

# **A Different Approach to Identification**

The Financial Instrument Global Identifier® (FIGI™) is an open data standard, defined by the financial industry, to provide a solution to consistently identify financial instruments, regardless of asset class, or function being performed. FIGI is more than a code—it is the *methodology and system* for defining how data is related, and how that information is conveyed.

# TRADITIONAL APPROACH The Identifier defines the data Starts with; What type of thing am I trying to identify? Ends with; store this code against an object ID Available code models Field data changes, code Field data changes, code

### **METADATA APPROACH** The Data defines the object Semantically meaningless FIGI acts Data point 1 Associated metadata Data point 2 Data point 3 Data point 4 as a uniform resource maintained via provenance and identifier (\*) governance by Registry Authority Data point x URI Extended data point 1 Ability to extend associated metadata Extended data point x independently Each Data point is a descriptive element that is an aspect of what the

and even other legacy identifiers

- Classification determines the code
- 'Tag and Generate code', embedding point-in-time data about the instrument identified
- Semantic meaning embedded in code typically requires parsing and different code-specific rules
- Understanding code requires knowledge about the code and assignment methodology
- Still need to store against an unchanging primary key
- Flat model of financial instruments with no capability to identify relationships between Instruments
- Creates lock-in based on rigid rules
- Single issuer, typically closed to any outside governance

- Classification comes from the data
- Code is meaningless; embedding no point-in-time data about the instrument identified
- Regardless of code, pointer to descriptive dataset, a single set of rules for validating
- Methodology is self-discovering through robust, semantically modeled descriptive metadata
- Can act as an unchanging primary key
- Semantic model permits a range of clearly specified relationships between financial instruments
- Flexible to adapt to changing needs
- Allows for multiple Certified Providers with no restrictions

### **Governance**

"Open" refers to being an open data standard. FIGI is the first and only open data standard for identification of financial instruments. Open data is born from the core principles of the open source movement—that a piece of data is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it—subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike. OMG takes openness further through a distributed Certified Provider program that allows multiple organizations to participate in the designation of FIGIs across the sector. There is no restriction on what firm can serve in this role, other than satisfying the standard's requirements for a Certified Provider.

# **Unlock Granularity in Asset Class Management**

FIGI has applicability beyond simple security and instrument identification. The identifiers are used for managing the transition of hierarchal specificity as an instrument moves through the functional aspects of trading, settlement, portfolio management, asset servicing, risk management and regulatory reporting (i.e. the 'contextual view'). The use of a unique, non-changing and perpetual identifier also enables linking material changes to that instrument, maintaining permanent association with those changes and providing a consistent historical perspective of that instrument changing over time through corporate actions and other events.

### **Unlock Information**

Data Quality is at the core of actionable and accurate information. FIGI's metadata-driven approach, supported by a rigorously applied ontology that is part of the standard, provides a powerful tool set for accessing, sharing, tracking, and managing data, data quality, and implementing proper governance across a landscape of diverse corporate actions and shifting regulatory needs.

# **Unlock Risk Management**

Risk exists across asset classes and geographies. Being able to tie together standards and proprietary methodologies specific to these silos is critical for assembling a true picture of risk across an enterprise. FIGI provides the foundation for linking, normalizing, and then analyzing data that historically was too difficult to proactively manage and bring together.

# **Expanded Coverage of FIGI**







### Want to learn more?

We are happy to discuss how OMG membership will benefit your organization! Please explore our website at **www.omg.org** and when you are ready, please contact **bd-team@omg.org** or call **+ 1-703-231-6335** to get started.

### **About OMG**

The Object Management Group® (OMG®) is an international, open membership, not-for-profit computer industry standards consortium, with representatives from government, industry and academia. OMG Task Forces develop enterprise integration standards for a wide range of technologies and an even wider range of industries. OMG's modeling standards enable powerful visual design, execution and maintenance of software and other processes. Visit **www.omg.org** for more information.