

Morgan Stanley

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Morgan Stanley Investment Funds (MS INV)

# Global Convertible Bond Fund



# An Attractive Way to Obtain Exposure to Rising Equities, but with Defensive Characteristics

Convertible bonds are distinctive instruments which are often misunderstood by investors and underrepresented in investment portfolios. In essence, a convertible is a hybrid instrument that consists of a regular corporate bond with an equity call option attached. They have been part of the investment universe for over 100 years.

## Why Invest in Convertibles?

Convertibles can be a valuable diversifying tool in a balanced portfolio. Due to their hybrid nature, convertibles display characteristics of both equities and bonds, providing yield potential to investors as well as the opportunity to participate in the potential upside of shares. Research shows that adding convertible bonds to a portfolio of pure equity and credit increased the portfolio's expected return.<sup>1</sup>

## What Makes Convertibles "Different" from the Equity and Credit Constituents?

**1. NOT A DIRECT OWNERSHIP IN EQUITY:** Instead, convertibles contain long-term equity call options that help manage downside risk but provide a direct link to rising share prices and rising equity volatility.

### 2. THEY PROVIDE DIVERSIFICATION AWAY FROM KEY BENCHMARKS:

Approximately two thirds of issuers in the convertible bond market do not issue straight debt, providing underlying credit exposure that differs from core benchmarks.

### 3. CONVERTIBLE MARKETS ARE INDEPENDENT FROM CREDIT AND EQUITY MARKETS:

Demand and supply of convertibles is independent of credit and equity markets, making them relatively cheaper or richer at unique times, providing portfolio diversification

Convertibles display an asymmetric return payoff relative to stocks, providing the opportunity to participate in the potential upside of the equity market while exhibiting a reduced exposure to the possible downsides. In addition to the optionality they provide to investors, convertibles have a track record of strong historical returns, offering a current yield that typically matches the dividend yield of a portfolio of equities.

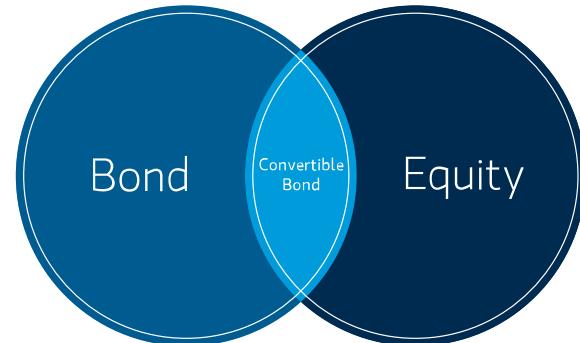
## Why is Now the Right Time to Invest in Convertibles?

**FUNDAMENTAL REASONS:** In the current market environment, convertibles can benefit both equity-focused and bond-focused investors. Equity markets have performed well but in recent times have shown more volatility. Investors who are fully invested in stocks might therefore consider reallocating a portion of their equity investment to convertibles to help protect the downside and benefit from market volatility. On the other hand, investors who are fully invested in bonds will be concerned about the prospect of rates rising, and convertibles are one of the few fixed income strategies that typically benefit when rates go up.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Like all assets, convertible bonds trade cheaper than their fair value when supply exceeds demand. While the demand for convertibles has been strong in recent years, the supply has been stronger, particularly in the U.S. where positive equity markets have led companies to issue convertible bonds. This strong supply provides our market with a large range of attractively priced bonds that can provide added return over time due to their cheaper valuation.

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**Convertibles are hybrid instruments that provide exposure to regular corporate bonds but also provide the capability to participate in the upswing of equity**



<sup>1</sup> Source: Bank of America and Merrill Lynch Convertible Research (12/1989 to 07/2010).

This represents how the portfolio management team generally implements its investment process under normal market conditions included here for informational purposes only.

**Investment Team**

Tom D. Wills, Managing Director  
 Christian G. Roth, Managing Director  
 Richard Class, Managing Director

**INVESTMENT EXPERIENCE**

21 years  
 32 years  
 19 years

Team members may be subject to change at any time without notice.

**Differentiators****1. Performance and Diversification<sup>2</sup>**

The unique structure of convertible bonds enables them to add uncorrelated performance and diversification benefits.

**2. Emphasis on Total Returns**

The team focuses on opportunities for total portfolio returns rather than managing to a specific benchmark.

**3. Clear Process with Time-Tested Results**

Our investment process is clear and easily understood. It is based on our experience in optimally managing this asset class over two decades.

