Diversified Gas & Oil PLC

United States / Energy London Stock Exchange Bloomberg: DGOC LN ISIN: GB00BYX7JT74

Update

RATINGBUYPRICE TARGETGBp 150.00Return Potential35.9%Risk RatingMedium

WHICH ONE IS WRONG: THE FUTURES CURVE OR THE DGOC SHARE PRICE?

Following the H1 results we have reworked our dividend discount valuation of the DGOC share to reflect both a higher Q2 dividend of USD0.0375 (FBe: USD0.035) than we had forecast, and rising gas futures prices since our end-June initiating coverage study. Based on a futures curve which slopes upward for the remainder of this decade and DGOC's existing hedge portfolio, we expect the natural gas prices realised by the company over the next five years (after the impact of cash-settled derivatives) to be stable in the range USD2.34/mcf to USD2.57/mcf. This compares with our 2020 forecast of USD2.30/mcf. Fully loaded H1/20 cash costs (after operating expenses, capex, well retirement costs and cash interest) were USD1.36/mcf. This indicates a free cashflow margin on sales of at least 42%-47% (economies of scale are likely to push unit costs lower as the company expands) during the next five years. DGOC should thus have plenty of firepower to keep making the regular acquisitions through which it has secured over 95% of its current production since early 2017. DGOC's target is that not less than ca. 40% of adjusted free cashflow, defined as adjusted EBITDA (hedged) less maintenance capex, interest expense and well retirement costs, should be paid out as dividends. On our forecasts the payout ratio on this basis at the current dividend level will be 43% this year and 44% in 2021, and so we think the current dividend is sustainable. The combination of a dividend yield above 10% and strong and stable cash generation reinforces our view that the share is substantially undervalued. Moreover, the current market cap. warrants DGOC's inclusion in the FTSE 250 Index. New index members will be announced after the market close on 2 September with effect from 21 September. Our recommendation is Buy with a price target of GBP1.50 (previously: GBP1.30).

H1/20 profits up despite commodity price weakness DGOC succeeded in raising its headline profit figure - adjusted EBITDA (hedged) – by 11% to USD146.3m in H1/20 despite a 40% decline in average realised commodity prices (excluding the impact of cash-settled derivatives). (p.t.o.)

FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020E	2021E
Revenue (unhedged) (\$ m)	17.09	41.78	289.77	462.26	445.93	633.80
Y-o-y growth	171.1%	144.5%	593.6%	59.5%	-3.5%	42.1%
Adj. EBITDA (hedged)* (\$m)	4.30	17.51	146.22	273.27	303.18	304.26
Adj. EBITDA margin	25.1%	41.9%	50.5%	59.1%	68.0%	48.0%
Net income (\$ m)	17.68	27.45	201.12	99.40	317.81	171.01
EPS (diluted) (\$)	0.42	0.23	0.52	0.15	0.46	0.24
DPS (US cents)	1.99	5.44	11.23	13.92	14.75	15.00
FCF (\$m)	4.27	3.83	66.88	244.30	207.12	223.64
Net gearing	429.9%	53.7%	66.0%	67.7%	59.6%	48.6%
Liquid assets (\$ m)	0.22	15.17	1.37	1.66	27.71	33.09

* excludes non-recurring items, non-cash equity compensation, includes hedge portfolio gains/losses

RISKS

Acquisitions are a vital part of DGOC's strategy for protecting and growing its cashflow. There can be no guarantee that the group will be able to continue to source acquisitions at attractive valuations.

COMPANY PROFILE

Diversified Gas & Oil PLC is an established, independent owner and operator of producing natural gas & oil wells concentrated in the Appalachian Basin in the United States. Natural gas accounted for 90% of 2019 production by volume. Field operations are densely located throughout the adjacent states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

MARKET DAT	As of 28 Aug 2020			
Closing Price		GB	p 110.40	
Shares outstand	ing		707.27m	
Market Capitalis	GBF	780.8m		
52-week Range		GBp 59.60	/ 116.00	
Avg. Volume (12	1,425,381			
Multiples	2019	2020E	2021E	
P/E	9.6	3.2	6.1	
EV/Sales	4.0	2.8		
EV/EBIT	6.5	5.8	5.8	
Div. Yield	9.4%	10.0%	10.1%	

STOCK OVERVIEW



COMPANY DATA	As of 30 Jun 2020
Liquid Assets	\$ 6.72m
Current Assets	\$ 153.30m
Intangible Assets	\$ 0.00m
Total Assets	\$ 2,288.99m
Current Liabilities	\$ 176.34m
Shareholders' Equity	\$ 976.81m

SHAREHOLDERS

Sand Grove Capital Management LLP	8.9%
HSBC Bank PLC	7.6%
Pelham Capital Ltd.	5.7%
Caius Capital LLP	4.8%
Free float and other	73.0%

This feat was made possible by an acquisition-led 26% increase in volume vs. H1/19, stable output for the eighth quarter in a row at the group's legacy assets (70% of H1/20 volume) and a 15% decline in recurring unit costs. In addition, the company booked a USD84m gain on cash-settled derivatives.

