

# **Deutsche Rohstoff AG**

Germany / Energy Frankfurt Bloomberg: DR0 GR ISIN: DE000A0XYG76

Preliminary 2023 results

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY € 46.00

Return Potential 30.5% Risk Rating High

# WE EXPECT WYOMING WELLS TO DRIVE FURTHER OUTPERFORMANCE

2023 sales of €1965m and EBITDA of €158.2m both came in towards the top end of guidance. Meanwhile, 2023 production rose 32.4% to 12,700 barrels of oil equivalent per day and was above company guidance of 12,000-12,500 boepd. Q4/23 production of 15,300 boepd (the highest in DRAG's history) benefitted from significantly-above-type curve output at nine new wells in the Niobrara formation in Wyoming, which came on stream last autumn. Net CAPEX also set a new company record €145m in 2023, but thanks to the impact of high net profitability on equity, net gearing remained constant at 42%. Management is guiding towards investment spending of €108m for 2024, but it is possible that this figure will rise if the oil price remains near the current USD80. The mid-point of management EBITDA guidance of €130m-145m is ca. €21m below the 2023 number. However, we note that 2023 EBITDA benefitted from €17m in gains on the disposal of assets in Utah in December and also that DRAG's current results are an order of magnitude higher than the average EBITDA of €38m booked during 2019-21. Results from wells drilled by DRAG in Wyoming since the company acquired its first acreage in the state in 2020 have been very encouraging. Output from the 16 wells with six month+ production history DRAG and its JV partner, Occidental Petroleum (Oxy), have so far drilled into the Niobrara formation in Wyoming has averaged 15% above type curve six months after the start of production. DRAG/Oxy have sufficient acreage in Wyoming to drill over 200 wells. Over 90% of these potential wells are in the Niobrara formation. Since DRAG announced the acquisition of its first acreage in Wyoming in July 2020, the DRAG share has outperformed the S&P500 Energy Index by over 150%. DRAG's increasingly impressive track record in Wyoming suggests that this outperformance will continue. We maintain our Buy recommendation, but lower the price target from €47.0 to €46.0 to reflect the ca. 30% decline ir the 2024 US natural gas futures strip since our last note of 9 November (gas accounted for ca. 10% of revenue at 9M/23 and ca. 10% of DRAG's gas production is hedged).

## **FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023P	2024E
Revenue (€m)	41.20	38.68	73.32	165.44	196.50	180.46
Y-o-y growth	-62.2%	-6.1%	89.5%	125.6%	18.8%	-8.2%
EBITDA (€m)	22.73	23.93	66.06	139.09	158.20	132.94
EBITDA margin	55.2%	61.9%	90.1%	84.1%	80.5%	73.7%
Net income (€m)	0.31	-15.51	24.79	60.77	65.10	51.65
EPS (diluted) (€)	0.06	-3.13	5.00	12.15	13.01	10.32
DPS (€)	0.10	0.00	0.60	1.30	1.30	1.30
FCF (€m)	-14.79	-22.73	0.63	60.27	-10.00	-1.85
Net gearing	101.4%	231.6%	117.3%	42.1%	42.2%	33.5%
Liquid assets (€m)	66.64	22.82	23.49	54.20	82.20	12.45

### **RISKS**

Risks include negative movements in the oil price and other raw materials prices, dry well risk, mechanical failure, loss of key personnel.

### **COMPANY PROFILE**

Deutsche Rohstoff AG (DRAG) is a fast-growing oil and gas producer with 100% of its production in the United States. Critical metals such as tungsten account for around 10% of the company's assets. DRAG is based in Mannheim, Germany.

