

On the Move

BlueCrest Appoints Hunter as CRO as Dean Departs

By Nishant Kumar

BlueCrest Capital Management has appointed **Christopher Hunter** as its chief risk officer, replacing **James Dean** who has left the investment firm, according to a company spokesman.

London-based Dean, who joined BlueCrest in 2005 and was a partner at the firm run by billionaire **Michael Platt**, had replaced Matthew Weir as the top risk officer last year. Hunter joined BlueCrest in 2013. Dean didn't respond to an e-mail nor a message left on his LinkedIn profile.

The move is among several departures and arrivals since the firm's decision in December to return money to clients and focus on managing the wealth of Platt and his employees. Platt, a former JPMorgan Chase & Co. trader, said the change would allow the firm to utilize more leverage and better compete for top talent.

Ashish Goyal, a London-based money manager, credit trader Wayne Leslie and mortgage-bond traders **John Roach** and **Neil Aggarwal** left BlueCrest earlier this year, according to people familiar with the matter.

Recent hires include **Nick Chetwynd-Talbot**, **Robert Bonte-Friedheim** and **Owen Taylor**, all former money managers at **Visium Asset Management**, and **Daniel Strauss Vasques**, a former partner at emerging markets-focused investment firm **Spinnaker Capital Group**, a spokesman for the firm said last month.

— With assistance from Sonali Basak

Ecofin Hires Silvaris's Sznajer to Work on Sustainability

By Hema Parmar

Ecofin, the London-based money manager that oversees \$1 billion, hired former **Silvaris Capital Management** portfolio manager **Michel Sznajer** to work on sustainability investing, according to a statement from the firm.

Sznajer, who joined the firm on Sept. 26 as a portfolio manager, will work on its ESG-compliant hedge fund — the Ecofin Vista Long /Short Fund — as well as the firm's long-only Ecofin Global Renewable Infrastructure Fund, the firm said in the statement.

The Vista fund, which started in 2012 and manages \$100 million, bets on the stocks of companies globally that are impacted by energy and environmental themes. The fund is up 0.2 percent in the first 12 days of October, and has returned 3.5 percent year to date through the same time period, said Georgina Spry, the firm's head of marketing.

The \$54 million Renewable Infrastructure fund, which started last November, wagers on companies that own carbon-free electricity generating assets. That fund is up 3.6 percent this year through Oct. 12, Spry said. It fell 2.6 percent in the first 12 days of the month.

Prior to joining Silvaris, Sznajer spent 12 years with Wellington Management, according to his LinkedIn profile.



Source: Ecofin
Michel Sznajer

Research Roundup

■ European hedge fund returns year to date were positive for the first time this year, up 0.7 percent on average, according to **Morgan Stanley's** September Hedge Fund Recap. The funds are outperforming European equities year to date, which were down 3.3 percent, the prime brokerage group's report, published on Oct. 6, found. Europe had the most hedge fund net selling of any region last month as European equity markets remained flat, according to the report. Prior to September, hedge funds had bought a decent amount of European equities, which helped net exposure to Europe climb near multi-year highs last month, it said.

■ About 77 percent of institutional investors expect to see more asset managers from the U.S. and Asia start alternative investment funds through Ucits and AIF vehicles in Europe over the next two years, according to a study by **Aquila Capital**. The biggest driver, according to 69 percent of respondents, is the growing appetite for those managers to access new pools of European investor capital, followed by 53 percent of respondents that said regulatory constraints preventing European investors from investing in offshore hedge funds is driving interest, the study found. A third of those surveyed said the interest stems from a greater understanding among overseas managers of the Ucits framework. The Hamburg-based alternative investment firm surveyed 112 institutional investors, including hedge fund and private equity professionals, in June and July.

— Compiled by Melissa Karsh