



# Oakley Capital Investments

Investment companies | Update | 27 March 2025

## Primed for future NAV growth?

With net assets of £1.2bn, Oakley Capital Investments (OCI) offers access to a concentrated portfolio of 33 private European companies across four core sectors. The manager believes that these have a positive trading outlook following two years of macro headwinds.

It says an uncertain market backdrop has presented favourable conditions for deal-making and investment, as more founders and entrepreneurs look for partners to help their businesses accelerate growth. OCI's deployment has been at historically high levels, investing in eight new businesses in 2024. Over the last two years, OCI has deployed an amount equivalent to 40% of its year-end NAV into fresh investments.

Most of these are founder-led, disruptive businesses that the manager believes are market leaders or have the potential to become so. Five new deals in 2024 were in tech, the focus of this research report, highlighting the significance of this core sector for OCI. The new investments include businesses in fast-growing, sub-sectors such as cybersecurity and disaster recovery. *(continued on page 3)*

## Consistent long-term returns from private equity

OCI aims to provide shareholders with consistent long-term returns in excess of the FTSE All-Share Index by providing exposure to private equity returns, where value can be created through market growth, consolidation, and performance improvement.

Year ended	Share price TR (%)	NAV total return <sup>1</sup> (%)	MSCI UK TR (%)	LPX Europe TR (%)	MSCI World TR (%)
28/02/2021	24.1	18.3	(0.2)	15.6	18.2
28/02/2022	35.8	35.1	21.5	8.0	15.4
28/02/2023	20.8	24.0	10.7	(10.2)	2.7
29/02/2024	1.9	4.0	0.9	11.5	19.6
28/02/2025	2.1	2.3	19.3	10.4	16.2

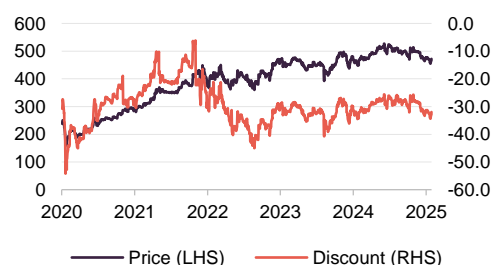
Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note 1) Based on Morningstar estimate

Sector	Private equity
Ticker	OCI LN
Base currency	GBP
Price	472.0p
NAV <sup>1</sup>	693.8p
Premium/(discount)	(32.0%)
Yield	1.0%

Note 1) Morningstar estimate, last published 695.0p as at 31 December 2024

## Share price and discount

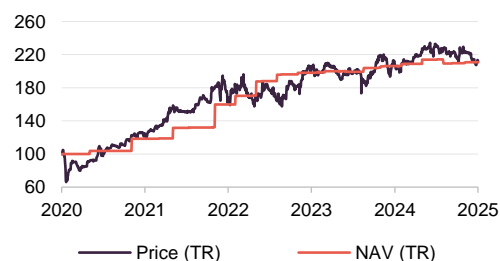
Time period 29/02/2020 to 26/03/2025



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

## Performance over five years

Time period 29/02/2020 to 28/02/2025



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co



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<b>Domicile</b>	<b>Bermuda</b>
<b>Inception date</b>	<b>03 August 2007</b>
<b>Manager</b>	<b>Oakley Capital Limited</b>
<b>Market cap</b>	<b>831.8m</b>
<b>Shares outstanding (exc. treasury shares)</b>	<b>176,231,749</b>
<b>Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.)</b>	<b>285,974 shares</b>
<b>Net gearing</b>	<b>Nil</b>

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*Continued from front page*

Whilst new investments are held close to cost in the earlier stages of ownership, the youngest portfolio in OCI's recent history is expected to begin maturing in 2025. Oakley suggests that as value creation drivers begin to take effect, the companies could quickly become more significant contributors to performance.

OCI has also announced an update to its capital allocation policy. Since 2017, OCI has been returning about £7.9m per annum to shareholders via a dividend of 4.5p, equivalent currently to a yield of about 1%. The board feels, that while the discount is wide, this money would be better used for share buybacks. OCI is committing to share buybacks of at least £20m per annum.

## About OCI

OCI gives its shareholders access to private equity investments made by Oakley Capital (Oakley). Oakley is a private equity investor with a focus on European mid-market investments (€100m – €1bn plus enterprise value). It invests in high-growth private companies and has built up a strong track record, with NAV and share price returns of about 111% over the five years ended 28 February 2025.

Oakley says that much of this is attributed to the EBITDA growth that it helps to drive within the portfolio. Over the course of 2024 this averaged 15%, up from 14% in 2023.

Oakley takes controlling stakes in companies that are operating in one of four key sectors – technology, digital consumer, education, and business services. These companies are expected to be benefiting from 'mega-trends' that will help drive revenue growth such as growing global demand for quality education; business shift to the cloud; digital consumer shift to digital search and online spending; increased regulation; and outsourcing.

