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[Xignite, MSCI Ally for Cloud-based Index Data Distribution](#)

By Faye Kilburn, *Inside Market Data*

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Mutual customers will now be able to access MSCI's entire set of Global Equity Index levels, price and total return data covering over 75 countries in the developed, emerging, and frontier markets. Xignite customers will need a separate licensing agreement with MSCI, but once the vendor has ensured that proper permissions are in place, users can access the data via Xignite's existing API without any additional integration work. Xignite already carries data on more than 70,000 indexes from index providers such as London Stock Exchange-owned FTSE and its recently acquired Russell Indexes division, S&P Dow Jones Indexes, Nasdaq and Nikkei, though this is the first time it has carried MSCI data.

Stephane Dubois, chief executive and founder of Xignite, says the MSCI deal was driven by client demand in two areas: financial technology providers that want to embed the indexes into their platforms, and financial institutions that consume MSCI data but want to be able to access it on-demand in the cloud, rather than in end-of-day files from legacy vendors that users must organize, database and store themselves.

"A lot of what we do from a content viewpoint is based on customer demand. In this case, we've seen demand from two sources: There's a lot of growth around digital wealth managers who are pushing the envelope around proving new advice models, and who want to embed MSCI data into their platforms. But at the same time, we have demand from larger financial institutions who already have MSCI data but may be building a new platform, [for whom] using new technology and consuming the data via an API gives them better time to market," Dubois says.

The main reason for using MSCI's indexes over Xignite will be for benchmarking purposes, with most users pulling the data into wealth management, portfolio planning, portfolio accounting, performance reporting and performance attribution analysis systems. "MSCI has dominance around benchmarking for exchange-traded funds and overall asset management benchmarking, so it certainly was a big gap in our offering," Dubois says. "Typically, the use case is benchmarking portfolios against defined indexes or baskets of indexes to verify whether performance matched or exceeded the market."

The deal will allow Xignite to meet demand from existing customers, though MSCI hopes it will allow the index provider to reach new customers in the fast-growing digital wealth management industry, says Alain Dubois, managing director and head of index new product development and data distribution at MSCI.

"Given Xignite's established presence in the space, we are excited to make our data available to this new audience on its data distribution platform," he adds.