



## Information Circular: streetTRACKS Index Shares

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**To:** Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF Trading, Structured Products Traders

**From:** William Slattery, Director, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** June 22, 2007

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Exchange-Traded Fund	Symbol	CUSIP #
SPDR S&P BRIC 40 Exchange-Traded Fund	BIK	863308706

### Background Information on the Fund

The streetTRACKS Index Shares Fund (the "Trust") is an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Trust consists of several separate investment portfolios. This circular relates to the SPDR S&P BRIC 40 Exchange-Traded Fund (the "Fund"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares." SSgA Funds Management, Inc. (the "Adviser") is the investment advisor for the Fund.

The Fund uses a passive management strategy designed to track the total return performance of the S&P BRIC 40 Index (the "Index"). The Index is a market capitalization weighted index that defines and measures the investable universe of companies domiciled in the emerging markets of Brazil, Russia, India and China that are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, Nasdaq and/or New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). The BRIC 40 Index is "float adjusted" meaning that only those shares publicly available to investors are included in the Index calculation. As of March 30 2007, the Index was comprised of 40 securities.

The Adviser seeks a correlation of 0.95 or better between the Fund's performance and the performance of its Index; however, a number of factors may affect the Fund's ability to achieve a high correlation with its Index, and there can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve a high degree of correlation. A correlation of 1.00 would represent perfect correlation.

Currently, the Adviser will generally invest in all of the stocks comprising its Index in proportion to the weightings in its Index. However, under various circumstances where it may not be possible or practicable to purchase all of the stocks in its Index, the Fund may utilize a sampling methodology. "Sampling" means that the Adviser uses quantitative analysis to select stocks that represent a sample of securities in its Index that have a similar investment profile as its Index in terms of key risk factors, performance attributes and other characteristics. These include industry weightings, market capitalization, and other financial characteristics of stocks.

In addition, from time to time, stocks are added to or removed from the Index. The Fund may sell stocks that are represented in its Index, or purchase stocks that are not yet represented in its Index, in anticipation of their removal from or addition to the Index. Further, the Adviser may choose to overweight stocks in the Index, purchase or sell securities not in the Index, or utilize various combinations of other available investment techniques, in seeking to track the Index.

The Fund will normally invest at least 80% of its assets in the securities of companies in its Index. Such investments by the Fund generally include stocks, American Depositary Receipts, and Global Depositary Receipts which trade on developed market exchanges; specifically the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, NASDAQ, and NYSE, (the "Investment Stocks"). If an Investment Stock for a company is not available, the Fund may purchase the actual foreign security as a replacement for the security included in the Index. In order to provide the Fund additional flexibility to comply with the requirements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, other regulatory requirements and to manage future corporate actions and Index changes, the Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities that are not included in its Index.

The Fund also may invest its other assets in futures contracts, options on futures contracts, other types of options, and swaps related to its Index, as well as cash and cash equivalents. The Fund will concentrate its investments in a particular industry or sector to approximately the same extent that the Fund's Index is so concentrated.

The Fund will provide shareholders with at least 60 days notice prior to any material change in the above-noted 80% investment policy or its Index. The Board of Trustees of the Trust may change the Fund's investment strategy and other policies without shareholder approval, except as otherwise indicated. The Trustees may not change the Fund's investment objective without shareholder approval.

As described more fully in the prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") for the Fund, the Fund issues and redeems Shares at their net asset value ("NAV") only in blocks of 100,000 shares or multiples thereof ("Creation Units"). Only certain large institutional investors ("Authorized Participants") may purchase or redeem Creation Units directly with the Fund at NAV. These transactions are usually in exchange for a basket of securities similar to the Fund's portfolio and an amount of cash. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, shares of the Fund are not redeemable securities. Shareholders who are not Authorized Participants may not redeem shares directly from the Fund at NAV.

The NAV for the Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees, including management fees, are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV is calculated by the Fund's custodian and determined each business day, normally at the close of regular trading of the NYSE (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time). Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

Shares of the Fund are held in book-entry form, which means that no stock certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company, or its nominee, is the record

owner of all outstanding shares of the Fund and is recognized as the owner of all shares for all purposes.

Income dividend distributions, if any, for the Fund are distributed to shareholders annually. Net capital gains for the Fund are distributed at least annually.

State Street Bank and Trust Company serves as Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent for the Trust.

The registration statement for a Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's shares.

For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying index, visit the Fund's website at [www.spdretfs.com](http://www.spdretfs.com).

### **Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size**

NASDAQ members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the Trust's prospectus and SAI, and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit Size aggregations or multiples thereof.

### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund's performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), stock market risk, investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, concentration risk, non-diversification risk, issuer-specific risk, management risk, foreign securities risk, geographic risk, large cap and mid cap company risk and derivatives risk.

### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on NASDAQ is on a UTP basis and is subject to [NASDAQ equity trading rules](#).

### **Trading Hours**

The values of the Index underlying the Shares are disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on NASDAQ between 9:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time (ET), unless otherwise indicated.

### **Suitability**

Trading in the Shares on NASDAQ will be subject to the provisions of [NASDAQ Rule 2310](#). Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the NASDAQ Conduct Rules.

Members also should review [NASD Notice to Members 03-71](#) for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## **Trading Halts**

NASDAQ will halt trading in the Shares of the Fund in accordance with [NASDAQ Rule 4120](#). The grounds for a halt under NASDAQ Rule 4120 include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, NASDAQ will also stop trading the Shares of the Fund if the primary market de-lists the Fund.

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

NASDAQ members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the [Fund's website](#). The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund's registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about the Fund, please refer to the registration statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, [NASDAQ Rule 4420\(j\)\(2\)](#) requires that NASDAQ members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, NASDAQ members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a NASDAQ member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund."

A NASDAQ member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-

member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to NASDAQ member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, NASDAQ members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

## **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC has issued exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") regarding trading in the above mentioned exchange-traded Fund.

### **Short Sale Rules**

Transactions in ETFs will not be subject to "tick" requirements of the SEC short sale rule (SEC Rule 10a-1) or the "bid" requirements of the NASDAQ short sale rule ([NASDAQ Rule 3350](#)). Short orders must be marked SHORT or SHORT EXEMPT. (See paragraph below regarding Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO.)

### **Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO**

The SEC Division of Market Regulation has stated that the Division will not recommend enforcement action under Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO if a broker-dealer marks "short" rather than "short exempt" a short sale effected in the Fund, subject to specified conditions, including that a broker-dealer executing exempt short sales will mark such sales as "short" and in no event will such sales be marked "long". (See [letter](#) from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, SEC, to Ira Hammerman, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Securities Industry Association, dated January 3, 2005.)

### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and to (ii) tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101.

The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

### **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- 3) Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to 10b-10(a).

### **SEC Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

## Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of the Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of the Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(l)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of the Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

## SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

**This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. NASDAQ members should consult the Fund's prospectus and/or the [Fund's website](#) for relevant information.**

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Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- [Will Slattery](#), Director, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- [NASDAQ Market Sales](#) at 800.846.0477