

**Purpose:** This document provides you with key information about this investment product. It is not marketing material. The information is required by law to help you understand the nature, risks, costs, potential gains and losses of this product and to help you compare it with other products.

**Product:** Blackfinch Spring VCT plc ISIN: GB00BKV46W45. Sedol: BKV46W4

**Website:** www.blackfinch.com

**Customer Enquiries:** 01452 717070

This Key Information Document is issued and approved by Blackfinch Investments Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) (FCA number: 153860). Blackfinch Spring VCT plc is registered with the FCA as a small registered alternative investment fund manager with registration number 847441.

**Registered Address:** 1350-1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH

**Date of production:** October 2020



**YOU ARE ABOUT TO PURCHASE A PRODUCT THAT IS NOT SIMPLE AND MAY BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND**



**Type:** New issue shares in Blackfinch Spring VCT (the VCT), which is a Venture Capital Trust (a type of public limited company) listed on the London Stock Exchange.

**Objectives:** The product aims to provide long-term returns where shares are invested for at least 5 years, whilst enabling investors to benefit from available VCT tax reliefs.

The objective of the VCT is to invest predominantly in early stage technology-enabled companies with a strong focus on research and innovation, which give the potential for high growth alongside reasonable exit timescales. To be considered for investment, companies must be deemed capable of growth through disrupting large growing markets and of achieving significant exit multiples. Investments will be made across technology-enabled companies in many sectors to build a diverse portfolio. When assessing investment opportunities, strong emphasis is placed on the founding team who must be deemed to be highly motivated, driven, and have a track record of convincing delivery on milestones. Companies will need to show evidence of product-market-fit through traction, usually in the form of revenue growth. They will also need to demonstrate an ability to control the acquisition of new customers, typically verifying the success of campaigns through carefully monitored growth metrics. Qualifying investee companies and other investments must meet HMRC’s VCT qualification rules.

**Intended retail investor:** The product is suitable for UK taxpayers who are at least 18 years old and who wish to invest up to £200,000 for at least 5 years. Investors need to be comfortable with having exposure to small, unquoted and illiquid companies and with the risks set out below and in the most recent prospectus. They must be able to bear the loss of all money they invest in the product. Investors who do not have investment experience and an understanding of how investment funds work should seek advice from an appropriately qualified investment adviser.

**Term:** It is necessary to hold shares for at least 5 years (which is the recommended holding period) in order to benefit from VCT tax reliefs. There is no maturity date for this product and you cannot be forced to redeem your shares unless the VCT is wound up.

### What are the risks and what could I get in return?

Risk Indicator: This product offers potentially high risks and rewards.



The risk indicator assumes you keep the product for 5 years. The actual risk can vary significantly if you cash in at an early stage and you may get back less than you originally invested. You may not be able to sell the product easily or you may have to sell at a price that significantly impacts on how much you get back.

The summary risk indicator is a guide to the level of risk of this product compared to other products. It shows how likely it is that the product will lose money because of movements in the markets or because we are not able to pay you. We have classified this product as 6 out of 7, which is the second-highest risk class. This rates the potential losses from future performance at a high level, and poor market conditions are very likely to impact our capacity to pay you. This product does not include any protection from future market performance so you could lose some or all of your investment.

Tax benefits depends on your personal circumstances, and you may lose them if there are changes to the VCT tax rules, if the VCT loses its VCT status, or if you do not hold the shares for a minimum of 5 years.

## Performance scenarios

The table shows the amount you could get back over the next 5 years, under different scenarios assuming that you invest £10,000. The scenarios shown illustrate how your investment could perform. You can compare them with the scenarios of other products.

The performance scenarios do not include the effect of any tax reliefs available.

The scenarios presented are an estimate of future performance based on evidence from the past on how the value of this investment varies, and are not an exact indicator. What you get will vary depending on how the market performs and how long you keep the investment. The stress scenario shows what you might get back in extreme market circumstances, and it does not take into account the situation where the VCT is not able to pay you.

The figures shown include all the costs of the product itself, but may not include all the costs that you pay to your adviser or distributor. The figures do not take into account your personal tax situation, which may also affect how much you get back.