Where it can, Oakley seeks to partner with business founders, backing proven leaders and running businesses with a high potential for value creation, through structures that ensure alignment with Oakley's goals (72% of all Oakley's deals have been founder-led). Often, founders will introduce Oakley to new opportunities, and they are also often prepared to entrust their own money to Oakley funds, having contributed more than €300m to Oakley funds to date.

Building a rapport with these business founders is key for Oakley. Oakley is often the first outside institution to provide capital to these businesses. It aims to bring expertise to help them professionalise and providing the capital that they need to grow.

74% of the deals that Oakley does are uncontested. The entry multiple is not inflated by a competitive process, but rather seems to reflect the trust that the founder is placing in Oakley, and the fact that they are prioritising culture over price.

Typically, Oakley will take a controlling stake, which potentially gives it greater ability to apply its perceivably proven value creation strategies to deliver positive outcomes. These include M&A: to date, Oakley has helped its portfolio companies to complete over 250 bolt-on acquisitions, enabling them to add scale, expand into new verticals and new regions; talent acquisition, where Oakley will help founders

Four key sectors – technology, digital consumer, education, and business services

Partnering with business founders

First through the door

Uncontested deals

Leveraging new technology

to recruit and retain highly regarded management to support their growth plans; and business transformation, for example helping a company shift its business model to recurring revenues, possibly bringing greater cash flow visibility and often a higher valuation.

Oakley's Portfolio Team of in-house experts can help founders and their management teams to execute these value creation drivers, as well as support other priorities. For example, the Capital Markets team can help portfolio companies to diversify their sources of funding or hedge against interest rate risk, while Oakley's head of data & analytics can help management teams to identify, plan, and implement data and AI initiatives.

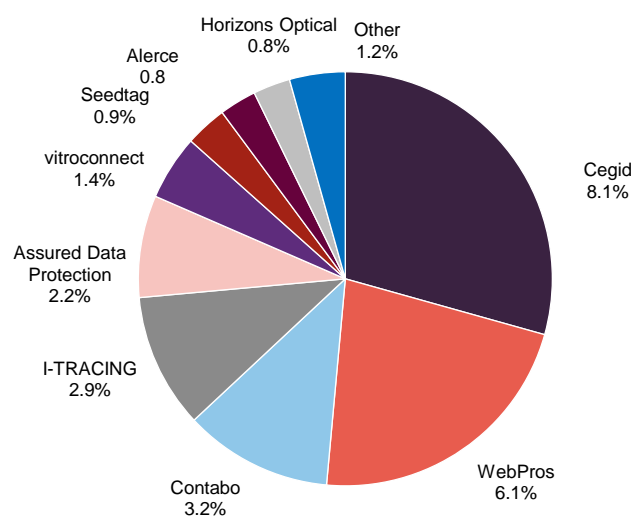
Cross-fertilisation of ideas in areas such as AI

Oakley's Touring Fund, backed by OCI, is investing behind what is thought to be the next generation of software powered by AI, providing early-stage growth capital to revenue-generating businesses, typically at Series B and C funding rounds. Insights gained through these investments are shared across the portfolio.

Modest NAV growth of 2% in 2024 (or 6% before the impact of FX) reflects conservative valuations and a younger portfolio: Oakley has invested the equivalent of 40% of the year-end NAV over the last two years, most of this into new businesses, as the macro-economic uncertainty created favourable conditions for doing deals and deploying capital. These additions to the portfolio are already performing strongly and delivering EBITDA growth. As they mature, they could quickly become more significant contributors to OCI's performance, as valuation uplift typically accelerates through the duration of an Oakley investment.

## Technology portfolio

**Figure 1: Split of the technology portion of OCI's portfolio at 31 December 2024**



Source: OCI

Record number of new investments in 2024, including five in technology

The opportunity in cybersecurity and adjacent technologies is considerable

Of OCI's £299m of investments in 2024, £214m was in eight new investments, a record number. This includes five new tech deals, which highlights the importance of this sector to Oakley. At the end of December 2024, the technology sector made up 28% of OCI's NAV. This consisted of 12 companies, spread across six Oakley funds. These cover a diverse range of subsectors, but a particular focus has been webhosting and cloud based SAAS solutions, which look to deliver efficiency and productivity gains through digitisation. More recently, Oakley has identified considerable opportunities in cybersecurity.

The structural drivers for these technologies are well understood, particularly in terms of the shift towards cloud technology and online consumption, however this does not mean the underlying growth trajectory is any less significant. The increasing reliance on these technologies could have also strengthened the need for ancillary services, such as cybersecurity.

As we discuss below, one might find the opportunity in cybersecurity and adjacent technologies to be considerable, driven by cloud adoption, AI, IoT, 5G, remote working, edge computing and other dynamics, making it one of the fastest-moving industries in the technology space.

This rapidly changing technology backdrop has notably created a wellspring of innovation, leading to an extremely fragmented marketplace with best of breed start-ups able to take considerable market share from much larger competitors. It could be said that these conditions create an exciting backdrop for Oakley which, as we will see, has been able to leverage its entrepreneurial foundations to identify and develop a select group of early market leaders. Next, we take a look at Oakley's newest tech investments, before reviewing the rest of the technology portfolio.

