

# **PSISE**

Germany / Software Primary exchange: Frankfurt Bloomberg: PSAN GR ISIN: DE000A0Z1JH9

**Update** 

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY € 36.00

Return Potential 35.8% Risk Rating Medium

## MAKING GOOD PROGRESS WITH CLOUD/SAAS TRANSFORMATION

2025 is the first year of a planned three-year migration of PSI's product portfolio towards a cloud/Software as a Service (SaaS) business model. We expect the migration to accelerate sales growth and widen margins by making PSI's product offering easier to scale in both Germany (52% of 2024 sales) and internationally. Meanwhile, PSI's decades of cross-vertical domain knowledge in industrial Al should heighten acceptance of the revamped product portfolio. Group sales grew at a CAGR of 6.9% during 2018-2023 while the EBIT margin averaged 7.0%. Adjusted for the end 2024 sale of the Mobility business unit, we model a 2023-28 sales CAGR of 8.7% and a 2028E EBIT margin of 12.5%. Recent newsflow indicates that PSI is making good progress with its business model transformation. In February, PSI's work on developing its cloud-native next generation grid and energy management system, Control System of the Future (CSF), was validated by the conclusion of a long-term partnership with E.ON, one of the company's most longstanding and important customers. The collaboration with Google announced in March will enable PSI to run its SaaS offerings over Google Cloud. The collaboration also enables PSI to modernise its software development environment through access to Google's ecosystem. Continuous deployment of PSI's new SaaS-based Warehouse Management System (Logistics business unit) and Manufacturing Execution System (Discrete Manufacturing business unit) is set to begin later this year while continuous deployment of the CSF is scheduled for 2026. ERP modules for the Discrete Manufacturing business unit and MES modules for the Process Industries & Metals business unit are due to follow in 2027 and 2028 respectively. Total investment in the German grid during 2025-45 is estimated at €528bn - equivalent to over €25bn annually. This compares with €17.8bn invested in 2023. To better capture this long period of supernormal growth, we have extended the explicit period of our DCF model from 2035 to 2040. This is the main factor behind the increase in our price target from €25 to €36 (upside of 36%). Our ating is now Buy (previously: Add). (p.t.o.)

### **FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS**

	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E
Revenue (€m)	269.9	260.8	287.8	316.5	348.2	383.1
Y-o-y growth	8.9%	-3.4%	10.3%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
EBIT (€m)	5.6	-15.2	10.7	14.5	29.5	47.8
EBIT margin	2.1%	-5.8%	3.7%	4.6%	8.5%	12.5%
Net income (€m)	0.3	-21.0	6.4	8.2	19.0	32.4
EPS (diluted) (€)	0.02	-1.35	0.41	0.53	1.23	2.09
DPS (€)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.70
FCF (€m)	9.9	-26.7	-2.3	10.4	21.2	34.2
Net gearing	28.9%	66.6%	67.6%	62.4%	45.2%	27.0%
Liquid assets (€m)	50.5	26.5	57.6	63.3	69.6	76.6

#### RISKS

Risks include but are not limited to slower than expected margin expansion than we currently model.

#### **COMPANY PROFILE**

PSI makes software control systems, primarily for energy, utility companies and metals producers. Customers also include manufacturers and logistics systems providers. The company's control system products are widespread in its core German market.

MARKET DATA	As of 24 Apr 2025
Closing Price	€ 26.50
Shares outstanding	15.49m
Market Capitalisation	€ 410.43m
52-week Range	€ 18.30 / 29.40
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	7,120

Multiples	2024	2025E	2026E
P/E	n.a.	63.0	49.2
EV/Sales	1.8	1.6	1.5
EV/EBIT	n.a.	43.8	32.2
Div. Yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### **STOCK OVERVIEW**



COMPANY DATA	As of 31 Dec 2024
Liquid Assets	€ 26.48m
Current Assets	€ 160.15m
Intangible Assets	€ 72.33m
Total Assets	€ 273.86m
Current Liabilities	€ 113.16m
Shareholders' Equity	€ 95.40m

