

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 seasons 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

It's pleasing to report a positive month of performance in July with the UCITS Fund +1.32%, in line with historic expectations for our strategy. This was driven by a large number of M&A spreads, as they moved closer to closing and we realized positive performance across a range of positions. As spreads in M&A have broadly expanded over the course of the last three months in particular, in many cases beyond what the expanded risk-free rate environment should imply, the book continues to carry significant embedded spread despite a currently slightly underinvested M&A book related to trading views on the optimal timing of setting up incremental exposure. We currently expect to grow exposure to many attractive spreads over the course of this quarter and are highly constructive on the return potential in our core strategy for the remainder of the year. In addition, as has been the case over the previous two months, we were able to setup an attractive A Share placement position and book strong performance on that name.

Positive performance outside of our A Share placement strategy was broad based across our M&A spread book, as deals in our portfolio progressed and spreads reflected the proximity to and certainty of closing. In addition, we have been trading a number of share class arbitrage positions that worked out positively during the month in the A / H and ADR arbitrage space, which we expect to increase exposure to over time. Negative performance was generally muted, with one small deal break during the month in manageable size.

As we have mentioned previously, the second quarter of the year has seen M&A spreads widening generally. This has been the case internationally, primarily due to the expanded risk-free rate, and in certain jurisdictions due to emerging specific risks to deal closure, like emerging anti-trust trends in the United States and Europe, as well as the rising cost of capital to PE acquirers and other financial purchasers. In Asia, we have seen incremental spread widening beyond the risk-free rate expansion as well, although we believe this is more related to broader market underperformance and much more limited arbitrage participation, which has led to more spread volatility and more attractive risk pricing in M&A opportunities generally. This has been particularly pronounced in longer-dated spreads with less timing clarity.

While that had an effect on our portfolio during the period of spread expansion, we view the current spread environment as broadly mispriced and have been concentrating our exposure on later-stage M&A spreads in our core strategy. It's been encouraging to see this working out over the past six weeks in particular as those spreads begin to reflect diminishing risk and downside as they get closer to closing. Given the continued deal activity over the past week, this has allowed us to continue to turn the portfolio at heightened speed, while avoiding concentration to longer-dated spreads. We currently expect to maintain this posture over the coming quarter and remain highly optimistic about the return potential of the current M&A spread opportunity, as well as in producing incremental performance in our complementary share placement strategies.

Fund Details

Launch Date:15th April 2021Fund Size:\$62mAthos AUM:\$1.1bnFund Structure:UCITSDomicile:IrelandMin Investment:Class SI: \$50,000,000 Class I: \$1,000,000 Class R: \$10,000Currencies:USD (base); GBP, EUR, CHF (all hedged)Management Fee:Class F: 0.75% (Founders Only) Class SI: 1.00% Class SI: 1.25% Class SI: 2.00%* *no performance feePricing:DailyLiquidity:DailyPerformance Fee:20% above one month SOFR hurdle and high watermarkManager:KBA Consulting Management LimitedInvestment Manager:Kepler Partners LLPSub Inv. Manager:Athos Capital LtdPortfolio Managers:Fred Schulte-Hillen Matthew MoskeyInv. Universe:GlobalUK Reporting StatusYesCountry Registrations:Ireland France Germany Spain Switzerland (QI) UKWitzerland (QI) UKSwitzerland (QI) UK		
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Portfolio Managers: Fred Schulte-Hillen Matthew Moskey Inv. Universe: Global UK Reporting Status Yes Country Registrations: France Germany Spain Switzerland (QI)	Investment Manager:	Kepler Partners LLP
Matthew Moskey Inv. Universe: Global UK Reporting Status Yes Country Registrations: Ireland France Germany Spain Switzerland (QI)	Sub Inv. Manager:	Athos Capital Ltd
UK Reporting Status Country Registrations: France Germany Spain Switzerland (QI)	Portfolio Managers:	
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Performance

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	YTD
2022	-0.11%	-1.67%	-2.08%	-1.14%	-1.58%	-0.31%	1.39%						-5.41%
2021				-0.29%	0.65%	-1.16%	-2.59%	2.76%	-0.93%	0.91%	0.11%	1.10%	0.47%

^{*}Fund performance is net return of USD F Class. Return figures are since inception on 15th April 2021. All figures as at 29th July 2022. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. 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

Top 10 Positions (Long)

