# The Mercantile Investment Trust plc

Half Year Report & Accounts for the six months ended 31st July 2010





### **Features**

#### Contents

#### About the Company

- 1 Half Year Performance
- 2 Chairman's Statement
- 4 Investment Managers' Report

#### **Investment Review**

- 5 Forty Largest Investments
- 6 Portfolio Analyses

#### Accounts

- 7 Income Statement
- 8 Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds
- 9 Balance Sheet
- 10 Cash Flow Statement
- 11 Notes to the Accounts

#### Shareholder Information

- 13 Glossary of Terms and Definitions
- 17 Information about the Company

#### Objective

Long term capital growth from a portfolio of UK medium and smaller companies.

#### **Investment Policy**

- To emphasise growth from medium and smaller companies. Long term dividend growth at least in line with inflation.
- To use long term gearing to increase potential returns to shareholders. The Company's gearing policy is to operate within a range of 90% to 120% invested
- To invest no more than 15% of gross assets in other UK listed investment companies (including investment trusts).

#### Benchmark

The FTSE All-Share Index excluding constituents of the FTSE 100 Index and investment trusts.

#### **Capital Structure**

99,055,719 ordinary shares of 25p each were in issue at 31st July 2010.

In addition, £3,850,000 perpetual debenture stock and a £175 million debenture were in issue at 31st July 2010.

#### **Management Company**

The Company employs JPMorgan Asset Management (UK) Limited ('JPMAM') to manage its assets.

### Half Year Performance

Total Returns (includes dividends reinvested)

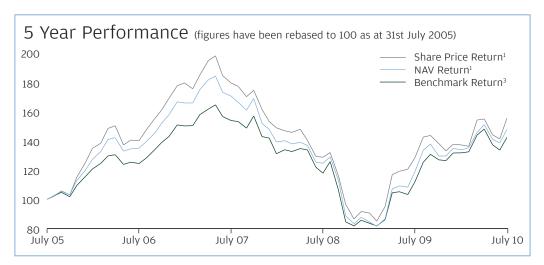
+13.3%

Return to shareholders<sup>1</sup>

+10.4%

Return on net assets<sup>2</sup>

+7.9%



Financial Data			
	31st July 2010	31st January 2010	% change
Shareholders' funds (£'000)	1,073,562	1,035,376	+3.7
Number of shares in issue	99,055,719	101,947,968	-2.8
Net asset value per ordinary share with debt at par value (p)	1,083.8	1015.6	+6.7
Net asset value per ordinary share with debt at fair value <sup>5</sup> (p)	1,072.1	1005.5	+6.6
Net asset value return with dividends reinvested	_	_	+10.4
Share price (p)	950.0	860.0	+10.5
Share price discount to net asset value with debt at par value	12.3%	15.3%	
Share price discount to net asset value with debt at fair value	11.4%	14.5%	

A glossary of terms and definitions is provided on page 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: Morningstar.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Source: J.P. Morgan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Source: Russell/Mellon Caps.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The Company's benchmark is the FTSE All-Share Index excluding constituents of the FTSE 100 Index and Investment trusts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Market values have been used to determine the fair value of the perpetual debenture stock in issue. The fair value of the £175 million debenture in issue has been calculated by reference to a similar dated gilt plus a margin based on the AA Barclays Sterling Corporate Bond spread.

### Chairman's Statement



#### Performance and Market Review

The Company's net asset value total return in the first six months to 31st July 2010 was +10.4% which was 2.5% ahead of the return of +7.9% from our benchmark index, the FTSE All-Share, excluding FTSE 100 constituents and investment trusts.

This represents steady progress, building on the strong recovery in mid and small cap stocks of the previous year. The Managers continue to be proactive in managing the portfolio, taking advantage of market fluctuations and corporate activity.

#### Revenue

The income received from investments in the first half is marginally above that of the half year ended 31st July 2009, showing a small recovery in dividend payments as company profitability and confidence began to return.

Interest received on bank deposits was, once again, significantly lower, due to interest rates remaining depressed.

#### Dividends

A second interim dividend of 6.0 pence per share has been declared by the Board, payable on 1st November 2010 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 1st October 2010. Together with the first interim dividend of 6.0 pence paid on 30th July 2010 this brings the total dividend for the year to date to 12.0 pence (2009: 12.0 pence) and the Board expects that there will be a third dividend of 6.0 pence paid in early February 2011. The Board's decision as to the quantum of the fourth interim dividend will depend on the progress of the portfolio with regard to revenue. The Board remains mindful of the substantial revenue reserve position that your Company enjoys.

