

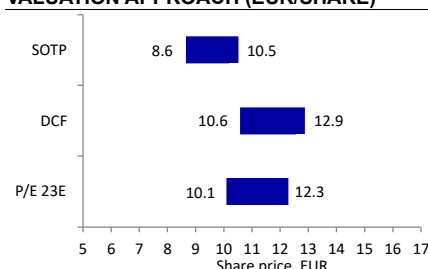
KEY DATA

Stock country	Finland
Bloomberg	ASPO.FH
Reuters	ASPO.HE
Share price (close)	EUR 8.08
Free Float	88%
Market cap. (bn)	EUR 0.25/EUR 0.25
Website	www.aspo.com
Next report date	03 May 2023

PERFORMANCE



VALUATION APPROACH (EUR/SHARE)



ESTIMATE CHANGES

Year	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	1%	1%	1%
EBIT (adj)	-5%	-3%	-1%

Source: Nordea estimates

Nordea IB & Equity - Analysts

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Analyst

Reshaping the company

We expect a relatively good first quarter for ESL Shipping, due to increased q/q volumes, despite Finland's port strike and low yields in the shipping markets. Shipping volumes will likely improve further when new hybrid vessels start to arrive in late 2023. We maintain our fair value range of EUR 9.8-12.0 per share for Aspo, based on an equal weighting of our DCF, P/E and SOTP valuations. The company's EV/EBITDA was 8.8x on average in 2000-21, but is only 5.3x for 2022-24E. We expect the valuation to undergo a rerating after the divestment of the Russian operation is completed.

Q1 forecasts

The Baltic Dry Index was relatively low in Q1, but recovered to nearly the six-year average in March. SSAB expected steel shipments to increase by more than 10% in Q1 2023 q/q, which ought to at the very least lend some support for operating profit in the ESL Shipping segment. The Leipuri segment could continue to post EBIT close to EUR 1m in Q1. Our group clean EBIT forecast is EUR 9.7m for Q1 (Reuters consensus: EUR 8.6m). Two sale and leaseback transactions are likely to improve cash flow by several million and add a EUR 0.5m sales gain to the Q1 result. In April, Aspo received EUR 5.7m for its Telko operations in Russia. The original agreement was for EUR 9.5m, but the amount declined after valuation adjustments.

Guidance points to clear decline in operating profit for 2023 y/y

We lower our EBIT estimates for 2023-24, mainly stemming from Telko. Aspo has guided for group-level EBIT to be higher than EUR 35m for 2023. Aspo's bigger ships could have been loss-making in Q1 2023, but yields in the shipping market recovered somewhat in March, which supports the full-year outlook. Our forecast for 2023 revenue growth is -6%, with operating profit of EUR 40m. Although Aspo will find it difficult to improve y/y in 2023, we believe the medium-term outlook is relatively good. The operating profit margin of 8% is realistic in the medium term, in our view.

A valuation rerating is possible after the Russia exit

The company's P/E is 8.8x for 2023E, but we argue that P/E multiples should exceed 10x following the Russia exit. Our fair valuation range of EUR 9.8-12.0 per share indicates EV/EBIT of 9.6-11.1x for 2024E. However, a lot depends on the shipping sector, as ~80% of 2023E operating profit is derived from the ESL Shipping segment.

SUMMARY TABLE - KEY FIGURES

EURm	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total revenue	588	501	583	643	602	634	655
EBITDA (adj)	50	52	77	87	67	75	80
EBIT (adj)	21	19	44	55	40	45	49
EBIT (adj) margin	3.6%	3.9%	7.6%	8.6%	6.6%	7.1%	7.5%
EPS (adj, EUR)	0.42	0.38	1.07	1.37	0.93	1.05	1.17
EPS (adj) growth	-28.3%	-8.9%	182.2%	27.4%	-31.7%	12.1%	11.5%
DPS (ord, EUR)	0.22	0.35	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.49	0.51
EV/Sales	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
EV/EBIT (adj)	20.9	22.5	11.9	7.7	10.4	9.0	7.9
P/E (adj)	18.3	22.1	10.6	6.0	8.7	7.7	6.9
P/BV	2.0	2.3	2.8	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Dividend yield (ord)	2.9%	4.2%	4.0%	5.6%	5.8%	6.1%	6.3%
FCF Yield bef A&D, lease	13.9%	16.9%	3.8%	12.9%	7.0%	9.2%	13.7%
Net debt	198	170	167	167	159	153	136
Net debt/EBITDA	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.0	1.7
ROIC after tax	5.8%	5.6%	13.4%	17.1%	11.7%	12.8%	13.6%

