

EMLC Quarterly Update

30 September 2025



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Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Changes in investment strategies, contributions or withdrawals may materially alter the performance and results of the portfolio. Material market or economic conditions will have an impact on investment results. The returns presented in this document are gross of fees unless otherwise stated and reflect the reinvestment of dividends and interest. Historical performance results for investment indexes and/or categories, generally do not reflect the deduction of transaction costs and/or custodial charges or the deduction of an investment management fee, the incurrence of which would have the effect of decreasing historical performance results. It should not be assumed that recommendations/ transactions made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities mentioned.

Potential for Profit and Loss

All investment strategies have the potential for profit and loss.

Stock Examples

Any stock examples, or images, used in this document are not intended to represent recommendations to buy or sell, neither is it implied that they will prove profitable in the future. It is not known whether they will feature in any future portfolio produced by us. Any individual examples will represent only a small part of the overall portfolio and are inserted purely to help illustrate our investment style. A full list of portfolio holdings is available on request.

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Product Overview

Emerging Markets Leading Companies is a concentrated, long-term, regional equity strategy. It adds value through active management by identifying and exploiting inefficiencies through investment in global emerging markets encompassing Emerging Europe, Emerging Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Risk Analysis

Key Statistics	
Number of Holdings	53
Typical Number of Holdings	35-60
Active Share	70%*
Rolling One Year Turnover	18%

*Relative to MSCI Emerging Markets Index. Source: Baillie Gifford & Co, MSCI.

EM equities have been amongst the strongest global performers year to date

Most companies in the portfolio have been delivering strong operational results

We continue to find compelling opportunities across the EM universe



Baillie Gifford Key Facts

Assets under management and advice	US\$286.9bn
Number of clients	552
Number of employees	1655
Number of investment professionals	365

"Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family...in another city." **George Burns**

While we are only three-quarters of the way through the year, it has been gratifying to see the MSCI Emerging Markets Index outperforming the S&P 500. On a full calendar year basis, this hasn't happened since 2020, so it's pleasing to see the asset class showing some momentum. It is perhaps ironic that this performance should come despite the uncertainty of US tariffs, concerns about globalisation and heightened geopolitical tensions. Perhaps it has taken these febrile times to showcase what we have been saying for some time: many EM economies have been running conservative fiscal policy, orthodox monetary policy and have considerable political stability. Even in non-democratic countries, governments are usually in favour of private enterprise and economic development. As a result, EM countries have started to look less risky relative to some of their Developed Market counterparts.

However, perhaps the biggest change in perception this year has been of China. Since Covid, many Westerners have regarded China as almost uninvestable. This view was perhaps not unreasonable: property prices were falling, consumption was weak, economic growth was lacklustre, private enterprise was cowed by greater regulation and tensions with the US were elevated. However, there have been a number of improvements in these areas in the last twelve months, and this has started to be reflected in share prices. There has been some (very measured) fiscal and monetary stimulus to keep the economy ticking along and some reduction in real estate controls – enough to induce stabilisation, not a recovery. The government has been supportive of domestic stock markets in an attempt to lure the approximately US\$20 trillion currently held in low-yielding bank deposits, while providing a source of funding for China's burgeoning innovators. Finally, after a few rounds of tit for tat tariffs, a deal on TikTok appears close, and it looks like Presidents Trump and Xi may meet at the APEC summit in South Korea at the end of October.

AI has also proved a helpful tailwind. Initially, this was felt by the hardware makers such as TSMC and SK Hynix, but the demands of AI have percolated through much of the supply chain – there are numerous Asian beneficiaries of the hyperscalers' capital expenditure, a number of the best of which are

in the portfolio. Recent news of Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix signing letters of intent with OpenAI for its Stargate project highlights this. What has changed towards the end of the quarter has been a widening appreciation of China's ambitions and capabilities in Large Language Models. DeepSeek remains the most prominent of the private companies, though Huawei and ByteDance are also advancing rapidly. Amongst the listed companies, Alibaba and Baidu are investing heavily in AI and are beginning to enjoy something a little like the halo of the 'Mag7', though from a starting point of considerably lower valuations.

