

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 2021

Unpacking the fundamentals,
key considerations and
current trends that shape the
Alternative Investment space
in South Africa

DISCLAIMER: Information and opinions contained in this Asset TV Alternative Investments virtual conference summary have been arrived at by its sponsors and participating panelists. Asset TV and its sponsors accept no liability for any loss arising from the use thereof nor make any representation as to their accuracy or completeness. Any underlying research or analysis has been procured by our sponsors for its own purposes and may have been acted on by our sponsors or an associate for its or their own purposes. All our sponsors are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Agenda

13 SEPTEMBER 2021		DAY ONE ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS & THE RETAIL INVESTOR	
TIME	TOPIC		
09:00	WELCOMING Joanne Baynham is on hand for the official welcoming to Asset TV's two-day virtual conference on Alternative Investments. She adds context to the conference mandate and elaborates on the two directional themes: unpacking the barriers to entry for retail investors (Day 1); and the fundamentals, key considerations and trends that currently shape the world of alternative investment for institutional investors (Day 2).		
09:05	EXPERT INTERVIEW Brent Jones, Manager of Hedge Funds Team, FSCA, discusses the role of a regulator in alternatives, any current collaborations and whether prescribed assets are still needed.		
09:20	ACCESSIBILITY Accessibility is often considered as the first barrier to entry for retail investors. This panel investigates the various ways in which to invest in alternatives, for example, direct investments, co-investments and fund of funds. The team also looks at the merits of setting up an own solution.		
10:00	EXPERT INTERVIEW Ric Edelman, Founder of the Edelman Financial Engines, discusses moving away from the company to focus on new ventures and looks at the state of exponential technologies today. Edelman has been consistently ranked the #1 registered investment advisor in the US.		
10:25	AFFORDABILITY The second barrier to entry for retail investors into alternative investments is affordability. This asset class is traditionally associated with higher minimum investments and more complex fee structures than with conventional assets. This panel unpacks the alternative fee structure by taking a closer look at cost factors such as initial minimums, upfront investment fees and transaction costs.		
11:15	LIQUIDITY Another perceived barrier to entry for those contemplating the alternative landscape is the issue of liquidity. During this final session of the day panel members will address this topic and share insights and advice on how to successfully navigate liquidity concerns.		

Agenda

14 SEPTEMBER 2021 DAY TWO ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS & THE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR	
TIME	TOPIC
09:00	THE DAY AHEAD Joanne Baynham of Asset TV welcomes participants to Day 2 of the Asset TV Alternative Investments virtual conference. The following discussions are aimed at institutional investors as panellists share insights into trends and key considerations when investing in the alternative asset classes.
09:05	EXPERT INTERVIEW Anne Simpson, Managing Investment Director, Sustainable Investments, CalPERS, oversees nearly half a trillion dollars for one of the largest pension funds in the world. She shares how ESG values are a critical component of her team's decision-making process.
09:25	TOP 5 REASONS TO CONSIDER INFRASTRUCTURE AS PART OF YOUR PORTFOLIO The significance of a trusted, functional and accessible infrastructure as a catalyst for South Africa's economic growth and societal change cannot be overemphasised. This session unpacks the imperatives for the inclusion of infrastructure investment as part of your portfolio.
10:00	CHARACTERISTICS OF TOP HEDGE FUNDS IN SA South Africa's leading hedge funds take centre stage as panellists examine the characteristics of these top performing funds and unpack the underlying elements that contribute to their success, size and performance.
10:40	KEY QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK A PRIVATE EQUITY FUND BEFORE INVESTING Private equity continues to deliver unique opportunities and advantages, yet this asset class remains largely underrepresented in investment portfolios due to its associated risks and challenges. This panel provides regulatory context and a breakdown of the key considerations that should guide your PE investment decisions.
11:15	TOP TRENDS TO WATCH WHEN INVESTING IN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS This final session wraps up the day by taking a closer look at the leading trends that have shaped the local and global alternative investment industry in recent years, as well as those that will continue to direct investment strategies moving forward.
11:50	RE-CAP AND CLOSE Asset TV's Joanne, Jenna and Mark are joined by Tanya van Lill of SAVCA as they capture the highlights and share insights into the key learnings of the past two days.



