

March 1, 2023

Dear Partners,

In Q4 2022, the Voss Value Fund, LP and the Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd., returned +17.2% and +16.8% to investors net of fees and expenses, respectively, compared to +6.2% total return for the Russell 2000, +8.4% total return for the Russell 2000 Value, and +7.6% total return for the S&P 500.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Master Fund's total gross exposure stood at 151.5% and the net long exposure was 83.0%. The top 10 longs had a weight of 78.7%, and our top 10 shorts had a weight of 28.9%.

Long/short strategy<sup>1</sup> assets under management stood at approximately \$416.4 million and Firm assets stood at approximately \$503.2 million as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Voss Value Master Fund Complex

NET MONTHLY PERFORMANCE   2022					
PERIOD	Voss Value Fund, LP	Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd.	Russell 2000 TR	Russell 2000 Value TR	S&P 500 TR
JANUARY	-9.9%	-9.9%	-9.6%	-5.8%	-5.2%
FEBRUARY	4.4%	4.3%	1.1%	1.7%	-3.0%
MARCH	0.5%	0.5%	1.2%	2.0%	3.7%
1st QUARTER	-5.5%	-5.5%	-7.5%	-2.4%	-4.6%
APRIL	-9.4%	-9.4%	-9.9%	-7.8%	-8.7%
MAY	9.7%	9.7%	0.2%	1.9%	0.2%
JUNE	-9.8%	-9.8%	-8.2%	-9.9%	-8.3%
2nd QUARTER	-10.3%	-10.4%	-17.2%	-15.3%	-16.1%
JULY	11.9%	11.6%	10.4%	9.7%	9.2%
AUGUST	-0.2%	-0.3%	-2.0%	-3.2%	-4.1%
SEPTEMBER	-8.9%	-8.9%	-9.6%	-10.2%	-9.2%
3rd QUARTER	1.7%	1.3%	-2.2%	-4.6%	-4.9%
OCTOBER	10.6%	10.6%	11.0%	12.6%	8.1%
NOVEMBER	5.5%	5.5%	2.3%	3.1%	5.6%
DECEMBER	0.4%	0.1%	-6.5%	-6.6%	-5.8%
4th QUARTER	17.2%	16.8%	6.2%	8.4%	7.6%
YEAR TO DATE	1.0%	0.2%	-20.4%	-14.5%	-18.1%

The table below shows the Voss Value feeder fund returns compared to some of the relevant indices:

Net Return Comparison as of December 31st, 2022								
	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1-Year	Compound Annual Growth Rate			
					3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	ITD <sup>(1)</sup>
Voss Value Fund, LP	0.4%	17.2%	1.0%	1.0%	20.2%	19.2%	18.2%	17.1%
Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd.	0.1%	16.8%	0.2%	0.2%	19.3%	-	-	16.0%
S&P 500	-5.8%	7.6%	-18.1%	-18.1%	7.7%	9.4%	12.6%	13.0%
Russell 2000	-6.5%	6.2%	-20.4%	-20.4%	3.1%	4.1%	9.0%	10.3%
Russell 2000 Value	-6.6%	8.4%	-14.5%	-14.5%	0.5%	1.6%	7.2%	8.9%
Russell 2000 Growth	-6.4%	4.1%	-25.6%	-25.6%	-3.9%	0.7%	7.7%	9.0%
HFRX Equity Hedge Index	-0.1%	1.7%	-3.2%	-3.2%	4.7%	2.8%	3.4%	3.2%

(1) Inception to Date measures the time period from Voss Value Fund, LP's inception date of October 1st, 2011, and from Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd.'s inception date of January 1st, 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Includes the Voss Value Master Fund and two SMAs

As our team laid out in our Q3 letter, the bulk of major macro worries seemed to have been priced in and the arguments supporting them were starting to crumble in quick succession. Stock prices do not provide an all-clear signal for investors to jump back in but rather are forward looking and moved by probabilities and fundamental surprises.

