## Luka Koper (LKPG SV)

NEW	
INVESTEMENT	
CULTURE	

12M Target	price: 43 l	EUR I	Reco
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Recommendation: BUY

Previous target price: 38 EUR, BUY (30.8.2017)

#### **KEY MARKET DATA:**

Stock data as of 27.11.2017 :		Price performance:	3M	12M
Market price (EUR)	30.0	Price change in %	-6.3%	30.4%
52 week range (EUR)	22.8 - 33.0	SBI 20 index change in %	-5.3%	10.9%
Market Cap (EUR)	420.0	Relative to SBI 20 index in %	-1.0%	17.6%
		Valuation multiples:	ттм	Forward
Avg. daily trade vol., EUR(k)	76	EV/Sales	2.3	2.2
Average daily % of stock traded	0.019%	EV/EBITDA	5.7	5.5
No. of Shares in millions	14.0	EV/EBIT	8.6	8.1
		P/E	8.2	8.0
Dividend yield	4.7%	P/B	1.2	1.2

#### SHARE PRICE DYNAMIC:



ALTA

#### **KEY COMPANY DATA & ESTIMATES:**

million €	FY2015	FY2016	TTM	2017F	2018F
Sales	184.3	199.5	208.6	216.2	230.1
EBITDA	69.9	75.8	82.5	86.6	90.4
Margin	38.0%	38.0%	39.6%	40.0%	39.3%
EBIT	42.4	49.3	55.1	58.2	59.4
Net income	32.4	44.4	51.0	52.6	52.7
EPS	2.3	3.2	3.6	3.8	3.8
DPS	1.13	1.40		1.40	1.40
Financial debt	111.9	110.3	121.4	109.1	104.3
Cash	12.6	5.8	21.1	6.3	6.7
Net debt	50.5	60.5	54.2	59.0	55.3
Equity	306.1	331.8	354.5	364.8	398.0
Assets	464.5	490.0	525.9	527.3	561.3
ND/EBITDA	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
P/E	9.9	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.0
EV/EBITDA	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.2

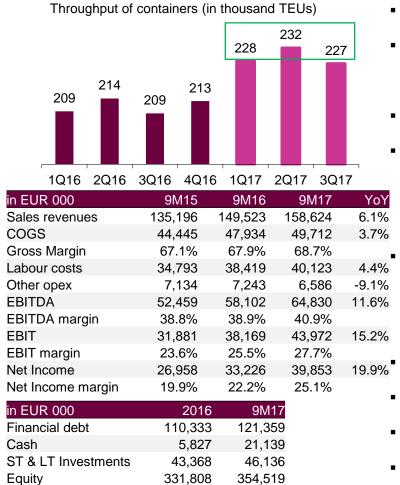
### KEY CURRENT DEVELOPMEN <sup>nc</sup>

- Daimler signed another deal with Luka Koper (the later being its third export port in Europe from 2015 onwards). Namely while they cooperated regarding export activities toward China, Hong Kong and Singapore, they will now cooperate also in terms of export to Japan. This will further extend vehicles throughput, as Mercedes Benz already exported roughly 100,000 vehicles per year through Luka Koper. No wonder that in the future years Luka Koper will additionally invest EUR 43.6m into its vehicles segment.
- The referendum against second railway tier legislature was unsuccessful. Therefore the base scenario is still that this railway infrastructure overhaul will go through, enabling higher growth profile to continue beyond 2020. However consequently CAPEX will also remain elevated after 2020 – but on which Luka Koper will embark only gradually after 2020 when and if hinterland infrastructure projects are surpassing key milestones.
- Battle for control again heated up; on 28th December 2017 a special shareholder assembly will convene – with a vote of no confidence in the management board being on agenda. This is a constant risk for Luka.
- Strong result dynamic continues while we see no reason to change our recommendation and investment thesis. QoQ however Luka Koper is consistently over delivering, so we raised estimates and target price.

## 9M17 Results

 Overall costs grew slower than revenues, which in return lifted profit margins. D&A charge was the only cost in 3Q17 that deviated from previous quarters increasing by 15.4% YoY to EUR 7.6m, which was 7-year high. also а from 9M17 However perspective D&A is up by 4.6% YoY.

