

STONEHAGE FLEMING TO APPOINT GERRIT SMIT AS CHAIRMAN, WITH CAROLYN BELL TO BECOME LEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER OF GLOBAL BEST IDEAS EQUITY STRATEGY

16 March 2026 – Stonehage Fleming has announced that Gerrit Smit, Founder and Lead Portfolio Manager of the \$4bn Stonehage Fleming Global Best Ideas Equity Strategy (GBI), will become Chairman of the group’s Global Equity Management business and its Investment Committee unit on 14 April 2026.

Carolyn Bell, currently Deputy Portfolio Manager of GBI, will then succeed Gerrit as Lead Portfolio Manager, assuming responsibility for the day-to-day management of GBI and other collective vehicles with the same investment strategy.

Launched by Gerrit in 2013, GBI is a high-conviction equity fund investing in the world’s best quality growth companies. Since inception, the Fund has generated a compound annual return of 10.5%.¹

Carolyn joined Stonehage Fleming Investment Management (SFIM) in April 2024 and became Deputy Portfolio Manager of GBI in October 2024. As Lead Portfolio Manager she will continue to call on the experience of Gerrit, who will chair the GBI Investment Committee as part of his role.

Carolyn has 17 years’ industry experience, having previously been an Investment Manager at Aegon Asset Management, managing a number of strategies covering US and global equities, and technology. Prior to Aegon Asset Management, Carolyn spent five years as an Investment Analyst at Baillie Gifford.

Stonehage Fleming Equity Management is a Quality Growth equity boutique within the wider Stonehage Fleming Investment Management business, based in London.

Graham Wainer, CEO Investment Management, commented: “We are delighted that Gerrit is becoming Chairman in April to lead the Global Equity Management business through the next stage of its growth and development. There is no better or more knowledgeable person to take on this crucial role.”

“We place great emphasis on succession planning across our business and we are thrilled to announce that Carolyn Bell will succeed Gerrit as Lead Portfolio Manager of GBI. Having worked closely with Gerrit and the team for some time, she is very much steeped in the GBI philosophy and approach, which will ensure the transition will be a seamless one for our clients.”

Gerrit Smit commented: “Carolyn has been an important member of the team since joining the business and has been integral to the development of GBI in her role as Deputy Portfolio Manager.”

“Continuing within our shared GBI investment philosophy, strategy and process, Carolyn is the right person to succeed me on the strategy when I transition to Chairman, bringing to bear her deep industry expertise and experience working with the GBI investment team. We share the same investment

¹ Fund inception date: 16 August 2013. Performance stated for Class D (GBP), net of fees, to 28 February 2026.

philosophy and approach to portfolio management, and I look forward to working with Carolyn and our team as part of the GBI commitment to continue to deliver for our clients.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Stonehage Fleming Equity Management is a growth equity boutique and sits within the wider Stonehage Fleming Investment Management business based in London. Its flagship strategy, the Stonehage Fleming Global Best Ideas Equity Fund, was launched in August 2013 by Gerrit Smit. It currently has around \$2bn of assets, with a further \$2bn managed under the same model in segregated accounts.

Gerrit Smit is Head of the Equity Management team and lead portfolio manager of the GBI fund. He invests for sustainable growth with a particular focus on sustainable organic growth, quality of management, operational efficiencies and free cash flow generation. GBI is a concentrated, high conviction portfolio of 20-30 holdings chosen for their quality, strategic competitive edge and attractive valuation.

For more information: www.globalbestideas.com

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