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SMC Research

Small and Mid Cap Research Europe Industrials

German Software & IT (2018) Corror (2017) Mehrfacher Gewinner der renommierten Refinitiv Analyst Awards

Pyrum Innovations AG Major progress, but sales still below plan

(2018)

Rating: Speculative Buy (unchanged) | **Price:** $36.60 \in$ | **Price target:** $64.40 \in$ (prev.: $77.00 \in$)

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Current development



Basic data

Based in:	Dillingen / Saar
Sector:	Recycling
Headcount:	71
Accounting:	HGB
Ticker:	PYR:GR
ISIN:	DE000A2G8ZX8
Price:	36.60 Euro
Market segment:	Scale
Number of shares:	3.25 m
Market Cap:	119.1 m Euro
Enterprise Value:	128.2 m Euro
Free Float:	approx. 38 %
Price high/low (12 M):	69.20 / 29.80 Euro
Øturnover (12 M Xetra):	43,400 Euro

Sales below plan

Pyrum increased its sales by 18 percent to EUR 842,000 in the first nine months of 2023, but is still below plan. The reason for this is the throughput of the pelletising plant for the production of rCB pellets (rCB = recovered carbon black), which is still too low despite improvements. However, a solution for smooth production seems to have been identified and is currently being implemented. By contrast, the construction of the new production lines two and three has already been largely completed. This is the main reason for own work capitalised amounting to EUR 9.8 m, which was below the previous year's level (EUR 13.2 m) due to the progress of construction. Overall, total output fell therefore by 24.3 percent to EUR 10.7 m.

EBITDA loss increased

The cost of materials, which is largely attributable to the construction of the new production lines, fell by 26.3 percent to EUR 9.6 m, roughly in line with total output. However, as personnel expenses (up 26.4 percent to EUR 3.8 m) and other operating expense (up 2.3 percent to EUR 2.7 m) increased with the further expansion of structures, and other operating income

FY ends: 31.12.	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
Sales (m Euro)	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.4	5.0	27.3
EBIT (m Euro)	-3.5	-8.1	-7.6	-8.8	-10.4	12.9
Net profit	-3.6	-8.4	-7.8	-9.2	-11.3	9.9
EpS	-1.39	-2.57	-2.40	-2.82	-3.46	3.03
Dividend per share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales growth	290.5%	39.2%	6.5%	43.4%	252.6%	449.8%
Profit growth	-	-	-	-	-	-
PSR	179.70	129.13	121.27	84.56	23.98	4.36
PER	-	-	-	-	-	12.1
PCR	-	-	-	-	-	9.0
EV / EBIT	-	-	-	-	-	10.0
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

(down 57.5 percent to EUR 0.5 m) fell due to lower research grants, the EBITDA shortfall increased from EUR -3.5 m to EUR -5.0 m within a year. With slightly lower depreciation and amortisation (-20 percent to EUR 1.6 m due to the end of depreciation for the first construction phase of production line one), this resulted in EBIT of EUR -6.6 m (previous year: EUR -5.5 m) and a net loss of EUR -6.9 m (previous year: EUR -5.7 m).

Business figures	9M 22	9M 23	Change
Sales	0.71	0.84	+17.9%
Total output	14.16	10.72	-24.3%
EBITDA	-3.52	-4.98	-
EBIT	-5.52	-6.58	-
Net profit	-5.68	-6.85	-

In m Euro and percent; source: Company

Liquidity further reduced

In view of the still low income and the high expenses for the expansion of business activities, the cash flow from operating activities was again clearly negative at EUR -4.4 m (previous year: EUR -4.2 m), in addition to the considerable investments in the new production lines (investment cash flow EUR -9.9 m, previous year: EUR -14.6 m). This results in a free cash flow of EUR -14.3 m, compared to EUR -18.9 m in the previous year. This was partially covered by new financing measures, including an investment grant totalling EUR 1.5 m and a further EUR 6 m from BASF (EUR 2 m convertible bond instalment, EUR 4 m new loan), resulting in a financing CF of EUR +6.2 m. However, most of the payments were financed from the available liquidity, which has therefore decreased from EUR 12.7 m to EUR 4.6 m in the year to date and now corresponds to 9.3 percent of the balance sheet total. The most important asset item remains property, plant and equipment, which increased from EUR 28.7 m to EUR 37.8 m due to investments in the new production lines. On the liabilities side, the financing measures also led to an increase in other liabilities from EUR 8.0 m to EUR 15.0 m. Equity, on the other hand, fell from EUR 31.9 m to EUR 25.0 m due to the loss for the period, meaning that the equity ratio has fallen from 64.0 percent to 50.5 percent in the year to date, but remains comfortable.

