# ASPO

Conglomerates/Finland, March 1, 2019 Company update

# Larger EBIT gain to materialize in '20

We met with Aspo's management to discuss near term outlook for ESL and Telko. Based on the discussions, we revise our estimates for 2019-20. While in our view Aspo companies are on a steady track towards higher EBIT margins, we acknowledge that our estimates have been too optimistic, especially for 2019. We update our projections to reflect the fact that the earnings improvement trajectory for ESL and Telko is likely to play out over a longer period than we previously expected.

#### We now expect flat H1'19 EBIT for ESL Shipping

Whereas we previously expected close to EUR 7m quarterly EBIT for ESL starting from the beginning of Q2'19, we now expect the second quarter to stay relatively muted (EUR 4m EBIT). Compared to our initial expectations, we now see it will take longer for ESL to reach the two new LNG vessels' optimal performance level. While the crane issue should be fixed by the end of Q1, it will be a few more months before operational efficiency will achieve the desired standards. We expect ESL to demonstrate more significant EBIT improvement during the second half of 2019, and we estimate a quarterly EBIT above EUR 6m to be feasible after 2019.

#### Telko's 2019 EBIT margin to improve by 30bps

Telko's EBIT margin improved by 40bps in 2018, reaching 4.5%. Whereas we previously expected further margin expansion to the tune of 100bps in 2019, we now moderate our estimate to equal a 30bps increase. Procurement efficiency will improve slower than we estimated earlier. Telko's stated target for 2020 is an EBIT margin of 6-7%. We now expect Telko to reach this target only during the last quarter of 2020.

#### Our rating is BUY, target EUR 9.50 (9.75) per share

Aspo now trades at 13.6x our 2019e EBIT. We update our target price to EUR 9.50 (9.75) per share based on SOTP and DCF valuations. Our rating remains BUY.



Share price, EUR (Price at Mar 1, 2019, 13:00)	8.48
Target price, EUR	9.50
Latest change in recommendation Latest report on company Research paid by issuer: No. of shares outstanding, '000's No. of shares fully diluted, '000's Market cap, EURm Free float, % Exchange rate EUR/RUB Reuters code Bloomberg code Average daily volume, EURm Next interim report Web site	14-Feb-19 14-Feb-19 YES 31,420 31,420 266 - - - ASPO.HE ASPO.FH 0.1 08-May-19 www.aspo.com
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#### 🖪 BUY 🖸 HOLD 🗖 SELL

KEY FIGURES											
	Sales EURm	EBIT EURm	EBIT %	Ptx profit EURm	EPS EUR	P/E (x)	EV/Sales (x)	P/CF (x)	EV/EBIT (x)	DPS EUR	
2017	502	23	4.6%	21	0.63	16.0	0.9	17.8	19.5	0.43	
2018	541	21	3.8%	17	0.44	19.1	0.8	6.8	22.2	0.44	
2019E	609	33	5.4%	29	0.83	10.2	0.7	7.3	13.7	0.50	
2020E	648	44	6.7%	39	1.13	7.5	0.7	5.2	9.8	0.60	
2021E	669	46	6.9%	42	1.22	7.0	0.6	4.8	8.8	0.73	
Market cap	, EURm		266 I	BV per share 201	9E, EUR		1, %	40.3			
Net debt 2	019E, EURm		182 l	Price/book 2019		21, %	7.4				
Total assets 2019E, EURm402Tax rate 20			449 l	Dividend yield 2019E, %			5.9 ROE 2019E, %				
			Tax rate 2019E, ១	% 7.5 ROCE 2019E, %					10.5		
			Equity ratio 2019	9E, %		0.6					

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

b. we update our projections nings improvement trajectory play out over a longer period 2 0

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#### Sum-of-the-parts valuation

	EV/EBIT
ESL SHIPPING PEER GROUP	19
Golden Ocean Group Ltd	16.1x
Ship Finance International Limited	16.8x
Pangaea Logistics Solutions Ltd.	3.9x
Star Bulk Carriers Corp.	11.8x
Navios Maritime Partners LP	10.2x
Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd	6.3x
Diana Shipping Inc.	11.5x
Scorpio Bulkers, Inc.	21.0x
Safe Bulkers, Inc.	12.3x
Seanergy Maritime Holdings Corp.	
Euroseas Ltd.	
Peer Group Average	12.2x
Peer Group Median	11.8x