Figure 1: H1/2	0 results vs.	our forecasts
----------------	---------------	---------------

USD 000s	H1 20A	H1 20 FBe	% Δ	H1 19A	% Δ
mBOE	17,317	16,398	5.6%	13,701	26.4%
BOE/day	95,148	90,099	5.6%	75,696	25.7%
Total commodity revenue	170,832	150,713	13.3%	223,297	-23.5%
Other/midstream revenue	14,046	13,700	2.5%	14,161	-0.8%
Total revenue (unhedged)	184,878	164,413	12.4%	237,458	-22.1%
Total recurring expenses	122,080	119,373	2.3%	113,599	7.5%
Adjusted EBITDA (unhedged)	62,798	45,040	39.4%	123,859	-49.3%
Settled hedges	83,506	95,362	-12.4%	7,422	1025.1%
Adjusted EBITDA (hedged)	146,304	140,401	4.2%	131,281	11.4%
per BOE (USD)					
Total commodity revenue	9.86	9.19	7.3%	16.30	-39.5%
Other/midstream revenue	0.81	0.84	-2.9%	1.03	-21.5%
Total revenue (unhedged)	10.68	10.03	6.5%	17.33	-38.4%
Total recurring expenses	7.05	7.28	-3.2%	8.29	-15.0%
of which:					
Base LOE	2.50	2.67	-6.4%	3.78	-33.9%
Gathering and compression, owned	1.41	1.54	-8.4%	1.50	-6.0%
Gathering and transportation, 3rd party	1.35	1.46	-7.5%	1.13	19.5%
Production taxes	0.45	0.45	0.0%	0.53	-15.1%
Recurring admin. expenses	1.34	1.16	15.5%	1.35	-0.7%
Adjusted EBITDA (unhedged)	3.63	2.75	32.0%	9.04	-59.9%
Settled hedges	4.82	5.82	-17.1%	0.54	790.2%
Adjusted EBITDA (hedged)	8.45	8.56	-1.3%	9.58	-11.8%

Source: DGOC, First Berlin Equity Research estimates

H1/20 realised gas price (before impact of cash-settled derivatives) down 37% y-o-y Natural gas accounted for 90% of volume in H1/20 (H1/19: 89%). Average realised price per BOE (excluding the impact of derivatives settled in cash) at USD9.86 in H1/20 was 40% below the H1/19 level of USD16.30. This decline was led by a 37% drop in the natural gas price, which weakened due to a warm winter, a surge in 2019 dry gas production and SARS-CoV-2 related demand destruction.

26% y-o-y volume rise attributable to acquisitions and stable output at legacy wells The 26% increase in volume to 95,148 Boed (barrels of oil equivalent/day) stemmed from the acquisitions shown in figure 2 overleaf as well as a stable contribution from the group's legacy assets. HG Energy was acquired in April 2019, EdgeMarc in September 2019 and assets from Carbon Energy and EQT (the recent acquisitions in figure 2) in May 2020. By legacy assets, DGOC means the predominantly conventional wells acquired before 2019. The "natural" rate of decline in production for conventional wells is 5% p.a. Q2/20 was the eighth quarter in a row in which DGOC succeeded in maintaining stable output at its legacy wells. DGOC has achieved this through implementing its Smarter Well Management programme (as described in our initiating coverage note of 30 June).

H1/20 recurring unit costs down 15% y-o-y Recurring unit costs fell 15.0% to USD7.05/BOE (H1/19: USD8.29/BOE) due to cost control and economies of scale. Only one cost item - gathering and transportation, 3rd party - rose on a per unit basis. This was a consequence of the acquisitions of HG Energy and EdgeMarc. The proportion of output at these acquisitions whose output is transported through third party infrastructure is higher than the average figure for the rest of the company. However, there is a close link between volume and costs, and so declining production at these assets will result in lower costs.

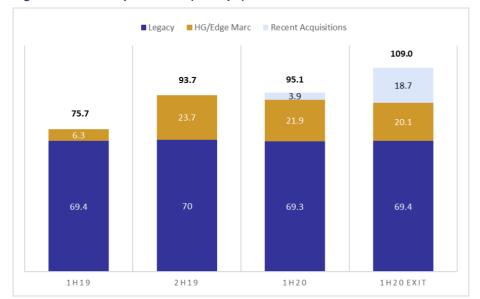


Figure 2: H1/20 net production (mBoepd)

Source: DGOC

Settled hedges accounted for 57% of adjusted EBITDA (hedged) in H1/20 We estimate that 80-85% of H1/20 natural gas production of 94,093 MMcf was hedged at ca. USD2.70/MMBtu. With contract prices at around the USD1.80 level during H1/20, gains on natural gas derivative settlements were USD63m. This figure accounted for 76% of total H1/20 gains of USD84m on settled commodity derivative settlements which in turn accounted for 57% of adjusted EBITDA (hedged).

We forecast stable realised gas prices during 2021-2025 Figure 3 below shows our forecasts for natural gas prices realised by DGOC based on the current futures curve and the company's existing financial hedge book (see figure 4 overleaf). We expect the natural gas prices realised by the company over the next five years (after the impact of cash-settled derivatives) to be stable in the range USD2.34/mcf to USD2.57/mcf. This compares with our 2020 forecast of USD2.30/mcf.

