

# Acorn Capital Investment Fund ("ACIF")

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ACIF is offering for issue securities under a prospectus, a copy of which is available for download from <u>www.acifipo.com.au</u>. A person should consider the Prospectus in deciding whether or not to acquire the securities. Anyone who wants to acquire the securities will need to complete the application form that will be in or will accompany the Prospectus.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **OBJECTIVE**

Acorn Capital is establishing the Acorn Capital Investment Fund Limited ("ACIF") Listed Investment Company via an initial public offering of up to \$100 million through shares and options issued by a newly-incorporated company - ACIF. ACIF gives investors access to an Acorn Capital-managed fund with a portfolio of listed and unlisted microcap companies and potential for long term capital growth.

#### BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN ACIF

- Successful track record of microcap equities investment. The historical performance of a similar strategy managed by Acorn has achieved a (pre-fee and taxes) performance of 25% pa<sup>(2)</sup> since inception in 2009
- Distinctive investment strategy providing exposure to a large universe (by stock numbers) of both listed and unlisted opportunities
- Highly experienced team utilising a research-driven investment process with a track record of outperformance
- **Portfolio diversification** through exposure to a portfolio compositionally different to the ASX-250
- Early access to companies within a sector that has traditionally been the breeding ground for the larger capitalised companies of the future
- Microcap sector performance relative to the All Ords has recently been at its lowest in over 20 years
- Portfolio management techniques that have been developed since 1998 and tailored to manage portfolio risk
- Oversight by a board and investment team, with accompanying infrastructure, that manages \$1.1<sup>(1)</sup> billion of funds

(1) As at 31 January 2014

(2) Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

# Acorn Capital was founded in 1998 and has a long-term track record of managing microcap equities for institutional investors

- Manages funds for 11 institutional clients
- 55% <sup>(1)</sup> owned by directors and management (and their related parties), 44%<sup>(1)</sup> owned by Australian Unity
- Specialist manager investing in listed and unlisted microcap <sup>(2)</sup> companies
- Research driven philosophy aimed at capturing value through stock selection in large and inefficient markets
- Operated institutional mandates under the listed/unlisted strategy since February 2009
- Invested \$96.1<sup>(3)</sup> million into 14 unlisted companies since 2009
- Substantial positions in 53<sup>(3)</sup> ASX listed companies
- Australian investment team of nine has average of 24 years relevant experience (see Appendix A)

<sup>(1)</sup> On a fully diluted basis as a 31 January 2014

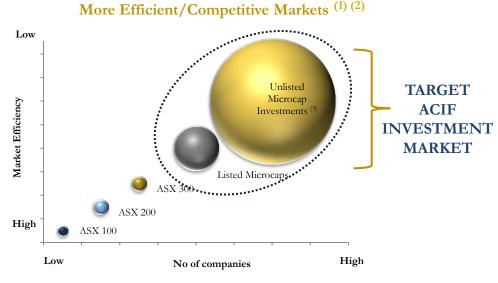
<sup>(2)</sup> Listed and unlisted companies with a market capitalisation outside the ASX250 (typically less than ~\$445 million in market capitalisation)

<sup>(3)</sup> Source: Acorn Capital estimates as at 31 December 2013

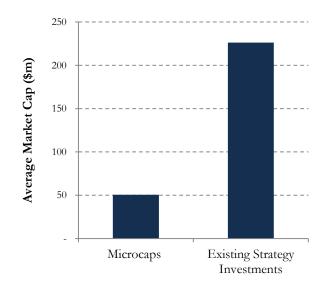
### ACIF gives investors exposure to listed and unlisted emerging companies

- ACIF will invest in listed and unlisted companies with market capitalisations below the ASX-250 (currently \$445m), defined by Acorn as "Microcaps". There are 1,906 ASX-listed companies and more than 13,000 large proprietary and public companies
- Acorn Capital believes that the Microcap universe is relatively inefficient due to it being large (by stock numbers) and diverse, under-researched and having relatively low liquidity and high transaction costs
- Anticipated market capitalisations of Microcaps in the ACIF portfolio are best illustrated by the Microcaps held under the Existing Strategy, where average capitalisations are \$226m, compared to the Listed Microcap universe of \$50m

