# **IXIOS SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

Monthly report - 31/01/2025

### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

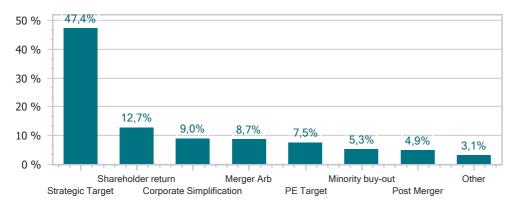
Ixios Special Situations Fund is an open-end fund registered in France. The Fund seeks capital appreciation over the medium to long-term. The Fund invest in equity securities of companies involved in, or are undergoing event driven situations, or corporate events. The Fund's objective is to seek, over the recommended investment period, an annualised return that exceeds 8% (for class I).

#### HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE



Past performance is not an indication of future performance. It may vary over time. Reported performance is net of fees.

#### Type of Event - Breakdown



#### MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTARY (1/2)

The Special Situation Fund posted a return of +0.86% in January. Since its inception on October 15, 2020, the fund has generated a total return of 39.17%, equating to an annualized return of 7.99%, which is in line with our benchmark target of 8% per year.

Markets rebounded in January (MSCI World Total Return +3.13%) as investor sentiment improved, driven by optimism surrounding the Trump administration's deregulation policies and sustained growth in business confidence, supported by strong U.S. economic data. The Federal Reserve's January meeting left benchmark interest rates unchanged, with markets now anticipating the next rate cut in June. Meanwhile, the Al-driven growth narrative encountered a setback following the emergence of China's DeepSeek Al model, raising concerns over the scale of U.S. investment in AI development and potential challenges to its leadership in the global Al race.

We initiated a new position at the beginning of January in Forward Air (provider of ground transportation and related logistics services to the North American air freight). The company announced earlier that its board of directors has initiated a review of strategic alternatives. The board will consider a range of options, including a potential sale, merger or other strategic or financial transaction relative to the long-term value potential of the company on a standalone basis. Goldman Sachs is serving as Forward's financial advisor in connection with the strategic review. Shareholders Alta Fox (2.75%) and Ancora (3.9%) have been calling for the company to review strategic alternatives.

#### **RISK PROFILE SRI** 4(5(6(7 2 3 (

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# SUB-FUND FACTS

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Fund inception date: 15/10/2020 Recommended investment: > 5 years Fund domicile: France Management Company: Ixios AM Custodian: Société Générale SFDR Status: Article 8

#### SHARE-CLASSES FACTS

ISIN Codes & Bloomberg Tickers : • I Class: FR0013514296 / IXRECIE FP • P Class: FR0013514304 / IXRECPE FP Minimum Subscription : • I Class: 100,000 EUR • P Class: 1 share Fixed Management Fees : • I Class: 1.35% • P Class: 2% Performance Fees: 15% the bet performance over benchmark with 5 years underperformance offset Performance Benchmark: • I Class: 8.00% net / year • P Class: 7.35% net / year

# MAIN RISKS

The main risks of the UCITS are: Discretionary management risk; Equity risk; Liquidity risk; Credit risk; Exchange rate risk; For more information on the risks, please refer to the prospectus of the UCITS.

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#### MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTARY (2/2)

We own **DigitalBridge** which is a global-scale digital infrastructure firm that invests across five key verticals: data centers, cell towers, fiber networks, small cells, and edge infrastructure. Regarding potential M&A opportunities, management noted that it does have an active pipeline of adjacent asset manager M&A opportunities while also indicating the potential to pursue an opportunity.

Along those lines, news reports note that Zayo (a DigitalBridge portfolio company) is "in the lead" to purchase the Crown Castle Fiber and Small Cell businesses for "over \$8B." Separately, during the quarter, DigitalBridge completed the previously announced \$3.3B transaction between Vertical Bridge (a DigitalBridge portfolio company) and Verizon, which allows Vertical Bridge the right to lease, operate, and manage +6,300 macro towers across all 50 states.

Lastly, following 4Q24, DigitalBridge announced that it participated in a ~\$600MM secondary share sale completed by DataBank (a DigitalBridge portfolio company), where DigitalBridge will receive gross cash proceeds of \$59MM upon close in February 2025. The valuation of the company with an SOTP analysis yields to \$16/share faire value.