Figure 3: Unhedged and hedged natural gas prices realised by DGOC 2020A-2025E

	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Natural gas production (Mcf/day)	547,805	556,909	528,040	499,116	469,224	441,786
MMBTU/Mcf conversion ratio (x)	1.124	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.121	1.121
MMBTU/day	615,928	623,667	591,486	559,199	525,782	495,104
Average Henry Hub/NYMEX futures price (USD/MMBtu)	2.13	2.91	2.65	2.53	2.54	2.56
Blended natural gas price including physical contracts (USD/MMBtu)	2.14	2.91	2.65	2.53	2.54	2.56
Basis adjustment (USD)	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40
Contractual differential (USD)	-0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Realised price/MMBtu (USD)	1.64	2.51	2.25	2.13	2.14	2.16
Realised price/Mcf (excluding impact of cash-settled derivatives, USD)	1.84	2.81	2.52	2.39	2.40	2.42
Average natural gas financial hedge price/MMBtu (USD)	2.69	2.62	2.51	2.44	2.42	2.39
% volume hedged	70.9%	70.2%	47.1%	43.6%	42.5%	36.4%
Hedge price - futures price/MMBtu (USD)	0.56	-0.29	-0.14	-0.09	-0.12	-0.17
Realised price/Mcf (including impact of cash-settled derivatives, USD)	2.30	2.57	2.44	2.34	2.35	2.35
Realised price/Mcf (including impact of cash-settled derivatives, USD) Δ vs. 2020E	0.0%	11.7%	5.8%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%

Source: DGOC, First Berlin Equity Research estimates

	Weighted av. hedge price (USD)	Average hedged gas vol. (MMBtu/day)	Total gas vol. (MMBtu/day)*	% hedged*
2020	2.69	436,747	615,928	70.9%
2021	2.62	437,991	623,667	70.2%
2022	2.51	278,696	591,486	47.1%
2023	2.44	243,718	559,199	43.6%
2024	2.42	223,331	525,782	42.5%
2025	2.39	180,449	495,104	36.4%

Figure 4: DGOC natural gas financial hedges 2020-2025

Source: DGOC, *First Berlin Equity Research estimates

Forecast upgrades due mainly to higher expected natural gas prices We have increased our natural gas revenue forecasts for both 2020 and 2021 (see figure 5 below). For 2020, the increase reflects both a stronger than expected H1/20 result and an increase in natural gas futures prices since the publication of our initiating coverage study on 30 June. On the basis of the futures curve we now expect the natural gas price to average USD2.43/MMBtu during H2/20 (previously: USD1.90). For 2021 we model an average natural gas price of USD2.91 (previously: USD2.58). The increase in our natural gas price forecasts reduces gains on settled hedges in 2020 and 2021 by USD58m and USD56m respectively. However, the net impact on adjusted EBITDA (hedged) is positive, raising our 2020 forecast by 6% and our 2021 forecast by 5%.

Figure 5: Changes to our forecasts

		2020E		2021E			
USD 000s	Old	New	% Δ	Old	New	% Δ	
MBOE	35,897	36,746	2.4%	36,976	37,183	0.6%	
Total revenue (unhedged)	367,110	445,932	21.5%	562,156	633,799	12.7%	
of which:							
Natural gas	324,676	392,985	21.0%	509,402	573,871	12.7%	
NGLs	2,035	11,727	476.3%	3,980	12,295	208.9%	
Oil	11,209	12,283	9.6%	12,274	11,249	-8.4%	
Total commodity revenue	337,920	416,995	23.4%	525,655	597,415	13.7%	
Midstream revenue	27,190	27,873	2.5%	34,101	34,784	2.0%	
Other	2,000	1,063	-46.9%	2,400	1,600	-33.3%	
Base lease operating expenses	91,921	94,856	3.2%	95,532	98,535	3.1%	
Gathering and compression, owned	58,400	53,130	-9.0%	59,161	55,031	-7.0%	
Gathering and transportation, 3rd party	52,409	53,571	2.2%	53,245	57,634	8.2%	
Production taxes	16,520	18,427	11.5%	26,148	26,028	-0.5%	
Recurring admin. expenses	45,091	47,129	4.5%	49,178	48,000	-2.4%	
Total recurring expenses	264,341	267,113	1.0%	283,264	285,229	0.7%	
Adjusted EBITDA (unhedged)	102,768	178,818	74.0%	278,891	348,570	25.0%	
Settled hedges	182,217	124,362	-31.8%	11,364	-44,314	n.a.	
of which:							
Natural gas	141,577	92,002	-35.0%	5,873	-46,230	n.a.	
NGLs	32,974	25,675	-22.1%	1,869	37	-98.0%	
Oil	7,666	6,685	-12.8%	3,622	1,880	-48.1%	
Adjusted EBITDA (hedged)	284,986	303,180	6.4%	290,255	304,256	4.8%	
per BOE (USD)							
Revenue (unhedged)	10.23	12.14	18.6%	15.20	17.05	12.1%	
Total recurring expenses	7.36	7.27	-1.2%	7.66	7.67	0.1%	
of which:							
Base LOE	2.56	2.58	0.8%	2.58	2.65	2.7%	
Gathering and compression, owned	1.63	1.45	-11.3%	1.60	1.48	-7.5%	
Gathering and transportation, 3rd party	1.46	1.46	-0.1%	1.44	1.55	7.6%	
Production taxes	0.46	0.50	9.0%	0.71	0.70	-1.4%	
Recurring admin. expenses	1.26	1.28	1.8%	1.33	1.29	-2.9%	
Adjusted EBITDA (unhedged)	2.86	4.87	70. 1%	7.54	9.37	24.3%	

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

Our bargain purchase gain forecast is based on PV10; a different interest rate may be used Our 2020 P&L forecast includes a USD139m gain on bargain purchase in connection with the May acquisition of assets from Carbon Energy and EQT. The USD139m is based on the USD374m PV10 number for these assets less the purchase consideration of USD235m. However, as of the H1/20 results, the company was still awaiting the completion of third party fair valuation of the acquired assets – which will in turn determine the amount of any potential gain. We note that discount rates in the range 8.0% to 10.5% were used to value the six acquisitions of gas and oil reserves made by the company in 2018 and 2019. So depending on the discount rate used, the outcome of the valuation process could deviate significantly from our estimate.