“I haven’t lost heart, remember that hope has not abandoned me... After all I was at death’s door today, I lived with that thought for three-quarters of an hour, I faced the last moment, and now I’m alive again!”

In what was surely a harrowing experience, Fyodor Dostoevsky was about to face a firing squad, but he was pardoned at the last possible moment (it was all a big political charade) and instead sentenced to four years in a Siberian prison, causing him to be rightfully elated with relief. Similarly, against a backdrop of historically unprecedented pessimism where every Armageddon scenario imaginable was being contemplated by talking heads last summer, we argued that even mediocre data and simply averting disaster would be *good enough* to surprise the dour consensus and cause a risk-on rally due to extremely light investor positioning. Indeed, this prediction seems to have been accurate as the Russell 2000 rallied >20% from the start of Q4 to the first trading day of February, with many major positive economic surprises to start 2023 (job growth, retail sales, etc.).

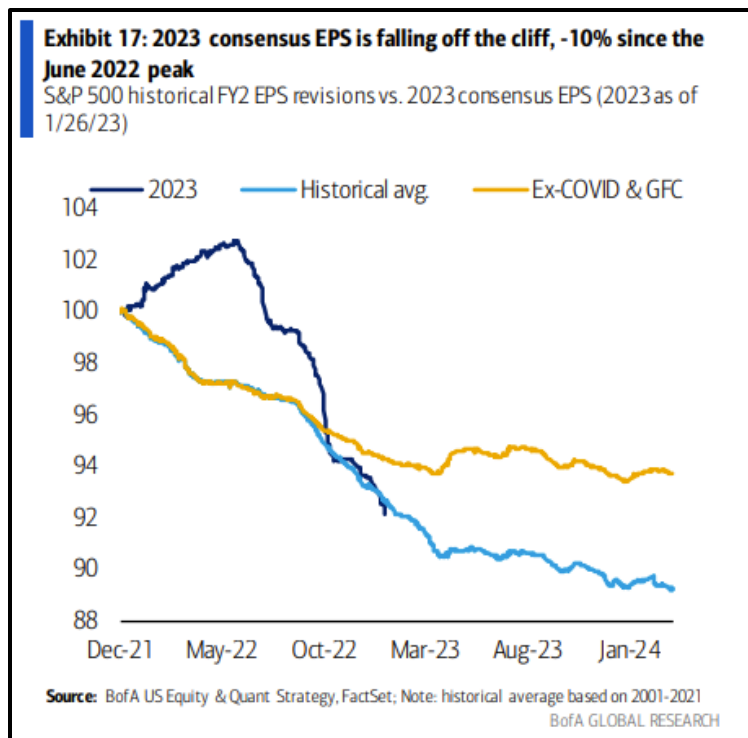
Despite these surprises to the upside and shades of the early 2021 retail trading mania re-emerging early in 2023 (and lots of short covering in January), a record number of market participants still think stocks are poised to fall over the next six months.<sup>1</sup> Investors face the dilemma of leaning bullish due to the surprisingly strong economic data (the Citi Economic Surprise Index hitting a 10-month high in February) or preparing for the risk of stickier inflation and rising short-term rates, which depend on an unpredictable Fed.<sup>2</sup>

After raising the discount rate by 50 basis points in May 2022, Fed Chairman Powell stated: “A 75-basis-point increase is not something the committee is actively considering.”<sup>3</sup> He then went on to raise rates by 75 bps for the next four meetings in a row. The Fed either purposefully misdirects the market or doesn’t know what they’re going to do ahead of time and is purely reactionary like everyone else — either way, we certainly would not rely on anything they say publicly.

