

Strong Q2 led by Asian technology

- Strong outperformance led by upstream AI companies
- Industrial recovery is increasingly confirmed by companies' commentaries
- With the AI-trade crowding, we lean further into the barbell

Market review and developments

The quarter opened with the geopolitical crisis in the Middle East. Yet, investor worries faded remarkably quickly, and markets were setting new highs by mid-April. Despite sharp oil price rises, the economy proved impressively resilient.

The strongest pockets of the market in Q2 lay unmistakably upstream in the AI supply chain – the picks and shovels. The logic is straightforward. Investors are still working out who the real winners will be, and where the future moats will sit. At the same time, doubts persist over the long-term ROI on the big infrastructure spend. So, for now, they have moved a layer deeper into the ecosystem – into the build-out itself, rather than simply adding to the mega-cap exposure. In addition, the component and materials bottlenecks led to earnings upgrades for this group of companies – as a result of them both expanding their capacities and raising prices above previous expectations. The divergence was plain in the numbers. The Magnificent7 were left behind, while Taiwan and Korea – home to much of this upstream exposure – outpaced them several times over.

The AI-bulls remain constructive, and not without reason. Valuations have expanded, but the main driver of rising stock prices is still AI-driven earnings growth, not multiple expansion alone. AI remains the high-conviction secular story. Even so, no theme trades in a vacuum. Exiting Q2, this one carries more length, more leverage and heavier positioning – and, with it, more volatility and potentially a lower reward than where we stood at the onset of 2026.

Turning to the industrial economy, the mood is steadier than it was. With Q2 reporting season about to begin, the early growth fears are being dispelled. The macro data has held up – ISM, PMI and payrolls all pointing to an industrial upcycle. Company commentary through the conference season said much the same: demand is holding up well – and even accelerating in some areas. The resurgent inflation fears and the cost pressure from oil and energy, have drawn investor attention back toward the prospect of rate hikes. With a new Fed chairman at the reins and the midterms this autumn, rate expectations can swing back quickly – all the more so if the inflation scare proves shorter-lived than first feared.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S UPDATE JUNE 2026

Marketing material for professional investors, not for onward distribution



Natalie Falkman
Senior Portfolio Manager

Performance

Last quarter's performance¹

In Q2, the fund outperformed both the MSCI World Index and its internal benchmark strongly. The stock selection component was the main contributor, but the asset allocation was a tailwind too. Sector-wise, technology and industrials were the main positive contributors, while financials and communication services – where the fund has no holdings – and healthcare, an underweight sector, were the relative detractors.

Q2 was dominated by a few themes, in one way or another linked to the build-out of AI infrastructure. Many of the upstream companies in the AI supply chain are located in Asia, where the semiconductor cluster is exceptionally strong thanks to its proximity to TSMC. The top three individual contributors in Q2 were Asian companies – SK Hynix, Elite Material and ASE Technology. Cencora was the main individual detractor. The company delivered weaker-than-expected quarterly results, and it is now unclear whether the business model is changing or the slowdown is of a more temporary nature. We have reviewed our thesis and exited the stock. The other main detractors – OSI Systems, Gruma, Galenica and Republic Services – we view as meeting temporary headwinds, and our original thesis for owning them stands unchanged.

Geographically, the top three countries contributing to performance in Q2 were Taiwan, South Korea and Germany. This geographical diversification is one of the fund's advantages: we invest where we find the best growth at reasonable valuations, rather than being governed by index weights.

The fund also outperformed its universe. The five top individual contributors were Elite Material, SK Hynix, Acter Group, ASE Technology and Infineon. The main detractors were the same companies mentioned above, with Cencora the main individual detractor among individual holdings.

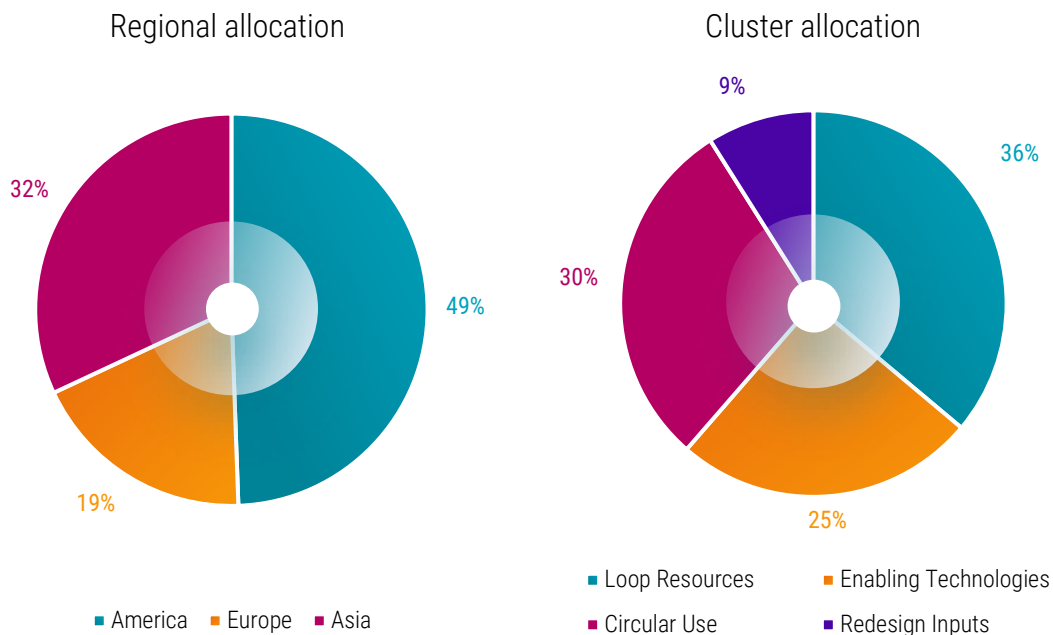
Table 1 – Periodic performance comparison – June 2026