Views on the South Korean stock market are also being revised. The market has historically traded at a valuation discount to its EM peers because of the perceived 'chaebol' discount. Many companies in Korea are linked to large family-owned conglomerates or chaebol. In the past, this has often meant that minority shareholders were usually quite low on management's priority lists and that companies were not always run to maximise returns. However, recently the Korean government has sought to emulate Japan's successful 'Value Up' programme. For instance, for the first time, company directors now have a fiduciary duty to all shareholders, not just the company itself. Share prices have responded, though often it is those companies with the poorest governance and the weakest returns that have benefited most; companies like these typically do not meet our growth and quality thresholds. However, we have found one or two opportunities at the top of the quality spectrum within the Hyundai Group, where the Chung family appears much more progressive than some of their peers.

The portfolio continues to be underweight in India. This had been a source of pain for a couple of years, but so far in 2025 has been helpful. While this positioning does not reflect any long-term concern about the country from a top-down perspective (what's not to like about 7.8% real GDP growth), from a bottom-up perspective, we're still struggling to find companies at anything like sensible valuations given their growth prospects. On top of this, in recent years, the Indian economy and currency have benefited from cheap Russian oil paid for in rupees – will this continue in the face of 50% tariffs from the US? In addition, the US\$100,000 fee on H1B visas has been a shock for the Indian IT service sector (where the portfolio does have some exposure), but ultimately should prove a manageable inconvenience. Perhaps these headlines will finally bring share prices and valuations back to attractive levels.

Performance

The MSCI Emerging Market Index rose strongly through the third quarter, driven by strong returns in China, South Korea and Taiwan, while India was weaker. Enthusiasm for AI was a major driver for both Chinese platform companies developing their own chips and Large Language Models and semiconductor and hardware manufacturers in South Korea and Taiwan. However, we would reiterate that it is important not to draw too many conclusions from short term performance, whether good or bad: our investment horizon remains steadfastly five years and beyond.

In China, leading battery maker CATL's 2Q25 results exceeded market expectations, delivering ~150GWh in battery sales volume (up 35% YoY with Energy Storage System ("ESS") accounting for over 20% of shipments) and RMB16.5bn net profit (up 35% YoY), driven by stable margins and high operational efficiency. Revenue grew 8% YoY to RMB94bn despite declining lithium prices and lower average selling prices, while gross profit margin expanded to 25.6% (up 2.0 percentage points YoY), reflecting cost management and strong demand dynamics. The company maintained a 90% utilization rate in 1H25, indicating full capacity operation, and announced a 15% interim dividend payout (RMB1.0 per share), signalling robust cash flow generation with RMB58.7bn net operating cash flow in 1H25. Management expressed a constructive outlook for 2H25, citing sustained demand momentum in both EV and ESS markets globally, particularly in Europe, where CATL's market share rose to 44% in 2Q25 from 37% in 2024.

Also among the top contributors was tech behemoth Samsung Electronics. Samsung's share price was in the doldrums for the first half of the year as it struggled to be competitive in both High Bandwidth Memory and its Foundry business. However, despite the company reporting lacklustre 2Q25 results, the news flow on qualification for High Bandwidth Memory for Nvidia and AMD has turned more positive through the quarter. In addition, Tesla signed a US\$16.5 billion multi-year chip supply deal with Samsung, confirmed by Elon Musk. Under the agreement, Samsung's new Texas facility will produce Tesla's next-generation AI6 chips. This is the largest single-customer order Samsung's foundry business has ever secured and is viewed as a validation of Samsung's ambition to compete with TSMC in logic chips. With KRW 101 trillion of cash on the balance sheet, Samsung can continue to invest across its businesses.

