

PNE WIND AG

Germany / Cleantech Primary exchange: Frankfurt Bloomberg: PNE3 GR ISIN: DE000A0JBPG2

Q2 results

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY €3.00

Return Potential 40.2% Risk Rating High

WIND FARM PORTFOLIO SALE TAKING SHAPE

On 11 August PNE Wind reported H1 figures which were largely in line with our estimates. In a few weeks, we expect PNE to decide whether its 150 MW own wind farm portfolio will be sold directly or IPOed. The remainder of the year looks set to be a sufficient time frame to close the deal as planned and PNE thus confirmed its 2016E EBIT guidance of up to €100m, which would be a record result in the history of the company. Based on unchanged estimates and increased net debt, an updated DCF model yields a price target of €3.00 (previously: €3.30). We maintain our Buy rating.

H1 figures largely in line with estimates H1 sales amounted to €44.9m (FBe: €36.0m, H1/15: €71.9m). H1 total aggregate output was €61.1m (FBe: €55.0m, H1/15: €89.8m). Top line figures were below the previous year's figures due to the sale of the UK project pipeline last year. EBIT came in at €-1.4m (FBe: €-0.5m, H1/15: €24.0m). The main reason for the negative operating result is the high expenses for the construction of wind farms. Earnings will be accounted for later when the wind farms are sold. The net result was €-7.8m (FBe: €6.7m, H1/15: €18.4m) and was mainly driven by interest expenses of €8.4m.

Own plant portfolio now at 142.5 MW The planned 150 MW portfolio now comprises 142.5 MW, of which 98.4 MW (66%) have already been commissioned, and 38.1 MW are under construction. In July, PNE received a permit for a further 6 MW which will increase the volume of the Altenbruch Repowering project reserved for the portfolio to 18 MW. In Q2, the wind farm Apensen II (6 MW) was commissioned as scheduled, and we expect the commissioning of the wind farms Köhlen (21.3 MW) and Holzthaleben (4.8 MW) in Q3, and Altenbruch Repowering in Q4. In the conference call, management said that the 7.5 MW required to reach the 150 MW are to be filled by a 9.9 MW project which looks set to be permitted by the end of this year (see figure 1 overleaf).

Management plans to decide at the end of August/beginning of September whether the portfolio will be IPOed or sold directly to an investor. (p.t.o.)

FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

	2013	2014	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenue (€m)	144.04	211.27	109.52	170.60	221.78	260.30
Y-o-y growth	70.7%	46.7%	-48.2%	55.8%	30.0%	17.4%
EBIT (€m)	43.57	2.68	9.77	92.95	27.90	29.21
EBIT margin	30.2%	1.3%	8.9%	54.5%	12.6%	11.2%
Net income (€m)	37.58	-12.99	3.47	65.53	13.98	14.50
EPS (diluted) (€)	0.75	-0.21	0.05	0.84	0.18	0.19
DPS (€)	0.15	0.04	0.04	0.10	0.06	0.06
FCF (€m)	-4.32	-34.33	-105.38	195.23	-4.08	-0.13
Net gearing	96.8%	64.9%	98.1%	-11.7%	-6.2%	-4.1%
Liquid assets (€m)	77.40	72.18	86.08	172.45	175.71	75.98

RISKS

Risks to our price target include, but are not limited to: changes in legislation, project financing risks, project delays, and project approval risks.

COMPANY PROFILE

PNE WIND AG is an international wind energy project developer for on- and offshore wind farms. The company is based in Cuxhaven, Germany.

MARKET DATA	As of 15 Aug 2016
Closing Price	€ 2.14
Shares outstanding	76.56m
Market Capitalisation	€ 163.83m
52-week Range	€ 1.55 / 2.42
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	106,659

Multiples	2015	2016E	2017E
P/E	45.1	2.6	11.9
EV/Sales	3.5	2.2	1.7
EV/EBIT	39.3	4.1	13.7
Div. Yield	1.9%	4.7%	2.8%

STOCK OVERVIEW



COMPANY DATA	As of 30 Jun 2016
Liquid Assets	€ 39.42m
Current Assets	€ 234.05m
Intangible Assets	€ 62.96m
Total Assets	€ 481.78m
Current Liabilities	€ 100.88m
Shareholders' Equity	€ 152.76m

