



★ **Best Active Manager Award**  
 ★ **Best ETF Manager Global**  
**BlackRock**

**“These strategies exemplify the efficacy of this systematic investment approach.”**

### Best Active Manager Award

BlackRock's Systematic Active Equity (SAE) team is grounded on nearly four decades of practical experience in the application of advanced quantitative portfolio management techniques.

The combination of cutting-edge technology, scientific research and human insight has proved to be a highly effective means of delivering high risk-adjusted returns. Its proprietary technology and academic research enable the SAE to develop differentiated alpha ideas, amplifying human decision-making and helping to limit behavioral biases and cognitive errors.

SAE stands out in its ability to offer solutions to a broad range of investors across a wide risk spectrum, from low-risk long only strategies (ca. 1% target risk), Partial Long-Short strategies (ca. 3-5% target risk) to higher volatility, absolute return/hedge fund solutions (between 6-12% target risk).

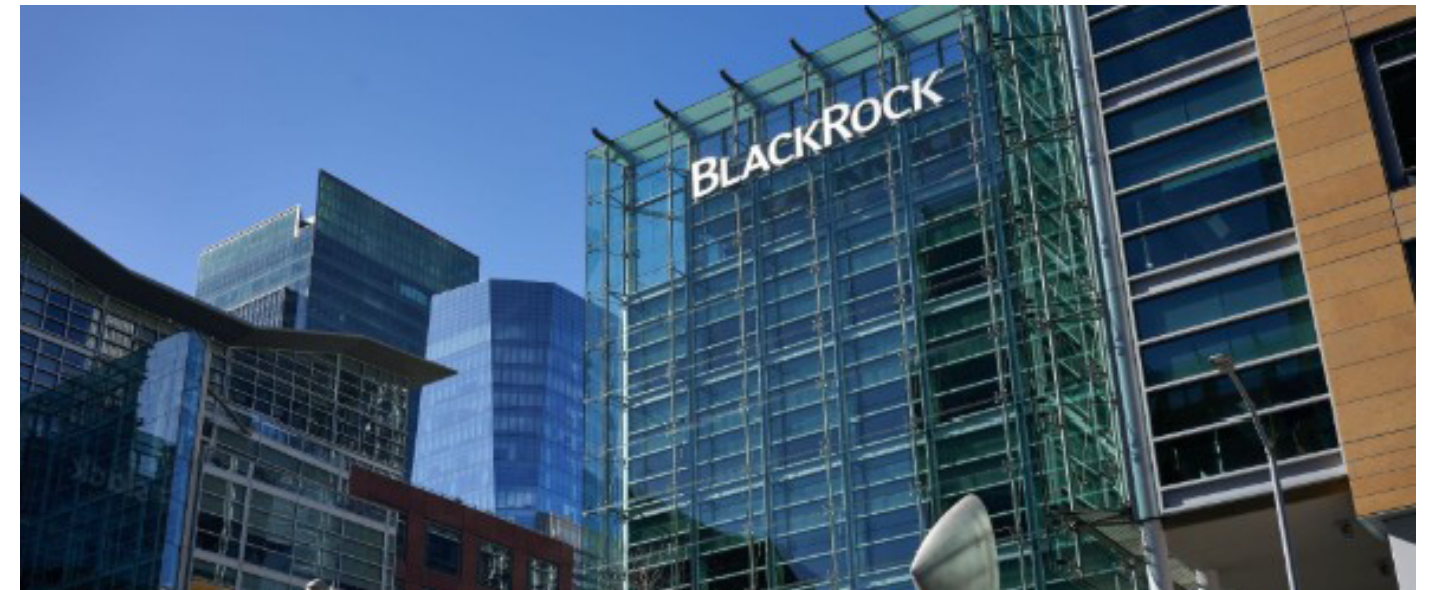
Utilising the latest developments in artificial intelligence, SAE leverages Natural Language Processing techniques and Large Language Models (LLMs) to analyse a variety of unstructured data sources, from geolocation data and social media traffic to broker reports and conference call transcripts, in order to capture unique investment opportunities.

BlackRock's SAE managed \$248 billion at the end December 2024 and has seen substantial growth across its low-risk, benchmark-aware strategies from institutional investors. These strategies exemplify the efficacy of the systematic investment approach, which analyses thousands of stocks in developed and emerging markets in order to capture a breadth of unique alpha opportunities while effectively managing tail-risk. For example, its emerging markets alpha tilts enhanced strategy has had only one negative calendar year since inception.

At a time of unprecedented market environments and a general struggle across traditional asset classes, BlackRock's absolute return/market neutral strategies have delivered strong, consistent performance, regardless of market direction or style leadership.

For example, the Systematic Total Alpha Fund is a global, multi-asset, multi-strategy fund (Cayman-domiciled) that takes 8-10% risk and seeks idiosyncratic alpha across asset classes, geographies and investment horizons. The fund has delivered a Sharpe ratio of 1.0 and 1.7 over 1Y and since inception.

Another example is the Systematic Asia Pacific Equity Absolute Return Fund, a Pan-Asian market neutral equity strategy taking 6-8% risk to deliver uncorrelated returns to overall markets, style factors and other managers. The fund has delivered alpha of 24.1% and 8.7% over the 1Y and SI periods respectively, bringing its Sharpe ratio to 4.6 and 0.9 (all as of end Feb 2025).



**“The Bitcoin Trust ETF surpassed \$50 billion in assets under management in less than 8 months.”**

### Best ETF Manager - Global

With a range of more than 1,500 ETFs that cater to various investment needs, and a presence in multiple markets around the world, BlackRock iShares' global ETF AUM stands at US\$4.4 billion across all asset classes, as of 31st January 2025.

The iShares UCITS ETF suite – utilised by investors in Asia – crossed the US\$1 trillion mark in February 2025. In 2024, iShares launched 181 ETFs worldwide, with 15 new ETF launches in the APAC region. A 22% increase in global AUM for the year was boosted by the popular Bitcoin ETF, IBIT, which launched in January 2024 and raised \$52 billion by year end.

Active ETFs are another high growth segment. Max buffer ETFs, launched in June 2024 – think structured products in an ETF wrapper – are designed to mitigate risk in volatile markets by providing up to 100% downside protection, while allowing participation in market returns up to a cap.

In fixed income, BlackRock's flagship active ETF, the iShares Flexible Income Active ETF, continued to amass assets. Launched in May 2023, the fund's AUM now stands at over \$8 billion, and has been the industry's fifth highest active ETF asset gatherer in 2025, with over US \$1 billion in inflows in the first two months of the year alone.

Further expansion of the fixed income range came with the iShares High Yield Active ETF, launched in June 2024. As an actively managed high yield solution, investors receive all the benefits of an ETF, while accessing an active strategy with the same investment objective as the BlackRock High Yield mutual fund.

In January 2024, iShares launched the Bitcoin Trust ETF (IBIT), which has achieved remarkable success. Surpassing \$50 billion in assets under management in less than 8 months, IBIT set a new record, growing more than five times faster than any other ETF in history.

Momentum among APAC investors has picked up, with \$440 million in AUM from clients in the region currently sitting in iBonds ETFs, including \$262 million in the UCITS iBonds range. Within APAC, we estimate insurers hold almost US\$250 million in iBonds ETFs, and we have seen increasing use cases from insurers, who have used iBonds for purposes ranging from asset-liability management to capital call management.

BlackRock is dedicated to accelerating ETF adoption globally and has intensified its collaboration with various stock exchanges to improve the local ETF trading environment.