

Aroundtown SA

Germany / Real Estate Frankfurt Stock Exchange Bloomberg: AT1 GR ISIN: LU1673108939

Update

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY € 4.00

Return Potential 45.3% Risk Rating Medium

EPRA 2024 CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS

We attended the EPRA 2024 Conference in Berlin to take the pulse of the property sector, get a first-hand look at some of Aroundtown's local assets, and meet with company brass. Attendance was good, and the general mood was optimistic that the worst of the downcycle is over. A tour bus full of various real estate stakeholders had a chance to see a mixed sample of Aroundtown's commercial properties, showcasing their quality and locations, as well as the landlord's strategy for repositioning underperforming assets to harness embedded upside. The tour left a good impression and reinforced our view that AT will emerge a long-term winner as we progress through the cycle. We remain Buy-rated on AT with a €4.0 TP (old: €3.6) after factoring lower Bund yields into our model.

Hilton hotel stars on the tour The Berlin tour included a small sample of hotels, office buildings, and properties combining hotels with short-term residential units. Our first stop was the four-star Hilton hotel located at the Gendarmenmarkt—a bustling residential and commercial hub and historical landmark for tourists in the heart of Berlin. The hotel offers 601 rooms and suites as well as 1,900m² of event space, restaurants, bars, and parking facilities. AT bought the property in 2018 and has since added integrated short-term residential units to the property. These 22 apartments enjoy the same services as hotel guests and are in high demand from business travellers.

Mood mixed on commercial real estateFolks we spoke with at the conference were largely positive regarding the current rebound of the hospitality sector, which echoes data recently published by JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle). The real estate services outfit noted that 2023 RevPAR (revenue per available room) exceeded the 2019 comp by 12% on a global basis, thanks to upticks in both corporate and leisure travel. The mood was more . . . (p.t.o.)

FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Rental income (€m)	1,003.0	1,085.7	1,222.1	1,192.8	1,153.3	1,206.0
Y/Y growth	31.0%	8.2%	12.6%	-2.4%	-3.3%	4.6%
Adj. EBITDA (€m)	944.1	974.9	1,002.3	1,002.9	996.1	1,046.1
Net income (€m)	906.4	1,078.1	-457.1	-2,426.4	-61.7	980.4
EPRA NTA (€m)	11,186.9	11,564.0	10,135.2	8,058.7	7,690.4	8,127.4
EPRA NTAPS (€)	9.5	10.2	9.3	7.4	7.0	7.4
DPS (€)	0.22	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.19
FFO 1 (€m)	357.8	353.2	362.7	330.6	305.5	279.4
FFOPS 1 (€)	0.27	0.30	0.33	0.30	0.28	0.25
Liquid assets (€m)	3,260.7	3,240.3	2,709.4	3,026.0	3,884.3	1,418.9

RISKS

Risks include, but are not limited to, unfavourable interest rate developments, unfavourable macroeconomic developments, and the departure of key personnel.

COMPANY PROFILE

Aroundtown SA is a specialist real estate company focused on investing in and managing value-add properties primarily located in the German/ Netherlands real estate markets.

MARKET DATA	As of 23 Sep 2024
Closing Price	€ 2.75
Shares outstanding	1537.02m
Market Capitalisation	€ 4,229.88m
52-week Range	€ 1.62 / 2.78
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	3 992 812

Multiples	2023	2024E	2025E
P/FFO 1	9.1	10.0	11.0
P/NTA	3.0	4.0	5.0
FFO 1 Yield	11.0%	10.0%	9.1%
Div Yield	0.0%	7.5%	6.8%

STOCK OVERVIEW



COMPANY DATA	As of 30 Jun 2024
Liquid Assets	€ 2,749.0m
Investment Properties	€ 24,022.0m
Total Assets	€ 32,525.5m
Current Liabilities	€ 2,387.4m
EPRA NTA	€ 7,663.0m
Total Equity	€ 14,423.1m

SHAREHOLDERS

Treasury shares*	29.0%
Avisco Group / Vergepoint	15.0%
Stumpf Capital	10.0%
Free Float	46.0%

* 12% held through TLG Immo AG, voting rights suspended

. . . sceptical regarding the future of the offices, which still make up 39% of AT's portfolio. But there are signs (overleaf) that the power pendulum is swinging back to employers, who want their rank-and-file back in the office.

