Turkish Equities / Oil Refining / Company Update

19 September 2017

upgraded to OUTPERFORM

Current price: TRY122.20 12-mo T.Price: TRY150.00

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Tupras

Positive market fundamentals to continue...

- We upgrade our rating on Tupras from "Neutral" to "Outperform" while revising our 12M target price from TRY101.00/sh to TRY150.00/sh. The significant upward revision in our valuation reflects our increasing conviction that the fundamental drivers of crack spread strength (higher than expected demand coupled with lower than expected net capacity additions) will remain intact in the remaining part of 2017 and extend into 2018 as well. We expect Tupras's net refining margin to average US\$8.2/bbl in 17F (1H17: US\$8.2/bbl, Tupras guidance: US\$7.0-US\$7.5/bbl) and US\$7.5/bbl in 18F. Accordingly, our 17F and 18F EBITDA estimates of TRY6.3bn and TRY5.5bn are 21% and 17% above the consensus estimates respectively. Tupras trades at 17F EV/EBITDA of 5.7x and 18F EV/EBITDA of 6.4x on our estimates compared to emerging market peers' median 17F EV/EBITDA of 6.1x and 18F EV/EBITDA of 6.5x respectively. Being a pure play on currently the most profitable segment of the oil sector, we think the company with an expected 18F dividend yield of 12.7% is attractive on a relative basis, too.
- We think the 3Q17 earnings will potentially act as a further catalyst in raising market expectations. For 3Q17, our call is a net refining margin of US\$9.7/bbl translating to a 28% QoQ increase in EBITDA from an already very strong 2Q17 print of TRY1,480mn. Beside continuing strong market fundamentals, fires in two major European refiners followed by the temporary shutdown of several refiners in Texas with capacity of 5.4mb/d (corresponds to 5.5% of global capacity) due to Hurricane Harvey are significant one-offs that pushed spreads to record high levels in the quarter.
- Supply-demand dynamics continue to play into the hands of the downstream players. After IEA's recent upward revision for 17F crude oil demand, we expect refinery throughput increase of 1.3mb/d in 17F and 1.1mb/d in 18F, which will outpace the forecasted net refinery capacity additions of 1.2mb/d in 17F and only 0.7mb/d in 18F. While low oil prices remain supportive of demand growth, it leads to cancellation or delay of several key projects due to cutbacks in budgets. We think that favourable supply-demand dynamics will allow for gradual recovery in middle-distillate cracks which is especially crucial for Tupras as diesel and jet fuel makes up 51% of product slate post RUP. Furthermore, the IMO regulation that will put a stricter sulphur limit for fuel used on board ships starting from 2020 could potentially reduce demand for residual fuel oil and heavy crude, both of which will be positive developments for a complex refiner like Tupras.
- **Risks.** The single biggest downside risk to our estimates and valuation is a drop in product crack spreads which will most likely could be due to worsening in global economic conditions. A US\$1.0 change in our net refining margin assumption will move our annual EBITDA estimate by c.15%.

Stock Data	
Ticker (Reuters, Bloomberg)	TUPRS.IS, TUPRS TI
Market Cap. (TRYmn)	30,601
Number of Shares (000)	250,419
Free Float	49%
Daily Vol. (3-Month, TRYmn)	116.0
Net Debt (2017/06, TRYmn)	6,993
BIST-100 Index (TRY)	106,534

Stock data as of 18 September 2017



Stock Performance								
	1W	1M	3M	1Y				
TRY	-1.8%	6.3%	23.4%	132.5%				
Index Rel.*	0.7%	6.7%	13.6%	61.3%				
* vs. BIST Total R	Return Index							

Forecasts (TRYmn)							
	2015	2016	2017F	2018F			
Net Sales	36,893	34,855	51,573	57,557			
EBITDA	3,735	3,195	6,341	5,800			
EBITDA marg.	10.1%	9.2%	12.3%	10.1%			
Net Profit	2,550	1,793	4,765	3,981			
EV/Sales	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6			
EV/EBITDA	6.3	7.2	5.7	6.4			
P/E	6.5	9.4	6.4	7.7			

