

# **Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited**

**CRD Number 282138**

**December 2020**

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited.

If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at +44 (0) 203 949 6900 or email at [michelle.smith@affirmativeim.com](mailto:michelle.smith@affirmativeim.com). You may also visit our website at <http://www.affirmativeim.com/>.

The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) and on the Financial Conduct Authority's website at <http://www.fca.org.uk/>.

Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply that Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited or any of its principals or employees possesses a particular level of skill or training in investment advisory business or any other business.

Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited

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## **Item 2: Material changes**

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Registered investment advisers are required to identify and discuss any material changes made to their Brochure since the last annual update.

Please note that no material changes have occurred since the last annual update (December 2019).

This Brochure will be updated on an annual basis and any material changes to it will be identified in this section.

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**Item 4: Advisory Business**

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Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited's ("AIM" or the "Firm") is an independent investment manager co-founded by Stuart Kinnersley and Stephen Fitzgerald, who are also the Firm's majority owners. AIM is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") in the United Kingdom.

The Firm is the investment manager of the AIM US\$ Liquid Impact Fund LLC ("LIF"), a Delaware domiciled alternative investment fund. In addition to the LIF, the Firm's clients comprise managed accounts as well as being sub-delegated investment manager of alternative investment funds (all clients together with "LIF" from here on in referred to as "Client Accounts" or "accounts").

In managing its Client Accounts, AIM follows a new approach to fixed income and cash management that gives ultimate power back to the end investor. AIM focuses on bonds and cash instruments that both generate mainstream market returns and achieve positive externalities to benefit the local and global community. The Firm's investments are solely in currency and fixed income, with the Firm making both short and long-term investments in the latter. AIM intends to achieve its investment goals within a corporate DNA aligned to transparency and integrity. Corporate responsibility is core to the business model, not a superficial add on to capture market share.

Before determining an appropriate asset allocation, the Firm obtains a thorough understanding of each client's financial situation, return objectives and risk profile. Should clients wish to impose restrictions on investing in certain investments, the Firm then discusses and documents these requirements at the outset of the relationship.

As at 30 November 2020, the Firm had under its discretion regulatory assets under management totalling US \$1,112m.

**Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

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**Management Fees**

The Firm charges each client a management fee in line with standard market rate. Fees will be based on the average AUM of the underlying portfolio per annum.

With specific regards to the LIF, a management fee has been agreed as set out in the Confidential Private Placement memorandum.

**Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

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The Firm will not charge performance fees.

**Item 7: Types of Clients**

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**Accounts**

AIM provides investment management services to solely institutions, foundations and pension, insurance and sovereign wealth funds. In relation to Client Accounts other than the LIF, minimum account sizes vary according to the base currency in which the account is specified as follows:

US Dollar	US\$ 50,000,000
Euro	€ 45,520,000
Sterling	GBP 33,000,000
Australian Dollar	AUD 100,000,000

With specific regards to the LIF, the minimum investment in the fund is US\$5,000,000.

Lower account sizes/minimum investment may be accepted at the Firm's discretion.

**Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

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**Methods of Analysis**

The Firm studies a variety of factors to identify macroeconomic themes and identify dynamics affecting economies and markets. Proprietary research covering assessments of sectors and issuers as well as the soundness of the security inform the suitability of the investment given the investor's goals. Issuers and sectors are ranked by criteria established with the asset owner to form an investment universe from which securities will be chosen to implement the investment strategy.

**Investment Strategies**

The Firm focuses solely on fixed income and cash investments which generate positive environmental and social externalities. For all accounts, AIM will only invest in bonds with the following characteristics:

- the generation of a positive externality for the environment and/or society;
- an ongoing commitment to target and assess the impact from bond proceeds;
- the issuer displays a clear Corporate Social Responsibility policy;
- a mainstream market yield; and
- no sacrifice to investor returns.

All bond issues will be analysed prior to the Firm's investment so as to ensure that they meet the above characteristics and fulfil AIM's criteria of transparency and a suitable generation of positive externality.

The Firm's investments will solely be in currencies and fixed income, with the Firm making both short- and long-term investments in the latter. The Firm primarily focuses on investing

in multi-currency global fixed instruments of investment grade. AIM will not make leveraged investments and will not have any direct interests in any investee company.

### **Risk of Loss Factors**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Investors should consider the following factors before investing in any of the funds referred to in this Brochure. The following list of risk factors does not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in making an investment. Prospective investors are urged to consult their professional advisers and the Investment Memorandum (or equivalent) before deciding to invest.

