

# **EXPERT SYSTEM**

Company Update

## **Buy (from Hold)**

08 May 2018 - 5:30PM

MARKET PRICE: EUR1.24

TARGET PRICE: EUR1.43 (from EUR1.03)

#### **IT Services**

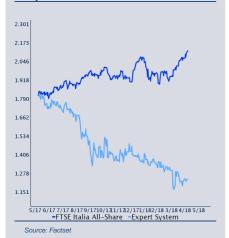
#### Data

Shares Outstanding (m): 35.7 Market Cap. (EURm): 44.3 Enterprise Value (EURm): 59.3 Free Float (%): 70.8% Av. Daily Trad. Vol. (m): 0.1 Main Shareholder: Founders 25.2% Reuters/Bloomberg: EXSY.MI EXSY IM 52-Week Range (EUR) 1.2 2.0

#### **Performance**

	1m	3m	12m
Absolute	6.0%	-8.8%	-30.1%
Rel. to FTSE	-0.7%	-14.2%	-38.4%

#### Graph area Absolute/Relative 12 M



Marco Cristofori Senior Analyst marco.cristofori@ubibanca.it Tel. +39 02 62753015

www.ubibanca.com/equity-research

## **Turning point**

In our view, the second half of 2017, and the last part of the year in particular, represented a turning point for Expert System: 1) sales finally recovered increasing by nearly 20% with significant growth outside Italy, 2) the company strongly improved its product mix by approaching new clients (mainly insurance companies) and shifting from perpetual license to annual license (now representing 26% of total sales vs. 15% in 2016), 3) despite EUR0.7 million of non-recurring costs, the EBITDA was positive totalling EUR5.0 million in 2H17 with a margin of 28.2% or the highest since 2014, 4) through two right issues Expert System raised EUR10.5 million of fresh financial resources. The shareholder dilution was 22.5% but the capital increase was needed to offset the current cash burn and imminent investments. 5) the management anticipated >10% sales growth for 2018 and >15% in 2019 with an EBITDA margin on VoP growing to >10% in 2018 and >15% in 2019: these targets are well below the original 2017-19 business plan but are now achievable in our view. Against this backdrop, the share continued to underperform (by >10% in the last month) making Expert System an attractive investment and a potential prey for large IT players. On the back of the positive momentum, we have upgraded our rating to Buy (from Hold) with a new target price of EUR1.43 per share (vs. EUR1.03 rebased for the new share number).

- > Following two years of uncertainty, the cognitive computing industry has started to grow rapidly and is now seen as a "must have" by a wider range of potential customers (for example insurance and banking companies). Expert System was able to exploit this trend and in 2H17 reported positive results, with significant profitability improvements. However, the net result was negative for EUR8.3 million in the full year, having been penalized by EUR1.6 million of unrealized forex losses.
- > The management updated the 2018-19 business plan, lowering both sales and profitability forecasts. The bottom line should remain negative but is progressively improving and we expect a breakeven in 2020. In our view, the business plan is now reliable and our estimates are now close to the management's indications.
- > Our new target price of EUR1.43 per share (from EUR1.03 rebased for the new share number) offers 15% upside. At the target price the share would trade at 9.9x EV/EBITDA in 2019, substantially in line to the median of peers (10.2x). Buy.

Financials					Ratios	pric	ed on 7 N	lay 2018	
	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E		2017 *	2018E	2019E	2020E
Revenues (EURm)	26.1	29.1	33.9	38.2	P/E(x)	nm	nm	nm	nm
EBITDA (EURm)	1.0	4.1	6.6	8.7	P/CF(x)	nm	11.8	7.0	5.3
EBITDA margin (%)	4.0%	14.1%	19.5%	22.9%	P/BV(x)	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2
EBIT (EURm)	-6.5	-3.6	-1.4	0.5	Dividend Yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EPS (EUR)	-0.26	-0.11	-0.05	0.00	EV/EBITDA(x)	61.3	14.5	8.8	6.4
CFPS (EUR)	-0.10	0.05	0.19	0.23	Debt/Equity (x)	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7
DPS (EUR)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Debt/EBITDA (x)	8.4	3.2	1.8	1.1
Source: Company Data, UBI Banca Estimates				Source: UBI Banca	Estimates	* Based or	n 2017 ave	rage price	

Kev	FII	าลท	CI	al

(EURm)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Revenues	26.1	29.1	33.9	38.2
EBITDA	1.0	4.1	6.6	8.7
EBIT	-6.5	-3.6	-1.4	0.5
NOPAT	-6.5	-3.6	-1.4	0.4
Free Cash Flow	-8.4	-4.3	1.0	2.4
Net Capital Employed	28.1	28.4	25.8	23.4
Shareholders' Equity	19.3	15.3	13.6	13.7
Net Financial Position	8.8	13.1	12.1	9.7