Shareholding Structure	
Enerji Yatirimlari A.S. (the SPV)	51.0%
Free Float	49.0%

Please see penultimate page for additional important disclosures. Ak Yatirim Menkul Degerler A.S. ("AK INVESTMENT") is a foreign broker-dealer unregistered in the USA. AK INVESTMENT research is prepared by research analysts who are not registered in the USA. AK INVESTMENT research is distributed in the USA pursuant to Rule 15a-6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 solely by Rosenblatt Securities Inc., an SEC registered and FINRA-member broker-dealer



FORECASTS AND VALUATION

P&L forecasts revisited

Major upward revision in our estimates come from increase in our crack spread estimates. We expect Tupras crack spread to average US\$6.1/bbl in 2017F and US\$6.3/bbl in 2018F which we expect to translate to a net refining margin of US\$8.2/bbl in 2017F (1H17: US\$8.2/bbl, Tupras guidance: US\$7.0-US\$7.5/bbl) and US\$7.5/bbl in 2018F. We continue to expect full capacity utilization and accordingly revise up our 2017F and 2018F EBITDA forecasts from TRY4,821mn and TRY4,254mn to TRY6,341mn and TRY5,800mn respectively. We are now 21% above the consensus estimate for the 2017F EBITDA and 17% above for the 2018F EBITDA. Single biggest upside/downside risk to our estimates is a change in the net refining margin assumption. A US\$1.0 change in our net refining margin estimate will move our annual EBITDA estimate by c.15%.

Tupras - revisions to forecasts									
	Prev	rious	Ne	New		New Conse		Consensus	
TRYmn	2017F	2018F	2017F	2018F	2017F	2018F			
Revenues	53,826	62,301	51,747	57,557	51,843	56,751			
EBITDA	4,821	4,254	6,341	5,800	5,229	4,949			
Net profit	3,055	2,698	4,765	3,981	3,430	3,067			



Valuation

We employed the discounted cash flow method to value Tupras. We increased our 12-month target price from TRY101.0 per share to TRY150.0 per share.

Discounted Cash Flow (US\$mn)					
US\$ mn	2017F	2018F	2019F	2020F	TV
Oil processed (mn ton)	29.7	28.1	28.1	28.1	
CUR%	106%	100%	100%	100%	
Total production (mn ton)	29.0	27.5	27.5	27.5	
Tupras net refining margin (US\$/bbl)	8.2	7.5	7.4	6.9	
Revenue	14,364	15,523	16,751	18,036	
EBIT	1,608	1,401	1,385	1,288	1,288
EBITDA	1,766	1,564	1,542	1,440	
EBITDA margin	12.3%	10.1%	9.2%	8.0%	
Chg in net W/C	-282	-116	-123	-128	
Taxes	-145	-126	-125	-116	-258
Capex	-350	-250	-250	-250	
FCF*	546	1,072	1,044	946	11,314
PV of FCF	10,867				
Net debt	1,994	1,950	2,059	2,202	2,202
Minority	24				
Participation	277				
Fair value	9,127				
12M target mcap (US\$ mn)	10,062				
12M TP (TRY per share)	150				
Upside potential	23%				
WACC	9.2%	9.2%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%
Risk Free Rate (%)	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Risk premium (%)	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Beta	0.86	0.88	0.91	0.93	0.93
СоЕ	10.2%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%	10.6%
CoD * (1- tax rate)	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%
Equity/Capitalisation	83%	81%	78%	76%	76%
Debt/Capitalisation	17%	19%	22%	24%	24%
g%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

TUPRAS – 19 September 2017



Peer valuation

For comparison purposes, we note that Tupras shares are trading on a 2017F EV/EBITDA of 5.7x and a P/E of 6.4x based on our forecasts. Tupras's emerging market peers trade on a median 2017 EV/EBITDA of 6.1x and P/E of 9.7x while its peers in developed markets are trading on a median 2017 EV/EBITDA of 8.2x and P/E of 17.9x.

