Financial Services - Germany



Buy (old: Buy) 15.04.2025

EUR 7.40 (old: EUR 7.40)

FY'24 review: improved cost mix ahead of AuM scaling

To recap: Following preliminary sales and EBITDA figures of March, LAIQON's final FY'24 results gave deeper insights into the segment performance, cost mix and cash generation. Here's our takeaway:

Digital Wealth in full swing. Next to a strong increase in AuM (+27% yoy to € 0.7bn), sales in the segment expanded by a staggering 77% yoy to € 3.9m (+109% yoy in H2'24). This implies an **average sales margin on AuMs of 0.65% in FY'24** (vs. 0.42% in FY'23), showing that the € 150m additional AuMs should have carried an **incremental 1.14% sales margin**. In our view, this bodes extremely well for FY'25e, where a substantial part of the group's AuM growth should stem from the Digital Wealth segment (i.e., "Wertanlage" in cooperation with Union Investment). Furthermore, the additional sales **carried a 70% incremental EBITDA margin** (FY'24 segment EBITDA; € -1.7m vs. € -2.9m in FY'23) which also shows the strong earnings potential following sufficient scale.

Wealth Management paints a similar picture. Similar to Digital Wealth, Wealth Management expanded AuMs (+17% yoy) and sales (+16% yoy), which implies a sales margin of 0.53% (vs. 0.49% in FY'23). EBITDA improved as well (FY'24: € -0.3m, vs. € -1m in FY'23), also carrying a 70% incremental EBITDA margin thanks to an increasing fix cost coverage.

Improved cost mix. On group level, the above mentioned development showed an improving cost mix: Relative to sales, personnel expenses decreased by 1.6pp yoy to 64.2% of sales, but the larger margin driver were decreasing material expenses by 4.3pp yoy to 15% of sales due to third party services being internalized. Mind you, that the main cost reductions regarded fix costs, meaning that with increasing AuM and sales, profitability should expand disproportionately.

Positive FCF in H2'24. A key highlight was the better than expected FCF development, which came in even **positive with € 1.7m in H2'24** (FY'24: € -5.5m), only partially thanks to a positive WC swing.

In sum, the share offers an attractive entry opportunity, as with the Union Investment cooperation in place, FY'25e is seen as the year of scaling AuMs, which should come in with strong incremental sales and EBITDA margins, but also positive cash generation which are all visible already. Therefore, we **reiterate our BUY recommendation** with an unchanged **PT of € 7.40**, based on DCF.

Y/E 31.12 (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Sales	21.6	30.7	31.0	34.4	38.7	42.9
Sales growth	-17.4%	42.5%	0.8%	11.0%	12.6%	10.8%
EBITDA	-9.9	-4.7	-3.8	2.5	4.9	7.8
Net debt (if net cash=0)	12.8	37.2	20.2	20.9	19.1	11.7
FCF	-4.0	-12.1	-5.5	2.2	3.3	7.4
Net Debt/EBITDA	-1.3	-7.9	-5.3	8.3	3.9	1.5
EPS pro forma	-0.58	-0.70	-0.36	-0.19	-0.09	0.09
EBITDA margin	-46.1%	-15.2%	-12.3%	7.3%	12.6%	18.1%
ROCE	-18.3%	-12.8%	-9.7%	-3.7%	-0.6%	2.3%
EV/sales	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.2
EV/EBITDA	-8.2	-22.6	-27.1	41.6	21.0	12.2
PER	-6.9	-5.6	-10.9	-21.0	-41.6	42.5
Adjusted FCF yield	-10.7%	-3.3%	-5.0%	-1.3%	0.6%	2.5%

Source: Company data, NuWays, Close price as of 14.04.2025



Market data	
Share price (in €)	4.05
Market cap (in € m)	83.3
Number of shares (in m pcs)	21.1
Enterprise value (in € m)	104.2
Ø trading volume (6 months)	9,333

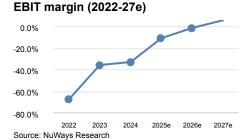
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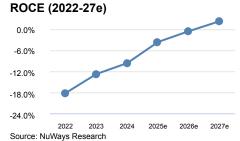
Key shareholders				
DEWB	15.3%			
Joachim Herz Foundation	9.9%			
Plate Family Office	8.1%			
LAC Shareholder	7.2%			
SPSW Shareholder	7.2%			

Estimates changes						
	<u>2025e</u>	2026e	<u>2027e</u>			
Sales	-4%	-5%	-7%			
EBIT	-8%	-140%	-52%			
EPS	-3%	-147%	-47%			

Comment on changes

Sales (2022-27e) 48.0m 36.0m 24.0m 12.0m 0.0m 2022 2023 2024 2025e 2026e 2027e Source: NuWays Research





Company description

LAIQON is an independent asset- and wealth manager with focus on actively managed non-benchmark funds, on 360 degree, holistic wealth management solutions for wealthy clients as well as on digitizing wealth management via its WealthTech LAIC Advisor.

