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SOLTEO IT Services/Finland, April 7, 2020 Company update

Software house journey setback

Solteq withdrew its guidance for 2020 due to the prevailing uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Customer deliveries within core business areas have so far remained unaffected but we expect to see some weakness within smaller project deliveries. Ramping up sales of newly developed own products will likely also prove to be more challenging. We expect a 6.5% decline in revenue in 2020. We retain our HOLD-rating with a TP of EUR 0.95 (1.40).

Guidance withdrawn due to Coronavirus uncertainty

Solteq withdrew its guidance for 2020 for the time being due to the prevailing uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Customer deliveries with core business areas, with typically larger contracts and longer customer relationships, have so far continued without interruption. We expect the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic going forward to act as a driver for digitalization, partly due to movement restrictions and increasing online demand. In the near term we nonetheless expect revenue to be affected, mainly from smaller project deliveries. We also expect a more challenging ramp up of some of newer software products, some of which had already shown a promising start.

Expect a 6.5% sales decline in 2020

We have lowered our 2020 sales growth estimate to -6.5% (-1.4%) and EBIT to EUR 2.1m (3.5m). We currently expect to see clear margin and sales growth picking up in 2021 but note the high estimates uncertainty due to the Coronavirus outbreak. An additional uncertainty element is caused by the high leverage and interest expenses. Solteg informed of intentions to consider initiating a written procedure to extend its outstanding EUR 24.5m notes by 12 months, that were to mature July 1st, 2020.

HOLD with a TP of EUR 0.95 (1.40)

Solteq's cash flows were set to improve in the near-term due to lower investments and improved operational profitability. Although Solteq should be able to show relative resilience, the increased uncertainty amid the company's ambitions to change track towards a software focus is clearly suboptimal and we adjust our TP to EUR 0.95 (1.40), retaining our HOLD-rating.



Share price, EUR (Last trading day's closing price)	0.98
Target price, EUR	0.95
Latest change in recommendation	27-Jun-19
Latest report on company	28-Feb-20
Research paid by issuer:	YES
No. of shares outstanding, '000's	19,307
No. of shares fully diluted, '000's	19,307
Market cap, EURm	19
Free float, %	43.0
Exchange rate	0.000
Reuters code	SOLTEQ.HE
Bloomberg code	SOLTEQ.FH
Average daily volume, EURm	0.01
Next interim report	30-Apr-20
Web site	solteq.com/en/investors
Analyst	Jerker Salokivi
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BUY HOLD SELL

KEY FIGU	RES									
	Sales EURm	EBIT EURm	EBIT %	FCF EURm	EPS EUR	P/E (x)	EV/Sales (x)	EV/EBIT (x)	FCF yield %	DPS EUR
2018	56.9	2.5	4.3%	4.7	0.02	69.9	1.0	22.0	18.8	0.00
2019	58.3	5.7	9.8%	-3.2	0.15	27.1	1.0	10.6	-11.0	0.00
2020E	54.5	2.1	3.8%	0.2	0.00	560.5	0.9	24.4	1.3	0.03
2021E	57.1	3.5	6.1%	1.2	0.06	15.6	0.9	14.1	6.1	0.03
2022E	59.1	4.1	6.9%	2.2	0.09	11.0	0.8	11.8	11.5	0.04
Market cap	, EURm		19 G	earing 2020E,	%		2,%	17.4		
Net debt 2	020E, EURm		31 Pi	Price/book 2020E 0.8 CAGR sales 2019-22, %					22, %	0.5
Enterprise value, EURm 50				ividend yield 2	020E, %	3.1 ROE 2020E, %				0.1
Total assets 2020E, EURm 75 Tax ra				ix rate 2020E,	k rate 2020E, % 20.0 ROCE 2020E, %					3.5
Goodwill 2020E, EURm 39 Equity ratio 2020E, %				:0E, %		1.8				