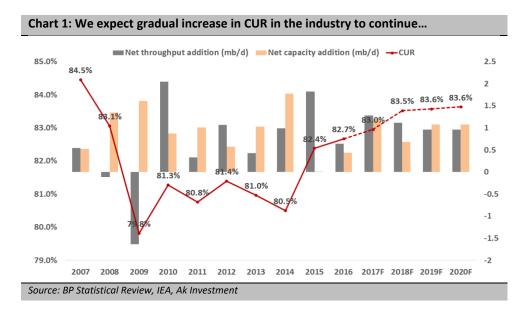
Tupras – Peer valuation							
		EV/EI	BITDA	P,	/E	EBITDA	Margin
Company	Country	2017F	2018F	2017F	2018F	2017F	2018F
GRUPA LOTOS SA	POLAND	5.8	5.5	9.5	10.1	11.4%	11.0%
MOL HUNGARIAN OIL AND GAS	HUNGARY	5.0	5.1				
PL	HONGAN	3.0	3.1	8.9	9.4	16.7%	15.4%
POLSKI KONCERN NAFTOWY	POLAND	6.1	6.7	9.7	11.0	10.20/	8.9%
ORLEN THAI OIL PCL	THAILAND	6.5	6.5	9.7 10.4	11.8 10.8	10.2% 10.0%	8.9% 9.6%
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORP	INDIA	8.2	7.4				
BHARAT PETROLEUM CORP LTD	INDIA	9.7	7. 4 8.5	11.0 12.9	10.2	5.4%	5.7% 6.7%
INDIAN OIL CORP LTD	INDIA	9.7 7.4	6.9		11.1	6.3%	
MOTOR OIL (HELLAS) SA	GREECE	4.3	4.9	10.6 6.6	9.8 9.0	8.9% 7.6%	8.6% 6.5%
HELLENIC PETROLEUM SA	GREECE	4.3 5.4	4.9 6.0				
Emerging Market Peers' Median	GREECE	6.1	6.5	6.7 9.7	7.9 10.1	9.4% 9.4%	8.2% 8.6%
Emerging warket reers wedian		0.1	0.5	9.7	10.1	3.4%	0.0%
CVR REFINING LP	UNITED STATES	4.3	4.4	13.8	11.1	6.2%	6.5%
DELEK US HOLDINGS INC	UNITED STATES	8.9	5.3	146.3	23.0	4.3%	5.1%
VALERO ENERGY CORP	UNITED STATES	6.8	6.0	16.2	12.9	6.1%	6.7%
HOLLYFRONTIER CORP	UNITED STATES	8.7	6.8	n.m.	14.2	n.m.	9.8%
PHILLIPS 66	UNITED STATES	10.1	8.5	19.9	15.4	5.2%	5.6%
MARATHON PETROLEUM CORP	UNITED STATES	8.5	7.6	17.9	16.3	7.4%	8.5%
ANDEAVOR	UNITED STATES	9.0	7.1	19.5	13.7	8.5%	10.0%
SARAS SPA	ITALY	3.7	4.3	n.m.	12.5	n.m.	5.6%
ERG SPA	ITALY	8.2	8.1	20.4	20.3	43.9%	44.7%
OMV AG	AUSTRIA	4.8	5.1	11.5	13.8	20.8%	18.8%
NESTE OYJ	FINLAND	7.9	8.3	13.7	13.8	10.2%	9.6%
Developed Market Peers'		8.2	6.8	17.9	13.8	7.4%	8.5%
Median		U.L			15.0	7.470	0.578
Global Peers' Median		7.1	6.6	12.2	12.1	8.7%	8.6%
TUPRAS		5.7	6.4	6.4	7.7	12.3%	10.1%



INVESTMENT THEME

Both demand and supply dynamics to remain in favor of the refining business...

After average annual growth of 0.9mb/d in 2007-2014, oil demand has grown by 2.9mb/d in 2015 and 1.6mb/d in 2016 with the decline in oil price from an average of US\$100/bbl in 2011-2014 to US\$50/bbl playing an important role. At its latest oil market report published this month, the International Economic Agency (IEA) forecasts that this above trend growth will continue with demand forecasted to be 1.6mb/d in 2017F and 1.4mb/d in 2018F. Besides continuation of relatively low oil prices, higher than expected OECD demand growth underpins these strong consumption expectations. After 2018, we expect demand growth to moderate to 1.2mb/d per annum through 2022 consistent with IEA's medium-term forecasts. This demand outlook translates to refinery throughput increase of 1.3mb/d in 2017 and 1.1mb/d in 2018 which we think will outpace the projected net capacity additions of 1.2mb/d in 2017 and only 0.7mb/d in 2018. Note that low oil prices also play a role in the supply dynamics. Several significant projects especially in the Middle East had been cancelled or delayed due to cutbacks in the investment budgets following the oil price slump. Accordingly, we anticipate global CUR to continue inching up from its 2014 low of 80.5% to 83.5% by 2018. (see Chart 1).

