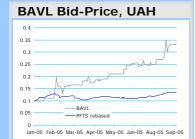


Ukraine/ Banking

Aval

BUY

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Market Information					
PFTS	BAVL				
Bloomberg	BAVL UZ				
No of Shares, mln	14.950				
Market price, USD	0.07				
MCap, USD mIn	1046.5				
Free Float, %	6.5%				
Stock Ownership					
Raiffeisen					
International	93.5%				
Other	6.5%				
Ratios 2004					
Net Int. Margin	6.0%				
ROE	22.5%				
Capital Adequacy	10.1%				
Cost/Income	86.2%				

Bet On Raiffeisen To Play Fair

19 Sep 2005

USD 0.07 Pending

Target

We believe trying to capture the value derived from Aval-Raiffeisen synergies is a fair bet. Currently Aval trades at USD 0.07. If Raiffeisen chooses to treat investors fairly, Aval shareholders can expect to reap the value unlocked by the merger. We confirm our BUY recommendation. At this point there is not enough information to estimate the exact upside, therefore the target is pending.

Aval's Shares Skyrocket, Acquisition Details Remain A Mystery. News of Raiffeisen's acquisition of Aval pushed the stock price up by 25%, to our target of USD 0.07, in one trading day. This happened because the market was scrambling to establish the undisclosed merger price. For three weeks after the sale, despite limited free float of 6.5%, Aval was the leader on the PFTS in terms of trading volume. The acquisition is strategically positive for both Raiffeisen and Aval, however, the lack of integration data about the deal has left everyone in the dark. Although nothing was officially said about the price, we believe it to be ~USD980 mln for a 93.5% stake implying USD 0.07 per share.

Aval, Raiffeisenbank-Ukraine To Merge By 2008. Just after the acquisition was completed Raiffeisen International (RI) announced the two banks would merge. Raiffeisenbank-Ukraine is a structural division of RI. Aval's minority shareholders will have the right to sell their shares to Raiffeisen up to six months after the final legalization of the merger, at the deal price (USD 0.07 estimated). The transaction is expected to be fully registered with the Austrian and Ukrainian authorities between mid October and December 2005. This plan is a break from the Raiffeisen acquisitive strategy that we have seen for last five years. Before RI either only had a subsidiary in a CEE country or acquired a local top bank upfront. Moreover, there is still some uncertainty about the company's intentions to take Aval private:

What's Next For Minority Shareholders? For those shareholders who refuse to sell to RI now and bet on capturing the synergy-caused value, we believe the following scenarios are possible:

- 1. Mandatory "squeeze-out". Unlikely: Ukrainian law has no mandatory sell provision.
- 2. After the merger RI allows free float circulation, in effect turning Raiffeisenbank-Ukraine into a publicly traded company, if the Aval share is exchanged for the consolidated share in a fair manner.
- 3. RI buys out all the remaining free float at a fair price at the time of the merger, for higher than what they are going to offer now.
- 4. The Aval-Raiffeisen exchange ratio will be set at a discount, leaving shareholders with no upside.

KEY FINANCIAL DATA, USD mln				KEY RATIOS						
	Assets	Net Loans	Total Revenue	Net Income		P/E	P/BV	P/Loans	P/Assets	P/Deposits
2004	2 142	1 496	244	33	2004	27.3	5.4	0.6	0.4	0.6
2005E	3 052	2 164	291	40	2005E	23.1	3.0	0.4	0.3	0.4
2006E	3 934	2 932	364	53	2006E	17.0	2.7	0.3	0.2	0.3
Spot Eych Data										

Spot Exch Rate 5.05



What Ukrainian Law Says. Here are some facts about Ukrainian law for investors:

Are minor shareholders obliged to sell their stakes?

• Ukrainian legislation has NO provision requiring minority shareholders to sell to the buyer of the majority stake, the so called "squeeze out" provision, that is common in other countries;

Is Raiffeisen obliged to buy out minority stakes?

• Ukrainian legislation also **does NOT oblige** the buyer of a major stake in a company to buy-out stakes from minority shareholders. Nor does it have a mechanism for price-setting in such buy-out.

What will the buy-out price be?

• Security and Exchange Committee decree #221 states that any joint stock company (Aval) that decides to reorganize (merge) is required to carry out an assessment and buy-out the stakes of shareholders, who demand this, if these shareholders did not vote for the reorganization. For this to happen the shareholders must submit a written request to the company. These shares are bought out at a price agreed upon by the both parties but not less than par value (USD0.02 for Aval). Therefore the buy-out price may be different for each shareholder.

What will the exchange ratio be?

• The exchange ratio of shares in a target company (Aval) for shares in the acquiring company (Raiffeisenbank), is established in accordance with a reorganization agreement. This agreement is approved by shareholders at a general meeting held by the company being merged (Aval).



Aval 2005 September

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