

# CR Energy AG

Germany / Investment Holding  
 Primary exchange: Frankfurt  
 Bloomberg: CRZK GR  
 ISIN: DE000A2GS625

Six month results

**RATING**  
**BUY**

**PRICE TARGET**  
**€ 48.00**

Return Potential 92.8%  
 Risk Rating High

## GREEN LIGHTS

Six month reporting revealed another strong portfolio performance further burnishing the recently rebranded CR Energy's credentials as a green company builder. The investment holding recorded €52m in net income for the six months to July, which pushed NAVPS up to €80.9 (+17% YTD). Operating cash flow nearly doubled Y/Y to €12.8m. Business momentum is building for the Solartec holding prodded by policy maker commitments, favourable PV component pricing, and synergetic workflow in conjunction with sister-holding, Terrabau. Importantly, homebuilding activities have remained on schedule during the property sector dislocation. We remain Buy-rated on CRE with a €48 TP (old: €50), which now factors the recent surge in bond yields into our cost of equity calculation.

**Green lights** Solartec's nascent operations are dovetailing well with Terrabau's green home construction business. The PV system integrator works in concert with the home builder outfitting the townhomes and condos with rooftop solar rigs. Solartec is on track to generate some €3.8m in pre-tax earnings on a €10m topline this year. Now CR Energy (CRE) wants to marshal the joint green home expertise to help tackle Germany's aging residential stock. CR Opportunities, the third core holding, will add European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIF) to its financing toolbox to support the upcoming home revitalisation campaign.

**Shareholders like what they are seeing** Some 83% of CRE shareholders opted for scrip dividend shares at the July AGM in lieu of a cash distribution on 2022 earnings. Although CRE shares have shed some 22% of their value YTD, we reckon this is more a reflection of overall market weakness than operational worries. After recently sitting down with CRE brass, we think prospects for the holdings remain quite good, thanks to a full townhome pipeline, no debt worries, and a thriving PV sector prodded by German lawmakers straining to achieve carbon neutrality targets (overleaf). (p.t.o.)

## FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
Investment rev. (€m)	93.60	64.38	68.91	77.91	76.14	87.39
Y/Y growth	n.a.	-31.2%	7.0%	13.1%	-2.3%	14.8%
EBIT (€m)	91.23	51.19	66.44	76.26	74.43	85.73
EBIT margin	97.5%	79.5%	96.4%	97.9%	97.8%	98.1%
Net income (€m)	92.47	51.27	65.39	75.31	73.31	84.44
EPS (diluted) (€)	24.69	13.65	17.11	18.06	15.81	16.97
DPS (€)	1.50	1.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.50
NAVPS (€)	33.30	47.50	59.44	69.43	77.22	91.77
Net gearing	4.7%	-0.5%	-0.6%	-5.1%	-3.7%	-5.5%
Liquid assets (€m)	1.07	0.84	1.49	16.03	14.13	25.21

## RISKS

Risks include but are not limited to: increasing competition, the company's focus on the residential market in Berlin, and the loss of key personnel.

## COMPANY PROFILE

CR Energy is a Berlin-based investment holding focused on growth opportunities in the sustainable technology, private equity, and residential property development sectors in order to positively impact key social issues such as climate change, pension planning, and affordable housing. The company is listed on the Open Market of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

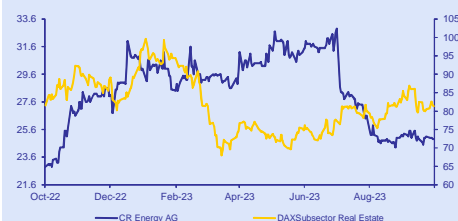
## MARKET DATA

As of 13 Oct 2023

Closing Price € 24.90  
 Shares outstanding 4.98m  
 Market Capitalisation € 123.93m  
 52-week Range € 22.90 / 32.90  
 Avg. Volume (12 Months) 1,077

Multiples	2022	2023E	2024E
P/NAV	0.4	0.3	0.3
EV/Sales	1.4	1.5	1.3
EV/EBIT	1.4	1.5	1.3
Div. Yield	10.0%	10.4%	10.0%

## STOCK OVERVIEW



## COMPANY DATA

As of 30 Jun 2023

Liquid Assets € 13.37m  
 Current Assets € 14.59m  
 Financial Assets € 358.56m  
 Total Assets € 373.31m  
 Current Liabilities € 3.24m  
 Shareholders' Equity € 366.24m