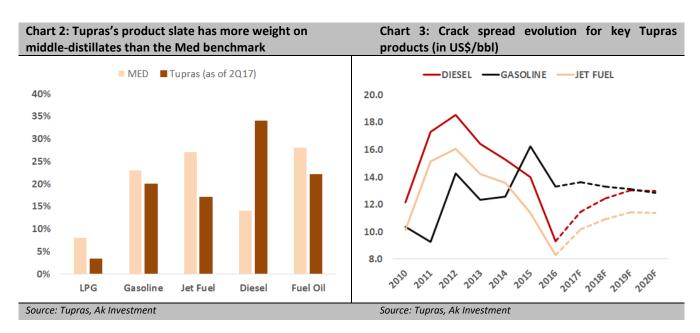


We envision the improvement albeit gradual in middle-distillate cracks to continue in our forecasting horizon...

After the completion of the Residuum Upgrade Project (RUP) which allows Tupras to convert fuel oil primarily into diesel, the share of diesel in Tupras's product slate increased to around 35%. This is much higher than the 14% weight at the Med refining margin which is typically used as a benchmark for Tupras margins. Accordingly, together with jet fuel which has 17% share, the middle-distillates make up c.50% of Tupras's product slate and their spread progression is crucial for Tupras profitability (see Chart 2). After facing 1H17 diesel crack spread of US\$10.6 and jet fuel crack spread of US\$9.7 well below the 2010-2017 averages of US\$14.4 and US\$12.4 respectively, in 3Q17 the industry is enjoying



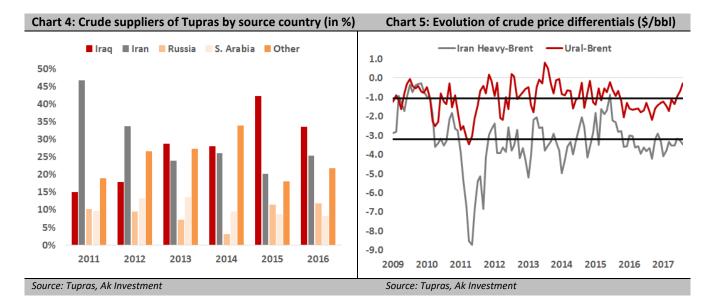
highest middle-distillate crack spreads since 3Q15. This is largely because of the impact of consecutive fires in two major European refiners in late July of total capacity 0.6mn bpd followed by the full or partial shutdown of as much as 5.4mn bpd of refining capacity (corresponding to 5.5% of global capacity) in Texas in late August due to Hurricane Harvey. Latest reports suggest that operations are gradually going back to normal as only 0.4mn bpd of capacity is in offline with 1.4mn bpd is in the process of resuming operations and 2.3mn bpd operating at below maximum output. Hence, as the influence of force majeures fades, we expect crack spreads to normalize in 4Q17. However, beyond 2017 we expect that favorable supply-demand dynamics will allow for diesel crack spreads to gradually recover to US\$13.0 by 2019F from US\$11.5 in 2017F and US\$9.3 in 2016 (see Chart 3).



High heavy crude oil utilization is a competitive advantage for Tupras, that might prove even more important with IMO's global sulphur limit coming into effect in 2020...

Operating in Turkey, Tupras enjoys being in close proximity to Iraq and Iran which primarily supplies heavier grades of crude oil compared to Brent. In 2016, Iraqi oil constituted 33% of Tupras's total feedstock while the share of Iranian oil stood at 25% (see Chart 4). Last year, the company started purchasing Kirkuk oil at very favorable terms following an agreement between the central government and the regional government in Northern Iraq. On the other hand, after some of the crucial sanctions to Iran are lifted in early 2016, Tupras increased the Iranian oil's share in its feedstock from 20% to 25% and is able to use its own fleet rather than relying on Iranian tankers for transportation. Although Ural-Brent spread narrowed to as low as -\$0.3/bbl compared to historical average of -\$1.1/bbl due to high fuel oil crack margins and strong bitumen demand, we do not observe a similar trend in spreads for heavy crude from Iran and Iraq. In particular, the spread between Iran heavy and Brent stands at a comfortable level for Tupras at around -US\$3.5 in line with the spread's historical average.



