

# **CR Capital AG**

Germany / Investment Holding Primary exchange: Frankfurt Bloomberg: CRZK GR ISIN: DE000A2GS625

FY21 results & update

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY € 53.00

Return Potential 73.8% Risk Rating High

## HOME, GREEN HOME

Full year 2021 reporting further validated CR Capital's evolution towards a company builder. Net income tallied €64m in 2021 marking another year of > 10% bottom line growth, while the investment portfolio continues to take shape with a sharpened sustainability focus. Home building, spearheaded by the holding in Terrabau GmbH, remains a driving force, and now CRC is tackling year-round home electrification with climateneutral power systems, while also laying the groundwork to supply green construction materials. The company looks primed for another strong year with a full pipeline and secure supply chains. An updated discounted dividend model yields a €53 target price (old: €58) Our rating remains Buy.

Decarbonising home construction CR Capital is getting into the renewable energy business and has taken an 80% stake in Solartec GmbH. The company operates as a system integrator specialising in rooftop solar rigs combined with hydrogen technology to allow homeowners to store excess electricity produced during the sunshine months for winter usage. Solartec will work with Terrabau in outfitting residential projects with climate-neutral power production systems. Plans are also in the works to roll out a B2B model for commercial properties. The company believes this combination represents a near-term €20m revenue opportunity. Meanwhile, Greentec has also positioned itself as a supplier of green steel, once the nascent industry ramps up production. However, we regard this investment as early stage until volumes become available.

Primed for another strong year Terrabau has a full residential pipeline of town home projects, while the private equity specialist, CR Opportunities, is weighing options for further bond issuances. After speaking with management, we do not expect supply chain headaches to hamper Terrabau's home construction, since the developer has already secured the needed materials for the upcoming projects through 2023. The rates for contractors and labour are also locked in. Against this background we expect CRC to again notch double digit bottom line growth in 2022 leading to another increase in the dividend (FBe: €2.60). (p.t.o.)

#### **FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS**

	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Investment rev. (€m)	95.64	64.53	69.86	75.59	81.61	91.31
Y/Y growth	n.a.	-32.5%	8.2%	8.2%	8.0%	11.9%
EBIT (€m)	91.23	51.19	66.44	72.06	77.97	87.59
EBIT margin	95.4%	79.3%	95.1%	95.3%	95.5%	95.9%
Net income (€m)	92.47	51.27	65.39	70.98	76.80	86.28
EPS (diluted) (€)	24.69	13.65	17.11	17.04	17.01	19.10
DPS (€)	1.50	1.50	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.90
NAVPS (€)	33.30	47.50	59.44	68.82	83.43	99.84
Net gearing	4.7%	-0.5%	-0.6%	-3.5%	-2.8%	-2.4%
Liquid assets (€m)	1.07	0.84	1.49	10.80	10.51	10.84

#### RISKS

Risks include but are not limited to: increasing competition, the company's focus on the residential market in Berlin, and the loss of key personnel.

#### **COMPANY PROFILE**

CR Capital is a Berlin-based investment holding focused on growth opportunities in the sustainable technology, private equity, and residential property development sectors in order to positively impact key social issues such as climate change, pension planning, and affordable housing. The company is listed on the Open Market of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

MARKET DATA	As of 20 Jul 2022
Closing Price	€ 30.50
Shares outstanding	4.54m
Market Capitalisation	€ 138.47m
52-week Range	€ 27.10 / 39.80
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	1.571

Multiples	2021	2022E	2023E
P/NAV	0.5	0.4	0.4
EV/Sales	2.0	1.8	1.7
EV/EBIT	2.1	1.9	1.8
Div. Yield	8.2%	8.5%	8.9%

#### STOCK OVERVIEW



COMPANY DATA	As of 31 Dec 2021
Liquid Assets	€ 1.49m
Current Assets	€ 2.24m
Financial Assets	€ 245.56m
Total Assets	€ 248.02m
Current Liabilities	€ 0.15m
Shareholders' Equity	€ 240.78m

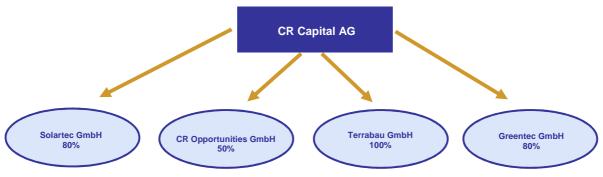
#### **SHAREHOLDERS**

MPH Group	58.0%
Free Float	42.0%

## **HOME, GREEN HOME**

After adding majority stakes in Solartec GmbH and Greentec GmbH, CR Capital now has a well-stocked, green-tinged portfolio in its quest to develop companies with significant earnings and value growth potential in sustainable business sectors.

