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Metinvest-related stocks

Put options create speculative opportunity

Legislative changes that went into effect in 2011 give minority shareholders a put option if they vote against a specific AGM item, which Metinvest has included on all of its subsidiaries' AGM agendas in 2011 and so far has done this year. We believe this will create short-term speculative opportunities in the next 1-2 months in all Metinvest-controlled stocks, which could be especially pronounced in less liquid dividend-yielding names: Northern Iron Ore (SGOK), Central Iron Ore (CGOK) and Khartsyzk Pipe (HRTR).

We introduce a notion of temporary embedded put option (TEPO). The TEPO opportunity arises from amendments to the Law on Joint Stock Companies, which went into effect in mid-2011. The law requires a public joint-stock company to offer a share buyback to minorities who vote against an item titled "significant deals" at an AGM. According to the law, the strike price shall be the market price on the day before the issuer announced its AGM. In recent years, all Metinvest-controlled companies have included the item "significant deals" on their AGM agendas — and this year they seem to be continuing the tradition, as we have already seen with Yenakiieve Steel and unlisted Inguletsky Iron Ore. We expect the agendas of other Metinvest companies to also contain this item. We expect Metinvest's other businesses to announce AGMs over the next 2-4 weeks, and conduct shareholder meetings within a month of announcement (according to legislation).

We expect a speculative rally in Metinvest stocks ahead of AGMs. With the TEPO effectively on the table, we believe minority shareholders looking to sell their shares in Metinvest-related stocks will be inclined to sell to the issuer after the respective AGM rather than sell on the open market. This exit opportunity is especially attractive for less liquid stocks, like SGOK, CGOK and HRTR, as it removes price risk during exit. As a result, we believe this will limit selling pressure on these stocks in the interim, thus leaving room only for buyers.

Recommended long-term and short-term opportunities. We confirm our BUY ratings on Northern Iron Ore, Southern Iron Ore and Khartsyzk Pipe; current prices imply 24-113% upsides to our 12M target prices. At the same time, we expect sizable dividends from these three names and recommend, in particular, the iron ore stocks as long-term dividend paying instruments, both generating an IRR of 26%. We estimate the dividend yield to be paid for SGOK's stock in 2012 at 24%, for CGOK's equity at 26%, and around 23% for HRTR. In addition to our fundamental buys, we believe the market might reward the stocks' TEPO opportunities in the short-term. The same opportunity, while to a lesser extent, should be available in other Metinvest-related stocks: Azovstal, Yenakiieve Steel, Avdiivka Coke and MMK Illicha Steel.

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Metinvest's dividend paying stocks

Northern Iron Ore (SGOK)	
Metinvest ownership*	63.3%
Target price, USD	1.79
Upside	26%
Expected dividend yield, 2012	24%
Central Iron Ore (CGOK)	
Metinvest ownership*	75.96%
Target price, USD	1.23
Upside	24%
Expected dividend yield	26%
Khartsyzk Pipe (HRTR)	
Metinvest ownship	91.79%
Target price, USD	0.32
Upside	113%
Expected dividend yield, 2012	23%
Other Metinyest stocks	
Azovstal (AZST)	
Metinvest ownship	95.65%
Avdiivka Coke (AVDK)	
Metinvest ownship	85.98%

85.63%

99.15%

Source: Bloomberg, Concorde Capital estimates

Yenakiieve Steel (ENMZ)

MMK Illicha Steel (MMKI) Metinvest ownship

Metinvest ownship

^{*} Stakes of 36.15% in SGOK and 23.52% in CGOK are owned by SCM, bypassing Metivnest Note: upsides and dividend yields calculated based on February 29 prices



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