



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

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ASCENDER ASIA FUND

September 2025 FACTSHEET – NAV 146.57

PERFORMANCE AS OF 30 September 2025

Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	Annualized		
				3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
Lead Series - Class A (Gross)	2.5%	25.8%	25.7%	28.1%	14.6%*	15.1%*
Lead Series - Class A (Net)	2.3%	23.5%	21.7%	24.5%	11.6%**	11.6%**
MSCI Asia Small Cap	1.8%	21.7%	13.5%	18.6%	9.4%	7.7%

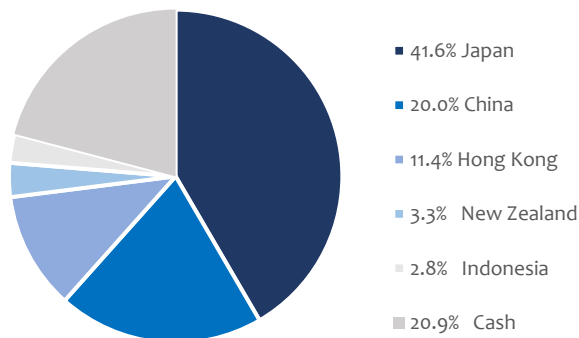
PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



* 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



PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

P/E Ratio (TTM)	13.0x
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	7.8x
Dividend Yield	4.4%
Return on Equity	18.4%
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	19.6%
7 Year EBIT Growth	11.9%
Median Mkt Cap	\$670m
# of Holdings	21
Gross Long	79.1%



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TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS FOR EQUITY POSITIONS

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
NCD	0.8%	Xinhua Winshare	-0.2%
NCS&A	0.7%	Cresco	-0.1%
Argo Graphics	0.6%	MCJ	-0.1%

LONG CONTRIBUTION YTD 2025

Asset Class	YTD Contribution
Equity (Long)	22.9%
Equity (Unrealized FX)	2.8%

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.

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 Binjiang 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 under-appreciated 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.



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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	2.9	-1.1	4.1	2.3				23.5	21.7
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

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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.