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

## **Key Profitability Drivers**

	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Net Debt/Ebitda (x)	8.4	3.2	1.8	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7
Interest Coverage (%)	-12.6	-10.3	-2.6	1.1
Free Cash Flow Yield (%)	-15.6%	nm	2.3%	5.5%
ROE (%)	-46.7%	-23.2%	-11.5%	0.9%
ROI (%)	-14.3%	-7.8%	-3.0%	1.3%
ROCE (%)	-23.4%	-12.9%	-5.0%	1.6%

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

## **Key Valuation Ratios**

	2017 *	2018E	2019E	2020E
P/E (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm
P/BV (x)	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2
P/CF (x)	m	11.8	7.0	5.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EV/Sales (x)	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	61.3	14.5	8.8	6.4
EV/EBIT (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/CE (x)	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

## **Key Value Drivers**

(%)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Payout	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NWC/Sales	46.0%	47.4%	39.3%	35.0%
Capex/Sales	15.9%	17.9%	14.5%	12.9%

<sup>\*</sup> Based on 2017 average price





## **Recent Developments**

- > The second half of 2017 saw a sharp sales acceleration (+19.6%) driven by Europe (the UK in particular), which was up 90%, and the US (+58%), while Italy was weak once again declining by 23%. The value of production, up 28%, benefitted from higher grants and contributions (expected). The EBITDA was positive for EUR5.0 million vs. our EUR1.0 million estimate, thanks to lower labour costs (EUR9.6 million, equal to 45% of value of production compared with 57% in 2H16 and 83% in 1H17), the product mix improvement (greater amount of revenues generated by recurring licenses rather than perpetual licenses) and cost cuts. After EUR4.2 million of D&A costs, the EBIT was positive for EUR0.8 million (vs. our EUR2.3 million operating loss expectation) but the bottom line remained negative (for EUR0.7 million), also due to forex losses. Net debt decreased to EUR8.8 million (EUR15.2 at June-17), but was above our EUR6.7 million forecast due to the increase in NWC, which reached 46% of sales in the full year, tied to higher receivables (as revenues strongly accelerated in the last part of the year).
- > Full year revenues increased by 11.9%, 10% above our estimates and the company's guidance, and the EBITDA reached EUR1.0 million (vs. a loss of EUR2.2 million in 2016) including EUR0.7 million of non-recurring cost to incentivise staff turnover. After EUR7.5 million of D&A costs (of which EUR2.3 million for goodwill amortization), the EBIT was negative for EUR6.5 million (EUR8.5 million in 2016) whilst the EUR1.6 million of unrealized forex losses (EUR0.5 million in the second half of the year) led to a net loss of EUR8.3 million, or 32% of sales. Net invested capital remained broadly stable allowing an improvement of the capital turnover now at 0.85x vs. 0.78x in 2016.
- > Expert System held two rights issues in November and December 2017 for a total of EUR10.6 million: the first, with share option rights, was fully subscribed (2 new shares for every 15 old shares at EUR1.30 per share) while the second rights issue was reserved for institutional investors through an accelerated book-building process and was likewise fully subscribed at EUR1.30 per share. The rights issues have been helped by the company's classification as an innovative small company since investors who subscribed the rights will benefit from the 30% tax credit. Following the two rights issues the share number increased to 35.72 million (vs. 27.67 million before) with a dilution of 22.5%. The three main shareholders, who are the founders of the company, only partially subscribed the rights issues and were consequently diluted to 25.2% of the total capital vs. 29.5% before the capital increase. As a result, free float is now 70.8% (65.3% before the rights issues).
- > Against this backdrop, Expert System updated its 2018-19 business plan considering the changes in the cognitive computing industry, the differences in the markets where the company operates, the adoption of a different business model based on recurring fees rather than the sale of perpetual licenses and the several cost cutting measures already implemented (standardisation of business procedures, staff reductions and a common commercial approach), which should reduce costs by around EUR2.5-3 million in 2018. Expert System expects value of production to reach EUR35.5-37 million this year and EUR39.8-41.3 million in 2019 driven by the expansion in foreign markets, in particular the US, Germany and France.
- > The EBITDA is expected to rise as a consequence of a higher weight of software licences and more standardized solutions (which enjoy higher profitability), growing economies of scale and fixed costs spread across a wider revenue base. The company anticipated an EBITDA of EUR4.0-5.0 million this



year (11.3%-13.5% margin), which is around 38% below the previous business plan but well above our old estimates. The net result should remain negative for EUR3.9-4.6 million. 2019 is expected to accelerate with EUR39.8-41.3 million value of production (an increase of >10%) and an EBITDA margin of 17.6-19.4%. We believe these targets are now achievable, even though forecasts for 2019 might be optimistic and difficult to achieve. Net debt is expected to grow in 2018 due to a higher capex (EUR6.3 million expected) and NWC absorption and slightly decline to EUR12-13.0 million at end-19.