Hotel sector doing just fine During the tour, Aroundtown spoke about the continuing rebound in the hotel sector, which has benefited from an event-filled summer that included the European Soccer Championship in Germany and the Olympics in Paris. More good news for hoteliers is that in-person conferences and events are also back in vogue. After years of Zoom meetings, it seems folks still prefer face-to-face interaction over virtual meetings.

The upshot is that hoteliers are bustling again and operating in the black, and that AT is collecting hotel rents on time. AT provisioned over €350m for unpaid rents during the pandemic years (2020 − 2023). What the current recovery does not mean is that the landlord can expect a windfall collection of unpaid rents. As management discussed on the tour, the company has long-standing relationships with many of its hotel tenants and will work closely with them to work down owed balances on a case-by-case basis. But Mr Massatschi, AT's chief of capital markets, said they do not want to put undue strain on their tenants, who still have not fully recovered from hefty losses incurred during covid.

Don't bury the office yet We also exchanged views about the office sector with a number of conference visitors. Most expressed uncertainty, some outright doom, about the future of the work-from-office model, as corporates continue to look for the right balance for their employees. Smart businesses are making the workplace much more appealing than prepandemic setups. "Flexibility" is the operative word for modern configurations, and many offices are even pet-friendly underscoring how far corporates are bending to accommodate workers.

Working from home is increasingly less tolerated evidenced by a wave of corporates recalling staff to the workplace. Top companies like Tesla and SpaceX have mandated 40 hours of office time weekly, while BlackRock and Disney also require their staff to spend a minimum of four days in the office. In Germany, media powerhouse, Axel Springer, also told its rank-and-file in June to get back to the office five days a week.

Amazon is the latest to kill remote working. Its boss, Andy Jassy, told employees earlier this month that the days of working from home are over and that the company would obligate workers to show up 5 days a week—up from 3 immediately after the pandemic—starting in January. The tech-giant's hard-core mandate to push employees back into the office five days a week is a signal that—in the tech sector at least—employers have regained some leverage over workers.

Power dynamic has shifted During the pandemic, employers were desperate to secure enough talent to navigate the recovery. Now a slackening labour market is allowing managers to find the right applicant, who is *also* willing to commute. This change is visible on LinkedIn, a social media platform for businesses and employment seekers, where only 10% of job postings last December were for fully remote positions vs 18% in 2022.

We think these trends will continue, but it may take years for empty office towers, particularly in America, to fill back up. And judging by the views exchanged at the EPRA event, it will take time for office sentiment to improve as well. Nevertheless, we think AT has a quality and well located office portfolio that should allow it to participate in the rebound.

VALUATION MODEL

We remain Buy-rated on Aroundtown There are clear signposts pointing to a bottoming of the property cycle: (1) initial rate cuts in the EU and by the Fed; (2) decelerating negative property valuations; and (3) improving access to the capital markets. Occupier demand in the office segment may not quite be there yet, but this may be the next factor to turn the corner, if economic activity picks up. Employers clearly want their staff back on premise. We thus reckon it's merely a matter of time before new office lettings pick up. Our TP moves to €4.0 (old: €3.6) after lowering the risk-free rate in our WACC estimate to 2.35% (old: 2.45%) to track German 10 year bonds.

