Dated 23 March 2016

Co-operation Agreement

United Kingdom

Australia

ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Financial Conduct Authority
25 The North Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London E14 5HS

Australian Securities and Investments Commission
Level 5, 100 Market St
Sydney, 2000

Innovation Hubs Co-operation Agreement between

Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA")

and

Australian Securities and Investments Commission ("ASIC")

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Co-operation Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Authorisation" means the process of licensing an entity so that they are authorised by an Authority to provide a service or issue a financial product in their jurisdiction;

"Authority" means ASIC or the FCA; and collectively, shall be referred to as "the Authorities";

"Criteria for Support" means the criteria published from time to time by each Authority that details when their Innovation Hubs will offer support to innovative financial businesses operating or seeking to operate in their respective jurisdictions.

"Innovation Hub" means the dedicated avenue for regulatory assistance offered by both Authorities to Innovator Businesses in their respective jurisdictions;

"Innovator Business" means a financial business that has been offered support from an Authority through its Innovation Hub, or would qualify for such support;

"Receiving Authority" means the Authority that is receiving an Innovator Business referral or information relating to that referral;

"Regulations" means any regulation or regulatory requirement applicable in the jurisdiction of an Authority; and

"Referring Authority" means the Authority that is referring an Innovator Business to the Receiving Authority.

2. Introduction

2.1. The two Authorities share a mutual desire to promote innovation in financial services in their respective markets. Both Authorities have established Innovation Hubs in order to do so. The two Authorities believe that through co-operation with each other, they will be able to further the promotion of innovation in their respective markets.

3. Purpose

3.1. The purpose of this Co-operation Agreement is to provide a framework for co-operation and referrals between the Innovation Hubs of each Authority. The framework centres on a referral mechanism which will enable the Authorities to refer innovative financial services businesses between their respective Innovation Hubs. It also sets out how the Authorities plan to share and use information on innovation in their respective markets.

4. Principles

4.1. The Authorities intend to provide the fullest mutual assistance to one another within the terms of this Co-operation Agreement. This Co-operation Agreement operates subject to the domestic laws and regulations of each Authority and does not modify or supersede any laws or regulatory requirements in force in, or applying to, Australia or the United Kingdom. This Co-operation Agreement sets forth a statement of intent and accordingly does not create any enforceable rights, and is not legally binding. This Co-operation Agreement does not affect any arrangements under existing Memoranda of Understanding between the two Authorities.

5. Scope of Assistance

Referral mechanism

5.1. The two Authorities, through their Innovation Hubs, will refer to one another those Innovator Businesses who would like to enter the others' market.

5.2. Referrals will be made in writing, and will include information demonstrating that the Innovator Business seeking to operate in the Receiving Authority's jurisdiction meets, or would meet, the Referring Authority's Criteria for Support.

5.3. Following referral, the Receiving Authority's Innovation Hub will offer support to the Innovator Business in accordance with Section 2.4 above.

5.4. The Authorities acknowledge that an Innovator Business benefiting from their respective Innovation Hub's assistance during the pre-authorisation phase may or may not meet the requirements for authorisation, and that in providing assistance through their Innovation Hubs the Authorities are not expressing an opinion about whether an Innovator Business will ultimately meet the requirements for authorisation in their jurisdiction.

Information sharing

5.5. The Authorities undertake to share information about innovations where appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to:

5.5.1. Emerging market trends and developments;

5.5.2. Regulatory issues pertaining to innovation in financial services;

Executed by the Authorities:

For ASIC

Greg Medcraft, Chairman

Date:

For the FCA

Christopher Woolard, Director of Strategy and Competition and Member of the Board

Date:

Appendix 1: Authority-wide Contact Details

FCA: Head of Department, Project Innovate
Financial Conduct Authority
25 The North Colonnade
London, E14 5HS
United Kingdom

ASIC: International Cooperation Requests
Level 5, 100 Market Street
Sydney, 2000
Australia