

SECURITIES COMMISSION OF THE BAHAMAS

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Securities Commission Launches Improved Website

The Securities Commission of The Bahamas (**the Commission**) is pleased to announce the launch of its redesigned website, [www.scb.gov.bs](http://www.scb.gov.bs).

The launch of the website is in keeping with one of the Commission's targeted goals outlined in its 2011 Statement of Priorities, which is to *Improve the Efficiency of the Commission*. The newly redesigned website enhances the collection, storage and dissemination of information by the Commission, and serves the ultimate goal of improving its communication efforts with the general and investing public.

The website introduces a new and improved homepage with the intent of enhancing the user experience through the re-organization and re-categorization of information to ensure easy access to areas that are of key interest. This objective is continued through the use of quick links, which promotes easy navigation to sub-components of the site. In keeping with this goal, all efforts were made to ensure that information is no more than two clicks (of a mouse) away.

The revamped website maintains existing categories, which have been re-organized, such as:

- **Legislative Framework:** formerly titled 'Legislation & Policies', this section includes downloadable versions of the applicable Acts, regulations, rules, guidelines, and guidance notes;
- **Media:** formerly titled 'News & Events', this section has been re-organized to include Press Releases, Public Notices, Speeches given by Commission representatives, events held or attended by the Commission, and other relevant information; and
- **Investors:** formerly titled 'Investor Education', this section provides a one-stop-shop for investors seeking to confirm regulated entities and wanting to review a library of communication tools released by the Commission.

In addition to these existing categories, new categories include:

- **Licensing and Registrants:** which provides information needed by individuals and entities to become licensed or registered by the Commission, along with the requirements to remain in good standing once licensed/registered; and
- **Enforcement:** this section highlights the disciplinary decisions, settlements, and supervisory action taken by the Commission under its enforcement powers.

Other highlights of the website include an **E-Complaints** feature, which facilitates the submission of complaints to the Commission by all industry participants and the general public, and an **E-News** feature, which allows persons to subscribe (submit their e-mail address) to an e-mail mailing list to receive information through e-blasts, in real time.

The Commission remains committed to improving communication with the general public and wishes to advise that it intends to continue its efforts to enhance the website.

The Securities Commission of The Bahamas (“the Commission”) is a statutory body established in 1995 pursuant to the Securities Board Act, 1995, which was repealed and replaced by the Securities Industry Act, 1999 (the SIA). The Commission is responsible for the administration of the SIA and the Investment Funds Act, 2003 (the IFA), which provides for the supervision and regulation of the activities of the investment funds, securities and capital markets. The Commission, having been appointed Inspector of Financial and Corporate Service Providers effective 1 January 2008, is also responsible for administering the Financial and Corporate Service Providers Act, 2000.

The Commission’s mandate is to formulate principles to regulate and govern investment funds, securities and capital markets; maintain surveillance over investment funds, securities and capital markets ensuring orderly, fair and equitable dealings; create and promote conditions to ensure orderly growth and development of capital markets; and to advise the Minister of Finance regarding investment funds, securities and capital markets.

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