Guides EBIT at the range's low-end

Aspo announced the restructuring of its subsidiary Kauko. Effective in 2019, Aspo will no longer report Kauko as a separate segment. The corporate action does not come as a major surprise, yet Aspo also restated its 2018 EBIT guidance at the lower end of the initial range. We adjust our estimates for Kauko accordingly, while making small adjustments to ESL's estimates due to the new LNG vessels taking longer than initially expected to reach their full operational efficiency.

Kauko plays a minor role in the sum-of-the-parts analysis

According to the plan, Kauko's energy solutions business will be either sold off or terminated, while the offering for mobile knowledge work as well as Kauko's administration will be restructured. The energy solutions business generates approximately one third of Kauko's revenue. It was expected that Aspo might take more concrete measures regarding Kauko as the subsidiary has not been able to reach its targets. We recognize the announced EUR 5m goodwill impairment in Kauko's Q4 EBIT.

We expect ESL's acquisitions to lift 2019 EBIT to EUR 25m

We make slight adjustments to ESL's estimates, reflecting the longer learning curve for the new LNG vessels to reach their full operational efficiency (Q4 EBIT EUR 1.2m lower than previously expected, 2019 EBIT lower by EUR 0.4m). Nevertheless, the new LNG vessels and the acquisition of AtoB@C are expected to be major contributors to next year's EBIT growth. Our EBIT estimates for Telko and Leipurin remain unchanged.

Lower peer multiples cut our target to EUR 9.25 (EUR 10)

Overall, we don't see any significant changes in Aspo's operations. We expect Aspo's 2018 EBIT at EUR 21.9m (including the EUR 5m impairment of Kauko). We retain our HOLD rating but decrease our target price to EUR 9.25 (EUR 10). The change in our target price mainly reflect's Telko's lowered peer multiple, while the write-down of Kauko figures only as a minor loss in the sum-of-the-parts valuation.



Conglomerates/Finland, December 19, 2018



Share price, EUR (Last trading day's closing price)	8.44
Target price, EUR	9.25
Latest change in recommendation	26-0ct-18
Latest report on company	22-Nov-18 YFS
Research paid by issuer: No. of shares outstanding, '000's	31,420
No. of shares fully diluted, '000's	31,420
Market cap, EURm	265
Free float, %	-
Exchange rate EUR/RUB	-
Reuters code	ASPO.HE
Bloomberg code	ASPO FH
Average daily volume, EURm	0.1
Next interim report	14-Feb-19
Web site	www.aspo.com
Analyst	Joonas Ilvonen
E-mail	joonas.ilvonen@evli.com
Telephone	+358 44 430 9071

🗈 BUY 🖸 HOLD 🗖 SELL

KEY FIGU	RES											
	Sales EURm	EBIT EURm	EBIT %	Ptx profit EURm	EPS EUR	P/E (x)	EV/Sales (x)	P/CF (x)	EV/EBIT (x)	DPS EUR		
2016	457	20	4.5%	17	0.52	15.7	0.8	15.4	18.5	0.42		
2017	502	23	4.6%	21	0.63	16.0	0.9	17.8	19.5	0.43		
2018E	538	22	4.1%	18	0.48	17.6	0.8	6.6	20.8	0.45		
2019E	619	41	6.6%	38	1.10	7.7	0.7	6.1	10.7	0.50		
2020E	651	49	7.5%	45	1.29	6.5	0.6	4.6	8.4	0.60		
Market cap	, EURm		265 l	BV per share 201	8E, EUR		2.8 CAGR	EPS 2017-2	.0, %	27.3		
Net debt 2	018E, EURm		191	Price/book 2018E			3.0 CAGR sales 2017-20, %					
Enterprise	value, EURm		456 l	Dividend yield 2018E, % 5.3				5.3 ROE 2018E, %				
Total asset	s 2018E, EURn	ı	386	ត្រx rate 2018E, ១	/o		9.5 ROCE 2	2018E, %		7.9		
Goodwill 2	018E, EURm		42	Equity ratio 2018	3E, %		23.1 PEG, P	/E 18/CAGR		0.5		

All the important disclosures can be found on the last pages of this report.