> Expert System signed several contracts with international insurance companies in order to supply its "Cogito" solution. We highlight Lloyd's of London, Zurich Insurance and Generali Assicurazioni.

Figure 1 – 2017 results

(EURm)	2016A	2017A	% Chg.	2017E UBI	% Chg.
Sales total	23.37	26.14	11.9%	23.70	10.3%
VoP	29.55	32.81	11.0%	29.74	10.3%
EBITDA	(2.25)	1.01	nm	(3.00)	-133.7%
% margin	-9.6%	3.9%		-12.7%	
EBIT	(8.55)	(6.50)	-24.0%	(9.62)	-32.4%
% margin	-36.6%	-24.9%		-40.6%	
Pre tax	(8.70)	(8.69)	-0.2%	(11.42)	-23.9%
Net attributable result	(8.13)	(8.34)	2.6%	(9.70)	-14.1%
Net debt/(cash)	11.10	8.79	-20.8%	6.73	30.6%

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

Figure 2 – 2H17 results

Tiguic Z ZiTTT Tosuits					
(EURm)	H2-16A	H2-17A	% Chg.	2H17E UBI	% Chg.
Sales total	14.80	17.69	19.6%	15.26	16.0%
VoP	16.40	21.06	28.4%	17.99	17.1%
EBITDA	(0.29)	4.99	nm	0.98	nm
% margin	-2.0%	28.2%		6.5%	
EBIT	(3.65)	0.80	nm	(2.32)	nm
% margin	-24.7%	4.5%		-15.2%	
Pre tax	(3.32)	(0.05)	nm	(2.78)	-98.1%
Net attributable result	(3.08)	(0.74)	nm	(2.10)	-65.0%
Net debt/(cash)	11.10	8.79	-20.8%	6.73	30.6%



Figure 3 – 2016 revenues breakdown by type

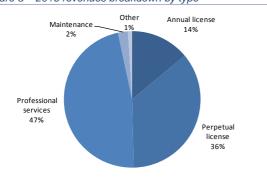
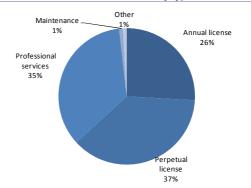


Figure 4 – 2017 revenues breakdown by type



Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

Figure 5 – New 2018-19 business plan compared to the previous version

(EURm)		New BP		Old BP		% Change *	
	2017A	2018E	2019E	2018E	2019E	2018E	2019E
Total Sales	26.1	28,5-30	33-34.5	34.9	47.4	-16.2%	-28.8%
VoP	32.8	35.5-37	39.8-41.3	41.4	54.0	-12.4%	-24.9%
EBITDA	1.0	4.0-5.0	7.0-8.0	7.3	11.6	-38.4%	-35.3%
% Margin	3.1%	11.3%-13.5%	17.6%-19.4%	20.9%	24.5%		
EBIT	(6.5)	(3.7) - (2.7)	(1.1) - (0.1)				
% Margin	-19.8%	-10.4% -7.3%	-2.8% -0.2%				
Net Profit	(8.3)	(4.6) - (3.9)	(4.6) - (3.9)	0.1	2.7		
Net Debt/(Cash)	8.8	13.6-12.9	13.0-12.0	9.7	5.5	36.6%	127.3%

Source: Company data \* Based on the average between the two indications of the new business plan

Figure 6 – Shareholders structure before the two rights issues performed in 2H17

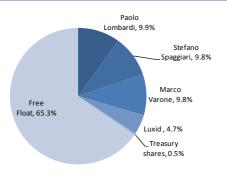
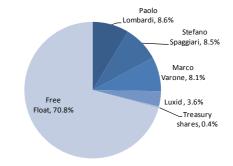


