Automotive - Germany

Buy (old: Buy)

EUR 3.60 (old: EUR 3.60)

Q3 with improving operations; first glance at LIGHT potential

Sales in Q3 came in at € 6.4m, 40% lower than last year's figure but in line with expectations (9M sales € 12.4m, -58% yoy) due to the ongoing pressure from Chinese storage solution providers and continuously burdened battery demand within the mobility segment. The latter is mainly the result of weakened demand for end products (e.g. electric mini buses) but also by falling battery prices and the resulting "wait and see" mentality of customers. Yet, sales increased sequentially by 33% vs Q2 and 5x vs Q1. EBITDA also further improved compared to previous quarters, coming in at € -1.2m (Q2: € -2.2m, Q1: € -2.6m) as a result of ongoing tight cost control (e.g. other operating expenses -33% vs H1). 9M EBITDA came in at € -6m.

Confirmed FY24e guidance implies notable Q4 pick up. Management still expects FY sales of up to \in 42m and slightly negative EBITDA (eNuW: \in 33m sales and \in -4.8m EBITDA). Our estimates imply a strong Q4 with \in 20.8m sale and \in 1.2m EBITDA.

TÜV SÜD Battery Testing boosts liquidity. With the announced divestment, LION is seen to have received at least the recorded book value (FY23 annual report) of € 5.6m. In our view, the company should use to cash inflow to repay some of its debt, improving the balance sheet and reducing the interest burden. Mind you, during the first 9M of 2024 the company recorded € 1.9m of interest expenses.

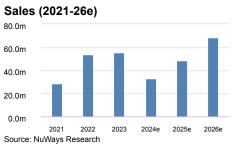
First glance at LIGHT Battery potential. Management shared promising testing results of the LIGHT battery (compared to the German premium OEM's current series solution). It showed significantly increased output power and cooling performance as well as high continuous power output without derating or power fade. Importantly, the LIGHT battery's target market is rather a niche (PHEV and BEV cars with >100k€ selling prices). Yet, until 2030 it should reach up to € 1.4bn. While we would not expect series-related revenues until H2 2026e, LION should already be able to record revenues from small test volumes. Assuming testing of the planned series performs as planned, LION should receive a formal order.

Operations to improve in H2 2025. As highlighted during the earnings call, management expects continuously burdened demand from mobility customers until H2 2025. In fact, the company mentioned first promising discussion with e-bus/e-truck makers, underpinning our growth expectations.

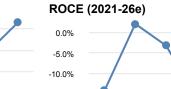
BUY with an unchanged € 3.60 PT based on DCF.

Y/E 31.12 (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Sales	28.4	53.8	56.1	33.2	48.7	68.3
Sales growth	54.3%	89.1%	4.3%	-40.8%	46.6%	40.3%
EBITDA	-1.2	0.5	0.0	-4.8	-1.9	1.8
Net debt (if net cash=0)	-0.2	4.4	13.6	20.2	22.4	22.1
FCF	-0.6	-9.4	-9.2	-6.5	-2.2	0.3
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.0	9.5	2728.6	-4.2	-11.8	12.3
EPS pro forma	-0.12	0.03	-0.08	-0.44	-0.30	-0.06
EBITDA margin	-4.3%	0.9%	0.0%	-14.4%	-3.9%	2.6%
ROCE	-14.3%	1.9%	-3.4%	-16.2%	-7.4%	2.3%
EV/sales	1.1	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.5
EV/EBITDA	-25.1	37.3	5296.6	-6.9	-18.6	19.5
PER	-8.4	33.6	-12.7	-2.2	-3.3	-16.6
Adjusted FCF yield	-3.2%	-4.3%	-3.8%	-17.3%	-5.1%	3.8%

Source: Company data, NuWays, Close price as of 04.11.2024



EBIT margin (2021-26e) 0.0% -5.0% -10.0% -15.0% -20.0% 2021 2022 2023 2024e 2025e 2026e Source: NuWays Research



-15.0%



Company description

LION is a fully automated producer of lithium-ion battery packs for a wide range of applications such as buses, commercial vehicles, marine, industrial vehicles but also stationary energy storage with an annual production capacity of 2 GWh, the equivalent to 45k battery packs.



