

RESEARCH NOTE

TOPLIVO

General Information

Toplivo was established in 1947 as a state-owned company, specialized in supply, storage and trade with construction and heating materials. Gradually, the company widened its product range and in late 60s /early 70s/ started trading with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The company was privatized in 1996 during the first wave of mass privatization, when Petrol Holding (now Synergon Holding) acquired 34% of the company's shares. The holding gradually increased its stake in Toplivo and even tried to delist it in 2002, but its attempt failed due to the state's blocking stake in the company. Recently, Synergon Holding owns 73% from the Toplivo's capital.

Toplivo offers a wide range of products through 380 stores, warehouses and gas stations in about 196 populated areas. The construction materials could continue to support the company's performance in the future as Bulgaria's housing market is said to continue to grow steadily in short term.

Business Description

The main activities of Toplivo are supplying, keeping and trading with propane-butane, coals and briquettes as well as trading with construction materials. Toplivo is official representative of Grohe - world leader on the sanitary fixture market, Keramac and Kolo - specialized in the production of sanitary faience for Bulgaria. The company maintains its orientation toward construction materials, which set up 37% from the 4Q 2007 sales. The other part of revenues is formed by:

- trading with propane- butane 27%,
- liquid fuels 24%,
- heating materials 12%.

Recently, the company decreased its retail trade revenues from liquid fuels due to the mass entering of Shell, OMV, LUKOIL and Petrol.

The activity of Toplivo regarding of solid fuels is under the centralized method of business strategy, negotiating, pricing and repartition of the quantity in case of necessity. The mild winter last year resulted to increased stockpiles of heating materials and lower than expected sales during the first quarter. The company's balance sheet was also under pressure as Toplivo was unable to switch back to more profitable trading with construction materials during the second quarter in full scale. However, the sales during the forth quarter posted a visible increase which could diminish the excess stockpiles.

Financial Situation

The net profit for 2007 is far below the previous expectations as the management underestimated the negative effect from the mild winter last year. However, sales increased 2% last year and the profitability improved during the forth quarter. Toplivo is one of the cheapest stocks in terms of P/B ratio and the company has plenty of real estates that aren't revaluated recently and could add to the revaluation reserve.

The forth quarter performance is a reason to expect moderate growth for the next several years which should also improve the profit margin. The current P/E is 20 whereas P/B ratio is 1.20.