## SHAREHOLDERS

InvAG für langfristige Investoren TGV	20.7%
Innogy SE	17.8%
Management and employees	15.0%
Harvinder Singh	8.1%
Free float and other	38.4%

Q4/24 sales were 13% above our forecast As a consequence of the February 2024 cyberattack on its operations, PSI's 2024 guidance was for a decline of up to €25m in sales and an EBIT loss of up to €-15m. As figure 1 shows, the EBIT loss was close to guidance and our forecast. However, the fall in sales was only €9m. PSI points out that it did not lose any customers as a result of the cyberattack. Reported 2024 sales of €260.8m were €9.4m above our forecast due mainly to stronger Q4 performance from the Energy Management division than we had modelled.

Figure 1: Q4/24 and FY/24 results versus our forecasts

€m	Q4 24A	Q4 24E	Δ	Q4 23A	Δ	FY 24A	FY 24E	Δ	FY 23A	Δ
Order intake	59	56	5.4%	69	-14.5%	257	219	17.4%	297	-13.5%
Order backlog	188	194	-3.1%	199	-5.5%	152	194	-21.6%	199	-23.6%
External sales	83.414	74.000	12.7%	85.432	-2.4%	260.838	251.424	3.7%	269.891	-3.4%
by division:										
Energy Management	46.315	34.000	36.2%	47.105	-1.7%	131.126	118.811	10.4%	138.855	-5.6%
Production Management	37.099	40.000	-7.3%	38.327	-3.2%	129.712	132.613	-2.2%	131.036	-1.0%
EBIT	4.155	4.627	-10.2%	8.276	-49.8%	-15.244	-14.772	n.a.	5.562	n.a.
margin	5.0%	6.3%	-	9.7%	-	-5.8%	-5.9%	-	2.1%	-
by division:										
Energy Management	3.526	1.035	n.a.	-0.328	n.a.	-15.959	-18.450	n.a.	-7.807	n.a.
margin	7.6%	3.0%	-	-0.7%	-	-12.2%	-14.1%	-	-5.5%	-
Production Management	2.451	4.952	-50.5%	9.214	-73.4%	4.787	7.288	-34.3%	20.355	-76.5%
margin	6.4%	12.0%	-	22.2%	-	3.6%	5.6%	-	13.7%	-
Reconciliation	-1.822	-1.360	n.a.	-0.610	n.a.	-4.072	-3.610	n.a.	-6.986	n.a.
EPS (€)	0.21	0.15	n.a.	0.48	n.a.	-1.35	-1.41	n.a.	0.02	n.a.

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates, PSI SE

Cash position stabilised in Q4/24 and should rebound in Q1/25 The negative impact of the cyberattack on profitability, as well as elevated working capital cash consumption, led to a near halving of PSI's cash position during the first nine months of 2024 (see figure 2). Management flagged at the 9M/24 stage that the cash position would stabilize in Q4/24. The Q4/24 cash position was indeed little changed on the 9M/24 figure due to improved profitability and a cash inflow from working capital in Q4/24. PSI customarily reports strong operating cashflow during the first quarter of the year as customers pay their annual software maintenance bills. We expect the Q1/25 report (due on 30 April) to show a marked strengthening of the company's cash position.

Figure 2: Abridged cashflow statement

€ 000's	9M/23	Q4/23	9M/24	Q4/24
Profit before tax	-3,262	7,334	-20,492	3,319
Depreciation and amortisation	10,996	3,602	10,506	4,108
Other	319	1,170	-1,906	3,675
Gross cashflow from operations	8,053	12,106	-11,892	11,102
Change in working capital	-9,586	12,616	-17,664	5,399
Taxes paid	-5,010	-1,400	-4,630	-1,995
Net cashflow from operations	-6,543	23,322	-34,186	14,506
Cashflow from investing	-1,090	-5,830	-1,956	-5,053
Free cashflow	-7,633	17,492	-36,142	9,453
Cashflow from financing	9,818	-14,781	13,092	-7,776
Change in cash before FX/other	2,185	2,711	-23,050	1,677
Foreign exchange/other	-648	783	-65	-2,554
Change in cash	1,537	3,494	-23,115	-877
Cash at the beginning of the period	45,444	46,981	50,475	27,360
Cash at the end of the period	46,981	50,475	27,360	26,483
Net gearing	41.3%	28.9%	82.0%	66.6%
Net debt	43,311	32,289	72,218	63,561
Consolidated equity	104,811	111,726	88,021	95,401

