

INSURANCE ASIA NEWS

Institutional Asset Management Awards
2026



Barings

Best Private Credit Manager



Bryan High, Head of Global Private Finance

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Barings' private credit expertise includes direct lending, corporate private placements, infrastructure debt and private securitised products. In particular, Barings' direct lending platform continues to be an active participant in performance, fundraising, and innovation in private credit.

As of 31 December 2025, the platform manages over US\$61 billion in commitments across commingled funds, separately managed accounts, permanent capital vehicles, and CLOs—supported by a global investment team of over 110 professionals.

Despite M&A activity remaining muted in 2025, Barings continued to deploy capital at a strong pace, investing US\$11 billion across over 180 deals in 2025. A market-leading sponsor presence positions it to support access to high-quality opportunities, while its established market position enables Barings to continue supporting its portfolio companies.

Barings transacted with over 90 unique sponsors in 2025, including over 15 multi-regional sponsor relationships. Ultimately its scale and incumbency allow it to remain highly selective as it deploys diversified portfolios in the core middle market.

The managers are actively raising capital across the flagship global, North America, and European closed-end strategies, supported by growing interest from Asian investors seeking exposure to the private credit opportunity set.

To meet evolving investor needs, Barings plans to launch a perpetual vehicle for the global strategy, seeking to offer accelerated deployment, vintage diversification and reduced opportunity costs from unfunded commitments. In addition, Barings is partnering with a leading Asian bank to develop a unique proposition in the APAC direct lending market.

Its Australian Private Credit strategy, which targets sponsor-backed senior lending opportunities across Australia and New Zealand, has attracted interest from institutional investors and wealth managers.

The strategy has benefited from strong demand for private credit solutions and increasing recognition of its long-standing track record in the region, and has delivered relatively resilient returns since its inception in August 2024.

Barings aims to deliver top-tier returns while maintaining low loss rates, reflecting its conservative investment philosophy and disciplined underwriting. One of its flagship perpetual business development companies has also performed competitively relative to its peer group.

It operates a single global direct lending platform, unified by a consistent philosophy and investment process across all three regions. The platform focuses on lending to private equity sponsor-backed companies in the core middle market, with a strong emphasis on managing downside risks. The platform's flexible, full-suite approach provides investors with access to opportunities across the debt capital structure in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific, enabling the construction of diversified portfolios tailored to institutional and wealth clients.