BELL POTTER

Speculative

See key risks on page 7, and early stage company risk warning on page 9. Speculative securities may not be suitable for Retail clients.

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Authorisation

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Alpha HPA Ltd (A4N)

HPA First Project awarded \$45m government grant

Federal Government Modern Manufacturing Initiative

A4N has announced the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has awarded the HPA First Project a \$45m grant under the Modern Manufacturing Initiative. Of the \$45m proceeds, 90% will be available to A4N and 10% to its chemical counterparty Orica. A4N was the lead applicant in the grant, with Orica as joint applicant and letters of support from key stakeholders. The success of this application provides further due diligence support to A4N's HPA First Project. It follows the definitive agreement with Orica for process reagent supply and offtake, which involved rigorous technical assessment. The grant coincides with the lenders' Independent Technical Expert review which is in final draft form.

Material funding contribution for full scale project

The \$45m grant could contribute to a material proportion of the HPA First Project's equity requirement. The HPA First Project definitive feasibility study (March 2020) capital estimate was \$308m (including \$27m contingency); we expect a mix of government concessional (e.g. Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility) and commercial lenders to fund around 65% (i.e. around \$200m) of this amount. In the meantime, A4N is funded (December 2021 cash \$36m) to complete the development of the Stage 1 Precursor Production Facility, prior to full-scale project FID.

Investment view: Buy (Speculative), Valuation \$0.96/sh

A4N's HPA and aluminium precursor products have applications in lithium ion battery, micro-LED and semiconductor manufacturing; technologies at the forefront of the global decarbonising and onshoring themes. Near term catalysts include initial product offtake agreements and final HPA First Project scope and design. We have increased our risked and diluted valuation to \$0.96/sh (previously \$0.92/sh) on lower assumed dilution as a result of the Federal Government grant; there are no material earnings changes in this report.

A4N is a development company with prospective operations and cash flows only. Our Speculative risk rating recognises this higher level of risk and volatility of returns.

Year ending 30 June	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e
Sales (A\$m)	0	13	163	353
EBITDA (A\$m)	(3)	(1)	85	254
NPAT (reported) (A\$m)	(3)	(9)	56	157
NPAT (adjusted) (A\$m)	(3)	(9)	56	157
EPS (adjusted) (¢ps)	(0.4)	(0.8)	5.3	14.9
EPS growth (%)	na	na	na	181%
PER (x)	-159.8x	-70.6x	10.8x	3.8x
FCF Yield (%)	-18%	-32%	-4%	21%
EV/EBITDA (x)	-126.8x	-651.3x	4.9x	1.6x
Dividend (¢ps)	-	-	-	8.0
Yield (%)	0%	0%	0%	14%
Franking (%)	-	-	-	-
ROE (%)	-3%	-5%	29%	61%

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Recommendation

Buy (unchanged) **Price** \$0.57 Valuation \$0.96 (previously \$0.92) Risk

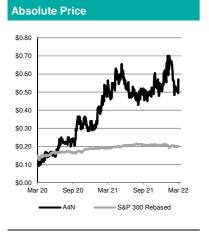
Speculative

GICS Sector

Materials

68%
0%
68%
\$417m
\$453m
795m
87%
\$1.0m
\$0.40-\$0.74

Price Performance							
	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)				
Price (A\$)	0.65	0.55	0.48				
Absolute (%)	-11.6	3.6	20.0				
Rel market (%)	-10.0	6.6	13.0				



SOURCE: IRESS

Inputs for key decarbonising technologies

A4N product suite & technology applications

A4N now has five products with 14 potential applications across six technology categories.

Table 1 - A4N's product suite & applications									
KEY APPLICATION	Li	thium ion batteries		LEI	LEDs				
A4N PRODUCT	Cathode	Separator	Anode	LED lights Micro-LEDs (displays)					
High Purity Alumina									
HPA powder		HPA layer coating		Phosphors for white LEDs		Speciallty ceramics			
HPA tablets				Saphire glass wafers (substrate)	Saphire glass wafers (substrate)				
Boehmite		Boehmite layer coating				Speciality ceramics			
Aluminium Pre-cursors									
Aluminium nitrate	HPA particle coating		HPA particle coating	Phosphors for white LEDs	Nano-size phosphors	Catalysts & YAG laser crystals			
Aluminium sulphate	Sulphate blending (NCA & NCMA) & HPA particle coating		HPA particle coating						

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Market outreach activity: Submitted bids & test work

We expect imminent news flow relating to product offtake agreements. The below tables were current at the end of the December 2021 quarter.