Source: PSI SE, First Berlin Equity Research estimates

Adjusted for Mobility sale, we think 2025 sales guidance is 15%-20% on a like-for-like basis For 2025, PSI is guiding towards sales growth of "around 10%" and an EBIT margin of "around 4%". Adjusting for the end-2024 sale of the Mobility business unit (2024 sales: €18.1m) we think PSI's 2025 sales growth guidance is equivalent to like-for-like sales growth of 15-20%. We believe like-for-like sales growth of this magnitude is plausible in 2025

because many parts of PSI's business are catching up with orders which could not be executed last year due to the cyberattack. PSI has further provided 2025 sales growth and

EBIT margin guidance by business unit, which we have summarised in figure 3.

Figure 3: PSI 2025 Group guidance by business unit

	Sales growth guidance (%)	Adjusted EBIT margin guidance (%)
Group	around 10%	around 10%
of which:		
Grid and Energy Management	over 10%	up to 4%
Process Industries and Metals	at least 10%	just under 10%
Discrete Manufacturing	well over 10%	EBIT almost at breakeven
Logistics	at least 10%	EBIT at breakeven

Source: PSI SE

**Grid & Energy Management has large catch-up potential in 2025** Among PSI's business units, Grid & Energy Management was hit hardest by the cyberattack. A high order backlog and market leadership in the German-speaking region suggests that rebound potential in 2025 is correspondingly high. The cyberattack meant that 2024 sales growth was also well below the average level for 2018-23 (see figure 5) at the other three business units, and so there should be scope for a strong rebound at these operations too.

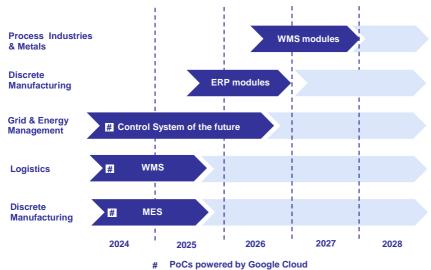
We believe 2025 margin guidance for Process Industries is in line with past performance At the Process Industries & Metals business unit, management expect demand in North America to remain high and development in Europe to remain subdued. We believe that management's 2025 EBIT margin guidance of just under 10% is in line with profitability achieved in the past by the components of this business unit when they were part of the former Production Management business unit.

**EBIT** margin at Discrete Manufacturing/Logistics close to breakeven this year as investment in cloud/SaaS transition peaks PSI's Discrete Manufacturing business unit is benefitting from continued high levels of investment in digital manufacturing. At the same time, the business is subject to high levels of competition from large ERP providers. Profitability will also be under pressure in 2025 from investment in the business unit's cloud/SaaS transformation which includes the new, cloud-based MES (Manufacturing Execution System) product.

Logistics was PSI's fastest growing business unit during 2018-23 (sales CAGR of 8.2%) Management expect demand to remain high in 2025. However, investments in a cloud/SaaS-capable product of the Warehouse Management System (see figure 4 overleaf), as well as further internationalization steps, are expected to have a negative impact on the business unit's EBIT margin this year.

ПП

Figure 4: Scheduled deployment of new cloud/SaaS products by segment



Source: PSI SE

Figure 5 below shows our sales growth and EBIT margin forecasts for 2025E to 2028E in comparison with PSI's guidance to 2028 as presented at the Capital Market Day last September.