VALUATION MODEL

DGOC's target is that not less than ca. 40% of adjusted free cashflow, defined as adjusted EBITDA (hedged) less maintenance capex, interest expense and well retirement costs, should be paid out as dividends. On our forecasts the payout ratio on this basis at the current dividend level will be 43% this year and 44% in 2021, and so close to this target.

Figure 6: Dividend payout and return on capital employed

USD 000s	2018A	2019A	H1 20A	2020E	2021E
Adjusted EBITDA (hedged)	146,217	273,266	146,304	303,180	304,256
Expenditures on oil and gas properties	-18,515	-32,313	-11,775	-24,000	-24,000
Finance expense (interest)	-15,433	-32,715	-17,683	-35,398	-34,748
Asset retirement (plugging)	-1,171	-2,541	-1,201	-3,100	-3,137
Free cashflow (adjusted)	111,098	205,697	115,645	240,682	242,372
Net fixed assets	1,420,700	1,832,751	2,052,339	2,086,591	1,981,068
Net working capital	9,449	-18,361	-36,309	-6,462	-5,867
Total capital employed	1,430,149	1,814,390	2,016,030	2,080,129	1,975,201
Average capital employed	825,189	1,622,270	1,915,210	1,947,259	2,027,665
Free cashflow (adjusted) ROCE	13.5%	12.7%	12.1%	12.4%	12.0%
Dividends paid and declared	52,566	86,605	49,496	102,537	106,083
as % free cashflow (adjusted)	47.3%	42.1%	42.8%	42.6%	43.8%
Dividends paid and declared per share (USD)	0.1128	0.1382	0.0700	0.1450	0.1500
Dividends declared per share (USD)	0.1123	0.1392	0.7250	0.1475	0.1500

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

We have updated our dividend discount valuation of DGOC which is based on the formula: $p^0 = d^1/(r-g)$ where:

p⁰ is our assessment of the fair value of the DGOC share today
d¹ is the value of dividends over the next year
r is the required rate of return
g is the expected long term organic growth rate

Price target raised from GBP1.30 to GBP1.50. Buy recommendation maintained We derive g from ROCE adjusted for the production decline rate and payout ratio. Following the publication of the H1/20 results, we now estimate average ROCE for 2020 and 2021 at 12.2% (previously: 10.5%). The change relates to the upward revision in our profit forecasts and a change to our calculation of net working capital which now no longer includes derivative financial instruments. Our estimates of the rate of production decline and r are unchanged at 5.9% and 11% respectively. Adjusting our return on capital employed figure of 12.2% by 5.9% to reflect declining production produces a return of 5.6%.

If we then reduce this number by 40% to reflect the dividend payout, we arrive at a sustainable growth rate in free cashflow (adjusted) of 3.3%. Plugging our estimates for d^1 (USD0.15), r (11.0%) and g (3.3%) into the formula above produces a valuation (see figures 7 and 8 below) for the DGOC share of GBP1.46 (previously: GBP1.32). Our recommendation remains Buy with a price target of GBP1.50 (previously: GBP1.30).

Figure 7: Sensitivity of valuation to growth rates and return requirements (GBP)

_		return requirement								
		8.0%	9.0%	10.0%	11.0%	12.0%	13.0%	14.0%		
	1.3%	1.68	1.46	1.29	1.16	1.05	0.96	0.88		
rate	2.3%	1.98	1.68	1.46	1.29	1.16	1.05	0.96		
vth	3.3%	2.40	1.98	1.68	1.46	1.29	1.16	1.05		
gro	4.3%	3.06	2.40	1.98	1.68	1.46	1.29	1.16		
	5.3%	4.22	3.06	2.40	1.98	1.68	1.46	1.29		
	6.3%	6.77	4.22	3.06	2.40	1.98	1.68	1.46		

Source: First Berlin Equity Research

Figure 8: Sensitivity of valuation to growth rates and return requirements (USD)

		return requirement								
		8.0%	9.0%	10.0%	11.0%	12.0%	13.0%	14.0%		
	1.3%	2.26	1.96	1.73	1.55	1.41	1.29	1.19		
rate	2.3%	2.65	2.26	1.96	1.73	1.55	1.41	1.29		
vth	3.3%	3.22	2.65	2.26	1.96	1.73	1.55	1.41		
grov	4.3%	4.11	3.22	2.65	2.26	1.96	1.73	1.55		
	5.3%	5.66	4.11	3.22	2.65	2.26	1.96	1.73		
	6.3%	9.08	5.66	4.11	3.22	2.65	2.26	1.96		

