



## ASCENDERCAPITAL

### 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, 2021

**Portfolio Manager** Edouard Mercier & Jean-Charles Tisserand

**Management Fee** 1.5%

**Performance Fee** 20% of net alpha vs. MSCI AC Asia Small Cap

**Asset Classes** Equities & Cash

**Minimum Investment** US\$1,000,000

**Investing** Monthly Liquidity

**Redemption** Monthly Liquidity  
Early redemption fee for first 3 years

**Legal Entity** Open ended investment fund incorporated in Cayman Islands

**Administrator** Bolder Group

**Custodian** DBS

**Auditors** Grant Thornton

**Legal Advisors** Ogier Global

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

info@ascendercapital.com

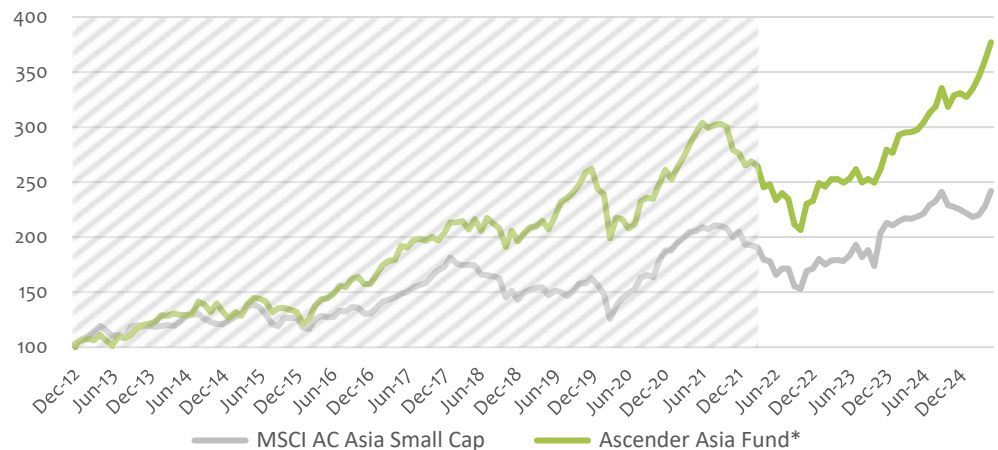
# ASCENDER ASIA FUND

May 2025 FACTSHEET – NAV 135.32

### PERFORMANCE AS OF 30 May 2025

Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	Annualized		
				3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
<b>Lead Series - Class A (Gross)</b>	4.8%	16.3%	32.5%	18.7%*	14.9%*	14.8%*
<b>Lead Series - Class A (Net)</b>	4.7%	14.0%	26.8%	15.0%	11.8%**	11.2%**
<b>MSCI Asia Small Cap</b>	6.2%	7.6%	10.7%	8.7%	9.6%	6.9%

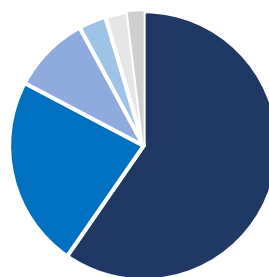
### PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



\* This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated before fund's costs and fees

\*\*Note the shaded area and dotted line reflects AAF performance estimates, net of costs & fees. This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated after fund's costs and fees

### GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN\*

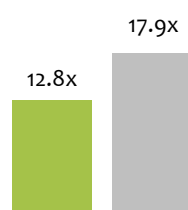


■ 59.7% Japan
■ 23.1% China
■ 9.4% Hong Kong
■ 3.3% New Zealand
■ 2.7% Indonesia
■ 1.9% Cash

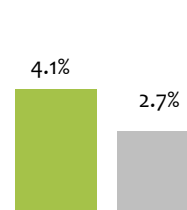
### PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

P/E Ratio (TTM)	12.8x
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	7.4x
Dividend Yield	4.1%
Return on Equity	17.6%
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	24.5%
7 Year EBIT Growth	12.1%
Median Mkt Cap	\$682m
# of Holdings	24
Gross Long	98.1%

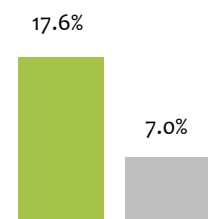
### PRICE/EARNINGS



### DIVIDEND YIELD



### RETURN ON EQUITY



— Ascender — MSCI AC Asia SC

\*Reclassify China Mobile & Zengame from Hong Kong to China



# ASCENDER ASIA FUND

May 2025 – NAV 135.32

## TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS FOR EQUITY POSITIONS

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Cresco	2.4%	NSW	-0.5%
NCD	1.4%	Temairazu	-0.3%
B-Eng-G	1.3%	Modern Dental	-0.3%

## LONG CONTRIBUTION YTD 2025

Asset Class	YTD Contribution
Equity (Long)	12.5%
Equity (Unrealized FX)	4.0%

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

We are careful not to engage in activism for its own sake. Our starting point is always the quality of the business. Only then do we begin engaging with management on capital allocation—if and when needed. After at least 18 months of constructive dialogue, if it becomes clear that private discussions are not yielding results, we pursue a more public activist campaign.

