

Company Report Construction Poland 06 March 2024

Torpol

On the eve of record high backlog and the return to dividends?

The unlocking of EU funds announced by President of the European Commission in late Feb'24 should eliminate the key funding risk for the launch of distribution of railroads contracts, as we estimate that 2021-27 EU funds should account for c. 52-60% of the expected infrastructure spending in upcoming years. As a result, the significant supply of railroads tenders should hit the market soon, while Torpol's backlog position might be at record high level even before the tenders start. Torpol has already managed to rebuild the backlog to PLN 3.0bn in 3Q'23, while it also announced scoring the best offer in Katowice Szopienice Płd - Katowice Piotrowice tender, which might add PLN 2.38bn to the backlog, if signed. This would mean that Torpol's backlog would likely go above PLN 5.0bn (vs. previous peak of PLN 3.75bn). Such a backlog position would likely allow Torpol to be very selective in upcoming tenders, which should increase the outlook for above average margins. Moreover, already the existing backlog was signed with c. 5% premium to investor's budget and the pricing of these contracts occurred already at the peak of the inflation of construction raw materials (i.e. inflation has likely been accounted for in these tenders to large extent). This contrasts with the pricing of currently executed roads contracts, that were priced with 17-27% discount to investor's budgets in 2020-21 period (i.e. prior to double digit inflation).

Such an improvement of the backlog outlook leads us to revise our 2025-26e volumes forecasts by 8% and 12%, while net profit forecasts go up by 15% and 21% for 2025e and 2026e, respectively. The improved backlog outlook and the lack of EU funding risk should also translate into increased room for dividend payments, hence our forecast for Torpol's return to dividend payout ratio of above 70%, as it was the case in 2020-22 period. This translates into higher DPS forecasts by 35%, 30% and 50% for 2024e, 2025e, and 2026e, respectively. These reasons prompt us to reiterate our BUY recommendation, while 12M target price is revised up to PLN 45.0, from PLN 30.86 previously.

PLN mn	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e
Revenues	1 121.4	1 084.8	1 002.4	1 052.5	1 420.9	1 847.1
Gross margin	13.0%	23.9%	13.5%	8.0%	7.5%	7.5%
EBITDA	127.3	244.8	114.0	60.0	81.5	113.1
EBIT	105.1	220.6	92.8	38.3	57.9	87.5
Net income	77.1	183.8	88.0	40.0	48.4	70.3
EPS	3.36	8.00	3.83	1.74	2.11	3.06
DPS	1.53	3.00	0.00	2.70	1.30	1.50
DY	11.4%	21.0%	0.0%	8.4%	4.0%	4.6%
P/E	4.0	1.8	8.4	18.6	15.3	10.5
EV/EBITDA	0.1	-0.2	3.4	7.5	6.8	5.2

NB: Historical multiples based on avg. prices Source: Company, Pekao Equity Research

BUY (reiterated)

Target price PLN 45.0

Upside to TP +39.3% Price on 05 March 2024 PLN 32.3

ESG rating

Final ESG score

Relative share price performance vs. WIG



UPCOMING EVENTS

4Q23 report release 22 March 2024 1Q24 report release 24 May 2024

STOCK DATA

Reuters/Bloomberg TOR.WA/TOR PW
Free float (%) 55.1
Market capitalization (PLNmn) 742
No. of shares in issue (mn) 22.97

Shareholders CPK 38.0% NN OFE 9.87%

PKO TFI 8.79% Mirbud 6.86%

Niniejszy raport stanowi skrót raportu przekazanego wcześniej klientom profesjonalnym i uprawnionym kontrahentom usługi sporządzania analiz inwestycyjnych BM Pekao w języku angielskim, a jego treść dostępna jest w aplikacji eTrader.

Data pierwszej publikacji materiału: 06.03.2024 g. 17:12

Wyjaśnienie terminologii fachowej stosowanej w opracowaniu znajduje w zastrzeżeniach prawnych na końcu dokumentu.

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Valuation

We use DCF and peer valuation methods with 100% and 0% weights, respectively.

Our peers valuation in presented for illustrative purposes as it carries 0% weight.