Guidance

- FY25: € 8-10bn AuM
- FY25: >45% EBITDA margin (incl. performance fees)

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Financials						
Profit and loss (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	202
Net sales	21.6	30.7	31.0	34.4	38.7	42
Sales growth	-17.4%	42.5%	0.8%	11.0%	12.6%	10.8
ncrease/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(
otal sales	21.6	30.7	31.0	34.4	38.7	42
Other operating income	3.4	4.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	2
Naterial expenses	3.7	5.9	4.6	4.8	5.1	į
Personnel expenses	17.1	20.2	19.9	18.7	20.3	2
Other operating expenses	14.1	13.9	12.1	10.3	10.5	10
Total operating expenses	31.5	35.4	34.8	31.9	33.9	3
BITDA	-9.9	-4.7	-3.8	2.5	4.9	•
Depreciation	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	:
BITA	-11.9	-7.2	-6.2	0.2	2.6	
Amortisation of goodwill	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Amortisation of intangible assets	2.7	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.2	
mpairment charges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
EBIT (inc revaluation net)	-14.7	-11.1	-10.3	-3.8	-0.6	
nterest income	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
nterest expenses	3.9	10.9	4.4	4.5	4.6	
nvestment income	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	
Financial result	-1.5	-8.8	-2.5	-2.6	-2.6	_
Recurring pretax income from continuing operations	-16.2	-19.8	-12.8	-6.4	-3.2	
Extraordinary income/loss	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Earnings before taxes	-16.2	-19.8	-12.8	-6.4	-3.2	
ncome tax expense	-5.7	-7.1	-4.9	-2.2	-1.1	
let income from continuing operations	-10.4	-12.7	-8.0	-4.1	-2.1	
ncome from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
let income	-10.4	-12.7	- 8.0	-4.1	-2.1	
Ainority interest	-0.4	-0.6	-0.3	-0.2	-2.1 -0.1	
let profit (reported)	-10.1	-12.2	-0.5 - 7.6	-4.0	-0.1 -2.0	
Average number of shares	15.4	17.5	19.3	21.1	21.1	2
EPS reported	-0.65	-0.70	-0.40	-0.19	-0.09	0
er 3 Teporteu	-0.03	-0.70	-0.40	-0.13	-0.03	U
rofit and loss (common size)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	202
let sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.
ales growth	-17.4%	42.5%	0.8%	11.0%	12.6%	10.
ncrease/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
otal sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.
Other operating income	15.7%	15.2%	5.8%	5.4%	5.0%	4.
Material expenses	17.0%	19.3%	15.0%	13.9%	13.1%	12.
Personnel expenses	79.3%	65.8%	64.2%	54.5%	52.4%	49.
Other operating expenses	65.5%	45.4%	38.9%	29.8%	27.0%	24.
otal operating expenses	146.1%	115.2%	112.3%	92.7%	87.4%	81.
BITDA	-46.1%	-15.2%	-12.3%	7.3%	12.6%	18.
Depreciation	9.2%	8.2%	7.8%	6.8%	5.9%	5.
BITA	-55.3%	-23.4%	-20.1%	0.5%	6.7%	12.
mortisation of goodwill	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
mortisation of intangible assets	12.6%	12.6%	13.1%	11.5%	8.1%	7.
mpairment charges	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
BIT (inc revaluation net)	-67.9%	-36.0%	-33.2%	-11.0%	-1.5%	5.
nterest income	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
nterest expenses	18.0%	35.3%	14.1%	13.1%	11.9%	5.
nvestment income	10.5%	6.4%	6.0%	5.6%	5.1%	4.
inancial result	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	n
Recurring pretax income from continuing operations	-75.0%	-64.5%	-41.3%	-18.5%	-8.3%	4.
Extraordinary income/loss	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
Earnings hefers toyon	7E 00/	GA E9/	44 20/	40 E0/	0.070	4

-75.0%

35.5%

-48.3%

-48.3%

-1.7%

-46.6%

0.0%

-64.5%

35.8%

-41.5%

-41.5%

-1.8%

-39.7%

0.0%

Net profit (reported) Source: Company data, NuWays

Earnings before taxes

Net income from continuing operations

Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)

