

# **KLS Funds** Powered by Kepler Partners

## **KLS Athos Event Driven Fund**



## Objective

The KLS Athos Event Driven Fund is an equity biased, event driven fund with a primary focus on short dated and liquid hard catalyst events in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Athos Capital was founded by Matthew Moskey and Fred Schulte Hillen, two seasoned event driven investors. Prior to launching Athos in 2012 both worked at large multinational asset managers and Asian focused funds. They have the unique combination of M&A banking, special situations trading, legal and operational experience. The team are based in Hong Kong from where they have built an excellent network of contacts across Asia and a very disciplined investment process to deliver good risk adjusted returns for their investors. The Fund is actively managed and not managed by reference to a benchmark.

#### Commentary

In April, the portfolio continued to perform well, largely capitalizing on significant risk positioning over the previous quarter as core expected catalysts kept materialising in our special situations and merger arbitrage portfolios in particular. At the same time, significant new merger deal activity across several of our core jurisdictions and share class arbitrage and relative value spread developments led to material new risk opportunities and a continued book turn into other positions. Given the sustained secular market dynamics across different historically core geographies, often leading to significant equity market repositioning, several of our main arbitrage-focused strategies in particular still provide for material risk positioning and we remain optimistic with respect to the return potential for several of our return they strategies over the remainder of 2024.

Positive performance during April came from a core position in a Hong Kong-listed special situations trade that saw a material cash distribution materialize. Several merger arbitrage positions saw strong performance as expected catalysts towards deal completion came to pass, with performance in this portfolio partially offset due to spread widening in one ADR privatization that saw delays to completion.

As mentioned in our broader Q1 strategy review, we believe the current market environment in the Asia Pacific region in particular represents a persistent mispricing across a number of arbitrage areas, as well as broadly downsideprotected opportunities in several hard catalyst event positions that allowed us to put significant and high conviction risk to work, resulting in a period of outperformance in our strategy that has exceeded the increased return expectations of our strategies that come with a higher risk free rate environment. We continue to see a broader range of catalyst-driven upside opportunities in both our merger arbitrage and our special situations portfolios in particular, with increased setup opportunities in our share class arbitrage portfolios.

## **Fund Details**

Launch Date:	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Fund Size:	\$45m
Athos AUM:	\$1.15bn
Fund Structure:	UCITS
Domicile:	Ireland
Min Investment:	Class SI: \$50,000,000 Class I: \$1,000,000 Class R: \$10,000
Currencies:	USD (base); GBP, EUR, CHF (all hedged)
Management Fee:	Class F: 0.75% (Founders Only) Class SI: 1.00% Class I: 1.25% Class R: 1.75% Class SIF: 2.00%* *no performance fee
Pricing:	Daily
Liquidity:	Daily
Performance Fee:	20% above one month SOFR hurdle and high watermark
Manager:	Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited
Investment Manager:	Kepler Partners LLP
Sub Inv. Manager:	Athos Capital Ltd
Portfolio Managers:	Fred Schulte-Hillen Matthew Moskey
Inv. Universe:	Global
UK Reporting Status	Yes
Country Registrations:	Ireland UK France Germany Spain Switzerland (QI)

## Performance

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	YTD
2024	-1.8%	0.6%	2.9%	0.9%									2.5%
2023	0.6%	-0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	-1.9%	0.7%	2.7%	0.2%	0.9%	-0.6%	2.3%	2.7%	7.8%
2022	-0.1%	-1.7%	-2.1%	-1.1%	-1.6%	-0.3%	1.4%	-0.2%	-1.7%	-0.1%	3.4%	0.1%	-4.0%
2021				-0.3%	0.7%	-1.2%	-2.6%	2.8%	-0.9%	0.9%	0.1%	1.1%	0.5%

\*Class F USD Net Total Return. Performance period is since inception 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount of your original investment. The return of your investment may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations if your investment is made in a currency other than that used in the past performance calculation.

