

Hold	(D.)	Value Indicators:	EUR	Share data:		Description:	
пош	(Buy)	DCF:	9.80	Bloomberg:	SYT GR	Soft- and hardware for data	
0.70	(=115,40,00)	FCF-Value Potential 19e:	9.50	Reuters:	SYTG	exchange in industrial plant	s and
EUR 9.70	(EUR 12.00)			ISIN:	DE0005178008	automotive electronics	
		Market Snapshot:	EUR m	Shareholders:		Risk Profile (WRe):	2017e
Drice	EUD 0 00	Market cap:	66.4	Freefloat	74.0 %	Beta:	1.3
Price	EUR 9.08	No. of shares (m):	7.3	Trier Asset Mgmt	26.0 %	Price / Book:	1.3 x
Upside	6.8 %	EV:	66.9			Equity Ratio:	65 %
		Freefloat MC:	49.1			Net Fin. Debt / EBITDA:	0.2 x
		Ø Trad. Vol. (30d):	77.88 th			Net Debt / EBITDA:	0.5 x

Preliminary Q4; flattish revenues in 2018

Yesterday, Softing released preliminary key figures for 2017.

Softing - Q4 2017								
in EUR m	Q4/17	Q4/17e	ΔWRe	Q4/16	уоу	2017	2016	уоу
Sales	20.3	21.6	-6.1%	21.5	-5.8%	78.7	80.4	-2.1%
EBIT margin	1.7 8.6%	1.6 7.4%	8.9%	4.7 21.8%	-62.8%	2.3 3.0%	7.2 8.9%	-67.5%

- Revenues continued to decline in a yoy comparison. From a sequential perspective, there was a slight improvement from EUR 19m reflecting the typical seasonality. The typically strong Q4 is supported by sales of products such as cable testers.
- In its figures release management has already expressed its expectation of flattish 2018 revenues. Thus, our estimates are being lowered.
- Against the backdrop of last year's guidance adjustment we expect the company to issue a conservative guidance. The annual report is scheduled for March 29.
- In 2018, Softing looks set to benefit from a lower cost base. We expect an H2 loaded year 2018.
- As Softing has to return to its revenue growth track record and in view of an EV/EBIT 2018 of approx. 14 the rating is lowered from Buy to Hold.

Changes in E	Estimates:					
FY End: 31.12. in EUR m	2017e (old)	+ / -	2018e (old)	+ / -	2019e (old)	+/-
Sales	80.0	-1.6 %	83.0	-4.2 %	89.0	-7.1 %
EBITDA	7.4	1.5 %	11.0	-10.6 %	12.5	-15.1 %
EBIT	2.2	4.9 %	6.1	-19.1 %	7.6	-24.8 %
EPS	0.21	4.8 %	0.56	-19.6 %	0.70	-25.7 %

Comment on Changes:

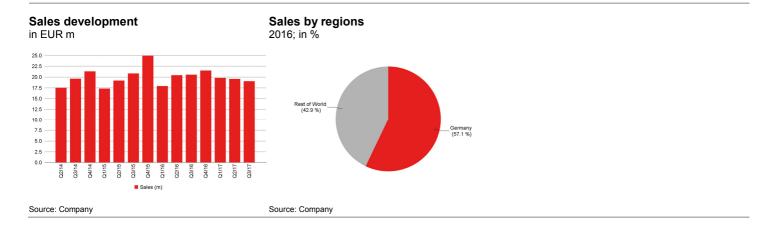
Estimates are being lowered on the back of a slightly lower 2017 sales level and flattish revenues in 2018.



Rel. Performance vs CDAX:	
1 month:	-0.6 %
6 months:	-17.3 %
Year to date:	-2.3 %
Trailing 12 months:	-31.1 %

FY End: 31.12.	CAGR							
in EUR m	(16-19e)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Sales	0.9 %	52.6	74.5	82.3	80.4	78.7	79.5	82.7
Change Sales yoy		6.4 %	41.8 %	10.4 %	-2.3 %	-2.1 %	1.0 %	4.0 %
Gross profit margin		78.7 %	68.5 %	64.7 %	66.6 %	66.2 %	65.8 %	65.5 %
EBITDA	-4.6 %	9.4	10.1	10.8	12.3	7.5	9.8	10.6
Margin		17.8 %	13.5 %	13.1 %	15.2 %	9.6 %	12.4 %	12.9 %
EBIT	-7.2 %	6.2	5.9	5.5	7.2	2.3	4.9	5.7
Margin		11.8 %	7.9 %	6.6 %	8.9 %	3.0 %	6.2 %	6.9 %
EBIT adj.	-0.3 %	4.6	6.2	6.7	6.6	2.1	5.7	6.5
Net income	-11.1 %	4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0
EPS	-14.1 %	0.69	0.58	0.65	0.82	0.22	0.45	0.52
DPS	14.5 %	0.35	0.25	0.15	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.30
Dividend Yield		3.4 %	1.6 %	1.2 %	1.7 %	2.4 %	2.8 %	3.3 %
FCFPS		0.14	0.15	0.61	0.56	-0.24	0.65	0.33
FCF / Market cap		1.4 %	1.0 %	4.8 %	4.8 %	-2.5 %	7.1 %	3.6 %
EV / Sales		1.0 x	1.6 x	1.2 x	1.1 x	0.9 x	0.9 x	0.8 x
EV / EBITDA		5.7 x	11.8 x	9.4 x	7.3 x	9.7 x	7.1 x	6.5 x
EV / EBIT adj.		11.7 x	19.2 x	15.1 x	13.7 x	34.4 x	12.2 x	10.6 x
EV / EBIT		8.7 x	20.2 x	18.6 x	12.6 x	31.4 x	14.2 x	12.1 x
P/E		15.0 x	26.3 x	19.4 x	14.3 x	41.3 x	20.2 x	17.5 x
FCF Potential Yield		6.8 %	3.6 %	6.6 %	7.5 %	3.6 %	5.8 %	6.7 %
Net Debt		-11.2	18.3	13.9	8.3	3.6	0.5	0.0
ROCE (NOPAT)		32.4 %	11.4 %	8.4 %	10.5 %	2.8 %	6.1 %	7.0 %
Guidance:	2017: revenue	s ca. EUR 8	0m; EBIT ca.	EUR 2-2.5m				