Figure 5: FBe and PSI sales/EBIT margin estimates 2023/28

							2018-23	PSI 2023-28	FBe 2023-28
	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	sales	sales CAGR	sales CAGR
							CAGR (%)	guidance (%)	guidance (%)
Sales	269,900	260,838	287,773	316,537	348,205	383,074	6.9%	10.0%	8.7%
change (%)	8.9%	-3.4%	10.3%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%			
of which:									
Grid and Energy Man.	124,900	116,676	137,678	151,445	166,590	183,249	6.7%	8.0%	8.0%
change (%)	n.a	-6.6%	18.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%			
Process Industries/Metals	64,800	67,039	78,436	86,279	94,907	104,398	7.2%	12.0%	10.0%
change (%)	n.a.	3.5%	17.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%			
Discrete Manufacturing	33,000	30,027	37,534	40,536	43,779	47,282	1.2%	11.0%	7.5%
change (%)	n.a.	-9.0%	25.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%			
Logistics	30,200	31,494	36,848	41,270	46,222	51,769	8.2%	14.0%	11.4%
change (%)	n.a.	4.3%	17.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%			
Mobility	17,000	18,069	0	0	0	0			
change (%)	n.a.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%			
Reconciliation	n.a.	-2.467	-2.722	-2.994	-3.293	-3.623			

	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	PSI 2028 EBIT margin guidance (%)	FBe 2028 EBIT margin forecast (%)
EBIT	5,562	-15,244	10,669	14,518	29,485	47,778		
margin (%)	2.1%	-5.8%	3.7%	4.6%	8.5%	12.5%	15.0%	12.5%
of which:								
Grid and Energy Man.	n.a.	-14,797	5,369	4,543	14,993	21,990		
margin (%)	-	-12.7%	3.9%	3.0%	9.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Process Industries/Metals	n.a.	1,218	7,451	8,628	7,593	15,660		
margin (%)	-	1.8%	9.5%	10.0%	8.0%	15.0%	18.0%	15.0%
Discrete Manufacturing	n.a.	386	-375	0	3,502	4,728		
margin (%)	-	1.3%	-1.0%	0.0%	8.0%	10.0%	20.0%	10.0%
Logistics	n.a.	721	0	3,302	5,547	7,765		
margin (%)	-	2.3%	0.0%	8.0%	12.0%	15.0%	17.0%	15.0%
Other/reconciliation	n.a.	-2,772	-1,777	-1,954	-2,150	-2,365		

Source: PSI SE, First Berlin Equity Research estimates

**PSISE** 

The Bundesnetzagentur and the German Transmission/Distribution companies estimate total investment in the German grid during 2025-45 at €528bn - equivalent to over €25bn annually. This compares with €17.8bn invested in 2023. Given PSI's status as the market leader in software for grid control systems in Germany, we think PSI's guidance of an 8% sales CAGR for Grid & Energy Management during 2023-2028 and a 2028 EBIT margin of 12% is plausible. Metals, the largest part of the Process Industries & Metals business unit, is the global leader in software for steel manufacturing. Fully migrating the product to a cloud/SaaS model will make it more attractive to customers. However, given that Metals is already the most international of PSI businesses we pencil in a 2023-2028 sales CAGR of 10% and also opt for a 2028 EBIT of 15% rather than the 18% guided by PSI. We also take a more conservative view than PSI on the 2025-2028 growth and margin prospects for Discrete Manufacturing and Logistics due to the strength of both domestic and international competition.

Price target raised from €25 to €36. Recommendation moved from Add to Buy Changes to our forecasts reflect our expectation that margin improvement over the period 2025-2028 will be more backend-loaded than we previously modelled. PSI is guiding towards breakeven EBIT results in 2025 at both Discrete Manufacturing and Logistics as investments in product development peak ahead of the first continuous deployment of the new cloud/SaaS versions of these business units' products. We now model similar margin impacts in 2026E and 2027E ahead of the launch of the new cloud/SaaS products at Grid & Energy Management, Discrete Manufacturing, and Process Industries & Metals. However, by 2028E we expect all PSI's business units to be generating a double digit EBIT margin. As we have indicated above, we expect supernormal growth at PSI's Grid & Energy Management business unit to continue into the 2040's. To better capture this period of strong growth, we have extended the explicit period of our DCF model from 2035 to 2040. This is the main factor behind the increase in our price target from €25 to €36. As we now see share price upside of 36% (well above the 25% we require for a Buy rating) we have moved our recommendation from Add to Buy.

