

## Nomura appointed to manage \$330mn global high yield AP1 mandate

**London, 2018:** Nomura Asset Management, the \$493 billion investment manager (as of 31 March 2018), has been appointed to manage a \$330 million global high yield credit investment mandate by Första AP-Fonden (AP1), one of five buffer funds in the Swedish national income pension scheme.

The mandate has been funded via Nomura's Ireland domiciled Global High Yield Bond Fund (the Fund), a sub-fund of their Nomura Funds Ireland plc UCITS umbrella. The Fund is sub-advised by Nomura Corporate Research and Asset Management Inc (NCRAM), an affiliated firm based in New York that specialises in sub-investment grade credit markets.

NCRAM's investment approach is total return oriented and driven by bottom-up credit research. It follows a philosophy which is described as a 'Strong Horse' approach, aiming to identify companies which are capable of carrying their debt through economic cycles. The firm believes that over time these companies are able to generate strong, sustainable cash flows, thereby enabling them to de-lever their balance sheets and improve their ratings.

**Majdi Chammas, Head of External Management and Tina Rönholm, Portfolio Manager responsible for external High Yield investments at AP1, said:** "We are delighted to announce the funding of Nomura's Global High Yield Bond Fund following our comprehensive, global tender process completed last year. NCRAM has a very powerful investment philosophy and process that is well proven both over time and in various market conditions. This strategy complements our portfolio very well."

**David Crall, Chief Investment Officer for NCRAM, said:** "We are pleased to have established this relationship with AP1, which we hope will prove to be a long term partnership between our respective organisations. Like AP1, we have a strong commitment to responsible and sustainable practices, both in running our own business and when investing client assets entrusted to us. We believe that incorporation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors is congruent with our Strong Horse investment philosophy."

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For further information please contact:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Andrew Whitaker	Nomura Asset Management U.K. Ltd	+44 (0) 20 7521 1052
Anna Fall	Första AP-fonden	+46 (0)709 681 250
Fiona Harris / Andreea Caraveteanu	Quill PR	+44 (0) 20 7466 5050

The Nomura Asset Management Group is a leading global investment manager. Headquartered in Tokyo, Nomura has additional investment offices throughout the world including London, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, Frankfurt and New York. With a global workforce of over 1,200 employees it has been operating in Europe for the past 30 years. Today Nomura Asset Management provides its clients with a wide range of innovative investment strategies including global, regional and single country equities, high yield bonds, alternative investments and global fixed income strategies.

Nomura Asset Management U.K. Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Första AP-fonden (AP1) is one of five AP-funds which ensures stability in the Swedish national income pension system. AP1's assets under management totals SEK 333 billion (31 December 2017) and the global portfolio consists of equities, fixed income securities and alternative investments. The mission is to generate the highest possible return, while maintaining a low level of risk, and thus contribute to a high and predictable income pension for current and future pensioners. Första AP-fonden is a long-term investor and an active owner. In its role as owner, the Fund places high demands in the areas of environmental, social and corporate governance.