Scenarios		1 year	3 years	5 years <i>(recommended holding period)</i>
<b>Stress scenario</b>	<b>What you might get back after costs</b>	8,466.26	5,828.54	4,012.27
	<i>Average return each year</i>	-15.34%	-16.47%	-16.69%
<b>Unfavourable scenario</b>	<b>What you might get back after costs</b>	9,129.09	8,519.15	7,991.94
	<i>Average return each year</i>	-8.71%	-5.20%	-4.38%
<b>Moderate scenario</b>	<b>What you might get back after costs</b>	9,844.48	12,496.04	15,094.38
	<i>Average return each year</i>	-1.56%	7.71%	8.58%
<b>Favourable scenario</b>	<b>What you might get back after costs</b>	10,288.98	14,987.06	20,757.95
	<i>Average return each year</i>	2.89%	14.44%	15.73%

## What happens if Blackfinch Spring VCT is unable to pay out?

If the VCT is unable to buy back your shares then you may be able to sell them on the secondary market, but there is not likely to be much secondary market activity and even if you can find a buyer, such sales are normally at a much lower price than the net value of the VCTs assets. As a shareholder in the VCT you would not be able to make a claim under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

## What are the costs?

The Reduction in Yield (RIY) shows what impact the total costs you pay will have on the investment return you might get. The total costs take into account one-off, ongoing and incidental costs.

The amounts shown here are the cumulative costs of the product itself, for three different holding periods. They include potential early exit penalties. The figures assume you invest £10,000. The figures are estimates and may change in the future. The person selling you or advising you about this product may charge you other costs. If so, this person will provide you with information about these costs, and show you the impact that all costs will have on your investment over time. If you sell your shares within 5 years of purchase, you will have to repay the Income Tax Relief you obtained on investment.

## Cost over time

Investment £10,000 Scenarios	If you cash in after 1 year	If you cash in after 3 years	If you cash in after 5 years
<b>Total costs</b>	895.81	1,684.28	3,108.35
<b>Impact on return (RIY) per year</b>	9.56%	5.99%	5.96%

## Composition of costs

The table below shows

- The impact each year of the different types of costs on the investment return you might get at the end of the recommended holding period;
- The meaning of the different cost categories.

### The table shows the impact on return per year

<b>One off costs</b>	Entry costs	1.42%	<i>The impact of the costs you pay when entering your investment.</i>
	Exit costs	0%	<i>The impact of the costs of exiting your investment.</i>
<b>Ongoing costs</b>	Portfolio transaction costs	0%	<i>The impact of the costs of us buying and selling underlying investments for the product.</i>
	Other ongoing costs	3.62%	<i>The impact of the costs that we take each year for managing your investments.</i>
<b>Incidental costs</b>	Performance Fees	0.92%	<i>The impact of the performance fee. We take these from your investment when the product reaches a hurdle of 130%.</i>
	Carried interests	0%	<i>The impact of the carried interests.</i>

## How long should I hold it and can I take my money out early?

The minimum period to hold VCT shares in order to retain the upfront income tax relief is five years. Selling the shares more quickly would require you to repay the income tax to HMRC.

Where funds are available, the VCT will buy back shares at a planned 5-10% discount to the net asset value. Otherwise shares can be sold on the secondary market. However, shares bought in this way do not qualify for income tax relief: there is limited demand for them and the price paid is unlikely to match the underlying asset value.

## How can I complain?

You can complain directly to the VCT by phone on 01452 717070, in writing to Blackfinch Investments Limited, 1350-1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH, or by emailing [complaints@blackfinch.com](mailto:complaints@blackfinch.com). You may request a copy of the complaints-handling procedure at any time.

## Other relevant information

The cost, performance and risk calculations included in this key information document follow the methodology prescribed by EU rules. Further information is available in the Blackfinch Spring VCT prospectus.

Subscriptions for new shares in Blackfinch Spring VCT plc should attract income tax relief at the rate of 30% for eligible UK tax-payers. The VCT can also make tax-free distributions to shareholders, and gains made within the VCT are free from capital gains tax. Tax reliefs are dependent on individual circumstances and are subject to change.

This KID is written for the new issue of shares to investors who have not received investment advice. If shares are bought on the secondary market, costs may differ and income tax relief would not be available.