

# Religare Arm to Buy S African Broking Firm Noah Financial

Co looks to build  
an emerging  
market-focused  
investment bank

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Religare Capital Markets (RCML), the investment banking arm of Religare Enterprises, is acquiring a controlling stake in South African brokerage firm Noah Financial Innovation for an undisclosed amount.

The acquisition will give RCML a foothold in South Africa and expand in African continent to build an emerging market-focused investment bank. The original promoters, two local businessmen, retain their residual minority stake in the privately held firm.

Martin Newson, CEO of RCML, said Noah complements the Indian company's purchase of another local firm Bernard's Jacobs Melleit's (BJM) international operations, distribution platforms for South African equities in London and New York in November last year.

South Africa, the fifth member of BRICS, forms an integral part of RCML's emerging markets investment banking platform, both as an independent market and as a beachhead for Africa banking ambitions, Newson said. RCML plans to leverage Noah's local platform to connect

global investors to the South African market.

He declined to share financial details citing confidentiality agreements. The Johannesburg-based firm will be co-branded Re-ligare-Noah. Religare's share price closed at 460.10, up 1.07%, on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Friday. According to Noah's website, the company provides innovative, tailored execution and independent research services to institutional investors.

With this acquisition, RCML is present in nine countries with more than 300 staff across key emerging markets and sales and trading teams in London and New York. Majority-owned by billionaire Malvinder and Shivinder Singh,

**RCML plans to leverage Noah's local platform to connect domestic & global investors to the S African market**

the Delhi-based firm is building a emerging market-focused global financial services firm, largely through buyouts. In the investment banking space, it is Religare's fourth acquisition in less than a year. Besides, BJM, it bought Hong Kong-based Central Joint Enterprises and picked up a 50% stake in Sri Lanka's Bartleet Mallory Stock Brokers. It also bought US-based firms, a fund-of-funds manager Northgate Capital and Landmark Partners, a private equity and real estate investment firm to build its asset management business.