New forecast for 2023

The below-plan development of rCB pellet production requires an adjustment to the forecast. The management had previously considered a figure at the lower end of the target range of EUR 1.8 to 2.5 m to be possible, but has now reduced the guidance to EUR 1.1 to 1.5 m. The upper end is achievable if the work required as part of a consulting contract for a new plant project in Greece (see below) can be completed this year. The forecast for total output was also slightly lowered: it is now expected to reach EUR 13 to 15 m instead of EUR 14 to 16 m. However, there was no update on profit development, so the previous statement that the result will be negative remains valid.

Commissioning in progress

Important progress has been made in recent months with the completion of the cold commissioning of the two new production lines. Subsequently, the first test hot commissioning of a line was carried out, which was successful and led to the production of the first pyrolysis oil. The findings are now being analysed and a longer test production run is scheduled for December. The line will then be successively ramped up to a capacity of 75 percent over several months, and this process is then also to be carried out for the third line. From this level, the expansion to 100 percent will then start, which will also take a few months. The investment in pelletising machines for the new lines is still pending. This will likely only be initiated once the problems with the first machine have been satisfactorily resolved.

Project pipeline makes great progress

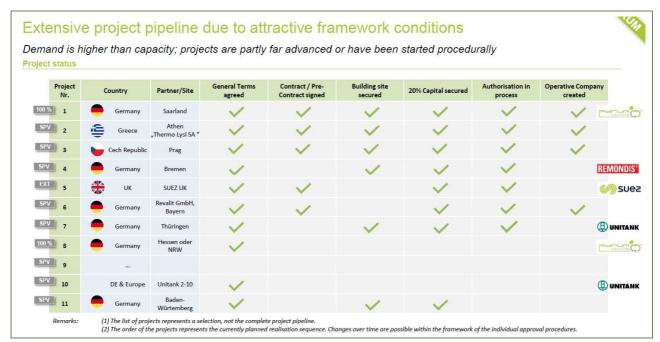
The project pipeline is also making significant progress. Although the favoured site in Homburg turned out to be (economically) unsuitable for Pyrum's next own production facility in Saarland due to water protection regulations, an alternative is still available from the initial search process and negotiations with the owners are already at an advanced stage. The company still intends to submit the licence application promptly and order the first plant components and start construction in the first half of 2024. In addition, consulting contracts have been concluded with two partners in recent months, which marks the start of concrete planning for new plants. These are production facilities with a processing capacity of 20,000 tonnes of used tyres each. One of them will be located in Greece and will be realised together with a Greek utility company, with Pyrum holding a 15 percent stake in the project company (SPV) as planned. For the second project in the Czech Republic, for which a Czech energy company has been won as a partner, a stake of as much as 30 percent is envisaged. In November, Pyrum also signed a letter of intent with REMONDIS to build a new plant (also with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes) in Bremen, in which the company intends to acquire a 33 percent stake via an SPV.

Major financing secured

The equity investments in the projects with partners and the equity requirements for the next own plant – in addition to the currently still loss-making business operations – result in a high financing requirement. Major funding has now been secured for this. Shareholder and partner BASF Antwerpen NV will provide EUR 25 m in several instalments subject to defined conditions and will double this amount once Pyrum has secured capital totalling EUR 50 m from third parties (e.g., SPV partners).

