

# Unicorn Asset Management

## Quarterly AIM Newsletter



Q2 2025

For professional advisers only

### Unicorn AIM VCT

The largest and longest running AIM VCT in the market, focused on long term income generation and capital growth

### AIM IHT & ISA Portfolio Service

Invests in a BR qualifying portfolio of AIM businesses to deliver IHT mitigation, natural income and growth - there are two portfolios; a growth focus portfolio and a dividend focus portfolio

### AIM IHT & ISA Service Responsible Portfolios

Offers the dividend and growth portfolios with expanded revenue restrictions on investee companies

## From the desk of Anam Ajani

The FTSE AIM All-Share Index recorded a total return of +13.7% in Q2 2025, staging a sharp rebound after Q1's weakness. Early in April, the market dipped in response to fresh U.S. tariff announcements, but swiftly recovered once the U.S. paused further measures, sparking a post-"Tariff Day" rally that set the tone for the quarter. Smaller-cap stocks outpaced their larger peers, with the FTSE 250 up 12.4% and the FTSE 100 rising just 3.1%. Cyclical sectors, led by financials and industrials, were the primary drivers of the quarter's gains, with technology stocks also experiencing a rebound. In contrast, defensive sectors such as healthcare underperformed over the period.



**Anam Ajani CFA,**  
**Assistant Portfolio Manager**  
**& ESG Associate**

AIM saw three new IPOs during the quarter, reflecting cautious renewal of issuance appetite, although overall fundraising remained below the levels seen in Q2 2024. The trend of companies migrating to the Main Market persisted, with Gamma Communications and Brooks Macdonald completing their transitions, while Global Data and Johnson Service Group announced their intentions to follow. Supportive macro factors, most prominently the Bank of England's interest rate cut to 4.5%, easing inflation pressures, and stabilising post-election sentiment, helped restore risk appetite.

Unicorn AIM VCT recorded a net asset value ("NAV") total return of +8.2% during the quarter, underperforming the AIM index during the same period. The largest contributor was Aurigo International (+2.4%), following strong full-year results and a landmark deal with Swissport to deploy its autonomous airside technology at Zurich Airport, signalling growing commercial momentum. The largest detractor was Sulnox (-1.3%), as its shares declined following the announcement of a £1 million equity raise priced at 50 pence per share, a modest discount to the mid-June closing price.

The Unicorn AIM IHT Portfolio Service delivered strong Q2 2025 performance, with the Growth Focused Portfolio returning +10.2% and the Dividend Focused Portfolio +14.4%. The Growth Portfolio was boosted by Gooch & Housego's +46.9% share price surge following robust H1 2025 results which reported 11.4% revenue growth and a 91% increase in adjusted profit before tax. A turnaround of its Aerospace & Defence division, combined with the integration of Phoenix Optical and planned Global Photonics acquisition enhanced investor confidence, with management targeting mid-teens profit margins by 2028. The Dividend Portfolio's top performer was H&T Group, which gained nearly 70% in the quarter, after FirstCash announced a recommended £297 million takeover at 650p per share in cash - a 44% premium including the 11p final dividend.

Generally, UK equities have delivered solid performance in the first half of 2025, outperforming the more volatile US market, underlining the appeal of the UK as a relatively stable market amid continued global uncertainty. Attractive valuations, ongoing Bank of England rate cuts, and easing inflation have further supported investor sentiment and economic stability. Meanwhile, government initiatives aimed at encouraging institutional investment in UK equities, such as pension fund reforms and streamlined listing rules, are starting to gain traction, bolstering AIM's role in financing innovative UK companies despite broader geopolitical risks. While global tensions remain elevated, the UK equity market is increasingly attractive for investors seeking stability, diversification, and exposure to undervalued growth opportunities.