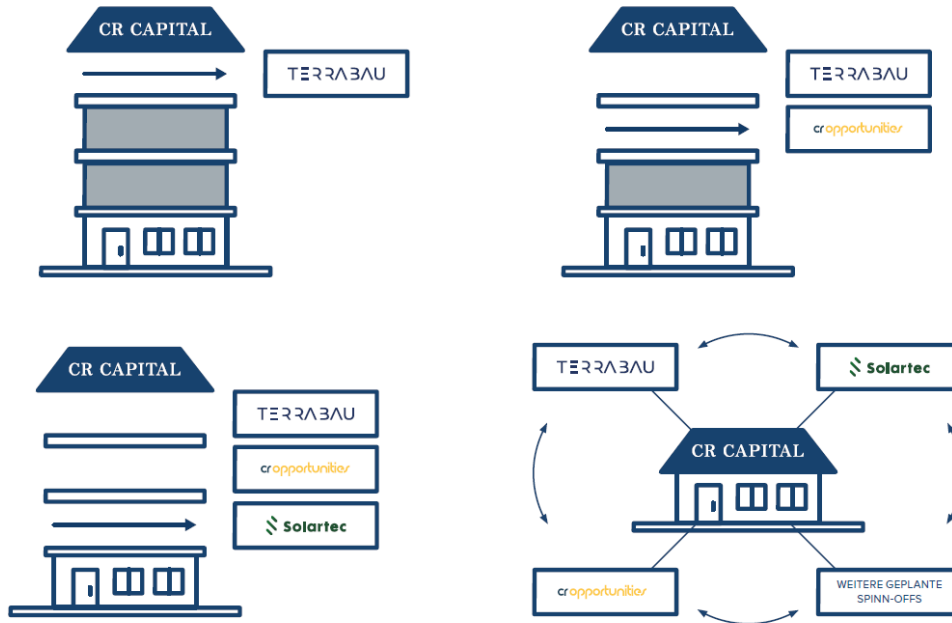
## SHAREHOLDERS

MPH Group 59.0%  
 Free Float 41.0%

## THE EVOLVING CR ENERGY AG

Over the past three years, CRE has evolved away from its roots as a pure-play property developer into an investment entity that has diversified into sustainable technologies that play off of each other. The company builder now operates under the name CR Energy AG (old: CR Capital AG) after officially rebranding this summer to better align with sharpened green portfolio tinge.

Figure 1: Evolution of a clean-tech portfolio



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

Figure 2: Sustainability rated “Very good” by imug consultancy in May 2022



Source: imug Beratungsgesellschaft

## WHERE THINGS STAND FOR SOLARTEC

Last year, CR Energy took an 80% stake in Solartec GmbH. The company designs and installs climate-neutral energy systems, which will ultimately (~2025) combine rooftop solar PV rigs with hydrogen technology for year-round electrification of private homes (see note of 7 June 2022).

Solartec wants to expand beyond rooftop solar systems into large scale PV power plants with a particular eye on agrisolar, which is the simultaneous use of areas of farmland for both solar photovoltaic power generation and agriculture. Although still in the early stages, agrivoltaics is a promising workaround to solve the increasing competition for fertile farmland between the agriculture and energy sectors. Solartec is in the early planning stages for a 6 GWh Agri-PV power plant.

**Figure 3: Solving scarcity of farmable dirt with agrophotovoltaics**



Source: *AgroSolar Europe*

These projects will also allow Solartec to address institutional demand. With politicians straining to make Germany carbon neutral, prospects for a long-tailed solar boom are excellent (figure 5 overleaf). Institutional investors have been gobbling up attractive properties and renewable energy installations for years to capture yields. Now Solartec and Terrabau will team up to package both products for institutional investors.

**Figure 4: Self-sufficient with clean energy**



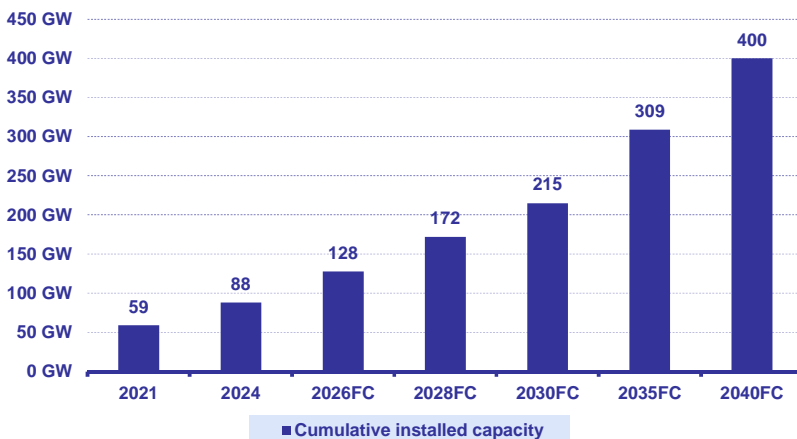
Source: CR Energy AG

An energy self-sufficient housing community is also on the drawing board (figure 4). The project envisions roughly 100 condos outfitted with rooftop PV and powered by a nearby solar car port paired with hydrogen technology for year-round clean electrification.

**Much more solar needed** According to Germany’s Federal Network Agency (*Bundesnetzagentur*), there were roughly 64 gigawatts of solar PV installed across Germany at YE22, while the Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft (BSW) says there are about 4.5m rooftop solar plants in operation with one in three homeowners likewise planning a PV system over the next three years. Germany has some 10m single-family homes suitable for rooftop PV systems plus numerous apartment complexes and commercial buildings that could also be retrofitted.

But this is just the start. The Renewable Energy Act (EEG) now calls for 215 GW of cumulative PV capacity by YE30 and 400 GW by YE40, which translates into an additional 22 GW of new capacity p.a. by 2026 (figure 5).

