

## Trust Fact Sheet

31 May 2017



### Trust Facts

#### Ordinary Shares

Share Price	1014.00p
NAV per share	1002.24p
Premium	1.17%
Discount	-
Capital	132,487,000 ordinary shares of 25p

#### Assets & Gearing <sup>1</sup>

Total Net Assets	£1,330.6m
AIC Gearing Ratio	0.00%
AIC Net Cash Ratio	1.62%

### Benchmark

Dow Jones World Technology Index Total Return adjusted for withholding taxes (from 1 May 2013)

### Fees <sup>2,3</sup>

Management	1.00%
Performance	15% over Benchmark

### FX Rates

GBP/USD	1.2910
GBP/EUR	1.1480
GBP/JPY	142.7597

### Risk Warning

Your capital is at risk. You may not get back the full amount you invested. Please note the Important Information at the end of this document and the Investment Policy and full Risk Warnings set out in the Prospectus, Annual Report and/or Investor Disclosure Document.

### Discount Warning

The shares of investment trusts may trade at a discount or a premium to Net Asset Value for a variety of reasons including market sentiment and market conditions. On a sale you could realise less than the Net Asset Value and less than you initially invested.

## Company Profile

### Investment Objective

The Company aims to maximise capital growth for shareholders through investing in a diversified portfolio of technology companies around the world.

### Investment Rationale

Over the last three decades the technology industry has been one of the most vibrant, dynamic and rapidly growing segments of the global economy. Technology companies offer the potential for substantially faster earnings growth than the broader market, reflecting the longer-term secular uptrend in technology spending.

Full details of the Investment Objective, Rationale and Strategy are available on the company's website.

### Investment Approach

The Polar Capital Technology team selects companies for their potential for shareholder returns, not on the basis of technology for its own sake. The team believe in rigorous fundamental analysis and focus on: management quality, the identification of new growth markets, the globalisation of major technology trends, and exploiting international valuation anomalies and sector volatility.

## Performance

### Performance over 5 years (%)



	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	5 Years
■ Ordinary Share Price	7.07	8.33	22.61	70.56	184.83
■ NAV per Share	6.01	9.11	22.12	55.91	167.70
■ Benchmark	4.96	7.01	19.29	52.91	159.05

### Discrete Performance (%)

	30/04/17 31/05/17	30/04/16 30/04/17	30/04/15 30/04/16	30/04/14 30/04/15	30/04/13 30/04/14
Ordinary Share Price	7.07	67.31	-4.39	33.94	10.92
NAV per Share	6.01	56.13	1.05	30.71	11.17
Benchmark	4.96	53.38	-0.11	29.46	13.07

Source: Bloomberg & HSBC Securities Services (UK) Limited, percentage growth, total return, Net of Fees in GBP terms. Past performance is not indicative or a guarantee of future results.

### Awards & Ratings



- Gearing calculations are exclusive of current year Revenue/Loss.
- Management fee is 1% of net assets up to £800m and 0.85% on assets over £800m.
- The performance fee is subject to a highwater mark and cap. Further details can be found in the latest Report and Accounts.

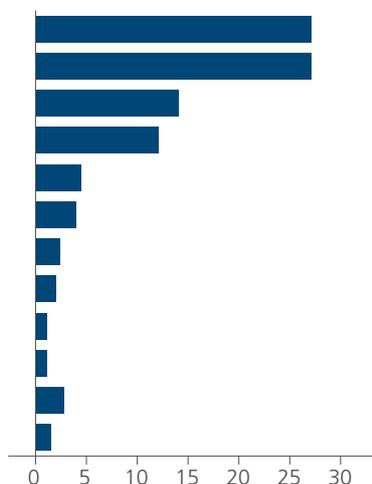
# Polar Capital Technology Trust plc

## Portfolio Exposure

As at 31 May 2017

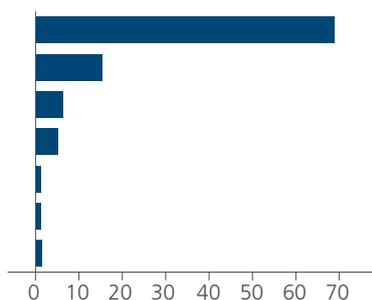
### Sector Exposure (%)

Internet Software & Services	27.2
Software	27.2
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equip.	14.1
Tech. Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	12.1
Elec. Equip. Instruments & Components	4.5
Internet & Direct Marketing Retail	4.0
IT Services	2.4
Machinery	2.0
Communications Equipment	1.2
Chemicals	1.1
Other	2.8
Cash	1.5