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

Segment estimates

ESTIMATES BY SEGMENT, QUARTERLY (EURm)

	Q1 21	Q2 21	Q3 21	Q4 21	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23E	Q2 23E	Q3 23E	Q4 23E
ESL Shipping												
Sales	43.4	46.0	47.3	54.7	56.8	60.3	65.0	63.3	59.1	57.9	57.2	56.3
- sales growth	2%	40%	50%	33%	31%	31%	37%	16%	4%	-4%	-12%	-11%
EBIT	4.5	5.4	7.1	9.8	7.9	9.2	9.7	10.6	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.4
EBIT margin	10%	12%	15%	18%	14%	15%	15%	17%	14%	14%	14%	13%
Leipurin												
Sales	27.9	25.8	27.7	31.7	27.7	29.3	32.3	41.3	33.3	34.5	34.2	37.2
- sales growth	4%	11%	14%	19%	-1%	14%	17%	30%	20%	18%	6%	-10%
EBIT	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
EBIT margin	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Telko												
Sales	61.0	71.1	73.0	73.6	75.9	71.8	60.5	59.2	57.5	58.0	58.9	57.6
- sales growth	-4%	19%	17%	12%	24%	1%	-17%	-20%	-24%	-19%	-3%	-3%
EBIT	4.5	5.5	5.9	5.2	8.6	7.2	3.7	1.3	2.2	2.6	3.2	3.2
EBIT margin	7%	8%	8%	7%	11%	10%	6%	2%	4%	5%	6%	6%
Aspo Group												
Sales	132.3	142.9	148.0	160.0	160.4	161.4	157.8	163.8	149.8	150.4	150.2	151.2
- sales growth	-1%	24%	25%	20%	21%	13%	7%	2%	-7%	-7%	-5%	-8%
EBIT clean	7.9	9.6	12.8	13.8	15.0	15.9	13.0	11.3	9.7	9.9	10.2	9.7
EBIT margin	6.0%	6.7%	8.6%	8.6%	9.4%	9.9%	8.2%	6.9%	6.5%	6.6%	6.8%	6.4%
PTP clean	7.0	8.6	11.8	12.8	13.2	14.0	10.9	12.0	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.5
Net Profit clean	6.4	7.8	10.6	10.7	11.9	13.2	10.1	10.7	8.7	7.7	8.0	7.6
EPS clean, EUR	0.19	0.23	0.32	0.33	0.36	0.38	0.31	0.26	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.22
EPS reported, EUR	0.19	0.23	0.16	0.16	0.21	0.31	0.30	-0.21	-0.11	0.22	0.23	0.22

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

ESTIMATES BY SEGMENT, ANNUAL (EURm)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
ESL Shipping												
Sales	78	85	76	71	79	120	175	148	191	245	230	249
- sales growth	8%	10%	-11%	-6%	11%	51%	46%	-15%	29%	28%	-6%	8%
EBIT	8	16	15	13	14	17	15	8	27	37	32	34
EBIT margin	10%	19%	19%	18%	17%	14%	8%	5%	14%	15%	14%	14%
Leipurin												
Sales	137	135	118	113	122	121	116	101	113	131	139	145
- sales growth	4%	-1%	-12%	-5%	9%	-1%	-4%	-13%	12%	15%	7%	4%
EBIT	5.2	4.4	2.4	2.0	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.4	1.9	3.3	3.5	4.0
EBIT margin	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Telko												
Sales	230	227	215	240	262	266	297	251	279	267	232	240
- sales growth	-3%	-1%	-5%	12%	9%	2%	12%	-15%	11%	-4%	-13%	3%
EBIT	6	10	10	10	11	12	8	15	21	21	11	13
EBIT margin	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	3%	6%	8%	8%	5%	6%
Aspo Group												
Sales	476	483	446	457	502	541	588	501	583	643	602	634
- sales growth	-1%	1%	-8%	3%	10%	8%	9%	-15%	16%	10%	-6%	5%
EBIT clean	11	25	21	20	24	27	21	19	44	55	40	45
EBIT margin	2.3%	5.2%	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	3.6%	3.9%	7.6%	8.6%	6.6%	7.1%
PTP clean	7	19	17	17	20	21	17	15	40	49	35	40
Net Profit clean	9	19	15	15	18	18	13	12	34	43	29	33
EPS clean, EUR	0.28	0.60	0.50	0.48	0.59	0.58	0.42	0.38	1.07	1.37	0.93	1.05
EPS reported, EUR	0.28	0.60	0.60	0.48	0.57	0.42	0.47	0.38	0.75	0.65	0.60	1.05