## Illustration of ACIF Target Investment Market Relative to



#### Average Market Capitalisation of Investments



Source: Acorn Capital, as at 31 January 2014

Chart is illustrative due to incomplete data sets

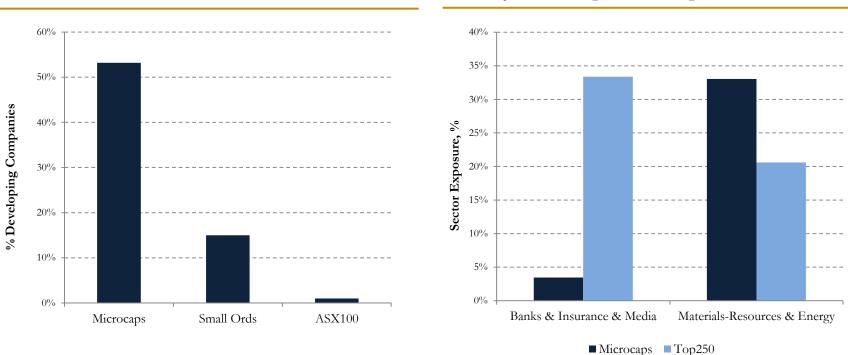
2) Sphere size is calculated with reference to the Acorn estimate number of investible companies in respective market segment

3) Unlisted investments may include foreign companies with Australian nexus and unlisted instruments into ASX listed companies

Percentage of Developing <sup>(1)</sup> Companies

# The listed Microcap sector is generally at an earlier stage of corporate development and has a higher demand for capital

- Over 50% of listed Microcaps are "developing companies" (those with revenues 10% or less than their market capitalisation), similar characteristics to that of venture capital/growth private equity investments
- Microcap sector represents a different part of the economy



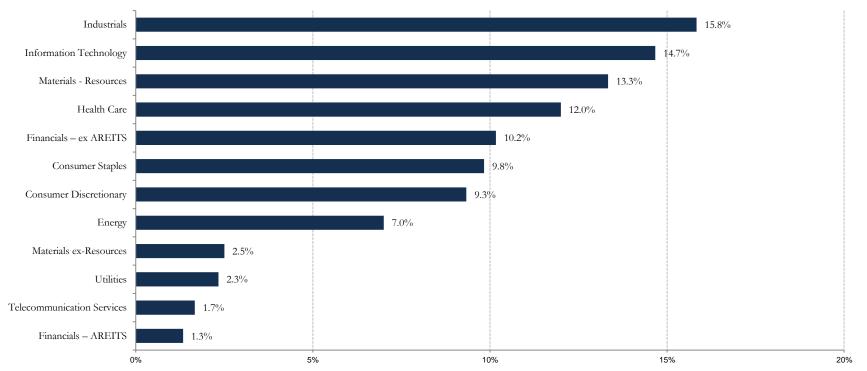
#### **Industry Sector Exposure Comparison**

Source: Acorn Capital, as at 31 December 2013

(1) Developing company defined as a company where the revenue is less than 10% of market capitalisation . Calculated by number of companies using IRESS subject to data availability.

Acorn is an experienced investor in unlisted Microcaps and since 2009 has invested \$96.1m across 14 investments

- Unlisted opportunities presented from all sectors
- Many have a disposition towards an ASX listing
- Average implied market capitalisation of each unlisted Microcap at time of investment is \$68.9 million

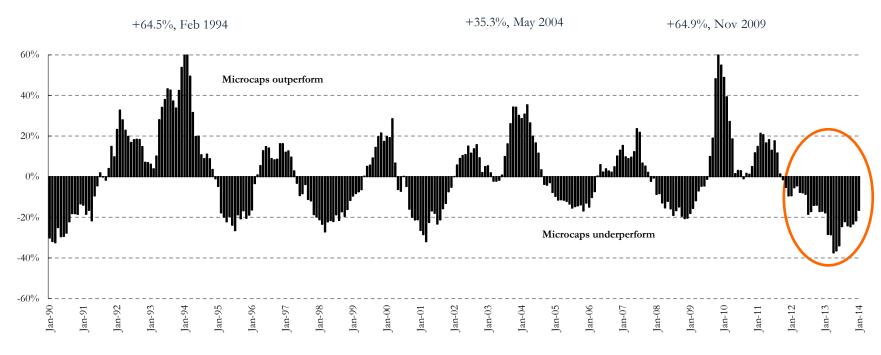


#### Unlisted Opportunities deal flow by sector <sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: Acorn Capital as at 31 December 2013