- 3Q17 EBITDA margin stood at 39.0% vs 34.5% for 3Q16.
- expense Interest also significantly in declined 9M17 (-48% to EUR 977k), which helped net margin to improve by 2.9 p.p. to 25.1%.
- Bottom line is ahead of our expectations by EUR 4m.
- Financial debt increased by EUR 11.0m to EUR 121.4m.
- Short term receivables to foreign buyers increased bv 82% over 2016 to EUR 19.7m while short term receivables to domestic decreased buyers by 19.5% over 2016 to EUR 14.2m.



- Reported ROE is now at high 15.5%, up 1.4 p.p. vs same period last year. At the same time reported financial debt to EBITDA stands at 1.4x (adjusted 0.7).
- In addition Group has EUR 13.0m in shares and interests in associates, EUR 18.7 in investment property and EUR 33.0m in other non-current investments (mostly pharmaceutical company Krka).

- Environment continues to be beneficial (world trade flows into Adriatic etc.).
- Cargo handling in 9M17 increased by 8.7% YoY with 15.4% YoY growth in 3Q17 (5.8m tones) following a 2.7% YoY growth in 2Q17. However 3Q16 was burdened at start.
- TEU's increased by 8.7% and 8.7% YoY for 9M and 3Q respectively (to 226.7k TEUs).
- On the other hand vehicles growth rates were down 2.8% and 5.4% YoY for 9M and 3Q (to 171.4k units). However management believes this is a consequence of very high growth rates in the past - while also pointing out new Daimler deals will come on board in the future.

Strong 3Q17 growth rates were delivered by liquid cargo segment (19.1%) and bulk and break bulk (+25.9%) while general cargoes were up 3.5% and are still down 7.2% from 9M17 perspective.

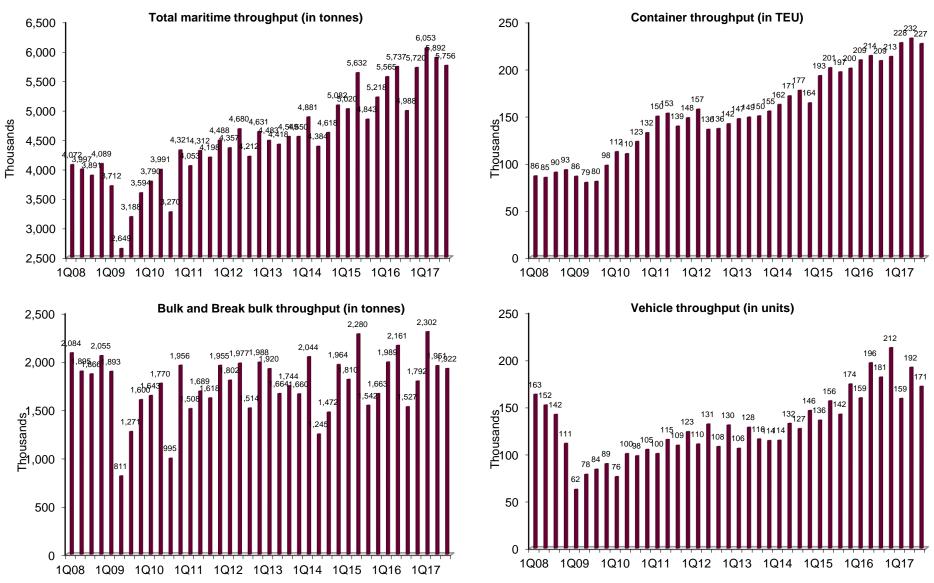
This translated into revenue growth of 6.1% in 9M17 and 4.6% YoY for 3Q17.

