

COMPANY RESULTS



27 April
STARVEST (SVE)

African Platinum (AP) has been Starvest's wonder investment. Before AP joined Aim in May 2002, Starvest invested £100,000 and acquired warrants exercisable at 1p a share over a further 10m shares. Then, over the next three years, AP shares were regularly sold, to account for most of the reported profits.

Now, however, platinum major Impala has agreed a bid of 55p a share for AP, which will bring in cash of £4.54m in June, after tax. A modest portion of that money will be used to pay a special 1p dividend and the rest will be used to finance follow-on investments as well as new share stakes, probably in mining companies. These will be added to the existing 27-strong share portfolio, in which AP accounts for 28 per cent, followed by UK residential cleaning franchisor Myhome, at 16 per cent, and Toronto-listed Franconia Minerals, which accounts for 14 per cent.

Last month, Starvest agreed a £1m loan deal and it has since used part of that money to take 18 per cent stake in Aim-listed Bulgarian and Turkish gold explorer Kefi Minerals. It has also purchased a stake in Pakistan-based Oracle Coalfields, which has an 80 per cent interest in a company with a five-year, 100 sq km exploration licence over the Khorewah coalfield in Sindh Province. Oracle will come to Plus Markets shortly via an offer for subscription at 5p a share.

Ord price: 26p	Market value: £9.55m
Touch: 25-27p	12-month High: 27.5p Low: 15.75p
Dividend yield: nil	PE ratio: 7

Net asset value: 8p*
*42p including unrealised gains

Half-year To 31 Mar	operating income (£000)	Pre-tax profit (000)	earnings per share (p)	Dividend per share (p)
2006	203	50	0.11	nil
2007	956	749	1.41	nil**
% change	+371	+1,398	+1,182 -	

Last IC view: Good value, 12.25p, 25 Nov 2005
**Excluding special dividend of 1p a share payable 20 Jun



The shares have risen sharply in 2007 and are due a breather. Nevertheless, they remain good value.