



June 2023

# Eastspring Investments - Japan Smaller Companies

#### Speaker:



Marketing Communication. Please refer to the Prospectus / KIID before making your investment decisions.

**Experts in Asia.** Invested in Your Future.

eastspring.com



# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?







# Focused Team Approach

Small very experienced group with significant buy-in



 Small, experienced, cohesive team of four investment professionals



Deep financial industry experience



 Deliberate strategy to differ from many core investment managers – typified by large teams delivering maintenance research across the investment universe



- How do we differ?
  - We are a strong, centralised team that operates under a culture of challenge and debate, equipped to maximize a creative team dynamic
  - We focus on best opportunities



# Japan Equity Team Profile

- Small, experienced, cohesive team of five investment professionals
- Deep financial industry experience
- Deliberate structure which differs from many other investment managers whom have large teams delivering maintenance research across the whole investment universe
- We are a strong, centralised team that operates under a culture of challenge and debate, equipped to maximize a creative team dynamic
- We focus on the best contrarian opportunities

Team Leader and Portfolio Manager Focused Value



**Ivailo Dikov** Yrs. 9 / Exp. 18



Max Godwin
Portfolio Manager
Smaller Companies
Yrs. 16 / Exp. 31



**Samuel Hoang**Portfolio Manager
Sustainable Value
Yrs. 12 / Exp. 24



Calvin Chang
Portfolio Manager Value
Yrs. 8 / Exp. 8



Charlotte Lu Portfolio Manager Yrs. <1 / Exp. 2



**Oliver Lee**Client Portfolio Manager
Yrs. <1 / Exp. 21



# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?





# **Investment** Edge

Our investment edge informs every step of our process



 Clear understanding of the behavioural sources of mispricing



Disciplined approach to identifying potential market errors



We are patient investors



Price focused, relative valuation anchors



Target best ideas



# Investment process

### A four-stage investment process



Systematically look for mispriced assets. Focus on extremes. Identify maximum impact opportunities



Confirmation that value exists. Deepen understanding and test conviction

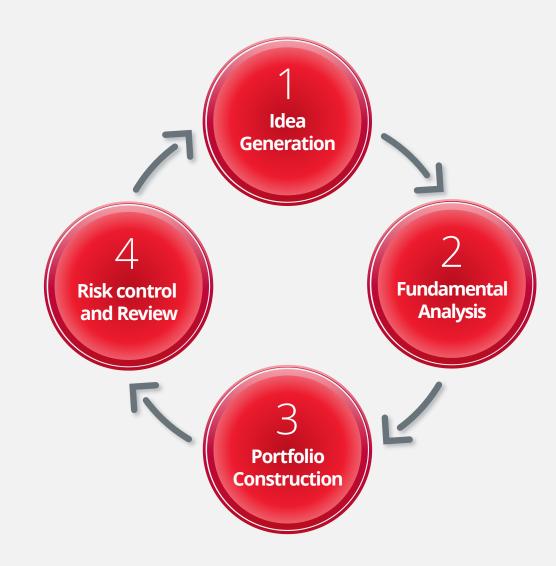


i) Establish & monitor the risk/reward relationship.

ii) Link research output to portfolio construction and review



Ongoing feedback supports selldiscipline. Ensure integrity of investment process

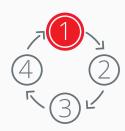


Source: Eastspring Investments. The above views are subject to change at the manager's discretion without prior notice.



### **Idea** Generation

# Identify Episodes Offering Potential Excess Returns



- ▶ Proprietary screens using 20 years of market data long-term valuation criteria
- ▶ Identify large deviations of stocks relative to own history and universe:
  - ▶ PE, PE relative to the market & relative to history
  - ▶ PBR, PBR relative to the market & relative to history
  - Dividend Yield, Dividend Yield relative to the market, & relative to history
- ▶ Price performance over 3 and 5 years
- ▶ Broker sentiment and earnings revision analysis



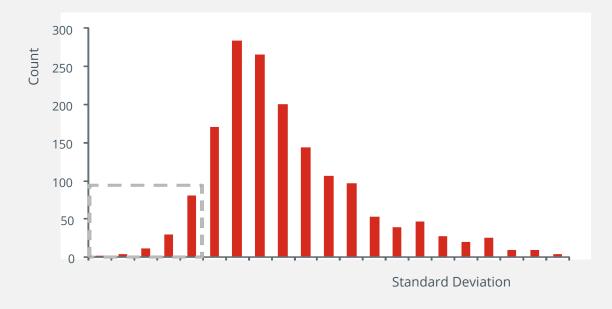
## **Idea** generation

# Identify episodes offering potential excess returns

A systematic starting point



#### **Frequency Distribution of a Standard Factor\***



#### **Screening the Investment Universe**

- > Screen for long-term relative value opportunities
- > Contrarian ideas broker sentiment
- ▶ Earnings improvement with cheap valuation
- First step towards fundamental analysis



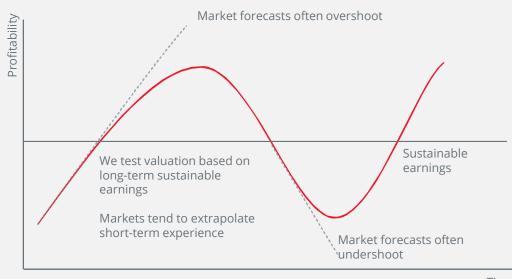
# Fundamental Analysis

# Central to our competitive edge

Concept of sustainable earnings delivers unique insight



# Differentiated Concept of Valuation Relative to Sustainable Earnings



Time

- ▶ Focus on sustainable earnings avoid extrapolation
- > Requires deep fundamental analysis and experience
- Provides clear understanding of drivers of valuation
- Large differences between price and valuation provides opportunity



### Fundamental Analysis – ESG Approach

### **Engagement Tracking**

- Engagement on ESG issues is embedded within the fundamental research process.
- Where ESG factors are identified as key risks to long term sustainable earnings of a company the issues will be raised with management and recorded on our ESG engagement log.
- This table represents a sample of the companies we have engaged with along with the areas of discussion.
- This serves as a record of best practice as well as helping the team to track positive progress on these key issues.

		F	ngagemer	nt Log Extract
Company name  Panasonic	Environmental	Social	<b>ngagemer</b> Governance	Engagement details  Discussed material social risks emerged recently: (i) alleged forced labour issue at Chinese suppliers, (ii) labour management at Panasonic group, and (iii) certified employees involved in construction work found not to meet prerequisites to be licensed. Expressed our concern and views that the company's risk management practices appear either not properly implemented nor functioned well. Management shared our concerns and agreed that risk management policies need to be further strengthened.  On supply chain management, diversification of sources of supply is seen as one of the options to manage risk. While admitting that due to the size of its supply chain with over 10,000 suppliers, the company needs to rely on its suppliers' self-check and self-declaration of labour and human right policies, management is increasingly moving to increase third-party audits of labour practices at large suppliers. We encouraged management to be actively engaged with key suppliers to ensure compliance, including guidance and best practices for the supply chain.  On the issue of improperly licensed employees, management explained that this was discovered through its whistle-blower channel which triggered its own investigation to find out hundreds of employees received technical licenses without fulfilling the government's prerequisites. Management attributed this to employees' lack of understanding of applicable regulations and has provided more regulatory training to those employees.  We also discussed the issue of diversity in the Board as well as mid- and senior management level. Management confirmed their close attention to the issue,
Nippon Steel  Sumitomo Chemica	X		X	admitting that only two female directors in the Board was below global standards. Management shared that it had an internal target of having 30% of managers and general managers are female by 2030 and looking to add more female directors to its Board.  Ongoing discussion about the Company's carbon neutral plan and progress of implementation. We had been engaged with management to explore expanding electric arc facilities as an alternative route to achieve carbon reduction target, but they were reluctant due to challenges in securing scraps and clean power supply. However, during this call, management revealed that they made decision to start making low-carbon steel with estimated volume of 70,000 tonnes in this year using existing electric arc facilities in Hirohata. Negotiation with power generation companies were under way to secure clean power supply, as well as work under way with relevant regulator bodies with regards accreditation standards and requirements for getting low-carbon steel label. Should the implementation proceed successfully, we believe this could be a via plan for Nippon Steel to pursue more aggressive CO2 reduction target by 2030.  Ongoing engagement about capital allocation and net zero pathway. Progress has been ongoing to reduce CO2 emission by 2030, mainly through converting power source from coal- and oil-based to gas and biomass. Management admitted the challenge to reach net zero by 2050 given there is no available technology for the whole industry. Engagement on capital allocation continues with aim to encourage management to simplify the group structure and divest non-core assets.



## ESG – Our Fiduciary Duty

Act in Best Financial Interest of the Client

- **CONSISTENT** ESG approach entirely consistent with investment philosophy and process
- **HOLISTIC** all material risks to sustainable earnings considered including ESG risks
- **MATERIALITY** only ESG issues with material impact are integrated into assessment
- > INVESTMENT TEAM OWNED integration of ESG issues into investment process
- **ENGAGEMENT** investment team engages with investee companies
- **PROXY VOTING** investment team votes all resolutions
- **COLLABORATION** we are active members of collaborative organizations



### **Portfolio Construction**

Active risk in a diversified manner reinforces ability to take longer term positions



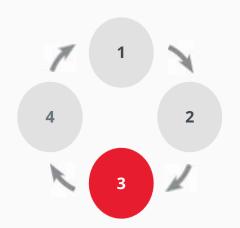
- > Portfolio construction is a clear and separate discipline
- > Strongest views from research output become candidates for inclusion
- > Tools to assess risk and style implications in portfolio construction
- Correlation analysis
- > Benchmark relative risk model Axioma
- > Portfolio decisions made on a stock rather than sector basis



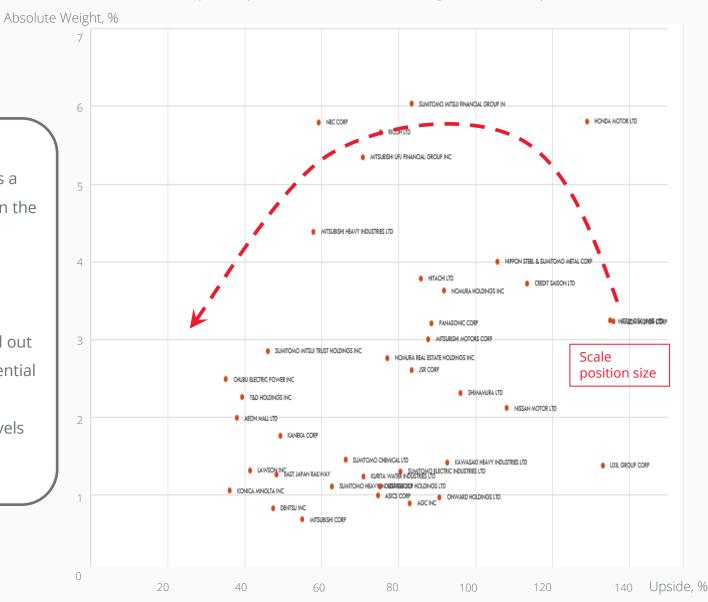
# Portfolio Construction Absolution Position Versus Valuation Target

