

## **KOLINPHARMA**

# Booming revenues in 1H 2018

## **UPDATE REPORT**

1H 2018 Results - October 15th, 2018 6:00 p.m.

(Previous 8.67) 8.92 (7.94 with PAS conversion)

6.50

10

# Healthcare goods & services

IR TOP RESEARCH

Luisa Primi - I.primi@irtop.com

T +39 02 89056957 - Via C. Cantù, 1 - 20123 Milan

#### 1H 2018 RESULTS

KOLINPHARMA released a strong set of 1H 2018 results: revenues grew by 97% to 4.1 Eu m (2.1 Eu m in 1H 2017).

EBITDA came in at 0.3 Eu m, vs. 0.1 Eu m in 1H 2017 and with an EBITDA margin of 10.2%, up by 260 bps as the Company could benefit form operational leverage (fixed costs spread over higher revenues). Net result stood at -0.2 Eu m, in line with 1H 2017 (-0.2 Eu m). The business is characterized by a seasonality in favour of the second half of the year (66% of FY 2017 sales). In 2H 2017, KOLINPHARMA recorded revenues of 2.7 Eu m with an EBITDA margin

Net debt was 0.7 Eu m (vs. 2.5 Eu m in FY 2017) after IPO proceeds of 3.1 Eu m (March 2018). Management confirmed its strategy to continue to widening the product range with particular focus on market niches with high growth rate.

Considering 1H 2018 results and the seasonality of the business we have left our P&L estimates unchanged and updated the BS only to factor in a new agreement with Banca IFIS.

#### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION**

KOLINPHARMA SpA is an **Innovative SME** specialised in R&D in the growing nutraceutical market. The Company's products are based on natural raw materials and have the purpose of supporting pharmacological treatments mainly for pathologies in the orthopaedic-psychiatric and gynaecological fields.

KOLINPHARMA sells its own-branded products through a skilled sales network of 66 medical scientific informers (MSIs). Customers are represented by pharmaceutical wholesalers, which distribute to pharmacies and parapharmacies nationwide. The Company has shown rapid growth since foundation in 2013 and closed 2017 with sales of 4.1 Eu (2.5 Eu m in 2016) and a 2015-2017 CAGR of +80%.

We position KOLINPHARMA within AIM Italia's "Healthcare goods & services" Sector which includes 7 companies: BioDue, Bomi Italia, Fine Foods NTM, GPI, Health Italia, KOLINPHARMA and Pharmanutra. In 2017 these companies showed average revenues of 74 Eu m, an average yoy growth of 22% and EBITDA margin of 17%.

As of October 12th, 2018, average capitalisation of the Sector was of 79 Eu m, with positive average performance from IPO of +6%.

Compared to the average AIM "Healthcare goods & services" Sector, KOLINPHARMA shows:

- strongly higher sales growth rate (+62% vs. +22%):
- lower EBITDA margin (15% vs. 17%);
- lower net financial debt in absolute terms (2.5 Eu m vs. 14.0 Eu m);
- lower liquidity of the stock

#### VALUATION

We increased our target price by 3% to 8.92 Eu p.s. (8.67 Eu p.s. previously). The new target price represents a potential upside of 37%. Our target price is not adjusted for Price Adjustment Shares which would have a dilution effect of c. -11% on our valuation (target price diluted 7.94 Eu p.s.).

Please, read important disclaimer on the last page of this report.

# (as of October 12th, 2018) **AIM Positioning**

Target Price (Eu)

Market Price (Eu)

Capitalisation (Eu m)

Enterprise Value (Eu m)

FY 2017 (Eu m)	Company	AIM Sector*	AIM Italia
Revenues	4	74	43
Revenues YoY	+62%	+22%	+11%
EBITDA Margin	15%	17%	14%
Net Debt (Cash)	2.5	14.0	11.3
NFP/EBITDA	4.1	1.5	1.7
Market Data (Eu m)	Company	AIM Sector*	AIM Italia
Capitalisation	9	79	66
Perf. from IPO	-7%	+6%	-6%
Free Float	32%	32%	40%
ADTT YTD (Eu)	13,996	70,575	102,029