	COUNTRY	SECTOR	WEIGHT		
OSRAM Licht	Germany	Industrials	6.6%		
Brilliance China Automotive	China	Consumer Discretionary	6.0%		
Toshiba	Japan	Industrials	4.5%		
TSMC	Taiwan	Information Technology	4.2%		
Uniti Group	Australia	Communication Services	3.8%		
Vifor Pharma	Switzerland	Health Care	3.8%		
Ramsay Health Care	Australia	Health Care	3.5%		
Swedish Match	Sweden	Consumer Staples	3.1%		
Activision Blizzard	United States	Communication Services	3.0%		
Atlantia	Italy	Industrials	3.0%		
		Total	41.5%		

Top 10 Positions (Short)

	COUNTRY	SECTOR	WEIGHT
Banpu	Thailand	Energy	-2.6%
Lvmh Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton	France	Consumer Discretionary	-1.9%
Postal Savings Bank of China	China	Financials	-1.9%
Rio Tinto	United Kingdom	Materials	-1.8%
Tencent Holdings	China	Communication Services	-1.2%
Japan Post Bank	Japan	Financials	-1.0%
Unimicron Technology	Taiwan	Information Technology	-0.9%
Haier Smart Home	China	Consumer Discretionary	-0.8%
Energy Technology	China	Materials	-0.7%
Vanguard International	Taiwan	Information Technology	-0.7%
		Total	-13.4%

Regional Exposure

	LONG	SHORT	NET	GROSS
Developed Asia	20.7%	-10.0%	10.7%	30.7%
Emerging Asia	42.9%	-35.8%	7.0%	78.7%
Eastern Europe	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Western Europe	43.5%	-5.3%	38.1%	48.8%
North America	37.2%	-3.4%	33.8%	40.6%
Oceania	13.7%	-2.0%	11.7%	15.7%
MEA	1.4%	-0.5%	0.9%	2.0%
Total	159.4%	-57.1%	102.4%	216.5%

Sector Exposure

	LONG	SHORT	NET	GROSS
Comm. Services	18.2%	-3.3%	14.8%	21.5%
Cons. Discretionary	15.5%	-5.0%	10.5%	20.5%
Consumer Staples	4.1%	-0.2%	3.9%	4.3%
Energy	4.7%	-5.7%	-1.0%	10.5%
Financials	16.4%	-5.7%	10.8%	22.1%
Health Care	23.3%	-9.0%	14.3%	32.3%
Index	0.0%	-6.8%	-6.8%	6.8%
Industrials	31.8%	-5.1%	26.6%	36.9%
IT	24.2%	-5.3%	18.9%	29.5%
Materials	13.7%	-9.8%	3.9%	23.5%
Real Estate	3.1%	-0.3%	2.7%	3.4%
Utilities	4.5%	-0.8%	3.6%	5.3%
Total	159.4%	-57.1%	102.4%	216.5%

Gross Attribution Data

STRATEGY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	YTD
AH Arb	0.1%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%						0.3%
Announced M&A	0.5%	0.4%	1.3%	0.3%	-0.5%	0.0%	0.0%						2.0%
ECM	1.3%	-1.3%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.6%	1.0%	0.2%						-0.2%
Event	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%						0.0%
Global M&A	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.6%						-1.6%
Hedge	0.1%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	-0.0%						0.1%
Partially announced M&A	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.0%						0.4%
PNL Ccy	-0.4%	-0.3%	-0.8%	-0.2%	0.3%	-0.4%	0.1%						-1.8%
Pre-bid M&A	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%						-0.8%
Relative Value	-0.6%	0.3%	-0.7%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.5%	0.2%						-0.4%
Rights Arb	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.1%						-0.4%
Share Class Arb	0.0%	0.4%	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.2%						-0.1%
Tactical	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.9%	0.1%						-1.4%
Total	-0.1%	-1.4%	-1.8%	-0.9%	-1.3%	-0.3%	1.7%						-4.0%

^{*}Gross attribution data as at 29th July 2022, taken from the F-USD share class. Fees, costs and the categorisations can lead to variations in the attribution data and this should only be used as a guide. Past performance is not a guide to the future.



^{*}All data as at 29th July 2022. Source: Kepler Partners LLP

Share Classes*

	NAV PER SHARE	ISIN	INCEPTION DATE
Class F USD	95.04	IE00BN7J4Q47	15/04/2021
Class F GBP	94.60	IE00BN7J4S60	15/04/2021
Class F EUR	93.35	IE00BN7J4R53	15/04/2021
Class SIF USD	93.68	IE00BMQC6P09	15/04/2021
Class I CHF	93.07	IE00BN7J4Y21	04/05/2021
Class I EUR	94.73	IE00BN7J4W07	07/10/2021
Class SI USD	101.84	IE00BN7J5383	07/06/2022

^{*}As at 29th July 2022, Source: Kepler Partners LLP

Disclaimer

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