



**LEON**  
MFO Investments

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# **RISK DISCLOSURE**

*in the context of the provision of  
investment services*

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**VERSION 1**

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## **1. Introduction**

Leon MFO Investments Limited (hereinafter the “**Company**”) is registered and incorporated under the Laws of Cyprus with registration number HE 326316 and authorised as an Alternative Investment Fund Manager (hereinafter the “**AIFM**”) by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (hereinafter the “**CySEC**”) in accordance with the provisions of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Law of 2013, as amended from time to time (hereinafter the “**AIFM Law**”), with authorisation number AIFM 37/56/2013.

In addition to the collective management of Alternative Investment Funds, the Company under its capacity as an AIFM is also authorised by CySEC to provide the following services:

- i. the management of portfolios of investments, including those owned by pension funds and institutions for occupational retirement provision in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 19 of Directive 2003/41/EC, in accordance with mandates given by investors on a discretionary, client-by-client basis under section 6(6)(a) of the AIFM Law; and
- ii. the non-core service of investment advice under section 6(6)(b)(i) of the AIFM Law.

[services (i) and (ii) above shall be collectively referred to as the “**Investment Services**”].

In accordance with section 6(8) of the AIFM Law, whenever the Company provides any of the Investment Services, a number of provisions of the Investment Services and Activities and Regulated Markets Law of 2017, as amended from time to time, L.87(I)/2017, (hereinafter the “**Law**”) will apply to the Company, irrespective of the Company being an authorised AIFM under the AIFM Law. This is because the Company will be providing services that fall under the definition of investment services in accordance with the Law.

Following the implementation of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (hereinafter “**MiFID II**”) and in accordance to the Law, the Company aims to provide information to its clients about general Investment Risks and Risks associated with different categories of Financial Instruments.

## **2. General**

Every type of Financial Instrument has its own characteristics and entails different risks depending on the nature of each investment. A general description of the nature and the risks of financial instruments are summarized below. However, this document does not disclose all the associated risks or other important aspects of the Financial Instruments and it should not

be considered as investment advice or recommendation for the provision of any service or investment in any Financial Instrument.

The client should not carry out any transaction in these or any other Financial Instruments unless he is fully aware of their nature, the risks involved and the extent of his exposure in these risks. In case of uncertainty as to the meaning of any of the warnings described below, the client must seek an independent legal or financial advice before taking any investment decision.

The client should also be aware of and/or accept that:

- The value of any investment in Financial Instruments may fluctuate downwards and upwards and the investments may even become worthless.
- Previous results do not constitute an indication of a possible future return.
- Trading in Financial Instruments may impose tax and/or other duty.
- There is a great risk of incurring losses and damages as a result of the purchase and/or sale of any Financial Instrument.
- Placing contingent orders, such as “stop-loss” orders, will not necessarily limit losses to the intended amounts, as it may be possible to execute such orders under certain market conditions.
- Changes in the exchange rates may negatively affect the value, price and/or performance of the Financial Instruments traded in a currency other than the client`s base currency (currency of the client`s country of residence).
- As a result of transactions in instruments, financial commitments, other additional obligations, including contingent liabilities, additional to the cost of acquiring the instruments might occur.
- Regardless of any information which may be offered by the Company, the value of any investment in Financial Instruments may fluctuate downwards or upwards and it is even likely that the investment may become of no value.
- He/She is required to hold adequate financial resources to bear the risks involved.

Investing in some Financial Instruments and particularly derivatives entails the use of ‘leverage’. Leverage generally means the use of borrowed capital to multiply gains and losses. Trading in such financial instruments can amplify losses as well as gains with relatively small movement in the underlying market. High degrees of leverage can result in a quick loss of the entire capital or even expose the client to an additional loss. In considering whether to engage in this form of investment, the client should be aware of the following:

- The client may be requested at short notice to deposit additional margin to maintain his investment. If the client fails to provide such additional funds within the time frame required, his investment position may be closed at loss.
- Such transactions may not be undertaken on a regulated market which can expose the client to greater risks than transactions on a regulated market.

### 3. Investment Risks

3.1. **Market Risk** is the risk that the value of a portfolio will decrease due to the change in value of the market factors such as stock prices, interest rates, exchange rates and commodity prices. In case of a negative fluctuation in prices, investors in financial instruments run the risk of losing a part or all of their invested capital.

The client should acknowledge and accept that a Financial Instrument on foreign markets may involve risks unlike the usual risks of the markets in the Client's country of residence. In some circumstances, these risks may be larger. The outlook of profit or loss from transactions on foreign markets is also influenced by exchange rate fluctuations.

