Telecommunication

A Research Publication by DZ BANK AG

ecotel communication⁵⁾⁷⁾⁸⁾⁹⁾¹⁰⁾¹¹⁾¹²⁾

Reuters:	E4CG.DE		Bloor	nberg:	E4C GY				
Year *	Sales			. IFRS- gs per sh.	PER		ash flow share	Free cash flow yield	Dividend per share
	EUR n	n	E	UR		E	UR	%	EUR
2016	116.6 (11	16.6)	0.24	(0.24)	33.9	0.67	(0.67)	8.3	0.23
2017e	113.0 (11	13.0)	0.31	(0.22)	25.7	0.44	(0.35)	5.5	0.23
2018e	115.5 (11	15.5)	0.41	(0.29)	19.7	0.66	(0.54)	8.2	0.23
2019e	118.0 (11	18.0)	0.48	(0.40)	16.7	0.85	(0.77)	10.5	0.27

^{*} Fiscal year end December - In brackets: Figures from the last publication

The Q1 2016 report includes upgrade to full-year outlook

- Q1 2017: ecotel began financial year 2017 successfully. In the core segment B2B, sales could be increased year-over-year from EUR 10.4m to EUR 10.6m, whilst sales in the New Business segment remained steady at EUR 4.3m. At the group level, sales contracted from EUR 29.9m to EUR 26.9m, which is exclusively due to the extremely low-margin reselling business. Group EBITDA came in at EUR 1.8m, slightly below the prior-year value of EUR 1.9m. The slight contraction is explained with reference to the fact that the group reported key advance investment and expenses for major projects in Q1 2017 which did not yet generate sales. This also explained why free cash flow was negative at EUR -0.7m. The net result stood at EUR 0.3m at the prior-year level.
- Outlook 2017: Management has raised the full-year outlook for 2017 and sees consolidated sales unchanged at EUR 95-115m but with EBITDA of EUR 7.0-8.0m (previously: EUR 6.5-7.5m / DZe currently: EUR 7.5m).
- Customers/projects: ecotel was able to acquire various major orders over recent quarters. These include, amongst others, a bank, a larger German clothing retailer and the drugstore chain ROSSMANN.
- Model/Valuation: We have raised our earnings forecasts for 2017 and subsequent years and on this basis now see Fair Value at EUR 10.5, previously EUR 9.5.

ecotel began financial year 2017 successfully and management has upgraded its full-year outlook for 2017 on presentation of the quarterly report. As we see it, the successful acquisition of various major projects over recent quarters is worth positive mention. We confirm our BUY recommendation and see fair value increased to EUR 10.50 (previously EUR 9.50).

Selected	Price on	Р	ER	EV / E	BITDA	EV /	Re-
Companies	10 May 2017	17e	18e	17e	18e	Sales 17e	com.
ecotel communication	8.08 EUR	25.7	19.7	4.1	3.6	0.27	↑
Deutsche Telekom	16.86 EUR	25.0	17.5	7.4	7.0	2.04	↑
United Internet	43.21 EUR	23.6	17.1	11.7	10.3	2.60	↑
QSC	1.86 EUR	_	46.5	8.3	7.4	0.90	_
Telefónica Deutschland	4.11 EUR	_	_	7.4	7.1	1.85	Ψ
Median for all peer group of	ompanies	24.3	17.5	7.9	7.3	1.95	_

↑ = Buy, → = Hold, Ψ = Sell, • = not rated, n/a = not appropriate Source: DZ BANK, I/B/E/S, FactSet

EQUITIES

Flash

Completed: 11 May 2017, 15:21

Buy (prev. Buy)

Closing price 10 May 2017

(in EUR): 8.08 Fair value: 10.50 (prev. 9.50)

Financial ratios 2017e:

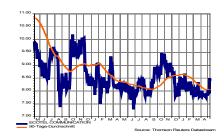
Book value per share (in EUR):	5.56
Equity ratio (in %):	57.3
Net margin (in %):	1.8
ROE (in %):	8.5
Dividend yield (in %):	2.8
Free cash flow (EUR m):	1.6
Net debt (EUR m):	-1.6

Number of shares

Number of Shares	
(million units):	3.5
Market cap	
(in EUR m):	28.62
Free float (in %):	26.1
SIN:	585434
ISIN:	DE0005854343
Datastream:	D:E4CX

Next Newsflow:

28.07.2017: Annual General Meeting 10.08.2017: Q2 2017



Author: Karsten Oblinger, Analyst



AT A GLANCE

Company profile

ecotel communications is a telelcoms company operating nationwide and with the focus on corporate customers. On top of this core business, ecotel also runs a wholesale segment as well as a "New business" segment, where strongly growing business units are consolidated.