Unpacking Alternative Investments in SA

In Asset TV's first virtual conference on alternative investments, we address the growth in alternatives, and examine the challenges and opportunities within this asset class. This two-day event follows two major directional themes – firstly unpacking the perceived barriers to entry into alternatives for retail investors, and secondly looking at the fundamentals, key considerations and trends that currently shape the world of alternative investment for institutional investors.

Consensus opinion indicates that regulation needs to make space for the valuable benefits that alternatives can add in terms of diversification and steady, non-correlated returns – at both the institutional and retail investor level. In addition, further information and education is needed to make investors more familiar with and comfortable about private markets.

On behalf of the Asset TV team we thank our panelists and keynote speakers for availing us of their time and expertise, in particular Brent Jones of the FSCA, Ric Edelman of Edelman Financial engines in the USA, and finally Anne Simpson, managing investment director for CalPERS, one of the largest pension funds in the world.

A sincere appreciation and thanks for the interest from the wide audience that registered for this event. We were able to reach an impressive number of retail and institutional specialists, and we look forward to sharing highlights of this two-day event with the rest of the alternative investment fraternity in South Africa and beyond. For full access to the conference or any parts thereof, please visit www.vcplive.com.

ABOUT ASSET TV

Asset TV is a global video research and learning platform that provides leading edge CE and CPD accredited content. Through its specialist channels and dedicated conversation forums Asset TV shares the latest investment news and in-depth thought leadership by tapping into world-class expert opinion.

Currently more than 500 000 investment professionals from around the globe use ASSET TV for continuous learning and CE and CPD credit accrual purposes.

Visit us at www.assettv.co.za.



Alternatives & Retail Investors Barriers to Entry: Accessibility

Accessibility is often considered as the first barrier to entry for retail investors. This panel investigates the various ways in which to invest in alternatives, for example, direct investments, co-investments and fund of funds. The team also looks into the merits of setting up an own solution.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



TIM BOOLE

Head of Product
Management Private
Equity, Schroders



PAUL WILSON

Chief Investment Officer,
Glacier Invest



ALAN YATES

Head of Distribution,
Peregrine Capital



MICHAEL TITLEY

Business Development
Larium Capital



JENNA DAGENHART
Moderator

Presenter, Asset TV

There is a clear global trend to “democratising” investing and, as knowledge and demand grow, managers will need to create suitable products suitable for individual investors. And the regulator will need to keep up, enable increased allocations, and regulate products accordingly.

Why are private assets needed in portfolios? For one thing, South Africa has a narrow market and fewer companies are listing, so the traditional universe has shrunk. Hedge funds for retail investors (RIFS) are now more accessible following their regulation under CISCA in 2015 - although stumbling blocks remain the inability of unit trusts to invest into hedge; the difficulty of getting hedge funds onto LISPs; and the need for advisers to be licensed to sell hedge.

The advantages are clear. Hedge offers diversification with low correlation to equities and other asset classes, returns can be boosted, volatility reduced, and a larger toolbox accessed; long-short has been well tested and it is generally agreed that hedge has added huge value. Yet investors still seem to view hedge funds with fear. More information and education is needed.

While hedge is now relatively accessible for retail investors, this is not so for other alternatives such as private equity and mezzanine debt. Minimum investment requirements are onerous and regulation is not keeping up. Globally, product development varies from country to country, with some allowing access to semi-liquid funds, and closed- or open-ended funds.

For retail investors able to afford the minimum investments, vehicles to access alternatives include ManCos, LISP platforms (wrappers or fund of funds) or endowments (with attractive tax benefits). Investors should partner with managers whose day job it is to do the necessary due diligences and advisers who have the skill and knowledge.

Technology is boosting accessibility to alternatives, such as crowd funding or peer lending, and liquidity is eased through the increasing build to secondary markets. The demand for alternatives can only grow but again the regulator needs to keep up.

Alternatives & Retail Investors Barriers to Entry: Affordability

The second barrier to entry for retail investors into alternative investments is affordability. This asset class is traditionally associated with higher minimum investments and more complex fee structures than with conventional assets. This panel unpacks the alternative fee structure by taking a closer look at cost factors such as initial minimums, upfront investment fees and transaction costs.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



ST JOHN BUNKELL

Head, Absa Alternative Asset Management



ALAN YATES

Head of Distribution,
Peregrine Capital



JEAN PIERRE VERSTER

CEO & Portfolio Manager,
Protea Capital Management



MARK COLEGATE
Moderator

Editorial Director &
Strategist, Asset TV

At this stage, the easiest access retail investors have to alternatives is via hedge funds hosted on LISP platforms. South Africa has led the global market in terms of regulating hedge funds as collective investment schemes. Most hedge funds in SA follow a long-short strategy, providing a wider toolbox than multi-asset class or long-only funds. Real estate via REITs or stand-alone property funds, private equity and credit are far more difficult to access.

