



## **COFUNDS APPOINTS BRETT WILLIAMS AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Cofunds, the UK's largest independent investment platform, has appointed Brett Williams as Chief Executive to succeed Charlie Eppinger, who continues as Chairman. It is anticipated that he will join Cofunds before the end of the year.

Brett Williams was the founding CEO of Selestia, the wrap platform backed by Old Mutual. He became CEO of Selestia and Skandia Multi Funds following Old Mutual's acquisition of Skandia in 2005. In this role he has overseen the integration of the Selestia and Skandia platforms and assumed responsibility for Skandia Life and Pensions and all UK distribution.

Prior to joining Old Mutual, Brett Williams had senior Sales and Marketing roles at J Rothschild, Independent Insurance and M&G Group. An exact start date has yet to be finalised but it is anticipated he will join Cofunds before the end of the year.

Jonathan Carey, Group Executive Deputy Chairman of Jupiter and Director of Cofunds, who headed the nomination committee to find the new CEO, said, "Brett has precisely the combination of big company experience and entrepreneurial flair which we were seeking to oversee the next stage of Cofunds' development..

Cofunds is now a substantial company with £15 billion of assets under administration and over 500 employees. Core to its success is its ability to process large volumes of business for its customers accurately. So it requires an experienced and steady management discipline. However, at the same time it also needs to continue to grow fast, constantly update its services and develop new technologies. We believe Brett can maintain the right balance between stability of process and innovation of service."

Charlie Eppinger commented, "I am delighted Brett has accepted our offer. He has an impressive record of success in building new businesses. Cofunds is looking to develop its proposition to meet the needs of all types of advisory firm, including advisors looking to offer a range of commission and fee structures to their clients, So Brett's understanding of the needs of adviser firms will be invaluable.

Brett Williams said, "Cofunds is already the largest platform in the UK which is not owned by a product provider but it has the financial backing of a powerful set of shareholders. They have convinced me that they are very ambitious for Cofunds future and intend to go on backing its growth as an independent company.

When we look at other countries, there are generally only a handful of competitors who dominate the platform arena. In the UK Cofunds is clearly already among the leaders and I relish the challenge of keeping it moving forward as the market continues to develop."

For further information please call:

**Cofunds**

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**Notes To Editors**

Cofunds Limited, launched in January 2001, is the leading independent investment platform for intermediaries with assets under administration in excess of £15.3 billion (at 30/5/2008). It is an independent company providing a one-stop platform that provides flexible, reliable, convenient administration and management services for financial institutions, intermediaries and their clients. It does not offer investment management or advice, nor does it compete with intermediaries by offering its services direct to the end client. Cofunds exists to serve the needs of fund managers, intermediaries and their clients.

**Cofunds Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) under FSA Registration Number 194734.**