Basis for investment recommendation

In general we expect a positive business development. Key drivers are large projects of the B2B segment. However, threse include also some cost ramp ups at the beginning. We expect the profit contributions from Wholesale and New Business more or less flat compared to last years levels.

Price sensitive current issues

- >> Profitable growth
- Margin expansion
- Further large scale orders (B2B segment)
- Further share buybacks
- Further market share gains of Easybell

Opportunities and risks

Opportunities	Risks
Very moderate valuation	Delays or other problems regarding larger projects
Consolidation	Rising competition
Better than expected business development (e.g. market share gains easybell)	Weaker than expected business development
Further large scale orders	

Topical share price-sensitive issues along with risks and opportunities have been factored into our recommendation as far as possible. Taking into account the current share price, we believe that price-sensitive opportunities currently outweigh other factors.

¹⁾⁻¹²⁾ Important: Please read the references to possible conflicts of interest and disclaimers/disclosures at the end of this report.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Euro m	2016	2017e	2018e	2019
Sales	116.6	113.0	115.5	118.0
Change in inventory/Own work	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total output	117.8	114.0	116.5	119.0
% against prev. year	8%	-3%	2%	2%
Cost of materials	-88.2	-83.1	-84.4	-85.7
Personnel expenses	-13.1	-13.3	-13.5	-13.7
Other operating income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other operating expenses	-9.9	-10.1	-10.3	-10.5
Extraordinary income/expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBITDA	6.6	7.5	8.3	9.1
For information: EBITDA adjusted	5.3	7.5	8.3	9.1
Depreciation	-4.3	-4.6	-4.8	-5.2
thereof on goodwill	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Operating profit (EBIT)	2.3	3.0	3.5	3.9
For information: EBIT adjusted	2.3	3.0	3.5	3.9
% against prev. year	-36%	26%	19%	12%
Interest paid / received	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Profit before tax	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.9
For information: EBT adjusted	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.9
% against prev. year	-35%	26%	20%	13%
Income taxes from continuing operations	-0.5	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2
Tax rate	24%	30%	30%	30%
Net profit from continuing operations	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.7
Net profit from discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net profit	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.7
Profit or loss attributable to minority interest	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0
Profit or loss attributable to shareholders	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7
thereof from continuing operations	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7
thereof from discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Weighted average number of shares, diluted (m)	3.542	3.542	3.542	3.542
IFRS earnings per share, diluted	0.24	0.31	0.41	0.48
Adjusted earnings per share, diluted (contin.)	0.24	0.31	0.41	0.48
Fiscal year end December				

Source: ecotel communication and DZ BANK estimates

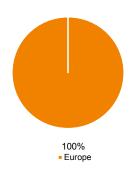
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RATIOS

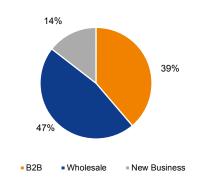
Euro	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Profit and loss ratios				
Total output (m)	117.8	114.0	116.5	119.0
EBITDA margin	4.5%	6.6%	7.1%	7.6%
EBIT margin	2.0%	2.6%	3.0%	3.3%
Net margin	1.5%	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%
Investment ratio	3.4%	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%
R&D as % of total output				
Net other operating costs as % of total output	8.4%	8.9%	8.8%	8.8%
Net financial income as % of total output	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Interest cover	8.2	33.2	50.1	64.0
Average sales growth next five years	2.3%			
Average earnings growth next five years				
Profitability ratios				
ROE	7.7%	8.5%	9.5%	10.0%
ROCE	12.8%	15.6%	18.4%	20.9%
Productivity ratios				
Sales per employee ('000)	520.16	464.36	456.86	449.06
EBIT per employee ('000)	10.36	12.02	13.73	14.84
Balance sheet ratios	54.40/	57.00/	50.70/	00.10
Equity ratio	54.1%	57.3%	58.7%	60.1%
Long term debt and equity / Fixed assets	116.6%	115.1%	121.2%	130.6%
Liquidity (quick ratio)	118.7%	117.6%	126.2%	138.5%
Receivables as % of total output	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%
Investment (net of GW) / Depreciation		109.9%	104.2%	96.8%
Working capital as % of total output	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%
Net debt (m)	-3.5	-1.6	-3.1	-5.2
Net debt complete (m)	-3.9	-4.5	-6.0	-8.1
Figures per share			0.11	
Earnings per share, diluted	0.24	0.31	0.41	0.48
Free cash flow per share, diluted	0.67	0.44	0.66	0.85
Dividend per common share	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.27
Cash per share, diluted	2.10	1.96	2.33	2.92
Net debt per share, diluted	-0.98	-0.45	-0.85	-1.45
Valuation ratios				
Enterprise value / Sales	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Enterprise value / EBITDA	5.2	4.1	3.6	3.2
Enterprise value / EBIT	11.8	10.4	8.6	7.4
EV/Sales to sales growth	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.11
PEG ratio - common shares	16.72			
Fiscal year end December				