**Figure 5: Cumulative German installed solar PV to hit EEG targets**

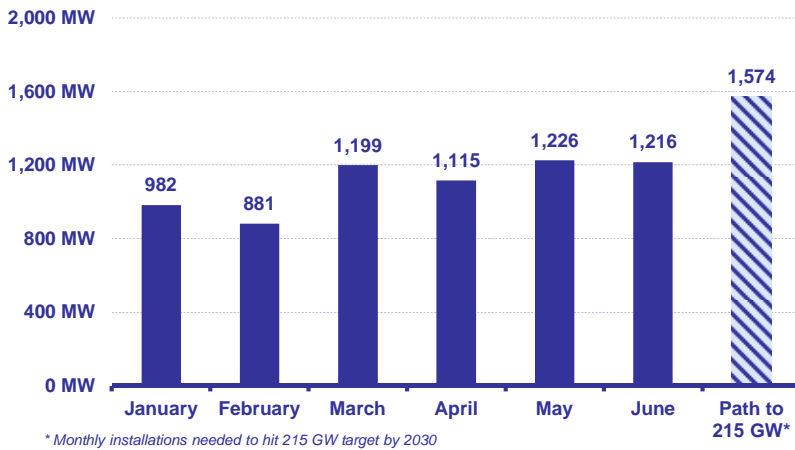


Source: First Berlin Equity Research; Bundesnetzagentur



**Germany has picked up the pace in 2023** Some 6.6 GW, equalling roughly 465k new plants, were connected to the grid in the six months to July compared to 3.8 GW in the same prior year period and 7.2 GW in all of 2022.

**Figure 6: Installed German solar capacity in H1/23**



Source: Federal grid agency (BNetzA)

## WHERE THINGS STAND FOR TERRABAU

We continue to like Terrabau for its resilient affordable home building business that is emerging as a winner in a fiendishly challenging property sector. The home builder looks well positioned to not only weather the storm but ultimately benefit from the downturn.

**The perfect storm.** . . . The property sector has turned into a dumpster fire for many landlords, project developers, and investors over the last 18 months or so. Stock markets are pricing in an office sector apocalypse, and transactions for residential and commercial have ground to a halt. Most alarmingly, the property sector suffers from a debt hangover after an extended cycle of supercharged growth. Many large landlords are saddled with large, maturing debt loads and are staring at eye-watering interest payments after rapid fire rate hikes.

The picture is similar for property developers, and the double whammy of soaring construction borrowing costs alongside material inflation is wrecking project economics. This has brought numerous projects to a standstill at a time when Germany is struggling to close a large housing demand supply gap. Terrabau noted that the number of construction permits for German residential in H1/23 were some 27% lower Y/Y.

**. . . but Terrabau's activities remain remarkably resilient** So far the headaches currently hurting the property sector have not compromised Terrabau's home construction business. The company operates as a general contractor and has run its business debt-free since 2019. Terrabau's ample liquidity allows it to make speedy milestone payments to subcontractors furnishing them promptly with liquidity needed to purchase building materials, lock in construction hands, and keep projects on time.

**Figure 7: Ludwigsfelde building project**



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

We recently sat down with CRE brass, and they noted that the home builder is in an excellent position to capitalise on Germany's housing shortage. Terrabau currently has: (1) a 52k m<sup>2</sup> pipeline (table 1) in Leipzig and the Berlin exurbs; (2) capacity to realise 330 to 500 units p.a. to target up to 60k m<sup>2</sup> per annum; and (3) a healthy acquisition pipeline for similar projects.

Further, strong cash flows mean they have a full war chest to negotiate favourable deals with a number of recently enfeebled developers now looking to exit early-stage projects at a discount in order to deleverage.

**Figure 8: Ample projects in the Berlin exurbs**



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

**Residential demand remains resilient** The German capital is bursting at the seams and urbanites are increasingly looking to decamp to the exurbs. Despite surging mortgage rates, Terrabau's affordable town homes remain a solution. These properties meet the highest energy efficiency standards (KfW-40 QNG PLUS), meaning prospective buyers can qualify for subsidised 0.8% loans for up to €190k. Plus, housing prices have not come off the boil dashing the hopes of Millennials and Gen-Zers looking to snap up their first home on the cheap.

**Table 1: Project pipeline overview**

Location	Units	Typ	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ludw igsfelde	100	Homes	11,000
Schkeuditz	150	Homes, Apartments	18,000
Kloster Lehnin	50	Apartments	2,900
Nauen	40	Homes, Apartments	2,600
Kleinmachnow	40	Apartments, Commercial	3,800
Stahnsdorf	12	Homes	1,700
Velten	45	Homes	4,700
Zossen	90	Homes, Apartments	7,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>527</b>		<b>51,700</b>

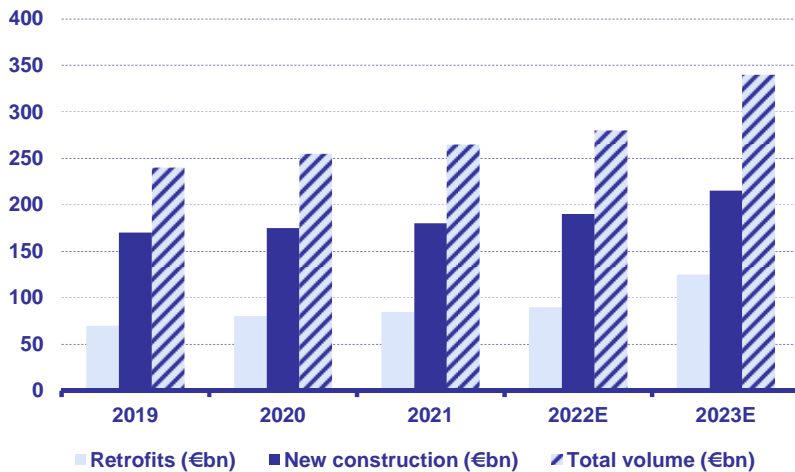
Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

After Terrabau completes its Schkeuditz project in Leipzig towards YE23, we expect the company to focus on the ample opportunities around Berlin, where it has had boots on the ground for years and can best leverage its local networks and expertise.



