Exel Composites

Company report

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Inderes Corporate customer



Growth and repair kits

Yesterday, Exel published its contrasted Q3 report. The company's volume growth remained strong, but major challenges facing the US unit ruined short-term earnings performance. We consider these problems to be temporary, even though there is uncertainty about how long they will take to solve. We see the annual return expectation as adequate and reiterate our Accumulate recommendation. We revise our target price to EUR 8.40 (previous EUR 9.50).

Earnings buried across the pond

In Q3, Exel's revenue grew by 28% to EUR 33.4 million, which quite clearly exceeded our EUR 29.1 million estimate. Of major customer industries, the growth was very strong in Buildings and infrastructure (+ 64%) driven by conductor cores and in Machinery and electrical (+ 46%). The largest of customer industries, i.e., Wind power (+ 10%) returned as expected to good volume growth and of smaller industries both Defense (+ 14%) and Telecommunications (+ 36%) continued to develop following end-use demand. In Q3, Exel only made EUR 0.1 million in adjusted operating profit, which was significantly lower than our expectations. The root cause of significantly lower performance is found directly in the US unit, which suffered from efficiency losses caused by the high-volume product ramp-up of the Wind power sector, as well as new employee availability and turnover challenges. According to our estimates, the unit made a significant loss, as operating result at the Group level and taxes paid in Q3 indicate that other units achieved strong results. The US challenges also led to write-downs of EUR 1.8 million in intangible assets.

Level adjustment

Exel reiterated its guidance for the current year in the Q3 report, but due to the weak development of the US unit, the company gave a more precise numerical range for the rest of the year. For the whole year, the company expects its revenue to be EUR 125-135 million and adjusted operating profit EUR 5.8-7.0 million. Based on this range, we made the necessary adjustments to our estimates for the rest of the year. In line with more detailed comments from management, real development of orders received and various demand drivers in its wide product portfolio, the company's growth outlook continues to seem excellent. Based on this and the company's own structural capabilities, we raised our growth forecast for next year. We now anticipate that the company's revenue will increase 5% to EUR 135 million in 2022. Similarly, reflecting the uncertainties surrounding the actual effects and schedule of improvements in the US unit (e.g. production volume management and mix improvement), we cut off one layer from our earnings expectations for next year. Therefore, in the environment of good volumes and improved overall efficiency, we expect Exel to reach EUR 9.8 million in operating profit next year.

No reason to jump off

Exel's adjusted P/E ratios for 2021 and 2022 based on our estimates are 24x and 14x while the corresponding EV/EBITDA ratios are 12x and 7x. The multiples for this year are high, but when looking at next year, they are at the bottom of the range that we previously assessed as acceptable for Exel. Reflecting this, we don't consider the current valuation too demanding. We believe that the return expectation, which consists of expected earnings growth, about 2% dividend and a small upside in the multiples, is sufficient in relation to the risks. Thus, despite the rough waters that have caused additional concerns, we still see the share worth owning.

Recommendation

Accumulate

(previous Accumulate)

EUR 8.40

(previous EUR 9.50)

Share price:

7.52



Key figures

	2020	2021 e	2022 e	2023 e
Revenue	109	129	135	140
growth-%	5%	18%	5%	4%
EBIT adj.	9.7	6.5	9.8	11.8
EBIT-% adj.	8.9 %	5.0 %	7.3 %	8.4 %
Net Income	5.4	2.2	6.5	8.0
EPS (adj.)	0.47	0.31	0.55	0.67
P/E (adj.)	15.7	24.2	13.8	11.2
P/B	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.3
Dividend yield-%	2.7 %	2.4 %	3.2 %	3.5 %
EV/EBIT (adj.)	12.3	18.9	12.1	9.6
EV/EBITDA	7.8	12.4	7.4	6.3
EV/S	1.1	1.0	0.9	8.0

Source: Inderes

Guidance

(Adjusted)

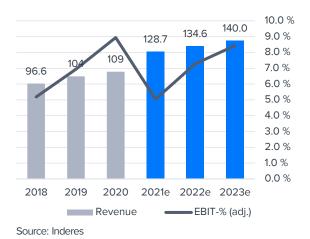
Due to the weak development of the US business unit, Exel provides more detailed information about its guidance and estimates that in 2021 its revenue will be EUR 125-135 million and adjusted operating profit will be EUR 5.8-7.0 million.