Source: Osservatorio AIM Italia – \* Healthcare goods & services

#### **Results & Estimates**

Key Figures (Eu m)	16A	17A	18E	19E	20E
Sales	2.5	4.1	6.7	9.0	11.2
YoY growth	+99%	+62%	+65%	+34%	+24%
EBITDA	0.3	0.6	1.4	2.4	3.3
EBITDA%	10%	15%	22%	27%	30%
EBIT	(0.3)	0.03	0.5	1.1	1.8
EBIT%	-13%	1%	7%	12%	16%
Net Profit	(0.4)	(0.1)	0.4	0.9	1.2
Net Debt (Cash)	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.6	0.1
EPS	n.m.	n.m.	0.26	0.53	0.75

Source: Company data (ITA GAAP) for FY 2016-17 and IR Top Research estimates for FY 2018-20

#### **Peers Comparison**

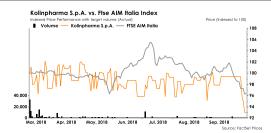
EV/EBITDA (x)	18E	19E	20E
KOLINPHARMA	8.3	5.0	3.6
Nutraceutical peers	8.5	9.2	7.8
Discount/Premium to peers	-2%	-46%	-54%
P/E (x)	18E	19E	20E
KOLINPHARMA	22.3	10.9	7.8
Nutraceutical peers	14.1	15.8	13.4

Source: IR Top Estimates for KOLINPHARMA and Factset data for comparables

Performance			
	1M	3M	1Y
Absolute	-5.0%	-5.8%	n.a.
Relative (FTSE AIM Italia)	-0.5%	+1.8%	n.a.
52-week High/Low* (Eu)	7.1	27 / 6.23	

# **SHARE DATA**

AIM Italia
KIP.MI / KIP IM
IT0005322950
1,639,571 (of which 180,000 not listed PAS)
31.65%
Rita Paola Petrelli (52.61%)
Emanuele Lusenti



#### **AIM POSITIONING**

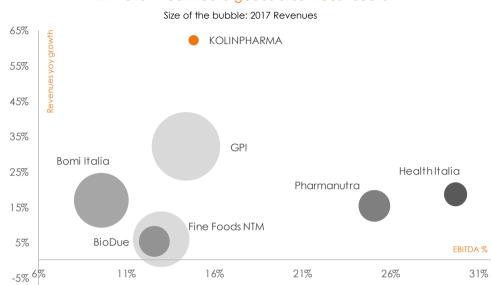
#### KOLINPHARMA positions itself in the AIM "Healthcare goods & services" Sector.

Compared to the average AIM Italia "Healthcare goods & services" Sector, KOLINPHARMA shows:

- strongly higher sales growth rate (+62% vs. +22%);
- lower EBITDA margin (15% vs. 17%);
- lower net financial debt in absolute terms (2.5 Eu m vs. 14.0 Eu m);

Moreover, KOLINPHARMA is the only "Innovative SME" of this panel besides Health Italia.

### AIM Italia "Healthcare goods & services" Sector



2017 Data (Eu m)	Revenues	yoy	EBITDA%	NFP (Cash)	EV/EBITDA	NFP/EBITDA
BioDue	36	+5%	13%	6.3	13.6	1.4
Bomi Italia	118	+17%	10%	25.5	6.1	2.3
Fine Foods NTM	120	+6%	13%	20.4	12.3	1.3
GPI	180	+32%	14%	51.0	3.9	2.0
Health Italia	22	+19%	30%	1.4	11.5	0.2
KOLINPHARMA	4	+62%	15%	2.5	19.9	4.1
Pharmanutra	38	+15%	25%	(9.1)	14.9	-1.0
Healthcare goods & services	74	+22%	17%	14.0	11.7	1.5
AIM Italia	43	+11%	14%	11.3	14.0	1.7

Source: Osservatorio AIM Italia, EV as of October  $12^{th}$  , 2018

Compared to the average AIM Italia "Healthcare goods & services" Sector, KOLINPHARMA shows:

- lower market capitalisation (9 Eu m vs. 79 Eu m);
- lower average daily traded turnover year-to-date (14 Eu k vs. 71 Eu k).

