CIRCLE

Strong 2H20 and FY21 off to a good start

Strong revenue growth driven by proprietary suites (+30%). Circle Group, an international player specialised in providing innovative technological solutions for automation and digitalisation of the entire supply chain, with distinctive vertical skills in the port and intermodal logistics sectors, recently released FY20 results posting yoy revenue growth of +23% mainly driven by the proprietary suites which increased revenues by +30% yoy. Overall, revenues came in at Euro 7.5 m (Euro 6.1 m in FY19) and slightly above our estimates of Euro 7.2 m, after a strong 2H with organic revenue growth of c. +23% (revenue growth in 1H of +23% was partially driven by the acquisition of Progetto Adele in August 2019). EBITDA adjusted to exclude Euro 0.6 m of Covid-19 related non-recurring investments for market development and internationalization, stood at Euro 1.3 m with an EBITDA margin of 17.3% vs. 24.6% in FY19 (Euro 1.5 m), following the integration of M&A transactions and an important boost in FY20 in the sale of property software in SaaS mode (as opposed to licences+ maintenance) which increased its total weight on proprietary software sales to 90% (c. 50% in FY19), which on the one hand leads to a steady "recurring" income over the next years, while on the other produces a lower profitability in the first year. Non adjusted EBITDA came in at Euro 0.7 m with an EBITDA margin of c. 9% (Euro 1.2 m, and 19.7% in FY19) somewhat below our estimates of Euro 1.0 m (14.5% EBITDA margin) following higher than expected non-recurring expenses. EBIT was of Euro 0.04 m (Euro 0.6 m in FY 19) and Net Profit stood at Euro 0.03 m vs. Euro 0.5 m in FY19 and Euro 0.3 m as of our estimates. Solid balance sheet and good operating cash flow allowing for investment in growth. At the end of FY20, the Group presented Net Cash position of Euro 0.6 m, up from Euro 0.3 m in FY19 and Euro 0.5 m in 1H20 thanks to good management of Working Capital, and after investments of Euro 1.3 m related to M&A transactions (Log@Sea) and investments in product development as well as the above-mentioned non-recurring investments.

Roadmap 2024 confirmed In FY20, despite COVID-19 related difficulties, the Group managed to grow revenues while continuing to develop the business with the launch of a new set of federative services, the JV with Magellan, increased participation in Log@Sea network (JV with Aitek for the development of software for gate automation and digitisation of port and intermodal nodes (road-and railway)), and two new business lines: EU Branding (services to help clients to improve visibility and obtain financing in a European context) and Optimization 4.0 (development of process optimization tools for the port logistics sector). Based on the above, Management highlighted that the business model focusing on the digitalization of ports, terminals and intermodal logistics has proven COVID-19 resilience, and hence confirmed the strategic road map announced last December with FY24 targets: (i) revenues of Euro 14 – 16 m, (ii) EBITDA: Euro 2.1 – 3.0 m, (iii) increase in international activities to 25 – 30%, and (iv) increase in SaaS and PPU services.

Positive outlook confirmed as FY21 is off to a good start. Management did not provide any guidance for FY21 but stated that the results in the first two months of the year confirm the growth trend of FY20 with strong demand of federative services in SaaS mode (+55%). Management also underlined that the Governmental incentives "Transizione 4.0" and the consolidation of the Next Generation EU plan should accelerate demand of digitization of business processes and Connecting EU services (EU Branding and Project Anticipation) respectively. In particular, the new JV with Magellan represent an important asset to benefit from the opportunities deriving from the Next Generation EU fund. Management also highlighted that at the end of FY20, backlog stood at Euro 9.0 m, higher than total sales in FY20. Given the above, we confirm our positive outlook for Circle as we believe the group can benefit from the ongoing digitalization trend in the logistics sector thanks to its strong product portfolio and recent investments and strategic alliances and M&A.

