# **Apator**

Bloomberg: APT PW Equity, Reuters: APTP.WA

# Hold, PLN 22.5

Maintained



# Against the Current

Apator is experiencing growing competition and cost pressure. The weakness of/delay in orders in the Electricity segment were an additional reason for downgrading the 2019 forecasts. The meter replacement market in Poland is currently stable at PLN 1.6b per year. Introducing "smart" metering systems in the future could expand it by several dozen percent (while attracting international competitors at the same time, however). In the nearest future, we should probably expect subsequent pilot contracts instead of a breakthrough.

Going forward, dynamic growth of photovoltaics may support Apator's subsidiary Elkomtech (generating 5-10% of the group's EBITDA).

The Gas segment rebounded considerably on the back of the rebuilding of the company's UK sales and should remain high in the next couple of years.

Maintaining very high margins from previous periods is proving to be a challenge for the Water & Heat segment. The competition and costs are growing. The sales of ultrasonic water meters is only picking up slowly. It does not seem they will become a key product in the coming years.

Apator is in need of modernising and automating (with labour constituting 27% of the group's costs). CAPEX should slightly exceed PLN 70m on average in the coming years.

We expect Apator to fight for the expansion of its business scale going forward while trying to address pressure on margins. We are slightly downgrading our forecast and target price (Hold, PLN 22.5).

21.10
7%
29.27
617.53
77%
476
123
835.92
137.33

Dividend	
Div yield	6.6%
Ex-div	21/12/2017

Major Shareholders	% of shares
Apator (own shares)	11.60
Aviva OFE	7.89
Mr. Mariusz Lewicki	6.66
Mr. Tadeusz Sosgornik	5.87

Previous recomm.	Date & tar	get price
Hold	24-07-19	25.00
Hold	18-04-19	28.50



	VV1020	Company
month	-8.0%	0.5%
months	-1.0%	-9.4%
months	-6.8%	-18.2%
2 months	-9.1%	-12.8%
Min 52 weeks PLN		20.80
Max 52 weeks PLN		26.70
Av. turnover/day PLN mn		0.12

WIG20 Company

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PLN mn	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenues	895	828	875	894	922
EBITDA	102	133	135	138	142
EBIT	63	91	87	89	89
Net profit	43	68	67	65	65
P/E	22.0	10.7	9.3	9.5	9.4
P/BV	2.3	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.3
EV/EBITDA	9.9	7.0	6.2	6.1	6.0
EPS	1.46	2.31	2.28	2.23	2.23
DPS	1.20	1.40	1.45	1.45	1.50
FCF	-	-	46	43	45
CAPEX	-50	-52	-62	-73	-73

F - forecast by PKO BP Securities



# **RISK FACTORS**

- Customer concentration
- Regulatory risk and legislative risk
- Risk of workforce availability
- Risk of electronic component deliveries
- Downtrend in the prices of gas, electricity, and water meters
- Risk of developing an electricity metering technology and adapting the product offer
- · Risk of impairment write-offs of development project outlays
- F/X risk

# **VALUATION**

Our valuation is based on the DCF model. Additionally, we have presented a comparative valuation, taking into consideration companies from the construction sector. The DCF model consists of two phases. In the first phase, for the years 2019F-2023F, we have forecast in detail all the key parameters required for the company valuation, in particular the value of revenues, capital expenditure, cost level and balance sheet items. The second phase will start after 2023F. In the second phase, we have assumed a constant free cash flow growth rate at a level of 0% per year. We have applied a WACC-based discount rate. The risk-free rate has been assumed at 3.0%. Beta has been assumed at 1.0x. We have adopted an equity risk premium at a level of 5.0%. We have discounted all free cash flows for the company as at 31 December 2019 and deducted the forecast net debt (added net cash). Additionally, we have adjusted the number of shares by recently redeemed shares and by Apator's own stake (10.6% stake of its own shares, 3.6m shares).

