

# DESCARTES

## Parametric veteran Matthew James joins “serious brains” at Descartes Underwriting as Commercial Director – UK & Ireland

Paris, 29 May 2024: Descartes Underwriting, the Paris-based MGA focused on parametric insurance solutions, has appointed Matthew James as its new Commercial Director – UK & Ireland. Matthew will lead development in London of Descartes’ new generation of parametric insurances that build resilience against natural risks.

Matthew joins Descartes after ten years with WTW, where he specialized in structuring novel parametric solutions designed to manage the weather-risk exposures of clients across various sectors. He also served a stint as Head of Business Development in London for OTT Risk, the parametric MGA. Matthew takes over from Paul Jones, who is leaving Descartes after nearly three years to pursue other opportunities.

“We’re really excited to have attracted someone of Matthew’s experience and ingenuity as the new head of our London office,” said Descartes co-founder and Chief Executive Tanguy Touffut. “His experience working with clients as a broker, assessing their climate and insurance challenges then crafting parametric solutions, will bring a new perspective to our work. Our restated strategy remains to deliver strong growth in high-potential markets, and Descartes will continue to deliver, in London and around the world.”

He added: “I’d like to thank Paul for his contribution to our development over the years. His work, particularly in educating new brokers to the benefits of parametric and developing and distributing coverages for peak peril exposures, has been invaluable. I wish him every good fortune.”

“I am super-pleased to be joining Descartes,” Matthew James said. “They are renowned as a leader in parametric insurance and I’ve followed their growth closely since their birth in 2018. The team of data scientists in Paris and London boasts some serious brains. Their depth of expertise and understanding of climate change’s impact on business is hard to beat. I look forward to working with this team at the cutting edge of parametric insurance, and alongside Ola Jacob and the rest of Descartes’ London team.”

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### Notes for Editors:

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### About Descartes:

Descartes was founded in 2018 by a team of insurance experts, climatologists, and data scientists, under the principle that new technologies will deeply transform the insurance industry, reduce friction, and restore trust in the market. This is particularly pertinent given the rise in exclusionary language used in traditional policy wordings, which has brought unease and frayed trust among Insureds. Today, the Descartes Group comprises Descartes Underwriting, an MGA specialized in parametric insurances against climate risks, and insurance subsidiary Descartes Insurance, approved by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) since 2022. Backed by a panel of leading reinsurers, in collaboration with brokers, Descartes is paving the way for the economic resilience of tomorrow.  
[www.descartesunderwriting.com](http://www.descartesunderwriting.com)