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SFTR costs expected to mount

Market participants have blasted the potential costs that could arise from the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation (SFTR).

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) has published responses to its initial discussion paper that set out its proposals for implementing the reporting framework under the SFTR, with the International Securities Lending Association (ISLA), Deutsche Börse Group and Amundi all making comments.

Deutsche Börse, which operates much of Europe's clearing infrastructure, was particularly scathing of some of the finer details of ESMA's proposals, particularly the granularity of the some of the data required.

"We see serious issues with the reporting of the prior unique trade identifier (UTI) in a novated central counterparty (CCP) transaction," Deutsche Börse explained in its comments. "As this needs to be issued by the bilateral counterparts and reported to the CCP it remains unclear to us what happens if no prior UTI or differing prior UTIs are reported by the bilateral counterparts."

"We do not think making the prior UTI a mandatory matching field for CCP novation is a good idea—this would seriously constrain the novation of bilateral transactions into central clearing."

Deutsche Börse also sees "severe issues and huge implementation costs for CCPs and the whole market for the reporting of selective master data fields for counterparties and securities".

"Substantial effort and additional cost is incurred with the reporting of additional data elements which are currently not available to us but remain questionable for us in term of added value."

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Efficiency is key for collateral

Market participants need to become more efficient when financing their transactions, according to BNY Mellon, whose new report outlines the key strategies to adopt in collateral management.

The report, Collateral Solutions for a Changing Market, pinpointed peer-to-peer relationships as one avenue for institutional investors to pursue given that prime brokers are becoming more selective in who they work with in financing.

Michelle Neal, president of BNY Mellon Markets, summarised: "Market participants need to be more efficient when financing transactions, which means they need to allocate the least expensive collateral to each trade, possess a full view of which collateral is available and which is being used, and applying efficient collateral management techniques to a variety of transactions."

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ISDA Amend 2.0 released

The International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) and IHS Markit have launched a new version of ISDA Amend.

Dubbed ISDA Amend 2.0, the free service for managing multiple ISDA Master Agreements and sharing regulatory representations through Counterparty Manager has been updated with functionality to implement the new margining requirements for non-cleared derivatives.

The new version also offers the ability to inform counterparties about elections they have made under the ISDA Resolution Stay Jurisdictional Modular Protocol (JMP), which aims to standardise contractual agreements across jurisdictions with inconsistent termination right rules.

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SFTR costs expected to mount

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ISLA was similarly critical, pointing out that the content of master agreements, for example, was not viable for reporting.

"The master agreement type/master agreement version/applicable annexes/ bilateral amendment data elements are not typically stored in securities lending transaction processing systems."

"Due to the significant costs and complexities of collecting, storing and reporting this data in securities lending transaction processing systems, we believe that this information would be better monitored by means of a periodic survey rather than as part of the transaction reporting process."

European asset manager Amundi, one of many commentators that slammed the "too short" six-week consultation window set by ESMA, insisted on "the necessity to capitalise on pre-existing data collection processes".

"[Amundi believes] that the reference to the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) and the use of trade repositories (that have been introduced under EMIR) in order to collect data on securities finance transactions is commendable."

"However we are very disappointed to see that the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive/Regulation reporting obligations are considered independently of the pre-existing framework of other regulations; the fact that they have different objectives does not justify the absence of a transversal approach."

"Amundi knows that any reporting is a matter of details and implies heavy costs."

"In that respect a profound and confident discussion with the industry is the best way for regulators to produce a workable framework at an acceptable cost."

ESMA plans to publish a follow-up consultation in the second half of 2016, with the final draft rules scheduled to be sent to the European Commission for approval by 13 January 2017.

Efficiency is key for collateral

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As well as peer-to-peer-relationships, the triparty model continues to be a suitable means of collateral management, according to the report. Although it has traditionally been used in repo and securities lending, BNY Mellon has noted the model being used to cover a range of exposures and obligations.

Market participants should consider using a range of tools, including collateral pledge structures, structured notes and the cross-border allocation of Japanese government bonds as part of an overall strategy to optimise collateral and find efficiencies.

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Many participants are also new to collateral management, with initial margin and variation margin requirements bringing the need to post collateral to their businesses for the very first time.

They are struggling with data, cash and inventory management, making it easier to deal in cash collateral, according to BNY Mellon.

“The collateral management and segregation space today is quite dynamic,” commented Jim Malgieri, head of collateral management and segregation at BNY Mellon Markets.

“These changes are putting operational pressures on firms and requiring them to take on new activities.”

“There is a learning curve with the changing requirements as all market participants adapt and retool their operations to enhance their processes and create efficiencies.”

ISDA Amend 2.0 released

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“ISDA and IHS Markit have collaborated on ISDA Amend for over five years, and it has proved hugely successful in helping market participants gather and share data required by the Dodd-Frank Act and European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR),” said Katherine Darras, general counsel at the association.

“ISDA Amend 2.0 broadens that offering, and will help firms implement the non-cleared derivatives margin rules, as well as help market participants provide information to their counterparties and make elections related to their adherence to jurisdictional modules under the ISDA Resolution Stay JMP.”

