

## **Patria Private Equity Trust**

## Completes a successful £180m secondary sale

Patria Private Equity Trust (PPET) has announced that it has completed a secondary sale of a portfolio of 14 older vintage and non-core investments for c €216m (c £180m or 13% of PPET's end-August 2024 NAV). This represents a minor 5% discount to the carrying value of the sold assets at end-March 2024 (H124) and translates into a robust 1.9x multiple on invested capital and a 16% internal rate of return (IRR). We consider this good news for PPET for several reasons. The sale should allow the trust to repay part, or all, of the currently drawn portion of its credit facility within the next 12 months. It should also provide PPET with additional dry powder for new investments and dividends or buybacks and streamline its portfolio to increase its focus on the private equity (PE) mid-market.

### Disposal price underpins PPET's portfolio valuations

The small discount at which the secondary sale was agreed (which is already reflected in PPET's end-August 2024 NAV, according to press reports) is well below the 31% discount to NAV at which PPET's shares are now traded. This holds true even if we account for the fact that PPET will receive the consideration in two tranches: around 45% in December 2024 and 55% in September 2025. Notably, 10 of the 14 sold fund investments (making up c 50% of the deal value) are older vintages (2011–16), which are typically subject to wider discounts in the PE secondary markets. For example, buyout funds with 2011 and older vintages traded at a 31% discount to NAV in H124, according to the last Jefferies Global Secondary Market Review. The average discount to NAV across all limited partner-led secondary buyout deals (of which nearly 80% by volume were for 2017 or newer vintages) was 6%. Therefore, we believe that the price of PPET's transaction reflects its prudent approach to valuing its assets.

## Sharpened focus on the European PE mid-market

The other half of the deal value is attributable to fund investments with 2017–19 vintages, which were weighted to large-cap buyouts that have become non-core for PPET. This enables the trust to further shift its portfolio weighting to the PE midmarket, which we believe offers several potential advantages outlined in our March 2024 note. The IRR generated on the sold fund investments is broadly in line with the 15.44% 10-year horizon pooled net return for US private equity, as calculated by Cambridge Associates as of Q124.

## Significantly improving its balance sheet headroom

The secondary transaction gives PPET more balance sheet flexibility as it now has £333m in short-term resources (cash, the undrawn part of the credit facility and the deferred consideration), comfortably covering 53% of PPET's outstanding investment commitments. The deal consideration exceeds the entire drawn amount on PPET's credit facility (£142.3m or c 47% of the facility's total size at end-August 2024). This should allow the trust to partly or fully repay its credit facility and/or drive further investments, while supporting its shareholder returns policy. Alternatively, in a scenario of net capital calls from PPET's fund investments due to a continued subdued PE exit environment, it will provide PPET with an additional cash runway.

# Investment trusts Private equity

#### 24 October 2024

10.5%

 Price
 533p

 Market cap
 £813m

 NAV\*
 £1,182m

 NAV per share\*
 771.6p

 Discount to NAV
 30.9%

 Yield
 3.1%

 Ordinary shares in issue
 152.4m

 Code/ISIN
 PPET/GB0030474687

 Primary exchange
 LSE

 52-week high/low
 586.0p
 428.0p

 NAV high/low
 776.4p
 748.6p

\*As at end-August 2024.

#### Gearing

Net gearing at end-August 2024

#### **Fund objective**

Patria Private Equity Trust's investment objective is to achieve long-term total returns through holding a diversified portfolio of private equity funds and direct investments into private companies alongside private equity managers (coinvestments), a majority of which will have a European focus.

#### **Bull points**

- Focus on strong relationships with top-performing European private equity managers.
- High exposure to less cyclical sectors.
- Increasing share of co-investments that offer greater control over capital deployment and are not subject to second-layer fees.

#### Bear points

- Macroeconomic uncertainty and lower debt availability may curb global M&A volumes (and in turn private equity exit activity).
- Interest rate normalisation may reduce prospective private equity returns, put pressure on interest coverage and/or lead to refinancing issues across private equity-backed companies.
- Persistent muted private equity exit activity would limit PPET's new investments.

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