Figure 1: DCF model

All figures in EURm			2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E
AEBITDA			996	1,046	1,092	1,131	1,167	1,206	1,246	1,287
(-) Tax			-120	-126	-131	-136	-140	-145	-149	-154
(=) Net operating cash flow			877	921	961	995	1,027	1,061	1,096	1,132
(-) Total investments (CapEx and WC)			-25	-598	-530	-412	-428	-446	-450	-469
(-) Capital expenditures			99	-575	-509	-394	-411	-429	-432	-450
(-) Working capital			-124	-23	-21	-18	-17	-18	-18	-19
(=) Free cash flows (FCF)			852	322	430	583	599	615	646	663
PV of FCF's			841	303	386	498	488	477	477	467
						Terminal g	rowth rate			
All figures in EUR '000				1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.3%
PV of FCFs in explicit period	4,838		4.4%	6.5	7.1	7.8	8.6	9.5	10.4	11.4
PV of FCFs in terminal period	15,401	O	4.6%	5.0	5.6	6.2	6.8	7.5	8.3	9.1
Enterprise value (EV)	20,239	AC	4.8%	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.9	6.5	7.2
+ Net cash / - net debt (2023)	-15,923	>	5.0%	2.6	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.6
+ Investments / minority interests	0		5.2%	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.7	4.2
Shareholder value	4,316		5.4%	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.0
Fair value per share in EUR	4.0		5.6%	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.9
				_'	7	Terminal AE	BITDA margii	n		
				88.2%	89.2%	90.2%	91.2%	92.2%	93.2%	94.2%
Cost of equity	6.9%		4.4%	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.6	9.0	9.4	9.8
Pre-tax cost of debt	3.0%		4.6%	5.7	6.1	6.5	6.8	7.2	7.5	7.9
Tax rate	12.0%	ဗ္ဗ	4.8%	4.3	4.6	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.3
After-tax cost of debt	2.6%	×	5.0%	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.9
Share of equity capital	45.0%		5.2%	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.6
Share of debt capital	55.0%		5.4%	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.5
WACC	5.0%		5.6%	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.6

^{*}Please note our model runs through 2033 and we have only shown the abbreviated version for formatting purposes; perpetual notes included in net debt for DCF purposes



INCOME STATEMENT

All figures in EURm	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Net rent	1,003	1,086	1,222	1,193	1,153	1,206
Operating and other income	177	238	388	410	374	391
Rental and operating income (RI)	1,180	1,323	1,610	1,603	1,528	1,597
Capital gains, property revaluations & other	769	810	-497	-3,218	-673	489
Result from equity-accounted investees	196	193	6	-150	-45	6
Property OpEx	-443	-533	-695	-638	-542	-564
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administration & other OpEx	-51	-57	-63	-65	-61	-63
Operating income (EBIT)	1,652	1,737	361	-2,468	206	1,466
Net financial result	-201	-180	-185	-230	-230	-282
Other financial expenses	-168	-162	-194	-14	-26	0
Impairment of goodwill	0	0	-404	-137	0	0
Pre-tax income (EBT)	1,283	1,394	-422	-2,849	-50	1,184
Tax expense	-89	-100	-117	-120	-120	-126
Deferred tax	-287	-216	82	543	108	-78
Tax result	-377	-316	-35	423	-12	-204
Comprehensive net income	906	1,078	-457	-2,426	-62	980
Minority interests	165	330	70	-592	-60	156
Perpetual notes	90	106	118	153	201	215
Net income to owners	652	642	-645	-1,988	-203	609
Basic EPS (€)	0.50	0.55	-0.58	-1.82	-0.18	0.54
AEBITDA	944	975	1,002	1,003	996	1,046
Ratios	***************************************	***************************************				
AEBITDA before JV contributions (NRI)	77.5%	80.2%	77.2%	79.3%	81.2%	81.5%
FFO 1 margin (NRI)	35.7%	32.5%	29.7%	27.7%	26.5%	23.2%
Expenses as % of revenues						
Property OpEx	37.5%	40.3%	43.2%	39.8%	35.5%	35.3%
Administration & other OpEx	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%
Y/Y Growth						
Net rent	31.0%	8.2%	12.6%	-2.4%	-3.3%	4.6%
Operating income	-23.4%	5.1%	-79.2%	n.m.	n.m.	610.6%
Adjusted EBITDA	22.2%	3.3%	2.8%	0.1%	-0.7%	5.0%
Net income/ loss	-50.2%	-1.5%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
Funds from Operations (FFO)						
AEBITDA before JV contribution	777	871	944	946	936	983
Finance expense	-201	-180	-185	-230	-230	-282
Tax expense	-89	-100	-117	-120	-120	-126
Minority adjustment	-36	-82	-136	-126	-129	-131
Other adjustments	9	7	5	5	5	5
Perpetual attribution	-90	-106	-118	-153	-201	-215
FFO 1 before JV contribution	371	409	392	320	261	234
JV FFO 1 contributions	107	69	46	43	44	45
Extraordinary provision for uncollected rents	-120	-125	-75	-33	0	0
FFO 1	358	353	363	331	305	279
FFOPS 1 (€)	0.27	0.30	0.33	0.30	0.28	0.25