KFY FIGURES

ASPO

Valuation

SOTP Analysis

Group company	Metric	Est., EURM	Multiple*	EV
ESL	2019 EBIT	24.7	8.4	208
Telko	2019 EBIT	16.0	10.2	163
Leipurin	2019 EBIT	4.3	12.8	54
Kauko	2019 EBIT	0.6	9.7	5.5
Other operations	2019 EBIT	-4.4	9.7	-43
Total				388
Net debt (end 2019,	Evli est.), includi	ing hybrid		174
Equity value				213
Per share				6.8
*Peer aroun median	(OMY H 25 for K	auko and other a	nerational cou	raa. EaatSat

*Peer group median (OMX H 25 for Kauko and other operations), source: FactSet

	EV/EBIT
ESL SHIPPING PEER GROUP	19
Golden Ocean Group Ltd	10.3x
Ship Finance International Limited	16.0x
Pangaea Logistics Solutions Ltd.	
Star Bulk Carriers Corp.	7.9x
Navios Maritime Partners LP	5.1x
Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd	4.7x
Diana Shipping Inc.	7.5x
Scorpio Bulkers, Inc.	13.5x
Safe Bulkers, Inc.	8.9x
Seanergy Maritime Holdings Corp.	
Euroseas Ltd.	
Peer Group Average	9.2x
Peer Group Median	8.4x

Source: FactSet

	EV/EBIT
TELKO PEER GROUP	19
Brenntag AG	9.5x
Nexeo Solutions, Inc.	10.2x
IMCD N.V.	17.9x
Univar, Inc.	9.5x
PT AKR Corporindo Tbk	14.7x
Sinochem International	
Corporation Class A	
Peer Group Average	12.4x
Peer Group Median	10.2x

Source: FactSet

VALUATION RESULTS	BASE CASE DETAILS	VALUATION ASSUMPTIONS	ASSUMPTIONS FOR WACC	
Current share price	8.44 PV of Free Cash Flow	212 Long-term growth, %	2.0 Risk-free interest rate, %	2.25
DCF share value	11.70 PV of Horizon value	311 WACC, %	7.4 Market risk premium, %	5.8
Share price potential, %	38.6 Unconsolidated equity	0 Spread, %	0.5 Debt risk premium, %	2.8
Maximum value	13.3 Marketable securities	20 Minimum WACC, %	6.9 Equity beta coefficient	1.00
Minimum value	10.3 Debt - dividend	-175 Maximum WACC, %	7.9 Target debt ratio, %	35
Horizon value, %	59.4 Value of stock	368 Nr of shares, Mn	31.4 Effective tax rate, %	10

DCF valuation, EURm	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	Horizon
Net sales	502	538	619	651	675	699	720	738	756	775	791	807
Sales growth, %	9.8	7.1	15.1	5.1	3.7	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0
Operating income (EBIT)	23	22	41	49	47	45	43	37	38	39	40	40
EBIT margin, %	4.6	4.1	6.6	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
+ Depreciation+amort.	12	12	13	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	
- Income taxes	-3	-2	-2	-3	-3	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	
- Change in NWC	-13	9	-8	-3	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	
NWC / Sales, %	12.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
+ Change in other liabs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Capital Expenditure	-18	-72	-8	-7	-11	0	-14	-13	-13	-17	-17	-17
Investments / Sales, %	3.5	13.3	1.3	1.1	1.6	0.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.1
- Other items	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	
= Unlevered Free CF (FCF)	1	-33	34	49	44	52	35	31	32	29	32	593
= Discounted FCF (DFCF)		-33	32	42	35	39	25	20	19	16	17	311
= DFCF min WACC		-33	32	42	36	40	25	20	20	17	17	357
= DFCF max WACC		-33	31	42	35	39	24	19	18	15	16	273