Our two public campaigns this year—**Argo Graphics** and **Cresco**—illustrate this well. Both are high-quality, growing businesses. Cresco, in particular, stands out: it reported 17% EBIT growth for the fiscal year ending March 2025 and is guiding for another 17% this year. When strong fundamentals coincide with the filing of shareholder proposals, the result can be quite powerful. Cresco's share price rose 38% during the month, yet it still trades at only 14x trailing earnings.

Our preferred outcome is when private engagement leads management to adopt our recommendations on their own terms. That was the case with **B-Eng-G**, a leading ERP software provider still mistakenly categorized as a system integrator. Last year's results were solid, but what stood out was the release of a professional, well-structured Medium-Term Plan (MTP) targeting consistent 13% annual EBIT growth over the coming years. The stock was up 27% this month but still trades at a reasonable 16x when considering future earnings growth and software assets.

At our last meeting in Tokyo in early April, an outside consultant—brought in specifically to review our recommendations by the company—joined the discussion and played a visible role in shaping the MTP. That meeting marked the culmination of 18 months of work and discussions and was a gratifying validation of our approach.

We also spent time in Jakarta this month (a lot of it spent in a car navigating the city's notorious traffic jams) and identified several interesting opportunities, one of which we are now reviewing more closely.



# ASCENDER ASIA FUND

May 2025– NAV 135.32

## MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)\*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	FY	MSCI Asia SC
2025	-1.1	2.2	3.4	4.2	4.7								14.0	7.6
2024	-1.0	5.9	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.2	3.0	1.8	5.3	-5.1	3.4	0.5	18.4	5.7
2023	6.9	-1.2	2.7	0.0	-1.2	1.5	3.3	-4.6	1.2	-1.2	4.7	6.9	20.0	17.7
2022	-3.8	1.2	-1.5	-7.2	1.0	-5.7	2.7	-2.2	-9.8	-2.4	11.5	1.1	-15.6	-16.6
2021	-3.5	4.6	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.0	-1.6	0.9	0.4	-1.0	-7.1	-1.2*	5.4*	9.2
2020	7.0	-2.0	-16.7	9.5	-0.7	-3.8	1.6	10.1	1.4	-0.5	5.8	5.2	-0.2	15.5
2019	3.9	2.6	0.3	2.3	-3.5	5.5	6.3	1.3	2.2	3.0	4.4	1.3	33.6	13.8
2018	4.8	0.0	0.6	-3.6	4.5	-4.9	5.7	-2.3	-2.1	-8.1	7.8	-4.7	-3.6	-17.4
2017	5.6	5.1	2.1	0.5	7.0	-0.6	3.4	0.8	-1.0	1.8	-1.6	3.3	29.3	32.3
2016	-8.6	3.6	10.1	4.2	0.7	2.7	5.1	-0.9	4.8	1.2	-4.0	0.0	19.1	2.7
2015	-4.3	4.5	-2.6	8.3	4.0	-0.6	-1.7	-7.2	3.1	0.1	-1.3	-1.2	0.1	5.4
2014	1.5	4.9	-0.5	1.8	-1.0	0.0	0.5	8.9	-2.0	-4.8	5.9	-5.6	8.8	0.9
2013	2.8	1.4	-1.5	4.9	-4.7	-4.5	8.3	-1.5	3.	5.1	2.9	0.8	17.3	15.7
2012												3.4	3.4	3.3

\*Note the shaded area and dotted line reflects AAF performance estimates, net of costs & fees. This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated after fund's costs and fees



## DISCLAIMER

*This document is not intended as an advice, an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of securities, including shares or units of funds. The publication or distribution of this document may be subject to legal restrictions in certain countries. Anyone receiving access to this document should be aware of and follow any applicable laws and regulations.*

*All views expressed and/or reference to companies cannot be construed as a recommendation by Ascender. Opinions and forecasts may be changed without notice. To the extent permitted by applicable law, rules, codes and guidelines, Ascender and its related entities accept no liability whatsoever whether direct or indirect that may arise from the use of information contained in this document.*

*This document is for distribution solely to persons permitted to receive it and to persons in jurisdictions who may receive it without breaching applicable legal or regulatory requirements. This document and website have not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong (the "SFC"). Ascender is registered on the official Public Register of Licensed Persons and Registered Institutions (Type 9 License/ Asset Management) maintained by the SFC in accordance with the relevant laws.*

*Ascender Asia Fund ("the fund") prospectus has not been authorized by the SFC for public distribution in Hong Kong.*

*This document is prepared for information only and does not have any regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this document. Any person considering an investment should seek independent advice on the suitability (in particular its financial knowledge and experience, its investment goals, and its financial situation) or otherwise of the particular investment. Investors should not only base on this document alone to make investment decisions. In no case should they base their decision solely on this presentation, which is not meant to be complete and which contains only a part of the information relating to the Fund. Prospective investors should note that investment involves risk.*

*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.*