

25/2022/GPW (79) August 8, 2022

This report is prepared for the Warsaw Stock Exchange SA within the framework of the Analytical Coverage Support Program. 3.0. This is an excerpt from the Polish version of DM BOŚ SA's research report.

Analyst: Maciej Wewiórski

Sector: Construction materials

Fundamental rating: Buy (→)

Market relative: Overweight (→)

Price: PLN 15.16

12M EFV: PLN 26.60 (→)

Market Cap: US\$ 51 m

Bloomberg code: GRN PW

Av. daily turnover: US\$ 0.15 m

12M range: PLN 13.66-20.50

Free float: 34.2%

Grodno

Recommended action

We uphold our ST market relative Overweight rating and LT fundamental Buy recommendation for the Company. 1Q22/23 financial results are good, in our view. Another positive catalyst for the Company's market price may be the proposed dividend. Though we expect a significantly slower sales growth dynamic in FY22/23 due to less favorable system of the photovoltaic installations prosumers accounting system, we believe that decarbonization, withdrawal from expensive fossil fuels, and numerous support programs like *Mój Prąd 4.0* and *Moje Ciepło* will have favorable impact on Grodno's financials already in the medium term.

4Q21/22 financial results review

Financials for 4Q21/22 proved to be very close to Grodno's preliminary results released earlier. A high dynamic of the Company's revenues seen in the previous quarters was maintained.

We believe that strong sales dynamic in 4Q21/22 stemmed from materially higher yoy sales in the RES segment and in the segment of cables and wires probably helped by the changes in regulations in force from April 1, 2022, wiping out the discount systems and introducing net billing for prosumers.

The Company's profitability continued to be high in 4Q21/22, the EBITDA margin reached 5.3% vs 2.8% in 4Q20/21.

Net operating cash flows are worthy of the attention as in the very 4Q21/22 the Company generated PLN 38.1 million, mainly on the back of the trade accounts payable change (at PLN 109 million in the full year). After the first 3 quarters of FY21/22 the change reached c. PLN 54 million and, hence, the eop ND at PLN 64.7 million was lower than we expected (PLN 85 million).

Guide to adjusted profits

No factors necessitating adjustments.

Key data

IFRS consolidated		2020/21	2021/22E	2022/23E	2023/24E
Sales	PLN m	1,196.0	1,315.5	1,420.7	1,534.4
EBITDA	PLN m	64.1	67.2	64.9	69.4
EBIT	PLN m	57.0	59.2	56.8	61.4
Net income	PLN m	43.8	45.4	44.0	48.4
EPS	PLN	2.84	2.95	2.86	3.15
EPS yoy chg	%	217.3	4.1	-3.0	10.0
Net debt	PLN m	64.7	75.0	52.9	31.8
P/E	x	5.3	5.1	5.3	4.8
P/CE	x	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.1
EV/EBITDA	x	4.6	4.6	4.4	3.8
EV/EBIT	x	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.3
EV/Sales	x	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Gross dividend yield	%	1.4%	5.6%	5.8%	7.6%
DPS	PLN	0.21	0.85	0.89	1.15
No. of shares (eop)	m	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4

Source: Company, DM BOŚ SA estimates

Stock performance



Source: Bloomberg

Upcoming events

1. Release of the financial report for 1Q22/23: August 29
2. Release of the financial report for 3Q22/23: February 16, 2023

Fig. 1. Grodno; 4Q21/22 financial results

IFRS, consolidated (PLN million)	4Q21/22	4Q20/21	yoy chg	4Q21/22E DM BOŚ	Results vs forecasts	1-4Q21/22	1-4Q20/21	yoy chg
Sales	318.7	185.5	72%	318.6	→	1196.0	711.7	68%
EBITDA	17.0	5.1	232%	16.9	→	64.1	24.6	161%
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	5.3%	2.8%	-	5.3%	→	5.4%	3.5%	-
EBIT	15.1	3.6	322%	14.9	→	57.0	18.8	203%
<i>EBIT margin</i>	4.7%	1.9%	-	4.7%	→	4.8%	2.6%	-
Net income	11.2	2.0	447%	11.0	→	43.8	13.7	219%
<i>Net income margin</i>	3.5%	1.1%	-	3.5%	→	3.7%	1.9%	-

Source: Company, DM BOŚ SA estimates

Financial forecasts and valuation

We do not see any need to modify either our financial forecasts or valuation (revised in April).

