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INTERVIEW: AIM Mulls New Indexes - AIM Chief

LONDON (Dow Jones)--London's junior Alternative Investment Market is considering launching new indexes as part of a range of measures designed to enhance the level of share trading on the exchange, Head of AIM Marcus Stuttard told Dow Jones Newswires.

Stuttard said AIM is considering indexes for different sectors or with a specific investment theme, like low carbon. No new index launch is imminent, however, he said in an interview conducted last week.

Other initiatives to improve liquidity include broadening research of small companies through the stock exchange's PSQ Analytics service, and trimming costs for trading AIM stocks.

Stuttard and his team have also been touring the U.K.'s regions to meet stockbrokers and companies to emphasize the benefits of the public markets for funding growing companies.

Public markets like AIM currently offer one of the few places for small companies to raise money, he said. Venture capital has diminished as managers focus on existing companies in their portfolios, while debt markets are still largely closed, especially to small firms with little or no revenue, Stuttard said.

Although initial public offerings have slowed on AIM and on other markets across the world, London's junior market has remained a source of capital. For the eight months to the end of August of 2009, AIM companies raised GBP2.7 billion, according to stock exchange figures.

Company Web site: www.londonstockexchange.com/companies-and-advisors/aim/aim/aim.htm

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