We prefer to focus on meaningful data from the companies themselves. An interesting poll by the Conference Board showed that a full 98% of corporate executives foresee a recession in 2023. Given that this is about as clear a consensus as is numerically possible, perhaps there is not as much economic fat to trim as is widely perceived. Anticipation is mitigation, and executives have likely already taken measures to prepare for a recession, thus blunting its potential surprise impact. Recall that the recession panic intensified in Q3, even as US GDP was growing at a solid 3.2% annualized rate.<sup>4</sup>

One recent example of overly dour sentiment relative to the economic reality that has been splashed across headlines is tech sector layoffs. The tech sector has had positive net hiring in 11 out of the last 12 months and finally had a single month of net job losses of just 5,000 in January, resulting in a net addition of 134,000 tech jobs over the last 12 months (also consider that the tech sector comprises only ~2% of total non-farm payrolls).<sup>5</sup> While it is backward looking, we believe this statistic suggests that, despite the hand-wringing headlines, there just isn’t very much excess in the economy to weed out so far. Furthermore, compare the net 5,000 tech job losses January to the healthcare sector adding 58,000 jobs or leisure & hospitality adding 128,000.<sup>6</sup>

Looking forward to this coming year, we see clear indications that recession predictions have already been fully digested and accounted for. Going back to the start of 2022, 2023 EPS estimate revisions are perfectly in line with their historical average—that is, estimates on average start off moderately too high and slowly come down by ~10-12% as the year progresses, and 2023 is not much different. Furthermore, if you exclude the more volatile energy sector, 2023 EPS are only -2% from their June 2022 peak so far. Also, ex-energy, EPS are still expected to grow by 5% year-over-year after the 11% downward revision so far.



We constantly ask ourselves: will reality over the next 3-30 months be better or worse than the consensus expects? After the sharp stock market rally in January along with short-term rates moving up >50 bps in February, at the macro level, this question is now much harder to answer than it was just three months ago. However, at the micro level, we have high conviction in our variant views across many bottom-up situations.

### Long ALTG

One investment idea that has grown to nearly 5% of the portfolio is Alta Equipment Group (ALTG). Alta is a heavy equipment dealership and rental business, that sells, rents, and services forklifts and heavy construction equipment. The company has 65 full-service locations across 11 states, with a concentration in Michigan, Illinois, New York, and Florida, along with locations in Quebec and Ontario, Canada. Alta’s business model revolves around selling new and used equipment at relatively low gross margins (16% on New Equipment Sales and 27% on Rental Fleet Sales in the most recent quarter) to maximize the amount of equipment in the field. Having an active fleet provides Alta with a long, multi-year tail of higher margin Parts & Services revenue (35% gross margins on Parts and 55% on Services).<sup>7</sup>

Alta typically receives exclusive geographic coverage on both equipment and replacement parts from their top OEM (original equipment manufacturer) partners, such as Hyster-Yale (the leading forklift manufacturer) and Volvo (heavy construction equipment). This creates barriers to entry for competitors in what could be described as a regional monopoly for brand sales granted by Alta’s OEM partners. Alta holds about 15% market share of all Hyster-Yale sales in North America, and in their home state of Michigan, where they’ve operated for a much longer time, they have maintained over 35% of the forklift market share for 15+ years.

Alta started as a family-operated business with a single forklift dealership in Detroit, but current CEO Ryan Greenawalt had grander ambitions. In 2017, Greenawalt raised capital from Goldman Sachs to recapitalize the business, buy out his family members, and enact an aggressive growth plan. We believe a proven core competency of Alta’s is making accretive acquisitions, especially in times of economic uncertainty. In 2009, in a strategy led by the current CEO, Alta aggressively played offense when competitors were reeling, acquiring and successfully integrating four companies in a 60-day period. They invested heavily into the Covid downturn as well and have acquired an additional 12 companies since coming public in early 2020. As far as we know, they have not paid over

5x EBITDA for an acquisition, with the multiples much lower on a pro forma basis as some of these companies have grown by over 100% since their acquisition.

