### ABO Wind (AB9 GY) | Utilities/Renewables

September 01, 2022

### Foresighted, fast and efficient

H1 net profit increased from EUR 6.5 m to EUR 9.6 m. The company continues to impress with its tremendous agility and speed in identifying and serving relevant trends. The development pipeline has further increased to around 20 GW. In addition, ABO Wind now also separately and newly reports a hydrogen-related pipeline which mainly comprises large-scale projects abroad, mainly in Canada. In terms of technology differentiation, solar projects already account for 10% of revenues in the project business in the first half of 2022. The company also states that more storage and hybrid projects have been taken in implementation.

- H1 net profit EUR 9.6 m, up 48% y-o-y. FY 2022 target confirmed
- Valuation: The earnings volatility typical of the developer business is likely to remain relatively high, making it difficult to determine a fair value for the company and will not appeal to every investor. We believe pipeline multiples are particularly helpful in valuing the company. Three major pipeline transactions have taken place in the last 2 years, each at a price of around EUR 150/GW. For ABO Wind's 13 GW pipeline in Europe alone, this corresponds to a value of around EUR 2 bn. This valuation approach makes sense in our view, as a pipeline can theoretically be sold at any time, even in parts, in the form of project rights. Even applying generous safety discounts by limiting the valuation only to the European part of the pipeline, disregarding the large-scale hydrogen project pipeline and reducing the transaction multiple to 50% results in a target price of EUR 106.

Fundamentals (in EUR m) <sup>1</sup>	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Sales	126	149	127	197	206	206
EBITDA	27	35	30	38	44	45
EBIT	19	22	22	25	31	32
EPS adj. (EUR)	1.41	1.42	1.50	1.60	2.04	2.19
DPS (EUR)	0.42	0.45	0.49	0.55	0.55	0.55
BVPS (EUR)	12.83	15.19	16.25	17.09	19.44	20.52
Net Debt incl. Provisions	69	7	74	77	59	35
Ratios <sup>1</sup>	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
EV/EBITDA	7.6	12.5	19.3	16.5	13.8	13.0
EV/EBIT	10.7	19.4	26.2	24.9	19.6	18.3
P/E adj.	12.2	32.6	37.3	37.6	29.4	27.4
Dividend yield (%)	2.4	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
EBITDA margin (%)	21.7	23.3	24.0	19.4	21.5	21.9
EBIT margin (%)	15.4	15.1	17.7	12.8	15.2	15.6
Net debt/EBITDA	2.5	0.2	2.4	2.0	1.3	0.8
PBV	1.3	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.1	2.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Sources: Bloomberg, Metzler Research

Buy

unchanged

Price\*

**EUR 60.00** 

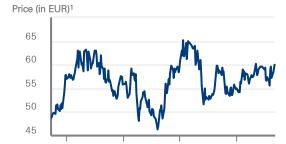
Price target

Oct-21

EUR 106.00 (95.00)

\* XETRA trading price at the close of the previous day unless stated otherwise in the Disclosures

Market Cap (EUR m) <sup>1</sup>	553
Enterprise Value (EUR m) <sup>1</sup>	630
Free Float (%)1	38.0



Apr-22

Jul-22

Jan-22

Performance (in %) <sup>1</sup>	1m	3m	12m
Share	-0.3	1.4	23.0
Rel. to SDAX	8.2	17.1	77.4
4			
Changes in estimates (in %) <sup>1</sup>	2022e	2023e	2024e
Changes in estimates (in %) <sup>1</sup> Sales	2022e 0.0	2023e 0.0	2024e 0.0

#### **Sponsored Research**



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#### H1 result & outlook

H1 2022 net profit came in at EUR 9.6 m (H1 2021: EUR 6.5 m). The total output (sales plus change in inventory) amounted to EUR 127 m (H1 2021: EUR 84 m).

Following the trend of the past four years, ABO Wind generated more than half of its sales outside Germany in the first half of 2022.

Essentially seven countries contributed to the positive performance: Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Scotland and Spain.

Outlook confirmed: FY 2022 net profit at least at prior-year level. The earnings increase in full calendar year should not be as significant as that in H1.

#### **Pipeline**

The project pipeline was further expanded. It now amounts to around 13 GW in Europe. In total, it now amounts to 20 GW.

Pipeline (March 2	022)		
		Phase II	
	Phase I	(Approval achieved,	
	(Areas secured,	building maturity in	Phase III
Country	approval in progress)	progress)	(In implementation
Germany	1700	100	100
France	1380	60	60
Finland	4870	0	130
Ireland	330	40	30
Spain	1000	400	100
Greece	760	40	50
Poland	380	0	20
Hungary	75	25	0
UK	315	35	50
Netherlands	90	0	0
Total Europe	10900	700	540
Argentine	750	950	0
Columbia	500	100	0
Canada	300	500	0
Southafrica	2600	1000	0
Tansania	50	0	0
Tunesia	0	20	0
Total by phase	15100	3270	540
Total Europe		12140	
TOTAL		18910	
Sources: ABO Wind, M	etzler Research		