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

Reported numbers and forecasts

INCOME STATEMENT

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total revenue	446	457	502	541	588	501	583	643	602	634	655
Revenue growth	-7.6%	2.5%	9.8%	7.7%	8.7%	-14.8%	16.5%	10.3%	-6.5%	5.3%	3.4%
of which organic	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
of which FX	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
EBITDA	33	32	35	37	50	52	67	65	57	75	80
Depreciation and impairments PPE	-13	-12	-12	-12	-29	-29	-30	-32	-28	-30	-30
of which leased assets	0	0	0	0	-14	-13	-14	-17	-18	-19	-19
EBITA	21	20	23	25	21	23	37	33	29	45	49
Amortisation and impairments	0	0	0	-5	0	-3	-3	0	0	0	0
EBIT	21	20	23	21	21	19	34	33	29	45	49
of which associates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Associates excluded from EBIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net financials	-1	-4	-4	-5	-3	-5	-4	-6	-5	-5	-5
of which lease interest	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Changes in value, net	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	20	17	19	15	18	15	30	26	24	40	44
Reported taxes	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-5	-4	-3	-4	-5
Net profit from continued operations	18	15	18	13	16	13	25	22	21	35	39
Discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit to equity	18	15	18	13	15	12	23	20	19	33	37
EPS, EUR	0.60	0.48	0.57	0.42	0.47	0.38	0.75	0.65	0.60	1.05	1.17
DPS, EUR	0.41	0.41	0.43	0.44	0.22	0.35	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.49	0.51
of which ordinary	0.41	0.41	0.43	0.44	0.22	0.35	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.49	0.51
of which extraordinary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Profit margin in percent

EBITDA	7.4%	7.0%	7.0%	6.9%	8.5%	10.3%	11.4%	10.1%	9.4%	11.8%	12.1%
EBITA	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	3.6%	4.5%	6.4%	5.1%	4.8%	7.1%	7.5%
EBIT	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%	3.8%	3.6%	3.9%	5.8%	5.1%	4.8%	7.1%	7.5%

Adjusted earnings

EBITDA (adj)	33	32	36	38	50	52	77	87	67	75	80
EBITA (adj)	21	20	24	26	21	23	47	55	40	45	49
EBIT (adj)	21	20	24	27	21	19	44	55	40	45	49
EPS (adj, EUR)	0.50	0.48	0.59	0.58	0.42	0.38	1.07	1.37	0.93	1.05	1.17

Adjusted profit margins in percent

EBITDA (adj)	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	7.0%	8.4%	10.3%	13.2%	13.6%	11.2%	11.8%	12.1%
EBITA (adj)	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	3.6%	4.5%	8.1%	8.6%	6.6%	7.1%	7.5%
EBIT (adj)	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	3.6%	3.9%	7.6%	8.6%	6.6%	7.1%	7.5%

Performance metrics

CAGR last 5 years											
Net revenue	2.4%	-0.8%	0.8%	2.6%	4.0%	2.3%	5.0%	5.1%	2.1%	1.5%	5.5%
EBITDA	4.9%	1.5%	10.3%	11.4%	6.6%	9.3%	15.8%	13.1%	8.8%	8.6%	9.0%
EBIT	2.8%	-1.0%	16.9%	13.8%	-3.3%	-1.3%	10.6%	7.2%	7.1%	16.4%	20.6%
EPS	8.8%	0.8%	10.4%	8.1%	-5.0%	-8.7%	9.0%	2.6%	7.5%	17.6%	25.1%
DPS	-0.5%	-0.5%	0.5%	15.9%	-11.3%	-3.1%	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	17.4%	7.8%
Average last 5 years											
Average EBIT margin	3.7%	3.7%	4.2%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%	5.4%	6.1%
Average EBITDA margin	6.0%	6.2%	6.7%	7.1%	7.4%	7.9%	8.8%	9.5%	9.9%	10.6%	11.0%

