RIZE ETF LIMITED ACQUIRED BY ARK INVEST LLC

London, UK – 19 September 2023

Europe’s first specialist thematic ETF provider, Rize ETF Limited (“Rize ETF”), has today been acquired by ARK Invest LLC (“ARK Invest” or “ARK”), the parent of ARK Investment Management LLC, the investment manager led by CEO Cathie Wood

Rize ETF’s founders will remain with the enlarged company steadfast in their commitment to develop and deliver its products in the manner that has garnered acclaim across Europe. By merging Rize ETF’s expertise in thematic and sustainable index investing with ARK’s innovative actively managed approach centred on disruptive innovation, the combined entity will offer its clients a more diverse array of investment options.

ARK’s acquisition marks a significant step for its global expansion strategy and will pave the way for the firm to introduce its suite of cutting-edge innovation ETFs, under the UCITS framework, to investors across Europe, the United Kingdom, and beyond, while also facilitating the sustained growth and expansion of Rize ETF’s thematic and sustainable index ETFs in Europe and around the world.

Founded in 2019 by ETF industry veterans, Stuart Forbes, Rahul Bhushan, Jason Kennard and Anthony Martin, Rize ETF has become known across Europe for its innovative approach to building high quality, research-led and purpose-built thematic and sustainable index ETFs. Prior to Rize ETF, the Founders were integral to the building out of the European UCITS ETF business for ETF Securities, which was acquired by Legal & General in 2018. All of the founders will remain and continue to lead the growth and development of ARK Invest Europe.

Cathie Wood, Founder, CIO, and CEO of ARK Invest said: “Today’s acquisition advances ARK Invest’s commitment to offer high-quality thematic investment solutions to a global investor audience, particularly European investors who have not been able to access our products. We believe that the European ETF market presents a strong growth opportunity as new and younger investors continue to gain access to ETFs via the growth of digital platforms, and as active ETFs increase market share by meeting the demand for innovative investment exposures.

“We are delighted to welcome the talented Rize ETF team into the ARK family. By merging its passion for thematic and sustainable index investing with ARK’s innovative actively managed approach centred on disruptive innovation, we can offer our clients a more diverse array of investment options to invest in the future. Together, we will continue to educate and empower investors, helping them to achieve their long term financial goals.”

Stuart Forbes, Co-Founder of Rize ETF added: “The acquisition offers ARK an entry into the European ETF market, capitalising on our expertise and track record in building multiple European ETF businesses. Leveraging ARK’s global network and our expertise in European distribution, we aim to strengthen our collective global presence. This initiative signifies not just business growth, but a collaborative exchange of global asset management best practices, insights and tactics.”

Rahul Bhushan, Co-Founder of Rize ETF, stated: “Over the past five years, we’ve carved out a niche in thematic and sustainable ETFs. Uniting with ARK, a frontrunner in disruptive innovation investing and research, we are poised to offer an augmented product lineup spanning three pivotal growth areas in European ETFs: thematics, sustainability and actives. This collaboration not only facilitates a broader selection for our clients but also fosters a deeper engagement with research, steadfastly upholding our mutual dedication to sustainability.”
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In the coming period, the Rize ETF name and brand will gradually be retired to pave the way for “ARK Invest Europe”. Under the new ARK Invest Europe platform, existing Rize ETF index products will be distributed under the “ARK” prefix. ARK Invest Europe will continue to uphold the high standards of investment research, portfolio management and client service for which ARK is known, all while tapping into Rize ETF’s deep expertise covering the full lifecycle of ETFs beginning with product strategy and index development, legal and regulatory, tax, portfolio management and operations, capital markets, research, and marketing and distribution.

ARK purchased Rize ETF from AssetCo, a UK asset and wealth management business primarily involved in acquiring, managing, and operating asset and wealth management activities and interests, together with other related services. As part of this agreement, ARK and AssetCo will partner to support the launch, on the newly established ARK Invest Europe platform, of several ETF products for the River and Mercantile business, AssetCo’s active equity asset management subsidiary. ARK is minority-owned by Nikko Asset Management.

As of August 31, 2023, Rize ETF managed $452 million across 11 UCITS ETFs classified as either SFDR Article 8 or 9, domiciled in Dublin and distributed throughout Europe. ARK manages approximately $25 billion in ETFs and other products globally.

Additional details about the acquisition will be released in the coming weeks.

About ARK Investment Management LLC
ARK Investment Management LLC is a federally registered investment adviser and privately held investment firm. Specializing in thematic investing in disruptive innovation, the firm is rooted in over 40 years of experience in identifying and investing in innovations that should change the way the world works. Through its open research process, ARK identifies companies that it believes are leading and benefiting from cross-sector innovations such as robotics, energy storage, multi-omic sequencing, artificial intelligence, and blockchain technology. ARK’s investment strategies include Autonomous Technology and Robotics, Next Generation Internet, Genomic Revolution, Fintech Innovation, Space Exploration & Innovation, 3D Printing, Israel Innovative Technology, Venture Capital, and the overall ARK Disruptive Innovation Strategy. For more information about ARK, its offerings, and original research, please visit www.ark-invest.com.

About Rize ETF
Rize ETF is Europe’s first specialist thematic ETF issuer. The company specialises in the creation of thematic and sustainable indices and ETFs. Rize ETF was created in 2019 by thematic ETF pioneers Rahul Bhushan, Stuart Forbes, Anthony Martin and Jason Kennard, with the company’s first ETFs launching in February 2020. The founding team are a proven team of ETF experts with over 40 years of combined experience. The team is specialised in creating high quality, research-led and purpose-built thematic and sustainable indices and ETFs that leverage the unique insights and expertise of the best, most credible research experts in each theme. Rize ETF is on a mission to provide investors with access to the world’s most compelling megatrends that not only resonate with their long-term convictions but also align with their personal values and belief systems. For further information, please visit www.rizeetf.com.

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