

FACTSHEET

Performance Returns

Conquest STAR UCITS Fund returned (12.27)% net in February for the USD Institutional Founder class.

Investment Objective & Strategy

Systematic absolute return strategy focused on capturing independent alpha from short-term trading opportunities regardless of the risk environment in both “risk-seeking” and “risk averse” regimes. The fund employs 4 sub-strategies using a dynamic risk allocation based on the Conquest Risk Aversion Index. The strategy provides geographic and asset class diversification by trading in over 30 liquid global futures markets including currencies, equity indices, and fixed income with no correlation to traditional portfolios, hedge fund portfolios, and CTA portfolios.

Monthly Commentary

Conquest STAR unfortunately had its largest drawdown in Q1 of 2019. After the move we saw in December, and the depth and length of it, virtually all our models increased their short bias to the maximum level. While normally that short bias can reverse itself quickly, given the speed and depth of the December move, the threshold to reverse that bias was unusually high. That coincided with an increase in our intraday and very short-term trading models, which kept selling into the stock rally treating the move as bear market bounce rather than a new trend. Most of the losses in Q1 were due to these very short-term models.

One of the challenges of running an alpha high convexity strategy, is calibrating when to increase the short bias, or in other words, how much does the stock market for example have to move before we turn to a short bias. At the limit, one can have a 100% tracking rate, which essentially is just Beta. Alpha models, given that they generate their alpha by filtering out trades that have low conviction, must have some manoeuvring room before they follow the direction of the market. An unfortunate result of the December 18 move is that it also caused our models to shorten that capture periods from about 1-2% to about 0.5-1%. That left us very vulnerable to intraday market reversals, where essentially on a daily basis, we kept being put into positions just to get stopped out. The scenario where return vol is much lower than price vol, is the worst environment for us. Essentially, Q1 ended up being a quarter where return vol was low, but daily ranges were very high, a detrimental environment for us. We have seen this behaviour happen many times in the past, but it usually quickly reverses itself. With all the unusual interference from the US administration into Fed policy, and the abrupt reversal of the Fed in January, coupled with all the noise relating to the deal with China and other matters, contributed to the increase in length of this very inhospitable environment. Please see below a chart comparing return vol vs price vol for the S&Ps going back to the inception of the strategy.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | YTD |
|------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 2019 | -20.52% | -12.27% | | | | | | | | | | | -30.27% |
| 2018 | 4.16% | -6.09% | 0.23% | -0.28% | 0.26% | -1.04% | -6.82% | -1.59% | -0.67% | 6.24% | -9.41% | 8.21% | -7.99% |
| 2017 | - | - | 0.07% | 0.19% | 0.49% | -2.42% | -2.61% | 3.75% | 0.00% | 0.50% | -0.15% | -0.28% | -0.59% |

The performance figures quoted above represent the performance of the Conquest STAR UCITS Fund since launch on 6th March 2017. These performance figures refer to the past and past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.

THE MANAGER



Marc Malek

Founder and Portfolio Manager

Mr. Malek founded Conquest and began his role as Portfolio Manager in 1999 after departing UBS as the Global Head of FX and Derivatives Proprietary trading in Europe and the Americas. While at UBS, Mr. Malek held several senior positions, including leading the global group in exotic derivatives in Foreign exchange. Prior to his tenure at UBS he worked at a hedge fund trading currency options and developing proprietary trading models. Mr. Malek began his career in 1992 at Salomon Brothers in New York as a Financial Analyst in the Financial Strategy Group.

Jason Ruspini

Head of Research

Mr. Ruspini is Head of Research who joined Conquest in 2003. Prior to joining Conquest, Mr. Ruspini worked as a Quantitative Analyst and Floor Trader on the NYMEX under Mark Fisher, at which time he began developing systematic strategies. From 1999 - 2002, Mr. Ruspini worked at Goldman Sachs where he served as a senior analyst in firm-wide and fixed-income technology for over three years.

Harold Feder

Chief Financial Officer & Compliance Officer

Mr. Feder joined Conquest in 2004. Prior to joining Conquest, Mr. Feder worked in public accounting for seven years, most recently as an audit manager at Grant Thornton's Financial Services Industry Group. While at Grant Thornton, Mr. Feder was in charge of auditing various hedge funds, private equity partnerships and broker dealers.