1Q22/23 preliminary results

On August 5, after the market's close, Grodno released preliminary 1Q22/23 results (reported already on July 1 sales do not constitute any surprise).

Fig. 2. Grodno; 1Q22/23E financial results

IFRS, consolidated (PLN million)	1Q22/23	1Q21/22	yoy chg
Sales	266.4	241.3	10%
EBITDA	13.7	12.3	11%
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	5.1%	5.1%	-
EBIT	11.8	10.7	10%
<i>EBIT margin</i>	4.4%	4.4%	-
Net income	8.6	8.3	4%
<i>Net income margin</i>	3.2%	3.4%	-

Źródło: Spółka, DM BOŚ SA

As Grodno claims, in 1Q22/23 a growth of revenues and other P&L items stemmed from higher sales in the segments of electronic installation materials, lightning, building automation and industry solutions. On the flip of the coin, the Company's sales in the RES segment and in the segment of cables and wires were lower yoy which was mainly related to lower sales of photovoltaic micro-installations.

Grodno managed to maintain the EBITDA margin above 5% which is good news, albeit we would like to note a slight qoq decrease of this margin.

Catalysts

1. Warehouse space optimization
2. Rising electricity prices for end-users
3. New support programs for the RES segment investors
4. Further acquisitions of peer companies (to-date Grodno has concluded 10 takeovers)
5. Automation of warehouse storage and distribution processes
6. Successful development of e-commerce channel in B2C and B2B segments

Risk factors

1. Rising generation costs of suppliers because of raw materials prices growth and lack of possibility to transfer the prices growth onto customers
2. Pressure on wages growth
3. Sales seasonality
4. Dependence on main suppliers
5. Insolvency of buyers
6. Bad inventories management
7. IT system crashes
8. Impact of the majority shareholders controlling 79.3% of the votes on the GSA
9. Inability to reach strategic goals (annual growth of sales at 10% by 2024/25)
10. Withdrawal from/ limits imposed on the government support programs for the RES segment investors
11. Inability to continue further lucrative acquisitions of peer companies
12. COVID-19 pandemic (shortages of components necessary for the production or lack of goods due to broken supply chains)

Competitive advantages

1. Strong geographic diversification (one of the most extensively developed sales network among independent distributors of electrotechnical materials)
2. Exposure to the fast growing segments of the electrotechnical market (photovoltaics and heat pumps currently, earlier LED lighting)
3. Comprehensive offer including consulting services, design and construction
4. Numerous acquisitions all of which proved to be value accretive
5. A vast client base including households, SMES, local and regional government units, and industrial plants as well
6. Lack of dependence on one/few suppliers
7. Multiple points of sale (suppliers more willing to cooperate with the big partner with a well-developed logistic base)

BASIC DEFINITIONS

A/R turnover (in days) = $365/(\text{sales}/\text{average A/R})$
Inventory turnover (in days) = $365/(\text{COGS}/\text{average inventory})$
A/P turnover (in days) = $365/(\text{COGS}/\text{average A/P})$
Current ratio = $(\text{current assets} - \text{ST deferred assets})/\text{current liabilities}$
Quick ratio = $(\text{current assets} - \text{ST deferred assets} - \text{inventory})/\text{current liabilities}$
Interest coverage = $(\text{pre-tax profit before extraordinary items} + \text{interest payable})/\text{interest payable}$
Gross margin = gross profit on sales/sales
EBITDA margin = EBITDA/sales
EBIT margin = EBIT/sales
Pre-tax margin = pre-tax profit/sales
Net margin = net profit/sales
ROE = net profit/average equity
ROA = $(\text{net income} + \text{interest payable})/\text{average assets}$
EV = market capitalization + interest bearing debt – cash and equivalents
EPS = net profit/ no. of shares outstanding
CE = net profit + depreciation
Dividend yield (gross) = pre-tax DPS/stock market price
Cash sales = accrual sales corrected for the change in A/R
Cash operating expenses = accrual operating expenses corrected for the changes in inventories and A/P, depreciation, cash taxes and changes in the deferred taxes

