



# **Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2022 – 0001**

Date: January 7, 2022

Re: Global X Blockchain & Bitcoin Strategy ETF

This Information Circular is being issued to advise you that the following securities have been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP") on the Investors Exchange ("IEX" or the "Exchange") as UTP Derivative Securities pursuant to IEX Rule 16.160. Compliance and supervisory personnel should note that, among other things, this Information Circular discusses the need to deliver a prospectus to customers purchasing shares of the exchange-traded funds. Please forward this Information Circular to interested persons within your organization.

#### **Exchange-Traded Fund**

**Symbol** 

Global X Blockchain & Bitcoin Strategy ETF

**BITS** 

Issuer/Trust: Global X Funds

Issuer/Trust Website: <a href="https://www.globalxetfs.com/">https://www.globalxetfs.com/</a>

Primary Listing Exchange: Nasdaq

The purpose of this information circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in these new products pursuant to the Exchange's unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the products. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the securities and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange.

## **Background Information on the Funds**

The Fund is an actively managed exchange traded fund ("ETF") that seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in equity securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers that Global X Management Company LLC (the "Adviser") believes are positioned to benefit from further advances in the fields of blockchain technology ("Blockchain Companies"), and in long positions on U.S. listed bitcoin futures ("Bitcoin Futures") contracts. Such Bitcoin Futures contracts will be standardized, cash-settled bitcoin futures contracts traded on commodity exchanges registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"). Currently, the only such contracts are traded on, or subject to the rules of, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange ("CME"). Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in Blockchain Companies and in long positions on U.S. listed Bitcoin Futures contracts. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 25% of its assets in Blockchain Companies and will have notional exposure to Bitcoin Futures equal to at least 20% of the total assets of the Fund. The Fund's 80% investment policy is non-fundamental and requires 60 days prior written notice to shareholders before it can be changed.

The Fund will invest substantially all of its assets in "long" positions on listed Bitcoin Futures contracts and in Blockchain Companies. To be "long" means to hold or be exposed to a security or instrument with the expectation that its value will increase over time. The Fund will benefit if it has a long position in a security or instrument that increases in value. The Fund seeks to gain exposure to Bitcoin Futures, in whole or in part, through investments in a subsidiary organized in the Cayman Islands, namely the Global X Bitcoin Strategy Subsidiary I (the "Global X Subsidiary"). The Global X Subsidiary is whollyowned and controlled by the Fund. The Fund's investment in the Global X Subsidiary may not exceed 25% of the Fund's total assets at each quarter-end of the Fund's fiscal year. The Fund's investment in the Global X Subsidiary is intended to provide the Fund with exposure to Bitcoin Futures while enabling the Fund to satisfy source-of-income requirements that apply to regulated investment companies ("RICs") under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Fund's



allocation determinations may be informed by a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to, liquidity, open interest/free float market capitalization, regulatory requirements, anticipated cost of carry, correlation to the price movements of bitcoin, other fundamental investment considerations and/or the then- current size of the Fund. For example, the Fund may allocate proportionally greater exposure to Bitcoin Futures during periods where the anticipated cost of carry for Bitcoin Futures is lower, as measured by the time-weighted difference between the trading price of Bitcoin Futures relative to the then-current price of bitcoin, and conversely may allocate proportionally greater exposure to Blockchain Companies during periods where valuation measures, including but not limited, to forward price-to-earnings or price-to-sales ratios within the Blockchain Companies universe present attractive relative value. Except as noted, references to the investment strategies and risks of the Fund include the investment strategies and risks of the Global X Subsidiary.

Bitcoin is a digital asset the ownership and behavior of which are determined by participants in an online, peer-to-peer network that connects computers that run publicly accessible, or "open source," software that follows an agreed upon set of rules and procedures. This network is referred to as the "Bitcoin network," and the rules and procedures governing the Bitcoin network are commonly referred to as the "Bitcoin protocol". The value of bitcoin, like the value of other digital assets, is not backed by any government, corporation or other identified body. Ownership and the ability to transfer or take other actions with respect to bitcoin is protected through the Bitcoin protocol, which allows bitcoin to be sent to a publicly available address that is generated from a private numerical key, but which prevents anyone other than the holder of such private numerical key from accessing the bitcoin associated with the publicly available address. The supply of bitcoin is constrained or formulated by its protocol instead of being explicitly delegated to an identified body (e.g., a central bank or corporate treasury) to control. Bitcoin and certain other types of digital assets are sometimes referred to as digital currencies or cryptocurrencies. No single entity owns or operates the Bitcoin network, the infrastructure of which is collectively maintained by (1) a decentralized group of participants who run computer software that results in the recording and validation of transactions (commonly referred to as "miners"), (2) developers who propose improvements to the Bitcoin protocol and the software that enforces the protocol and (3) users who choose what Bitcoin software to run. Bitcoin was released in 2009 and, as a result, there is little data on its long-term investment potential. Bitcoin is not backed by a government-issued legal tender. Bitcoin is "stored" or reflected on a blockchain. A blockchain is a distributed, digital ledger that records and stores transaction data of digital assets in units called "blocks". The Fund will not invest in bitcoin directly.