INTERIM FIGURES												
EVLI ESTIMATES, EURm	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4	2017	2018Q1	2018Q2	2018Q3	2018Q4E	2018E	2019E	2020E
Net sales	119	124	127	132	502	115	133	136	154	538	619	651
EBITDA	7	8	10	9	35	7	10	10	7	34	54	64
EBITDA margin (%)	6.2	6.5	7.9	7.1	7.0	5.8	7.3	7.4	4.6	6.2	8.7	9.8
EBIT	4	5	7	7	23	4	7	7	4	22	41	49
EBIT margin (%)	3.7	4.1	5.6	4.9	4.6	3.2	5.4	5.3	2.5	4.1	6.6	7.5
Net financial items	0	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4	-3	-4
Pre-tax profit	4	4	6	6	21	3	6	6	3	18	38	45
Тах	0	0	0	-1	-2	0	-1	0	0	-2	-2	-3
Tax rate (%)	7.1	6.8	7.8	9.8	8.1	20.0	11.5	4.8	7.0	9.5	5.8	7.0
Net profit	4	4	6	6	19	2	5	6	2	15	35	41
EPS	0.13	0.13	0.19	0.18	0.63	0.06	0.17	0.19	0.05	0.48	1.10	1.29
EPS adjusted (diluted no. of shares)	0.13	0.13	0.19	0.18	0.63	0.06	0.17	0.19	0.05	0.48	1.10	1.29
Dividend per share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.50	0.60
SALES, EURm												
ESL Shipping	19	20	18	23	79	21	23	31	42	116	182	192
Leipurin	29	30	30	33	122	30	31	28	33	122	125	128
Telko	64	66	67	66	262	58	72	67	69	265	288	308
Kauko	7	9	12	11	39	7	7	10	10	35	23	24
Total	119	124	127	132	502	115	133	136	154	538	619	651
SALES GROWTH, Y/Y %												
ESL Shipping	16.7	16.8	2.2	9.7	11.1	8.5	15.9	67.2	86.6	46.1	57.5	5.3
Leipurin	12.2	4.5	10.7	7.2	8.5	2.7	3.7	-6.4	0.3	0.1	2.4	2.0
Telko	28.7	5.6	5.5	1.1	9.1	-9.3	9.1	0.0	4.9	1.3	8.6	6.7
Kauko	6.0	0.0	23.2	36.1	17.0	-2.8	-15.3	-11.1	-11.0	- 10.5	-33.0	2.0
Total	20.8	6.5	7.6	6.3	9.8	-3.1	7.2	7.1	16.3	7.1	15.1	5.1
EBIT, EURm												
ESL Shipping	3	3	3	4	14	3	4	4	5	16	25	29
Leipurin	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	4	5
Telko	2	2	3	3	11	2	4	3	3	12	16	18
Kauko	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	1	-5	-5	1	1
Other operations	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	-5	-4	-4
Total	4	5	7	7	23	4	7	7	4	22	41	49
EBIT margin, %												
ESL Shipping	15.9	15.9	18.0	18.1	17.0	12.7	19.0	13.1	12.5	14.0	13.6	15.2
Leipurin	1.4	2.0	4.7	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.0	3.4	3.8
Telko	3.6	3.7	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.8	5.0	4.3	5.0	4.6	5.5	6.0
Kauko	-7.0	1.2	1.7	0.0	-0.5	-8.7	-5.6	6.7	-48.2	-14.9	2.4	2.5
Total	3.7	4.1	5.6	4.9	4.6	3.2	5.4	5.3	2.5	4.1	6.6	7.5