#### By mid CY2013, Microcap sector underperformance reached levels not seen since 1990

- 2H CY13 has seen Microcaps strongly outperform large caps
- Compositional differences between All Ords and Microcap sector explains a large part of underperformance (Resources de-rated, Financials re-rated)
- Anecdotally, the diagram below suggests that periods of underperformance appear to be followed by periods of outperformance



Rolling 12 Month Return Differentials (Microcaps vs All Ords)

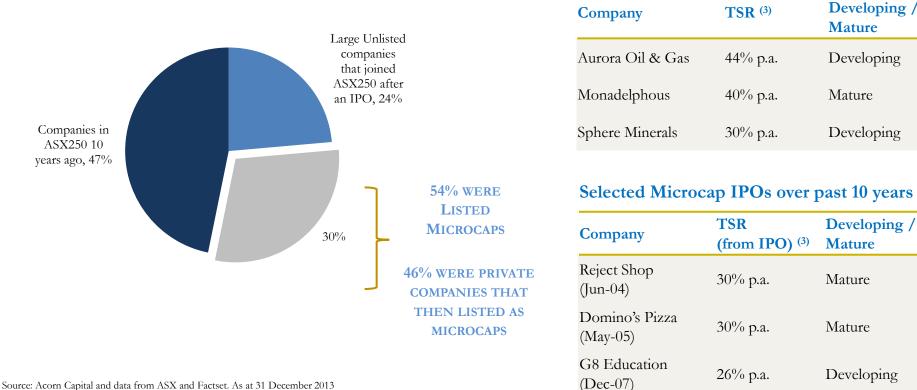
Source: Acorn Capital, as at 31 January 2014. Microcap performance based on Acorn Capital/SIRCA Microcap Accumulation Benchmark.

Yield focus, negative on resources -ve 36.9%, May 2013 7

#### 30% of the ASX 250 were either unlisted or listed Microcap companies 10 years ago

- 133 companies were not in the ASX 250 in 2003, of which 74 were microcaps
- Approximately half of the Microcap companies to enter the ASX 250 were newly listed, formerly private, companies

#### Source of Companies in ASX 250 Over Last 10 Years <sup>(1)</sup>



Composition by number of companies. (1)

Chosen from the population of listed and unlisted microcaps that Acorn Capital has invested in since 2003.

TSR is Total Shareholder Return each individual company, calculated either from 31 December 2003, or from the relevant IPO date. TSR may not reflect the return Acorn Capital achieved whilst invested in that company. (3)

Selected Listed Microcap over past 10 years <sup>(2)</sup>

# PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

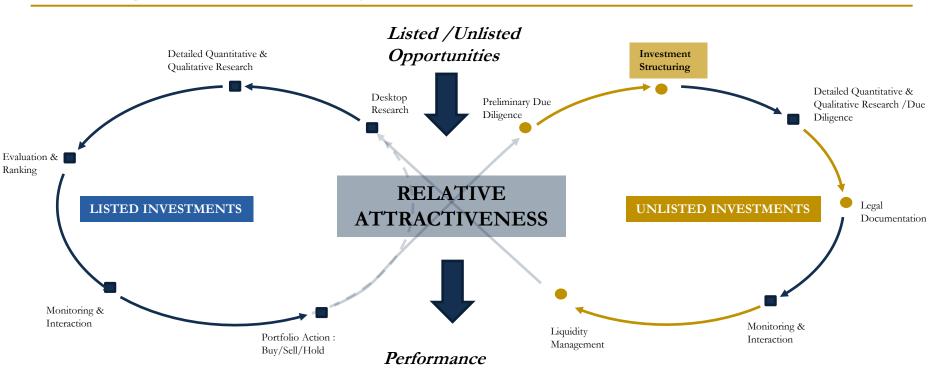
INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY			TA	RGET PORTFOLIO	METRIC	
•	•	Identify the best investments within each industry based on relative value, remaining fully invested across all industries		Stock Numbers	60-80 stocks	
:	Exploit inefficiencies in the pricing of listed and unlisted microcap stocks Investment opportunities for long term capital growth are identified through research and regular company interaction Manage risk through creation of diversified portfolios		•	Portfolio Sector Weights	SIRCA Microcap Benchmark, with typically 35%-40% in Energy & Resources	
IN	INVESTMENT STRATEGY			Unlisted Exposure	0%-50%	
•	Research Driven Stock Selection	Significant potential value added due to lack of research in microcap sector	•	Average Investment Duration	3-5 years (listed & unlisted)	
-	Economic Sector Diversified	Enable relative rank, provide diversification by industry, optimise risk / reward		Exposure to	Max 7.5% of portfolio at time of investment	
-	Style agnostic	Avoid style bias, capture both growth and value, developing and mature companies		Single Company at Time of Investment		
-	Long term investor	Minimise transaction costs and maximise participation in the primary market		Cash	Typically less than	
	Stock Numbers	Create diversified portfolios reduce volatility			10%	