Figure 1: Stakes in core holdings



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital

#### **ELECTRIFICATION SOLUTIONS**

Earlier this year, CR Capital took an 80% stake in Solartec GmbH. The company designs and installs climate-neutral energy systems, which combine rooftop solar PV rigs with hydrogen technology for year-round electrification of private homes.

The green-home boom is gaining steam, thanks to rising energy prices, new green commitments by policy makers, and improved technologies. Many of these technologies have been around for a while, but they are now ready for mainstream applications. The case for homeowners to put solar panels on their roofs looks increasingly compelling because: (1) panels do not belch carbon dioxide; (2) electricity is generated where it is consumed and can ease the strain on transmission lines and power plants; and (3) the average price of residential solar systems is less than half its level in 2010.

Figure 2: Grid independence for homeowners



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital

The rub with solar panels is they provide too much electricity in the summer and too little in wintertime, while efficient and / or economically feasible storage solutions are hard to come by. Solartec wants to solve this problem with electrolysers to produce clean hydrogen made by solar energy and with intelligent energy management systems.

Solartec contends that the pairing of solar panels with electrolysers can make homeowners grid-independent by converting surplus power produced by solar in the sunny summer months into hydrogen and storing it for winter usage rather than selling it back to utilities.

Clean hydrogen Currently, most hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels, specifically natural gas, that emit a lot of  $CO_2$  unless coupled with technologies that capture and sequester carbon. The cleaner way is to use zero-carbon electricity to run electrolysers that split water into hydrogen and oxygen. But this is a power-hungry process—50 to 60 kWh are required for every kilogram of hydrogen produced.

Figure 3: Electrolyser technology for clean hydrogen



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; Enapter S.r.l.

Solar can substitute for dirty fossil fuels to produce green hydrogen in two ways. The first is via a photochemical process that uses solar energy directly to split water into hydrogen and  $O_2$ . While direct hydrogen production is attractive, the method must still undergo significant innovation to reach scalability.

The second is solar powered electrolysis, which uses solar cells to generate electricity and tear water molecules apart, thereby liberating their constituent hydrogen and oxygen. Given the reliance on established technologies, this method is better suited to produce sufficient amounts of green hydrogen in sunny regions.

**Putting it all together** Solartec will source solar panels from US and German manufacturers and avoid dependency on Chinese modules. Large order volumes should mitigate delivery issues. The company also has an agreement in place with a German maker of electrolysers—the key component for year round electrification solutions.

Solartec will work closely with Terrabau GmbH and plans to connect multiple homes to a single system to divvy up the investment costs among multiple homeowners. Aside from the residential business, Solartec plans to roll out a B2B model to commercial landlords. The

company reckons these channels will lead to a €20m market opportunity over the near term. With key components secured and a ready-made customer in Terrabau, we think Solartec should have a strong operational start. The system integrator recently completed realising its first pilot project in Ludwigsfelde.

### **GREEN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

Having addressed electrification via its Solartec investment, CR Capital regards the use of high-grade green steel in its home construction activities as the next step in tackling planet-cooking  $CO_2$  emissions.

Figure 4: Green steel for primary industries across the EU



Source: H<sub>2</sub> Green Steel

**Greentec** is positioning itself in the emerging green steel industry as a supplier to the home construction sector. The steel industry is responsible for around 25% of Europe's industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and Europe produces some 16% of the world's steel. Big producers are found in Germany and Poland, where the steel industry is mostly coal-based and very dirty.

To make steel, iron ore must be melted at high temperatures and reduced from iron oxide to iron. The process typically involves burning fossil fuels, thus releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide. For each tonne of steel produced using fossil fuels, around two tonnes of carbon dioxide get belched into the atmosphere.