- Top line is in-line with our estimates.
- In 9M17 the Group invested EUR 32.5m, down 21% YoY vs 9M16.
- For now, CAPEX program is lagging behind plan as administration is slowly approving the projects Luka Koper is embarking. Consequently the lag will eventually be filled with higher level of CAPEX in the following years (moving target).
- Luka Koper generated EUR 53.7m of net cash from operating activities in 9M17, up EUR 3.8m vs same period last year. 2



## **Throughput dynamic**

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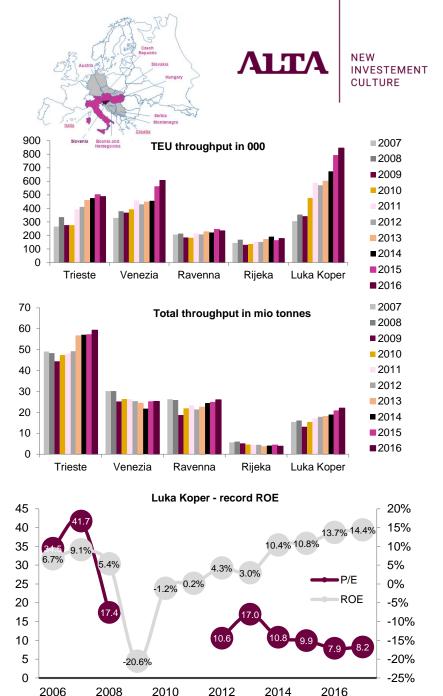


Source: Annual and Interim reports

### **Investment Thesis**

### **POSITIVE:**

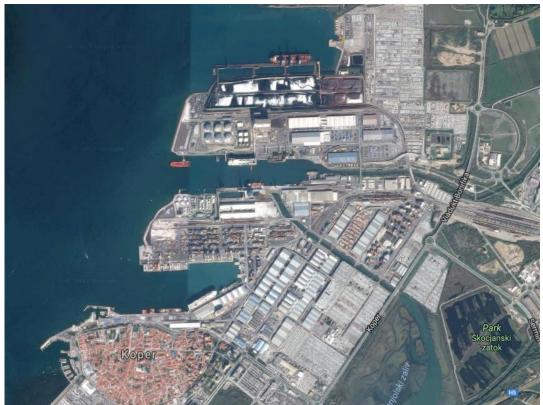
- Luka Koper has superb strategic position in North Adriatic, which can cater surrounding area. Its a key port in Adriatic see, where ports are increasingly competitive against Northern European ports. Consequently Luke Koper is at the same time gaining market share in local region as well as gaining together with local competitors as Adriatic as a whole is gaining traffic.
  - The port area consists of 270 hectares of land with 28 berths located on 3,282 meters of the shoreline
  - It is top container terminal in Adriatic, among top 3 terminals in Mediterranean regarding vehicles and first port for Austria, Hungary and Slovakia (for the latter two in regards to terminals).
  - Luka Koper noted that London-based organization Drewry, specialized in the global maritime sector and transport, published a best-route market study for containerized imports from China to South Germany in which they indicated that Luka Koper had the fastest overall transit time.
- Increased depth of navigation channel (enabled ships carrying 20k TEUs to enter the port) is already showing results. All in all their **CAPEX** cycle should continue opening possibilities for future strong growth dynamic, capitalizing on superb strategic position.
- In addition Luke Koper is logically cyclical play on regional economy. Improving conditions are therefore favorable and for now there is no stall on the horizon. Even more, current throughput dynamic remains encouraging.
- In line with this, strategic figures are attractive. Throughput expected CAGR 2016-2020 at 2.5% to 24.3m tones, with TEU CAGR of 4.3% and vehicles CAGR at 3.2%. Target ROE at 10%.
- Last few year Luka Koper constantly beat estimates on top and bottom line. Guidance for 2017 was again encouraging with sales EUR 215.4m, EBITDA 80.4m (+3%) and profit EUR 47.5m (+7%), nevertheless it seems Luka Koper will again achieve or surpass these estimates.



## **Port facilities**

The port area consists of:

- 270 hectares of land,
- 48.4 hectares of covered storage,
- 109.6 hectares of open-air storage space,
- 28 berths located on 3,282 metres of the shoreline along 179 hectares of the sea.



Dry Bulk Terminal Reefer Terminal Timber Terminal Silo Terminal Alumina Terminal Iron ore and Coal Terminal Livestock terminal Cruise Terminal

- 69 cruise vessels with
- 78.923 passengers in 2016.

