

## **Structured Product Details**

Name	Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Securities linked to Russell 2000 Index	
Issue Size Issue Price Term Annualized Cou	\$677,000 \$1,000 24 Months 0.00%	
Pricing Date Issue Date Valuation Date Maturity Date	February 21, 2014 February 26, 2014 February 23, 2016 February 26, 2016	
Issuer CDS Rate Swap Rate	HSBC 8.33 bps 0.45%	
Reference Asse	t the Russell 2000 Index	
Initial Level Dividend Ra Implied Vola Delta <sup>1</sup>		
Fair Price at Iss	sue \$956.85	
CUSIP SEC Link	40432XTH4 www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/ data/83246/0000114420414011520/ v369508 424b2.htm	

Report Prepared On: 08/26/14

# Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Securities linked to Russell 2000 Index

Structured Products Research Report

# Description

HSBC issued \$677,000 of Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Securities linked to Russell 2000 Index on February 26, 2014 at \$1,000 per note.

These notes are HSBC-branded Buffered PLUS securities that do not pay periodic coupons, but instead pay a single amount at maturity depending on the final level of the Russell 2000 Index.

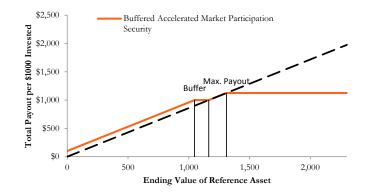
If on February 23, 2016 the Russell 2000 Index level is higher than 1,164.63, but lower than 1,310.21, the notes pay a return equal to the percentage increase in the Russell 2000 Index, up to a cap of 12.50%. If on February 23, 2016 the refe is below 1,164.63 but not below 1048.17, investors receive \$1,000 face value per note. If the Russell 2000 Index level on February 23, 2016 is lower than 1048.17, investors receive face value per note reduced by the amount the reference asset is below 1048.17 as a percent of the initial level, 1,164.63.

## Valuation

This product can be valued as a combination of a note from HSBC, one short out-of-themoney put option, one long at-the-money call option, and one short out-of-the-money call option. For reasonable valuation inputs this note was worth \$956.85 when it was issued on February 26, 2014 because the value of the options investors gave HSBC plus the interest investors would have received on HSBC's straight debt was worth \$43.15 more than the options investors received from HSBC.

There is no active secondary market for most structured products. Structured products, including this note, therefore are much less liquid than simple stocks, bonds, notes and mutual funds. Investors are likely to receive less than the structured product's estimated market value if they try to sell the structured product prior to maturity. Our valuations do not incorporate this relative lack of liquidity and therefore should be considered an upper bound on the value of the structured product.

### Payoff Curve at Maturity



The payoff diagram shows the final payoff of this note given the Russell 2000 Index level (horizontal axis). For comparison, the dashed line shows the payoff if you invested in the Russell 2000 Index directly.

**Tim Husson, Ph.D.,** Senior Financial Economist, SLCG (+1) 703.890.0743 TimHusson@slcg.com

FIND SLCG STRUCTURED PRODUCTS RESEARCH AT www.SLCG.com

© 2012 SECURITIES LITIGATION & CONSULTING GROUP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 3998 FAIR RIDGE DRIVE, SUITE 250, FAIRFAX, VA 22033 | MAIN (703) 246-9380 | INFO@SLCG.COM 100 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 950, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 | MAIN (310) 917-1075

## Related Research

Research Papers:

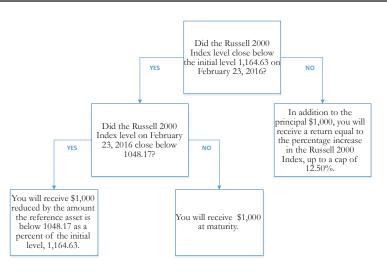
www.slcg.com/research.php

- "Are Structured Products Suitable for Retail Investors?" December 2006.
- "Structured Products in the Aftermath of Lehman Brothers," November 2009.
- "What TiVo and JP Morgan Teach Us about Reverse Convertibles," June 2010.

### Principal Payback Table

The Russell 2000 Index	Note Payoff
0.00	\$100.00
116.46	\$200.00
232.93	\$300.00
349.39	\$400.00
465.85	\$500.00
582.32	\$600.00
698.78	\$700.00
815.24	\$800.00
931.70	\$900.00
1,048.17	\$1,000.00
1,164.63	\$1,000.00
1,281.09	\$1,100.00
1,397.56	\$1,125.00
1,514.02	\$1,125.00
1,630.48	\$1,125.00
1,746.95	\$1,125.00

#### Maturity Payoff Diagram

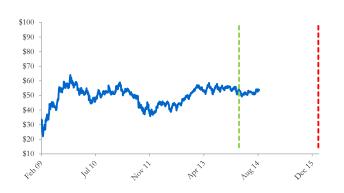


The contingent payoffs of this Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security.

