

# INSURANCE ASIA NEWS

Institutional Asset Management Awards  
2026



## BlackRock

### Best ETF Manager – Global

# iShares®

by BlackRock

Unprecedented demand  
for its Bitcoin spot  
ETF has consolidated  
BlackRock's dominance  
in this space.

In early 2026, BlackRock's iShares platform remains one of the largest providers of exchange-traded funds globally, with assets under management of approximately US\$6 trillion as 31st May 2026. Continued growth in ETF adoption has supported strong expansion of the platform, reflecting its role as a core component of how investors construct and implement portfolios.

iShares' scale is matched by the breadth of its offering. Spanning equities, fixed income, and digital assets with both index and active strategies, the platform enables investors to access a wide range of markets and exposures through a single, integrated vehicle. This breadth has underpinned continued demand across both institutional and wealth clients globally.

In fixed income, iShares has been a significant participant in the growth of the ETF market. With the global bond ETF industry surpassing US\$3trillion in 2025, iShares maintained a leading position with ~US\$1.2trillion in assets. Growth has been supported by expanding use cases, including portfolio construction, liquidity management and income generation.

Beyond fixed income, the iShares platform has evolved with client needs, expanding its range in 2025 across active ETFs, fixed maturity and digital asset solutions. Active ETFs surpassed US\$100 billion by the end of 2025, reflecting growing demand for active strategies in an ETF wrapper.

Innovation remained central across global and APAC markets, with growth driven by both insurer adoption and local product launches focused on alpha-seeking and outcome strategies. iShares also rolled out locally tailored solutions, including its first active equity rotation strategy and the first active fixed income ETF in the Australian market, and entered the Taiwan ETF market with a foreign equity exposure, followed by an active fixed income product.

Additionally, the iBonds ETF range expansion provided access to fixed maturity exposures within an ETF structure, combining defined maturity profiles with liquidity and transparency. These strategies are being used by institutional investors, including insurers, for asset-liability and capital flow management.

In the digital asset space, following the success of its Bitcoin spot ETF, iShares launched an Ethereum spot ETF in 2024 and a staked version in 2026 to cater to investors' needs for crypto beta alongside potential income generation.

Overall, iShares' combination of scale and continuous innovation has positioned the platform at the centre of continued ETF adoption globally.