BALANCE SHEET

All figures in EURm	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Assets						
Current assets, total	4,781	5,529	4,856	4,692	5,523	3,010
Cash and cash equivalents	2,692	2,873	2,305	2,641	3,534	1,066
Short-term investments	454	376	313	506	508	511
Receivables	617	1,219	1,168	1,008	1,088	1,138
Other current assets	141	28	138	127	93	96
Assets held for sale	877	1,033	931	410	300	200
Non-current assets, total	26,241	33,854	32,492	28,868	28,178	29,282
Property, plant & equipment	877	1,849	1,508	1,379	1,383	1,387
Investment properties	21,172	29,116	27,981	24,632	23,969	25,133
Equity accounted investees	3,177	1,223	1,292	1,087	1,042	965
Other LT assets	1,014	1,667	1,711	1,769	1,784	1,796
Total assets	31,022	39,383	37,347	33,559	33,701	32,292
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total	1,074	1,607	1,289	1,539	6,226	4,984
Short-term debt	181	544	123	420	5,132	3,844
Accounts payable	435	621	666	672	628	655
Provisions & other current liabilities	458	442	500	448	466	485
Long-term liabilities, total	14,364	18,620	18,235	16,870	12,577	11,857
Long-term debt	11,680	15,026	14,573	13,822	9,608	8,781
Deferred tax liabilities	2,026	2,766	2,662	2,107	1,999	2,077
Other LT liabilities	659	828	999	942	970	999
Minority interests	2,025	3,875	3,490	2,750	2,689	2,846
Shareholders' equity	13,558	15,281	14,333	12,400	12,209	12,606
Total consolidated equity and debt	31,022	39,383	37,347	33,559	33,701	32,292
Ratios						
ICR (x)	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.0	3.2	3.0
Net debt / adj. EBITDA (x)	11.1	14.2	12.8	11.9	11.6	11.4
Equity ratio	50.2%	48.6%	47.7%	45.1%	44.2%	47.8%
Financial leverage	63.4%	80.8%	84.3%	90.5%	88.9%	88.9%
EPRA NTA	11,187	11,564	10,135	8,059	7,690	8,127
EPRA NTAPS (€)	9.5	10.2	9.3	7.4	7.0	7.4
Net debt	8,598	12,344	12,087	11,216	10,856	11,207
Return on equity (ROE)	6.7%	7.1%	-3.2%	-19.6%	-0.5%	7.8%
Loan-to-value (LTV)	34%	39%	40%	43%	43%	43%



CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in EURm	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Net income	906	1,078	-457	-2,426	-62	980
Depreciation & amortisation	4	16	21	18	17	18
Capital gains, property revaluations & other	-769	-810	497	3,218	673	-489
Profit share from equity accounted investees	-196	-193	-6	150	45	-6
Goodw ill impairment	0	0	404	137	0	0
Shared based payment in a subsidiary	3	6	5	5	0	0
Net finance expenses	369	343	379	245	256	282
Tax result	377	316	35	-423	12	204
Operating cash flow	694	755	879	923	941	988
Changes in working capital	-36	-57	-27	-54	-126	-33
Provisions for other liabilities	-3	-4	-2	-5	26	27
Dividend received	43	24	35	19	0	83
Tax paid	-83	-93	-97	-111	-120	-126
Net operating cash flow	616	626	788	772	722	939
CapEx/ intangibles	-36	23	-26	-16	-21	-22
Disposal / investment in investment properties, net	1,427	1,179	556	575	99	-575
Acquisition / disposals of subsidiaries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from investments in financial assets	-377	-124	-121	50	13	14
Cash flow from investing	1,014	1,078	409	608	90	-583
Debt financing, net	-493	-1,320	-629	-338	498	-2,115
Equity financing, net	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payments for own shares	-1,001	-444	-255	0	0	0
Share buy-back in a subsidiary	0	-270	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	-22	-252	-169	0	0	-227
Other financing activities	94	-120	-506	-499	-188	-201
Net paid financing expenses	-212	-201	-204	-214	-230	-282
Cash flow from financing	-1,634	-2,607	-1,764	-1,052	80	-2,824
Net cash flows	-5	-903	-567	329	893	-2,468
Assets held for sale - cash	-3	-2	-6	9	0	0
Fx effects	-1	16	5	-2	0	0
Cash & equivalents from TLG	509	1070	0	0	0	0
Cash, start of the year	2,192	2,692	2,873	2,305	2,641	3,534
Cash, end of the year	2,692	2,873	2,305	2,641	3,534	1,066
FFO 1 before JV contribution	371	409	392	320	261	234
FFO 1	358	353	363	331	305	279
FFOPS 1 (€)	0.27	0.30	0.33	0.30	0.28	0.25