In a trend that we think greatly benefits Alta, both of their two largest OEMs (Hyster-Yale and Volvo), that combined account for ~35% of revenue, have made concerted efforts to consolidate their dealer networks into the hands of fewer, stronger dealers such as Alta. Hyster-Yale has gone from over 60 dealer ownership groups nationally to less than 30, even as the number of dealer rooftops overall has grown. Additionally, Hyster-Yale has consent rights on who an existing dealer can sell themselves to, which has also benefited Alta since they have established themselves as a credible buyer and successful integrator and operator. Alta plans to continue their acquisition strategy of buying dealerships with exclusive rights to certain brands over large territories. Consensus estimates do not typically contemplate any additional EBITDA contribution from future M&A, despite this being a clear part of the business plan, thus potentially positioning Alta to continue their steady “beat and raise” cadence. Plenty of organic growth opportunities remain as well. For example, a dealership we recently visited in Tampa was expanding from 6 service bays to 14 by using excess space in the parking lot that had been sitting empty but will now significantly enhance P&S throughput.

An additional important element of the company’s success and our investment thesis is Alta’s ability to recruit and retain skilled technicians to grow their dealers’ higher margin Parts & Services revenue after they’ve consolidated it. Given its national presence, Alta employs full-time recruiters in addition to the mechanic and technician recruitment they have built into their branch managers’ incentive structures. Each local branch manager’s bonus is partially based on their ability to develop relationships with local vocational schools and community colleges, go to job fairs, etc., and recruit new employees. Alta’s employee turnover is 67% less than that of other auto dealerships (10% vs 30-35% for the auto dealers), evidencing the success of their impressive culture.<sup>8</sup>

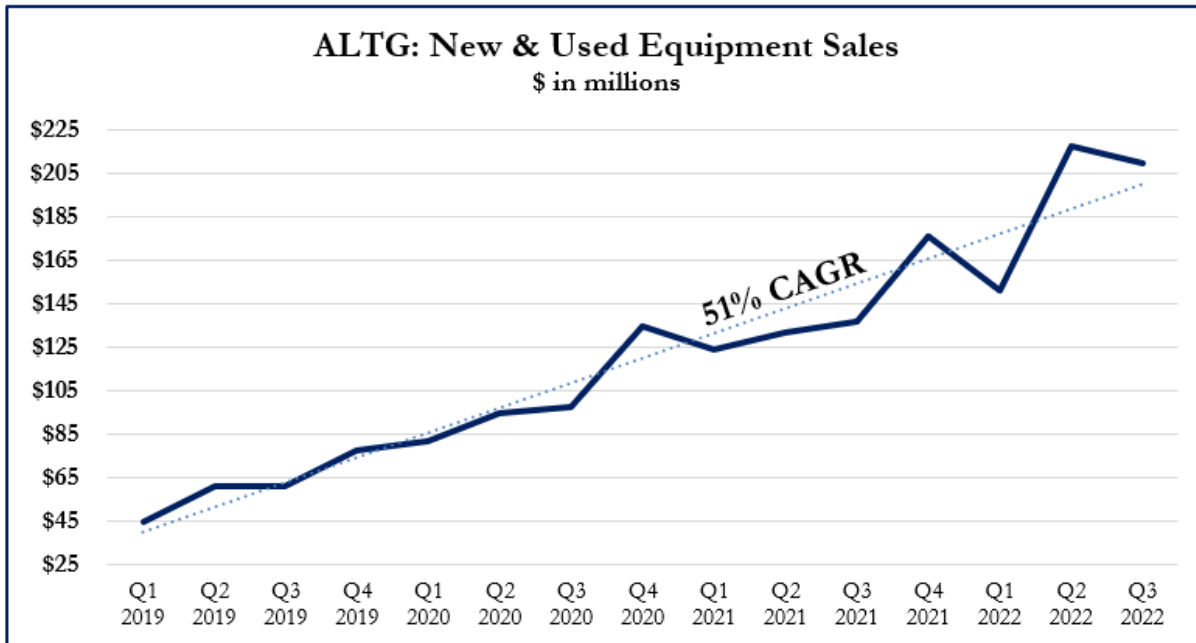
On the Material Handling side, Alta has a ~30% attachment rate on a guaranteed maintenance program that consists of 3-5 year contracts. Another 45% of customers sign up for a preventative maintenance program with month-to-month contracts, providing further stability and predictability to their P&S profits.