3.2. **Systemic risk** is the risk of collapse of the entire market or the entire financial system. It refers to the risks imposed by interdependencies in a system or market, where the failure of a single entity can cause a cascading failure, which could potentially bring down the entire system or market. Systemic risk, also known as “undiversifiable” risk, affects the overall market, not just a particular stock or industry. This type of risk is both unpredictable and impossible to completely avoid. It cannot be mitigated through diversification, only through hedging or by using the right asset allocation strategy.

3.3. **Credit Risk** is the risk of a borrower`s failure to repay a loan or otherwise meet a contractual obligation (i.e. failure to pay interest to bond holders). Credit risk is closely tied to the potential return of an investment, the most notable being that the yields on bonds correlate strongly to their perceived credit risk. The credit risk also includes the risk of loss as a result of the non-performance or/and undue performance of obligations by counterparties under the contracts concluded by the client.

3.4. **Settlement Risk** is the risk that a counterparty does not deliver a security or its value in cash per agreement when the security was traded after the other counterparty or counterparties have already delivered security or cash value per the trade agreement.

This risk is limited where the investment involves financial instruments traded in regulated markets because of the regulation of such markets. This risk increases in case the investment involves financial instruments traded outside regulated markets or where their settlement takes place in different time zones or different clearing systems.

- 3.5. **Liquidity Risk** is the risk stemming from the lack of marketability of an investment that cannot be bought or sold quickly enough to prevent or minimize a loss. Liquidity risk becomes particularly important to investors who are about to hold or currently hold an asset, since it affects their ability to trade. The client should be aware that some of the financial instruments may not become immediately liquid as a result of reduced demand, and the client may not be able to obtain the information on the value of these or the extent of the associated risks.
- 3.6. **Operational Risk** is the risk of loss due to inadequate or failed internal procedures or systems, human error or due to external events, whether deliberate, accidental or natural occurrences. Internal events include, but are not limited to, fraud by employees, clerical and record-keeping errors and information system malfunctions or manipulations. External events include floods, fires, earthquakes, riots or terrorist attack or fraud by outsiders. Operational risk will change from industry to industry, and is an important consideration to make when looking at potential investment decisions. Industries with lower human interaction are likely to have lower operational risk.
- 3.7. **Political Risk** is the risk that an investment's returns could suffer as a result of political changes or instability in a country. Instability affecting investment returns could stem from a change in government, legislative bodies, other foreign policy makers or military control.
- 3.8. **Volatility Risk** is the risk that major fluctuations in the price of a financial instrument will have a negative effect on the investment.
- 3.9. **Tax Risk** arises because of the uncertainty associated with tax laws. Changes in law may lead to changes in the tax treatment of capital gains and income from securities, in terms of both the amount and nature of taxes.
- 3.10. **Interest Rate Risk** is the risk that an investment's value will change due to a change in the absolute level of interest rates, in the spread between two rates, in the shape of the

yield curve or in any other interest rate relationship. Such changes usually affect securities inversely and can be reduced by diversifying (investing in fixed-income securities with different durations) or hedging (e.g. through an interest rate swap). Interest rate risk affects the value of bonds more directly than stocks, and it is a major risk to all bondholders. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall and vice versa.

***It should be highlighted that the above list of risks is non-exhaustive.***

#### **4. Financial Instruments and Related Risks**

- 4.1. **Stock/Shares** represent ownership in the share capital of a company. Investors are exposed to all major risks mentioned in section 3 above and in particular to market risk. It must be emphasized that there are no guarantees when it comes to individual stocks. Some companies pay out dividends, but many others do not. Without dividends, an investor can make profit on a stock only through its price appreciation in the open market. On the downside, in case of the company`s insolvency, the investor may lose the entire value of his investment.
- 4.2. **Warrants.** Companies will often include warrants as part of a new-issue offering to entice investors into buying the new security. A warrant is like an option. It gives the holder the right but not the obligation to buy an underlying security at a certain price, quantity and future time. It is unlike an option in that a warrant is issued by a company, whereas an option is an instrument of the stock exchange. The Warrant is invariably limited in time, with the consequence that if the investor does not exercise or sell the Warrant within the per-determined timescale, the Warrant expires with no value. Warrants provide leverage, the extent of which depends on the Warrant`s exercise price relative to the price of the underlying security. Therefore, a relatively small fluctuation in the price of the underlying security may lead to a disproportionately larger fluctuation, favourable or unfavourable, to the price of the Warrant. The price of Warrants can therefore be very volatile. Before the purchase of a Warrant, the investor must be aware that there is a risk of losing the whole amount of his investment as well as any commissions and costs incurred. Warrants are subject to all of the major risks mentioned in Section 3.
- 4.3. **Rights** are securities giving stockholders entitlement to purchase new shares issued by the corporation at a predetermined price (normally less than the current market price)

