

EDGA & EDGX STOCK EXCHANGES				
Regulatory Information Circular				
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Subject: ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Growth Markets Equities and U.S. Treasuries

**Index ETF** 

**ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Multi-Asset Index ETF** 

ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Asia ex-Japan Equities and U.S. Treasuries

**Index ETF** 

ALPS/GS Risk-Adjusted Return U.S. Large Cap Index ETF

## **Background Information on the Fund**

As more fully explained in the <u>Registration Statement</u> (Nos. 333-148826 and 811-22175), ALPS ETF Trust (the "Trust") is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Trust consists of several exchange-traded funds, including those listed below (the "Funds"). The shares of the Funds are referred to herein as "Shares." The Funds are actively-managed exchanged-traded funds ("ETF").

ALPS Advisors, Inc. serves as the investment adviser to the Funds. ALPS Distributors, Inc. serves as the Distributor for the Funds. The Bank of New York Mellon is the custodian, fund accounting agent and transfer agent for the Funds.

Ticker	Fund Name	CUSIP
	ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Growth Markets Equities and	
GSGO	U.S. Treasuries Index ETF	00162Q775
GSMA	ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Multi-Asset Index ETF	00162Q767
	ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Asia ex-Japan Equities and U.S.	
GSAX	Treasuries Index ETF	00162Q759
GSRA	ALPS/GS Risk-Adjusted Return U.S. Large Cap Index ETF	00162Q742

### **Description of the Funds**

ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Growth Markets Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index ETF

The ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Growth Markets Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index ETF (the "Fund") seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the GS Momentum Builder® Growth Markets Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index (the "Index").

The Fund is an index-based exchange traded fund that seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the Index. The Fund is a "fund of funds" as it principally invests its assets in the ETFs included in the Index ("Underlying ETFs"), instead of individual securities. The Underlying ETFs are also passively managed and seek investment results that correspond to their own indexes. The Underlying ETFs primarily invest in emerging markets equity securities and U.S. Treasury securities. The Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in securities of the Underlying ETFs that comprise the Index. The Index is comprised of shares of ETFs whose underlying indexes track the equity markets of the following emerging market countries ("growth markets"): Brazil, Russia, India, China, Mexico, South Korea, Indonesia, and Turkey, as well as shares of ETFs whose underlying indexes track U.S. Treasury securities. Using a methodology developed by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (the "Index Provider"), the Index seeks to provide exposure to price momentum of these equity emerging markets and U.S. Treasury securities by reflecting the combination of Underlying ETF weightings that would have provided the highest six-month historical return, subject to the constraints on maximum and minimum weights and volatility controls described in the Fund's Registration Statement. The Index is rebalanced monthly, but may also be rebalanced as frequently as daily if the daily volatility control is triggered.

### Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the <u>Prospectus</u> for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. These risks include Costs of Investing in Underlying ETFs; Investing in Underlying ETFs; Passive Strategy/Index; Non-Correlation Risk; Volatility Control Risk; Concentration; Methodology Risk; Momentum Style Risk; Volatility Risk; and Portfolio Turnover Risk. In addition, as noted in the Prospectus, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV and therefore Shares may trade at prices greater than NAV (at a premium), at NAV, or less than NAV (at a discount). The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. See also the section on suitability below.

# ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Multi-Asset Index ETF

The ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Multi-Asset Index ETF (the "Fund") seeks investment results that closely correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the GS Momentum Builder® Multi-Asset Index (the "Index").

The Fund is an index-based exchange traded fund that seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the Index. The Fund is a fund of funds as it principally invests its assets in the ETFs included in the Index ("Underlying ETFs"), instead of individual securities. The Underlying ETFs are also passively managed and seek investment results that correspond to their own indexes (with the exception of one Underlying ETF which is actively managed). The Underlying ETFs invest across asset classes. The Underlying ETFs primarily invest in global equities, including emerging markets, as well as commodities, real estate and U.S. and international fixed income securities. The Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in securities of the Underlying ETFs that comprise the Index.