Model adjustments for 2023

In our model, we had already assumed the raising of EUR 54 m in debt capital in the years 2023 to 2025 for further expansion, so the funding measures are very much in line with our assumptions. As the funds are drawn down in instalments, we have postponed some of the utilisation; the majority of the inflow is now no longer in 2023, but in the next two years, and we have increased the volume slightly. We have also adjusted our revenue and cost estimates. We have once again slightly reduced the revenue estimate for 2023, from EUR 1.6 m to EUR 1.4 m, taking into account the low pellet production. We have also slightly reduced own work capitalised (from EUR 13.1 m to EUR 12.6 m), although this is also associated with lower material costs. As a result, we now expect EBIT this year at EUR -8.8 m (previously: EUR -10.4 m) and net income at EUR -9.2 m (previously: EUR -10.8 m).



Project pipeline (SPV = Special Purpose Vehicle with partners); source: Company

Revenue slightly later

We have not adjusted the expansion plan from 2024 on (see the table at the bottom of this page) – with one exception: Due to the relatively lengthy start-up phase for projects with third parties, we no longer expect the first income from the sale of plants to SPVs next year, but only in 2025. There, too, we have postponed several projects to subsequent periods, so that ultimately a large proportion of revenue has shifted from 2024 towards 2025 to 2027. We are now expecting sales of EUR 5.0 m next year – an increase of more than 250 percent thanks to the new production lines in Dillingen, although we have also reduced their revenue due to the later pelletisation – and a further increase to EUR 27.3 m in the subsequent period as a result of the sale of plant components to three SPVs that have been established. According to this calculation, EBIT will be significantly negative again in 2024 (EUR -10.4 m) and then skyrocket to EUR +12.9 m. It should be noted that we have only recognised the net proceeds from the sale of plant components (the gross proceeds from transitory items may be significantly higher). Our target sales at the end of the detailed forecast period are slightly lower at EUR 83.3 m (hitherto: EUR 85.1 m) due to a slightly revised calculation of revenue from current production, while we now estimate the target EBIT at around EUR 45.4 m (hitherto: EUR 51.1 m) due to an increase in costs. Here too, the seemingly high margin results from the fact that only net income is recognised. The table at the top of the next page shows the development of the key cash flow figures in the detailed forecast period to 2030, following our model update. Further details on the estimated development of the balance sheet, income statement and cash flow can also be found in the Annex.

Frame parameters unchanged

Subsequently, we continue to calculate the terminal value with a fifteen percent discount to the target margin of 2030 and a "perpetual" cash flow growth of 1 percent p.a. The discount rate (WACC) also remains unchanged at 7.2 percent. For this, we have assumed a cost of equity according to CAPM of 10.0 percent (with: safe interest rate of 2.5 percent, market risk premium of 5.8 percent and beta factor of 1.3), as well as a target capital structure of 45 percent debt, an interest rate on borrowed capital of 5.5 percent and a tax rate for the tax shield of 33 percent.

Price target now EUR 64.40

The fair value we have determined is now EUR 209.5 m or EUR 64.39 per share, from which we derive a new price target of EUR 64.40 (a sensitivity analysis for the price target calculation can be found in the Annex). The shifts in our revenue estimates for the SPVs (in 2024 and 2025) and the recalculation of the plant revenue (slightly lower) as well as the structural costs of Pyrum and the investment costs (slightly higher) have led to the reduction in the fair value. Nevertheless, our model still shows a high upside potential for the share price. On a scale of 1 (very low) to 6 (very high), we continue to rate the forecast risk of our estimates as clearly above average at five points, since the data on the operation of the industrial plant in its final design is still limited and, in addition, the marketing of the plant to third parties is still in its early stages.