## I-TRACING (2.9%)

Cybersecurity firm I-Tracing ([i-tracing.com](https://i-tracing.com)) is one of Oakley's more recent acquisitions, with Oakley Fund V completing the £36m purchase in November 2024. Having identified the sector as an increasingly attractive opportunity, Oakley took time to identify a partner which aligned with its investment framework and entrepreneurial values. Its patient approach was rewarded when Oakley secured an exclusive deal to acquire a co-controlling stake in I-Tracing.

The ability to be selective has also been crucial from an operational perspective due to the fast-moving nature of the cybersecurity market, which has traditionally followed somewhat of a winner takes all approach.

In the UK alone, cyber-attacks have tripled in the last three years and are expected to grow in frequency and severity as criminals leverage AI to sharpen their lines of attack. This has dramatically increased the sophistication required by security systems.

These dynamics have worked in the favour of I-Tracing, which offers its blue-chip client base a one-stop-shop service including cyberdefence, managed detection & response services, identity & access management, cloud security, and data protection and audit. The ability to provide these wrap-around services has allowed I-Tracing to take considerable market share from competitors, enabling organic revenue growth of around 30% per annum. This has been boosted further by bolt-on acquisitions which have further entrenched its competitive advantage in mission-critical cybersecurity services.

Over the last three years, the company has more than doubled in size, and now employs around 700 cybersecurity experts across France, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Switzerland, and the UK.

The company has maintained its momentum into 2025, announcing a partnership with leading UK cybersecurity provider Bridewell, further growing its position as a dominant player in the western European market.

## **Bridewell**

On 21 February 2025, Oakley announced that I-TRACING would join forces with Bridewell ([bridewell.com](https://bridewell.com)), a leading provider of cybersecurity services in the UK, with the ambition of creating an independent European champion in the sub-sector.

Bridewell was founded in Reading in 2013 and provides managed and professional cybersecurity security services across information technology and operational technology environments. Its services range from architecture and design, governance, risk, and compliance, to fully managed security operations centre, penetration testing and data privacy. A significant point of differentiation is its focus on critical national infrastructure and other highly regulated and complex enterprise clients, over 200 of them. Bridewell has operations in the UK and the USA and employs over 300 employees globally.

Bridewell's founder and CEO Anthony Young is staying on in the combined business.

## **Assured Data Protection (2.2%)**

Having identified the growing opportunity in cybersecurity, Oakley has doubled down with Fund V acquiring UK based Assured Data Protection ([assured-dp.com](https://assured-dp.com)) for £26m in October 2024. Although not at the coal face of direct security, the managed services provider offers highly sought-after backup, disaster recovery and cyber resilience services.

These technologies improve business resilience by providing data protection continuity, with near-zero server recovery time in the event of a significant IT failure or cyber-attack. The specialist nature of this software has allowed the company to disrupt traditional ransomware defences, enabling it to take market share globally from more established players. As companies' data architecture becomes more complex and the prevalence and severity of cyber threats grow, this highly lucrative market is expected to expand rapidly, at almost 5x over the next five years.

Given the growth of the sector, Assured Data Protection is one of the fastest growing companies in the Oakley Capital portfolio on an organic LTM EBITDA basis, with revenue and adjusted EBITDA increasing 47% and 19% respectively versus the prior year. To support this, the business has been making material investments in areas such as sales, R&D, and finance. The focus for 2025 is on building out the team. Reviews of systems and the structure of the business are designed to allow it to scale.

## **vitroconnect (1.4%)**

vitroconnect ([vitroconnect.com](https://vitroconnect.com)) is another recent investment made by Oakley. In July 2024, the Origin II fund, Oakley's first fund dedicated to the lower mid-market, made its first investment acquiring a £16m majority stake in the German software

company whose proprietary brokerage platform links together infrastructure owners, carriers, service providers, utilities, and municipal associations. By integrating these platforms, the company is able to streamline business operations, which can help customers utilise broadband networks more efficiently, which can greatly reduce transaction costs.

This platform has enabled the company to expand rapidly, capitalising on the highly fragmented German broadband market. Currently, only around 3m German homes are connected to fibre broadband, one of the lowest rates in Europe, however this is predicted to grow rapidly to around 39m by 2035. The opportunity to capture this long growth runway is what first attracted Oakley to vitroconnect, with the founder-led company, in turn, recognising Oakley's strong track record in the software and telco space. Discussing the transaction, founder Dirk Pasternack specifically noted Oakley's highly regarded ability to guide companies through inflection points. Arguably one of the most crucial periods of development, the ability to help companies scale and capitalise on their initial competitive advantages is an area in which Oakley has seemed to have developed particular expertise over years of investment.

Oakley says that this vitroconnect deal is a real-world example of it being the partner of choice for founders. Around 90% of the time, Oakley will be the first outside investor to provide external capital to a business, and more than 75% of its deals are uncontested, allowing Oakley to be highly selective when choosing which companies to back.

