

# INCREASING DIVIDEND EQUITY ACCOUNT (IDEA) PLUS (COVERED CALL STRATEGY)

March 31, 2021

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Dividend-based equity strategy combined with a covered call option strategy on the S&P 500 Index. Focused on generating total return with lowered risk and volatility than the broader market.

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

IDEA Plus combines a diversified, stable and increasing dividend equity strategy (Confluence IDEA) with a covered call option strategy to reduce volatility.

The investment philosophy builds upon the required criteria established to create the initial IDEA investable universe. Stocks selected for the strategy are diversified across a variety of sectors, avoiding excess concentrations in particular industries. Companies typically have well-positioned business models, ones that can grow during economic expansions and persevere through recessions and industry downturns. Valuations play an important role, as we believe avoiding excessive valuations is a key metric in managing risk. We also focus on companies where debt levels are manageable. The result is a diversified portfolio of high-quality companies operating stable businesses from which they can offer the prospect of rising dividends to shareholders.

The IDEA strategy coupled with the covered call strategy produces a compelling portfolio with comparable returns to the S&P 500 with less risk.

#### **OVERVIEW**

- Approximately 75% of portfolio: IDEA strategy, which invests in high-quality businesses with long track records of distributing earnings to shareholders through dividends
- Remaining 25% of portfolio: ETF position in the S&P 500 Index with a corresponding covered call position (currently SPDR S&P 500 ETF [NYSE: SPY]); can range 15%-40%
- Market capitalizations greater than \$1 billion
- Approximately 1.5% position sizes
- New account fully invested at inception
- Low turnover
- Anticipated dividend growth rate of the aggregate portfolio is important since inflation can erode investment returns and lower purchasing power; however, because the targeted portfolio dividend growth rate is higher than inflation, real income to investors can grow over time
- Appropriate for clients who are willing to limit upside potential in exchange for downside protection

MARKET CAP <sup>1</sup>	IDEA PLUS
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	205.2
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	1,778.2
Median Market Cap (\$B)	70.4
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	3.8
Large Cap (>\$10B)	92%
Mid Cap (\$10B-\$2B)	9%
Small Cap (<\$2B)	0%

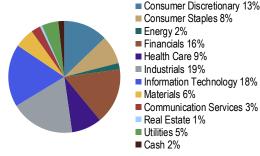
10 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	
S&P 500 Index ETF - SPDR (SPY)	29.8%
Snap-on Incorporated	1.7%
The Charles Schwab Corporation	1.6%
Polaris Inc.	1.6%
The Home Depot, Inc.	1.6%
Expeditors Int'l of Washington, Inc.	1.6%
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	1.6%
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.	1.6%
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	1.6%
Accenture plc	1.6%

CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	IDEA PLUS
Dividend Yield	1.8%
Number of Positions	50

Number of Positions

\*Information presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss that investors should be prepared to bear. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved or that any investment will be profitable or avoid incurring losses. "10 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all stocks in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Sector weightings and holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Portfolio yield: composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: FactSet. Includes dividends from common stock holdings and SPY but does not include premiums received from writing covered calls. Market Cap statistics do not include holdings within the S&P 500 Index ETF (IDEA portion of portfolio only). Sector Allocation does include holdings within the SPDR S&P 500 ETF (NYSE: SPY), based off model assuming 75% IDEA strategy and 25% SPY.

#### SECTOR ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



## **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

## **IDEA SECURITY SCREEN CRITERIA**

Approximately 75% of portfolio is the IDEA strategy. The initial security screen for the IDEA portfolio includes the following criteria:

## Consistent, Growing Dividends:

- Consecutive dividends paid over the last 10 years
- No dividend reductions in the last 10 years
- ♦ Dividend raised in 7 of the last 10 years
- Dividend yield greater than 1%

#### **IDEA Criteria Indicate:**

- ♦ Stable and growing cash flow
- ♦ High-quality companies
- ♦ Moderate to low levels of debt

Based on internal research, the portfolio management team can make special exceptions for companies that have growing dividends but do not pass all of the initial security screen criteria.