Advisers are starting to recognise the power of hedge, with its non-correlated returns, capturing maximum upside and lessening the downside, and particularly favourable in a low interest rate environment. Over a minimum five-year period, hedge funds have generally beat inflation – net of all fees – comparing favourably over those investors in a traditional equity: bonds ratio.

Given the higher returns, the quest for ever lower fees is misguided. Beta is becoming commoditised whereas hedge funds can offer alpha, along with the skills set that enable skilful management of gearing, giving non-correlated, risk-controlled outcomes. It is a no-brainer that, as with any supply-demand scenario, you will pay more for higher returns.

Hedge fund management fees range up to 1.5% and performance fees are the norm, aligning manager interests with those of investors. Performance fees are charged monthly, annually or on disinvestment. Portfolio managers furthermore usually have their own money in the fund. Investors do not pay if the fund underperforms the benchmark. In terms of the “high watermark” concept, investors only pay the performance fee on new performance.

Retail investors have access to hedge fund fact sheets. Here they should be examining transparency with the focus on consistency of returns over cash, outperformance relative the benchmark, the total expense ratio, and the risk management framework.

While hedge funds are not homogenous, the minimum investment into a hedge fund for retail investors can be as low as a monthly payment of R2,000 or a lump sum of R50,000. Given the positive real returns, the question should be can investors afford not to have some hedge exposure?

Alternatives & Retail Investors Barriers to Entry: Liquidity

Another perceived barrier to entry for those contemplating the alternative landscape is the issue of liquidity. During this final session of the day panel members will address this topic and share insights and advice on how to successfully navigate liquidity concerns.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



STEVEN HURWITZ

Investment Analyst, 36ONE



MATTHEW POUNCETT

Co-Portfolio Manager / Financial Analyst, Laurium Capital



JEAN PIERRE VERSTER

Founder & CEO, Protea Capital Management



JOANNE BAYNHAM
Moderator

Presenter, Asset TV

South Africa is unique in having had hedge funds regulated under CISCA to make provision for retail investors, allowing for daily pricing via LISPs and therefore high liquidity. These so-called RIFS (retail investor hedge funds) are distinct from qualified investor hedge funds (QUIFS) which are required to price quarterly (but in practice monthly). There is however no rule for a liquidity risk premium, with RIFA and QUIFS often generating similar returns because of the same underlying strategy which in South Africa is predominantly long/short. This is because managers have experience of that strategy in managing in unit trusts, but the market is expected to evolve to include other strategies such as global macro and CTAs once the latter show better global performance.

In contrast to RIFS, other alternative sub-classes are not readily available to individuals, such as private equity, direct property and infrastructure. Private equity funds for example are far less liquid than hedge funds, requiring capital lock-up for 5-7 years and penalties for early redemption. Ironically, lock-ups of any kind during the pandemic have protected investors from emotional bias and allowed them to benefit from the market rally.

Regarding long/short, while concentration risk should be avoided, in the SA market there is less risk of not being able to close shorts given the size of the hedge fund industry – less than R100 bn which is a drop in the JSE ocean. Hedge fund size is expected to grow in line with the overall hedge fund market in SA.

Top five reasons why you should consider infrastructure as part of your portfolio

The significance of a trusted, functional and accessible infrastructure as a catalyst for South Africa's economic growth and societal change cannot be overemphasised. This session unpacks the imperatives for the inclusion of infrastructure investment as part of your portfolio.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



SANTHURI THAVER

Head of Credit Risk,
Ashburton Investments



JASON LIGHTFOOT

Senior Portfolio Manager,
Futuregrowth



OCKERT DOYER

Head of Credit & Senior
Portfolio Manager, Sanlam
Investments



TANYA VAN LILL
Moderator

SAVCA

Major strides have recently been taken to put infrastructure development at the top of the agenda for both the public and private sectors. Within the Presidency there is now the Infrastructure Development Office which coordinates all stakeholders. Within that is Infrastructure SA which serves as an umbrella under which projects are considered, funding found and approval given. The Development Bank of SA then manages an Infrastructure Fund. With R100 billion of government support, the fund will crowd in private sector funding over the coming 10 years. DFIs and banks have an important role to play but so do pension funds, whose allocations to infrastructure will doubtless be increased by planned changes to Regulation 28. Through creating public private partnerships (PPPs), government will access skills sets and the expertise to manage projects at all levels of government.

