

May 3, 2011

To Parties Interested in the Legal Entity Identifier Solution:

The accurate and unambiguous identification of legal entities engaged in financial transactions is foundational and critically important towards the improved measurement and monitoring of systemic risk by regulators and supervisors. A global standardized Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) will help enable organizations to more effectively measure and manage counterparty exposure, while providing substantial operational efficiencies and customer service improvements to the industry. As the Financial Stability Board (FSB) has stated, “Indeed, the recent crisis has reaffirmed an old lesson—good data and good analysis are the lifeblood of effective surveillance and policy responses at both the national and international levels.”<sup>1</sup> The FSB has recognized that such analysis would need to be supported by legal entity specific data.

Consequently, the industry requirements document (available at [www.sifma.org/LEI-Industry-Requirements](http://www.sifma.org/LEI-Industry-Requirements)) represents the current best thinking of the global financial community (the “Trade Associations”) with respect to setting out requirements for an LEI solution. The Trade Associations that have developed this document are comprised of financial services firms from a broad range of countries, representing many different types of financial industry participants. The document is intended to be a living solution that will continue to be refined as others participate in the discussion on the topic. The Trade Associations, however, believe it is critically important to release this current version of the requirements to facilitate continued dialog on establishing a global industry solution. Specifically, the Trade Associations seek the following:

- Near-term, continued socialization of the requirements with participants in the financial markets and regulators around the world
- Discussion, refinement and convergence of currently separate approaches by those developing potential solutions for the LEI standard
- Immediate engagement with potential solution providers as they prepare and present their proposed solutions for issuing and maintaining an LEI solution

The Trade Associations respectfully request that parties interested in submitting a proposal for providing services as part of the LEI solution contact [LEIresponse@sifma.org](mailto:LEIresponse@sifma.org) for the details on the submission process. Proposals will be accepted through May 30, 2011.

The objective of the Trade Associations is to issue a final recommendation for the global LEI solution, including both the standard itself and the solution providers, by June 30, 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> “The Financial Crisis and Information Gaps” (October 29, 2009).