Peers valuation

Peer comparison

			P/E		EV/EBITDA			
Compay name	Ticker	2024e	2025e	2026e	2024e	2025e	2026e	
VINCI SA	dg FP	13.7	12.8	11.9	7.3	7.0	6.7	
ACS ACTIVIDADES CONS Y SERV	ACS SM	15.6	14.0	11.7	5.7	5.4	5.0	
HOCHTIEF AG	HOT GR	14.0	13.0	11.8	6.0	5.7	5.3	
SKANSKA AB-B SHS	SKAB SS	13.0	11.7	10.8	7.5	6.9	6.8	
STRABAG SE-BR	STR AV	8.4	8.9	8.3	2.6	2.6	2.5	
EIFFAGE	FGR FP	9.3	8.8	8.2	6.0	5.8	5.6	
FERROVIAL SE	FER SM	48.3	39.4	31.5	27.2	24.0	22.9	
PORR AG	POS AV	6.7	5.9	4.9	2.0	1.9	1.7	
MOTA ENGIL SGPS SA	EGL PL	24.2	19.2	15.6	5.0	4.6	4.4	
BILFINGER SE	GBF GR	10.8	9.0	8.1	4.8	4.2	3.9	
FOMENTO DE CONSTRUC Y CONT	FFCC SM	12.9	12.1	11.2	7.4	7.2	6.7	
ACCIONA SA	ANA SM	13.6	12.3	11.3	6.9	6.1	5.8	
KONINKLIJKE BAM GROEP NV	bamnb na	5.9	5.2	4.4	neg	neg	neg	
VEIDEKKE ASA	vei no	12.8	12.3	11.8	4.9	4.8	4.6	
Median total		13.0	12.2	11.2	6.0	5.7	5.3	
Budimex		22.8	25.1	30.2	13.7	14.1	16.7	
Erbud		neg	24.9	18.5	19.1	7.4	5.9	
Torpol		18.6	15.3	10.5	7.5	6.8	5.2	
Premium/discount vs. median foreign	n peers	43%	26%	-6%	25%	19%	-1%	
Premium/discount vs. Budimex		-19%	-39%	-65%	-46%	-52%	-69%	
Premium/discount vs. Erbud		nm	-39%	-43%	-61%	-8%	-12%	
Implied by foreign peers value p.s	s. PLN	22.6	25.7	34.3	28.3	28.5	32.5	
Implied by BDX multiple value p.s	s. PLN	39.7	52.8	92.5	48.6	58.1	89.0	
Implied by ERB multiple value p.s	. PLN	nm	52.6	56.6	62.6	34.5	35.9	



DCF valuation

WACC calculation

	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	Terminal Year
Risk free rate	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	4.0%
Equity risk premium	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%
Beta	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
ESG discount/premium	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cost of equity	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	9.0%
Cost of debt	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	6.5%
After-tax cost of debt	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	7.8%	5.1%
Equity weight	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
WACC	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	11.3%	9.0%

DCF valuation

Revenues growth

Capex/revenues

Capex/depreciation

EBIT margin

Tax rate

(PLN mn)	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	Terminal Year
Revenues	1 052	1 421	1 847	2 032	2 133	1 920	1 920.1
EBIT	38.3	57.9	87.5	100.3	106.9	89.8	86.4
Taxes on EBIT	-8.0	-12.2	-18.4	-21.1	-22.4	-18.9	-18.1
NOPAT	30.2	45.7	69.1	79.2	84.4	71.0	68.3
Depreciation and assets write-offs	21.7	23.6	25.6	27.7	29.9	32.3	32.3
Change in NWC	-35.6	-125.8	-72.5	49.9	8.1	64.0	0.0
Capital expenditures	-27.3	-28.7	-30.1	-31.6	-33.2	-34.8	-34.8
FCFF	-11.0	-85.1	-7.9	125.2	89.3	132.4	65.7
Terminal value growth							1.0%
Terminal value							833.1
Discount factor	0.90	0.81	0.73	0.65	0.59	0.53	0.48
Discounted free cash flow - Dec 31 2023	-9.9	-68.7	-5.7	81.7	52.4	69.8	434.8
Enterprise value - Dec 31 2023	554.5						
Minorities	-0.9						
Net debt	-355.6						
Other adjustments	0.0						
Equity value - Dec 31 2023	910.9						
Number of shares (mn)	23.0						
12M target price per share (PLN)	45.00						
Share price as of March 5th (PLN)	32.3						
Upside/Downside vs. current price	39.3%						