## Q2 2025 PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

### UNICORN AIM VCT PLC

**Total return:** +8.2% vs NAMI 12.0%

**Stocks added:** Quantum Base, Warwick Acoustics

**Stocks exited:** N/A

Name	Contribution to Return (%)
<b>Top 3 performers</b>	
AURRIGO INTERNATIONAL	+2.4
COHORT	+2.1
TRISTEL	+1.0
<b>Bottom 3 performers</b>	
INCANTHERA	-0.5
MAXCYTE	-1.2
SULNOX GROUP	-1.3

### UNICORN AIM IHT & ISA PORTFOLIO SERVICE - GROWTH FOCUS

**Total returns:** +10.2% vs NAMI +12.0%

**Stocks added:** MHA, The Property Franchise Group, Tatton Asset Management

**Stocks exited:** FD Technologies, Elixir International, Gamma Communications

Name	Total Return (%)
<b>Top 3 performers</b>	
GOOCH & HOUSEGO	+46.9
FD TECHNOLOGIES	+41.7
TRISTEL	+39.0
<b>Bottom 3 performers</b>	
NEXT 15 GROUP	-16.2
GB GROUP	-18.2
RWS HOLDINGS	-23.2

### UNICORN AIM IHT & ISA PORTFOLIO SERVICE – RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

**Total returns:** 8.9% vs NAMI +12.0%

**Stocks added:** MHA, The Property Franchise Group, Tatton Asset Management

**Stocks exited:** FD Technologies, Elixir International, Gamma Communications

Name	Total Return (%)
<b>Top 3 performers</b>	
FD TECHNOLOGIES	+41.7
TRISTEL	+39.0
BOKU	+31.7
<b>Bottom 3 performers</b>	
NEXT 15 GROUP	-16.2
GB GROUP	-18.2
RWS HOLDINGS	-23.2

### UNICORN AIM IHT & ISA PORTFOLIO SERVICE - DIVIDEND FOCUS

**Total returns:** +14.4% vs NAMI +12.0%

**Stocks added:** MHA

**Companies sold:** Elixir International

Name	Total Return (%)
<b>Top 3 performers</b>	
H&T GROUP	+69.9
TRISTEL	+39.0
ANIMALCARE GROUP	+35.1
<b>Bottom 3 performers</b>	
GATELEY HOLDINGS	-3.7
NEXT 15 GROUP	-16.2
RWS HOLDINGS	-23.2

*The VCT table shows contributions to fund performance. The IHT tables show the total return of stocks held in the model portfolio.*

Source: Numis Alternative Markets Index, Morningstar, Unicorn Asset Management 30/06/2025.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance, performance is based on returns net of fees. Your capital is at risk, the value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up. Investors may not get back the amount of their original investment.

## Quantum Base

**FIRST INVESTMENT:** April 2025

**MARKET CAP:** £16 million

**SECTOR:** Information Technology

**PORTFOLIO:** AIM VCT

### OVERVIEW OF THE COMPANY:

#### What Quantum Base does

Quantum Base is a UK quantum science spin out from Lancaster University that has developed Q ID, a quantum secure, non replicable product authentication solution. Every Q ID tag captures atomic-level imperfections, creating a unique fingerprint that can be applied via standard printing methods on everything from tax stamps and pharmaceuticals to luxury goods and packaging. Authentication is achieved in seconds via smartphone, providing scalable anti-counterfeiting and brand protection for global industries.

#### Why we like it

It addresses the massive \$2.8 trillion global counterfeit market with a breakthrough technology that combines strong IP protection, practical integration, and consumer-friendly authentication. The Q ID technology is covered by a broad patent portfolio and has been independently tested and validated for tax-stamp applications.

With high expected margins and simple, low-cost implementation via standard ink systems, Q ID offers compelling unit economics.

Fundamentally, the solution is ideally positioned at the intersection of global brand security, sustainability, and high-growth adoption via smartphone-based verification.

#### Company news from the latest quarter

Quantum Base successfully IPO'd in April 2025, raising approximately £4.8 million through a combination of institutional and retail subscriptions, and listing on AIM with a market valuation of around £14.8 million. Prior to the IPO, in late 2024, the company secured a breakthrough contract—referred to as “Customer #1”—for tax stamps, following adversarial testing that confirmed the technology’s ability to detect authenticity and resist cloning.