INCOME STATEMENT, EURm	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Sales	476	483	446	457	502	538	619	651
Sales growth (%)	-1.1	1.4	-7.7	2.6	9.8	7.1	15.1	5.1
Costs	-455	-448	-413	-425	-467	-505	-566	-588
Reported EBITDA	22	35	33	32	35	34	54	64
Extraordinary items in EBITDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	04
EBITDA margin (%)	4.5	7.2	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.2	8.7	9.8
Depreciation	-11	-11	-12	-12	-12	-12	-13	-15
EBITA	-11		-12	-12		-12	-13	
		23			23			49
Goodwill amortization / writedown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reported EBIT	11	23	21	20	23	22	41	49
EBIT margin (%)	2.3	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.1	6.6	7.5
Net financials	-4	-4	1	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4
Pre-tax profit	7	19	21	17	21	18	38	45
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-3
Minority shares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	9	18	20	16	19	15	35	41
BALANCE SHEET, EURm								
Assets								
Fixed assets	119	127	128	124	128	188	184	176
% of sales	25	26	29	27	25	35	30	27
Goodwill	45	44	43	43	42	42	42	42
% of sales	10	9	10	9	8	8	7	6
Inventory	48	47	48	57	61	59	68	72
% of sales	10	10	11	12	12	11	11	11
Receivables	58	56	58	60	70	70	81	85
% of sales	12	12	13	13	14	13	13	13
Liquid funds	28	19	24	23	20	27	31	33
% of sales	6	4	5	5	4	5	5	5
Total assets	302	298	305	310	321	386	405	407
Liabilities	302	298	305	310	321	300	405	407
	00	0.4	00	00	07	00	100	10.4
Equity	83	84	83	90	87	89	109	134
% of sales	17	17	19	20	17	17	18	21
Deferred taxes	8	6	5	4	0	0	0	0
% of sales	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Interest bearing debt	150	144	148	150	162	218	205	177
% of sales	31	30	33	33	32	41	33	27
Non-interest bearing current liabilities	60	62	68	64	68	75	87	91
% of sales	13	13	15	14	14	14	14	14
Other interest free debt	1	1	2	1	4	4	4	4
% of sales	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total liabilities	302	298	305	310	321	386	405	407
CASH FLOW, EURm								
+ EBITDA	22	35	33	32	35	34	54	64
- Net financial items	-4	-4	1	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4
- Taxes	-3	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3
- Increase in Net Working Capital	0	-8	-4	-11	-13	9	-8	-3
+/- Other	1	2	-2	0	0	-1	-1	-1
= Cash flow from operations	16	22	25	16	17	36	39	52
- Capex	-4	-20	-15	-6	-18	-72	-8	-7
- Capex - Acquisitions	-4	-20	-15	-6 0	-18	-72	-8 0	-7
+ Divestments								
+ LUVESTITIETTS	0 12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17	2	10	10	0	-36	31	45
= Net cash flow		~			11	67		-28
= Net cash flow +/- Change in interest-bearing debt	10	-6	3	3		57	-13	
= Net cash flow +/- Change in interest-bearing debt +/- New issues/buybacks	10 -3	-11	-9	4	-9	0	0	0
= Net cash flow +/- Change in interest-bearing debt +/- New issues/buybacks - Paid dividend	10 -3 -13	-11 -6	-9 -12	4 -13	-9 -13	0 -13	0 -14	0 -16
= Net cash flow +/- Change in interest-bearing debt +/- New issues/buybacks	10 -3	-11	-9	4	-9	0	0	0