Estimates revision and Valuation: We reviewed our FY21 estimates to incorporate a slight delay in the formal closing of the Magellan JV (now within May, although already fully operational) and uncertainties related to a longer than expected duration of pandemic. We now assume a FY21 revenue growth of c. +14% (+20% previously). Overall, we made an average change in our revenue, EBITDA and EPS estimates of 0%, -9% and -4% respectively. Based on our new estimates and updated valuation model, we confirm our target price of Euro 4.52 per share, (Euro 4.53 p.s. previously), providing for a +54% upside on current stock price and obtained by weighting equally the DCF and the multiple comparison analysis.

FY 20 UPDATE NOTE AIM Italia – April 6th, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Sector: Technology

Target Price (Euro)	4.52 (4.53 pr)
Market Price (Euro)	2.94
Market Cap (Euro m)	10
EV (Euro m)	11
As of April 6, 2021	

Share Data

Market	AIM Italia
Reuters/Bloomberg	CURC:IM/CIRC.MI
ISIN	IT0005344996
N. of Shares	3,470,115
Free Float	23.17%
CEO	Luca Abatello

Financials

	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenues	7.5	8.5	10.8	13.0
YoY %	23%	14%	27%	20%
EBITDA	0.7	1.3	1.9	2.6
EBITDA %	9%	16%	18%	20%
EBIT	0.0	0.7	1.3	1.9
EBIT %	0.5%	9%	12%	14%
Net Income	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.4
Net Debt / (Cash)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(2.0)
Net Equity	4.4	5.0	6.0	7.4

Performance

	1M	3M	6M
Absolute	+3%	+7%	+4%
Relative (FTSE AIM Italia)	-5%	-8%	-21%
52-week High/Low (Eu)	3.03		2.58

IR TOP RESEARCH

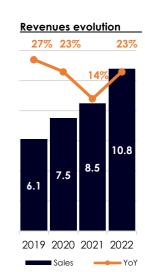
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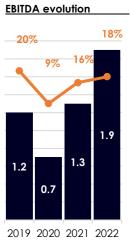


IRTOP RESEARCH KEY FIGURES

FY 20 UPDATE NOTE AIM Italia – April 6th, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Profit&Loss Stetement		2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Sales		4,3	5,4	6,2	8,0	9,6
Revenues (VoP)		6,1	7,5	8,5	10,8	13,0
EBITDA		1,2	0,7	1,3	1,9	2,6
EBIT		0,6	0,0	0,7	1,3	1,9
Financial Income (charges)		0,0	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)
Pre-tax profit (loss)		0,6	0,0	0,7	1,3	1,9
Taxes		(0,1)	(0,0)	(0,2)	(0,3)	(0,5)
Group net profit (loss)		0,5	0,0	0,5	1,0	1,4
Dalam en Chinid						
Balance Sheet		2,1	1,7	2,0	2.6	3,1
Net working capital (NWC) Net fixed assets		2,1	2,9	2,0 2,9	2,8	3,1
M/L Funds		(0,7)	(0,8)	(0,8)	(0,8)	(0,9)
Net Capital Employed		4,1	3,8	4,2	4,7	5,3
Net Debt (Cash)		(0,3)	(0,6)	(0,8)	(1,2)	(2,0)
Net Equity		4,4	4,4	5,0	6,0	7,4
		,	,			
Cash Flow						
EBIT		0,6	0,0	0,7	1,3	1,9
D&A		0,6	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,7
Tax		(0,1)	(0,0)	(0,2)	(0,3)	(0,5)
Cahnge in M/L Funds		0,4	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Gross Cash Flow		1,4	0,8	1,1	1,7	2,2
Change in NWC		(1,4)	0,4	(0,3)	(0,6)	(0,5)
Operating Cash Flow		0,0	1,1	0,9	1,1	1,6
Capex		(1,7)	(0,8)	(0,7)	(0,7)	(0,8)
Change in other non-current asset		(0,0)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Financial Income (charges)		0,0	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)
Free Cash Flow		(1,7)	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,8
Dividend		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Change in Equity		(0,0)	(0,0)	0,0	0,0	0,0
Change in Net debt (Cash)		(1,8)	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,8
Per Share Data	60.04					
Current Price	€2,94					
Total shares out (mn)	3,47					
EPS	-,	0,12	0,01	0,12	0,22	0,31
DPS		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
FCF		(1,7)	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,8
Pay out ratio		0%	-	0%	0%	0%
Ratios						
EBITDA margin		19,9%	8,9%	15,5%	18,0%	20,0%
EBIT margin		9,9%	0,5%	8,6%	12,3%	14,4%
Net Debt/Equity (Gearing)		-7,6%	-13,9%	-16,3%	-20,4%	-27,5%
Net Debt/EBITDA		-0,28	-0,93	-0,61	-0,63	-0,78
Interest cover EBIT ROE		-625,49	3,08	56,30	102,17	143,96
ROCE		11,1% 17,4%	0,6%	10,8%	16,6% 35,0%	19,0% 43,9%
Free Cash Flow Yield		-59,2%	1,1% 11,0%	21,9% 6,5%	13,8%	43,7% 27,5%
		07,270	11,070	0,070	10,070	21,070
Growth Rates						
Sales		21%	25%	14%	30%	20%
Revenues (VoP)		26,9%	22,7%	14,0%	27,0%	20,0%
EBITDA		-6,9%	-45,2%	99,2%	47,5%	33,3%
EBIT		-22,3%	-93,3%	1729,7%	81,5%	40,9%
Net Profit		-21,0%	-94,7%	1973,7%	82,9%	41,3%





