

# Press release

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For immediate release: 14 May 2020

## LGIM launches robotics and automation Unit Trust index fund

*New fund expands on LGIM's thematic offerings*

Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM) has today announced the launch of its first unlisted thematic index fund targeted at the UK retail market – the Legal & General Global Robotics and Automation Index Fund (the Fund), to service a growing client demand. In partnership with ROBO Global®, the Unit Trust will offer UK retail investors, primarily financial advisers and wealth managers, a new fund vehicle through which they can capture the investment opportunities created through the increasing adoption of robotics and automation technologies across all areas of society.

The Fund tracks the ROBO Global® Robotics and Automation UCITS Index, offering investors access to the same strategy as the successful L&G ROBO Global Robotics and Automation exchange-traded fund (ETF), which has so far amassed over \$1 billion in assets under management. The Fund has been designed to give investors broad exposure to the global value chain of best-in-class robotics and automation companies as well as enabling technologies.

The increasing adoption of sophisticated robots and automation, enhanced by artificial intelligence (AI), is fast becoming an instrument of profound business and societal change, with the robotics and automation sector experiencing rapid growth, expected to be worth \$353 billion by 2024<sup>1</sup>. This is timely, given the focus and demand the sector has seen on the back of the global pandemic, where tech and automation companies have demonstrated growth opportunities as well as further resilience in outlook and future proofing. The index gives investors exposure to providers of key enabling technologies (sensing, computing, machine learning, actuation, etc.), as well as providers of applications that deliver capabilities in every industry (factory automation, surgical robotics, food and agriculture, 3D printing, logistics automation, and more). The computing and AI market alone is expected to see compound annual growth of 45% between 2017 and 2025.<sup>2</sup>

The index is constructed and managed by research professionals with the guidance of industry experts, academics, and entrepreneurs who help identify tomorrow's growth leaders and provide the knowledge and insight to forecast emerging trends and new technologies. Currently the index has 87 constituent companies across 14 countries and 12 proprietary subsectors. It also offers a highly diversified market cap exposure, with approximately 75% in small and mid-cap companies, and less than 2% overlap with traditional benchmarks.

**James Crossley, Head of UK Retail Sales at LGIM**, commented: *“Investors are increasingly turning to thematic investment strategies, both to access the opportunities created by the disruptive megatrends shaping our society, and to provide greater diversification in portfolios. We have extensive experience in providing investors with access to these long-term structural trends and have seen significant demand for access to automation as an investment theme, via our robotics and automation ETF. We are excited to be launching a Unit Trust version to provide a broader set of investors with cost-effective exposure to this unique and high-growth strategy.”*

**Richard Lightbound, CEO of ROBO Global EMEA**, added: *“We believe robotics and automation have been the market's best kept secrets for a while, and they have proven their worth over recent months, performing comparatively well amid the current turbulence. We launched the index back in*

<sup>1</sup> ROBO Global, Transparency Market Research, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Tractica: The Computing and AI market is expected to generate \$105.8 billion in revenue up by 2025, up from \$4.5 billion in 2017

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*2013 and have a proven track record, remaining nimble and responding to fast-moving developments, to deliver strong returns and outperform major benchmarks. We are delighted to be partnering with LGIM again on the launch of this new fund, to help more investors capture the unique opportunities associated with this exciting sector.”*

## **About the Index**

The unique ROBO Global Robotics and Automation Index is developed through active research into these markets with sector specialists, selecting companies that cut across traditional industry classifications and disrupt incumbent large-caps that dominate conventional sector-based indices.

It captures fast-growing companies whose core business model focuses on robotics and automation, as well as established players whose businesses derive a distinct portion of their revenues from robotics and automation, and which have the potential to grow through their technology and innovation set. As at end of March 2020, the index had returned USD 50.56% over five years, compared to 17.31% by the MSCI World Net Total Return USD Index.

The fund launch builds on LGIM’s strong thematic and disruptive technology investing capabilities, which outside of Robotics and Automation currently include UCITS ETF focused on: Artificial Intelligence, E-Commerce Logistics, Battery Value-Chain, Healthcare Breakthrough, Clean Water, Cyber Security and Pharma Breakthrough.

**-ENDS-**

## **Key Risk Warnings**

Past performance is not a guide to the future.

The value of an investment and any income taken from it is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up; you may not get back the amount you originally invested.

## **Further information:**

Andrew Gates  
Senior PR Manager  
☎ 0203 124 4363  
✉ [LGIMprteam@lgim.com](mailto:LGIMprteam@lgim.com)  
[www.lgim.com](http://www.lgim.com)

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## Notes to editors

### Legal & General Investment Management:

Legal & General Investment Management is one of Europe's largest asset managers and a major global investor, with total assets under management of £1.2 trillion<sup>3</sup>. (€1.4 trillion; JPY 172 trillion). We work with a wide range of global clients, including pension schemes, sovereign wealth funds, fund distributors and retail investors.