DM BOŚ S.A. generally values the covered non bank companies via two methods: comparative method and DCF method (discounted cash flows). The advantage of the former is the fact that it incorporates the current market assessment of the value of the company's peers. The weakness of the comparative method is the risk that the valuation benchmark may be mispriced. The advantage of the DCF method is its independence from the current market valuation of the comparable companies. The weakness of this method is its high sensitivity to undertaken assumptions, especially those related to the residual value calculation. Please note that we also resort to other valuation techniques (e.g. NAV-, DDM- or SOTP-based), should it prove appropriate in a given case.

KEY TO INVESTMENT RANKINGS

This is a guide to expected price performance in absolute terms over the next 12 months:

Buy – fundamentally undervalued (upside to 12M EFV in excess of the cost of equity) + catalysts which should close the valuation gap identified;
Hold – either (i) fairly priced, or (ii) fundamentally undervalued/overvalued but lacks catalysts which could close the valuation gap;
Sell – fundamentally overvalued (12M EFV < current share price + 1-year cost of equity) + catalysts which should close the valuation gap identified.

This is a guide to expected relative price performance:

Overweight – expected to perform better than the benchmark (WIG) over the next quarter in relative terms
Neutral – expected to perform in line with the benchmark (WIG) over the next quarter in relative terms
Underweight – expected to perform worse than the benchmark (WIG) over the next quarter in relative terms

The recommendation tracker presents the performance of DM BOŚ S.A.'s recommendations. A recommendation expires on the day it is altered or on the day 12 months after its issuance, whichever comes first.

Relative performance compares the rate of return on a given recommended stock in the period of the recommendation's validity (i.e. from the date of issuance to the date of alteration or – in case of maintained recommendations – from the date of issuance to the current date) in a relation to the rate of return on the benchmark in this time period. The WIG index constitutes the benchmark. For recommendations that expire by an alteration or are maintained, the ending values used to calculate their absolute and relative performance are: the stock closing price on the day the recommendation expires/ is maintained and the closing value of the benchmark on that date. For recommendations that expire via a passage of time, the ending values used to calculate their absolute and relative performance are: the average of the stock closing prices for the day the recommendation elapses and four directly preceding sessions and the average of the benchmark's closing values for the day the recommendation expires and four directly preceding sessions.

Distribution of DM BOŚ's current recommendations

	Buy	Hold	Sell	Suspended	Under revision	Not rated
Numbers	43	30	4	9	0	2
Percentage	49%	34%	5%	10%	0%	2%

Distribution of DM BOŚ's current market relative recommended weightings

	Overweight	Neutral	Underweight	Suspended	Under revision	Not rated
Numbers	36	31	10	9	0	2
Percentage	41%	35%	11%	10%	0%	2%

Banks

Net Interest Margin (NIM) = net interest income/average assets
Non interest income = fees&commissions + result on financial operations (trading gains) + FX gains
Interest Spread = $(\text{interest income}/\text{average interest earning assets})/(\text{interest cost}/\text{average interest bearing liabilities})$
Cost/Income = $(\text{general costs} + \text{depreciation})/(\text{profit on banking activity} + \text{other net operating income})$
ROE = net profit/average equity
ROA = net income/average assets
Non performing loans (NPL) = loans in 'basket 3' category
NPL coverage ratio = loan loss provisions/NPL
Net provision charge = provisions created – provisions released