in proportion to the number of shares already owned. Rights are issued only for a short period of time, after which they expire. If the Rights are exercised, its holder is required to pay to the issuer the exercise price. The exercise of the Right will give its holder all the rights and risks of ownership of the underlying security. Rights provide leverage, the extent of which depends on the Right`s exercise price relative to the price of the underlying security. Therefore, a relatively small fluctuation in the price of the underlying security may lead to a disproportionately larger fluctuation, favourable or unfavourable, to the price of the Right. The price of the Right can therefore be very volatile. Rights are subject to all of the major risks mentioned in Section 3.

- 4.4. **Fixed Income Securities/Bonds** are debt securities that provide a return in the form of fixed periodic payments and the eventual return of principal at maturity. Bonds can be issued either by governments (government bonds) or companies (corporate bonds). In this sense, bonds represent a form of government or corporate borrowing. The credit risk of government, financial organizations, and corporations and generally of any Bond issuer may be rated by Credit Rating Agencies. The result of these ratings constitutes a valuable guide for investors in Bonds. Bond issues of lower credit ratings tend to offer higher coupons to compensate the investors for the higher risk they assume. Some Bonds trade on recognized stock exchanges while many trade outside regulated markets (OTC). Liquidity usually differs between various types of Bonds. Bonds are subject to credit risk where the issuer of the Bond may not be financially solvent to pay to investors` interest or even the principle of the Bond. Interest rate risk is the risk where increases in interest rates may cause significant decrease in the market value of a fixed-rate Bond and where decreases in interest rates may affect the reinvestment of the coupon payments of a fixed-rate Bond. When interest rates increase, a Bond issued previously carrying lower fixed rate may decrease in value. To his extend the longer the maturity of the Bond, the higher its sensitivity to changes in interest rates is. When interest rates decrease, the coupon payments received from fixed-rate Bonds are reinvested at lower interest rates while coupon payments received by investors from floating-rate Bonds decrease.
- 4.5. **Convertible Bonds** give the holder the option to exchange the bond for a predetermined number of shares in the issuing company. When first issued, they act just like regular corporate bonds with a slightly lower interest rate. Because convertibles can be changed into stock and thus benefit from a rise in the price of the underlying stock, companies offer lower yields on convertibles. If the stock performs poorly there is no conversion and the investor`s return is below that of a non-convertible bond.



- 4.6. **Callable Bonds:** are bonds that can be redeemed by the issuer prior to their maturity. Any difference between a Bond`s call price and nominal value is the call premium. Call provisions expose investors to additional risks and are therefore issued with higher yields than comparable Bonds with no such provisions.
- 4.7. **Collective Investments Schemes** involve an arrangement that enables a number of investors to ‘pool’ their assets and have these professionally managed by an independent fund manager. Investments typically include bonds and shares of listed companies but depending on the type of the scheme, they may include broader investments such as property. The ability to liquidate certain Schemes may be limited, depending on the terms of operation and the long time period of notice required for redemption during which the value of each unit may exhibit high volatility and possibly decrease. It is possible that there is no secondary market for such Schemes and hence such an investment may be liquidated only through redemption.
- 4.8. **Hedge Funds** are aggressively managed portfolios of investments that use advanced investment strategies such as leveraged, long, short and derivative positions in both domestic and international markets with the goal of generating high returns (either in an absolute sense or over a specified market benchmark). Hedge funds are considered a riskier investment than traditional funds and are suitable for more experienced investors, since they are not regulated and lack transparency. They usually invest in risky or illiquid securities and although they target absolute returns, if they fail to manage risk, they may realize significant losses. Beyond the liquidity risk, Hedge Funds have the ability to leverage which means that a relatively small fluctuation in the price of the underlying security may lead to a proportionately larger fluctuation, favourable or unfavourable, to the value of the investment.
- 4.9. **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** are securities that track an index, a commodity or a basket of assets like an index fund, but trade like a stock on an exchange. ETFs experience price changes throughout the day as they are bought and sold. Investments in ETFs expose investors to the same risk as the underlying securities but to a significantly lower degree due to the diversification of investments.