#### **Share Repurchases**

The Board has maintained its active approach towards share repurchases in order to enhance the asset value and minimise the absolute level and volatility of the discount on the Company's shares. In the six months to 31st July 2010, 2,892,249 shares were repurchased for cancellation at a total cost of £27.1 million. Those purchases added approximately 4.2 pence to the net asset value per share. The discount, with debt at fair value, has ranged between 10.6% and 14.8% in the period from 1st February 2010 to 20th September 2010, with the average discount during the period of 13.2%.

#### **Accounting Estimates**

A greater proportion of historic returns has derived from capital than was hitherto expected and the allocation of expenses is being adjusted to reflect this. With effect from 1st February 2010 the Company will allocate 70% of management fees and financial costs to capital and the remaining 30% to revenue, a change from the former 50/50 basis of allocation. More details are given in note 2(b) on page 11.

#### Outlook

The points raised in the last paragraph of the Investment Managers' Report are endorsed by the Board, In summary, although we continue to foresee challenging times ahead, a return to a stock picker's market should bode well for the Company.

#### Interim Management Report

The Company is required to make the following disclosures in its half year report:-

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Company fall into six broad categories: investment and strategy; accounting, legal and regulatory; corporate governance and shareholder relations; operational and financial. Information on each of these areas is given in the Business Review within the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2010.

#### Related Parties' Transactions

During the first six months of the current financial year, no transactions with related parties have taken place which have materially affected the financial position or the performance of the Company.

#### Directors' Responsibilities

The Board of Directors confirms that, to the best of its knowledge:

- (i) the condensed set of financial statements contained within the half year financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards Board's statement 'Half Year Financial Reports'; and
- (ii) the interim management report includes. a fair review of the information required by 4.2.7R and 4.2.8R of the UK Listing Authority Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

For and on behalf of the Board Hamish Leslie Melville

Chairman 22nd September 2010

### Investment Managers' Report

The Company's net asset value total return in the first six months to 31st July 2010 was +10.4% which was +2.5% ahead of the return of +7.9% from our benchmark index, the FTSE All-Share excluding FTSE 100 constituents and Investment Trusts.

After a strong recovery in the stock market last year, mid and small cap stocks continued to rise during the first part of the year and we took the opportunity at the beginning of the year to reduce portfolio gearing from 111.9% where it was at our year end to 98.7% by our half year end. This reflected our belief that the economic data, which had been coming in ahead of expectations, would begin to stall and that economic recovery would be slow and painful. This feeling was crystallised in the stock market by the austerity budget of the incoming coalition Government which spelt out the need to reduce both Government spending and debt and also by the Governor of the Bank of England pointing out that growth would have to come from exports not public sector or consumer spending. That said, quoted mid and small cap companies are now generally on a firmer footing than they were a year ago, having in many cases taken vigorous cost cutting actions and also refinanced balance sheets.

Nevertheless, reflecting our more cautious outlook we increased the portfolio holdings in utilities and health care and also increased our weighting in oil and gas exploration and production companies which are trading at discounts to their asset values. Our largest underweight position remains in industrials where we are underweight in support services and aerospace and defence, which will be hit by government spending cuts, and in engineering stocks which are trading at all time relative highs reflecting their overseas and export prospects.

At the Company's AGM in May, we took Corporate Activity as our market theme explaining that we expected to see an increase in takeover activity in the mid and small cap market as companies or organisations which had seen their own businesses begin to stabilise began to look to buy either growth or assets by acquisition. This has contributed strongly to the outperformance of the portfolio during the half year as we have received takeover bids for the following stocks which were held in the portfolio: Chloride, Dana Petroleum, Tomkins, BSS, Rensburg Sheppards, Arriva, Dimension Data and Sovereign Reversions.

In terms of the outlook we are entering a phase where the share prices of companies which fail to meet the stock markets growth expectations will be hit hard and where remaining balance sheet problems will begin to emerge perhaps putting the ongoing future of some companies into question. That said, the share prices of companies which are trading at below net asset value or which are continuing to generate growth will carry on performing well. In other words we are now starting to return to a stock picker's market from the macro driven markets of the last three years.