Source: First Berlin Equity Research

INCOME STATEMENT

All figures in USD '000	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E
Revenues	17,088	41,777	289,769	462,256	445,932	633,799
Operating expense	-11,303	-20,908	-107,793	-202,385	-219,984	-237,229
Depreciation and depletion	-4,039	-7,536	-41,988	-98,139	-119,160	-129,523
Gross profit	1,746	13,333	139,988	161,732	106,787	267,047
Administrative expenses	-2,813	-8,919	-40,524	-56,619	-65,696	-63,000
Gain on oil/gas programme and equipment	34	95	4,079	0	0	0
Gain (loss) on derivative financial instruments	-810	-441	17,981	73,854	124,362	-44,314
Gain on bargain purchase	24,293	37,093	173,473	1,540	139,000	0
Operating income (EBIT)	22,450	41,161	294,997	180,507	304,453	159,734
Finance costs	-3,291	-5,225	-17,743	-36,667	-35,398	-34,748
Loss on early retirement of debt	14,149	-4,468	-8,358	0	0	0
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	-797	-1,764	-7,101	-12,349	-17,128	-19,988
Income before taxation	32,511	29,704	261,795	131,491	251,927	104,998
Taxation on income	-14,829	-2,250	-60,676	-32,091	65,888	66,010
Net income / loss	17,682	27,454	201,119	99,400	317,815	171,008
Diluted EPS (in USD)	0.42	0.23	0.52	0.15	0.46	0.24
Adusted EBITDA (hedged)*	4,297	17,514	146,217	273,266	303,180	304,256
Ratios						
Gross margin	10.2%	31.9%	48.3%	35.0%	23.9%	42.1%
Adjusted EBITDA margin (hedged)	25.1%	41.9%	50.5%	59.1%	68.0%	48.0%
Net margin	103.5%	65.7%	69.4%	21.5%	71.3%	27.0%
Tax rate	45.6%	7.6%	23.2%	24.4%	-26.2%	-62.9%
Expenses as % of revenues						
Operating expense	66.1%	50.0%	37.2%	43.8%	49.3%	37.4%
Depreciation and depletion	23.6%	18.0%	14.5%	21.2%	26.7%	20.4%
Administrative expenses	16.5%	21.3%	14.0%	12.2%	14.7%	9.9%
Y-Y Growth						
Revenues	171.1%	144.5%	593.6%	59.5%	-3.5%	42.1%
Adjusted EBITDA (hedged)	65.8%	307.6%	734.9%	86.9%	10.9%	0.4%
Net income/ loss	n.a.	55.3%	632.6%	-50.6%	219.7%	-46.2%

* adjusted for non-recurring items such as gain on the sale of assets, acquisition-related expenses and

integration costs, mark-to-market adjustments related to the company's hedge portfolio, non-cash equity compensation charges and items of a similar nature.

BALANCE SHEET

All figures in USD '000	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E
Assets						
Current assets, total	4,619	30,342	111,596	160,360	187,683	199,526
Cash and cash equivalents	224	15,168	1,372	1,661	27,713	33,092
Restricted cash	0	744	1,730	1,207	2,064	2,934
Receivables	3,084	13,917	78,451	73,924	92,405	93,000
Derivative financial instruments	0	0	17,573	73,705	55,000	60,000
Other current assets	1,311	513	12,470	9,863	10,500	10,500
Non-current assets, total	81,256	223,308	1,445,376	1,845,580	2,103,359	2,000,574
Oil and gas properties, net	76,793	215,325	1,092,951	1,490,905	1,742,595	1,644,129
Property, plant & equipment, net	3,348	6,947	327,749	341,846	343,995	336,939
Restricted cash	117	0	0	6,505	7,135	8,873
Indemnification receivable		0	2,133	2,133	2,133	2,133
Derivative financial instruments	0	0	21,745	3,803	4,000	5,000
Other non-current assets	998	1,036	798	388	3,500	3,500
Total assets	85,875	253,650	1,556,972	2,005,940	2,291,041	2,200,101
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total	38,499	15,346	84,471	126,855	168,009	170,255
Short-term debt	27,181	373	286	23,723	57,213	58,413
Accounts payable	4,627	2,132	9,383	17,053	15,000	15,000
Capital lease	169	324	842	798	1,296	1,842
Derivative financial instruments	939	961	0	0	4,500	5,000
Other current liabilities	5,583	11,556	73,960	85,281	90,000	90,000
Long-term liabilities, total	38,214	130,066	723,638	940,950	1,007,753	908,351
Long-term debt	10,113	70,619	482,528	598,778	621,538	505,338
Capital lease	274	836	2,694	1,015	4,146	5,892
Asset retirement obligation	12,265	35,448	140,190	196,871	229,748	266,746
Deferred tax liability	15,148	17,399	95,033	124,112	90,188	58,241
Uncertain tax position	0	0	2,133	2,133	2,133	2,133
Derivative financial instruments	0	1,943	0	15,706	50,000	60,000
Other non-current liabilities	414	3,821	1,060	2,335	10,000	10,000
Shareholders' equity	9,162	108,238	748,863	938,135	1,115,279	1,121,495
Total consolidated equity and debt	85,875	253,650	1,556,972	2,005,940	2,291,041	2,200,101
Ratios						
Current ratio (x)	0.12	1.98	1.32	1.26	1.12	1.17
Quick ratio (x)	0.12	1.98	1.32	1.26	1.12	1.17
Net debt	39,387	58,162	493,998	635,039	665,237	544,858
Net gearing	429.9%	53.7%	66.0%	67.7%	59.6%	48.6%
Book value per share (in GBp)	0.17	0.55	1.08	1.09	1.27	1.27
Return on equity (ROE)	n.a.	46.8%	46.9%	11.8%	31.0%	15.3%