**Harbour Energy** (largest London-listed independent oil and gas company) has announced a Capital Markets Day on 6 March, where investors will be watching closely for potential updates on capital allocation, growth strategy, and further synergies from the Wintershall acquisition.

In a move to streamline its portfolio, Harbour has agreed to sell its Vietnam business–comprising 5 kboe/d of production and 8 mboe of 2P reserves–to EnQuest for \$84m. The deal, expected to close in Q2 2025, is consistent with the price agreed for a previously terminated transaction in 2024.

After the Wintershall's deal, Harbour Energy now ranks among the largest independent E&P companies globally. Sell-side analysts estimate a 25% free cash flow yield from 2025 to 2027 at current prices and a 17.5% FCF yield at the average sell-side 2025 price target of 380 GBp. Harbour Energy's management team, recognized for their strong acquisition expertise and their belief that "acquisitions are a skill set," is likely to continue seeking strategic transactions despite the transformative impact of their recent deals. Among the various opportunities, we see U.S. public companies as the most compelling options, as those meeting Harbour's M&A criteria would also gain the advantage of a U.S. listing.

We will attend the BMO Mining Conference at the end of February 2025 to engage with top management teams. Following the event, we will provide feedback on our positions (~30% mining exposure), particularly those driven mainly by takeover potential as a key catalyst.

Vincent Valldecabres - Laurent Roussel

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### **Ixios Special Situations Monthly Performances**

Year	l Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	ITD
0005	I Class	0,86%												0,86%	39,17%
2025	8% Objective*	0,66%												0,66%	39,21%
2024	I Class	-1,99%	-1,60%	5,41%	-2,95%	4,46%	-2,10%	2,54%	-0,21%	4,25%	1,38%	0,12%	-2,43%	6,59%	37,98%
2024	8% Objective*	0,70%	0,61%	0,61%	0,68%	0,66%	0,59%	0,70%	0,63%	0,66%	0,66%	0,61%	0,68%	8,07%	38,30%
2023	I Class	10,06%	1,89%	-7,13%	-0,36%	-4,74%	4,32%	4,64%	-2,89%	0,80%	-6,77%	2,83%	5,77%	7,12%	29,46%
2023	8% Objective*	0,68%	0,59%	0,66%	0,59%	0,70%	0,63%	0,66%	0,66%	0,61%	0,68%	0,63%	0,61%	7,98%	27,98%
2022	I Class	1,21%	0,33%	3,53%	-1,29%	1,61%	-13,17%	4,09%	-0,68%	-10,41%	6,61%	4,68%	-3,81%	-8,98%	20,85%
2022	8% Objective*	0,66%	0,59%	0,66%	0,61%	0,68%	0,63%	0,61%	0,70%	0,63%	0,66%	0,63%	0,63%	7,98%	18,52%
2021	I Class	-0,10%	3,87%	3,05%	1,19%	2,65%	-0,26%	-0,84%	1,97%	-0,14%	2,50%	-2,91%	3,04%	14,71%	32,78%
	8% Objective*	0,61%	0,59%	0,70%	0,63%	0,66%	0,63%	0,63%	0,68%	0,63%	0,61%	0,68%	0,66%	8,00%	9,77%
2020	I Class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2,24%	14,09%	3,77%	-	15,75%
	8% Objective*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,32%	0,66%	0,66%	-	1,64%

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\* Performance objective of 8% per year on the I share class

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MARKET CAP BREAKDOWN **COUNTRY BREAKDOWN CURRENCY BREAKDOWN** 49 % 39 % 57 % 22 9 18 % 🥆 Small Caps 🥆 Mid Caps 🔨 Micro Caps 🦴 Big Caps 🥆 CAD 🥆 EUR 🥆 GBP North America N Eurozone N UK USD Others Cash Others Others

Micro < 300M€ <= Small < 1bn€ <= Mid < 2bn€ <= Big <10bn€ <= Large

## **RISKS INDICATORS**

Risk Indicators	1 Year	Since Inception		
Volatility - I	13,9%	15,2%		
Sharpe Ratio	0,70	0,52		
		Source: Ixios AM		

#### Disclaimer

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