

Fund update: R-co Thematic Blockchain Global Equity — April 2025



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"Every stock, every bond, every fund -every asset- can be tokenized. If they are, it will revolutionize investing." Larry Fink, BlackRock Chairman and CEO, in his 2025 Annual Chairman's Letter to Investors.

In March, market rotation towards more defensive assets kept rolling out, with fears around US policies and tariffs leading to increasing macroeconomic uncertainty. Market participants have been aggressively punishing growth equities with short interest at levels unseen since 2020. In the meantime, progress on digital assets regulatory and legislative frameworks and blockchain adoption kept advancing at good pace. In the US, debate on stablecoin bill progressed quickly, with both Senate and House of Representatives advancing their bipartisan bill proposals, setting legislative framework efficiently in motion. Clarity on stablecoins framework will indeed support large-scale asset tokenization and further investment democratization, as described in BlackRock's 2025 annual shareholders' letter published this month. Tokenization, which involves converting real-world assets into digital tokens that can be traded online, allows fractional ownership and global digital tracking. It reduces operational friction, facilitates seamless identity verification and forms the basis for a significantly expanded market for investment. In Korea, discussions about easing rules on digital assets would reportedly open the market to institutional investors. In Thailand, asset managers have been exempted from specific digital asset license to support the development of this new asset class and related innovation. The United Arab Emirates announced the launch of a blockchain-based

Central Bank Digital Currency for the end of the year.

On corporate front, significant partnerships and consolidation moves are under development. Intercontinental Exchange, New York Stock Exchange's holding company, is reportedly studying integrating portfolio company Circle's tokenized money market fund USYC into clearing and derivative markets. Circle also officially filed for an upcoming IPO, hiring JP Morgan and Citibank as lead managers. Coinbase has reportedly been in talks with crypto derivatives exchange Deribit for potential acquisition, which would further accelerate the company's expansion into derivatives.

In this context, the fund remained in high volatility regime in March, led by Blockchain Infrastructures and Digital assets/Fintech categories, which strongly outperformed last year. Transportation / Logistics, Web3 / Metaverse and Industrial Applications / Audit Trail buckets showed more resilient. Recently added companies Cango and Cosco Shipping contributed positively to portfolio performance this month, as well as software companies Okta and The Blockchain Group.

Confident in the constructive regulatory backdrop currently unfolding, we took advantage of market sell out to increase our equity exposure to $97.2\%^1$. Thus, we focused on the core allocation of the portfolio across Digital Assets and Blockchain Infrastructure themes with companies like Galaxy Digital, Coinbase, CleanSpark and Core Scientific.

Industry news to watch:

Announcements made this month by established companies of blockchain-based innovations continued to pertain to various sectors of the economy and enterprise usecases. Among many others:

<u>BlackRock</u> dedicates a full section of its 2025 Annual Chairman Letter to Shareholders to tokenization, making "investing much more democratic" and therefore significantly broadening addressable markets.

<u>The Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC)</u> announced a tokenized real-time collateral management platform to be live on April 23.

<u>The United Arab Emirates Central Bank</u> announced the launch of a blockchain-based Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for the end of the year which aims at both retail, capital market and cross border payments.

Learn more about the fund(s)

R-co Thematic Blockchain Global Equity







Check this document on our website



[1] Source: Rothschild & Co Asset Management, april 2025

SRI risk indicator 6/7

The synthetic risk indicator is used to assess the level of risk of this product compared with others. It indicates the probability that this product will incur losses in the event of market movements or our inability to pay you. The risk indicator assumes that you hold the product for 5 years. The real risk may be very different if you opt to exit before maturity, and you may get less in return. We have classified this product in risk class 6 out of 7, which is a high risk class and mainly reflects a discretionary management policy seeking to invest in shares of companies active in blockchain themes. In other words, the potential losses linked to the future performance of the product are high and, if market conditions were to deteriorate, it is very likely that our ability to pay you would be affected. As this product does not provide protection against the vagaries of the market or a capital guarantee, you could lose all or part of your investment. Other materially relevant risks not taken into account by the indicator: credit risk, liquidity risk, impact of techniques such as derivatives: The use of derivatives may amplify the impact of market movements in the portfolio. For more information on risks, please refer to the fund prospectus available on our website: https://am.eu.rothschildandco.com

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