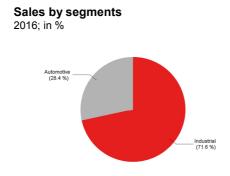


Company Background

- Softing has the necessary expertise on information exchange between various devices, sensors, plant and software solutions in automated processes. The business activity comprises two segments.
- Industrial Automation: hardware and software solutions for the exchange of information in all kinds of production including montage lines, chemical plants, oil and gas extraction or refineries.
- The subsidiary IT Networks is part of the Industrial Automation segment. Its solutions are used to test complex IT networks in industrial automation, office installations and data centers.
- Automotive Electronics: The solutions allow engineers and workshop mechanics to test automotive electronics in the development phase, production or repair and to recognise errors through data evaluation.
- The solutions in the automotive segment are not for application within the vehicles and therefore do not pose a product re-call risk for the company.

Competitive Quality

- World market leader in tools to recognise errors in production plant (so called field bus diagnostics)
- European market leader in the networking of various production plant elements as well as in business-related software (so-called OPC products).
- World market leader in components for the exchange of information in gas and oil plants. Some >50% of all devices registered worldwide that are used in these plants include components from Softing.
- Through participation in international committees that set standards for the exchange of information, a short time-to-market is achieved.
- The high complexity of Softing's business activity is the single most important barrier to market entry for potential competitors.



Source: Company



DCF model														
	Detaile	d forecas	t period				7	ransition	al period					Term. Value
Figures in EUR m	2017e	2018e	2019e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	
Sales	78.7	79.5	82.7	86.0	89.3	92.5	95.6	98.8	101.8	104.8	107.7	110.6	112.8	
Sales change	-2.1 %	1.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	3.8 %	3.6 %	3.4 %	3.3 %	3.1 %	2.9 %	2.8 %	2.7 %	2.0 %	2.0 %
EBIT	2.3	4.9	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	
EBIT-margin	3.0 %	6.2 %	6.9 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	6.7 %	
Tax rate (EBT)	31.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %	
NOPAT	1.6	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	
Depreciation	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.8	
in % of Sales	6.6 %	6.2 %	5.9 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	
Changes in provisions	0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	
Change in Liquidity from														
- Working Capital	3.0	-2.1	0.7	-0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	
- Capex	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.8	
Capex in % of Sales	7.1 %	7.2 %	6.9 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Free Cash Flow (WACC Model)	-1.7	4.9	2.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9	5
PV of FCF	-1.7	4.6	2.2	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	53
share of PVs		6.13 %						30.87	7 %					63.01 %

Model parameter				Valuation (m)			
Derivation of WACC:		Derivation of Beta:		Present values 2029e	31		
				Terminal Value	53		
Debt ratio	27.00 %	Financial Strength	1.25	Financial liabilities	17		
Cost of debt (after tax)	2.1 %	Liquidity (share)	1.25	Pension liabilities	2		
Market return	7.00 %	Cyclicality	1.25	Hybrid capital	0		
Risk free rate	1.50 %	Transparency	1.25	Minority interest	0		
		Others	1.25	Market val. of investments	0		
				Liquidity	11	No. of shares (m)	7.7
WACC	6.68 %	Beta	1.25	Equity Value	75	Value per share (EUR)	9.81

		Terminal C	Growth								Delta EBIT	-margin					
Beta	WACC	1.25 %	1.50 %	1.75 %	2.00 %	2.25 %	2.50 %	2.75 %	Beta	WACC	-1.5 pp	-1.0 pp	-0.5 pp	+0.0 pp	+0.5 pp	+1.0 pp	+1.5 pp
1.50	7.7 %	7.18	7.36	7.56	7.77	8.00	8.26	8.54	1.50	7.7 %	5.53	6.28	7.02	7.77	8.52	9.26	10.01
1.37	7.2 %	7.95	8.17	8.42	8.69	8.99	9.31	9.68	1.37	7.2 %	6.24	7.06	7.87	8.69	9.51	10.32	11.14
1.31	6.9 %	8.38	8.64	8.91	9.22	9.56	9.93	10.35	1.31	6.9 %	6.65	7.50	8.36	9.22	10.08	10.93	11.79
1.25	6.7 %	8.86	9.14	9.46	9.81	10.19	10.63	11.11	1.25	6.7 %	7.10	8.00	8.90	9.81	10.71	11.61	12.51
1.19	6.4 %	9.38	9.70	10.06	10.46	10.91	11.41	11.98	1.19	6.4 %	7.61	8.56	9.51	10.46	11.41	12.36	13.32
1.13	6.2 %	9.96	10.33	10.74	11.19	11.71	12.30	12.97	1.13	6.2 %	8.17	9.18	10.19	11.19	12.20	13.21	14.22
1.00	5.7 %	11.31	11.79	12.34	12.96	13.67	14.50	15.46	1.00	5.7 %	9.54	10.68	11.82	12.96	14.10	15.25	16.39

