors a shareholder's perspective on the company's environmental, social and governance performance

and to frame its discussions with companies in terms of long-term value creation. Hermes firmly believes that the stronger and more representative that shareholder voice, the more effective it is likely to be.

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