

## SARASIN AIM STRATEGY

SARASIN  
& PARTNERS

Data as at: | As at 28 February 2021

## PORTFOLIO INFORMATION

Structure	<b>Discretionary Portfolio</b>
Benchmark	<b>Numis Alternative Markets Index</b>
Peer Group	<b>ARC AIP</b>
Net Assets	<b>£87.7m</b>
Dividend Yield	<b>1.2%</b>
Number of Holdings	<b>25</b>
Management Fee	<b>1.5% + VAT</b>
Dealing Fee	<b>0%</b>
Initial Fee	<b>0%</b>

## STRATEGY PROFILE

The Sarasin & Partners AIM Service provides investors with a concentrated portfolio of 20-30 stocks listed on the AIM market. These are companies that are capable of generating sustained long term growth, usually driven by themes identified in our investment process. As with all Sarasin investment products we take an active approach, and ESG considerations are incorporated into fundamental and risk analysis.

All stocks are expected to qualify for Business Relief after being held for 2 years, and are checked by a third party before initial investment and annually thereafter.

The strategy seeks to generate a net total return in excess of the Benchmark.

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The AIM portfolio underperformed the wider market during February, falling 1.4% whilst the benchmark rose 1.8%. As experienced during the fourth quarter of 2020, the portfolio's bias towards growth and quality stocks counted against it as more value-oriented sectors such as Energy, Mining and Financials outperformed. Whilst we believe that the long-term trends that support each company in the portfolio either remain intact or have been accelerated by the pandemic, those companies that have been particularly badly affected in the last year can have greater short-term sensitivity to positive news flow. In this instance, the better than expected UK vaccine rollout and the announcement of the UK's 'roadmap' out of lockdown caused a short relief rally in some areas of the market.

A few of the more successful growth companies like Keywords Studios, Yougov and Ideagen gave up some gains during the month, reflecting the style bias in markets. As with January, the portfolio's best performers were mostly the smaller and more often overlooked companies, with Tekmar Group and Science In Sport performing particularly well. ASOS was the strongest performer in the month following confirmation that they had been successful in acquiring the Topshop, Topman, Miss Selfridge and HIIT brands for an attractive consideration. This represents ASOS's first brand acquisition and, we believe, establishes a precedent for several more in future. The attractiveness of the deal led to a 25% appreciation in the shares during the month.

After a strong appreciation in the shares during the past months, we sold the Gately position entirely. We continue to like the platform that has been built, but feel that the price reflects an overly optimistic outlook on UK property transaction volumes.

## PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)					
	YTD	1y	3y	5y	Since Launch
Strategy <sup>1</sup>	-0.4	23.4	2.6	54.2	134.4
Benchmark	2.7	38.2	17.2	80.8	31.4

ANNUALISED STATISTICS SINCE LAUNCH (%)		
	Returns (Ann)	Volatility (Ann)
Strategy	6.2	24.2
Benchmark	1.9	23.4

CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE (%)					
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Strategy <sup>1</sup>	8.9	27.3	-25.5	34.3	3.8
Peer Group	0.3	25.3	-15.2	18.7	11.6
Quartile	1	1	4	1	4

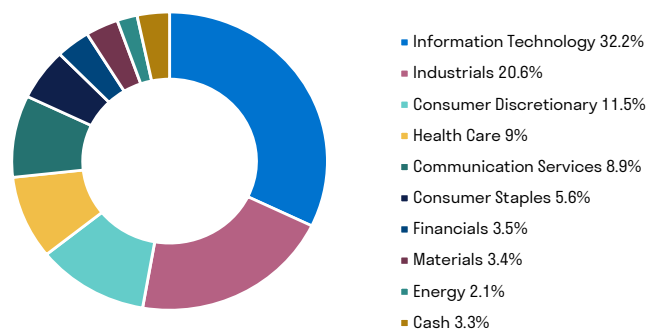
Peer group performance data is available quarterly and this figure shows performance to the latest available quarter. Data as at 31.12.20.

Inception of strategy: 01.01.07.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The value of the investments of the model portfolios and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The benchmark from inception to 30.06.2020 was the FTSE AIM All Share Index. From 01.07.2020 the benchmark changed to the Numis Alternative Markets (inc Investment Companies) Index. ARC IHT Portfolio Indices ("AIP") are based on historical information and past performance is not indicative of future performance. 'S&P's composite performance is measured by the average of all AIM clients weighted by portfolio size whereas ARC's calculation is composed of an average of all AIM clients not weighted by size of portfolio. This difference in methodology could lead to slight discrepancies.

