

## **RMI to take minority stake in Tantalum**

### **Business as usual, says Oellerman, as team retains investment autonomy with management team intact**

Cape Town-based Tantalum Capital has entered into a heads of agreement with RMI Investment Managers (RMI IM), part of JSE-listed Rand Merchant Insurance (RMI), to purchase a minority stake in the company.

Tantalum's Rob Oellerman says it will be business as usual at Tantalum Capital, with the firm continuing with the same management team, full investment autonomy, day-to-day operational independence and investment-centred ethos.

"In identifying a partner for Tantalum Capital, maintaining our independence and special culture was of utmost importance to us," he said. "We wanted a partner who recognised our strong points and helped us to advance our business. The cultural fit and long-term nature of the transaction was key, putting the needs and best interests of our clients and staff first."

He stressed that RMI IM, headed by Chris Meyer, is a credible shareholder that understands asset management, and whose mission is to establish, grow and support South Africa's best investment talent. RMI IM will act as a long-term strategic partner through market cycles while enabling Tantalum to grow.

Oellerman stressed that Tantalum would continue to be selective about the funds and mandates that it takes on, looking to grow in a measured and sustainable way with strong investment performance at our core.

It has recently passed the 10-year mark as a business, with its flagship Tantalum MNC Fund gaining a net annualised 10.68% since launch in June 2005.

The company now offers a broad range of investment products across most asset classes, with all its funds based on the same fundamental process and methodology.

It has assets under management of close to R4 billion, managed by an established team that includes Oellerman, Mike Lawrenson and Melanie Stockigt, assisted by four analysts, one trader and a full operations team headed by Simone Blanckenburg as COO and head of product strategy and development.

Besides the flagship fund, products include a fixed income hedge fund and a resources hedge fund as well as long-only balanced and multi-asset class mandates.

The key members of the team have all made long-term commitments to the business and will continue to be sizeable shareholders, continuing to invest the majority of their liquid net worth in the funds alongside their clients.

“We are committed to preserving our investment DNA and believe that Tantalum Capital will continue to grow, develop and maintain excellent investment performance,” said Oellerman. “This transaction allows us to have the freedom to express our investment views with enhanced stability and longevity. We believe that this will enhance our investment process and returns over the medium to long term. It also allows us to continue to be an investment house of choice for excellent investment professionals now and into the future.”

RMI announced earlier in the year that it had plans to enter the asset management space and expand into other financial services-related areas, seeking to diversify beyond its portfolio of investments in the insurance sector by working with best-of-breed investment talent. It has holdings in Discovery, MMI, OUTsurance and RMB Structured Insurance. **Copyright.**  
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