## **Top 10 Positions (Long)**

	COUNTRY	SECTOR	WEIGHT
Prosus	Netherlands	Consumer Discretionary	9.0%
Shinko Electric Industries	Japan	Information Technology	7.8%
Altium	Australia	Information Technology	5.7%
Alumina	Australia	Materials	4.7%
Osram Licht	Germany	Industrials	4.3%
China Traditional Chinese Medicine Holdings	China	Health Care	4.3%
Rio Tinto	United Kingdom	Materials	4.0%
Lawson	Japan	Consumer Staples	4.0%
Hollysys Automation Technologies	United States	Information Technology	3.9%
China Conch Venture Holdings	China	Industrials	3.8%
		Total	51.4%

Top 10 Positions (Short)			
	COUNTRY	SECTOR	WEIGHT
Alcoa	United States	Materials	-4.5%
Tencent Holdings	China	Communication Services	-4.3%
Rio Tinto	Australia	Materials	-4.2%
Anhui Conch Cement	China	Materials	-3.6%
Exxon Mobil	United States	Energy	-3.6%
International Paper	United States	Materials	-2.8%
LVMH	France	Consumer Discretionary	-2.6%
Naspers	South Africa	Communication Services	-2.3%
Keisei Electric Railway	Japan	Industrials	-1.6%
SK Hynix	South Korea	Information Technology	-1.6%
		Total	-31.0%

## **Regional Exposure**

	LONG	SHORT	NET	GROSS
Developed Asia	51.8%	-33.4%	18.4%	85.2%
Emerging Asia	49.9%	-44.0%	5.9%	93.9%
Eastern Europe	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
Western Europe	68.5%	-11.7%	56.9%	80.2%
MEA	0.0%	-2.3%	-2.3%	2.3%
Multi	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
North America	36.0%	-22.8%	13.3%	58.8%
Oceania	18.0%	-8.2%	9.7%	26.2%
Total	224.5%	-122.3%	102.2%	346.8%

## Sector Exposure

	LONG	SHORT	NET	GROSS
Comm. Services	21.0%	-14.4%	6.6%	35.5%
Cons. Discretionary	34.8%	-13.9%	20.9%	48.7%
Consumer Staples	7.6%	-0.2%	7.4%	7.9%
Energy	11.4%	-7.0%	4.4%	18.4%
Financials	13.4%	-5.3%	8.1%	18.6%
Fund	0.0%	-0.8%	-0.8%	0.8%
Health Care	17.5%	-3.7%	13.8%	21.3%
Index	10.6%	-16.9%	-6.3%	27.5%
Industrials	22.5%	-11.3%	11.2%	33.7%
IT	51.0%	-21.6%	29.3%	72.6%
Materials	30.6%	-25.1%	5.5%	55.7%
Real Estate	1.8%	-1.1%	0.8%	2.9%
Utilities	2.3%	-0.9%	1.4%	3.3%
Total	224.5%	-122.3%	102.2%	346.8%

## **Gross Attribution Data\***

STRATEGY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	YTD
AH Arb	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	-0.1%									0.8%
Announced M&A	-0.3%	0.1%	0.6%	-0.1%									0.2%
Credit	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%									0.0%
ECM	-1.3%	-0.6%	-0.0%	-0.1%									-2.0%
Global M&A	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.3%	-1.0%									-1.0%
Hedge	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.0%	-0.1%									-0.1%
Partially announced M&A	0.0%	-0.0%	0.0%	0.0%									0.0%
PNL Ccy	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%									0.8%
Pre-bid M&A	-0.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.1%									0.1%
Relative Value	0.2%	0.6%	0.9%	1.7%									3.5%
Rights Arb	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%									0.0%
Share Class Arb	-0.0%	0.1%	0.9%	-0.1%									0.9%
Tactical	-0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%									0.0%
Total	-1.2%	0.6%	3.5%	0.3%									3.2%

\*This table reports gross profit and loss, by month and before expenses and fees have been included. Returns are summarised to provide an illustration of where the profit and loss is being generated. Fund expenses and fees and the categorisations can lead to variations in the attribution data. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

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#### Share Classes\*

	NAV PER SHARE	ISIN	INCEPTION DATE
Class F USD	106.57	IE00BN7J4Q47	15/04/2021
Class F GBP	104.58	IE00BN7J4S60	15/04/2021
Class F EUR	101.27	IE00BN7J4R53	15/04/2021
Class SIF USD	103.70	IE00BMQC6P09	15/04/2021
Class I USD	110.38	IE00BN7J4V99	27/03/2023
Class I GBP	105.56	IE00BN7J4X14	04/10/2023
Class I EUR	101.87	IE00BN7J4W07	07/10/2021
Class SI USD	113.37	IE00BN7J5383	07/06/2022
Class SI GBP	109.83	IE00BN7J5508	02/08/2022
Class SI EUR	106.80	IE00BN7J5490	19/08/2022

All data as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 unless otherwise stated. Source: Kepler Partners LLP unless otherwise stated.

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