

Martin Currie joins Skandia fund range



Andy Sowerby

By Gary Robinson

Martin Currie has added six of its funds to Skandia's open-architecture fund range.

The funds - Martin Currie Japan, UK Growth, Asia Pacific, UK Equity Income, North America and European - will be launched on Skandia's Life and Pension fund ranges.

The funds will be available from August 13, and offered through all of Skandia's products: Life, Pensions and Selestia Investment Solutions.

Andy Sowerby, managing director at Martin Currie, said "We see this agreement as a major endorsement of the work we've been doing to refine and improve our offering. It's a significant milestone for us, in terms of third party distribution. We are committed to establishing ourselves as a fund provider of choice in the wider intermediary market and of the six funds Skandia have chosen, five are rated by Standard & Poors.

"We already have a tie in with Skandia Investment Management through Tom Walker as the sole manager of the North American

part of their Global Best Ideas fund. We want this partnership to build on that success."

Richard Vincent, head of strategic fund partnerships at Skandia, said: "We've been impressed by both the quality of the Martin Currie range, and by their rejuvenated commitment to the IFA market."

IFA Nathan Harris of North Star, said: "We have huge respect for both Skandia and Martin Currie. It's a big plus to have access to the Martin Currie range through Skandia, and it's further proof of their commitment to giving us the best possible arsenal of funds."

Shane Balkham, Investment Manager at Bates Millfield, added: "Although Skandia recently announced that they have reached the 100 fund group bar, it is the 101st addition to their stable that will prove to be the thoroughbred. Martin Currie is focussed on consistently delivering great performance, and I can see their funds under management increasing through Skandia's great distribution channel. This can only be good news for IFAs and clients alike."