Darren Thomas, managing director and head of Counterparty Manager at IHS Markit, commented: “ISDA Amend 2.0 has been designed to manage the complexity of these multi-jurisdictional regulations. The service will leverage data provided through previous ISDA Amend protocols with full connectivity to IHS Markit’s end-to-end collateral repapering solution to digitise, negotiate and amend collateral agreements on Counterparty Manager.”

Wedbush picks HelixRepo

Wedbush Securities has chosen Helix Financial Systems to manage the processing of its fixed income repo portfolio.

The HelixRepo platform provides buy- and sell-side clients with the tools to support their repo and financing activities, such as real-time collateral management, across all products and asset classes.

Scott Skrym, managing director of fixed income financing, futures, and rates at Wedbush, praised the platform, saying: “Helix made our repo business more efficient and helped manage the risks better. The ease of trade processing saves us incredible amounts of time each day.”

“The built-in risk management features are far better for monitoring trading positions, counterparty exposure, and interest rate risk than any other system I have ever used.”

Helix head Todd Berlent welcomed the new mandate: “We’re extremely pleased to add Wedbush to the growing roster of financial firms using HelixRepo across their various lines of business.”

“Signing these firms on to our systems substantiates Helix’s ability to meet the growing demands of the buy-side community to solve problems that are no longer unique to the more traditional sell-side firms.”

New SBL rules take effect

A revised framework for borrowing and lending financial instruments admitted to trading at the Bucharest Stock Exchange took effect on 2 August.

The Bucharest Stock Exchange and Central Depository have implemented a "new and flexible" regulatory framework that will "allow investors to benefit of any market trend".

Both the Romanian Financial Supervisory Authority and the National Bank of Romania have approved the new rules.

"Short selling is an indispensable element of a developed capital market," said Ludwik Sobolewski, CEO of the Bucharest Stock Exchange. "It creates new possibilities for the investors, protecting the value of the investments and giving a chance for gains resulting from intensive speculative trading."

"Lending of financial instruments puts them at work generating new revenues for the lenders and ensuring the safety of the short selling for the market."

Under the new framework, the short selling of any financial instrument admitted to trading at the Bucharest Stock Exchange is allowed, with no restriction on type of asset, price or minimum volume. Participants are also under no obligation to specifically mark short selling orders.

Participants no longer have to use a standard lending agreement and send it to the CSD, whose assets are now all available for borrowing and lending.

"The improved version of lending and borrowing of shares brings flexibility, meets market requests and ensures the necessary framework to increase liquidity, a requirement of the Romanian capital market which must be met to be upgraded to the emerging market status," commented Silvia Buicanescu, CEO of the Central Depository.

Speaking at a Bucharest Stock Exchange seminar in July, Sobolewski pinpointed the ability of short selling to increase the attractiveness of market making, "which is essential for the better velocity of the market in equities".

"Much larger exchanges than the Bucharest Stock Exchange would have a problem of the depth and liquidity of the market if they had not have liquidity providers. In this context, it is of paramount importance that the Financial Supervision Authority decided to eliminate the fees of the regulator that were imposed on transactions executed by market makers."

Florentina Boboc, a director at the Financial Supervision Authority, added: "We are very satisfied that the legislative package regarding the borrowing and lending activity has been finalised. Now comes the next stage, which is turning the regulations into market practice. We will be observing this process with great interest."

OCC records high activity

Options Clearing Corporation's (OCC) year-to-date stock loan activity is up 41 percent from 2015, with more than 1.9 million new loan transactions so far in 2016.

The average daily loan value cleared by OCC in July was almost $150 billion. The CCP recorded $1.45 billion in June.

OCC's new loan activity was also high last month, beating July 2015 by 24 percent with 143,994 transactions.

Total cleared contract volume in July reached more than 317 million contracts, although this was down 18 percent from July 2015's volume of more than 385 million contracts.

BoE finally drops interest rates

The Bank of England has dropped interest rates by 25 basis points to 0.25 percent, with the outlook for growth in the short to medium term weakening "markedly".

The decision follows the UK's vote to leave the EU in June, and comes as a response to the drop in the value of the pound.

In a statement, the Bank of England said: "Recent surveys of business activity, confidence and optimism suggest that the UK is likely to see little growth in GDP in the second half of this year."

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously for the drop in interest rates. The committee also passed a package of measures designed to provide additional support to growth, including the purchase of £10 billion in UK corporate bonds, and the expansion of the asset purchase facility for UK government bonds, to the tune of £60 billion.