MARKET DATA	As of 15 Mar 2024
Closing Price	€ 35.25
Shares outstanding	5.00m
Market Capitalisation	€ 176.37m
52-week Range	€ 24.50 / 35.25
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	7,458

Multiples	2022	2023P	2024E
P/E	2.9	2.7	3.4
EV/Sales	1.5	1.3	1.4
EV/EBITDA	1.8	1.6	1.9
Div. Yield	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%

## **STOCK OVERVIEW**



COMPANY DATA	As of 30 Sep 2023
Liquid Assets	€ 76.15m
Current Assets	€ 115.86m
Intangible Assets	€ 31.79m
Total Assets	€ 472.56m
Current Liabilities	€ 72.80m
Shareholders' Equity	€ 167.23m

# **SHAREHOLDERS**

Management	10.0%
Institutional shareholders	19.0%
Free float	71.0%

2023 volume up 32%, but lower commodity prices crimped sales and EBITDA development DRAG's preliminary 2023 results showed an 18.8% increase in sales to €196.5m (guidance: €188m - €198m, 2022: €165.4m), While EBITDA rose 13.7% to €158.2m (guidance: €152m - €162m, 2022: €139.1m). Poduction rose 32.4% to 12,700 boepd (2022: 9,594 boepd). The increase in output was driven by new production in Wyoming at DRAG's 1876 Resources subsidiary and at the JV with Occidental Petroleum (Oxy). Last year, seven new wells came online at 1876 Resources and six new wells at the Oxy JV. The 2023 product mix was approximately 55% oil, 27% gas, 18% NGLs (2022: 53% oil, 30% gas, 17% NGLs). New wells produce a higher proportion of more valuable oil than mature wells, whose output is more heavily weighted to less valuable gas. DRAG's product mix shifted towards oil last year, but sales underperformed volume, and EBITDA rose less than sales because of lower commodity prices. The average price realised by DRAG for oil after hedging fell 3.4% to USD74.0/bbl (2022: USD76.6/bbl). Prices for gas and NGLs were respectively 32% and 43% lower.

Net gearing unchanged at 42% despite record net CAPEX Preliminary operating cashflow came in at €135m (2022: €143m). Investment in drilling and pipeline infrastructure jumped to €200m (2022: €89m), but asset disposals d €55m pared the cash outflow from investing to €145m (2022: €72m). Free cashflow thuscame in at €-10m (2022: €60.3m). The 2023 asset disposals split roughly as follows: €42m from the sale of the company's Utah assets, €8m from the sale of Northern Oil & Gas shares, and €5m from the liquidation of mining investments. Cash and cash equivalents amounted to €82.2m at year-end 2023 (2022: €54.2 million). Net debt (bond and bank liabilities less cash and cash equivalents) increased to €79.1m (2022: €55.7m). Equity jumped to €187.3m (2022: €132.4m). Net gearing was almost unchanged at 42.2% (2022: 42.1%).

2023 results included €17m gain on sale of Utah assets In mid-November 2023, DRAG announced that it had sold all of its Utah assets in two transactions. The Utah assets comprised around 250 non-operated wells with an average working interest of 2.3% and accounted for around 10% of DRAG's production in 2023. The proceeds were around €42m and DRAG recorded a €17m gain on the sale of which ⊕m was booked in sales and €9m in other income. The transaction closed in later December. At the time of the announcement of the sale in November, DRAG adjusted its 2024 guidance, as shown in figure 2, to reflect the absence this year of the Utah assets.

We expect production to be flat in 2024 DRAG has announced that it plans to bring another 17 wells online in 2024. Adding this new production capacity will entail CAPEX of €108m. We expect the net impact of the addition of these new wells, the disposal of the Utah assets and declining production at existing wells to be flat production in 2024.

Figure 1: Changes to our forecasts

All figures in € 000s	2024E	2024E	Δ
	New	Old	
Volume (boepd)	12,884	13,403	-3.9%
Revenue	180,463	201,751	-10.6%
EBITDA	132,942	151,145	-12.0%
Dep. and amort.	56,586	56,415	0.3%
Op. income (EBIT)	76,356	94,730	-19%
Net financial result	-9,438	-8,450	n.a.
Pre-tax income (EBT)	66,918	86,280	-22.4%
Income taxes	-14,053	-18,119	n.a.
Net before mins.	52,865	68,161	-22.4%
Minority interests	-1,211	-1,293	n.a.
Net inc. after mins.	51,655	66,868	-22.8%
EPS (€)	10.32	13.36	-22.7%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