SHAREHOLDERS

V. Friedrichsen Bet. GmbH	15.0%
Axxion S.A.	3.2%
Free Float	81.9%

The company is currently in advanced talks with potential investors and, in general, sees increasing interest from investors in large wind farm portfolios. This is hardly surprising considering how difficult it currently is to find investment opportunities which offer attractive yields. This is highlighted by the negative yields on German Government bonds. Furthermore, the new renewable energy law (EEG 2017), which will be effective from 1 January 2017, and will replace the current system, in which feed-in tariffs are fixed by the government through a tender system. This means that future feed-in tariffs will be determined in a competitive bidding process which looks set to reduce the feed-in tariff level. We have seen a similar trend in the photovoltaic sector, where feed-in tariffs fell by ca. 20% during four tender rounds in 2015/16. Investors are thus keen to purchase wind farm assets that receive the rather high feed-in tariffs based on the current renewable energy law. PNE's own plant portfolio is probably the largest German wind farm portfolio currently on the market, and likely one of the last opportunities for investors to buy a large German wind farm portfolio based on the known current tariffs.

Figure 1: PNE's own wind farm portfolio

Wind farm portfolio	MW	Location	Status	Scheduled completion
Chransdorf	57.6	Brandenburg	commissioned	Q3 2015
Waldfeucht	9.0	North Rhine-Westphalia	commissioned	Q4 2015
Altenbruch II	25.8	Lower Saxony	commissioned	2009
Apensen II	6.0	Lower Saxony	commissioned	Q2 2016
Köhlen	21.3	Lower Saxony	under construction	Q3 2016 (FBe)
Holzthaleben	4.8	Thuringia	under construction	Q3 2016 (FBe)
Altenbruch Repowering	18.0	Lower Saxony	under construction	Q4 2016 (FBe)
Unnamed project	9.9	n.a.	not yet permitted	Q1 2017 (FBe)
Sum	152.4			

Source: First Berlin Equity Research, PNE WIND AG

Balance sheet reflects wind farm portfolio build-up The balance sheet total remained largely stable at €482m (end 2015: €488m). The main asset positions are PP&E of €162m and inventories of €163m. The main part of PP&E is commissioned wind farms with a book value of €127m. Inventories consist of offshore wind projects (€44m), German onshore wind projects (€47m), foreign onshore wind projects (€47m), and prepayments (€25m). The cash position fell from €86.1m (end 2015) to €39.4m.

Due mainly to the H1 loss of €7.8m, equity fell to €152.8m from €165.9m at the end of 2015. The equity ratio still remains solid at 32% (end 2015: 34%). Long-term financial debt fell to €214m (31/12/2015: €224m), of which long-term project financing totals €106m. Short-term financial debt increased to €45m from €37m. The netdebt position thus increased to €219m from €174m at the end of 2015.

Cash flow burdened by higher working capital Operating cash flow amounted to €-40.4m due mainly to increased inventories and other assets by €44.8m. CAPEX was low at €0.5m resulting in a free cash flow of €-45.3m. The high negative free cash flow is caused by strong construction activity, as 82.2 MW were completed, or under construction in H1.

New syndicated loans increase financial leeway In July, PNE concluded a syndicated loan (€30m) and a credit guarantee facility (€10m) with a consortium led by Commerzbank. The agreement replaces a loan agreement with subsidiary WKN which was due at the end of June. The new loan increases PNE's financial leeway. In Q2, the cash outflow was financed by reducing the high cash position from €76.9m (end Q1) to €39.4m.

Strong onshore business In Q2, PNE commissioned the wind farms Westerengel (23.1 MW), which was handed over to CEE, and Apensen II (6 MW), which is part of the own wind farm portfolio. In France, PNE will start construction of wind farms with a total output of 21.6 MW at the end of 2016. These wind farms are part of the 50 MW agreement with John Laing.

Furthermore, another wind farm (10.3 MW) received the effective permit following the end of the objection period. In Poland, a 42 MW project is scheduled to take part in the next tender round. We expect the Polish government to announce the exact date of the tender in Q3. In Sweden, the environmental permit for 99 MW was issued, which corresponds to the operating permit and is thus a decisive step in the development of the project.

Another offshore milestone payment DONG Energy made the Final Investment Decision to construct Borkum Riffgrund II, which was developed by PNE. This resulted in a €3.2m milestone payment becoming due. PNE will receive the last milestone payment of €4.1m when the wind farm is put into operation. In total, PNE expects up to €29m in milestone payments for Borkum Riffgrund II and Gode Wind 3 and 4. The Atlantis I offshore project is being prepared for the tender in 2017. The project size increased to 584 MW from 400 MW, as PNE now plans to install turbines with a capacity of 8 MW.