**German housing construction deficit nearing a 20 year high** Against the challenging sector backdrop, Germany still suffers from an acute shortage of flats with grim prospects for closing the demand supply gap over the near term. In their recent joint study, research institutes Pestel and ARGE said Germany’s flat shortage will hit 700k units by YE23.

**Figure 9: Current construction plans won’t close the gap**



Source: DIW; BBSR; BauInfoConsult

**Tackling Germany’s aging residential stock** The EU is straining to become carbon neutral and now wants all residential properties to be rated “energy class D” by 2033. Wohnungswirtschaft (GdW), Germany’s top housing association, reckons Germany will need to retrofit some 45% of its residential stock by then (~8m obsolete flats). We believe CRE’s green construction expertise can be marshalled to help tackle this massive undertaking—the estimated value of which is €3.6tn to €4.4tn.



## WHERE THINGS STAND FOR CR OPPORTUNITIES

The third portfolio company, CR Opportunities, helped pioneer the democratisation of private equity in Germany and plays a key role as an anchor investor for projects orchestrated by the sister holdings, Terrabau and Solartec. The asset manager also has a new fund in the works and expects revenue north of €13m with EBIT of €12.6m this fiscal year (2022/23E).

Having successfully placed an €8m bond with a 9.5% coupon and equity kicker, CRO is shifting its focus towards European Long-Term Investment Funds. ELTIFs are a new fund category launched by the EU in 2015 and are specifically designed for infrastructure investments. These financial instruments are issued as closed-end funds and are authorized for sale to professional—insurers and pension funds—as well as private investors.

### Figure 10: Greening Germany's housing industry



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

We expect CRO to play a central role in the aforementioned property refurbishment business by building portfolios of aging properties to renovate and hand over to investment banking partners to populate ELTIFs. The new business is already in the works and should begin to realise in 2024. CRO plans to raise around €100m to €120m for initial investments by YE25.

## SIX MONTH REPORTING

**Table 2: Six month reporting vs FBe and prior year**

All figures in EUR '000	H1/23	H1/23E	Variance	H1/22	Variance
Investment revenue	53,373	56,500	-5.5%	68,997	-22.6%
EBITDA	52,631	54,240	-3.0%	67,708	-22.3%
Margin (%)	99%	96%	-	98%	-
Net income	52,021	53,675	-3.1%	66,796	-22.1%
Margin (%)	97%	95%	-	97%	-

Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

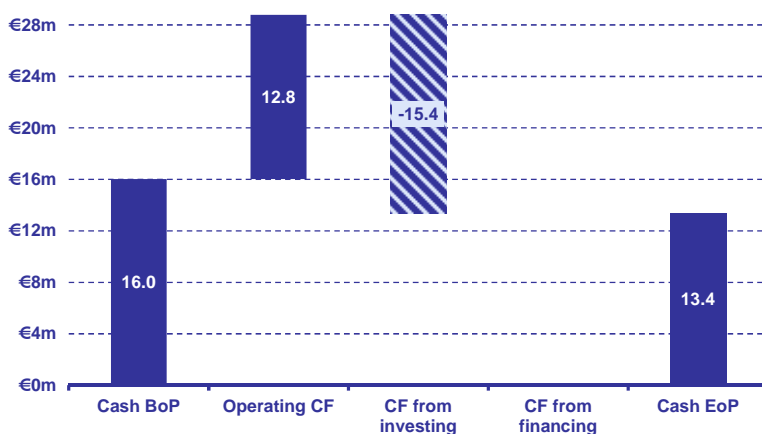
**Table 3: H1/22 financial highlights**

All figures in EUR '000	H1/23	2022	Variance
Cash & equivalents	13,365	16,032	-17%
Current assets	14,590	16,553	-12%
Financial assets	358,558	305,158	17%
Total assets	373,307	321,892	16%
Financial debt (short- and long-term)	0	0	-
Shareholders' equity	366,248	314,227	17%
Equity ratio	98%	98%	-

Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG

**Operating cash flow nearly double prior year period** CRC exited H1/23 with €13.4m in cash, thanks largely to €12.8m in operating cash flow (figure 11), which showed a sizable jump on the prior year comp (€6.6m). The good result stems from cash distributions from the participations with the bulk coming from Terrabau. The good operating cash flow result allowed the company to invest some €15.4m into the participations in H1. Free cash flow thus tallied €-2.6m for the six month period.