While Mercadolibre has been a regular contributor to the portfolio, this quarter it somewhat unusually finds itself amongst the detractors. Its 2Q25 net profit of US\$523 million missed estimates, largely due to margin pressure from an expanded free-shipping policy in Brazil, and currency losses, notably from the Argentine peso. The free-shipping push, while boosting gross merchandise volume and sales, squeezed operating margins. We view concerns as relatively short-term term as the company sacrifices some margin to drive revenues and market share. It is notable that Mercadolibre's share price had a similar wobble after the 3Q24 results, due to elevated spending on logistics and the expansion of its credit-card portfolio, causing profits to miss expectations. That correction was short-lived as we expect this one to be.

The owner of the Brazilian stock exchange, B3, was also a detractor. Brazil's benchmark interest rate stands at 15% and with inflation at just over 5% this represents one of the highest real rates in the world. In such an interest rate environment, there is little incentive to put money in the stock market. However, it is our belief that interest rates will fall soon, and with it we will see stock and financial market volumes improve. There has also been the additional headwind in August of the U.S. imposing an additional 40% tariff on top of an existing 10% "reciprocal tariff" on many Brazilian imports, bringing the total to 50%. This has obviously hurt sentiment in the short term. However, the tariff regime includes significant carve-outs: sectors such as aircraft, energy, wood pulp, fertilizers, certain minerals, and civil aviation are exempted. According to some estimates, about 35% of its exports to the U.S. (by value) will face the 50% tariff, while others will be taxed at the baseline 10% rate or the U.S. global tariff levels (25–50%). The economic impact of this is obviously being digested by the market.

Clearly, sentiment towards Emerging Markets is improving, though there could still be a long way to go given starting valuations. In addition, the last six months have seen strong operational performance by many of the companies in the portfolio. This gives us some confidence that the rise in share prices can be sustained. There will obviously be volatility along the way, so the portfolio remains suitably diversified, especially on a geographic basis. Moreover, in aggregate, the constituents of the portfolio are net cash so that the vast majority of the companies have the balance sheet strength to weather any disruptions. Looking forward, we have been researching a wide range of ideas from Chinese ride-

hailing companies to under-owned Vietnamese stocks, all the way to Brazilian power generation: there remains considerable competition for capital in the portfolio. Things are warming up in EM, so less 'Someone Like You', more 'Set Fire to the Rain'.

Performance Objective

To outperform the MSCI Emerging Markets Index over the long term.

The performance objective is aspirational and is not guaranteed. We don't use it to compile the portfolio and returns will vary. A single performance objective may not be appropriate across all vehicles and jurisdictions. We may not meet our investment objectives if, for example, our growth investment style is out of favour, or we misjudge the long-term earnings growth of our holdings.

Periodic Performance

GBP	Composite Gross (%)	Composite Net (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference Net (%)	Difference Gross (%)
3 Months	11.3	11.1	12.9	-1.8	-1.6
1 Year	14.8	13.9	17.7	-3.8	-2.9
3 Year	11.9	11.0	11.6	-0.6	+0.3
5 Year	4.9	4.0	6.6	-2.6	-1.8
10 Year	12.2	11.2	9.7	+1.5	+2.4
Since Inception	11.3	10.4	9.5	+0.9	+1.8
USD	Composite Gross (%)	Composite Net (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference Net (%)	Difference Gross (%)
3 Months	9.4	9.1	10.9	-1.8	-1.6
1 Year	15.3	14.3	18.2	-3.8	-2.9
3 Year	19.1	18.1	18.8	-0.7	+0.3
5 Year	5.7	4.9	7.5	-2.6	-1.8
10 Year	10.8	9.9	8.4	+1.5	+2.4
Since Inception	9.4	8.5	7.6	+0.9	+1.8
EUR	Composite Gross (%)	Composite Net (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference Net (%)	Difference Gross (%)
3 Months	9.2	9.0	10.8	-1.8	-1.6
1 Year	9.5	8.6	12.2	-3.6	-2.8
3 Year	12.1	11.2	11.8	-0.6	+0.3
5 Year	5.7	4.8	7.5	-2.6	-1.8
10 Year	10.3	9.4	7.9	+1.5	+2.4
Since Inception	10.1	9.2	8.3	+0.9	+1.8
CAD	Composite Gross (%)	Composite Net (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference Net (%)	Difference Gross (%)
3 Months	11.5	11.3	13.1	-1.8	-1.6
1 Year	18.7	17.8	21.7	-3.9	-3.0
3 Year	19.6	18.6	19.3	-0.7	+0.3
5 Year	6.6	5.7	8.4	-2.7	-1.8
10 Year	11.3	10.3	8.8	+1.5	+2.4
Since Inception	10.3	9.4	8.5	+0.9	+1.8
AUD	Composite Gross (%)	Composite Net (%)	Benchmark (%)	Difference Net (%)	Difference Gross (%)
3 Months	8.1	7.9	9.7	-1.8	-1.6
1 Year	20.7	19.7	23.7	-4.0	-3.0
3 Year	17.9	16.9	17.6	-0.7	+0.3
5 Year	7.4	6.5	9.2	-2.7	-1.8
10 Year	11.5	10.6	9.1	+1.5	+2.4
Since Inception	10.3	9.4	8.5	+0.9	+1.8