Figure 2: DRAG guidance and First Berlin forecasts

€m	DRAG 27.09.23 (base case)	DRAG 14.11.23 (base case)	DRAG Nov. vs. DRAG Sep. base case	FB forecast 18.03.24	FB f/cast vs. DRAG Nov base case
2024 volume (boepd)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12,884	n.a.
2024 revenue	190-210	175-195	-7.5%	180	-2.5%
2024 EBITDA	145-160	130-145	-9.8%	133	-3.3%
2024 oil price assumption (USD)	75.00	75.00	0.0%	77.03	2.7%
2024 gas price assumption (USD)	3.00	3.00	0.0%	2.36	-21.3%
2024 EURUSD exchange rate	1.12	1.12	0.0%	1.09	-2.5%

Source: DRAG; First Berlin Equity Research estimates

# Buy recommendation maintained, but price target lowered to €46.0 (previously: €47.0)

Changes to our forecasts in figure 1 above reflect the disposal of the Utah assets announced on 14 November (we published our most recent note on 9 November) and also the ca. 30% decline in the 2024 US natural gas futures strip over the past four months. Natural gas accounted for ca. 10% of revenue at 9M/23, and ca. 10% of DRAG's gas production is hedged).

Figure 3: Changes to our valuation model

€m	New	Old	%∆
PV11 1876 Resources (DRAG's stake 96.09%)	159.5	170.5	-6.4%
PV11 Elster Oil & Gas (DRAG's stake: 93.0%)	13.5	13.9	-3.1%
PV11 Salt Creek Oil & Gas/Bright Rock Energy	62.3	66.6	-6.4%
(DRAG's stakes: 100.0%/ 98.49%)			
PV11 other proven reserves (DRAG's stake:100%)	56.9	61.9	-8.0%
PV11 hedging gains/(losses)	-1.9	-0.3	538.9%
Subtotal: US oil and gas activities	290.4	312.5	-7.1%
Almonty (12.65% equity stake	23.5	21.3	10.1%
plus promissory notes and debentures)			
Ceritech (DRAG's stake: 72.46%)	0.4	0.4	-6.0%
Northern Oil and Gas (DRAG's stake: 0.0%)	0.0	2.7	-100.0%
Total enterprise value	314.2	336.9	-6.7%
Cash and securities held in current assets	82.2	76.1	8.0%
Proceeds from option exercise	5.8	5.8	0.5%
Bonds	120.5	141.0	-14.5%
Bank debt	40.8	30.8	
Net debt	73.3	89.9	-18.5%
Equity value	240.9	247.1	-2.5%
No. shares outstanding (m)	5.00	5.00	0.0%
Fully diluted no shares	5.29	5.29	0.0%
Equity value per share (€)	45.50	46.66	-2.5%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

# **INCOME STATEMENT**

18 March 2024

All figures in € 000s	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023P	2024E
Revenues	41,204	38,683	73,321	165,439	196,500	180,463
Cost of materials	11,342	11,630	18,106	30,343	34,300	34,500
Personnel/G&A expenses	11,559	12,118	12,118	21,719	24,700	25,935
Other operating income	4,422	8,999	22,962	25,710	20,700	12,914
EBITDA	22,725	23,935	66,058	139,088	158,200	132,942
Depreciation and amortisation	17,095	40,070	33,469	47,656	65,100	56,586
Operating income (EBIT)	5,630	-16,135	32,590	91,431	93,100	76,356
Net financial result	-5,368	-6,388	96	-5,493	-9,700	-9,438
Other financial items	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax income (EBT)	262	-22,524	27,056	85,938	83,400	66,918
Taxes	-76	6,425	-699	-19,752	-15,900	-14,053
Profit before minorities	186	-16,099	26,357	66,186	67,500	52,865
Minority interests	122	589	-1,563	-5,420	-2,400	-1,211
Net income / loss	308	-15,510	24,794	60,766	65,100	51,655
EPS (in €)	0.06	-3.13	5.00	12.15	13.01	10.32
Ratios						
EBITDA margin on revenues	55.2%	61.9%	90.1%	84.1%	80.5%	73.7%
EBIT margin on revenues	13.7%	-41.7%	44.4%	55.3%	47.4%	42.3%
Net margin on revenues	0.7%	-40.1%	33.8%	36.7%	33.1%	28.6%
Tax rate	29.0%	-28.5%	2.6%	23.0%	19.1%	21.0%
Y-Y Growth						
Revenues	-62.2%	-6.1%	89.5%	125.6%	18.8%	-8.2%
Operating income	-85.9%	n.m.	n.m.	180.6%	1.8%	-18.0%
Net income/ loss	-97.8%	n.m.	n.m.	145.1%	7.1%	-20.7%



