

## M&G funding advances growth of digital assets in the UK; \$20 million investment into the UK's first regulated bitcoin derivatives exchange GFO-X

*Supports development of UK financial markets infrastructure for safe, regulated trading of digital assets to meet demand from institutional investors*

**London: 11 December 2023** – M&G Investments today announces it has invested \$20 million into Global Futures & Options Holdings (GFO-X), which through its strategic partnership with London Clearing House, will become the UK's first FCA-regulated and centrally-cleared trading venue for digital currency asset derivatives.

Against the backdrop of an evolving and maturing regulatory landscape for digital currency assets, GFO-X will provide a venue for traditional financial institutions to trade digital currency derivatives in a safe and regulated venue. A 2022 survey indicates significant demand from institutional investors for infrastructure which can deal with both traditional and digital assets, citing that 91% of institutional investors are interested in tokenised products, 41% currently hold crypto currencies and a further 15% plan on adding digital assets to their portfolios over the medium term\*.

The capital was provided by M&G's Crossover strategy (Crossover) in a series B funding round on behalf of the £129 billion Prudential With Profits Fund. Led by M&G's public equity investment division, Crossover is a global strategy providing patient growth equity to high quality, fast growing, private companies, enabling their eventual crossover from the private market to the public world. M&G's funding will create a global hub for the trading and clearing of digital asset derivatives, supporting future innovation in the regulated digital asset sector, whilst enhancing trust and credibility in the market. M&G will also join the Board of GFO-X.

**M&G Portfolio Manager, Jeremy Punnett, says:** "The lack of regulated trading venues is materially hampering the growth of the digital currency trading market. The UK has the potential to become a global hub for digital asset technology and investment, making London an excellent destination for GFO-X's new global trading venue. This investment enables GFO-X to scale its operations as the business is set to benefit from investors shifting their trading from unregulated to regulated venues."

**Arnab Sen, CEO of GFO-X, adds:** "Evolving regulation will bring digital assets into mainstream finance. This transition demands traditional market structures to solve the multiple risks currently associated with the digital asset market. However, building a regulated financial market ecosystem is complex, time-consuming and expensive, and the pitfalls of taking shortcuts are now clear for all to see. The long-term viability of digital assets and the digitisation of real tangible assets requires careful collaboration between traditional market participants and modern innovators. Having a patient, long-term capital partner such as M&G is crucial as we build the next generation of global financial market infrastructure for digital assets."

-ENDS-

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**Notes to Editors**

**\*BNY Mellon 2022**

**About M&G Investments**

M&G Investments is part of M&G plc, a savings and investment business which was formed in 2017 through the merger of Prudential plc's UK and Europe savings and insurance operation and M&G, its wholly owned international investment manager. M&G plc listed as an independent company on the London Stock Exchange in October 2019 and has £332 billion of assets under management (as at 30 June 2023). M&G plc has over 5 million customers in the UK, Europe, the Americas and Asia, including individual savers and investors, life insurance policy holders and pension scheme members.

For nearly nine decades M&G Investments has been helping its customers to prosper by putting investments to work, which in turn creates jobs, homes and vital infrastructure in the real economy. Its investment solutions span equities, fixed income, multi asset, cash, private debt, infrastructure and real estate.

M&G recognises the importance of responsible investing and is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) and is a member of the Climate Bonds Initiative Partners Programme.

M&G plc has committed to achieve net zero carbon emissions on its total book of assets under management and administration by 2050 and committed to reduce operational carbon emissions as a corporate entity to net zero by 2030. For more information, please visit: <https://global.mandg.com/>

**About GFO-X**

**Global Futures and Options Ltd (GFO-X)** is the UK's first regulated and centrally cleared trading venue dedicated to digital asset derivatives. UK FCA authorised and regulated, GFO-X is connected to the world's largest financial institutions and has partnered with leading clearing house LCH, solving for counterparty and credit risk.

Evolving regulation will bring digital assets into mainstream finance. This transition demands traditional market structures, supported by new technologies, to solve the multiple risks currently associated with the digital asset market.

GFO-X services the significant unmet need of large global institutional participants who require a highly regulated, institutional-grade trading venue for digital asset derivatives.

Our mission is to deliver enhanced liquidity, institutional connectivity and risk mitigation through high-performance technology and optimised contract specifications. Further information can be found at [www.gfo-x.com](http://www.gfo-x.com)

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