Annualised periods ended 30 September 2025. 3 Month & 1 Year figures are not annualised.

Inception date: 30 November 2004

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Benchmark is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Source: Revolution, MSCI.

The EMLC composite is more concentrated than the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Discrete Performance

GBP	30/09/20- 30/09/21	30/09/21- 30/09/22	30/09/22- 30/09/23	30/09/23- 30/09/24	30/09/24- 30/09/25
Composite Net (%)	13.8	-21.7	6.0	13.3	13.9
Benchmark (%)	13.7	-12.8	2.6	15.1	17.7
USD	30/09/20- 30/09/21	30/09/21- 30/09/22	30/09/22- 30/09/23	30/09/23- 30/09/24	30/09/24- 30/09/25
Composite Net (%)	18.7	-35.2	15.8	24.5	14.3
Benchmark (%)	18.6	-27.8	12.2	26.5	18.2
EUR	30/09/20- 30/09/21	30/09/21- 30/09/22	30/09/22- 30/09/23	30/09/23- 30/09/24	30/09/24- 30/09/25
Composite Net (%)	20.1	-23.3	7.2	18.1	8.6
Benchmark (%)	20.0	-14.6	3.8	20.0	12.2
CAD	30/09/20- 30/09/21	30/09/21- 30/09/22	30/09/22- 30/09/23	30/09/23- 30/09/24	30/09/24- 30/09/25
Composite Net (%)	12.6	-29.7	14.0	24.4	17.8
Benchmark (%)	12.5	-21.7	10.4	26.4	21.7
AUD	30/09/20- 30/09/21	30/09/21- 30/09/22	30/09/22- 30/09/23	30/09/23- 30/09/24	30/09/24- 30/09/25
Composite Net (%)	17.8	-27.2	15.4	15.8	19.7
Benchmark (%)	17.7	-18.9	11.7	17.7	23.7

Benchmark is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Source: Revolution, MSCI.

The EMLC composite is more concentrated than the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Stock Level Attribution

Top and Bottom Ten Contributors to Relative Performance

Quarter to 30 September 2025

Stock Name	Contribution (%)
Tencent	0.8
Samsung Electronics	0.7
First Quantum Minerals	0.4
Catl	0.4
Xiaomi Corporation	0.3
TSMC	0.3
Kuaishou Technology	0.2
Chroma ATE	0.2
Sqm Adr	0.2
Credicorp	0.2
Alibaba	-1.3
MercadoLibre	-0.9
Silergy	-0.5
Reliance Industries Ltd	-0.5
Meituan	-0.4
B3 S.A.	-0.4
HDFC Bank Ltd	-0.3
Delta Electronics	-0.2
Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB	-0.2
Midea Group	-0.2

