

## STONFHAGE FLEMING

**GLOBAL BEST IDEAS EQUITY FUND** 

**USD B SHARE CLASS** 

### OUR FOUR FUNDAMENTAL QUALITY PILLARS - IDENTIFYING GLOBAL BEST OF BREED BUSINESSES

31 AUGUST 2021



#### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

To achieve long-term growth in capital and income in a focused portfolio of high quality listed businesses from around the world.

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

We invest in best of breed businesses for their quality, strategic competitive edge and value.

#### PERFORMANCE DISCLOSURE

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments can fall. Investors may not get back the amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed. The return may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations. Performance figures are net of fees and charges. The Fund may hold a relatively small number of stocks as compared to many other funds. This may make the Fund's performance more volatile than would be the case if it had a more diversified investment portfolio. For a full list of risks applicable to this fund, please refer to the Prospectus.

#### **FUND COMMENTARY**

The US reporting season for the second quarter is close to completion. We now have good information to consider as to how successfully businesses have been able to recover from the effects of the pandemic. We consider consolidated S&P 500 data in this context as a reasonable proxy for USA Inc.

Despite the severe economic lock-down measures, revenue has already recovered to pre-pandemic record levels. Further to this, both EBIT (Earnings before Interest and Tax) and EPS (Earnings per Share) have recovered to levels in excess of 10% above their pre-pandemic levels. Consensus expectations for 12 month forward EPS currently exceed the pre-pandemic level by over 15%.

Whilst revenue recovery logically tracks economic recovery, the surprising factor is the strong recovery in profitability. The Operating Margin is already at a record level of 14.4%, compared to the previous record of 14.1% in 2015. That period was six years after the Financial Crisis recession, highlighting how rapidly high profitability levels returned this time. All credit to administrations steering economic recovery, and especially to business management teams managing profitability under extreme conditions.

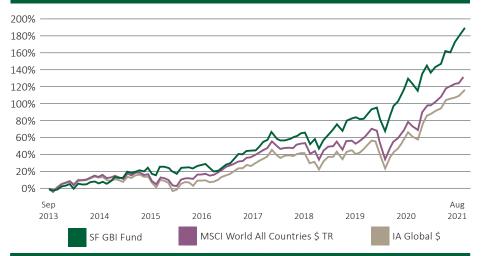
It is also striking that this margin recovery has been achieved with only a modest recovery in capacity utilisation, currently at 76.1%. It is still below the average of 77.5%, with a pre-pandemic cycle high of 79.9%. This implies good potential for further margin recovery as economic growth continues.

Cost pressures as a consequence of pandemic-inflicted supply line bottlenecks are not vet a dominant theme in company results. Whilst some of that may later become more apparent, conversely it seems easing in some of those costs are also starting to filter through (e.g. Iron-Ore, Copper, Lumber). In this context, overall US inflation expectations have also started to abate. Nevertheless, it may be that operational benefits of further increases in capacity utilisation can absorb some of the potential cost pressures. We are, therefore, not overly concerned about the profit outlook despite the high base that has been reached quickly in this economic cycle.

#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

- Invest for sustainable growth
- · Fundamental research driven
- · Particular focus on quality of management, balance sheet strength, return on invested capital, free cash flow, ability to grow dividends each year
- Bottom-up approach to identify exceptional businesses
- Global orientation, with emerging market exposure
- High conviction concentrated portfolio
- · Predominantly larger capitalisation businesses, also consider exceptional medium-sized ones
- Buy to hold and disciplined selling
- No benchmark orientation, no active trading, no leverage, no hedging

### **CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (CLASS B USD)**



#### **CLASS B USD CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE %**

	2.3	15.4	29.9	50.6	94.2	110.5
IA Global Ś	23	1E /	29.9	EOG	94.2	116 3
MSCI World All Countries \$ TR	2.5	15.9	28.6	49.5	95.0	131.5
Stonehage Fleming Global Best Ideas Equity	2.2	17.1	25.6	73.5	123.3	189.4
	1m	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception

Calendar Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Stonehage Fleming Global Best Ideas Equity	26.4	30.7	-6.4	30.0	-2.5	10.4	6.6
MSCI World All Countries \$ TR	16.3	26.6	-9.4	24.0	7.9	-2.4	4.2
IA Global \$	18.9	26.8	-11.2	24.8	3.4	-2.9	0.8

Fund Inception Date: 16 August 2013. Source for all performance is Link, Bloomberg, Financial Express, MSCI and Stonehage Fleming Equity Management as at 31/08/2021. Third parties (including Bloomberg and Financial Express) whose data may be included in this document do not accept any liability for errors or omissions.

#### **FUND RATINGS**



Source & Copyright. Morningstar and Morning star OBSR ratings © 2020 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. Ratings are collected on the first business day of the month. Morningstar Sustainability Rating as of 31/08/21. Morningstar ratings refer to the B class rating for all USD denominated share classes and to the D class rating for all GBP denominated share classes. Sustainability sprovides company-level analysis used in the calculation of Morningstar's Sustainability Source. Sustainability Mandate information is derived from the fund prospectus. Morningstar Carbon Metrics over all equity holdings as of 31/08/21. FC rown Fund Ratings do not constitute investment advice offered by FE and should not be used as the sole basis for making any investment decision.



# STONEHAGE FLEMING GLOBAL BEST IDEAS EQUITY FUND

## USD B SHARE CLASS

SECTOR BREAKDOWN	% of Fund
Technology	28.2
Discretionary	20.9
Health Care	18.3
Communication	10.1
Staples	9.2
Financials	6.9
Industrials	2.4
Cash	3.9
Total	100.0

Source: Link Fund Administrators (Ireland) Limited and Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited.