## Alerce (0.8%)

Founded in 1989, Alerce ([alerce-group.com/en](https://alerce-group.com/en)) is a Spanish software business serving the transport, logistics, and courier service markets. It offers a product suite centred around its Alertran transport management system (TMS), with a comprehensive and modular portfolio of adjacent products such as 'Senda', which is designed to optimise last-mile deliveries.

In 2023, Oakley Capital Origin Fund I bought a majority stake in the company, investing alongside Alerce's founding family, including CEO Pablo Pardo Garcia. The family held onto a significant stake in the business. OCI's look-through share of the deal was about £9m.

Oakley says that Alerce's solutions are mission-critical to its customers as evidenced by minimal churn and high levels of net retention. Alerce has market leading positions, working with around 200 blue-chip companies across Europe and Latin America. Around 60 of those have opted for Alerce's ASPA SaaS solution.

In September 2024, Oakley supported Alerce as it made its first bolt-on acquisition, WeMob, a leading provider of fleet management and telematics SaaS solutions in Iberia. This was a business that was founded in 2014 and has since grown to support over 500 clients and over 15,000 vehicles.

## Horizons Optical (0.8%)

In March 2024, Origin Fund I acquired Horizons Optical ([horizonsoptical.com](https://horizonsoptical.com)), a medical software business focused on software used for the manufacture of premium spectacle lenses.



Oakley partnered with Santiago Soler, CEO of the company while buying out the interests of the original private equity backer. Horizons Optical was founded in Barcelona in 2017, but operates globally. Oakley sees an opportunity to accelerate the company's international expansion.

Horizons' software is used to design lenses and coatings used by independent ophthalmic laboratories and optical chains. Lenses can be customised to the needs of individual users; Horizon's Mimesys virtual reality headset helps produce accurate measurements that are used to produce bespoke lenses. 10m lenses were produced with Horizons' technology in 2023.

Oakley observes that this is a market with strong, long-term growth prospects underpinned by an ageing population and increased use of screens and mobile devices.

R&D is key to keeping Horizons Optical at the forefront of its market. Oakley will provide support for both investment in R&D and in sales and marketing.

## Cegid (8.1%)

Cegid ([cegid.com](https://www.cegid.com)), the largest investment in OCI's technology portfolio, valued at £99.2m, is a European leader in enterprise management software and cloud services.

In 2022, Fund III facilitated the strategic combination of Cegid with Group Primavera, which was itself the beneficiary of a number of acquisitions that enabled it to scale into Iberia's largest enterprise management software and cloud services platform. The company is now a European leader in this area. In addition to finance, tax, and human resources, it also provides industry-specific cloud solutions for retailers, accountants, manufacturers, and other service-sector professionals.

Cegid has been able to leverage its increased size and global footprint to accelerate its growth strategy, benefiting from an expanded offering. Its suite of SaaS solutions are provided to over 350,000 customers globally.

Despite the operational changes and developments in recent years, the company has continued to perform strongly, driving strong EBITDA and revenue growth. OCI says that over 90% of Cegid's revenues are now recurring with the installed base having largely migrated to SaaS, primarily driven by a strong uptake of cloud solutions by SMEs across its core markets of France, Spain, and Portugal.

## WebPros (6.1%)

WebPros ([WebPros.com](https://www.webpros.com)) is another company that might illustrate the benefits of the Oakley ecosystem. Steven Tredget and his team have long championed the benefit that Oakley derives as the partner of choice for business founders. The relationships that it has established may have created a conduit for deal origination and value creation. It could be put forward that nowhere is this clearer than its relationship with Thomas Strohe and Jochen Berger, with Oakley now on its fifth collaboration with the webhosting entrepreneurs.

After a number of strong performances, including Fund III's backing of Intergenica which later became part of GoDaddy, Oakley backed the team with Fund III to carve out Swiss-based Plesk from Parallels Group and later supported its purchase of cPanel, bringing together operations in Europe (Plesk) with North America (cPanel).



The combined business, bolstered by further bolt-on acquisitions and a revitalised sales effort, was later renamed WebPros. Now a global SaaS hosting platform for server management, it comprises two of the most widely used webhosting automation software platforms, supporting over 85m domains and 33m users across over 900,000 servers.

The WebPros deal could provide a notable case study of Oakley's value creation process, first leveraging its entrepreneurial foundations to identify long term potential, then applying its sector specific expertise and financial flexibility to unlock value.

While WebPros has undergone a period of consolidation in recent years, revenue and EBITDA growth in the mid to high single digits have provided steady momentum. Oakley says that WebPros' growth is expected to pick up again in 2025, driven by continued higher average revenue per licence across the business. Increased levels of recurring revenue have provided WebPros with clear revenue visibility. The business also continues to achieve strong EBITDA margins of c.62% and remains highly cash generative.

## Contabo (3.2%)

Contabo ([Contabo.com](https://www.contabo.com)) is a leading cloud infrastructure provider offering hosting services to developers and SMEs, with over 330,000 customers from c.180 countries. As noted above, this was another business introduced to Oakley by Thomas Strohe and Jochen Berger, in conjunction with Thomas Vollrath, once again potentially highlighting the ongoing value of these relationships.