One Year to 30 September 2025

Stock Name	Contribution (%)
SEA Ltd	1.1
First Quantum Minerals	1.0
Tencent	0.8
TSMC	0.8
Credicorp	0.6
Chroma ATE	0.4
Samsung Electronics	0.3
Catl	0.3
Kuaishou Technology	0.3
Grupo Financiero Banorte O	0.3
Alibaba	-1.1
Meituan	-1.1
Silergy	-1.0
Reliance Industries Ltd	-0.7
Bank Rakyat Indonesia	-0.6
Globant Sa	-0.6
Xiaomi Corporation	-0.5
Jio Financial Services Ltd	-0.5
Samsung SDI Co Ltd	-0.4
Natura & Co Hdg	-0.4

Source: Revolution, MSCI. EMLC composite relative to MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or held during the measurement period. Past performance does not guarantee future returns. A full list showing all holdings' contributions to the portfolio's performance and a description on how the attribution is calculated is available on request. Some stocks may not have been held for the whole period. All attribution figures are calculated gross of fees, relative to the index from stock level up, based on closing prices. As attribution is shown relative to the benchmark, not all stocks shown are held in the portfolio.

Top Ten Largest Holdings

Stock Name	Description of Business	% of Portfolio
TSMC	Semiconductor manufacturer	15.1
Tencent	Technology conglomerate	10.0
Samsung Electronics	Producer of consumer and industrial electronic equipment	6.8
MercadoLibre	Latin American e-commerce and fintech platform	3.5
First Quantum Minerals	Mining company	3.3
Ping An Insurance	Provides insurance services in China	3.2
HDFC Bank	Indian banking and financial services	2.7
Reliance Industries	Indian conglomerate in energy, textile, digital and financial services and more	2.7
Credicorp	Peruvian commercial bank	2.4
Sea Limited	E-commerce, gaming and fintech platform	2.3
Total		51.9

Top and Bottom Five Geographical Location Positions*

Geographical Location	% Difference
Brazil	4.9
Other Emerging Markets	3.8
Singapore	2.3
Vietnam	2.1
Peru	2.1
India	-4.2
South Africa	-3.5
Saudi Arabia	-3.3
Taiwan	-2.8
United Arab Emirates	-1.4

Top and Bottom Five Industry Positions*

Industry	% Difference
Broadline Retail	11.2
Interactive Media & Services	4.4
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	3.3
Household Durables	2.4
Insurance	2.0
Multiline Retail	-6.3
Banks	-2.9
Wireless Telecommunication Services	-1.5
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	-1.4
Automobiles	-1.4

*Relative to MSCI Emerging Markets.

Source: Baillie Gifford & Co, MSCI.

Voting Activity

Votes Cast in Favour		Votes Cast Against		Votes Abstained/Withheld	
Companies	8	Companies	1	Companies	None
Resolutions	94	Resolutions	1	Resolutions	None

Company Engagement

Engagement Type	Company
Environmental	Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited, First Quantum Minerals Ltd., Meituan, Midea Group Co., Ltd., Natura Cosmeticos S.A., Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A.
Social	First Quantum Minerals Ltd., Natura Cosmeticos S.A., Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A.
Governance	First Quantum Minerals Ltd., Natura Cosmeticos S.A., Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras, Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A.
Strategy	Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited, First Quantum Minerals Ltd., Meituan, Natura Cosmeticos S.A., Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A.