[•] The cyclical components of the business activity and the low liquidity of the share raise capital costs.



Free Cash Flow Value Potential

Warburg Research's valuation tool "FCF Value Potential" reflects the ability of the company to generate sustainable free cash flows. It is based on the "FCF potential" - a FCF "ex growth" figure - which assumes unchanged working capital and pure maintenance capex. A value indication is derived via the perpetuity of a given year's "FCF potential" with consideration of the weighted costs of capital. The fluctuating value indications over time add a timing element to the DCF model (our preferred valuation tool).

in EUR m		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Net Income before minorities		4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0
+ Depreciation + Amortisation		3.2	4.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.9
- Net Interest Income		-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
- Maintenance Capex		3.9	4.0	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
+ Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
= Free Cash Flow Potential		3.7	4.3	6.7	6.8	2.6	4.1	4.6
FCF Potential Yield (on market EV))	6.8 %	3.6 %	6.6 %	7.5 %	3.6 %	5.8 %	6.7 %
WACC		6.68 %	6.68 %	6.68 %	6.68 %	6.68 %	6.68 %	6.68 %
= Enterprise Value (EV)		53.7	119.1	101.6	90.0	73.1	70.1	69.5
= Fair Enterprise Value		54.7	64.6	100.2	101.7	38.9	60.9	69.3
- Net Debt (Cash)		6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1.3	-2.0	-2.5
- Pension Liabilities		2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.5
- Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Market value of minorities 		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
+ Market value of investments		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
= Fair Market Capitalisation		46.4	56.3	91.9	93.4	35.3	60.3	69.3
Aktienanzahl (Mio.)		6.3	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.7
= Fair value per share (EUR)		7.40	8.53	13.25	13.42	4.83	7.88	9.05
premium (-) / discount (+) in %						-46.8 %	-13.2 %	-0.3 %
Sensitivity Fair value per Share (EUR)							
	9.68 %	4.03	4.96	8.33	8.47	3.18	5.68	6.55
	8.68 %	4.63	5.67	9.42	9.58	3.60	6.34	7.30
	7.68 %	5.38	6.55	10.79	10.97	4.13	7.17	8.25
WACC	6.68 %	6.35	7.70	12.58	12.78	4.83	8.26	9.48
	5.68 %	7.67	9.26	14.99	15.23	5.76	9.72	11.15
	4.68 %	9.55	11.48	18.44	18.73	7.10	11.82	13.53
	3.68 %	12.45	14.91	23.76	24.12	9.16	15.05	17.21

[·] Capitalised own work is a significant element of the capex.

Softing



Valuation							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Price / Book	2.5 x	2.7 x	2.1 x	1.7 x	1.3 x	1.2 x	1.2 x
Book value per share ex intangibles	2.55	-0.57	0.00	0.55	1.47	1.66	1.93
EV / Sales	1.0 x	1.6 x	1.2 x	1.1 x	0.9 x	0.9 x	0.8 x
EV / EBITDA	5.7 x	11.8 x	9.4 x	7.3 x	9.7 x	7.1 x	6.5 x
EV / EBIT	8.7 x	20.2 x	18.6 x	12.6 x	31.4 x	14.2 x	12.1 x
EV / EBIT adj.*	11.7 x	19.2 x	15.1 x	13.7 x	34.4 x	12.2 x	10.6 x
P/FCF	72.4 x	99.3 x	20.8 x	20.9 x	n.a.	14.1 x	27.8 x
P/E	15.0 x	26.3 x	19.4 x	14.3 x	41.3 x	20.2 x	17.5 x
P / E adj.*	15.0 x	26.3 x	19.4 x	14.3 x	41.3 x	20.2 x	17.5 x
Dividend Yield	3.4 %	1.6 %	1.2 %	1.7 %	2.4 %	2.8 %	3.3 %
FCF Potential Yield (on market EV)	6.8 %	3.6 %	6.6 %	7.5 %	3.6 %	5.8 %	6.7 %
*Adjustments made for: -							

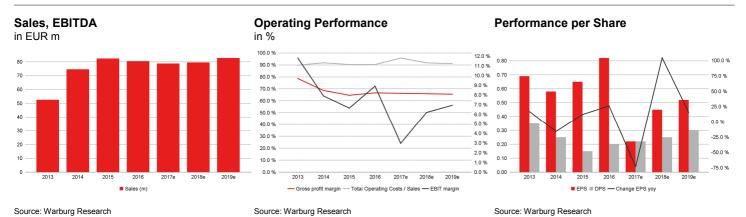
Company Specific Items							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
order entries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
book-to-bill	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
order book	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.