Figure 7 – Current shareholders structure



Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates



## Financial Projections

- > Following the difficulties experienced in 2016 and the first part of 2017, Expert System began to react by reducing costs and improving its internal organization but also by adopting a new and more focused strategic approach: more recurring fees and fewer perpetual licenses and professional services, higher product standardization and economies of scale, concentration on a selected number of large international clients, focus on specific markets (Italy, UK, US, Germany, France, Spain) and sectors (insurance, banking, media, healthcare, financial services, security intelligence, public agencies), strategic partnerships (for example with Blu Prism for developing RPA, or Robotic Process Automation, or with Eudata for the development of chatbot, or virtual assistants able to chat to customers with a human-like speaking) and partnerships with large IT vendors in order to supply its services through multinational and established vendors.
- > The preliminary results of the new strategy were already evident in 2H17 and we believe Expert System will be able to structurally increase its profitability. We have revised our 2018-19 estimates (and added 2020) with a significant upgrade to our EBITDA and bottom line.
- Our new estimates are substantially aligned with the targets of Expert System's updated business plan 2018 but slightly below those for 2019. 2020 should see a solid improvement in the EBITDA margin (to 19.3%) and operations finally moving into the black, resulting in a bottom line at breakeven.
- Net losses coupled with rising capex and NWC absorption could generate negative cash flow leading to an increase in net debt, which is now expected to reach EUR13.1 million at Dec-18 (vs. EUR8.8 million at Dec-17) but progressively decline in 2019 and 2020.
- > Based on our estimates, net equity would decline in 2018 and 2019 but we believe Expert System will not need any further rights issue.

Figure 8 - Old vs. New estimates

(EURm)	2017A	20	18E	20	19E	2020E
	New	Old	New	Old	New	
Total Sales	26.1	26.4	29.1	34.5	33.9	38.2
% change			10.3%		-1.9%	
VoP	32.8	32.4	35.7	41.9	40.4	45.5
% change			10.1%		-3.5%	
EBITDA	1.0	1.6	4.1	5.6	6.6	8.8
% change			158.4%		17.6%	
EBIT	(6.5)	(5.2)	(3.6)	(1.4)	(1.4)	0.6
% change			-30.4%		-3.0%	
Net Profit	(8.3)	(4.9)	(4.0)	(1.7)	(1.7)	0.1
% change			-17.7%		-1.4%	
Net Debt/(Cash)	8.8	18.7	13.1	19.3	12.1	9.7
EBIT margin	-24.9%	-19.8%	-12.5%	-4.1%	-4.0%	1.5%
EBITDA margin	3.9%	6.0%	14.0%	16.3%	19.5%	23.0%



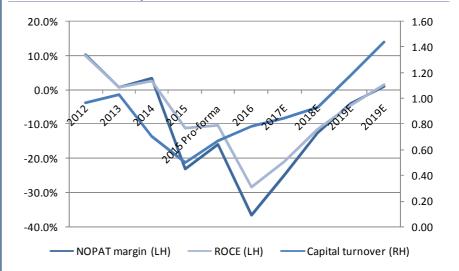
Figure 9 – New 2018-19 business plan compared to our new estimates

(EURm)		New		Our est		% Change *	
(LUKIII)							•
	2017A	2018E	2019E	2018E	2019E	2018E	2019E
Total Sales	26.1	28.5-30	33-34.5	29.1	33.9	0.5%	-0.3%
VoP	32.8	35.5-37	39.8-41.3	35.7	40.4	1.5%	0.3%
EBITDA	1.0	4.0-5.0	7.0-8.0	4.1	6.6	10.1%	13.7%
% Margin	3.1%	11.3%-13.5%	17.6%-19.4%	11.4%	16.3%		
EBIT	(6.5)	(3.7) - (2.7)	(1.1) - (0.1)	(3.6)	(1.4)	-12.2%	-56.1%
% Margin	-19.8%	-10.4% -7.3%	-2.8% -0.2%	-10.2%	-3.4%		
Net Profit	(8.3)	(4.6) - (3.9)	(4.6) - (3.9)	(4.0)	(1.7)	6.1%	17.3%
Net Debt/(Cash)	8.8	13.6-12.9	13.0-12.0	13.1	12.1	0.8%	2.9%

Source: Company data \* Based on the average between the two indications of the new business plan

Figure 10 - NOPAT margin, Capital Turnover and ROCE trend

The recovery in the NOPAT margin in 2018-20 and the expected increase in capital turnover should lead to a positive ROCE in 2020.





