

press release

22 February 2011

Fund in Focus: Investec UK Special Situations fund

Andy Parsons, advice team manager at The Share Centre, explains why investors may wish to consider the Investec UK Special Situations fund to diversify UK exposure in their portfolio.

“As the UK economy continues its slow and winding recovery from recession and many UK companies continue to be cautious in their outlook for 2011, there is a school of investors who believe companies listed on UK markets are offering valuations and opportunities rarely seen.

“We recommend investors seeking exposure to UK companies hold a blend of funds, comprising traditional big core blue chip funds and exposure to the small to mid cap arena. The Investec UK Special Situations fund is a suitable contender to complement any mainstream blue chip UK equity fund.

“The fund has been managed by Alastair Mundy since August 2002 and is run on his contrarian approach to investing. It looks to provide a combination of income and capital growth through investment in companies he believes are out of favour with the market, undervalued and have the best long term potential to revert to their previous higher levels.

“By undertaking a contrarian approach, investors should appreciate that the fund may have periods of underperformance compared to a more mainstream UK equity fund. Selection of companies is based on purchasing them when sentiment towards them is often at their very lowest with the fund generally holding between 70-80 stocks.

“In terms of performance, over the last few years this fund has clearly demonstrated that the manager has the ability to limit losses in times of hardship, whilst also benefiting when markets are

positive. In 2008, he managed to limit losses, losing only -19.58% compared to a sector average of -31.96%, whilst in 2009 the fund returned 37.57% compared to a sector average of 30.40%.”

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Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are also available.

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In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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