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PRICE TARGET DATES

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ASSET VALUATION SYSTEM

First Berlin's system for asset valuation is divided into an asset recommendation and a risk assessment.

ASSET RECOMMENDATION

The recommendations determined in accordance with the share price trend anticipated by First Berlin in the respectively indicated investment period are as follows:

Category		1	2
Current market	capitalisation (in €)	0 - 2 billion	
Strong Buy ¹	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 50%	> 30%
Buy	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 25%	> 15%
Add	An expected favourable price trend of:	0% to 25%	0% to 15%
Reduce	An expected negative price trend of:	0% to -15%	0% to -10%
Sell	An expected negative price trend of:	< -15%	< -10%

¹ The expected price trend is in combination with sizable confidence in the quality and forecast security of management

Our recommendation system places each company into one of two market capitalisation categories. Category 1 companies have a market capitalisation of $\in 0 - \in 2$ billion, and Category 2 companies have a market capitalisation of $> \in 2$ billion. The expected return thresholds underlying our recommendation system are lower for Category 2 companies than for Category 1 companies. This reflects the generally lower level of risk associated with higher market capitalisation companies.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The First Berlin categories for risk assessment are low, average, high and speculative. They are determined by ten factors: Corporate governance, quality of earnings, management strength, balance sheet and financial risk, competitive position, standard of financial disclosure, regulatory and political uncertainty, strength of brandname, market capitalisation and free float. These risk factors are incorporated into the First Berlin valuation models and are thus included in the target prices. First Berlin customers may request the models.

RECOMMENDATION & PRICE TARGET HISTORY

Report No.:	Date of publication	Previous day closing price	Recommendation	Price target
Initial Report	29 September 2015	€3.40	Buy	€5.70
255	↓	\downarrow	↓	1
56	5 April 2023	€1.25	Buy	€3.50
57	2 June 2023	€0.96	Buy	€3.50
58	4 September 2023	€1.51	Buy	€3.50
59	4 December 2023	€2.24	Buy	€3.30
60	4 April 2024	€1.88	Buy	€3.40
61	12 April 2024	€1.79	Buy	€3.40
62	30 May 2024	€2.06	Buy	€3.50
63	30 August 2024	€2.24	Buy	€3.60
64	Today	€2.75	Buy	€4.00

INVESTMENT HORIZON

Unless otherwise stated in the financial analysis, the ratings refer to an investment period of twelve months.



UPDATES

At the time of publication of this financial analysis it is not certain whether, when and on what occasion an update will be provided. In general First Berlin strives to review the financial analysis for its topicality and, if required, to update it in a very timely manner in connection with the reporting obligations of the analysed company or on the occasion of ad hoc notifications.

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Legally required information regarding

- key sources of information in the preparation of this research report
- valuation methods and principles
- sensitivity of valuation parameters

can be accessed through the following internet link: https://firstberlin.com/disclaimer-english-link/

SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY: Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority) [BaFin], Graurheindorferstraße 108, 53117 Bonn and Marie-Curie-Straße 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main

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