	EV/EBIT
TELKO PEER GROUP	19
Brenntag AG	11.1x
Nexeo Solutions, Inc.	11.2x
IMCD N.V.	21.1x
Univar, Inc.	10.9x
PT AKR Corporindo Tbk	16.9x
Sinochem International Corp	
Peer Group Average	14.2x
Peer Group Median	11.2x

SOTP Analysis				
Group company	Metric	Est., EURM	Multiple*	EV
ESL	2019 EBIT	18.5	11.8x	218
Telko	2019 EBIT	13.8	11.2x	155
Leipurin	2019 EBIT	4.2	13.9x	59
Kauko	2019 EBIT	0.5	11.9x	6.5
Other operations	2019 EBIT	-4.4	11.9x	-52
Total				386
Net debt (end 2019, I	Evli est.), includi	ing hybrid		159
Equity value				227
Per share				7.2
*Poor aroun modion	(ONNV II DE for V	auko and other a	norational cours	raat EastCat

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

VALUATION RESULTS	BASE CASE DETAILS	VALUATION ASSUMPTIONS	ASSUMPTIONS FOR WACC	
Current share price	8.48 PV of Free Cash Flow	279 Long-term growth, %	1.0 Risk-free interest rate, %	2.25
DCF share value	11.73 PV of Horizon value	282 WACC, %	7.4 Market risk premium, %	5.8
Share price potential, %	38.3 Unconsolidated equity	0 Spread, %	0.5 Debt risk premium, %	2.8
Maximum value	13.1 Marketable securities	27 Minimum WACC, %	6.9 Equity beta coefficient	1.00
Minimum value	10.5 Debt - dividend	-220 Maximum WACC, %	7.9 Target debt ratio, %	35
Horizon value, %	50.3 Value of stock	368 Nr of shares, Mn	31.4 Effective tax rate, %	10

DCF valuation, EURm	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	Horizon
Net sales	541	609	648	669	688	706	720	734	745	756	764	772
Sales growth, %	7.7	12.6	6.4	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0
Operating income (EBIT)	21	33	44	46	51	49	47	44	41	42	42	42
EBIT margin, %	3.8	5.4	6.7	6.9	7.4	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
+ Depreciation+amort.	12	13	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	
- Income taxes	-2	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4	-4	-4	-3	-3	-3	
- Change in NWC	9	-7	-4	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	
NWC / Sales, %	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
+ Change in other liabs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Capital Expenditure	-72	-8	-7	-11	2	-13	-12	-12	-15	-15	-15	-15
Investments / Sales, %	13.3	1.3	1.1	1.6	-0.3	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
- Other items	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	
= Unlevered Free CF (FCF)	-34	27	43	43	60	42	41	38	33	34	36	571
= Discounted FCF (DFCF)		26	38	35	46	30	27	24	19	18	18	282
= DFCF min WACC		26	38	36	47	30	28	24	20	19	19	320
= DFCF max WACC		25	37	35	45	29	26	23	18	17	17	250