Share Performance 2.25 2.00 1.75 1.50 1.25 1.00 0.75 0.50 0.25 11/23 01/24 09/24 03/24 05/24 07/24 High/low 52 weeks (€) 2.20 / 0.58

3m rel. performance

6m rel performance

12m rel. performance

Market data	
Share price (in €)	0.69
Market cap (in € m)	12.1
Number of shares (in m pcs)	12.4
Enterprise value (in € m)	33.0
Ø trading volume (6 months)	3,900

	Identifier
Bloomberg	LMIA GR
Reuters	LMIA.F
WKN	A2QH97
ISIN	CH0560888270

Key shareholders				
lan Mukherjee	38.7%			
Founders	6.0%			
Free Float	55.3%			

Estimates changes							
Sales EBIT	<u>2024e</u> 0% 0%	2025e 0% 0%	2026e 0% 0%				
EPS	0%	0%	0%				

Comment on changes

Guidance

- Sales 2024: up to € 42m
- EBITDA 2024: slightly negative



2.0%

-46.6%

-61.9%

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Financials

Profit and loss (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Net sales	28.4	53.8	56.1	33.2	48.7	68.3
Sales growth	54.3%	89.1%	4.3%	-40.8%	46.6%	40.3%
Increase/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	0.5	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total sales	28.9	54.1	57.4	33.2	48.7	68.3
Other operating income	1.5	0.4	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.7
Material expenses	25.9	46.5	48.3	28.2	40.7	56.3
Personnel expenses	3.1	3.9	5.7	5.4	5.9	5.8
Other operating expenses	2.6	3.7	4.9	4.7	4.4	5.1
Total operating expenses	30.1	53.6	57.4	38.0	50.5	66.5
EBITDA	-1.2	0.5	0.0	-4.8	-1.9	1.8
Depreciation	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8
EBITA	-1.7	0.3	-0.9	-5.5	-2.7	1.0
Amortisation of goodwill	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amortisation of intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Impairment charges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT (inc revaluation net)	-1.7	0.3	-0.9	-5.5	-2.7	1.0
Interest income	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Interest expenses	0.0	0.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.5
Investment income	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5
Financial result	0.2	0.1	-0.7	-1.5	-2.0	-1.9
Recurring pretax income from continuing operations	-1.5	0.4	-1.6	-7.0	-4.7	-0.9
Extraordinary income/loss	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Earnings before taxes	-1.5	0.4	-1.6	-7.0	-4.7	-0.9
Income tax expense	-0.4	0.0	-0.7	-1.5	-1.0	-0.2
Net income from continuing operations	-1.2	0.4	-1.0	-5.5	-3.7	-0.7
Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net income	-1.2	0.4	-1.0	-5.5	-3.7	-0.7
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net profit (reported)	-1.2	0.4	-1.0	-5.5	-3.7	-0.7
Average number of shares	10.0	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
EPS reported	-0.12	0.03	-0.08	-0.44	-0.30	-0.06

Profit and loss (common size)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Sales growth	54.3%	89.1%	4.3%	-40.8%	46.6%	40.3%
Increase/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	1.7%	0.6%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total sales	101.7%	100.6%	102.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Other operating income	5.2%	0.8%	2.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Material expenses	91.2%	86.4%	86.2%	84.9%	83.7%	82.4%
Personnel expenses	10.8%	7.2%	10.1%	16.4%	12.1%	8.5%
Other operating expenses	9.2%	6.9%	8.7%	14.0%	9.1%	7.5%
Total operating expenses	106.0%	99.8%	102.4%	114.4%	103.9%	97.4%
EBITDA	-4.3%	0.9%	0.0%	-14.4%	-3.9%	2.6%
Depreciation	1.6%	0.3%	1.7%	2.2%	1.8%	1.2%
EBITA	-5.9%	0.6%	-1.7%	-16.6%	-5.6%	1.4%
Amortisation of goodwill	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Amortisation of intangible assets	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Impairment charges	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EBIT (inc revaluation net)	-5.9%	0.6%	-1.7%	-16.6%	-5.6%	1.4%
Interest income	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Interest expenses	0.1%	0.2%	2.7%	6.0%	5.2%	3.7%
Investment income	0.5%	0.2%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%
Financial result	0.6%	0.1%	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.
Recurring pretax income from continuing operations	-5.4%	0.7%	-2.9%	-21.1%	-9.7%	-1.4%
Extraordinary income/loss	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Earnings before taxes	-5.4%	0.7%	-2.9%	-21.1%	-9 .7%	-1.4%
Tax rate	23.5%	9.1%	41.7%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%
Net income from continuing operations	-4.1%	0.7%	-1.7%	-16.5%	-7.6%	-1.1%
Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Net income	-4.1%	0.7%	-1.7%	-16.5%	-7.6%	-1.1%
Minority interest	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Net profit (reported)	-4.1%	0.7%	-1.7%	-16.5%	-7.6%	-1.1%
Source: Company data, NuWays						

