

The following transcript was recorded on July 7th, 2026. This transcription is believed to be an accurate summary of the live call, but may contain some minor differences from the speaker's exact language.

Hi, my name is Jason Doctor. I'm one of the portfolio managers on our international small cap value product. I'm here to talk with you a little bit about what happened during the second quarter of 2026.

Really the second quarter of 2026 was a pretty interesting time for smaller capitalization stocks outside of the US, as really the shares kind of waxed and waned um as people's expectations around the war in Iran impacted both consumer confidence outside of the US as the consumer responded to potentially much higher fuel prices and inflation but also you had the issue of, you know, potential increases in interest rates as central banks acted to try to mitigate some of the inflation caused by that, those fuel price moves during the quarter.

An interesting sort of area of performance for us were Kanto Denka Kogyo and Tokai Carbon, two Japanese chemicals businesses we've owned for quite some time. During this quarter, they both performed really really strongly as DRAM and silicon markets performed very strongly on the AI boom. Those shares began to approach our estimate of fair value, when we began to reduce them from the portfolio.

Two detractors in the portfolio during the quarter I think worth talking about. The first would be, so a Japanese generic pharmaceutical company. You know this is a stock we've owned for a couple of years now really waiting on a restructuring of the way the Japanese health ministry remunerates generics. It actually seems like we're starting to get that during this quarter. We saw the Japanese health authorities essentially end the existence of branded generics in the market which should be a big headwind for Sawai. The shares actually underperformed during the quarter because Sawai has been undertaking a large expansion in capacity to fill the gap from smaller players who had exited the market. And unfortunately I think they were a little bit too optimistic in how fast they could ramp capacity in the new facilities. And because the ramp was a little bit slower than expected, fixed cost absorption was also a little bit worse than expected. So you kind of missed on topline, you kind of missed on margin.

The other name I think interest, an interesting detractor to talk about is Pennon Group. Really this is a story of your sort of the baby being thrown out with the bathwater a little bit in the UK water market. You know, I'm sure some of you have seen very controversial restructuring of Thames Water, the biggest player in the sector, as a result of that and especially associated with the Starmer Burnham leadership changes in the UK, quite a bit of noise around sort of the regulatory process and potentially the renationalization of the water companies. Our view is renationalization is a relatively unlikely thing to happen and if it were to happen it would have to be somewhere around regulatory asset value which is about where the shares trade today and really the Thames Water restructuring doesn't particularly have a whole lot to do with Pennon, it's a pretty different situation, pretty different balance sheet. Pennon as well as the two other publicly traded water companies have always been seen as better actors.

Finally just thinking about the portfolio and where we're positioned today and what we're excited about, you know, I think it gets back to that sort of European consumer pain that we talked about earlier. The portfolio is pretty heavily positioned in things like European housing, European consumer spending. We think those are places that are really being undervalued by the market. Housing especially is a place where we see a lot of dislocation. We continue to be really excited about the value opportunity in the smaller capitalization stocks outside of the US as we try to build you a portfolio of 40 to 60 idiosyncratic investment controversies.

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