Company	Engagement Report
Contemporary Amperex Technology	<p>Objective: We sought to deepen our understanding of CATL's strategy to navigate the challenges and opportunities in the global battery market over the coming five years and beyond. We spent nearly a full day at CATL's headquarters in Ningde, China, in broad-ranging discussions with the board secretary, investor relations, a process engineer, and a special technology officer responsible for lithium battery product development, plus we toured CATL's automated smart factory.</p> <p>Discussion: Recognising that CATL's leading-edge electric vehicle (EV) batteries already charge in as little as five minutes and offer range as far as 800km, further improvements in charging time and range will likely contribute little meaningful additional value for customers. As such, CATL is now directing its relentless focus on innovation to target price-sensitive customers. This could unlock significant volume growth. We discussed several levers via which CATL could achieve this strategy. For instance, our tour of the factory was notable in that throughout the entire manufacturing process, from raw materials to finished products, humans were involved in only two steps at the final quality inspection stage. Given CATL's sheer scale and its decades of proprietary production data, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics are setting new precedents in enhancing efficiencies - e.g. new production lines are three times faster and have reduced manufacturing unit cost by a third. Additional examples of cost-reducing innovations for customers include battery swapping (i.e. leasing a battery rather than buying it) and recycling (CATL already has industry-leading recycling rates and aims to increasingly derisk its supply chain by using recycled raw materials).</p> <p>Outcome: Against the backdrop of challenging geopolitics and a slowdown in EV penetration in several Western markets, this far-ranging discussion was valuable in deepening our knowledge of CATL's strategic direction. The company is not only relentless in its product innovation; it is also innovating its business model.</p>

Company	Engagement Report
First Quantum Minerals	<p>Objective: To hear updates on Zambian mining operations, with a particular focus on safety, energy resilience and government relations.</p> <p>Discussion: At the end of August, we spoke to the chief operating officer, the group risk manager, and the group safety manager, focusing on Zambia. Given that Cobre Panama remains closed, Zambia's output represents most of the company's revenue.</p> <p>First Quantum's Zambia Kansanshi expansion was officially commissioned in August, enabled by a more rational fiscal regime and a constructive relationship with the current administration. Execution was credited to strong front-end design, early procurement, price risk management and proactive logistics planning by the company.</p> <p>On safety, operations in Zambia are closely aligned to ISO 45001, even if not yet certified. The safety system has been rebranded for local relevance, with storytelling, visible leadership and frequent feedback to build frontline ownership. A confidential Speak-Up line is run via a call centre and is being socialised to encourage any additional hazard reporting. A company framework covers employees and contractors. Contractor approval and ranking are tied to performance and safety, with underperformers exiting after a defined period. Past trolley-assist incidents at Kansanshi led to a retrofit with the supplier, and braking fail-safes are now being rolled out with supplier partnerships, simulator training and standardising across truck platforms. Management highlighted active board oversight.</p> <p>First Quantum Minerals has been operating in Zambia since 1996. It has built robust relationships at local and national levels and has a strong reputation for operating responsibly. It takes a proactive approach to community relations and has built strong government relationships, evidenced by the Zambian President's opening of the Kansanshi expansion.</p> <p>Energy availability remains tight following a drought a few years ago, which affected the provision of hydroelectricity. The company is diversifying supply via flexible contracts, including a power agreement with Africa GreenCo (supporting a 100 MW solar plant commissioned in June 2025) and a 430 MW wind-plus-solar programme with TotalEnergies targeted by the end of the decade. Most power currently flows on the national Zambian network, with contractual flexibility to adjust offtake as renewables scale.</p> <p>Outcome: The company continues to strengthen safety practices and has a path to diversified, lower-carbon power in Zambia. Overall, the discussion was helpful for further understanding long-term risk, resilience and growth.</p>
Meituan	<p>Objective: To support the company in enhancing its sustainability management and increasing its influence on sustainable practices within the industry.</p> <p>Discussion: Following our responses to Meituan's stakeholder surveys in July, the company's Investor Relations (IR) initiated this meeting to explore potential improvements in its sustainability governance and communication with investors. We began by discussing our internal assessment criteria and expectations for holdings across various strategies, focusing on how net-zero efforts are evaluated. Specifically, we addressed Meituan's most material sustainability areas and identified opportunities for further improvement. Meituan expressed a desire to increase its visibility and voice regarding sustainability practices within the industry and sought our advice. We recommended the upcoming 2025 ESG Global Leaders Conference, led by the State Council, as an excellent starting point for exchanging valuable industrial experiences with peers.</p> <p>Outcome: We appreciate Meituan's approach to seeking our sustainability advice, recognising us as true long-term supportive investors. This meeting reinforced our positive relationship built over the past five years, and we are committed to continuing this constructive dialogue.</p>

