# Platinum Capital Limited ASX: PMC

## MONTHLY REPORT 30 November 2021

### **FACTS**

| Portfolio value                          | \$472.72 mn  |
|--|--------------|
| Portfolio commenced                      | 29 June 1994 |
| Current share price                      | \$1.460      |
| Current dividend yield                   | 4.79%        |
| Pre-tax NTA                              | \$1.6115     |
| Post-tax NTA                             | \$1.5543     |
| Maximum franked dividend                 | 4.77 cps     |
| NTA retained earnings & div profit resv. | 21.86 cps    |

## PERFORMANCE<sup>1</sup>

|                             | Company % (Pre-tax NTA) | MSCI %       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 month                     | 5.1                     | 3.4          |
| 3 months                    | (0.2)                   | 1.4          |
| 6 months                    | (1.2)                   | 12.3         |
| Calendar year to date       | 9.5                     | 24.0         |
| 1 year                      | 9.8                     | 23.9         |
| 2 years (compound pa)       | 6.2                     | 14.4         |
| 3 years (compound pa)       | 9.3                     | 17.1         |
| 5 years (compound pa)       | 9.0                     | 14.9         |
| 7 years (compound pa)       | 8.0                     | 12.9         |
| 10 years (compound pa)      | 12.0                    | 15.6         |
| Since inception (compound p | a) 11.6                 | 7.9          |
| DMCI                        |                         | maid and and |

PMC's returns are calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses, adjusted for taxes paid and any capital flows and assume the reinvestment of dividends. **PMC's returns have not been calculated using PMC's share price**.

# INVESTED POSITIONS<sup>3</sup>

|                          | LONG % | SHORT % | NET % | CCY % |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| Asia-Pacific             | 44.8   |         | 44.8  | 41.3  |
| Australia                | 3.1    |         | 3.1   | 3.1   |
| China                    | 19.4   |         | 19.4  | 19.4  |
| Hong Kong                | 2.0    |         | 2.0   | 2.0   |
| India                    | 1.9    |         | 1.9   | 1.8   |
| Japan                    | 13.4   |         | 13.4  | 10.0  |
| Kazakhstan               | 0.3    |         | 0.3   | 0.3   |
| South Korea              | 4.6    |         | 4.6   | 4.6   |
| Thailand                 | 0.2    |         | 0.2   | 0.2   |
| Europe                   | 19.9   | (0.2)   | 19.7  | 22.0  |
| Austria                  | 1.9    |         | 1.9   |       |
| Denmark                  | 0.5    |         | 0.5   | 0.5   |
| Finland                  | 2.4    |         | 2.4   |       |
| France                   | 3.0    |         | 3.0   |       |
| Germany                  | 3.8    | (0.2)   | 3.6   |       |
| Ireland                  | 0.9    |         | 0.9   |       |
| Italy                    | 1.3    |         | 1.3   |       |
| Netherlands              | 0.2    |         | 0.2   |       |
| Norway                   | 0.2    |         | 0.2   | 0.2   |
| Spain                    | 0.6    |         | 0.6   |       |
| United Kingdom           | 5.1    |         | 5.1   | 5.4   |
| Euro                     |        |         |       | 16.0  |
| North America            | 23.1   | (22.6)  | 0.5   | 34.0  |
| Canada                   | 5.1    |         | 5.1   | 8.3   |
| United States of America | 18.0   | (22.6)  | (4.6) | 25.7  |
| Other                    | 2.6    |         | 2.6   | 2.6   |
| Sub-Total                | 90.4   | (22.8)  | 67.6  | 100.0 |
| Cash                     | 9.6    | 22.8    | 32.4  |       |
| Total                    | 100.0  |         | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|                          |        |         |       |       |

Long - 124 stocks, 2 swaps Short - 20 swaps, 3 indices

## **FEES**

Management fee: 1.10% p.a. (excl. GST) of portfolio value\*

Performance fee: 15.00% p.a. (excl. GST) of outperformance

over benchmark (MSCI All Country World

Net Index (A\$))

\*The portfolio value is the market value of the investments in the portfolio after the deduction of fees

# PERFORMANCE GRAPH<sup>2</sup>



PMC's returns are calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses, adjusted for taxes paid and any capital flows and PMC (Pre-tax NTA) MSCI 707.1% assume the reinvestment of dividends. PMC's returns have not been calculated using PMC's share price.