Figure 6: Changes to forecasts

€m		2025E			2026E			2027E			2028E	
em	New	Old	Δ%	New	Old	Δ%	New	Old	Δ%	New	Old	Δ%
Sales	287.8	288.0	-0.1%	316.5	313.9	22.0%	348.2	345.2	0.9%	383.1	379.7	0.9%
by segment:												
Grid & Energy Man.	137.7	n.a.	-	151.4	n.a.	-	166.6	n.a.	-	183.2	n.a.	-
Process Industries & Metals	78.4	n.a.	-	86.3	n.a.	-	94.9	n.a.	-	104.4	n.a.	-
Discrete Manufacturing	37.5	n.a.	-	40.5	n.a.	-	43.8	n.a.	-	47.3	n.a.	-
Logistics	36.8	n.a.	-	41.3	n.a.	-	46.2	n.a.	-	51.8	n.a.	-
Other/eliminations	-2.7	n.a.	-	-3.0	n.a.	-	-3.3	n.a.	-	-3.6	n.a.	-
Total EBIT	10.7	25.6	-58.3%	14.5	35.3	-58.9%	29.5	42.4	-30.5%	47.8	50.4	-5.2%
margin (%)	3.7%	8.9%	-	3.8%	11.2%	-	8.5%	12.2%	-	12.5%	13.2%	-
by segment:												
Grid & Energy Man.	5.4	n.a.	-	4.5	n.a.	-	15.0	n.a.	-	22.0	n.a.	-
margin (%)	3.9%	-	-	3.0%	-	-	9.0%	-	-	14.5%	-	-
Process Industries & Metals	7.5	n.a.	-	8.6	n.a.	-	7.6	n.a.	-	15.7	n.a.	-
margin (%)	9.5%	-	-	10.0%	-	-	8.0%	-	-	18.2%	-	-
Discrete Manufacturing	-0.4	n.a.	-	0.0	n.a.	-	3.5	n.a.	-	4.7	n.a.	-
margin (%)	-1.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-	8.0%	-	-	11.7%	-	-
Logistics	0.0	n.a.	-	3.3	n.a.	-	5.5	n.a.	-	7.8	n.a.	-
margin (%)	0.0%	-	-	8.0%	-	-	12.0%	-	-	18.8%	-	-
Eliminations	-1.8	n.a.	-	-2.0	n.a.	-	-2.1	n.a.	-	-2.4	n.a.	-
EPS (€)	0.41	1.08	-61.6%	0.53	1.52	-65.1%	1.23	1.84	-33.4%	2.09	2.21	-5.4%

Source: First Berlin Equity Research estimates

## **VALUATION MODEL**

€000s	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
Net sales	287,773	316,537	348,205	383,074	421,382	463,520	505,237	548,050
NOPLAT	7,735	10,526	21,376	34,639	37,910	41,701	45,454	49,274
+ Depreciation and amortisation	15,604	17,164	18,533	20,006	21,585	23,280	25,375	27,525
= net operating cash flow	23,339	27,690	39,909	54,644	59,495	64,981	70,829	76,799
- total investments (Capex and WC)	-33,862	-25,694	-28,162	-31,189	-33,794	-36,625	-38,916	-40,802
Capital expenditure	-18,678	-20,902	-22,840	-24,610	-26,488	-28,505	-30,701	-32,226
w orking capital	-15,183	-4,791	-5,322	-6,579	-7,306	-8,120	-8,215	-8,576
= Free cash flow (FCF)	-10,523	1,996	11,747	23,455	25,701	28,356	31,913	35,998
PV of FCF's	-9,978	1,750	9,521	17,576	17,805	18,161	18,897	19,707

€000s	
PVs of FCFs explicit period (2025-40)*	248,800
PVs of FCFs in terminal period	372,290
Enterprise Value (EV)	621,089
Net cash/(net debt)	-63,561
Shareholder value	557,528
No. shares (000s)	15,488
Value per share (€)	36.00
WACC	8.16%
Cost of equity	10.2%
And the second s	