Martin Hudson Jane Lennard

# Forty Largest Investments at 31st July 2010

Company	Sector	Value £'000	<b>%</b> 1
Dana Petroleum	Oil & Gas	63,558	5.1
Cable & Wireless Communications	Telecommunications	34,381	2.7
Premier Oil	Oil & Gas	32,908	2.6
Pennon	Utilities	30,042	2.4
ITV	Consumer Goods	27,137	2.2
Misys	Technology	24,439	2.0
First Group	Consumer Services	23,640	1.9
Tate & Lyle	Consumer Goods	23,215	1.9
Jardine Lloyd Thompson	Financials	22,420	1.8
Cove Energy	Oil & Gas	22,101	1.8
Northumbrian Water	Utilities	21,843	1.7
Drax	Utilities	21,588	1.7
Bovis Homes	Consumer Goods	21,277	1.7
Centamin Egypt	Basic Materials	19,114	1.5
Rentokil Initial	Industrials	18,661	1.5
Thomas Cook	Consumer Goods	17,845	1.4
Imagination Technologies	Technology	16,215	1.3
African Barrick Gold	Basic Materials	15,816	1.3
Resolution	Financials	15,588	1.3
Songbird Estates	Financials	15,563	1.2
Petropavlovsk	Basic Materials	15,346	1.2
Xchanging	Industrials	14,664	1.2
Marston's	Consumer Goods	13,985	1.1
Hiscox	Financials	12,859	1.0
Mitchells & Butlers	Consumer Services	12,527	1.0
London Stock Exchange	Financials	12,518	1.0
Tomkins	Industrials	12,192	1.0
Go-Ahead	Consumer Services	12,113	1.0
Catlin	Financials	11,913	1.0
Aberdeen Asset Management	Financials	11,896	1.0
Bellway	Consumer Goods	11,666	0.9
Aegis	Consumer Services	11,627	0.9
CSR	Technology	11,362	0.9
Persimmon	Consumer Goods	11,109	0.9
Debenhams	Consumer Services	11,074	0.9
M P Evans	Consumer Goods	10,494	0.8
Pendragon	Consumer Services	10,323	0.8
Soco International	Oil & Gas	10,175	0.8
IMI	Industrials	9,923	0.8
St James's Place	Financials	9,606	0.8
Total		724,723	58.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Based on total assets less current liabilities of £1,251m.

# Portfolio Analyses

at 31st Portfolio %	July 2010 Benchmark %	at 3 Portfolio %	1st January 2010 Benchmark %
10.1	20.8	22.0	21.7
		· -	
			17.4
11.6	5.7	6.4	4.6
10.8	8.8	14.0	9.4
9.5	28.3	17.1	28.3
5.9	2.3	4.5	2.3
5.0	6.8	5.6	8.2
4.7	6.0	4.5	5.0
2.7	1.4	0.7	0.9
1.7	1.6	_	2.2
15.3	_	4.5	_
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Portfolio %  18.1 14.7 11.6 10.8 9.5 5.9 5.0 4.7 2.7 1.7 15.3	%       %         18.1       20.8         14.7       18.3         11.6       5.7         10.8       8.8         9.5       28.3         5.9       2.3         5.0       6.8         4.7       6.0         2.7       1.4         1.7       1.6         15.3       -	Portfolio         Benchmark         Portfolio           18.1         20.8         22.0           14.7         18.3         20.7           11.6         5.7         6.4           10.8         8.8         14.0           9.5         28.3         17.1           5.9         2.3         4.5           5.0         6.8         5.6           4.7         6.0         4.5           2.7         1.4         0.7           1.7         1.6         -           15.3         -         4.5

Based on total assets less current liabilities of £1,251m (31st January 2010: £1,212m).

Listed Equity Market Capitalisation	31st July 2010 %	31st January 2010 %
UK FTSE Mid 250 Companies	67.2	77.1
UK Smaller Companies	15.3	16.0
UK FTSE 100	1.3	_
UK Unquoted	0.5	1.5
Overseas Companies	0.4	0.9
Net Current Assets	15.3	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Based on total assets less current liabilities of £1,251m (31st January 2010: £1,212m).