Table 2	Table 2 - Submitted offtake and/or supply bids (as at 31 December 2021)											
Counter	End-User Description	End-User Domicile	Product	Demand Size	End Use	Status						
1	Global Chemicals Manufacturer & Wholesaler	Germany	Al-precursors	very large	Lithium-ion battery electrode coatings	Pending						
2	Global Chemicals Manufacturer	Germany	Al-precursors	small	Specialty catalysts	Bids submitted, pending confirmation						
3	Lithium-Ion Battery Cathode	EU	Al-Sulfate	medium-large	Lithium-ion battery cathode	Bid Submitted						
4	Global Materials company	USA	HPA powder	small	CMP slurries	Testing complete. Bids submitted, pending confirmation						
5	Chemical Company	Japan	Al-precursors	medium	Specialty catalysts	Bids submitted, pending confirmation						
6	Global Lighting Company	Netherlands	HPA powder	small - medium	mini-LED Phosphors	Testing complete. Bids submitted, pending new product launch						
7	Global Lighting Company	Germany	HPA powder	small - medium	LED Phosphors	Testing ongoing. Bids submitted, pending confirmation						
8	Li-ion battery separator OEM	Japan	HPA powder	large	Lithium-ion battery seprator coatings	Testing complete. Bids submitted, pending confirmation						
9	Undisclosed	Australia	HPA powder	small - medium	Undisclosed	Bids submitted, pending pilot trial						
10	Sapphire Glass Manufacturer	USA	HPA pellets	medium	Sapphire Glass	Testing complete. Awaiting volume confirmation						
11	LED Phosphor Company	Germany	HPA powder	small - medium	LED Phosphors	Maiden sales complete, seeking final volume confirmation						
12	Electronics/Materials	Japan	Spherical HPA	medium	Integrated Circuit Resins	Bid subject to Pilot Testing Underway						

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Table 3 - End user product test work (as at 31 December 2021)										
Counter	End-User Description	End-User Domicile	Product	Demand Size	End Use	Status				
1	High Technology LED Lighting	Japan	Al-Nitrate	medium	micro-LED phosphors	Test results due Dec 2021				
2	LED Phosphor Company	Japan	HPA powder	small - medium	Al-nitride manufacture for LED's	First pass testing successful. Further samples requested				
3	Global LED Company	Japan	HPA powder	medium	LED phosphors	End user testing underway				
4	Global materials company	EU/USA	Multiple Products	very large	Speciality aluminas	Test Products under manufacture				
5	Specialty Electrics & Ceramics	Taiwan	HPA powder	small - medium	LED Phosphors	Test order in production in Brisbane				
6	6 Battery Materials Manufacturer Japan		Boehmite	large	Li-B separator coatings	End user testing underway				
7	Research Organisation	Germany	Multiple Products	Unknown	Specialty Ceramics	End user testing underway				
8	Research Organisation	Germany	Al-Nitrate	Unknown	micro-LED phosphors	End user testing underway				
9	Photonics Manufacturer	USA	Al-Nitrate	small - medium	YAG Laser Crystals	Maiden sales complete, seeking larger volume orders				
10	Photonics Manufacturer	USA	Al-Nitrate	small - medium	YAG Laser Crystals	End user testing underway				
11	Research Organisation	Australia	Al-Nitrate	Unknown	Li-B particle coatings	End user testing underway				
12	Research Organisation	Australia	Al-Nitrate	Unknown	Li-B particle coatings	End user testing underway				
13	Global materials company	Japan	HPA Pellets	medium	Specialty Ceramics/Sapphire Glass	Test order under manufacture in Brisbane				
14	Global materials company	Japan	Multiple Products	medium-large	CMP Slurries	End user testing underway				
15	Battery Separator Manufacturer	USA	HPA & Boehmite Powder	large	Li-B separator coatings	End user testing underway				
16	Govt Organisation	Japan	Gamma alumina	small	Medical	End user testing underway				
17	Electronics coatings	USA	Al-Nitrate	small	Coatings	Ongoing small volume (high value) sales				
18	Specialist Battery OEM	USA	HPA powder	small	Lithium-ion battery separator coatings	Awaiting volume confirmation				
19	Li-B anode manufacturer	EU	Al-Nitrate	large	anode particle coatings	Testing underway				