Share price



Source: Thomson Reuters

Revenue and EBIT %



EPS and dividend



Source: Inderes

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Value drivers

- Growing composite market creates a good basis for organic growth
- Still room for improvement in profitability relative to the full potential
- Global structure of production and relative economies of scale
- Boosting growth with acquisitions in the medium term



Risk factors

- Somewhat cyclical and volatile demand
- Relatively fixed cost structure
- Concentrated customer portfolio
- The amount of the debt in the balance sheet limits leeway
- Marginal pressures caused by delivery chain problems and higher material costs in the short term
- Performance concerns of the US unit

Valuation	2021 e	2022 e	2023 e
Share price	7.52	7.52	7.52
Number of shares, millions	11.9	11.9	11.9
Market cap	89	89	89
EV	122	119	113
P/E (adj.)	24.2	13.8	11.2
P/E	41.4	13.8	11.2
P/FCF	neg.	13.5	10.1
P/B	3.1	2.7	2.3
P/S	0.7	0.7	0.6
EV/Sales	1.0	0.9	0.8
EV/EBITDA	12.4	7.4	6.3
EV/EBIT (adj.)	18.9	12.1	9.6
Payout ratio (%)	99.2 %	43.9 %	38.8 %
Dividend yield-%	2.4 %	3.2 %	3.5 %
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Estimates

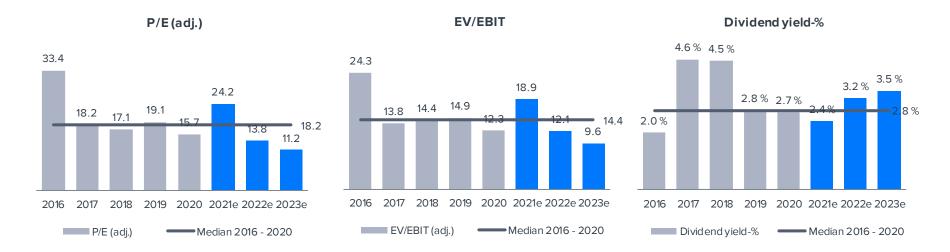
Estimates	Q3'20	Q3'21	Q3'21e	Q3'21e	Conse	ensus	Difference (%)	2021 e
MEUR / EUR	Comparisor	Actualized	Inderes	Consensus	Low	High	Act. vs. inderes	Inderes
Revenue	26.0	33.4	29.7	30.6	29.7 -	31.8	12%	128.7
EBIT (adj.)	2.0	0.1	1.7	1.7	1.4 -	1.9	-94%	6.5
EBIT	2.0	-1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4 -	1.9	-200%	4.6
EPS (adj.)	0.09	-0.06	0.09	0.08	0.06 -	0.10	-170%	0.31
Revenue growth-%	10.2 %	28.2 %	14.0 %	17.5 %	14.0 % -	22.1%	14.2 pp	18.5 %
EBIT-% (adj.)	7.6 %	0.3 %	5.7 %	5.5 %	4.7 % -	6.0 %	-5.4 pp	5.0 %

Source: Inderes & Infront (consensus)

Estimate revisions	2021e	2021e	Change	2022e	2022 e	Change	2023e	2023 e	Change
MEUR / EUR	Old	New	%	Old	New	%	Old	New	%
Revenue	126	129	3%	131	135	3%	136	140	3%
EBITDA	14.1	9.9	-30%	16.8	16.0	-4%	18.1	18.1	0%
EBIT (exc. NRIs)	8.9	6.5	-27%	10.8	9.8	-10%	12.1	11.8	-2%
EBIT	8.8	4.6	-48%	10.8	9.8	-10%	12.1	11.8	-2%
PTP	8.3	4.7	-44%	9.9	8.9	-10%	11.2	10.9	-3%
EPS (excl. NRIs)	0.52	0.31	-40%	0.64	0.55	-14%	0.72	0.67	-7%
DPS	0.22	0.18	-18%	0.24	0.24	0%	0.26	0.26	0%
Source: Inderes									