### **Income Statement**

for the six months ended 31st July 2010

	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2010		(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2009		(Audited) Year ended 31st January 2010				
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss Net foreign currency gains/	_	80,313	80,313	-	253,126	253,126	-	362,020	362,020
(losses) Income from investments Other interest receivable and	– 16,628	18 _	18 16,628	- 14,828	(113)	(113) 14,828	– 27,899	(78) –	(78) 27,899
similar income	333	_	333	3,228	_	3,228	4,349	_	4,349
Gross return  Management fee  Other administrative expenses	16,961 (676) (370)	80,331 (1,578) —	97,292 (2,254) (370)	18,056 (859) (434)	253,013 (859) –	271,069 (1,718) (434)	32,248 (1,971) (1,022)	361,942 (1,971) –	394,190 (3,942) (1,022)
Net return on ordinary activities before finance costs and taxation Finance costs	15,915 (1,647)	78,753 (3,842)	94,668 (5,489)	16,763 (2,745)	252,154 (2,745)	268,917 (5,490)	29,255 (5,489)	359,971 (5,489)	389,226 (10,978)
Net return on ordinary activities before taxation Taxation (note 4)	14,268 (15)	74,911 —	89,179 (15)	14,018 (48)	249,409 –	263,427 (48)	23,766 (63)	354,482 –	378,248 (63)
Net return on ordinary activities after taxation	14,253	74,911	89,164	13,970	249,409	263,379	23,703	354,482	378,185
Return per share (note 5)	14.27p	74.99p	89.26p	13.65p	243.75p	257.40p	23.18p	346.63p	369.81p

All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations. No operations were acquired or discontinued in the period.

The 'Total' column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the Company and the 'Revenue' and 'Capital' columns represent supplementary information prepared under guidance issued by the Association of Investment Companies. The Total column represents all the information that is required to be disclosed in a 'Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses' ('STRGL'). For this reason a STRGL has not been presented.

## Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds

for the six months ended 31st July 2010 (unaudited)

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
At 31st January 2010	25,487	23,459	11,283	928,785	46,362	1,035,376
Repurchase and cancellation of						
the Company's own shares	(723)	_	723	(27,072)	_	(27,072)
Net return on ordinary activities	_	_	_	74,911	14,253	89,164
Dividends appropriated in the period	_	_	_	_	(23,906)	(23,906)
At 31st July 2010	24,764	23,459	12,006	976,624	36,709	1,073,562

Six months ended 31st July 2009 (unaudited)

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
At 31st January 2009	25,580	23,459	11,190	577,602	59,467	697,298
Repurchase and cancellation of						
the Company's own shares	_	_	_	(1)	_	(1)
Net return on ordinary activities	_	_	_	249,409	13,970	263,379
Dividends appropriated in the period	_	_	_	_	(24,557)	(24,557)
At 31st July 2009	25,580	23,459	11,190	827,010	48,880	936,119

Year ended 31st January 2010 (audited)

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
At 31st January 2009	25,580	23,459	11,190	577,602	59,467	697,298
Repurchase and cancellation of						
the Company's own shares	(93)	_	93	(3,299)	_	(3,299)
Net return on ordinary activities	_	_	_	354,482	23,703	378,185
Dividends appropriated in the year	_	_	-	-	(36,808)	(36,808)
At 31st January 2010	25,487	23,459	11,283	982,785	46,362	1,035,376

# **Balance Sheet**

at 31st July 2010

	(Unaudited) 31st July 2010 £'000	(Unaudited) 31st July 2009 £'000	(Audited) 31st January 2010 £'000
Fixed assets			
Investments held at fair value through profit			
or loss	1,059,103	1,047,151	1,158,236
Current assets			
Debtors	20,553	10,445	19,647
Cash and short term deposits	183,193	72,114	40,225
	203,746	82,559	59,872
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(12,338)	(16,737)	(5,831)
Net current assets	191,408	65,822	54,041
Total assets less current liabilities	1,250,511	1,112,973	1,212,277
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than			
one year	(176,949)	(176,854)	(176,901)
Total net assets	1,073,562	936,119	1,035,376
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	24,764	25,580	25,487
Share premium	23,459	23,459	23,459
Capital redemption reserve	12,006	11,190	11,283
Capital reserves	976,624	827,010	928,785
Revenue reserve	36,709	48,880	46,362
Shareholders' funds	1,073,562	936,119	1,035,376
Net asset value per share (note 6)	1,083.8p	914.9p	1,015.6p

