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The Best Online Brokers In Australia, The Stockies Decides

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TheBull is proud to present the Winners and Finalists of the 2011 Stockies for best online broker in the categories of CFDs, forex, shares, options, warrants, margin lending, futures and best stock forum.

The popular 2011 Stockies awards have been run and won thanks to you - the voter.

Many thousands of votes were cast and counted, which declare and reveal the very best online brokers in the investment industry.

TheBull.com.au Stockies awards are set firmly in the tradition that traders and investors are the best judge of the top online firms to deal with in Australia. So it's you, the very people who use the products and services of online brokers in Australia, who decide the winners.

Find a full list of category winners and finalists at the end of this story.

Category: Best CFD Broker

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You awarded the best CFD provider in Australia to IG Markets. CFDs, as a trading or effective hedging instrument, are growing in popularity as shown by a recent survey. Findings from CFD researcher, Investment Trends, showed a 22 per cent increase in the number of CFD traders in Australia, from 32,000 to 39,000, in the past 12 months.

Against this backdrop, a proud David Skilton, IG Markets sales director, was thrilled to win this award for the third consecutive year. "This award is particularly special for us, as the people who vote for it are the clients themselves and the wider Australian trading community," Skilton says.

"This recognition gives us confidence that the many steps taken in 2010 - to expand and further improve our CFD offerings - have been well received. We're always on our guard against complacency and already have a number of exciting new developments slated for next year. All our dedicated staff will be working hard to cement our status as Australia's number one CFD provider. We will continue to provide the very best level of service to our growing client base."

Category: Best Forex Broker

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You awarded the best forex broker in Australia to GFT.

Like any dynamic company, GFT is looking to the future and welcomes any suggestions from its traders on how it can continue to grow and improve.

Brendan Gunn, GFT manager of retail sales in Australia and Singapore, says his company expanded offices and support staff in Australia this year to ensure high quality assistance to all its traders.

Gunn says GFT introduced Autochartist “Trade Ideas” to assist clients with their decisions by reducing “guesswork”. “This gives entry, stop and limit prices, a forecasted number of pips and probabilities of each trade,” he says.

GFT has also placed a bigger emphasis on education by offering more webinars - live and on demand - for both experienced and novice traders. “We’ve also added more videos and tutorials to ensure traders are as prepared as possible before they trade with us,” he says.

Gunn says the company was “excited” to win the award as it highlights consistent standards of service. “The award reflects the commitment of everyone at GFT in ensuring our customers get full support for their trading,” he says.

Categories: Best online broker, best margin lender, best warrants broker and best options broker

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You awarded the best online broker in Australia across share trading, margin lending, warrants and options to CommSec.

CommSec managing director Stephen Karpin believes winning four Stockies acknowledges his firm is successfully predicting the needs of customers, who are “self-directed investors”.

“We’re delighted to be recognised again this year,” Karpin says. “We strive to be the leaders in innovation, with a comprehensive suite of tools and products to help customers maximise their wealth over the long term. We also offer an over-the-phone service to help customers with all their questions.”

Category: Best Futures Broker

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You awarded the best futures broker in Australia to MF Global.

Goals of increasing market share, its customer base and trading volumes were achieved in 2010, according to Daren Markisic, head of retail futures at MF Global. Markisic put this down to top service, excellent online futures and options trading platforms and a competitive brokerage rate. He believes his company’s size gives it a competitive edge in Australia and across the world. “MF Global is exactly that, a global broker with global resources and global relationships,” Markisic says. “As a New York Stock Exchange listed company, we not only have a responsibility to our shareholders, but also our stakeholders, with our biggest asset being our customers and our relationships with them.”

Markisic says the pressure is on to exceed this level next year, and initiatives are in place to further the company’s offerings in 2011 and beyond. “Winning this prestigious industry award for the fourth year in a row is a great pleasure and I’m proud of my team,” he says. “We look forward to the Best Futures Broker competition next year.”

Category: Best Stock Forum

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You awarded the best stock forum in Australia to AussieStockForums.com.

Forum director Joe described the winning the award for the third consecutive year “as a great honour”. “The Stockies are all about letting Australia’s traders and investors have their say and it’s really very gratifying to receive this huge vote of support from them,” he says.

“Stock forums simply aren’t places where stocks and investments are discussed. They’re bustling virtual villages, where people with a common interest in the stockmarket form friendships and support each another. We have a new website design ready to be roll out, and we’re hoping that 2011 will be another successful year for AussieStockForums. It’s grown into a very useful, free resource for those in the Australian investment community.”

FULL LIST OF WINNERS AND FINALISTS – The Stockies 2011

Best CFD Provider

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Best Forex Broker

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Best Online Broker

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Best Margin Lender

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Best Warrants Broker

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Best Options Broker

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Best Futures Broker

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Best Stock Forum

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The Stockies is a running poll held on the TheBull website for two months. This timeframe lends traders and investors sufficient opportunity to cast their vote for their favourite online broker. Traders and investors were asked to select the "best" across various categories. The polling software automatically collated the voting in real-time, and voting closed on Sunday 5 December 2010.

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