## MHA

**FIRST INVESTMENT:** June 2025

**MARKET CAP:** £34.6 million

**SECTOR:** Financial Services

**PORTFOLIO:** AIM IHT

### OVERVIEW OF THE COMPANY

#### What MPAC does

MHA, established in 1869 and headquartered in Milton Keynes, is a top-20 UK accountancy and professional services firm operating through 23 offices across the UK, Ireland, and the Cayman Islands. It offers a full suite of services, including audit & assurance, tax, accountancy & business advisory, and wealth management, servicing SMEs, public interest entities, and high-net-worth individuals. MHA also functions as the UK and Ireland representative for Baker Tilly International, enhancing its global reach.

#### Why we like it

MHA combines the resilience of a high-margin, recurring-revenue business model with strong growth dynamics in a structurally expanding market. Crucially, MHA focuses on serving mid-market clients, businesses that are typically underserved by the Big Four accountancy firms. This creates a substantial growth opportunity, as increasing regulatory complexity and advisory needs are pushing these clients toward full-service firms like MHA. Given the fragmented nature of this segment, MHA is well-positioned to lead sector consolidation through bolt-on acquisitions, evidenced by the recent purchase of Moore & Smalley.

With above-market revenue growth and strong EBITDA performance in FY25, MHA is demonstrating the operating leverage and strategic discipline required to scale into a top-tier national player.

#### Company news from the latest quarter

MHA listed on AIM in April 2025, raising £98 million to fund technology investment and acquisitions. In its June trading update, it reported revenue, margins, and cash generation ahead of expectations, driven by strong demand across core service lines. Management confirmed FY25 guidance of £224 million in revenue and £41 million in adjusted EBITDA, reaffirming strong growth and operating leverage post-IPO.

Source: Unicorn Asset Management 30/06/2025.

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**GROWTH FOCUS**



**DIVIDEND FOCUS**



**RESPONSIBLE GROWTH FOCUS**

**MORE INFORMATION**

For further information on any of the following, please get in touch.

- Factsheets
- Videos and webinar recordings
- Face-to-face and virtual Events
- Manager meetings
- CPD credit opportunities

**CONTENT LIBRARY**

**EVENTS**

Discrete calendar year performance	2024 (%)	2023 (%)	2022 (%)	2021 (%)	2020 (%)	2019 (%)
Growth Focus Portfolio	-1.6	-3.9	-25.7	4.6	7.2	34.0
Dividend Focus Portfolio	4.3	-1.2	-17.7	13.1	-5.8	21.4
Deutsche alternative markets	-5.6	-6.4	-30.7	7.5	19.3	14.7
Unicorn AIM VCT	-4.3	-3.2	-24.5	20.1	21.5	27.1
FTSE AIM All-Share	-4.0	-6.4	-30.7	6.1	21.8	13.3

Source: Numis Alternative Markets Index, Morningstar, Unicorn Asset Management UK 30/06/2025.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance, performance is based on returns net of fees. Your capital is at risk, the value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up. Investors may not get back the amount of their original investment. Performance figures show the total return of the Unicorn AIM IHT & ISA Portfolio Service Growth and Dividend Focus Portfolios where the contribution of each portfolio to the total return is weighted by portfolio size. The returns take into account all portfolio management fees but do not include initial portfolio or adviser fees. Individual portfolios are excluded during months when a portfolio is being invested, during months when withdrawals are made, where the investor has died and all portfolios where the initial investment is less than the minimums quoted in the terms & conditions of the service. The performance figures have been calculated by WM Capital Management based on the bid prices of holdings at the end of each month. Fees are subject to change.

Investing in smaller companies, including AIM listed companies and unlisted companies, can carry greater risks than those associated with larger capitalized companies. Taxation levels, benefits and reliefs may all vary depending on individual circumstances and are subject to change. Except where otherwise stated, the source of the information in this document is Unicorn Asset Management.

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