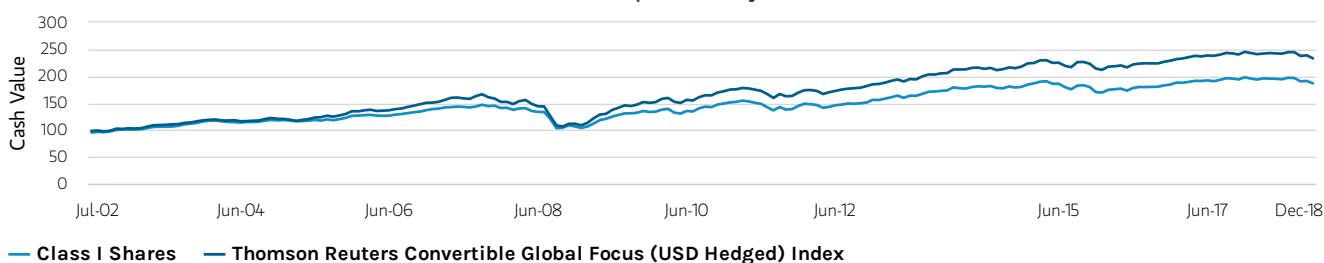
**4. Experienced Team**

The lead fund management team has over 20 years experience in the global convertibles space, delivering good returns through a variety of economic cycles.

**5. Global Approach**

We believe that given the size of the investment universe, a regional approach is inefficient. Our global approach ensures that we consider the entire opportunity set available.

<sup>2</sup> Diversification does not protect against a loss in a particular market; however it allows to spread that risk across various asset classes.

**MS INVF Global Convertible Bond Fund****Class I (% net of fees) Performance of 100 USD Invested Since Inception (17 July 2002)****12 Month Performance Periods to Latest Month End (%)**

	DECEMBER '17 - DECEMBER '18	DECEMBER '16 - DECEMBER '17	DECEMBER '15 - DECEMBER '16	DECEMBER '14 - DECEMBER '15	DECEMBER '13 - DECEMBER '14
Class I Shares	-3.69	6.01	1.73	0.47	3.64
Thomson Reuters Convertible Global Focus (USD Hedged) Index	-3.01	6.00	1.59	3.83	4.73

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. All performance data is calculated NAV to NAV, net of fees, and does not take account of commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. The sources for all performance and Index data is Morgan Stanley Investment Management. All data as of 31 December 2018 and subject to change daily. Please visit our website [www.morganstanley.com/im](http://www.morganstanley.com/im) to see the latest performance returns for the fund's other share classes.

The Blended Index performance shown is calculated using the ICE BofAML G300 Global Convertible Index Local Currency to 31 October 2005, the ICE BofAML G300 Global Convertible Index USD Hedged to 30 April 2011 and the Thomson Reuters Convertible Global Focus (USD Hedged) Index thereafter.

**Share Class I Risk and Reward Profile**

The risk and reward category shown is based on historic data.

- Historic figures are only a guide and may not be a reliable indicator of what may happen in the future.
- As such this category may change in the future.
- The higher the category, the greater the potential reward, but also the greater the risk of losing the investment. Category 1 does not indicate a risk free investment.
- The fund is in this category because it invests in fixed income securities which convert into company shares and the fund's simulated and/or realised return has experienced medium rises and falls historically.
- The fund may be impacted by movements in the exchange rates between the fund's currency and the currencies of the fund's investments.

This rating does not take into account other risk factors which should be considered before investing, these include:

- The value of bonds are likely to decrease if interest rates rise and vice versa.
- The value of financial derivative instruments are highly sensitive and may result in losses in excess of the amount invested by the Sub-Fund.

- Issuers may not be able to repay their debts, if this happens the value of your investment will decrease. This risk is higher where the fund invests in a bond with a lower credit rating.
- The fund relies on other parties to fulfill certain services, investments or transactions. If these parties become insolvent, it may expose the fund to financial loss.
- There may be an insufficient number of buyers or sellers which may affect the funds ability to buy or sell securities.
- There are increased risks of investing in emerging markets as political, legal and operational systems may be less developed than in developed markets.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may lose all or a substantial portion of his or her investment.
- The value of the investments and the income from them will vary and there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.
- Investments may be in a variety of currencies and therefore changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Furthermore, the value of investments may be adversely affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the investor's reference currency and the base currency of the investments.

## DEFINITIONS

**Convertible bonds** are a type of bond that has attached to it the optionality for the holder to convert the bond into a specified number of shares of common stock of the issuing company or cash of equal value. **Equity call options** give the option holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy a stock at a specified price within a specified time period.

## INDEX INFORMATION

The **Thomson Reuters Convertible Global Focus USD Hedged Index** is a market weighted index with a minimum size for inclusion of \$500 million (US), 200 million (Europe), 22 billion Yen, and \$275 million (Other) of Convertible Bonds with an Equity Link.

**ICE BofAML G300 Global Convertible Index - Local Currency** is a global convertible index composed of companies representative of the market structure of countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region. It is composed of securities denominated in their respective local currencies.

**ICE BofAML G300 Global Convertible Index USD Hedged** is a global convertible index composed of companies representative of the market structure of countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region. It is hedged to the U.S. dollar.

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