Green steel is typically forged in an electric arc furnace using renewable energy sources and recycled scrap. This approach emits a mere 100kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of crude steel produced, or ~95% less than coal-fired blast furnaces.

Several green steel projects underway are replacing fossil fuels with hydrogen as a reducing agent. The hydrogen is made by electrolysing water, using electricity produced by hydropower. This involves almost no carbon-dioxide emissions at all.

While these innovations look promising, we expect it will take years for large green steel capacity to come online and thus regard Greentec as an early stage operation. At the time of writing, Terrabau is building the first concept house in Ludwigsfelde with green steel but wants to fully transition to this material in the future.

## **ESG IN FOCUS**

Once considered nebulous scoring systems concocted by data analysts purporting to assess firms' performance based on environmental, social and governance factors, ESG scores are becoming increasingly important in the world of investing and capital markets.

Figure 5: CRC's improving ESG profile ticks 8 of 17 UN SDGs

















Source: United Nations department of communications

CR Capital is increasingly ticking the boxes (figure 1) of the UN's SDGs (sustainable development goals) with its sharpened strategic alignment towards sustainability, and this commitment was recently recognised by imug, a consultancy, with a "very good" sustainability rating.

Figure 6: "Very good" sustainability rating from imug consultancy



Source: imug Beratungsgesellschaft

In its previous iteration two years ago, CR Capital Real Estate was predominantly a property developer. But the reshaped company has now transformed itself into a company builder with its investments in CR Opportunities, which funds innovative technologies, and now Solartec and Greentec. With ESG increasingly in the limelight, we see this as an important step in CR Capital's evolution.

## **FULL YEAR RESULTS BREAKDOWN**

Table 1: 2021 results vs FBe and prior year

All figures in EUR '000	2021	2021E	Variance	2020	Variance
Investment revenue	69,856	95,620	-27%	64,534	8%
EBITDA	66,488	92,693	-28%	51,190	30%
Margin (%)	95%	97%	-	79%	-
Net income	65,391	91,303	-28%	51,265	28%
EPS diluted (€)	17.1	24.0	-29%	13.6	25%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital AG

Full year results showcased the performance potential of the holdings, with CR Opportunities and Terrabau contributing to the mix. Cash earnings amounted to €17.1m for the year with portfolio revaluations accounting for the balance of investment revenue. The latter was driven mainly by CR Opportunities. Net income tallied €65m with operating revenue flowing abundantly to the bottom line, thanks to low operating costs and no interest expense.

**Dividend on 2021 earnings includes scrip dividend option** The AGM recently authorised CR Capital to distribute a €2.5 per share dividend (2020: €1.5ps; +67%). Shareholders again had the option to receive their tax-free payout through a scrip dividend at a ~50% discount to the share price at €17.5. For the second consecutive year, over 80% of CRC shareholders opted for discounted shares vs cash payment.

Figure 7: Two year net asset value development



Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital AG

Two year NAV CAGR of 39% The NAV climbed 35% on an annualised basis to €241m, while NAVPS stood at €59.4 at YE21 (+25% Y/Y). The slight dip in NAVPS vs the H1/21 figure (€62.5) owes to the higher share count traced to the scrip dividend shares issued in H2/21.

**Table 2: YE financial highlights** 

1.486		
1,400	841	77%
2,241	18,888	-88%
229,468	169,476	35%
248,020	188,465	32%
0	0	-
240,784	177,977	35%
97%	94%	-
	229,468 248,020 0 240,784	229,468 169,476 248,020 188,465 0 0 240,784 177,977

Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital AG

**Debt free balance sheet** YE reporting transparency has improved and now includes a full balance sheet and notes. The rise in total assets is occasioned by the increase in value of the investment portfolio. Current assets fell on liquidation of securities held with proceeds reinvested into the portfolio.

