



## **PRESS RELEASE**

22 October 2018

### **CANOPIUS APPOINTMENTS TO DRIVE ASIAPAC EXPANSION**

Canopus today announces the latest in a series of key appointments that support its continued expansion across the Asia Pacific region, building on the solid base already achieved over the 10 years since its Singapore office opened.

Canopus's regional proposition has been strengthened with the appointments of Mathew Gundersen as Head of Operations AsiaPac & MENA and Paul Hackett as Head of Marine, Energy and Engineering, AsiaPac & MENA. In addition, Dale Taylor will join as Property Underwriting Leader in December with Matt Bird joining in January as Crisis Management Underwriter for the region. All will be based in the Singapore office.

These announcements follow the September arrival of Yann Marmonier as Head of Insurance Asia Pacific & MENA and the recently announced appointment of Nattakorn ('Natt') Wattanaumphaipong as Head of Reinsurance Asia Pacific.

Mark Newman said: "As we build on the very sound base we have already achieved, we are strengthening our regional infrastructure in keeping with our underwriting expansion and ambitions. It is exciting to see that our growth plans and entrepreneurial spirit are attracting high-calibre talent. Our new colleagues share our desire to focus on professional specialty underwriting that supports our clients, providing an enhanced proposition that will make the most of the many opportunities that exist in Asia Pacific."

– Ends –

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## **Biographies:**

### *Matt Bird, Crisis Management Underwriter, AsiaPac*

Matt Bird began his insurance career with Equitas as a reinsurance integration technician. He moved into broking with roles at Miller and Marsh working on specie, various special risks and terrorism before joining JLT in July 2014. There he was Head of the Security Team, with responsibility for K&R, political violence and terrorism insurance. In 2009, Matt joined QBE as a Political Risk and Terrorism Underwriter within the marine, energy and aviation division. In 2013 he moved to Singapore with QBE as a senior underwriter, starting and developing a successful terrorism and political violence book focusing on Asia.

### *Mathew Gundersen, Head of Operations Asia Pacific & MENA*

Mathew has a wide range of experience in leading people and business operations through change and building teams across regions and time zones. He has worked across Asia Pacific in roles including consumer and personal finance at Kiwibank, New Zealand. In 2009 he moved to Singapore to join Aviva, before taking on the role of Senior Operations Manager at Catlin Singapore in 2011. From 2014 Mathew was XL Catlin Operations Lead Asia Pacific and Head Shared Services, with responsibility for 200 staff in Kuala Lumpur. Mathew was Head of Operations AME at Berkshire Hathaway in Singapore for two years before joining Canopus Singapore.

### *Paul Hackett, Head of Marine, Energy and Engineering, AsiaPac & MENA*

Paul Hackett worked in various UK and European marine roles at Royal & Sun Alliance in the UK and London before moving to Singapore as Marine Manager, Asia & Middle East in 2006. Paul returned to London in 2011 for 18 months with RSA before joining Catlin in Singapore, spending three years as Head of Marine AsiaPac and Middle East. In 2016 he became a Director and Head of Marine at Aspen Singapore, responsible for hull, cargo, liabilities and FAS. Paul is well known and respected across the Asian and Middle Eastern markets, he is a member of the General Insurance Association Singapore Marine Committee and an IUMI Facts and Figures Committee member. He joined Canopus Singapore in 2018.

### *Yann Marmonier, Head of Insurance Asia Pacific & MENA*

Yann Marmonier began his career in the energy business before joining Axa Re in 2005 as Offshore and Marine Underwriter. In 2007 he moved to Catlin Singapore where he worked as Energy Underwriter and then Principal Officer. Yann was Country Head at XL Catlin Singapore and then Managing Director at Aspen Singapore for two years. Yann holds degrees in industrial and petroleum engineering, as well as an MBA from INSEAD. He joined Canopus in autumn 2018.

### *Dale Taylor, Property Underwriter, Singapore*

Dale Taylor joined Tokio Marine Kiln in 2010 on their graduate training programme. He spent three years rotating across all areas of the business, before moving to specialise in property underwriting in 2013 to write direct, facultative and delegated authority business within the international team. In 2015 he moved to Singapore with TMK, tasked with achieving profitable growth for the existing property portfolio in the region. Dale has a degree from the University of Durham.

### *Nattakorn "Natt" Wattanaumphaipong, Head of Reinsurance Asia Pac*

Natt has a broad commercial experience across varied reinsurance lines. He began his insurance career at Swiss Re, before becoming the co-founder and director of a start-up company in Sydney, and then negotiating a successful sale of that business. He spent the following eight years at roles across Swiss Re, initially as senior property underwriter, then Head of Agricultural Reinsurance APAC (excl. Indian subcontinent), and finally Head of P&C China. He has worked in Sydney and Beijing and is now based in Singapore.



### **About Canopus AG (“Canopus”)**

Canopus is a global specialty (re)insurer with underwriting operations in the UK, Netherlands, Switzerland, Bermuda, US and Singapore. It underwrites through Lloyd’s Syndicate 4444 (managed by Canopus Managing Agents Limited) and a US surplus lines insurer, Canopus US Insurance, Inc. The group offers the following specialist lines:

#### **Property**

- Direct and facultative commercial property
- North American excess and surplus lines binding authorities, including commercial property, SME commercial package, casualty, homeowners, auto

#### **Marine, Energy & Engineering**

- Marine insurance, including cargo, liability, property, specie, niche hull and space
- Energy insurance, including property, liability, OEE/COW, construction, renewable
- Construction and engineering
- Heavy Industry

#### **Specialty**

- Credit & political risk, including contract frustration and excess of loss trade credit insurance
- Crisis management (war on land, sabotage and terrorism, kidnap and ransom)
- US management and professional lines
- International accident & health
- International medical expenses

#### **UK Specialty**

- Household and specialist property / niche personal lines
- Commercial combined for the SME sector
- Specialist Consumer Products including warranty, creditor, mortgage indemnity and accident & health

#### **Reinsurance**

- Property treaty
- Casualty treaty
- Marine treaty
- Agriculture treaty
- Structured

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