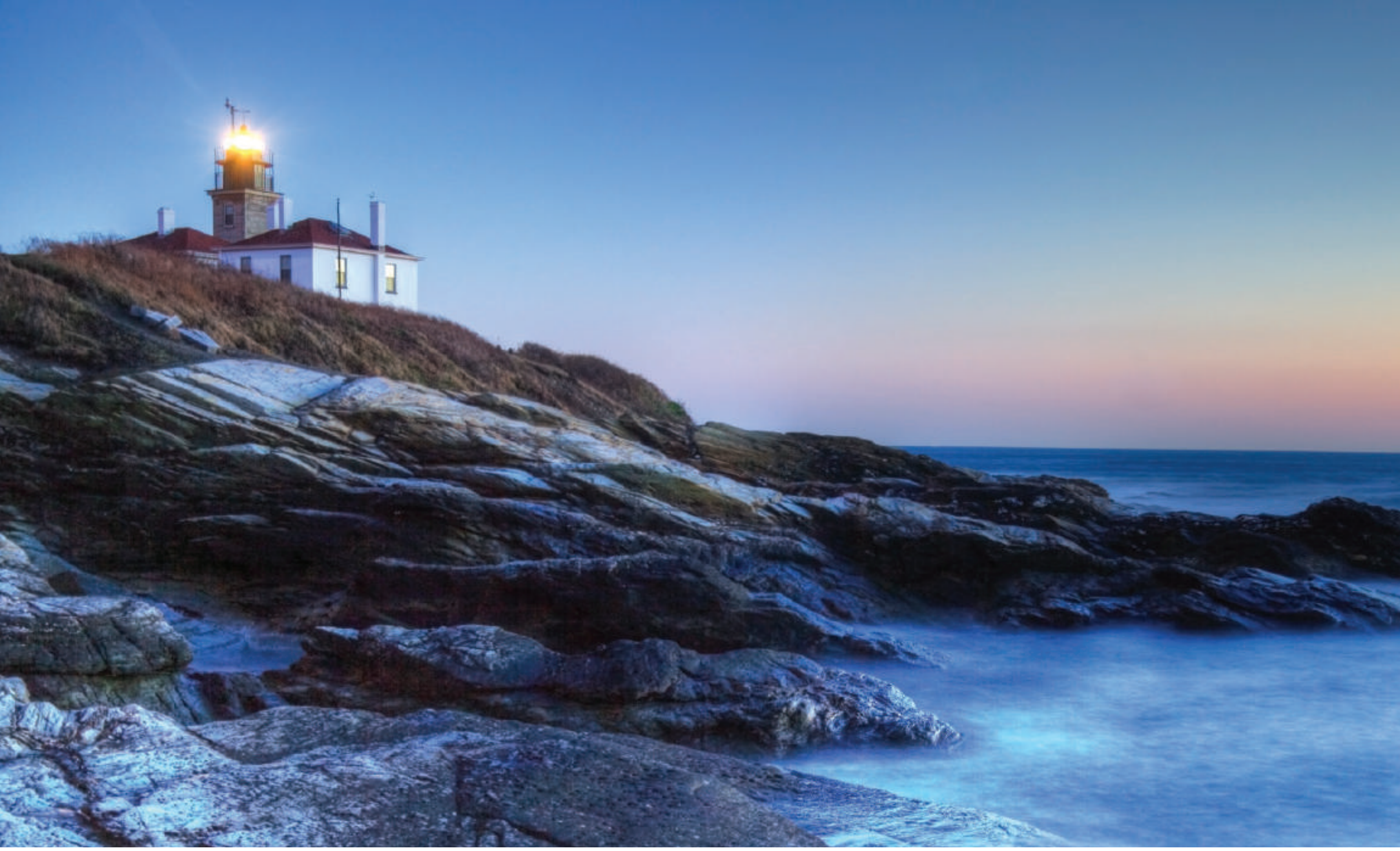
This measure brings the bank's total stock of asset purchases to £435 billion, all of which is financed by the issuance of reserves.

According to the central bank, the asset purchase programme for government bonds should lower the yields on securities used to determine the cost of borrowing.

It is also intended to encourage current holders of government bonds to rebalance their portfolios into riskier assets, therefore improving the supply of credit to the broader economy. Similarly, as corporate bonds are higher yielding instruments, the central bank's purchasing of them means selling investors will be more likely to then invest in other corporate assets. By increasing demand in secondary markets, the corporate bond purchases should ultimately stimulate issuance in sterling bond markets.

The Bank of England's statement continued: "The MPC has examined closely the interaction between monetary policy and the financial sector, both with regard to ensuring the effective transmission of monetary policy to households and businesses, and with consideration for the financial stability consequences of its policy actions."

Commenting on the announcement, Graham Vidler, director of external affairs at the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, said the cut in interest rates will give pension funds "cause for concern", and that



the quantitative easing measures will put additional pressure on them.

"While we recognise the need to protect the UK economy, strong consideration needs to be given to the negative impact this will have on the 6,000 private defined benefit pension schemes," Vidler said.

"As these bonds are higher-yielding instruments they could provide more stimulus than the same amount of gilt purchases, but nonetheless the impact this will have on gilt yields will be an additional burden for many schemes already struggling."

With regards to the decision to cut interest rates, Darren Bustin, head of derivatives at Royal London Asset Management, said that "monetary policy is running out of steam".

"The actions of the Bank of England today may not be the most effective tool in driving the UK economy going forward, and a fiscal response may be required to revive the economy if things get worse."