Source: ecotel communication, DZ BANK estimates

SALES BY REGION 2016



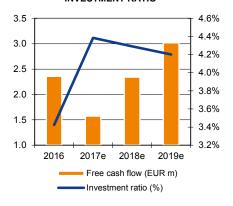
SALES BY BUSINESS SEGMENT 2016



SALES AND MARGIN DEVELOPMENT



FREE CASH FLOW AND INVESTMENT RATIO



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BALANCE SHEET

IFRS - Euro m	2016	2017e	2018e	2019
ASSETS				
Non current assets	21.7	22.2	22.4	22.
Intangible assets	12.5	12.2	11.8	11.
thereof goodwill	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.
Tangible assets	8.5	9.2	9.9	10.
Financial assets	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.
Other long-term assets	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.
Current assets	19.8	19.0	20.6	22.
Inventories	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Trade receivables	9.3	9.0	9.2	9.
Financial assets	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.
Other receivables and short-term assets	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.
Liquid assets	7.5	7.0	8.4	10.
Assets available for sale	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Total assets	41.5	41.2	43.0	45.
LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' equity	22.4	23.6	25.2	27.
Share capital	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.
Reserves	16.1	16.4	17.0	17.
Other equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Minority interest	2.8	3.7	4.7	5.
Treasury stock	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Non current liabilities	2.9	1.9	1.9	1.
Provisions for pensions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Other provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Financial liabilities	2.2	1.2	1.2	1.
Other payables	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.
Current liabilities	16.2	15.7	15.8	16.
Trade payables	11.7	11.3	11.6	11.
Other provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Financial liabilities	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.
	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.
Other liabilities		0.0	0.0	0.
Other liabilities Liabilities assoc. with assets held for sale	0.0			
	41.5	41.2	43.0	45.

Source: ecotel communication and DZ BANK estimates

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SUMMARY

7.8 8.2 3.1 9.9 6.6 4.3 0.0 2.3 0.1 2.3 0.5 1.7 0.0 1.7 0.9 0.8	114.0 -83.1 -13.3 -10.1 7.5 -4.6 0.0 3.0 -0.1 2.9 -0.9 2.0 0.0 2.0 -0.9 1.1	116.5 -84.4 -13.5 -10.3 8.3 -4.8 0.0 3.5 -0.1 3.4 -1.0 2.4 0.0 2.4 -1.0 1.5	119.0 -85.7 -13.7 -10.5 9.1 -5.2 0.0 3.9 -0.1 3.9 -1.2 2.7 0.0 2.7 -1.0 1.7
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Source: ecotel communication and DZ BANK estimates

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I. IMPRINT

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- 1.1 This Financial Analysis has been prepared by DZ BANK AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank, Frankfurt am Main (DZ BANK) as an investment firm.

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4. Definitions of the Categories for Investment Recommendations in Financial Analyses

The categories for investment recommendations in Financial Analyses of DZ BANK are defined as follows:

4.1 Shares:

- Fundamental Analysis:

"Buy" means that the absolute appreciation expected in the next twelve months is greater than 10%.

"Sell" means that the absolute depreciation expected in the next twelve months is greater than 10%.

"Hold" means that the absolute *price* volatility expected in the next twelve months lies between +10% and -10%.

- Technical (Chart) Analysis (tertiary trend):

The short term technical estimate refers to the short tertiary move of the share: "Positive" means that an absolute appreciation could be expected during the post week.

"Negative" means that an absolute depreciation could be expected during the next week.