Tax rate

Net income

Minority interest

NuWays AG 2

-41.3%

37.9%

-25.7%

-25.7%

-1.0%

-24.6%

0.0%

-18.5%

35.0%

-12.0%

0.0%

-12.0%

-0.5%

-11.5%

-8.3%

35.0%

-5.4%

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-5.4%

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4.8%

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4.8%

0.2%

4.6%

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Balance sheet (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Intangible assets	90.3	87.2	85.9	82.0	78.8	75.8
Property, plant and equipment	10.4	13.2	11.6	9.2	6.9	4.6
Financial assets	1.8	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
FIXED ASSETS	102.5	102.2	98.6	92.3	86.8	81.5
Inventories	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accounts receivable	9.9	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2
Other assets and short-term financial assets	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Liquid assets	10.4	7.1	13.7	12.9	14.8	22.1
Deferred taxes	16.1	23.3	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT ASSETS	37.4	42.5	36.3	35.5	37.4	44.8
TOTAL ASSETS	139.8	144.6	134.9	127.8	124.2	126.3
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	66.6	55.6	72.1	65.4	62.0	64.1
MINORITY INTEREST	5.5	-0.9	8.9	8.6	8.4	8.4
Long-term liabilities to banks	16.5	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Bonds (long-term)	0.0	26.8	23.1	23.1	23.1	23.1
other interest-bearing liabilities	4.4	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	21.2	42.5	31.9	31.9	31.9	31.9
Short-term liabilities to banks	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Accounts payable	21.7	24.8	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7
Advance payments received on orders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accrued taxes	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	3.5	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Deferred taxes	17.1	17.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Deferred income	0.0 46.6	0.0 47.4	0.0 22.0	0.0 22.0	0.0 22.0	0.0 21.9
CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	139.8	144.6	134.9	127.8	124.2	126.3
Balance sheet (common size) Intangible assets	2022 64.6%	2023 60.3%	2024 63.7%	2025e 64.1%	2026e 63.4%	2027e 60.0%
· ·	7.5%	9.1%	8.6%	7.2%	5.6%	3.6%
Property, plant and equipment Financial assets	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
FIXED ASSETS	73.3%	70.6%	73.1%	72.2%	69.9%	64.5%
Inventories	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Accounts receivable	7.1%	7.7%	8.3%	8.8%	9.1%	8.9%
Other assets and short-term financial assets	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Liquid assets	7.4%	4.9%	10.1%	10.1%	11.9%	17.5%
Deferred taxes	11.5%	16.1%	8.0%	8.5%	8.7%	8.6%
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CURRENT ASSETS	26.7%	29.4%	26.9%	27.8%	30.1%	35.5%
TOTAL ASSETS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	47.6%	38.4%	53.5%	51.2%	49.9%	50.8%
MINORITY INTEREST	3.9%	-0.6%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%
Long-term liabilities to banks	11.8%	6.6%	6.5%	6.9%	7.1%	7.0%
Bonds (long-term)	0.0%	18.5%	17.1%	18.0%	18.6%	18.3%
other interest-bearing liabilities	3.1%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	15.2%	29.4%	23.6%	24.9%	25.7%	25.2%
Short-term liabilities to banks	1.7%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Accounts payable	15.5%	17.1%	14.6%	15.4%	15.9%	15.6%
Advance payments received on orders	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Accrued taxes	1.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
		1.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	2.5%					
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts) Deferred taxes	2.5% 12.2%	12.2%			0.1%	0.1%
•			0.1% 0.0%	0.1% 0.0%		
Deferred taxes	12.2%	12.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1% 0.0% 17.3%

