

Ukraine/ Oil & Gas Ukrnafta **Going Abroad?**

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Market Information	n
Bloomberg Reuters	UNAF UZ UNAF.PFT
No of Shares, mIn Reg S GDR to Ord.	54.2 1:6
Market price, USD 52Wk H/L, USD 21. MCap, USD mIn Free Float, %	
Stock Ownership	
State Privat Group Minorities	50%+1 42% 8%
Ratios 2004*	
EBITDA Margin EBIT Margin Net Margin	62% 49% 34%
Net Debt/Equity *Based on adjusted sales	0.06

21 Dec 2005 **USD 39.2**

12m Target

USD 35.7

Ukrnafta's EGM on December 20, 2005, confirmed speculation that the company had finally found a foreign country interested in allowing it extract oil. The new Nigerian project could potentially put an end to Ukrnafta's concerns about the depletion of oil reserves in Ukraine. This raises our optimism for the company's future. Yet, we retain our HOLD recommendation until we receive confirmation that the contracts have been signed and licenses received.

Foreign Extraction Opportunities Taking Shape. On December 20, 2005 Ukrnafta held an EGM with 90.6% of all votes registered. Ihor Kolomoyskiy, one of Ukraine's wealthiest businessmen and the key player in Privat group, UNAF's largest minority shareholder, was present at the meeting, a rare sight at events like this. The EGM voted to create an Ukrnafta JV in Nigeria. According to the company's CEO, Igor Palytsia, a Nigerian minister visited Ukrnafta to discuss the possibility of the company receiving licenses for the exploration and extraction of Nigerian oil. In addition, if these talks materialize, Ukrnafta will have an opportunity to purchase crude from Nigeria at below market prices. The monthly volume of additional oil is estimated to be around 150 ths mt, or 60% of the company's current extraction. Now the management is negotiating with Russian companies to substitute Nigerian oil with Russian oil to simplify shipping.

Naftogaz's CEO Now Chairman Of The Board For Ukrnafta. Oleksiy lychenko's replacement of former Chairperson Serhiy Pereloma was the most important change to the Board, all other moves made at the EGM were minor reshuffles of Naftogaz personnel. We see Ivchenko's appointment as a sign of enhanced state control over the company, which is the price Privat was forced to pay to retain their management position. This should lead to higher transparency and give the company state support in vertical integration endeavors. However, these positive developments will come at cost, extraction royalties are set to increase 59% in 2006 which will up the company's tax burden.

Ukrnafta Not To Bid For A 33% Stake In The Galychyna Refinery.

In the words of both Palytsia and Kolomoyskiy, Ukrnafta decided not to bid for the refinery because the stake offered would not give the company full control over Galychyna. The company announced this in the wake of rumors that Privat had intended to sell its stake in the refinery at an inflated price to Ukrnafta. However, Ukrnafta made it clear that it would be interested in buying a controlling stake in the Galychyna refinery, or, alternatively, in the Odesa, Kherson or Nadvirna refineries should they be offered for sale to complete its vertical integration. Currently Ukrnafta uses beneficial tolling schemes with the Naftokhimyk Prykrarpattya refinery (Nadvirna) to produce oil products.

KEY FINANCIAL DATA, USD min

	Net Revenue	EBITDA	Net Income	DPS, USD
2004	736.0	459.0	253.3	4.670
2005E	1,271.1	669.4	388.7	2.866
2006E	2,287.6	866.3	485.9	2.240
Spot Exchang	je Rate	5.05		

KEY RATIC	s			
	P/S	P/E	EV/EBITDA	Div Yield
2004	2.89	8.39	4.80	11.9%
2005E	1.67	5.47	3.59	7.3%
2006E	0.93	4.37	2.66	5.7%



Retail Expansion To Resume Next Year. Ukrnafta had to rein in its pace of gas station acquisitions due to intensified state control and inspection for transfer pricing. Consequently, the company only won tenders for the purchase of 197 new stations making its total 598 stations. The company had planned to push its total to 800 this year. We forecasted 750 units in Ukrnafta's network by the end of 2005. Out of 197 potential acquisitions, the company has already received a permit from the Antimonopoly Committee for the purchase of 95 stations and transferred money for 28 stations. We expect Ukrnafta to catch up on its expansion plans next year, as the turmoil around the company calms down.

2005 Net Income Tops Our Forecast But Sales Fall Short. According to Ukrnafta's CEO, the company will be able to post a net income of almost USD 400 mln in the current year thanks to its retail segment. This is up 58% yoy and above our projection of USD 334 mln. After examining Ukrnafta's interim financials, we have found that the number mentioned by Palytsia is feasible provided Ukrnafta has a 4th quarter as strong as its 3rd quarter. In addition, Ukrnafta's net income goal will be more attainable if the effective tax rate in 2005 is reduced to 25% from 2004's 30%.

	1Q05	2Q05	3Q05	9
Net Revenues	242.0	227.2	370.7	8
EBITDA	130.1	110.0	198.7	4
EBITDA margin, %	53.8%	48.4%	53.6%	52
EBIT	106.6	85.7	173.4	3
EBIT margin, %	44.1%	37.7%	46.8%	43
PBT	107.4	83.1	170.9	3
Тах	-	(50.2)	-	(5
Effective tax rate	0%	60%	0%	
Net Income	107.4	32.9	170.9	3
Net Margin, %	44%	14%	46%	

Based on nine month UAS financials, Ukrnafta will likely report higher profitability margins than we projected largely due to higher than expected prices for oil products in 3Q05 and tolling schemes with Naftokhimyk Prykarpattya. With this in mind, we revised our 2005 projections as follows:

	2005E new	2005E old
Net Revenues	1,271.1	1,475.6
EBITDA	669.4	640.8
Net Income	388.7	334.0



Analyst Certification

I, Andriy Gostik, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this research report.



Stock Price And Target Price History, USD

Andriy Gostik		
Date	Target Price, USD	Closing Price, USD
20-Jan-03	7.28	4.43
17-Feb-03	7.36	4.32
07-May-03	8.13	4.23
03-Sep-03	8.34	4.05
05-Dec-03	10.70	5.87
19-May-04	22.65	13.23
06-Sep-04	Pending	5.93
03-Dec-04	32.00	15.17
11-Apr-05	35.70	27.75
26-Aug-05	Pending	37.00
22-Sep-05	35.70	39.20



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