

## **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:

### **John and Langerdorf Associates**

117 West 40<sup>th</sup> St.

New York

NY 10018

United States of America

Tel: 0845 838 7894

Tel: 001 646 389 7922

Tel: 001 646 360 1655

Fax: 001 646 365 3119

Website: [www.johnandlangerdorf.com](http://www.johnandlangerdorf.com)

Email: [info@johnandlangerdorf.com](mailto:info@johnandlangerdorf.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, advising on investments and dealing and arranging deals in investments ('investments' include stocks and shares). 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/>

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

<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/doing/regulated/law/alerts/unauthorised-firms>

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)