

#### **FUND STRATEGY**

The Fund seeks to invest in a balanced portfolio of high quality businesses across the Asian equity markets not accessible through passive and larger funds.

We focus exclusively on companies with a track record of profitability, capital efficiency and good corporate governance.

The Fund invests with a margin of safety by demanding attractive valuations and a strong financial position.

#### **FUND OVERVIEW**

Inception	December 1, 2012					
Portfolio Manager	Edouard Mercier & Jean-Charles Tisserand					
Management Fee	1%					
Performance Fee	20% of profits, with 5% Hurdle Highwater Mark					
Asset Classes	Equities, Cash, Derivatives					
Minimum Investment	US\$1,000,000					
Investing	Monthly					
Redemption	Monthly Liquidity No lock-up 5% under 3 months.					
Legal Entity	Stichting (NL)					
ISIN	NL0012817183					
Administrator	Bolder Group					
Custodian	DBS					
Auditors	IUS					
Legal Advisors	Van Campen Liem					

Suite 3001 50 Wong Chuk Hang Rd Hong Kong +852 3758 2608

info@ascendercapital.com

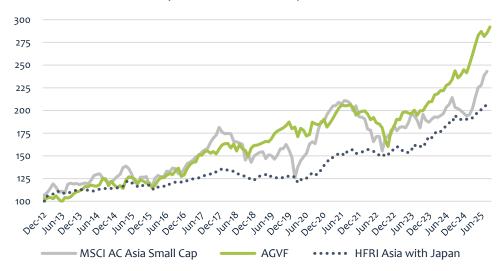
# ASCENDER GLOBAL VALUE FUND

September 2025 FACTSHEET - NAV 185.48

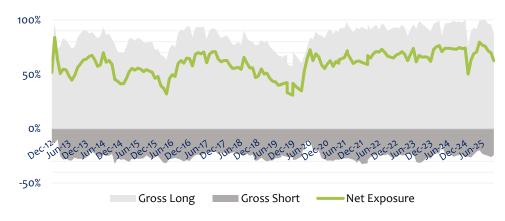
# PERFORMANCE AS OF 30 September 2025

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Class	1 month YTD		1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
Lead Series - Class B	2.3%	19.3%	19.8%	20.3%	9.5%	8.7%
MSCI Asia Small Cap	1.8%	21.7%	13.5%	18.6%	9.4%	7.7%

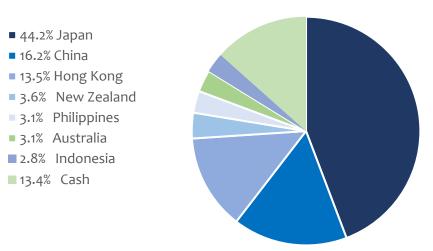
# PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



# **GROSS/NET EXPOSURE**



# **GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN**





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#### PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

#### LONG/SHORT CONTRIBUTION YTD 2025

P/E Ratio (TTM)	12.4X	Assat Class	YTD Contribution		
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	7.5x	Asset Class			
Dividend Yield	4.4%	Equity (Long)	25.2%		
Return on Equity	18.0%				
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	18.2%	Equity (Unrealized FX)	2.5%		
7 Year EBIT Growth	11.1%	-			
Median Mkt Cap	\$651m	Futures (Short)	-1.9%		
# of Holdings	23				
Gross Long	86.6%				
Gross Short	24.1%				

### TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS (AGVF EQUITY POSITIONS)

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Argo Graphics	0.9%	Xinhua Winshare	-0.2%
NCD	0.9%	Cresco	-0.1%
NCS&A	0.7%	MCJ	-0.1%

#### **MONTHLY COMMENTARY**

During the month, we continued to trim positions in several Chinese and Japanese holdings that have rerated and are now approaching the upper end of our valuation ranges. While these companies are still growing earnings, achieving our target IRR of 15–20% would increasingly rely on further multiple expansion — a less attractive risk-reward profile at current levels. At the same time, we have been working on a number of new investment opportunities available at more compelling valuations, where future rerating potential should better support targeted returns.

One example of disciplined capital rotation was our complete exit from **Xinhua Winshare Publishing**. Long-term investors will recall that we initiated this position at a negative enterprise value during the height of China's private tutoring crackdown in 2021, based on our conviction that its tutoring support materials — distributed through state-approved school channels and teachers — would remain unaffected. That thesis played out: over the past four years, the company delivered robust earnings growth, an 8% dividend yield, and a valuation rerating. However, new regulations are now constraining supplementary materials sales, casting doubt on future growth prospects. Despite its history as a reliable compounder, we sold our entire position as the risk-reward profile deteriorated.