Strong increase in sales and EBITDA in the Electricity Generation segment Due to the build-up of the own plant portfolio (now 98.4 MW in operation) H1 revenues almost doubled to €11.9m. Segment EBITDA was up to €8.3m from €3.8m in H1/15, an increase of 118%. The EBITDA margin was 69.6% (H1/15: 62.8%).

Regulatory headwinds in Germany both onshore and offshore The EEG 2017 and the new offshore law (SeeWindG) will initiate tender processes both for onshore and offshore projects. Onshore installations will be capped at 2,800 MW p.a. for 2017-19. We expect pricing and margin pressure for the wind industry along the value chain. However, the expected consolidation process also offers opportunities for larger project developers such as PNE as many smaller project developers may lack the financial strength to stay in business.

The offshore wind energy act (WindSeeG) will replace the feed-in tariff system by a competitive tender process. For projects far from the coast line (zones 3, 4, 5), development will be taken over by a government agency and the areas will be auctioned off for realisation between 2025 and 2030. If the legislation is not legally challenged, these changes could affect PNE's investments in offshore projects (Jules Verne, Nemo, Natulius and Atlantis II, III) amounting to €22m. Overall, Germany remains committed to renewable power production and aims to increase its share from ca. 33% in 2015 to 55-60% by 2035.

Buy reiterated at lower price target Based on unchanged estimates and the higher net debt position an updated DCF model yields a new price target of €3.00 (previously: €3.30). We expect record EBIT of €93m this year due to the scheduled sale of the portfolio in Q4. 2016E multiples (EV/EBIT: 4.1, P/E: 2.6) indicate that PNE is attractively valued. We reiterate our Buy recommendation.

Figure 2: Reported figures versus forecasts

All figures in €m	Q2-16A	Q2-16E	Delta	Q2-15	Delta	H1 2016	H1 2015	Delta
Sales	32.86	24.06	36.6%	56.75	-42.1%	44.80	71.94	-37.7%
EBIT	-1.62	-0.52	-	30.00	-	-1.44	24.01	-
margin	-4.9%	-2.2%		52.9%		-3.2%	33.4%	
Net income	-4.10	-3.03	-	27.63	-	-7.77	18.44	-
margin	-12.5%	-12.6%		48.7%		-17.3%	25.6%	
EPS (diluted) in €	-0.05	-0.04	-	0.36	-	-0.10	0.24	-

Source: First Berlin Equity Research, PNE WIND AG

VALUATION MODEL

DCF valuation model								
All figures in EUR '000	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
Net sales	170,600	221,780	260,298	265,504	270,814	276,230	281,755	287,390
NOPLAT	85,473	23,978	25,152	25,749	26,016	24,219	23,272	20,957
+ depreciation & amortisation	15,040	3,920	5,197	6,543	7,648	8,579	9,355	9,993
Net operating cash flow	100,513	27,899	30,349	32,292	33,665	32,798	32,627	30,950
- total investments (CAPEX, WC, other)	110,024	-24,610	-22,361	-13,775	-19,338	-18,872	-18,378	-17,856
Capital expenditures	90,418	-15,525	-17,440	-16,992	-16,618	-16,222	-15,804	-15,362
Working capital	22,516	-8,175	-4,111	3,922	-2,125	-2,171	-2,217	-2,264
Free cash flows (FCF)	210,538	3,289	7,987	18,517	14,326	13,926	14,248	13,094
PV of FCF's	205,022	2,991	6,782	14,681	10,604	9,625	9,196	7,891

All figures in thousands	
PV of FCFs in explicit period (2016E-2030E)	316,836
PV of FCFs in terminal period	141,336
Enterprise value (EV)	458,172
+ Net cash / - net debt	-219,453
+ Investments / minority interests	-4,858
Shareholder value	233,861

Fair value per share in EUR

WACC	7.1%
Cost of equity	11.8%
Pre-tax cost of debt	7.0%
Tax rate	25.0%
After-tax cost of debt	5.3%
Share of equity capital	28.0%
Share of debt capital	72.0%
Fair value per share in EUR	3.00

