



Volta Finance Limited (VTA / VTAS) – February 2021 monthly report

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Guernsey, 11 March 2021

AXA IM has published the Volta Finance Limited (the “Company” or “Volta Finance” or “Volta”) monthly report for February. The full report is attached to this release and will be available on Volta’s website shortly (www.voltafinance.com).

PERFORMANCE and PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

Volta has continued to perform well with +1.0% in February, following +3.9% in January. This is despite headwinds in equity and public credit markets which were hesitating in front of growing uncertainty regarding the appropriate level for mid to long-term yields. As Volta is predominantly invested in floating rate instruments, the negative impact of rising long-term rates was largely avoided.

The monthly asset class performances** were: -0.7% for Bank Balance Sheet transactions, +1.5% for CLO equity tranches; +0.6% for CLO debt; +16.7% for Cash Corporate Credit deals (this bucket comprises funds that have a one-month delay in publishing their NAV); and 0.0% for ABS. The strong performance of the Cash Corporate Credit bucket reflects a sharp upwards revision to the valuation of illiquid and credit-sensitive positions in one US loan fund in which Volta has been invested since 2006. The main driver for this outperformance is the sharp monetary and fiscal stimuli currently in place in the US. However, the impact was not material for Volta as this bucket represents only 2% of Volta’s NAV.

In terms of fundamentals, in February, trailing-12-month defaults rates declined in loan markets (for the 4th consecutive month). As at the end of February default rates were 3.2% and 2.1% respectively for US and European loans, way below the 13% and 10% rates that were originally forecasted by rating agencies for Q1 2021 when trying to measure the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis back in Q2 2020. Defaults are expected to continue materializing in loan markets through 2021 and 2022 but at a pace (probably between 2 and 4%) that is manageable for CLOs and should not trigger any cash flow diversions from the CLO equity positions held by the company.

A major theme for Volta in 2021, will be the refinancing (where only the most senior debt tranches are called to be re-issued at lower spread) or reset (where all the debt tranches are called and re-issued and the deal is extended) of several CLO positions. When looking across all our CLO Equity positions (circa 65% of the assets including the CMV), roughly two-thirds of the related CLOs are good candidates for refi/reset. The resultant gain to the equity tranche and thus Volta could be substantial. We estimate that these operations may lead to extra capital payments that may represent 1.5 to 2% of Volta’s NAV per annum and the projected return of Volta’s overall portfolio may increase accordingly by 1 to 1.5% per annum. We are already working on one refi and one reset and we anticipate more to come along during the year.

In terms of cash flows, February is structurally a weak month for Volta. Interest and coupons received totaled the equivalent of €1.3m. On a 6-month rolling basis, Volta received the equivalent of €20.6m at the end of February (an increase of €0.2m since the end of January), representing a 16.1% annualised cash flow yield, based on the end February NAV. We expect overall cash flows to continue to increase in the coming months/quarters.

In February we purchased one US CLO equity position in the secondary market for a total of €1.9m. On average and under standard assumptions, the projected yield for this purchase was close to 14% (not including potential upside in case of refi/reset).

This combination of advantageous factors for our CLO Equity positions, which account now for a total



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of 65% of the NAV means that the outlook for 2021 and beyond is favorable for Volta. We are still optimistic that the NAV can reach €7.50 per share in the medium term. This, combined with an estimated dividend close to 8% of NAV represents an attractive return stream, especially when considering the discount to NAV at which the shares are still trading.

As at the end of February 2021, Volta's NAV was €256.1m or €7.00 per share.

The month-end cash position was €8.6m.

**It should be noted that approximately 10.3% of Volta's GAV comprises investments for which the relevant NAVs as at the month-end date are normally available only after Volta's NAV has already been published. Volta's policy is to publish its NAV on as timely a basis as possible to provide shareholders with Volta's appropriately up-to-date NAV information. Consequently, such investments are valued using the most recently available NAV for each fund or quoted price for such subordinated notes. The most recently available fund NAV or quoted price was for 9.1% as at 31 January 2021, 0.1% as at 31 December 2020 and 1.1% as at 30 September 2020.*

*** "performances" of asset classes are calculated as the Dietz-performance of the assets in each bucket, taking into account the Mark-to-Market of the assets at period ends, payments received from the assets over the period, and ignoring changes in cross-currency rates. Nevertheless, some residual currency effects could impact the aggregate value of the portfolio when aggregating each bucket.*

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ABOUT VOLTA FINANCE LIMITED

Volta Finance Limited is incorporated in Guernsey under The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (as amended) and listed on Euronext Amsterdam and the London Stock Exchange's Main Market for listed securities. Volta's home member state for the purposes of the EU Transparency Directive is the Netherlands. As such, Volta is subject to regulation and supervision by the AFM, being the regulator for financial markets in the Netherlands.

Volta's investment objectives are to preserve capital across the credit cycle and to provide a stable stream of income to its shareholders through dividends. Volta seeks to attain its investment objectives predominantly through diversified investments in structured finance assets. The assets that the Company may invest in either directly or indirectly include, but are not limited to: corporate credits; sovereign and quasi-sovereign debt; residential mortgage loans; and, automobile loans. The Company's approach to investment is through vehicles and arrangements that essentially provide leveraged exposure to portfolios of such underlying assets. The Company has appointed AXA Investment Managers Paris an investment management company with a division specialised in structured credit, for the investment management of all its assets.

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The figures provided that relate to past months or years and past performance cannot be relied on as a guide to future performance or construed as a reliable indicator as to future performance. Throughout this review, the citation of specific trades or strategies is intended to illustrate some of the investment methodologies and philosophies of Volta Finance, as implemented by AXA IM. The historical success or AXA IM's belief in the future success, of any of these trades or strategies is not indicative of, and has no bearing on, future results.

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