## **Cash Flow Statement**

for the six months ended 31st July 2010

	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2009 £'000	(Audited) Year ended 31st January 2010 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities (note 7)	11,870	13,054	25,045
Net cash outflow from servicing of finance	(5,441)	(5,441)	(10,882)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from capital expenditure and financial investment	188,435	(82,220)	(106,082)
Dividends paid	(23,894)	(24,557)	(36,820)
Net cash outflow from financing	(28,020)	(1)	(2,350)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	142,950	(99,165)	(131,089)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds/debt			
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	142,950	(99,165)	(131,089)
Exchange movements	18	(113)	(78)
Other movements	(48)	(49)	(96)
Changes in net funds/debt arising from cash flows	142,920	(99,327)	(131,263)
Net debt at the beginning of the period	(136,676)	(5,413)	(5,413)
Net funds/(debt) at the end of the period	6,244	(104,740)	(136,676)
Represented by:			
Cash and short term deposits	183,193	72,114	40,225
Debt due after more than five years	(176,949)	(176,854)	(176,901)
Net funds/(debt)	6,244	(104,740)	(136,676)

### Notes to the Accounts

for the six months ended 31st July 2010

#### 1. Financial Statements

The information contained within the accounts in this half year report has not been audited or reviewed by the Company's auditors.

The figures and financial information for the year ended 31st January 2010 are extracted from the latest published accounts of the Company and do not constitute statutory accounts for that year. Those accounts have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and included the report of the auditors which was unqualified and did not contain a statement under either section 498(2) or 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### 2. Accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and with the Statement of Recommend Practice 'Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts' issued in January 2009.

All of the Company's operations are of a continuing nature.

The accounting policies applied to these interim accounts are consistent with those applied in the accounts for the year ended 31st January 2010.

#### (b) Accounting estimates

It remains the Board's determination that the capital return should reflect the indirect costs of earning capital returns. With effect from 1st February 2010 the Company allocates 70% of management fees and finance costs to capital and the remaining 30% to revenue. It had previously allocated 50% of management fees and finance costs to capital and 50% to revenue. The Board monitors the assumptions that underpin the basis of allocation. It concluded from its most recent review that a greater proportion of the Company's long term investment returns will come from capital than was previously expected. The effect of this change is to increase the net revenue return after taxation by £1.5 million and to reduce the net capital return by the same amount. Total net return after taxation is unaffected by the change. The comparative figures have not been restated.

#### 3. Dividends

(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2009 £'000	(Audited) Year ended 31st January 2010 £'000
_	-	(12)
17,961	18,418	18,418
5045	ć 120	( 120
5,945	6,139	6,139
n/a	n/a	6,139
,	,	(124
n/a	n/a	6,124
23,906	24,557	36,808
	Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000  - 17,961 5,945 n/a n/a	Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000 Six months ended 31st July 2009 £'000  17,961 18,418  5,945 6,139  n/a n/a n/a

A second quarterly dividend of 6.0p (2009: 6.0p) per share, amounting to £5,943,000 (2009: £6,139,000), has been declared payable in respect of the six months ended 31st July 2010.

#### 4. Taxation

The Company's effective corporation tax rate is nil, as deductible expenses exceed taxable income. The tax charge comprises overseas withholding tax.

### Notes to the Accounts continued

#### 5. Return per share

return per share	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2009 £'000	(Audited) Year ended 31st January 2010 £'000
Return per share is based on the following: Revenue return Capital return	14,253 74,911	13,970 249,409	23,703 354,482
Total return	89,164	263,379	378,185
Weighted average number of shares in issue	99,892,469	102,321,968	102,264,780
Revenue return per share Capital return per share	14.27p 74.99p	13.65p 243.75p	23.18p 346.63p
Total return per share	89.26p	257.40p	369.81p

#### 6. Net asset value per share

Net asset value per share is calculated by dividing shareholders' funds by the number of shares in issue at 31st July 2010 of 99,055,719 (31st July 2009: 102,321,968; and 31st January 2010: 101,947,968).

7. Reconciliation of net return on ordinary activities before finance costs and taxation to net cash inflow from operating activities

	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2010 £'000	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st July 2009 £'000	(Audited) Year ended 31st January 2010 £'000
Total return on ordinary activities before finance			
costs and taxation	94,668	268,917	389,226
Less capital return on ordinary activities			
before finance costs and taxation	(78,753)	(252,154)	(359,971)
Scrip dividends included in income	(442)	_	_
Increase in net debtors and accrued income	(1,941)	(1,303)	(611)
Decrease in accrued expenses	(53)	(1,499)	(1,529)
Expenses charged to capital	(1,578)	(859)	(1,971)
Overseas withholding tax	(31)	(48)	(62)
Distribution on dissolution of subsidiary	_	_	(37)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	11,870	13,054	25,045

### Glossary of Terms and Definitions

#### Return to Shareholders

Total return to the investor, on a mid-market price to mid-market price basis, assuming that all dividends received were reinvested, without transaction costs, in the shares of the Company at the time the shares were quoted ex-dividend.

