

Capintro Partners releases hedge fund investor survey

Mideast investors may boost allocations to hedge funds

DUBAI: Capintro Partners, Ltd (Capintro), an investment research and placement specialist with a focus on introducing global alternative investment managers, to MENA (Middle East and North Africa) investors, released the results of its second Middle East Hedge Fund Investor Survey for 2010.

The survey which covers 66 investors from the six GCC countries, Lebanon and Jordan, showed several interesting findings which include but are not limited to:

- The majority of respondents expect to increase or maintain their existing

allocations to hedge funds in 2010 in comparison to an expected decrease in 2009.

- Respondents seek improved liquidity terms compared to the previous year.

- Respondents expect that Emerging Markets, Asia (excluding Japan) and the United States will outperform in 2010.

- Respondents favored strategies for 2010 include: Global Macro, Equity Long Short, and Distressed.

"We are pleased to release the results of our second Middle East Hedge Fund Investor Survey 2010. The survey provides our investors and fund man-

agers with interesting insight into the changing behavioral trends of investors in response to the global financial crisis," said Mahmoud Al-Khawaja, CEO of Capintro.

The Middle East Hedge Fund Investor Survey 2010 has uncovered several unique findings concerning investor behavior relating specifically to the current environment. Most notably, investors are looking to increase their allocations to hedge funds in 2010 in comparison to 2009 where they were reducing them. The questions in the 2010 survey have been adapted to reflect

the environment investors are in and the experiences they have had with their respective fund managers.

"Capintro has successfully built upon the 2009 survey and has produced an excellent source of information for both investors and fund managers. We now use the Capintro survey as an extremely important guide for all our activities in the MENA region" said Michael Azlen, CEO of Frontier Capital Management.

Capintro will continue to publish and improve this research annually in order to better serve its investors as well as global fund managers.

VIVA Kuwait's roaming service is now even better

KUWAIT: VIVA will extend its roaming coverage to a total of 176 countries, and more than 420 operators including, but not limited to the USA, Canada, England, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, GCC, Egypt and Lebanon, allowing all our customers to make and receive calls and send and receive SMS' on the move.

The company also now supports



with maximum connectivity. They will now be able to enjoy Internet, WAP, MMS and other GPRS-based applications such as BlackBerry and the VIVA Data Connect Card while travelling. So, now VIVA customers will never be out of touch - even thousands of miles away from home. "We will continue to optimize our

Unicorn near Saudi asset management agreement

RIYADH: Bahrain-based Islamic investment bank Unicorn is close to signing a "big" mandate for asset management services in Saudi Arabia, a senior executive said yesterday.

"We hope to sign it in the next days," said Iqbal Daredia, head of the capital markets, institutional banking and treasury unit at the Manama-based bank. He declined to identify the firm or value of the deal. Asset management is a focus for Unicorn in the kingdom as well as corporate finance, he said.

Unicorn was following a couple of potential mandates in corporate financing, Daredia said, without being more specific.



Lexus to unveil 2010 Geneva To be arriving

KUWAIT: Lexus announces that it will unveil the five-door hybrid "CT200h1"—the first Lexus vehicle in the premium—compact segment—at the 80th Geneva International Motor Show2, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, to the public from March 4 to 14.

CT200h (European-market version)

The CT200h was designed to open the way for a new Lexus era by combining the dynamism of sporty driving performance and styling with outstanding environmental performance, resulting in an experience that captivates driver and passenger alike.

A newly developed high-rigidity body and strong yet flexible suspension, together with