# **BALANCE SHEET**

All figures in € 000s	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023P	2024E
Assets						
Current assets, total	80,455	36,354	53,151	89,814	124,549	51,423
Cash and cash equivalents	66,637	22,815	23,492	54,196	82,200	12,448
Inventories	165	186	175	130	469	431
Receivables	9,935	3,505	17,898	28,733	35,960	33,025
Prepayments	1,156	1,047	893	863	1,965	1,805
Other current assets	1,161	7,327	8,529	4,884	2,948	2,707
Deferred tax assets	1,401	1,474	2,164	1,008	1,008	1,008
Non-current assets, total	198,470	170,368	211,840	260,512	368,960	420,374
Intangible assets	22,136	21,892	29,821	33,652	35,996	38,340
Advanced payments	0	0	0	277	277	277
Producing oil plants	138,433	110,203	143,612	161,897	232,789	274,029
Exploration and evaluation	648	2,227	5,225	30,357	43,650	51,383
Plant and machinery	143	123	111	276	397	467
Other equipment	331	225	107	109	157	184
Equity investments	16,688	17,773	14,552	15,407	37,157	37,157
Loans to other investors	1,902	4,711	4,782	6,489	6,489	6,489
Securities classified as fixed assets	18,189	13,214	13,630	12,048	12,048	12,048
Total assets	278,925	206,722	264,991	350,326	493,509	471,797
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total	26,927	27,077	31,790	49,865	55,174	31,852
Bank debt	22	190	1,089	0	0	0
Bond debt	0	16,658	0	9,815	20,500	0
Accounts payable	17,114	2,901	20,764	11,376	5,895	5,414
Other current liabilities	9,791	7,328	9,937	28,674	28,779	26,438
Long-term liabilities, total	139,089	111,533	116,303	100,077	140,800	100,000
Bond debt	131,077	97,761	97,761	100,000	100,000	100,000
Bank debt	8,012	13,772	18,542	77	40,800	0
Other long term liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisions	25,222	7,336	18,842	32,653	75,060	43,311
Minority interests	7,184	6,170	7,351	3,403	5,803	7,014
Shareholders' equity	64,317	39,419	72,723	128,962	181,498	254,447
Consolidated equity	71,501	45,589	80,074	132,365	187,301	261,460
Accruals and deferrals	0	0	0	174	174	174
Deferred tax liabilities	16,186	15,187	17,982	35,192	35,000	35,000
Total consolidated equity and debt	278,925	206,722	264,991	350,326	493,509	471,797
Ratios						
Current ratio (x)	2.99	1.34	1.67	1.80	2.26	1.61
Quick ratio (x)	2.98	1.34	1.67	1.80	2.25	1.60
Financial leverage	101.4%	231.6%	117.3%	42.1%	42.2%	33.5%
Book value per share (€)	12.98	7.96	14.68	25.78	36.27	50.85
Net cash (debt)	-72,474	-105,566	-93,900	-55,696	-79,100	-87,552
Return on equity (ROE)	0.3%	-27.5%	41.9%	62.3%	42.2%	23.6%



