

## SYCOMORE AM ENTERS THE WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE TECH WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE SYCOMORE SUSTAINABLE TECH FUND

- Sycomore AM expands its range of SRI thematic funds with the creation of Sycomore Sustainable Tech, a global “Responsible Tech” equity fund;
- Sycomore AM has outlined its vision of Responsible Tech by co-writing an Investment Charter that covers three dimensions: Tech for Good, Good in Tech and Improvement Enablers;
- A collaborative approach: Sycomore AM is prompting investors and companies to sign this Charter and play an active role in developing a Tech industry that creates positive impacts for society.

Paris, October 12th 2020. Sycomore AM has launched Sycomore Sustainable Tech, a global equity strategy. The fund’s objective is to select the most virtuous Tech industries companies<sup>1</sup>. This new fund falls within the broader framework of a new charter for responsible investment in Tech, Sycomore AM’s new initiative for ever more responsible investments.

Technological innovation has no boundaries and measuring the full extent of its impact on the environment and on society is an impossible task. As a responsible player - in our role as an investor, a company, the member of a collective - it is important that we improve our understanding of technology and of the way we use it. Innovation is good, but only if it is reasonable and rational.

Technological progress should not happen at the expense of the planet and individuals. “*It is important to raise awareness among established companies on the negative impacts of Tech for all of their stakeholders*” says Johan Söderström, co-manager of the Sycomore Sustainable Tech fund at Sycomore AM.

But shaking things up will also require supporting future leaders at an even earlier stage of their development and encouraging them to adopt responsibility standards. “*This will enable them to prevent a number of risks and develop a more virtuous business model aimed at preserving our society and the environment*” adds Johan Söderström.

This is why Sycomore AM and its partner Gaia Capital Partners, a responsible growth equity fund dedicated to supporting technology champions in Europe, have chosen to draft a common charter to support the emergence of a responsible Tech. Above and beyond the desire to raise awareness among financial industry players, investors and companies alike, the objective of this Charter - as a first step towards a more holistic approach - is to provide a framework for selecting the sector’s most worthy companies, to contribute to the emergence of best practices, and to encourage investments in companies that have chosen to act responsibly in terms of the technology they offer and use.

### Providing a framework: the three dimensions of Responsible Tech

In order to identify and invest in the most responsible and sustainable Tech companies, the investment team looks at three dimensions - **Tech for Good**, **Good in Tech** and **Improvement Enablers**. These dimensions provide a transparent and exhaustive assessment of impacts and positive and negative externalities. “*Our holistic vision of a company enables us to determine its level of responsibility and analyse the extent of its impact*”, explains Gilles Sitbon, co-manager of the Sycomore Sustainable Tech strategy.

“*The Tech for Good dimension looks at the environmental and social impacts of the products and services offered by a company. Are these impacts effectively positive, and are they positive by design? The Good in Tech dimension refers to the company’s responsible practices, i.e. whether the technology that is used helps to reduce any negative externalities for individuals and the*

<sup>1</sup>According to our analysis

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*environment. The Improvement Enablers dimension specifically encompasses companies that display strong intentionality and offer a genuine ability to drive improvement in terms of Tech for Good and Good in Tech” adds Johan Söderström.*

#### For a better world: Sycomore Sustainable Tech

Embodying its approach as a responsible investor in Tech, Sycomore AM has launched **Sycomore Sustainable Tech**, the first global equity fund that selects companies based on an innovative SRI\* process based on the three dimensions of Responsible Tech: Tech for Good, Good in Tech and Improvement Enablers. The fund invests in companies applying, according to us, the most virtuous business models and that seek to maintain high levels of responsibility and sustainable performance.

Sycomore Sustainable Tech is a new addition to Sycomore AM’s range of SRI thematic funds - which now includes 9 strategies - alongside in particular Sycomore Shared Growth, dedicated to societal capital, Sycomore Happy@Work, which emphasises human capital, Sycomore Eco Solutions, focused on natural capital, and Sycomore Next Generation which is devoted to themes related to future generations. Sycomore AM’s SRI strategies now weigh over €4.6 billion, or 69% of the firm’s total assets under management.

#### Long-term action and engagement

Sycomore AM aims to go beyond setting guidelines for investing responsibly in Tech: we are committed to supporting companies in their management of impacts and externalities. This may be achieved through the shareholder voting process and by engaging in constructive dialogue in order to help them adopt best practices and identify drivers for sustainable performance.

#### We can’t do it alone, join the force!

Keen to create an ecosystem that will foster responsible Tech, Sycomore AM is considering taking this commitment one step further by founding a community of investors with varied profiles, the aim of which would be to ensure the long-term sustainability of the responsible Tech sector. *“By bringing together investors from different backgrounds and engaging in regular dialogue in order to build a consensus around responsible investment in Tech, we can develop and enrich our methodology according to the changes and progress made within the sector”* explains Sabrina Ritossa Fernandez, SRI analyst at Sycomore AM.

*\*At the date of release, the fund has not yet been SRI-certified by a French or a foreign label. However, the certification process is underway.*

#### **About Sycomore Asset Management - A mission-led company**

*Founded in 2001, Sycomore Asset Management is an asset manager specialised in listed investments and driven by a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Since its creation, Sycomore has been committed to delivering long-term returns by identifying the levers that enable a company to generate sustainable value.*

*The firm’s expertise draws on a fieldwork approach and a proprietary corporate fundamental analysis model, which includes financial and extra-financial criteria. Its team of 22 analysts-fund managers, including 9 ESG specialists (Environment, Social and Governance) focus on assessing the overall performance of a company with respect to its stakeholders: shareholders, clients, employees, suppliers, civil society and the environment.*

*Since 2015, Sycomore AM has expanded its range of SRI funds: first with Sycomore Happy@Work, dedicated to human capital, then Sycomore Eco Solutions, with a focus on natural capital, and Sycomore Shared Growth, specialised in societal capital. Recently, the firm launched Sycomore Next Generation, a fund committed to providing a better future for the next generations.*

*In 2020, Sycomore AM became a mission-led company and received the B Corp™ label, demonstrating its ambition to contribute positively to society as “a force for good”.*

*As a reference and key player in responsible investment, Sycomore AM is a member of the FIR, the GIIN (Global Impact Investing Network) and the IIGCC (Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change). Today, the firm continues to research the measurement of environmental and social impacts.*

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