Company	Capitalisation (Eu m)	Free Float	Perf. from IPO	ADTT YTD (Eu)
BioDue	56	21%	+40%	82,270
Bomi Italia	43	54%	+5%	74,494
Fine Foods NTM	170	34%	+70%	135,866
GPI	49	37%	-4%	58,910
Health Italia	73	23%	+48%	63,600
KOLINPHARMA	9	32%	-7%	13,996
Pharmanutra	151	22%	+117%	64,891
Healthcare goods & services	79	32%	+6%	70,575
AIM Italia	66	40%	-6%	102,029

Source: Osservatorio AIM Italia and Factset data as of October  $12^{th}$  , 2018



#### **FINANCIAL RESULTS**

1H 2018 Revenue growth +97% EBITDA margin 10.2%

#### **BUSINESS UPDATE**

- KOLINPHARMA had a very positive 1H 2018, and closed with revenues of 4.1 Eu m, up by 97% vs. 2.1 Eu m in 1H 2017.
- In line with corporate strategy to expand the sales network to boost prescriptions, the Company continued to add professionals to its commercial structure: 4 new medical scientific informers were recruited in 1H 2018, hence reaching a total number to 66 MSIs. The Company reported that in 1Q 2018 medical prescriptions increased by 46% vs. the same period of 2017.
- An "International Division" was created to exploit opportunities in export markets, where the nutraceutical market grows with higher growth rate. The Company added an "Assistance International Manager" to its organizational structure.
- In June 2018, KOLINPHARMA signed a factoring pro-soluto agreement with Banca IFIS for a total amount of 2 Eu m, bringing bank credit lines from 1.35 Eu m (FY 2017) to 3.35 Eu m.
- At the end of July 2018 an agreement with University La Sapienza of Rome was signed for a new scientific research focusing on clinical trials to test the effectiveness of the whole range of the Company's products.
- Management confirmed its strategy to continue to widening the product range with particular focus on market niches with high growth rate.

#### 1H 2018 RESULTS

KOLINPHARMA released a strong set of 1H 2018 results: **revenues grew by 97% to 4.1 Eu m** (2.1 Eu m in 1H 2017). In particular sales grew by 99% to 2.7 Eu m vs 1.4 Eu m in 1H 2017, thanks to good performance along all product lines.

#### Breakdown Product lines 1H 2018 vs. FY 2017

	1H 2018	FY 2017
Milesax	30.2%	28.5%
lvuxur	15.5%	15.9%
Dolatrox	14.0%	17.1%
Xinepa Easy	27.7%	26.9%
Almetax Easy	12.6%	11.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**EBITDA came in at 0.3 Eu m**, vs. 0.1 Eu m in 1H 2017 with an EBITDA margin of 10.2% up by 260 bps (7.6% in 1H 2017) as the Company was able to benefit from operational leverage. After D&As of 0.4 Eu m (0.3 Eu m in 1H 2017) **EBIT was of -89 Eu k** (-0.1 Eu m in 1H 2017), largely reaching break even. **Net result** stood at -0.2 Eu m, in line with 1H 2017 (-0.2 Eu m).

**Net debt was 0.7 Eu m** (vs. 2.5 Eu m in FY 2017) after IPO proceeds of 3.1 Eu m (March 2018), and investments mainly for the consolidation of MSIs network, R&D and the final clinical study on Xinepa, which confirmed the clinical efficacy for the treatment of peripheral neuropathies.