Container Terminal:

- Quayside 596 m
- Max. allowed draft 14.5 m
- 4 Berths
- Total terminal area: 270,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Stacking area: 180,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 4 STS panamax cranes
- 4 STS post-panamax cranes

### Car and Ro Ro Terminal:

- Operative shore 800 m
- 7 Berths
- 4 Ro-Ro ramps
- 6 Railway ramps
- Open storage areas: 750,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Covered storage areas: 125,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Open air storage capacity: 44,000 units
- Covered storage capacity: 6,000 units

General Cargo Terminal:

- Operative shore 840 m
- 6 Berths
- Multipurpose closed warehouses 134,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Roofed warehouses 3,600 m<sup>2</sup>
- Open storage areas 40,000 m<sup>2</sup>

Liquid Cargo Terminal:

- 51 shoretanks with capacity from 300 to 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>
- In total capacity of 203,000 m<sup>3</sup>
- Mild steel shoretanks 33
- Stainless steel tanks 9
- Reinforced polyester tanks 6

# **ALTA**

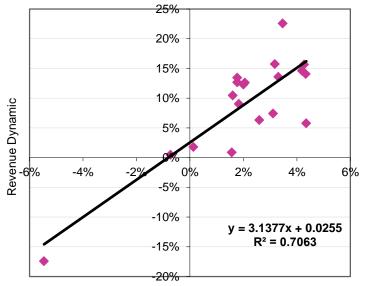
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## **Investment Thesis**

### **NEGATIVE:**

- Luka Koper prospects depend on global and regional economic situation and consequent maritime throughput dynamic. Therefore any cooling of surrounding region or global trade would negatively impact performance of Luka Koper.
- As Luka Koper has begun with another investment cycle to increase capacity, CAPEX is seen at EUR 300m from 2015-2020. While CAPEX looks justified and is needed to support current growth dynamic, it bears risks:
  - Firstly, overbudgeting is always possible albeit last few years vice versa applied – especially as state remains the main shareholder. Any overbudgeting or missed investment would hamper the overall economics of CAPEX.
  - Secondly, risk is that internal CAPEX will not be followed by in-land (government) infrastructure. Some growth expansions would in this case end up as dead investments. On the other hand any delay is also limiting business expansion.
- The later is tied to the fact that railway is remaining Luka Koper's main logistic bottleneck and long term risk of falling behind the curve. This could considerably hamper growth in 2020-2030 period, thereby capping growth profile of Luka Koper. This would impact valuation, despite being balanced by lower CAPEX need. Its true however that in the last year several milestones were achieved ...
- New 2<sup>nd</sup> tier project could bring additional taxation (as planned in the latest government legislature proposal) or alternatively (if legislature falters) other means of co-finance railway infrastructure by Luka Koper could apply.
- State ownership has been for several times a key headwind to Luka Koper share price. This political risk came in several forms:
  - Top management is relatively often being replaced or rumored to be replaced. This could in times preoccupy management or even lead to labor strikes or end up Luke Koper paying for improper termination of individual agreement.
  - In certain past periods (however not in the last few years) there was a poor translation of strong top-line performance into good bottom-line performance.
  - Several times government contemplated ideas out about Slovene Logistic Holding, which would not be beneficial to Luka Koper shareholders, according to our belief.
  - There are clearly disappearances about the outlook, benchmarking and even second tier project between Luka Koper and state as the major shareholder.



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GDP Dynamic



- 27.1 km route with 8 tunnels, 2 viaducts, 2 bridges and 1 gallery.
- Capacity is supposed to go from 15.2m net tones per year toward 43.4m tones (25.7m through new track and 2.5m through modernization of existing track).
- A new taxation of port throughput:
  - EUR 1.00 per tone general cargos;
  - EUR 0.40 per tone bulk and break bulk cargos;
  - EUR 0.50 per tone liquid cargos;
  - EUR 1.50 per unit container freight;
  - EUR 1.00 per unit vehicles.