INTERIM FIGURES												
EVLI ESTIMATES, EURm	2018Q1	2018Q2	2018Q3	2018Q4	2018	2019Q1E	2019Q2E	2019Q3E	2019Q4E	2019E	2020E	2021E
Net sales	115	133	136	157	541	137	155	159	159	609	648	669
EBITDA	7	10	10	6	32	9	11	13	13	46	58	61
EBITDA margin (%)	5.8	7.3	7.4	3.7	6.0	6.3	7.3	8.3	7.9	7.5	9.0	9.1
EBIT	4	7	7	3	21	5	8	10	9	33	44	46
EBIT margin (%)	3.2	5.4	5.3	1.7	3.8	4.0	5.2	6.3	5.9	5.4	6.7	6.9
Net financial items	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-4	-4
Pre-tax profit	3	6	6	2	17	5	7	9	9	29	39	42
Tax	0	-1	0	0	-2	0	0	-1	-1	-2	-3	-3
Tax rate (%)	20.0	11.5	4.8	7.0	9.7	10.8	7.0	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.0	7.0
Net profit	2	5	6	0	14	4	7	9	7	26	35	38
EPS	0.06	0.17	0.19	0.02	0.44	0.13	0.21	0.27	0.21	0.83	1.13	1.22
EPS adjusted (diluted no. of shares)	0.06	0.17	0.19	0.02	0.44	0.13	0.21	0.27	0.21	0.83	1.13	1.22
Dividend per share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.60	0.73
SALES, EURm												
ESL Shipping	21	23	31	46	120	40	43	44	46	173	190	196
Leipurin	30	31	28	32	121	28	32	30	33	124	126	129
Telko	58	72	67	70	266	64	75	77	74	289	308	321
Kauko	7	7	10	9	34	5	5	7	6	23	23	23
Total	115	133	136	157	541	137	155	159	159	609	648	669
SALES GROWTH, Y/Y %												
ESL Shipping	8.5	15.9	67.2	105.3	51.5	95.6	91.3	44.2	-0.8	44.5	9.8	3.0
Leipurin	2.7	3.7	-6.4	-4.0	- 1. 1	-5.6	1.3	8.9	5.5	2.4	2.0	2.0
Telko	-9.3	9.1	0.0	6.0	1.5	10.3	4.5	14.5	5.8	8.6	6.7	4.0
Kauko	-2.8	-15.3	-11.1	- 19.5	-13.0	-33.0	-33.0	-33.0	-33.0	-33.0	2.0	2.0
Total	-3.1	7.2	7.1	18.3	7.7	18.7	16.5	16.4	1.5	12.6	6.4	3.2
EBIT, EURm												
ESL Shipping	3	4	4	4	15	3	4	6	5	19	25	26
Leipurin	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	5	5
Telko	2	4	3	3	12	3	4	4	4	14	17	19
Kauko	-1	0	1	-4	-5	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other operations	-1	-1	-1	-1	-5	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4	-4	-4
Total	4	7	7	3	21	5	8	10	9	33	44	46
EBIT margin, %												
ESL Shipping	12.7	19.0	13.1	9.1	12.6	7.2	9.8	13.6	11.7	10.7	13.2	13.0
Leipurin	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.7	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.9	4.0
Telko	3.8	5.0	4.3	4.9	4.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.6	6.0
Kauko	-8.7	-5.6	6.7	-48.4	-14.0	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.5
Total	3.2	5.4	5.3	1.7	3.8	4.0	5.2	6.3	5.9	5.4	6.7	6.9

INCOME STATEMENT, EURm	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Sales	483	446	457	502	541	609	648	669
Sales growth (%)	1.4	-7.7	2.6	9.8	7.7	12.6	6.4	3.2
Costs	-448	-413	-425	-467	-509	-564	-590	-609
Reported EBITDA	35	33	32	35	32	46	58	61
Extraordinary items in EBITDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA margin (%)	7.2	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.5	9.0	9.1
Depreciation	-11	-12	-12	-12	-12	-13	-15	-15
EBITA	23	21	20	23	21	33	44	46
Goodwill amortization / writedown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reported EBIT	23	21	20	23	21	33	44	46
EBIT margin (%)	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.6	3.8	5.4	6.7	6.9
Net financials	-4	1	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4	-4
Pre-tax profit	19	21	17	21	17	29	39	42
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3
Minority shares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	18	20	16	19	14	26	35	38
BALANCE SHEET, EURm	10	20	10	15		20	55	50
Assets	107	100	10.4	100	100	100	170	170
Fixed assets	127	128	124	128	188	183	176	172
% of sales	26	29	27	25	35	30	27	26
Goodwill	44	43	43	42	42	42	42	42
% of sales	9	10	9	8	8	7	6	6
Inventory	47	48	57	61	59	67	71	74
% of sales	10	11	12	12	11	11	11	11
Receivables	56	58	60	70	70	79	84	87
% of sales	12	13	13	14	13	13	13	13
Liquid funds	19	24	23	20	27	30	32	33
% of sales	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Total assets Liabilities	298	305	310	321	387	402	406	408
Equity	84	83	90	87	88	100	120	139
% of sales	17	19	20	17	16	16	18	21
Deferred taxes	6	5	4	0	0	0	0	0
% of sales	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Interest bearing debt	144	148	150	162	220	213	191	171
% of sales	30	33	33	32	41	35	30	26
Non-interest bearing current liabilities	62	68	64	68	76	85	91	94
% of sales	13	15	14	14	14	14	14	14
Other interest free debt	1	2	1	4	4	4	4	4
% of sales	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Total liabilities	298	305	310	321	387	402	406	408
CASH FLOW, EURm								
+ EBITDA	35	33	32	35	32	46	58	61
- Net financial items	-4	1	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4	-4
- Taxes	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-3
- Increase in Net Working Capital	-8	-4	-11	-13	9	-7	-4	-2
+/- Other	2	-2	0	0	-1	-1	-1	-1
= Cash flow from operations	22	25	16	17	34	32	46	51
- Capex	-20	-15	-6	-18	-72	-8	-7	-11
- Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
+ Divestments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
= Net cash flow	2	10	10	0	-38	24	39	40
+/- Change in interest-bearing debt	-6	3	3	11	58	-7	-21	-20
+/- New issues/buybacks	-11	-9	4	-9	0	, 0	0	20
- Paid dividend	-6	-12	-13	-13	-13	-14	-16	-19
+/- Change in loan receivables	-0 3	-12	-13	-13	-13	-14	-10	-19
-								1
Change in cash	-18	-3	4	-10	7	3	2	

