



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Matrix secure limited capacity from Winton for Ascension Plan Top Up**

Matrix is re-opening the Matrix Ascension Plan 2 for up to £10 million of new subscriptions for a limited period beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February and closing on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Winton announced that it has closed its flagship Winton Futures Fund and its associated managed accounts from 18<sup>th</sup> January having attracted \$3.9 billion into the managed futures programme but has allowed Matrix to raise up to £10 million for the Matrix Ascension Plan 2 which will be invested in the Winton Trading Strategies Fund, part of the Winton managed futures programme.

#### **Key notes:**

- Matrix secures £10 million limited capacity to the closed Winton managed futures programme
- the returns of Matrix Ascension Plan 2 are linked to the Winton Trading Strategies Fund which has increased by 11.2% since Ascension's launch in November 2004\*
- the Winton Trading Strategies Fund is managed in the same way as the Winton Futures Fund, which since launch in October 1997 has an annualised return of 18.16%\*\*
- the Winton Funds have historically had low correlation with equity and bond markets

The Winton Futures Fund trades a portfolio of more than 100 international markets, including but not limited to futures, options and forward contracts and other derivative and financial instruments in commodities, currencies, government bonds, interest rates and equity indices. The Winton Futures Fund, and consequently the Winton Trading Strategies Fund, are largely non-correlated with traditional investments i.e. equities and bonds, and therefore investment in the Ascension Plan 2 can provide risk diversification to an investment portfolio.

The Ascension Plan 2 has just under 6 years until maturity on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011. The Ascension Plan offers monthly liquidity through a market maker, or the comfort of capital protection at maturity, with each share having a guaranteed price of 96p if held to maturity. Other benefits include favourable tax treatment where returns will be subject to capital gains tax (rather than income tax) and can benefit from taper relief, and a low minimum investment level of £5,000.

#### **Bridget Guerin, a director of Matrix Group, commented;**

"We are delighted to offer private UK investors this unique last chance to include a Winton futures programme product in their portfolios. The extraordinary rate at which the Winton Futures Fund attracted new investments from largely institutional investors demonstrates how popular this fund and management team are. The real attraction to the Winton Futures Fund is that it has demonstrated that it can produce excellent returns with a very low correlation to equities and gilts. As part of a private investor's portfolio, the Matrix Ascension Plan 2 can reduce their overall portfolio risk profile while aiming to produce good returns."

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## Notes to Editors

The initial charge is 5% and there are no additional annual charges. The shares qualify for inclusion in PEPs and ISAs, SIPPs and SSASs, although Matrix is not providing these wrappers. The set up and running costs of the closed ended company from which the shares are issued are indemnified by the Manager, Matrix (Bermuda) Limited.

\*Source: BNP Paribas, 21 October 2004 to 31 Dec 2005

\*\*Source: Winton Capital Management Ltd, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1997 to 31 December 2005 applying a charging structure of a 2% p.a management fee plus a 20% performance fee.

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