### Signatory of:

# HF Hereford Funds

PRI Responsible Investment

SFDR status as of March 2021: Article 8

**DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund** 

US\$ 5,653.7<sup>(a)</sup>

29-Nov-07

## Class A - June 2023

Principles for

The Hereford/DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund appreciated 4.09% for the month of June compared to a 6.84% return for the Russell 1000 Growth Index and a 6.61% return for the S&P 500 both including dividends. At the end of June, the Sub-Fund was invested in the technology, financials, consumer discretionary, communication services, health care, industrials, materials and consumer staples sectors.

For the month, the Sub-Fund trailed the benchmark by approximately 275bps. This was primarily the result of the Manager's selections in technology. The Manager's selections in consumer discretionary and underweight of the sector also detracted from performance. The Manager's selections in financials and overweight of the sector versus the benchmark benefited performance. In June, the positions that contributed the most to the portfolio's return were Adobe, NVIDIA, Amazon.com, Intuit and Visa. The positions that contributed the least in the month were EPAM Systems, SolarEdge Technologies, Alphabet, UnitedHealth Group and Arista Networks. As highlighted previously, not owning Apple and Tesla continues to contribute to the relative underperformance of the portfolio.

### Manager's Commentary

**Investment Review** 

In the Manager's view the economic outlook in the United States and Europe will be determined by how quickly inflation declines as a result of Federal Reserve and ECB tightening. The more rapidly inflation falls, the lower the pressure on both the Federal Reserve and ECB to continue to raise rates, thereby enhancing the potential for a "soft landing" or "muddle through" economic outcome. Despite higher interest rates, moderately slower consumer spending, and pressure in the financial sector, estimates for US GDP growth in 2023 have steadily risen since reaching a low last December. While 1.3% annual GDP growth is hardly robust, it may suggest a muddle through scenario rather than the recession that many economists and market observers have predicted since last summer. Furthermore, money supply growth, as measured by M2, remains in negative territory and is likely the catalyst behind the US CPI's deceleration in May to a 4.0% annual rate.

Europe's macroeconomic outlook remains more tenuous than the US, but as noted previously, Europe may also muddle through. The good news is that the ECB's much tighter money supply growth may have resulted in sharply lower producer prices over the past couple of months. Of course, lower inflation is supporting profits in Europe's critical manufacturing sector as are much lower natural gas prices, which are also helping consumers and businesses recover some of their spending power. Unfortunately, retail sales in Germany have been disappointing and manufacturing PMIs have sunk into the low to mid-40's range for many countries. The Bank of England, where inflation remains stubbornly high, and the European Central Bank persist on paths to higher interest rates, the impact of which won't be fully reflected until well into 2024.

In early October of last year, DSM began discussing their belief that the market had more upside potential than downside risk. Since October, the market has increased well over 20%, driven by continued news of falling inflation and the possibility that the rate hike cycle from the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank are much nearer the end then the beginning. The Manager's view remains that the odds are on the side of the buyer. Lower inflation diminishes the necessity for additional rate hikes, moderates the absolute level of interest rates, stabilizes the value of bank balance sheets, and enhances the general economic outlook, all of which raise the market's valuation.

DSM remains focused on the firm's investment process and on generating attractive long-term returns for clients. They believe the portfolio's underperformance in 2023 is largely due to the market's focus on a few very large technology companies. As inflation declines, investor confidence should increase and the market's upturn should broaden to include the strong and predictable earnings growth businesses that characterize the portfolio, including all holdings, not just those that are amongst the largest technology companies in the world. Encouragingly, the portfolio's revenue and earnings growth in the first quarter was quite strong at 13% and 26% respectively. Despite a challenging the earnings growth in the first quarter was quite strong at 13% and 26% respectively. Despite a challenging the reinvestments in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Over the past year DSM has initiated a number of new positions with significant leverage to AI economy. For this reason, the Manager believes the current portfolio likely represents the highest quality portfolio of businesses they have ever owned with perhaps the highest growth potential.

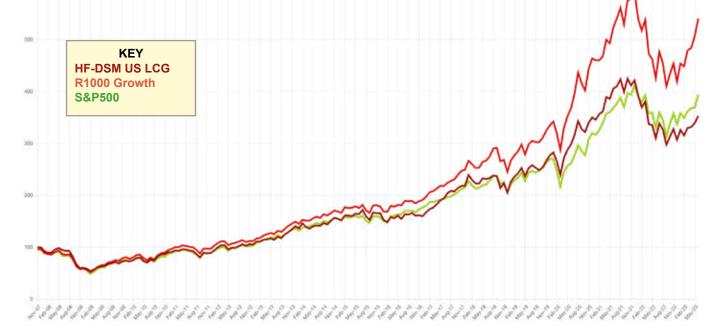
# **Key Information**

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Rey mormation		
NAV A Shares (30/6/23)	US\$ 338.92	Strategy Assets
Total Fund Size (all share classes)	US\$ 67.2 m	Fund Launch Date