ENSO partners with ICAP

ENSO Financial Analytics has partnered with ICAP's platform EBS Treasury for cash and collateral movement workflows.

Using EBS Treasury, ENSO's hedge fund clients will be able to make money market sweeps and cash movements through the platform and further optimise counterparty relationships, according to ICAP.

ENSO works with 14 major broker dealers and has more than a $1 trillion in client assets under advisory.

The integration of the two platforms has already commenced and initial access will soon be available for all clients.

Matthew Bernard, CEO of ENSO, said: "Our focus at ENSO has been to develop an end-to-end solution that connects customers with their data, opportunities, and workflow."

"We are excited to partner with EBS Treasury and take the natural next step in providing this new functionality for our customers, enabling them to seamlessly move both cash and collateral across counterparties through the ENSO platform."

Jenny Knott, CEO of ICAP Post Trade Risk and Information, added: "By adding ENSO's ability to identify market opportunities to EBS Treasury's cash and collateral movement capabilities, we believe this partnership is a powerful collaboration in the path to create a suite of wide-ranging solutions for managers, and will benefit the balance sheet constrained prime broker community."

State Street has hot Q2

State Street's securities finance revenue reached $156 million in Q2 2016.

Revenue was 16.4 percent higher than Q1 2016's $134 million and slightly above Q2 2015's $155 million.

State Street enjoyed strong Q2 results overall, with core asset servicing and asset management fees fuelling growth.

Joseph Hooley, CEO and chairman of State Street, said: "Demand remains robust across our global client base as demonstrated by new servicing commitments of approximately $750 billion, including our appointment by Deka Bank and Allianz Global Investors to provide a range of investment services for $583 billion in assets."

OneChicago volumes slide

Securities finance exchange OneChicago registered a trading volume of 853,607 in July 2016, marking a 27 percent dip compared to July 2015.

Year-to-date, however, trading volumes remain up by 6 percent.

Open interest also saw a decrease of 30 percent, reaching 539,831 contracts by close-of-market on 29 July. Of this, 78 percent was in OneChicago's OCX.NoDivRisk products.

The OCX.NoDivRisk equity finance tool is designed to reduce dividend risk for customers carrying synthetic equity delta exposure.

WSBA welcomes Calypso

Calypso Technology, a technology solutions provider for global financial markets, has become a corporate member of the Wall Street Blockchain Alliance (WSBA).

The non-profit trade association encourages adoption of distributed ledger technology across financial markets, and addresses the need for blockchain knowledge and expertise across various disciplines of the financial industry.

For Calypso, joining the WSBA will improve its presence in the blockchain sector.

Jean Safar, chief architect at Calypso said: "Blockchain has the potential to substantially improve both the efficiency and the transparency of the financial services industry, and the WSBA is dedicated to facilitating that transition."

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with both their leadership and member firms as we explore the various applications of the distributed ledger."

"Our participation in the WSBA will enhance our existing blockchain research and development, allowing us to bring innovative solutions to market faster."

Ron Quaranta, chair of the WSBA, commented: "We are very pleased to have Calypso join the WSBA as one of our premier corporate members."

"Given the depth and breadth of their expertise in financial markets, as well as their innovative approach to blockchain and other disrupting technologies, we are confident that collaborating with Calypso on behalf of their customers and WSBA members will provide deep and lasting benefit for all parties."

Eurex Repo slowdown continues

Eurex Repo has continued its downward trend for 2016, recording an 18.61 percent decrease in average outstanding for July.

In July, Eurex Repo recorded an average outstanding volume of €129 billion, down from €158.5 billion in July 2015. The negative development was, again, attributed the drop to the European Central Bank's quantitative easing policy.

Eurex's secured money market GC Pooling saw an average outstanding volume of €96.4 billion in July 2016, compared to €129.7 billion in July 2015. The Euro Repo market, however, saw an increase from €28.8 billion in July last year, to €32.6 billion this year.

Eurex Exchange's equity index derivatives segment saw a total of 59 million contracts in July, a drop from 71.6 million in July 2015. The largest contract was the future on the EURO STOXX 50 Index, which processed 23.1 million contracts. Options on this index totalled 18.9 million contracts.

On the DAX index, futures reached 1.7 million contracts and options reached 2 million. The Eurex KOSPI product saw a total of 1.8 million contracts.

Equity options and single stock futures reached a total of 23 million contracts in July 2016, a slight increase on last June's total of 22.8 million. Of these, equity options made up 12.9 million contracts, and single stock futures accounted for 10 million.

Changing places

S3 Blacklight's Ihor Dusaniwsky explains how US and UK REIT ETFs did an about-turn after the UK's referendum on its EU membership

S3 Blacklight recently did a study into the mirror effect in the short interest of the US and UK's real estate market following the Brexit vote. What was the starting point for this case study?

S3 Blacklight is a global, independent financial analytics, technology and services firm. We work with asset managers and provide research on all markets and products to see what's happened in the past week or even the past day.

Brexit is obviously the topic of the moment so I took a look at how it was affecting the US Vanguard REIT ETF and the iShares UK Property UCITS ETF, and found some interesting trends.