## IDEA PLUS (COVERED CALL STRATEGY)

Remaining 25% consists of an ETF position in the S&P 500 Index with corresponding covered call position (allocation can range, at times, from 15% to 40% of the portfolio).

## **Covered Call Strategy:**

- Sells (writes) call option contracts on the S&P 500 Index ETF shares, giving an option buyer the right, but not obligation, to buy the shares at a set price (strike price) until the option expires
- Covered calls sold only on the S&P 500 Index ETF position, preserving the capital appreciation potential of the IDEA portfolio and only limiting the upside potential of the S&P 500 Index ETF
- Covered call positions are actively managed to maximize strike and term considerations
- Option contracts can be rolled prior to expiration to limit the probability of assignment

## How is IDEA Plus Different?

- Designed to reduce volatility of the IDEA strategy
- Covered calls cushion declines in the portfolio in down markets
- As a result, IDEA Plus will likely outperform IDEA strategy in flat to down markets and underperform IDEA in rising markets
- Call premium will fluctuate depending on price volatility of S&P 500 Index ETF and strike price relative to prevailing ETF price
- Minimum account size requirement is \$150,000

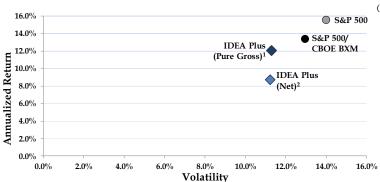
#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri, that provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. Confluence's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven, company-specific approach. The portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives.



SINCE INCEPTION\*\*

(AS OF 3/31/21)



#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS4

Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500
Downside Capture Ratio	86.53	100.00
Alpha	-0.41	0.00
Beta	0.78	1.00
Annualized Standard Deviation	11.30%	13.97%
R-Squared	0.94	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	1.00	1.07

<sup>\*\*</sup>Inception is 12/1/2011

## ANNUAL DIVIDEND STATISTICS FOR IDEA **PORTFOLIO** AT 12/31

				Dividend	Change from	Prior Year	Annual Dividend Increases Over Past 10 Years*				
		Avg.	# of companies with			Avg.	Indexed	# of companies with Ar			Avg. 10 yr
Year	Holdings	Yield <sup>+</sup>	Increase Flat Decrea		Decrease	Growth	Growth <sup>++</sup>	10 years 9 years < 9 y		< 9 years	Growth
2009	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.1%	\$3,242	38	6	5	13.3%
2010	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.0%	\$3,501	38	3	8	12.6%
2011	49	2.8%	46	3	0	9.6%	\$3,837	38	4	7	12.5%
2012	48	3.1%	46	2	0	9.1%	\$4,186	39	5	4	12.8%
2013	49	2.3%	48	1	0	10.0%	\$4,604	41	3	5	13.1%
2014	49	2.4%	48	1	0	10.3%	\$5,078	39	3	7	12.7%
2015	49	2.8%	47	2	0	9.7%	\$5,572	40	3	6	11.9%
2016	50	2.3%	46	4	0	7.2%	\$5,974	39	1	10	11.4%
2017	48	2.1%	45	3	0	7.5%	\$6,422	37	1	10	10.5%
2018	49	2.4%	47	2	0	9.6%	\$7,036	39	3	7	9.9%
2019	49	2.0%	49	0	0	11.6%	\$7,855	41	2	6	10.8%
2020 <sup>1</sup>	49	2.0%	46	3	0	7.4%	\$8,437	42	4	3	10.9%

<sup>\* &#</sup>x27;Dividend Change' and 'Annual Dividend Increases' sections exclude impact of special dividends and spin- offs. ¹ Excludes impact of temporary dividend suspensions during the pandemic of 2020.
+ Average dividend yield of portfolio holdings at 12/31, calculated based on annualized current dividends plus any special dividends paid during the year.