Revenue model (m Euro)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Revenue plant Dillingen	1.3	4.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Further own plants (total number)				1	2	3	4	5
Revenue further plants				11.2	22.3	33.5	44.7	55.8
SPVs (total number)	2	5	8	10	11	12	13	14
Revenue sale of plants/Consulting	0.2	0.5	17.3	27.6	20.7	13.8	6.9	6.9
Other revenue SPVs (maintenance etc.)				1.5	2.4	3.0	3.3	3.6
Plants without SPV (total number)				1	2	3	4	5
Revenue plants without SPV					6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
Total revenue	1.4	5.0	27.3	50.3	62.4	67.2	71.8	83.3
Estimates SMC-Research								

m Euro	12 2023	12 2024	12 2025	12 2026	12 2027	12 2028	12 2029	12 2030
Sales	1.4	5.0	27.3	50.3	62.4	67.2	71.8	83.3
Sales growth		252.6%	449.8%	84.3%	24.0%	7.8%	6.8%	16.0%
EBIT margin	-624%	-208%	47.1%	61.5%	62.4%	58.1%	53.9%	54.5%
EBIT	-8.8	-10.4	12.9	30.9	38.9	39.1	38.7	45.4
Tax rate	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	15.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%
Adjusted tax payments	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.5	5.8	12.9	12.8	15.0
NOPAT	-8.8	-10.4	12.2	29.4	33.1	26.2	25.9	30.4
+ Depreciation & Amortisation	2.2	3.5	7.1	10.2	12.7	15.8	18.9	22.0
+ Increase long-term accruals	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
+ Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross operating cash flows	-6.4	-6.7	19.6	39.9	46.1	42.4	45.3	52.9
- Increase Net Working Capital	-0.2	-0.3	-1.6	-1.5	-1.9	-1.3	-1.4	-1.7
- Investments in fixed assets	-12.0	-27.6	-40.0	-37.0	-34.0	-34.0	-34.0	-34.0
Free cash flow	-18.6	-34.6	-22.0	1.4	10.3	7.0	9.9	17.3

SMC estimation model

Conclusion

Pyrum has made very important progress in recent months. This includes especially the agreements for three new projects with partners in Germany, Greece and Czechia, which could lead to the construction of three further plants with a processing capacity of 20,000 tonnes of used tyres in the coming years. Hot commissioning has also started at the company's own plant in Dillingen, and the new production lines two and three could reach full capacity over the course of next year.

However, the outstanding thing in our view is the financing agreement with BASF, with which Pyrum has secured EUR 25 m in debt capital that can be drawn down in several stages if certain conditions are met. A sum of the same amount will follow from BASF if Pyrum raises funds totalling EUR 50 m from third parties, such as the project partners. This provides a solid financial basis for planning the next own plant and for the SPVs with partners. One downer, however, is that the output of the pelletising machine on the first production line is still below plan, which is why the revenue forecast for the current year has been reduced from between EUR 1.8 and 2.5 m to between EUR 1.1 and 1.5 m. For this reason, the pelletising machines for the new lines two and three have not yet been ordered. However, a solution to the problem has apparently been found in the meantime.

We have factored the delays, slightly lower revenue from product sales and higher costs into our model, which is why the price target has declined to EUR 64.40 (previously: EUR 77.00). The great progress that the company is making is currently not being recognised on the stock market; instead, the delays that often occur with such innovative concepts have led to a massive correction in the share price. On this basis, we currently see upside potential of more than 70 percent and reiterate our "Speculative Buy" rating.

Annex I: SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Patent-protected, innovative solution for scrap tyre recycling and the production of high-quality raw materials (pyrolysis oil, carbon black).
- The plant has been in regular operation since 2020; capacities are currently being tripled.
- Strong focus on R&D with participation in numerous important research projects.
- Strong partners: BASF and Continental are shareholders and close cooperation partners. The chemical group also supports the expansion financially.
- The founders run the company.
- With an equity ratio of 50,5 percent (30.09.), the balance sheet structure remains very sound.

Opportunities

- The strong expansion of the company's own plant in Dillingen will ensure increasing revenue with high margins. Together with partners, numerous other plants are also planned, and the project pipeline is being continuously expanded.
- The sale of plants to third parties provides revenue leverage.
- Due to the great need for efficient scrap tyre recycling, the demand could increase strongly after first successful projects.
- The market environment in the commodities sector is currently comfortable. Especially the demand for carbon black is high, as so far 50 percent of the volume comes from Russia.
- Policy makers are pushing for the development of a circular economy in the tyre industry. By banning the use of scrap tyre granulate for various purposes, the EU is increasing the pressure for recycling. In some countries, thermal recycling is already prohibited as well.