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

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Solteq	2018	Q1/'19	Q2/'19	Q3/'19	Q4/'19	2019	Q1/'20E	Q2/'20E	Q3/'20E	Q4/'20E	2020E	2021E	2022E
Net sales	56.9	14.9	14.7	13.0	15.7	58.3	14.4	13.4	11.9	14.8	54.5	57.1	59.1
sales growth %	12.1%	0.2%	3.0%	1.2%	5.2%	2.5%	-3.7%	-8.5%	-8.2%	-6.0%	-6.5%	4.8%	3.5%
Other income	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Materials and services	-6.1	-0.9	-1.4	-1.4	-1.7	-5.4	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.5	-4.9	-5.0	-5.1
Personnel expenses	-35.6	-9.3	-9.4	-8.1	-9.9	-36.8	-9.2	-8.8	-7.5	-9.3	-34.8	-35.4	-36.3
Other expenses	-10.9	-2.2	-2.3	-2.2	-2.3	-9.0	-2.2	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-8.3	-8.4	-8.7
EBITDA	4.8	2.5	1.5	1.3	4.4	9.7	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.0	6.5	8.3	9.1
D&A	-2.3	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-4.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.0
EBIT	2.5	1.5	0.6	0.3	3.3	5.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	4.1
EBIT margin	4.3 %	10.2 %	3.9 %	2.2 %	21.1 %	9.8 %	5.5%	2.2%	1.3%	5.5%	3.8 %	6.1 %	<i>6.9 %</i>
Adjustment items	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	-2.2	-2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adjusted EBIT	3.1	1.5	0.6	0.3	1.1	3.5	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	4.1
Adj. EBIT margin	5.5%	10.3%	4.3%	2.2%	6.9%	6.1%	5.5%	2.2%	1.3%	5.5%	3.8%	6.1%	6.9%

	MCAP		EV/EB ITDA			EV/Sales			P/E	
SOLTEQ PEER GROUP	MEUR	20	21	22	20	21	22	20	21	22
TietoEVRY	2317	6.1x	5.3x	5.3x	1.2x	1.1x	1.1x	9.8x	8.9x	8.9x
Atea	850	6.9x	6.1x	6.1x	0.2x	0.2x	0.2x	15.6x	12.4x	12.4x
Knowit	234	6.9x	6.2x	6.2x	0.7x	0.7x	0.7x	11.6x	10.1x	10.1x
HiQ International	190	7.7x	7.2x	7.2x	1.1x	1.0x	1.0x	12.5x	11.7x	11.7x
Bouvet	328	10.2x	9.3x	9.3x	1.4x	1.3x	1.3x	17.5x	15.8x	15.8x
Enea	258	9.5x	8.6x	8.6x	3.0x	2.6x	2.6x	14.7x	14.0x	14.0x
Gofore	89				1.0x	0.8x	0.8x	13.3x	11.5x	11.5x
Digia	124	8.2x	7.8x	7.8x	1.0x	0.9x	0.9x	13.6x	12.4x	12.4x
Siili Solutions	54	7.3x	5.7x	5.7x	0.6x	0.5x	0.5x	15.3x	9.9x	9.9x
Vincit	39	10.1x	6.7x	6.7x	0.7x	0.7x	0.7x	20.0x	11.1x	11.1x
Innofactor	24	7.4x	6.9x	6.9x	0.6x	0.5x	0.5x	18.0x	11.1x	11.1x
Peer Group Average	410	8.0x	7.0x	7.0x	1.0x	0.9x	0.9x	14.7x	11.7x	11.7x
Peer Group Median	190	7.6x	6.8x	6.8x	1.0x	0.8x	0.8x	14.7x	11.5x	11.5x
Solteq (Evli est.)	19	7.7x	6.0x	5.3x	0.9x	0.9 x	0.8x	560.5x	15.6x	11.0x
Solteq prem./disc. to peer me	dian	2%	-12%	-22%	-4%	3%	-4%	>100%	36%	-4%

Source FactSet, Evli Research

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HOLD with a target price of EUR 0.95 (1.40)

On current EV/EBITDA and EV/sales multiples Solteq trades in line with peers while P/E multiples are clearly challenging due to the high interest expenses. We note that our peer group consists largely of Nordic IT services-oriented providers and Solteq's higher weight on software products should essentially warrant slightly higher valuation multiples. The peer multiples may however not necessarily yet be fully reflective of the lower valuation environment caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Solteq's multiples are in our view currently not particularly attractive given the uncertainty but the somewhat more resilient business gives added support and upside potential from Solteq's story of gearing towards becoming a software provider is still intact, although the pace will slow down. We adjust our target price to EUR 0.95 (1.40), reflective of our lowered estimates and increased uncertainty and retain our HOLD-rating.