### Geographic Exposure (%)

US & Canada	68.8
Asia Pac (ex-Japan)	15.4
Japan	6.4
Europe (ex UK)	5.3
UK	1.4
Middle East & Africa	1.2
Cash	1.5



### Top 15 Holdings (%)

Alphabet	8.7
Apple	7.2
Microsoft	6.0
Facebook	5.6
Samsung Electronics	3.7
Amazon	2.9
Tencent	2.8
Alibaba Group Holding	2.4
Salesforce.com	1.7
Applied Materials	1.6
Adobe Systems	1.5
Splunk	1.4
New Relic	1.4
TSMC	1.3
Xilinx	1.2

**Total** 49.4

**Total Number of Positions** 120

### Market Capitalisation Exposure (%)

Large Cap (>\$10bn)	70.5
Mid Cap (\$1bn - \$10bn)	24.6
Small Cap (<\$1bn)	4.9

^The fund holds AMD Call options which represent 7bps of NAV and a delta adjusted exposure of 0.33%. The delta adjusted impact of these options is only reflected in the top 15 positions table all other exposure tables are based on MTM figures.

## Investing in the Trust and Shareholder Information

### Market Purchases

The shares of Polar Capital Technology Trust PLC are listed and traded on the London Stock Exchange. Investors may purchase shares through their stockbroker, bank or other financial intermediary.

### Share Dealing Services

Details of the different ways of dealing in the company's shares are given on the website. Equiniti, the company's registrars provide an internet share sale service.

**Telephone** 0800 876 6889  
**Online** www.shareview.co.uk

### Savings Scheme & ISA

Shares in the company may be purchased through a share saving scheme or an ISA.

### Corporate Contacts

#### Registered Office and Website

16 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JD  
www.polarcapitaltechnologytrust.co.uk

#### Custodian

HSBC Plc is the Depositary and provides global custody of all the company's investments

#### Registrar

Equiniti Limited, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN99 6DA  
www.shareview.co.uk

### Trust Characteristics

Launch Date	16 December 1996
Year End	30 April
Results Announced	Mid June
Next AGM	September 2017
Continuation Vote	2020 AGM
Listed	London Stock Exchange

### Codes

#### Ordinary Shares

ISIN	GB0004220025
SEDOL	0422002
London Stock Exchange	PCT

The entire investment portfolio is published in the annual and half year report as well as being announced to the London Stock Exchange on a quarterly basis. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in future will be profitable or will equal performance of the securities in this document. A list of all recommendations made within the immediately preceding 12 months is available upon request.

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

## Fund Manager Comments

As at 31 May 2017

### Market Review

Equity markets rallied further in May as the FTSE World Index gained +2.3% while the S&P 500 Index rose +1.6% (both in GBP terms). European equity markets remained a highlight, with the Euro Stoxx 600 Index returning +4.3% (in GBP terms). An absence of political risk assisted the European performance while significant headlines engulfed both the US and Brazil intra-month. In the US, the mention of possible impeachment proceedings followed allegations in the news that President Trump had attempted to interfere in an FBI investigation. This led to the biggest drop in the S&P 500 Index of the year and coincided with a jump in the VIX volatility Index. However, despite the political turmoil seemingly unfolding in the White House, it did not take long for financial markets to recover their poise supported by a strong first-quarter earnings season.

Commodity markets continued their weak year-to-date performance as the CRB Index declined -1.1% in May, the fifth consecutive monthly decline. The WTI Oil price also fell, experiencing a decline of -3.1%. That said, global economic data in general continues to portray a robust global environment supporting the move higher in risk assets. US GDP growth was revised upwards to an annualised +1.2% from the previous estimate of 0.7%. Europe remains a bright spot within the global economy, the Eurozone Composite PMI remaining at its multi-year high of 56.8 in May. A selection of 'soft' economic indicators (particularly business and consumer sentiment) have started to stall and drift lower from elevated levels. While this may temper the magnitude of US economic rebound in Q2, the US Federal Reserve is still expected to raise rates by a quarter-point in June; despite short-term concerns about a decline in core inflation, the increasingly tight labour market is likely to factor into their decision unless participation rates improve.