### Japan Dynamic – Absolute Weight versus Upside

Consistent link to fundamental analysis; position size determined by valuation and conviction



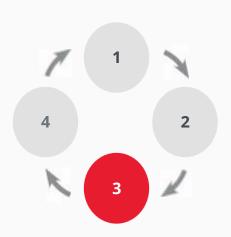
- High upside generally means a larger position in the Portfolio.
- However, sizing depends on:
- 1) Scaling in and out
- Range of potential outcome
- 3) Conviction levels
- 4) Liquidity



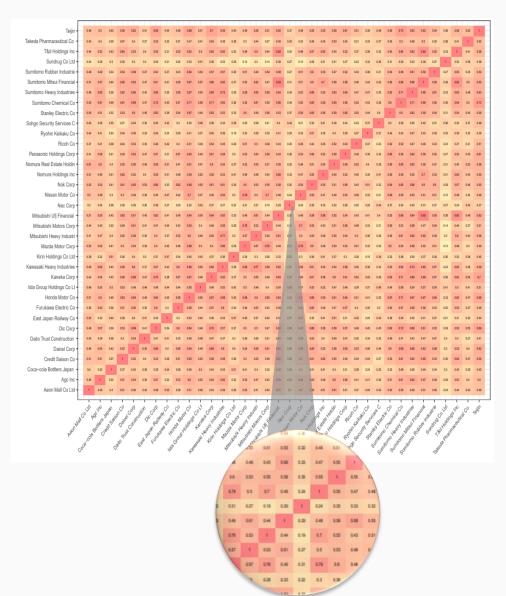


# Portfolio Construction Bottom-Up Concept of Risk – Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis differentiates alpha potential from unintended risks



- Weekly pair wise correlation over 5 years
- Awareness of clusters of correlation
- We weigh up the risk/reward





### Risk control and review

### Testing consistency of portfolio with mandate and risk

- Monitoring of positions relative to valuation and risk contribution aids review and sell discipline
- Weekly portfolio review meeting: All portfolios subject to team scrutiny
- Test consistency of views and portfolio positions
- Quantitative Portfolio Strategy (QPS) Team ongoing test of process consistency and allocation of capital in accordance with mandate
- Eastspring CIO utilises risk framework in supervision and oversight
  - Risk oversight scrutiny of risk characteristics and risk budget supported by independent Investment Risk Management Team





# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?





# Overview of Japan Equity Strategies

Strategy Name	Focused Value	Smaller Companies	Sustainable Value	Value
Strategy size	USD2.2 bn	USD164 mn	USD 58 mn	USD45 mn
Differentiating the strategy	<ul> <li>Not constrained by index – highest conviction</li> <li>Focused across capitalisation spectrum</li> <li>Potential for higher volatility in shorter term</li> <li>Stock specific risk, high Active Share</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not constrained by index – highest conviction</li> <li>Focused on smaller capitalisation spectrum</li> <li>Potential for higher volatility in shorter term</li> <li>Stock specific risk, high Active Share</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Index aware for ESG rating, wider tracking error range</li> <li>ESG exclusions &amp; carbon budget</li> <li>Focused on mid-to-large companies</li> <li>Suit investors with medium risk tolerance</li> <li>Stock specific risk dominates characteristics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Index aware, wider tracking error range</li> <li>Focused across capitalisation spectrum</li> <li>Suit investors with medium risk tolerance</li> <li>Stock specific risk dominates characteristics</li> </ul>
The Investment Team				
	<ul><li>Small highly experienced team of</li><li>Shared, consistent understanding</li><li>All investment outcomes are team</li></ul>	of asset price determination		
Lead portfolio manager	Ivailo Dikov	Max Godwin	Samuel Hoang	Calvin Chang
Key characteristics of rep	resentative strategy			
Approach	Benchmark unconstrained	Benchmark unconstrained	Larger relative bets	Larger relative bets
Reference Index	MSCI Japan Index	Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index	MSCI Japan Index	MSCI Japan Index
Typical no of holdings <sup>1</sup>	30 - 50	40 - 50	40 - 60	40 - 90
Typical alpha <sup>2</sup>	1.5 - 4%	2 - 4.5%	1 - 3.5%	1 - 2.5%
Typical TE <sup>3</sup>	3 - 8%	4 - 9%	2 - 7%	2 - 5%
Sector range		Outcome of bottom-u	up stock selection	
Market capitalisation	All-capitalisation	Small-capitalisation bias	All-capitalisation	All-capitalisation
Base currency	JPY	JPY	JPY	JPY

Source: Eastspring Investments, 31 March 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Subject to changes at the sole discretion of the manager. <sup>2</sup>This should not be construed as a guarantee for outperformance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Tracking error is an outcome and can vary from the typical range in a more extreme market environments



### **Overview Of Japan Equity Strategies Composites**

Composite Performance	1 yr %	3 yrs % p.a.	5 yrs % p.a.	7 yrs % p.a.	10 yrs % p.a.	S.I. % p.a.
Focused Value (JPY) – Gross	18.0	27.9	8.5	11.7	12.1	7.7
MSCI Japan Index	4.4	15.6	6.3	8.5	9.1	5.2
Gross Relative Return	13.6	12.3	2.2	3.2	3.0	2.4
Smaller Companies (JPY) – Gross	19.4	24.3	5.7	10.3	12.2	7.0
Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index	7.7	14.4	3.9	7.3	9.3	3.9
Gross Relative Return	11.7	9.9	1.8	2.9	2.9	3.1
Value (JPY) – Gross	15.8	23.8	7.2	10.1	10.8	6.9
MSCI Japan Gross Div TR Index	4.4	15.6	6.1	8.5	9.3	5.3
Gross Relative Return	11.5	8.2	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.6

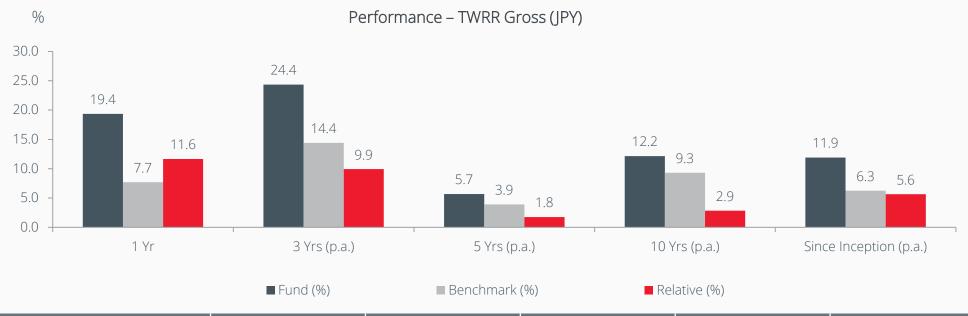
The chart inserted above is for illustrative purpose only. Past performance is not indicative of the future or likely performance. Gross composite returns are presented gross of investment management fees and net of trading expenses. Additional information on other fees treatment are available upon request. Net composite returns shown do not represent actual net returns of underlying portfolios but are calculated net of the highest

band fee (net down by 0.75% for Japan Value, net down by 0.75% for Japan Focused Value, net down by 0.875% p.a. for Japan Smaller Companies) in the tiered management fee schedule applicable to an institutional investor investing in such a strategy. However, the firm reserves the right to change this fee structure and hence net composite returns might change without prior or subsequent notifications to current or potential investors.

Source: Eastspring Investments, 31 March 2023 (C0296, C0143, C0139), JPY. "Value" inception = January 2005, Reference Index = MSCI Japan Gross Div TR Index. From inception to 30 Apr 2021, the composite was benchmarked against FTSE Japan Index Gross. From 1 May 2021, the benchmark of the composite is changed to MSCI Japan Gross Div TR. "Focused Value" inception = January 2005, Reference Index = MSCI Japan Index. From inception to 30 April 2021, the composite was benchmarked against FTSE Japan Index Gross. From 1 May 2021, the benchmark of the composite is changed to MSCI Japan Gross Div TR. "Smaller Companies" inception = July 2006, Reference Index = Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index. The chart inserted above is for illustrative purpose only. Past performance is not indicative of the future or likely performance.



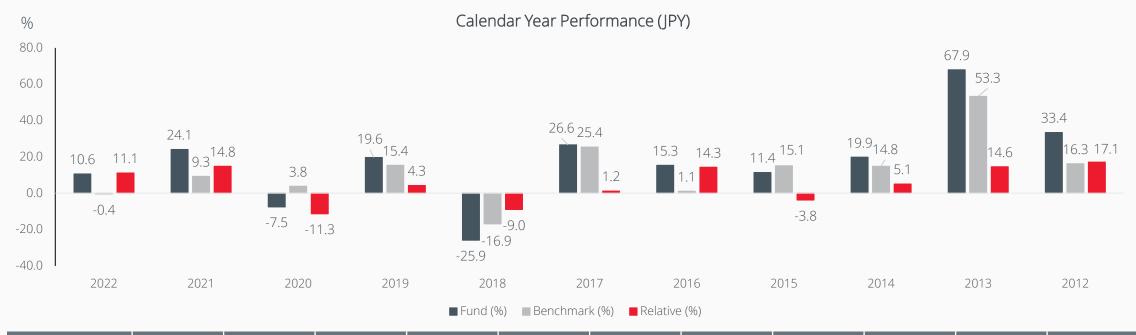
#### Performance as at 31 March 2023



Period	1 Yr	3 Yrs (p.a)	5 Yrs (p.a)	10 Yrs (p.a)	Since Inception (p.a.)
Fund (%)	19.4	24.4	5.7	12.2	11.9
Benchmark (%)	7.7	14.4	3.9	9.3	6.3
Relative (%)	11.6	9.9	1.8	2.9	5.6