# Analysis

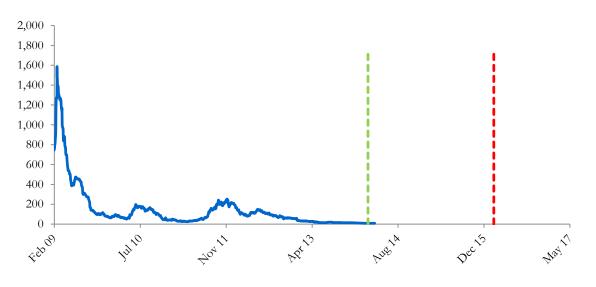
This Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security pays investors the increase in the Russell 2000 Index capped at 12.50%, but if the Russell 2000 Index declines over the term of the note, investors will suffer losses equal to the percentage decline in the Russell 2000 Index. In addition, investors bear the credit risk of HSBC. Investors purchasing this Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security effectively sell at-the-money put and out-of-the-money call options to HSBC, buy at-the-money call options, and a zero-coupon note from HSBC. This Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security is fairly priced if and only if the market value of the options investors received from HSBC equals the market value of the options gave HSBC plus the interest investors would have received on HSBC's straight debt.

#### **HSBC's Stock Price**

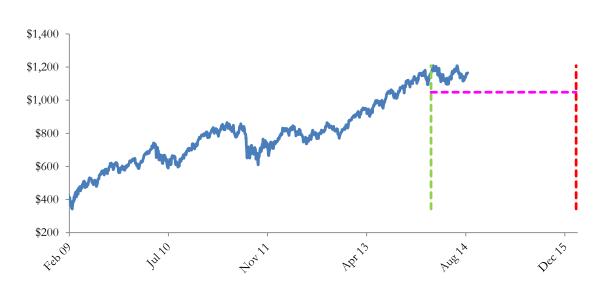


The graph above shows the adjusted closing price of the issuer HSBC for the past several years. The stock price of the issuer is an indication of the financial strength of HSBC. The adjusted price shown above incorporates any stock split, reverse stock split, etc.





Credit default swap (CDS) rates are the market price that investors require to bear credit risk of an issuer such as HSBC. CDS rates are usually given in basis points (bps). One basis point equals 0.01%. Higher CDS rates reflect bigher perceived credit risk, bigher required yields, and therefore lower market value of HSBC's debt, including outstanding Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security. Fluctuations in HSBC's CDS rate impact the market value of the notes in the secondary market.



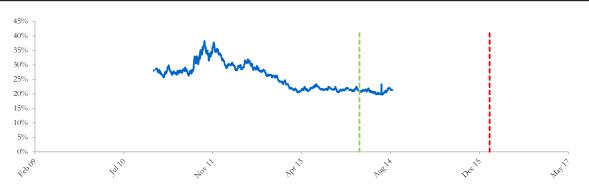
## The Russell 2000 Index Level

The graph above shows the historical levels of the Russell 2000 Index for the past several years. The final payoff of this note is determined by the Russell 2000 Index level at maturity. Higher fluctuations in the Russell 2000 Index level correspond to a greater uncertainty in the final payout of this Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security.

#### **Realized Payoff**

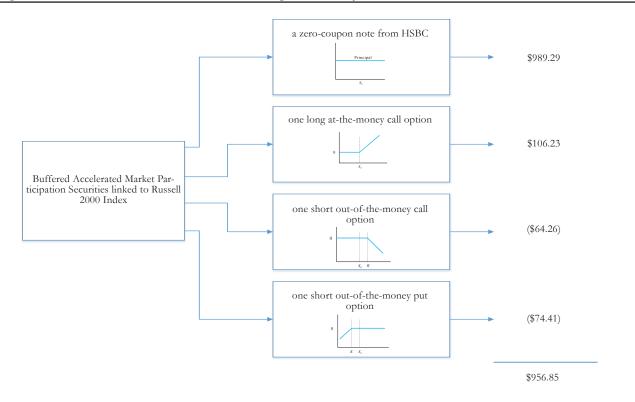
This product will mature on February 26, 2016.

#### Reference Asset The Russell 2000 Index's Implied Volatility



The annualized implied volatility of the Russell 2000 Index on February 21, 2014 was 20.96%, meaning that options contracts on the Russell 2000 Index were trading at prices that reflect an expected annual volatility of 20.96%. The higher the implied volatility, the larger the expected fluctuations of the Russell 2000 Index level and of the Note's market value during the life of the Notes.

#### Decomposition of this Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security



This note can be decomposed into different components, and each component can be valued separately. The chart above shows the value of each component of this Buffered Accelerated Market Participation Security.

- Delta measures the sensitivity of the price of the note to the the Russell 2000 Index level on February 21, 2014.
  CDS rates can be considered a measure of the probability that an issuer will default over a certain period of time and the likely loss given a default. The lower the CDS rate, the lower the default probability. CDS rate is given in basis points (1 basis point equals 0.01%), and is considered as a market premium, on top of the risk-free rate, that investors require to insure against a potential default.
  Fair price evaluation is based on the Black-Scholes model of the the Russell 2000 Index on February 21, 2014.
  Calculated payout at maturity is only an approximation, and may differ from actual payouts at maturity.
  Our evaluation does not include any transaction fees, broker commissions, or liquidity discounts on the notes.

©2012 Securities Litigation and Consulting Group. All Rights Reserved. This research report and its contents are for informational and educational purposes only. The views and opinions on this document are those of the authors and should not be considered investment advice. Decisions based on information obtained from this document are your sole responsibility, and before making any decision on the basis of this information, you should consider whether the information is appropriate in light of your particular investment needs, objectives and financial circumstances. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the suitability of investing in any securities or following any investment strategies.