**Figure 11: H1/23 Cash flow developments**

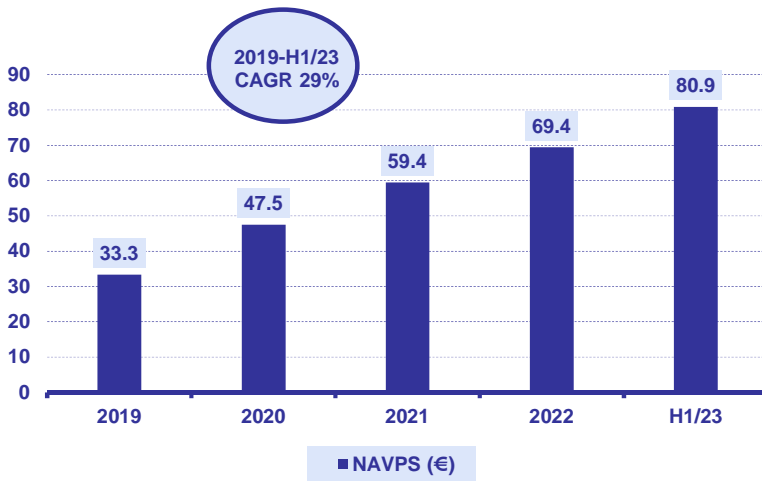


Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG



**NAV CAGR of 29%** The NAV climbed 17% in the first six months to €366m, while NAVPS stood at €80.9 at end of the reporting period (+17% YTD). The uplift is occasioned by the €52m in net profit for the period.

**Figure 12: NAVPS development**



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Energy AG



## FORECASTS & VALUATION

Table 4: Changes to FBe and TP

	old	new	revision	upside	dividend yield	total return
Price target (€)	50	48.0	-4.0%	92.8%	10.4%	103.2%
All figures in € '000	2023E			2024E		
	old	new	revision	old	new	revision
Investment revenue	80,625	76,136	-5.6%	90,300	87,389	-3.2%
EBITDA	78,950	74,460	-5.7%	88,591	85,680	-3.3%
Margin (%)	97.9%	97.8%	-	98.1%	98.0%	-
Net income	77,731	73,309	-5.7%	87,228	84,359	-3.3%
EPS diluted (€)	17.2	15.8	-8.1%	19.3	17.0	-12.1%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

We have shaved down our 2023 estimates. This is mainly a reflection of a more conservative expectation for H2/23 portfolio revaluation upside. We keep cash earnings unchanged for the period. The larger decrease in EPS is traced to the higher share count that factors in the new scrip dividend shares.

At the same time, we have edged the risk free rate in our cost of equity calculation higher to 2.8% (old: 2.5%) to track the recent rise in German bond yields since our previous note. The changes now point to a €48 target price (old: €50). We remain Buy-rated on CRE.

Table 5: Discounted dividend model

	Unit	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	TV
EPS	€	15.8	17.0	20.1	22.2	24.3	26.2	32.3
Payout ratio	%	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Dividend (DPS)	€	2.6	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.8
NPV	€	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	23.2
CAGR 2022 -2026	%	7.2						
Terminal growth rate	%	2.5						
Discount factor	%	10.3						
NPV of dividends	€	24.4						
Terminal value (TV)	€	23.2						
<b>Fair value per share</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>48.0</b>						

\*Our model runs through 2033 and we have only shown the abbreviated version for formatting purposes

Cost of equity	10.3%	After-tax cost of debt	6.4%
Pre-tax cost of debt	6.5%	Share of equity capital	100.0%
Tax rate	2.0%	Share of debt capital	0.0%
<b>WACC</b>	<b>10.3%</b>		



## INCOME STATEMENT

in € '000	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>93,604</b>	<b>64,378</b>	<b>68,914</b>	<b>77,914</b>	<b>76,136</b>	<b>87,389</b>
Other operating income	1,172	156	942	1,493	1,523	1,553
Personnel expenses	-1,494	-815	-828	-938	-966	-985
Other impairments	0	-10,203	0	0	0	0
Other operating expenses	-2,878	-2,326	-2,540	-2,167	-2,232	-2,277
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>91,267</b>	<b>51,190</b>	<b>66,488</b>	<b>76,302</b>	<b>74,460</b>	<b>85,680</b>
Depreciation & amortisation	-40	0	-47	-40	-35	-35
<b>Operating income (EBIT)</b>	<b>91,227</b>	<b>51,190</b>	<b>66,441</b>	<b>76,262</b>	<b>74,425</b>	<b>85,645</b>
Interest expense	-254	-207	-178	-131	0	0
Interest income	368	282	160	0	0	0
<b>Pre-tax income (EBT)</b>	<b>91,341</b>	<b>51,265</b>	<b>66,423</b>	<b>76,131</b>	<b>74,425</b>	<b>85,645</b>
Tax expense	1,129	0	-1,032	-826	-1,116	-1,286
Minority expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net income / loss</b>	<b>92,470</b>	<b>51,265</b>	<b>65,391</b>	<b>75,305</b>	<b>73,309</b>	<b>84,359</b>
<b>Diluted EPS (in €)</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Ratios</b>						
EBITDA margin on revenues	97.5%	79.5%	96.5%	97.9%	97.8%	98.0%
EBIT margin on revenues	97.5%	79.5%	96.4%	97.9%	97.8%	98.0%
Net margin on revenues	98.8%	79.6%	94.9%	96.7%	96.3%	96.5%
Tax rate	-1.2%	0.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
<b>Expenses as % of revenues</b>						
Personnel expenses	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%
Other operating expenses	3.1%	3.6%	3.7%	2.8%	2.9%	2.6%
<b>Y-Y Growth</b>						
Revenues	n.m.	-31.2%	7.0%	13.1%	-2.3%	14.8%
Operating income	n.m.	-43.9%	29.8%	14.8%	-2.4%	15.1%
Net income/ loss	n.m.	-44.6%	27.6%	15.2%	-2.7%	15.1%