Sensitivity of 12M target price per share to Terminal value growth & WACC

5%

3.6%

2.6%

21.0%

125.8%

Terminal value growth/WACC	-							
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		7.5%	8.0%	8.5%	9.0%	9.5%	10.0%	10.5%
	0.0%	46.4	45.0	43.7	42.6	41.6	40.7	39.9
	0.5%	48.1	46.4	45.0	43.7	42.6	41.6	40.7
	1.0%	50.0	48.1	46.4	45.0	43.7	42.6	41.6
	1.5%	52.2	50.0	48.1	46.4	45.0	43.7	42.6
	2.0%	54.8	52.2	50.0	48.1	46.4	45.0	43.7

35%

4.1%

21.0%

121.4%

2.0%

30%

4.7%

21.0%

117.5%

1.6%

10%

4.9%

1.6%

21.0%

114.0%

5%

5.0%

21.0%

110.9%

1.6%

-10%

4.7%

21.0%

108.0%

1.8%

0.0%

4.5%

21.0%

1.8%

108.0%

Sensitivity of 12M target price per share to key drivers' of company earnings

EBIT margin/capex in Terminal Year							
	-20	-25	-30	-35	-45	-55	-65
2.5%	40.0	38.4	36.7	35.1	31.8	28.5	25.3
3.5%	44.9	43.3	41.7	40.0	36.8	33.5	30.2
4.5%	49.9	48.3	46.6	45.0	41.7	38.5	35.2
5.0%	52.4	50.8	49.1	47.5	44.2	40.9	37.7
5.5%	54.9	53.2	51.6	50.0	46.7	43.4	40.2

Source: Pekao Equity Research



Key financial data

Rowenuse	P&L (PLN mn)	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e
Gross Profit 145 259 135 84 107 1 ± 1 1<	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
Cheer Operating Income/Cost							-
SCALA 39 38 42 45 48 51 18							
EBITDA 127 245 114 60 82 115 EBIT 105 221 93 38 58 87 Financial Income/(Cost) 4 11 188 12 3 18 Financial Income/ Tox 24 48 23 10 12 18 Not Income 77 134 38 40 41 30 Balance Sheet (PLN mm) 2021 2022 2024 2024 2025 2025 Crotal Current Assets 73 80 80 80 74 48 10 74 Cash and Equivalents 432 493 500 450 350 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>							
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Petas Profit 101 232 111 50 61 88 Income Tax	EBII	105	221		38	58	87
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Balance Sheet (PLN mn)	Net Income	77	184	88	40	48	70
Total Current Asserts	EPS (PLN)	3.36	8.00	3.83	1.74	2.11	3.06
Total Current Asserts	Polonica Object (PLN mm)	0004	0000	0000-	0004-	0005-	0000-
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Dividends paid -35 -69 0 -62 -30 -34 Other -64 -39 28 13 7 35 Cash Flows from Financing Activities -99 -108 28 -50 -23 0 Change in Cash 27 61 7 -50 -100 0 Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT Morpin 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EBIT Margin <td>Other</td> <td>-1</td> <td>13</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td>	Other	-1	13	0	0	0	0
Other Cash Flows from Financing Activities -64 -39 28 13 7 35 Cash Flows from Financing Activities -99 -108 28 -50 -23 0 Change in Cash 27 61 7 -50 -100 0 Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 PPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT Metrofit 59% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% PPS (PPS) 31 32% 3.5% 3.6% 4.5% 4.5% PPS (PPS) 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5	Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-8	-3	-26	-27	-29	-30
Cash Flows from Financing Activities -99 -108 28 -50 -23 0 Change in Cash 27 61 7 -50 -100 0 Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 V/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 9.3% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 2	Dividends paid	-35	-69	0	-62	-30	-34
Change in Cash 27 61 7 -50 -100 0 Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Margins 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9	Other	-64	-39	28	13	7	35
Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins BEIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8%	Cash Flows from Financing Activities	-99	-108	28	-50	-23	0
Cash at the end of period 432 493 500 450 350 350 DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins BEIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8%	Change in Cash	27	61	7	-50	-100	0
DPS (PLN) 1.53 3.00 0.00 2.70 1.30 1.50 Y/Y growth ratios Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EBIT Margins 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios							
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Revenues -19% -3% -8% 5% 35% 30% EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 1	DPS (PLN)	1.53	3.00	0.00	2.70	1.30	1.50
EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins BIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	Y/Y growth ratios						
EBITDA 47% 92% -53% -47% 36% 39% EBIT 65% 110% -58% -59% 51% 51% Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios 8.0% 7.1% 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% <td>Revenues</td> <td>-19%</td> <td>-3%</td> <td>-8%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>35%</td> <td>30%</td>	Revenues	-19%	-3%	-8%	5%	35%	30%
Net profit 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins Gross margin 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% BUPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	EBITDA	47%	92%		-47%		
EPS 59% 139% -52% -55% 21% 45% Margins Gross margin 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	EBIT	65%	110%	-58%	-59%	51%	51%
Margins Gross margin 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	Net profit	59%	139%	-52%	-55%	21%	45%
Gross margin 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	EPS				-55%		45%
Gross margin 13.0% 23.9% 13.5% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% EBIT Margin 9.4% 20.3% 9.3% 3.6% 4.1% 4.7% Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%	Margins						
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Net Margin 6.9% 16.9% 8.8% 3.8% 3.4% 3.8% ROE 30.7% 62.9% 21.6% 8.1% 10.2% 14.3% Balance Sheet Ratios BVPS (PLN) 12.7 17.7 21.6 20.6 21.4 23.0 Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%							
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Net debt/EBITDA -2.3 -1.5 -3.1 -4.9 -2.3 -1.3 Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%							
Bank Debt/Equity 47.1% 28.5% 29.2% 33.2% 33.3% 37.6%							
	Source: Pekao Equity Research	47.1%	28.5%	29.2%	33.2%	33.3%	37.6%