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INTERIM FIGURES												
EVLI ESTIMATES, EURm	2019Q1	201902	2019Q3	2019Q4	2019	2020Q1E	2020Q2E	2020Q3E	2020Q4E	2020E	2021E	2022E
Net sales	14.9	14.7	13.0	15.7	58.3	14.4	13.4	11.9	14.8	54.5	57.1	59.1
EBITDA	2.5	1.6	1.3	4.4	9.7	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.0	6.5	8.3	9.1
EBITDA margin (%)	16.4	10.7	10.0	27.9	16.7	13.0	10.4	10.7	13.4	12.0	14.6	15.4
EBIT	1.5	0.6	0.3	3.3	5.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	4.1
EBIT margin (%)	10.2	3.9	2.2	21.2	9.8	5.5	2.2	1.3	5.5	3.8	6.1	6.9
Net financial items	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-2.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-2.0	-2.0	-1.9
Pre-tax profit	1.1	0.1	-0.2	2.8	3.7	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	0.3	0.0	1.5	2.2
Tax	-0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.7	-0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Tax rate (%)	23.7	-106.3	16.1	26.2	23.8	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Net profit	0.8	0.1	-0.2	2.0	2.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.0	1.2	1.7
EPS	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.11	0.15	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.09
EPS adjusted (diluted no. of shares)	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.06	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.09
Dividend per share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.04
SALES, EURm												
Solteq	14.9	14.7	13.0	15.7	58.3	14.4	13.4	11.9	14.8	54.5	57.1	59.1
Total	14.9	14.7	13.0	15.7	58.3	14.4	13.4	11.9	14.8	54.5	57.1	59.1
SALES GROWTH, Y/Y %												
Solteq	0.4	3.0	1.2	5.2	2.5	-3.7	-8.5	-8.2	-6.0	-6.5	4.8	3.5
Total	0.4	3.0	1.2	5.2	2.5	-3.7	-8.5	-8.2	-6.0	-6.5	4.8	3.5
EBIT, EURm												
Solteq	1.5	0.6	0.3	3.3	5.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	4.1
Total	1.5	0.6	0.3	3.3	5.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	4.1
EBIT margin, %												
Solteq	10.2	3.9	2.2	21.2	9.8	5.5	2.2	1.3	5.5	3.8	6.1	6.9
Total	10.2	3.9	2.2	21.2	9.8	5.5	2.2	1.3	5.5	3.8	6.1	6.9

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INCOME STATEMENT, EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020E	2021E	2022E
Sales	54.2	63.0	50.7	56.9	58.3	54.5	57.1	59.1
Sales growth (%)	32.6	16.3	-19.6	12.1	2.5	-6.5	4.8	3.5
EBITDA	3.1	8.4	2.4	4.8	9.7	6.5	8.3	9.1
EBITDA margin (%)	5.7	13.3	4.7	8.4	16.7	12.0	14.6	15.4
Depreciation	-1.8	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-4.0	-4.5	-4.8	-5.0
EBITA	1.3	6.5	0.3	2.5	5.7	2.1	3.5	4.1
Goodwill amortization / writedown	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	1.3	6.4	0.3	2.5	5.7	2.1	3.5	4.1
EBIT margin (%)	2.4	10.2	0.6	4.3	9.8	3.8	6.1	6.9
Reported EBIT	1.3	6.4	0.3	2.5	5.7	2.1	3.5	4.1
EBIT margin (reported) (%)	2.4	10.2	0.6	4.3	9.8	3.8	6.1	6.9
Net financials	-1.0	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-1.9
Pre-tax profit	0.3	4.7	-1.5	0.6	3.7	0.0	1.5	2.2
Taxes	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.9	0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Minority shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net profit	0.0	4.6	-1.5	0.4	2.8	0.0	1.2	1.7
Cash NRIs	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-cash NRIs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BALANCE SHEET, EURm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assets	0	7	0	10	11	10	11	11
Fixed assets	8	7	8	10	11	12	11	11
Goodwill	35	34	37	40	39	39	39	39
Right of use assets	0	0	0	6	7	7	7	7
Inventory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables	18	12	15	12	16	15	15	16
Liquid funds	3	8	2	5	4	3	4	4
Total assets	64	61	61	74	77	75	76	77
Liabilities								
Shareholder's equity	15	20	20	22	25	25	25	26
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Convertibles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lease liabilities	0	0	0	6	8	7	7	7
Deferred taxes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Interest bearing debt	28	26	26	28	28	28	27	25
Non-interest bearing current liabilities	18	14	14	17	17	16	16	17
Other interest-free debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	64	61	61	74	77	75	76	77
CASH FLOW, EURm								
+ EBITDA	3	8	2	5	10	7	8	9
- Net financial items	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
- Taxes	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0
- Increase in Net Working Capital	-3	3	-1	6	-1	0	0	0
+/- Other	0	-5	-2	0	-2	0	0	0
= Cash flow from operations	-1	4	-2	8	4	4	6	7
- Capex	-28	- 1	-1	-3	-7	-4	-5	-5
- Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
+ Divestments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
= Free cash flow	-29	3	-3	5	-3	0	1	2
+/- New issues/buybacks	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
- Paid dividend	0	0	- 1	0	0	0	-1	-1
+/- Other	25	3	-5	-2	2	0	0	-1
Change in cash	0	6	-7	4	-2	0	0	0