Fund IV bought a stake in Contabo in 2019 after a competitive sales process failed. Now, with Oakley's backing, a couple of significant acquisitions have been completed (VSHosting in 2020 and G-Portal in 2021), and, through leveraging the expertise of the entrepreneurial investors, it is now a leading player. In June 2022, with the business appearing to experience success, it was acquired by KKR in a competitive auction process. The management team was keen that Oakley retained some exposure and Oakley wanted to take advantage of Contabo's future growth expectations, so Fund V bought a stake in the business as part of the transaction.

Contabo delivered revenue growth of 10% and EBITDA growth of 7% in the 12-month period to December 2024, versus the prior year. Growth was held back by higher-than-expected customer churn, but the business is working to address this.

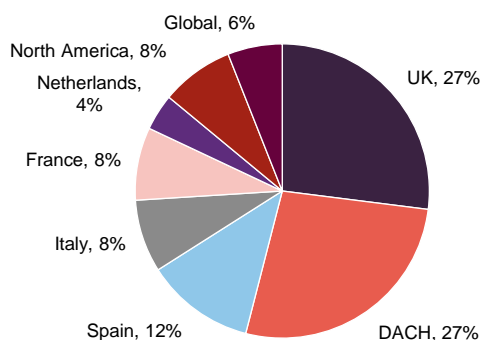
## Asset allocation

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At 31 December 2024, OCI had net assets of £1,226m. The net value of the individual fund investments plus the direct investments totalled £1,432m and OCI had cash of £103m offset by £310m of drawings on the revolving credit facility and other working capital (the numbers do not quite add up due to rounding).

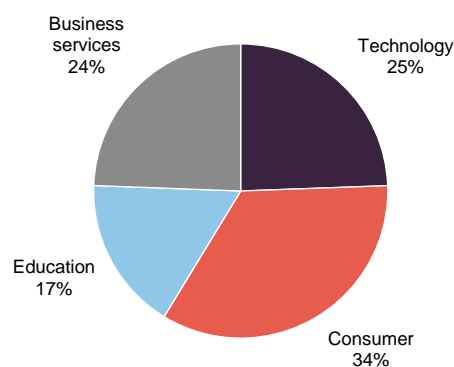
At 31 December 2024, the underlying portfolio was valued at an average EV/EBITDA ratio of 16.4x (in line with that of end December 2023); the EBITDA growth on the portfolio over 2024 was 15% on average; and the net debt/EBITDA ratio was 4.1x – Oakley points out that the industry average is about 5–6x.

**Figure 2: Geographic split of portfolio at 31 December 2024**



Source: OCI, Marten & Co

**Figure 3: Sector split of private equity funds and direct investment portfolio at 31 December 2024**



Source: OCI, Marten & Co

## Funds

**Figure 4: OCI by fund at 31 December 2024**

	Total size m	Year launched	Realised gross money multiple	Realised gross IRR	OCI commitment €m	OCI outstanding commitment €m
Fund II	€524	2013	3.1x	59%	190	10
Fund III	€800	2016	6.4x	64%	326	39
Fund IV	€1,460	2019	3.4x	44%	400	75
Origin I	€458	2021			129	23
Fund V	€2,851	2022			800	301
Fund VI <sup>1</sup>	€4,500	2025			500	500
PROfounders III	€77	2022			30	18
Touring	\$238	2023			\$100	33
Origin II	€791	2023			190	148
<b>Total</b>						<b>1,146<sup>2</sup></b>

Source: OCI, Marten & Co. Note 1) commitment announced 24 March 2025. Note 2) since reduced to £1,075m

On 24 March 2025, OCI announced that it had made a €500m commitment to Oakley's new Fund VI. Fund VI is about 58% bigger than its predecessor. It will follow the same strategy as Fund V.

## Cash and commitments

Figure 8 gives more information on OCI's commitments by fund – both the original commitment and the amount outstanding at end December 2024 (adjusted for the new commitment to Fund VI), and – where appropriate – the realised returns generated. As at 24 March 2025, OCI's outstanding commitments stood at £1,075m.

