

About the founder

Date: 2025/03/28

Background

Willem Blaisse (born 1984, Rotterdam) started investing when he was 14 years old. He earned a Master's degree in Mining Engineering from TU Delft and went on to establish a mining & recycling consultancy, Blast Mining Enterprises B.V. (BME). Before founding BME, Willem held various roles, including a position at the Innovation Department of mining giant Rio Tinto in Australia. He also played a pivotal role in the growth of Blue Phoenix, a metal and mineral recycling company, helping it evolve from a startup to a global market leader & was part of the core team that sold the business to Waterland, a leading private equity in the Netherlands with a buy-and-build strategy.

Through BME, Willem has worked as a Principal Associate with SRK Consulting and collaborated with several top raw material producers. His experience spans:

- Over 10 years of running a mining & recycling consultancy focused on corporate development
- Various interim executive roles within the raw materials sector
- Successful mergers and acquisitions (buy-side and sell-side)
- Financial modelling, feasibility studies, and due diligence
- Managing innovation programs
- Operational optimization based on continuous improvement principles
- Mine design and optimization using various software tools
- Leading strategic negotiations and resolving complex contractual conflicts

Willem is passionate about industry, finance & appraisal, investing, and business improvement & innovation. He has experience across a broad range of commodities. Site visits to and/or activities carried out for more than 55 metal & mineral resource industry operations in North America, Australia, Africa, and Europe to date, have enabled an ability to identify some of the worst and best practices in safety, environmental impact, cost-efficiency, technical and financial feasibility, and operational risks.

Purpose

We all have something to contribute. Exactly how we can best contribute to the betterment of the World around us depends not only on our abilities, limitations, and interests, but also on the circumstances we are confronted with. The time you live in. It just so happens we live in an extraordinary time in which metal and mineral resource industry opportunities are abundant.

Willem aims to contribute significant value for participants, partners, the team at The Mining Fund, and the community he operates within. The Netherlands does not have significant metal & mineral resources. Europe consumes far more than it produces. Against the current geopolitical and macro-economic backdrop, participation in the Fund may therefore not only be lucrative, but can also have strategic value. The Funds strategic value is amplified by its focus on ESG performance. We believe taking once license to operate seriously (i.e. the manner companies treat their surrounding environment & stakeholders) is a pre-requisite to outperformance in the long run.

Participating in the fund may offer an asymmetric risk-reward opportunity:

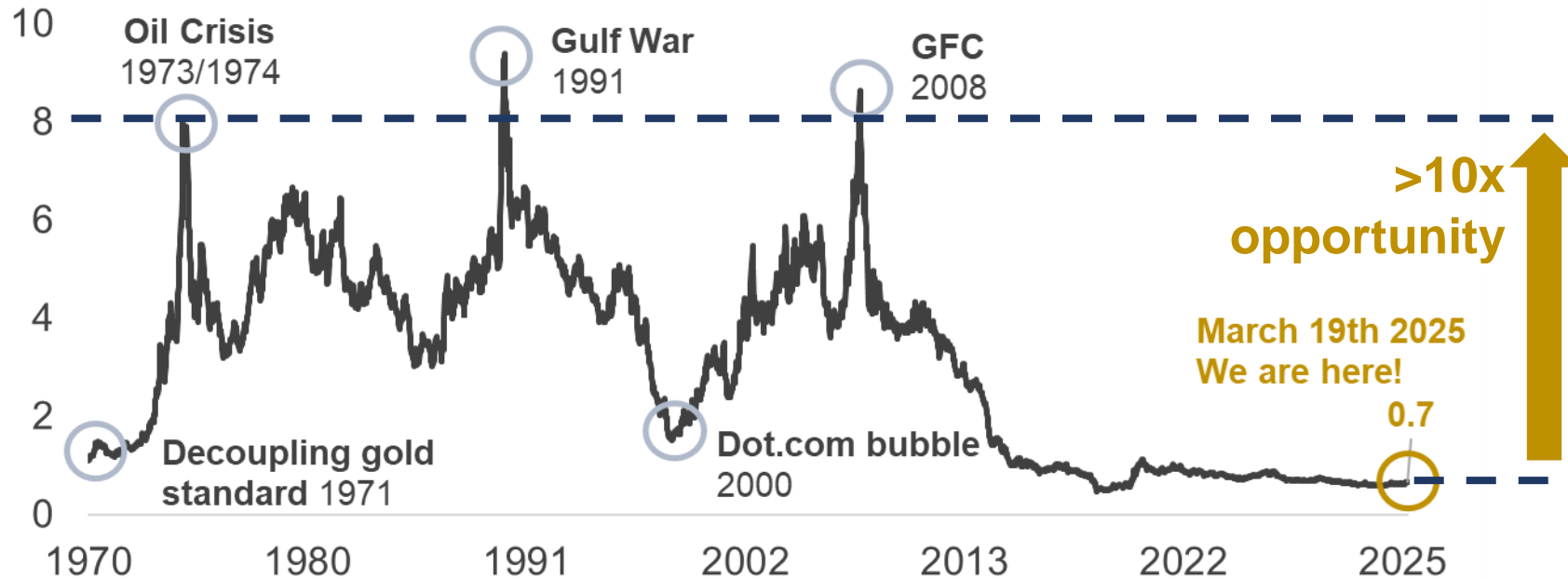
- Commodity prices, as measured by the S&P GSCI index versus the S&P 500 (FIGURE X on the next page), are at a low point. This ratio could increase 10x if this ratio returns to its former highs. There are several reasons why this may occur in the next 5 to 10 years:
 1. As a result of current geopolitical and/or macroeconomic trends
 2. For technical reasons related to orebody limitations and resource scarcity
 3. As a result of our ambition to electrify the World to combat global warming, reduce geopolitical dependency on fossil fuels, reduce smog & improve health, and achieve the next phase of global growth powered by even more affordable & abundant energy.
- Furthermore, it can be argued the ratio of the S&P GSCI index vs. the S&P 500 could exceed prior highs in the future, because the metals & minerals with which we aim to replace or at least augment fossil fuels to meet global energy demand are generally more difficult to come by.

If you're interested in investing in or working with The Mining Fund, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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Goldman & Sachs Commodity Index / S&P 500 1970 - 2025



Source data: S&P Global (2025)