

Contents

2 Portfolio Business Review

4 Terra Firma's Funds

1 Executive Summary

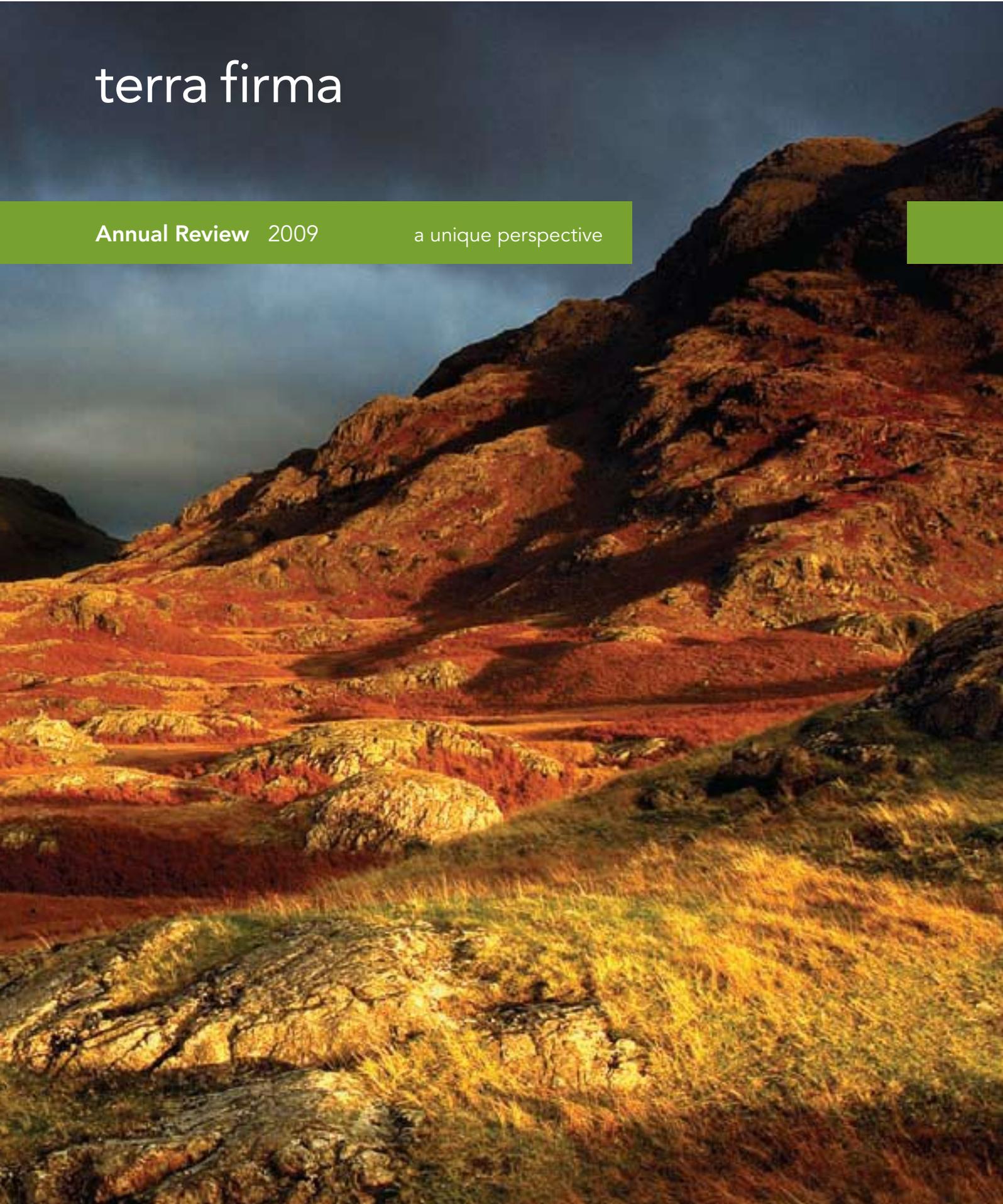
3 Business & Financial Review

5 Contact Information

terra firma

Annual Review 2009

a unique perspective



Excerpt from the 2009 Annual Review
Annington Human Interest Article

BEDTIME STORIES THAT CAN BE HEARD THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY



Storybook Soldiers is an initiative which makes it possible for soldiers serving in foreign war zones to preserve at least one cherished family tradition – reading their children a bedtime story. The project was created by Kirsty Alderson and Rosemary Meeke and allows Service personnel to record a story so that their child can hear their voice whenever they want to.

Kirsty explains, "I just thought the underlying benefit was so blindingly obvious. Being parted from their children is a consequence of the job that soldiers do, but they are very aware of what they are leaving behind."

To take part, a serving parent will record a bedtime story that begins and ends with a personal message. Volunteer editors from Storybook Soldiers then use a specialised computer program to remove background noises from the original recording (which is often made on the edge of a battle zone), before adding music and other sound effects to give the story a polished edge. The result is a professional production, but more importantly the recording

helps to maintain that special link between parent and child and makes the distance that separates them seem a little smaller. While the story is recorded with children in mind, the CD often becomes a reassuring part of life for all the family. "The soldiers put so much care into it because they know how much it matters," says Kirsty. Since 2007, Storybook Soldiers has sent out more than 2,500 CDs, and the scheme now covers the whole Army, with 30 stories a week arriving home for their volunteers to start editing.

Annington has provided both financial and technical assistance to the project since 2007, including the donation of additional digital storage capacity and the provision of professional IT training for the administrative team. James Hopkins, Chief Executive of Annington, says, "From the start, I have been hugely impressed with this project and the enthusiasm and dedication of those who run it. What they have achieved is remarkable, especially considering it is not a charity and receives no formal funding – it is volunteers who do all the work. And the effect on morale is obvious."

