

# Press release

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## New podcast The quest for companies that change the world

FTSE 100 listed investment trust, Scottish Mortgage, is launching a podcast series called [Invest in Progress](#). In each episode, business entrepreneurs will tell inspiring stories of transformation, innovation and the challenges they've faced whilst trying to grow the world's next trail-blazing company.

- [First episode now live](#) with founder of instant drone- delivery company, Zipline
- Six half-hour episodes in the first series, January to March, one every fortnight
- Scottish Mortgage managers in conversation with business leaders, anchored by investment specialist Claire Shaw
- Produced by award-winning podcast company [Listen](#)

Listeners will get a backstage pass to the conversations that take place between the managers of Scottish Mortgage and visionary business leaders.

Tom Slater and Lawrence Burns will interview the founders, entrepreneurs and chiefs of exceptional growth companies to understand how they are solving real-world problems and the scale of opportunity ahead.

"It's like being a fly on the wall of live investment research, which normally happens behind closed doors," says Claire Shaw, investment specialist for Scottish Mortgage. "People think investing is about dry financial data, but behind these fast-growing companies lies a remarkable story, a creative founder, and the quest to solve a problem to make things better for people.

"We want to show that fascinating conversations with extraordinary companies are at the heart of what we do. This is a podcast about progress. These companies could provide the biggest positive impact to society in the next decades, changing how we do things - from transport to healthcare, from shopping to food."

In the first episode, Tom Slater speaks to Keller Rinaudo Clifton, CEO and co-founder of Zipline, an instant delivery company that uses drones to drop medicine, blood and other products from the sky. For Rinaudo Clifton, saving lives by delivering vital medical supplies in Africa was only the start. They discuss how drones could change how we get our goods in the future, from blood to cancer medication to rotisserie chickens.

Slater says: "Very few world class, hi-tech companies choose their first market as Rwanda, but that's what Zipline did in 2016. In its simplest form, Rinaudo Clifton began using drones to deliver blood and medicine to hospitals. In reality, he has invented a whole new faster, greener, airborne delivery system that can move items as quickly and efficiently as the internet moves information."

In the podcast, Rinaudo Clifton reveals why he started the business: "The vast majority of people on earth don't have access to logistics. As a result, five and a half million children under the age of five each year lose their lives due to lack of access to basic medical products.

"In Tanzania, a researcher showed me a message alert system he'd designed, full of text messages of medical emergencies saying we urgently need x, we need y, we need z, and I realised it's a database of death."

Starting with one hospital in Rwanda, Zipline has expanded to Ghana, Japan, Nigeria, Kenya, Ivory Coast and the USA, moving beyond medical supplies to deliver groceries and other shopping.

Teleportation may be the stuff of science fiction but that's what Rinaudo Clifton aims to come close to: "The doctor wants something that goes from A to B fast enough to save somebody's life. In Rwanda, blood waste was reduced and maternal mortality rates fell. That's hundreds of moms surviving and being able to take care of their families.

"People think of tech companies as evil but they can be used to solve humanity-level problems and make the world a more equal and better place."

In 2021 the company partnered with Walmart to deliver a huge range of products for customers, from store to home. And a similar partnership followed in 2022 with African e-commerce business, Jumia.

"Rather than delivery drivers hurtling up and down streets using a 3000 pounds gas combustion vehicle to deliver something that weighs five pounds, we can do it in a way that is safer, silent, cheaper and zero emission. That's why this transition that's going to happen over the next ten years is pretty darn exciting."

*Invest in Progress* guests in the first series:

18 Jan – [Zipline](#) founder Keller Rinaudo Clifton, drone delivery technology

1 Feb – [MercadoLibre](#) CFO, Pedro Arnt, e-commerce and payments ecosystem

15 Feb – [Recursion](#), founder Chris Gibson, new therapies for cancer and other diseases

1 March – [Ocado](#), founder Tim Steiner, groceries and robotics business

15 March – [Denali](#) founder Ryan Watts, developing a treatment for Alzheimer's

29 March – [Upside Foods](#), founder Uma Valeti, growing meat from animal cells

All *Invest in Progress* episodes will be available to listen to and download via the following audio platforms: Acast, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, Deezer, Castbox, Pocket Cast, Podcast Addict, Alexa, Doggcatcher, Player FM, Overcast.

[www.scottishmortgage.com](http://www.scottishmortgage.com)

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#investinprogress

**-Ends-**

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### **Notes to editors:**

More information on the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust PLC can be found on the [website](#).

### **About Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust**

Scottish Mortgage is an actively managed, low-cost investment trust, investing in a high conviction, global portfolio of companies with the aim of maximising its total return to its shareholders over the long term. The managers (Tom Slater and Lawrence Burns) aim to achieve a greater return than the FTSE All-World Index (in sterling terms) over a five year rolling period. The majority of the portfolio will be held in quoted equities and up to a maximum of 30% of the assets may be invested in companies not listed on a public market (measured at the time of purchase). The managers are looking for strong, well run businesses which offer the best potential durable growth opportunities for the future. They think in terms of owning companies rather than renting shares and are first and foremost stock pickers, selecting investments based on an individual company's fundamental characteristics. A long term approach is taken, as the managers believe that it is only over periods of five years or longer that durable competitive advantages and managerial excellence within companies are truly reflected in returns. The trust was launched in 1909 and has been a constituent of the FTSE 100 since March

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2017. It has total assets of £12.9bn (at 31 December 2022). Scottish Mortgage is managed by Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, the Edinburgh-based investment management partnership.

**About Baillie Gifford**

Baillie Gifford is an independent investment partnership founded in Edinburgh in 1908, focused on long-term growth investing in some of the world's most exciting companies. With 1,839 staff and assets under management of £223bn, at 31 December 2022, it has offices in Edinburgh (HQ), Dublin, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Krakow, London, New York, Shanghai, Toronto and Zurich.

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