

## **ZUE**

### **ANALYTICAL REPORT - SUMMARY**

The company has had a revenue record year in 2023 (the net result was close to a record, but supported by a one-off). According to today's price, the company's market cap. has almost doubled since the end of Q3'23 and in March'24 the price approached its IPO price (adjusted for dividends) after nearly 14 years. At the same time, the portfolio-to-revenue ratio is at its lowest since 2015/16 and its growth prospects in the coming months are limited (we do not expect any new major tenders from PKP PLK until autumn at the earliest, and the tram market may be similar). It should be taken into account that 2024 may be weaker in terms of revenue. On the other hand, we see opportunities for improvement on the profitability side, due to a reduction in the importance of problematic contracts or potential valorisation and surcharges. In the medium term, ZUE is well positioned for an inflow of EU funds, but the key to value creation will be building a sustainably profitable backlog. After updating our assumptions, we now target ZUE at PLN 11.1, implying a downgrade to Hold (previously: Accumulate, PLN 8.43). The valuation does not take into account possible claims and valorisation from PKP PLK (lawsuits filed for PLN 129m, ca. PLN 5.6/share).

#### Recent period results

In 2023, the company generated PLN 1.48bn in revenue (+61% y/y) and PLN 21.0m in net profit. The Q4'23 results (PLN 583m revenue and PLN 10.9m net profit) were much higher than we had anticipated, partly due to much higher-than-expected year-end sales. The Q4'23 gross margin on sales (4.4%) was comparable y/y (note that the company increased the provision for losses, which took about 1.5pp off the margin). The company had a very strong cash position at the end of the year (PLN 134m net cash), but we believe this was partly the result of large payments from customers with repayments to subcontractors shifted to Q1'24.

#### Backlog

ZUE's backlog stood at PLN 1.73bn after Q4'23 (vs. PLN 1.83bn a year earlier). We estimate that the current backlog is dominated by railway contracts in Poland, followed by railway contracts on the Romanian market and municipal contracts (tramway). The backlog still includes single contracts for PKP PLK signed in 2017 (we estimate that the value of work on these contracts may still amount to a small few tens of millions of PLN). Half a year after the parliamentary elections, the supply of rail contracts is low, and a review of investments is underway at PKP PLK. The gap in the supply of contracts may, in a negative scenario, start to resemble the 2016 period (then, in 2017, contracts were signed on low margins), which may affect the possibility of building a profitable backlog based on the first major wave of new tenders that will appear on the market.

### Segmental positioning

The company has exposure primarily to the rail and tram markets (to a small extent also to local roads through its subsidiary Energopol). Both areas are largely financed by EU funds (rail - FENIKS, KPO, CEF, tram lines - FENIKS). An entry into the PSE market was also planned in the past. Meanwhile, entry into the Romanian market is not ZUE's only approach to foreign markets. In 2023, the first small Latvian contract was won, earlier the company had also had a foothold in the German market or it has been observing the Bulgarian direction for many years, and a contract in Slovakia was also implemented

### Performance forecasts, ratios

ZUE is set for a record year in terms of revenue in 2023 (net profit was marginally lower than in 2011, including a PLN 5m positive balance of other activities). At the same time, the portfolio-to-revenue ratio for the last Q4 is the lowest since 2015/16 and its growth prospects in the coming months are limited (we do not expect new tenders from PKP PLK until autumn at the earliest, and the tram market may be similar). Our forecasts for 2024/24/26 assume PLN 1.0 / 1.1 / 1.2bn revenue and PLN 16 / 18 / 21m net profit respectively. The company at our forecasts trades at EV/EBITDA=5.8x for 2024 and 5.0x for 2025. Our forecasts do not take into account potential valorisation and surcharges requested by the company (court cases).

	2021	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Sales [PLN m]	851,5	921,4	1 484,1	1 017,2	1 070,1	1 177,1
EBITDA [PLN m]	27,1	31,9	45,2	35,1	38,4	41,7
EBIT [PLN m]	14,2	18,1	30,4	20,4	23,6	26,8
Profit before tax [PLN m]	15,4	22,1	28,9	20,0	23,2	25,5
Net profit [PLN m]	11,8	16,4	21,0	15,9	18,4	20,6
Net debt (cash) [PLN m]	-80,2	-14,6	-134,2	-52,0	-63,6	-70,7
P/BV	1,5	1,4	1,3	1,2	1,1	1,1
P/E	21,7	15,6	12,2	16,0	13,9	12,4
EV/EBITDA	6,5	7,6	2,7	5,8	5,0	4,4
EV/EBIT	12,4	13,3	4,0	10,0	8,2	6,9
DPS [PLN/sh.]	0,00	0,15	0,07	0,23	0,17	0,40

