

Ramius Alternative Solutions LLC

Manager profile



Company overview

Ramius Alternative Solutions (Ramius) is part of Ramius LLC, an experienced global alternative asset management business. Ramius LLC has US\$10.7 billion in assets under management (as at 1 July 2011) and has a 17 year history as a global alternative investment management firm. The areas of expertise include multi and single strategy hedge funds, fund of hedge funds and private real estate funds. Its three founders each have over 40 years of experience and all previously ran major Wall Street securities franchises. It has a history of long-standing collaborative relationships with sophisticated institutional clients.

Ramius provides a range of hedge fund investment and advisory solutions, including customised and commingled fund of funds, portfolio completion, portfolio hedging and hedge fund replication with over 90% of the asset base representing client specific customised investment and hedging solutions constructed in partnership with their client.

Investment philosophy and style

Ramius has a capital market-based investment philosophy. This has a strong influence on its forward looking views on the opportunity set, manager selection and portfolio construction. Ramius believes that in addition to selecting the best managers, it's important to incorporate into each decision an assessment, from a top down perspective, of the specific return drivers supporting each particular strategy and investment style. In addition to this, Ramius recognises return drivers introduce different exposures and portfolios of exposures across asset classes. As a result of this, Ramius believes that a robust exposure measurement process is critical in the customisation process and in managing client portfolios within a pre-determined risk. With respect to research, Ramius focuses its research on top-tier managers with institutional infrastructures and substantial depth of experience of managing through various market cycles.

Investment process

Ramius and Advance are joint managers of the Advance Alternative Strategies Multi-Blend Fund. The Fund is unique and reflective of Advance's top-down macro views. The Fund's construction leverages off the specialist research undertaken by Ramius and is overlaid with Advance's own research and analysis. Ramius' due diligence consists of five independent factors, investment manager research, risk management and quantitative review, operational due diligence, legal due diligence and accounting due diligence.

Reason we chose to partner with Ramius

Detailed Portfolio Manager Reviews are produced on potential managers who pass through this multi-faceted process. These are then discussed at a monthly meeting of the joint Advance/Ramius investment committee composed of members of both investment teams.

In looking for a specialist Alternative Strategies partner we wanted to find an organisation with a similar investment philosophy to Advance's. For instance, we share the belief that traditional hedge fund of fund structures are flawed and need a new approach.

In addition, we wanted to find an organisation that would be committed to working together in a true partnership to provide the best investment outcome for investors. This entails a commitment to full transparency and efficient communication. Ramius has successfully built its business around the model of assisting clients with bespoke solutions and are doing it well.

The key investment professionals at Ramius, Stuart Davies and Vikas Kapoor, are highly respected in the hedge fund industry. They are backed by an investment team focused on good quality research, with specialists covering all the main hedge fund strategies as well as operational due diligence and risk management.



What to do next

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