

Editorial issued by CGF Research Institute and BarrySpitz.com

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Researchers collaborate to provide golden thread between governance and tax

Whilst the age of network computing is well upon us, providing users of personal computers and similar electronic devices access to unlimited information at the press of a button - more specifically information regarding corporate governance and matters pertaining international tax, money laundering and exchange control - has never been easier! Two well known research companies behind these topics have entered a strategic alliance to make access to this information, off an integrated platform, possible.

Since March 2004, CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd has been steadily increasing its market reach and penetration, providing many blue-chip companies much needed information and access to governance related topics, through monthly reports which is paid for on a yearly subscription basis. Whilst CGF has an impressive corporate client database such as Goldfields, SA Breweries, Harmony, Impala Platinum, African Rainbow Minerals, SABC and ABSA, who make use of their **CGF VANTAGE Corporate Governance Body of Knowledge**, the company believes it has still only 'scratched the surface' when discussing the need to disseminate reliable, easy-to-digest information.

Says Terry Booyesen, CEO of CGF Research Institute, "there is so much a company needs to do when managing the company's daily operations – many companies just don't factor the additional legislative requirements they need to embrace when questioned about the company's compliance to these components. Directors generally run a mile when they learn about all the governance, risk and compliance hurdles they must address as fiduciaries of the company. Clearly, directors need to keep their wits about them and must diligently seek ways to balance the strategy and operations of the company against the expected laws and regulations to which they must comply, not least the information overload."

In this spirit, CGF addresses top governance, risk and compliance (GRC) related topics each month and provides a practical summative report to rapidly assist the directors and senior management of companies to understand possible risks associated with matters such as Reportable Irregularities, Tax Evasion, Exchange Control, Money Laundering, Director's Remuneration, IT Governance and much more. In light of these services provided by CGF, the research company regularly interacts with many subject matter experts who engage debate and peer review sessions with CGF to assist in the final delivery of such reports.

And so this is where CGF and Professor Barry Spitz originally met - some years ago - where Professor Spitz, an internationally recognised expert of tax, money laundering and exchange control, amongst other, agreed to assist CGF within its peer review mechanisms to ensure the accuracy and integrity of some tax and exchange related reports that were produced by CGF.

"The CGF methodology used to provide a simple overview of very complex governance related topics was remarkably simple, yet very effective," said Spitz, who spear headed and launched the recent **BarrySpitz.com World Services Offshore FactFinder and MasterGuide**.

Through the services offered by the Offshore FactFinder and MasterGuide, professionals such as Accountants, Attorneys, Banks, Financial and Insurance Advisors, including key personnel within companies, as well as any individual with similar requirements, will have immediate access to a wide

range of international tax and exchange control related information. Better still, retrieving details of specialist tax and exchange firms across the globe will be as easy as engaging the Enter button on your personal computer.

“Between our respective organisations and marketing bases, we will be able to offer much needed information that covers corporate governance, international tax, tax havens and treaties, money laundering, exchange control, financial compliance and offshore trusts amongst a myriad of other similar information and tools,” stated Spitz.

Both Spitz and Booyesen commented that whilst there were many places to find the sort of information offered between their companies, busy executives in most instances did not know where to find the specific information sources, and if they did stumble across some of the information, it was generally cumbersome, not easy to understand or even apply within the context of their business. Whilst the services offered between CGF and BarrySpitz.com World Services are perceptually only for corporate business, they apply equally and are just as applicable for certain individuals running smaller companies.

“Both companies are very excited about the strategic relationship,” said Booyesen and Spitz, “as we are able to jointly provide uniquely packaged information that has critical, direct bearing upon a company’s strategy and risk operation. Through our respective offerings, presented upon world-class web-based platforms, customers can access and purchase information which is intelligently stored, as well as purchase user-friendly tools, echecklists, governance reports, executive summaries, articles and newsletter and so much more.”

You can obtain further information regarding the Tax and Exchange Control services, which is offered through the Offshore FactFinder and MasterGuide, at www.barryspitz.com or contact Professor Barry Spitz on +27 (11) 447 4807 or + 27 (0) 82 371 1124 or email info@barryspitz.com or fax +27 (11) 447 4807.

You can obtain further information regarding the CGF VANTAGE *Corporate Governance Body of Knowledge* which caters for companies of all sizes vis-à-vis matters pertaining governance, enterprise risk and compliance, at www.cgf.co.za or contact Terry Booyesen on +27 (11) 476 8264 or + 27 (0) 82 373 2249 or email tbooyesen@cgf.co.za or fax 0866 231 269.

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Abstract:

CGF has access to very large corporate markets and profiles – furthermore we specialise in all aspects related to governance, risk and compliance (GRC), serving the needs of corporate companies ranging through to small and medium sized businesses. Our VANTAGE platform offers integrated information and software applications to address most GRC requirements requested by our clients.

The services offered by BarrySpitz.com World Services, namely informational guides, checklists and tools vis-à-vis tax havens and treaties, exchange control, financial compliance, international tax planning, offshore trusts is a perfect match for our constituents. BarrySpitz.com World Services provides the right information, at the right time, right profile level and at the right place. Through CGF, our clients in the financial services, manufacture and mining are all typical interested parties of these

services. The information and the services applies in almost any circumstance, be these this for large or small companies, local or international – the information being made available is useful for business, as well as for personal use.

CGF and BarrySpitz.com World Services are delighted at the opportunity to work more closely and our business relationship has steadily grown over the years to reach this major milestone and product. The companies will advertise each other's association and open many more business opportunities as the service becomes known in South Africa and worldwide.

About CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd

CGF specialises in conducting desktop research on Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) related topics. The company has developed numerous products that cover GRC reports designed to create a high-level awareness and understanding of issues impacting a CEO through to all employees of the organisation.

CGF's capabilities extend to management consulting, executive learning and facilitation of Corporate Governance and Risk awareness workshops, which caters for large corporates to small and medium sized businesses.

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