# **Baillie Gifford update**

Fourth quarter 2023

Key information 31 December 2023



Assets under management: \$287.6bn



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# **Business update**

For the last two years, Baillie Gifford's style of investing has been out of favour, largely due to rising rates and geopolitical tensions. We have been here before many times throughout our 116-year history. For example, in 1975 UK inflation ran at 20%. In the three years prior to 1975, our longest-standing client, Scottish Mortgage's shares fell by 60%. But the compounded return over the decade following that drawdown in the mid-1970s was over 1,100% cumulative. While we can't say for certain, there is every reason to believe that this time will be no different, as we explore in our paper "Why growth, why now?"

We remain undeterred in our pursuit of exceptional long-term growth opportunities, made possible by the supportive environment created by our unlimited liability partnership structure. Our portfolio holdings are resilient, and our investment teams continue to unearth exciting growth opportunities, conducting over 4000 research meetings and engagements globally in 2023. Further, the majority of our portfolio holdings continue to deliver very well operationally.

In keeping with the Partnership's desire to recentre our commercial activities for fixed income in the UK alone, we have recently announced four fixed income fund closures. Three of the four were used by our multi-asset team: Worldwide Global Strategic Bond, Emerging Markets Bond and Worldwide Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond. As of March 2024, any exposure by our multi-asset portfolios to these funds will be gained via segregated accounts, at no cost to our multi-asset clients. The main focus of our fixed income investors' efforts going forward will be on delivering for our multi-asset strategies, as well as on our established UK fixed income strategies.

We continue to invest in our business, with recruitment for the next intake of investment graduates who will join us in September underway. Further we have numerous projects ongoing across the firm to improve what we do to ensure we are fit for the future. In terms of our investment capabilities, our equity and multi-asset strategies remain of interest to a broad range of client channels globally including pension funds, charities, and wealth channels, in addition to fixed income for our UK clients and multi-asset business.

# People update

#### Partnership news

This year we will appoint a third managing partner and four new partners at Baillie Gifford, effective 1 April 2024.

Reflecting growth in the firm in recent years, Amy Atack will become a managing partner of the firm alongside Andrew Telfer and Malcolm MacColl. Amy has been at the firm for 20 years, and a partner for six. The managing partners have responsibility for policy, people and partnership.



**Amy Atack** 

Two of the new partners work in our operations departments: Ashley Chalmers and Neil Riddell. One is an investment manager: Stephen Paice. One works with clients: Fraser Thomson. Three partners will retire on 31 March 2024 after several decades with the firm - Larysa Bemko, Scott Nisbet and Anthony Tait.

#### Investment team

In other team news, in October 10 new investment analysts joined our equity learning programme as we develop our next generation of investors.

We have created a specialist China Investment Team of 10, comprising nine investors and an ESG analyst. We have been investing in Chinese equities since 1994 with investment in China growing significantly over the past decade. We opened our Shanghai office in 2019 to deepen relationships and build new connections within China's A share market. Investment Partner Linda Lin, is returning to Edinburgh from Shanghai to lead the Team working closely with Sophie Earnshaw alongside our seven Shanghai-based team members. The evolution of the China Team complements our existing Emerging Markets Team of 10, headed by Will Sutcliffe.

# **Quarterly investment updates**

Each quarter, our investors record short updates on our main investment strategies. These recordings can be found here.  $\rightarrow$ 

# **Spotlight on growth**

As mentioned earlier, our investors are very excited about the spectrum of growth stocks within our portfolios that are delivering strong operational progress with big runways ahead to deliver superior long-term returns. Below we've set out a few examples from disruptive growth companies to compounders.



Moderna

Though Moderna's share price remains volatile due to market speculation about COVID-19 sales, we remain convinced that Moderna represents one of the most exciting healthcare companies in existence today. It has the potential to transform treatments and prevent diseases, including infectious diseases and cancer with 47 development programs in progress, six in Phase 3 and seven in Phase 2. Moderna recently announced promising Phase 2 data for its Personalised Cancer Vaccine targeting high-risk melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Phase 3 trials are due to begin later this year.

The company has demonstrated the scalability of its platform. The market opportunity for respiratory infectious diseases, latent viruses, cancer, and rare diseases is over \$50bn. It is a leading player in mRNA with a first-mover advantage and significant capital investment, with \$13bn of cash on the balance sheet, as a result of its Covid Vaccine sales.



## Mercado Libre

Mercado Libre is a Latin American e-commerce and fintech business. Its recent earnings surpassed expectations, with accelerating revenue growth and expanding margins, and the relaunch of its MELI+ loyalty program. Unlike some competitors who have started to pull back, Mercado Libre's continued investment helped strengthen its competitive advantage, resulting in

market share gain and higher profits. It has come to be the main source of income for more than 1.8 million families who run businesses on its e-commerce platform. In 2023, it contributed strongly to expanding financial inclusion in Latin America, with 54% of its users using its Mercado Pago fintech ecosystem to access digital payments for the first time.



**Atlas Copco** 

Swedish industrial goods company Atlas Copco has been a feature of many Baillie Gifford equity portfolios for decades, and is an excellent example of the power of compounding. The company reported record operating profits in their recent Q3 results. It has strong orders on hand, and its resilient service business continues to grow.

The long-term outlook is positive in 'sustainable segments' like hydrogen liquefaction, EV batteries, solar energy, and wind. This is bolstered by their robust pipeline of acquisitions. The company continues to demonstrate strong financial performance and the ability to generate consistent growth over the long term.



#### **Novo Nordisk**

Novo Nordisk, the Danish pharmaceutical company has a dominant market share in diabetes treatment and the nascent obesity treatment market. Its focus on biological drugs, a subset of chemical compounds which is extremely complicated to manufacture, creates a significant barrier to entry. The board has shown exemplary capital allocation over time, and a strong

commitment to R&D as well as dividend growth. We believe that the high margins and very strong balance sheet make this a very dependable dividend stream. Long-term growth prospects are very attractive as the obesity market, where Novo Nordisk is first to market with an FDA-approved drug, could potentially be much larger than the diabetes market.

# Updates you won't want to miss..



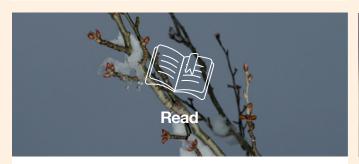
#### **Our Shared Beliefs**

Our purpose at Baillie Gifford is clear; to add value for clients, support companies and benefit society through long term investment. This ambitious goal unites us as a firm and a partnership.



#### **Recorded Investment Updates**

Looking for a short but punchy quarterly strategy update? Investors share their thoughts on the last quarter and their strategy overviews.



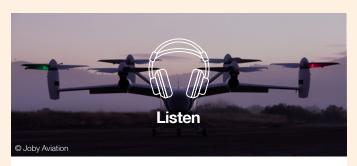
#### Why growth, why now?

Growth investing out of style? What better time to understand the drivers powering tomorrow's stellar businesses.



#### Moderna: from Covid vaccines to cancer cures

mRNA technology could be key to tackling cancer, respiratory diseases and latent viruses, says Moderna's Stéphane Bancel.



#### **Joby Aviation**

The answer to congested cities is not to be found at ground level, but in the sky directly above.



#### China: Fear or FOMO?

China presents challenges but investors must consider the risks of missing out on tomorrow's world-beating companies.

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Principal Office:

Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN, Scotland Telephone: \*44 (0)131 275 2000 bailliegifford.com