**Table 3: Cash flow developments** 

All figures in EUR '000	2021	2020	Variance
Net operating cash flow	14,428	-251	-
Cash flow from investing	-11,305	365	-
Free cash flow	3,123	114	n.m.
FCF conversion rate	5%	0%	-
Cash flow from financing	-2,478	0	-
Net cash flow	645	114	466%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research; CR Capital AG

Operating cash flow was boosted by dividend payouts from Terrabau (~€10m) and CR Opportunities (~€3.5m). The €11m in cash flow from investing is traced to the initial amount CR Capital stumped up for its Solartec and Greentec stakes. The relatively low FCF conversion rate (5%) owes to the large non-cash revaluation gains encompassed in the EBITDA result.

## **OUTLOOK**

Terrabau's pipeline is full through the end of 2023 with all units pre-sold and all key materials and labour locked in. According to CRC management, demand for affordable housing has so far been less impacted by the jump in interest rates than the luxury home segment. CR Capital is confident of further resilience in the affordable housing sector, given the lack of viable options for prospective homeowners and still low level of rental inventory in CRC's core markets.

Meanwhile, we see good opportunities for Solartec in the commercial sector if it can quickly scale the business. Worryingly, the carbon footprint of buildings is growing. On the current trajectory, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to buildings are expected to double by 2050. Across the EU, where nearly two-thirds of the building stock relies on fossil fuels for heating and cooling, policymakers want nearly half of a building's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030. We reckon Solartec's climate-neutral power systems could help landlords meet tightening energy-efficiency standards for their properties.

70% 4.0 60% 3.5 50% 3.0 40% 2.0 30% 1.5 20% 1.0 10% 0.5 0.0 0% 2021 2020 2022F 2023E 2024F DPS (€) —Y/Y growth

Figure 8: Dividend developments

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates; CR Capital AG

Given these prospects, we see good growth opportunities for CR Capital's portfolio companies, despite the volatile macro-environment. Although management indicated that supply chains are secure, we have nevertheless dialled down our near-term forecasts as a precaution to account for looming recessionary risks that still have to play out.

Meanwhile, the addition of Solartec has a positive impact on our medium-term targets and helps offset the more conservative near-term estimates (table 3) in our model. Our revised forecasts call for 9% bottom line growth in 2022. CRC will pay out 15% of 2021 net income to shareholders, and we expect this ratio to remain stable on 2022 earnings, which would equate to DPS of €2.5 and an 8.4% yield.

Table 4: Revisions to FBe and target price

	old	new	revision	upside	dividend yield	total retun
Price target (€)	58	53	-8.6%	73.8%	8.9%	82.6%
		2022E			2023E	
All figures in € '000	old	new	revision	old	new	revision
Investment revenue	83,202	75,594	-9.1%	95,620	81,615	-14.6%
EBIT	80,361	72,057	-10.3%	92,693	77,972	-15.9%
Margin (%)	96.6%	95.3%	-	96.9%	95.5%	-
Net income	79,155	70,976	-10.3%	91,303	76,802	-15.9%
EPS diluted (€)	20.8	17.0	-18.0%	24.0	17.0	-29.0%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates; CR Capital AG



## **VALUATION MODEL**

The number of shares outstanding will increase to 4.5m (old: 4.1m) following the issuance of scrip dividend shares. This is now reflected in our dividend per share (DPS) estimates. Our cost of equity estimate of 8.8% (old: 9.0%) now factors in: (1) an upped risk-free rate to 1.0% (old: 0.8%) in order to reflect the current spike in German bond yields; and (2) a lowered First Berlin risk factor that takes account of the greatly improved reporting transparency in CRC's annual report. The latter factor more than offsets the former, and our rolled forward DDM model yields a €53 target price (old: €58). Our rating remains Buy.

Table 5: Discounted dividend model

	Unit	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	TV
EPS	€	17.0	17.0	19.1	21.1	23.2	25.1	28.3
Payout ratio	%	15	16	15	15	15	15	15
Dividend (DPS)	€	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.3
Y/Y	%	4.0	3.8	7.4	10.3	9.4	8.6	-
NPV	€	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	31.5
CAGR 2022 -2026	%	7.0						
Terminal growth rate	%	2.0						
Discount factor	%	8.8						
NPV of dividends	€	21						
Terminal value (TV)	€	32						
Fair value per share	€	53.00						

<sup>\*</sup>Our model runs through 2030 and we have only shown the abbreviated version for formatting purposes