Eu m	1H 2018	1H 2017	FY 2017
Sales	2.7	1.4	4.1
YoY growth	+99%	n.a.	+62%
Revenues (VoP)	4.1	2.1	5.3
EBITDA	0.3	0.1	0.6
EBITDA%	10.2%	7.6%	14.8%
EBIT	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.03
EBIT%	-4.3%	-12.0%	0.8%
Net Profit	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.07)
Net Working Capital (NWC)	1.2	0.3	0.7
Fixed net assets	3.9	2.8	3.1
Funds	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.05)
Net Capital Employed	5.0	3.1	3.8
Net Debt (Cash)	0.7	2.1	2.5
Equity	4.2	0.9	1.2
Total Source	5.0	3.1	3.8





#### **2018-2020 ESTIMATES**

KOLINPHARMA can grow Sales at a 2017-2020 CAGR of +40% and EBITDA at a 2017-2020 CAGR of +77% Considering 1H 2018 results and the seasonality of the business in favour of the second half of the year (2H 2017 sales of 2.7 Eu m, 66% of total FY 2017 sales, and EBITDA margin of 19%) we have left our P&L estimates unchanged and updated the BS only to factor in a new agreement with Banca IFIS. The result is an improvement in working capital, and a resulting reduction in Net debt (2.4 Eu m in FY 2018 expected vs. 2.7 Eu m previously).

#### MAIN FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Eu m		17A	18E Old	18E New	19E Old	19E New	20E Old	20E New
Sales		4.1	6.7	6.7	9.0	9.0	11.2	11.2
	уоу	+62%	+65%	+65%	+34%	+34%	+24%	+24%
EBITDA		0.6	1.4	1.4	2.4	2.4	3.3	3.3
m	nargin	14.8%	21.6%	21.6%	26.6%	26.6%	29.8%	29.8%
EBIT		0.03	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.8
m	nargin	0.8%	7.1%	7.1%	11.8%	11.8%	15.8%	15.8%
Pre tax profit		(0.04)	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.8
Net Profit		(0.07)	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2
	уоу	18.1%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
EPS		n.m.	0.26	0.26	0.53	0.53	0.75	0.75

Eu m	17A	18E Old	18E New	19E Old	19E New	20E Old	20E New
Net Working Capital (NWC)	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.5	0.8
Fixed net assets	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1
Funds	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Net Capital Employed	3.8	4.5	4.1	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.0
Net Debt (Cash)	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.6	0.7	0.1
Equity	1.2	1.7	1.7	2.6	2.5	3.8	3.8
Sources	3.8	4.5	4.1	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.0

Source: Company data (ITA GAAP) for FY 2017 and IR Top Research estimates for FY 2018-20 n.a. = not available; n.m. = not meaningful

### **VALUATION**

Our valuation yields a Target Price of 8.92 Eu per share

AIM Positioning discount of 27.75%

We have updated our valuation for KOLINPHARMA and in particular:

- the DCF to include the new estimates and up-to-date risk free rate and ERP;
- the relative valuation to reflect current market multiples for a peer group consisting of international nutraceutical companies (adjusted by AIM positioning) with business models comparable to KOLINPHARMA and AIM listed peers (without discount). We have, in addition, updated our AIM Positioning to reflect FY 2017 results for the AIM Italia market. The discount applied is always of 27.75%.

Our valuation has not been adjusted for a possible dilution from the conversion of the 180,000 Price Adjustment Shares into ordinary shares, that would have an impact of -11% on our valuation (from 8.92 Eu per share to 7.94 Eu per share).

#### **MULTIPLES**

Based on a peer group of selected industry players our relative valuation, using 2018-2019 EV/EBITDA multiples, yields a fair value of KOLINPHARMA's shares of 8.96 Eu p.s..

