

PRESS RELEASE

13.02.2024

IIF Online Capital Market Conference: Monetary Insights for the Year of Small Caps

The International Investment Forum (IIF) will take place for the 10th time on February 21, 2024 - innovative companies from sectors such as climate protection, biotech, energy, technology, and mining will present their business models. Several hundred participants are expected to attend the online event.

2024 could be the year of second-tier stocks. In addition to international asset managers like T. Rowe Price and JP Morgan Asset Management, more and more independent analysts share this perspective. One of the contributing factors is the anticipated turnaround in interest rates. During its tenth edition, the online investor forum, IIF, will once again bring together up to twenty companies from various sectors. "Times of change offer special opportunities for small-cap investors," says Manuel Hölzle, CEO of research company GBC AG and co-organizer of the IIF. "In addition to the already innovative biotech and blockchain sectors, technology is also changing day-to-day business in established sectors such as mining. Today, investors can find numerous low-valued companies with disruptive potential."

The environment for growth companies has become more challenging since the interest rate turnaround in 2022. However, the signs in most major currency zones now point to an "interest rate turnaround". Smaller growth companies, in particular, typically benefit from improved financing conditions. If these improved framework conditions meet promising business models, share price potential can arise for small caps that have recently been neglected.

One example of such a share price recovery is the Canadian biotech company Cardiol Therapeutics, which addresses inflammatory diseases of the heart and whose shares have gained almost 70% in value over the past year. Cardiol has presented at previous editions of the IIF. The Company stands out in the current market phase in particular due to its high cash reserves, which have made the Company independent of the market conditions of the past months.

"It is primarily the consolidated first-hand information that makes the IIF a sought-after event for investors and journalists," explains Mario Hose, Managing Director of Apaton Finance GmbH, one of the co-organizers. "After three decades, globalization has entered a new phase and presents companies and governments with new challenges. For example, the element tungsten, which is so relevant for armaments, has hardly been mined outside of China to date. This is already a geostrategic challenge today," says Hose, referring to IIF participant Almonty Industries, which operates the largest tungsten mine outside China.

Company representatives will present at the IIF in 30-minute slots and answer questions from participants. Analysts from the co-organizer GBC AG will lead the program. All information on the participating companies, a (free) registration option, and the current

schedule can be found at www.ii-forum.com.

Company	Start Time	Speaker
Opening Session	03.55 am ET* 09.55 am CET* 04.55 pm HKT*	Moderation
Altech Advanced Materials AG	04.00 am ET* 10.00 am CET* 05.00 pm HKT*	Uwe Ahrens, CEO
Manuka Resources Ltd.	04.30 am ET* 10.30 am CET* 05.30 pm HKT*	Alan Eggers, Executive Director
Tick Trading Software AG	05.00 am ET* 11.00 am CET* 06.00 pm HKT*	Carsten Schölzki, CEO
MGI Media & Games Invest SE	05.30 am ET* 11.30 am CET* 06.30 pm HKT*	Remco Westermann, CEO
net digital AG	06.00 am ET* 12.00 pm CET* 07.00 pm HKT*	Theodor Niehues, CEO
Advanced Blockchain AG	06.30 am ET* 12:30 pm CET* 07.30 pm HKT*	Simon Telian, CEO & Sebastian Markowsky, Venture Partner
RedFish LongTerm Capital S.p.A.	07.00 am ET* 01.00 pm CET* 08.00 pm HKT*	Paolo Pescetto, Founder and Chairman
Pulsar Helium Inc.	07.30 am ET* 01.30 pm CET* 08.30 pm HKT*	Thomas Abraham-James, CEO
Defence Therapeutics Inc.	08.00 am ET* 02.00 pm CET* 09.00 pm HKT*	Dr. Moutih Rafei, VP R&D, Director
Globex Mining Enterprises Inc.	08.30 am ET* 02.30 pm CET* 09.30 pm HKT*	Jack Stoch, CEO
Defense Metals Corp.	09.00 am ET* 03.00 pm CET* 10.00 pm HKT*	Dr. Luisa Moreno, President & Director
First Hydrogen Corp.	09.30 am ET* 03.30 pm CET* 10.30 pm HKT*	François Morin, VP Corporate & Business Development
dynaCERT Inc.	10.00 am ET* 04.00 pm CET* 11.00 pm HKT*	Jim Payne, CEO
Klimat X Developments Inc.	10.30 am ET* 04.30 pm CET* 11.30 pm HKT*	James Tansey, CEO
Saturn Oil & Gas Inc.	11.00 am ET* 05.00 pm CET* 12.00 am HKT*	Kevin Smith, VP Corporate Development
Almonty Industries Inc.	11.30 am ET* 05.30 pm CET* 12.30 am HKT*	Lewis Black, CEO
Cardiol Therapeutics Inc.	12.00 pm ET* 06.00 pm CET* 01.00 am HKT*	David Elsley, CEO
Desert Gold Ventures Inc.	12.30 pm ET* 06.30 pm CET* 01.30 am HKT*	Jared Scharf, CEO
Kraken Energy Corp.	01.00 pm ET* 07.00 pm CET* 02.00 am HKT*	Matthew Schwab, CEO
NurExone Biologic Inc.	01.30 pm ET* 07.30 pm CET* 02.30 am HKT*	Dr. Lior Shaltiel, CEO

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About IIF – International Investment Forum

The 10th IIF - International Investment Forum - will take place on February 21, 2024. Companies and their board members or top managers will present and answer questions from investors live via Zoom. The event will start at 09:55 am (CET - Central European Time) and end at 20:00 CET. The event is organized from Germany as a cooperation project between Apaton Finance GmbH and GBC AG.

For further information: www.ii-forum.com

About Apaton Finance GmbH (co-organizer)

Apaton focuses primarily on growth companies and helps build investor relationships. Partners are located all over the world. When a company is in a transition phase and enters a new market or growth phase, Apaton becomes active. Apaton's experts create investable visibility in new regions and markets.

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About GBC AG (co-organizer)

GBC AG has been organizing capital market conferences since 2001. Around two-thirds of all German issuers from the small & mid cap sectors have already used GBC conferences in the 20 years of conference history to address the capital market directly. The GBC conference series generally aims primarily at asset managers, fund managers, family offices, analysts and financial journalists.

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