Cost of equity	8.8%	After-tax cost of debt	4.9%
Pre-tax cost of debt	5.0%	Share of equity capital	100.0%
Tax rate	2.0%	Share of debt capital	0.0%
WACC	8.8%		



in € '000	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Investment income	93,604	64,378	68,914	74,624	80,625	90,300
Other operating income	1,172	156	942	970	990	1,009
Investment income	95,639	64,534	69,856	75,594	81,615	91,309
Personnel expenses	-1,494	-815	-828	-861	-887	-905
Other impairments	0	-10,203	0	0	0	0
Other operating expenses	-2,878	-2,326	-2,540	-2,642	-2,721	-2,775
EBITDA	91,267	51,190	66,488	72,092	78,007	87,630
Depreciation & amortisation	-40	0	-47	-35	-35	-35
Operating income (EBIT)	91,227	51,190	66,441	72,057	77,972	87,595
Interest expense	-254	-207	-178	0	0	0
Interest income	368	282	160	0	0	0
Pre-tax income (EBT)	91,341	51,265	66,423	72,057	77,972	87,595
Tax expense	1,129	0	-1,032	-1,081	-1,170	-1,314
Minority expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income / loss	92,470	51,265	65,391	70,976	76,802	86,281
Diluted EPS (in €)	24.7	13.6	17.1	17.0	17.0	19.1
Ratios						
EBITDA margin on revenues	95.4%	79.3%	95.2%	95.4%	95.6%	96.0%
EBIT margin on revenues	95.4%	79.3%	95.1%	95.3%	95.5%	95.9%
Net margin on revenues	96.7%	79.4%	93.6%	93.9%	94.1%	94.5%
Tax rate	-1.2%	0.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Expenses as % of revenues						
Personnel expenses	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Other operating expenses	3.0%	3.6%	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%
Y-Y Growth						
Revenues	n.m.	-32.5%	8.2%	8.2%	8.0%	11.9%
Operating income	n.m.	-43.9%	29.8%	8.5%	8.2%	12.3%
Net income/ loss	n.m.	-44.6%	27.6%	8.5%	8.2%	12.3%

<sup>\*</sup> IFRS 10 reporting as of 2019



## **BALANCE SHEET**

in €'000	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Assets						
Current assets, total	19,282	18,888	2,306	11,648	11,383	11,732
Cash and cash equivalents	1,071	841	1,486	10,803	10,513	10,836
Accounts receivable	285	0	0	0	0	0
Other ST assets	13,605	18,047	820	845	870	896
Non-current assets, total	117,622	169,577	245,714	306,879	373,818	448,787
Intangible assets & goodwill	6,586	5	77	87	97	107
Tangible assets	105	96	77	87	97	107
Financial assets	100,531	169,476	245,560	306,705	373,624	448,573
Total assets	136,904	188,465	248,020	318,527	385,201	460,519
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total	2,821	173	146	161	177	194
Accounts payable	1,136	173	146	161	177	194
ST debt	1,685	0	0	0	0	0
Long-term liabilities, total	8,992	10,315	7,090	7,557	8,059	8,599
Deferred tax liabilities	2,353	1,445	2,324	2,556	2,812	3,093
Provisions	1,253	50	119	121	124	126
Other LT liabilities	176	8,820	4,647	4,879	5,123	5,379
LT debt	5,210	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholders' equity, total	125,091	177,977	240,784	310,810	376,966	451,726
Total consolidated equity and debt	136,904	188,465	248,020	318,527	385,201	460,519
Ratios						
Current ratio (x)	6.8	109.2	15.8	72.5	64.4	60.4
Net debt / (cash)	5,824	-841	-1,486	-10,803	-10,513	-10,836
Net debt /EBITDA (x)	0.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dividend cover (x)	-2.3	-0.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Net gearing	5%	0%	-1%	-3%	-3%	-2%
Equity ratio	91%	94%	97%	98%	98%	98%
NAV	125,091	177,977	240,784	310,810	376,966	451,726
NA VPS (€)	33.3	47.5	59.4	68.8	83.5	100.0