## BALANCE SHEET

in € '000	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current assets, total</b>	<b>19,282</b>	<b>18,888</b>	<b>2,306</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>25,819</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	1,071	841	1,486	16,032	14,133	25,213
Accounts receivable	285	0	0	0	0	0
Other ST assets	13,605	18,047	820	571	588	606
<b>Non-current assets, total</b>	<b>117,622</b>	<b>169,577</b>	<b>245,714</b>	<b>305,289</b>	<b>377,809</b>	<b>440,143</b>
Intangible assets & goodwill	6,586	5	77	69	79	89
Tangible assets	105	96	77	62	72	82
Financial assets	100,531	169,476	245,560	305,158	377,658	439,972
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>136,904</b>	<b>188,465</b>	<b>248,020</b>	<b>321,892</b>	<b>392,530</b>	<b>465,961</b>
<b>Shareholders' equity &amp; debt</b>						
<b>Current liabilities, total</b>	<b>2,821</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>92</b>
Accounts payable	1,136	173	146	76	84	92
ST debt	1,685	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Long-term liabilities, total</b>	<b>8,992</b>	<b>10,315</b>	<b>7,090</b>	<b>7,589</b>	<b>8,121</b>	<b>8,694</b>
Deferred tax liabilities	2,353	1,445	2,324	3,148	3,463	3,809
Provisions	1,253	50	119	174	177	181
Other LT liabilities	176	8,820	4,647	4,267	4,480	4,704
LT debt	5,210	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Shareholders' equity, total</b>	<b>125,091</b>	<b>177,977</b>	<b>240,784</b>	<b>314,227</b>	<b>384,326</b>	<b>456,711</b>
<b>Total consolidated equity and debt</b>	<b>136,904</b>	<b>188,465</b>	<b>248,020</b>	<b>321,892</b>	<b>392,530</b>	<b>465,498</b>
<b>Ratios</b>						
Current ratio (x)	6.8	109.2	15.8	218.5	176.1	280.8
Net debt / (cash)	5,824	-841	-1,486	-16,032	-14,133	-25,213
Net debt / EBITDA (x)	0.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dividend cover (x)	-2.3	-0.3	-0.2	1.4	1.9	2.1
Net gearing	5%	0%	-1%	-5%	-4%	-6%
Equity ratio	91%	94%	97%	98%	98%	98%
NAV	125,091	177,977	240,784	314,227	384,326	456,711
NAVPS (€)	33.3	47.5	59.4	69.4	77.2	91.8



## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

in € '000	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
<b>Net income</b>	<b>92,470</b>	<b>51,265</b>	<b>65,391</b>	<b>75,305</b>	<b>73,309</b>	<b>84,442</b>
Depreciation & amortisation	40	10,203	47	40	35	35
Result from at equity participations	-89,589	-61,293	-54,993	-44,328	-57,500	-62,314
Financial result	-114	-75	18	131	0	0
Tax Result	-1,131	0	1,032	826	1,116	1,286
Change in working capital	-4,108	-426	3,983	-14,527	522	565
<b>Operating cash flow</b>	<b>-2,432</b>	<b>-326</b>	<b>15,478</b>	<b>17,447</b>	<b>17,482</b>	<b>24,014</b>
Tax paid	-78	0	-1,032	-826	-1,116	-1,286
<b>Net operating cash flow</b>	<b>-2,510</b>	<b>-326</b>	<b>14,446</b>	<b>16,621</b>	<b>16,366</b>	<b>22,728</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing</b>	<b>-372</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>-11,145</b>	<b>-215</b>	<b>-15,055</b>	<b>-55</b>
Dividend paid to shareholders	-2,809	0	-5,619	-1,729	-3,210	-11,593
Dividends received	0	0	3,141	0	0	0
Debt inflow , net	3,402	0	0	0	0	0
Equity inflow , net	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expense	-253	-207	-178	-131	0	0
<b>Cash flow from financing</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>-207</b>	<b>-2,656</b>	<b>-1,860</b>	<b>-3,210</b>	<b>-11,593</b>
Cash, start of the year	3,940	1,071	841	1,486	16,032	14,133
Consolidation changes	-327	-344	0	0	0	0
Change in cash, net	-2,542	114	645	14,546	-1,899	11,080
<b>Cash, end of the year</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>16,032</b>	<b>14,133</b>	<b>25,213</b>
<b>Free cash flow (FCF)</b>	<b>-2,882</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>16,406</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>22,673</b>
FCFPS (in €)	-0.8	0.1	0.9	3.9	0.3	4.6

## Imprint / Disclaimer

### First Berlin Equity Research

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH ist ein von der BaFin betreffend die Einhaltung der Pflichten des §85 Abs. 1 S. 1 WpHG, des Art. 20 Abs. 1 Marktmissbrauchsverordnung (MAR) und der Markets Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II Durchführungsverordnung und der Markets in Financial Instruments Regulations (MiFIR) beaufsichtigtes Unternehmen.