## SECTOR ALLOCATION



## TOP 5 HOLDINGS

Company	
Asos Plc	8.6%
Clinigen Group Plc	5.0%
Rws Holdings Plc	4.7%
GB Group Plc	4.7%
Smart Metering Systems Plc	4.7%

## MANAGER PROFILE

### Hugo Wood

Hugo is a member of the UK equity team and is responsible for coverage of AIM companies and main market mid- and small-sized UK companies. He is also the manager of the AIM portfolios.

Prior to joining Sarasin & Partners in 2018, Hugo spent four years at Smith & Williamson working as a discretionary investment manager, as well as making up part of the AIM team. Hugo is a CFA charterholder.

### Edward Campbell-Johnston

Edward is responsible for the management of portfolios for private clients, personal pension funds and charities. He also manages Sarasin & Partners' AIM inheritance tax sheltered portfolio service.

Edward has an MA Hons degree in Management and International Relations from the University of St Andrews, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investments (CISI).

## CONTACT US

### Sarasin & Partners LLP

Juxon House  
100 St. Paul's Churchyard  
London EC4M 8BU  
T: +44 (0)20 7038 7000  
E: sales@sarasin.co.uk  
W: sarasinandpartners.com

### Christopher Cade

Head of UK Sales  
Northern HC/ East Midlands/ East  
Anglia  
T: +44 (0)20 7038 7064  
E: christopher.cade@sarasin.  
co.uk

### William Colville

Investment Sales Manager  
London & South West  
T +44 (0)20 7038 7169  
E: william.colville@sarasin.co.uk

### Caroline Bond

Distribution Support Manager  
T: +44 (0)20 7038 7037  
E: caroline.bond@sarasin.co.uk

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**Past performance is no guide to future performance and there is no guarantee that your AIM portfolio's objective will be achieved. We can make no guarantee either of investment performance or the level of capital gains or income that will be generated by your AIM portfolio. The value of qualifying investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount invested.** Assessing the relative risk of the factors above is very subjective and can change in response to specific events or revised social/economic forecasts. It is not possible to lay down precise guidelines for the measurement of risk or the potential impact, whether positive or negative, upon an investment portfolio. Liquidity Please note that qualifying investments carry a higher degree of risk than investing in more liquid shares of larger companies. The share prices of AIM investments are generally more volatile than shares listed on the London Stock Exchange main market. The value of your investments may decline and there is a risk that this may outweigh any IHT saving. You should be aware that the qualifying investments in your AIM portfolio may be classified under FCA Rules as 'not readily realisable' (these are investments in which the market is limited or could become so: they can be difficult to deal in or obtain reliable information about their value). You should also be aware that certain qualifying investments may not have a regular dealing date, only deal on certain dates or have a minimum holding period. As such, it may well not be possible to deal in such qualifying investments on a regular basis. Tax Rates of tax, tax benefits and allowances are based on current legislation and HMRC practice. These may change from time to time and are not guaranteed. The AIM portfolio service has been designed with UK-resident taxpayers in mind. If you are not resident or ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes, it may not be appropriate or advantageous for you to subscribe to the AIM Portfolio Service. Qualifying investments Qualifying investments in which we invest may cease to qualify for IHT exemption. In this case, the relief available on that particular investment will be lost. In some instances, investments in particular companies will be sold if we believe that the investment rationale outweighs the tax benefits associated with retaining the holding. This may give rise to a capital gains tax charge. If the investment was qualifying at the time of sale and a new qualifying investment is acquired with the proceeds of sale, the two year holding period can be satisfied by combining these periods of ownership. If not, the relief available on that particular investment will be lost and the two-year holding period will begin afresh. This document is issued by Sarasin & Partners LLP, a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number 0C329859, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It has been prepared solely for information purposes and is not a solicitation, or an offer to buy or sell any security. The information on which the document is based has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, and in good faith, but we have not independently verified such information and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to their accuracy. All expressions of opinion are subject to change without notice. Sarasin & Partners LLP and/or any other member of the Bank J. Safra Sarasin group accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any consequential loss of any kind arising out of the use of this document or any part of its contents. The use of this document should not be regarded as a substitute for the exercise by the recipient of his or her own judgement. Sarasin & Partners LLP and/or any person connected with it may act up on or make use of the material referred to herein and/or any of the information upon which it is based, prior to publication of this document. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. © 2021 Sarasin & Partners LLP – all rights reserved. This document can only be distributed or reproduced with permission from Sarasin & Partners LLP. Please contact marketing@sarasin.co.uk