Source: Company data, NuWays

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Balance sheet (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Intangible assets	3.1	4.7	12.4	13.2	14.0	14.8
Property, plant and equipment	0.4	2.2	5.2	6.0	5.8	5.8
Financial assets	4.4	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
FIXED ASSETS	7.9	12.5	23.4	24.9	25.5	26.4
Inventories	0.2	6.5	13.8	7.3	9.6	12.3
Accounts receivable	4.2	4.4	24.9	4.5	6.7	9.4
Other assets and short-term financial assets	2.4	1.0	0.7	0.7	2.7	6.7
Liquid assets	1.2	3.0	4.4	2.9	0.7	1.0
Deferred taxes	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT ASSETS	10.3	17.2	46.0	17.6	21.9	31.5
TOTAL ASSETS	18.2	29.8	69.4	42.5	47.4	57.9
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	9.3	14.4	13.5	12.1	14.4	21.6
MINORITY INTEREST	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long-term liabilities to banks	0.0	0.0	0.0 7.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonds (long-term)			0.0 1.6			0.0 1.6
other interest-bearing liabilities	1.1	1.4		1.6	1.6	
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1.7	2.3	9.7	14.7	14.7	14.7
Short-term liabilities to banks	0.0	6.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
Accounts payable	5.9	4.6	35.8	5.5	8.0	11.2
Advance payments received on orders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accrued taxes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	0.6	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Deferred taxes	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deferred income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT LIABILITIES	7.2	13.0	46.1	15.7	18.3	21.5
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	18.2	29.8	69.4	42.5	47.4	57.9
Balance sheet (common size)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Intangible assets	17.3%	15.7%	17.9%	31.1%	29.6%	25.6%
Property, plant and equipment	2.0%	7.5%	7.5%	14.0%	12.1%	10.1%
Financial assets	24.1%	18.9%	8.3%	13.5%	12.1%	9.9%
FIXED ASSETS	43.4%	42.1%	33.7%	58.6%	53.9%	45.6%
Inventories	0.9%	21.9%	19.9%	17.1%	20.3%	21.2%
Accounts receivable	23.3%	14.8%	35.9%	10.7%	14.1%	16.2%
Other assets and short-term financial assets	13.1%	3.4%	1.1%	1.8%	5.8%	11.7%
Liquid assets	6.8%	10.2%	6.4%	6.8%	1.5%	1.7%
Deferred taxes	12.0%	7.7%	3.1%	5.0%	4.5%	3.7%
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CURRENT ASSETS	56.6%	57.9%	66.3%	41.4%	46.1%	54.4%
TOTAL ASSETS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	FO 00/	40 40/	40 50/	00 40/	00.00/	07 404
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY MINORITY INTEREST	50.9% 0.0%	48.4% 0.0%	19.5% 0.0%	28.4% 0.0%	30.3% 0.0%	37.4% 0.0%
Long-term liabilities to banks	0.0%	0.0%	10.8%	29.3%	26.3%	21.5%
Bonds (long-term)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.3%	0.0%	0.0%
other interest-bearing liabilities	0.0% 5.9%	0.0% 4.8%	0.0% 2.2%	0.0% 3.7%	0.0% 3.3%	0.0% 2.7%
5						
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	3.5%	3.1%	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0% 25.5%
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	9.4%	7.9%	14.1%	34.7%	31.1%	
Short-term liabilities to banks	0.0%	20.3%	13.1%	21.3%	19.1%	15.7%
Accounts payable	32.3%	15.4%	51.6%	12.8%	16.9%	19.4%
Advance payments received on orders	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Accrued taxes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	3.5%	4.9%	1.7%	2.7%	2.4%	2.0%
Deferred taxes	4.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Deferred income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	39.7%	43.7%	66.4%	36.9%	38.5%	37.1%
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Source: Company data, NuWays						