Eu m	Country	Capitalisation	Revenues 2017	yoy	EBITDA % 2017A	EBITDA % 2018E
KOLINPHARMA	Italy	9	4	+62%	15%	23%
Balchem	USA	2,680	527	+5%	24%	25%
Boiron SA	France	1,103	618	+0%	24%	23%
Enervit S.p.A.	Italy	57	56	+3%	12%	n.a.
GNC Holdings, Inc. Class A	USA	287	2,175	-5%	11%	9%
Herbalife Ltd.	USA	7,152	3,925	-3%	15%	16%
Ingredion Incorporated	USA	6,189	5,170	+0%	19%	18%
Royal DSM NV	Netherlands	14,525	8,632	+9%	14%	19%
USANA Health Sciences, Inc.	USA	2,266	928	+2%	14%	18%
Median International Peers		2,473	1,552	+1%	15%	18%
BioDue	Italy	56	36	6%	13%	18%
Pharmanutra	Italy	151	38	16%	25%	26%
Median AIM Peers		103	37	11%	19%	22%

Source: Company Data for KOLINPHARMA and Factset data for comparables, as of October  $12^{th}$ , 2018

EV/EBITDA (x)	18E	19E	20E
KOLINPHARMA	8.3	5.0	3.6
Median International Peers	8.5	9.2	7.8
Median AIM Peers	10.6	9.2	7.9
Discount/Premium to International Peers	-2%	-46%	-54%
Discount/Premium to AIM Peers	-22%	-45%	-54%

 $Source: IR\, Top\, Estimates\, for\, KOLINPHARMA\, and\, Factset\, data\, for\, comparables, as\, of\, October\, 12^{th}\,,\, 2018$ 

## DCF

Main assumptions are:

- Perpetual growth: 2.0%
- Risk Free interest rate: 2.70%
- ERP: 8.06%
- WACC: 11.3%

Sum of PV 2018-2021 FCF – Eu m	3.2	23%
Terminal Value – Eu m	10.5	77%
Total Enterprise Value – Eu m	13.7	100%
Net Debt (Cash) – Eu m (as of June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018)	0.75	
Total Equity Value – Eu m	12.9	
Number of shares outstanding – m <sup>1</sup>	1.5	
Fair Value per share – Eu	8.88	

Source: Company Data and IR Top Estimates

1 Excluding the 180,000 Price Adjustment Shares

Our DCF valuation yields a target price of 8.88 Eu per share.

### **VALUATION SUMMARY**

Weighting the 2 valuation approaches equally we increase our target price by 3% to 8.92 Eu (previous 8.67 Eu), implying an upside of 37% and an implicit EV/EBITDA 2018 and 2019 multiple of 10.7 x and 6.5 x respectively.

Method	Price (Eu)
DCF	8.88
Multiple analysis	8.96
Target Price	8.92



#### **KOLINPHARMA ON AIM**

#### -7% from IPO

#### IPO

Trading Market: AIM Italia – Borsa Italiana SpA

Date: March 9th, 2018

Price: 7.00 Eu

Capital raised: 3.1 Eu m equity through a capital increase with private placement

Capitalisation: 10.2 Eu m

Price Adjustment shares (PAS) not listed on AIM Italia: 180,000 for founding shareholders

#### SHARES (as of October 12th, 2018)

Code: KIP Bloomberg: KIP IM Reuters: KIP.MI

ISIN ordinary shares: IT0005322950

ISIN PAS: IT0005322968

Shares: 1,639,571 (of which 180,000 are not listed Price Adjustment Shares)

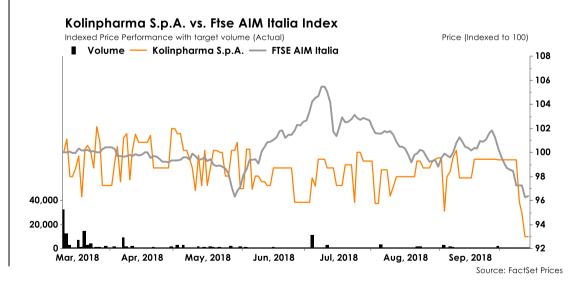
Price: 6.50 Eu

Performance from IPO: -7% Capitalisation: 9 Eu m Free Float: 32%

NomAd: EnVent Capital Markets Ltd Specialist: Banca Aletti & C. SpA

Shareholder	N° of shares	%
Rita Paola Petrelli	862,571	52.61%
Emanuele Lusenti	315,000	19.21%
Anna Laura Lanza	10,000	0.61%
Market	452,000	27.57%
Total	1,639,571	100.00%

