

LONG TERM GLOBAL GROWTH Q2 INVESTMENT UPDATE

Investment specialist Tatjana Evans-MacLeod and investment manager John MacDougall give an update on the Long Term Global Growth strategy covering Q2 2023.

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Tatjana Evans-MacLeod (TEM): Welcome to the Long Term Global Growth update for the second quarter. As a reminder, we are a concentrated portfolio, 30 to 60 names looking for high growth potential over long periods of time. I'm Tatjana Evans MacLeod. I'm an investment specialist on the strategy and I'm joined by John MacDougall, one of the decision makers.

John, as we said and as I said in the introduction, we're looking for returns over long periods of time, but clients would like a glimpse as to what recent performance has looks like.

John MacDougall (JM): Yeah. So, as you know, Tatjana, we tend not to overly focus on shorter term share price moves in either direction. Looking at fundamental changes that either improve or decrease the chances of our holdings being some of the great outlier businesses is what we prefer to look at. But when I look at some of the more recent moves, I guess year to date, it strikes me as though we're seeing a little bit more of a return to normality compared to last year's really sort of indiscriminate moves.

TEM: Tough couple. A tough couple of years.

JM: Yeah. And yeah, so I think that we're seeing more signs that business performance is being rewarded in terms of share price moves. So, in the most recent period, Artificial Intelligence has been a major topic driven by the incredible progress that we saw initially with a business like Chat GPT. The uptake of that was really quite staggering. I think it's been suggested it was the quickest consumer product to reach 100 million users in just a couple of months after its launch before Christmas. And there's clearly a lot of buzz around this. But we think while you could debate some of the shorter term share price moves, whether people got a little bit over excited, we think this is a real genuine paradigm shift potentially because of the power that this technology will have to radically alter, we think, productivity of businesses in some cases and also contribute, I think, to more innovation and ease of business creation in the future. So, from a broader long term innovation perspective, I think this is really exciting.

(TEM): And how would that impact Long Term Global Growth portfolio?



JM: Yeah, so as you know, the portfolio for many years now has been positioned to benefit from the increasing importance of high end chips, which particularly ties into the advance of Artificial Intelligence. So, from the likes of ASML, the high end manufacturing provider of semiconductor equipment to more recent purchase AMD the chip maker.

So, we have lots of names that potentially benefit from this. And I guess this is unsurprising given the focus of markets in the most recent period that some of our AI-related names were the strongest contributors to performance. So NVIDIA, the high end chip business was our largest holding over the period and indeed did very well, particularly after announcing what I think commentators had suggested was the largest ever upward revision during the quarter because they were seeing just such a jump in demand from data centre operators who needed these chips to help service all the new demand that was coming in from businesses trying to work out how to adapt large language models to their own unique situation. So, it is real tangible demand coming through already.

Several of our other holdings that have an element of AI within them were also strong performers. So Tesla, despite some softness in the auto business itself due to the economy. I think is highly regarded in terms of their investments that they've made in Artificial Intelligence over many years now. So, we know about it in terms of the autonomous driving application. But also, at their AI day last year they highlighted some of the other areas that they've been investing heavily in, including a glimpse of the humanoid robot that they've been talking about.

Even Amazon was a strong, very strong performer over the period for us, I think it will probably end up being one of the key channels by which businesses access some of these high powered new capabilities because of the reach the US has into all these businesses that were based on AWS's cloud. It seems a logical way that the companies will pay for access to this type of technology, and Amazon has been investing heavily for many years, even though they've not made as much noise externally about it as some others.

TEM: So, it sounds like in those names the operational progress is moving with the share price performance.

JM: Yes.

TEM: Vice versa.

JM: Yeah.

TEM: What about on the other side? Some of the detractors, not. Not everything has gone up.

JM: Yes. So, a name like Moderna, The vaccine business has not been participating in the stronger market in recent months. And the market is still very much focused on the COVID related revenues declining and is not yet prepared to give the company much credit for - Act Two which we strongly believe in, which is more vaccines related to the respiratory diseases and eventually cancer treatments as well.



And we think that the capabilities that they have built up in understanding that they developed in delivering such volumes of Covid vaccines really stand them in strong stead to build strong earnings growth over the next three to five years.

