

## Media Release

### **COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS WELCOMES TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON SIKA AG**

**LONDON, 11 MAY 2018:** Today, Sika AG, Cie de Saint-Gobain and Schenker-Winkler Holding AG have announced plans to pursue an agreed alternative transaction that will resolve the current situation around the independence and control of Sika AG.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments has been a long-standing shareholder of Sika AG, for over 18 years. Since December 2014, when the original transaction between Schenker-Winkler Holding and Saint-Gobain was announced, we have been committed to supporting the business and securing an alternative outcome. This has included, amongst other things, the formation of a formal concert-party group for that purpose, requisitioning business at the company's General Meetings and wider engagement with interested parties.

Responding to the announcement, **Iain Richards, Head of Responsible Investment at Columbia Threadneedle Investments**, has said: "After three and a half years, today's announcement is both welcome and important for the future growth of Sika AG.

"This is a sensible and fair solution and we fully support it. It offers a good outcome for shareholders and for the company.

"Most importantly it will allow Sika's independent success story to continue, giving the business the freedom it needs to really pursue its growth strategy.

"The role that the employees have played in supporting the business during this time has been inspiring. Today would not have been possible without them.

"The agreement will also see Sika's corporate governance and capital structure brought into line with best practice, which is also important and welcome."

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**About Columbia Threadneedle Investments**

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

With more than 2000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage €395 billion<sup>1</sup> of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Our priority is the investment success of our clients. We know investors want strong and repeatable risk-adjusted returns and we aim to deliver this through an active and consistent investment approach that is team-based, risk-aware and performance-driven. Our investment teams around the world work together to uncover investment insights. By sharing knowledge across asset classes and geographies we generate richer perspectives on global, regional and local investment landscapes. The ability to exchange and debate investment ideas in a collaborative environment enriches our teams' investment processes to ensure the best insights are applied to portfolios. More importantly it results in better informed decisions for our clients.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments as at 31 March 2018

<sup>1</sup> Source: Ameriprise Financial Q1 2018 earnings release.

[www.columbiathreadneedle.com](http://www.columbiathreadneedle.com)

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