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Unicorn gains another accolade for UK Income Fund and extends VCT early bird offer

Unicorn - award winning investment management

Unicorn Asset Management has won the Moneywise Fund Awards 2014, UK Equity Income sector, with the Unicorn UK Income Fund – adding another accolade for the award-winning investment house.

Unicorn's most recent award builds on industry recognition in 2014 for its UK Growth and Mastertrust funds and its AIM VCT – in addition to earlier awards for the Income Fund.

The UK Income Fund – co-managed by Fraser Mackersie and Simon Moon – has already been recognised this year for its consistent, top quartile performance by Money Observer, What Investment and Lipper.

Additionally, the UK Growth Fund was named Best Smaller UK Growth Fund by Money Observer, the AIM VCT was named Best VCT 2014 by What Investment and Mastertrust was voted winner of the Moneywise Pension Awards 2014 Flexible Investment category.

Paul Harwood, Chairman of the Unicorn Investment Committee commented, "This latest accolade recognises the strength of the Unicorn investment process employed by our focused and well-resourced investment team, with over 100 years' combined experience. Our investment style is long-term and conservative and our team based approach allows for consistent application across all of our funds."

Unicorn AIM VCT early bird offer extended

The offer period is currently open for the award winning Unicorn AIM VCT referred to above and investors can take advantage of an early bird offer until 19 December 2014, with a 0.5% discount for new investors and 1% for existing shareholders.

The largest AIM-focused VCT in the market, the Unicorn AIM VCT plc was the joint-highest rated AIM VCT by Martin Churchill's Tax Efficient Review last year. The £94 million* Fund is managed by an experienced team, with a proven long term track record and provides investors with exposure to an established, diversified, maturing and strongly performing portfolio of British smaller companies, the majority of which are listed on the FTSE AIM market.

Chris Hutchinson, Manager of the Unicorn AIM VCT commented, "This offering gives investors an opportunity to access an existing investment portfolio, which has delivered continued strong performance.

In its current financial year to 30th September 2014 the VCT generated a total return of +15.3% (including dividends paid), which compares favourably with a total return of -4.5% for the FTSE AIM AllShare Index (Source: FE Analytics).

“The NAV has increased healthily in recent months and as at 30 September 2014 was 143.7 pence per share (129.8 pence per share as at 30 September 2013). In addition, a dividend of 6 pence per share was paid to shareholders in January 2014.

“Since launch in 2001 the Unicorn AIM VCT has paid total dividends to investors of almost £35m and has also built up substantial reserves, which are available for future dividend distribution.”

The closing date for applications for the 2014/15 tax year is 12 noon on 1 April 2015 and for the 2015/16 tax year is 12 noon on 30 June 2015.

*As at 30 September 2014

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Moneywise Award methodology

To make this latest award to the Unicorn UK Income Fund, Moneywise took the top 20 funds in each sector over three years and then aggregated their performance over three, five and, where possible, seven year (bid to bid, net income reinvested). These funds were then filtered to remove those that hadn't performed consistently or were deemed to be too risky. Fund charges were taken into account to assess value for money and soft-closed funds were excluded. Data was supplied by Moneywise using FE Trustnet figures.

Unicorn Asset Management

Unicorn Asset Management was established in 2000 and is an independently owned and managed company. It specialises in investing in UK small and mid-cap companies, AIM and fledgling markets.

Unicorn operates a team based approach to investment management and its experienced, committed and well-resourced investment team has almost 100 years' of combined experience. Unicorn is focused on being the 'best not the biggest' and its funds aim to deliver long term outperformance. Unlike many investment firms, Unicorn is majority owned by its directors and managers, providing further incentive to help ensure that the funds deliver consistently strong performance.

Unicorn currently manages nearly £900 million across a range of funds designed to satisfy a variety of investor requirements, including UK Income, UK Growth, UK Smaller Companies, an investment trust and an AIM focused VCT.

Unicorn AIM VCT

Unicorn AIM VCT was launched in 2001. It is one of the largest VCTs in the market and also has one of the best performance track records amongst AIM-focused VCTs. In addition, Unicorn AIM VCT has a long established track record of making attractive, annual dividend payments.

Chris Hutchinson has been lead manager of Unicorn AIM VCT since 2005. The VCT is highly rated by independent reviewers Allenbridge, Bestinvest and Martin Churchill.

The VCT seeks to provide Shareholders with an attractive return from a diversified portfolio of investments, predominantly in the shares of AIM quoted companies, by maximising the stream of dividend distributions to Shareholders from the income and capital gains generated by the portfolio while maintaining its status as a Venture Capital Trust.

Paul Harwood, Chairman, Unicorn Investment Committee

Paul was a co-founder of Unicorn in 2000 and has over 40 years' investment experience. Before joining Unicorn Paul held positions at Phillips & Drew, Richards Longstaff and Mercury Asset Management/Merrill Lynch, where he was a Director, Joint Head of the European Equity Investment Team and latterly the Head of the UK Smaller Companies Team.

Chris Hutchinson, Director & Senior Fund Manager

Chris is the lead manager of Unicorn AIM VCT and has been a member of the Unicorn Investment Committee since he joined the firm in 2005. Prior to joining Unicorn, Chris was a Fund Manager at Montanaro Investment Managers for over eight years where he specialised in UK smaller companies.

Fraser Mackersie, Fund Manager

Fraser has been manager of the Unicorn UK Growth fund since February 2011 and co-manager of the Unicorn UK Income Fund and Acorn Investment fund since 2013. He joined Unicorn Asset Management in 2008 and has been an active member of Investment Committee at Unicorn since joining the firm. Prior to joining Unicorn Fraser held positions at F&C Asset Management and Geoghegan & Co Chartered Accountants. Fraser is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Simon Moon, Fund Manager

Simon has been co-manager of the Unicorn UK Income Fund and Acorn Investment Fund and lead manager of the Unicorn Smaller Companies Fund since 2013. He joined Unicorn Asset Management in 2008, since when he has been an active member of the Investment Committee. Prior to joining Unicorn Simon worked as a research analyst at JM Finn & Co. Stockbrokers and spent three years in the NHS graduate finance scheme.

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