

Winner of **Investor** of the year

Nephila Capital

A true convergence pioneer, Nephila has been in continuous operation for 11 years, with an investment philosophy based on the premise that institutional investors are attracted to the non-correlated, relatively high-yielding returns offered by insurance-linked instruments.

The team's success in this sector resulted in global asset manager Man Investments purchasing a 25 percent stake in Nephila in 2008, broadening the audience for insurance-linked risk.

A Man Investments spokesman described the move as "part of Man's strategy to broaden its offering of alternative investment strategies and sources of uncorrelated returns offered to investors," adding that a combination of "Nephila's experience with Man's depth of resources and distribution platform will create significant value for both investors and shareholders".

The Nephila team comprises 27 people in Bermuda dedicated to research and analysis of insurance-linked investments.

In 2008, Nephila grew total assets under management to \$2.6bn, including cat risk, managed accounts for pension and endowments funds, a dedicated reinsurance company, and the only managed cat risk CDO, Gamut Re.

Gamut Re, a Cayman insurance company, raised \$310mn, and was used to source a diversified portfolio of natural catastrophe risks.

The instruments in which Nephila invests have evolved over time, along with investors' risk appetite. The company currently manages multiple investment vehicles and managed accounts exclusively for sophisticated institutional investors.

In addition to insurance-linked instruments (which are predominantly focused on natural catastrophe risk) the company has been trading weather risk since 2000 and launched a dedicated weather vehicle in 2005.

Nephila also has a dedicated transformer vehicle, Poseidon Re, and an investment vehicle for private equity in the form of Prism Re.



Nephila Capital's Investor of the year award is handed to co-founder **Greg Hagood** (left) by IFEX chairman **Neil Eckert**

Entry criteria: Candidates will be institutions, individuals or investment teams who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the ILS investor community in the previous year. The winner will have demonstrated either a continued, deep commitment to the ILS sector, success in attracting new investors to the sector through a fund, an innovative or pioneering approach or the commitment to research and understand the sector for a first time entry.