Consolidated profit & loss								
In EUR m	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019	
Sales	52.6	74.5	82.3	80.4	78.7	79.5	82.7	
Change Sales yoy	6.4 %	41.8 %	10.4 %	-2.3 %	-2.1 %	1.0 %	4.0 %	
Increase / decrease in inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Own work capitalised	4.0	3.9	2.8	4.5	4.2	3.2	3.2	
Total Sales	56.5	78.5	85.1	84.9	82.9	82.7	85.9	
Material expenses	15.2	27.4	31.9	31.4	30.8	30.4	31.7	
Gross profit	41.3	51.1	53.2	53.6	52.1	52.3	54.1	
Gross profit margin	78.7 %	68.5 %	64.7 %	66.6 %	66.2 %	65.8 %	65.5 %	
Personnel expenses	25.8	32.1	33.6	35.1	33.8	33.5	33.0	
Other operating income	0.7	0.8	2.8	5.3	2.4	2.0	1.5	
Other operating expenses	6.8	9.7	11.7	11.5	13.2	11.0	12.0	
Unfrequent items	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
EBITDA	9.4	10.1	10.8	12.3	7.5	9.8	10.6	
Margin	17.8 %	13.5 %	13.1 %	15.2 %	9.6 %	12.4 %	12.9 %	
Depreciation of fixed assets	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	
EBITA	8.9	9.5	10.0	11.4	6.8	9.4	10.2	
Amortisation of intangible assets	2.7	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	
Goodwill amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
EBIT	6.2	5.9	5.5	7.2	2.3	4.9	5.7	
Margin	11.8 %	7.9 %	6.6 %	8.9 %	3.0 %	6.2 %	6.9 %	
EBIT adj.	4.6	6.2	6.7	6.6	2.1	5.7	6.5	
Interest income	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Interest expenses	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Other financial income (loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
EBT	6.2	5.6	5.2	7.0	2.3	4.9	5.7	
Margin	11.7 %	7.5 %	6.3 %	8.7 %	3.0 %	6.2 %	6.9 %	
Total taxes	1.9	1.8	0.7	1.3	0.7	1.5	1.7	
Net income from continuing operations	4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0	
Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net income before minorities	4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0	
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net income	4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0	
Margin	8.2 %	5.1 %	5.4 %	7.1 %	2.0 %	4.3 %	4.9 %	
Number of shares, average	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.7	
EPS	0.69	0.58	0.65	0.82	0.22	0.45	0.52	
EPS adj.	0.69	0.58	0.65	0.82	0.22	0.45	0.52	
*Adjustments made for:								

Guidance: 2017: revenues ca. EUR 80m; EBIT ca. EUR 2-2.5m

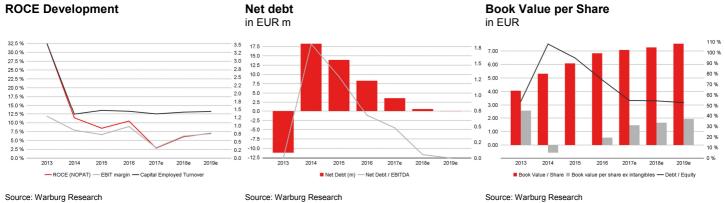
Financial Ratios							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Total Operating Costs / Sales	89.7 %	91.7 %	90.3 %	90.4 %	95.8 %	91.7 %	91.0 %
Operating Leverage	4.1 x	-0.1 x	-0.7 x	-13.5 x	31.5 x	110.0 x	4.1 x
EBITDA / Interest expenses	45.7 x	23.3 x	33.3 x	49.4 x	75.3 x	98.3 x	106.3 x
Tax rate (EBT)	30.2 %	32.3 %	14.0 %	18.1 %	31.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %
Dividend Payout Ratio	51.1 %	43.4 %	23.2 %	24.4 %	100.1 %	55.4 %	57.2 %
Sales per Employee	155,936	181,345	191,744	178,720	183,023	178,652	181,714





Consolidated balance sheet							
In EUR m	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019
Assets							
Goodwill and other intangible assets	9.7	41.0	42.4	43.8	43.0	43.0	43.0
thereof other intangible assets	0.5	18.1	18.9	18.2	17.1	16.1	15.0
thereof Goodwill	2.4	14.5	15.2	15.5	14.7	14.7	14.7
Property, plant and equipment	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.7	3.5	4.3
Financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other long-term assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed assets	11.1	42.9	44.7	46.0	45.6	46.4	47.3
Inventories	4.7	8.7	9.3	9.2	8.9	9.0	9.4
Accounts receivable	10.0	14.2	15.4	12.6	14.7	12.6	13.1
Liquid assets	12.9	8.8	9.2	10.9	11.0	14.3	14.9
Other short-term assets	1.5	2.4	3.8	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.6
Current assets	29.1	34.1	37.7	36.9	38.3	39.5	41.0
Total Assets	40.2	77.0	82.5	82.9	83.9	86.0	88.3
Liabilities and shareholders' equity							
Subscribed capital	6.4	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.7	7.7	7.7
Capital reserve	4.4	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
Retained earnings	15.6	18.0	23.1	28.4	30.0	33.4	37.4
Other equity components	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.0	4.3	2.3	0.4
Shareholders' equity	26.2	37.0	42.4	47.6	54.2	55.7	57.8
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total equity	26.1	37.0	42.3	47.6	54.2	55.6	57.7
Provisions	2.3	3.9	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.4
thereof provisions for pensions and similar obligations	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.5
Financial liabilities (total)	0.2	24.8	21.2	16.9	12.3	12.3	12.3
thereof short-term financial liabilities	0.0	7.0	5.5	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
Accounts payable	2.5	4.2	6.3	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.0
Other liabilities	9.0	7.1	8.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Liabilities	14.1	40.0	40.1	35.3	29.8	30.4	30.6
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	40.2	77.0	82.5	82.9	83.9	86.0	88.3

