

## **ALERT**

We (the Financial Services Authority – FSA) have published this statement today in order to warn investors against dealing with unauthorised firms.

This statement is to advise members of the public that an organisation identifying itself to UK individuals as:

### **Russell Merger Group**

Shin Ochanomizu Urban Trinity 2  
Kanda Surugadai 3-chome  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-0062  
Japan  
Telephone: 81 3 4578 0071  
Fax: 81 3 6745 9396  
Website: [www.russell-mg.com](http://www.russell-mg.com)

is not authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) to carry on a regulated activity in the UK. Regulated activities include, amongst other things, accepting deposits by way of business. We believe that the organisation may be targeting UK customers.

#### **What does this mean for you?**

If you are an investor, you should be aware that **the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are not available** if you deal with an unauthorised company or individual.

#### **How can you check whether a firm is authorised?**

To find out whether a company or individual is authorised, go to the FSA Register Check Service at <http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/register/>

**Note:** For an up-to-date list of unauthorised Internet Banks issued, please visit:

<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Law/Alerts/internet.shtml>

For further information on unauthorised firms targeting UK investors see the press release issued on 17 April 2012 at:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/library/communication/pr/2012/038.shtml](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/library/communication/pr/2012/038.shtml)

For more details about the tactics that are commonly adopted by unauthorised firms targeting UK investors see the “Stay Safe from Scams” page available at:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/consumerinformation/scamsandswindles/safe](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/consumerinformation/scamsandswindles/safe)

The Shares Investments Scam leaflet is available at:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/static/pages/doing/regulated/law/pdf/warning\\_to\\_shareholders.pdf](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/static/pages/doing/regulated/law/pdf/warning_to_shareholders.pdf)