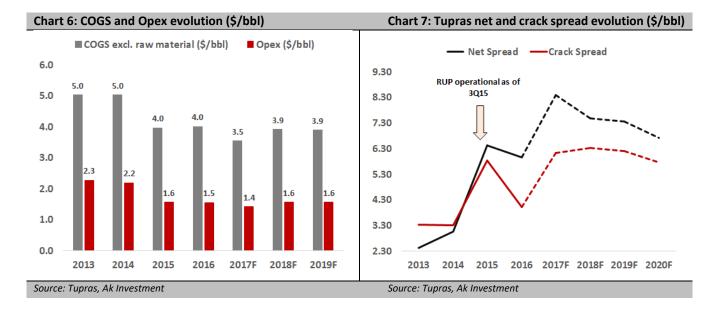


The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is set to drastically reduce the global limit for sulphur content for fuel used on board ships to 0.5% by January 2020 from its current level of 3.5%. After this date, ships will either have to use low-sulphur compliant fuel oil or continue using high-sulphur fuel with exhaust gas cleaning systems or "scrubbers" which reduces the emissions to allowable limits. Although some of the older bigger vessels are likely to prefer installing a scrubber and continue using high-sulphur fuel oil, it is still expected that there will be a demand shift of as much as 2mb/d from residual fuel oil into gasoil as a consequence of the regulation. This will likely result in higher middle distillate crack spreads as well as higher spread between heavy crude and Brent. As a complex refiner which can convert fuel oil to diesel and will potentially have access to heavy crude from Iran and Iraq that gets cheaper post IMO regulation, we think Tupras is well positioned to benefit.

We expect net refining spread at US\$8.2 in 2017F and US\$7.5 in 2018F....

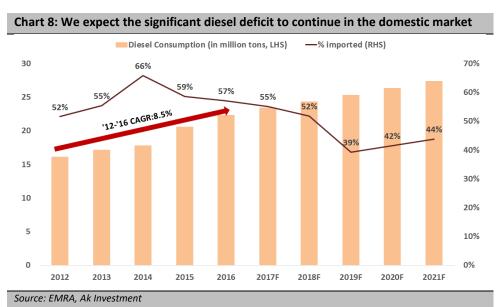
Besides strong crack spreads, Tupras net refining margin strength in 1H17 (US\$8.2/bbl) is partly attributable to decline in per barrel cost of energy and labor within COGS as well as Opex. The TRY depreciation, high capacity utilization and the 10% cut in natural gas prices back in September 2016 are all tailwinds for net refining margin in 2017 in our opinion. In particular, we expect per barrel COGS excluding raw material to decline from US\$4.0/bbl in 2016 to US\$3.5/bbl in 2017F. Going beyond 2017, per barrel energy and labor costs in dollar terms are likely to increase under our base case scenario of stable Turkish lira. However, we think they will still be significantly lower than pre-2015 period at which energy prices were significantly higher in dollar terms and CUR was lower as the company lacked conversion technology. We expect Tupras's crack spread to average US\$6.1/bbl in 2017F and US\$6.3/bbl in 2018F before it declines to sustainable crack spread level of US\$5.7/bbl in line with the historical averages of product spreads. This should translate to a net refining margin of US\$8.2/bbl in 2017F, US\$7.5/bbl in 2018F and a sustainable net refining margin of US\$6.7/bbl on our estimates.





Socar's star refinery not like to cause a major impact on margins...

We expect Socar's Star refinery to be fully operational in 4Q18 with crude oil processing capacity of 10mn ton per year (Tupras: 28.1mn ton per year). Besides producing 1.6mn ton of naphtha for Petkim, major outputs of the refinery will be 4.9mn ton of diesel and 1.6mn ton of jet fuel. Turkey's total diesel consumption had a CAGR of 8.5% in the 2012-2016 period. According to Energy Regulatory Agency (EMRA) data, growth remains fairly strong in 2017 as well with 5.2% YoY growth in 6M17. Assuming a growth of 5% in 2017F and 4% in 2018F and onwards, we expect diesel consumption to reach 25.3mn ton by 2019F. This will be the first year at which the Star refinery will be fully operational. Hence, even with the additional diesel production from the Star refinery, the total diesel production we estimate to be at 15.4mn ton will only be able to meet roughly 60% of diesel consumption. Therefore, although the entry of the Star refinery will potentially increase the competition in the Aegean region where Star refinery is located, we don't think it will have a major impact on margins according to our forecasts.

