



## GMI Launches Diverse Director Database

*Important resource for shareowners, company nominating committees and  
director search firms seeking greater board diversity*

**New York, NY.; September 26, 2011** – [GMI](#), which was created through the merger of three independent research leaders, announced today the launch of the [Diverse Director DataSource](#) (“3D”), which houses a group of diverse prospective candidates for board of director positions. GMI developed 3D to support investor, corporate and market demands for a broader, international pool of boardroom candidates.

3D offers director search efforts a unique pool of fresh candidates with a different kind of experience, knowledge and talent. The term “diverse” refers to the range of attributes, experiences, perspectives and skill sets that can contribute to sustainable value creation by corporate boards of directors. Core attributes that make up a diverse board address accounting and finance skills; international markets, business or management experience; industry knowledge; customer-base experience or perspective; crisis response, leadership and strategic planning expertise; as well as the perspective of historically under-represented groups on the board, including women and minorities.

This new group of corporate director candidates will give shareholders, corporations and recruiters a broader universe of talent to choose from and an opportunity to propose highly qualified candidates for nomination to boards.

“GMI created this new resource because we know, through our years of research and practical experience, that board diversity can be instrumental to a company’s continuing success. It’s a board’s fiduciary responsibility to try to achieve the best long-term, risk-adjusted returns possible – and having a strong, sound board with a diversity of skills, perspectives and experience is an important contributor to this,” said Richard A. Bennett, GMI’s Executive Chairman. “During the financial crisis, we saw examples of boards that were composed of members who were too similar in background and that too often may breed ‘groupthink’. Those boards would have benefited from having a more dynamic and broad-ranging composition.”

California Public Employees’ Retirement System ([CalPERS](#)) and California State Teachers’ Retirement System ([CalSTRS](#)) commissioned GMI, the world’s leading provider of risk research on public companies with a focus on corporate governance and ESG (environmental, social and governance) ratings and research, to develop 3D. GMI has a database of 130,000 global public company directors and officers. GMI recently integrated three businesses – The Corporate Library, renowned for its deep, proprietary research on critical governance issues; GovernanceMetrics International, noted for its global coverage along with a comprehensive set of ESG metrics and

analysis; and Audit Integrity, with expertise in providing forensic accounting analysis and risk models.

“3D provides a unique and needed source of information on a pool of diverse and international director candidates,” said Peggy Foran, Chief Governance Officer and Corporate Secretary, Prudential.

Candidates can nominate themselves for free and build their own profiles, which include, among other things, their board and professional experience, board education, leadership skills, business skills, certifications and international experience. Subscribers – recruiting firms, nominating committees at both for profit and not-for-profit organizations – will have access to tools to vet potential candidates for nomination through a rigorous process. 3D has an advanced search function that identifies candidates based on very specific criteria and enables continued refinement after the initial search.

3D has enlisted major governance groups to reach out to corporations, non-profits, search firms and academics to raise awareness about the database. 3D will also be promoted via social networking channels such as LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube. Several hundred candidates have already expressed interest in 3D and submitted information in preparation to nominating themselves.

“3D is not about filling diversity quotas – it’s about giving corporations access to new, qualified talent with diverse skill sets that can bring fresh thinking to a board,” said Shauna Morrison, GMI’s Vice President of Data and Editorial Operations. “Studies show that companies with diverse boards perform better, and 3D is a great tool to identify these individuals for consideration to improve corporate performance.”

Search firms representing for-profit companies can either subscribe for a full year with an annual subscription or pay for limited use for a specific search. Search firms representing non-profit companies also have the same option, but at a discounted rate.

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### **About GMI**

GMI is the leading independent provider of global corporate governance and ESG ratings and research. GMI ratings, covering more than 20,000 companies worldwide, are built on extensive research and modeling that incorporate a broad spectrum of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics. GMI ratings also encompass accounting transparency issues, to support the goal of identifying companies at risk. GMI ratings are widely used by leading institutional investors, banks, insurers, auditors, regulators and corporations seeking to incorporate corporate governance and ESG factors into risk assessment and decision making. GMI’s clients have found a valuable link between GMI ratings and major negative events, such as regulatory actions, shareholder litigation, material financial restatements and financial distress – all of which impact investment returns and company performance. GMI is a signatory to the [United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment Initiative \(PRI\)](#), a network committed to incorporating ESG research into the investment process. GMI is the combined entity of GovernanceMetrics International, The Corporate Library and Audit Integrity, which all merged in December 2010. For more information please visit [www.gmiratings.com](http://www.gmiratings.com).

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