On the Construction side, Alta is the best performing Volvo dealer in the country. Their partnership with Volvo began in Michigan at a time when Caterpillar had 60% market share, and they helped Volvo take half that share in their first six years as a dealer. This put Alta on Volvo's map, and Volvo has subsequently favored them to take over more dealers to help the brand grow. Volvo equipment has a standard 3-year warranty, and while the gross margins on the warranty work are lower for Alta, the service needs tend to move a step function higher after a piece of equipment has been in the field for three years.

One misperception in the marketplace is the belief that Alta relies on cyclical residential or commercial real estate development. While the largest forklift buyers in the country 20 years ago were GM and Ford, now they are Wal-Mart, Costco, and Amazon. Alta is benefiting from the secular growth of e-commerce and warehousing needs, onshoring/reshoring of light manufacturing in North America, as well as large multi-year infrastructure projects. For example, the largest customers in their top Construction geography of Florida include landfills and recycling centers, phosphate miners, and commercial excavation contractors that are working on multi-billion-dollar, multi-year water management projects that are government funded and will continue regardless of the overall macro-economic environment.

What really got us over the goal line, so to speak, with an investment in Alta was the company’s operating performance in the face of the Covid lockdowns and resulting recession. Their organic revenue and EBITDA declined by only 3% sequentially in worst of the decline as the management team was proactive and able to rapidly manage costs. The downturn also confirmed the resilience of the Parts & Services revenue stream, which grew organically in Q2 2020 and provided a growth engine driven by the steadily increasing the field population of equipment Alta serves.

Alta’s sales of new and used equipment, a leading indicator for higher margin P&S revenue, have remained impressive to us and have done a 51% CAGR over the last ~4 years.



As a rule of thumb, they have done an ~1:1 ratio of parts and service revenue to equipment sales revenue on the Materials Handling side, and ~0.5:1 on the Construction side, with a step function higher for P&S revenue in the third year a new piece of equipment is in the field. We like this visibility of the annuity-like nature of P&S that their current equipment sales provide. By our estimation, Alta’s equipment sales of \$2B+ just since 2019 should generate an incremental \$500M+ of gross profit over the next 3-4 years (ignoring any equipment sold before 2019). While we expect some moderation of the growth rate and gross margins on equipment sales as supply chains normalize, we believe the higher margin P&S revenue growth can continue its high CAGR (~40% since 2019) and more than offset any slowdown in new equipment revenue. Additionally, as the P&S mix increases, overall EBITDA margins can continue to rise.

Overall, we view Alta as a great business with favorable macro exposures to e-commerce and large infrastructure projects, along with a high-quality management team that is executing well on their growth plans and opportunistically capitalizing on accretive M&A. Given the high rate of equipment sales in the last few years, we expect P&S revenue to continue compounding at a high rate even in a weak economic environment.

Based on our calculations, Alta’s stock has 40% upside to 7.5x 2023 EBITDA, a more reasonable multiple that would still put it at a discount to its equipment dealership and rental peers. Another way to evaluate the cash flow generation of the business is to consider the FCF yield before M&A and discretionary growth investments into the rental fleet, and on this basis, even after the stock has run-up since last summer, Alta is at an 11.5% FCF yield.

**Conclusion**

“And it never failed that during the dry years the people forget about the rich years and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way.” -East of Eden

Investors forget the good times during the bad and vice versa. This year has demonstrated that when investors have built sky high walls of worry and fear and pessimism reigns supreme, it doesn’t take an avalanche of extremely positive outcomes to reverse sentiment – a slightly better outcome than expected is all that’s required.

It is with humility and heartfelt gratitude that we announce that after 11 years of rattling our tin cup, combined with a high rate of organic compounding, we have hit the AUM bogey that we laid out starting in 2012 and have closed the Fund to new outside prospects. While our relative performance has continued to improve with scale, we want to

sustain an even greater focus on alpha for our existing Partners for many years to come. So long as the market remains wildly inefficient, the alpha odyssey goes on.