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES



Timeline & value catalysts

- 1H 2022:
 - 1. Initial commercial offtake agreements with end users;
 - 2. Feasibility level design of re-configured HPA First Project scope which allows for expected product mix; and
 - 3. Initial debt financing term sheets.
- Mid-2022: A4N Board take HPA First Project Final Investment Decision.
- September 2022 quarter:
 - 1. Initial sales and cash flow from PPF;
 - 2. Construction of full scale HPA First Project commences.

Earnings capability: EBITDA of ~\$250m/year at steady state

We estimate that the HPA First Project, in its current form, could generate annual EBITDA of more than \$250m at steady state. This assumption is supported by production of 10ktpa at average prices of US\$25/kg for annual revenue of \$350m. At costs of around US\$8.50/kg (consistent with A4N's March 2020 DFS), EBITDA margins are around 70%.

Future capital requirements & funding options

A4N's March 2020 HPA First Project DFS estimated capital costs of \$308m, including \$27m over-run contingency.

The HPA First Project's location (Gladstone, Queensland) and end products (inputs into key decarbonising technologies) make it a candidate for Government backed concessional debt finance. We expect that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and Clean Energy Finance will consider extending debt facilities to support the project. We also expect that commercial banks diversifying away from carbon intensive projects will have an interest in extending debt and working capital finance.

The following table outlines the HPA First Project's capital requirements and the sources of funding which we assume. We factor in a \$90m equity raising over the next twelve months to support the project's development and working capital ahead of debt draw-down.

Table 4 - Future capital requirements						
Capital costs		A\$m				
Processing plant		173				
Utilities		19				
Infrastructure		39				
Indirects		44				
Owners costs		7				
Total excluding contingency		281				
Contingency		27				
Total		308				
Funding requirements	% est.	A\$m				
Debt finance	65%	200				
Equity	35%	108				
Total	100%	308				

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Valuation & methodology

Risked & diluted valuation summary

Our risked and diluted A4N valuation is \$0.96/sh and is based on:

- 4N HPA prices of US\$25,000/t (consistent with CRU Group's market outlook);
- A4N's March 2020 Definitive Feasibility Study HPA First Project capital and operating costs; and
- A4N's published Precursor Production Facility (June 2021) capital and operating cost estimates.

Risk and dilution to calculated NPV:

- Project risk discount of 25% to take into account project stage (DFS completed, predevelopment stage); and
- Dilution from an assumed \$90m equity raising prior to commencement of full scale construction in mid-2022, at a 15% discount to A4N's current share price.

Product price scenario		1	2	3
·				Preferred
4N HPA (US\$/t)		15,000	20,000	25,000
Al-Precursor #1 (US\$/t)		50,000	55,000	65,000
Al-Precursor #2 (US\$/t)		35,000	40,000	45,000
HPA First Project				
Unrisked NPV (10% discount rate)		326	737	1,154
Risk discount	25%			
Risked NPV (10% discount rate)		244	553	869
Corporate costs	-40			
Enterprise value		204	513	825
Net debt / (cash)	-36			
Equity valuation (risked, undiluted)		241	549	862
Assumed capital raise \$m	90			
Assumed raise price \$/sh	0.485			
Government grant \$m	40			
Current shares on issue m	795			
In the money options m	73			
Assumed capital raising dilution m	186			
Diluted shares on issue m	1,054			
Net debt / (cash) (including options, assumed raising & grant)	-190			
Equity valuation (risked, diluted)		394	703	1,01
Equity valuation (risked, diluted) \$/sh		0.37	0.67	0.90
Current share price	0.570			
Valuation / price		0.6x	1.2x	1.73