Source: Company data
Petrelli and Lusenti have 180,000 Price Adjustment Shares (Petrelli 122,437 and Lusenti 57,563) that are not listed on AIM Italia



## **RATIOS**

Eu m	2015A <sup>1</sup>	2016A	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E
Profit & Loss Statement						
Sales	1.3	2.5	4.1	6.7	9.0	11.2
EBITDA	(0.3)	0.3	0.6	1.4	2.4	3.3
EBIT	(1.0)	(0.3)	0.03	0.5	1.1	1.8
Financial Income (charges)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.01)
Pre-tax profit (loss)	(1.0)	(0.3)	0.03	0.5	1.1	1.8
Taxes	0.23	0.02	(0.02)	0.0	(0.2)	(0.5)
Net profit (loss)	(0.8)	(0.4)	(0.1)	0.4	0.9	1.2
Balance Sheet						
Fixed assets	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.1
NWC	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8
M/L Funds	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)
Net Capital Employed	2.3	2.7	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.0
Net Debt	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.6	0.1
Net Equity	0.5	0.1	1.2	1.7	2.5	3.8
Cash Flow EBIT	(1.0)	(0.0)	0.00	0.5	1 1	1.0
	(1.0)	(0.3)	0.03	0.5	1.1	1.8
D&A	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.6
Taxes	0.23	0.02	(0.02)	0.0	(0.2)	(0.5)
Change in M/L Funds	n.a.	(0.01)	(0.02)	0.02	(0.001)	(0.002)
Gross Cash Flow	n.a.	0.3	(0.6	1.5	2.2	2.8
Change in NWC	n.a.	(0.1)	0.5	(0.1)	0.1	0.1
Operating Cash Flow	n.a.	0.2	1.0	1.4	2.3	2.9
Capex	n.a.	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.2)
Financial income (charges)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.01)
Free Cash Flow	n.a.	(0.9)	(0.3)	0.0	1.0	1.7
Dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Equity	n.a.	(0.3)	1.1	0.4	0.9	1.2
Change in Net Debt (Cash)	n.a.	(1.2)	0.8	0.5	1.8	2.9
Per Share Data						
Current Price				€ 6.50		
Total shares out (mln) <sup>2</sup>				1.64		
EPS	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	0.26	0.53	0.75
DPS	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	0.00	0.00	0.00
FCF	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	0.02	0.58	1.03
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pay out ratio	0.076	0.076	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ratios						
EBITDA margin	-27.7%	10.5%	14.8%	21.6%	26.6%	29.8%
EBIT margin	-76.6%	-12.9%	0.8%	7.1%	11.8%	15.7%
Net Debt/Equity (Gearing)	402.2%	n.m.	204.5%	142.3%	63.6%	3.4%
Net Debt/EBITDA	-5.3x	9.5x	4.2x	1.6x	0.7x	0.0x
Interest cover EBIT	-42.4x	-4.9x	0.4x	8.9x	28.3x	203.6x
ROE	n.m.	n.m.	-5.3%	25.5%	34.2%	32.5%
ROCE	n.m.	n.m.	0,8%	11,6%	25,1%	44,3%
Free Cash Flow Yield	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	0.3%	8.9%	15.8%
Growth Rates						
Sales	n.a.	99%	62%	65%	34%	24%
EBITDA	n.a.	175%	130%	140%	66%	38%
EBIT	n.a.	66%	110%	1444%	122%	65%
	n.a.	51%	82%	742%	104%	41%
Net Profit (loss)	11.0.	J1/0	02/0	, 12/0	10 1/0	71/0

Source: Company data (ITA GAAP) for FY 2015-17 and IR Top Research estimates for FY 2018-20 n.a.= not available; n.m. = not meaningful  $^1$  Unauditied  $^2$  Including the 180,000 Price Adjustment Shares



#### DISCLAIMER

#### UPDATES

This Research is an update coverage made by IR Top Consulting S.r.I. (IR Top) on KOLINPHARMA (the "Company"). Update frequency might depend on circumstances considered to be important (corporate events and changes of recommendation, etc.) or on further advisory commitment. Last Research on the same Company was released on April 4th 2018.