Financial Ratios							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Efficiency of Capital Employment							
Operating Assets Turnover	3.9 x	3.6 x	4.0 x	4.4 x	3.7 x	3.9 x	3.8 x
Capital Employed Turnover	3.5 x	1.3 x	1.5 x	1.4 x	1.4 x	1.4 x	1.4 x
ROA	38.9 %	8.9 %	10.0 %	12.4 %	3.5 %	7.4 %	8.5 %
Return on Capital							
ROCE (NOPAT)	32.4 %	11.4 %	8.4 %	10.5 %	2.8 %	6.1 %	7.0 %
ROE	17.9 %	12.0 %	11.3 %	12.7 %	3.2 %	6.3 %	7.1 %
Adj. ROE	17.9 %	12.0 %	11.3 %	12.7 %	3.2 %	6.3 %	7.1 %
Balance sheet quality							
Net Debt	-11.2	18.3	13.9	8.3	3.6	0.5	0.0
Net Financial Debt	-12.7	16.1	12.0	6.1	1.3	-2.0	-2.5
Net Gearing	-42.9 %	49.4 %	32.8 %	17.4 %	6.7 %	1.0 %	-0.1 %
Net Fin. Debt / EBITDA	n.a.	159.4 %	112.0 %	49.4 %	17.3 %	n.a.	n.a.
Book Value / Share	4.1	5.3	6.1	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.5
Book value per share ex intangibles	2.6	-0.6	0.0	0.6	1.5	1.7	1.9

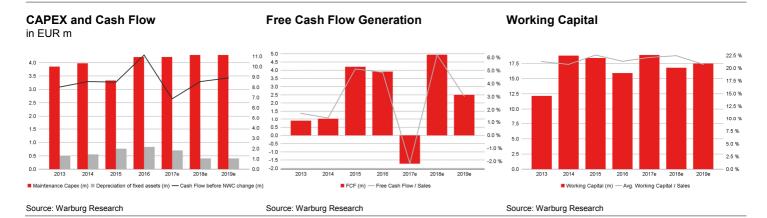


Source: Warburg Research Source: Warburg Research



Consolidated cash flow statement							
In EUR m	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Net income	4.3	3.8	4.5	5.7	1.6	3.5	4.0
Depreciation of fixed assets	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4
Amortisation of goodwill	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amortisation of intangible assets	2.7	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5
Increase/decrease in long-term provisions	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
Other non-cash income and expenses	0.7	0.5	-1.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow before NWC change	8.0	8.5	8.5	11.1	6.9	8.6	8.9
Increase / decrease in inventory	-1.3	-1.6	-0.6	0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.4
Increase / decrease in accounts receivable	-0.2	-0.7	-1.2	2.8	-2.1	2.1	-0.5
Increase / decrease in accounts payable	-0.4	-0.9	1.7	-0.8	-1.2	0.1	0.2
Increase / decrease in other working capital positions	-0.1	0.9	0.2	-3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase / decrease in working capital (total)	-2.0	-2.2	0.1	-1.6	-3.0	2.1	-0.7
Net cash provided by operating activities [1]	6.0	6.3	8.6	9.5	3.9	10.7	8.2
Investments in intangible assets	-4.6	-3.9	-2.8	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5
Investments in property, plant and equipment	-0.5	-1.4	-1.7	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
Payments for acquisitions	0.0	-21.9	-1.3	-0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Income from asset disposals	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash provided by investing activities [2]	-4.9	-26.4	-5.8	-6.5	-5.6	-5.7	-5.7
Change in financial liabilities	0.0	10.6	-1.7	-0.2	-4.6	0.0	0.0
Dividends paid	-1.7	-1.3	-1.7	-1.0	-1.4	-1.7	-1.9
Purchase of own shares	1.3	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital measures	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.9	0.0	0.0
Other	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash provided by financing activities [3]	-0.5	17.0	-2.6	-1.4	1.9	-1.7	-1.9
Change in liquid funds [1]+[2]+[3]	0.6	-3.1	0.3	1.6	0.2	3.3	0.6
Effects of exchange-rate changes on cash	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period	12.1	9.1	9.2	10.9	11.0	14.3	14.9

