



New York scheme tests water over hedge funds

By Kalpana Fitzpatrick - 3rd March 2008

The New York City Employees' Retirement System is to embark on hedge fund investment for the first time, in an attempt to boost its funding level.

Although no official tender has yet been made, Patricia Stryker, a trustee of the scheme, said the decision to invest in hedge funds has been agreed by the board and it will be starting the process soon.

The scheme is available to workers in the city not eligible for the city's Teacher's Retirement System, Police and Fire Department pension funds or the New York City Board of Education Retirement System.

The scheme has said that, in order to accommodate the decision, it will be making an internal hire for someone to oversee the mandate.

"The City of New York's controller office oversees our decisions and we have appointed more staff over the years to that office to oversee the new assets classes. We will do the same for our hedge fund decision. This is to help the trustees, as they have other jobs to do as well," Stryker said.

"It is a matter of keeping a prudent eye on the investments," she added.

Stryker said the scheme has been venturing away from just investing in bonds and equities since 2002, when the market experienced a major downturn.

She hinted that the scheme may also be looking into infrastructure going forward.

"We are confident that the diversification will help us get out of the hole we are in," Stryker added.

Stryker was speaking at the **IMN World Cup of Investment Management conference** in Paris.