	YTD	Last month	Last 3 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 2 years p.a.	Last 3 years p.a.	Last 5 years p.a.	Since first performance date p.a.
Robeco Circular Economy (gross of fee, EUR)	35.22%	3.63%	34.37%	35.22%	45.77%	26.67%	23.07%	13.65%	16.99%
MSCI World Index TRN	12.68%	1.34%	14.64%	12.68%	24.58%	14.99%	17.40%	12.29%	13.07%
Excess return	22.54%	2.29%	19.72%	22.54%	21.20%	11.68%	5.68%	1.36%	3.92%
Robeco Circular Economy (gross of fee, USD)	31.64%	1.53%	33.33%	31.64%	41.98%	30.83%	25.01%	12.82%	17.56%
MSCI World Index TRN	9.69%	-0.72%	13.76%	9.69%	21.34%	18.77%	19.24%	11.47%	13.62%
Excess return	21.94%	2.24%	19.57%	21.94%	20.64%	12.06%	5.77%	1.35%	3.94%

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¹ In this text, performance is always in base currency.

Portfolio review



Source: Robeco. Data as of 30.06.2026.

For illustrative purposes only. This is the current overview as of the date stated above and not a guarantee of future developments. It should not be assumed that any investments in regions or clusters identified were or will be profitable.

Portfolio changes and positioning

The fund maintains relatively even weights across high-conviction holdings. This approach provides exposure to attractive areas through a diversified group of companies, rather than a few large positions, while also helping to reduce stock-specific risk. At the same time, it preserves the fund’s high active share and does not dilute the strong conviction behind its bottom-up stock selection. As a result, the composition of the top ten holdings tends to fluctuate from month to month.

In Q2, we fully exited or significantly reduced a number of holdings. We fully exited Metso, which has likewise seen good price development over the past few quarters. We believe the new management can both improve operations and benefit from growing demand for mining equipment, but the low-hanging fruits in terms of margin improvement has likely already been realized, and the share price has reached fair levels. We also exited Ingersoll Rand, where we did not see evidence of growth improvements, and Saint-Gobain, where European exposure to residential construction – especially in France – continued to be a drag on growth. Finally, we exited or significantly reduced a number of AI-linked investments where we saw a lower probability of positive earnings revisions and/or valuations already pricing in strong growth in the coming years. Some of these were Fabrinet, Comfort Systems USA, Unimicron, Innodisk, Celestica and Broadcom.

In Q2, we also added new holdings to the portfolio. Some of these are Novanta, Renishaw, Tetra Tech and Thermo Fisher. We also significantly increased our position in the Swedish industrial Sandvik.

There were some movements in the top ten positions. The names that dropped off the list are Nvidia, Galenica, Cencora, Applied Industrial Technologies, Comfort Systems and nVent. Of these, the two we actively exited or significantly reduced were Cencora and Comfort Systems; the remainder were not actively traded. The holdings leaving the top ten were replaced by SK Hynix, Acter Group, Thermo Fisher, Sandvik, Infineon and ASE Technology.

Table 2 – Portfolio top ten holdings

Company	Country	Company focus	Weight
SK Hynix Inc	Korea	Global leader in DRAM memory semiconductors.	4.51%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Lt	Taiwan	World's leading semiconductor foundry	3.97%
Acter Group Corp Ltd	Taiwan	Acter is an engineering services firm specializing in cleanroom construction.	3.27%
Keysight Technologies Inc	United States	Provider of electronic measurement, testing and simulation solutions	3.10%
Infineon Technologies AG	Germany	Develops power semi, sensors, connectivity systems for the automotive and automation industries	2.99%
MKS Inc	United States	Manufactures subsystems for semiconductor and electronics industries.	2.99%
Sandvik AB	Sweden	Manufactures equipment and tools for metalworking and mining.	2.93%
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc	United States	Producer of diagnostic tools and life science equipment	2.82%
Elite Material Co Ltd	Taiwan	Manufactures copper-clad laminate (CCL) for advanced printed circuit boards	2.82%
SPIE SA	France	Provides technical services and bespoke upgrades of energy and communications infrastructure	2.80%
Total			32.21%