# HOLD

(PREVIOUS: ACCUMULATE)

### **TARGET PRICE 11,1 PLN**

22nd APRIL 2024, 14:28 CEST

DCF valuation [PLN]	10,7
Peer valuation [PLN]	12,3
Target price [PLN]	11,1
Price upside/downside	-0,4%
Cost of capital	15,4%
Price [PLN]	11,10
Market cap [PLNm]	255,6
No. of shares [mn]	23,0
Max. price 6M [PLN]	14,30
Min. price 6m [PLN]	6,24
Rate of return 3M	31,8%
Rate of return 6M	72,9%
Rate of return 9M	65,7%
Shareholders	
Nowak Wiesław	62,5%
Bankowy OFE	8,1%
Generali OFE	6,3%
ZUE	1,1%
Others	21,8%

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Valuation sun	nmary
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	Share	Valuation
DCF valuation	80%	10,7
Peer valuation:	20%	12,3
Target price [PLN]	1	1,1

Source: Dom Maklerski BDM S.A.

DCF	va	luat	ion

	2024F	2025F	2026F	202/F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F
Revenues [PLN m]	1 017,2	1 070,1	1 177,1	1 353,8	1 455,3	1 469,9	1 484,6	1 499,4	1 514,4	1 529,6
EBIT [PLN m]	20,4	23,6	26,8	32,7	38,2	40,2	42,2	41,4	42,0	42,7
Tax rate	20,0%	20,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%	19,0%
Tax on EBIT [PLN m]	4,1	4,7	5,1	6,2	7,3	7,6	8,0	7,9	8,0	8,1
NOPLAT [PLN m]	16,4	18,9	21,7	26,5	30,9	32,5	34,2	33,5	34,0	34,6
Amortization [PLN m]	14,7	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9	14,9
CAPEX [PLN m]	-17,1	-14,7	-14,9	-14,9	-14,9	-14,9	-14,9	-14,9	-15,0	-15,0
Working capital movement [PLN m]	-85,9	-3,6	-5,3	-0,3	-0,1	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
FCF [PLN m]	-72,0	15,4	16,4	26,2	30,8	32,4	34,1	33,5	34,0	34,5
DFCF [PLN m]	-65,6	12,3	11,4	15,8	16,2	14,8	13,5	11,5	10,1	8,9
Total DFCF [PLN m]	48,8									

Terminal growth rate: +1,0%

Terminal value [PLN m] 243,2 Discounted terminal value [PLN m] 62,7 Enterprise value [PLN m] 111,5 Net debt 2023 [PLN m] -134,2 Own shares [PLN m] 2,9 Minority interests [PLN m] 1,4 Equity value [PLN m] 247,3 Number of shares [m] 23,0 Value per share [PLN] 10,7

### WACC calculation

	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F
Risk-free rate	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%	5,85%
Risk premium	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%	9,50%
Beta	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00
Credit premium	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%
Cost of equity	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%	15,4%
Contribution of equity	89,3%	91,2%	93,1%	94,9%	96,4%	97,5%	98,9%	99,5%	100,0%	100,0%
Cost of debt after tax	5,9%	5,9%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%
Contribution of debt	10,7%	8,8%	6,9%	5,1%	3,6%	2,5%	1,1%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%
WACC	14,3%	14,5%	14,7%	14,9%	15,0%	15,1%	15,2%	15,3%	15,4%	15,4%

Source: Dom Maklerski BDM S.A.

DCF - sensitivity analysis

		Ter	minal growth	rate			Te	rminal growt	th rate				Beta	
		0,00%	1,00%	2,00%			0,00%	1,00%	2,00%			0,9	1,0	1,1
	0,9	11,1	11,4	11,7	Risk	8,5%	11,2	11,4	11,7	Dial.	8,5%	12,1	11,4	10,8
beta	1,0	10,5	10,7	11,0		9,5%	10,5	10,7	11,0	Risk	9,5%	11,4	10,7	10,2
	1,1	10,0	10,2	10,4	premium	10,5%	10,0	10,2	10,4	premium	10,5%	10,8	10,2	9,6

Source: Dom Maklerski BDM S.A.

