

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER OF THE YEAR:

INFRACAPITAL

Infracapital is a London-based infrastructure investment specialist that has raised and managed over £3 billion of funds across essential infrastructure sectors. The company's focus is to build and actively manage a diverse and stable portfolio of essential infrastructure businesses in the UK and Europe.

Part of M&G Prudential, the European arm of the US financial giant, Infrastructure's platform offers investors multiple ways to access essential European infrastructure with strategies in both greenfield and brownfield infrastructure.

The team brings over 450 years of relevant experience and has developed a proven track record since 2001 having successfully invested across

a range of sectors, geographies and strategies.

2017 was a busy year for Infracapital with various highlights:

- Infracapital Partners I returned 2.2x capital to investors
- Infracapital Partners II delivered a 24.9% internal rate of return as well as a 9.2% average yield since inception (as of September 2017)
- The Infracapital Greenfield Partners

closed with £1.25 and well above its £1bn target. Its plan is to invest in the later stage development, construction and/or expansion of European economic infrastructure, targeting higher returns than traditional brownfield investments

- The firm established Digital Infrastructure Investment Partners after winning a mandate from the UK Government to invest in high-speed digital infrastructure in the UK

Infracapital Partners III, which targets mid-market European infrastructure, made in June 2018 its first investment by acquiring a majority stake in CCNST, a leading provider of broadband services in Germany. ■

ESG MANAGER OF THE YEAR:

ROYAL LONDON ASSET MANAGEMENT

Being responsible matters to Royal London Asset Management (RLAM). Experts at the UK investment house have spent years understanding global environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities.

Recently, the rewards for doing so have been significant.

During the twelve months to end of March 2018, all of RLAM's sustainable funds outperformed their target.

Higher exposures to cloud computing, electric vehicles, immuno-oncology and agriculture have led to some of the success.

Another sector the firm has invested in is artificial intelligence (AI), which RLAM believes will be transformative to society.

An example is in healthcare, where AI could improve the correct diagnosis rate of disease.

In each of these areas, RLAM has

had a consistent approach to the selection of companies suitable for its sustainable range of funds.

It is a process that is inherently flexible across equities and fixed income, capable of meeting client needs on both a segregated and pooled basis, and works worldwide.

The house view at the firm is that the integration of ESG factors into investment decision making is underestimated and, at the same time, difficult to accomplish.

This creates both an investment opportunity and a competitive edge for investment teams already active.

As more funds flow into ESG, RLAM's experts believe that a strong

focus on the sector allows more effective identification of opportunities and that innovation, social improvement and financial return go hand in hand.

Because RLAM believe that responsible investment is a way of doing business, clients can expect to get this as standard – and it's not all about responsible stock picking.

The firm votes according to principles of good corporate governance and engages with companies and regulators to push for a more progressive approach on ESG issues.

It is also making progress on integrating ESG factors where they are relevant to investment in non-screened funds.

Collaborating with other investors to strengthen the arguments for good practices in these areas continues to be core to RLMA, as well as being transparent to clients and to the general public on its successes and challenges. ■