Weaknesses

- Relatively short period of operation of the plant in the final design.
- Revenue has been low so far and will be below plan in 2023 as the throughput of the pelletising machine is still too low. At the moment, the company is still operating at a clear loss.
- The construction of the company's own second and third production lines has been somewhat delayed and projects with third parties as well, significantly so. No construction of a plant for third parties has yet been started.
- Major binding funding commitments from project partners are still pending.
- Small team, dependent on key people.

Threats

- The capital requirements for further expansion are now being covered to a large extent by borrowed capital, which increases debt.
- Due to price increases for plant components, the necessary investment sum has increased significantly (but the potential revenue has increased as well).
- Bank financing of new plants is a challenging task due to the still limited database and is also becoming more expensive due to interest rate developments.
- A significant drop in raw material prices, for example in the event of a recession, could reduce revenue (however, a minimum price for pyrolysis oil has been agreed with BASF).
- With advances in recycling, the raw material "used tyres" could become a scarce resource.
- Alternative recycling technologies could prove more efficient.

Annex II: Balance sheet and P&L estimation

Balance sheet estimation

m Euro	2022 act.	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
ASSETS									
I. Total non-current	35.3	45.1	69.2	102.1	128.9	150.2	168.4	183.5	195.5
1. Intangible assets	6.5	5.8	5.1	4.4	3.7	3.0	2.3	1.6	0.9
2. Tangible assets	28.8	36.3	52.1	76.7	98.2	117.2	133.1	145.9	155.6
II. Total current assets	14.5	8.8	5.1	9.5	17.4	31.0	41.1	41.7	50.1
LIABILITIES									
I. Equity	31.9	22.7	11.4	21.3	47.2	76.9	100.4	111.9	127.9
II. Accruals	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.9	5.3	5.9
III. Liabilities									
1. Long-term liabili- ties	10.4	23.4	53.5	77.8	83.7	86.6	89.5	92.4	95.4
2. Short-term liabili- ties	4.5	4.6	5.9	8.7	11.4	13.4	14.8	15.6	16.5
TOTAL	49.9	54.0	74.4	111.7	146.4	181.3	209.5	225.3	245.6

P&L estimation

m Euro	2022 act.	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
Sales	1.0	1.4	5.0	27.3	50.3	62.4	67.2	71.8	83.3
Total output	19.1	15.4	19.8	52.1	75.1	87.2	92.0	96.6	108.1
Gross profit	1.4	1.4	3.1	30.7	52.1	62.5	65.8	68.8	78.6
EBITDA	-5.0	-6.6	-6.9	19.4	39.6	48.8	50.8	52.7	61.5
EBIT	-7.6	-8.8	-10.4	12.9	30.9	38.9	39.1	38.7	45.4
EBT	-7.8	-9.2	-11.2	10.4	27.3	35.0	35.2	34.9	41.4
EAT (before minori- ties)	-7.8	-9.2	-11.3	9.9	25.8	29.7	23.5	23.3	27.7
EAT	-7.8	-9.2	-11.3	9.9	25.8	29.7	23.5	23.3	27.7
EPS	-2.40	-2.82	-3.46	3.03	7.94	9.13	7.22	7.16	8.50

Annex III: Cash flows estimation and key figures

Cash flows estimation

m Euro	2022 act.	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
CF operating	-6.9	-7.3	-8.8	13.2	31.2	36.9	34.2	36.9	44.1
CF from investments	-20.8	-12.0	-27.6	-40.0	-37.0	-34.0	-34.0	-34.0	-34.0
CF financing	6.0	13.4	31.9	27.4	9.7	7.0	7.1	-4.5	-4.2
Liquidity beginning of year	34.2	12.5	6.8	2.2	2.8	6.7	16.6	23.9	22.4
Liquidity end of year	12.5	6.8	2.2	2.8	6.7	16.6	23.9	22.4	28.3