Pre-tax cost of debt

After-tax cost of debt

Normal tax rate

Share of equity

Terminal growth

Share of debt

15,488		Sensitivity	analysis					Fair value	per share
36.00									
					Terminal gro	w th rate (%)	/		
8.16%			1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%
10.2%		5.16%	70.30	76.67	85.04	96.56	113.41	140.36	190.47
5.0%		6.16%	52.17	55.53	59.70	65.00	71.98	81.58	95.61
30.0%	O	7.16%	40.22	42.16	44.46	47.26 📗	50.73	55.15	60.97
3.5%	WAC	8.16%	31.84	33.02	34.39	36.00	37.92	40.25	43.15
70.0%	>	9.16%	25.69	26.44	27.29	28.27	29.41	30.75	32.36
30.0%		10.16%	21.02	21.51	22.06	22.69	23.40	24.21	25.16
2.5%		11.16%	17.38	17.71	18.07	18.48	18.94	19.46	20.06
12.0%		12.16%	14.48	14.70	14.95	15.23	15.53	15.87	16.26

Terminal EBIT margin 12.0% 12.16% 14.48
\*for layout purposes the model shows numbers only to 2032 but runs until 2040



## **INCOME STATEMENT**

All figures in €'000	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E
Revenues	269,891	260,838	287,773	316,537	348,205	383,074
Cost of materials	-46,117	-38,263	-40,288	-42,732	-45,267	-49,800
Gross profit	223,774	222,575	247,485	273,805	302,939	333,275
Total personnel costs	-183,725	-190,111	-195,686	-212,080	-226,333	-245,167
Net other operating costs	-19,889	-33,094	-25,526	-30,042	-28,588	-20,324
Depreciation & amortisation	-14,598	-14,614	-15,604	-17,164	-18,533	-20,006
EBIT	5,562	-15,244	10,669	14,518	29,485	47,778
Net interest	-2,813	-2,934	-2,259	-3,657	-3,790	-3,606
Associates	268	305	320	336	353	371
Pretax profit	3,017	-17,873	8,730	11,198	26,048	44,543
Income taxes	-3,748	-3,783	-2,313	-2,987	-7,066	-12,147
Earnings from discontinued operations	1,055	700	0	0	0	0
Net income / loss	324	-20,956	6,417	8,211	18,982	32,395
<b>EPS (€)</b>	0.02	-1.35	0.41	0.53	1.23	2.09
EBITDA	20,160	-630	26,273	31,682	48,018	67,783
Ratios	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		,	,		
Gross margin	82.9%	85.3%	86.0%	86.5%	87.0%	87.0%
EBIT margin	2.1%	-5.8%	3.7%	4.6%	8.5%	12.5%
EBITDA margin	7.5%	-0.2%	9.1%	10.0%	13.8%	17.7%
Net income margin	0.1%	-8.0%	2.2%	2.6%	5.5%	8.5%
Tax rate	124.2%	-21.2%	26.5%	26.7%	27.1%	27.3%
Expenses as % of output						
Personnel	-68.1%	-72.9%	-68.0%	-67.0%	-65.0%	-64.0%
Net other operating income/expenses	-7.4%	-12.7%	-8.9%	-9.5%	-8.2%	-5.3%
Depreciation & amortisation	-5.4%	-5.6%	-5.4%	-5.4%	-5.3%	-5.2%
Y-o-y growth						
Total revenues	8.9%	-3.4%	10.3%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
EBIT	-72.4%	n.a.	n.a.	36.1%	103.1%	62.0%
Net income / loss	-96.7%	n.a.	n.a.	27.9%	131.2%	70.7%

