# THE RIGHT ASSETS AT THE RIGHT TIME





Frédéric Dodard, Head of the Investment Solutions Group, EMEA and Gregory Taieb, Senior Portfolio Manager

# **Key Points**

- Multi-asset strategy with built-in dynamic asset allocation
- Diversified mix of stocks, bonds, and other non-correlated assets
- Targets absolute return over a full market cycle
- Purpose-built to invest in the right asset mix at the right time



# **MULTI-FACTOR, IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS**

# **Absolute Return Strategies**

State Street Global Advisors' (SSGA) Flexible Asset Allocation Plus Strategy is a dynamically managed multi-asset strategy with an absolute return investment objective designed to deliver consistent returns across the market cycle. Alongside our innovative advanced beta, active equity and traditional passive strategies, the strategy is part of our range of absolute return strategies that represents a powerful and effective toolkit for the challenges clients face in complex, modern markets.

The Flexible Asset Allocation Plus Strategy is managed by our Investment Solutions Group (ISG), a 60+ strong team of investment specialists across investment centers in Boston, London, Hong Kong, Paris, Sydney, Dublin and Tokyo. The Team members have an average of 15 years' experience and can draw on the experience of more than 400 investment professionals, as well as SSGA's risk, regulatory, and compliance specialists.

# 29 Years of Combined Industry Experience

**Frédéric Dodard** is Head of the ISG, EMEA and joined SSGA in 1998. A graduate of EDHEC Business School, he holds a post-graduate diploma in Capital Markets, Commodity Markets and Risk Management. He also holds the CFA designation and is a Financial Risk Manager recognised by the Global Association of Risk Professionals.

"Managing drawdowns is key to achieving strong and stable returns over the long term."

**Gregory Taieb** is a Senior Portfolio Manager in ISG. He has been directly involved with the ISG since 2003 and has managed a number of multi-asset class solutions and currency portfolios. Gregory holds an MSc in Mathematics and Statistics and has a Masters in Finance.

<sup>1</sup>Source: SSGA, as of 31 December 2014.

Our experienced team manages **over \$35 billion** in tactical asset allocation strategies across a growing range of innovative multi- asset benchmark-relative and absolute return<sup>1</sup> strategies. These solutions are available via a number of investment vehicles.

### SSGA Flexible Asset Allocation Plus Strategy

Our in-depth analysis into the return drivers of individual asset classes shows that there is a clear relationship between investor sentiment and asset-class performance over the market cycle. Using a multi-factor process, the Investment Solutions Group calculates long-term return forecasts for over 50 different asset classes. This knowledge allow us to utilize signals about investor sentiment to help drive returns.

# Our Philosophy

- Investor sentiment drives asset class performance
- Detailed analysis enables us to capture major changes in investor sentiment at an early stage
- We can exploit these signals about investor sentiment on a consistent basis by responding swiftly and efficiently

# **Diversified Building Blocks**

EFENSIVE	MODERATE	AGGRESSIVE
CASH	CREDIT	COMMODITIES
GOVERNMENT BONDS SHORT	GOVERNMENT BONDS	EM DEBT
IMPLIED VOLATILITY		EQUITIES
		HIGH YIELD DEBT
		INFRASTRUCTURE
		PROPERTY

# **BLENDING INNOVATION WITH EXPERIENCE**



# A Built-in Dynamic AssetAllocation

The Flexible Asset Allocation Plus Strategy addresses investors' demand for long-term capital growth combined with downside capital protection. It utilizes an innovative dynamic asset allocation approach that seeks to increase exposure to risk assets ahead of rising markets, and to limit falls by switching out of risk assets when appropriate.

### The Market Regime Indicator

At the heart of the strategy and its investment process is our proprietary Market Regime Indicator (MRI), which uses forward-looking signals of market sentiment across **equity**, **credit** and **currency** markets to determine the likely performance of asset classes.

Expressed as a percentage measuring sentiment signals on a rolling one-year basis, the MRI helps us to position the strategy for potential changes in market conditions.

### The Right Asset Mix for the Right Conditions

- MRI scores define five Market Regimes
- The market regime drives the asset allocation
- MRI is read weekly, using a five-day moving average
- We rebalance following a two-week process
- · We can further adjust asset exposure tactically

### **Minimizing Transaction Costs**

The strategy gains exposure to individual asset classes efficiently by using a range of underlying passive building blocks. These include ETFs, futures and other low-cost and liquid investment vehicles aimed at minimizing transaction costs.

### Sophisticated Risk Management

The strategy benefits from sophisticated risk management analysis and makes selective use of low-cost options strategies and volatility futures to potentially provide additional downside protection.

# **Diversified Building Blocks**



For more information please visit ssga.com, or contact your local SSGA office.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Indicative weights for illustration purposes only.

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