"Neutral" means that no absolute change of price could be expected during the next week

- Technical (chart) Analysis (secondary trend):

The longer term technical estimate refers to the shorter secondary move of the share:

 $\mbox{\tt ,Positive}\mbox{\tt '}$ means that an absolute appreciation greater than 10% could be expected during the next six months.

"Negative" means that an absolute depreciation greater than 10% could be expected during the six months.

"Neutral" means that an absolute change of price between +10% to -10% could be expected during the next six months.

4.2 Fixed Income Instruments:

The prevailing factor for an investment recommendation regarding an **issuer** is whether, according to the estimate of DZ BANK, this issuer's bonds are able to perform better, worse or in tandem with the bonds of comparable issuers in the next six months. The below defined recommandation categories apply to 'senior unsecured bonds' denominated in Euro and in case of Emerging Markets issuers in individual cases also in US-Dollar as well as to 'covered bonds issued by credit institutions' in Euro:

"Outperformer" means that a better performance is expected for the issuer's bonds than for the bonds of comparable issuers.

"Underperformer" means that a worse performance is expected for the issuer's bonds than for the bonds of comparable issuers.

"Market performer" means that the performance of the issuer's bonds is not expected to materially differ from the bonds of comparable issuers.

4.3 Categories for isolated statements without investment recommendation Statements on the isolated evaluation of specific aspects that precede an investment recommendation on a financial instrument and / or an issuer especially according to the sustainability criteria defined by DZ BANK, its defined value approach, its defined asset allocation (DZ BANK Sample Portfolio), its defined sector strategy Euro-Stoxx (DZ BANK Sector Favorites), its defined valuation of payments to beneficiaries (DZ BANK Dividend Aristocrats), its country weightings for covered bonds and its CRESTA-SCORE MODEL - are not investment categories and therefore do not contain any investment recommendations.

These isolated statements **alone** are **not sufficient** to form the basis of an investment decision. Reference is made to the explanation of the used relevant methods.

Scheduled Updates and Validity Periods of Investment Recommendations

5.1 The frequency of updates of Financial Analyses depends in particular on the underlying macroeconomic conditions, current developments on the relevant

¹⁾⁻¹²⁾ Important: Please read the references to possible conflicts of interest and disclaimers/disclosures at the end of this report.

- markets, the current development of the analyzed companies, measures undertaken by the issuers, the behavior of trading participants, the competent supervisory authorities and the competent central banks as well as a wide range of other parameters. The periods of time named below therefore merely provide a **non-binding indication** of when an updated investment recommendation may be expected.
- 5.2 No obligation exists to update an investment recommendation. If an investment recommendation is updated, this update replaces the previous investment recommendation with immediate effect.
 - If no update is made, investment recommendations **end / lapse on expiry** of the **validity periods** named below. These periods **begin** on the **day** and at the **time** the investment recommendation is **completed**.
- 5.3 The validity periods for investment recommendations (financial analyses) are as follows:

Shares:

Fundamental analysis six months
Technical (chart) analysis (tertiary trend) one week
Technical (chart) analysis (secondary term) six months
Fixed income instruments:

Issuers (senior unsecured bonds) six months Issuers (covered bonds) one trading day

5.4 Evaluations of isolated aspects without investment recommendation have the following validity periods:

Sustainability analyses: one month Analyses according to the value approach: one month Asset allocation analyses (DZ BANK Sample Portfolio): one month Euro Stoxx sector strategy (DZ BANK Sector Favorites): one month Dividends (DZ BANK Dividend Aristocrats): three months Credit trend issuers twelve months Share indices (fundamental): three months Share indices (technical / chart analysis): one week Share indices (technical daily): publicationday Currency areas: six to twelve months Allocation of market segments one month Country weightings for covered bonds: six months Derivatives:

(Bund futures, Bobl futures, treasury futures, Buxl futures): one month **Commodities:** one month

- 5.5 In a given case, updates of analyses may also be temporarily suspended without prior announcement on account of compliance with supervisory regulations.
- 5.6 If no updates are to be made in the future because the analysis of an object is to be discontinued, notification of this shall be made in the final publication or, if no final publication is made, the close of the analysis shall be given in a separate note.
- 6. General Overview of Investment Recommendations on Financial Instruments and Issuers

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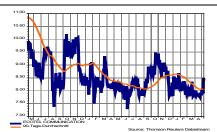
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RATING HISTORY

Recommendation Buy

Date 28 Sep 2011

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