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KEY FIGURES	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020E	2021E	2022E
M-cap	28	28	25	29	19	19	19
Net debt (excl. convertibles)	17	24	29	32	31	31	29
Enterprise value	45	52	54	60	50	50	48
Sales	63	51	57	58	54	57	59
EBITDA	8	2	5	10	7	8	9
EBIT	6	0	2	6	2	4	4
Pre-tax	5	-1	1	4	0	2	2
Earnings	5	-2	0	3	0	1	2
Equity book value (excl. minorities)	20	20	22	25	25	25	26
Valuation multiples							
EV/sales	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
EV/EBITDA	5.4	21.8	11.4	6.2	7.7	6.0	5.3
EV/EBITA	7.0	168.7	22.0	10.6	24.4	14.1	11.8
EV/EBIT	7.1	168.7	22.0	10.6	24.4	14.1	11.8
EV/OCF	11.6	-25.1	6.8	14.6	11.3	8.2	7.1
EV/FCFF	4.2	-14.0	14.0	59.8	16.2	10.6	8.5
P/FCFE	9.3	-8.8	5.3	-9.1	79.9	16.4	8.7
P/E	6.1	-18.3	69.9	27.1	560.5	15.6	11.0
P/B	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.7
Target EV/EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	5.9	5.2
Target EV/EBIT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.1	14.0	11.6
Target EV/FCF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	209.6	42.5	21.8
Target P/B	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7
Target P/E	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	543.3	15.1	10.7
Per share measures							
Number of shares	17,639	18,197	19,202	19,307	19,307	19,307	19,307
Number of shares (diluted)	17,639	18,197	19,202	19,307	19,307	19,307	19,307
EPS	0.26	-0.08	0.02	0.15	0.00	0.06	0.09
Operating cash flow per share	0.22	-0.11	0.42	0.21	0.23	0.31	0.35
Free cash flow per share	0.17	-0.17	0.24	-0.16	0.01	0.06	0.11
Book value per share	1.15	1.13	1.14	1.27	1.27	1.31	1.36
Dividend per share	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.04
Dividend payout ratio, %	19.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,715.7	50.0	50.0
Dividend yield, %	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.2	4.6
FCF yield, %	10.8	-11.4	18.8	-11.0	1.3	6.1	11.5
Efficiency measures							
ROE	25.8	-7.4	1.7	12.1	0.1	4.9	6.7
ROCE	14.3	0.7	4.8	9.8	3.5	5.9	6.9
Financial ratios							
Inventories as % of sales	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Receivables as % of sales	18.9	28.9	21.1	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8
Non-interest bearing liabilities as % of sales	21.5	27.0	29.2	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6
NWC/sales, %	-2.5	2.2	-7.9	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Operative CAPEX/sales, %	1.4	2.1	5.8	12.5	7.7	8.6	7.7
operative en Expares, 40		0.1	5.8	12.5	7.7	8.6	7.7
CAPEX/sales (incl. acquisitions), %	1.4	2.1	5.0			0.0	
	1.4 1.3	2.1 -1.6	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.6
CAPEX/sales (incl. acquisitions), %							0.6 3.2
CAPEX/sales (incl. acquisitions), % FCFF/EBITDA	1.3	-1.6	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.6	
CAPEX/sales (incl. acquisitions), % FCFF/EBITDA Net debt/EBITDA, book-weighted	1.3 2.1	-1.6 10.2	0.8 6.2	0.1 3.2	0.5 4.8	0.6 3.7	3.2

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COMPANY DESCRIPTION: Solteq is a Nordic software and IT-services provider specializing in digital business solutions. Solteq's strength has been in commerce related solutions with a focus on selected sectors, namely the retail and wholesale, industry, energy, and services sectors. Recent product development investments have focused on autonomous service robotics.

