



GLOBAL DATA

EXCHANGE DATA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Data vendor helps clients achieve mapping & exchange-level identification through use of the Financial Instrument Global Identifier



EXCHANGE DATA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

OVERVIEW

Headquarters:

London, United Kingdom

Offices:

New York, India, Morocco

CUSTOMER PROFILE

- Founded in 1994
- Leading expert in corporate actions and reference data

BUSINESS SITUATION

With more than 20 years of experience, EDI offers comprehensive and complete securities reference data for equities and fixed income instruments around the globe. As a participant in a dynamic industry, EDI prides itself on its flexibility in providing financial institutions with specialized business solutions that fulfill their requirements. Therefore, when clients were in need of an open-source identifier that could be used freely for mapping and to help reduce fees incurred by other numbering systems, EDI quickly began looking for a solution.

Exchange Data International Limited (EDI) has been helping the global financial community make informed decisions for more than 20 years, delivering high-quality securities reference data, corporate actions and end-of-day pricing services. EDI provides corporate actions for 170 exchanges worldwide and covers equities, corporate and government bonds, and derivatives. The company has expanded over the years and now employs 400 people, with sales offices in London and New York.

EDI began integrating Open Symbology in 2011 to meet the needs of its clients. The Financial Instrument Global Identifier (FIGI), included in the Open Symbology, is an established global standard of the Object Management Group (OMG.org, an international nonprofit technology standards consortium)¹. The OMG FIGI standard is issued and distributed by Bloomberg L.P. as a Registration Authority.

CHALLENGE

As part of its reference data and corporate actions products, EDI delivers third-party instrument identifiers such as SEDOLs, ISINs and CUSIPs. However, these proprietary identifiers incur licensing fees and have redistribution restrictions. With Bloomberg's launch of Open Symbology in 2010, clients became interested in mapping to an open-sourced identifier through EDI's product offerings. Many of EDI's clients, Bloomberg clients also, were eager to use the FIGI to match their holdings with the instruments on the Bloomberg Terminal®, Data License and other Enterprise Solutions products. Clients were also struggling with proper exchange/venue-level identification, which other proprietary identifiers do not offer natively, because they do not utilize a metadata approach.

SOLUTION

In response to client demand, EDI began working with the Open Symbology team in 2011 to start the FIGI implementation process. EDI's database operations team set up a project group comprising data and IT personnel to map, verify and load the symbology within their instrument-coding matrix. The initial FIGI mapping was done with the assistance of the Open Symbology team, who worked closely with EDI's data and technical teams. FIGI symbology was phased in to EDI's reference database over one and a half years. EDI now receives daily FIGI files from the Open Symbology team. The OpenFIGI API is also used on a weekly basis to conduct additional mapping. Any exceptions or missing data are then sent to the Open Symbology team for further verification. This is all performed as a fee-free service in support of the FIGI standard.

¹In 2011 the FIGI did not yet exist as an OMG Standard; the shift to an OMG Standard came in 2015. Prior to that, the precursor to FIGI, the BBGID, was in place and functioned in the same way. For the sake of simplicity, we refer exclusively to the FIGI in this discussion.

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RESULTS

The integration of the FIGI into EDI's system helped the firm resolve some ambiguity in its data by use of a unique, non-changing identifier. These benefits were realized throughout the firm, since FIGI use can easily be extended across business areas without licensing requirements. The FIGI has also enhanced EDI's product offerings, which clients have found to be exceptionally helpful. For example, EDI can now offer portfolio feeds to its clients based on FIGI codes. EDI is also now able to deliver FIGI as an alternative symbology to its clients, eliminating the need to maintain licenses for proprietary identifiers. Recently, EDI onboarded new clients who have specifically requested the FIGI as their primary means for instrument identification. FIGI's granularity for equities allows EDI's clients to identify instruments at an exchange level—helpful for maintaining and storing accurate pricing data.

After EDI's initial integration of FIGI, the firm continues to receive client demand for further expansion of FIGI use within its product offerings. In December 2016, EDI included FIGI codes in Version 2 of its Worldwide Adjustment Factor Feed².

As an open data standard, the OMG FIGI allows data vendors, such as EDI, to make available more robust product offerings to its clients at no additional cost. Because of the metadata approach of the FIGI methodology, vendors and clients are able to extend the metadata set with their own data. EDI joins a list of more than 150 vendors and third parties that have integrated the FIGI and are further distributing it, which aids the financial community in breaking through the complexities of instrument identification via use of a unique identifier across all asset classes.

² See the following for more details on EDI's announcement:

<http://datamanagementreview.com/regulation-and-compliance/blog-entry/edi-includes-figi-codes-version2-its-worldwide-adjustment>.