THE TOP FIVE REASONS TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE ARE IDENTIFIED AS:

- Good financial sense for asset owners to diversify portfolios, and access a good inflation hedge with less volatile returns, and non-correlation with listed markets.
- A significant boost to GDP with projects having a knock-on effect to create longer-term jobs.
- Social outcomes which will help to reduce inequalities in society. The emphasis on ESG and impact should lead to better-functioning communities into which retirement fund members can retire.
- Making SA a more attractive destination for foreign investors.
- Matching the assets and liabilities of retirement funds, with the flexibility to choose different investment opportunities be this via debt, equity or blended finance.

Characteristics of top hedge funds in South Africa

South Africa's leading hedge funds take centre stage as panellists examine the characteristics of these top performing funds and unpack the underlying elements that contribute to their success, size and performance.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



STEVEN HURWITZ

Investment Analyst,
36ONE



MATTHEW POUNCETT

Co-portfolio Manager,
Laurium Capital



JUSTIN COUSINS

Portfolio Manager,
Peregrine Capital



JEAN PIERRE VERSTER

CEO & Portfolio
Manager, Protea Capital
Management



MARK COLEGATE
Moderator

Editorial Director &
Strategist, Asset TV

With a focus on long/short equity, top hedge fund managers follow differing approaches, which include a bottom-up focus, top-down with a macro overlay, style-agnostic and a mix of traditional fundamental analysis with quants.

Unpacking what managers have learnt from mistakes, some feel that they had been too conservative to the detriment of a balanced position; others see a behavioural bias in hindsight; the possible need to have expanded offshore beyond the local universe; the success in rotating analysts to achieve both bullish and bearish views; as well as the need to conduct post mortems and continually refine the investment process and philosophy.

How to build a culture for a successful hedge fund? Consensus opinion is the need to get the team dynamic right, and for people to be both emotionally and financially invested in the fund. There is a sense that boutiques are better placed than large managers as they are more nimble.

How much effort is put into reinvesting into the business? The back office is become more operationally intensive and so investment into systems and software is needed. The front office is also important and talent and skills investments are vital for further growth.

How do managers run their long and short books with a view to optimal risk management? Various approaches exist with a common view to avoid a correlation mismatch between long and short books; long-term compounders add value; and there is a need for a diversified short book to move risk away from potential mean stocks. Net versus gross positions need to be constantly flexed to ensure no single excessive exposure, as well as to achieve optimal leverage.

It is clear that all successful hedge fund managers have their primary focus on risk management. The short book needs to be diversified; one needs to be flexible while sticking to principles on both the long and short books to generate above-average returns.

Key questions you need to ask a private equity fund before investing

Private equity continues to deliver unique opportunities and advantages, yet this asset class remains largely underrepresented in investment portfolios due to its associated risks and challenges. This panel provides regulatory context and a breakdown of the key considerations that should guide your PE investment decisions.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



DAVID MOORE

Alternative Investments,
Alexander Forbes



DAVID BAJADA

Investment Director, Private Equity
& Real Assets, Schroders Capital



FARHAD KHAN

Investment Partner,
Old Mutual Alternative
Investments



JOANNE BAYNHAM
Moderator

Presenter, Asset TV

In a private equity (PE) fund, in broad terms, the fund manager is generally referred to as the General Partner (GP) with Limited Partners (LPs) being the investors in the fund. The entity housing the fund is a specialised investment vehicle (SPV).

Why Private Equity? This asset class is less correlated to the public market. The universe is vaster - where there are some 100 companies listed on the JSE, there are some 10,000 medium-sized businesses valued at more than R100,000. Higher returns are possible if a company is bought at a better price with an aligned management team. The GP can intervene in operations if needed eg in times of crisis. The GP can adopt active stewardship, leading to a greater impact.

What stage of the lifecycle to invest? Investors can invest across the full spectrum - from greenfields through mid-market- to mature businesses.

What to look for in a PE fund manager team? The team ideally needs longevity and diversity. If applicable, sector specialists are brought on board.

