



1 November 2023



VSA Capital AQSE Apex Index

Monthly Update: October 2023

In October, the VSA Capital AQSE Apex Index was down 3.7%, and down 0.8% YTD. After a further month of weak equity markets, the Index has given up the gains made in the early part of the year. Despite rising gold and oil prices during the month, sentiment in the associated equities remains weak. Many of the recent top performers have quickly given up gains as investors have tried to take short term profits in volatile markets.

Risers

In October, the top performers in the VSA Capital AQSE Apex Index were **SulNOx Group (SNOX)**, **KR1 PLC (KR1)**, and **Cadence Minerals PLC (KDNC)** up 23.8%, 6.1% and 5.8%, respectively.

October's strongest performer was **SNOX**, the fuel decarbonisation specialist with a market cap of £29.5m. The company was also the top performer in Q3 2023 and in September 2023. The company announced that **Spring Marine Group** would be adopting SNOX products in its fleet of tankers and bulk carriers, with an initial order of c. US\$45k. SNOX also announced that its SulNOxEco™ product had been verified as reducing fuel consumption by over 5% in a five-month ocean trial in cooperation with a Hamburg-based shipping company and a German university's maritime shipping faculty.

KR1 PLC the blockchain and digital asset investment company with a market cap of £72.3m had been a faller in Q3 2023 but the share price has rallied, in large part due to Bitcoin being up 28% in the month. KR1 reported an unaudited NAV for September-end of £80,023,020, a 6% increase on the previous month.

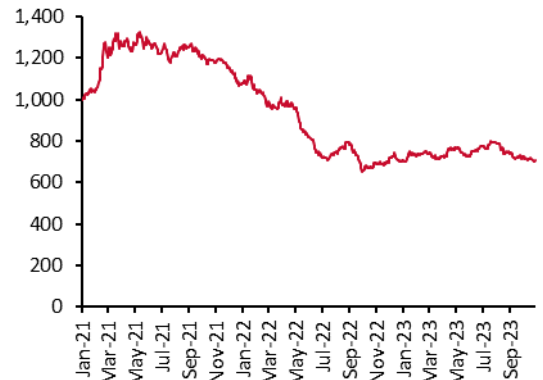
KDNC, a mining investment firm focused on lithium and rare earth minerals with a market cap of £13.2m, had been a faller in Q3 2023, but the stock price rallied in October despite limited newsflow. The company announced that its joint venture company **Pedra & Branca Alliance** and **DEV Mineracao SA** (which owns and operates the Amapa project in Brazil) had entered into an MOU with a subsidiary of **Sinoma International Engineering**, to jointly progress the development of the Amapa project. Sinoma will provide a final proposal to complete the DFS and is in discussion with Chinese financial institutions to secure the required financing for the redevelopment of the Amapa project.

Fallers

In October, the bottom performers in the VSA Capital AQSE Apex Index were **Samarkand Group (SMK)**, **Marula Mining PLC (MARU)**, and **Invinity Energy Systems (IES)**, down 40.0%, 13.9% and 13.5%, respectively.

SMK, the cross-border eCommerce technology, services, and consumer brand group with a market cap of £8.8m was the bottom performer in the month as concerns over China's property sector have sucked confidence from the wider economy including services and retail. Between May and September the Caixin General Services PMI dropped from 53.9 to 50.2. The company had limited newsflow during the month, with the announcement that it had been awarded silver in the 'Best Cross-border Campaign' category at the eCommerce Awards 2023. SMK's 160 year old Scottish brand, **Napiers the Herbalist**, has seen its China presence and sales grow significantly with incremental cross-border sales of more than £1m.

VSA Capital AQSE Apex Index Chart



Last Close	Monthly Close/Perf	Quarterly Close/Perf	YTD Close/Perf
701.3	728.2	777.6	707.2
	(3.7%)	(6.4%)	(0.8%)

SOURCE: Eikon, as of 31 October 2023 close

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MARU, the Africa-focused mining and exploration investment company with a market cap of £12.8m. The company announced that it together with its subsidiary had entered into a binding heads of agreement with **Opencast Resources** to secure a 70% interest in **Future Gems**, the holder of Korridor 21 Prospecting Licence in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. This transaction increased MARU’s land holdings in a region known for high-grade lithium-bearing pegmatite deposits. MARU also announced that the Phase 1 drilling programme at its Blesberg Lithium and Tantalum mine was over 90% complete and that the Phase 2 drilling programme had commenced ahead of schedule. The company also announced an update on its Kinusi Copper Mine and that positive assay results had been received as part of the Phase 1 programme of exploration activities.