### Technology Review

The technology sector outperformed the broader market during the month, the Dow World Technology Index TR rising 5.0% (in GBP terms). A new global cyberattack known as "WannaCry" captured headlines globally, causing widespread panic and infecting computers in more than 150 countries. The NHS in the UK, FedEx and Telefonica were high profile victims of the ransomware (exploiting a vulnerability in the Windows operating system (OS) that Microsoft had released a critical patch for back in March). Given that high profile breaches such as these have the potential to drive additional spending, cybersecurity stocks including several of our core holdings rallied on this news (having been laggards year-to-date). Technology outperformance has been aided by strong contribution from the so-called FANG (Facebook\*, Amazon\*, Netflix\*\* and Google\*) together with renewed strength from Apple\* ahead of its all-important iPhone 8 cycle. While this combination of stocks has driven much of the year-to-date performance of the S&P 500 Index, it has been well supported by robust growth and a very solid set of quarterly reports.

Indeed, 'new cycle' strength is much broader than a handful of high-profile mega caps, evidenced by an unusually strong Q1 earnings season and a raft of recent upbeat meetings we have had with company managements. This was certainly apparent during the conclusion of reporting season with Nvidia\* delivering another solid quarter beating expectations on both revenue and EPS lines. Data center revenues, +186% year-over-year (y/y), drove the upside, representing more than 20% of revenues. In Software, Salesforce.com\* produced a beat and raise quarter despite a tough compare with a year ago. The core Sales Cloud reported its third consecutive quarter of accelerating growth while the Service Cloud continues to decelerate, albeit from a high level. The Chinese Internet blue chips also shone with results commensurate with recent stock gains. Alibaba\* beat expectations with

both revenues and EBITDA ahead, with upside from higher click volumes and conversion rates as merchants and brands spend more to market on Alibaba's large and growing platform. Tencent\* also exceeded expectations driven by a strong performance in games and social networks. The Honor of Kings title, an in-house developed game, is a key factor behind current gaming momentum while a strong pipeline of games for 2H17, payment growth and Cloud leave Tencent in a highly desirable position.

While there was the odd 'next-generation' stock disappointment (our position in Splunk\* fared poorly following an unusually noisy quarter) most of the first-quarter mishaps were reserved for incumbents who appear to be stumbling with ever greater frequency. In networking, Cisco\*\* (underweight, subsequently sold) delivered an underwhelming quarter with total revenues down 1% y/y while hyper scale (Cloud) revenues declined y/y for the second consecutive quarter. However, the biggest problem with the quarter was the disappointing guidance with a shortfall blamed on weak US Federal business, Mexico and EMEA. While Cisco may be experiencing macro issues that have not yet impacted peers, we suspect the company (like so many former enterprise-computing winners) is beginning to struggle with the accelerating pace of Cloud adoption. The same might be said for Hewlett Packard Enterprise\*\* who – like IBM\*\* and Cisco – delivered negative y/y revenue growth in Q1.

### Market Outlook

While equity markets have continued to add to their year-to-date gains, we remain constructive and continue to see significant opportunities within the technology sector in 2017. The macroeconomic backdrop remains favourable with global growth 'just about right' – enough to keep earnings estimates moving higher, but not too much to accelerate the pace of rate tightening and/or take the lustre off those companies able to deliver well-above average growth. The reversal of the so-called Trump trade (small-cap versus large-cap, value versus growth, domestic versus international) has been helpful to our pro-growth approach allowing us to recover all (and more) of the ground lost in the aftermath of the Presidential election.

However, our own confidence is grounded not in the macro but in a new cycle thesis we first articulated almost a decade ago driven by a belief that the Internet would reorder the technology landscape. As readers of our annual reports will know, we have leant on a plethora of different historical parallels to help us convey the magnitude of change we anticipated as our industry embraced a mass production model more familiar to George Eastman and Henry Ford than to most enterprise technology incumbents. As we hoped, the combination of smartphone proliferation and Cloud computing has allowed our industry to mirror the earlier experience of electricity by enabling widespread reinvention beyond traditional technology boundaries. This dynamic is most apparent in advertising where online now explains more than 40% of total spending, and in eCommerce which continues to make steady gains at the expense of traditional retail. Some of our largest holdings – Alibaba, Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Facebook and Tencent – have all taken advantage of this combination to deliver a product or service that has changed user behaviour, in the process winning commanding share of massive new and existing end markets. Perhaps the best example of this is Alphabet (aka Google) whose stock has increased c. 12x since its IPO while EPS has increased from US\$1.46 in FY2004 to an estimated US\$33.90 this year<sup>1</sup>. As such we think investors should be leery of those who attempt to explain away recent technology outperformance as a 1990s redux; in contrast to those bubble years, we believe that revenue, earnings and cash-flow growth have been the principal driver of tier one internet companies to date.