Company	Engagement Report
Midea Group	<p>Objectives: To discuss Midea's periodic carbon reduction targets and to explore emerging customer demands for green and low-carbon products.</p> <p>Discussion: We met Huaili LIU, Midea's China vice president, and Shu GAO, the board secretary, in Shanghai. During the meeting, we acknowledged Midea's efforts in establishing detailed periodic carbon emission reduction goals until 2050, i.e., to reduce Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050, and to reduce Scope 3 GHG emissions by 20 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2050. Ms. Gao confirmed a growing trend in customer demand for low-carbon products and highlighted Midea's proactive approach in promoting the new refrigerant R290, a high pure propane with lower warming impacts. The company has achieved significant technological breakthroughs, focusing on high energy efficiency, safety, and low noise solutions. As of May 2025, Midea operates 13 R290 production lines for products such as dehumidifiers, heat pumps, and portable air conditioners, based on open-source information. Midea is without a doubt at the forefront of the industry in refrigerant technologies, setting standards for green products. Beyond green technology, Midea shared insights on client relations, user communications, digitalisation, and forward-looking strategies on robotics, including factory and home agents. The company also discussed its global strategies across various markets.</p> <p>Outcome: The meeting reinforced our confidence in Midea's role as an industrial leader with detailed climate-related targets. Midea is poised to influence its value chain and achieve technological breakthroughs. The company aligns well with national initiatives and remains a key player in the energy transition.</p>
Natura Cosméticos	<p>Objective: To understand better Natura's brand strength and the evolution of sales channels (direct selling, in-store and online) in the context of the company's turnaround.</p> <p>Discussion: Natura is a cosmetics company and was founded in 1969 to bring customers natural ingredients from Brazil. Sustainability is a key part of the brand. We think the core brand is very strong and wanted to understand better how that connected to evolving customer preferences and the role of the direct-selling representative as they move to an omnichannel strategy. Following some research on sales channels and brand perceptions in Brazil, we spoke to Investor Relations to learn more about their financial services. Natura launched 'Emana Pay', which gives consultants a digital account, payment links, contactless phone payments and structured credit. The company sees Emana Pay contributing to efficiency and providing them with additional opportunities through better data. Digital payments make it easier to reach younger customers, and digital tools help reach slightly higher-income consumers. The company also confirmed that it will be providing more detailed information in the future.</p> <p>Outcome: We will continue to monitor progress and the company's plans for additional disclosures.</p>

Votes Cast in Favour

Companies	Voting Rationale
Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life Insurance Co Ltd, Hyundai Motor India, ICICI Bank Ltd, Midea Group 'A', PB Fintech, Reliance Industries Ltd	We voted in favour of routine proposals at the aforementioned meeting(s).

Votes Cast Against

Company	Meeting Details	Resolution(s)	Voting Rationale
Reliance Industries	OTH 07/29/25	2	We opposed the election of a director due to concerns with the company's climate reporting and target setting. Given the company's leading position in India's oil and gas industry, we believe that increased disclosure would benefit investment research at this time.

Votes Abstained

We did not abstain on any resolutions during the period.

Votes Withheld

We did not withhold on any resolutions during the period.