DCF model						
PLN mn	2019F	2020F	2021F	2022F	2023F	2023F<
EBIT	87,3	89,1	89,3	88,6	87,6	87,6
Tax rate	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%
NOPLAT	70,7	72,2	72,4	71,8	71,0	71,0
CAPEX	-62,0	-73,0	-73,0	-73,0	-73,0	-72,2
Depreciation	-14,5	49,0	52,9	56,1	58,8	58,8
Changes in working capital	-10,0	-5,1	-7,0	-6,0	-3,3	-3,5
FCF	46,3	43,1	45,2	48,8	53,5	54,1
WACC	7,0%	7,0%	7,0%	7,0%	7,0%	
Discount ratio	0,00	0,93	0,87	0,82	0,76	
DFCF	0,0	40,3	39,5	39,9	40,9	
Growth in Phase II	0,0%					
DFCF Sum - Phase I	160,5					
DFCF Sum - Phase II	592,4					
Enterprise Value (EV)	753,0					
Net debt	137,3					
Non-operating assets	0,0					
Fair value	615,6					
Number of shares (million)	29,3					
Fair value per share as at 31.12.2019	21,0					
Tagget asias is 12 mths (DLN)	22.5					
Target price in 12 mths (PLN)	22,5					
Current price	21,1					
Expected rate of return	6,8%					

Source: forecasts of PKO BP Securities



Sensitivity						
			Growt	h in Phase II		
		-1,0%	-0,5%	0,0%	0,5%	1,0%
	6,0%	22,5	24,2	26,2	28,5	31,3
WACC	6,5%	21,1	22,5	24,2	26,2	28,5
WACC	7,0%	19,8	21,1	22,5	24,2	26,2
	7,5%	18,7	19,8	21,1	22,5	24,2
	8,0%	17,7	18,7	19,8	21,1	22,5

Source: PKO BP Securities

# **PEER VALUATION**

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		P/E			EV/EBITDA	
Company	2018	2019F	2020F	2018	2019F	2020F
Alumetal	8,9	12,0	11,0	6,5	8,8	8,9
Amica	9,0	8,7	8,6	7,2	7,0	6,9
Forte	17,5	11,5	10,0	11,0	8,7	7,8
Kęty	13,0	11,1	11,1	8,7	7,9	7,9
Mangata	8,7	9,3	9,3	6,5	6,4	6,3
Famur	7,5	6,2	7,5	3,9	3,5	4,0
Sanok RC	8,0	12,8	12,0	5,2	7,8	7,0
Wielton	7,5	8,6	9,4	6,1	6,2	6,3
MEDIAN	8,8	10,2	9,7	6,5	7,4	7,0
Apator (PKO BP Securities)	9,1	9,3	9,5	5,7	5,6	5,5
premium/discount to PKO BP Securities forecast	4%	-9%	-3%	-12%	-24%	-20%

Source: based on Bloomberg consensus, PKO BP Securities

Apator is traded in line with other Polish industrial companies on P/E multiple and at a discount on EV/EBITDA multiple.



# **Financial Forecasts**

Profit and loss account	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F	2022F
Sales of products, goods and materials	725	769	869	895	828	875	894	922	946
Costs of sold products, goods and materials	508	560	649	659	569	616	634	656	676
Gross profit on sales	217	208	220	236	259	259	260	266	270
EBITDA	131	111	109	102	133	135	138	142	145
Selling costs	34	36	39	44	42	42	43	44	45
General administrative expenses	81	96	105	122	120	126	129	132	136
Other operating income	0	2	-4	-9	-7	-5	-1	-1	-1
Operating profit	106	80	74	63	91	87	89	89	89
Financial expenses net	-1	-1	-6	-5	1	-2	-5	-5	-6
Pre-tax profit	105	78	68	58	92	86	84	84	83
Income tax	21	15	7	16	23	16	16	16	16
Net profit (loss) attributable to non-controlling interest	1	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	3
Net Profit (loss)	84	60	59	43	68	67	65	65	65
Balance Sheet	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F	2022F
Fixed assets	357	430	447	461	455	470	494	514	531
Intangible assets	129	199	206	212	216	216	217	217	218
Tangible assets	170	184	185	195	195	209	233	252	269
Investments	17	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7
Other long-term assets	41	40	49	46	38	38	38	38	38
Current assets	338	364	399	379	384	366	375	387	398
Inventories	102	127	156	126	170	160	165	171	176
Receivables	170	191	218	196	176	184	188	194	199
Cash and cash equivalents	65	44	22	50	33	18	18	18	19
Other short-term assets	2	3	3	6	5	5	5	5	5
Total Assets	695	795	847	839	839	836	869	901	929
Equity capital	388	421	448	455	477	501	523	544	565
Non-controlling interests	2	5	6	5	6	6	6	6	6
Liabilities	308	374	398	384	363	335	346	357	364
Long-term liabilities	103	129	96	66	51	50	51	52	52
Loans and borrowings	72	83	55	32	24	23	24	25	25
Short-term liabilities	204	245	302	319	311	285	295	305	312
Loans and borrowings	94	113	140	136	139	132	137	143	145
Prepayments	38	52	45	61	61	48	49	51	52
Trade liabilities and other	53	66	94	89	86	86	89	92	95
Total Liabilities	695	795	847	839	839	836	869	901	929
Cash flow statement	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F	2022F
Cash flow on operating activity	93	58	62	151	98	100	115	117	121
Cash flow on investment activity	-133	-61	-41	-64	-45	-58	-70	-72	-72
Cash flow on financial activity	81	-18	-43	-59	-67	-52	-41	-42	-46
Indicators (%)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F	2022F
ROE	23.4%	14.9%	13.6%	9.4%	14.5%	13.7%	12.8%	12.3%	11.7%
Net Debt	101.1	151.7	172.4	117.9	130.1	137.3	143.3	148.6	150.6