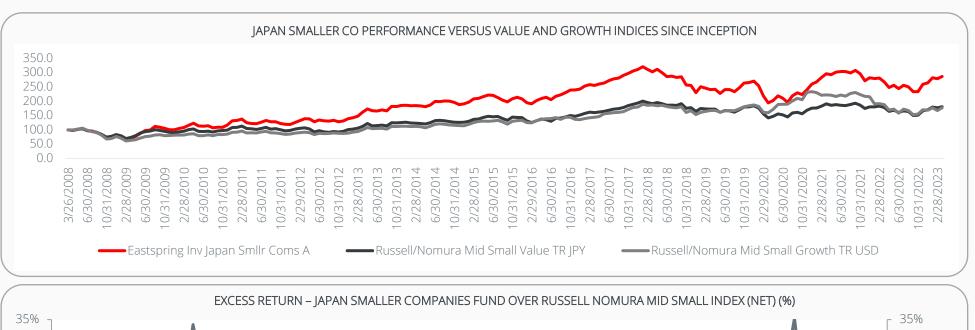
#### Calendar Year Performance as at 31 March 2023

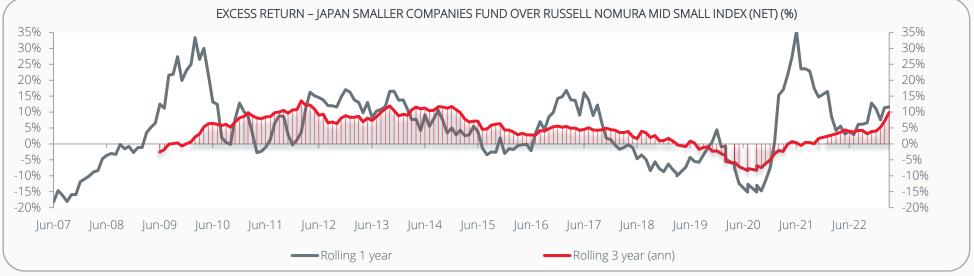


Period	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Fund (%)	10.6	24.1	-7.5	19.6	-25.9	26.6	15.3	11.4	19.9	67.9	33.4
Benchmark (%)	-0.4	9.3	3.8	15.4	-16.9	25.4	1.1	15.1	14.8	53.3	16.3
Relative (%)	11.1	14.8	-11.3	4.3	-9.0	1.2	14.3	-3.8	5.1	14.6	17.1



### Look Through And Exploit Shorter Term Volatility



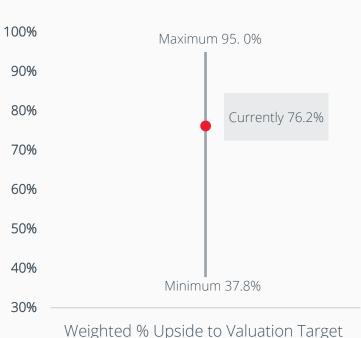


Source: Eastspring Investments, as at 31 March 2023, in USD. (Top chart) Representative Portfolio is Share Class EDY of the Eastspring Investments – Japan Smaller Companies Fund. Rebased to 100 as at 26 March 2008 (inception). (Bottom chart) Source: Eastspring Investments, 31 December 2022 in JPY (C0139). Reference Index: Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index. This is for information purposes only. It is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument, investment product, security or service. 3-year performance is annualized. Past performances are not an indication for future performances. (p.a.: Per annum).



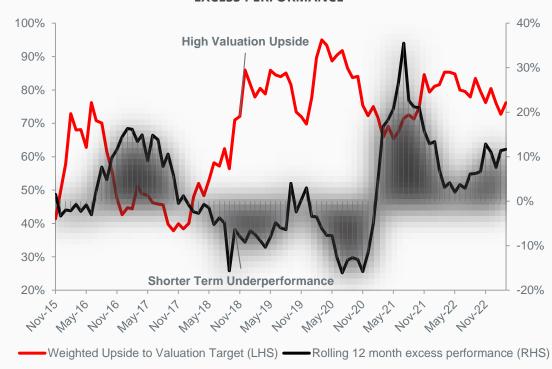
# Japan Smaller Company Strategy Absolute and Relative Value Represented

#### **WEIGHTED % UPSIDE TO VALUATION TARGET\***



- vveignted 70 opside to validation ranget
- High weighted % upside to valuation compensates for patient timeframe
- Mar 2020 highest weighted upside\*

### HIGH CONVICTION, UPSIDE, SHORTER-TERM VOLATILITY & EXCESS PERFORMANCE



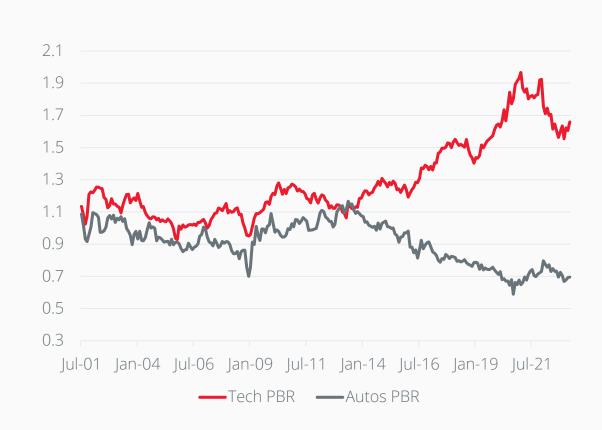
 High conviction and significant valuation upside compensates for two key risks; uncertain future outcomes and the time frame to realise value

Source: Eastspring Investments, as at 31 March 2023. LHS: \* "High Weighted Upside to Valuation Target" shows range of values between 30 September 2015 to the current date specified. RHS: "Rolling 12 month excess performance" and "Rolling 3yr p.a. excess performance" in USD. Excess return of Composite C0139 of the Eastspring Investments – Japan Smaller Companies Fund over Russell Nomura Mid Small Index. This Composite was created on 1 May 09 and Composite Performance starts from 1 Jul 06. The two series are chain-linked to derive the longer period benchmark returns. The chart above is included for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance is annualized. (p.a.: Per annum) Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance.

### Technology Vs Autos

We focus on best ideas – most attractive valuation

#### Technology V Autos Sector - Price to Book ("PBR") Relative to Topix



#### **Technology**

- High earnings growth / momentum
- Thematic preferences shifting in the chase for earnings growth
- Market still over paying for perceived shorter term earnings certainty
- Similar divergences within broad Technology sector

#### Autos

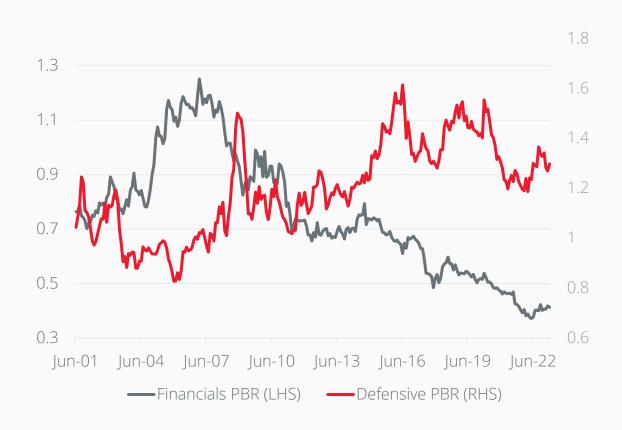
- Our trend margin sensitivity tests for auto holdings suggest that market is more than pricing in zero returns in trend terms from their US businesses
- Significant valuation support exists for our selected auto holdings

Source: Eastspring Investments, as at 31 March 2023. PBR: Price-to-book ratio relative to universe. Universe is the Topix Index. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without prior notice. Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.

### Defensive vs Financials

We focus on best ideas – most attractive valuation

#### **DEFENSIVE V FINANCIALS SECTOR - PRICE TO BOOK RELATIVE TO TOPIX**



#### **Defensive**

 Remains expensive relative to history, we believe market is over paying for perceived shorter term earnings certainty

#### **Financials**

- Market is extrapolating a permanent state of BOJ Policy low interest rates
- Negative effects have passed through - spreads on new loans bottoming
- Negative effects more than priced by the market

Source: Eastspring Investments, as at 31 March 2023. PBR: Price-to-book ratio relative to universe. Universe is the Topix Index. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without prior notice. Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.



# Price to Book Valuation – Growth Versus Value

### Relative Valuation Still At Dot Com Bubble Peak

#### Extremes - MSCI Japan Growth Index

- Growth versus value is still at a valuation level similar to the Dot Com peaks
- Valuation for expensive stocks unsustainable

### MSCI JAPAN GROWTH INDEX PRICE TO BOOK RELATIVE TO MSCI JAPAN VALUE INDEX PRICE TO BOOK\*



Source: Eastspring Investments, Bloomberg, as at 31 March 2023. \*MSCI Japan Growth Index Price to Book / MSCI Japan Value Index Price to Book. Please note that there are limitations to the use of such indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector. The historical performance or forecast presented in this slide is not indicative of and should not be construed as being indicative of or otherwise used as a proxy for the future or likely performance of the Fund.



# Factor Exposure – An Outcome Not A Target

In a Bifurcated Market Style is Unusually Dominant

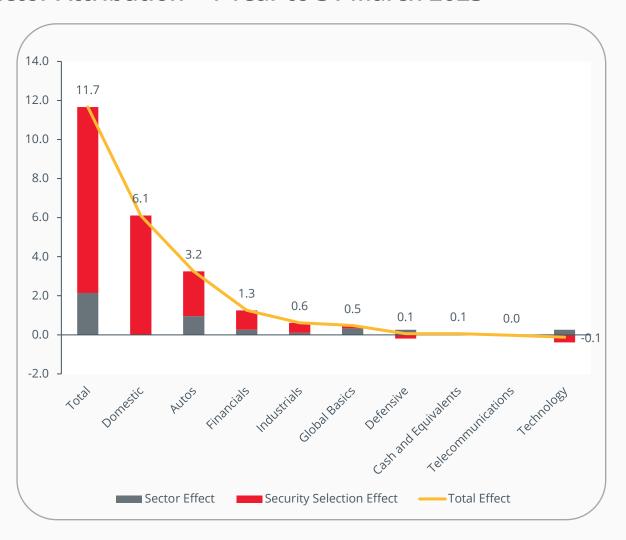
### JAPAN SMALLER COMPANY STRATEGY REPRESENTATIVE PORTFOLIO'S FACTOR EXPOSURE SINCE 2008



Source: Eastspring Investments, Axioma, as at 31 March 2023. The historical performance or forecast presented in this slide is not indicative of and should not be construed as being indicative of or otherwise used as a proxy for the future or likely performance of the Fund. Definition of the above factors may be different through time due to a change in Axioma model used in December 2018. The factor performance and style indices discussed in this presentation do not represent the investment performance of actual accounts of any investors or any funds. The results achieved in our simulations do not guarantee future investment results. The factors are used to demonstrate our investment process and a process of objectively simulating historical investment returns by applying a set of rules for buying and selling securities.



