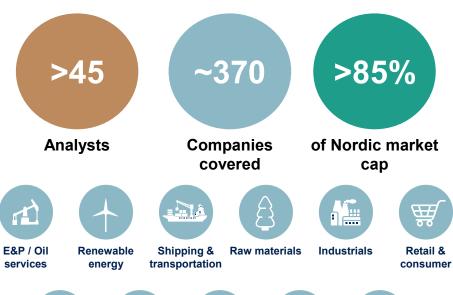
# **ABG Sundal Collier research coverage**

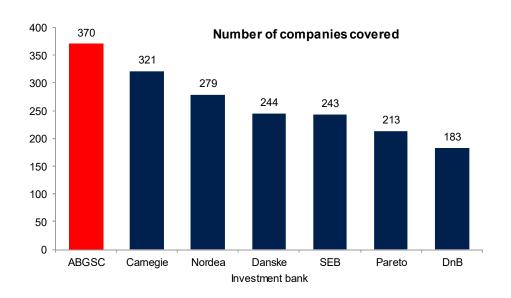
### 45 analysts covering ~370 Nordic companies

Research coverage of 370 companies listed on the Nordic exchanges (~85% of total market cap)



### Broader coverage than any other

Research coverage of 370 companies listed on the Nordic exchanges (~85% of total market cap)













Strategy

Thematic

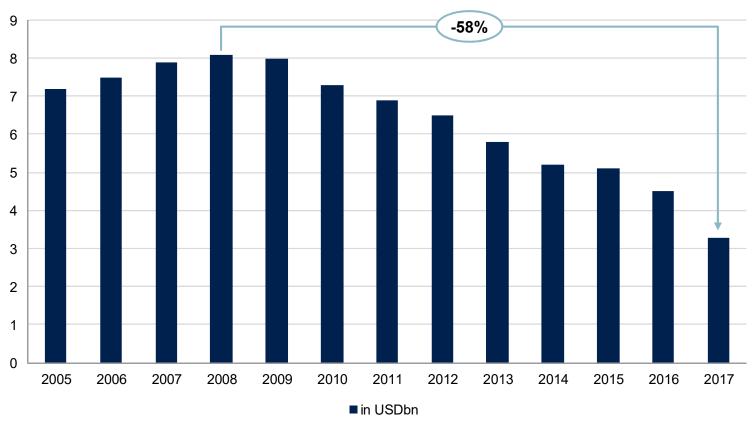
Quant



# The big picture on research spending - a structural trend

### Research budgets







# The buy side is undergoing massive change

#### Revenue pressure due to increased competition

E.g. passive funds (index funds, ETFs have taken 70-110% of net inflows last 10 years!)

Asset management

### First negative-fee investment fund highlights battle for clients' money

#### OWEN WALKER

The US markets regulator has backed a fund that pays customers to invest in it, highlighting a ferocious war for clients being waged among asset managers.

The arrival of so-called "negative fees" is a sign of the difficulties for new players trying to break into a market that is dominated by a handful of large index fund managers that have the economies of scale to offer ever-cheaper funds.

Salt Financial, a New York boutique manager, has introduced a new charging structure for its recently launched Salt Low truBeta US Market exchange-traded fund, after receiving approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission late last week. The structure applies a 34 basis-point fee waiver to the fund's 29 bps management charge.

This means the fund will have a negative fee of 5 bps, meaning customers will receive \$5 for every \$10,000 they invest.

The structure will be in place until the fund reaches \$100m of assets — seen as a crucial size for a new ETF to reach. The offer will run until the end of next May.

Last week, before the company had received a nod from the regulator, Salt's president and chief operating officer Alfred Eskandar said the company had devised the fee structure after struggling to attract assets to its first ETF, which it launched last year.

"David needed a slingshot to take down Goliath — we need a negative-fee model to force our way into this anticompetitive market," he said.

Asset managers gave up more than \$3.5bn in income through fee cuts last year — and nearly \$16bn since 2014 —

'David needed a slingshot to take down Goliath – we need a negative-fee model to force our way in'

according to Flowspring, a fund management research company. It found that products with expense ratios below 5 bps grew 20 times faster than those above 20bp over the past five years.