## **BALANCE SHEET**

Assets         Current assets, total         163,786         160,145         206,110         224,878         245,542           Cash and cash equivalents         50,475         26,483         57,555         63,307         69,641           Trade accounts and notes receivables         48,315         50,355         55,972         61,566         67,726           Inventories         4,977         2,997         8,058         8,863         9,750           Receivables relating to long term contracts         49,552         45,296         54,677         60,142         66,159           Other current assets         10,467         16,676         11,511         12,661         13,928           Assets held for sale and discontinued operations         0         18,338         18,338         18,338         18,338           Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503           Other intangible assets         13,997         14,825         15,828         17,093         18,455 <th>268,294 76,615 74,508 10,726 72,784 15,323 18,338 133,333 45,969 57,503 19,920</th>	268,294 76,615 74,508 10,726 72,784 15,323 18,338 133,333 45,969 57,503 19,920
Cash and cash equivalents         50,475         26,483         57,555         63,307         69,641           Trade accounts and notes receivables         48,315         50,355         55,972         61,566         67,726           Inventories         4,977         2,997         8,058         8,863         9,750           Receivables relating to long term contracts         49,552         45,296         54,677         60,142         66,159           Other current assets         10,467         16,676         11,511         12,661         13,928           Assets held for sale and discontinued operations         0         18,338         18,338         18,338           Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	76,615 74,508 10,726 72,784 15,323 18,338 <b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Trade accounts and notes receivables         48,315         50,355         55,972         61,566         67,726           Inventories         4,977         2,997         8,058         8,863         9,750           Receivables relating to long term contracts         49,552         45,296         54,677         60,142         66,159           Other current assets         10,467         16,676         11,511         12,661         13,928           Assets held for sale and discontinued operations         0         18,338         18,338         18,338         18,338           Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodw ill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	74,508 10,726 72,784 15,323 18,338 <b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Inventories         4,977         2,997         8,058         8,863         9,750           Receivables relating to long term contracts         49,552         45,296         54,677         60,142         66,159           Other current assets         10,467         16,676         11,511         12,661         13,928           Assets held for sale and discontinued operations         0         18,338         18,338         18,338           Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	10,726 72,784 15,323 18,338 <b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Receivables relating to long term contracts       49,552       45,296       54,677       60,142       66,159         Other current assets       10,467       16,676       11,511       12,661       13,928         Assets held for sale and discontinued operations       0       18,338       18,338       18,338         Non-current assets, total       119,367       113,717       117,664       122,330       127,641         Property, plant and equipment       37,429       35,339       37,411       39,884       42,829         Goodwill       59,115       57,503       57,503       57,503       57,503	72,784 15,323 18,338 <b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Other current assets         10,467         16,676         11,511         12,661         13,928           Assets held for sale and discontinued operations         0         18,338         18,338         18,338           Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	15,323 18,338 <b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	18,338 133,333 45,969 57,503
Non-current assets, total         119,367         113,717         117,664         122,330         127,641           Property, plant and equipment         37,429         35,339         37,411         39,884         42,829           Goodwill         59,115         57,503         57,503         57,503         57,503	<b>133,333</b> 45,969 57,503
Property, plant and equipment       37,429       35,339       37,411       39,884       42,829         Goodwill       59,115       57,503       57,503       57,503       57,503	45,969 57,503
Goodwill 59,115 57,503 57,503 57,503	57,503
Other intangible assets 13,997 14,825 15,828 17,003 19,455	19,920
Other interigine 400000 10,000 17,000 17,000 10,400	
Associates 693 693 1,013 1,350 1,703	2,073
Deferred tax assets 8,133 5,357 5,910 6,501 7,151	7,867
Total assets 283,153 273,862 323,775 347,209 373,183	401,626
Shareholders' equity & debt	
Current liabilities, total         90,993         113,161         120,656         124,391         112,011	122,435
Interest bearing debt 2,118 21,081 28,000 22,500 0	0
Leasing liabilities 6,581 8,419 9,173 10,063 11,043	12,122
Trade accounts payable 18,864 21,163 23,348 25,682 28,205	31,029
Liabilities relating to long term contracts 26,289 20,877 25,900 28,488 31,338	34,094
Provisions 3,017 1,783 1,967 2,164 2,380	2,619
Other current liabilities         32,801         29,248         32,268         35,494         39,045	42,571
Liabilities in connection with discontinued assets 1,323 10,590 0 0	0
Non-current liabilities, total 80,434 65,300 104,729 116,609 136,412	128,706
Interest bearing debt 13,189 9,639 43,660 52,892 69,798	58,919
Leasing liabilities 17,918 15,190 16,550 18,156 19,924	21,871
Pension provisons 42,958 35,715 35,894 36,073 36,253	36,435
Deferred tax liabilities 4,803 3,108 5,121 5,633 6,197	6,817
Other liabilities         534         694         766         842         926	1,019
Provisions 1,032 954 2,738 3,012 3,313	3,645
Consolidated equity 111,726 95,401 98,390 106,209 124,760	150,486
Shareholders' equity 111,726 95,401 98,390 106,209 124,760	150,486
Minorities         0         0         0         0         0           Total consolidated equity and debt         283,153         273,862         323,775         347,209         373,183	0 <b>401,626</b>
Ratios           Current ratio (x)         1.80         1.42         1.71         1.81         2.19	2.19
Quick ratio (x) 1.75 1.39 1.64 1.74 2.11	2.10
Debt/equity ratio (x) 1.53 1.87 2.29 2.27 1.99	1.67
Net gearing 28.9% 66.6% 67.6% 62.4% 45.2%	27.0%
Equity per share (€) 7.12 6.08 6.27 6.77 7.95	9.59
Interest coverage ratio (x) 1.98 -5.20 4.72 3.97 7.78	13.25
Capital employed (CE) 147,372 153,889 168,412 180,414 189,634	200,177
Return on capital employed (ROCE) 2.7% -11.4% 4.6% 5.8% 11.3%	