Throughout the past 40 years we have built our business through understanding what matters most to our clients and transforming this insight into valuable, accessible investment products and solutions. We provide investment expertise across the full spectrum of asset classes including fixed income, equities, commercial property and cash. Our capabilities range from index-tracking and active strategies to liquidity management and liability-based risk management solutions.

### Index Performance

12 Month Performance to 31 March	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Robo Global® Robotics and Automation UCITS Index	-11.78%	-6.51%	31.53%	31.11%	-7.81%
Source: Lipper Past performance is not a guide to the future.					

### ROBO Global

ROBO Global is an index, advisory, and research company wholly focused on helping investors capture the unique opportunities of fast-growing robotics, artificial intelligence, and healthcare technology companies around the world. With the expertise of our leadership team and strategic advisors from the industry, we help investors capture the growth and return opportunities presented by innovation across industries, from healthcare to industrials to consumer products. Our indices are used by a variety of investment vehicles listed on multiple exchanges around the world. [www.ROBOGlobal.com](http://www.ROBOGlobal.com)

### About our Experts

#### Raffaello D'Andrea, PhD

Raffaello D'Andrea is Professor of Dynamic Systems and Control at ETH Zurich, where his research redefines what autonomous systems are capable of. He is co-founder of Kiva Systems, now operating as Amazon Robotics, the robotics company that revolutionized material handling by deploying thousands of autonomous mobile robots in warehouses. He was also the faculty advisor and system architect of the Cornell Robot Soccer Team, four-time world champions at the international RoboCup competition. Raffaello founded Verity Studios, a company developing a new breed of interactive and autonomous flying machines, in 2014. He is also a new media artist with exhibitions at various international venues, including the Venice Biennale, Ars Electronica, and the FRAC Centre. His most recent awards include the IEEE Robotics and Automation Award and the Engelberger Robotics Award, two of the highest achievements in the field.

#### Henrik Christensen, PhD

<sup>3</sup> LGIM internal data as at 31 December 2019. The AUM disclosed aggregates the assets managed by LGIM in the UK, LGIMA in the US and LGIM Asia in Hong Kong. The AUM includes the value of securities and derivatives positions.

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Dr. Henrik I. Christensen is the Qualcomm Chancellor's Chair of Robot Systems and a Professor of Computer Science at [Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering UC San Diego](#) and director of the [Institute for Contextual Robotics](#). He was also the founding director of the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent machines (IRIM) at Georgia Institute of Technology (2006-2016). He performs research on systems integration, human-robot interaction, mapping and robot vision at the [Cognitive Robotics Laboratory](#) and has published more than 350 contributions across AI, robotics and vision. Actively engaged in the setup and coordination of global robotics research, Henrik collaborates with institutions and industries across three continents with an emphasis on solving "real problems with real solutions." In 2011, he received the Engelberger Award, the highest honor awarded by the robotics industry, and was named the "Boeing Supplier of the Year." He is a fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

## Daniela Rus, PhD

Daniela Rus is the Director of CSAIL at MIT. She serves as the Director of the Toyota-CSAIL Joint Research Center and is a member of the science advisory board of the Toyota Research Institute. Rus's research interests are in robotics and artificial intelligence. The recipient of the 2017 Engelberger Robotics Award from the Robotics Industries Association, she is also a Class of 2002 MacArthur Fellow, a fellow of ACM, AAAI and IEEE, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Daniela earned her PhD in Computer Science from Cornell University.

## Examples of companies in the Indices

- **Qiagen:** [https://www.roboglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ROBOGLOBAL\\_QIAGEN\\_Member-Spotlight\\_FIN.pdf](https://www.roboglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ROBOGLOBAL_QIAGEN_Member-Spotlight_FIN.pdf)
- **PTC:** [https://www.roboglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PTC\\_Research-Update\\_FIN.pdf](https://www.roboglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PTC_Research-Update_FIN.pdf)
- **Service Now:** <https://www.roboglobal.com/insights/servicenow-building-the-roadmap-for-tomorrows-digital-workforce/>
- **Rockwell Automation:** <https://www.roboglobal.com/insights/at-rockwell-automation-all-eyes-are-on-innovation-and-growth/>
- **ISRA Vision:** <https://www.roboglobal.com/insights/isra-vision-ag-delivering-the-next-generation-of-machine-vision/>

For illustrative purposes only. Reference to a particular security is on a historic basis and does not mean that the security is currently held or will be held within an LGIM portfolio. The above information does not constitute a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

**Compliance Ref : RE288MAY**