Fund giants including BlackRock, Vanguard, JPMorgan Asset Management, Fidelity Investments and Charles Schwab have been especially aggressive fee-slashers. The race to the bottom appeared to reach its natural conclusion last year when Fidelity Investments, the \$2.4tn US asset manager, offered the first free mutual funds.

This was seen as a watershed and sparked share price falls at several of its biggest listed competitors, including BlackRock, Franklin Templeton and Invesco.

But industry commentators do not expect the large investment groups that have spearheaded the cut-throat price war to offer negative fees, despite the high levels of income they can generate through securities lending, which allows them to keep charges low.

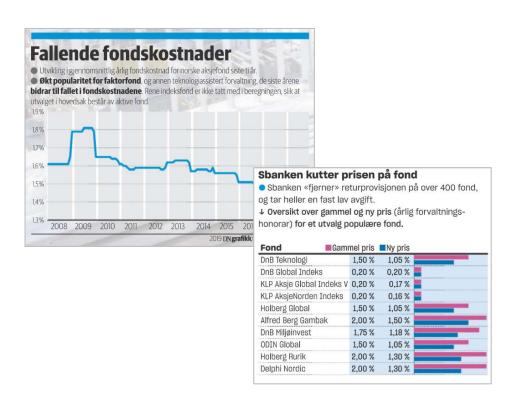
Mr Eskandar conceded that Salt Financial's negative-fee model was designed to generate interest in a new product.

He said \$100m was an arbitrary threshold used for inclusion on brokerage and advisory platforms.

"New ETF issuers have two choices they can do their best to survive for the six years it takes on average to get to \$100m, or they can do something more drastic that gets them there quicker," he added.

### Cost pressure due to increased back office requirements

E.g. increased compliance requirements, technology costs, cyber security, MiFIDII





## **Consequences of the trends**

# For institutional investors

- Size becoming even more important
- There will be fewer, but bigger institutional investors

# When institutional investors invest

- Market cap becoming more important
- Liquidity becoming more important

### For listed companies

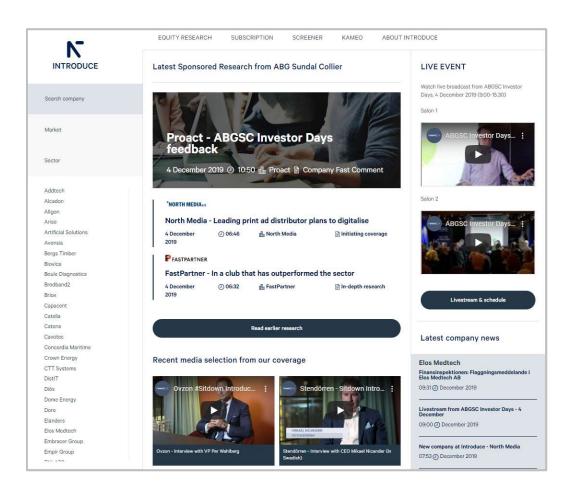
- Poorer research coverage
- Getting attention will become more difficult

# For sell side (investment banks) investors

- "The winner takes it all society"
- There will be fewer Nordic investment banks 2-4 will dominate
- Fewer broker houses and fewer analysts



# Introduce.se/no: An open platform where the main product is our ABGSC Sponsored Research



ABGSC Investor Days 4-5 December 2019 Stockholm, 450 investors



# ABGSC's approach to company-sponsored research

1

 ABGSC believes that research coverage increases transparency and should thereby support investor interest and valuation

4

 ABGSC offers, via its Introduce platform, independent research coverage in combination with other investor relations services

2

 There are a large number of Nordic small- and mid-cap companies currently lacking or having insufficient research coverage, and investors are not willing to compensate the cost related to providing such coverage

5

 We make it clear to our investor clients that the sponsored research product differs from our traditional independent research service. We do not include BUY/SELL recommendations on our sponsored research, but we provide estimates and indicate a fair long-term value

K

 The recently implemented MiFID II regulations have put significant constraints on the distribution of research to institutional investors in general, and accelerated the reduction of research providers and research capacity