INVESTMENT CASE: Solteq's investment case revolves around the success of executing its strategy of shifting from its IT-services oriented past towards becoming a software house. Implied margin upside potential is considerable, with segment targets putting margins clearly in the double digits. Growth will need to be sought from abroad, as domestic growth potential is more restricted.

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE	SHARES	EURm	0/0
Sentica Buyout III Ky	4,621,244	4.529	23.9%
Profiz Business Solution Oyj	2,051,997	2.011	10.6%
Elo Mutual Pension Insurance Company	2,000,000	1.960	10.4%
Saadetdin Ali	1,403,165	1.375	7.3%
Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company	1,245,597	1.221	6.5%
Aalto Seppo Tapio	700,000	0.686	3.6%
Roininen Matti Juhani	450,000	0.441	2.3%
Väätäinen Olli Pekka	400,000	0.392	2.1%
Lamy Oy	225,000	0.221	1.2%
Sentica Buyout III Co-Investment Ky	180,049	0.176	0.9%
Ten largest	13,277,052	13.012	69%
Residual	6,029,475	5.909	31%
Total	19,306,527	18.920	100%

EARNINGS CALENDAR	
April 30, 2020	Q1 report
August 13, 2020	Q2 report
October 29, 2020	Q3 report
OTHER EVENTS	
April 01, 2020	AGM

COMPANY MISCELLANEOUS	
CEO: Olli Väätainen	Karhumäentie 3, FI-01350
CFO: Kari Lehtosalo	Tel:
IR:	

SOLTEO IT Services/Finland, April 7, 2020 Company update

DEFINITIONS

P/E	EPS
Price per share	Profit before extraord. items and taxes- income taxes + minority interest
Earnings per share	Number of shares
P/BV	DPS
Price per share Shareholders' equity + taxed provisions per share	Dividend for the financial period per share
Shareholders equity + taked provisions per share	
Market con	OCE (Oppositing each flow)
Market cap	OCF (Operating cash flow)
Price per share * Number of shares	EBITDA – Net financial items – Taxes – Increase in working
	capital – Cash NRIs ± Other adjustments
EV (Enterprise value)	FCF (Free cash flow)
Market cap + net debt + minority interest at market value -	Operating cash flow – operative CAPEX – acquisitions + divestments
share of associated companies at market value	Operating cash now - operative CALEX - acquisitions + divestments
EV/Sales	FCF yield, %
Enterprise value Sales	Free cash flow
	Market cap
EV/EBITDA	Operative CAPEX/sales
Enterwise value	
Enterprise value Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization	Capital expenditure – divestments – acquisitions Sales
EV/EBIT	Net working capital
e	
Enterprise value Operating profit	Current assets – current liabilities
Net debt	Capital employed/Share
Interest bearing debt – financial assets	Total assets – non-interest bearing debt
	Number of shares
Total assets	Gearing
	ocumy
Balance sheet total	<u>Net debt</u>
	Equity
Div yield, %	Debt/Equity, %
Dividend per share Price per share	Interest bearing debt
	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions
Payout ratio, %	Equity ratio, %
Table 1	
Total dividends Earnings before extraordinary items and taxes – income taxes + minority interest	Shareholders' equity + minority interest + taxed provisions
	Total assets – interest-free loans
ROCE, %	CAGR, %
110CL, 70	
Profit before extraordinary items + interest expenses+ other financial costs	
Balance sheet total – non-interest bearing debt (average)	Cumulative annual growth rate = Average growth per year
ROE, %	
Profit before extraordinary items and taxes – income taxes	
Shareholder's equity + minority interest + taxed provisions (average)	

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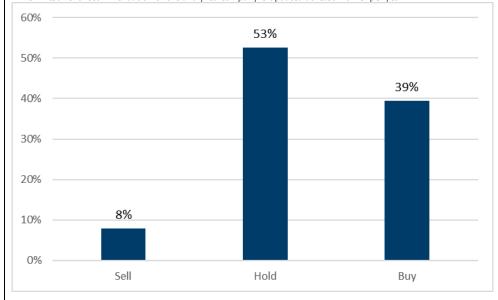
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Investment recommendations are defined as follows:

Target price compared to share price	Recommendation
< -10 %	SELL
-10 - (+10) %	HOLD
> 10 %	BUY

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

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