Source: forecasts of PKO BP Securities

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# Explanation of the specialist terminology used

min (max) 52 weeks: minimum (maximum) of the market share price during the previous 52 weeks

Capitalisation: product of the share market price and the number of shares

EV: sum of the company's capitalisation and net debt

free float (%): share of the total number of shares decreased by 5% stakes held by one shareholder and own shares held by the company in the total number of shares Average trading/month: average trading per month calculated as total trading value over previous 12 months divided by 12

ROE: rate of return on equity

ROA: rate of return on assets

EBIT: operating profit

EBITDA: operating profit + depreciation and amortization

EPS: earnings per share DPS: dividend per 1 share CEPS: sum of net profit and depreciation and amortization per 1 share P/E: quotient of share market price and EPS P/BV: quotient of share market price and book value of one share EV/EBITDA: quotient of capitalisation increased by the company's net debt and EBITDA Gross sales margin: relation of gross sales profit to net sales proceeds EBITDA margin: relation of the sum of operating profit and depreciation to net sales proceeds EBIT margin: relation of operating profit to net sales proceeds Net profitability: relation of net profit to net sales proceeds

#### Valuation methods applied

A PKO BP Securities recommendation is based on at least two out of four valuation methods: DCF (discounted cash flow model), ratio analysis method (comparing the values of basic market ratios with similar ratios of other companies representing a given sector), sum of the parts of assets method (SOTP) and discounted dividends model. A disadvantage of the DCF and the discounted dividends model is their high sensitivity to adopted assumptions, including, in particular, those pertaining to determining the residual value. Furthermore, the discounted dividends model cannot be applied to the valuation of companies without a determined dividend policy. The advantages of both these methods include their independence from current market valuations of peer companies. On the other hand, the advantage of the ratio analysis is the fact that it is based on a measurable market valuation of a given sector. Its disadvantage lies in the risk that at any given time, the market might not value peer companies correctly. The sum of the parts method (SOTP) consists in summing up the values of various assets of the company, calculated using one of the above methods.

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Issuer:	Reservation	
Apator	-	

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The list below sets out all the recommendations drafted by PKO BP Securities in the last 12 months, within the scope of the "Analytic Coverage Support Pilot Programme".

Company	Recommendation Date of reco.	Target price Relevant	Market cap.	P/E		EV/EBITDA			Analyst			
		Dute offect.	rui get price	Market Price*	(PLN mn)	20 18	2019F	20 20 F	2018	20 19F	2020F	Analyst
Asseco SEE	Виу	2019-07-19	20,50	16,8	1328,49	9,5	15,4	14,1	4,0	7,8	7,0	Małgo rzata Żelazko
Apator	Hold	2019-07-22	24,30	24,3	617,5	10,7	9,3	9,5	7,0	6,2	6,10	Piotr Łop aciuk
Mabion	Виу	2019-07-26	105,00	85,5	1361,10	nm	nm	18,43	0,00	0,00	0,00	Dawid Górzyński
ZE PAK	Hold	2019-07-26	7,50	7,0	372,87	nm	3,9	4,1	5,1	8,0	0,8	Andrzej Rembelski
Asseco SEE	Hold	2019-11-19	25,00	23,8	1328,49	9,5	15,4	14,1	4,0	7,8	7,0	Małgo rzata Żelazko
ZE PAK	Hold	2019-12-04	7,80	7,4	372,87	nm	3,9	4,1	5,1	8,0	0,8	Andrzej Rembelski
Apator	Hold	2019-12-05	22,5	21,10	617,5	10,7	9,3	9,5	7,0	6,2	6,10	Piotr Łopaciuk

<sup>\*</sup>at the time of publication