

For Professional Clients only

BlackRock launches the iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF

- The metaverse technology marketplace is expected to generate up to USD5 trillion in revenues¹ by 2030
- The launch follows demands from European clients for access to the emerging metaverse technology marketplace
- The **iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF** tracks the STOXX Global Metaverse Index which uses EconSight's unique patent data analytics to identify companies that are market leaders, innovators, and specialists in the field of metaverse technologies.

LONDON, 9 December 2022 – BlackRock has today launched a new ETF (exchange traded fund), giving European clients targeted exposure to a wide variety of companies active in developing metaverse technologies. The iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF [MTAV] will track the STOXX Global Metaverse Index.

The metaverse, an immersive virtual world integrating digital and physical interactions, is the next frontier of the digital world and stands to benefit from an acceleration in investments from large technology companies, private markets, and consumer brands as new virtual applications emerge. Metaverse technology constitutes an interplay between aspects of both Augmented Reality (the integration of digital information with the user's environment in real time) and Virtual Reality (the computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional image or environment that can be interacted with).

The metaverse technology marketplace is developing at a rapid pace, with an expected value of USD800mn by 2025, with an expected market size of USD4-5T by 2030.² The desire to capitalise on this space is growing, as seen in March 2022, when metaverse-themed global exchange traded products hit USD2bn AUM globally.³

Omar Moufti, product strategist for thematic and sector ETFs at BlackRock, said: 'We see the metaverse as the next leap forward in global communication and connectivity. It has the potential to revolutionise many sectors and processes, and reshape every facet of society, from the way we work, consume, interact, and produce. As further uses for metaverse technologies become apparent, the desire for exposure to the technology companies behind these innovations grows. The iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF gives investors access to a diversified portfolio of companies active in building the metaverse and applying it in their fields.'

The **iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF** tracks the STOXX Global Metaverse Index which takes a new approach to thematic investing by leveraging patent data to identify market leaders, innovators, and specialists in the space. Companies are included based on the quality of their innovation activity through an assessment of the patents they file.

The filing and publication of patents in a specific technology indicates a company's research focus and future direction of activity before revenues are able to capture the full opportunity set of emerging technologies.

By leveraging EconSight's patent data, the STOXX Global Metaverse Index relies on a robust methodology to select only the top 10% of companies with High Quality Patents (HQP) within metaverse technologies. The index comprises 65 global companies ranging from the digital marketplace, gaming, healthcare, manufacturing, software as well as hardware and components. This incorporates companies developing interactive virtual platforms, wearables, and immersive technologies as well as those companies providing the necessary computer processing capabilities and infrastructure.

¹ McKinsey, "Value creation in the Metaverse", published in June 2022. Bottom-up assessment of the use cases across 29 sectors. There is no guarantee that any forecasts made will come to pass. BlackRock, 30 November 2022.

² McKinsey, "Value creation in the Metaverse", published in June 2022. Bottom-up assessment of the use cases across 29 sectors. There is no guarantee that any forecasts made will come to pass. BlackRock, 30 November 2022.

³ BlackRock data as of 30 November 2022.

Once the patents related to the metaverse have been identified, the selection of companies can be done in two different ways: assessing the number of High Quality Patents and specialisation scores. A specialisation score indicates the importance of the overall technology suite to a company's business.

Axel Lomholt, Chief Product Officer, Indices and Benchmarks at Qontigo said: "The STOXX Global Metaverse Index complements our suite of Qontigo thematic strategies focusing on transformative technologies in a world which is digitalising at a rapid speed. We are applying innovative patents-based methodology that enables us to identify the pioneering companies developing the Metaverse."

In addition, the index incorporates ESG screening criteria. Companies that are not compliant with the Sustainalytics Global Standards Screening (GSS) assessment or are involved in controversial weapons are excluded from the investment universe. The following series of business involvement screens is also applied: Weapons, Tobacco, Nuclear Power, Conventional and Unconventional Oil & Gas, Thermal Coal. MTAV is classified as Article 8 under the European Union's Sustainable Financial Disclosure Regulation (SFDR).

The Fund is listed on Euronext, with a total expense ratio (TER) of 0.50%.

Overview of new fund

Fund Name	Ticker	Index	Expense Ratio
iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF	MTAV	STOXX Global Metaverse Index	0.50

-ENDS-

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About iShares

iShares unlocks opportunity across markets to meet the evolving needs of investors. With more than twenty years of experience, a global line-up of 900+ exchange traded funds (ETFs) and \$2.62 trillion in assets under management as of 30 September, 2022, iShares continues to drive progress for the financial industry. iShares funds are powered by the expert portfolio and risk management of BlackRock.

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Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

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BlackRock has not considered the suitability of this investment against your individual needs and risk tolerance. The data displayed provides summary information. Investment should be made on the basis of the relevant Prospectus which is available from the manager.

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Product Risks

iShares Metaverse UCITS ETF USD (Acc)

Concentration Risk, Counterparty Risk, Equity Risk, ESG screening risk, Investment in Technology Securities Risk, Investment in Metaverse-related technologies Risk.

Description of Product Risks

Concentration Risk

Investment risk is concentrated in specific sectors, countries, currencies or companies. This means the Fund is more sensitive to any localised economic, market, political or regulatory events.

Counterparty Risk

The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Share Class to financial loss.

Equity Risk

The value of equities and equity-related securities can be affected by daily stock market movements. Other influential factors include political, economic news, company earnings and significant corporate events.

ESG screening risk

The benchmark index only excludes companies engaging in certain activities inconsistent with ESG criteria if such activities exceed the thresholds determined by the index provider. Investors should therefore make a personal ethical assessment of the benchmark index's ESG screening prior to investing in the Fund. Such ESG screening may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments compared to a fund without such screening.

Investment in Technology Securities Risk

Investments in the technology securities are subject to absence or loss of intellectual property protections, rapid changes in technology, government regulation and competition.

Investment in Metaverse-related technologies Risk

Investments in certain metaverse related technologies may be subject to changes in or the loss of intellectual property protections. Companies in metaverse-related businesses will also be subject to risks associated with

developing technology and are heavily reliant on internet functionality. Certain metaverse technology features may also increase the risk of fraud or cyberattack.

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Document and the latest half-yearly report and unaudited accounts and/or annual report and audited accounts and the Danish country supplements. Investors should read the fund specific risks in the Key Investor Information Document and the Company's Prospectus. Copies of all documentation can be obtained free of charge from offices of the paying agent at BlackRock (Netherlands) BV, Copenhagen Branch, Harbour House, Sundkrogsgade 21, 2100 København Ø, Denmark and is also available on the website at www.blackrock.com/dk available in English and Danish. This document is strictly confidential and may not be distributed without authorisation from BlackRock. BlackRock may terminate marketing at any time. Investors should understand all characteristics of the funds objective before investing. For information on investor rights and how to raise complaints please go to <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/compliance/investor-right> available in English.

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