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH is one of the companies monitored by BaFin with regard to its compliance with the requirements of Section 85 (1) sentence 1 of the German Securities Trading Act [WpHG], art. 20 (1) Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) and Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II Commission Delegated Regulation and Markets in Financial Instruments Regulations (MiFIR).

Anschrift:

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH  
Friedrichstr. 34  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

Vertreten durch den Geschäftsführer: Martin Bailey

Telefon: +49 (0) 30-80 93 9 680

Fax: +49 (0) 30-80 93 9 687

E-Mail: [info@firstberlin.com](mailto:info@firstberlin.com)

Amtsgericht Berlin Charlottenburg HR B 103329 B

UST-Id.: 251601797

Ggf. Inhaltlich Verantwortlicher gem. § 6 MDStV

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH

**Authored by: Ellis Acklin, Senior Analyst**

**All publications of the last 12 months were authored by Ellis Acklin.**

**Company responsible for preparation: First Berlin Equity Research GmbH, Friedrichstraße 69, 10117 Berlin**

The production of this recommendation was completed on 16 October 2023 at 08:57

**Person responsible for forwarding or distributing this financial analysis: Martin Bailey**

**Copyright© 2023 First Berlin Equity Research GmbH** No part of this financial analysis may be copied, photocopied, duplicated or distributed in any form or media whatsoever without prior written permission from First Berlin Equity Research GmbH. First Berlin Equity Research GmbH shall be identified as the source in the case of quotations. Further information is available on request.

### **INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 (1) SENTENCE 1 OF THE GERMAN SECURITIES TRADING ACT [WPHG], TO ART. 20 (1) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 596/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF APRIL 16, 2014, ON MARKET ABUSE (MARKET ABUSE REGULATION) AND TO ART. 37 OF COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) NO 2017/565 (MIFID) II.**

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH (hereinafter referred to as: "First Berlin") prepares financial analyses while taking the relevant regulatory provisions, in particular section 85 (1) sentence 1 of the German Securities Trading Act [WpHG], art. 20 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 16, 2014, on market abuse (market abuse regulation) and art. 37 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 2017/565 (MiFID II) into consideration. In the following First Berlin provides investors with information about the statutory provisions that are to be observed in the preparation of financial analyses.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with art. 37 (1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 2017/565 (MiFID) II and art. 20 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 16, 2014, on market abuse (market abuse regulation) investment firms which produce, or arrange for the production of, investment research that is intended or likely to be subsequently disseminated to clients of the firm or to the public, under their own responsibility or that of a member of their group, shall ensure the implementation of all the measures set forth in accordance with Article 34 (2) lit. (b) of Regulation (EU) 2017/565 in relation to the financial analysts involved in the production of the investment research and other relevant persons whose responsibilities or business interests may conflict with the interests of the persons to whom the investment research is disseminated. In accordance with art. 34 (3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/565 the procedures and measures referred to in paragraph 2 lit. (b) of such article shall be designed to ensure that relevant persons engaged in different business activities involving a conflict of interests carry on those activities at a level of independence appropriate to the size and activities of the investment firm and of the group to which it belongs, and to the risk of damage to the interests of clients.

In addition, First Berlin shall pursuant to Article 5 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958 disclose in their recommendations all relationships and circumstances that may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the financial analyses, including interests or conflicts of interest, on their part or on the part of any natural or legal person working for them under a contract, including a contract of employment, or otherwise, who was involved in producing financial analyses, concerning any financial instrument or the issuer to which the recommendation directly or indirectly relates.

With regard to the financial analyses of CR Energy AG the following relationships and circumstances exist which may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the financial analyses: The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the CR Energy AG for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed.

Furthermore, First Berlin offers a range of services that go beyond the preparation of financial analyses. Although First Berlin strives to avoid conflicts of interest wherever possible, First Berlin may maintain the following relations with the analysed company, which in particular may constitute a potential conflict of interest:

- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin owns a net long or short position exceeding the threshold of 0.5 % of the total issued share capital of the analysed company;
- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin holds an interest of more than five percent in the share capital of the analysed company;



- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin provided investment banking or consulting services for the analysed company within the past twelve months for which remuneration was or was to be paid;
- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the analysed company for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed;
- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin has other significant financial interests in the analysed company;

With regard to the financial analyses of CR Energy AG the following of the aforementioned potential conflicts of interests or the potential conflicts of interest mentioned in Article 6 paragraph 1 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958 exist: The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the CR Energy AG for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed.

In order to avoid and, if necessary, manage possible conflicts of interest both the author of the financial analysis and First Berlin shall be obliged to neither hold nor in any way trade the securities of the company analyzed. The remuneration of the author of the financial analysis stands in no direct or indirect connection with the recommendations or opinions represented in the financial analysis. Furthermore, the remuneration of the author of the financial analysis is neither coupled directly to financial transactions nor to stock exchange trading volume or asset management fees.

**INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 64 OF THE GERMAN SECURITIES TRADING ACT [WPHG], DIRECTIVE 2014/65/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 15 MAY 2014 ON MARKETS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2002/92/EC AND DIRECTIVE 2011/61/EU, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MARKETS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS REGULATION (MIFIR, REG. EU NO. 600/2014).**

First Berlin notes that it has concluded a contract with the issuer to prepare financial analyses and is paid for that by the issuer. First Berlin makes the financial analysis simultaneously available for all interested security financial services companies. First Berlin thus believes that it fulfils the requirements of section 64 WpHG for minor non-monetary benefits.