## Fund Manager Comments

As at 31 May 2017

In contrast, the other side of our new cycle thesis – Cloud substitution at the expense of enterprise incumbents – has been less fruitful and at times, a source of significant frustration. While we had acknowledged that new technologies almost always co-exist with existing ones early in a new cycle, we have been surprised by how well incumbents (particularly those with recurring revenues) have been rewarded by investors. In part, this reflects the rising tide of equity valuations during this long bull market, which has lifted all boats apparently with little regard for their long-term seaworthiness. It also reflects the odd reinvention success story with Microsoft's\* Cloud pivot acting as a rallying cry for many a 'cheap' incumbent. However, we believe that coexistence is becoming problematic for most incumbents as the Cloud has become the default platform for compute and storage today. The white-box deflation from the likes of Amazon Web Services (AWS) is increasingly permeating up the computing stack, threatening a number of once dominant technology franchises. This view appears supported by heightened (and increasingly defensive) M&A activity by incumbents and an enlightening first-quarter earnings season which saw a number of incumbents struggle to meet expectations and/or issue weak guidance (Cisco, HP Enterprise, IBM, Intel\*, Symantec\*\*) in contrast with mostly positive results from next-generation 'winners'. IBM remains a key battleground stock for our thesis; as such we were encouraged by soft results from Big Blue with revenues declining y/y for the nineteenth consecutive quarter while Warren Buffet's decision to sell c. one-third of his holding due to increased competition was particularly edifying. Our sense is that new cycle deflation is likely to intensify from here, prompting our decision to exit our underweight Cisco position during the month.

After a strong start to the year, investors may be looking for reasons to take profits, particularly as we enter a seasonally softer period. As ever there are no shortage of valid reasons why equity markets could consolidate some of their recent gains – commodity prices, falling US sovereign yields, terrorism and the upcoming UK election to name a few. However, we remain fairly fully invested reflecting strong next-generation results in Q1, corroborated by a slew of recent company meetings. Furthermore, recent strategic M&A transactions such as Intel-Mobileye and Cisco-App Dynamics highlight the value of next-generation assets, which should provide valuation support

for our collection of high-growth holdings. If our thesis is indeed playing out, it should provide a multi-year tailwind for our 'active' growth centric investment approach at a time when technology indices may be weighed down by smartphone maturity and exposure to legacy technologies. We remain excited by eight core secular themes which include eCommerce and digital payments, digital marketing and advertising, cyber and physical security, Cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI), software as a service (SaaS), digital content and gaming, robotics and automation and rising semiconductor complexity. We are also fascinated by the potential for both artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to further reshape the technology landscape over the coming years and continue to build out our exposure to this powerful long-term theme.

1 using GAAP estimates

\*Held

\*\* Not held

\*\*\* Not held, not listed

**Ben Rogoff**

12 June 2017

### Polar Capital Technology Trust Management Team

**Ben Rogoff**

**Director, Technology**

Ben has managed the Trust since 2006, he joined Polar Capital in 2003 and has 21 years of industry experience.



**Nick Evans - Senior Fund Manager**

**Fatima Iu - Fund Manager**

**Xuesong Zhao - Fund Manager**

**Bradley Reynolds - Investment Analyst**

**Paul Johnson - Investment Analyst**

# Polar Capital Technology Trust plc

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**Benchmarks** The following benchmark index is used: Dow Jones World Technology Index (Total Return). This benchmark is generally considered to be representative of the Technology Equity universe. This benchmark is a broad-based index which is used for comparative/illustrative purposes only and has been selected as it is well known and is easily recognizable by investors. Please refer to [www.djindexes.com](http://www.djindexes.com) for further information on this index. Comparisons to benchmarks have limitations as benchmarks volatility and other material characteristics that may differ from the Company. Security holdings, industry weightings and asset allocation made for the Company may differ significantly from the benchmark. Accordingly, investment results and volatility of the Company may differ from those of the benchmark. The indices noted in this document are unmanaged, are unavailable for direct investment, and are not subject to management fees, transaction costs or other types of expenses that the Company may incur. The performance of the indices reflects reinvestment of dividends and, where applicable, capital gain distributions. Therefore, investors should carefully consider these limitations and differences when evaluating the comparative benchmark data performance. Information regarding indices is included merely to show general trends in the periods indicated, it is not intended to imply that the Fund was similar to the indices in composition or risk.

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