Key figures

percent	2022 act.	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
Sales growth	6.5%	43.4%	252.6%	449.8%	84.3%	24.0%	7.8%	6.8%	16.0%
EBITDA margin	-512.3%	-468.2%	-139.0%	71.2%	78.7%	78.2%	75.6%	73.3%	73.8%
EBIT margin	-772.4%	-624.4%	-208.5%	47.1%	61.5%	62.4%	58.1%	53.9%	54.5%
EBT margin	-792.0%	-649.7%	-226.0%	38.2%	54.2%	56.1%	52.3%	48.6%	49.8%
Net margin (after mi- norities)	-795.2%	-651.8%	-226.8%	36.2%	51.4%	47.6%	35.0%	32.4%	33.2%

Annex IV: Sensitivity analysis

		Perpetual cash flows growth					
WACC	2.0%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%		
6.2%	106.40	93.12	82.40	73.57	66.17		
6.7%	89.33	78.97	70.42	63.26	57.18		
7.2%	75.66	67.40	64.39	54.58	49.51		
7.7%	64.48	57.78	52.08	47.18	42.91		
8.2%	55.19	49.68	44.93	40.80	37.18		



Disclaimer

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Charts The charts were made with Tai-Pan (www.lp-software.de).

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II) Preparation and updating

The present financial analysis was prepared by: Dipl.-Kfm. Holger Steffen

Participants in the preparation of the present financial analysis: -

The present analysis was finished on 6.12.2023 at 17:40 and published on 7.12.2023 at 8:15.

For the preparation of its financial analyses, the sc-consult GmbH uses a five-tier rating scheme with regard to price expectation in the next twelve months. Additionally, estimation risk is quantified on a scale from 1 (low) to 6 (high). The ratings are as follows:

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Buy	We expect an increase in price for the analysed financial instrument by at least 10 per-
	cent. We assess the estimation risk as average (3 to 4 points).
Speculative	We expect an increase in price for the analysed financial instrument by at least 10 per-
Buy	cent. We assess the estimation risk as above average (5 to 6 points).
Hold	We expect that the price of the analysed financial instrument will remain stable (between
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	rating. The rating "hold" is also used in cases where we perceive a price potential of more

	than 10 percent, but explicitly mentioned temporary factors prevent a short-term reali-		
	sation of the price potential.		
Sell	We expect that the price of the analysed financial instrument will drop by at least 10		
	percent. The forecast risk (1 to 6 points) has no further impact on the rating.		

The expected change in price refers to the current share price of the analysed company. This price and any other share prices used in this analysis are XETRA closing prices as of the last trading day before publication. If the share is not traded on XETRA, the closing price of another public stock exchange is used with a separate note to that effect.

The price targets published within the assessment are calculated with common methods of financial mathematics, especially with the DCF (discounted cash flow) method, the sum of the parts valuation and a peer group analysis. The valuation methods are affected by economic framework conditions, especially by the development of the interest rates.

The rating resulting from these methods reflects current expectations and can change anytime subject to company-specific or economic changes.

More detailed explanations of the models used by SMC Research can be found at: <u>http://www.smc-research.com/impressum/modellerlaeuterungen</u>

An overview of the recommendations prepared and distributed by SMC Research in the last 12 months can be found at: <u>http://www.smc-research.com/publikationsuebersicht</u>

In the past 24 months, sc-consult GmbH has published the following financial analyses for the company:

Date	Investment recomm.	Target price	Conflict of interests
26.09.2023	Speculative Buy	77.00 Euro	1), 3), 4)
27.06.2023	Speculative Buy	77.00 Euro	1), 3)
06.06.2023	Speculative Buy	77.00 Euro	1), 3)
05.04.2023	Speculative Buy	80.00 Euro	1), 3)
03.02.2023	Speculative Buy	80.00 Euro	1), 3)
05.10.2022	Speculative Buy	86.00 Euro	1), 3)
03.08.2022	Speculative Buy	86.00 Euro	1), 3)
27.06.2022	Speculative Buy	88.00 Euro	1), 3), 4)

In the course of the next twelve months, sc-consult GmbH will presumably prepare the following financial analyses for the company: one update and three comments.

The publishing dates for the financial analyses are not yet fixed at the present moment.

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