Pipeline update from	om August 2022		
	2	Phase II	
	Phase I	(Approval achieved,	
	(Areas secured,	building maturity in	Phase III
Country	approval in progress)	progress)	(In implementation
Germany	1850	120	130
France	1380	60	60
Finland	5340	30	130
Ireland	283	150	17
Spain	1000	450	50
Greece	500	300	50
Poland	480	0	20
Hungary	90	30	0
UK	350	50	0
Netherlands	90	0	0
Total Europe	11363	1190	457
Argentine	1050	700	0
Columbia	500	100	0
Canada	700	0	0
Southafrica	3300	700	0
Tansania	50	0	0
Tunesia	65	10	0
Total by phase	17028	2700	457
Total Europe		13010	
TOTAL		20185	
Sources: ABO Wind, Me	etzler Research		

For the first time, ABO Wind also names and quantifies a hydrogen project-related pipeline.

Due to the additional technical complexity associated with hydrogen production, the still missing reference projects and the economic challenges, ABO Wind presents these projects separately and does not assign them to the regular development pipeline.

Also, the profitability of these projects is usually lower than for the 'conventional' ones, as they are usually very large projects in often less densely populated areas.

#### Project pipeline with focus on hydrogen (August 2022)



Sources: ABO Wind, Metzler Research

#### Valuation

For the valuation of the development business, we apply the pipeline approach. We think that this approach is now well established in the market. In our opinion, it is also absolutely plausible since pipelines have a high degree of fungibility because project rights can be sold relatively easily and are also increasingly traded.

For the pipeline valuation, we refer to three major pipeline sales in the last 2 years of Nordex (Metzler recommendation: BUY/ pt. EUR 16), BayWa (Metzler recommendation: BUY/ pt. EUR 69) and Vento Ludens/Wind2.

In all three cases, the buyers paid around EUR 150m per (pipeline) GW. We apply the transaction multiple to ABO Wind's pipeline in Europe (13 GW) and apply a safety margin of 50%.

We derive a theoretical value of EUR 106 per share on this basis.

### **Key Data**

#### Company profile

CEO: Andreas Höllinger, Dr. Jochen Ahn, Matthias Bockholt, Dr. Karsten Schlageter (all equal rights) CFO: Wiesbaden The renewables project developer ABO Wind, founded in 1996 and now active in 16 countries, has its roots in wind power, but in recent years has also expanded its wind farm management activities through services such as maintenance and expert reports (since 2014) and the construction of solar parks (since 2016).

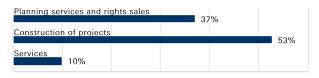
#### Major shareholders

Family Ahn (26%). Family Bockholt (26%), Mainova AG (10%), Baden-Württembergische Versorgungskasse der Ärzte (5%)

Key figures P&L (in EUR m)	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%	2022e	%	2023e	%	2024e	%
Sales	126	-16.0	149	18.1	127	-14.8	197	55.2	206	4.5	206	0.0
EBITDA	27	-14.9	35	26.9	30	-12.3	38	25.7	44	15.5	45	1.9
EBITDA margin (%)	21.7	1.3	23.3	7.4	24.0	2.9	19.4	-19.0	21.5	10.5	21.9	1.9
EBIT	19	-11.6	22	15.7	22	0.0	25	12.8	31	23.4	32	2.7
EBIT margin (%)	15.4	5.1	15.1	-2.1	17.7	17.3	12.8	-27.3	15.2	18.1	15.6	2.7
Financial result	-2	-71.3	-2	-11.7	-1	15.3	-2	-0.9	-1	6.7	-1	0.0
EBT	18	-15.3	21	16.0	21	1.3	24	13.6	30	25.3	31	2.8
Taxes	7	-21.9	8	13.8	7	-5.8	9	27.2	11	20.9	10	-4.5
Tax rate (%)	37.4	n.a.	36.7	n.a.	34.1	n.a.	38.2	n.a.	36.9	n.a.	34.2	n.a
Net income	11	-10.7	13	15.0	14	5.3	15	6.6	19	28.1	20	7.2
Minority interests	0	-97.6	-0	-200.0	0	100.0	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a
Net Income after minorities	11	-10.6	13	15.0	14	5.3	15	6.6	19	28.1	20	7.2
Number of shares outstanding (m)	8	5.6	9	14.2	9	0.0	9	0.0	9	0.0	9	0.0
EPS adj. (EUR)	1.41	-15.3	1.42	0.6	1.50	5.3	1.60	6.6	2.04	28.1	2.19	7.2
DPS (EUR)	0.42	0.0	0.45	7.1	0.49	8.9	0.55	12.2	0.55	0.0	0.55	0.0
Dividend yield (%)	2.4	n.a.	1.0	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	0.9	n.a
Cash Flow (in EUR m)	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%	2022e	%	2023e	%	2024e	%
Gross Cash Flow	19	-13.5	42	122.4	20	-52.4	28	37.2	32	14.9	33	4.2
Increase in working capital	-15	n.a.	27	n.a.	-67	n.a.	-20	n.a.	-5	n.a.	0	n.a
Capital expenditures	3	-7.4	4	20.0	4	11.1	4	0.0	4	0.0	4	0.0
D+A/Capex (%)	266.0	n.a.	341.7	n.a.	200.8	n.a.	325.0	n.a.	325.0	n.a.	325.0	n.a
Free cash flow (Metzler definition)	1	105.4	66	n.m.	-51	-177.7	4	107.3	23	514.8	29	27.8
Free cash flow yield (%)	0.8	n.a.	15.4	n.a.	-10.0	n.a.	0.7	n.a.	4.1	n.a.	5.3	n.a
Dividend paid	3	10.8	4	14.2	4	7.1	7	66.7	5	-26.7	5	0.0
Free cash flow (post dividend)	-2	90.1	62	n.m.	-55	-189.3	-3	94.2	18	655.8	24	35.7
Balance sheet (in EUR m)	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%	2022е	%	2023ө	%	2024e	%
Assets	251	29.5	261	3.7	310	19.0	279	-9.9	288	3.2	295	2.5
Goodwill	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a
Shareholders' equity	104	16.4	140	35.3	150	7.0	158	5.2	179	13.7	189	5.6
Equity/total assets (%)	42.7	n.a.	56.2	n.a.	50.3	n.a.	60.5	n.a.	64.4	n.a.	66.6	n.a
Net Debt incl. Provisions	69	42.5	7	-89.2	74	892.2	77	4.3	59	-23.0	35	-40.6
thereof pension provisions	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a
	66.6 2.5	<b>n.a.</b> n.a.	5.3 0.2	<b>n.a.</b> n.a.	49.4 2.4	<b>n.a.</b> n.a.	49.0 2.0	<b>n.a.</b> n.a.	33.1 1.3	<b>n.a.</b> n.a.	18.6 0.8	n.a n.a

