

PRESS RELEASE

Ashmore granted RQFII status by China

First non-Greater China based asset manager to be awarded RQFII licence to enable investment in China's domestic securities markets

London, 07 January 2014 – Ashmore, one of the world's largest specialist Emerging Markets investment managers, has become the first investment manager outside of Hong Kong to be granted RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (RQFII) status by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).

RQFII status allows international investors unprecedented access to the Chinese onshore equity and fixed income securities markets. The scheme allows for improved ease of repatriation of funds compared to the existing QFII scheme, and provides more flexible investment guidelines for investors looking to invest in China, which Ashmore believes will have numerous benefits to its clients.

The RQFII London scheme facilitates the investment of the growing pools of offshore RMB (CNH) held by large corporates and retail investors in the onshore Chinese securities markets. Other currencies can also be invested onshore through a RQFII account as CNH is freely convertible with many currencies. Ashmore is the first non-China based asset manager to be granted RQFII status and is working with HSBC, who become the first onshore Chinese custodian bank servicing a London based asset manager under the RQFII scheme.

Commenting on the announcement, Jan Dehn, Ashmore's Head of Research said:

“China has been one of the most compelling, yet difficult markets for investors to access. The scale of the investment opportunity in China is enormous. China's over US\$4.0 trillion Interbank Bond market is poised for considerable growth and development as China continues to liberalise, and the over US\$3.5 trillion A-shares equity market already has a market capitalisation above that of the London Stock Exchange. Both these markets have traditionally been difficult for international investors to access until now.”

Christoph Hofmann, Ashmore's Global Head of Distribution adds:

“The Chinese investment market is one the most dynamic in the world, and securing this licence from the CSRC is a reflection of Ashmore's long-standing commitment and deep ties to China. Many of our clients are looking for ways to make dedicated investments in China as part of their well-diversified global portfolios. We are very proud that Ashmore has been chosen as the first foreign asset manager to be granted access to one of the most compelling investment opportunities of our time.”

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Notes to Editors:

In October 2013, China allocated a RMB80 billion RQFII quota for London, after a decision was taken to expand the pilot scheme beyond Asia, within which Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore are approved for RQFII, respectively.

About Ashmore Group plc

Ashmore is one of the world's leading investment management groups dedicated to Emerging Markets. The business was founded in 1992 as part of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group. In 1999, Ashmore became independent and manages US\$78.5 billion (as at 30 September 2013) in pooled funds, segregated accounts and structured products. Ashmore focuses on a number of Emerging Markets investment themes including external debt, local currency, corporate debt, blended debt, equity, alternatives (special situations, infrastructure and real estate), overlay / liquidity, and multi-strategy products.

Ashmore Group plc (ASHM:LN) is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 250 Index. The company has significant employee ownership. Ashmore is headquartered in London, England and has offices in Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Singapore, Turkey, and the United States.

Website: www.ashmoregroup.com

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