KEY FIGURES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
M-cap	229	250	310	265	266	266	266
Net debt	124	128	142	193	182	159	138
Enterprise value	353	378	451	458	449	425	404
Sales	446	457	502	541	609	648	669
EBITDA	33	32	35	32	46	58	61
EBIT	21	20	23	21	33	44	46
Pre-tax	21	17	21	17	29	39	42
Earnings	20	16	19	14	26	35	38
Book value	83	90	87	88	100	120	139
Valuation multiples							
EV/sales	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
EV/EBITDA	10.7	11.8	12.9	14.2	9.8	7.3	6.7
EV/EBITA	17.1	18.5	19.5	22.2	13.7	9.8	8.8
EV/EBIT	17.1	18.5	19.5	22.2	13.7	9.8	8.8
EV/operating cash flow	14.1	23.3	25.9	11.8	12.4	8.3	7.3
EV/cash earnings	11.4	13.9	14.8	17.1	11.2	8.2	7.5
P/E	11.6	15.7	16.0	19.1	10.2	7.5	7.0
P/E excl. goodwill	11.6	15.7	16.0	19.1	10.2	7.5	7.0
P/B	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.2	1.9
P/sales	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
P/CF	9.2	15.4	17.8	6.8	7.3	5.2	4.8
Target EV/EBIT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.7	10.5	9.5
Target P/E	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	8.4	7.8
Target P/B	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	2.5	2.1
Per share measures							
Number of shares	30,496	30,579	30,976	31,420	31,420	31,420	31,420
Number of shares (diluted)	30,496	30,579	30,976	31,420	31,420	31,420	31,420
EPS	0.65	0.52	0.63	0.44	0.83	1.13	1.22
EPS excl. goodwill	0.65	0.52	0.63	0.44	0.83	1.13	1.22
Cash EPS	1.02	0.89	0.98	0.85	1.28	1.64	1.72
Operating cash flow per share	0.82	0.53	0.56	1.24	1.16	1.64	1.76
Capital employed per share	6.77	7.11	7.39	8.93	8.99	8.88	8.83
Book value per share	2.71	2.93	2.82	2.80	3.19	3.82	4.43
Book value excl. goodwill	1.31	1.53	1.46	1.46	1.85	2.48	3.10
Dividend per share	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.44	0.50	0.60	0.73
Dividend payout ratio, %	63.1	80.8	68.7	99.6	60.2	53.1	60.0
Dividend yield, %	5.5	5.1	4.3	5.2	5.9	7.1	8.6
Efficiency measures							
ROE	23.8	18.5	21.9	15.8	27.8	32.3	29.5
ROCE	9.0	8.7	9.5	7.4	10.5	13.9	14.8
Financial ratios							
		1.4	3.5	13.3	1.3	1.1	1.6
Capex/sales, %	3.4	1.7					74.6
	3.4 133.5	54.8	154.0	616.9	62.2	49.5	74.0
Capex/sales, %			154.0 4.0	616.9 6.0	62.2 4.0	49.5 2.7	2.3
Capex/sales, % Capex/depreciation excl. goodwill,%	133.5	54.8					
Capex/sales, % Capex/depreciation excl. goodwill,% Net debt/EBITDA, book-weighted	133.5 3.7	54.8 4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	2.7	2.3
Capex/sales, % Capex/depreciation excl. goodwill,% Net debt/EBITDA, book-weighted Debt/equity, market-weighted	133.5 3.7 0.6	54.8 4.0 0.6	4.0 0.5	6.0 0.8	4.0 0.8	2.7 0.7	2.3 0.6
Capex/sales, % Capex/depreciation excl. goodwill,% Net debt/EBITDA, book-weighted Debt/equity, market-weighted Equity ratio, book-weighted	133.5 3.7 0.6 27.1	54.8 4.0 0.6 28.9	4.0 0.5 27.2	6.0 0.8 22.7	4.0 0.8 24.9	2.7 0.7 29.5	2.3 0.6 34.1
Capex/sales, % Capex/depreciation excl. goodwill,% Net debt/EBITDA, book-weighted Debt/equity, market-weighted Equity ratio, book-weighted Gearing	133.5 3.7 0.6 27.1 1.50	54.8 4.0 0.6 28.9 1.43	4.0 0.5 27.2 1.62	6.0 0.8 22.7 2.19	4.0 0.8 24.9 1.82	2.7 0.7 29.5 1.33	2.3 0.6 34.1 0.99