The Index is comprised of shares of ETFs whose underlying indexes track U.S., international, developed and emerging equity markets, commodity markets, real estate markets and U.S. and international fixed income markets (The fixed income securities in which Underlying ETFs may invest include U.S. Treasury securities and investment grade, high yield, international and emerging market bonds, and may include bonds with a wide range of maturities (though typically not less than one year). Using a methodology developed by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (the "Index Provider"), the Index seeks to provide exposure to price momentum of these markets and U.S. Treasury securities by reflecting the combination of Underlying ETF weightings that would have provided the highest six-month historical return, subject to the constraints on maximum and minimum weights and volatility controls described in the Fund's Registration Statement. The Index is rebalanced monthly, but may also be rebalanced as frequently as daily if the daily volatility control is triggered.

#### Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the <u>Prospectus</u> for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. These risks include Costs of Investing in Underlying ETFs; Investing in Underlying ETFs; Passive Strategy/Index; Non-Correlation Risk; Volatility Control Risk; Concentration; Non-Diversification Risk; Methodology Risk; Momentum Style Risk; and Volatility Risk. In addition, as noted in the Prospectus, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV and therefore Shares may trade at prices greater than NAV (at a premium), at NAV, or less than NAV (at a discount). The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. See also the section on suitability below.

#### ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Asia ex-Japan Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index ETF

The ALPS/GS Momentum Builder Asia ex-Japan Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index ETF (the "Fund") seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the GS Momentum Builder® Asia ex-Japan Equities and U.S. Treasuries Index (the "Index").

The Fund is an index-based exchange traded fund that seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the Index. The Fund is a fund of funds as it principally invests its assets in the ETFs included in the Index ("Underlying ETFs"), instead of individual securities. The Underlying ETFs are also passively managed and seek investment results that correspond to their own indexes. The Underlying ETFs invest primarily in securities of equity markets in Asia (excluding Japan) and U.S. Treasury securities. The Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in securities of the Underlying ETFs that comprise the Index.

In addition, under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in Underlying ETFs which invest in securities of equity markets in Asia (excluding Japan) and U.S. Treasury securities.

The Index is comprised of shares of ETFs whose underlying indexes track the equity markets of the following countries in Asia: India, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Australia ("Asia ex-Japan markets"), as well as shares of ETFs whose underlying indexes track U.S. Treasury securities. Using a methodology developed by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (the "Index Provider"), the Index seeks to provide exposure to price momentum of these equity markets and U.S. Treasury securities by reflecting the combination of Underlying ETF weightings that would have provided the highest six-month historical return, subject to the constraints on maximum and minimum weights and volatility controls described in the Fund's Registration Statement. The Index is rebalanced monthly, but may also be rebalanced as frequently as daily if the daily volatility control is triggered.

### Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the <u>Prospectus</u> for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. These risks include Costs of Investing in Underlying ETFs; Investing in Underlying ETFs; Passive Strategy/Index; Non-Correlation Risk; Volatility Control Risk; Methodology Risk; Momentum Style Risk; and Volatility Risk. In addition, as noted in the Prospectus, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV and therefore Shares may trade at prices greater than NAV (at a premium), at NAV, or less than NAV (at a discount). The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. See also the section on suitability below.

# ALPS/GS Risk-Adjusted Return U.S. Large Cap Index ETF

The ALPS/GS Risk-Adjusted Return U.S. Large Cap Index ETF (the "Fund") seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the GS Risk-Adjusted Return U.S. Large Cap Index (the "Index").

The Fund is an index-based exchange traded fund that seeks investment results that closely correspond to the total return of the Index. The Index includes U.S. securities within the Russell 1000® Index selected in accordance with the proprietary methodology described below. The Fund's investment adviser, ALPS Advisors, Inc. (the "Adviser"), uses a "passive" or indexing approach to try to achieve the Fund's investment objective. Unlike many other funds, the Fund does not try to "beat" the Index it tracks and does not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued. The Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in the securities that comprise the Index.

