

## Information Circular: Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. STRIDES

То:	Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF Trading, Structured Products Traders
From:	William Slattery, Associate Vice President, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications Department
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Equity-Linked Notes	Symbol	CUSIP Number
Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. 9% Callable Stock Return Income Debt Securities Linked to Common Stock of Google Inc.	GKO	59022Y337

## **Information on the Notes**

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Issuer") has issued 9% Callable Stock Return Income Debt Securities ("STRIDES") linked to the common stock of Google Inc. ("Google"). The STRIDES were priced at \$25 each and mature on March 1, 2010.

The STRIDES pay a coupon of 9% per annum, paid quarterly on the 1st of each December, March, June, and September.

At maturity, if the Notes have not been previously called, in exchange for each STRIDES, the investor will receive a number of shares of Google common stock equal to the then current share multiplier.

The STRIDES are callable beginning March 2, 2009 up until the maturity date. The Issuer will notify the trustee at least 5 business days prior to the call date. The Yield to Call on the STRIDES is 13.85%. The calculation of the Yield to Call takes into account the issue price of the STRIDES, the time to the call date, and the coupon payments of the STRIDES, as well as the call price. If the Issuer calls the STRIDES on any particular date during the call period, the call price will be an amount so that the Yield to Call on the STRIDES up to, but excluding the call date, will be 13.85% per annum.

If on any date the closing market price of Google common stock is less than \$1.00, the STRIDES will be redeemed on the third business day following such a date and will deliver a number of shares of Google equal to the then current share multiplier plus the accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date and the present value of the remaining coupon payments.

Investors in STRIDES will not be entitled to any rights with respect to Google until such time as the Issuer shall deliver Google shares to investors in the STRIDES, if applicable. There can be no assurances as to how the STRIDES will trade in the secondary market or whether such market will be liquid or illiquid. Securities with characteristics similar to the STRIDES are unique securities, and there is currently no secondary market for the STRIDES.

It is expected that the market value of the STRIDES will depend substantially on the value of Google and may be affected by a number of other interrelated factors including, among other things: the general level of interest rates, the volatility of Google stock, the time remaining to maturity, the dividend yield of Google stock, and the credit ratings of the Issuer.

The Trustee for the securities is The Bank of New York.

Trading in the STRIDES on NASDAQ is on a UTP basis and is subject to <u>NASDAQ equity</u> <u>trading rules</u>. The STRIDES will trade from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Additional risks may exist with respect to trading the STRIDES during Nasdaq's Pre-Market and Post-Market sessions.

Trading of the STRIDES on NASDAQ is subject to the provisions of <u>NASDAQ Rule 2310</u>. Members recommending transactions in the STRIDES 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 the NASDAQ Conduct Rules.

Members also should review <u>NASD Notice to Members 03-71</u> 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.

## This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. NASDAQ members should consult the registration statement or prospectus for the STRIDES for additional information.

Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Will Slattery, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- NASDAQ Market Sales at 800.846.0477