How do you value an investment and what fees are charged? Generally the investment is valued at the most recent NAV by the fund manager, with third party checks. Fees are fairly standard globally: 2% of capital committed in the first commitment period, followed by 2% on the value of the assets after the commitment period. The performance fee is a standard 20% above a preferred return, payable only upon sale of the asset. The preferred return is the target a fund needs to achieve generally over a 10-year period, in percentage hurdles. A waterfall, transparently stated in the contract, sets out who gets paid what when.

When the asset is sold the LPs would get their cash back in terms of capital committed and the preferred return, and then the performance fee is charged as it relates to the hurdles. The GP could be entitled to carried interest (a share in the fund's profits).

In SA there is not really a developed secondary market for either the PE fund or the portfolio companies, so investors generally assume the PE asset class is illiquid and capital will be tied up for the full life of the fund - normally 10 years.

Top trends to watch when investing in alternative investments

What are the drivers of the increased interest in alternatives? This session takes a closer look at the leading trends that have shaped the local and global alternative investment industry in recent years, as well as those that will continue to direct investment strategies moving forward.

[WATCH THIS SESSION](#)



ST JOHN BUNKELL

Head of Alternative Management, Absa



KAMINI NAIDOO

Portfolio Manager, Alternative Investments, Momentum Investments



SUVIRA BODHA

Head of Alternatives & Portfolio Manager, Sanlam Investments Multi Manager



JENNA DAGENHART
Moderator

Presenter, Asset TV

There is no doubt that COVID-19 and lockdowns have confirmed the need for diversified portfolios and blended returns which have not only a financial but also an ESG return. The pandemic has also highlighted the inequality gap, especially in South Africa.

Investors are increasingly seeing the value that investment into private markets can offer. This interest is being driven by various factors, including a low interest rate environment, an increase in public company delistings (there are 50% fewer listed counters than 20 years ago), uncorrelated returns with the public market, and sustainability linked to the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs). Asset managers in fact have a fiduciary duty to make allocations to sustainable investments, such as renewable energy, student accommodation, water, access to credit and SMME support. ESG comes with increased transparency which in turn drives stronger leadership.

In SA both institutional and retail investors are showing interest in hedge funds as they are relatively more liquid than private equity or debt. Changes in regulation should however open up new opportunities with a push to make private markets more accessible. Globally, there is interest in private debt, fixed income strategies and high yield investments which present solid performance regardless of where one is in the interest rate cycle.

It is important to note that alternatives are not a homogenous universe, but span the entire capital spectrum with a varied toolbox of risk profiles. For example, one can target specific risk/return outcomes as well as social impacts. The interest in investing into alternatives will doubtless continue to grow as investors appreciate the ability to build diversified portfolios with superior risk-adjusted returns.

Key insights – Expert interview



Legislation and other developments will continue to affect the alternatives space. But SA markets are resilient and managers are likely to find niches to fill any gaps.”

- Brent Jones

Manager of Hedge Funds Team, FSCA



Specific objectives were set when the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) replaced the old Financial Services Board (FSB). These included improving market efficiencies, such as by opening up hedge funds to retail investors under the CISCA, all the while ensuring the protection of investors. The FSCA walks the tightrope between these two elements and regards itself as a stakeholder which partners with all the other players in the industry. Two pieces of legislation are likely to have an ongoing impact: the Conduct of Financial Institutions Bill (COFI), and the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS).

In the pipeline are some developments which will affect the alternatives space, in particular hedge funds. The FSCA is cognisant of market feedback regarding inconsistencies arising from two types of hedge funds – Qualified Hedge Fund Investors (QIFS) and Retail Hedge Fund Investors (RIFS). For example, high net worth individuals can access certain hedge funds but multi-managers and unit trust managers cannot. It is acknowledged that hedge can add value in portfolio construction. On the other hand, as the regulator, the FSCA needs to assess risk management and liquidity and protect investors accordingly.

Section 12J investments are being phased out but SA markets are resilient and managers are likely to find niches to fill the gap. QIFS and RIFS are still options, as is increasing access to private equity under FAIS.

Regarding the topic of prescribed assets, National Treasury is rather exploring amending Regulation 28 with the relevant policy centre, with input from the FSCA. There will likely be developments affecting alternatives, with scope for hedge and private equity to grow.

Key insights – Expert interview



Exponential technology is also being applied to create a better world, such as analysing environmental change.”