TEM: It's interesting that you say Act Two, because we've always talked about the importance of adaptability in the companies within the portfolio. You know, NVIDIA we've owned since 2016, AWS, Amazon since inception of the strategy. So there are different ways to grow. So I wonder if you're thinking about that in terms of the portfolio, are there different paths to growth in the companies that you're seeing or perhaps even new companies that you're thinking about for the portfolio in the future?

JM: Yeah. So as you say, when you look at the history of the strategy, there's a huge variability in terms of the path to achieving five times and then beyond potentially, something like Tesla did their first five times upside within fairly swift order after we made the initial purchase, whereas businesses like Hermes and Kering have taken a much longer path to get there. And we don't mind that. We think that's what the breadth of the portfolio is all about. And when we look at the current situation, again, I think you can see different trajectories of growth within the portfolio.

So that would be one group I would classify as I guess being relatively immune to all the changes that are going on in the world. There's just a strong underlying secular trend that's allowing them to grow quite steadily over longer periods of time.

TEM: In spite of a potentially bad economic situation.

JM: Yeah, exactly. So Dexcom would be a perfect example of that. The continuous glucose monitor business. And that sadly just plays into the trend of increasing number of diabetics due to dietary issues. They're still very early in terms of penetrating overall sufferers of diabetes and they're going internationally as well. So that's a business that is steadily churning out good high levels of growth for us.

Second category I would highlight would be businesses that are growing nicely, but where you could actually say, the current economic tribulations probably actually increase the value of their services to potential customers.

TEM: That's interesting. What would you put in that category?

JM: So the Trade Desk would probably be one that I would highlight there. So the advertising market in general is somewhat under pressure given weaker economic conditions. And for many advertisers, it's become much more expensive to acquire new customers in recent years.

TEM: Right.

JM: And it has become harder to do so after Apple introduced their new privacy efforts, which make it harder for advertisers to really hone in on who they want to get to. So as that's been going on, the Trade Desk has been really refining and building out its platform that allows advertisers to really target accurately the types of potential buyers for products across lots of different products like connected TVs and mobile devices. And that's allowing the Trade Desk to grow really quite



rapidly because companies are hyper focused on getting efficiency and bang for their buck with their advertising spend.

TEM: I was going to say bang for your buck.

JM: Yeah. So that's the second category that I would characterise. There's probably a third group which are businesses that have suffered from a bit of a Covid hangover and have spent some time really sorting out some of the overbuild that went on or particular issues that they've had as a result of that dramatic period of growth.

Amazon would be in there. But a more recent example is probably Shopify, where their actual core business of providing digital services to smaller retailers, trying to raise their profile across lots of different selling platforms has been growing quite nicely.

TEM: And have a huge tailwind during the pandemic, during Covid.

JM: Yeah. And growth has slowed a little bit, but I think the core business is still capable of really quite nice long term growth rates, but there's been a bit of a distraction going on as the decision to start rolling out physical distribution and logistics, which the market was pretty upset with and we were a bit worried that it was a bit of a distraction from the core low capital intensive business that we'd seen previously. So, we're quite highly evaluate management's fairly swift decision just in the most recent quarter to roll back on that and actually divest their initial logistics assets and focus just on outsourcing that in the future. So, we think there's a group of businesses like that that have dealt with some of their problems and are now well poised to deliver good levels of growth over the next three to five years.

TEM: So that's interesting. Supporting companies through these periods and seeing through sort of the lumpy bits that they have. Troubles.

JM: Yeah. When you still think there's an attractive big opportunity to go for it in the longer term.

TEM: So, we talked about the holdings in the portfolio and some of the exciting developments there. Anything new, new buys, actually what are you most excited about generally, what is on the horizon?

JM: Yeah, so this is an area that I'm really pleased with, because I guess one of the dangers after a really exciting, yet tough year last year is that everyone on our team sort of goes within their shells a bit and is less alert and optimistic to the opportunities that are out there. That would have been a real danger.

But when I look at the flavour of some of the new buys in the last six months, I'm really quite excited and reassured that we're continuing to invest in the sort of early stage businesses that could be these outlier returns. So, at the start of the year, we had the investment in Mercado Libre, the leading Latin American e-commerce business, and we think the efforts that they've made to really solve the bottlenecks in that part of the world by building their own digital



payments business and their own delivery logistics business to solve that challenge, that gives them a huge competitive advantage over other players in that market.