DM BOŚ S.A. generally values the covered banks via two methods: comparative method and fundamental target fair P/E and target fair P/BV multiples method. The advantage of the former is the fact that it incorporates the current market assessment of the value of the company's peers. The weakness of the comparative method is the risk that the valuation benchmark may be mispriced. The advantage of the fundamental target fair P/E and target fair P/BV multiples method is its independence of the current market valuation of the comparable companies. The weakness of this method is its high sensitivity to undertaken assumptions, especially those related to the residual value calculation. Assumptions used in valuation can change, influencing thereby the level of the valuation. Among the most important assumptions are: GDP growth, forecasted level of inflation, changes in interest rates and currency prices, employment level and change in wages, demand on the analysed company products, raw material prices, competition, standing of the main customers and suppliers, legislation changes, etc. Changes in the environment of the analysed company are monitored by analysts involved in the preparation of the recommendation, estimated, incorporated in valuation and published in the recommendation whenever needed.

Distribution of DM BOŚ's current recommendations for the companies which DM BOŚ has supplied with material investment services within the last 12 months

	Buy	Hold	Sell	Suspended	Under revision	Not rated
Numbers	9	5	0	1	0	2
Percentage	53%	29%	0%	6%	0%	12%

Distribution of DM BOŚ's current market relative recommended weightings for the companies which DM BOŚ has supplied with material investment services within the last 12 months

	Overweight	Neutral	Underweight	Suspended	Under revision	Not rated
Numbers	10	2	2	1	0	2
Percentage	59%	12%	12%	6%	0%	12%

LT fundamental recommendation tracker

Analyst	Recommendation	Report date	Reiteration date	Distribution date	Expiry date	Performance	Relative performance	Price at issue/reiteration*	EFV (12 months)	
Grodno										
Maciej Wewiórski	Buy	31.08.2021	-	31.08.2021	Not later than 31.08.2022	0%	28%	15.34	20.60	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	31.08.2021	31.08.2021	-	-	-	15.86	20.60	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	07.10.2021	07.10.2021	-	-	-	15.60	20.60	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	01.11.2021	02.11.2021	-	-	-	15.96	20.39	↓
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	04.11.2021	04.11.2021	-	-	-	16.42	20.39	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	16.11.2021	17.11.2021	-	-	-	16.82	23.30	↑
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	05.12.2021	06.12.2021	-	-	-	16.10	23.30	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	16.01.2022	17.01.2022	-	-	-	17.24	23.30	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	07.02.2022	07.02.2022	-	-	-	18.10	23.30	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	28.02.2022	28.02.2022	-	-	-	15.50	23.30	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	14.04.2022	14.04.2022	-	-	-	19.98	23.30	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	24.04.2022	25.04.2022	-	-	-	19.80	26.60	↑
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	26.05.2022	26.05.2022	-	-	-	17.48	26.60	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	15.07.2022	15.07.2022	-	-	-	16.14	26.60	→
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	08.08.2022	09.08.2022	-	-	-	15.16	26.60	→

* prices at issue/reiteration are the closing prices at the report or reiteration date

Market-relative recommendation tracker

Analyst	Relative Recommendation	Report date	Reiteration date	Distribution date	Expiry date	Price at issue/reiteration*	Relative performance
Grodno							
Maciej Wewiórski	Overweight	31.08.2021	-	31.08.2021	Not later than 31.08.2022	15.34	28%
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	31.08.2021	31.08.2021	-	15.86	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	07.10.2021	07.10.2021	-	15.60	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	01.11.2021	02.11.2021	-	15.96	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	04.11.2021	04.11.2021	-	16.42	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	16.11.2021	17.11.2021	-	16.82	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	05.12.2021	06.12.2021	-	16.10	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	16.01.2022	17.01.2022	-	17.24	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	07.02.2022	07.02.2022	-	18.10	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	28.02.2022	28.02.2022	-	15.50	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	14.04.2022	14.04.2022	-	19.98	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	24.04.2022	25.04.2022	-	19.80	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	26.05.2022	26.05.2022	-	17.48	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	07.06.2022	08.06.2022	-	17.28	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	15.07.2022	15.07.2022	-	16.14	-
Maciej Wewiórski	-	-	08.08.2022	09.08.2022	-	15.16	-

* prices at issue/reiteration are the closing prices at the report or reiteration date

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The report was not shown to the analyzed company before the distribution of the report.

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