**Exhibit 1**

**IPOPIF Emerging Markets Debt Investment Management RFP Questionnaire**

**A. Organization**

1. Provide a brief history of your firm including the year of organization.
2. Describe the ownership structure of the firm, including affiliations, subsidiaries, and employee ownership.
3. Describe any ownership structure changes in the past five years or any impending or planned changes.
4. Has your firm terminated, divested, or otherwise ceased to offer any strategy or product within the past ten years? If so, please explain.
5. Is the firm an Emerging-, MWDBE-, SDVOSB-, or VOSB-owned firm as defined in the RFP? If so, please describe and provide supporting information including relevant certifications.
6. Please provide an explanation of any policies/procedures/mechanisms designed to align your interests with those of your clients.

**B. Professional Staff**

1. Describe the organizational structure of the team(s) that is responsible for the proposed strategy, including but not limited to: research, trading, and operations. Please identify the geographical locations of the team(s) and descriptions of their role.
2. Please provide biographies for key personnel on the strategy
3. List the turnover of investment professionals associated with the proposed strategy within the last 5 years.
4. Describe the client service organization, including the people who will service IPOPIF.

**C. Investment Strategy & Process**

1. Please provide your standard marketing deck for this strategy.
2. Please describe the proposed strategy and identify the preferred benchmark.
3. Please describe your investment philosophy and portfolio construction process for the proposed strategy and any previous/planned changes.
4. Please describe the risk/return objectives of the strategy over a full market cycle.
5. Please describe risk control processes and systems. Please highlight sell discipline and specific controls surrounding country allocation risks, currency risks, etc.
6. Please provide guidelines and details of your exposure to off-benchmark securities such as high yield, , private debt, developed markets, frontier markets, etc.
7. Please describe your default and workout experience, processes, and the responsibilities of the PMs, research analysts, and other individuals/groups involved.
8. Please disclose and explain any portfolio biases such as sector, quality, currency, yield, etc.?
9. Does your strategy hedge currencies? If so, to what degree? Please describe your currency hedging philosophy and process.
10. Please provide examples of successes that best highlight your investment style as well as failures that have detracted relative to your stated benchmark: i.e. over exposure to a sector, successful rotation out of a country, accurate currency forecast, etc.
11. What do you believe are differentiating features of your proposed strategy? What elements do you believe contribute most heavily to your investment success?
12. Please provide performance attribution for the last four quarters (individually) and the trailing 3-, 5-, and 10 and calendar years (individually) by country, sector and currency
13. Using the template below, please provide asset flows for the past 5 years and provide an explanation for each institutional EMD account lost.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Flows | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | YTD 2024 |
| Firm AUM | Inflow  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outflow |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strategy AUM | Inflow |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outflow |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vehicle AUM | Inflow |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outflow |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**D. Trading & Operations**

1. Please describe your trading team, systems, and processes that support the proposed strategy.
2. Do you utilize minority-owned brokerage firms? Please provide an estimate of % at the strategy level (Par Value Traded) and at the firm level. Please provide your process and efforts in increasing utilization of minority owned brokerage firms.
3. Please describe the structure and role of the operations team that supports the proposed strategy.

**F. Additional Information Not Included in eVestment**

1. Please see the attached Exhibit 6 – Additional Information Not Available in eVestment.

**G. Compliance**

1. Is the Candidate compliant with GIPS® Standards? Has the Candidate contracted with an outside firm to conduct a GIPS® verification? If so, please indicate the last verification year and the name of the outside firm.
2. When was the Candidate's last audit by the SEC, DOL, or any other regulatory agency? Please include the month and year.
3. Please explain all findings on the firm's most recent SEC audit, including minor deficiencies. Please attach a copy of the SEC Review findings and firm responses.
4. What are the Candidate's Errors & Omissions (E&O) Insurance, fidelity bond, and Cyber Liability Insurance policy limits in millions?
5. Does the Candidate have a compliance officer? Is compliance the primary role of the person? To whom does the compliance officer report?
6. Please summarize compliance systems and processes.
7. Disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from the firm’s engagement by IPOPIF, including the activities of any affiliated companies.
8. Has the Candidate or any of its affiliates been the subject of a lawsuit, regulatory investigation, or proceeding within the last five years? If yes, please provide complete details and relevant factors. If still open and active, please include any anticipated disposition information.
9. Has any member of the senior management team been charged with or convicted of a felony crime, including but not limited to fraud, by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or any other criminal or regulatory agency?
10. Has the Candidate or any of its affiliates ever filed for any form of bankruptcy protection? Does the Candidate or any affiliate expect to file for any form of bankruptcy protection during the next 12 months? Please provide details for any such filings.
11. Has the Candidate or any of its affiliates been involved in any labor action or labor dispute within the last five years? If yes, please provide details and relevant factors. If still open and active, please include any anticipated disposition information.

**H. Cybersecurity**

1. Describe the Candidate’s security environment. Specifically, cover the physical, digital security, and policy measure safeguards in place to control access to portfolio reporting systems and client account information and to secure email, web communications, and mobile devices such as phones, tablets, and laptops. Is your database encrypted?
2. Do the Candidate’s information technology systems meet or exceed industry best practices related to cyber-security, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Cybersecurity Program Best Practices and the requirements of the State of Illinois Cybersecurity Strategy and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework? If not, explain the details of how your firm is not compliant.
3. Has the Candidate had its security assessed by a third party? If so, when was this last completed and what was the result? If not, will you agree to conduct annual audits?
4. Has the Candidate ever experienced a data security breach? If so, describe the incident and the corrective actions.
5. Describe the Candidate’s disaster recovery and business continuity plans.
6. Provide the most recent date and the numbers of times the Candidate has practiced and tested disaster recovery procedures in the past five (5) years, and the results of those exercises.
7. Describe the Candidate’s back-up capabilities and/or offsite location, in the event the primary office location was inaccessible. Are data back-ups encrypted?
8. What are your procedures for data destruction prior to hardware and media disposal?

**J. Supplemental Information**

1. ADV Parts 1, 2A and 2B, if applicable
2. Firm’s most recent SOC 1 or SOC 2 audit report
3. Disaster Recovery Policy and Business Resumption Plan
4. Code of Ethics
5. Valuation Policies
6. Proof of E&O, fidelity bond, and cyber liability Insurance Coverage

**K. References**

1. Please provide the following information for three referenceable current clients and one former client. Public defined benefit plans are preferred.
* Name of institution
* Name, title, phone # and e-mail address for contact person
* Strategy used and inception/termination dates