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
173	229	250	310	265	265	265
125	124	128	142	191	174	145
298	353	378	451	456	439	410
483	446	457	502	538	619	651
35	33	32	35	34	54	64
23	21	20	23	22	41	49
19	21	17	21	18	38	45
18	20	16	19	15	35	41
84	83	90	87	89	109	134
0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
8.6	10.7	11.8	12.9	13.6	8.2	6.4
12.7	17.1	18.5	19.5	20.8	10.7	8.4
12.7	17.1	18.5	19.5	20.8	10.7	8.4
13.5	14.1	23.3	25.9	11.3	10.2	7.2
10.7	11.4	13.9	14.8	16.3	9.1	7.2
9.4	11.6	15.7	16.0	17.6	7.7	6.5
9.4	11.6	15.7	16.0	17.6	7.7	6.5
2.1	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.0	2.4	2.0
0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
7.9	9.2	15.4	17.8	6.6	6.1	4.6
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	11.3	8.9
0.0	0.0	0.0	16.5	19.2	8.4	7.2
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.7	2.2
30,402	30,496	30,579	30,976	31,420	31,420	31,420
30,402	30,496	30,579	30,976	31,420	31,420	31,420
0.61	0.65	0.52	0.63	0.48	1.10	1.29
0.61	0.65	0.52	0.63	0.48	1.10	1.29
0.92	1.02	0.89	0.98	0.89	1.54	1.81
0.72	0.82	0.53	0.56	1.28	1.38	1.82
6.88	6.77	7.11	7.39	8.92	9.03	8.89
2.77	2.71	2.93	2.82	2.83	3.48	4.28
1.31	1.31	1.53	1.46	1.50	2.15	2.94
0.40	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.45	0.50	0.60
66.1	63.1	80.8	68.7	93.6	45.5	46.4
7.0	5.5	5.1	4.3	5.3	5.9	7.1
22.1	23.8	18.5	21.9	17.1	34.8	33.3
10.1	9.0	8.7	9.5	7.9	13.2	15.6
4.1	3.4	1.4	3.5	13.3	1.3	1.1
186.1	133.5	54.8	154.0	616.5	63.2	48.8
3.6	3.7	4.0	4.0	5.7	3.2	2.3
	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7
0.8	0.0					
0.8 28.2	27.1	28.9	27.2	23.1	27.0	33.0
28.2	27.1			23.1 2.15	27.0 1.59	33.0 1.08
28.2 1.49	27.1 1.50	1.43	1.62	2.15	1.59	1.08
28.2	27.1					
	173 125 298 483 35 23 19 18 84 0.6 8.6 12.7 12.7 12.7 13.5 10.7 9.4 9.4 2.1 0.4 7.9 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	173 229 125 124 298 353 483 446 35 33 23 21 19 21 18 20 84 83	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

COMPANY DESCRIPTION: Aspo is a conglomerate operating mainly in Northern and Eastern Europe through subsidiaries ESL Shipping, Telko, Leipurin and Kauko. Two thirds of Aspo's revenue is attributable to Finland, Russia, Ukraine and other CIS countries.

INVESTMENT CASE:

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE	SHARES	EURm	0/0
Havsudden Oy Ab	3,142,941	26.526	10.0%
Vehmas Tatu Antti Aleksi	2,306,676	19.468	7.3%
Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company	1,438,412	12.140	4.6%
Vehmas Tapio	1,375,827	11.612	4.4%
Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company	1,000,676	8.446	3.2%
Robinson Joanna	754,259	6.366	2.4%
Nyberg Gustav	731,667	6.175	2.3%
Nordea Nordic Small Cap Fund	721,040	6.086	2.3%
Mandatum Life Unit-Linked	515,000	4.347	1.6%
Procurator-Holding Oy	470,969	3.975	1.5%
Ten largest	12,457,467	105.141	40%
Residual	18,962,312	160.042	60%
Total	31,419,779	265.183	100%

EARNINGS CALENDAR	
February 14, 2019	FY 2018 Results
May 08, 2019	Q1 report
August 14, 2019	Q2 report
October 29, 2019	Q3 report
OTHER EVENTS	

COMPANY MISCELLANEOUS	
CEO: Ojanen Aki	P.O. Box 499, Mikonkatu 13 A, FI-00101 Helsinki
CFO: Meitsalo Arto	Tel: +358 ,9 5,211
IR: Seppälä Harri	