Financial Ratios							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e
Cash Flow							
FCF	0.9	1.0	4.2	3.9	-1.7	4.9	2.5
Free Cash Flow / Sales	1.7 %	1.4 %	5.1 %	4.9 %	-2.2 %	6.2 %	3.0 %
Free Cash Flow Potential	3.7	4.3	6.7	6.8	2.6	4.1	4.6
Free Cash Flow / Net Profit	20.8 %	26.7 %	93.8 %	68.6 %	-107.2 %	143.1 %	62.3 %
Interest Received / Avg. Cash	1.2 %	1.5 %	0.6 %	0.6 %	0.9 %	0.8 %	0.7 %
Interest Paid / Avg. Debt	56.9 %	3.5 %	1.4 %	1.3 %	0.7 %	0.8 %	0.8 %
Management of Funds							
Investment ratio	9.8 %	7.1 %	5.4 %	7.0 %	7.1 %	7.2 %	6.9 %
Maint. Capex / Sales	7.3 %	5.3 %	4.0 %	5.2 %	5.3 %	5.4 %	5.2 %
Capex / Dep	162.5 %	125.8 %	84.1 %	110.0 %	107.9 %	116.6 %	116.6 %
Avg. Working Capital / Sales	21.3 %	20.8 %	22.6 %	21.3 %	22.1 %	22.5 %	20.7 %
Trade Debtors / Trade Creditors	396.0 %	339.9 %	244.0 %	214.0 %	312.8 %	262.5 %	262.0 %
Inventory Turnover	3.3 x	3.1 x	3.4 x	3.4 x	3.5 x	3.4 x	3.4 x
Receivables collection period (days)	70	70	68	57	68	58	58
Payables payment period (days)	61	56	72	68	56	58	57
Cash conversion cycle (Days)	73	83	54	56	70	68	68





LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This research report ("investment recommendation") was prepared by the Warburg Research GmbH, a fully owned subsidiary of the M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and is passed on by the M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA. It is intended solely for the recipient and may not be passed on to another company without their prior consent, regardless of whether the company is part of the same corporation or not. It contains selected information and does not purport to be complete. The investment recommendation is based on publicly available information and data ("information") believed to be accurate and complete. Warburg Research GmbH neither examines the information for accuracy and completeness, nor guarantees its accuracy and completeness. Possible errors or incompleteness of the information do not constitute grounds for liability of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA or Warburg Research GmbH for damages of any kind whatsoever, and M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH are not liable for indirect and/or direct and/or consequential damages. In particular, neither M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA nor Warburg Research GmbH are liable for the statements, plans or other details contained in these investment recommendations concerning the examined companies, their affiliated companies, strategies, economic situations, market and competitive situations, regulatory environment, etc. Although due care has been taken in compiling this investment recommendation, it cannot be excluded that it is incomplete or contains errors. M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH, their shareholders and employees are not liable for the accuracy and completeness of the statements, estimations and the conclusions derived from the information contained in this investment recommendation. Provided a investment recommendation is being transmitted in connection with an existing contractual relationship, i.e. financial advisory or similar services, the liability of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH shall be restricted to gross negligence and wilful misconduct. In case of failure in essential tasks, M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH are liable for normal negligence. In any case, the liability of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH is limited to typical, expectable damages. This investment recommendation does not constitute an offer or a solicitation of an offer for the purchase or sale of any security. Partners, directors or employees of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA, Warburg Research GmbH or affiliated companies may serve in a position of responsibility, i.e. on the board of directors of companies mentioned in the report. Opinions expressed in this investment recommendation are subject to change without notice. All rights reserved.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

This work including all its parts is protected by copyright. Any use beyond the limits provided by copyright law without permission is prohibited and punishable. This applies, in particular, to reproductions, translations, microfilming, and storage and processing on electronic media of the entire content or parts thereof.

DISCLOSURE ACCORDING TO §85 OF THE GERMAN SECURITIES TRADING ACT (WHPG), MAR AND MIFID II INCL. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2016/958 AND (EU) 2017/565

The valuation underlying the investment recommendation for the company analysed here is based on generally accepted and widely used methods of fundamental analysis, such as e.g. DCF Model, Free Cash Flow Potential, Peer Group Comparison or Sum of the Parts Model (see also http://www.mmwarburg.de/disclaimer/disclaimer.htm#Valuation). The result of this fundamental valuation is modified to take into consideration the analyst's assessment as regards the expected development of investor sentiment and its impact on the share price.

Independent of the applied valuation methods, there is the risk that the price target will not be met, for instance because of unforeseen changes in demand for the company's products, changes in management, technology, economic development, interest rate development, operating and/or material costs, competitive pressure, supervisory law, exchange rate, tax rate etc. For investments in foreign markets and instruments there are further risks, generally based on exchange rate changes or changes in political and social conditions.

This commentary reflects the opinion of the relevant author at the point in time of its compilation. A change in the fundamental factors underlying the valuation can mean that the valuation is subsequently no longer accurate. Whether, or in what time frame, an update of this commentary follows is not determined in advance.

Additional internal and organisational arrangements to prevent or to deal with conflicts of interest have been implemented. Among these are the spatial separation of Warburg Research GmbH from M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and the creation of areas of confidentiality. This prevents the exchange of information, which could form the basis of conflicts of interest for Warburg Research in terms of the analysed issuers or their financial instruments

The analysts of Warburg Research GmbH do not receive a gratuity – directly or indirectly – from the investment banking activities of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA or of any company within the Warburg-Group.

