Sector View

Software and IT Services

Cognizant warning on Financial Services: what implications for our stocks under coverage?

	1 M	3 M	6 M	31/12/15
Softw.& Comp.	-7.4%	-10.1%	-5.1%	-11.8%
DJ Stoxx 600	-7.9%	-17.3%	-20.8%	-14.1%
*Stoxx Sector Indices				

Companies covered						
ALTEN		SELL	EUR46			
Last Price	EUR45,41	Market Cap.	EUR1,529m			
ALTRAN TECHNOLOGIES		BUY	EUR13			
Last Price	EUR9,993	Market Cap.	EUR1,757m			
ATOS		BUY	EUR93			
Last Price	EUR63,71	Market Cap.	EUR6,596m			
AXWAY SOFTWARE		BUY	EUR30			
Last Price	EUR22,19	Market Cap.	EUR456m			
CAPGEMINI		BUY	EUR96			
Last Price	EUR73,59	Market Cap.	EUR12,670m			
CAST		BUY	EUR3,9			
Last Price	EUR3,15	Market Cap.	EUR51m			
DASSAULT SYSTEMES		SELL	EUR63			
Last Price	EUR64,37	Market Cap.	EUR16,525m			
INDRA SISTEMAS		SELL	EUR9,8			
Last Price	EUR8,107	Market Cap.	EUR1,331m			
SAGE GROUP		NEUTRAL	570p			
Last Price	574,5p	Market Cap.	GBP6,200m			
SAP		NEUTRAL	EUR74			
Last Price	EUR65,98	Market Cap.	EUR81,057m			
SOFTWARE AG		BUY	EUR34			
Last Price	EUR29,155	Market Cap.	EUR2,303m			
SOPRA STERIA GROUP		BUY	EUR115			
Last Price	EUR91,2	Market Cap.	EUR1,861m			
SWORD GROUP		BUY	EUR28			
Last Price	EUR23,56	Market Cap.	EUR221m			
TEMENOS GROUP		BUY	CHF52			
Last Price	CHF43,35	Market Cap.	CHF2,888m			

Yesterday, Cognizant reported FY15 results and issued a cautious guidance range due to Financial Services and Healthcare. It warned of discretionary IT projects being pushed out and of slower growth in Q1 16 due to economic concerns. The lower end of the 10-14% FY16 sales growth guidance suggests an ongoing freeze if economic concerns continue. While strategic projects are not called into question, we cannot rule out longer sales cycles. The IT stocks in our coverage that are most exposed to this are Temenos, Axway, Sopra Steria, Capgemini, Software AG, and Atos.

ANALYSIS

- Mounting risks in Financial Services. Yesterday Cognizant posted FY15 results in line with consensus, but issued disappointing guidance. For Q1 16, it expects a slow start with sales guidance of USD3.18-3.24bn (consensus: USD3.32bn), up 9-11%; for FY16, sales could be up 10-14% (+11% and +15% at cc) to USD13.65-14.2bn (consensus: USD14.12bn). The difference between the low-end and the high-end of the guidance range for FY16 is USD550m or 4% of sales (USD60m or 2% of sales for Q1 16). Cognizant is cautious on two sectors: 1) in BFSI (Banking, Financial Services & Insurance, 40% of sales), Q1 16 is burdened by small discretionary projects in Banking, pushed out due to the economic uncertainty that prevails at present. At this stage, strategic transformation projects (including digital) have not been called into question. FY16 revenue growth guidance is large enough to anticipate whether or not these discretionary projects will actually be launched; 2) in Healthcare, Q1 16 faces a wait-and-see attitude from customers due to the consolidation of the industry following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- Temenos is the most exposed to Banking, but risks should not be overstated. Obviously, the IT stock that is most exposed to Financial Services is Temenos, with 100% of revenues generated with banks. Temenos' software products are not related to discretionary IT spending, but we cannot rule out that the current economic worries may delay some strategic banking transformation projects from one quarter to the next. At this stage, we doubt the risk of deal slippages increased significantly as a lot of banks have engaged a process of digital transformation, but we cannot rule out longer sales cycles in order to secure the return on investment of this type of projects. Axway has strong exposure too, with 41% of revenues in Financial Services, and Cast as well. On their hand, Software AG and SAP respectively generate 19% and 10% of their revenues in Financial Services, respectively. Finally, Dassault Systèmes and Sage are not exposed.
- Exposure to Financial Services in IT Services: limited risk. In IT Services, exposure to Financial Services is 26% for Capgemini, 17-18% for Atos (15% excluding Worldline), an est. 27% for Sopra Steria (o/w 8% for Sopra Banking Software), and 17% for Indra. Assuming that 5-10% of Cognizant's revenues in Financial Services is at risk for FY16, we estimate the risk to total revenues is around 1-2% for Capgemini, 1-3% for Sopra Steria and c.1% for Atos which is more exposed to "recurring" multi-year contracts than its peers. Sword is 34% exposed, but mainly in Wholesale Finance. In High-tech Consulting, 5-10% of Altran and Alten's revenues stem from this industry.



VALUATION

- European Software: est. 14.7x 2016 and 12.9x 2017 EV/EBIT multiples.
- European IT Services: est. 9.2x 2016 and 8.3x 2017 EV/EBIT multiples.

NEXT CATALYSTS

Temenos' FY15 results on 11th February after markets close (conference call at 6.30pm CET / 5.30pm BST / 12.30pm EDT (Europe: +44 20 71 92 80 00; USA: +1 866 966 13 96).

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Stock rating

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Positive opinion for a stock where we expect a favourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential upside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

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Opinion recommending not to trade in a stock short-term, neither as a BUYER or a SELLER, due to a specific set of factors. This view is intended to be temporary. It may reflect different situations, but in particular those where a fair value shows no significant potential or where an upcoming binary event constitutes a high-risk that is difficult to quantify. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

SELL

Negative opinion for a stock where we expect an unfavourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential downside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

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NEUTRAL ratings 29,9%

SELL ratings 9%

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