Likewise, the investment in Samsara is really great, I think because the Internet of Things is something we've sort of long talked about and hoped that there would be opportunities within that field. But it's great to see tangible businesses emerging in that field. So Samsara allows companies operating in more traditional areas of the economy that haven't had much digitisation previously by providing them with sensor technology and then an ability to monitor the efficiency and safety of their vehicles, their machinery, etc. It's allowing them to see really dramatic improvements in the underlying efficiency of their business.

TEM: So their physical operations, which is not something we've really been exposed to before.

JM: Yeah, but then this is the software layer that sits on top and provides insights. So it's not getting involved in the grubby, dirty stuff, but it's in those sectors of the economy, which is quite exciting.

And then lastly, in the most recent quarter I'd highlight the new purchase of Joby, the aerial taxi business, which sounds quite sci fi and is definitely not the sort of thing that the market is interested in at the moment.

TEM: I can imagine, yes.

JM: And this is a business that is still relatively early stage. So a smaller position makes sense, a smaller starting position makes sense, but it's an area that we've been following for a while. So Joby, we actually invested in for some other clients when it was still a private company.

TEM: Okay.

JM: And we've been monitoring it and other players in the industry for some time now because we think there will be very real demand for this product when it becomes a public service. So, in particular, we're thinking the initial application will be in areas where there are high levels of congestion and people are willing to pay to avoid that. So, the classic example given is if you need to get from a downtown office to an airport in double quick time and don't want to sit in traffic for...

TEM: Trying to get to Kennedy Airport in New York, from downtown.

JM: So we're pleased with the progress that this business is making. And we think the skills that they have and the partners that they've chosen, people like the US military are trialling some applications, but also an existing airline is an investor who can help them in terms of the approval process to get certified for taking members of the public in these services.

And so, we think there are really positive steps along that road. So, another quite exciting business and like I say, these businesses feel like true LTGG companies in that they have the potential for that outlier return.



TEM: So, we've talked a little bit about the holdings within the portfolio, the companies, and that sounds really exciting. Is there any sort of overall picture of the portfolio that you're excited about? Things, themes, things that you're thinking about?

JM: Yeah. So in addition to the flavour of new buys, which really excites me when I look at the portfolio overall, I think it's characterized by two strong trends. One would be, this is a very resilient portfolio despite the types of high growth that you can see across the portfolio

TEM: The resilience in terms of...

JM: Yes, on the balance sheet side of things.

TEM: Yeah, financial resilience. And cultural probably.

JM: Yes, indeed, adaptability is as important as well as the balance sheet side of things where we think our holdings are really very solid, particularly when you compare some of the measures to the market as a whole. Where I think we are going to see some signs of stress and issues for broader companies across the market.

And then so to look into the future as we do. The world is changing in so many different ways. You need to be investing and adapting, as I said, for the new challenges and opportunities that are going to come. And when we look at our portfolio as a whole in terms of R&D spend as a percentage of revenues, it's hugely superior to the level that companies in the market as a whole.

TEM: To the benchmark, absolutely

JM: And that gives me confidence that our companies are going to be the ones that are shaping and are prepared for what's coming down the line over the next five to ten years.

TEM: I think that's really exciting as well because if we look back and we see some of the companies that are, as we've been talking about, adapting to this new environment and companies that were sowing the seeds for their progress like an NVIDIA, like an Amazon, like a Dexcom, things that we've owned, even a Moderna that we've known for a long time, just to see them sort of reaping the rewards of the early investment is really exciting.

So I think this is an exciting time for Long Term Global Growth. I know it's been a rocky road for clients over the last couple of years, but hopefully we're seeing a little bit of light in that. And I'd really like to thank you, John, for giving us an update on this quarter's performance.

JM: Thank you.

TEM: Thank you. And thanks, everyone for tuning in.



Annual past performance to 30 June each year (net %)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Long Term Global Composite	0.13	56.4	61.7	-48.9	24.1
MSCI ACWI	6.3	2.6	39.9	-15.4	17.1

Annualised returns to 30 June 2023 (net %)

	1 year	5 years	10 years
Long Term Global Composite	24.2	9.9	15.9
MSCI ACWI	17.1	8.6	9.3

Source: Baillie Gifford & Co and MSCI. USD. Returns have been calculated by reducing the gross return by the highest annual management fee for the composite.

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