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**News Release**  
**NEW MD FOR PLEXUS**

Niche investment house Plexus has announced the appointment of Paul Stewart as the group's new managing director.

Stewart takes over the reigns from Dr Prieur du Plessis, who now holds the position of executive chairman. His appointment allows Du Plessis to concentrate on strategic issues and broader business development, providing an opportunity for the Plexus Group to make the desired leap from nationally to globally competitive financial services provider.

Stewart, who will focus on the day-to-day operational issues of the group, has 14 years' experience in the investment industry. He joined the Plexus Group in 2005 as deputy managing director. Previously he was managing director of m Cubed Unit Trust Management Company, and a fund manager at Old Mutual Asset Managers prior to that.

"The business has grown significantly during the past three years as a result of Du Plessis and the team's leadership, effort and energy, as well as good market conditions," says Stewart. "My challenge is to consolidate the platform for future expansion and keep Plexus on a growth path in spite of potentially more challenging economic conditions."

Since Stewart joined Plexus in March 2005, the assets under management/advice have more than doubled to R13 billion today. During this period the company also achieved a number of enviable milestones, including the launch of the PlexCrown Fund Ratings (used as the basis for the annual *Raging Bull Awards* for the unit trust industry), a partnership with world-renowned hedge fund guru John Mauldin and his London-based partner Niels Jensen of Absolute Return Partners LLP, as well as a coup in the form of a licensing agreement to distribute enhanced fundamental index<sup>®</sup> products developed by California-based Research Affiliates in the Pan-Africa region.

Stewart adds, "We have a wonderful group of people working at Plexus on whom we can count to deliver excellent work, so I am very excited about tackling whatever ups and downs may lie ahead."

Desmond Smith, previously managing director of Sanlam and chairman of the Plexus Group, is now a director of Plexus. Smith also serves as chairman of Santam and the Life Offices' Association (LOA), and is a director of Reinsurance Group of America and Clover.

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**About Plexus Group**

Founded in 1995, the Plexus Group of companies is an independent investment house that specialises in investment consulting and the management of multi-manager investment solutions for both corporate and individual clients. Plexus has distinguished itself as a pioneer in the multi-manager industry and boasts a number of research firsts, such as the PlexCrown Fund Ratings (used as the basis for the annual *Raging Bull Awards* for the unit trust industry) and the Plexus Unit Trust Indices.

Its main subsidiaries are:

- Plexus Asset Management and Plexus Global Asset Management (domestic investment management services)
- Plexus Global Asset Management (international investment management services)
- Plexus Investment Consulting and Plexus Fund Solutions (investment consulting services)
- Plexus Fundamental Funds (fundamental indexing)
- Plexus Mauldin Alternative Investments (hedge funds)

For more information, visit [www.plexus.co.za](http://www.plexus.co.za).