Source: Robeco. Data as of 30.06.2026

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Table 3 – Top & bottom 5 contributors

Name	Cluster	% average weight	Total return (%)	Contribution to return (%)
SK HYNIX INC	Circular Use	3.25%	227.77%	4.04%
ELITE MATERIAL CO LTD	Circular Use	3.41%	109.67%	2.71%
ASE TECHNOLOGY HOLDING CO LT	Circular Use	2.28%	109.36%	1.90%
INFINEON TECHNOLOGIES AG	Enabling Technologies	2.28%	114.92%	1.89%
ACTER GROUP CORP LTD	Circular Use	2.42%	89.63%	1.75%
CENCORA INC	Circular Use	2.05%	-12.86%	-0.39%
OSI SYSTEMS INC	Loop Resources	1.02%	-16.99%	-0.21%
GRUMA S.A.B.-B	Circular Use	1.28%	-10.64%	-0.18%
GALENICA AG	Loop Resources	2.43%	-4.17%	-0.13%
REPUBLIC SERVICES INC	Loop Resources	1.45%	-1.68%	-0.12%

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Outlook

As we head into Q2 earnings, the global earnings revision ratio sits near four-year highs. Company commentary at conferences over recent months stayed confident on the industrial demand recovery, supported by lean inventories – with little destocking left to work through, incremental demand now feeds more directly into orders. The green shoots were visible as early as the end of last year, and the trend has broadened since. The Iran-US conflict initially added a note of caution, but with a resolution now looking like an active work-in-progress, the tail risk – a growth downturn and a reversal of the demand recovery – seems increasingly less likely.

That positive earnings trajectory offers investors a genuine alternative for generating alpha, one not tied, or at least not as tightly tied, to the AI-trade. A second source, we believe, sits in the companies whose earnings are troughing yet still trade at or near trough multiples – where both the earnings and the multiple can re-rate as the demand turns. These span different sectors and different demand patterns, so the exposure is not a single macro bet, and each offers a way to diversify away from AI-linked exposure.

We are increasingly favoring a barbell strategy. That means that when we add, we add to weak momentum over strong momentum, troughing earnings over strong earnings, and AI-users over AI-enablers. Diversifying away from the AI-theme stocks does not mean we are losing confidence in the generational, structural case for AI. But as nothing exists in a vacuum, the stretched positioning, the high expectations and the valuations that implicitly expect continuous positive earnings revisions make the AI-trade relatively less attractive than it was 6 to 18 months ago.

Why invest?

Our fund targets companies that stand to benefit from the long-term structural changes needed to protect and restore nature. The fund invests in companies that provide products and services focused on loss reduction solutions and nature restoration technologies. The focus is on companies that will benefit from shifts in consumer behavior, regulatory adjustments and rating changes, all of which should yield significant long-term alpha.

Sustainable investment objective (SFDR)

The fund's sustainable investments aim to support the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services, as well as technologies, products and services that help to reduce Biodiversity threats or restore natural habitats. The foregoing is implemented by mainly investing in companies that advance the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs): Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Life below water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15).

A part of the investments made by the Fund contribute to the following environmental objectives of the Taxonomy regulation:

- Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
- Pollution prevention and control

There is no reference benchmark designated for the sustainable investment objective promoted by the fund.

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Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Spain

Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V., Sucursal en España with identification number W0032687F and having its registered office in Madrid at Calle Serrano 47-14^º, is registered with the Spanish Commercial Registry in Madrid, in volume 19.957, page 190, section 8, sheet M-351927 and with the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) in the Official Register of branches of European investment services companies, under number 24. The investment funds or SICAV mentioned in this document are regulated by the corresponding authorities of their country of origin and are registered in the Special Registry of the CNMV of Foreign Collective Investment Institutions marketed in Spain.

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Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Taiwan

The Funds may be made available outside Taiwan for purchase outside Taiwan by Taiwan resident investors, but may not be offered or sold in Taiwan. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Taiwan. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.

Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Thailand

The Prospectus has not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission which takes no responsibility for its contents. No offer to the public to purchase the Shares will be made in Thailand and the Prospectus is intended to be read by the addressee only and must not be passed to, issued to, or shown to the public generally.

Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Arab Emirates

Some Funds referred to in this marketing material have been registered with the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority ("the Authority"). Details of all Registered Funds can be found on the Authority's website. The Authority assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information set out in this material/document, nor for the failure of any persons engaged in the investment Fund in performing their duties and responsibilities.

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Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Uruguay

The sale of the Fund qualifies as a private placement pursuant to section 2 of Uruguayan law 18,627. The Fund must not be offered or sold to the public in Uruguay, except under circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under Uruguayan laws and regulations. The Fund is not and will not be registered with the Financial Services Superintendency of the Central Bank of Uruguay. The Fund corresponds to investment funds that are not investment funds regulated by Uruguayan law 16,774 dated 27 September 1996, as amended.