### ***Derivatives***

Subject to restrictions established by our Client Accounts, assets may be invested in traded derivative instruments, or “Derivatives,” including futures. Structured securities and other instruments and contracts that derive their value from, or the value of which is related to, one or more underlying securities, financial benchmarks, currencies or indices may also be invested in when permitted by the client. Derivatives allow an investor to hedge or speculate upon the price movements of a particular security, financial benchmark, currency or index at a fraction of the cost of investing in the underlying asset. Because the value of a Derivative depends largely upon price movements in the underlying asset or assets, many of the risks applicable to trading the underlying assets are also applicable to Derivatives of such asset. However, price movements in the underlying assets typically give rise to higher, and perhaps much higher, price movements in related Derivatives, thereby exposing the investing Client Account to risks of substantial loss. In addition, certain kinds of Derivatives may be traded in dealer markets that can, as noted below under “Illiquid Investments,” suffer from a lack of liquidity.

### ***Counterparty Risk***

The Client Accounts are subject to the risk of the inability of any counterparty (including Brokers and Custodians) to perform with respect to transactions, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes.

### ***Dependence on Key Individuals***

The success of the Client Accounts depends upon the ability of key members of AIM's investment team to develop and implement investment strategies that achieve the Client Account's investment objective. While AIM manages key member exposure, if AIM were to lose the services of these members, the consequence to the Client Accounts could have material adverse effects and could lead to the premature termination of the Client Accounts.

### ***Currency Exposure***

If Client Account assets are invested in securities that are denominated in a currency other than the base currency, changes in the applicable exchange rate may result over time from the interaction of many factors directly or indirectly affected by economic and political conditions. Changes in currency values may affect both the U.S. dollar value of the instruments in which a Client Account invests and the prospects of the issuers of those instruments. National governments may not allow their currencies to float freely in response to economic forces. Sovereign governments use a variety of techniques, such as intervention in the currency markets by a country's central bank, or imposition of regulatory controls or taxes, to affect the exchange rates of their currencies. Currency exchange rate fluctuations, currency devaluations and exchange control regulations may adversely affect the

performance of a Client Account and the return realized on an investment. The costs of currency hedging may not offset any advantages gained by engaging in hedging transactions. We do not intend to engage in currency speculation on behalf of our Client Accounts.

***Impact of Geopolitical Events***

Geopolitical events that include: the ongoing turmoil in countries in the Eurozone; the volatility of the price of oil; developments in the Middle East, Iran and elsewhere, and other geopolitical and domestic developments; the continued threat of terrorism both within the United States and abroad; ongoing military and other actions and heightened security measures in response to these threats; international tensions between the United States and other nations; and other unanticipated global events may cause disruptions to commerce, reduced economic activity, and continued volatility in markets throughout the world. Some of the assets in the Client Account's portfolio may be adversely affected by declines in the securities markets and economic activity because of these factors. We cannot predict the extent and timing of any decreased commercial and economic activity resulting from the above factors, or how any such decrease might affect the value of securities and other assets held by a Client Account.

***Operational Risk***

Operational risk is the potential for loss caused by a deficiency in information, communication, transaction processing, and settlement and accounting systems. AIM maintains controls that include systems and procedures to record and reconcile transactions and positions, and to obtain necessary documentation for trading activities. However, AIM's systems may not always be effectively designed or administered to control those risks, and losses may result from such failures.

***Liquidity and Market Characteristics***

In some circumstances, investments may be relatively illiquid making it difficult to acquire or dispose of them at the prices quoted on the various exchanges. Accordingly, the ability of the Client Accounts to respond to market movements may be impaired and they may experience adverse price movements upon liquidation of its investments. Settlement of transactions may be subject to delay and administrative uncertainties.

***Developing Markets***

The Firm may invest in emerging market debt securities and other financial instruments, including short-term and long-term financial instruments denominated in various currencies. These securities and other financial instruments may be unrated or rated in the lower rating categories by the various credit rating agencies. These securities and other financial instruments are subject to greater risk of loss of principal and interest than higher-rated securities. They are also generally subject to greater risk than securities and other financial instruments with higher credit ratings in the case of deterioration of general economic conditions. Additionally, evaluating credit risk for non-U.S. debt securities and other financial instruments involves greater uncertainty because credit rating agencies throughout the world have different standards, making comparisons across countries difficult. Because investors generally perceive that there are greater risks associated with lower-rated securities, the yields or prices of such securities and other financial instruments may tend to fluctuate more than those for higher-rated securities and other financial instruments. The markets for emerging market debt securities and other financial instruments is thinner and less active than that for higher-rated securities or other financial instruments, which can adversely affect the prices at which investments are sold. In addition, adverse publicity and investor perceptions about emerging market debt securities, whether or not based on

fundamental analysis, may be a contributing factor in a decrease in the value and liquidity of such investments.