The two exchange-traded funds (ETFs) were actually running in opposite directions, with short interest draining away from the US but going through the roof in the UK straight after the UK's EU referendum on 23 July. The trend started just before the vote and then accelerating immediately after 'Brexit' was confirmed.

What were your key findings from the study?

There was a huge jump in short interest around the vote, but that quickly settled back down. Short interest rose by 110 percent from $78 million on 23 June to $164 million by 1 July. The UK ETF's value dropped by 14 percent by 12 July with a market cap of $880 million.

Short interest in the Vanguard ETF was almost $950 million, as of 23 June, and quickly dropped 15 percent to $790 million by 1 July.

Short interest in both ETFs reversed course later in July. Short interest in Vanguard rose 44 percent to $1.14 billion as the stock hit $90.09 on 12 July. Meanwhile, short interest in the UK ETF fell 55 percent, down to $73 million, as its stock price also fell 27 percent to $6.66, $2.57 of its recent high.

What made you choose the real estate market?

When I began looking at the Brexit situation I knew there would be some important interest rate effects on it, with all the currency exposure and currency fluctuations. When looking at what securities would be most affected by this I settled on the real estate market as a proxy for the long-term effect on interest rates because it's more interesting than just looking at a bank stock.

I was also interested in seeing if the Brexit vote would create a change in the regulatory environment around foreign ownership of real estate and if that would contribute to the trend of demand moving from the UK to the US.

What are your data sources for this study?

Our data comes from three sources: our electronic contributory data, where we have more than $1.7 trillion of assets under advisement from hedge funds and long-only managers, which allows us to see all their long and short positions on a daily basis.

We also get broker and bank feeds, along with other third-party sources.

Finally, we have our own stock loan desk at S3 made up of six stock loan traders. Our team is essentially calling the street to see what's happening and verifying the data we're seeing from our other sources.

As an analyst it's important to be able to independently check your data because sometimes it can be a little startling and it's reassuring to have lenders and brokers on hand to confirm or dispute our information.

We also have a lot of mutual funds on our platform so we are able to see their loans out to the street. All this means we're able to have view made up from both sides of the transaction. We get to see both ends and the middle.

> ***We have our own stock loan desk at S3 made up of six stock loan traders. Our team is essentially calling the street to see what's happening and verifying the data we're seeing from our other sources***
>
> **Ihor Dusaniwsky,** Head of research, S3 Blacklight

Your report was published in early July. Has the trend held true since then?

Looking at our data today, we see the Vanguard REIT ETF continued to trend downward with short interest now below $700 million. After hitting its year to date low on 27 June, the iShares UK Property ETF price rallied 17 percent and shorts began covering their positions. Short interest is now below $50 million. **SLT**

Time to dig deep or sail away?

Shipping and mining are a long way off having the most valuable companies in the world. David Lewis, senior vice president at FIS Astec Analytics, explains

Speed, agility and nimbleness are often much lauded attributes of high performing companies and characteristics that can easily be associated with the fast moving, high tech companies of today. After the ignominious ejection of Exxon Mobil and the advance of Amazon and Facebook, the list of the five most valuable companies in the world now contains only technology companies.

Many people will have seen the popular observation, attributed to TechTarget's Tom Goodwin, doing the rounds on LinkedIn and Facebook, pointing out that the world's largest taxi company owns no vehicles, the world's most popular media company produces no content, and the world's largest retailer has no inventory.

Companies such as these can, relatively speaking, 'turn on a sixpence' and adapt to the fast moving vagaries of modern, fickle, consumers. The antithesis of these industries do not have such advantages and indeed one type has given us the expression that underlines such difficulties—'it's like trying to turn a supertanker'.

Heavy industries cannot turn resources on and off, or change directions quickly when their markets change. It is fair to say that they have less dynamics to manage, namely simply supply and demand, rather than the whims of fashion or technology, but the highly capital intensive nature of their businesses demand bold strategies that are almost impossible to change once under way.

Exxon Mobil has more than $140 billion committed to capital projects that will, in many cases, take years to come to economic fruition, and committed at a time when commodity prices are low and supply exceeds demand. The falling price of crude oil, now down below $40 a barrel, brings both blessings and curses to global demand and prosperity, hitting both oil producing companies and countries growth hard.

The metals and mining sectors are in a similar position—iron ore, for example, is achieving around 40 percent of the price per tonne that was being paid five years ago (iron ore pellets, $210 a tonne January 2011 and $80 a tonne August 2016).

While this is good news for steel manufacturers, especially China, which imports 81 percent of its raw iron ore needs, it is bad for producing countries and those companies that are paid to distribute these raw materials around the globe.

But as an oil or raw materials producer, or an associated service provider, what actions do you take in such downturns?

The types of significant capital projects that such companies employ, such as building ships, digging mines or tapping oil wells, can take years from planning to production with the added complication of payback periods potentially decades long.

How can such companies be valued accurately and with any degree of confidence, especially in potentially imperfect markets where trade tariffs are raised as part of political economic manoeuvring?