## **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

in € '000	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Net income	92,470	51,265	65,391	70,976	76,802	86,281
Depreciation & amortisation	40	10,203	47	35	35	35
Income from investments	-48,000	0	9,993	10,275	10,438	12,018
Result from at equity participations	-41,589	-61,293	-64,986	-74,624	-80,625	-90,300
Financial result	-114	-75	18	0	0	0
Tax Result	-1,131	0	1,032	1,081	1,170	1,314
Change in w orking capital	-4,108	-426	3,983	457	493	531
Operating cash flow	-2,432	-326	15,478	8,200	8,313	9,879
Tax paid	-78	0	-1,032	-1,081	-1,170	-1,314
Net operating cash flow	-2,510	-326	14,446	7,119	7,143	8,565
Cash flow from investing	-372	647	-11,145	-55	-55	-55
Dividend paid to shareholders	-2,809	0	-5,619	-950	-10,646	-11,520
Dividends received	0	0	3,141	3,204	3,268	3,333
Debt inflow, net	3,402	0	0	0	0	0
Equity inflow, net	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expense	-253	-207	-178	0	0	0
Cash flow from financing	340	-207	-2,656	2,254	-7,378	-8,187
Cash, start of the year	3,613	727	841	1,486	10,803	10,513
Change in cash, net	-2,542	114	645	9,317	-290	323
Cash, end of the year	727	841	1,486	10,803	10,513	10,836
Free cash flow (FCF)	-2,882	321	3,301	7,064	7,088	8,510
FCFPS (in €)	-0.8	0.1	0.9	1.7	1.6	1.9
Y-Y Growth						
Net operating cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	-50.7%	0.3%	19.9%
Free cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	928.3%	114.0%	0.3%	20.1%
FCFPS	n.m.	n.m.	910.9%	96.3%	-7.4%	20.1%

<sup>\*</sup> IFRS 10 reporting as of 2019



### **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<sup>1</sup>

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: Ellis Acklin, Senior Analyst

All publications of the last 12 months were authored by Ellis Acklin.

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

The production of this recommendation was completed on 21 July 2022 at 14:10

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

Copyright© 2022 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 forth in accordance with Article 34 (2) lit. (b) 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 is disseminated. In accordance with art. 34 (3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/565 the procedures and measures referred to in paragraph 2 lit. (b) of such article shall be designed to ensure that relevant persons engaged in different business activities involving a conflict of interests carry on those activities at a 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.

In addition, First Berlin shall pursuant to Article 5 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958 disclose in their recommendations all relationships and circumstances that may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the financial analyses, including interests or conflicts of interest, on their part or on the part of any natural or legal person working for them under a contract, including a contract of employment, or otherwise, who was involved in producing financial analyses, concerning any financial instrument or the issuer to which the recommendation directly or indirectly relates.

With regard to the financial analyses of CR Capital AG the following relationships and circumstances exist which may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the financial analyses: The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the CR Capital AG for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed.

Furthermore, 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:

- The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin owns a net long or short position exceeding the threshold of 0.5 % of the total issued share capital of the analysed company;
- 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;

With regard to the financial analyses of CR Capital AG the following of the aforementioned potential conflicts of interests or the potential conflicts of interest mentioned in Article 6 paragraph 1 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958 exist: The author, First Berlin, or a company associated with First Berlin reached an agreement with the CR Capital AG for preparation of a financial analysis for which remuneration is owed.

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.

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 €)		1	2 > 2 billion	
		0 - 2 billion		
Strong Buy <sup>1</sup>	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%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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  $\in 0 - \in 2$  billion, and Category 2 companies have a market capitalisation of  $> \in 2$  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	23 July 2014	€0.95	Buy	€10.50
25	<b>↓</b>	$\downarrow$	<b>↓</b>	<b>↓</b>
6	23 May 2017	€1.60	Buy	€14.00
7	29 April 2019	€31.80	Buy	€20.00
8	30 September 2019	€25.20	Buy	€35.00
9	4 June 2020	€28.90	Buy	€37.00
10	7 April 2020	€21.70	Buy	€37.00
11	17 September 2021	€34.00	Buy	€58.00
12	Today	€30.50	Buy	€53.00

#### 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, 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 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 a 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.