Source: Company data, NuWays

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Cash flow statement (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Net profit/loss	-10.5	-12.7	-8.0	-4.1	-2.1	2.0
Depreciation of fixed assets (incl. leases)	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
Amortisation of goodwill & intangible assets	2.7	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.0
Other costs affecting income / expenses	7.4	-6.3	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operating activities	-7.5	-17.1	-9.8	-4.1	-2.1	2.0
Increase/decrease in inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable	-5.3	-1.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in accounts payable	1.4	3.1	-5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in other working capital positions	-0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in working capital	-3.9	2.0	-1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operating activities	-2.8	-10.7	-3.3	2.2	3.3	7.4
CAPEX	1.2	1.4	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Payments for acquisitions	5.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial investments	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Income from asset disposals	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from investing activities	-8.5	-1.3	-2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow before financing	-11.2	-12.0	-5.9	2.2	3.3	7.4
Increase/decrease in debt position	4.5	17.4	-2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Purchase of own shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12.0	0.0	22.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital measures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends paid Others						
Others	-11.3	-8.6	-7.2	-2.9	-1.5	0.0
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from financing activities	5.3	8.8	12.4	-2.9	-1.5	0.0
Increase/decrease in liquid assets	-6.0	-3.2	6.5	-0.7	1.8	7.4
Liquid assets at end of period	10.4	7.1	13.7	12.9	14.8	22.1
Key ratios (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
P&L growth analysis	2022	2023	2024	20236	20206	20216
Sales growth	-17.4%	42.5%	0.8%	11.0%	12.6%	10.8%
EBITDA growth	-242.9%	-201.6%	-61.6%	-153.5%	-148.9%	209.9%
EBIT growth	-556.9%	-1747.6%	-29.7%	-65.8%	-96.1%	-164.3%
EPS growth	1137.3%	-276.2%	-39.6%	-73.1%	-85.5%	-149.4%
Efficiency	1107.070	-210.270	-33.070	-73.170	-00.070	-143.470
Sales per employee	293.5	401.9	385.1	404.8	1,019.4	953.8
EBITDA per employee	-135.3	-61.3	-47.4	29.5	128.0	172.6
No. employees (average)	74	76	80	85	38	45
Balance sheet analysis	, 4	70	00	00	30	40
Avg. working capital / sales	-50.6%	-53.3%	-32.5%	-32.1%	-26.0%	-19.7%
Inventory turnover (sales/inventory)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Accounts receivable turnover	168.2	131.9	132.4	119.3	106.0	95.7
Accounts payable turnover	366.4	294.3	232.1	209.1	185.7	167.6
Cash flow analysis	000.1	201.0	202.1	200.1	100.7	107.0
Free cash flow	-4.0	-12.1	-5.5	2.2	3.3	7.4
Free cash flow/sales	-18.4%	-39.4%	-17.7%	6.3%	8.6%	17.2%
FCF / net profit	37.7%	95.1%	69.1%	neg.	neg.	361.1%
Capex / sales	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Solvency	π.α.	11.0.	11.4.	11.4.	11.4.	π.α.
Net debt	12.8	37.2	20.2	20.9	19.1	11.7
Net Debt/EBITDA	-1.3	-7.9	-5.3	8.3	3.9	1.5
Dividend payout ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Interest paid / avg. debt	18.5%	32.3%	15.4%	11.5%	16.1%	7.1%
Returns	10.576	32.370	13.4 /0	11.570	10.170	7.170
ROCE	-18.3%	-12.8%	-9.7%	-3.7%	-0.6%	2.3%
ROE	-15.1%	-21.9%	-10.6%	-6.1%	-3.2%	3.1%
Adjusted FCF yield	-10.7%	-3.3%	-5.0%	-1.3%	0.6%	2.5%
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DPS EDS reported	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS reported	-0.65	-0.70	-0.40	-0.19	-0.09	0.09
Average number of shares	15.4	17.5	19.3	21.1	21.1	21.1
Valuation ratios	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
P/BV	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
EV/sales	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.2
EV/EBITDA	-8.2	-22.6	-27.1	41.6	21.0	12.2
EV/EBIT	-5.6	-9.6	-10.0	-27.5	-179.1	39.0
Source: Company data, NuWays						

Preview / Review - 15.04.2025



Disclosures

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Company	Disclosures
LAIQON AG	2

Historical target	price and rating changes for L	AIQON AG			
Company	Date	Analyst	Rating	Target Price	Close
LAIQON AG	13.03.2025	Jarchow, Frederik	Buy	EUR 7.40	EUR 4.46
	25.11.2024	Jarchow, Frederik	Buy	EUR 6.80	EUR 5.16
	10.09.2024	Jarchow, Frederik	Buy	EUR 7.10	EUR 4.15
	06.08.2024	Jarchow, Frederik	Buy	EUR 9.10	EUR 4.52
	19.06.2024	Jarchow, Frederik	Buy	EUR 8.70	EUR 4.87

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The determination of the fair value per share, i.e. the price target, and the resultant rating is done on the basis of the adjusted free cash flow (adj. FCF) method and on the basis of the discounted cash flow – DCF model. Furthermore, a peer group comparison is made.

The adj. FCF method is based on the assumption that investors purchase assets only at a price (enterprise value) at which the operating cash flow return after taxes on this investment exceeds their opportunity costs in the form of a hurdle rate of 7.5%. The operating cash flow is calculated as EBITDA less maintenance capex and taxes.

Within the framework of the DCF approach, the future free cash flows are calculated initially on the basis of a fictitious capital structure of 100% equity, i.e. interest and repayments on debt capital are not factored in initially. The adjust-

ment towards the actual capital structure is done by discounting the calculated free cash flows with the weighted average cost of capital (WACC), which takes into account both the cost of equity capital and the cost of debt. After discounting, the calculated total enterprise value is reduced by the interest-bearing debt capital in order to arrive at the equity value.

NuWays AG uses the following three-step rating system for the analysed com-

Buy: Sustainable upside potential of more than 20% within 12 months

Sell: Sustainable downside potential of more than 20% within 12 months.

Hold: Upside/downside potential is limited. No immediate catalyst visible.

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8. Miscellaneous

According to Article 4(1) No. i of the delegated regulation 2016/958 supplementing regulation 596/2014 of the European Parliament, further information regarding investment recommendations of the last 12 months are published under: www.nuways-ag.com

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