VALUATION RATIOS - ADJUSTED EARNINGS

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
P/E (adj)	15.1	16.9	16.8	13.7	18.3	22.1	10.6	6.0	8.7	7.7	6.9
EV/EBITDA (adj)	10.1	11.1	11.9	11.3	8.8	8.4	6.8	4.9	6.1	5.4	4.9
EV/EBITA (adj)	16.2	17.5	17.9	16.4	20.9	19.1	11.1	7.7	10.4	9.0	7.9
EV/EBIT (adj)	16.2	17.5	17.9	16.2	20.9	22.5	11.9	7.7	10.4	9.0	7.9

VALUATION RATIOS - REPORTED EARNINGS

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
P/E	12.5	16.9	17.5	19.1	16.4	22.1	15.2	12.6	13.5	7.7	6.9
EV/Sales	0.75	0.78	0.85	0.80	0.74	0.87	0.90	0.66	0.69	0.64	0.60
EV/EBITDA	10.1	11.1	12.2	11.6	8.8	8.4	7.9	6.6	7.3	5.4	4.9
EV/EBITA	16.2	17.5	18.5	16.9	20.7	19.1	14.1	13.0	14.2	9.0	7.9
EV/EBIT	16.2	17.5	18.5	20.9	20.7	22.5	15.5	13.0	14.2	9.0	7.9
Dividend yield (ord.)	5.5%	5.0%	4.3%	5.5%	2.9%	4.2%	4.0%	5.6%	5.8%	6.1%	6.3%
FCF yield	6.7%	3.9%	-0.1%	-13.9%	18.8%	21.1%	7.6%	13.2%	17.1%	16.6%	21.1%
FCF Yield bef A&D, lease adj	4.5%	3.9%	-0.1%	-9.1%	13.9%	16.9%	3.8%	12.9%	7.0%	9.2%	13.7%
Payout ratio	82.6%	84.7%	72.4%	75.7%	52.8%	92.1%	42.0%	33.7%	50.4%	46.9%	43.7%