Monthly Perform	nance	(%)																	
			Jar	I F	eb	Mar	Ар	r N	lay	Jun	Ju	l II	Aug	Sep	00	ct I	Vov	Dec	YTD
HF-DSM US LCO	}		6.3	3 (3	3.3)	4.6	0.5	5	2.3	4.1									15.0
Russell 1000 Gr	owth	:)	8.3	3 (1	.2)	6.8	1.0	)	4.6	6.8									29.2
S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>			6.3	3 (2	2.4)	3.7	1.6	6	0.4	6.6									16.9
Period Perf (%)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	Cumulati	e Annualised
HF-DSM US LCG Returns <sup>(b)</sup>	(27.8)	20.5	26.4	35.0	(6.2)	36.8	(3.3)	7.0	9.7	34.1	18.2	(2.0)	21.9	22.8	(39.3)	18.7	9.8	252	8 8.38%
Russell 1000 Growth <sup>(c)</sup>	(29.5)	27.5	38.5	36.4	(1.5)	30.2	7.1	5.7	13.1	33.5	15.3	2.6	16.7	37.2	(38.4)	11.8	9.1	440	5 11.37%
S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>	(18.1)	28.6	18.4	31.3	(4.4)	21.8	12.0	1.4	13.7	32.4	16.0	2.1	15.1	26.5	(37.0)	5.5	15.8	293	8 9.14%

HF-DSM US LCG vs. R1000 Growth vs. S&P500



# HF | Hereford Funds

Top Ten Holdings	
Accenture	Intuit
Adobe	Microsoft
Alphabet (Cl. A)	NVIDIA
Amazon.com	SolarEdge Technologies
Autodesk	Visa

Sectoral Breakdown	% of Assets
Information Technology	49.2%
Financials	21.1%
Consumer Discretionary	7.2%
Communication Services	6.9%
Health Care	6.3%
Industrials	2.7%
Materials	2.2%
Consumer Staples	1.9%

## **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the HF-DSM US LCG is to provide capital appreciation principally through investments in US-based growing corporations with market capitalizations generally above US\$ 5 billion. These companies are chosen for their growth prospects, attractive returns, solid business fundamentals and intelligent management. The sub fund may, on an ancillary basis, invest in US-based companies with lower market capitalizations as well as in non-US based companies. The Compartment may invest in American Depository Receipts and American Depository Shares. The reference benchmark for this strategy is the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

Fund Codes		Since inception	HF-DSM US LCG	HF-DSM US LCG Composite	R1000 Growth
Bloomberg	DSMUSLA LX	Volatility	n/a	15.7	16.1
ISIN	LU0327604228	Sharpe Ratio	n/a	0.5	0.5
Reuters	LP65102015	Information Ratio	n/a	-0.2	
Sedol B28TLX2		Tracking Error	n/a	6.3	
	3504726	Beta	n/a	0.9	
WKN	A0M58T	Alpha	n/a	-0.1	

Fund Details		
Dealing Day	Daily	
Dividends	None - income accumulated within the fund	
Investment Manager	DSM Capital Partners LLC 7111 Fairway Drive, Suite 350, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418	] ,
Management Company	FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A. 15, Avenue John F Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg	
Custodian	Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A. 15A, Avenue John F Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg	
Legal Advisers	Elvinger, Hoss & Prussen 2 Place Winston Churchill, L-1340 Luxembourg	
Auditor	Deloitte Audit S.à,r,l. 560 Rue de Neudorf, L-2220 Luxembourg	

Annual Management	Charge
Share Class A & U <sup>(e)</sup>	1.25%
Share Class D <sup>(f)</sup>	1.75%

Minimum Investment								
Share Class A & U <sup>(e)</sup>	\$100,000 initial / \$10,000 subsequent							
Share Class D	\$10,000 initial / \$1,000 subsequent							

## **Order Transmission Information**

FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A.	Via Fax +352 46 71 71 7667
15, avenue J. F. Kennedy	or SWIFT PICTLULXTAS
L-1855 Luxembourg	

- (a) This refers to the total assets invested in the reference strategy managed by the Investment Manager.
  - Data and graph depict DSM Composite through November 2007 and Hereford Funds DSM US Large Cap Growth Fund Class A thereafter. Historical gross performance of DSM Large Cap Composite returns (the Reference Strategy) is net of modeled fee and expense typical of Hereford Funds DSM US Large Cap Growth Fund Class A (1.25% fee + 0.25% expense). Fund follows same strategy. Performance presentation incomplete without accompanying footnotes as shown at www.dsmcapital.com. Total return including dividends.
- The fund is registered with the BaFin for public distribution in Germany from (d) 17/10/12, registered with the AFM for public distribution in the Netherlands and registered with the AMF for public distribution in France
- Share Class U has been granted Reporting Status by HMRC as of (e) October 1, 2010.
  - Share Class D is German tax registered from October 1, 2010.

France - Centralizing Correspondent as defined by French Regulation: Société Générale - Order Desk, 32, avenue du Champ de Tir, BP 81236, F-44312 Nantes Cedex 3 Phone: +33/2.51.85.66.40, Fax: +33/2.51.85.58.71

Germany - Paying Agent as defined by German Regulation: Marcard, Stein & Co - Ballindamm 36, 20095 Hamburg Phone: +49/40.32.099.556, Fax: +49/40.32.099.206

Switzerland - Representative and Paying Agent as defined by Swiss Regulation: FundPartner Solutions (Suisse) SA (route des Acacias 60, 1211 Geneva 73, Switzerland) as Swiss representative and Banque Pictet & Cie SA (route des Acacias 60, 1211 Geneva 73, Switzerland) as Swiss paying agent.

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