Stock Numbers Create diversified portfolios, reduce volatility

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

#### Capital is transitioned from listed to unlisted investments only where they are relatively more attractive

- Portfolio management is at sector level
- Unlisted investments must be deemed better than listed alternatives at sector level, i.e. relatively more attractive
- Structuring is a risk management/pricing option not available in listed investments



#### Process designed to Find Best In Industry Class

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW



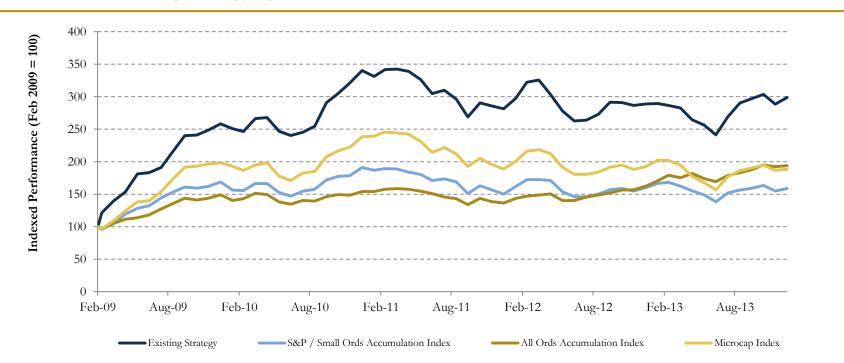
Unlisted investment portfolio revalued monthly. Additionally, unlisted valuations are re-assessed semiannually, a process which will require approval by the ACIF board and be subject to an external audit prior to payment of management fees.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Monthly	• Typically a valuation method will be adopted which adjusts unlisted equity (as distinct from hybrid) investments with reference to the movement in a selected industry index (or sub-index) within the listed microcap sector
Semi-annual	<ul> <li>Semi-annually unlisted investment valuations are re-assessed, using all of the information available to the Manager to affirm their fair value</li> </ul>
Significant event	• Where there is a significant event in an unlisted investment that the Manager considers would be reasonably likely to have a material effect on the ACIF investment portfolio then such investment will be re-assessed at that time.
Other notes	<ul> <li>ACIF board approves valuation processes</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>ACIF board has a right to request an independent valuation on semi-annual valuations</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Fees to Manager are only paid after ACIF Board approves valuations and auditors sign off on accounts as at 31 December and 30 June</li> </ul>

Listed and unlisted portfolio strategy established in February 2009. Cumulative performance has been 25 p.a. % since inception

Strategy	Universe	Incention		Pre-Fee and Tax Return p.a. <sup>(2)</sup>	Value Add p.a.	
Existing Strategy	Listed and Unlisted Microcaps	Feb 2009	XSOAI	25%	15.8%	

#### Performance of Existing Strategy against ASX Indices (1)



(1) Source Acorn Capital Estimates as at 31 January 2014. Historic performance calculated using cashflow adjusted portfolio values from start date to end date for the period stated.

(2) Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

## BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN ACIF

ACIF offers access to an investment strategy not previously available to retail investors that has historically delivered attractive returns

- Demonstrated track record of performance, Existing Strategy has achieved performance (pre fees and taxes) of 25% <sup>(1)</sup> p.a.
- Access to large and less efficient universe of listed and unlisted Microcap Companies
- Access to an experienced investment management team currently managing over \$1.1 billion in Microcap investments
- Ability to invest in Microcap Companies via a **portfolio diversified** by stock numbers and industries
- Invest at a time where relative performance of Microcap sector has recently been at its lowest point since 1988
- Oversight and governance from an experienced independent board, chaired by John Steven

Company	Acorn Capital Investment Fund Limited
Manager	Acorn Capital Ltd
Board	Majority independent directors
Offer Size	\$50 - \$100 million
Securities offered	Fully paid ordinary shares at \$1.00 per share (New Shares)
	Each New Share with one Option
	Options have a 18 month term and \$1.00 price
Base Management Fee	0.95% p.a. (ex-GST)
Performance fee	20% (ex-GST) of the outperformance of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index. Performance features a high watermark and mechanism to retain a portion of the fee to guard against underperformance
High watermark	Yes
Unlisted Valuations	Valuation policy and semi-annual valuations subject to Board approval. Base Management Fee and Performance Fee paid subject to Board approval and completion of audited accounts (refer Appendix B).