Cliffs Natural Resources, which is not, as the name implies a local health food store, but a multi-billion-dollar iron ore producer operating in the US, Canada and Asia, has seen a remarkable advance in its share price over the last 12 months.

In a difficult market environment, where commodity prices are depressed and supply across the world markets seems to dwarf demand, something must be going well at Cliffs to produce a gain of 223 percent compared with the share price one year ago. Short sellers certainly seem to agree, having closed off more than 47 percent of the open short positions since June. With the albeit limited protection of import tariffs, and a potentially improving market for its products, perhaps such a gain in value from $2.45 to $7.91 is more understandable.

However, such statistical advances depend entirely on where, or indeed, when you set your origin. Shares in Cliffs Natural Resources were trading at $89 five years ago, so $7.91 now represents a fall of 91 percent over that period. This is where the short sellers have made their money and the recent reductions could well be explained as profit taking as much as 'calling the bottom' of the cycle.

Moving to Europe, Euronav, an Antwerp-based shipping operator, is arguably also at the bottom of its economic cycle. Rate tariffs for commercial shipping, particularly in the kind of super-sized tankers and storage facilities that Euronav operates are at very low levels.

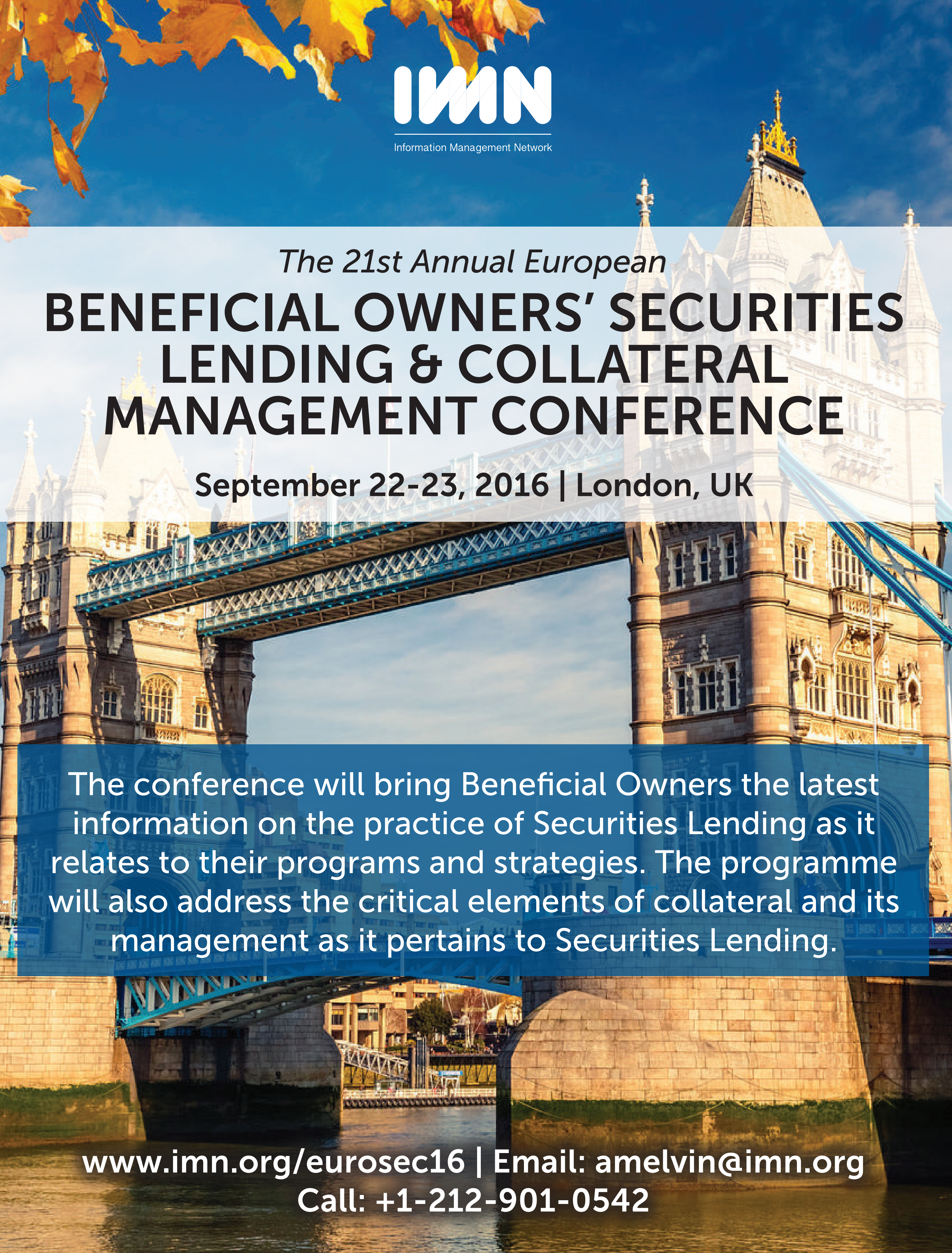
Much like steel, there is a glut of supply over demand in shipping capacity and capital assets such as the giant ships that carry crude oil are collapsing in value. Euronav has seen its share price halve over the last 12 months, but at around €7.70 a share, it is more than €1.50 above where it stood five years ago.

