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Казахстанская фондовая биржа
Kazakhstan Stock Exchange

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PRESS RELEASE

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KASE and Russell Bedford: new opportunities for ESG bond issuers

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE) and Russell Bedford A+Partners Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at developing the sustainable finance market in Kazakhstan and expanding the issuers' access to independent external assessment services for ESG instruments.

As part of the cooperation, issuers will be able to obtain an independent external assessment (Second Party Opinion, SPO) prior to placement of sustainable finance instruments, as well as a post-issue assessment - verification of the intended use of raised funds, achievement of the stated outcomes and compliance of updated framework programs with international principles.

One of the benefits of the partnership will be a free express assessment of KASE issuers' readiness to issue sustainable development bonds. In addition, preferential conditions for provision of Russell Bedford services are available to issuers.

The independent external assessment will be conducted in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), including the Green and Social Bond Principles, Sustainability Bond Guidelines and Guidelines for External Reviews. Verification of use of the raised funds after the placement will be conducted in accordance with international independent verification standards.

The cooperation will expand KASE's list of trusted verifiers and make independent external assessment services more accessible to issuers. Information about Russell Bedford A+Partners will be posted in the ESG Data Platform section on KASE's corporate website.

For reference

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE) is the leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region. KASE ranks second among CIS exchanges in securities trading volume and fifth in stock market capitalization among FEAS exchanges (as of the end of 2024). It is a universal trading platform for corporate and government securities, bonds of international financial institutions, foreign currencies, money market operations - repo and swap, as well as derivatives. KASE is a member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) and other international and domestic professional associations, as well as a participant in the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative.

Russell Bedford A+Partners Ltd. is an international audit firm registered under the applicable law of the Astana International Financial Centre and provides, among other services, the ESG consulting, sustainable development and sustainable finance services. The Company is a subsidiary of IAC Russell Bedford A+Partners LLP, an independent member of the international audit and consulting network Russell Bedford International. Thanks to its membership in the international network, the company has access to professional resources, methodologies and expertise of Russell Bedford International network specialists, including in the areas of ESG, independent assurance of sustainability reporting and sustainable finance.

Learn more: https://rbpartners.kz/

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