

# D E A R B O R N

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## P A R T N E R S

On September 27, 2018, Accenture plc (ACN) announced a 9.8% increase in its semi-annual cash dividend per share to \$1.46 (\$2.92 annually) from \$1.33 (\$2.66 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on November 15, 2018 to holders of record of Accenture's common stock as of October 18, 2018. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by Accenture to its shareholders.

From the press release: Pierre Nanterme, Accenture's chairman and CEO, said, "We are very pleased with our outstanding financial results for the fourth quarter and the full fiscal year 2018. For the year, our broad-based revenue growth of 10.5 percent in local currency and record new bookings of \$42.8 billion reflect continued excellent demand for our services. We also delivered 14 percent EPS growth on an adjusted basis, generated very strong free cash flow and returned \$4.3 billion in cash to our shareholders.

"We continue to benefit from the significant investments we have made to further strengthen our leadership position in high-growth areas such as digital, cloud and security services, which accounted for approximately 60 percent of total revenues for the year. Our growth strategy and innovation-led approach are clearly resonating with our clients. With our durable business model and disciplined management, we are very well-positioned to continue gaining market share and delivering value for our clients and shareholders."

Additionally, the Board of Directors has approved a plan to begin paying dividends on a quarterly basis starting in the first quarter of fiscal 2020.

Accenture is a leading global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries and all business functions – underpinned by the world's largest delivery network – Accenture works at the intersection of business and technology to help clients improve their performance and create sustainable value for their stakeholders. With 459,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries, Accenture drives innovation to improve the way the world works and lives.

Accenture is in the Information Technology sector of our Dearborn Partners Core Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolio. So far this year, 36 of the 49 companies in this portfolio have announced 45 dividend increases. The average of these dividend increases is about 13.5% more than these companies paid a year earlier.

Thank you for your interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

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