

Hedge Fund Alert

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Hurricane Nears Big Expansion in UK

Multi-strategy manager **Hurricane Capital** is a hop away from acquiring its own U.K.-regulated trading platform that will allow it to substantially increase the number of its portfolio managers in the nation.

The New York firm has a pending contract to purchase an existing, unknown regulatory-hosting operation for asset managers that will allow it to begin running an entity under the name Hurricane Capital U.K. That nation's finance regulator, the **Financial Conduct Authority**, appears to be close to giving the move its final approval, which may occur before January.

Should the FCA give its approval, Hurricane plans to increase the number of portfolio managers it has in the U.K. from seven to some 25. While a small number of Hur-

ricane's 73 total portfolio managers haven't yet attracted capital to manage on its platform, all of its U.K. portfolio managers will need to either bring capital with them to join Hurricane's platform or start trading there with a new allocation from Hurricane.

The FCA requires portfolio managers who trade capital for third parties to operate through so-called regulatory-hosting organizations if a manager doesn't operate one on its own, as Hurricane plans to do.

Hurricane managed \$510 million of gross discretionary assets as of yearend and had \$1.4 billion of gross assets trading through its systems earlier this year. Portfolio managers on Hurricane's platform trade money exclusively for Hurricane, or Hurricane's investors, via funds or separate accounts.

Hurricane is led by co-chief investment officer and chief executive **Chris Napoli**. ■