Source: Company data, NuWays

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	0004	0000	0000	0004	0005	0000
Cash flow statement (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Net profit/loss	-1.2	0.4	-1.0	-5.5	-3.7	-0.7
Depreciation of fixed assets (incl. leases)	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8
Amortisation of goodwill & intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other costs affecting income / expenses	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operating activities	-0.1	-8.8	1.3	-5.7	-1.4	1.1
Increase/decrease in inventory	-0.0	-6.4	-7.3	6.5	-2.3	-2.7
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable	-0.8	-0.2	-20.5	20.4	-2.1	-2.7
Increase/decrease in accounts payable	2.6	-1.3	31.2	-30.4	2.5	3.2
Increase/decrease in other working capital positions	-0.7	-0.5	0.4	4.0	4.0	4.0
Increase/decrease in working capital	1.1 -0.1	-8.3	3.8 2.8	0.5 -4.2	2.1 -0.7	1.9
Cash flow from operating activities		- 6.8				2.0
CAPEX	0.5	2.6	11.9	2.3	1.4	1.7
Payments for acquisitions	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial investments	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Income from asset disposals	0.3 - 0.2	0.0 -2.7	1.9	0.0 -2.3	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from investing activities	-0.2 -0.3		-10.8		-1.4	-1.7
Cash flow before financing Increase/decrease in debt position		-9.5	-8.1	-6.5 5.0	-2.2	0.3
Purchase of own shares	0.4 0.0	6.0 0.0	10.0 0.0	5.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0
Capital measures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
•						
Dividends paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	-0.1	5.4	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	0.0 0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0 5.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from financing activities	-0.0	11.4	9.5		0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in liquid assets	-0.0 1.2	1.9 3.0	1.4 4.4	-1.5 2.9	-2.2 0.7	0.3 1.0
Liquid assets at end of period	1.2	3.0	4.4	2.9	0.7	1.0
Key ratios (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
P&L growth analysis					10100	20200
Sales growth	54.3%	89.1%	4.3%	-40.8%	46.6%	40.3%
EBITDA growth	-22.2%	-138.0%	-98.9%	-95493.8%	-60.3%	-194.7%
EBIT growth	-10.3%	-119.2%	-384.9%	495.6%	-50.2%	-135.4%
EPS growth	26.4%	-125.0%	-363.8%	474.5%	-32.5%	-80.2%
Efficiency	_0,0		0001070		021070	00.270
Sales per employee	1,137.3	1,536.0	992.1	433.9	556.0	682.8
EBITDA per employee	-49.2	13.4	0.1	-62.3	-21.6	17.9
No. employees (average)	25	35	56	76	88	100
Balance sheet analysis						
Avg. working capital / sales	-1.7%	5.0%	1.2%	19.1%	11.4%	12.3%
Inventory turnover (sales/inventory)	181.0	8.3	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.6
Accounts receivable turnover	54.4	29.9	162.2	50.0	50.0	50.0
Accounts payable turnover	75.3	31.1	233.2	60.0	60.0	60.0
Cash flow analysis						
Free cash flow	-0.6	-9.4	-9.2	-6.5	-2.2	0.3
Free cash flow/sales	-2.0%	-17.5%	-16.4%	-19.6%	-4.5%	0.4%
FCF / net profit	49.4%	neg.	965.4%	119.1%	59.0%	neg.
Capex / sales	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Solvency						
Net debt	-0.2	4.4	13.6	20.2	22.4	22.1
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.0	9.5	2728.6	-4.2	-11.8	12.3
Dividend payout ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Interest paid / avg. debt	3.4%	2.4%	15.7%	13.0%	12.3%	11.0%
Returns						
ROCE	-14.3%	1.9%	-3.4%	-16.2%	-7.4%	2.3%
ROE	-12.6%	2.5%	-7.0%	-45.2%	-25.7%	-3.4%
Adjusted FCF yield	-3.2%	-4.3%	-3.8%	-17.3%	-5.1%	3.8%
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DPS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS reported	-0.12	0.03	-0.08	-0.44	-0.30	-0.06
Average number of shares	10.0	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
Valuation ratios						
P/BV	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.6
EV/sales	1.1	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.5
EV/EBITDA						10 F
	-25.1	37.3	5296.6	-6.9	-18.6	19.5
EV/EBIT	-25.1 -18.3	37.3 53.7	5296.6 -28.6	-6.9 -6.0	-18.6 -12.8	19.5 35.9

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Company	Disclosures
LION E-Mobility AG	2,8

Historical target price and rating changes for LION E-Mobility AG

Company	Date	Analyst	Rating	Target Price	Close
LION E-Mobility AG	05.08.2024	Sandherr, Christian	Buy	EUR 3.60	EUR 1.02
	13.05.2024	Sandherr, Christian	Buy	EUR 7.00	EUR 1.66
	22.03.2024	Sandherr, Christian	Buy	EUR 8.00	EUR 1.72

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The adj. FCF method is based on the assumption that investors purchase assets only at a price (enterprise value) at which the operating cash flow return after taxes on this investment exceeds their opportunity costs in the form of a hurdle rate of 7.5%. The operating cash flow is calculated as EBITDA less maintenance capex and taxes.

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