The Index is designed to reflect the performance of a hypothetical portfolio of U.S. stocks that are anticipated to have the highest risk-adjusted returns based on a methodology developed by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (the "Index Provider"). The Methodology selects a target of 50 stocks for inclusion in the Index from a subset of U.S. equity securities within the Russell 1000® Index that meet the minimum analysts coverage, liquidity and market capitalization requirements set forth below. The Russell 1000® Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index and includes approximately 1000

of the largest capitalization securities in such index.

The Methodology classifies the stocks by sector, then sorts by the highest risk adjusted returns within each sector. Risk-adjusted returns are based on I/B/E/S (Institutional Brokers' Estimate System) consensus 12-month target prices adjusted by their six month "realized" volatility (as defined in the Fund's Registration Statement). All stocks are equally weighted and the number of stocks from each sector is determined by sector weightings using a risk-parity approach. Under this approach, the volatility of each sector is computed based on realized sixmonth volatility and sectors with relatively high realized volatility contribute proportionately fewer securities while sectors with relatively low realized volatility contribute proportionately more securities. The Index is rebalanced semiannually.

### Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the <u>Prospectus</u> for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. These risks include Passive Strategy/Index; Non-Correlation Risk; Equity Securities; Market Trading Risks; Concentration; Market Volatility; Risk-Parity Risk; Volatility Risk; Methodology Risk; and I/B/E/S Risk. In addition, as noted in the Prospectus, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV and therefore Shares may trade at prices greater than NAV (at a premium), at NAV, or less than NAV (at a discount). The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. See also the section on suitability below.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectuses ("Prospectuses") and statements of additional information ("SAIs"), the Funds will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous at net asset value ("NAV") only with authorized participants ("APs") and only in large blocks of at least 50,000 Shares (each block of Shares called a "Creation Unit") or multiples thereof ("Creation Unit Aggregations") in exchange for the deposit or delivery of a basket of securities. As a practical matter, only broker-dealers, or large institutional investors with creation and redemption agreements (called Authorized Participants) can purchase or redeem these Creation Units. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Funds.

Individual Fund shares may only be purchased and sold in secondary market transactions through brokers. The shares of the Funds are listed on the Exchange, and because shares trade at market prices rather than at NAV, shares may trade at a value greater than or less than their NAV. The NAV for the Shares will be calculated after 4:00 p.m. E.T. each trading day.

The Funds' <u>registration statement</u> describes the various fees and expenses for the Funds' Shares. For a more complete description of the Funds and their underlying portfolios, visit <u>www.alpsfunds.com</u>.

## **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

The Shares are considered equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchanges existing rules governing the trading of equity securities.

## **Trading Hours**

Trading in the Shares on the Exchanges is on a UTP basis and is subject to the Exchanges equity trading rules. The Shares will trade from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Members trading the Shares during the Extended Market Sessions (Pre-opening and Post-closing sessions) are exposed to the risk of the lack of the calculation or dissemination of underlying index value or intraday indicative value ("IIV"). For certain derivative securities products, an updated underlying index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in the Extended Market hours. Since the underlying index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during Extended Market hours, an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain derivative securities products during Extended Market hours may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

#### **Trading Halts**

The Exchanges will halt trading in the Shares in accordance with Exchange Rules 14.1(c)(4). The grounds for a halt under this Rule include a halt by the primary market because it stops trading the Shares and/or a halt because dissemination of the IIV or applicable currency spot price has ceased, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, the Exchanges will stop trading the Shares if the primary market de-lists the Shares.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the Shares on the Exchanges will be subject to the provisions of Exchange Rules 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, Members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in Exchange Rules 3.7.

Members also should review FINRA Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds Members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Pursuant to federal securities laws, investors purchasing Shares must receive a prospectus prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction. Investors purchasing Shares directly from the Fund (by delivery of the Deposit Amount) must also receive a prospectus.

The prospectuses may be obtained through the Distributor or on the Funds' website. The Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about each Fund, please refer to the Trust's registration statement.