All prices of financial instruments given in this investment recommendation are the closing prices on the last stock-market trading day before the publication date stated, unless another point in time is explicitly stated.

M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA and Warburg Research GmbH are subject to the supervision of the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, BaFin. M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA is additionally subject to the supervision of the European Central Bank (ECB).

SOURCES

All data and consensus estimates have been obtained from FactSet except where stated otherwise.



Additional information for clients in the United States

- 1. This research report (the "Report") is a product of Warburg Research GmbH, Germany, a fully owned subsidiary of M.M.Warburg & CO (AG & Co.) KGaA, Germany (in the following collectively "Warburg"). Warburg is the employer of the research analyst(s), who have prepared the Report. The research analyst(s) reside outside the United States and are not associated persons of any U.S. regulated broker-dealer and therefore are not subject to the supervision of any U.S. regulated broker-dealer.
- 2. The Report is provided in the United States for distribution solely to "major U.S. institutional investors" under Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 3. Any recipient of the Report should effect transactions in the securities discussed in the Report only through J.P.P. Euro-Securities, Inc., Delaware.
- 4. J.P.P. Euro-Securities, Inc. does not accept or receive any compensation of any kind for the dissemination of the research reports from Warburg.

Reference in accordance with section 85 of the German Securities Trading Act (WpHG) and Art. 20 MAR regarding possible conflicts of interest with companies analysed:

- -1- Warburg Research, or an affiliated company, or an employee of one of these companies responsible for the compilation of the research, hold a **share of more than 5%** of the equity capital of the analysed company.
- Warburg Research, or an affiliated company, within the last twelve months participated in the **management of a consortium** for an issue in the course of a public offering of such financial instruments, which are, or the issuer of which is, the subject of the investment recommendation.
- -3- Companies affiliated with Warburg Research **manage financial instruments**, which are, or the issuers of which are, subject of the investment recommendation, in a market based on the provision of buy or sell contracts.
- MMWB, Warburg Research, or an affiliated company, reached an agreement with the issuer to provide **investment banking and/or**investment services and the relevant agreement was in force in the last 12 months or there arose for this period, based on the relevant agreement, the obligation to provide or to receive a service or compensation provided that this disclosure does not result in the disclosure of confidential business information.
- The company compiling the analysis or an affiliated company had reached an **agreement on the compilation of the investment recommendation** with the analysed company.
- -6- Companies affiliated with Warburg Research regularly trade financial instruments of the analysed company or derivatives of these.
- -6a- Warburg Research, or an affiliated company, holds a **net long position of more than 0.5%** of the total issued share capital of the analysed company.
- -6b- Warburg Research, or an affiliated company, holds a **net short position of more than 0.5%** of the total issued share capital of the analysed company.
- **-6c-** The issuer holds shares of more than 5% of the total issued capital of Warburg Research or an affiliated company.
- -7- The company preparing the analysis as well as its affiliated companies and employees have **other important interests** in relation to the analysed company, such as, for example, the exercising of mandates at analysed companies.

Company	Disclosure	Link to the historical price targets and rating changes (last 12 months)
Softing	3, 4, 5, 6	http://www.mmwarburg.com/disclaimer/disclaimer_en/DE0005178008.htm



INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Investment recommendation: expected direction of the share price development of the financial instrument up to the given <u>price target</u> in the opinion of the analyst who covers this financial instrument.

-B-	Buy:	The price of the analysed financial instrument is expected to rise over the next 12 months.
-H-	Hold:	The price of the analysed financial instrument is expected to remain mostly flat over the next 12 months.
-S-	Sell:	The price of the analysed financial instrument is expected to fall over the next 12 months.
<u>"_"</u>	Rating suspended:	The available information currently does not permit an evaluation of the company.

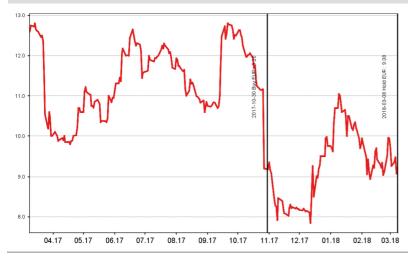
WARBURG RESEARCH GMBH – ANALYSED RESEARCH UNIVERSE BY RATING					
Rating	Number of stocks	% of Universe			
Buy	112	54			
Hold	89	43			
Sell	5	2			
Rating suspended	0	0			
Total	206	100			

WARBURG RESEARCH GMBH - ANALYSED RESEARCH UNIVERSE BY RATING ...

... taking into account only those companies which were provided with major investment services in the last twelve months.

Rating	Number of stocks	% of Universe
Buy	32	78
Hold	9	22
Sell	0	0
Rating suspended	0	0
Total	41	100

PRICE AND RATING HISTORY SOFTING AS OF 08.03.2018



Markings in the chart show rating changes by Warburg Research GmbH in the last 12 months. Every marking details the date and closing price on the day of the rating change.