Valuation table

Valuation	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 e	2022 e	2023 e	2024e
Share price	5.02	6.57	4.00	6.48	7.38	7.52	7.52	7.52	7.52
Number of shares, millions	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Market cap	60	78	48	77	88	89	89	89	89
EV	63	87	72	107	119	122	119	113	108
P/E (adj.)	33.4	18.2	17.1	19.1	15.7	24.2	13.8	11.2	9.9
P/E	>100	18.4	>100	32.0	16.4	41.4	13.8	11.2	9.9
P/FCF	48.3	neg.	neg.	20.1	24.2	neg.	13.5	10.1	9.7
P/B	2.2	2.7	1.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.0
P/S	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
EV/Sales	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7
EV/EBITDA	16.0	9.3	7.8	10.0	7.8	12.4	7.4	6.3	5.5
EV/EBIT (adj.)	24.3	13.8	14.4	14.9	12.3	18.9	12.1	9.6	8.1
Payout ratio (%)	502.0 %	84.1 %	554.7 %	88.8 %	44.3 %	99.2 %	43.9 %	38.8 %	36.8 %
Dividend yield-%	2.0 %	4.6 %	4.5 %	2.8 %	2.7 %	2.4%	3.2 %	3.5 %	3.7 %



Income statement

Income statement	2019	Q1'20	Q2'20	Q3'20	Q4'20	2020	Q1'21	Q2'21	Q3'21	Q4'21e	2021 e	2022 e	2023 e	2024 e
Revenue	104	27.8	27.2	26.0	27.5	108.6	31.0	33.5	33.4	30.8	128.7	134.6	140.0	145.6
Group	104	27.8	27.2	26.0	27.5	109	31.0	33.5	33.4	30.8	128.7	134.6	140.0	145.6
Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBITDA	10.7	3.2	3.8	3.3	4.9	15.3	3.8	3.7	-0.4	2.8	9.9	16.0	18.1	19.5
Depreciation	-5.6	-1.3	-1.0	-1.4	-2.2	-5.9	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-5.3	-6.2	-6.3	-6.2
EBIT (excl. NRI)	7.2	2.1	2.9	2.0	2.7	9.7	2.5	2.5	0.1	1.5	6.5	9.8	11.8	13.3
EBIT	5.1	1.9	2.8	2.0	2.7	9.4	2.4	2.4	-1.7	1.5	4.6	9.8	11.8	13.3
Adjustments	-2.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net financial items	-1.2	-0.6	0.2	-0.6	-1.3	-2.3	0.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	0.1	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
PTP	3.9	1.3	3.0	1.3	1.5	7.1	2.9	1.9	-1.4	1.2	4.7	8.9	10.9	12.4
Taxes	-1.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-1.8	-1.0	-0.4	-0.8	-0.3	-2.5	-2.4	-3.0	-3.3
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net earnings	2.4	0.7	2.5	1.1	1.1	5.4	2.0	1.5	-2.2	0.9	2.2	6.5	8.0	9.0
EPS (adj.)	0.34	0.07	0.22	0.09	0.09	0.47	0.17	0.13	-0.06	80.0	0.31	0.55	0.67	0.76
EPS (rep.)	0.20	0.06	0.21	0.09	0.09	0.45	0.17	0.12	-0.19	80.0	0.18	0.55	0.67	0.76
Key figures	2019	Q1'20	Q2'20	Q3'20	Q4'20	2020	Q1'21	Q2'21	Q3'21	Q4'21e	2021 e	2022e	2023e	2024 e
Revenue growth-%	7.4 %	2.6 %	2.9 %	10.2 %	3.4 %	4.6 %	11.3 %	23.1 %	28.2 %	12.0 %	18.5 %	4.6 %	4.0 %	4.0 %
Adjusted EBIT growth-%	43.5 %	7.4 %	29.2 %	19.4 %	103.7 %	34.9 %	17.0 %	-15.0 %	-94.6 %	-46.2 %	-33.1 %	50.9 %	20.6 %	12.5 %
EBITDA-%	10.3 %	11.5 %	13.9 %	12.8 %	18.0 %	14.1 %	12.1 %	11.0 %	-1.1 %	9.1 %	7.7 %	11.9 %	12.9 %	13.4 %
Adjusted EBIT-%	6.9 %	7.6 %	10.6 %	7.6 %	9.9 %	8.9 %	7.9 %	7.3 %	0.3 %	4.8 %	5.0 %	7.3 %	8.4 %	9.1 %
Net earnings-%	2.3 %	2.5 %	9.3 %	4.1 %	3.9 %	4.9 %	6.4 %	4.4 %	-6.6 %	3.0 %	1.7 %	4.8 %	5.7 %	6.2 %