## **Relative comparison**

		EV/S		E∨	//EBITDA		E	V/EBIT			P/E			P/B	
Name	TTM	2017F	2018F	TTM	2017F	2018F	TTM	2017F	2018F	TTM	2017F	2018F	TTM	2017F	2018F
Piraeus Port	3.8	3.6	3.0	13.0	7.9	7.1	23.6	n.a.	n.a.	40.7	14.9	13.5	2.2	n.a.	n.a.
Luka Ploce	0.9	n.a.	n.a.	neg.	n.a.	n.a.	neg.	n.a.	n.a.	48.3	n.a.	n.a.	0.5	n.a.	n.a.
Luka Rijeka	4.5	n.a.	n.a.	82.1	n.a.	n.a.	neg.	n.a.	n.a.	30.3	n.a.	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	n.a.
Thessaloniki Port	3.5	n.a.	n.a.	6.8	n.a.	n.a.	7.8	n.a.	n.a.	12.6	n.a.	n.a.	1.6	n.a.	n.a.
Hamburger H&L	1.6	1.6	1.5	6.2	6.6	6.5	10.1	11.4	10.9	19.6	20.8	19.6	3.1	3.0	2.8
Port of Tauranga	14.2	12.7	12.1	26.3	22.7	22.2	31.9	26.6	25.8	38.6	35.6	34.3	3.5	3.7	3.7
South Port NZ	4.6	n.a.	n.a.	10.8	n.a.	n.a.	13.7	n.a.	n.a.	18.9	n.a.	n.a.	4.3	n.a.	n.a.
Eurokai kgaa	1.8	1.7	1.6	8.5	8.0	7.8	14.1	13.0	12.7	15.6	14.7	14.2	1.7	n.a.	n.a.
Luka Koper	2.3	2.2	2.1	5.7	5.5	5.2	8.6	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.0	8.0	1.2	1.2	1.1
Median	3.7	2.6	2.3	10.8	7.9	7.4	13.9	13.0	12.7	24.9	17.8	16.9	1.9	3.3	3.2

Company name	EBITDA margin TTM	EBIT margin (%)	Profit margin (%)	ROE TTM	ROA TTM	Assets turnover	Div. yield (%)	Assets/ Equity	Net debt to EBITDA
Piraeus Port	29.4%	16.1%	8.7%	5.3%	2.6%	0.30	1.22	2.02	0.91
Luka Ploce	-5.7%	-9.6%	2.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.46	0.00	1.15	1.58
Luka Rijeka	5.4%	-2.0%	14.0%	3.1%	2.7%	0.19	0.00	1.16	3.99
Thessaloniki Port	52.3%	45.3%	33.4%	12.6%	11.3%	0.34	2.27	1.12	-1.31
Hamburger H&L	25.1%	15.4%	7.3%	15.8%	5.0%	0.69	2.40	3.15	0.49
Port of Tauranga	54.2%	44.6%	32.6%	9.1%	5.9%	0.18	1.08	1.53	2.71
South Port NZ	42.2%	33.3%	22.9%	22.7%	16.1%	0.70	4.26	1.41	0.51
Eurokai kgaa	20.9%	12.6%	12.6%	11.0%	6.2%	0.49	3.39	1.95	0.05
Luka Koper	39.6%	26.4%	24.4%	14.4%	9.7%	0.40	4.67	1.48	0.66
Median	27.3%	15.8%	13.3%	10.0%	5.4%	0.40	1.75	1.47	0.71

**ALTA** 

NEW INVESTEMENT CULTURE

## **Historic Financial Data**

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in EURm	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Assets	366.4	461.2	556.6	531.7	502.3	478.3	463.4	443.6	452.6	464.5	490.0
Non-current assets	326.9	421.4	509.2	505.0	459.1	445.9	428.2	403.1	414.4	418.9	450.7
Current assets	39.4	39.5	44.7	25.7	42.7	31.8	33.6	38.8	38.2	45.7	39.3
Short term investment	16.3	8.6	10.7	3.2	0.8	0.7	3.3	0.7	4.2	0.3	0.1
Cash	0.6	2.0	7.9	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	12.6	5.8
Equity	294.9	340.7	311.1	247.4	244.1	240.8	249.3	259.2	286.3	306.3	332.0
Equity of non-controlling interests	1.9	2.9	3.5	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Provisions	4.6	11.7	4.4	6.6	5.9	6.2	3.0	4.3	4.4	3.7	4.8
Non-current liabilities	45.3	17.9	105.3	48.0	161.2	158.7	138.4	138.2	114.1	101.3	99.1
Non-current financial liabilities	33.3	6.6	103.8	45.0	158.4	156.9	136.9	138.1	111.8	101.0	98.3
Current liabilities	15.2	90.5	127.8	220.9	83.4	65.1	61.8	28.9	34.6	36.6	37.5
Current financial liabilities	2.3	52.0	97.5	189.5	67.9	48.9	46.9	15.7	16.4	10.9	12.0