New Purchases

Stock Name	Transaction Rationale
DiDi Global	<p>Didi is the dominant player in China's online ride-hailing market with more than 70 per cent share in terms of Gross Transaction Value (GTV). At the same time, Didi is also expanding internationally in Latin America and Asia with ride-hailing, food delivery and fintech services. Exceptional operational efficiency, lower-cost EVs, and, in the long run, potentially robotaxis, are all likely to contribute to Didi's ability to bring down the cost of ride-hailing and unlock demand. Indeed, we believe low-teens GTV growth is likely for the next five years. We also believe that Didi's profitability can significantly improve largely as a result of stronger scale, better cost control and the potential for a rising take-rate. Currently, Didi's take rate is about 19 per cent, which is well below peers (more than 22 per cent) and the regulatory cap (29 per cent). The profitability drag from the international expansion is also falling as Didi scales overseas (for example, Mexico is almost break-even). Didi is also preparing for the growth of robotaxis in the future: it has a proprietary robotaxi division and aims to deploy more than 10,000 vehicles in 2027. One of our major concerns, historically, was Didi's run-in with the Chinese policymakers which resulted in a forced delisting in the US. However, we believe government relations have improved substantially since then, with the management team working hard to rectify their past errors. Indeed, in May 2025, Didi was featured on CCTV Channel 1 (a government TV channel) as a good example of a company that was contributing to society via employment. We believe relisting progress is being made and that we may also benefit from a re-rating in the shares once the stock is no longer traded over the counter only.</p>
Hyundai Glovis	<p>We have taken a new holding in Hyundai Glovis for the portfolio. The growth outlook is entwined with that of the Hyundai Motor Group - on which we have a positive long-term view. The company is also a potential beneficiary of the significantly positive governance changes that have been underway within the Hyundai chaebol since ES Chung became chair in 2020. It offers appealing alignment with the family, should the group's circular ownership structure finally be unwound.</p> <p>Hyundai Glovis is the logistics arm of the Hyundai Group, which has executed well on a long-standing strategy of diversification beyond the Hyundai Group. It also has plenty of 'hidden' value in its cash pile and equity stakes that could be unlocked, alongside the added attraction that this is where ES Chung has his biggest personal financial stake.</p>
Hyundai Mobis	<p>We have taken a new holding in Hyundai Mobis for the portfolio. The growth outlook is entwined with that of the Hyundai Motor Group - on which we have a positive long-term view. The company is also a potential beneficiary of the significantly positive governance changes that have been underway within the Hyundai chaebol since ES Chung became chair in 2020. It offers appealing alignment with the family should the group's circular ownership structure finally be unwound.</p> <p>All of Hyundai Mobis' profits at present come from the Hyundai after-sales business, which makes excellent returns and is highly recurring in nature. However, the swing factor is likely to be the modules and parts business, which is 80 per cent of revenues and currently loss-making, having been hit hard by a combination of the Chinese competition and heavy investment in electrification. We suspect this business is past the worst - China is now irrelevant for the company, while the investment in electrification is starting to yield positive results, including business with non-Hyundai OEMs - and even a return to low single-digit operating margins in this division could double the company's profits. The starting multiple looks far too low to reflect the possibility of such a growth surprise, even without stripping out the value of the cash or equity investments (which currently account for approximately 75 per cent of the market cap).</p>
Vietnam Prosperity Joint Stock Commercial Bank	<p>VP Bank is Vietnam's second largest private bank, with a significant focus on consumer lending, in particular through their 'FE Credit' business which provides unsecured low-ticket lending and where it has a dominant market share. After several difficult years when the domestic Vietnamese economy was relatively weak, Vietnam is likely at the start of a strong domestic recovery driven by the reforms of the new General Secretary, To Lam. VP Bank should be one of the key beneficiaries, and returns should rise significantly from nearly trough levels (c. 12 per cent) towards 20 per cent, making current valuations very undemanding.</p>
Zijin Gold International	<p>We participated in the IPO of Zijin Gold, a subsidiary of Zijin Mining, China's largest copper and gold mining company, as we believed the IPO underprices the value of the company's existing reserves and operational capability.</p>

Complete Sales

Stock Name	Transaction Rationale
Baidu.com	We have sold the holding in Baidu.com. Despite some encouraging progress in their cloud business, the core advertising business that still accounts for nearly all of Baidu's profit looks increasingly challenged, while the early leadership position in autonomous driving now appears to have been lost. There's no doubt that the company looks extremely 'cheap' on most valuation metrics but to some extent this cheapness is illusory as there are constraints on their ability to return cash to foreign shareholders alongside growing questions over their right to win in potential areas of reinvestment. With more appealing ways to play the growth themes that attracted us to Baidu (such as Didi in autonomous driving) we have decided to use this as a source of funds.

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