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Conversely, **Binjiang Service Group** continues to stand out in China's challenged real estate sector. A site visit to residential projects managed by the company in its home city of Hangzhou highlighted the quality and professionalism of its on-the-ground teams. Binjiang has lately reported strong growth in new project mandates, some but not all of which sourced through Binjang Real Estate, the prime developer in the city founded by the same Qi family and we took the opportunity to increase our position.

In Japan, **NCS&A**, a system integrator based in Osaka that we initiated after meeting management in February at the very end of a busy week, is executing exceptionally well. We were initially impressed by the governance improvements and operational changes implemented by the new CEO, who has doubled operating margins since taking over four years ago. We were also attracted by the company's underappreciated software solution facilitating the migration of large enterprises from Fujitsu mainframes — a significant source of future growth. Since our investment, NCS&A has raised its earnings growth guidance for FY2026 (March year-end) from 13% to 30% and announced plans to repurchase up to 8.7% of shares and cancel up to 19% by year-end. The stock gained 19% in September and is up 117% year-to-date, yet trades at only ~14x P/E — leaving further upside potential.

# **MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)**

														MSCI
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	FY	Asia SC
2025	-1.4	4.0	4.2	4.2	3.7	1.4	-1.9	1.4	2.3				19.3	21.7
2024	0.1	3.6	0.5	1.7	-0.04	2.7	0.7	2.1	4.2	-3.2	1.4	2.4	16.9	5.7
2023	4.7	-0.3	4.2	0.4	-0.7	-0.4	2.0	-2.8	2.6	-0.03	2.6	2.3	15.3	17.7
2022	0.6	0.3	-1.8	-3.2	1.3	-3.2	-0.6	-2.3	-7.3	-4.5	10.8	2.4	-8.1	-16.6
2021	-4.5	2.3	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.0	-0.5	0.1	0.6	-1.5	-4.2	1.5	3.9	9.2
2020	-4.0	1.1	-5.9	5.4	-1.2	-3.6	1.0	7.9	-1.0	-0.6	1.0	2.3	1.6	15.5
2019	0.2	0.7	1.0	0.9	-0.2	2.0	3.3	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.3	2.2	16.0	13.8
2018	2.9	0.8	0.2	-3.1	2.7	-4.7	4.6	-2.9	-1.1	-4.2	6.0	1.9	2.5	-17.4
2017	5.3	3.4	1.7	0.3	5.5	-0.5	2.5	0.9	-1.8	1.2	-1.7	3.5	22.1	32.3
2016	-4.5	2.5	4.3	2.5	-0.1	2.2	1.6	-1.1	3.4	2.2	-6.7	1.3	7.2	2.7
2015	-2.2	1.8	-2.7	8.1	3.0	-0.7	-1.2	-4.4	3.9	-1.3	-1.9	0.4	2.1	5.4
2014	1.7	2.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.9	-0.2	1.6	5.5	-0.2	-6.1	4.3	-3.6	5.9	0.9
2013	1.7	0.8	-1.5	3.1	-3.7	-3.1	5.1	-0.4	1.0	3.4	2.0	0.9	9.3	15.7
2012												1.8	1.8	3.3



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The performance chart (net total return) does not include the current months' HFRI index data as that is only released after five business days of the month and then modified again after all participants share their data. Therefore, we use accurate all accurate HFRI data points until the month preceding the current factsheet.

The past performance information of the market, manager and investments and any forecasts on the economy, stock market, bond market or the economic trends of the markets which are targeted by the fund(s) are not indicative of future performance. The value of an investment in the Fund may go down or up. The Fund does not offer any performance or capital guarantee. The Prospectus should be read for further details including the risk factors. The Fund may invest in derivatives for hedging purpose only. Investment in derivatives is subject to additional risks, including credit risk of the issuer, liquidity risk, counterparty risk and valuation risk. In adverse situation, the Fund's use of derivatives may become ineffective in hedging and the Fund may suffer losses. Additional risk factors are described in the prospectus. Investors are advised to be aware of any new risks that may have emerged in the prevailing market circumstances before subscribing in the Fund.