Like iron ore mines, ships can take years from blueprint to reality, and Euronav is planning to invest in expanding their fleet while capital asset prices are low, ready for the next upturn in demand.

This kind of strategy takes boldness as well as a strong balance sheet and the support of investors and banks. Short sellers seem a little less confident about these plans as they are about the future of Cliffs Natural Resources, and they expanded open short positions by some 18 percent ahead of the Q2 earnings announcements made at the end of July, but overall, the improvement in sentiment since the start of 2016 is marked.

While there are many differences between the shipping and mining industries, both are highly capital intensive and hard to manoeuvre. With the need to invest contrary to economic cycles due to their prolonged lead and payback times, they are certainly very different animals to the likes of Facebook and Amazon and it may be a very long time before we see such organisations once again topping the list of most valuable companies in the world. **SLT**

David Lewis
Senior vice president
FIS Astec Analytics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IMN European Beneficial Owners' Securities Lending Conference

Date: **22-23 September**
Location: London

The IMN European Beneficial Owners' Securities Lending Conference will cover the 2017 macroeconomic outlook and implications for securities lending programmes; the economics of collateral optimisation; structuring and enhancing lending programmes to increase revenue; the business implications of regulation on lending and collateral management programmes; alternative routes to market; effective benchmarking and performance; sell and buy-side perspectives on doing business today; and perspectives on the future direction of the industry.

33rd Annual RMA Conference on Securities Lending

Date: **10-13 October 2016**
Location: Boca Raton, Florida

The ORIGINAL industry wide conference sponsored and developed by securities lending and borrowing professionals for securities lending and borrowing professionals. This conference brings together all the players involved in the business of securities lending.

2nd Annual Midwest Credit & Hedge Fund Investor Forum

Date: **17 November 2016**
Location:Chicago

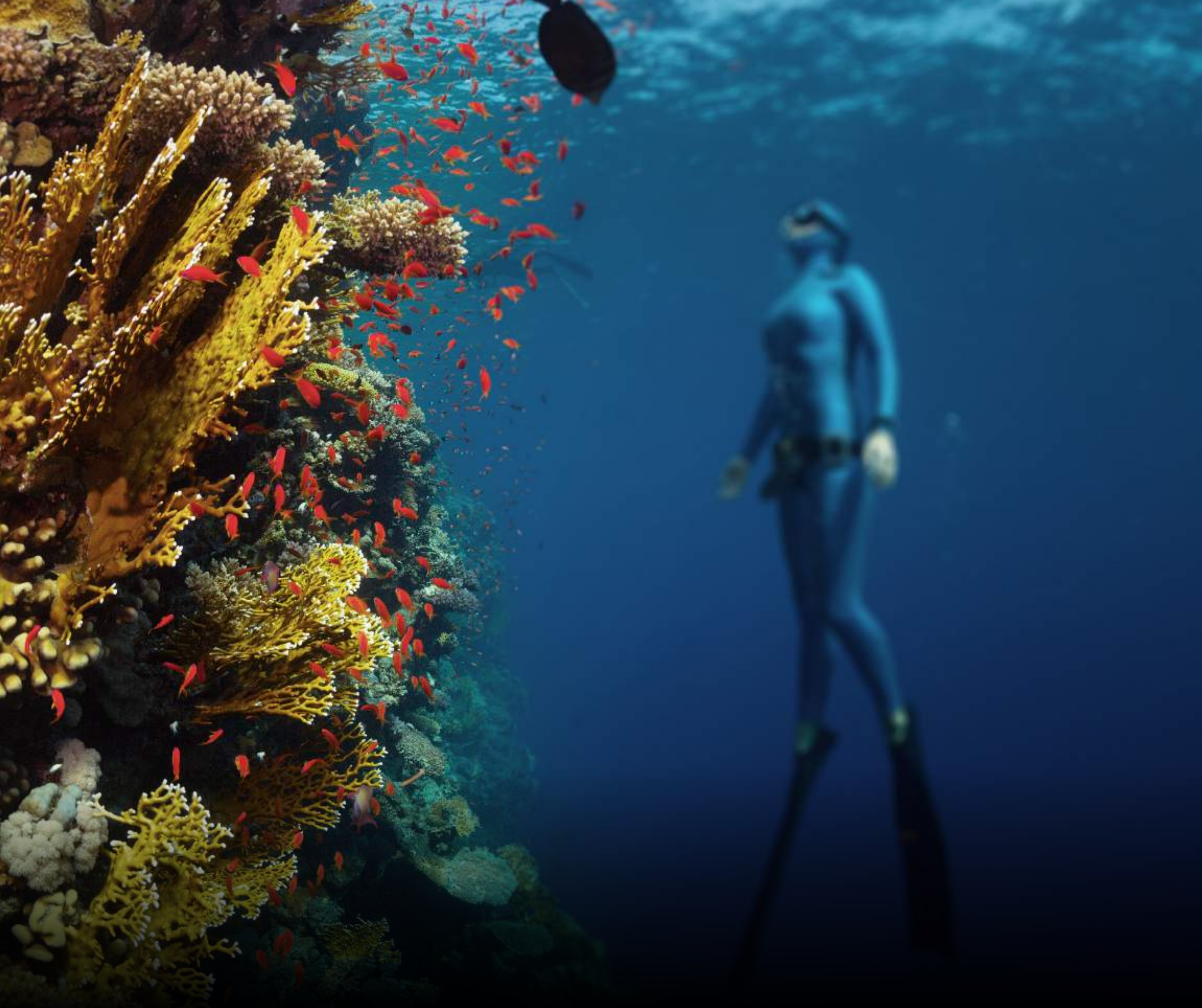
The Midwest Credit & Hedge Fund Investor Forum is a one day meeting of family offices, pension funds, endowments, foundations, consultants and fund of funds in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Minnesota.