- 4.10. **Money Market Instruments** are usually debt securities which mature in one year or less (Treasury Bills) and which are usually traded in local money markets. Risks related to this type of instruments are the liquidity risk, interest rate risk and credit spread risk.
- 4.11. **Futures** are financial derivatives contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset (or the seller to sell the asset), such as physical commodity or a financial instrument, at a predetermined future date and price. Futures contracts detail the quality and quantity of the underlying asset; they are standardized to facilitate trading on a futures exchange. Some futures contracts may call for physical delivery of the asset, while others are settled in cash. The futures markets are characterized by the ability to use very high leverage relative to stock markets. Therefore, a relatively small fluctuation in the price of the underlying asset may lead to a disproportionately larger fluctuation, favourable or unfavourable, to the price of the futures.
- 4.12. **Options** are financial derivatives that represent a contract sold by one party (option writer) to another party (option holder) and trade on exchanges or Over The Counter (OTC). The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call) or sell (put) a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price (the strike price) during a certain period of time or on a specific date (exercise date). Their value is derived from the market value of the underlying asset (shares, currencies, interest rates, commodities, financial indices or any combination) and its volatility, the time up to maturity as well as the interest rates. Call options provide the option to buy at certain price, therefore the buyer would benefit from an appreciation of the stock price, while put options give the option to sell at a certain price, therefore the buyer would benefit from a depreciation of the stock price. Options are extremely versatile securities that can be used in many different ways. Traders use options to speculate, which is a relatively risky practice, while hedgers use options to reduce the risk of holding an asset.
- 4.13. **Swaps** are derivatives in which counterparties exchange certain benefits of one party`s financial instruments for those of the other party`s financial instrument. The benefits in question depend on the type of financial instrument involved. For example, the most common type of Swaps is Interest Swap Agreements. In interest rate swaps, one contracting party agrees to pay to the other contracting party a fixed interest rate on a pre-agreed principal amount for a specific time period. The principal in such type of Swaps is usually not exchanged. On each settlement date payments of the contracting parties are netted so that there is only one payment made from the contracting party with

the greater liability. Interest Rate Swap Agreement are usually used to convert a floating rate loan into a fixed rate one or/and vice versa. Another common type of Swaps is Currency Swap Agreement where the contracting parties exchange a specific amount in different currencies for a specific time period. In Currency Swap Agreement there is an exchange of principal both at the inception and termination of the agreement, while the payments between two contracting parties on the settlement dates are not netted since they are in different currencies. In such Agreements there is no foreign exchange risk since the exchange rate is determined at the inception of the agreement. Depending on whether the investor wishes to be hedged against a possible rise or fall in the prices of the related commodity, he takes the appropriate 'position' in the swap agreement (that is to pay a fixed or floating price). Even though no initial premium is required, in case the market 'moves' against the investor then he may be required to pay the amount corresponding to the difference owed. Swaps include both credit and interest rate risks. Currency swaps entail greater credit risk than Interest Rate Swaps due to the exchange of principal both at the inception and termination of the agreement as well as the payments from both parties on each settlement date.

- 4.14. **Contracts for Differences** are contracts between two parties, typically described as 'buyer' and 'seller', stipulating that the seller will pay to the buyer the difference between the current value of an asset and its value at contract time. (If the difference is negative then it is the buyer who pays to the seller.) In effect CFDs are financial derivatives that allow investors to take advantage of prices moving up (long positions) or prices moving down (short positions) on underlying financial instruments and are often used to speculate on those markets. For example, when applied to equities, such a contract is an equity derivative that allows investors to speculate on share price movements without the need for ownership of the underlying shares. A Contract for Differences entails a high degree of risk because of the leverage involved. A relatively small fluctuation in the price of the underlying asset may lead to a disproportionately larger fluctuation in the value of the investment.

## **5. No Guarantees of Profits**

There are no guarantees of profit nor of avoiding losses when trading CFDs and FX Contracts, Customer received no such guarantees from the Company or from any of its representatives. The client should be aware of the risks inherent in trading CFDs and FX Contracts and is financially able to bear such risks and withstand any losses incurred.

The Client accepts that a Derivative Financial Instrument (i.e. option, future, forward, swap, contract for difference) may be a non-delivery spot transaction giving an opportunity to make profit on changes in currency rates, commodity, stock market indices or share prices.

## **6. Accuracy of Information**

The Company has taken reasonable measures to ensure the accuracy of the information on the website. However, the Company does not guarantee the accuracy of the information and will not accept liability for any loss or damage that may arise directly or indirectly from the content or your inability to access the website, for any delay in or failure of the transmission or the receipt of any instruction or notifications sent through the website.