#### Return on Net Assets

Total return on net asset value ('NAV') per share, on a bid value to bid value basis, assuming that all dividends paid out by the Company were reinvested in the shares of the Company at the NAV per share at the time the shares were quoted ex-dividend.

In accordance with industry practice, dividends payable which have been declared but which are unpaid at the balance sheet date are deducted from the NAV when calculating the total return on net assets.

#### Benchmark Total Return

Total return on the benchmark, on a mid-market value to mid-market value basis, assuming that all dividends received were reinvested, without transaction costs, in the shares of the underlying companies at the time the shares were quoted ex-dividend.

The benchmark is a recognised index of stocks which should not be taken as wholly representative of the Company's investment universe. The Company's investment strategy does not follow or 'track' this index and consequently, there may be some divergence between the Company's performance and that of the benchmark.

#### Share Price Discount/Premium to Net Asset Value

If the share price of an investment company is lower than the NAV per share, the shares are said to be trading at a discount. The discount is shown as a percentage of the NAV. The opposite of a discount is a premium. It is more common for an investment company's shares to trade at a discount than at a premium.

## Notes

## Notes

## Notes

## Information about the Company

#### Financial Calendar

Financial year end

Final results announced

Half year end

Half year results announced

Interim Management Statements announced

Dividends on ordinary shares paid

Interest on 4.25% perpetual debenture stock paid

**Annual General Meeting** 

\*or nearest following business day.

31st January
April
31st July
September
May/November
\*1st August, 1st November, 1st February, 1st May
1st June, 1st December
April/May

#### History

The Mercantile Investment & General Trust Company Limited was formed in December 1884 with issued capital of £500,000. The Company merged with three other investment trusts in 1960 under a scheme of arrangement and changed its name to The Mercantile Investment Trust Limited. In 1982 the Company became The Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust plc. JPMorgan has been the Company's manager and secretary since its appointment in 1976. In April 2008, the Company adopted its present name, The Mercantile Investment Trust plc.

A publication entitled "The Mercantile Investment Trust plc 125 Years" is available from the Secretary.

#### Directors

Hamish Leslie Melville (Chairman) Sir Richard Beckett Lord Halifax Sandy Nairn Charles Peel Ian Russell

#### **Company Numbers**

Company Registration number: 20537 London Stock Exchange number: 0579403

ISIN: GB0005794036 Bloomberg ticker: MRC LN

#### Market Information

The Company's shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The market price is shown daily in the Financial Times, The Guardian, The Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, The Scotsman, and on the JPMorgan Internet site at www.mercantileit.co.uk, where the share price is updated every fifteen minutes during trading hours.

#### Website

www.mercantileit.co.uk

#### **Share Transactions**

The Company's shares may be dealt in directly through a stockbroker or professional adviser acting on an investor's behalf. They may also be purchased and held through the J.P. Morgan Investment Account, J.P. Morgan ISA and J.P. Morgan SIPP. These products are all available on the online wealth manager service, J.P. Morgan WealthManager+ available at www.jpmorganwealthmanagerplus.co.uk

#### Manager and Secretary

JPMorgan Asset Management (UK) Limited

#### Company's Registered Office

Finsbury Dials 20 Finsbury Street London EC2Y 9AQ

Telephone number: 020 7742 6000

Please contact Juliet Dearlove for company secretarial and administrative matters.

#### Registrars

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Reference 1101

Aspect House

Spencer Way

Lancing

West Sussex BN99 6DA

Telephone number: 0871 384 2329

Notifications of changes of address and enquiries regarding share certificates or dividend cheques should be made in writing to the Registrar quoting reference 1101. Registered shareholders can obtain further details on their holdings on the internet by visiting www.shareview.co.uk.

#### **Independent Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Hay's Galleria 1 Hay's Lane London SE1 2RD

#### Brokers

JPMorgan Cazenove 10 Aldermanbury London EC2V 7RF

Cenkos

6, 7, 8 Tokenhouse Yard London EC2R 7AS

#### Savings Product Administrators

For queries on the J.P. Morgan Investment Account, J.P. Morgan ISA and J.P. Morgan SIPP, see contact details on the back cover of this report.



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JPMorgan Helpline Freephone 0800 20 40 20 or +44 (0)20 7742 9995

Your telephone call may be recorded for your security

www.mercantileit.co.uk