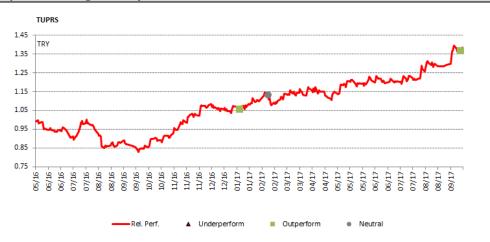


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RATING HISTORY

Tupras- Rating History



Source: Ak Investment

With this report, we raise our rating for Tupras from "Neutral" to "Outperform" and raise our 12-month target price from TRY101.0/share to TRY150.0/share implying 23% upside potential on the last closing price. Our last rating was issued on 13/02/2017.



TUPRAS - Financial Statements & Key Ratios

Income Statement (TRYmn)	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Net sales	36,893	34,855	51,573	57,557	67,627
Cost of goods sold	-32,767	-31,206	-44,709	-51,182	-60,760
Gross profit	4,126	3,649	6,864	6,374	6,867
Operating expenses	-877	-995	-1,092	-1,179	-1,273
EBIT	3,249	2,654	5,772	5,195	5,593
Net other income & expense from operations	-495	-296	142	142	166
Net profit (loss) from subsidiaries	70	159	220	245	288
Net financial income & expense	-599	-572	-579	-600	-1,077
Profit before taxes	2,225	1,944	5,554	4,983	4,971
Taxation on Continuing Operations	339	-131	-757	-995	-993
Non-controlling Interest	-14	-20	-32	-6	-6
Net Profit	2,550	1,793	4,765	3,981	3,972
Depreciation	486	541	569	605	632
EBITDA	3,735	3,195	6,341	5,800	6,225
Nominal Changes (YoY)	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Net Sales	-7%	-6%	48%	12%	17%
Gross Profit	227%	-12%	88%	-7%	8%
EBIT	512%	-18%	117%	-10%	8%
EBITDA	373%	-14%	98%	-9%	7%
Net Profit	75%	-30%	166%	-16%	0%
Profit Margins	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Gross Profit Margin	11.2%	10.5%	13.3%	11.1%	10.2%
EBIT Margin	8.8%	7.6%	11.2%	9.0%	8.3%
EBITDA Margin	10.1%	9.2%	12.3%	10.1%	9.2%
Net Margin	6.9%	5.1%	9.2%	6.9%	5.9%

Key Metrics	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Receivable days	13	30	28	31	28
Inventory days	25	33	32	29	24
Payable days	22	63	55	45	35
Working capital days	17	0	4	15	17
Capex/sales	-2.6%	-2.5%	-2.4%	-1.6%	-1.5%
Net debt (TRYmn)	6,892	6,084	5,336	6,399	7,790
Net debt / Equity	0.82	0.74	0.47	0.56	0.69
Net debt / EBITDA	1.85	1.90	0.84	1.10	1.25
ROA (%)	14.7%	6.3%	14.3%	11.0%	10.5%
ROIC (%)	17.0%	14.0%	28.4%	24.2%	26.0%
ROE (%)	16.7%	11.8%	29.3%	23.2%	23.0%
Dividend payout (%)	0.4%	63.8%	86.8%	81.7%	87.8%
Dividend yield (%)	0.0%	9.6%	5.1%	12.7%	11.4%
Effective tax rate (%)	15.2%	-6.8%	-13.6%	-20.0%	-20.0%
Valuation	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
EV/Sales	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
EV/EBITDA	6.3	7.2	5.7	6.4	6.2
PE	6.5	9.4	6.4	7.7	7.7
FCF yield (%)	-7.1%	22.9%	10.2%	13.4%	14.2%



Cash Flow Statement (TRYmn)	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Earnings Before Adjustments	2,564	1,813	4,797	3,988	3,978
Depreciation	486	541	569	605	632
Changes in WC	-3,855	1,723	-1,672	-598	-1,007
Operating Cash Flow	-294	4,705	4,385	5,019	5,354
Capex	-959	-884	-1,257	-927	-1,009
Free Cash Flow	-1,183	3,864	3,129	4,092	4,345
Change in Financial Debt	37	278	754	556	606
Dividends paid	-6	-1,628	-1,557	-3,893	-3,496
Cash from financial operations	31	-1,350	-803	-3,337	-2,890
Other	140	-1,750	-1,231	-3,807	-3,408
Change in cash & equivalents	-1,012	2,823	1,898	285	937
Cash – beginning of period	3,211	2,199	5,022	6,920	7,205
Cash – end of period	2,199	5,022	6,920	7,205	8,142