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

All figures in USD '000	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E
Net profit	17,682	27,454	201,119	99,400	317,815	171,008
Depreciation and depletion	4,039	7,536	41,988	98,139	119,160	129,523
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	797	1,764	7,101	12,349	17,128	19,988
Deferred income taxes	14,829	2,250	60,676	32,091	-65,888	-66,010
(Gain)/loss on derivative financial instruments	957	1,965	-32,768	-20,270	0	0
Asset retirement, plugging	0	-78	-1,171	-2,541	-3,100	-3,137
Gain on oil/gas programme and equipment	-84	-396	-4,079	0	0	0
Gain on bargain purchase	-24,293	-37,093	-173,473	-1,540	-139,000	0
Finance costs	3,291	4,510	17,743	36,677	0	0
Cancellation/retirement of debt	-14,149 1,754	0 -1,854	8,358	0	0	-
Changes in working capital	340	-1,854	-39,713 783	21,786 3,065	-11,899 0	-595
Non cash equity compensation Other adjustments	-34	727	0	3,005	0	0
						-
Operating cash flow	5,129 -862	6,844 -2,935	86,564 -18,515	279,156 -32,313	234,216 -24,000	250,777 -24,000
Oil and gas properties and equipment Free cash flow	-002 4,267	-2,935 3,831	66,878	-32,313 244,302	207,116	-24,000 223,640
Acquisitions	-8,438	-89,785	-750,256	-439,272	-210,000	220,040
Increase in restricted cash	-2	-627	-986	-5,302	-1,487	-2,608
Proceeds on disposal of oil/gas properties	93	334	4,079	10,000	0	_,
Investment cash flow	-9,209	-93,013	-765,678	-466,887	-235,487	-26,608
Repayment of borrowings	-6,794	-42,514	-280,890	-618,010	-297,000	-115,000
Proceeds of borrowings	14,915	75,000	581,221	765,236	353,250	0
Financing expense	-3,222	-3,298	-15,433	-32,715	0	0
Cost incurred to secure financing	0	0	-17,176	-11,574	0	0
Proceeds from capital lease	435	1,246	4,401	0	3,629	2,293
Repayment of capital lease	-164	-529	-1,093	-1,724	0	0
Proceeds from equity issuance, net	0	76,984	425,601	221,860	81,594	0
Dividends to shareholders	-956	-5,776	-31,313	-82,151	-98,515	-106,083
Repurchase of shares	0	0	0	-52,902	-15,634	0
Financing cash flow	4,214	101,113	665,318	188,020	27,324	-218,790
Other	0	0	0		0	0
Net cash flows	134	14,944	-13,796	289	26,052	5,379
Cash, start of the year	90	224	15,168	1,372	1,661	27,713
Cash, end of the year	224	15,168	1,372	1,661	27,713	33,092
Y-Y Growth						
Operating cash flow	n.a.	33.4%	1164.8%	222.5%	-16.1%	7.1%
Free cash flow	n.a.	89.8%	1745.7%	365.3%	84.8%	108.0%
EBITDA/share	n.a.	n.a.	159.5%	12.6%	3.7%	-2.6%

Imprint / Disclaimer

First Berlin Equity Research

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH ist ein von der BaFin betreffend die Einhaltung der Pflichten des §85 Abs. 1 S. 1 WpHG, des Art. 20 Abs. 1 Marktmissbrauchsverordnung (MAR) und der Markets Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II Durchführungsverordnung und der Markets in Financial Instruments Regulations (MiFIR) beaufsichtigtes Unternehmen.

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH is one of the companies monitored by BaFin with regard to its compliance with the requirements of Section 85 (1) sentence 1 of the German Securities Trading Act [WpHG], art. 20 (1) Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) and Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II Commission Delegated Regulation and Markets in Financial Instruments Regulations (MiFIR).

Anschrift: First Berlin Equity Research GmbH Mohrenstr. 34 10117 Berlin Germany

Vertreten durch den Geschäftsführer: Martin Bailey

Telefon: +49 (0) 30-80 93 9 680 Fax: +49 (0) 30-80 93 9 687 E-Mail: <u>info@firstberlin.com</u> Amtsgericht Berlin Charlottenburg HR B 103329 B UST-Id.: 251601797

Ggf. Inhaltlich Verantwortlicher gem. § 6 MDStV First Berlin Equity Research GmbH

Authored by: Simon Scholes, Analyst All publications of the last 12 months were authored by Simon Scholes.

Company responsible for preparation: First Berlin Equity Research GmbH, Mohrenstraße 34, 10117 Berlin

The production of this recommendation was completed on 1 September 2020 at 15:43

Person responsible for forwarding or distributing this financial analysis: Martin Bailey

Copyright© **2020 First Berlin Equity Research GmbH** No part of this financial analysis may be copied, photocopied, duplicated or distributed in any form or media whatsoever without prior written permission from First Berlin Equity Research GmbH. First Berlin Equity Research GmbH shall be identified as the source in the case of quotations. Further information is available on request.

INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 (1) SENTENCE 1 OF THE GERMAN SECURITIES TRADING ACT [WPHG], TO ART. 20 (1) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 596/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF APRIL 16, 2014, ON MARKET ABUSE (MARKET ABUSE REGULATION) AND TO ART. 37 OF COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) NO 2017/565 (MIFID) II.

First Berlin Equity Research GmbH (hereinafter referred to as: "First Berlin") prepares financial analyses while taking the relevant regulatory provisions, in particular section 85 (1) sentence 1 of the German Securities Trading Act [WpHG], art. 20 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 16, 2014, on market abuse (market abuse regulation) and art. 37 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 2017/565 (MiFID II) into consideration. In the following First Berlin provides investors with information about the statutory provisions that are to be observed in the preparation of financial analyses.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with art. 37 (1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 2017/565 (MiFID) II and art. 20 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 16, 2014, on market abuse (market abuse regulation) investment firms which produce, or arrange for the production of, investment research that is intended or likely to be subsequently disseminated to clients of the firm or to the public, under their own responsibility or that of a member of their group, shall ensure the implementation of all the measures set out in Article 34 (3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/565 in relation to the financial analysts involved in the production of the investment research and other relevant persons whose responsibilities or business interests may conflict with the interests of the persons to whom the investment research to in paragraph 2 (b) shall be designed to ensure that relevant persons engaged in different business activities involving a conflict of interests carry on those activities at level of independence appropriate to the size and activities of the investment firm and of the group to which it belongs, and to the risk of damage to the interests of clients.

First Berlin F.S.B. Investment-Beratungsgesellschaft mbH (hereafter FBIB), a company of the First Berlin Group, holds a stake of under 0.1% of the shares in the company which has been covered in this analysis. The analyst is not subject to any restrictions with regard to his recommendation and is therefore independent, so that we believe there is no conflict of interest.

First Berlin offers a range of services that go beyond the preparation of financial analyses. Although First Berlin strives to avoid conflicts of interest wherever possible, First Berlin may maintain the following relations with the analysed company, which in particular may constitute a potential conflict of interest (further information and data may be provided on request):

- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin holds an interest of more than five percent in the share capital of the analysed company;
- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin provided investment banking or consulting services for the analysed company within the past twelve months for which remuneration was or was to be paid;
- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the analysed company for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed;

 The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin has other significant financial interests in the analysed company;

In order to avoid and, if necessary, manage possible conflicts of interest both the author of the financial analysis and First Berlin shall be obliged to neither hold nor in any way trade the securities of the company analyzed. The remuneration of the author of the financial analysis stands in no direct or indirect connection with the recommendations or opinions represented in the financial analysis. Furthermore, the remuneration of the author of the financial analysis is neither coupled directly to financial transactions nor to stock exchange trading volume or asset management fees.

If despite these measures one or more of the aforementioned conflicts of interest cannot be avoided on the part of the author or First Berlin, then reference shall be made to such conflict of interest.

INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 64 OF THE GERMAN SECURITIES TRADING ACT [WPHG], DIRECTIVE 2014/65/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 15 MAY 2014 ON MARKETS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2002/92/EC AND DIRECTIVE 2011/61/EU, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MARKETS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS REGULATION (MIFIR, REG. EU NO. 600/2014).

First Berlin notes that is has concluded a contract with the issuer to prepare financial analyses and is paid for that by the issuer. First Berlin makes the financial analysis simultaneously available for all interested security financial services companies. First Berlin thus believes that it fulfils the requirements of section 64 WpHG for minor non-monetary benefits.

PRICE TARGET DATES

Unless otherwise indicated, current prices refer to the closing prices of the previous trading day.

AGREEMENT WITH THE ANALYSED COMPANY AND MAINTENANCE OF OBJECTIVITY

The present financial analysis is based on the author's own knowledge and research. The author prepared this study without any direct or indirect influence exerted on the part of the analysed company. Parts of the financial analysis were possibly provided to the analysed company prior to publication in order to avoid inaccuracies in the representation of facts. However, no substantial changes were made at the request of the analysed company following any such provision.

ASSET VALUATION SYSTEM

First Berlin's system for asset valuation is divided into an asset recommendation and a risk assessment.

ASSET RECOMMENDATION

The recommendations determined in accordance with the share price trend anticipated by First Berlin in the respectively indicated investment period are as follows:

Category Current market capitalisation (in €)			2 > 2 billion	
		0 - 2 billion		
Strong Buy ¹	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 50%	> 30%	
Buy	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 25%	> 15%	
Add	An expected favourable price trend of:	0% to 25%	0% to 15%	
Reduce	An expected negative price trend of:	0% to -15%	0% to -10%	
Sell	An expected negative price trend of:	< -15%	< -10%	

¹ The expected price trend is in combination with sizable confidence in the quality and forecast security of management

Our recommendation system places each company into one of two market capitalisation categories. Category 1 companies have a market capitalisation of $\leq 0 - \leq 2$ billion, and Category 2 companies have a market capitalisation of $> \leq 2$ billion. The expected return thresholds underlying our recommendation system are lower for Category 2 companies than for Category 1 companies. This reflects the generally lower level of risk associated with higher market capitalisation companies.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The First Berlin categories for risk assessment are low, average, high and speculative. They are determined by ten factors: Corporate governance, quality of earnings, management strength, balance sheet and financial risk, competitive position, standard of financial disclosure, regulatory and political uncertainty, strength of brandname, market capitalisation and free float. These risk factors are incorporated into the First Berlin valuation models and are thus included in the target prices. First Berlin customers may request the models.