ASPO Conglomerates/Finland, December 19, 2018 Company update

DEFINITIONS

P/E	EPS		
Price per share	Profit before extraordinary items and taxes		
Earnings per share	– incometaxes + minority interest		
	Number of shares		
P/Sales	DPS		
Market cap	Dividend for the financial period per share		
Sales			
P/BV	CEPS		
Price per share	Gross cash flow from operations		
Shareholders' equity + taxed provisionsper share	Number of shares		
P/CF	EV/Share		
Priceper share	Enterprise value		
Operating cash flow per share	Number of shares		
EV (Enterprise value)	Sales/Share		
$Market cap + net debt + minority interest \ at \ market \ value$	Sales		
- share of associated companies at market value	Number of shares		
Net debt	EBITDA/Share		
Interest bearing debt - financial assets	Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation		
	Number of shares		
EV/Sales	EBIT/Share		
Enterprise value	Operating profit		
Sales	Number of shares		
ev/ebitda	EAFI/Share		
Enterprise value	Pretax profit		
Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation	Number of shares		
EV/EBIT	Capital employed/Share		
Enterprise value	Total assets – non interest bearing debt		
Operating profit	Number of shares		
Div yield, %	Total assets		
Dividend per share	Balance sheet total		
Price per share			
Payout ratio, %	Interest coverage (x)		
Total dividends	Operating profit		
${\sf Earnings} \ {\sf before} \ {\sf extraordinary} \ {\sf items} \ {\sf and} \ {\sf taxes} - {\sf income} \ {\sf taxes} + {\sf minority} \ {\sf interest}$	Financial items		
Net cash/Share	Asset turnover (x)		
Financial assets – interest bearing debt	Turnover		
Number of shares	Balance sheet to tal (average)		
ROA, %	Debt/Equity, %		
Operating profit + financial income + extraordinary items	Interest bearing debt		
Balance sheet total – interest free short term debt	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions		
 long term advances received and accounts payable (average) 			
ROCE, %	Equity ratio, %		
$\label{eq:profit} Profit before extraordinary items + interest\ expenses + other\ financial\ costs$	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions		
Balance sheet total – non interest bearing debt (average)	Total assets – interest free loans		
ROE, %	CAGR, %		
Profit before extraordinary items and taxes – income taxes	$Cumulative annual growth rate = {\sf Average} {\sf growth per} {\sf year}$		
Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions (average)			

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Name(s) of the analyst(s): Ilvonen

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Contact information SALES AND TRADING HELSINKI

Equity Sales		Trading	Trading		ETFs and Derivatives	
Ari Laine Lauri Ahokanto Niclas Henelius	+358 9 4766 9115 +358 9 4766 9117 +358 9 4766 9116	Lauri Vehkaluoto (Head) Pasi Väisänen Antti Kässi	+358 9 4766 9130 +358 9 4766 9120 +358 9 4766 9120	Tobias Björk (Head) Joachim Dannberg Kimmo Lilja	+358 9 4766 9130 +358 9 4766 9123 +358 9 4766 9130	
Structured Investments	ured Investments Corporate Bonds sales and trading		Derivatives Trading			
Heikki Savijoki Aki Lakkisto	+358 9 4766 9726 +358 9 4766 9123	Jukka Hyvönen Thomas Kaukonen	+46 8 407 8138 +358 9 4766 9542	Sami Järvinen	+358 9 4766 9110	
Evli Investment Solutions						
Johannes Asuja Markku Reinikainen	+358 9 4766 9205 +358 9 4766 9669					
SALES AND TRADING STOCK	HOLM					
Urban Lawesson (Head) Thomas Kåhrström	+46 8 407 8021 +46 8 407 8018					

EQUITY RESEARCH

Joonas Häyhä		
Joonas Ilvonen		
Jonas Forslund		
Jerker Salokivi		

+358 9 4766 9662 +358 44 430 9071 +358 9 4766 9314 +358 9 4766 9149



Aleksanterinkatu 19 A P.O. Box 1081 FIN-00101 Helsinki, FINLAND Phone +358 9 476 690 Fax +358 9 634 382 Internet www.evli.com E-mail firstname.lastname@evli.com

EVLI BANK PLC, STOCKHOLMSFILIAL Kungsgatan 27, P.O. Box 16354 SE-111 56 Stockholm SE-111 56 Stockholm Sverige stockholm@evli.com Tel +46 (0)8 407 8000 Fax +46 (0)8 407 8001