Balance sheet

Assets	2019	2020	2021 e	2022e	2023 e
Non-current assets	41.6	47.8	46.8	46.6	46.4
Goodwill	13.0	12.6	10.8	10.8	10.8
Intangible assets	4.3	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
Tangible assets	22.8	29.4	31.6	31.4	31.1
Associated companies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other non-current assets	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Deferred tax assets	1.4	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Current assets	43.8	49.0	50.8	53.2	57.4
Inventories	16.9	16.2	18.0	18.8	18.9
Other current assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Receivables	20.0	20.9	23.8	24.9	25.9
Cash and equivalents	6.9	12.0	9.0	9.4	12.6
Balance sheet total	85.4	96.8	97.6	99.8	104

Liabilities & equity	2019	2020	2021e	2022e	2023 e
Equity	26.3	28.9	29.1	33.5	38.6
Share capital	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Retained earnings	19.0	22.2	22.0	26.4	31.5
Hybrid bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Revaluation reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other equity	5.2	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-current liabilities	15.6	14.1	23.2	21.5	23.0
Deferred tax liabilities	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long term debt	14.8	12.9	22.5	20.8	22.3
Convertibles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other long term liabilities	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5
Current liabilities	43.4	53.9	45.2	44.7	42.1
Short term debt	22.4	30.3	19.5	17.8	14.1
Payables	21.0	23.6	25.7	26.9	28.0
Other current liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Balance sheet total	85.4	96.8	97.6	99.8	104

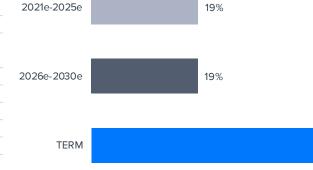
DCF calculation

DCF model	2020	2021e	2022e	2023 e	2024e	2025 e	2026e	2027 e	2028e	2029 e	2030e	TERM
EBIT (operating profit)	9.4	4.6	9.8	11.8	13.3	12.0	12.4	12.7	13.0	13.4	13.6	
+ Depreciation	5.9	5.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	
- Paid taxes	-2.2	-1.1	-2.4	-3.0	-3.3	-2.9	-3.0	-2.8	-3.1	-3.2	-3.3	
- Tax, financial expenses	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	
+ Tax, financial income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
- Change in working capital	2.4	-2.7	-0.7	0.0	-0.7	0.2	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	
Operating cash flow	14.9	6.2	12.7	14.9	15.3	15.2	14.6	15.2	15.4	15.6	15.9	
+ Change in other long-term liabilities	0.4	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
- Gross CAPEX	-11.7	-5.8	-6.1	-6.1	-6.1	-6.1	-6.1	-6.1	-6.1	-6.0	-6.2	
Free operating cash flow	3.6	-0.1	6.6	8.9	9.2	9.1	8.6	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.7	
+/- Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
FCFF	3.6	-0.1	6.6	8.9	9.2	9.1	8.6	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.7	174
Discounted FCFF		-0.1	6.1	7.6	7.3	6.7	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.3	4.9	88.3
Sum of FCFF present value		143	143	137	130	122	116	110	104	98.5	93.2	88.3
Enterprise value DCF		143										
- Interesting bearing debt		-43.1										
I Cook and cook a suit aloute		12.0	_			Cas	n flow dist	ribution				

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Enterprise value DCF	143
- Interesting bearing debt	-43.1
+ Cash and cash equivalents	12.0
-Minorities	0.0
-Dividend/capital return	-2.4
Equity value DCF	110
Equity value DCF per share	9.2

■ 2021e-2025e ■ 2026e-2030e ■ TERM

62%



Wacc

Tax-% (WACC) 25.0 % Target debt ratio (D/(D+E) 25.0 % 5.0 % Cost of debt **Equity Beta** 1.25 Market risk premium 5.00% Liquidity premium 0.75% Risk free interest rate 2.0 % Cost of equity 9.0 % 7.7 % Weighted average cost of capital (WACC)