- Ric Edelman

Founder of the Edelman Financial Engines



If there is one good thing emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is exponential technology. Just two examples are online meeting platforms and the technology that enabled the launch of vaccines within nine months – not to mention exponential growth in fintech, agritech, biotech, online shopping, tele-medicine and the like. The speed of computers will double in the next 18 months, and their cost will halve. 5G is formidable and 6G is around the corner. Exponential technology is also being applied to create a better world, such as analysing environmental change.

Blockchain is mainstreaming, opening up digital assets and cryptocurrency opportunities. People will be living longer, healthier lives and their investments will need to last longer. Diversification into crypto is a no-brainer. Bitcoin is in its early stages still, but already the SEC is developing a regulatory environment. Crypto will be every bit as exciting as the advent of the internet.

The pace of growth is not going to slow and investors need to keep up. So how can retail investors access opportunities in exponential technology? They can already access relevant ETFs, private placements, OTCs and stocks in publicly owned companies which are building the ecosystem. But there is a need for education and training to enable the mindshift. One of the leaders in this field is Ric Edelman's Digital Assets Council of Financial Professionals (DACFP) which is focused on executives, managers and advisers in the financial services industry.

Key insights – Expert interview



CalPERS has 20% of its alternatives in climate solutions, and climate change is one of its three top risks. As fiduciaries we have a duty to grow and protect members' retirement funding within the appropriate risk parameters."

- Anne Simpson

Managing Investment Director, Sustainable
Investments, CalPERS



The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) is the largest public pension fund in the United States with nearly \$500 billion of assets and 2 million members. In seeking reliable risk-adjusted returns and to match assets with liabilities, investment into alternatives (private equity, real estate and infrastructure) is viewed as absolutely critical.

People tend to think of ESG as applying only to public markets but increasingly ways are being sought to measure and report on ESG in private markets too. Since 2016 CalPERS has had a total fund sustainability policy. It looks at ESG through a lens which covers financial, human and physical capital and adopts a highly disciplined approach to assessing private market projects to see if they represent an opportunity or a need for risk mitigation.

CalPERS works closely with various industry initiatives such as the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark and has assisted in developing a similar process in the infrastructure space. It also works closely with the Institutional Limited Partners Association. These bodies are making good progress in terms of developing and standardising private market investment standards. CalPERS also has a "responsible contract programme" in place which sets reporting requirements on human capital such as health & safety and employee benefits.

Climate change is all too real for Californians. CalPERS already has 20% of its alternatives in climate solutions and climate change is one of its three top risks. As fiduciaries it has a duty to grow and protect members' retirement funding within the appropriate risk parameters.



In Conclusion

The prospects for alternatives are generally looking good especially when one considers how long it takes companies to list or indeed the trend to de-list in the public market. Alternatives may sound scary - but they need not be. Information, education, and regulation are needed.

.....

The regulator could in due course make alternatives more accessible to retail investors but for now they are limited to hedge funds, with private equity and infrastructure being more the preserve of institutional investors.

There is a pressing need however for the regulator to iron out the anomaly of institutional/multi-managers not being able to invest in hedge funds. regarding performance fees on hedge funds, these can be very high – it is good that there is transparency around fees but investors need to do their homework on managers, their culture etc.

Infrastructure comes in all shapes and sizes – in addition to renewable energy, ports and roads there are hospitals, schools and running water needs. For pension funds looking at liquidity matching, one needs to do careful due diligence and understand the risks across the ESG spectrum.

There is a longer-term compounder effect which can have the effect of improving the environment and community infrastructure into which retirement fund members will retire. With the concentration of private assets, additional trends into this class are being seen, for example via fintech.



The interest in investing into alternatives will doubtless continue to grow as investors appreciate the ability to build diversified portfolios with superior risk-adjusted returns.”

- Top Trends to Watch, Asset TV Alternative Investments Virtual Conference 2021

Our Sponsors

Asset TV sincerely thanks its presenters, esteemed speakers and panellists, as well as all delegates who participated in the 2021 Alternative Investments conference. We value your ongoing association and valued contributions.

A special thanks to the official sponsors of the Asset TV 2021 Alternative Investments conference:



Information and opinions contained in this Asset TV Alternative Investments virtual conference summary have been arrived at by its sponsors and participating panellists. Asset TV and its sponsors accept no liability for any loss arising from the use thereof nor make any representation as to their accuracy or completeness. Any underlying research or analysis has been procured by our sponsors for its own purposes and may have been acted on by our sponsors or an associate for its or their own purposes. All of our sponsors are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.