(Yii 'Indexed Growth' column is an estimate of cumulative dividend growth on a \$100,000 account beginning on 12/31/2008. It does not repres

## PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (For Periods Ending March 31, 2021)

	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (75 S&P500/ 25 BXM)	Calendar Year	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (75 S&P500/ 25 BXM)	Difference (Gross- Custom)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	Benchmark 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since.	12.0%	8.7%	13.4%	2011**	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	0.5%	1	\$106	\$937,487	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inception**	12.070	0.7 /0	10.470	2012	9.2%	6.0%	13.2%	(4.1%)	10	\$1,175	\$1,272,265	N/A	N/A	N/A
5-Year*	11.8%	8.5%	13.9%	2013	26.5%	22.7%	27.4%	(0.9%)	12	\$2,086	\$1,955,915	N/A	N/A	0.3%
3-Year*	10.9%	7.6%	13.7%	2014	10.4%	7.1%	11.7%	(1.3%)	20	\$4,239	\$2,589,024	7.0%	8.0%	0.2%
				2015	3.0%	(0.1%)	2.4%	0.6%	25	\$5,883	\$3,175,419	8.3%	9.2%	0.3%
1-Year	40.0%	35.8%	50.1%	2016	14.5%	11.1%	10.8%	3.7%	32	\$8,631	\$4,413,659	8.0%	9.3%	0.3%
YTD	5.8%	5.0%	6.1%	2017	17.5%	14.0%	19.6%	(2.1%)	36	\$10,696	\$5,944,479	7.3%	8.7%	0.4%
OTD	E 00/	F 00/	C 40/	2018	(4.8%)	(7.7%)	(4.5%)	(0.4%)	43	\$10,923	\$5,486,737	8.9%	9.8%	0.3%
QTD	5.8%	5.0%	6.1%	2019	25.5%	21.7%	27.4%	(1.9%)	60	\$16,595	\$7,044,708	9.8%	10.8%	0.7%
*Average ann	*Average annualized returns Portfolio Benchmark				6.0%	2.9%	12.8%	(6.8%)	56	\$16,114	\$6,889,798	15.0%	17.3%	0.9%

<sup>\*\*</sup>Inception is 12/1/2011

Custom benchmark (calculated monthly) consists of a blend of 75% S&P 500 and 25% CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM). (Source: Bloomberg)

S&P 500 Index - A capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. (Source: Bloomberg)

SAP 300\* Index — A capitalization-weighted index of 300 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad comestic economy intrough changes in the aggregate market value of 300 stocks representing all major industries. (Source: Bloomberg)

CBOE SAP 500 BuyWrite® Index (BXM) — A passive total return index based on buying an S&P 500 stock index portfolio, and then writing (or selling) the near-term S&P 500 Index covered call option every month with an exercise price just above the prevailing index level (i.e., slightly out of the money). (Source: CBOE)

Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the Global investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence Investment Management LLC has been independently verified for the periods August 1, 2008, through December 31, 2019. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

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The Increasing Dividend Equity Account (IDEA) Plus strategy was incepted on December 1, 2011, and the current IDEA Plus Composite was created on February 1, 2012. Confluence Investment Management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and not of all flees and include the rei

\*\*Alstorical Return & Risk Chart—Volatility is calculated taking the square root of the strategy's primary (blended) benchmark above. The S&P 500° is shown to represent U.S. equity performance and for illustrative purposes only. (Data source: Confluence/Bloomberg, using monthly & quarterly returns thereafter. S&P 500° is shown to represent U.S. equity performance and for illustrative purposes only. (Data source: Confluence/Bloomberg, using monthly & quarterly returns)

\*\*Statistical Analysis—Downside Capture Ratio: Measures performance in down markets relative to index (down market: any quarter where the market return is less than zero); lower Downside Capture Ratio indicates manager protected capital better during a market decline. Alpha: Measures portfolio volatility (systematic risk) compared to an appropriate benchmark index; e.g., Beta of 1.1 indicates the investment has approx. 10% more volatility in returns the near the decline. Alpha: Measures portfolio volatility (systematic risk) compared to indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates the investment has approx. 10% more volatility in returns there and the volation indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark index. Standard Deviation: Measures price variability (risk) over a period of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation; generally, R-Squared above 0.70 is desirable. Sharpe Ratio: Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk; higher Sharpe Ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. (Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database)

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<sup>(</sup>Yield data source: FactSet.