



## ASHRAF LAIDI JOINS CITY INDEX GROUP AS CHIEF GLOBAL STRATEGIST

**UK, 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012:** City Index Group, a global leader in spread betting, Contracts for Difference (CFDs) and margined foreign exchange, has appointed Ashraf Laidi as its Chief Global Strategist.

Ashraf joins City Index having previously been at CMC Markets, where he oversaw the analysis and forecasting functions of G-10 currency pairs, as well as informing and educating its clients on the essential dynamics underpinning FX markets & global central bank policy. Prior to joining CMC, Ashraf was head FX analyst at MG Financial Group, portfolio analyst at the United Nations, where he monitored the performance of a multi-FX portfolio, assessed sovereign and project investment risk with Hagler Bailly and the World Bank, and analysed emerging market bonds at Reuters. Ashraf also set up the first 24-hour currency web site for traders and researchers alike, on the eve of the euro's launch.

Ashraf is widely considered to be one of the leading foreign exchange strategists, recognised for his unique intermarket approach to commodities and equity indices. As part of his role at City Index Group, he will draw on his extensive experience and background in global macro & central bank issues to provide expert market analysis to its global client base, the media and the company's key stakeholders, with a particular focus on currencies. His role will also include oversight and implementation of City Index's brand reach in key markets, including the US, Middle East and Europe. Ashraf is a fluent speaker of Arabic and French, and has oral command of Spanish and Italian. He is also author of the best-selling *"Currency Trading & Intermarket Analysis"*, originally published in 2007.

Ashraf will complement what is already one of the most extensive commentary teams in the industry, which provides expert insight and analysis on a range of markets worldwide, including indices, currencies, commodities, bonds, interest rates and more.

Paul Cassidy, Global Head Marketing at City Index, said: "We are very pleased that Ashraf has decided to come on board. He is one of the leading commentators in the industry and will further

strengthen an already vastly experienced analyst team at City Index Group. As well as providing expert content on foreign exchange and global macro issues, Ashraf will play a key role promoting our brands internationally, particularly in the US and Middle East.”

Ashraf Laidi, Chief Global Strategist at City Index Group, said: “I am delighted to have joined one of the best recognised and forward-thinking firms in the retail trading industry. City Index’s strong foreign exchange offering and determination to grow its global FX business, coupled with its credentials for innovation and cutting-edge technology, made the offer too good to refuse. I look forward to working with Paul and the Group’s global team of expert analysts.”

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Contracts for difference (“CFDs”) trading, spread betting and margined foreign exchange carries a high level of risk to your capital with the possibility of losing more than your initial investment and may not be suitable for all investors. Ensure you fully understand the risks involved and seek independent advice if necessary. Please note lower deposit rates could allow you to increase your risk.

### **About City Index Group**

City Index Group is one of the leading global providers of retail trading services, transacting in excess of 1.5 million trades per month for the group’s customers around the world. City Index trading platforms give access to thousands of derivatives on global financial markets, including; Spread Betting, Contracts for Differences (CFDs) and margined foreign exchange (FX).

The Group trades primarily under the City Index, Finspreads and FX Solutions brands and also provides a fully outsourced white label solution to numerous partners.

City Index recently launched City Trading, its first iPhone Spread Betting and CFD Trading application that provides full and secure access to customers' trading accounts, whenever and wherever they want.

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