
STOCK STORIES: ANT FINANCIAL

TOM SLATER

ANT Financial is a private online payments business that started life as part of the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. Tom Slater explains what attracted him to take a holding in ANT for Scottish Mortgage.

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Tom Slater: So ANT Financial is one of the largest online payments businesses in China. It started life within Alibaba, the largest e-commerce business in China, as their payments infrastructure, but was demerged several years ago into a separate company.

We got to invest in it recently, as a private company and, really, that is really as a result of our long-term relationship with Alibaba. The fact we've been shareholders there for more than five years. ANT Financial is an incredible business. It has huge volume in payments.

It has more than 600million users but, because it has a great deal of information about those users, what adverts they're looking at, what they're researching online, what products they're interested in, what they've been buying, where they've been getting those products delivered, it is able to perform all sorts of financial services functions, much more effectively than the traditional banking sector.

That's allowing it to grow beyond payments, into wealth management, insurance, lending and do those jobs much more effectively than we've seen western predecessors ever manage to accomplish.

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