#### Sector Attribution – 1 Year to 31 March 2023



#### **Contributors:**

- **>** Domestic
- **>** Autos
- **>** Financials
- **Industrials**
- ▶ Global Basics
- **>** Defensive

#### **Detractors:**

- **→** Telecommunications
- ▶ Technology



### Absolute Contributors and Detractors, 1 year to 31 March 2023

Contributors	Sector	Fund	Contribution
Kobe Steel Ltd	Global Basics	1.0	1.5
H2O Retailing Corp	Domestic	0.7	1.4
Relia Inc	Industrials	0.0	1.4
Mitsubishi Motors Corp	Autos	1.0	1.1
NOK Corp	Autos	3.5	1.0
Oriental Shiraishi Corporation	Domestic	2.5	1.0
Credit Saison Co Ltd	Financials	2.6	1.0
Kawasaki Heavy Industries	Industrials	0.8	0.9
Mazda Motor Corp	Autos	1.1	0.7
Sumitomo Heavy Industries	Industrials	2.9	0.6

Detractors	Sector	Fund	Contribution
Meidensha Corp	Industrials	2.7	-0.6
Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd	Global Basics	2.0	-0.5
OKI Electric Industry Co Ltd	Technology	2.2	-0.3
Ricoh Co Ltd	Technology	2.8	-0.1
Tokyo Century Corp	Financials	2.5	-0.1
Fuji Seal International Inc	Defensive	2.2	-0.1
DIC Corp	Global Basics	2.9	0.0
Resona Holdings Inc	Financials	0.2	0.0
Mitsui OSK Lines	Industrials	0.0	0.0
Avantia Co Ltd	Domestic	0.0	0.0

Source: Eastspring Investments, as of 31 March 2023. Reference Index: Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of funds adopting the same strategy mentioned above. Please note that the securities mentioned are for illustrative purposes only. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell such securities. There is no assurance that any security discussed herein will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this document or that security sold has not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent the entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of the portfolio holdings. The contributors and detractors noted above are ranked largest to smallest in impact on the absolute return of the portfolio. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without prior notice. Ancludes all share classes.



#### Sector Attribution – 3 Months to 31 March 2023



#### **Contributors:**

- Domestic
- Autos
- Defensive
- Industrials

#### **Detractors:**

- **>** Telecommunications
- Global Basics
- Financials
- Technology



### Absolute Contributors and Detractors, 3 months to 31 March 2023

Contributors	Sector	Fund	Contribution
Relia Inc	Industrials	0.0	1.4
Kobe Steel Ltd	Global Basics	1.0	1.1
NOK Corp	Autos	3.5	0.8
Sumitomo Heavy Industries	Industrials	2.9	0.7
Oriental Shiraishi Corporation	Domestic	2.5	0.5
Sato Holdings Corp	Domestic	2.2	0.5
F-Tech Inc	Autos	1.0	0.4
Matsuoka Corp	Domestic	1.1	0.4
Stanley Electric Co Ltd	Autos	1.2	0.3
NHK Spring Co Ltd	Autos	2.4	0.3

Detractors	Sector	Fund	Contribution
Fuji Seal International Inc	Defensive	2.2	-0.3
Concordia Financial Group Ltd	Financials	2.6	-0.2
Chiba Bank Ltd	Financials	1.5	-0.2
Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd	Global Basics	2.0	-0.1
Sundrug Co Ltd	Domestic	1.3	-0.1
Kawasaki Heavy Industries	Industrials	0.8	-0.1
Resona Holdings Inc	Financials	0.2	0.0
Mebuki Financial Group Inc	Financials	1.1	0.0
Tokyo Century Corp	Financials	2.5	0.0

Source: Eastspring Investments, as of 31 March 2023. Reference Index: Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of funds adopting the same strategy mentioned above. Please note that the securities mentioned are for illustrative purposes only. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell such securities. There is no assurance that any security discussed herein will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this document or that security sold has not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent the entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of the portfolio holdings. The contributors and detractors noted above are ranked largest to smallest in impact on the absolute return of the portfolio. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without prior notice. Ancludes all share classes.



### Sales and Purchases, 1 Year to 31 March 2023

Profits from selected outperformers were invested into new investment candidates and selected laggards

Significant Sales
H2O Retailing Corp
Relia Inc (EXIT)
Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Kamigumi Co Ltd (EXIT)
Mitsubishi Motors Corp
Kobe Steel Ltd
Nomura Real Estate Holdings (EXIT)
SBI Shinsei Bank Ltd (EXIT)
Mazda Motor Corp
Sanyo Housing Nagoya (EXIT)
JGC Holdings Corp (EXIT)
Japan Aviation Electronics (EXIT)
Shimamura Co Ltd (EXIT)
Mitsui Osk Lines Ltd (EXIT)

Significant Purchases
Ryohin Keikaku Co Ltd (NEW)
Tokyo Century Corp (NEW)
Sato Holdings Corp (NEW)
Lintec Corp (NEW)
Izumi Co Ltd (NEW)
Takamatsu Construction Group
lida Group Holdings Co Ltd
Fuji Seal International Inc
Sundrug Co Ltd (NEW)
Stanley Electric Co Ltd (NEW)
Sohgo Security Services Co (NEW)
Santen Pharmaceutical Co Ltd (NEW)
Mebuki Financial Group Inc (NEW)
Elecom Co Ltd (NEW)
Resona Holdings Inc (NEW)

Source: Eastspring Investments. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of funds adopting the same strategy mentioned above. Please note that the securities mentioned are for illustrative purposes only. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell such securities. There is no assurance that any security discussed herein will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this document or that security sold has not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent the entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of the portfolio holdings.



### Sales and Purchases, 3 Months\*

Significant Sales
Relia Inc (EXIT)
Kobe Steel Ltd
Stanley Electric Co Ltd
H2O Retailing Corp
Sato Holdings Corp
SBI Shinsei Bank Ltd (EXIT)

Significant Purchase
Lintec Corp (NEW)
Izumi Co Ltd (NEW)
Ryohin Keikaku Co Ltd
Santen Pharmaceutical Co Ltd (NEW)
Tokyo Century Corp
Elecom Co Ltd (NEW)
Resona Holdings Inc (NEW)

Source: Eastspring Investments. \* 3 months to 31 March 2023. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of funds adopting the same strategy mentioned above. Please note that the securities mentioned are for illustrative purposes only. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell such securities. There is no assurance that any security discussed herein will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this document or that security sold has not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent the entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of the portfolio holdings.



### Top 10 Stock and Sector Positioning as at 31 March 2023

Top 10 Positions	Portfolio (%)	
NOK Corp	3.5	
Daito Trust Construct Co Ltd	3.2	
DIC Corp	2.9	
Sumitomo Heavy Industries	2.9	
Takamatsu Construction Group	2.8	
Ricoh Co Ltd	2.8	
Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan Holdings	2.7	
Meidensha Corp	2.7	
Teijin Ltd	2.7	
Credit Saison Co Ltd	2.6	

Sector	Portfolio (%)	Reference Index (%)	Active (%)
Autos	14.2	5.1	9.0
Domestic	33.3	25.4	7.9
Global Basics	17.3	13.0	4.3
Financials	11.5	8.9	2.6
Cash and Equivalents	1.5	0.0	1.5
Telecommunications	0.0	0.2	-0.2
Industrials	11.4	14.3	-2.9
Defensive	3.3	13.9	-10.6
Technology	7.6	19.2	-11.6



### Risk Control and Review: Portfolio Characteristics

#### Style:

- Seek to own stocks that demonstrate intrinsic value
- In most periods this may be reflected in style weights

#### Holdings:

- Typically 40-50 stocks
- Emphasis on bottom-up stock selection
- Conviction balanced with risk and liquidity conditions

#### Risk:

- Not focused on benchmark, with potential for significant deviation from market in short term
- Stock specific risk will tend to dominate characteristics
- High Active Share

#### **Portfolio Characteristics**

Risk overview	Portfolio	Benchmark	Delta		
Active share	95.5				
Tracking error	5.2				
Number of securities	52	1434			
Predicted beta	0.94	1.00			
Value					
Price-to-earnings	12.3	14.3	-2.0		
Price-to-earnings (F12M)	9.9	12.3	-2.4		
Dividend yield (F12M)	3.5%	2.6%	0.9%		
Price-to-book	0.7	1.1	-0.4		
EV/EBITDA	5.3	8.3	-3.1		
Growth					
Historic EPS growth (3-year)	-21,2%	-6.0%	-15.2%		
EPS growth (1 year forward)	33.8%	14.8%	19.0%		
Quality & Profitability					
Return on equity	6.8%	11.1%	-4.3%		
Long term debt/capital	23.1%	22.5%	0.7%		

Sources: Eastspring Investments, 31 March 2023. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of funds adopting the same strategy mentioned above. F12M: forward 12 months. EV/EBITDA: Enterprise Value to Earnings Before Interest Debt and Amortization. EPS: Earnings Per Share. Reference Index: Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index



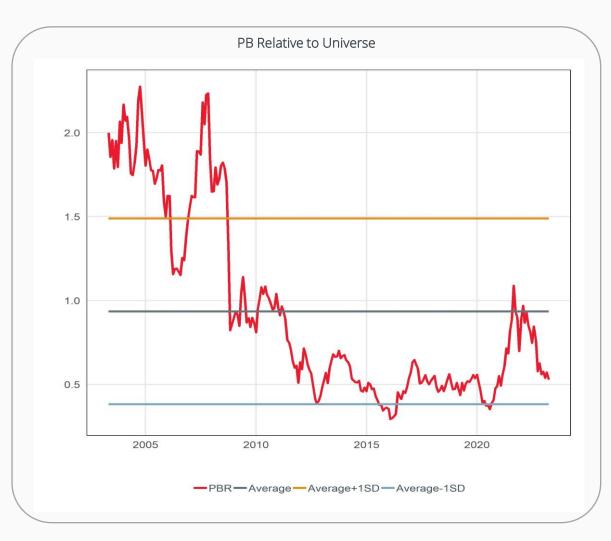
# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?