Opinions and estimates of this Research are as the date of this material and are subject to change. Information and opinions have been obtained from sources public and believed to be reliable, but no warranty is made as to their accuracy or correctness. Past performances of the Company are not guarantee of future results. During the last 12 months, the following indications have been disseminated:

Target Price **Market Price** Validity Time October 15th 2018 8 92 6.50 12 months April 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 8.67 6.94 12 months

VALUATION METHODOLOGY (HORIZON: 12M) IR Top obtained a fair value using different valuation methodologies including Discounted Cash Flow method and Multiple-based

Moreover, IR Top used a proprietary model, "AIM Positioning rating", which incorporates a number of variables selected by IR Top based on research of "Osservatorio AIM Italia", managed by IR Top and focused on research about performance of Companies listed on AIM Italia.

Detailed information about the valuation or methodology and the underlying assumptions and information about the proprietary model used is accessible at IR Top premises.

#### RESEARCH TEAM

Luisa Primi, (Senior Analyst, AIAF Associated) Gianluca Mozzali, (Analyst) Claudia Zolin, (Analyst)

Chiara Cardelli, (Researcher)

No other people or companies participated or anyhow contributed to the Research. Neither the members of the research team, nor any person closely associated with them have any relationships or are involved in circumstances that may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the Research, including interests or conflicts of interest, on their part or on the part of any natural or legal person working for them, who was involved in producing the Research.

#### INTERESTS INVOLVED AND CONFLICTS

This document has been prepared by IR Top, Partner Equity Markets of Italian Stock Exchange, part of LSE Group, on behalf of the Company according to a contract, under which IR Top undertook to prepare this report expressing only independent, fair and balanced views on the Company. The fees agreed for this Research do not depend on the results of the Research.

This Research has been disclosed to the issuer to which the Research, directly or indirectly, relates before its release. It is incumbent on the Company to provide timely and constructive feedback on draft Research prior to publication. It is IR Top's sole discretion as to whether comment and feedback from the Company is incorporated into the Research prior to publication and where it is, a further iteration to the draft will be sent to the Company for comment.

IR Top is also engaged in investor relations services in the interest of the Company and might occasionally be involved in other consulting activities intended to increase the value

of the Company. In any case, Chinese Walls and other information barriers are in place to avoid the exchange of confidential information between the Equity Research Department and other services areas; employees and advisors involved in such services have restrictions preventing them from the access to confidential information that can not be published.

IR Top restricts research analysts from performing roles, which could prejudice the independence of their research. In particular:

- they are permitted to attend and speak at widely attended conferences or other widely attended events at which IR Top colleagues and clients, among others, may also be present, provided that their independence may not be affected. These widely-attended conferences/events may include some investor presentations by clients of investor relations services.
- Analysts are also permitted to attend and speak at conference calls or meetings between analysts and bankers, investors or customers in which are discussed Research reports already published or general view on specific sectors. In such cases, at the start of that meeting, bankers, investors or customers need to be clarified that the discussion cannot involve the communication of privileged information to the analyst as the analyst would be prohibited from producing new research report on the companies whose privileged information has been disclosed.

Members of the Research Team do not receive salaries, commissions, bonuses or any other form of compensation based upon specific investment banking transactions or securities' performances.

IR Top and the members of the Research Team do not have any further interest or conflict of interest directly or indirectly related with the Research, the Company or the securities, that may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the Research.

There are no other interests or conflicts of interest of any person belonging to the same group of IR Top that are: (a) known, or reasonably expected to be known, to the persons

involved in the production of the recommendation; or (b) known to persons who, although not involved in the production of the recommendation, have or could reasonably be expected to have, access to the reccomendation prior to its completion.