Our preferred HPA product pricing assumption is at the high end of A4N's published definitive feasibility study price ranges, which we believe is justified:

 Since the DFS, A4N has identified a number of precursor high purity aluminium and alumina products which have the potential to add further value to the project. These precursor products are produced mid-stream of the project's flow-sheet, are expected

- to be higher margin and have the potential to provide increased return on capital invested.
- The global decarbonisation and onshoring themes have accelerated in recent months
 as developed economies look to address climate change targets in the context of a
 post-pandemic economic recovery. A4N's HPA First Project products have applications
 in technologies directly linked to these themes; the manufacturing of lithium ion
 batteries, LED lighting and semiconductors.
- There is potential for A4N's products to have applications in the manufacture of micro-LEDs. Micro LED technology is expected to be the next generation of display technology, superseding OLED and black-lit LCDs.
- Commercialisation of A4N's HPA First Project technology could step beyond the proposed Gladstone project development. With A4N's propriety technology, HPA First Project could be scaled up or replicated elsewhere.
- A4N has announced the HPA First Project has received a Federal Government funding grant of \$45m (\$40.5m to A4N) to support the project through the Modern Manufacturing Initiative programme.

Alpha HPA Ltd summary

Company description

A4N's HPA First Project is aiming to supply high-purity alumina (HPA) at a purity of greater than 99.99% (or 4N) to the lithium ion battery and light emitting diode (LED) manufacturing sectors. The project's proprietary technology is expected to disrupt incumbent HPA production through significantly lower unit costs. Results of a March 2020 DFS outlined a 10,000tpa 4N HPA project with a capital cost of \$308m and pre-tax annual cash flow of \$133-280m at 4N HPA prices ranging US\$15,000-25,000/t.

The HPA First Project is a solvent extraction process using an aluminium chemical feedstock purchased on globally traded markets. Orica Ltd (ORI) and A4N have executed a definitive agreement for ORI's supply of process reagents and for by-product offtake. This agreement has required significant third party due diligence of the HPA First Project process.

Investment view: Speculative Buy, Valuation \$0.96/sh

A4N's HPA and aluminium precursor products have applications in lithium ion battery, micro-LED and semiconductor manufacturing; technologies at the forefront of the global decarbonising and onshoring themes. Near term catalysts include initial product offtake agreements and final HPA First Project scope and design. We have increased our risked and diluted valuation to \$0.96/sh (previously \$0.92/sh) on lower assumed dilution as a result of the Federal Government grant; there are no earnings changes in this report.

A4N is a development company with prospective operations and cash flows only. Our Speculative risk rating recognises this higher level of risk and volatility of returns.

Valuation methodology

We have modelled the HPA First Project using assumptions consistent with the March 2020 DFS. We assume:

- 4N HPA prices of US\$25,000/t (consistent with CRU Group's market outlook);
- A4N's March 2020 Definitive Feasibility Study HPA First Project capital and operating costs; and
- A4N's published Precursor Production Facility (June 2021) capital and operating cost estimates.

Risk and dilution to calculated NPV:

- Project risk discount of 25% to take into account project stage (DFS completed, predevelopment stage); and
- Dilution from an assumed \$90m equity raising prior to commencement of full scale construction in mid-2022, conservatively at a 15% discount to A4N's current share price.

Risks

Risk to an investment in A4N include, but are not limited to:

- Commodity price and exchange rate fluctuations. The future earnings and valuations of development and operating assets and companies are subject to fluctuations in underlying commodity prices and foreign currency exchange rates.
- **Technology:** Projects may be reliant on commercialisation of new production processes and methodologies which have yet been proven on a large scale. Technology may be replicated by competitors resulting in a loss of market share.
- Infrastructure access. Projects are reliant upon access to transport and pipeline
 infrastructure. Access to infrastructure is often subject to contractual agreements,
 permits and capacity allocations. Agreements are typically long-term in nature.
 Infrastructure can be subject to outages as a result of weather events or the actions of
 third party providers.
- Operating and capital cost fluctuations. Markets for raw material inputs and labour can fluctuate and cause significant differences between planned and actual operating and capital costs. Key operating costs are linked to commodity and labour markets.
 Companies are also exposed to costs associated with future land rehabilitation.
- **Sovereign risks.** Companies' assets are subject to the sovereign risk of the country of location and may also be exposed to the sovereign risks of major offtake customers.
- Regulatory changes. Changes to the regulation of infrastructure and taxation (among other things) can impact the earnings and valuations of companies.
- **Environmental risks.** Companies are exposed to risks associated with environmental degradation as a result of their production processes.
- Operating and development risks. Companies' assets are subject to risks associated
 with their operation and development. Development assets can be subject to approvals
 timelines or weather events, causing delays to commissioning and commercial
 production.
- Occupational health and safety (OH&S) risks. Companies are exposed to OH&S risks.
- Funding and capital management risks. Funding and capital management risks can include access to debt and equity finance, maintaining covenants on debt finance, managing dividend payments and managing debt repayments.
- **Merger/acquisition risks.** Risks associated with value transferred during merger and acquisition activity.
- Impact of pandemic infection such as Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This may
 have an adverse impact on the macro economic factors, including the mobility of
 labour, which can impact asset valuations.