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Financial Data

Consol. Statement of Income (in thousand BGN)	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sales	192 938	305 067	287 754	293 244
Production expenses	177 033	263 340	262 954	266 419
Personnel expenses	7 578 102	18 014 4 484	9 5 1 2	10 758
Net income from financial activities Other revenues and expenses	246	3 035	(598) (53)	(400) (5)
EBITDA	8 675	31 232	14 637	15 662
Depreciation	5 428	12 672	5 9 7 8	5 829
EBIT	3 247	18 560	8 659	9 833
Interest expense	(2 355)	(5 210)	(2 694)	(3 637)
Pretax income	892	13 350	5 965	6 196
Taxes	186	1 705	900	620
After-tax income	706	11 645	5 0 6 5	5 576
Minority interest	0	1 392	0	0
Net income	706	10 253	5 065	5 576
Earnings per share in BGN	0.16	2.37	0.94	1.03
Owner Balance Chart (in the count DON)	2004	2005	-598	-400
Consol. Balance Sheet (in thousand BGN) Total Assets	2004 115 954	2005 292 822	2006 147 168	2007 176 634
Equity subscriptions receivable	0	2 72 822	0	170 034
Fixed assets	66 289	180 889	77 862	93 199
Tangible fixed assets	63 392	174 377	74 605	86 293
Financial investments	100	52	52	52
Current assets	49 665	111 933	69 306	83 435
Inventory	28 208	56 881	42 398	55 778
Receivables	16 778	31 214	21 001	21 788
Financial assets and cash	4 298	22 243	5 5 5 5 5	5 324
Total liabilities + equity	115 954	292 822	147 168	176 634
Equity	56 987	142 227	83 357	93 758
Registered capital	4 334	4 334	5 417	5 417
Capital funds	47 442	50 388	62 717	62 555
Earnings	5 211	87 505	15 223	25 786
Liabilities	58 967	150 595	63 811	82 876
Long-term payables	5 388	35 649	11 066	23 682
Long-term bank loans	7 043	7 375	15 719	6 998
Short-term bank debt	28 359	49 644	11 251	23 922
Short-term payables	18 177	31 668	25 775	28 274
Other liabilities Working capital	0 3 129	0 30 621	32 280	0 31 239
working capital	3 127	30 021	32 200	31 237
Consol. Cash Flow Statement (in thousand BGN)	2004	2005	2006	2007
Net income	706	10 253	5 0 6 5	5 576
Depreciation	5 428	12 672	5 978	5 829
Changes in Working capital	1 539	27 492	25 065	621
Other operating cash flow items	(1 943)	(37 926)	(30 249)	(19 660)
Net cash from operating activities	5 730	12 491	5 859	(7 634)
Capital expenditures	(5 166)	(10 005)	(5 192)	(15 065)
Other investing cash flow items	713	2 020	797	18 545
Net cash from investing activities	(4 453)	(7 985)	(4 395)	3 480
			9 7 4 6	0
Issuance/ Retirement of Stock, Net	0	608		
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net	754	8 346	(9 775)	
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid	75.4 0	8 346 (219)	(9 775) (1 069)	0
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items	75 4 0 1 7	8 346 (219) 11	(9 775) (1 069) 0	0
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities	754 0 17 771	8 346 (219) 11 8 746	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098)	0 0 3 737
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash	75 4 0 17 77 1 2 048	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366	0 0 3 737 (417)
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash Beginning-of-period cash	754 0 17 771 2 048 2 250	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252 4 298	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366 5 185	0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash	75 4 0 17 77 1 2 048	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366	0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741 5 324
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash Beginning-of-period cash End-of-period cash	754 0 17 771 2 048 2 250 4 298	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252 4 298 17 550	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366 5 185 5 551	0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741 5 324
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash Beginning-of-period cash End-of-period cash Cash per share Number of shares-end period	754 0 17 771 2 048 2 250 4 298	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252 4 298 17 550	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366 5 185 5 551	3 737 0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741 5 324 0.98
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash Beginning-of-period cash End-of-period cash Cash per share Number of shares-end period Average outstanding shares	754 0 17 771 2 048 2 250 4 298 0.99	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252 4 298 17 550 4.05	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366 5 185 5 551 1.02	0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741 5 324 0.98
Issuance/ Retirement of Debt, Net Dividends paid Other financing cash flow items Net cash from financing activities Net change in cash Beginning-of-period cash End-of-period cash Cash per share Number of shares-end period	754 0 17 771 2 048 2 250 4 298 0.99	8 346 (219) 11 8 746 13 252 4 298 17 550 4.05	(9 775) (1 069) 0 (1 098) 366 5 185 5 551	0 0 3 737 (417) 5 741 5 324 0.98





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Financial and Performance Indicators	2004	2005	2006	2007
Valuation Ratios				
Price/Earnings (P/E)	20.26	2.59	18.68	20.40
Book Value	13.15	32.82	15.39	17.31
Price/Book (P/B)	0.25	0.19	1.14	1.21
Sales Per Share	44.52	70.39	53.12	54.14
Price/Sales (P/S)	0.07	0.09	0.33	0.39
Price/Cash flow	2.33	1.16	8.57	9.97
EV (in thousand BGN)	45 406	43 491	116 047	147 220
EV/Sales	0.24	0.14	0.40	0.50
EV/EBITDA	5.23	1.39	7.93	9.40
EV/EBIT	13.98	2.34	13.40	14.97
Liquidity				
Current ratio	1.07	1.38	1.87	1.60
Quick ratio	0.46	0.68	0.73	0.53
Debt Management				
Debt to total assets	50.9%	51.4%	43.4%	46.9%
Interest coverage	1.38	3.56	3.21	2.70
LT Debt/Equity	21.8%	30.3%	32.1%	32.7%
Total Debt/Equity	103.5%	105.9%	76.6%	88.4%
Asset Management				
Inventory turnover	6.84	5.36	6.79	5.26
Days sales oustanding	31	37	26	27
Fixed asset turnover	2.91	1.69	3.70	3.15
Total asset turnover	1.66	1.04	1.96	1.66
Profitability				
Profit margin on sales	0.4%	3.4%	1.8%	1.9%
EBITDA Margin	4.5%	10.2%	5.1%	5.3%
Basic earning power	2.8%	6.3%	5.9%	5.6%
Return on assets	0.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%
Return on equity	1.2%	7.2%	6.1%	5.9%
Return on investments	1.0%	5.5%	4.6%	4.5%
Dividend Information				
Dividend Yield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dividend per share (in BGN)	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

^{*}Valuation and profitability ratios are estimated on ttm basis. Other ratios are calculated for the most recent quarter.





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