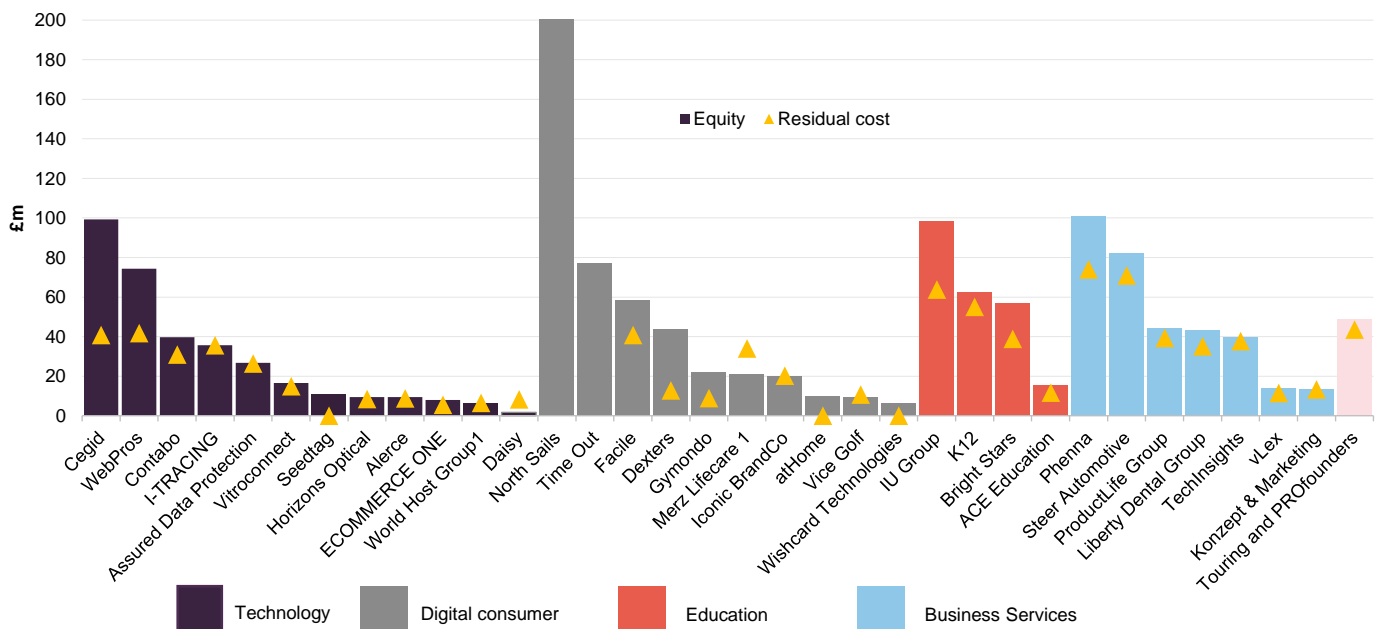
The board believes that about £300m of this is not likely to be drawn. The balance should be deployed over the course of the next five years.

Against that, OCI has £103m of cash and an undrawn credit facility totalling £122m. OCI is negotiating to refinance this credit facility with a larger one and longer dated maturity.

## New transactions

Since we last published, new investments have been made in Assured Data Protection (see page 6) and Konzept & Marketing. OCI's preferred equity position in North Sails has been converted into ordinary equity.

**Figure 5: Portfolio split by company as at 31 December 2024**



Source: OCI, Marten & Co. Note 1) Merz Lifecare was Windstar Medical

## Konzept & Marketing

Konzept und Marketing Gruppe ([k-m.info](https://www.k-m.info) – in German) operates as a managing general agent (MGA) in Germany for private non-life insurance products (in areas such as property, accident, and liability). This is a €28bn market that continues to expand. The company was founded in 2001 and is based in Hanover.

Big insurance companies delegate insurance underwriting decisions to MGAs. Konzept & Marketing is developing, marketing, and administering tailored insurance products on behalf of insurance companies in an asset light model.

Oakley says that Germany's insurance distribution market is highly fragmented and less efficient than markets such as the UK and US. It sees the potential for Konzept & Marketing to create considerable value by consolidating this market.

Oakley's partner in this business is its chairman Joachim Müller, ex chief executive of Alliance Commercial and the recently installed chief executive of wefox Holding AG. Oakley says that it will support the Konzept & Marketing management team to expand its product offering, strengthen the distribution function of the business, and pursue further M&A opportunities.

## Schülerhilfe

One disposal has been made since we last published. In October 2024, OCI announced that Fund III had agreed to sell its majority stake in Schülerhilfe to Levine Leichtman Capital Partners.

We discussed Schülerhilfe in our last note. Oakley invested in this professional tutoring business in 2017 and backed it to strengthen its business and expand. As a result, it was able to pivot its teaching programme online when COVID hit, launch "Kira" (an online AI learning chatbot), acquire a tutoring firm in Switzerland, and grow its addressable market with language courses for adults including on-site, online and B2B.