#### Valuation

- > Despite initial signs of recovery and the remarkable improvement in fundamentals reported in 2H17, with results that have beaten the market consensus, Expert System has continued to underperform and is now down 13% since the beginning of the year (vs. +8.3% of FTSE Italia PIR Benchmark Index and +11.1% of FTSE Italia All-Share Index).
- As a result, we believe the current market price does not reflect the fair value of the share nor the positive earnings momentum and we have therefore upgraded Expert System to a Buy rating (from Hold) with a new target price of EUR1.43 per share (compared with EUR1.03 rebased on the new share number after the two rights issues in November and December) which offers >15% upside. Our DCF valuation has grown to EUR1.32 per share from EUR1.01, while our relative valuation has increased to EUR1.54 per share from EUR1.05 per share. Our target price is based on the average of a DCF analysis and a relative valuation.
- > It should be noted that our valuation does not include ADmantX, which is not consolidated but has a book value of EUR4.6 million at Dec-17. ADmantX reported net equity of EUR0.4 million at Dec-17 and a net loss of EUR0.7 million for full year 2017 and, therefore, we prudently decided not to include ADmantX in our valuation.
- > The outstanding warrants (4 warrants give the right to subscribe to one new share at EUR2.70 in October 2018) are currently out of the money.
- > At our EUR1.43 per share target price, Expert System would trade at 1.63x 2019 EV/Sales, which is well below the median multiple of our sample of peers (2.79x), and at 9.9x EV/EBITDA, substantially in line to the median of peers (10.2x).

Figure 11 – Valuation summary

(EUR)		% Weight	16 Oct-17 rebased on new share number		16 Oct-17
DCF Valuation	1.32	50.0%	1.01	30.9%	1.30
Relative Valuation	1.54	50.0%	1.05	47.4%	1.35
Target price	1.43		1.03	34.9%	1.32
Current price	1.24		1.11	12.0%	1.43
Potential upside	15.2%		-7.3%		-7.3%

Source: UBI Banca estimates

## Figure 12 – DCF Valuation

Our model incorporates a WACC of 7.2%, a terminal growth rate of 2% and an operating margin of 8.0% at terminal value. Our DCF valuation implies an EV/EBITDA of 5.1x at terminal value.

	(EUR m)	(% weight)
Sum of PV 2018-26 FCF	12.0	21%
Terminal value	45.7	79%
Total Enterprise value	57.7	100%
- minorities	0.0	
- Pension Provision	(1.9)	
- Net cash (debt)	(8.8)	
Total Equity value	47.0	
Number of shares outstanding (m)	35.7	
Fair value per share (EUR)	1.32	

Source: UBI Banca estimates

Figure 13 – Peer comparison based on multiples priced on 7 May 2018

Company	Market Cap		P/E		ı	EV/EBITD	<b>\</b>	ı	EV/Sales	
	(EURm)	2018E	2019E	2020E	2018E	2019E	2020E	2018E	2019E	2020E
Nuance Communications, Inc.	3,744	13.0 x	12.2 x	10.9 x	9.9 x	8.9 x	7.3 x	2.91 x	2.68 x	2.42 x
Open Text Corporation	8,181	14.3 x	13.1 x	12.4 x	11.6 x	10.3 x	9.5 x	4.26 x	3.86 x	3.66 x
Trend Micro Incorporated	6,962	30.5 x	27.4 x	25.2 x	14.4 x	13.0 x	12.3 x	4.68 x	4.29 x	4.01 x
Verint Systems Inc.	2,226	13.3 x	12.1 x	10.5 x	10.0 x	8.7 x	6.9 x	2.44 x	2.21 x	1.80 x
Splunk Inc.	13,378	nm	nm	54.1 x	62.6 x	43.3 x	29.9 x	9.06 x	7.06 x	5.48 x
Teradata Corporation	3,903	26.8 x	22.7 x	20.4 x	11.7 x	10.0 x	10.1 x	1.97 x	1.85 x	1.81 x
CommVault Systems, Inc.	2,592	45.3 x	33.6 x	26.4 x	27.2 x	15.6 x		3.89 x	2.90 x	
PRGX Global, Inc.	181	45.4 x	25.8 x		8.1 x	6.4 x		1.16 x	1.00 x	
Average		26.9 x	21.0 x	22.8 x	19.4 x	14.5 x	12.7 x	3.79 x	3.23 x	3.20 x
Median		26.8 x	22.7 x	20.4 x	11.6 x	10.2 x	9.8 x	3.40 x	2.79 x	3.04 x
Expert System current market multiples	44	nm	nm	nm	14.5 x	8.8 x	6.4 x	1.68 x	1.46 x	1.24 x
Premium (discount) to Average					-25.3%	-39.1%	-49.9%	-55.6%	-54.9%	-61.3%