EQUITIES			
Roland Rapelius Head of Equities	+49 40 3282-2673 rrapelius@mmwarburg.com		
RESEARCH			
Michael Heider Head of Research	+49 40 309537-280 mheider@warburg-research.com	Andreas Pläsier Banks, Financial Services	+49 40 309537-246 aplaesier@warburg-research.com
Henner Rüschmeier Head of Research	+49 40 309537-270 hrueschmeier@warburg-research.com	Jochen Reichert Telco, Internet, Media	+49 40 309537-130 jreichert@warburg-research.com
Lucas Boventer Renewables, Internet, Media	+49 40 309537-290 lboventer@warburg-research.com	J. Moritz Rieser Real Estate	+49 40 309537-260 mrieser@warburg-research.com
Christian Cohrs Engineering, Logistics	+49 40 309537-175 ccohrs@warburg-research.com	Arash Roshan Zamir Cap. Goods, Renewables	+49 40 309537-155 aroshanzamir@warburg-research.com
Felix Ellmann Software, IT	+49 40 309537-120 fellmann@warburg-research.com	Malte Schaumann Technology	+49 40 309537-170 mschaumann@warburg-research.com
Jörg Philipp Frey Retail, Consumer Goods	+49 40 309537-258 jfrey@warburg-research.com	Patrick Schmidt Leisure, Internet	+49 40 309537-125 pschmidt@warburg-research.com
Marius Fuhrberg Small Cap Research	+49 40 309537-185 mfuhrberg@warburg-research.com	Oliver Schwarz Chemicals, Agriculture	+49 40 309537-250 oschwarz@warburg-research.com
Marie-Thérèse Grübner Small Cap Research	+49 40 309537-240 mgruebner@warburg-research.com	Marc-René Tonn Automobiles, Car Suppliers	+49 40 309537-259 mtonn@warburg-research.com
Ulrich Huwald Health Care, Pharma	+49 40 309537-255 uhuwald@warburg-research.com	Björn Voss Steel, Car Suppliers	+49 40 309537-254 bvoss@warburg-research.com
Thilo Kleibauer Retail, Consumer Goods	+49 40 309537-257 tkleibauer@warburg-research.com	Alexander Wahl Car Suppliers, Construction	+49 40 309537-230 awahl@warburg-research.com
Eggert Kuls Engineering	+49 40 309537-256 ekuls@warburg-research.com	Andreas Wolf Software, IT	+49 40 309537-140 awolf@warburg-research.com
INSTITUTIONAL EQU	ITY SALES		
Holger Nass Head of Equity Sales, USA	+49 40 3282-2669 hnass@mmwarburg.com	Michael Kriszun United Kingdom	+49 40 3282-2695 mkriszun@mmwarburg.com
Klaus Schilling	+49 40 3282-2664	Marc Niemann	+49 40 3282-2660
Dep. Head of Equity Sales, GER	kschilling@mmwarburg.com	Germany	mniemann@mmwarburg.com
Tim Beckmann United Kingdom	+49 40 3282-2665 tbeckmann@mmwarburg.com	Sanjay Oberoi United Kingdom	+49 69 5050-7410 soberoi@mmwarburg.com
Lyubka Bogdanova	+49 69 5050-7411	Simon Pallhuber	+49 69 5050-7414
United Kingdom, Australia	lbogdanova@mmwarburg.com	Switzerland, France	spallhuber@mmwarburg.com
Jens Buchmüller	+49 69 5050-7415		
Scandinavia, Austria	jbuchmueller@mmwarburg.com		
Paul Dontenwill USA. Poland. The Netherlands	+49 40 3282-2666	Angelika Flegler Roadshow/Marketing	+49 69 5050-7417
Matthias Fritsch	pdontenwill@mmwarburg.com +49 40 3282-2696	Juliane Willenbruch	aflegler@mmwarburg.com +49 40 3282-2694
United Kingdom	mfritsch@mmwarburg.com	Roadshow/Marketing	jwillenbruch@mmwarburg.com
SALES TRADING			
Oliver Merckel	+49 40 3282-2634	Bastian Quast	+49 40 3282-2701
Head of Sales Trading	omerckel@mmwarburg.com	Sales Trading	bquast@mmwarburg.com
Elyaz Dust Sales Trading	+49 40 3282-2702 edust@mmwarburg.com	Jörg Treptow Sales Trading	+49 40 3282-2658 jtreptow@mmwarburg.com
Michael Ilgenstein	+49 40 3282-2700	Jan Walter	+49 40 3282-2662
Sales Trading	milgenstein@mmwarburg.com	Sales Trading	jwalter@mmwarburg.com
MACRO RESEARCH			
Carsten Klude Macro Research	+49 40 3282-2572 cklude@mmwarburg.com	Dr. Christian Jasperneite Investment Strategy	+49 40 3282-2439 cjasperneite@mmwarburg.com
Our research can be	found under:		
Warburg Research	research.mmwarburg.com/en/index.html	Thomson Reuters	www.thomsonreuters.com
Bloomberg	MMWA GO	Capital IQ	www.capitaliq.com
FactSet	www.factset.com		
For access please conta	act:		
Andrea Schaper	+49 40 3282-2632	Kerstin Muthig	+49 40 3282-2703
Sales Assistance	aschaper@mmwarburg.com	Sales Assistance	kmuthig@mmwarburg.com