In any case, as a general Policy, nobody of the Research Team nor IR Top is allowed to have a financial interest in the securities of the client company or serve as an officer,

director or advisory board member of the client company.

Analysts must not undertake personal transactions on financial instruments that are object of the investment research or that relate to the same industry, Exceptions may be made with the prior approval of IR Top's CEO in special circumstances such as for disposal of (a) positions already held before the employment or before the implementation of the company policy, or when initiating coverage and (b) positions obtained as a result of the issuer extraordinary activities. By the way, when analysts hold instruments to which Equity Research relates, they are required to disclose their interests in Research reports. Any trades that analysts make must be in line with their recommendation(s), contained in the last published Research. An analyst is prohibited from producing a Research on an issuer if the analyst carries out activities for which he receives compensation from the issuer. If an analyst's household member / relative / relative in-law (within the second degree) serves in such a high capacity for the issuer (i.e. manager or director), the analyst has to inform IR Top's CEO and the analyst will cease covering the issuer.

#### POLICY

IR Top has in place a "Joint conflict management policy" in order to effectively manage any conflicts of interest, and an "Equity Research Policy", in order to rule research services in compliance with Parliament Regulation (EU) no.596/2014 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no.958/2016 on Market Abuse.

IR Top has adopted the "Joint conflict management policy" in accordance with best practice regarding "information barriers" to restrict the flow of information to prevent the

misuse of information and/or prevent any conflicts of interest arising from other activities of IR Top. A copy of these policies is available to the recipient of this Research upon making a request to IR Top by e-mail.

This report has been prepared solely for information purpose and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any financial products. It should not be regarded as a substitute for the exercise of the recipient's own judgment. IR Top does not accept any liability for any direct, consequential or indirect loss arising from any

use of material contained in this report. This document may only be reproduced or published together with the name of IR Top.

Opinions and estimates in this Research are as at the date of release and are subject to change without notice to the recipient. Information and opinions have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but no representation or warranty is made as to their accuracy or correctness. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The

investments and strategies discussed in this Research may not be suitable for all investors. In any case, you should consult your investment advisor.

This document is intended for distribution only to E.U. "qualified investors" and to "qualified counterparties" resident in Italy, within the meaning of article 2(1)(e) of the prospectus directive (directive 2003/71/EC) and Consob Reg. 16190, as subsequently amended and supplemented; its distribution in USA, Canada, Australia, Japan is not allowed.

In Italy, this document is being distributed only to, and is directed at qualified investors within the meaning of article 100 of legislative decree no. 58 of 24 February 1998, as amended, and article 34-ter, paragraph 1, letter b), of Consob regulation on issuers no. 11971 of May 14, 1999, provided that such qualified investors will act in their capacity and not as depositaries or nominees for other shareholders, such as persons authorized and regulated to operate in financial markets, both Italian and foreign.

In the United Kingdom, this document is not for distribution to persons that would be defined as private customers under rules of the FSA; it is for distribution only to persons who: (i) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within article 19(5) of the financial services and markets act 2000 (financial promotion) order 2005 (as amended, the "financial promotion order"), (iii) are persons falling within article 49(2)(a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc.") of the financial promotion order, (iii) are outside the United Kingdom, or (iv) are persons to whom an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000) in connection with the issue or sale of any securities may otherwise lawfully be communicated or caused to be communicated

(all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons").

This document is not addressed to any member of the general public and under no circumstances should this document circulate among, or be distributed to (i) a member of the general public, (ii) individuals or entities falling outside the definition of "qualified investors" as specified above or (iii) distribution channels through which information is or is likely to become available to a large number of persons.

#### IR TOP CONSULTING SPECIFIC DISCLOSURES

We disclose that IR Top acts as Investor Relations and Financial Communication advisor for the Company,

IR Top Consulting S.r.l. Via C. Cantù, 1 – 20123 Milan Telephone +39 02 45473884/3 info@irtop.com www.irtop.com



OsservatorioAIM