IES, the global manufacturer of vanadium flow batteries with a market cap of £73.6m, had limited newsflow in the month. The company announced a 1.1MWh sale to Taiwan’s National Applied Research Laboratories, which will install 5 IES VFBs in one of its laboratory buildings in Taipei which will be used to offset electricity use at the facility during peak times, as well as providing back up in the event of a power outage.

Upcoming Events

VSA Capital and Aquis Stock Exchange will once again be running and hosting the ‘**Britain’s Got Aquis**’, annual Aquis Showcase Event, to be held on **Tuesday 28 November** at the Royal College of Surgeons. Please click here for more info and to register on Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/3PZHg48>.

VSA Capital Recent Transactions



AQSE Corporate Adviser
20 September 2023

Appointment as AQSE
Corporate Adviser



Rule 3 Financial Adviser
20 September 2023

Appointed as Financial Adviser
on £26.6m Public Company
Takeover by Petrichor Partners



Joint Broker
25 July 2023

£1.1m Placing &
£0.84m Open Offer



Joint Broker
9 June 2023

Fundraise of £7.1m through
Convertible Loan Note Open
Offer

		Market Cap	Share Price Change			Share Trading Volume Difference #			Share Trading Volume Difference %		
		GBP m	Monthly	Quarterly	YTD	Monthly	Quarterly	Annual	Monthly	Quarterly	Annual
ALSP.ASE	Ace Liberty & Stone	41.3	0%	0%	0%	0	102,700	185,787	n/a	(100%)	120%
AQX.ASE	Aquis Exchange PLC#	95.1	(5%)	(8%)	(13%)	(21,205)	107,038	638,413	(60%)	(71%)	n/a
ARBB.ASE	Arbuthnot Banking Group PLC	147.3	(5%)	3%	6%	91	(77)	(3,154)	1820%	9%	(38%)
KDNC.ASE	Cadence Minerals PLC	13.2	6%	(13%)	(36%)	608,476	389,262	(21,562,395)	110%	(19%)	(63%)
CFCP.ASE	Capital for Colleagues PLC	11.6	0%	0%	(6%)	(33,594)	1,640,122	(479,324)	(100%)	(98%)	(68%)
CDGP.ASE	Chapel Down Group PLC	74.9	4%	29%	34%	(513,770)	228,699	31,721,675	(28%)	(4%)	555%
THW.ASE	Daniel Thwaites PLC	53.0	0%	(3%)	(12%)	29,384	(151,768)	(933,566)	57%	29%	(44%)
EO.P.ASE	EPE Special Opportunities Ltd	68.5	(11%)	17%	(2%)	(1,287)	29,903	(166,182)	(51%)	(79%)	(61%)
EQIP.ASE	Equipmake Holdings PLC#	90.2	0%	0%	43%	(826,000)	(3,510,207)	1,362,755	(70%)	88%	n/a
GSVR.ASE	Guanajuato Silver Co Ltd#	59.2	0%	(27%)	(30%)	10,000	101,456	43,982	n/a	(89%)	n/a
IES.ASE	Invinity Energy Systems PLC#	73.6	(13%)	(8%)	(9%)	(694,969)	1,223,074	23,811,743	(35%)	(18%)	n/a
KR1.ASE	Kr1 PLC	77.3	6%	(21%)	74%	439,788	3,501,248	(105,404,359)	29%	(35%)	(73%)
MARU.ASE	Marula Mining PLC	12.8	(14%)	7%	105%	4,190,268	17,524,246	18,995,662	27%	(37%)	613%
NYR.ASE	Newbury Racecourse PLC	25.6	0%	(1%)	(9%)	1,483	7,711	(285,133)	8724%	(93%)	(88%)
OHGR.ASE	One Health Group PLC	16.3	0%	(11%)	(11%)	(9,673)	(17,597)	8,125	(74%)	169%	n/a
RGG.ASE	RentGuarantor Holdings PLC	31.8	0%	0%	48%	(7,000)	60,000	44,503	(100%)	(90%)	n/a
SMK.ASE	Samarkand Group PLC#	8.8	(40%)	0%	(72%)	82,629	291,829	(6,228,404)	869%	(95%)	(95%)
SHEP.ASE	Shepherd Neame Ltd	111.6	(7%)	18%	17%	37,149	821,830	(115,105)	51%	(76%)	(9%)
SNOX.ASE	Sulnox Group PLC	29.5	24%	91%	117%	(966,283)	(2,759,816)	622,297	(43%)	88%	22%

SOURCE: Company data, Eikon as of month end close. #Denotes that VSA Capital has provided investment banking services within the last 12 months.