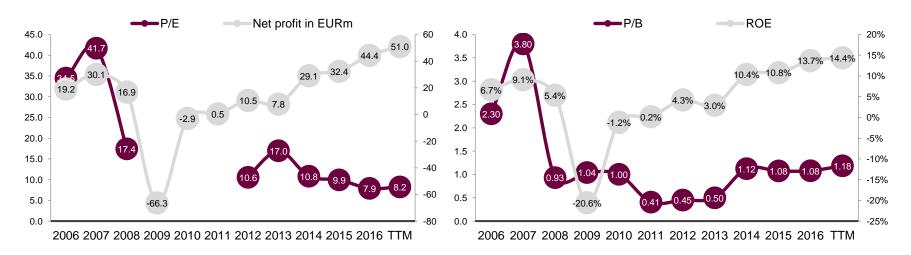
in EURm	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sales revenues	101.9	119.0	133.3	113.8	125.2	141.0	141.7	144.2	163.6	184.3	199.5
Total Revenues	105.7	122.2	137.2	116.1	127.7	144.1	145.4	148.1	168.1	189.2	204.1
Cost of goods, materials and services	35.8	41.8	48.2	40.7	43.2	49.5	52.8	51.5	55.4	60.9	65.8
Labour costs	26.8	30.9	38.0	37.0	36.1	37.9	37.5	39.9	43.8	48.1	51.9
D&A plus impairments	14.7	16.8	19.6	35.5	28.3	27.7	30.1	37.5	28.5	29.5	28.5
Other operating expenses	9.0	9.4	7.7	11.1	6.0	6.6	5.7	7.0	7.1	8.3	8.6
EBITDA (w/o impairments)	34.1	40.2	43.2	27.3	42.5	50.1	49.3	49.7	61.8	72.0	77.8
Operating income	19.4	23.4	23.6	-8.2	14.2	22.4	19.2	12.2	33.4	42.4	49.3
Financial Income	6.1	14.1	9.7	4.4	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.5
Financial expenses	2.1	3.8	16.9	68.4	19.8	22.2	8.2	7.1	4.0	7.4	2.0
Interest cost	1.3	2.3	7.0	8.2	8.6	8.0	6.0	4.4	3.9	3.2	1.9
EBT	23.4	33.7	16.4	-72.2	-3.3	1.9	13.1	6.6	32.0	37.8	50.8
Total taxes	2.7	2.8	-0.9	-5.6	-0.4	1.5	2.6	-1.1	2.9	5.4	6.4
Net profit / loss	19.9	30.9	17.2	-66.6	-2.9	0.4	10.5	7.7	29.1	32.4	44.4
Attributable to equity holders of the parent	19.2	30.1	16.9	-66.3	-2.9	0.5	10.5	7.8	29.1	32.4	44.4
CAPEX	-27.3	-85.6	-141.9	-106.1	-19.3	-19.8	-18.6	-14.8	-30.0	-37.4	-61.8