Terminal growth rate									
	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%		
3.1%	8.27	9.66	11.91	16.22	27.80	163.47	-34.47		
4.1%	5.69	6.24	7.02	8.16	10.02	13.58	23.14		
5.1%	4.24	4.51	4.85	5.31	5.95	6.89	8.42		
6.1%	3.31	3.46	3.64	3.86	4.15	4.52	5.04		
7.1%	2.68	2.76	2.86	2.98	3.13	3.31	3.54		
8.1%	2.21	2.33	2.32	2.39	2.47	2.57	2.69		
9.1%	1.86	1.89	1.93	1.97	2.02	2.07	2.14		
10.1%	1.58	1.60	1.62	1.65	1.68	1.71	1.75		

 $^{^{\}star}$ for layout purposes the model shows numbers only to 2023, but runs until 2030



INCOME STATEMENT

All figures in EUR '000	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenues	144,040	211,268	109,524	170,600	221,780	260,298
Change in inventories	13,376	19,078	116,096	0	0	0
Other operating income	3,223	3,603	7,707	3,902	2,883	3,384
Total aggregate output	160,639	233,949	233,327	174,502	224,663	263,682
Cost of goods sold	71,895	170,496	154,934	14,296	138,391	176,438
Gross profit	85,521	59,850	70,686	156,304	83,389	83,860
Personnel costs	21,615	27,041	29,254	27,720	28,950	29,414
Depreciation and amortisation	6,196	8,526	9,870	15,040	3,920	5,197
Other operating expenses (-)	-17,364	-25,206	-29,504	-24,500	-25,500	-23,427
Operating income (EBIT)	43,569	2,680	9,765	92,945	27,902	29,207
Interest Expense	-10,617	-14,934	-16,381	-18,887	-10,948	-12,073
Interest Income	1,283	2,422	1,743	665	665	1,041
Income from participations & ass. companies	159	-5,334	-86	0	2,000	2,100
Pre-tax income (EBT)	34,394	-15,166	-4,959	74,723	19,619	20,275
Income taxes	2,600	-3,131	3,570	-7,472	-3,924	-4,055
Minority interests	585	5,305	4,863	-1,719	-1,719	-1,719
Net income / loss	37,579	-12,992	3,474	65,532	13,977	14,501
Diluted EPS (in €)	0.75	-0.21	0.05	0.84	0.18	0.19
EBITDA	49,765	11,206	19,635	107,986	31,822	34,404
Ratios						
Gross margin	59.4%	28.3%	64.5%	91.6%	37.6%	32.2%
EBITDA margin on revenues	34.5%	5.3%	17.9%	63.3%	14.3%	13.2%
EBIT margin on revenues	30.2%	1.3%	8.9%	54.5%	12.6%	11.2%
Net margin on revenues	26.1%	-6.1%	3.2%	38.4%	6.3%	5.6%
Tax rate	-7.6%	-20.6%	72.0%	10.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Expenses as % of revenues						
Personnel costs	15.0%	12.8%	26.7%	16.2%	13.1%	11.3%
Depreciation and amortisation	4.3%	4.0%	9.0%	8.8%	1.8%	2.0%
Other operating expenses	12.1%	11.9%	26.9%	14.4%	11.5%	9.0%
Y-Y Growth						
Revenues	70.7%	46.7%	-48.2%	55.8%	30.0%	17.4%
Operating income	113.1%	-93.8%	264.4%	851.8%	-70.0%	4.7%
Net income/ loss	121.4%	n.m.	n.m.	1786.4%	-78.7%	3.8%