All figures in €'000	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E
Pretax result	4,072	-17,173	8,730	11,198	26,048	44,543
Depreciation and amortisation	14,598	14,614	15,604	17,164	18,533	20,006
Other	-4,921	-4,856	-2,633	-3,323	-7,419	-12,518
Operating cash flow	13,749	-7,415	21,701	25,039	37,162	52,030
Investment in working capital	3,030	-12,265	-15,183	-4,791	-5,322	-6,579
Net operating cash flow	16,779	-19,680	6,518	20,247	31,840	45,451
Cashflow from investing	-6,920	-7,009	-8,774	-9,840	-10,669	-11,218
Free cash flow	9,859	-26,689	-2,256	10,407	21,171	34,234
Dividend paid	-6,195	0	0	0	0	-6,195
Share buy back	0	0	0	0	0	0
New share capital	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt financing	9,509	14,091	41,119	3,912	-5,414	-10,698
Lease liabilities	-6,807	-6,566	-7,791	-8,566	-9,423	-10,366
Other	-1,470	-2,209	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from financing	-4,963	5,316	33,328	-4,654	-14,837	-27,260
Other	135	-2,619	0	0	0	0
Change in cash	5,031	-23,992	31,072	5,753	6,334	6,974
Cash, start of the year	45,444	50,475	26,483	57,555	63,307	69,641
Cash, end of the year	50,475	26,483	57,555	63,307	69,641	76,615
Free cash flow per share in €	0.64	-1.72	-0.15	0.67	1.37	2.21
Y-o-y growth						
Operating cash flow	-52%	-154%	-393%	15%	48%	40%
Net operating cash flow	376%	-217%	-133%	211%	57%	43%
Free cash flow	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-561%	103%	62%



## **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 Friedrichstr. 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-ld.: 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, Friedrichstraße 69, 10117

The production of this recommendation was completed on 25 April 2025 at 11:23

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

Copyright© 2025 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 PSI SE 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 PSI SE 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 PSI SE 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 PSI SE 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		1	2	
Current market	capitalisation (in €)	0 - 2 billion	> 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	15 July 2003	€4.96	Market Perform	€5.00
278	<b>↓</b>	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	<b>↓</b>
79	1 November 2022	€22.95	Buy	€37.00
80	3 August 2022	€25.05	Buy	€32.00
81	31 October 2023	€22.50	Buy	€30.00
82	25 March 2024	€21.80	Buy	€30.00
83	30 July 2024	€21.10	Buy	€28.00
84	10 September 2024	€20.80	Buy	€28.00
85	24 September 2024	€21.90	Buy	€26.00
86	13 November 2024	€21.20	Add	€25.00
87	Today	€26.50	Buy	€36.00

### **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

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.