**PRICE TARGET DATES**

Unless otherwise indicated, current prices refer to the closing prices of the previous trading day.

**AGREEMENT WITH THE ANALYSED COMPANY AND MAINTENANCE OF OBJECTIVITY**

The present financial analysis is based on the author's own knowledge and research. The author prepared this study without any direct or indirect influence exerted on the part of the analysed company. Parts of the financial analysis were possibly provided to the analysed company prior to publication in order to avoid inaccuracies in the representation of facts. However, no substantial changes were made at the request of the analysed company following any such provision.

**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	> 2 billion
Strong Buy <sup>1</sup>	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%

<sup>1</sup> 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 €0 – €2 billion, and Category 2 companies have a market capitalisation of > €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	23 July 2014	€0.95	Buy	€10.50
2...6	↓	↓	↓	↓
7	29 April 2019	€31.80	Buy	€20.00
8	30 September 2019	€25.20	Buy	€35.00
9	4 June 2020	€28.90	Buy	€37.00
10	7 April 2020	€21.70	Buy	€37.00
11	17 September 2021	€34.00	Buy	€58.00
12	21 July 2022	€30.50	Buy	€53.00
13	19 October 2022	€23.00	Buy	€53.00
14	6 July 2023	€32.20	Buy	€50.00
15	Today	€24.90	Buy	€48.00

**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.

#### SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The opinions contained in the financial analysis reflect the assessment of the author on the day of publication of the financial analysis. The author of the financial analysis reserves the right to change such opinion without prior notification.

#### 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**

#### EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY (DISCLAIMER)

##### RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The information contained in this study is based on sources considered by the author to be reliable. Comprehensive verification of the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information has neither been carried out by the author nor by First Berlin. As a result no warranty of any kind whatsoever shall be assumed for the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information, and neither the author nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be liable for any direct or indirect damage incurred through reliance on the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information.

##### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

The author of the financial analysis made estimates and forecasts to the best of the author's knowledge. These estimates and forecasts reflect the author's personal opinion and judgement. The premises for estimates and forecasts as well as the author's perspective on such premises are subject to constant change. Expectations with regard to the future performance of a financial instrument are the result of a measurement at a single point in time and may change at any time. The result of a financial analysis always describes only one possible future development – the one that is most probable from the perspective of the author – of a number of possible future developments.

Any and all market values or target prices indicated for the company analysed in this financial analysis may not be achieved due to various risk factors, including but not limited to market volatility, sector volatility, the actions of the analysed company, economic climate, failure to achieve earnings and/or sales forecasts, unavailability of complete and precise information and/or a subsequently occurring event which affects the underlying assumptions of the author and/or other sources on which the author relies in this document. Past performance is not an indicator of future results; past values cannot be carried over into the future.

Consequently, no warranty of any kind whatsoever shall be assumed for the accuracy of estimates and forecasts, and neither the author nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be liable for any direct or indirect damage incurred through reliance on the correctness of estimates and forecasts.

##### INFORMATION PURPOSES, NO RECOMMENDATION, SOLICITATION, NO OFFER FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITIES

The present financial analysis serves information purposes. It is intended to support institutional investors in making their own investment decisions; however in no way provide the investor with investment advice. Neither the author, nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be considered to be acting as an investment advisor or portfolio manager vis-à-vis an investor. Each investor must form his own independent opinion with regard to the suitability of an investment in view of his own investment objectives, experience, tax situation, financial position and other circumstances.

The financial analysis does not represent a recommendation or solicitation and is not an offer for the purchase of the security specified in this financial analysis. Consequently, neither the author nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall as a result be liable for losses incurred through direct or indirect employment or use of any kind whatsoever of information or statements arising out of this financial analysis.

A decision concerning an investment in securities should take place on the basis of independent investment analyses and procedures as well as other studies including, but not limited to, information memoranda, sales or issuing prospectuses and not on the basis of this document.

##### NO ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

By taking note of this financial analysis the recipient neither becomes a customer of First Berlin, nor does First Berlin incur any contractual, quasi-contractual or pre-contractual obligations and/or responsibilities toward the recipient. In particular no information contract shall be established between First Berlin and the recipient of this information.

##### NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE

First Berlin, the author and/or the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall not be obliged to update the financial analysis. Investors must keep themselves informed about the current course of business and any changes in the current course of business of the analysed company.

##### DUPLICATION

Dispatch or duplication of this document is not permitted without the prior written consent of First Berlin.

##### SEVERABILITY

Should any provision of this disclaimer prove to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under the respectively applicable law, then such provision shall be treated as if it were not an integral component of this disclaimer; in no way shall it affect the legality, validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions.

##### APPLICABLE LAW, PLACE OF JURISDICTION

The preparation of this financial analysis shall be subject to the law obtaining in the Federal Republic of Germany. The place of jurisdiction for any disputes shall be Berlin (Germany).

##### NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER

By taking note of this financial analysis the recipient confirms the binding nature of the above explanations.

By using this document or relying on it in any manner whatsoever the recipient accepts the above restrictions as binding for the recipient.

##### QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

First Berlin financial analyses are intended exclusively for qualified institutional investors.

**This report is not intended for distribution in the USA and/or Canada.**