

Asett.

As part of the plan to strengthen Asett's global position in innovative products and services, whilst providing competitive costs and operational efficiencies, Asett Limited Hong Kong has acquired Fidelis Commercial Broker (UAE), Fidelis Commercial Limited (UK) and Fidelis Commercial (São Paulo).

Asett will enhance diversification across global asset classes, including the addition of U.S. and European cash equities, global ETPs and global FX by utilising Asett's leading proprietary trading technology thus combining and migrating the company's markets onto a single, proven and effective platform. The combination provides enhanced market data products and services to meet the needs of the growing index-based investing markets. This will be expected to be accretive to Asett's holdings, adjusted in the first year following completion of the transaction.

Asett and the Fidelis group today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement, which has been approved by the board of directors of each company by unanimous votes of the board members present. The Asett group has agreed to acquire the Fidelis group of companies in a cash and stock transaction at an undisclosed amount. The transaction will significantly expand Asett's holdings product line across asset classes, broaden its geographic reach with Fidelis' strong pan-European equities and global FX positions, and diversify its business mix with significant non-transactional revenue streams.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunny Virdee said, "The acquisition of Fidelis will undoubtedly strengthen our position as a leader in innovative products and services, and is a transformative next step in our growth strategy." He went on to state, "We believe that bringing together Asett's product innovation, indexing expertise and options, and market position, with Fidelis' proven proprietary technology infrastructure, global ETP listing, trading venues, global foreign exchange marketplace and market data services, represents a compelling combination that will deliver significant benefits for our customers as well as enhanced long-term value. In particular, we believe the complementary nature of our respective offerings uniquely positions the combined company to deliver the product set, transparency and tradability demanded by the rapidly-developing index-based investing market. Additionally, Fidelis' market data expertise will permit Asett to develop new products using the company's index calculation capabilities."

Mr. Virdee continued, "Asett Limited (HK) and the Fidelis group of companies share a resilient culture based on the goal of efficiently utilising innovation to better serve customers and the broader marketplace whilst also enhancing value. We expect the acquisition to enrich the trading experience by streamlining access for customers and to allow Asett to provide greater scale services, while significantly increasing operational and cost efficiencies."

Virdee concluded, "Today's announcement is a testament to the hard work and achievements of our talented employees around the globe and in every asset class in which we operate. We look forward to working with the Fidelis team to facilitate a smooth integration."

Financial Benefits

The transaction is anticipated to provide meaningful scale and financial benefits to Asett's holdings, and will enable the company to further expand and capitalise on significant synergies expected to be achieved through the acquisition. Within three years of the completion of the transaction, Asett's holdings expects to realise £150 million in annualised expense synergies, increasing to approximately £165 million of anticipated expense synergies within five years following closing.

Leadership

Following the close of the transaction, Mr Sunny Virdee, Asett Limited HK CEO, will remain CEO of the combined company. Mr J Singh, Fidelis group of companies' CEO, will become President and COO, Asett's CFO Hannah Kaseem will remain as CFO of the combined company.

Following the close of the transaction, the board of directors of the combined company will consist of five directors. These changes will be effective immediately upon closure.

Advisors

KPMG LLC will be acting as co-lead financial advisors to Asett Limited. Watson Farley LLC is serving as Asett Limited's legal counsel. Barclays Capital Inc. is lead financial advisor, with UBS.