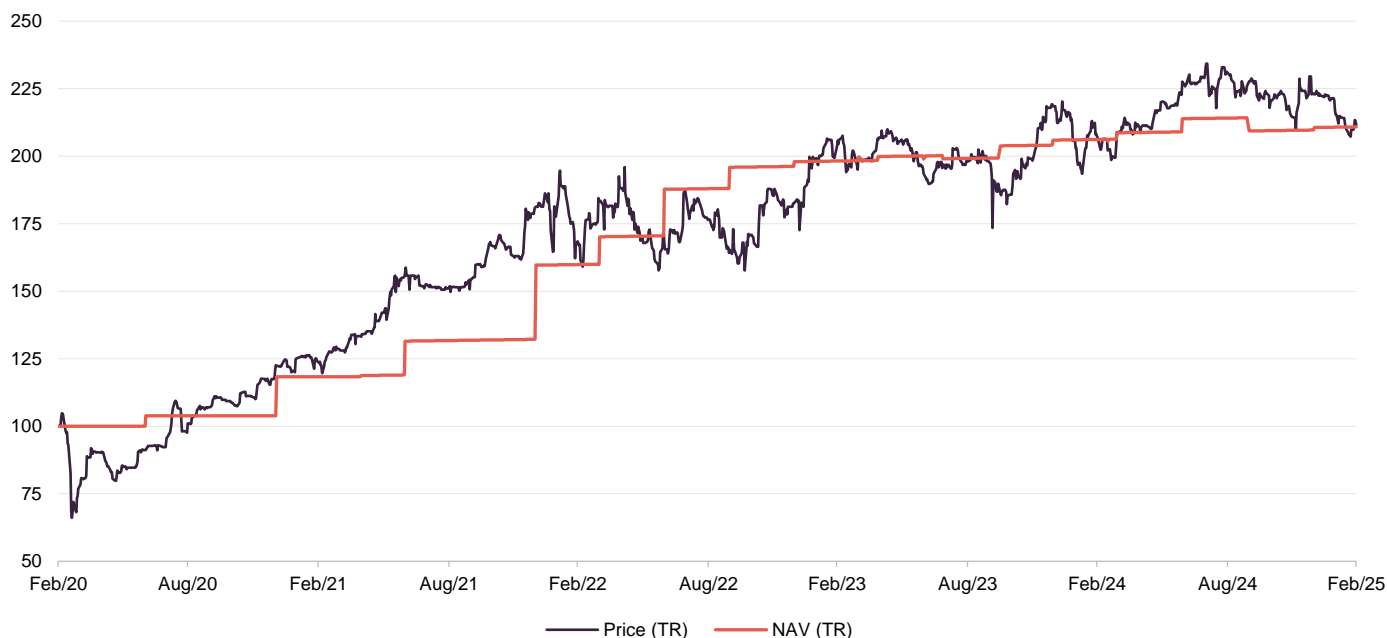
The £42m share of the proceeds due to OCI from the sale represented a 2.2x gross money multiple on OCI's investment.

## Performance

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OCI has continued to make progress in both share price and NAV terms over the past year, albeit at a slower pace than in the earlier part of the five-year chart shown in Figure 6. The primary reason for this is the slowdown in the pace of exits. During this period of consolidation, Oakley has been busy deploying OCI's capital into the next generation of new opportunities, which it believes will bear fruit in due course.

**Figure 6: OCI performance over the five years ended 28 February 2025**



**Source:** Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: NAV based on Morningstar estimates which incorporate the last published NAV of 695p as at 31 December 2024.

**Figure 7: Cumulative performance over various time periods ended 28 February 2025**

	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (%)	5 years (%)
Share price	(1.4)	(8.4)	2.1	25.7	111.7
NAV	0.6	(1.5)	2.3	31.9	110.9
Peer group share price median	(0.6)	1.6	3.2	17.9	75.3
Peer group NAV median	1.5	3.5	4.9	22.0	94.0
MSCI UK	6.9	6.2	19.3	33.3	61.6
LPX Europe <sup>1</sup>	3.8	4.4	10.4	10.5	38.0
MSCI World	1.1	9.1	16.2	42.7	94.6

**Source:** Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: NAV based on Morningstar estimates which incorporate the last published NAV of 695p as at 31 December 2024.

Note 1) LPX Europe is an index of the share prices of listed private equity equity companies and therefore is most comparable to OCI's share price returns.

## Annual results for the period ended 31 December 2024

On 13 March 2025, OCI announced its annual results for the year ended 31 December 2024. The company delivered a NAV total return of 2% (15p) or 6% (+40p) excluding the impact of foreign exchange, and a total shareholder return of 2%. The full year total NAV return includes 45p of net valuation gains, c. 75% of which were driven by earnings growth. The largest contributors were IU Group, Phenna Group, Dexters, Bright Stars, and Steer Automotive Group.

There was a record period of investment activity over 2024. In total, OCI made look-through investments of £299m, equivalent to c.25% of NAV at year-end. This

included £214m of new platform deals (Steer Automotive Group – £64m, ProductLife Group – £40m, I-TRACING – £36m, Assured Data Protection – £27m, vitroconnect – £16m, Konzept & Marketing – £13m, Alerce – £9m and Horizons Optical – £9m); follow-on investments of £54m including bolt-on acquisitions by Steer, Phenna Group, Bright Stars, Affinitas; and venture investments of £31m including Safely You, SafeBase, Daloopa, Netradyne. This follows an equally active 2023; collectively over the last 24 months an amount equivalent to c.40% of OCI's NAV has been deployed.

OCI also converted \$107m of its North Sails preferred equity position into ordinary equity “to better participate in the future returns of the leading action sports business”.

The manager highlights that the prospects of these investments are significant, however the majority have so far made limited contribution to the NAV growth at this stage in their ownership. As these investments mature, they could likely become more significant contributors to OCI's performance, as valuation uplift typically accelerates through the duration of an investment.

