Signatory of:



SFDR status as of March 2021: Article 8

Principles for

Responsible

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

US\$ 5,352.7<sup>(a)</sup>

29-Nov-07

Class A - September 2023

### **Investment Review**

The Hereford/DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund depreciated 6.0% for the month of September compared to a (5.44)% return for the Russell 1000 Growth Index and a (4.77)% return for the S&P 500 both including dividends. At the end of September, the Sub-Fund was invested in the technology, financials, communication services, consumer discretionary, health care, industrials, materials and consumer staples sectors.

For the month, the Sub-Fund trailed the benchmark by approximately 51bps. This was primarily the result of the Manager's selections in financials. The Manager's selections in technology benefited performance. In September, the positions that detracted the least from the portfolio's return were Neurocrine Biosciences, Aon PLC, Fortinet, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Boston Scientific. The positions that detracted the most in the month were NVIDIA, Amazon.com, Adobe, Alphabet and Microsoft.

### Manager's Commentary

In the Manager's opinion, global economic growth over the coming year will be determined in large part by the rate of decline of inflation in the EU and United States, as a result of Federal Reserve and ECB tightening. The more rapidly inflation falls, the less pressure there will be on the Federal Reserve and ECB to raise rates further, thereby enhancing the potential for a "soft landing" or "muddle through" economic outcome. At this point the most recent inflation data in both the US and EU continue the trend of significantly declining inflation, albeit the results are still above both central banks' targets of 2%. Importantly, this data makes additional rate hikes by each central bank appear less urgent and less likely, and not a moment too soon as French and Italian government borrowing costs have hit their highest levels in a decade, adding budgetary stress that governments on either side of the Atlantic can't afford. In addition, inflation of 2% to 3% would, in our opinion, put the ten-year US Treasury at a yield of 200 basis points over the rate of inflation or 4% to 5%, its current level today.

DSM believes that global and US economic growth approximating 2.5% over the next year is achievable, while in Europe and Japan, GDP will be closer to 1%. Higher interest rates in the US may be having an impact on the real estate market, especially with the ten- and thirty-year mortgage rates in excess of 6% and 7% respectively. It is possible that consumer spending will weaken as inflation-driven expenses rise causing many Americans to spend much of their savings. In addition, student loan repayments are restarting and oil prices are quite high. Logically, currently rising default rates confirm these stress points. On the other hand, incomes appear solid, wages are up and employment is strong. Clearly, with no recession in sight, the US economy has performed better than expected. At this point, excluding a significant unexpected shock, the Manager believes that if the economy were to weaken, a "soft landing" or shallow recession would be a more likely outcome than a more normal contraction.

Returning inflation to the 2% level is the target of both the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, but it will not happen overnight. Many commentators doubt the resolve of the central banks given political pressure to reduce interest rates. However, the reality is that the central banks have little choice. Government debt on both sides of the Atlantic is extremely large and growing. Low inflation means lower interest expenses on government debt, while high inflation means budget-busting interest costs that governments cannot afford. For that reason, DSM believes central banks will remain focused on tight money supply and lower inflation. "Higher for longer" is the current media refrain to describe central bank interest rate policies, which implies the implementation of additional rate hikes. In the Manager's view a more accurate description of the situation is "current rates for as long as it takes" or perhaps "one and done," and they believe the rate hike cycle is nearing an end.

The Sub-Fund portfolio remains reasonably valued with an underlying earnings growth rate in the high-teens. The Manager believes they have assembled a portfolio of dominant and attractively valued companies including many which, in their view, are poised to benefit from AI and other significant digital drivers over the years to come. As the economy continues to grow, albeit slowly, and inflation continues to fall, the probability of a significant recession declines. DSM continues to expect that global markets will trend higher despite well-publicized macro and geopolitical risks.

Strategy Assets

Fund Launch Date

## Key Information

NAV A Shares (30/9/23) US\$ 255.1 Total Fund Size (all share classes) US\$ 66.2 m

Monthly Perform	nance	(%)																	
			Jar	I F	eb	Mar	Ар	r N	lay	Jun	Jı	ul I	Aug	Sep	00	t N	lov	Dec	YTD
HF-DSM US LCG		6.3	3 (3	.3)	4.6	0.5	5	2.3	4.1	4.	.1	2.1	(6.0)					14.9	
Russell 1000 Growth <sup>(c)</sup> 8.3		3 (1	.2)	6.8	1.0	)	4.6	6.8	3.	.4 (	0.9)	(5.4)					25.0		
S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>			6.3	3 (2	2.4)	3.7	1.6	6	0.4	6.6	3.	.2 (	1.6)	(4.8)					13.1
Period Perf (%)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	Cumulat	ve 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	.4 8.2%
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	423	.6 11.0%
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	280	.9 8.8%

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



# HF | Hereford Funds

Top Ten Holdings					
Accenture	EPAM Systems				
Adobe	Intuit				
Alphabet (Cl. A)	Microsoft				
Amazon.com	NVIDIA				
Arista Networks	Visa				

Sectoral Breakdown	% of Assets			
Information Technology	47.8%			
Financials	18.8%			
Communication Services	9.6%			
Consumer Discretionary	8.4%			
Health Care	6.8%			
Industrials	4.2%			
Materials	2.2%			
Consumer Staples	1.8%			

# **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	15.6	16.1
ISIN	LU0327604228	Sharpe Ratio	n/a	0.5	0.5
Reuters	LP65102015	Information Ratio	n/a	-0.1	
Sedol	B28TLX2	Tracking Error	n/a	6.3	
	3504726	Beta	n/a	0.9	
WKN	A0M58T	Alpha	n/a	0.0	

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.

The contents of this marketing communication are communicated by, and the property of, Hereford Funds. This document is for information purposes. It is neither an advice nor a recommendation to enter into any investment. Investment suitability must be determined individually for each investor, and the financial instruments described above may not be suitable for all investors. This information does not provide any accounting, legal, regulatory or tax advice. Please consult your own professional advisers in order to evaluate and judge the matters referred to herein. An investment should be made only on the basis of the prospectus, the KIID, and the annual and any subsequent semi-annual-reports of HEREFORD FUNDS (the "Fund"), a société d'investissement à capital variable, established in Luxembourg and registered under Part I of Luxembourg law of 20 December, approved by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). These can be obtained from the Fund, from FundPartner Solutions (Europe) SA, 15 avenue J. F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, from the Swiss representative, and any distributor or intermediary appointed by the Fund. No warranty is given, in whole or in part, regarding performance of the Fund. There is no guarantee that its investment objectives will be achieved. Potential investors shall be aware that the value of investments can fall as well as rise and that they may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to future performance. The performance data do not take account of the commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. The information provided in this document may be subject to change without any warning or prior notice and should be read in conjunction with the most recent publication of the prospectus of the Fund.

Whilst great care is taken to ensure that information contained herein is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omission or for future returns. This document is intended for the use of the addressee or recipient only and may not be reproduced, redistributed, passed on or published, in whole or in part, for any purpose, without the prior written consent of HEREFORD FUNDS. Neither the CSSF nor any other regulator has approved this document.