

News

Citywire Fund Selector



Citywire Fund Manager International is now *Citywire Fund Selector*. Our new name is shorter and simpler, but that is not the only reason for the change.

As most of our readers are fund selectors, and we have been featuring Europe's leading fund selectors on the front cover for some time now, it is logical for the magazine's name to reflect this.

The focus will not change, however. We will continue to write about the best fund managers available to investors across Europe, shining a spotlight on outperformance and management talent wherever it may be.

It is appropriate that our first cover under our new name features Enrique Pardo, a selector committed to broadening the choice of third-party funds available to his Spanish customer base. Pardo's mission to modernise fund distribution in Spain (see page 18) is very much in line with Citywire's ethos of highlighting the best talent available in each major European market.

On the subject of top performers available across Europe, our star manager this month, Evy Hambro (see page 12), is one of only a handful of managers to gain an AAA rating in every country Citywire covers across the European mainland.

This month *Citywire Fund Selector* also includes an occasional feature that provided our reporter Philip Haddon with a fascinating insight into the way a leading fund manager goes about his day-to-day work when he joined New Star's European equity manager Richard Pease for a day of company meetings (see page 24).

So a new name, but the same emphasis on the best fund managers, their strategies, holdings and of course their performance. Welcome to *Citywire Fund Selector*.

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Former AA-rated star Verwey leaves Nordea



Verwey: formerly AA-rated

Ferdinand Verwey, head of fund of funds at Nordea in Luxembourg, has left the firm.

Verwey, who featured on the front cover of the September 2007 issue of *Citywire Fund Manager International* magazine, says the matter is now in the hands of his lawyer and he is looking around the industry for new opportunities.

Verwey was formerly AA-rated for his performance on a range of Nordea fund of funds: Nordea Fund of Funds Aggressive, Nordea Fund of Funds Conservative and Nordea Fund of Funds Balanced. Despite a dip in performance with his fund of funds in 2007, he posted a return of 31.7% with his aggressive portfolio, while the LCI Mixed Asset EUR Agg - Global index rose 31.9%.

According to Nordea, the change in manager reflects a change in investment process for the fund of funds range. Richard Ritschel has taken over from Verwey and will focus primarily on asset allocation.

'When investing in financial markets, the most important determinant of risk and return is the allocation among asset classes. Of course, the selection of individual funds also has an influence, but not nearly as much as the asset allocation itself, whether strategic or tactical,' Ritschel says.

Flueck launches new range under Universal banner



Flueck: leaves Arcturus

Daniel Flueck is leaving his fund selection role at Arcturus to run two new funds for HWV.

The newly launched funds, HWV FlexConcept Basis UI and HWV FlexConcept Select UI, will form part of Universal Investment's multi-boutique platform. The Basis fund will be defensive, while the Select fund will be more aggressive. Both are what are known in Germany as superfunds, as they are able to utilise a variety of investment instruments.

'We are allowed to invest in a wide range of assets with a huge flexibility in weightings. Funds, equities and derivatives, for example. We are also allowed to invest in single hedge funds up to 10%. It will be an active portfolio management strategy with the intention to produce a continuous value enhancement, independent of marked movements,' Flueck says.

Flueck previously worked as a senior analyst on the Greisinger Umbrella range of fund of funds, which include BG Global Dynamic, and BG Global Classic.

Selector's choice: Tristán Pascual places faith in AAA-rated stars

Fund of funds manager Tristán Pascual has picked out Alken Asset Management's Nicolas Walewski and Michael Mach from Eaton Vance Managed Investments, who are both AAA-rated by Citywire, as key managers in his portfolio.

Pascual is A-rated in Spain for his performance with the Mutuafondo Fondos and Mutuafondo Gestión Acciones, which are both fund of funds, as well as global equity fund Mutuafondo Bolsa.

Geographical allocation is central to his investment philosophy. 'The main thing is getting a macro view, identifying geographic areas and sectors. Using internal and external models we try to identify tendencies in markets,' Pascual says.

He looks for managers with a sound philosophy and someone 'who understands the market'. His portfolio is then concentrated towards around 20 fund managers, including a number of well known Citywire rated managers.

In the US Pascual's three key holdings include the UBAM Neuberger Berman US Equity Value fund, managed by Citywire A-rated Marvin Schwartz. 'He has the philosophy closest to ours. His process is the safest way to identify companies,' Pascual says

Other key US funds include the Eaton Vance Emerald US Value fund, managed by AAA-rated Michael Mach and the JPM US Dynamic fund.

Pascual remains confident about the European equity sector. 'We are comfortable with the macro figures in terms of growth. Mainly because of the good situations France and Germany are in,' he says.

In the European markets his key trio are New Star's formerly AAA-rated Richard Pease, AAA-rated Nicolas Walewski and Citywire's former European Fund Manager of the Year, Eric Bendahan of Banque Syz. They manage the New Star GIF European Growth fund, Alken Fund - European Opportunities and Oyster European Opportunities funds respectively.

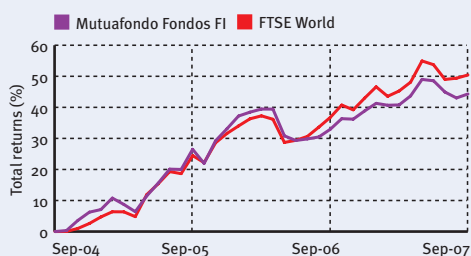
In Asia, Pascual is positive on the Vitruvius Japanese Equity fund, managed by Mattia Nocera, and Asia specialist Mark Mobius' Templeton Asia Growth fund.

In the emerging markets sector, Pascual favours Allan Conway's Schroders ISF Bric fund. 'He is the best manager of the last few years,' he says.



Bendahan: key holding

Pascual's three-year record with Mutuafondo Fondos Source: Lipper



Managers on the move this month

Tim Drinkall, manager of the top performing Gustavia Balkan fund, has left Stockholm-based boutique Gustavia to join Morgan Stanley in New York.

The fund will be managed by Drinkall's remaining team members while the group seeks a new manager.

Three fund managers at Swiss investment group **Clariden Leu** are to be given new funds as part of a series of changes announced by the group.

From November the current manager of the Swiss-registered Clariden Leu Swiss Equity fund, **Lucia Würmli-Kryenbühl**, will manage the group's Luxury Goods Equity fund. She will be replaced on the Swiss Equity fund by **Juan Manuel Mendoza**, who previously ran the Asset Manager Equity fund in the group's Guernsey range.

At the beginning of 2008 **Irene Beatrice Püttner** will take over the Clariden Leu (Gue) Biotechnology Equity fund, previously run by **Erich Bernhardt** and **Nathalie Flury**.

DWS Investments has appointed **Manuel Tenekedshijew** to the helm of its DWS Rohstoff-fonds. He will replace **Pierre Martin**, who has run the fund since early 2006, returning just over 27% while the benchmark index rose 31%.

Under the stewardship of a number of different managers, the fund has underperformed the MSCI World/Materials benchmark. Over five years it has returned 148%, while the index has risen 176%.

Also in Germany, emerging market debt manager **Holger Friedrich** has left **Union Investment** to join UK group Insight, where he will again work in the emerging markets fixed income sector and will report to Ingrid Iversen.

For more information on these stories go to: www.citywireselector.com/news