# TOP TEN POSITIONS<sup>4</sup>

| STOCK                    | COUNTRY       | INDUSTRY        | %    |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|
| Iris Energy Ltd          | Canada        | Info Technology | 3.4  |
| ZTO Express Cayman Inc   | China         | Industrials     | 3.3  |
| Minebea Co Ltd           | Japan         | Industrials     | 3.3  |
| Microchip Technology Inc | United States | Info Technology | 3.2  |
| Micron Technology Inc    | United States | Info Technology | 2.8  |
| Samsung Electronics Co   | South Korea   | Info Technology | 2.8  |
| Glencore PLC             | Australia     | Materials       | 2.6  |
| Tencent Holdings Ltd     | China         | Comm Services   | 2.6  |
| Ping An Insurance Group  | China         | Financials      | 2.4  |
| Weichai Power Co Ltd     | China         | Industrials     | 2.4  |
|                          |               | Total           | 28.7 |

### INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN<sup>3</sup>

| SECTOR                 | LONG % | SHORT % | NET %  |
|------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Industrials            | 18.9   | (0.2)   | 18.8   |
| Financials             | 14.2   |         | 14.2   |
| Materials              | 13.3   |         | 13.3   |
| Information Technology | 15.9   | (4.1)   | 11.8   |
| Consumer Discretionary | 11.9   | (1.4)   | 10.4   |
| Communication Services | 5.9    | (0.1)   | 5.8    |
| Health Care            | 5.5    | (1.5)   | 4.0    |
| Real Estate            | 3.1    |         | 3.1    |
| Consumer Staples       | 1.0    |         | 1.0    |
| Energy                 | 0.6    |         | 0.6    |
| Other                  |        | (15.5)  | (15.5) |

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<sup>1. 8. 2.</sup> Source: Platinum for portfolio returns and Factset Research Systems for MSCI returns. The returns are calculated relative to the MSCI All Country World Net Index in A\$ (except the gross MSCI Index was used prior to 31/12/98). The investment returns in the line graph are cumulative on A\$20,000 invested in PMC since inception. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns**. Platinum does not invest by reference to the weightings of the index. The index is provided as a reference only.

<sup>3.</sup> The "Long %" is the exposure to long securities and long securities/index derivative positions, the "Short %" is the exposure to short securities and short securities/index derivative positions and the "Net %" is the exposure to long and short securities and long and short securities/index derivative positions, each as a percentage of PMC's portfolio value. The "Currency %" is the effective currency exposure of PMC's portfolio as a percentage of its portfolio value, taking into account long and short securities, cash, forwards and long and short securities/index derivative positions. For the "Industry breakdown", index positions (whether through ETFs or derivatives) are only included under the relevant sector if they are sector specific, otherwise they are included under "Other".

<sup>3.</sup> and 4. Country classifications for securities reflect Bloomberg's "country of risk" designations, and currency classifications for securities reflect the relevant local currencies of our country classifications 4. The "Top ten positions" show PMC's top ten long securities positions as a percentage of PMC's portfolio value (including long securities and long securities derivative positions).

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MONTHLY REPORT 30 November 2021

#### MARKET UPDATE AND COMMENTARY



- · Weak Australian dollar turned a soft month in equity markets into a strong month for the portfolio.
- 2021 year-to-date returns are consistent with the portfolio's long-term returns (i.e. 5-7 years).
- · Divergence in markets is extreme and speculative elements should be cause for alarm.