Balance Sheet (TRYmn)	2015	2016	2017F	2018F	2019F
Current Assets	8,742	13,667	17,612	18,197	19,276
Cash & equivalents*	3,028	6,051	7,949	8,233	9,170
Marketable securities	0	0	0	0	0
Short-term trade receivables	2,540	3,180	4,706	4,999	5,330
Other short-term receivables	26	26	26	26	26
Inventory	2,102	3,608	4,114	4,076	3,780
Other current assets	1,047	802	817	863	971
L/T Assets	16,728	17,551	17,784	18,524	19,355
Long-term trade receivables	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term receivables	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Investments	4	4	4	4	4
Tangible fixed assets	11,480	11,741	12,429	12,751	13,128
Intangible fixed assets	59	55	51	47	42
Other long-term assets	5,185	5,751	5,300	5,723	6,180
TOTAL ASSETS	26,025	31,218	35,395	36,721	38,631
S/T Liabilities	8,828	12,660	12,633	12,677	12,692
Short-term financial loans	1,871	1,958	2,158	2,331	2,517
Short-term trade payables	3,861	6,988	6,482	6,053	5,557
Other short-term payables	32	28	28	28	28
Other short-term liabilities	3,065	3,687	3,965	4,266	4,590
L/T Liabilities	8,828	10,391	11,355	12,543	14,698
Long-term financial loans	8,048	10,176	11,127	12,301	14,443
Long-Term Provisions	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term payables	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term Liabilities	780	215	228	241	255
EQUITY	8,368	8,167	11,407	11,502	11,241
Shareholders' capital	8,305	8,088	11,297	11,385	11,118
Non-controlling interests	63	79	111	117	123
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SH. EQUITY	26,025	31,218	35,395	36,721	38,631

^{*}Differs from cash figure at the cash flow statement due to Inclusion of restricted deposit

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should be interpreted as a notional reference price and must be discounted by the stock's cost of equity to calculate the current fair price estimate.

A key element of our rating system is the benchmarking of the 12-month expected return against the cost of equity. We apply a required rate of return for each stock, calculated on the basis of our assumed risk-free rate and equity risk premium. A stock is normally assigned an Outperform rating if the implied return over the next 12 months exceeds the required rate of return (cost of equity) by at least 10 percentage points for our larger-cap stock coverage, or by 15 percentage points for the small-cap group. As the average potential upside of the stocks in our coverage may be considerably higher or lower than the average cost of equity, we also filter stocks according to their potential upside with respect to other stocks under coverage, with the practical aim of attaching an Outperform rating to the top group (generally 30-50% of the companies under our coverage), a Neutral rating for the next 40-50% and an Underperform rating to the lowest group (no less than 10%, and typically between 10-20% of the coverage group). The expected returns on some stocks may fall outside the range of the applicable rating category, due to movements in market prices and other short-term volatility or trading patterns, or analyst discretion. While temporary deviations from the specified ranges are permitted, they would subsequently become subject to review. Note too that the analyst's short-term view may occasionally diverge from the stock's longer-term fundamental rating.

Outperform. An outperform rating conveys an expectation that the stock will outperform the BIST-100 Index (XU100) within the next 6 to 12 months.

Neutral. A neutral rating would convey an expectation that the stock will perform broadly in line with the BIST-100 (XU100) Total Return Index.

Underperform. An underperform rating conveys an expectation that the stock will yield a return below that of the BIST-100 (XU100) Total Return Index within the next 6- to 12-month period.

Not Rated (N/R). A not rated rating is assigned when the analyst does not have adequate conviction about the stock's total return relative to the BIST-100 (XU100) Total Return Index or to the average total return of the analyst's industry coverage universe, on a risk-adjusted basis, over the next 6 to 12 months.

Under Review (U/R). An under review rating is temporarily assigned when the analyst starts an appraisal process of the rating for a potential revision, or the issuer has a significant material event with further information pending or to be announced. This does not revise the previously published rating, but indicates that the analyst is actively reviewing the investment rating or waiting for sufficient information to re-evaluate the analyst's expectation of total return on equity.

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