10th Annual Collateral Management Forum

Date: **21 October**
Location: Amsterdam

The 10th edition of the annual Collateral Management Forum in Amsterdam is looking to offer an overview of the most crucial topics in the field today. In a shifting regulatory enivornment, with the margin requirements soon to come into play, the call for advanced tools of collateral management is as loud as ever.

For more events visit securitieslendingtimes.com/events/events.php



Industry **Recruitment**

Securities Lending Trading (Associate/Vice President)

Recruiter: BlackRock
Location: London

BlackRock is one of the world's preeminent asset management firms and a premier provider of global investment management, risk management and advisory services to institutional, intermediary and individual investors around the world. BlackRock offers a range of solutions—from rigorous fundamental and quantitative activemanagement approaches aimed at maximising outperformance to highly efficient indexing strategies designed to gain broad exposure to the world's capital markets.

Systems Analyst

Recruiter: EquiLend
Location: London

EquiLend is seeking a systems analyst for the London office to work closely with the EquiLend product owners and scrum team to execute projects from inception through production release.

Senior Software Engineer

Recruiter: EquiLend
Location: New York

EquiLend is seeking a senior software engineer to participate in all stages of development for several applications within the enterprise.

Business Analyst, Prime Finance

Recruiter: Citi
Location: Dublin

Investor services is a business line within markets and securities services, it includes products across prime finance, delta one, futures, OTC clearing, collateral management, global custody, fund administration, and agency lending.

Natixis, Cowen, SocGen, Clearstream and RBS all feature

Anthony Caserta has joined Natixis CIB Americas as an executive director in the equity finance client strategies group.

Caserta moved to Natixis in June and is based in New York.

In his newly created position, Caserta reports to Dennis Shikar, who is head of equity finance Americas and global head of the equity finance client strategies group at Natixis.

Caserta has nearly 20 years of financial services experience, most recently as a managing director of equity finance at S3 Partners, where he worked for eight years.

He previously held roles at Banco Santander, where he helped to launch the equity finance business, and Goldman Sachs, where he was a member of the securities lending team.

Matt Baldassano has joined Cowen Group to establish a securities finance function.

Baldassano is based in New York and reports to Dan Charney, head of equities. His job title is managing director and head of securities finance.

He was previously co-head of global prime services and head of global securities finance at Jefferies.

Before that, Baldassano was the global co-head of securities lending and prime brokerage sales/trading at Lehman Brothers.

Charney commented: “Establishing a securities finance capability is a natural complement to Cowen’s prime services business, which was established last fall.”

Societe Generale has named Ramir Cimafranca as head of prime services for Japan.

Cimafranca will be responsible for developing and improving prime services in Japan, including the prime brokerage and clearing, global execution services, and cross-asset secured financing businesses.

Based in Tokyo, he will report to Koji Shimamoto, director and executive vice president of Societe Generale Securities Japan.

Regionally, Cimafranca will report to James Shekerdemian, head of prime services for the Asia Pacific region, and global head of prime brokerage sales.

Cimafranca has been with Societe Generale since 1990, holding roles including head of listed derivatives and head of institutional sales for Newedge in Hong Kong.

His appointment follows Societe Generale’s acquisition of Newedge in Japan, which finally completed in May. According to Societe Generale, it is also part of a wider strategy to offer a ‘one stop’ solution to clients in Japan.

Clearstream global head of securities financing sales Pascal Morosini has resigned from his position, according to sources.

Morosini resigned on 29 July and left Clearstream on 1 August.

Philippe Seyll, head of investment fund services and global securities financing at Clearstream, reported the news to his team before Morosini’s departure.

Morosini has worked at Clearstream for more than 20 years. His departure follows Deutsche Börse Group’s decision to fuse the agency lending services of Clearstream, Eurex Repo and Eurex Clearing late last year to better serve large, fixed income lenders.

Royal Bank of Scotland’s (RBS) head of equity financing and derivatives, Mark Barnard, has left the bank as it continues to wind down its equity derivatives business.

Barnard, who worked at RBS for seven years, is the latest senior figure to leave the bank’s equity derivative unit since the closure was first announced in 2013. **SLT**

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