#### Structure

### Sales by area of activity 2021



Sources: Bloomberg, Metzler Research

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### **Disclosures**

**Recommendation history** 

Recommendations for each financial instrument or issuer - mentioned in this document - published by Metzler in the past twelve months

Date of dissemi- nation	Metzler re Previous	ecommendation * Current	Current price **	Price target *	Author ***
Issuer/Financial I	Instrument	(ISIN): ABO Wind (DE	(0005760029)		
18.03.2022	Buy	Buy	59.00 EUR	95.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
09.02.2022	Buy	Buy	51.00 EUR	80.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
06.12.2021	Buy	Buy	56.20 EUR	80.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
30.11.2021	Buy	Buy	59.00 EUR	80.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
01.09.2021	Buy	Buy	49.40 EUR	80.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
Issuer/Financial I	Instrument	(ISIN): BayWa (DE000	)5194062)		
09.08.2022	Buy	Buy	42.60 EUR	69.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
01.07.2022	Buy	Buy	42.30 EUR	68.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
05.05.2022	Buy	Buy	47.35 EUR	65.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
24.03.2022	Buy	Buy	43.65 EUR	62.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
28.02.2022	Buy	Buy	35.10 EUR	58.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
30.11.2021	Buy	Buy	37.40 EUR	58.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
11.11.2021	Buy	Buy	39.10 EUR	58.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
Issuer/Financial I	Instrument	(ISIN): Nordex (DE000	)A0D6554)		
15.08.2022	Buy	Buy	10.57 EUR	16.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
12.07.2022	Buy	Buy	9.17 EUR	16.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
27.06.2022	Buy	Buy	8.70 EUR	16.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
21.06.2022	Buy	Buy	9.35 EUR	18.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
25.05.2022	Buy	Buy	12.55 EUR	18.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
29.03.2022	Buy	Buy	14.04 EUR	20.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
18.01.2022	Buy	Buy	14.17 EUR	20.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
09.11.2021	Buy	Buy	14.28 EUR	20.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
06.10.2021	Buy	Buy	13.47 EUR	23.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
Issuer/Financial I	Instrument	(ISIN): RWE (DE0007	037129)		
11.08.2022	Buy	Buy	42.49 EUR	54.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
15.03.2022	Buy	Buy	36.94 EUR	50.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
17.02.2022	Buy	Buy	36.88 EUR	50.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
27.01.2022	Buy	Buy	36.15 EUR	49.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
16.11.2021	Buy	Buy	33.23 EUR		Hoymann, Guido
11.11.2021	Buy	Buy	32.60 EUR	48.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
14.09.2021	Buy	Buy	33.03 EUR	48.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
09.09.2021	Buy	Buy	32.73 EUR	48.00 EUR	Hoymann, Guido
Issuer/Financial I	Instrument	(ISIN): RWE (XS23510	092478)		
24.03.2022	Sell	Buy			Rack, Juliane

Date of dissemi-	Metzler recomme	endation *	Current price **	Price target *	Author ***
nation	Previous	Current			
25.11.2021	n.a.	Sell			Rack, Juliane

#### Issuer/Financial Instrument (ISIN): RWE (XS2412044567)

24.03.2022 n.a.

Buy

Rack, Juliane

- \* Effective until the price target and/or investment recommendation is updated (FI/FX recommendations are valid solely at the time of publication)
- \*\* XETRA trading price at the close of the previous day unless stated otherwise herein
- \*\*\* All authors are financial analysts

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