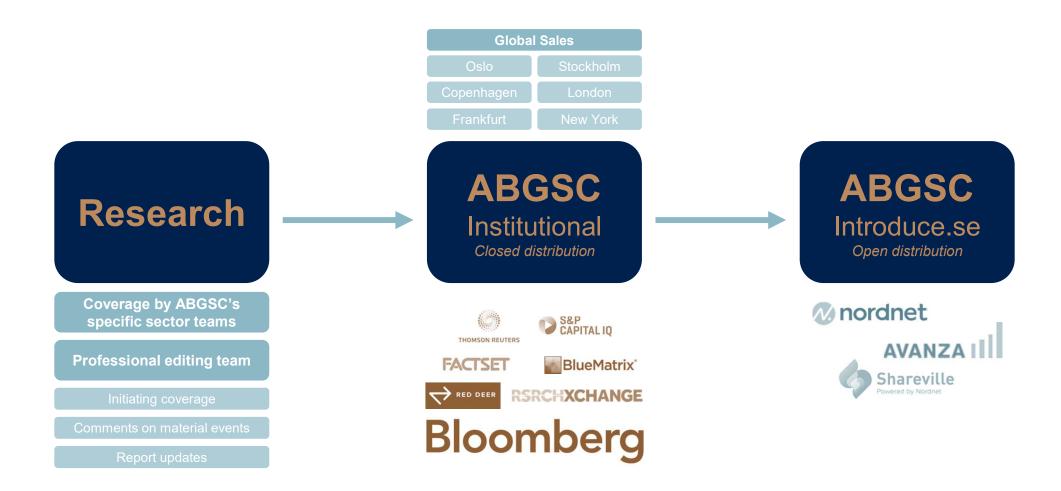


 Subscribing to corporate sponsored research is not the same as buying a perpetually positive view on estimates and valuation – we strongly believe in maintaining our independence and integrity in order to provide a credible and relevant product to the benefit of all parties



### Research for both institutions and retail investors

Full distribution capacity, both local and global





# **Appendix**



## **ABGSC Investor Days 4-5 December 2019**

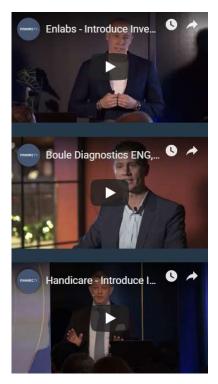
450 attendees @ Haymarket by Scandic, Stockholm (retail investors & institutional clients)



### Livestreamed, distributed & uploaded @ Introduce.se



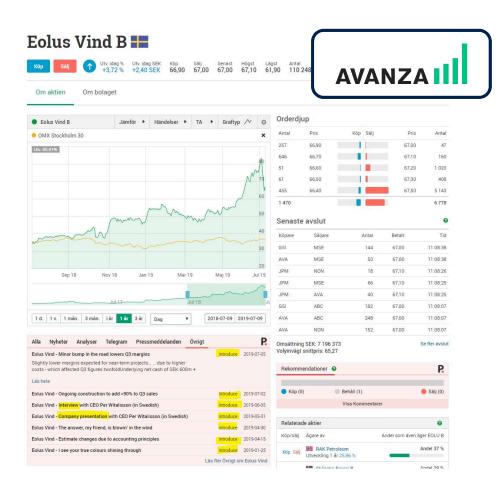


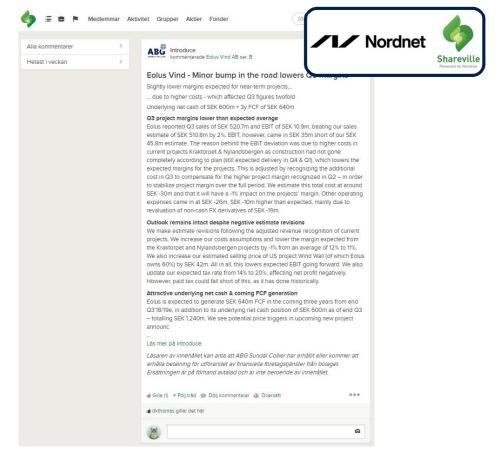




### Powerful Feeds to Both Avanza & Nordnet

### #1 Nordic Retail Platforms







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