### Peer valuation

		P/E			EV/EBITD/	Α.
	2024F	2025F	2026F	2024F	2025F	2026F
Budimex	20,9	19,1	22,2	12,2	10,9	12,1
Mirbud	6,2	6,9	7,0	3,7	3,8	3,6
Torpol	15,5	12,3	11,0	5,0	3,7	3,1
Trakcja	21,2	18,0	15,5	8,5	7,6	6,9
Median	18,2	15,1	13,2	6,7	5,7	5,2
ZUE	16,0	13,9	12,4	5,8	5,0	4,4
Premium/discount	-11,9%	-8,4%	-6,4%	-13,9%	-11,9%	-15,3%
Valuation [PLN/share]	12,6	12,1	11,9	12,5	12,2	12,5
Year's contribution	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
Average valuation [PLN/share]		12,2			12,4	
Multiple's contribution		50%			50%	
Value per share [PLN]	12,3					

Source: Dom Maklerski BDM S.A. BDM forecasts

140:0	risks
viaiii	HSKS

- Dependence on main customers (PKP PLK)
- Level of investment in transport infrastructure in the CEE region.
   Risks related to the co-financing of project implementation from EU funds.
- Risks related to entering new markets (currently Romania).

   Risks related to the specific nature of the projects implemented.
- Relatively low barriers to entry, increase in competition
   Seasonality of results and weather factor
- Litigation

	2021	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
EPS, Adj+	0,51	0,71	0,91	0,69	0,80	0,90
Revenue [PLN m]	851,5	921,4	1 484,1	1 017,2	1 070,1	1 177,1
Gross Margin %	4,1%	4,6%	3,8%	4,9%	5,0%	4,9%
EBIT [PLN m]	14,2	18,1	30,4	20,4	23,6	26,8
EBITDA [PLN m]	27,1	31,9	45,2	35,1	38,4	41,7
Net Income Adj+ [PLN m]	11,8	16,4	21,0	15,9	18,4	20,6
Net Debt [PLN m]	-80,2	-14,6	-134,2	-52,0	-63,6	-70,7
BPS	7,22	7,79	8,63	9,09	9,72	10,21
DPS	0,00	0,15	0,07	0,23	0,17	0,40
Return on Equity %	7,1%	9,1%	10,6%	7,6%	8,2%	8,8%
Return on Assets %	2,0%	2,4%	2,2%	2,2%	2,4%	2,5%
Depreciation [PLN m]	9,0	9,9	10,2	11,2	11,4	11,4
Amortization [PLN m]	0,3	0,6	0,6	0,1	0,1	0,1
Free Cash Flow [PLN m]	105,8	-54,1	142,6	-77,0	15,6	20,7
CAPEX [PLN m]	6,0	4,8	8,2	17,1	14,7	14,9



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Ratings and price targets history:

rating	price target	previous rating	previous target price	report date	report date (hour)	price	WIG
Hold	11,1	Accumulate	8,43	22.04.2024*	14:28 CEST	11,10	84 109
Accumulate	8,43	Buy	7,76	04.01.2024*	09:55 CEST	7,86	77 054
Buy	7,76	relaunch		12.09.2023*	13:45 CEST	5,62	66 241
Buy	11,8			17.02.2017	14:39 CEST	9,94	58 348

<sup>\*</sup> The report was prepared by Dom Maklerski BDM at the request of the WSE as part of the Exchange's Analytical Coverage Support Programme.



### Explanations of terminology:

EBIT - earnings before interest and tax

EBITDA — earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization

Net debt – interest bearing debt minus cash and equivalents

WACC - weighted average cost of capital

CAGR - cumulative average annual growth

EPS - earnings per share

DPS - dividend per share

CEPS - net profit plus depreciation per share

EV – market capitalization plus interest bearing debt minus cash and equivalents

EV/S – market capitalization / sales

EV/EBITDA – EV / sales

P/EBIT - market capitalization / EBIT

MC/S — market capitalization / sales

P/E - market capitalization / net profit

P/BV — market capitalization / book value

P/CE - market capitalization / net profit plus depreciation

ROE – net profit / equity

ROA - net income / assets

Gross margin - gross profit on sales / sales

EBITDA margin – EBITDA / sales

EBIT margin – EBIT / sales

Net margin - net profit / sales

### The strengths and weaknesses of the valuation methods used in the report:

DCF – the most popular and the most effective of the valuation methods - it is based on the discounting of future cash flows generated by the company. The disadvantage is the high sensitivity to changes in the basic financial parameters forecast in the model (interest rates, exchange rates, profits, residual value).

