



Press release

Euronext launches Amsterdam Small Cap Index (AScX)

‘Natural extension of AEX and Amsterdam Midkap Index’

Amsterdam, 3 February 2005

In the context of its plans to improve the visibility and encourage liquidity of small and mid cap stocks traded on its markets, Euronext will launch a new index for the most active small cap companies listed on Euronext Amsterdam : the Amsterdam Small Cap Index (AScX). This new index which will be launched on Wednesday 2 March 2005, meeting the demand of market participants.

The Amsterdam Small Cap Index is made up of the 25 most traded small caps. The AScX is a natural extension of the successful AEX index, which is made up of the 25 most traded Blue Chips in Amsterdam, and the Amsterdam Midkap index, which also hosts 25 equities.

The rules of the Amsterdam Small Cap Index are consistent with the rules of the AEX and Amsterdam Midkap indices, which means that companies are selected on the basis of value of turnover and weightings assigned on the basis of their free float market capitalization. The index is adjusted once a year. All index rules are objective and transparent.

The companies mentioned in the appendix have been selected for the AScX on the basis of value of turnover. Their total market value amounts to 12.1 billion as of 31 January 2005. An indicative calculation based on historical performance indicates that in the period from July 2000 to December 2004 the return on the AScX would have been 25% above the return on the AEX index during the same period.

“Euronext has launched this new index, and comparable indices in Belgium and France, in response to demand on the part of investors and issuers. Euronext is confident that the new index will make small-cap companies more visible and encourage their liquidity”, says Joost van der Does de Willebois, member of the managing board of Euronext N.V.

As from 7 February 2005, market participants can use Euronext’s new Index File Service to receive daily information about index compositions, divisors, changes (and the reasons for the changes) that will apply to all Euronext indices on the following trading day. To register for this service, go to www.databyeuronext.com/indexfiles.

Appendix: Composition AScX index

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In the table you will find the composition of the AScX index, including indicative weightings.

The following composition of the AScX will be effective from Wednesday 2 March 2005, provided that no mergers, take-overs, delistings or the like take place in the interim.

	Indicative	Indicative	Free-float
	weighting	number of	percentage
Company	(in %)	shares	(banding)
Antonov	0.52%	1,376.61	100%
Athlon Holding	2.99%	169.36	75%
BE Semiconductor Ind.	1.66%	442.05	100%
Brunel int.	1.43%	148.43	50%
Draka Holding	3.72%	349.61	75%
Eurocommercial Prop.	7.72%	308.28	75%
Exact Holding	6.93%	319.79	100%
Grontmij	1.51%	39.72	75%
Imtech	6.23%	264.28	75%
InnoConcepts	0.56%	105.77	50%
Jetix Europe	3.44%	272.60	25%
Kon. Boskalis Westminster	6.84%	276.94	75%
Kon. Ten Cate	2.41%	50.31	75%
Nieuwe Steen Inv.	7.40%	442.65	100%
OPG Groep	5.59%	139.36	75%
Ordina	4.43%	479.28	100%
Pharming Group	1.92%	744.49	75%
Sligro Food Group	4.73%	135.10	50%
Sopheon	0.49%	1,463.50	100%
Telegraaf Holdingmij	8.93%	516.04	75%
UNIT 4 Agresso	3.39%	326.51	100%
United Services Group	3.97%	223.02	75%
Univar	3.90%	196.36	50%
Van Lanschot	4.10%	88.22	50%
VastNed Offices Ind.	5.16%	252.61	100%