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

BALANCE SHEET

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Intangible assets	54	52	50	52	51	55	46	47	47	47	47
of which R&D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
of which other intangibles	11	9	8	9	8	8	1	0	0	0	0
of which goodwill	43	43	42	43	43	47	45	47	47	47	47
Tangible assets	116	113	120	175	189	176	172	181	199	206	208
of which leased assets	0	0	0	0	8	7	3	3	2	2	2
Shares associates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest bearing assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other non-IB non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other non-current assets	4	5	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total non-current assets	174	170	174	231	242	233	220	229	247	255	256
Inventory	48	57	61	71	56	42	69	70	67	70	73
Accounts receivable	58	60	66	78	75	63	74	69	66	71	75
Short-term leased assets	0	0	0	0	13	14	17	13	14	14	14
Other current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash and bank	24	23	20	19	24	32	18	22	25	21	22
Total current assets	131	139	147	168	168	152	177	174	171	176	184
Assets held for sale	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8	12	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total assets	305	310	321	400	410	385	406	416	418	430	440
Shareholders equity	103	115	112	117	122	114	129	144	159	177	198
Of which preferred stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which equity part of hybrid debt	20	25	25	25	25	20	22	22	22	22	22
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Equity	103	115	112	117	122	114	129	144	159	177	198
Deferred tax	5	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long term interest bearing debt	116	117	109	171	142	149	142	154	152	145	133
Pension provisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term provisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term liabilities	1	0	1	7	5	5	6	8	8	8	8
Non-current lease debt	0	0	0	0	9	7	7	5	3	2	2
Convertible debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholder debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hybrid debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total non-current liabilities	121	121	113	178	155	161	155	167	163	155	143
Short-term provisions	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accounts payable	68	64	67	76	61	65	78	72	68	72	76
Current lease debt	0	0	0	0	13	13	14	12	14	14	14
Other current liabilities	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short term interest bearing debt	12	9	27	29	58	33	21	18	15	12	9
Total current liabilities	81	74	96	105	133	111	114	102	97	98	99
Liabilities for assets held for sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	0
Total liabilities and equity	305	310	321	400	410	385	405	416	418	430	440
Balance sheet and debt metrics											
Net debt	104	103	117	180	198	170	167	167	159	153	136
of which lease debt	0	0	0	0	22	21	21	16	16	16	16
Working capital	38	52	60	73	70	41	65	67	64	68	71
Invested capital	212	222	234	304	312	274	285	296	311	323	327
Capital employed	231	240	249	316	344	316	315	332	342	350	356
ROE	17.8%	13.8%	15.6%	11.4%	12.3%	10.1%	19.3%	15.0%	12.5%	19.6%	19.6%
ROIC	8.2%	8.0%	8.9%	8.4%	5.8%	5.6%	13.4%	17.1%	11.7%	12.8%	13.6%
ROCE	11.1%	8.7%	9.7%	9.4%	6.3%	5.9%	14.0%	17.1%	11.7%	13.0%	13.9%
Net debt/EBITDA	3.1	3.2	3.3	4.9	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.0	1.7
Interest coverage	6.1	6.8	8.3	4.7	17.6	6.9	15.4	7.1	9.0	13.2	14.8
Equity ratio	33.7%	37.0%	35.0%	29.2%	29.8%	29.5%	31.9%	34.6%	38.0%	41.1%	45.0%
Net gearing	101.4%	89.8%	103.9%	154.5%	162.3%	149.7%	129.4%	116.0%	100.1%	86.4%	68.7%

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
EBITDA (adj) for associates	33	32	35	37	50	52	67	65	57	75	80
Paid taxes	-2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4	-3	-4	-5
Net financials	-3	-3	-4	-3	-3	-3	-4	-4	-5	-5	-5
Change in provisions	0	1	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change in other LT non-IB	3	-1	1	7	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Cash flow to/from associates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid to minorities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other adj to reconcile to cash flow	-2	1	0	-6	0	-3	6	15	11	0	0
Funds from operations (FFO)	29	27	30	31	43	42	66	74	60	66	70
Change in NWC	-4	-11	-13	-11	9	23	-22	-7	3	-4	-3
Cash flow from operations (CFO)	25	16	17	20	53	65	44	68	62	61	67
Capital expenditure	-15	-6	-18	-43	-5	-7	-17	-18	-26	-19	-13
Free cash flow before A&D	10	10	0	-23	47	58	27	50	36	42	54
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	11	0	0
Acquisitions	5	0	0	-13	-3	-5	-1	-18	-4	0	0
Free cash flow	15	10	0	-35	45	56	27	34	43	42	54
Free cash flow bef A&D, lease adj	10	10	0	-23	33	45	13	33	18	23	35
Dividends paid	-12	-13	-13	-13	-14	-7	-11	-14	-14	-15	-15
Equity issues / buybacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net change in debt	2	1	7	50	-27	-31	-30	-10	-5	-10	-15
Other financing adjustments	0	0	0	-2	-2	-2	-2	0	-21	-21	-22
Other non-cash adjustments	-1	-4	4	-1	1	-2	-1	-6	0	0	0
Change in cash	5	-1	-3	-1	4	9	-15	4	3	-4	2
Cash flow metrics											
Capex/D&A	n.m.	54.3%	n.m.	n.m.	18.9%	22.2%	51.4%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
Capex/Sales	3.3%	1.4%	3.5%	8.0%	0.9%	1.4%	2.9%	2.8%	4.3%	3.1%	2.0%
Key information											
Share price year end (/current)	8	8	10	8	8	8	11	8	8	8	8
Market cap.	229	253	310	250	240	264	357	258	254	254	254
Enterprise value	333	356	426	430	438	434	524	424	413	407	390
Diluted no. of shares, year-end (m)	30.5	31.0	31.0	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4

Source: Company data and Nordea estimates

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