RECOMMENDATION & PRICE TARGET HISTORY

Report No.:	Date of publication	Previous day closing price	Recommendation	Price target
Initial Report	30 June 2020	GBp94.4	Buy	GBp130.00
2	Today	GBp110.40	Buy	GBp150.00

INVESTMENT HORIZON

Unless otherwise stated in the financial analysis, the ratings refer to an investment period of twelve months.

UPDATES

At the time of publication of this financial analysis it is not certain whether, when and on what occasion an update will be provided. In general First Berlin strives to review the financial analysis for its topicality and, if required, to update it in a very timely manner in connection with the reporting obligations of the analysed company or on the occasion of ad hoc notifications.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The opinions contained in the financial analysis reflect the assessment of the author on the day of publication of the financial analysis. The author of the financial analysis reserves the right to change such opinion without prior notification.



Legally required information regarding

- key sources of information in the preparation of this research report
- valuation methods and principles
- sensitivity of valuation parameters

can be accessed through the following internet link: https://firstberlin.com/disclaimer-english-link/

SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY: Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority) [BaFin], Graurheindorferstraße 108, 53117 Bonn and Marie-Curie-Straße 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main

EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY (DISCLAIMER)

RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The information contained in this study is based on sources considered by the author to be reliable. Comprehensive verification of the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information has neither been carried out by the author nor by First Berlin. As a result no warranty of any kind whatsoever shall be assumed for the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be liable for any direct or indirect damage incurred through reliance on the accuracy and completeness of information and the reliability of sources of information.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

The author of the financial analysis made estimates and forecasts to the best of the author's knowledge. These estimates and forecasts reflect the author's personal opinion and judgement. The premises for estimates and forecasts as well as the author's perspective on such premises are subject to constant change. Expectations with regard to the future performance of a financial instrument are the result of a measurement at a single point in time and may change at any time. The result of a financial analysis always describes only one possible future development – the one that is most probable from the perspective of the author – of a number of possible future developments.

Any and all market values or target prices indicated for the company analysed in this financial analysis may not be achieved due to various risk factors, including but not limited to market volatility, sector volatility, the actions of the analysed company, economic climate, failure to achieve earnings and/or sales forecasts, unavailability of complete and precise information and/or subsequently occurring event which affects the underlying assumptions of the author and/or other sources on which the author relies in this document. Past performance is not an indicator of future results; past values cannot be carried over into the future.

Consequently, no warranty of any kind whatsoever shall be assumed for the accuracy of estimates and forecasts, and neither the author nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be liable for any direct or indirect damage incurred through reliance on the correctness of estimates and forecasts.

INFORMATION PURPOSES, NO RECOMMENDATION, SOLICITATION, NO OFFER FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITIES

The present financial analysis serves information purposes. It is intended to support institutional investors in making their own investment decisions; however in no way provide the investor with investment advice. Neither the author, nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall be considered to be acting as an investment advisor or portfolio manager vis-à-vis an investor. Each investor must form his own independent opinion with regard to the suitability of an investment in view of his own investment objectives, experience, tax situation, financial position and other circumstances.

The financial analysis does not represent a recommendation or solicitation and is not an offer for the purchase of the security specified in this financial analysis. Consequently, neither the author nor First Berlin, nor the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall as a result be liable for losses incurred through direct or indirect employment or use of any kind whatsoever of information or statements arising out of this financial analysis.

A decision concerning an investment in securities should take place on the basis of independent investment analyses and procedures as well as other studies including, but not limited to, information memoranda, sales or issuing prospectuses and not on the basis of this document.

NO ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

By taking note of this financial analysis the recipient neither becomes a customer of First Berlin, nor does First Berlin incur any contractual, quasi-contractual or pre-contractual obligations and/or responsibilities toward the recipient. In particular no information contract shall be established between First Berlin and the recipient of this information.

NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE

First Berlin, the author and/or the person responsible for passing on or distributing the financial analysis shall not be obliged to update the financial analysis. Investors must keep themselves informed about the current course of business and any changes in the current course of business of the analysed company.

DUPLICATION

Dispatch or duplication of this document is not permitted without the prior written consent of First Berlin.

SEVERABILITY

Should any provision of this disclaimer prove to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under the respectively applicable law, then such provision shall be treated as if it were not an integral component of this disclaimer; in no way shall it affect the legality, validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions.

APPLICABLE LAW, PLACE OF JURISDICTION

The preparation of this financial analysis shall be subject to the law obtaining in the Federal Republic of Germany. The place of jurisdiction for any disputes shall be Berlin (Germany).

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER

By taking note of this financial analysis the recipient confirms the binding nature of the above explanations.

By using this document or relying on it in any manner whatsoever the recipient accepts the above restrictions as binding for the recipient.

QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

First Berlin financial analyses are intended exclusively for qualified institutional investors.

This report is not intended for distribution in the USA and/or Canada.