Source: Factset, UBI Banca estimates

Figure 14 – Implicit multiples based on our EUR1.43 target price

1 igure 14 – implicit multiples based on our EON 1.43 target price					
(x)	2018E	2019E	2020E		
P/E	nm	nm	nm		
EV/EBITDA	16.8 x	9.9 x	7.1 x		
EV/Sales	1.88 x	1.63 x	1.39 x		
P/BV	3.3 x	3.8 x	3.7 x		
P/CF	26.3 x	7.5 x	6.2 x		
EV/ Capital employed	2.11 x	2.26 x	2.36 x		

Source: UBI Banca estimates

Income Statement					
(EURm)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E	
Net Revenues	26.1	29.1	33.9	38.2	
EBITDA	1.0	4.1	6.6	8.7	
EBITDA margin	4.0%	14.1%	19.5%	22.9%	
EBIT	-6.5	-3.6	-1.4	0.5	
EBIT margin	-20.5%	-10.3%	-3.4%	1.2%	
Net financial income /expense	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	
Associates & Others	-1.7	-0.5	0.0	0.0	
Profit before taxes	-8.7	-4.4	-1.8	0.1	
Taxes	0.3	0.4	0.2	-0.0	
Minorities & discontinuing ops	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net Income	-8.3	-4.0	-1.6	0.1	

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

## **Balance Sheet**

(EURm)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Net working capital	12.0	13.8	13.3	13.4
Net Fixed assets	18.9	17.5	15.4	13.1
M/L term funds	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.1
Capital employed	28.1	28.4	25.8	23.4
Shareholders' equity	19.3	15.3	13.6	13.7
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shareholders' funds	19.3	15.3	13.6	13.7
Net financial debt/(cash)	8.8	13.1	12.1	9.7

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

## **Cash Flow Statement**

(EURm)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
NFP Beginning of Period	11.1	8.8	13.1	12.1
Group Net Profit	-8.3	-4.0	-1.6	0.1
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
D&A	7.5	7.7	8.0	8.2
Change in Funds & TFR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross Cash Flow	-0.8	3.7	6.3	8.3
Change In Working Capital	-2.5	-1.8	0.5	-0.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Operating Cash Flow	-3.3	2.0	6.8	8.2
Net Capex	-5.0	-6.3	-5.8	-5.8
Other Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Free Cash Flow	-8.4	-4.3	1.0	2.4
Dividends Paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other & Chg in Consolid. Area	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Net Worth & Capital Incr.	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in NFP	2.3	-4.3	1.0	2.4
NFP End of Period	8.8	13.1	12.1	9.7

(%)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
ROE	-46.7%	-23.2%	-11.5%	0.9%
ROI	-14.3%	-7.8%	-3.0%	1.3%
Net Fin. Debt/Equity (x)	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7
Net Fin. Debt/FBITDA (x)	8.4	3.2	1.8	1.1

3.2 -12.6 Interest Coverage -10.3 -2.6 1.1 NWC/Sales 38.0% 29.7% 33.3% 39.2% Capex/Sales 15.9% 17.9% 14.5% 12.9% Pay Out Ratio 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

#### **Per Share Data**

**Financial Ratios** 

(EUR)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
EPS	-0.26	-0.11	-0.05	0.00
DPS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Op. CFPS	-0.10	0.05	0.19	0.23
Free CFPS	-0.18	-0.19	-0.09	-0.02
BVPS	0.61	0.43	0.38	0.38

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

#### **Stock Market Ratios**

(x)	2017 *	2018E	2019E	2020E
P/E	nm	nm	nm	nm
P/OpCFPS	-16.1	22.6	6.5	5.4
P/BV	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Free Cash Flow Yield (%)	-15.6%	-9.8%	2.3%	5.5%
EV (EURm)	64.1	59.3	58.2	55.8
EV/Sales	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.2
EV/EBITDA	61.3	14.5	8.8	6.4
EV/EBIT	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/Capital Employed	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4

Source: Company data, UBI Banca estimates

\* Based on 2017 average price

## **Growth Rates**

(%)	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Growth Group Net Sales	11.9%	11.4%	16.3%	12.8%
Growth EBITDA	nm	290.7%	61.4%	33.2%
Growth EBIT	nm	nm	nm	nm
Growth Net Profit	nm	nm	nm	nm



#### Disclaimer

#### **Analyst Declaration**

This research report (the "Report") has been prepared by Marco Cristofori on behalf of UBI Banca S.p.A. ("UBI Banca") in the context of the ancillary service provided by UBI Banca named "Investment research and financial analysis or other forms of recommendation relating to transactions in financial instruments" under Paragraph 5), Section B, Annex I of the Directive 2014/65/EU ("MiFID II"). UBI Banca is an Italian bank under art. 4 (1)(27) of MiFID II and it is supervised by the European Central Bank and duly authorised to provide investment services pursuant to Article 1, Paragraph 5, letter a), b), c), c-bis), e) and f) of the Legislative Decree 24 February 1998, n° 58 under the supervision of the Italian Authority for the financial markets (Consob). UBI Banca has its head office at Piazza Vittorio Veneto 8, 24122 Bergamo.