EBITDA EBITDA %

Net Debt evolution



2019	2020	2021	2022
Ne	et Debt		ND/EBITDA

Consolidated FY20 results

P&L Euro /000	2020A	2019A	Balance Sheet Euro		
Sales	5.422	4.349	/000	2020A	20
Revenues	7.464	4.047 6.083	Fixed Assets	2.870	2.
COGS	(433)	(525)	Trade receivables	2.239	2.
Services and use of third-party assets	(2.845)	(1.791)	Inventory Advances from	69	
Personnel	(3.410)	(2.429)	customers	(210)	(1
Change in inventory	44	(26)	Trade Payables	(1.137)	(9
Provisions	0	(5)	Operating Working Capital	961	1.
Other costs	(158)	(99)	Other current assets	2.064	1.
EBITDA	662	1.208	Other current liabilities	(1.173)	(1.0
EBITDA margin	8,9%	19,9%	Net accruals and	(1.170)	(1.0
D&A	(622)	(606)	deferrals	(129)	(1
EBIT	40	602	Net Working Capital	1.723	2.
EBITDA margin	0,5%	9,9%	Funds	(780)	(6
Financial income /(charges)	(13)	1	Net Invested Capital	3.813	4.
EBT	27	603	Net Debt	(617)	(3
Tax	(1)	(111)	Net Equity	4.431	4.
Net Income	26	492	Total Sources	3.814	4.

Source: Group Data

<u>Estimates revision – Euro m</u>

Euro m	20A	21E Old	21E New	22E Old	22E New	23E Old	23E New
Value of Production (VoP)	7,5	8,8	8,5	10,5	10,8	12,6	13,0
VoP YoY % growth	23,0%	21,0%	14,0%	20,0%	27,0%	20,0%	20,0%
Change in estimates	n.a.	n.a.	-3%	n.a.	3%	n.a.	3%
EBITDA	0,7	1,6	1,3	2,1	1,9	2,6	2,6
EBITDA margin	9%	18%	16%	20%	18%	21%	20%
Change in estimates	n.a.	n.a.	-18%	n.a.	-7%	n.a.	0%
EBIT	0,0	0,8	0,7	1,2	1,3	1,5	1,9
EBIT margin	1%	9%	9%	11%	12%	12%	14%
Pre-tax profit	0,0	0,8	0,7	1,2	1,3	1,5	1,9
EBT margin	0%	9%	8%	11%	12%	12%	14%
Group's Net Profit	0,0	0,7	0,5	1,0	1,0	1,2	1,4
Net margin	0%	8%	6%	10%	9%	10%	11%
EPS (Eu)	0,01	0,20	0,12	0,29	0,22	0,35	0,31
Change in estimates	n.a.	n.a.	-20%	n.a.	-4%	n.a.	13%