Lodgement of the Prospectus with ASIC	11 March 2014
Opening Date	27 March 2014
Closing Date for the General Offer	5:00pm AEST on 11 April 2014
Issue Date of Securities	22 April 2014
Holding Statements expected to be despatched by	23 April 2014
ACIF expected to commence trading on ASX	30 April 2014

## Acorn Capital investment team has on average 24 years of relevant experience

Team	Description	Years at Acorn	Years of other experience
Barry Fairley	Barry is Acorn Capital's Managing Director. He founded Acorn Capital in 1998 and has more than 40 years of investment experience. Dip of Mining Engineering, SA Fin	15	30
Robert Routley	Robert is Head of Private Markets. Rob established the listed/unlisted microcap strategy of which he has ongoing product responsibility. He previously held investment management roles with Colonial First State Private Equity and Baron Corporation. B.Com, MBA, CA	6	13
Paul Palumbo	Paul is a Portfolio Manager and Dealer. Paul previously held positions at Mercer, IBM and PwC. B.BusSys, Dip in Applied Finance & Investment	7	8
Matthew Sheehan	Matthew is an Investment Director as well as Legal Counsel and Company Secretary of Acorn Capital. He began his career as a private practice lawyer and worked at firms in Melbourne, New York and London and was most recently at Macquarie Group. B.E. (Hons), LLB (Hons), M.AppFin	5	10
David Ransom	David is a Portfolio Manager for the Energy and Materials (Resources) sectors. He has a long and extensive background in geology and consulting spanning over four decades. B.Sc (Hons), PhD (Structural Geology), FAIG	14	31
Kylie Molinaro	Kylie is a Portfolio Manager for the Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples and Healthcare & Biotechnology sectors. She began her career in the pharmacy profession. B.Pharm, B.Com (Hons)	9	6
Cameron Petricevic	Cameron is a Portfolio Manager for the Industrials (ex-Capital Goods), Information Technology, Telecommunication Services and Materials (ex-Resources) sectors. He joined Acorn Capital after eight years at AXA Asia Pacific. B.Eng (Hons), B.Com, Associate of the Institute of Actuaries (Actuary)	3	8
Tony Pearce	Tony is a Research Analyst for the Private Markets team. He has more than 45 years of investment experience spanning across Legg Mason, Citigroup, JPMorgan, Salomon Smith Barney and Colonial. <i>Dip in Business Studies, CFA, CPA, F Fin</i>	4	42
Xing Zhang	Xing is an Investment Executive in the Private Markets team. She started her career in investment banking. B.Eng (Hons), B.Com, GradCert in Entrepreneurship & Innovation	3	4.5

## ACIF is overseen by an experienced Board

Director	Background
John Steven Chairman and Independent Non-executive Director	John is the non-executive Chairman of ACIF. He is the head of the National Corporate Division and a member of the National Board of Minter Ellison. He practises in the corporate and capital markets area and also has an extensive general corporate practice. B.E., LLB (Hons), DipComLaw
Judith Smith Independent Non-executive Director	Judith was formerly the Head of Private Equity at IFM Investors and Chair of the IFM Risk Committee. Judith was also a member of the IFM Investments Committee. She also held various investment management roles including more than a decade at National Mutual Funds Management. B.E. (Hons), M.AppFin
David Trude Independent Non-executive Director	David is a senior corporate banking executive with 40 years' experience in a variety of financial services roles in the banking and securities industries. He is the Chairman of Baillieu Holst. David was formerly Managing Director, Australian CEO of Credit Suisse, where he is currently a Consultant. He currently holds several other board positions.
Robert Brown Director	Robert is an independent director of Acorn Capital and is Chairman of its subsidiary Australian Microcap Investments Pty Ltd. He is a professor of finance in the Department of Finance, University of Melbourne, where his research has focused on security market behaviour. B.E. (Hons), M.E., GradDipAcc, FCPA, SF Fin
Barry Fairley <i>Director</i>	Barry is Acorn Capital's Managing Director. He founded Acorn Capital in 1998 and has more than 40 years of investment experience. <i>Dip of Mining Engineering, SA Fin</i>