# Mitsui O.S.K Lines-Shipping Company



- Prior strong shipping cycle and subsequent overinvestment drove industry profit collapse and prolonged adjustment
- ▶ The market has continued to extrapolate this negative environment despite industry consolidation and changing industry investment behavior

### Key issues

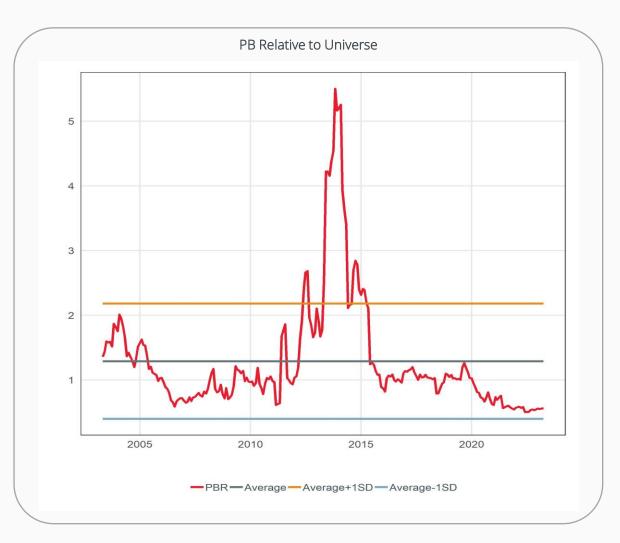
- ➤ Ability to restructure core bulk business reduce costs, reduce spot market exposure and reinforce stable earnings from contract based business
- ▶ Merger of container business was key structural improvement
- ➤ Consolidation in the industry excess supply falling and capital beginning to exit, moderating cyclical pressure. This is being reinforced by COVID-19 impact
- ➤ Increasing contribution from long-term contract based LNG shipping drives more stable earnings
- Valuation on conservative assumptions provides compensation for cyclical risks

### Current position

▶ Manage position size as upside diminishes with rising price



# Oki Electric- Mfg Info- Telecom and printer Products



- ▶ Undertaken aggressive restructuring over past five years
- Now maintains businesses that develops and assembles hardware and software into large systems for large corporates and public sector
- ▶ Most of businesses are cash flow generative in niche segments, which are oligopolistic with high barriers to entry
- Core tech competencies are mostly complementary in nature across money recognition, counting and sorting, ticketing, printing, and network infrastructure and communications

### Key issues

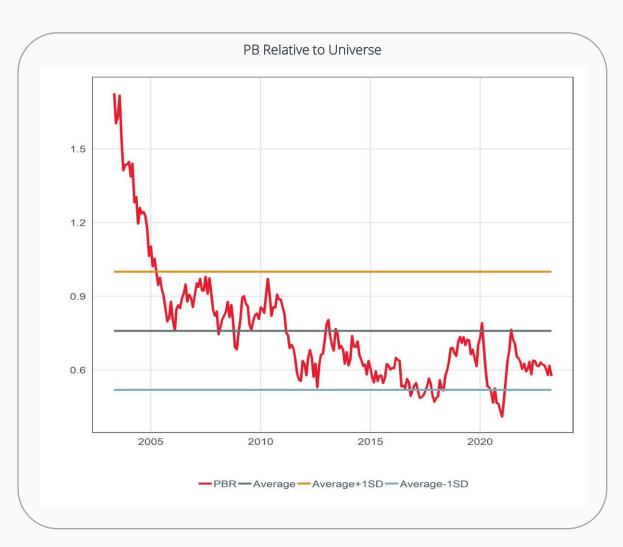
- Oki is in the process of largely withdrawing from its loss-making overseas ATM and printer businesses
- ▶ This process includes significant domestic redundancies and fixed cost reductions and leaves a portfolio of domestic based cash generative businesses with growth potential.

### Current position

- ➤ Last contacted management in August 2022 to test restructuring progress against our trend assumptions
- ▶ No material changes to our trend earnings assumptions
- ▶ Mispriced when tested against consensus as well as our trend earnings estimates.



# Ricoh Co- Manufacturer of Multifunction Printers & Copiers



- ▶ Market sentiment for Ricoh remains anchored around a relatively weak cyclical environment and is extrapolating the observed impact to shorter term earnings
- Markets pricing in a sustained slowdown in the office printing market amid COVID-19 outbreak

### Key Issues

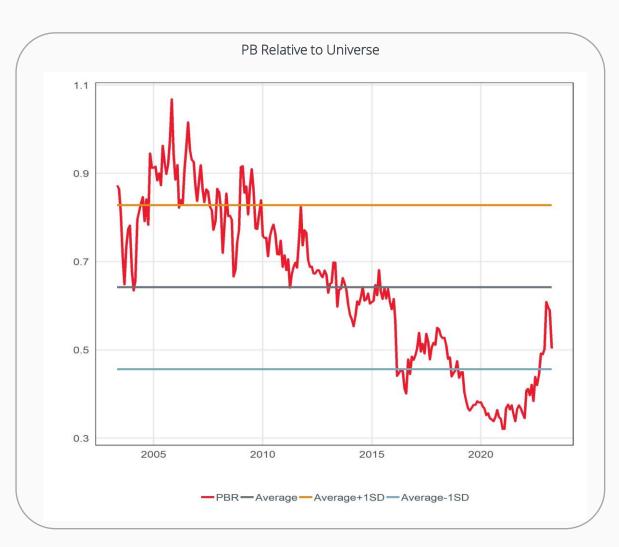
- Ricoh is beginning to benefit from aggressive restructuring in both domestic and overseas production and sales operations
- ▶ Whilst its office printing is seen as unlikely to experience growth, its much-improved cost structure and pricing discipline has seen profitability improve
- Also made progress in monetising its services businesses, which the market is yet to fully appreciate; Economic disruption benefiting service business growth
- ▶ We observe that the restructuring efforts and changes to business model are starting to challenge the market's perception that the services businesses are merely cost centres

### Current position

▶ We continue to have a high conviction based on our conservative trend margin assumptions and trend valuation support



# Chiba Bank- Regional Bank



➤ Experienced significant share price underperformance in 2016, post the BOJ announcement of negative interest rate policy (NIRP)

### Key issues

Chiba Bank is well managed and has a strong market position with a diversified business that includes higher margin lending to small to medium enterprises

### Current position

- ▶ Earnings structure remains sound and earnings appear to be entering a period of growth although this is not indicated in the stock price. Net Interest margin, after many years of decline, looks to be finally bottoming out, albeit at low levels.
- Meanwhile other financial indicators such as loan growth, fee business income, credit costs, overhead ratios and capital adequacy ratios continue to improve. The bank has a high dividend yield and is steadily buying back shares.
- Our conservative trend assumptions suggest the shares are very attractively valued.

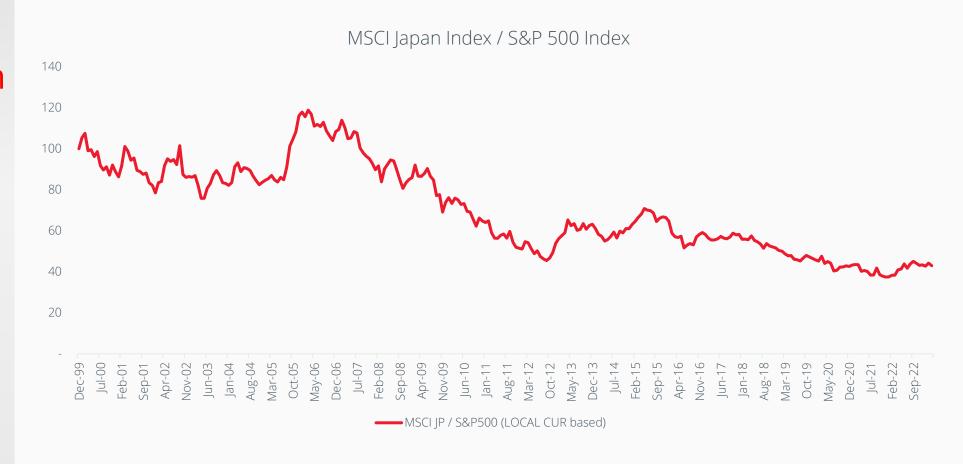


# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?



# US Market Benefitted From Disinflation Is The Regime Changing?



Source: Nomura Securities, Bloomberg, as at 31 March 2023. MSCI Japan Index / S&P 500 Index based on local currency. Please note that there are limitations to the use of such indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector. The historical performance or forecast presented in this slide is not indicative of and should not be construed as being indicative of or otherwise used as a proxy for the future or likely performance of the Fund.

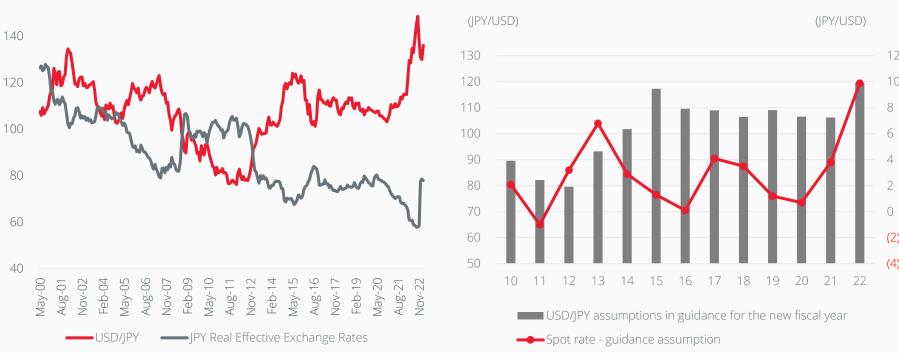


# Japanese Yen Supportive for Exporters Earnings



JPY Currency

# Forex Assumption in Guidance vs Spot



Source: Nomura Securities, Bloomberg as at 31 March 2023 (Left Chart) Nomura Securities, based on data disclosed by each company, QUICK data (Right Chart). Note: Russell/Nomura Large Cap constituents with March year-ends. Includes only companies that had announced FY22 results as of 10 May 2022. The chart shows the average divergence between the USD/JPY assumption in guidance and the spot rate on the day of the guidance announcement.