DDM — the method is based on discounting future cash flows from dividends. The advantage of the valuation is the inclusion of future financial results and cash flows from dividends. The main disadvantages are the high sensitivity to changes in the basic financial parameters forecasted in the model (capital cost, profits, residual value) and the risk of changing the dividend payment policy.

Comparative – the method is based on current and forecasted market multipliers of companies from the industry or related industries, which better than DCF shows the current market situation. The main disadvantages are the difficulty in choosing the right companies for comparison, the risk of ineffective valuation of companies compared at a given moment, as well as high volatility (along with price fluctuations).

### Explanation of ratings:

Buy – we believe that the security will reach the target price in the recommended period, which significantly exceeds the current market price (at least + 15%);

Accumulate – we believe that the security will reach the target price in the recommended period, which exceeds the current market price (in the range of +5 to + 14.99%);

Hold-we believe that a security in the recommended period will fluctuate around the target price, which is close to the current market price (in the range from -4.99% to +4.99%);

Reduce – we believe that the security will reach the target price in the recommended period, which is lower than the market price (range of decline from 5% to 14.99%);

Sell – we believe that a security in the recommended period will reach the target price, which is significantly lower than the market price (suggested erosion of the value exceeds 15%).

Target price – the theoretical price which, in our opinion, should reach a security in the recommended period; This price is the result of the company's value (eg based on DCF, comparative and other valuations), market conditions and the industry as well as other factors subjectively considered by the analyst.

Recommendations made by BDM are binding for 12 months from the issue date or until the target level is reached, unless they are updated during this period of time.

Distribution of BDM's recommendations in 2Q'24*:			, distribution of BDM's recommendations for the companies which BDM has supplied with investment banking services within the last 12 months	
	numbers	%	numbers	%
Buy	2	40%	0	0%
Accumulate	2	40%	0	0%
Hold	1	20%	0	0%
Reduce	0	0%	0	0%
Sell	0	0%	0	0%

<sup>\*</sup> detailed list of all analytical reports (recommendations) published by BDM during the last 12 months is included at https://www.bdm.pl/analizy-i-informacje/analizy/historia-rekomendacji



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The report constitutes an investment research within the meaning of art. 36 §1 of Commission Deligated Regulation (EU) 2017/565.

The report constitutes an investment research within the meaning of art. 36 §1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565.

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The prices of the financial instruments listed in the document have been taken from the real-time pricing as provided by Bloomberg. Data concerning financial instrument prices used in the report could be loaded to 24 hours before the moment of completing the report.

Detailed list of all analytical reports (recommendations) published by BDM during the last 12 months is included in a cyclical "Monthly Report".

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- 2005.
- BDM is not a party to an agreement with the issuer relating to the provision of investment banking services pursuant to section A and B od Annex I to the Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament
- and of the Council (hereinafter the Directive 2014/65/EU), BDM is not a party to an agreement with the issuer relating to the production of the recommendation,
- There is other significant financial interest that BDM or its related affiliates have in relation to the issuer of financial instruments\*
- There are other significant connections between BDM or its related affiliates and the issuer of financial instruments\*\*
- The person affiliated with BDM who was involved in the preparation of recommendations did not receive or purchase the shares of the issuer, to whom the recommendation relates directly or indirectly, prior to public offering of such shares,
  The person affiliated with BDM who was involved in the preparation of recommendations declares that they respect internal regulations and are subject to organizational and technical solutions and
- information barriers established by BDM to eliminate any conflicts of interest concerning recommendations and to avoid them,

  The person affiliated with BDM who was involved in the preparation of recommendations was not rewarded in any form by the issuer, to whom the recommendation relates directly or indirectly, or
- was not directly connected with any possible transactions concerning services defined in art. 69 §2 and 4 of the Act on Trading in Financial Instruments dated 25th July 2005.

According to the best knowledge of the party recommending upon the publication of the report there are no other connections between BDM and the company described in this report that the party preparing this report would know of. However, the investor should be aware that the list disclosing conflicts of interest is long and that in the future there may occur situations leading to conflicts of interest which have not been identified or disclosed at the moment of publication of the report concerned. Especially, the investor should assume that BDM may submit an offer for services to a company or other

companies mentioned in this report.
BDM is subject to supervision by the Polish Financial Supervision Commission.

This document is a summary of a full version of the report prepared in Polish. In case of any disputes the Polish version shall prevail

<sup>\*</sup>BDM is a party to the "ANALYTICAL REPORT PREPARATION SERVICES AGREEMENT" concluded with the WSE.