Summary

Income statement	2018	2019	2020	2021 e	2022 e	Per share data	2018	2019	2020	2021e	2022 e
Revenue	96.6	103.8	108.6	128.7	134.6	EPS (reported)	0.03	0.20	0.45	0.18	0.55
EBITDA	9.3	10.7	15.3	9.9	16.0	EPS (adj.)	0.23	0.34	0.47	0.31	0.55
EBIT	2.2	5.1	9.4	4.6	9.8	OCF / share	-0.11	0.83	1.26	0.52	1.06
PTP	1.7	3.9	7.1	4.7	8.9	FCF / share	-1.03	0.32	0.30	-0.01	0.56
Net Income	0.4	2.4	5.4	2.2	6.5	Book value / share	2.17	2.21	2.43	2.45	2.82
Extraordinary items	-2.8	-2.1	-0.3	-1.9	0.0	Dividend / share	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.18	0.24
Balance sheet	2018	2019	2020	2021 e	2022 e	Growth and profitability	2018	2019	2020	2021e	2022e
Balance sheet total	74.6	85.4	96.8	97.6	99.8	Revenue growth-%	12%	7%	5%	18%	5%
Equity capital	25.8	26.3	28.9	29.1	33.5	EBITDA growth-%	-1%	15%	43%	-35%	62%
Goodwill	12.8	13.0	12.6	10.8	10.8	EBIT (adj.) growth-%	-20%	44%	35%	-33%	51 %
Net debt	24.8	30.2	31.2	33.0	29.2	EPS (adj.) growth-%	-35%	45%	38%	-34%	76 %
						EBITDA-%	9.6 %	10.3 %	14.1 %	7.7 %	11.9 %
Cash flow	2018	2019	2020	2021 e	2022 e	EBIT (adj.)-%	5.2 %	6.9 %	8.9 %	5.0 %	7.3 %
EBITDA	9.3	10.7	15.3	9.9	16.0	EBIT-%	2.3 %	4.9 %	8.7 %	3.5 %	7.3 %
Change in working capital	-8.8	1.9	2.4	-2.7	-0.7	ROE-%	1.4 %	9.3 %	19.5 %	7.4 %	20.8 %
Operating cash flow	-1.3	9.9	14.9	6.2	12.7	ROI-%	4.4 %	8.6 %	13.9 %	6.4 %	13.7 %
CAPEX	-10.9	-6.1	-11.7	-5.8	-6.1	Equity ratio	34.6 %	30.8 %	29.8 %	29.9 %	33.6 %
Free cash flow	-12.3	3.8	3.6	-0.1	6.6	Gearing	96.3 %	114.9 %	107.9 %	113.3 %	87.1 %
Valuation multiples	2018	2019	2020	2021e	2022 e						
EV/S	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9						
EV/EBITDA (adj.)	7.8	10.0	7.8	12.4	7.4						

12.1

13.8

2.7

3.2 %

Source: Inderes

EV/EBIT (adj.)

P/E (adj.)

Dividend-%

P/E

14.4

17.1

1.8

4.5 %

14.9

19.1

2.9

2.8 %

12.3

15.7

3.0

2.7 %

18.9

24.2

3.1

2.4 %

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Accumulate The 12-month risk-adjusted expected shareholder return of the share is attractive

Reduce The 12-month risk-adjusted expected shareholder return of the share is weak

Sell The 12-month risk-adjusted expected shareholder return of the share is very weak

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Recommendation history (>12 mo)

Date	Recommendation	Target price	Share price
7/24/2019	Accumulate	5.00 €	4.52 €
10/31/2019	Accumulate	5.30 €	4.80 €
11/22/2019	Accumulate	6.30 €	5.76 €
2/18/2020	Accumulate	6.50 €	6.14 €
3/16/2020	Accumulate	4.10 €	3.96 €
5/7/2020	Accumulate	5.10 €	4.80 €
7/22/2020	Accumulate	6.00€	5.52 €
11/2/2020	Accumulate	6.80 €	6.40 €
12/8/2020	Accumulate	7.00 €	6.50 €
2/19/2021	Accumulate	9.20 €	8.76 €
5/2/2021	Accumulate	11.50 €	10.88 €
7/21/2021	Accumulate	11.50 €	10.32 €
9/2/2021	Accumulate	11.50 €	9.95 €
9/17/2021	Accumulate	9.50 €	8.59 €
11/5/2021	Accumulate	8.40 €	7.52 €

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