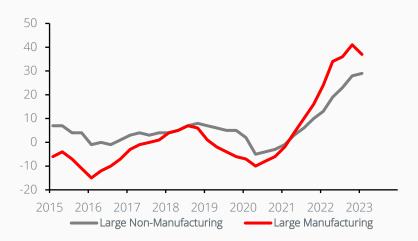


Japan **Economy** Cyclical Improvement and Increasing Pressures Typically Good for Japan

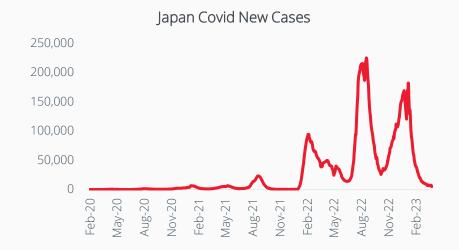
# Reuters Tankan Large Firm Sentiment

# Output Price DI Large Manufacturing / Non-Manufacturing





Inventory Level (2013 = 100, sa)

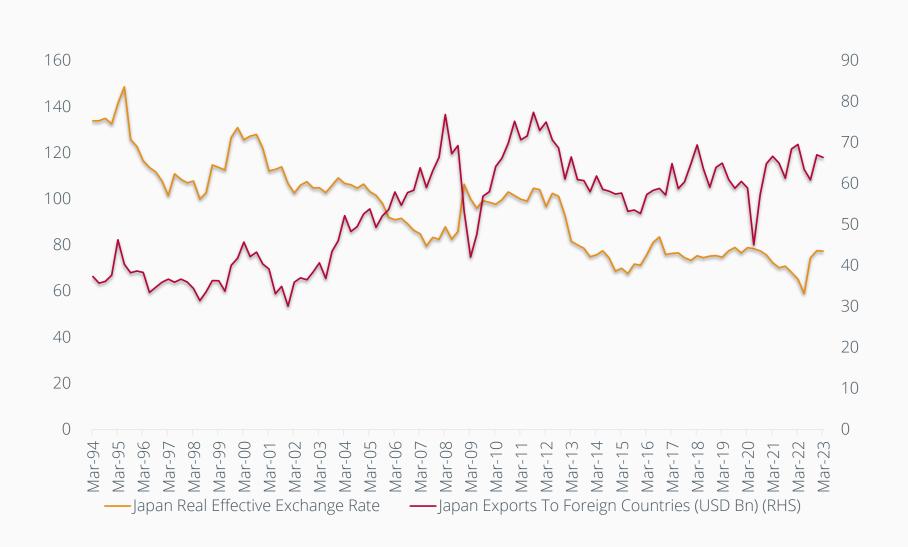




Source: Reuters Tankan Large Firm Sentiment: Reuters, JP Morgan, as at 31 March 2023. Output Price DI: BoJ and JP Morgan, to Q1 23. Japan Covid New Cases: Nomura Securities, based on 'Our World in Data' as at 31 March 2023. Inventory level: METI, JP Morgan, to 28 February 2023

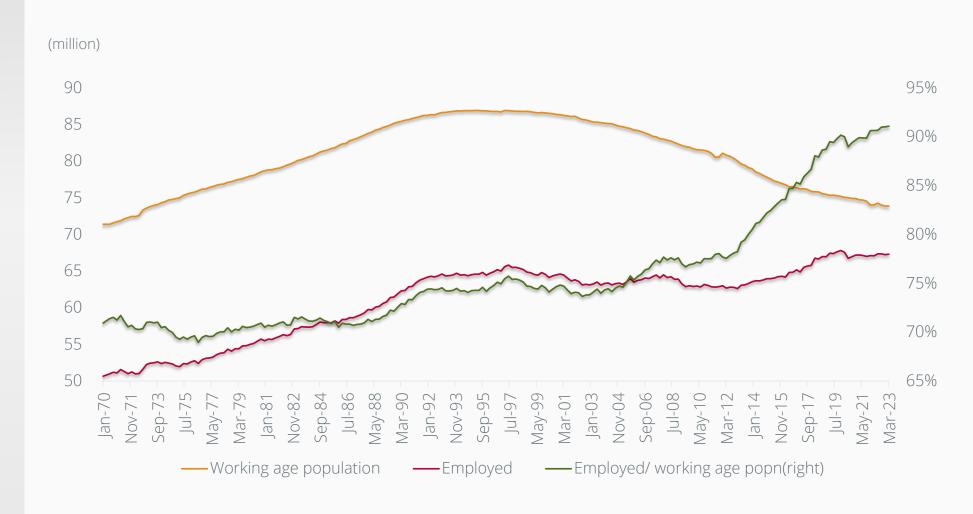


# Japan Real Effective Exchange Rate vs Exports





Japan
Economy
% of Employed
/ Working Age
Population
Higher Than
Ever





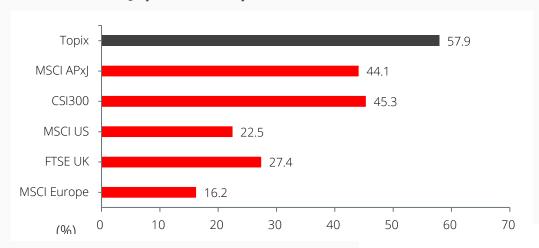
# Corporate Japan: Cyclical Impact But Rising Trend

### **Profit Margin as % of Sales**



# Corporate Governance: A Rising Focus In Japan

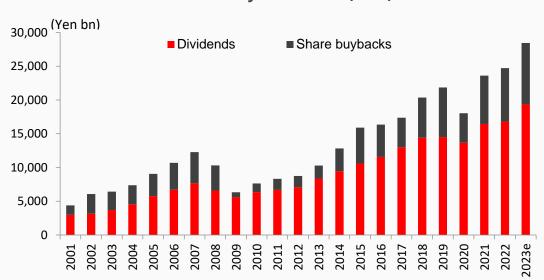
### More Japanese companies are "cash rich\*"



### Payout ratio in Japan resilient through 2020



## Dividends and Buybacks Firm (¥ bn)



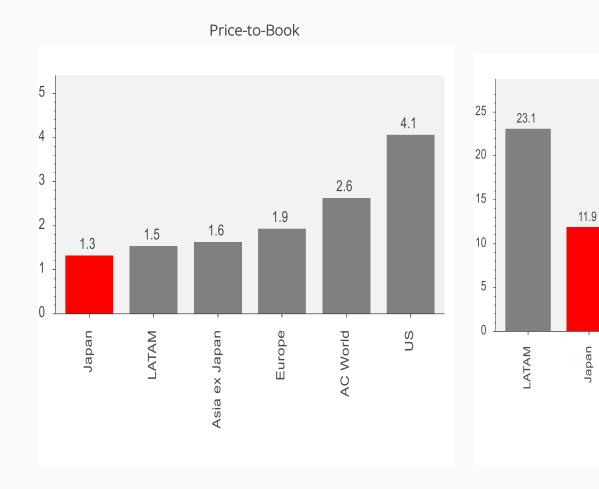
### **Growing Independent Director Representation on Company Boards\***



Sources: "Cash rich" companies: Nomura, as at 31 March 2023. Companies ratio is the number of positive net cash companies divided by the number of index composite companies. "Payout ratio" Nomura, as at 31 March 2023. Universe is TOPIX. Based on company's data and Toyokeizai and Nomura estimate data. "Dividends & Buybacks: Nomura, as at 31 March 2023. FY22 is Nomura estimate. Based on company's data and Toyokeizai and Nomura estimate data; for FY21, share buybacks are actual executed amount and dividends are Nomura estimates. "Growing independent": Nomura and Bloomberg, as at 31 March 2023. Universe is TOPIX. Based on company's data and Bloomberg. (\* Percentage of Topix companies with 1/3 or more independent directors.) Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.



# Japan Valuations Are Attractive Cash Earnings Are Not Priced In By Market



Cash Earnings Yield (%)

10.6

Europe

10.2

8.2

AC World

6.5

Source: Eastspring Investments, IBES MSCI Indices, Refinitiv Datastream, as at 31 March 2023. Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. Indices used: MSCI Japan Index, MSCI Europe Index, MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex-Japan, MSCI EM Latin America Index, MSCI AC World Index, MSCI USA Index Projections, forecasts, opinions on the economy, securities markets or the economic trends of the markets are based upon Information and sources believed to be reliable at time of publication and subject to change without notice.



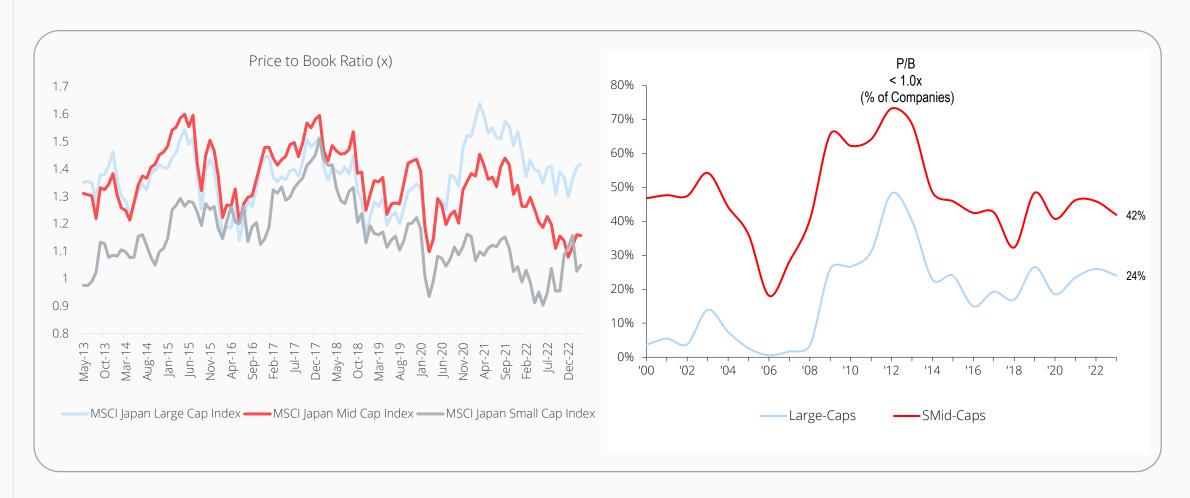
# Agenda

- 1. Team update
- 2. Process
- 3. Performance
- 4. Q&A
- 5. Case studies
- 6. Market
- 7. Why Japan Smaller Companies?





# Small Cap Continues to Trade at a Discount to Large 44% of Small Caps Trade Below Book Value



Source: Eastspring Investments, (LHS) Nomura, Bloomberg. Data shows MSCI Japan Large Cap Index, MSCI Japan Mid Cap Index and MSCI Japan Small Cap Index, as at 31 March 2023. (RHS) Bloomberg Finance L.P., Datastream, Factset, and J.P. Morgan Calculations, as at 31 March 2023. All yearly values are as of beginning of year. Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the investment manager without prior notice. There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.



