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# SemperMacro posts return of 50%

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19 Jan 2009

SemperMacro, a hedge fund spun out of Fulcrum, the boutique of former BBC chairman Gavyn Davies in 2007, posted gains of more than 50% last year as global macro proved one of the few strategies to weather the downturn.

SemperMacro Capital, which is run by the former Goldman Sachs trader Christian Siva-Jothy, went through a bad patch in 2006 when investors pulled money following investment losses of 15.7%. The following year, Siva-Jothy and three colleagues – all former Goldman traders – spun it off as an independent venture and since then the fund has redeemed itself.

Some other global macro funds performed similarly strongly. The Conquest Macro fund, a New York-based quantitative fund run by Marc Malek, was up 45% during the 12 months, while Brevan Howard's flagship fund was up 21%, according to investors.

SemperMacro declined to comment, and Brevan Howard did not respond to requests for comment.
Malek said: "The mandate of our fund is to achieve above-average returns in periods of high volatility, and to preserve capital in periods of low volatility, so we have performed in line with our objective."

Not all global macro funds have done so well, according to Alex Allen, chief investment officer at Eddington Capital, which runs a $100m (€75m) fund of macro funds. While some posted double-digit gains, others following related but different strategies made losses of a similar magnitude, he said.

Eddington's portfolio was up 25% last year. Though it does not invest in any of the funds named above, it has money with other global macro managers, which tend to make three or four large bets on currencies or national markets and put large sums behind them.

Eddington also invests in other macro strategies, such as managed futures or currencies.

The macro index from Hedge Fund Research, a data provider, made a gain of 5.2% in the last 12 months – one of the few to make money last year. Managed futures funds, a subset of the macro index, did even better, rising 17.7% last year.