The analyst who prepared the Report, and whose name and role appear on the front page, certifies that:

- a. The views expressed on the company, mentioned herein (the "Company") accurately reflect his personal views, but does not represent the views or opinions of UBI Banca, its management or any other company which is part of or affiliated with UBI Banca group (the "UBI Banca Group"). It may be possible that some UBI Banca Group officers may disagree with the views expressed in this Report;
- b. He has not received, and will not receive any direct or indirect compensation in exchange for any views expressed in this Report;
- c. The analyst does not own any securities and/or any other financial instruments issued by the Company or any financial instrument which the price depends on, or is linked to any securities and/or any financial instruments issued by the Company.
- d. Neither the analyst nor any member of the analyst's household serves as an officer, director or advisory board member of the Company.
- e. The remuneration of the analyst is not directly tied to transactions for services for investment firms or other types of transactions it or any legal person, part of the same group performs, or to trading fees it or any legal person that is part of the same group receives.
- f. The analyst named in this document is a member of AIAF.

#### General disclosure

This Report is for information purposes only. This Report (i) is not, nor may it be construed, to constitute, an offer for sale or subscription or of a solicitation of any offer to buy or subscribe for any securities issued or to be issued by the Company, (ii) should not be regarded as a substitute for the exercise of the recipient's own judgement. In addition, the information included in this Report may not be suitable for all recipients. Therefore the recipient should conduct their own investigations and analysis of the Company and securities referred to in this document, and make their own investment decisions without undue reliance on its contents. Neither UBI Banca, nor any other company belonging to the UBI Banca Group, nor any of its directors, managers, officers or employees, accepts any direct or indirect liability whatsoever (in negligence or otherwise), and accordingly no direct or indirect liability whatsoever shall be assumed by, or shall be placed on, UBI Banca, or any other company belonging to the UBI Banca Group, or any of its directors, managers, officers or employees, for any loss, damage, cost, expense, lower earnings howsoever arising from any use of this Report or its contents or otherwise arising in connection with this Report.

The information provided and the opinions expressed in this Report are based upon information and data provided to the public by the Company or news otherwise public, and refers to the date of publication of the Report. The sources (press publications, financial statements, current and periodic releases, as well as meetings and telephone conversations with the Company's representatives) are believed to be reliable and in good faith, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by UBI Banca as to their accuracy, completeness or correctness. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Any opinions, forecasts or estimates contained herein constitute a judgement as of the date of this Report, and there can be no assurance that the future results of the Company and/or any future events involving directly or indirectly the Company will be consistent with any such opinions, forecasts or estimates. Any information herein is subject to change, update or amendment without notice by UBI Banca subsequent to the date of this Report, with no undertaking by UBI Banca to notify the recipient of this Report of such change, update or amendment.

#### Organizational and administrative arrangements to prevent conflicts of interests

UBI Banca maintains procedures and organizational mechanism (physical and non physical barriers designed to restrict the flow of information between the unit which performs investment research activity, and other units of UBI Banca) to prevent and professionally manage conflicts of interest in relation to investment research in accordance with art. 23 of Directive 2014/65/EU and under art. 34 (3) and art. 37 of the Regulation 2017/565/EU.

More specifically, UBI Banca has established, implements and maintains an effective conflicts of interests policy aimed at preventing and managing the potential conflicts of interest that could occur during the performance of the investment research services.

Insofar as the above mentioned organizational and administrative arrangements established by UBI Banca to prevent or manage potential conflicts of interests are not sufficient to ensure, with reasonable confidence, that risks of damage to the interests of the client will be prevented, UBI Banca engages to provide a clear disclosure of the specific conflicts of interests arising from the performance of investment research services, including a description of the sources of those conflicts and the steps undertaken to mitigate them, taking into account the nature of the client to whom the disclosure is being made.

For further information please see UBI Banca's website (www.ubibanca.com/equity-research - "Informativa sintetica sull'attività di ricerca") and (www.ubibanca.com/Mifid - "Policy sintetica conflitti di interessi"). More details about the conflicts of interests policy will be provided by UBI Banca upon request.