Alpha HPA Ltd as at 16 March 2022

Recommendation Buy, Speculative
Price \$0.57
Valuation \$0.96

Table 6 - Financial su	mmary												
Date			16/03/22									II Potter S	
Price	A\$/sh		0.570						uart Howe (s				
Valuation PROFIT AND LOSS	A\$/sh		0.96			1	FINANCIAL RATIOS	Jose	ph House (ji	nouse@bell	ootter.com.a	iu, +61 3 9	235 1624)
Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e
Revenue	\$m	1	0	13	163	353	VALUATION						
Expenses	\$m	(15)	(3)	(14)	(78)	(99)	EPS	Ac/sh	(2)	(0)	(1)	5	15
EBITDA	\$m	(14)	(3)	(1)	85	254	EPS growth (Acps)	%	na	na	na	na	181%
Depreciation & amortisation	\$m	(2)	- (2)	(2)	(14)	(18)	PER	X A a /a la	-24.4x	-159.8x	-70.6x	10.8x	3.8x
EBIT Net interest expense	\$m \$m	(16) (0)	(3)	(3) (6)	71 (12)	236 (12)	DPS Franking	Ac/sh %	0%	0%	0%	0%	8.0 0%
Profit before tax	\$m	(16)	(3)	(9)	59	224	Yield	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%
Tax expense	\$m	-	-	-	(3)	(67)	FCF/share	Ac/sh	(1.2)	(10.1)	(18.3)	(2.1)	11.8
NPAT (reported)	\$m	(16)	(3)	(9)	56	157	FCF yield	%	-2%	-18%	-32%	-4%	21%
NPAT (adjusted)	\$m	(16)	(3)	(9)	56	157	EV/EBITDA	X	-29.8x	-126.8x	-651.3x	4.9x	1.6x
							LIQUIDITY & LEVERAGE						
CASH FLOW STATEMENT							Net debt / (cash)	\$m	(50)	(85)	108	130	91
Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	Net debt / Equity	%	-100%	-49%	65%	59%	31%
OPERATING CASH FLOW							Net debt / Net debt + Equity	%	82517%	-94%	39%	37%	23%
Receipts from customers	\$m		1	10	133	315	Net debt / EBITDA	х	3.6x	25.8x	-168.9x	1.5x	0.4x
Payments to suppliers and employe	\$m	(3)	(5)	(13)	(71)	(97)	EBITDA /net int expense	х	-148.6x	0.0x	-0.1x	7.1x	21.2x
Tax paid	\$m	-	-	-	(3)	(67)	PROFITABILITY RATIOS						
Net interest	\$m	0	-	(6)	(12)	(12)	EBITDA margin	%	-1446%	-65800%	-5%	52%	72%
Other	\$m	1	-	-	-	-	EBIT margin	%	-1676%	-65800%	-19%	44%	67%
Operating cash flow	\$m	(2)	(4)	(8)	46	139	Return on assets	%	-52%	-3%	-3%	14%	33%
INVESTING CASH FLOW							Return on equity	%	-54%	-3%	-5%	29%	61%
Capex	\$m	(7)	(89)	(185)	(68)	(15)							
Acquisitions	\$m	-	-	-	-	-	ASSUMPTIONS - Prices (nominal)						
Other	\$m	-	-	-	-	-	Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e
Investing cash flow	\$m	(7)	(89)	(185)	(68)	(15)	4N HPA price	US\$/t	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
FINANCING CASH FLOW							4N HPA price	A\$/t	33,787	34,014	34,014	33,784	33,784
Debt proceeds/(repayments)	\$m	(0)	-	200	-	-	FX	US\$/A\$	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
Dividends paid	\$m	-	-	-	-	(84)							
Proceeds from share issues (net)	\$m	51	128	-	-	-	ASSUMPTIONS - Sales (equity)						
Other	\$m	0	-	-	-	-	Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e
Financing cash flow	\$m	51	128	200	-	(84)	4N HPA sales	t	-	-	-	4,370	10,000
Change in cash	\$m	42	35	7	(22)	40	5N Al-Precursor #1 - Al-Nitrate	t	-	-	87	100	100
Free cash flow	\$m	(8)	(93)	(193)	(22)	124	5N Al-Precursor #2 - Al-Sulfate	t	-	-	87	100	100
BALANCE SHEET							VALUATION						Preferred
Year ending 30 June	Unit	2021a	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	Product price scenario				1	2	3
ASSETS	VIII	LVLIU	LULLU	LULUU	LULTU	LULUC	4N HPA price US\$/t				15,000	20,000	25,000
Cash	\$m	50	85	92	70	109	HPA First project \$m				.0,000	20,000	20,000
Receivables	\$m	1	0	3	33	71	Unrisked NPV (10% discount rate)				326	737	1,154
Inventories	\$m		0	1	8	10	Risk discount			25%	320	757	1,154
Capital assets	\$m	1	90	273	327	324	Risked NPV			25/6	244	553	865
Other assets	\$m	0	0	0	0	0	Corporate costs \$m			(40)	244	555	000
Total assets	\$m	52	175	369	438	515	Enterprise value \$m			(40)	204	513	825
LIABILITIES	φiii	32	173	309	430	313	·			(26)	204	513	023
Creditors	\$m	2	1	3	16	20	Net debt / (cash) \$m Equity valuation (risked, undiluted)	¢		(36)	241	549	862
		2	'			200		\$III		90	241	549	002
Borrowings	\$m		-	200	200	200	Assumed capital raise \$m						
Provisions	\$m	-	-	-	-	-	Assumed raise price \$/sh			0.48			
Other liabilities	\$m	0	-										
Total liabilities	\$m	2	1	203	216	220	Current shares on issue m			795			
NET ASSETS	\$m	40-					In the money options m			73			
Share capital	\$m	100	228	228	228	228	Assumed capital raising dilution m			186			
Reserves	\$m	8	8	8	8	8	Diluted shares on issue m			1,054			
Accumulated losses	\$m	(57)	(60)	(69)	(13)	60							
Non-controlling interest	\$m	-	-	-	-	-	Net debt / (cash) (including options & a	assumed rai	sing) \$m	(190)			
SHAREHOLDER EQUITY	\$m	50	175	166	222	295	Equity valuation (risked, diluted) \$m				394	703	1,015

Weighted average shares m

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

0.67 0.96

Recommendation structure

Buy: Expect >15% total return on a 12 month view. For stocks regarded as 'Speculative' a return of >30% is expected.

Hold: Expect total return between -5% and 15% on a 12 month view

Sell: Expect <-5% total return on a 12 month view

Speculative Investments are either start-up enterprises with nil or only prospective operations or recently commenced operations with only forecast cash flows, or companies that have commenced operations or have been in operation for some time but have only forecast cash flows and/or a stressed balance sheet.

Such investments may carry an exceptionally high level of capital risk and volatility of returns.

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