#### **Market Commentary**

It is hard not to sound like a broken record, observing the craziness in markets - negative-yielding bonds, the value ascribed to unprofitable technology companies, the prevalence of special purpose acquisition companies "SPACs" (yesteryear's "cash boxes") and frenzies in cryptocurrencies and meme stocks. Experience tells us this will not end well, but the timing of the day of reckoning is uncertain.

However, while this has unfolded, we have been presented with opportunities to build a portfolio of solid reasonably priced businesses exposed to all the major themes of the world's economic growth such as automation, travel and decarbonisation, while our holdings in semiconductors provide exposure to 5G, internet of things, cloud computing and other areas we feel people are over-paying to access directly.

The market is debating whether inflation will be transitory or longer lasting. Our portfolio would likely benefit from the latter, as the crowd's positioning seems skewed to the former. A combination of looking for the 'unloved' and an assessment of the data, showing upward pressure in wages and rents, which tend to be sticky, lead us to feel comfortable with our positioning.

However, the longer we go without a meaningful correction, the more we are concerned about the risks of one occurring, and as such, the trend in the portfolio has been to increase the level of protection via short positions and cash.

#### Performance Analysis

Last month we explored in detail the journey of the portfolio since the November 2020 – February 2021 "reopening" rally had fizzled out. Now, as we approach year end, we break down the returns for 2021, with one month to go. At this point, the NAV return of 9% for the calendar year to 30 November is consistent with the portfolio's long-term returns (i.e. 5-7 years).

The long part of the portfolio has contributed 13% - with an average weighting of 90%. This means the average stock returned 14% (aided by the translation into a weak Australian dollar). This is ahead of returns of markets outside of the US, as measured by the MSCI AC World ex US (Source: FactSet).

The main contributors to the returns were four sectors – Industrials, Materials, Financials and Information Technology (IT). Given that the bulk of our IT exposure is in the semiconductor sector, these are primarily cyclical exposures which are driving the portfolio. This is consistent with comments above and our ongoing commentary about the divergence in markets, leading us to these sectors.

Among these sectors, the leading stock contributors this year have included:

- Industrials: Japanese bearings maker, MinebeaMitsumi and US Industrial conglomerate, GE
- Materials: Miners, Glencore and Freeport McMoRan, and US buildings materials company, Louisiana-Pacific
- IT: US semiconductor companies, Microchip and Micron plus an unlisted green bitcoin miner, Iris Energy, which listed
- Financials: US online car finance company, Ally Financial and Eastern European bank, Raiffeisen Bank.

For all the ructions in the Chinese market, as further reform measures concerned investors, the impact of our Chinese holdings was less than 1%, and as highlighted last month, our exposure to China since around 2014 has been very lucrative. We increased our Chinese position during the sell-off, re-introducing Tencent and Alibaba, which we had sold previously in light of them becoming too popular.

On the risk management side, short-selling losses, were partially offset by small currency gains, for an aggregate cost of just over 1%. The biggest impact was an effort to protect the portfolio by shorting the very expensive Nasdaq index.

### <u>Valuation</u>

The portfolio's aggregate valuation metrics, for what it's worth, are attractive in both an absolute sense and relative to the market, with a 47% higher starting earnings yield and a 39% discount on an asset basis (see table below).

| Metric                    | Platinum Capital Limited              | MSCI AC World Net Index (A\$)         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| NTM Earnings Yield        | 8.1% (Price-to-Earnings ratio of 12x) | 5.5% (Price-to-Earnings ratio of 18x) |
| NTM Dividend Yield        | 2.6%                                  | 2.5%                                  |
| Price-to-Book Ratio       | 1.7x                                  | 2.8x                                  |
| Enterprise Value-to-Sales | 1.3x                                  | 2.1x                                  |

The valuations in the table in respect of the portfolio have been calculated by Platinum and refer to its long portion, exclude negative net earnings and use FactSet consensus earnings. As at 30 November 2021.