

## **PRESS RELEASE.**

**Sydney, May 1, 2002.**

### **World Class Hedge Fund Consulting Firm Enters the Australian Market.**

Van Hedge Fund Advisors International, Inc. and its affiliates, of the USA ("VAN"), have established a presence in Australia with the formation of a joint venture with institutional investment consulting firm MacDonald Asset Consulting Pty Ltd. in Sydney ("MacDonald").

VAN, established 10 years ago, possess what it believes to be the world's largest hedge fund database of approximately 4,000 managers. VAN publishes monthly commentaries and performance reports on the hedge fund industry, which are widely quoted by the international financial media. The VAN database, VAN's market intelligence, VAN's constant monitoring of managers and extensive industry experience all provide the foundation for high quality consulting services to be offered to Australian and Asian clients seeking exposure to hedge funds.

VAN is building investable hedge fund index products and capital guaranteed structures that are offered to institutional clients worldwide, soon to be available to Australian investors through this new joint venture. The Bernoulli Fund, L.P., a fund of funds managed by VAN, has produced a compound annual return of 22.7% net of all fees over the past three calendar years (1999 - 2001) during which time the S&P 500 and bonds had compound annual returns of -1.0% and 6.3%, respectively. VAN has two offshore fund of funds that are both in positive territory for the first quarter of this year.

Investors are becoming more interested in the fact that established hedge fund consulting firms are creating products and lending their experience to institutional investors. This 'Implemented Consulting' will now be offered to Australian and Asian investors by VAN/MacDonald. Mr. Steven Lonsdorf, CEO of Van, said, " We are confident about the launch of an office in Sydney to service the growing needs of high net worth and institutional clients in Australia". He went on, "We will assist investors, without up-front fees, to find well-qualified hedge fund investments for their portfolios".

It is anticipated that an Australian wholesale fund will be established in the name of Van MacDonald Global Partners and that early June will see a 'road show' headed by Mr. Steven Lonsdorf with the view that any high net worth individuals seeking pre-tax investment solutions may be provided with appropriate advice, prior to June 30.

The Australian office will be run by Scott MacDonald who said, "Unlike many other hedge fund groups, VAN has the largest hedge fund database in the world and has over 10 years dedicated experience in the business. VAN's founders started VAN seeking investment solutions for their own

money and have demonstrated a detail-minded approach to manager research. With much of their own money invested with hedge funds, VAN likes to get it right."

Company Background VAN started when its founder, Mr. G. P. Van had a personal fortune to invest and was seeking appropriate investments. In addition to real estate, a view was taken that well-managed hedge funds were a good investment solution. Since then, VAN has grown and today services the hedge fund investment needs of high net worth individuals, family offices, banks, insurance companies, pension plans, and other institutions worldwide. Mr. Lonsdorf added, "For ten years our clients have trusted us to protect and enhance their wealth - because we have, they continue to talk to us."

VAN is totally independent and has a loyal and skilled staff of 22. It is embarking on the formation of proprietary investable hedge fund strategies, in addition to manager selection and third party fund of funds formation.

The Sydney office is based on Pitt Street next to the ASX and is the third full service office of VAN. The second office in London was established some two years ago.

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