BALANCE SHEET

All figures in EUR '000	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Assets						
Current assets, total Cash and cash equivalents Short-term investments	284,000 77,402 0	265,935 72,175 0	236,033 86,075	302,622 172,448 0	315,327 175,709 0	223,026 75,981 0
Receivables Inventories	34,371 145,860	20,098 152,389	7,969 121,177	27,109 82,253	34,634 84,172	39,223 87,010
Other current assets	25,165	20,075	19,332	19,332	19,332	19,332
Non-current assets, total Property, plant & equipment Goodwill & other intangibles Long-term investments / ass. companies	150,940 76,089 56,343 0	150,900 73,655 63,926 0	252,231 167,347 63,105 0	146,773 35,639 63,105 26,250	158,377 47,243 63,105 26,250	170,620 59,486 63,105 26,250
Other assets	18,508	13,319	21,779	21,779	21,779	21,779
Total assets	434,940	416,835	488,264	449,394	473,704	393,647
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total Short-term debt Accounts payable Current provisions Other current liabilities	112,729 38,978 12,093 9,457 52,201	95,034 34,940 21,476 3,908 34,710	84,858 35,857 16,852 6,291 25,858	86,393 30,000 19,584 6,291 30,518	174,600 120,000 20,853 6,291 27,455	82,916 25,000 24,170 6,291 27,455
Long-term liabilities, total	178,085	161,606	237,478	137,478	62,478	62,478
Long-term habilities, total Long-term debt Deferred revenue Other liabilities	17 6,065 172,475 0 5,610	141,207 0 20,399	215,975 0 21,503	115,975 0 21,503	40,975 0 21,503	40,975 0 21,503
Minority interests	5,693	33	-3,102	-1,383	336	2,055
Shareholders' equity	138,433	160,162	169,030	226,907	236,290	246,198
Share capital	54,858	71,975	76,555	76,555	76,555	76,555
Capital reserve	55,546	77,803	82,287	82,287	82,287	82,287
Other reserves	-661	-296	-724	-724	-724	-724
Treasury stock Loss carryforward / retained earnings	-6,483 35,173	0 10,680	0 10,912	0 68,789	0 78,172	0 88,080
Total consolidated equity and debt	434,940	416,835	488,264	449,394	473,704	393,647
Ratios						
Current ratio (x)	2.52	2.80	2.78	3.50	1.81	2.69
Quick ratio (x)	1.23	1.19	1.35	2.55	1.32	1.64
Net cash	-134,051	-103,972	-165,757	26,473	14,734	10,006
Net gearing	96.8%	64.9%	98.1%	-11.7%	-6.2%	-4.1%
Book value per share (€)	2.69	2.60	2.20	2.89	3.01	3.13
Return on equity (ROE)	27.1%	-8.1%	2.1%	28.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Days of inventory turnover	87.1 740.5	34.7	26.6	58.0	57.0	55.0 180.0
Days of inventory turnover Days in payables	61.4	326.2 46.0	285.5 39.7	2,100.0 500.0	222.0 55.0	180.0 50.0



CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in EUR '000	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
EBIT	45,050	2,681	9,765	92,945	27,902	29,207
Depreciation and amortisation	6,224	8,554	9,898	15,040	3,920	5,197
EBITDA	51,274	11,235	19,663	107,986	31,822	34,404
Changes in working capital	-50,713	-28,886	-74,556	22,516	-8,175	-4,111
Other adjustments	-1,548	-11,845	-47,582	-25,694	-12,207	-12,987
Operating cash flow	-987	-29,496	-102,475	104,808	11,441	17,305
CAPEX	-3,334	-4,829	-2,903	90,418	-15,525	-17,440
Investments in intangibles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Free cash flow	-4,321	-34,325	-105,378	195,226	-4,084	-135
Debt financing, net	111,202	11,137	97,715	-105,857	15,000	-95,000
Equity financing, net	-6,483	33,435	9,454	0	0	0
Other changes in cash	-59,581	-15,474	12,109	-2,996	-7,655	-4,593
Net cash flows	40,817	-5,227	13,900	86,373	3,261	-99,728
Cash, start of the year	36,586	77,402	72,175	86,075	172,448	175,709
Cash, end of the year	77,403	72,175	86,075	172,448	175,709	75,981
EBITDA/share (in €)	0.97	0.18	0.26	1.37	0.41	0.44
Y-Y Growth						
Operating cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	-89.1%	51.3%
Free cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
EBITDA/share	121.6%	-81.2%	40.4%	438.3%	-70.5%	8.1%



FIRST BERLIN RECOMMENDATION & PRICE TARGET HISTORY

Report No.:	Date of publication	Previous day closing price	Recommendation	Price target
Initial Report	31 March 2008	€2.38	Buy	€4.50
277	\downarrow	1	\downarrow	1
78	19 November 2015	€2.05	Buy	€3.60
79	1 April 2016	€1.81	Buy	€3.30
80	13 May 2016	€2.20	Buy	€3.30
81	Today	€2.14	Buy	€3.00

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PRICE TARGET DATES

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

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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:

STRONG BUY: An expected favourable price trend of more than 50% combined with sizeable confidence in the quality and forecast security of management.

BUY: An expected favourable price trend of more than 25% percent.

ADD: An expected favourable price trend of between 0% and 25%.

REDUCE: An expected negative price trend of between 0% and -15%.

SELL: An expected negative price trend of more than -15%.

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.

INVESTMENT HORIZON

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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: http://firstberlin.com/disclaimer-english-link/

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