# We Focus On Out Of Favour And Mispriced Stocks Long Tail of Mid and Small Cap Stocks Meet This Criteria



# Sell – side analyst coverage

- A proxy for the market's focus
- Coverage increases for stocks that are in favour with the market

### **TOPIX Index coverage**

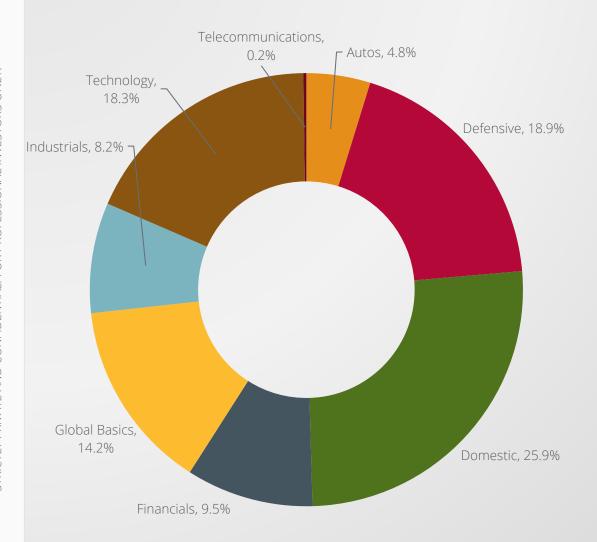
 Under covered\* Small Cap stocks represent approximately 57% of TOPIX Small index

■ 0-1 Analysts ■ 2 - 5 Analysts ■ above 5 Analysts

Source: Eastspring Investments, Nomura, based on IFIS and MSCI data, as at 1 April 2022. The universe data is based on the MSCI Japan Large Cap Index, MSCI Japan Mid Cap Index and MSCI Japan Small Cap Index. \*Represents stocks with 0-1 Analysts covering the stock. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without prior notice. Past performance is not an indication of the future or likely performance. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the investment manager without prior notice. There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.



### Not just a domestic Japan thematic play



# Wide and diverse investment universe

over 2000 stocks in bottom third by market cap

Source: Eastspring Investments, as at 31 December 2022. Sector weight for the Russell Nomura Mid-Small Cap, internal classification. For illustration purposes only. The indices described are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. The information provided herein are subject to change at the discretion of the investment manager without prior notice. There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.



# Biographies



Ivailo Dikov
Team Leader &
Portfolio Manager
Focused Value



Oliver Lee Client Portfolio Manager

Ivailo Dikov joined Eastspring Investments, the Asian asset management business of Prudential plc, as Portfolio Manager, in November 2013.

Ivailo is a member of the Japan Equity team and is jointly responsible for "Value" strategies.

Prior to Joining Eastspring Investments, Ivailo worked for Theoria Capital Management (Singapore) as an Investment Analyst and previously worked for TPG Axon Capital (Tokyo) and Fidelity Investments (Tokyo). Ivailo has 18 years of investment experience in Japanese equities.

Ivailo holds a Master of Business from Tsukuba University in Japan and is a fluent Japanese speaker.

Oliver Lee joined Eastspring Investments as Client Portfolio Manager in June 2022.

He is a member of the Japanese Equity investment team and represents the strategies managed by the team to investors globally.

Previously Oliver was Investment Director at Jupiter Asset Management in London specialising in emerging market equities and at Merian Global Investors based in Hong Kong covering their Asia, China and Japan capabilities.

Oliver graduated from University of Wales, Cardiff with a BSc in Business Administration and is a CFA and CAIA charterholder.





# Biographies



**Max Godwin**Portfolio Manager

Max Godwin joined Eastspring Investments, the Asian asset management business of Prudential plc, as Portfolio Manager, in February 2007.

Max is a Portfolio Manager of the Japan Equity team and is responsible for "Smaller Companies" strategies.

Prior to joining Eastspring Investments, Max worked at Pi Investments (HK) Limited as a Senior Analyst and Co-Portfolio Manager, he was also founding partner and Analyst for OAL Advisors Limited, advisors to the Rockhampton Fund, Tokyo. In the earlier stage of his career, Max was a small/mid cap Equity Analyst with Cazenove & Co (Japan) Ltd, Tokyo. Max has 31 years of financial industry experience.

Max holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from London School of Economics. He is also a UK Qualified Chartered Accountant and is fluent in written and spoken Japanese.



**Samuel Hoang**Portfolio Manager

Samuel Hoang joined Eastspring Investments, the Asian asset management business of Prudential plc, as Portfolio Manager, in 2011.

Samuel is a Portfolio Manager of the Japan Equity focus team and is jointly responsible for Japan 'Conservative Value' strategies.

Before joining the Japan team, Samuel was the Lead Portfolio Manager for the Vietnam equity strategy and part of the Regional Asia focus team. Prior to joining Eastspring Investments, Samuel worked at Lion Global Investors as an Equity Analyst. In all, Samuel has 24 years of financial industry experience.

Samuel holds an MBA from Waseda University, Japan and a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from Foreign Trade University, Vietnam.



# Biographies



**Calvin Chang**Portfolio Manager

Calvin Chang is a Portfolio Manager in our Japan Equity focus team and is responsible for managing the team's Japan Value strategies.

Prior to joining the Japan Equity team, as part of our Graduate Analyst Program, Calvin rotated through a number of our equity focus teams, including the current one. Upon completing our Graduate Analyst Program in May 2017, he officially joined our Japan Equity focus team.

Calvin joined Eastspring Investments (Singapore) Limited in February 2015.

Calvin has 8 years of investment experience.

Calvin holds a Degree of Accountancy from the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



**Charlotte Lu**Portfolio Manager

Charlotte Lu is a Portfolio Manager in our Japan Equity team.

Charlotte joined Eastspring Investments in November 2022 and is based in Singapore.

Previously she lived in Japan and worked as an equity research analyst at Goldman Sachs and Mizuho Securities covering a multitude of sectors.

She is fluent in Japanese, English and Mandarin, and holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from Keio University in Tokyo.





# Composite – Japan Smaller Companies Strategy

# Composite March 2023 (JPY)

	Annualised figures										
1 m	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 Y	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	10 Y	S. I.
0.5	18.3	9.5	23.2	10.9	4.8	6.6	9.3	6.9	9.7	11.3	6.1
0.6	19.4	10.5	24.3	11.9	5.7	7.5	10.3	7.8	10.6	12.2	7.0
1.4	7.7	2.7	14.4	6.7	3.9	6.2	7.3	5.4	8.2	9.3	3.9
-0.8	11.7	7.7	9.9	5.2	1.8	1.3	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.1
N/A	8.9	11.4	15.8	19.0	19.3	18.1	18.0	18.1	17.5	17.4	19.8
0.6	19.5	10.5	24.7	12.2	6.0	7.9	10.6	8.1	10.5	12.2	N/A
0.6	19.4	10.5	24.4	11.9	5.7	7.5	10.2	7.7	10.5	12.2	N/A
N/A	3.6	6.6	8.2	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.6
N/A	3.2	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
	0.5 0.6 1.4 -0.8 N/A 0.6 0.6 N/A	0.5 18.3 0.6 19.4 1.4 7.7 -0.8 11.7 N/A 8.9 0.6 19.5 0.6 19.4 N/A 3.6	0.5 18.3 9.5 0.6 19.4 10.5 1.4 7.7 2.7 -0.8 11.7 7.7 N/A 8.9 11.4 0.6 19.5 10.5 0.6 19.4 10.5 N/A 3.6 6.6	0.5     18.3     9.5     23.2       0.6     19.4     10.5     24.3       1.4     7.7     2.7     14.4       -0.8     11.7     7.7     9.9       N/A     8.9     11.4     15.8       0.6     19.5     10.5     24.7       0.6     19.4     10.5     24.4       N/A     3.6     6.6     8.2	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4         8.2	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y         6 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8         6.6           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7         7.5           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9         6.2           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8         1.3           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3         18.1           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0         7.9           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7         7.5           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4         8.2         7.7	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y         6 Y         7 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8         6.6         9.3           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.3           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9         6.2         7.3           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8         1.3         2.9           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3         18.1         18.0           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0         7.9         10.6           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.2           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4         8.2         7.7         7.5	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y         6 Y         7 Y         8 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8         6.6         9.3         6.9           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.3         7.8           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9         6.2         7.3         5.4           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8         1.3         2.9         2.5           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3         18.1         18.0         18.1           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0         7.9         10.6         8.1           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.2         7.7           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4         8.2         7.7         7.5         7.5	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y         6 Y         7 Y         8 Y         9 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8         6.6         9.3         6.9         9.7           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.3         7.8         10.6           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9         6.2         7.3         5.4         8.2           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8         1.3         2.9         2.5         2.5           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3         18.1         18.0         18.1         17.5           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0         7.9         10.6         8.1         10.5           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.2         7.7         10.5           N/A         3.6         6.6         8.2         8.4         8.2         7.7         7.5	1 m         1 Y         2 Y         3 Y         4 Y         5 Y         6 Y         7 Y         8 Y         9 Y         10 Y           0.5         18.3         9.5         23.2         10.9         4.8         6.6         9.3         6.9         9.7         11.3           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.3         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.3         7.8         10.6         12.2           1.4         7.7         2.7         14.4         6.7         3.9         6.2         7.3         5.4         8.2         9.3           -0.8         11.7         7.7         9.9         5.2         1.8         1.3         2.9         2.5         2.5         2.9           N/A         8.9         11.4         15.8         19.0         19.3         18.1         18.0         18.1         17.5         17.4           0.6         19.5         10.5         24.7         12.2         6.0         7.9         10.6         8.1         10.5         12.2           0.6         19.4         10.5         24.4         11.9         5.7         7.5         10.2         7.7         10.5         12.2 <t< td=""></t<>

Calendar Year Data	YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Composite Return - Net (%)	9.1	9.7	23.0	-8.5	18.8	-26.3	25.6	14.4	11.2	18.8	65.7	32.2
Composite Return - Gross (%)	9.4	10.6	24.1	-7.7	19.8	-25.7	26.7	15.4	12.1	19.8	67.1	33.3
Benchmark Return (%)	6.7	-0.4	9.3	3.8	15.4	-16.9	25.4	1.1	15.1	14.8	53.3	16.3
Relative to Gross (%)	2.6	11.1	14.8	-11.5	4.4	-8.8	1.3	14.3	-3.0	5.0	13.8	17.1
Composite 3-Y Annualised Volatility (%)	15.8	19.9	21.8	22.2	16.0	17.8	16.0	16.5	15.6	17.3	19.1	20.9
Benchmark 3-Y Annualised Volatility (%)	13.3	15.8	16.2	17.9	13.4	15.5	14.8	15.5	15.2	16.6	17.7	17.5
Number of Portfolios	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	2
Market Value at End, USD (bn)	0.16	0.15	0.38	0.45	0.42	0.34	0.49	0.31	0.33	0.43	0.19	0.11

Eastspring Investments claims compliance with Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. To receive a complete list and description the composites and/or a presentation that adheres to the GIPS standards, contact the relevant sales representatives or email institutional@eastspring.com.

The Firm is defined as all portfolios, except those that are predominantly Private Equity portfolios, of Eastspring Investments (Singapore) Limited and Eastspring Investments (Hong-Kong) Limited (collectively referred to as "Eastspring Investments"), which are business units within the Prudential Plc Group.

