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BlackRock Launches iShares Robotics and Artificial Intelligence ETF

One ETF Option to Capture Two Exciting Investment Themes

June 28, 2018, New York – As robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) continue to grow as investment themes within the broader technology landscape, BlackRock (NYSE: BLK) is expanding its suite of thematic iShares ETFs. With the launch of iShares Robotics and Artificial Intelligence ETF (IRBO), investors now have the ability to access companies that are creating rapid advancements across a wide variety of industries.

“Secular trends in technology aren’t confined to any one industry or geography, and that is particularly true for the broad-sweeping influence we see with robotics and AI driving innovation across all industries today,” says Mark Alberici, head of iShares product innovation at BlackRock. “Investors looking to capture these long-term technology shifts now have a targeted solution available that reaches around the globe to offer exposure to leaders in robotics and AI.”

IRBO seeks to track an index that utilizes a rule-based security selection process to target the Robotics and AI value chain. A two-in-one solution, IRBO offers investors access to two innovative and interconnected themes in an efficient manner. As the components of the underlying index are equally weighted, IRBO is not dominated by mega cap names and provides equal-weighted access to companies specializing in innovations across Robotics and AI.

Given the global, long-term nature of the trends underpinning IRBO, investors may consider using the ETF as a strategic tilt in portfolios to:

1. **Invest in disruptive change:** Exposure to companies at the forefront of robotics and AI innovation
2. **Harness robotics and AI value chain:** Access to companies globally with exposure to the robotics and AI themes
3. **Seek long-term growth:** Secular growth potential by investing in innovative robotics and AI companies with the potential to shape the global economic future

IRBO seeks to track the investment results of the NYSE FactSet Global Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Index, composed of developed and emerging market companies that could benefit from the long-term growth and innovation in robotics technologies and artificial intelligence.

IRBO is the second thematic launch of the year, following the launch of the iShares U.S. Infrastructure ETF (IFRA) in April. IRBO has an expense ratio of 0.47% and began trading today on the NYSE Arca exchange.

About BlackRock

BlackRock helps investors build better financial futures. As a fiduciary to our clients, we provide the investment and technology solutions they need when planning for their most important goals. As of March 31, 2018, the firm managed approximately \$6.317 trillion in assets on behalf of



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About iShares

iShares® is a global leader in exchange-traded funds (ETFs), with more than a decade of expertise and commitment to individual and institutional investors of all sizes. With over 800 funds globally across multiple asset classes and strategies and more than \$1.7 trillion in assets under management as of March 31, 2018, *iShares* helps clients around the world build the core of their portfolios, meet specific investment goals and implement market views. *iShares* funds are powered by the expert portfolio and risk management of BlackRock, trusted to manage more money than any other investment firm¹.

¹ Based on \$6.317 trillion in AUM as of 3/31/18

Carefully consider the Funds' investment objectives, risk factors, and charges and expenses before investing. This and other information can be found in the Funds' prospectuses and, if available, summary prospectuses, which may be obtained by visiting www.iShares.com or www.blackrock.com. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

International investing involves risks, including risks related to foreign currency, limited liquidity, less government regulation and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks often are heightened for investments in emerging/developing markets and in concentrations of single countries.

Funds that concentrate investments in specific industries, sectors, markets or asset classes may underperform or be more volatile than other industries, sectors, markets or asset classes and than the general securities market. Technology companies may be subject to severe competition and product obsolescence.

Buying and selling shares of ETFs will result in brokerage commissions.

The iShares Funds are distributed by BlackRock Investments, LLC (together with its affiliates, "BlackRock"). T

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