NIRI Virtual Chapter
ESG 101 for IROs; Getting Out of the Starting Gate
April 21, 2020
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET

Speaker Biographies

Moderator



Sandy Harrison

Senior Director, Investor Relations, Semtech Corporation

William "Sandy" Harrison is Sr. Director, Investor Relations, for Semtech Corporation, a leading supplier of innovative platform solutions and advanced algorithms for the high-end consumer, enterprise computing, communications, and industrial end markets. He is a former award-winning Wall Street analyst with 28 years of technology industry experience as a results-based Business Finance, Investor Relations and Marcom executive for fast-paced, growth-oriented companies.

Panelists



Fred Isleib, CFA

Director, ESG Research and Integration, Manulife Investment Management

Frederick W. Isleib III, CFA, is Director, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Research and Integration at Manulife Investment Management. He collaborates directly with US-based portfolio managers and investment analysts responsible for some of the firm's largest equities and fixed income strategies (by AUM) to integrate ESG risks and opportunities into the investment decision-making and risk monitoring process. In his role, Fred leads ESG engagements with high profile Fortune 500 companies, as well as the broader US investment universe, to foster improved ESG management standards among some of the firm's most significant holdings. He is also responsible for the generation of the thematic and top down research related to emerging ESG investment issues.

Prior to joining Manulife in 2015, Frederick was director of research of clean energy markets at Nexant Inc., where he focused on the US renewable energy markets and the development of distributed energy generation.

Previously, Frederick spent 17 years at Putnam Investments, including seven years as a global fundamental equity research analyst following the financials, technology and industrials sectors. He is a CFA charterholder and a member of the CFA Society Boston. He earned a BS in Accounting, 1993, from Bentley University, and an MBA, 2001, from Babson College.



Mike Wallace

Partner, BrownFlynn

As an ERM Partner, Mike is responsible for expanding ERM's strategic market engagement, developing strategic partnerships, providing innovative corporate sustainability solutions and helping shape the strategic direction of the Firm.

Mike is internationally recognized in the field for his expertise in ESG Ratings & Rankings. This experience began in 2003/2004 when he facilitated his first corporate working group on the topic of survey fatigue for BSR. Mike went on the help create the Global Initiative for Sustainability Ratings (GISR) in 2005, as well as chair ESG Ratings & Rankings working groups for the Corporate Responsibility Association (CRA) (2014-2016) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (2016-2018). He also helped create and co-chair the Committee on Supplier Ratings (COSR) (2015) with Microsoft, which helps companies leverage the ESG Ratings & Rankings field to assess and manage large supply chains. Prior to ERM, Mike was a Director at the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and was responsible for re-establishing GRI in North America (2009-2014). GRI reporting grew from 20% of the S&P500 to over 70%, during Mike's tenure.

Mike has given expert testimony to the European Commission, U.S. Securities Exchange Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the General Services Administration, and has presented on the topic of ESG at an array of executive level conferences and meetings, including the Business Roundtable, the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), the Society for Corporate Governance and the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI), as well as at the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq, the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

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Dennis Walsh

Senior Director, Investor Relations, Postmates, Inc.

Dennis Walsh is Senior Director, Head of Investor Relations at Postmates, Inc. Prior to Postmates, he was Director, Investor Relations at Zillow Group, Inc. from 2016 to 2019. Before joining Zillow Group, Dennis was Vice President, IR Advisory at Citi, where he was an investor relations consultant for international issuers with a Depositary Receipt program. From 2005 until 2015, Dennis was at Sharon Merrill Associates, a strategic communications consulting firm, where he served in roles of increasing responsibility, most recently Vice President, counseling clients on a broad array of investor relations issues. Dennis began his career as a First Call Analyst at Thomson Financial.

Dennis is an active member of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI). He was on the organization's Annual Conference Committee in 2015 and 2016, and was a Co-Chair for the 2017 event. Dennis also was a director on the Boston Chapter's Board for three years.

In 2019, Dennis was named to NIRI's inaugural 40 Under 40 program, which recognizes young professionals who have made noticeable contributions to their companies, their NIRI chapters, and the overall IR profession. In 2013, he received NIRI National's Individual Chapter Leadership Award. In 2006, Dennis was the recipient of the R. Scott Higgins Memorial Scholarship, presented by the NIRI Boston chapter. He earned a B.A. degree in Economics from Saint Anselm College.



Beth Wyke

North American Business Lead for Corporate Assurance, ERM CVS (Certification and Verification Services)

Beth Wyke has been helping clients navigate sustainability issues for 23 years as an ERM CVS consultant and now a corporate assurance provider for ERM CVS. Bolstered by technical expertise, Beth helps businesses realize the value in transparently disclosing their sustainability metrics, goal progression, and strategy to multiple stakeholders through third party assurance.