This composite includes separately managed portfolios that primarily invest in shares of Japan smaller companies and are managed without reference to a benchmark.

This Composite was created on 1 May 09 and Composite Performance starts from 1 Jul 06. A full List of the Firm's Composites is available upon request,

The composite was re-defined in May 2009 and now includes portfolios that are managed with similar investment and risk objectives rather than against benchmark. The funds in this composite are managed without being constrained by their benchmark while performance may vary widely from the reference benchmark over shorter periods, the Fund Manager expects to outperform the reference benchmark over the longer term.

Eastspring Investments has been independently verified for the periods 1 Jan 1995 - 31 Dec 2009 and 1 Jan 2018 - 31 Dec 2019. The verification reports are available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firms policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

The minimum fund size requirement for a fund to be included in a composite is USD3 million.

All returns are presented in Japanese Yen. Market Values are presented in Dollar.

Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.

Performance results are presented gross of investment management fees and net of trading expenses. Treatment of other fees and withholding tax on dividends, interest income and capital gains varies for the underlying portfolios. Additional information on other fees treatment are available upon request.

Portfolios within the composite has no or minimal derivatives exposure

If a fund has a cash flow or in-specie transfer (either in or out) that is greater than 10% of the opening balance of the fund, then the impact on performance has to be assessed to determine whether it should be held out-of-structure. If the impact on performance is equal to or greater than 20 basis points, then the fund can be excluded from composite performance until it is back in structure. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request.

The highest % of management fee charged are as per below:

Equity Strategies : 2.00% per annum

Fixed Income Strategies: 1.25% per annum

Additional information regarding policies for calculating and reporting returns is available on request

The Firm's (defined in this GIPS report as Eastspring Investments (Singapore) and Eastspring Investments (Hong-Kong)) total assets under management as of 31 December 2022 was USD147.11 billion.

Net composite returns shown do not represent actual net returns of underlying portfolios but are calculated net of the highest band fee (net down by 0.875% p.a.) in the tiered management fee schedule applicable to an institutional investor investing in such a strategy. However, the firm reserves the right to change this fee structure and hence net composite returns might change without prior or subsequent notifications to current or potential investors

Effective 1st November 2018, Information Ratio is calculated as (Annualized Fund Return - Annualized Bench Return) / Tracking Error.

Prior to 1st November 2018, Information Ratio was calculated as (Average Annualized Excess Return / Tracking Error).

Source: Eastspring Investments, 31 March 2023 in JPY (C0139). Reference Index: Russell Nomura Mid-Small Index. This is for information purposes only. It is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument, investment product, security or service.



# EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS (Luxembourg) S.A.

# **CONTACT DETAILS**

# **DISTRIBUTION**

### Gordon Hogarth

1 Angel Court London EC2R 7AG

M: +44 (0)770 371 4884

Email: gordon.hogarth@eastspring.com

# Michael Woolley

1 Angel Court London EC2R 7AG M: +44 (0) 7741732536

Email: mike.woolley@eastspring.com

### Dirk Toedte

26 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg Tel: + 352 229999 5100 M: + 352 671 179494

Email: dirk.toedte@eastspring.com

# **CLIENT SERVICES**

### Stephanie Wenzel

1 Angel Court London EC2R 7AG

M: +44 (0) 770 371 4882

Email: stephanie.wenzel@eastspring.com





# Disclaimer

### Risk and Reward Profile

Lower risk

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Typically lower rewards

Typically lower rewards

- Historical data may not be a reliable indication for the future.
- · Risk category shown is not guaranteed and may shift over time.
- · The lowest category does not mean 'risk-free'.

The Sub-Fund's risk level reflects the following:

- As a category, shares are more volatile than bonds or money market instruments.
- · The Sub-Fund invests in a single geographical area.

The rating does not reflect the possible effects of unusual market conditions or large unpredictable events, which could amplify everyday risks and could trigger other risks, such as:

Counterparty risk The Sub-Fund could lose money if an entity with which it does business becomes unwilling or unable to honor its obligations to the fund.

**Derivatives risk** Certain derivatives could behave unexpectedly or could expose the Sub-Fund to losses that are significantly greater than the cost of the derivative.

**Focus risk** To the extent that the Sub-Fund has exposure to an issuer, geographical area or type of security that is heavily affected by an adverse event, its value may fall.

**Liquidity risk** Certain securities could become hard to value, or to sell at a desired time and price.

Management risk Investment management techniques that have worked well in normal market conditions could prove ineffective or detrimental.

**Operational risk** In any market, but especially in emerging markets, the Sub-Fund could lose some or all of its investments through fraud, corruption, political or military actions, the seizure of assets, or other irregular events.

Benchmark - Japan Dynamic Fund:

This Sub-Fund aims to outperform the return of MSCI Japan Index ("Benchmark"). The Sub-Fund is actively managed. The Benchmark is used as a reference point for portfolio construction. The majority of the Sub-Fund's equity securities will be components of, and have weightings derived from the Benchmark. The Investment Manager may use its discretion to overweight or underweight certain components of the Benchmark and may invest in companies or sectors not included in the Benchmark in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. It is thus expected that the performance of the Sub-Fund will materially deviate from the Benchmark



# Disclaimer

This material is exclusively for use by Professional Investors in European countries ("Professional" Investors refers to definition provided in Directive 2004/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004, the "MiFID Directive" as amended) and Qualified Investors in Switzerland.

This document is issued by Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) S.A., 26, Boulevard Royal, 2449 Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. The issuer makes no guarantee of the accuracy and completeness of this document and is not responsible for error of transmission of factual or analytical nor shall it be liable for damages arising out of any person's reliance upon this information.

Eastspring Investments is an open-ended investment company with variable capital ("Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable" or "SICAV") registered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which qualifies as an Undertaking for Collective in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") under relevant EU legislation. The Management Company of the SICAV is Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) S.A. ("Management Company").

All transactions into the SICAV should be based on the current Prospectus and the Key Information Document (KID), or the UCITS Key Investor Information Document / KIID (for UK based investors) of the relevant sub-fund in applicable local language. Such documents, together with the articles of incorporation, the most recent annual and semi-annual reports of the SICAV as well as information on investor rights, collective redress mechanisms at Union and national level in the event of litigation may be obtained in English free of charge from the Management Company. All above documents are also available under <a href="https://www.eastspring.com">www.eastspring.com</a> (please select your jurisdiction and accept the disclaimers). According to the applicable regulatory requirements, KIDs are made available in one of the official languages of each jurisdiction where the sub-funds are registered for offering.

The SICAV may be actively marketed and is actually registered for offering in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Please ask your usual contact for the full list of sub-funds and relevant share classes available in your country.

Where applicable, the SICAV has been notified and registered with the local European authorities in accordance with Directive 2009/65/EC, as amended. This **marketing communication** only refers to sub-fund(s) and share classes of the SICAV which have been passported for marketing and sale in the country of distribution of this material.

Prospective investors are invited to further consider the risk warnings section of the Prospectus. This document is solely for information and does not have any regard to the specific investment objectives, financial or tax situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this document. It is not intended as an offer, a solicitation of offer or a recommendation, to deal in shares of securities or any financial instruments.

Please refer to the offering documents for details on fees and charges, dealing & redemption, product features, risk factors and seek professional advice before making any investment decision. An investment in the SICAV is subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. The value of shares in any sub-fund of the SICAV and the income accruing to the shares, if any, may fall or rise. Where an investment is denominated in a currency other than the base currency of a sub-fund of the SICAV, exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value price or income of that investment. Investors should not make any investment decision solely based on this document. Investors may wish to seek advice from a financial adviser before purchasing shares of any sub-fund of the SICAV. In the event that an investor may choose not to seek advice from a financial adviser, the latter should consider carefully whether the sub-fund in question is suitable for him.

Past performance and the predictions, projections, or forecasts on the economy, securities markets or the economic trends of the markets are not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of the SICAV.

There are limitations to the use of indices as proxies for the past performance in the respective asset classes/sector.

Any sub-fund of the SICAV may use derivative instruments for efficient portfolio management and hedging purposes.

This document contains advertising. Subject to the availability of the sub-funds / share classes of the SICAV in your jurisdiction, the current Prospectus, KID or KIID in your local language, articles of incorporation and the most recent annual and semi-annual reports of the SICAV may be obtained free of charge from the following entities:

### Facilities Agent for European Economic Area:

Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) SA, 26 Boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg

### Switzerland - Representative and Paving Agents

The above-mentioned documents are available free of charge from the Representative Agent.

Representative Agent: First Independent Fund Services Ltd, Klausstrasse 33, 8008 Zurich Paying Agent: NPB-New Private Bank Ltd, Limmatquai 1/am Bellevue, 8024 Zurich

United Kingdom - Facility Agent



# Disclaimer

Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) S.A. - UK Branch, 1, Angel Court, EC2R 7AG, London

Please note that the Management Company may decide to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of its collective investment undertakings in accordance with Article 93a of Directive 2009/65/EC.

For the purpose of UK law, the SICAV, is a recognized scheme under section 264 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Please note that the protections provided by the UK regulatory system, especially for retail clients, do not apply to offshore investments. Compensation under the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme will not be available and UK cancellation rights do not apply.

Eastspring Investments companies (excluding JV companies) are ultimately wholly-owned / indirect subsidiaries / associates of Prudential plc in the United Kingdom. Eastspring Investments companies (including JV's) and Prudential plc are not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial, Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America or with Prudential Assurance Company, a subsidiary of M&G plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The Fund is a sub-fund of Eastspring Investments, an open-ended investment company with variable capital (Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable or SICAV) registered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which qualifies as an Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") under relevant EU legislation. The Management Company of the SICAV is Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) S.A., Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

All transactions into the Fund should be based on the Singapore Prospectus and Product Highlights Sheet ("PHS"). Such documents, together with the articles of incorporation of the SICAV and the most recent financial reports, may be obtained free of charge from Eastspring Investments (Luxembourg) S.A., or at relevant Eastspring Investments business units/website and their distribution partners.

This document is solely for information and does not have any regard to the specific investment objectives, financial or tax situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this document. This document is not intended as an offer, a solicitation of offer or a recommendation, to deal in shares of securities or any financial instruments.

Please refer to the offering documents for details on fees and charges, dealing and redemption, product features, risk factors and seek professional advice before making any investment in the Fund is subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. The value of shares in the Fund and the income accruing to the shares, if any, may fall or rise. Where an investment is denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund, exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of that investment. Investors should not make any investment decision solely based on this document. Investors may wish to seek advice from a financial adviser, the latter should consider carefully whether the Fund in question is suitable for him.