Sincerely,

Voss Team

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## Appendix:

<sup>1</sup> Record Share of Americans Say the Stock Market is Primed to Fall: <https://money.com/stock-market-predictions-fall-gallup/>

<sup>2</sup> Citi Surprise Index: <https://en.macromicro.me/charts/45866/global-citi-surprise-index>

<sup>3</sup> Fed's Powell: 75 basis point rate hike not being 'actively considered': <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/feds-powell-75-basis-point-rate-hike-not-being-actively-considered-2022-05-04/>

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis: <https://www.cnbc.com/video/2022/12/07/98-percent-of-ceos-are-expecting-a-recession-says-conference-board-chief-economist.html>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>7</sup> Alta Equipment Group Inc. Reports Third Quarter 2022 Financial Results and Raises 2022 Guidance for Adjusted EBITDA: [https://s2.q4cdn.com/103814802/files/doc\\_financials/2022/q3/Alta-Equipment-Group-Announces-Third-Quarter-2022-Financial-Results-Final.pdf](https://s2.q4cdn.com/103814802/files/doc_financials/2022/q3/Alta-Equipment-Group-Announces-Third-Quarter-2022-Financial-Results-Final.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Alta Management Estimates

## Common Terms:

<i>CAGR – Compound Annual Growth Rate</i>	<i>IRR – Internal Rate of Return</i>
<i>CAPEX – Capital Expenditures</i>	<i>LTM – Last Twelve Months</i>
<i>COGS – Cost of Goods Sold</i>	<i>M&amp;A – Mergers and Acquisitions</i>
<i>DCF – Discounted Cash Flow</i>	<i>NTM – Next Twelve Months</i>
<i>EBIT – Earnings Before Interest and Taxes</i>	<i>OPEX – Operating Expenses</i>
<i>EBITDA – Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation &amp; Amortization</i>	<i>P/E – Price to Earnings</i>
<i>EPS – Earnings per Share</i>	<i>P&amp;L – Profit and Loss Statement</i>
<i>EV – Enterprise Value</i>	<i>P&amp;S – Purchase and Sale Statement</i>
<i>FCF – Free Cash Flow</i>	<i>SG&amp;A – Selling, General and Administrative Expenses</i>
<i>GDP – Gross Domestic Product</i>	<i>YTD – Year to Date</i>

## Disclosures and Notices:

Beginning January 1, 2020, all investment activity is conducted by the Voss Value Master Fund, LP (the “Master Fund”), which has two feeder funds, and therefore performance figures from January 1, 2020 onward are calculated based on the Master Fund. All limited partners invest in the Fund through one or more of the following feeder funds: Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd. (the “Offshore Fund”) and Voss Value Fund, LP (the “Predecessor Fund”), each a “Feeder Fund”. Performance figures for the Predecessor Fund are contributable to Travis Cocke as sole portfolio manager. Mr. Cocke maintains the same the position with the Fund and the Fund will employ a similar strategy as the Predecessor Fund. Actual returns are specific to each investor investing through a Feeder Fund. Each Feeder Fund was established at different times and has varying subsets of investors who may have had different fee structures than those currently being offered. As a result of differing fee structures, differing tax impact on onshore and offshore investors, the timing of subscriptions and redemptions, and other factors, the actual performance experienced by an investor may differ materially from the performance reported above. Portfolio statistics shown are inclusive of the Predecessor Fund and the Offshore Fund. Prior to Q1 2023, 2022, and 2023 net results were presented at the feeder level but were subsequently updated to match the method of presentation used for the Fund’s 2022 Audited Financial Statements. Through Q4 2022, the net returns were previously reported as 17.22% and 16.85% for the Voss Value Fund, LP and the Voss Value Offshore Fund, Ltd., respectively, and were subsequently updated to 17.17% and 16.84%, respectively. A full chart is available upon request.

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