in EURm	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Gross margin	64.9%	64.9%	63.8%	64.2%	65.5%	64.9%	62.7%	64.3%	66.1%	67.0%	67.0%
EBITDA margin	33.5%	33.7%	32.4%	24.0%	33.9%	35.5%	34.8%	34.5%	37.8%	39.0%	39.0%
EBIT margin	19.0%	19.7%	17.7%	-7.2%	11.3%	15.9%	13.5%	8.5%	20.4%	23.0%	24.7%
Net margin	18.8%	25.3%	12.7%	-58.3%	-2.3%	0.3%	7.4%	5.4%	17.8%	17.6%	22.2%
Assets Turnover	0.28	0.26	0.24	0.21	0.25	0.29	0.31	0.33	0.36	0.40	0.41
ROA	5.2%	6.5%	3.0%	-12.5%	-0.6%	0.1%	2.3%	1.7%	6.4%	7.0%	9.1%
Assets to Equity	1.24	1.35	1.79	2.15	2.06	1.99	1.86	1.71	1.58	1.52	1.48
ROE	6.5%	8.8%	5.4%	-26.8%	-1.2%	0.2%	4.2%	3.0%	10.2%	10.6%	13.4%
Net debt / EBITDA	1.0	1.4	4.5	8.6	5.3	4.1	3.7	3.0	2.0	1.4	1.3
Debt to Assets	9.7%	12.7%	36.2%	44.1%	45.0%	43.0%	39.7%	34.7%	28.3%	24.1%	22.5%
Debt to Equity	0.12	0.17	0.65	0.95	0.93	0.85	0.74	0.59	0.45	0.37	0.33
TIE ratio	15.5	10.1	3.4	-1.0	1.6	2.8	3.2	2.8	8.6	13.4	26.0
NWC / Assets	2.5%	-2.1%	-0.8%	-2.1%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	2.7%	1.8%	1.5%	1.6%
Days inventory outstanding	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	4.9	4.5
Days receivable outstanding	80.0	88.3	71.1	65.7	67.0	59.8	58.5	64.0	57.6	63.2	59.5
Days payable outstanding	132.6	336.3	229.4	281.5	131.2	119.0	103.0	92.9	119.9	154.2	141.2
EBITDA - CAPEX	6.8	-45.4	-98.7	-78.8	23.2	30.3	30.7	34.9	31.9	34.6	16.0

## **Valuation Commentary**



- Luke Koper has been reporting better than expecting results for entire 2017, from quarter to quarter. Namely while revenues were in line with our estimates, Luka Koper constantly beat on margins. Nevertheless we have, till now, left our 2017 estimates, set at the beginning of the year, unchanged.
- Now 3Q17 results have encouraged us to lift EBITDA margin for 2017 from 37.7% to 40.0% and for 2018 from 37.0% to 39.3%. According to our estimates Luka Koper should achieve EBITDA of EUR 100m in 2020. We expect net income to reach EUR 52.6m in 2017 up from EUR 46.9m.
  - Note however that possibly our model will need to somewhat adjust after we see exact dynamic of new tax from second railway tier legislature (this is a downside risk) full model overhaul is expected after strategic update and 4Q17 results.
- Due to improved results Luka Koper shares look cheaper with 2017 P/E at 8.0x and ROE of 14.4%. TTM P/B is at 1.18x. Therefore, we are lifting our target price (50% DCF and 50% peer valuation) from EUR 38 to EUR 43 while keeping our BUY recommendation.
- At current stock price of EUR 30, investors also receives a very attractive dividend yield of 4.7%.
  - At our target price dividend yield would still amount to 3.3%, P/E 11.8x, EV/EBITDA at 8.0x and P/B at 1.70x.



## **Company & ALTA Description**

# ALTA

NEW INVESTEMENT CULTURE

### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION:**

- Slovenia's sole port which provides port and logistics services to the economically developed town of Koper and nearby region.
- Providing warehousing and cargo handling services for all types of goods, Luka Koper also serves Central and Eastern Europe.



### **OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE:**

Republika Slovenia	51.0%
SDH d.d.	11.1%
KAD d.d.	5.0%
Municipiality Koper	3.1%
Citibank (Fiduciary account)	1.5%
Source: KDD	

#### **RESEARCH REPORT:**

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Completion date and time: 27.11.2017 17:05 First release: 27.11.2017 17:15 Market data capture date: 27.11.2017 9:00

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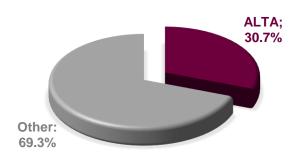
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