Blockchain Companies includes companies that derive or are expected to derive at least 50% of their revenues, operating income, or assets from the following business activities:

- 1. **Digital Asset Mining:** Companies involved in verifying and adding digital asset transactions to a blockchain ledger (e.g. digital asset mining), or that produce technology used in digital asset mining.
- 2. **Blockchain & Digital Asset Transactions:** Companies that operate trading platforms/exchanges, custodians, wallets, and/or payment gateways for digital assets.
- 3. **Blockchain Applications:** Companies involved in the development and distribution of applications and software services related to blockchain and digital asset technology, including smart contracts.
- 4. **Blockchain & Digital Asset Hardware:** Companies that manufacture and distribute infrastructure and/or hardware used in blockchain and digital asset activities.
- 5. **Blockchain & Digital Asset Integration:** Companies that provide engineering and consulting services for the adoption and utilization of blockchain and digital asset technology.

Blockchain Companies also include U.S.-listed operating companies that directly own a material amount of digital assets. The Fund may also gain exposure to Blockchain Companies indirectly through investing in underlying ETFs holding Blockchain Companies, including affiliated Global X ETFs.

The Fund may concentrate (i.e., hold 25% or more of its total assets) in investments that provide exposure to bitcoin and Bitcoin Futures. The Fund concentrates its investments (i.e., holds 25% or more of its total assets) in securities of Blockchain Companies.



The Fund is classified as "non-diversified," which means it may invest a larger percentage of its assets in a smaller number of issuers than a diversified fund.

For more information regarding each Fund's investment strategy, please read the Trust's prospectus for the Funds.

As described more fully in the Issuer's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, each Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks. Each Fund will issue or redeem shares that have been aggregated into blocks of shares and or multiples thereof ("Creation Units") to authorized participants who have entered into agreements with the Funds' distributor. The Funds generally will issue or redeem Creation Units in return for a designated portfolio of securities (and an amount of cash) that the Funds specify each day.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV of the Fund is generally determined as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. The NAV of the Fund is calculated by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of outstanding shares of the Fund, generally rounded to the nearest cent.

The registration statement for the Funds describes the various fees and expenses for the Funds' Shares. For a more complete description of the Funds visit the Issuer Website.

## Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size

IEX Members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Units are described in the Trust's Prospectus and SAI and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations or multiples thereof.

#### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These may include, but are not limited to active management risk, asset class risk, Bitcoin futures risk, China A-Shares risk, derivatives risk, equity securities risk, futures risk, associated risks related to investing in blockchain companies, Bitcoin risk, capitalization risk, concentration risk, cryptocurrency risk, cryptocurrency tax risk, currency risk, custody risk, foreign securities risk, fork and air drop risk, geographic risk, issuer risk, market risk, new fund risk, non- diversification risk, operational risk, risks associated with exchange-traded funds, tax risk, trading halt risk and valuation risk.

In addition, the market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. As a result, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV. The NAV of the Shares of the Fund will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings.

## **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on IEX is subject to IEX trading rules.

# **Trading Hours**

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during the Regular Trading Session.



The Shares will trade on IEX between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions ("Extended Market Sessions") may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

#### **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Exchange Members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The Prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Funds Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its Registration Statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, Exchange Rules require that Exchange Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, Exchange Members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by an IEX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of [the UTP Derivative Securities] has been prepared by the [open-ended management investment company name] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [the UTP Derivative Securities]."

An Exchange member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to such Exchange member under this rule. Upon request of a customer, Exchange Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

#### Suitability

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of IEX Rule 3.170 and other applicable suitability rules. Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

## **Trading Halts**

The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with the Exchange's Rules. The grounds for a halt include a halt because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, a halt for other regulatory reasons or due to other conditions or circumstances deemed to be detrimental to the maintenance of a free and orderly market.

#### Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange- traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.



AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO-ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

## **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such Shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds' securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

## Rule 10b-10 (Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares)

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of Shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of Shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemption is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c); and
- 3) Except for the identity, number, and price of Shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

#### Section 11(d)(1); Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of a Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is



subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the Fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of a Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of a Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

#### Rule 14e-5

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchase; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

## SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. Members should consult the Prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please contact IEX Regulation at 646-343-2000 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.