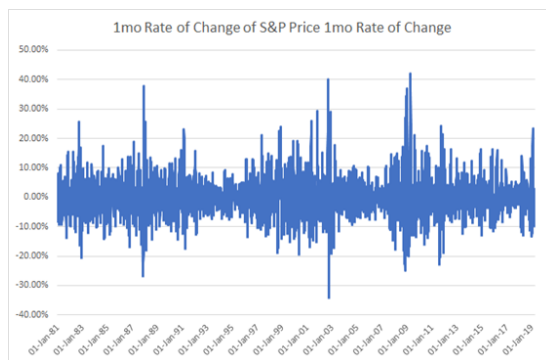
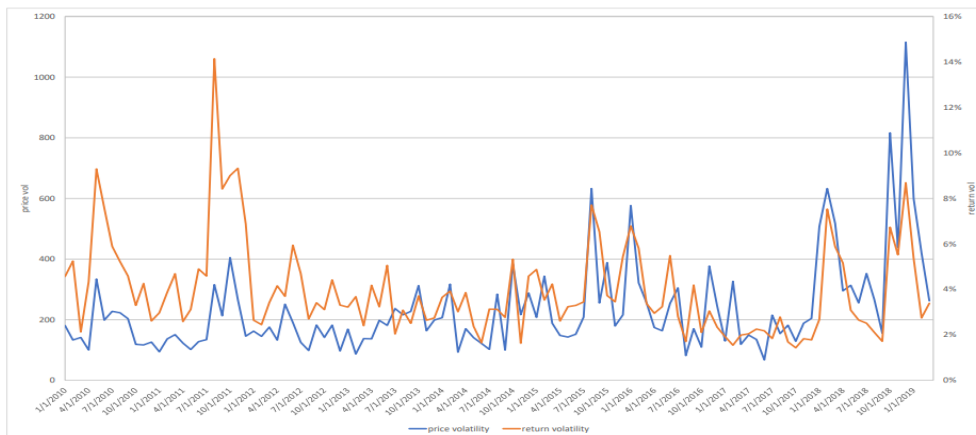
FUND FACTS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Structure | UCITS Fund |
| Domicile | Ireland |
| Liquidity | Daily |
| Fund AUM | \$41 million |
| Inception | 6 th March 2017 |
| Share Class | Institutional Founder/Institutional |
| Currency | EUR/GBP/CHF/USD |
| Mgt. Fee | 1.25%/1.5% |
| Perf. Fee | 15%/20% |
| Min Init. Sub. | 10,000,000/100,000 |
| ISIN Codes | EUR: IE00BYXLJP56/IE00BYXLJ998 GBP: IE00BYXLJQ63/IE00BYXLJB11 CHF: IE00BYXLS871/IE00BYXLJD35 USD: IE00BYXLJR70/IE00BYXLJC28 |

Share Class

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Currency | EUR/GBP/CHF/USD |
| Mgt. Fee | 1.25%/2% |
| Perf. Fee | 15%/20% |
| Min Init. Sub. | 10,000,000/10,000 |
| ISIN Codes | EUR: IE00BDRHP767/IE00BYXLJK02 GBP: IE00BDRHP874/IE00BYXLJL19 CHF: IE00BDRHPB04/IE00BYXLJN33 USD: IE00BDRHP981/IE00BYXLJM26 |

Below, is a chart of rolling one-month S&P return minus that same reading as of one month ago. So, something very positive minus something very negative as of January. This is just one illustration; others are a bit difficult to present graphically. The comforting part is that as you can see, this behaviour occurs every few years, but eventually dissipates quickly to return to normal market conditions. We got hit especially hard in Q1 because the severe down move in December activated a much higher number of short selling programs given its severity. The V bottom created by the down move in Dec and the up move in Jan was particularly painful.



We have taken several steps to mitigate the Q1 conditions and I strongly believe though that the fixes we implement to the strategy will ensure that performance like the one in Q1 will never happen again. Given the very low level of return vol, and the VIX, we think we have seen the worse of this move. Our strategy is very dynamic and can very quickly recover once we see a reversal of these adverse conditions. We have had months we returned over 20%, can expect to see more of them in the remainder of this year given where the markets and risk factors are today. While our strategy performs best in risk averse periods, our best months happen during the transition from a severe risk seeking mode such as the one we are in today to a severe risk averse mode. We remain very confident that with the changes we have implemented, and the new risk controls, we can recover most if not all our losses and possibly move back in the black by year end.

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Disclaimer

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