Source: Pekao Equity Research



THIS REPORT WAS COMPLETED ON 06 MARCH 2024 AT 17:00 CET.

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 $\label{eq:condition} \text{Key 6: BM holds a net long position exceeding 0.5\% of the total issued share capital of the issuer.}$

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Analyst	Financial instrument	Number of instruments	Exposure (long/short)	Transaction price	Transaction date
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Tomasz Duda Torpol	0	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
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METHODS USED TO FORMULATE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Our company valuations are based on two valuation methods selected from among the following: discount model, multiples-based model or asset-based valuation method.

Discount models are characterized by simultaneous and comprehensive consideration of key determinants of intrinsic value, e.g. operating cash flow, capex, cost of capital (WACC). They are theoretically appealing and provide a direct computation of intrinsic value. However, discount model valuations are highly sensitive to changes in assumptions, particularly the risk free rate and terminal growth rate. Moreover, projections cannot be stated with certainty; unforeseen future events can cause income or earnings projections to be invalid.

Multiples-based models are based on the analysis of the valuation multipliers of a given company in relation to other similar companies in the industry. Among strengths of multiplier models we can highlight their simplicity, as they are easy to compute as well as to understand. Moreover, only the key statistics for investors are chosen for valuation. On the other hand, multiples are based on historic data or near-term forecasts. Valuations based on multiples will therefore fail to capture differences in projected performance over the longer term. Finally, it may be problematic to select a suitable peer group.

Asset-based models can be used even if a company has a brief record of earnings or its future existence is uncertain. However, it may be challenging to determine market value of some assets, particularly intangibles. Additionally, asset-based models do not take into account future changes in financial results, nor do they include non-balance sheet items, such as know-how.

Valuation models are dependent on macroeconomic factors, such as interest rates, exchange rates, raw materials, and on assumptions about the economy. Furthermore, market sentiment affects the valuation of companies. The valuation is also based on expectations that might change rapidly and without notice, depending on developments specific to individual industries. Our recommendations and target prices derived from the models might therefore change accordingly.

The investment ratings generally relate to a 12-month horizon. They are, however, also subject to market conditions and can only represent a snapshot. The ratings may in fact be achieved more quickly or slowly than expected, or need to be revised upward or downward. In the tables and charts throughout this report, we designate the years with an "E" to denote that the figures presented are forecasts and estimates.

Definition of ratings used in our publications:

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A Buy is applied when the expected total return over the next twelve months is higher than 15%.

A **Hold** is applied when the expected total return over the next twelve months is within the range of 0% to 15%.

A Sell is applied when the stock's expected total return over the next twelve months is negative.

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Coverage in transition: Due to changes in the research team, the disclosure of a stock's rating and/or target price and/or financial information are temporarily suspended. The stock remains in the research universe and disclosures of relevant information will be resumed in due course.

Under review: A rating and/or financial forecasts and/or target price is at the moment under revision of an analyst and the previous rating and/or financial forecasts and/or target price should not be relied on.

Not rated: We do not issue company-specific recommendations and we do not plan to issue them in the foreseeable future.