***Other risks specific to the accounts managed***

AIM predominantly invests in securities that demonstrate positive external impact. The Firm ranks issuers according to many factors, including their commitment and ability to provide reporting on impact. However, AIM is constrained by the measurement and reporting of impact by the issuers.

**Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

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The Firm has not been subject to any disciplinary action, whether criminal, civil or administrative (including regulatory) in any jurisdiction. Likewise, no persons involved in the management of the Firm have been subject to such action.

**Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

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AIM is authorised and regulated by the FCA in the UK as an Investment Manager. Its Firm Reference Number is 658030. The authorisation that it holds means that the Firm is permitted to provide discretionary management and advisory services to professional clients. The Firm is not permitted to deal with retail clients.

The Firm maintains a record of any potential conflicts of interest, including external appointments held by all staff, including the management persons listed above. This list is updated when necessary and completeness is confirmed on an annual basis.

**Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

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The Firm has in place a Code of Ethics which sets out the procedures in place governing personal trading. The Code of Ethics is available to clients or prospective clients upon request and includes the following provisions:

- All personal brokerage accounts used by staff and their spouses and dependent children (“related persons”) must be notified to the Firm.
- Prior approval may be required before a trade can be executed where a conflict exists.
- Initial and annual self-certification and holdings reports are submitted to the Firm by all staff. These are checked back to the original approvals.

No securities are bought or sold for Client Accounts in which the Firm’s related persons have a material financial interest. Such activity is considered to be an alignment of interest between the related persons and the client.

Personal trading rules do not permit related persons to purchase securities for their own accounts at times when the accounts managed are actively trading in such securities.



**Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

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**General arrangements**

The rules to which the Firm is subject in the UK forbids it from paying commission to receive services. In particular, should the Firm wish to receive research services, these must be either paid for by the Firm out of its own resources or, by way of a Research Payment Account ("RPA") which is funded by way of a specific research charge to its clients.

The Firm's investment approach is to use qualitative techniques when deciding upon securities to be traded for the accounts it manages.

The Firm maintains a list of brokers with whom it may deal with. This list is reviewed at least on a six-monthly basis and brokers are added or deleted according to the Firm's view of the quality and cost of the service provided. Brokers are used by the Firm at its own discretion.

**Accounts**

Qualitative analysis is all performed by the Firm and, as such, no payments are made to brokers for research.

Brokerage costs are not paid by the Firm. Brokers build in a spread in respect of execution services provided only. Brokers with whom the Firm trades are therefore selected on the basis of the following execution factors, with particular emphasis being given to the price:

- Price
- Speed
- Likelihood of execution and settlement
- Size
- Nature
- Other considerations relevant to the execution of an order

The Firm is not incentivised to select a more expensive broker over another when executing trades.

Trades are pre-allocated on a client by client basis. Where possible trades will be bulked for execution and average pricing ensuring that pricing across clients is as equitable as possible.

**Item 13: Review of Accounts**

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Each account that AIM manages is subject to periodic review in order to ensure that it remains within the investment guidelines agreed with the client. The frequency of the review is determined by client requirements and can be summarised as follows:

The accounts are reviewed weekly by the Investment Committee, with the LIF also reviewed quarterly by the Firm's Risk Committee.

In addition, all accounts are reviewed on an informal daily basis. Further reviews may also be triggered by a notification of a change in a client's circumstances.

Statements are sent to clients with accounts on a monthly basis by the Custodian. These reports contain a detailed analysis of the holdings as at the reporting date and transactions during the period. In addition, the Firm sends a report on either a monthly or quarterly basis which analyses the portfolios risk and return characteristics along with commentary on the market and the portfolio itself.

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**Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

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AIM is not remunerated by any party other than its clients. The Firm receives no economic benefit for providing investment advice or other advisory services to its clients whether directly or indirectly.

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**Item 15: Custody**

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This item does not apply.

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**Item 16: Investment Discretion**

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AIM has discretionary authority to manage accounts on behalf of all its clients.

With the accounts, clients may request from time to time that the Firm must not invest in specific assets or utilise specific investment techniques. AIM is able to customise its approach to each individual client.

Prior to accepting an appointment to act as a discretionary manager for a client, AIM conducts a full “know your customer” assessment. This is performed so that the Firm understands each client’s investment objectives and is then able to manage the portfolio in a suitable manner.

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**Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

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AIM does not invest in the shares of companies and, as such, this item does not apply

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**Item 18: Financial Information**

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Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about their financial condition. The Firm has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

**Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

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This item does not apply.