Over the period, three investments were also realised in line with their carrying values, underlining the robustness of OCI's valuations and generating an average 2.3x gross money multiple.

OCI's look-through share of proceeds from exits and refinancings during the period totalled £179m, consisting of £159m of realisations (idealista – £68m, Ocean Technologies Group – £49m and Schülerhilfe – £42m); and refinancings of £20m (Wishcard, GlobeTrotter and Schülerhilfe).

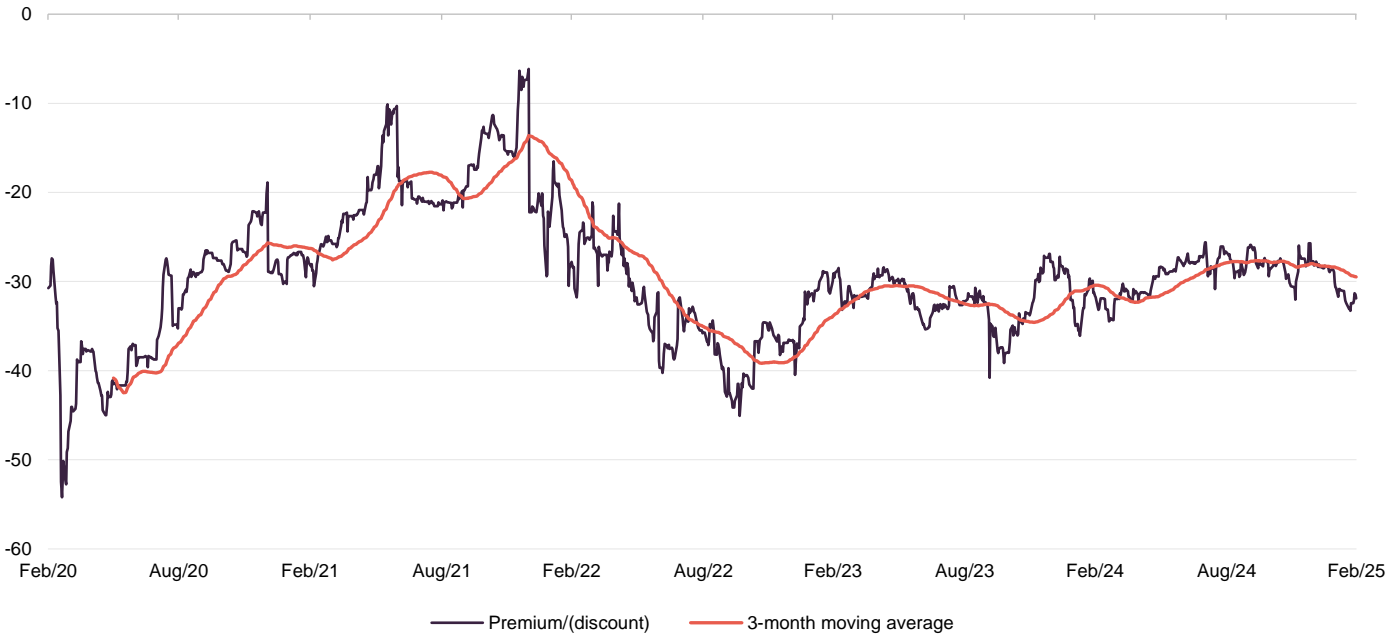
## Premium/discount

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Over the 12 months ended 28 February 2025, OCI's share price discount to NAV ranged between 34.5% and 25.6%, averaging 29.3%. At the time of publishing, the discount was 32.0%.

The broad trend of discount narrowing that OCI has experienced since October 2022, has continued in recent months, perhaps linked to the trust's strong long term track record. Nevertheless, it may be that a more decisive move could soon be possible. The board has reiterated its intention to seek a shift in trading in the company's shares from the Specialist Fund Segment to the Main Market of the LSE. That could broaden the range of investor platforms that permit dealing in OCI's shares and could have a significant positive impact on demand.

Figure 8: OCI discount over five years ended 28 February 2025



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: Incorporates NAV based on Morningstar estimates which incorporate the last published NAV of 695p as at 31 December 2024.

New capital allocation policy

The board has announced that the recently announced dividend payable on 25 April 2025 will be the last for the time being. It feels that, while OCI’s discount is wide, shareholders would be better served if the funds used to pay the dividend were used for share buybacks instead.

The board has committed to a share buyback programme of at least £20m per annum, around 2.4% of OCI’s current market cap. The first buyback under the new programme was announced on 25 March 2025.

Previous publications

You can read these notes by clicking the links or visiting our website, [quoteddata.com](https://quoteddata.com).

Figure 9: QuotedData’s previously published notes on OCI

Title	Note type	Date
The best-performing UK-listed private equity fund	Initiation	4 April 2023
Walking the walk	Update	15 December 2023
Getting down to business	Update	2 April 2024
In a class of its own	Update	19 September 2024

Source: Marten & Co





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