# **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The Commission issued a No-Action Letter by which persons participating in a distribution of shares of a fund may engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution, despite the requirements of from Rule 101 under Regulation M. In addition, the SEC has permitted persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of shares of a fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing creation unit aggregations of fund shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the Commission has clarified that the tender of fund shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter relating to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M which allow the redemption of fund shares in creation unit aggregations during the continuous offering of shares.

## **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund shares in Creation Units for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing creation unit aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2. Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- 3. Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

#### SEC Rule 14e-5

The Commission has permitted any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of fund (1) to redeem fund shares in creation unit aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase fund shares during such tender offer. In addition, a No-Action has been issued under Rule 14e-5 states that if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more creation unit aggregations of shares, it must be made in conformance with the following:

- 1. such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2. purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3. such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

## **Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2**

Section 11(d)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The Commission has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not authorized participants (and, therefore, do not create creation unit aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in shares of a fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer authorized participants that engage in creations of creation unit aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an authorized participant) does not, directly or indirectly,

receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the shares of a fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD (now FINRA) Rule 2830 (I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). See letter dated November 22, 2005 from Brian A Bussey, Assistant Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Barclays Global Investors, N.A., dated November 22, 2005. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act now states that broker-dealers may treat shares of a fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

### **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC Division of Trading and Markets has issued revised Staff Legal Bulletin No. 9 (Revised September 10, 2010) ("Staff Bulletin", available at <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>, at Staff Legal Bulletins, SLB 9), in which the Division has granted exceptions from certain provisions of Regulation M (Rules 101(c)(4) and 102(d)(4)), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("1934 Act") with respect to certain transactions in Shares of actively-managed ETFs. The Fund relies on the exceptions stated in the Staff Bulletin. The Fund also relies on the relief granted in a letter dated June 16, 2011 from Joseph Furey, Acting Co-Chief Counsel, Division of Trading and Markets, to W. John McGuire, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, regarding Section 11(d)(1) of the 1934 Act and Rules 10b-10, 11d1-2, 15c1-5, and 15c1-6 thereunder.

The Staff Bulletin states, that (1) the Rule 101(c)(4) exception is available to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in a distribution of actively managed ETF Shares to bid for or purchase such Shares during their participation in a distribution, and (2) the Rule 102(d)(4) exception is available to permit an open-end investment company to redeem actively managed ETF Shares, if the following conditions are met: (i) the Shares are issued by a registered open-end investment company; (ii) the Shares are exchange listed and exchange traded; (iii) the ETF continuously redeems the Shares at net asset value (NAV); (iv) a close alignment between the Shares' secondary market price and the ETF's NAV is expected; (v) on each day the Shares trade, prior to commencement of such trading, the ETF discloses on its website the identities and quantities of the securities and assets held by the ETF which will form the basis of the calculation of the ETF's NAV at the end of such day; (vi) the exchange listing the Shares or other information provider disseminates every 15 seconds throughout the trading day, through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association, an amount representing on a per Share basis the sum of the current value of the securities, assets, and cash required to create new Shares (intraday indicative value or IIV); (vii) arbitrageurs are expected to take advantage of price variations between Shares' secondary market price and the ETF's NAV; and (viii) the arbitrage mechanism will be facilitated by the transparency of the ETF's portfolio, the availability of the IIV, the liquidity of the ETF's portfolio securities, the ability to access such securities, and the arbitrageurs' ability to create workable hedges.

In addition, the Staff Bulletin states that the redemption of creation unit sized aggregations of ETF Shares and the receipt of securities in exchange therefore by persons who

may be deemed to be participating in a distribution of Shares do not constitute an "attempt to induce any person to bid for or purchase" a covered security during an applicable restricted period for purposes of Rule 101, but only if the redemptions are not made for the purpose of creating actual, or apparent, active trading in or raising or otherwise affecting the price of Shares or the securities received in exchange for the Shares redeemed.

### **SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6**

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See <u>letter</u> from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Regulatory Information Circular is not a statutory Prospectus. Members should consult the Trust's <u>Registration Statement</u>, SAIs, <u>Prospectus</u> and the Funds' <u>website</u> for relevant information.