## ASPO Conglomerates/Finland, March 1, 2019 Company update

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	%
Havsudden Oy Ab	3,142,941	26.652	10.0%
Vehmas Tatu Antti Aleksi	2,306,676	19.561	7.3%
Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company	1,438,412	12.198	4.6%
Vehmas Tapio	1,375,827	11.667	4.4%
Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company	1,000,676	8.486	3.2%
Robinson Joanna	754,259	6.396	2.4%
Nyberg Gustav	731,667	6.205	2.3%
Nordea Nordic Small Cap Fund	721,040	6.114	2.3%
Mandatum Life Unit-Linked	515,000	4.367	1.6%
Procurator-Holding Oy	470,969	3.994	1.5%
Ten largest	12,457,467	105.639	40%
Residual	18,962,312	160.800	60%
Total	31,419,779	266.440	100%

EARNINGS CALENDAR	
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:	

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#### DEFINITIONS

P/E	EPS		
Price per share	Profit before extraordinary items and taxes		
Earnings per share	– income taxes + minority interest		
	Number of shares		
-			
P/Sales Market con	DPS Dividend for the financial period pershare		
Market cap Sales	Dividend for the infancial period per share		
Sales			
P/BV	CEPS		
Price per share	Gross cash flow from operations		
Shareholders' equity + taxed provisionsper share	Number of shares		
	D.//Chause		
P/CF Price per share	EV/Share Enterprise value		
Operating cash flow per share	Number of shares		
operating cash now per share	Number of shares		
EV (Enterprise value)	Sales/Share		
Market cap + net debt + minority interest at market value	Sales		
<ul> <li>– share of associated companies at market value</li> </ul>	Number of shares		
Net debt	EBITDA/Share		
Interest bearing debt – financial assets	Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation		
	Number of shares		
EV/Sales Enterprise value	EBIT/Share Operating profit		
Sales	Number of shares		
Jaies	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		
	<b>T</b> . 1 .		
Div yield, % Dividend pershare	Total assets Balance sheet total		
Price per share	Datance sheet total		
r nee per share			
Payout ratio, %	Interest coverage (x)		
Total dividends	Operating profit		
${\sf Earnings} \ {\sf before\ extraordinary\ items\ and\ taxes-income\ taxes+minority\ interest}$	Financial items		
Net cash/Share	Asset turnover (x)		
Financial assets – interest bearing debt	Turnover		
Number of shares	Balance sheet total (average)		
ROA, %	Debt/Equity, % Interest bearing debt		
Operating profit + financial income + extraordinary items Balance sheet total – interest free short term debt			
	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions		
<ul> <li>long term advances received and accounts payable (average)</li> </ul>			
ROCE, %	Equity ratio, %		
Profit before extraordinary items + interest expenses + other financial costs	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions		
Balance sheet total — noninterest bearing debt (average)	Total assets – interest free loans		
ROE, %	CAGR, %		
Profit before extraordinary items and taxes – income taxes	Cumulativeannual growthrate = Average growthper year		

### ASPO Conglomerates/Finland, March 1, 2019 Company update

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

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