# Disclosure of interests and conflicts of interests pursuant to Delegated Regulation 2016/958/EU

*In relation to the Company the following interest/conflict of interest have been found:* 

- > UBI Banca acts as Corporate Broker for Expert System
- > UBI Banca may have long or short positions with the issuer

On the basis of the checks carried out no other interest/conflict of interest arose.

#### Frequency of updates

UBI Banca aims to provide continuous coverage of the companies in conjunction with the timing of periodical accounting reports and any exceptional event that occurs affecting the issuer's sphere of operations and in any case at least twice per year. The companies for

which UBI Banca acts as Sponsor or Specialist are covered in compliance with regulations of the market authorities.

For further information please refer to www.ubibanca.com/equity-research

#### Valuation methodology

UBI Banca's analysts value the Company subject to their recommendations using several methods among which the most prevalent are: the Discounted Cash Flow method (DCF), the Economic Value Added method (EVA), the Multiple comparison method, the SOP method and the NAV method.

The analysts use the above valuation methods alternatively and/or jointly at their discretion. The assigned target price may differ from their fair value, as it also takes into account overall market/sector conditions, corporate/market events, and corporate specifics (i.e. holding discounts) reasonably considered to be possible drivers of the company's share price performance. These factors may also be assessed using the methodologies indicated above.

For further information please refer to www.ubibanca.com/equity-research.

### Ranking system

UBI Banca's analysts use an "absolute" rating system, not related to market performance. The explanation of the rating system is listed below:

Buy: if the target price is 10% higher than the market price, over the next 12 months.

Hold: if the target price is 10% below or 10% above the market price, over the next 12 months.

Sell: if the target price is 10% lower than the market price, over the next 12 months.

No Rating: the investment rating and target price have been suspended as there is not sufficient fundamental basis for determining an investment rating or target. The previous investment rating and target price, if any, are no longer in effect. Alternatively, No Rating is assigned in certain circumstances when UBI Banca is acting in any advisory capacity in a strategic transaction involving the Company.

Target price: the market price that the analyst believes that the share may reach within a one-year time horizon.

Market price: closing price on the day before the issue date of the report, appearing on the first page.

#### Distribution

Italy: This document is intended for distribution in electronic form to "Professional Clients" and "Qualified Counterparties" as defined by Legislative Decree 24 February 1998, n. 58 and by Consob Regulation n. 16190 dated 29.10.2007, as further amended and supplemented.

This Report has been released within 30 minutes from the timing reported on the front page.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO, AND IS DIRECTED ONLY AT PERSONS WHO (A) ARE (I) PERSONS FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 19 OR ARTICLE 49 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000 (FINANCIAL PROMOTION) ORDER 2005 (AND ONLY WHERE THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THOSE ARTICLES HAVE BEEN, OR WILL AT THE RELEVANT TIME BE, SATISFIED) OR (II) ANY OTHER

PERSONS TO WHOM IT MAY BE LAWFULLY COMMUNICATED; AND (B) ARE QUALIFIED INVESTORS WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 2(1)(E) OF THE PROSPECTUS DIRECTIVE (DIRECTIVE 2003/71/EC), (ALL SUCH PERSONS BEING REFERRED TO AS "RELEVANT PERSONS"). THIS DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE ACTED ON OR RELIED ON BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT RELEVANT PERSONS.

#### Copyright

This Report is being supplied solely for the recipient's information and may not be reproduced, redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly to any other person or published, in whole or in part, for any purpose without prior written consent of UBI Banca.

The copyright and intellectual property rights on the data are owned by UBI Banca Group, unless otherwise indicated. The data, information, opinions and valuations contained in this Report may not be subject to further distribution or reproduction, in any form or via any means, even in part, unless expressly consented by UBI Banca.

By accepting this Report the recipient agrees to be bound by all of the forgoing provisions.

## **Distribution of ratings**

Equity rating dispersion in the past 12 months					
Buy	Hold	Sell	No Rating		
82.9%	9.8%	0.0%	7.3%		

Proportion on issuers to which UBI Banca has supplied investment banking services relating to the last 12 months

Buy	Hold	Sell	No Rating
100%	100%	-	100%

For further information regarding yearly and quarterly rating statistics and descriptions, please refer to www.ubibanca.com/equity-research.

### Historical ratings and target prices

	Date	Rating	Target Price (EUR)	Market Price (EUR)	
Ī	25 July 2016	BUY	2.55	1.80	
	14 October 2016	BUY	2.32	2.02	
	30 March 2017	HOLD	1.89	1.81	
	16 October 2017	HOLD	1.32	1.43	