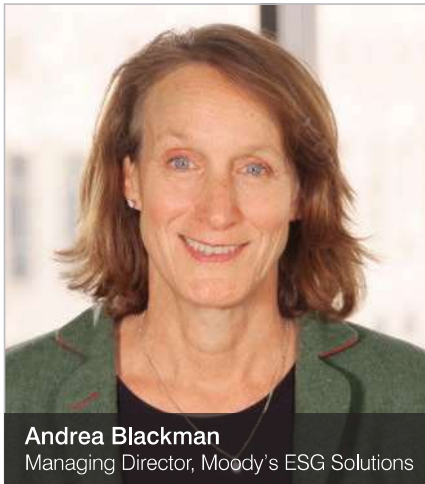


USING EXPERTISE TO HELP WEALTH MANAGERS DRIVE CHANGE

Tom Burroughes, *WealthBriefing* Group Editor, talks to **Andrea Blackman**, Managing Director at **Moody's ESG Solutions** about the integrated risk assessment firm's work.



Andrea Blackman
Managing Director, Moody's ESG Solutions

As a global risk assessment firm with over three decades of ESG expertise, Moody's is committed to helping market participants advance strategic resilience, responsible capitalism, and the greening of the economy.

We are actively engaged in supporting wealth and asset managers worldwide, leveraging our financial sector expertise to process complex datasets into decision-useful, science-based information that clients can use to manage risk and make more sustainable decisions.

How does Moody's advance causes such as ESG and sustainability, and what sets it apart?

What truly sets us apart is our double materiality approach to ESG analysis. By diving into the depths of critical sustainability issues and themes, we champion a domain-defining, rigorous and consistent approach to ESG analysis that goes well beyond financial factors to consider a company's impact on multiple stakeholders.

Describe the challenges you needed to surmount to reach your standard?

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of every economy.

However, lower levels of SME reporting can create challenges for banks and large companies. Due to increasing regulatory and market pressure, the need for greater coverage of ESG assessments as part of the due diligence process is critical when making investment and supplier decisions.

To address the challenge, we developed the ESG Score Predictor – a first-of-its-kind, cutting-edge risk management tool. This allows us to provide predicted scores for more than 300 million companies worldwide.

What steps are you taking to stay ahead of the competition in this region?

Moody's settles for nothing less than comprehensive coverage of companies, industries, and ESG themes. Built with consistent, domain-defining methodologies, our insights provide a comprehensive perspective on ESG and Climate.

What kind of challenges around ESG topics are you most focused on and why?

A key focus for us is to ensure that ESG data is easily accessible, transparent, and easy to understand and translate into action. This is what we're seeking to do, with the launch of Moody's ESG360™ – a new platform that delivers decision-relevant ESG data and insights to portfolio managers.

Designed following extensive customer research, the platform, launched in April, enables customers to access the intelligence they need with only a few clicks – presented in ways that are adapted to the ESG factors critical for their decision making.

Looking ahead, where do you see the trend of such investment ideas going over the next 5 to 10 years?

The coronavirus pandemic has elevated the "S" in ESG into the spotlight, but we are proud to say that the

deep-dive consideration of social risk and stakeholder impact has always been at the heart of our offering – which spans over 30 years thanks to our legacy companies.

Our ESG Assessments capture a wider range of factors than those of our peers. This is because our double materiality approach considers the risk ESG factors post to companies, as well as the impacts – positive and negative – companies activities have on stakeholders, including customers, employees, local communities, and the environment itself.

How do you hope receiving this award will affect your business and the views of prospective clients?

It's always an honor to be recognized for the work we do. Many prospective clients will already know the Moody's name from our longstanding record in credit and risk assessments but may not be as aware of the extensive (and growing) expertise we have across the ESG domain.

By receiving this recognition, we hope to support more customers in considering the ESG risks and opportunities facing their business and, in turn, empower them to make better, more sustainable decisions. ■