# **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

All figures in € 000s	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023P	2024E
Net profit before minorities	186	-16,099	26,357	66,186	67,500	52,865
Writedow ns/w riteups of fixed assets	16,307	37,702	32,805	39,790	65,100	56,586
Increase/decrease in provisions	17,380	-11,411	-927	18,882	0	0
Changes in working capital	-9,195	2,712	6,907	2,527	2,400	-3,297
Gains/losses from disposal of fixed assets	-31	-286	-736	-10,145	0	0
Gains/losses from disposal of securities	0	-1,433	-18,093	1,868	0	0
Interest expense/income	5,368	6,388	5,533	5,493	0	0
Tax paid/received	76	-6,425	792	17,863	0	0
Income tax payments	158	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-16,311	2,843	-816	267	0	0
Operating cash flow	13,938	13,991	51,822	142,732	135,000	106,154
Investment in property, plant equipment	-22,513	-30,731	-41,876	-82,915	-195,000	-103,000
Investment in intangible assets	-6,214	-6,110	-10,953	-6,034	-5,000	-5,000
Proceeds from disposal of tangible/intangible assets	0	119	1,633	6,490	55,000	0
Free cash flow	-14,789	-22,731	626	60,273	-10,000	-1,846
Management of short term financial assets, other	-5,511	-12,008	21,850	10,295	0	0
Investing cash flow	-34,238	-48,730	-29,346	-72,164	-145,000	-108,000
Equity financing	-18	-97	0	-16,173	0	0
Debt financing	62,000	7,322	19,006	21334	51,408	0
Debt repayment	-16,115	-16,658	-31,729	-29,439	0	-61,300
Interest paid	-6,638	-7,515	-6,515	-6,725	0	0
Dividends, share buybacks	-3,937	-743	-328	-3,728	-6,606	-6,606
Other	0	0	-145	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	35,292	-17,691	-19,711	-34,732	44,802	-67,906
Other	1,004	8,608	-2,088	-5,132	-6,798	0
Change in cash and equivalents	6,647	-43,822	677	30,704	28,004	-69,752
FX/consolidation effects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash and current cash equivs., start of the year	59,990	66,637	22,815	23,492	54,196	82,200
Cash and current cash equivs., end of the year	66,637	22,815	23,492	54,196	82,200	12,448
EBITDA/share (in €)	4.60	4.83	13.33	27.80	31.62	26.57
Y-Y Growth						
Operating cash flow	-79.7%	0.4%	270.4%	175.4%	-5.4%	-21.4%
Free cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	9528.3%	n.m.	n.m.
EBITDA/share	-76.8%	5.1%	176.0%	108.5%	13.7%	-16.0%



## **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: <u>info@firstberlin.com</u>

Amtsgericht Berlin Charlottenburg HR B 103329 B

UST-ld.: 251601797

Ggf. Inhaltlich Verantwortlicher gem. § 6 MDStV

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH

Authored by: Simon Scholes, Analyst

All publications of the last 12 months were authored by Simon Scholes.

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

The production of this recommendation was completed on 18 March 2024 at 14:56

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

**Copyright**® **2024 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 Deutsche Rohstoff 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 Deutsche Rohstoff 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 Deutsche Rohstoff 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 Deutsche Rohstoff 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 is 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 Buy1	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>&</sup>lt;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  $\in 0 - \in 2$  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	22 July 2010	€7.45	Buy	€13.20
239	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	<b>↓</b>	<b>↓</b>
40	13 July 2022	€27.40	Buy	€36.00
41	11 November 2022	€26.20	Buy	€38.00
42	19 December 2022	€25.10	Buy	€34.00
43	23 March 2023	€25.70	Buy	€38.00
44	4 May 2023	€27.20	Buy	€40.00
45	25 August 2023	€26.15	Buy	€44.00
46	25 October 2023	€32.00	Buy	€50.00
47	8 November 2023	€31.25	Buy	€47.00
48	Today	€35.25	Buy	€46.00

### **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

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.