#### FUND MANAGER



## Gerrit Smit

Gerrit Smit is Head of the Equity Management team. He has overall responsibility for its Portfolio Management and Equity Research functions.

The team invests for sustainable growth with a particular focus on quality of management, balance sheet strength, cash flow generation and the ability to grow dividends each year.

FUND INFORMATION	
Total Net Assets	\$2,446.1m
Comparative Index	MSCI World All Countries \$ TR
Lipper Sector	Lipper Global Equity Global
Fund Type	UCITS
Fund Domicile	Ireland
Base Currency	USD
Currencies Available	GBP, USD, EUR, CHF
Inception Date	16 Aug 2013
Range of Holdings	20-30 stocks
Income Paid	N/A
Type of Payment	N/A
Ex Dividends	N/A
Payment Date	N/A
Pricing	Daily by 23:00 Irish Time
Dealing	Daily by 12:00 Irish Time

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RE	GIONAL BREAKDOWN	% or Fund
	United States	81.2
	Continental Europe	10.6
	Asia Pacific	4.3
	Cash	3.9
Tot	al	100.0

#### **PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS** Average Market Cap (Billions USD) 404.8 Number of Holdings 27 27.0% Operating Margin Return on Invested Capital 18 9% Net Debt/EBITDA<sup>1</sup> 0.2 Expected 3 Year Revenue Growth (p.a.) 12.1% Expected 3 Year EPS<sup>2</sup> Growth (p.a.) 19.0% Expected 3 Year DPS<sup>3</sup> Growth (p.a.) 8.7% Dividend Yield (gross)4,5 0.7% Price/Earnings Ratio<sup>5</sup> 36.4 Free Cash Flow Yield<sup>5</sup> 2.8% PEG Ratio<sup>6,7</sup> 2.5

<sup>1</sup> Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation.
<sup>2</sup> Earnings Per Share. <sup>3</sup> Dividend Per Share. <sup>4</sup> Of underlying holdings, and stated gross of withholding taxes and costs. <sup>5</sup> Estimated 12 months forward. <sup>6</sup> Price / Earnings to Growth Ratio <sup>7</sup> Weighted portfolio Trailing P/E Ratio and EPS projections applied. Source: Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited, Bloomberg.

#### TOP TEN HOLDINGS % of Fund Alphabet 68 PayPal 6.2 Adobe 54 Microsoft 5.4 Nike 5.3 Amazon 4.9 7oetis 44 EssilorI uxottica 44 Accenture 44 Visa 41 Total 51.2

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ES	TIMATED REGIONAL REVENUES <sup>8</sup>	% of Fund
	North America	49.8
	Emerging Markets	27.5
	Continental Europe	17.8
	UK	4.8
Tot	al	100.0

<sup>8</sup> Source: Based on where underlying companies in the Stonehage Fleming Global Best Ideas Equity Fund derive their revenues. Source: Bloomberg; Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited; Link Fund Administrators (Ireland) Limited. Due to rounding, values may not add up to 100%.

FUND CHARACTERISTICS	
Active Share <sup>9</sup>	87.0%
Ex Post Tracking Error	7.1%
12 Month Turnover	6.0%
BETA	0.85

<sup>9</sup> Active Share measures how much the portfolio holdings differ from the benchmark index (MSCI World) ie. a portfolio that is identical to the benchmark would have 0% active share.

USD B (ACCUMULATION) SHARE CLASS DETAILS				
Price	\$289.36			
ISIN	IE00BCLYMC02			
Synthetic Risk & Reward Indicator (SRRI) rating	5			
Annual Management fee	0.75%			
Total ongoing charge (OCF)	0.84%			
Min initial investment (USD)	5,000,000			
Registered for sale	UK, CH, SA			

The OCF is the Management Fee plus additional fund expenses as a percentage of the assets of the fund. This gives an indication of annual expenses. This figure may vary over time. It excludes portfolio transaction costs.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Fund is a sub-fund of the Stonehage Fleming Pooled Investments (Ireland) plc (the "Company"), an open-ended umbrella investment company with variable capital and segregated liability between Funds incorporated with limited liability in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014 with registration number 525228. It qualifies and is authorised in Ireland by the Central Bank of Ireland as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS").

The Company is recognised as a section 264 scheme by the Financial Conduct Authority in the United Kingdom. The Fund is an approved Foreign Collective Investment Scheme in South Africa where it is registered with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (South Africa). The Fund has been granted consent pursuant to the Control of Borrowing (Jersey) Order 1958, by the Jersey Financial Services Commission ("JFSC") to circulate an offer for subscription, sale or exchange of shares in Jersey. The JFSC is protected by the Control of Borrowing (Jersey) Law 1947, as amended, against liability arising from the discharge of its functions under that Law. Link Fund Administrators (Ireland) Limited has been appointed as the manager (the "Manager") of the Company and Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited has been appointed as the investment manager (the "Investment Manager") of the Company.

The latest version of the Prospectus and the Key Investor Information documents are available in English and can be obtained by contacting the administrator at dublinta@linkgroup.ie.

The Fund has been classified as a product in accordance withArticle6ofSustainableFinanceDisclosureRegulations ("SFDR"). For further information please follow this link to our website: https://cdn.io.stonehagefleming. com/craft-cms/investmentManagement/Sustainability-Disclosure\_2021-03-12-172728.pdf

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Swiss Investors: The home jurisdiction of the fund is Ireland. The place of performance and jurisdiction, along with the place where the prospectus, memorandum and articles of association, key investor information documents and the annual and semiannual reports of the Fund can be obtained free of charge, is the registered office of the Fund's Swiss Representative - ARM Swiss Representatives SA, Route de Cité-Quest 2, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Swiss Paying Agent : Banque Cantonale de Geneve of 17, Quai de l'Ile, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.