Euro m	20A	21E Old	21E New	22E Old	22E New	23E Old	23E New
Net working capital (NWC)	1,7	2,6	2,0	2,9	2,6	3,1	3,1
Net fixed assets	2,9	2,5	2,9	2,3	3,0	2,0	3,0
Funds	-0,8	-0,8	-0,8	-1,9	-0,8	-1,1	-0,9
Net Capital Employed	3,8	4,3	4,2	4,3	4,7	4,0	5,3
Net financial Debt (Cash)	-0,6	-1,2	-0,8	-2,2	-1,2	-3,7	-2,0
Total Equity	4,4	5,5	5,0	6,5	6,0	7,8	7,4
Sources	3,8	4,3	4,2	4,3	4,7	4,0	5,3

Source: Group data (OIC) for FY20, IR Top Research estimates for FY 2021-2023

FY 20 UPDATE NOTE AIM Italia – April 6th, 2021 2:00 p.m.

VALUATION SUMMARY

Method	Weight	Price (Eu)
Multiple analysis	50%	4.51
DCF	50%	4.54
Target Price	100%	4.52

PEER GROUP

Companies	Country	Market Cap (Euro m)	2019 revenue (Euro m)	Revenue % change 2019/2018	2020E revenue (Euro m)	2019 EBITDA margin	2020E EBITDA margin
CY4gate	Italy	9	13	93%	n.a.	17%	n.a.
Cyberoo	Italy	6	7	36%	14	43%	50%
DBA Group	Italy	1	6	n.a.	8	43%	25%
DHH	Italy	15	7	13%	18	7%	38%
Digital Value	Italy	47	363	23%	442	9%	n.a.
Doxee	Italy	6	15	13%	23	30%	25%
FOS	Italy	3	10	22%	13	23%	22%
MailUp	Italy	4	61	51%	64	8%	8%
Relatech	Italy	3	18	36%	25	22%	24%
AIM peers' average		10	56	36%	76	22%	27%
Datalogic	Italy	18	586	-7%	480	14%	10%
Exprivia	Italy	1	541	-8%	n.a.	5%	n.a.
Generix Group France	France	8	81	6%	80	12%	12%
Piteco	Italy	11	23	18%	24	43%	41%
PSI Software	Germany	28	225	13%	218	11%	12%
Reply	Italy	114	1,183	14%	1,250	14%	17%
Sesa	Italy	108	1,763	14%	2,091	4%	6%
TXT e-solutions	Italy	8	59	48%	69	11%	13%
Small & Mid Cap peers'	average	37	558	12%	602	14%	1 6 %
CIRCLE	Italy	10	6.1	21%	7.5	20 %	9 %

Companies	EV/EI	BITDA	P,	/E
	21E	22E	21E	22E
DBA Group	5.4	4.1	14.6	8.5
Cy4Gate	18.7	12.2	37.7	24.8
Cyberoo	15.4	6.6	40.8	11.4
DHH	8.4	6.9	22.9	17.5
Digital Value	7.4	5.7	16.3	13.6
Doxee	6.6	4.5	15.5	9.3
FOS	6.6	5.3	18.3	11.3
MailUp	11.1	7.1	56.2	23.9
Relatech	11.0	8.9	20.7	16.6
AIM peers' average	10.1	6.8	27.0	15.2
Datalogic	13.6	11.1	29.8	22.5
Generix Group France	13	10.5	33.4	25.6
Piteco	15.3	13.3	20	17.6
PSI Software	12.8	11.2	28.8	24.4
Reply	17.3	15	31.8	27.9
Sesa	10.1	8.7	22.5	19.6
TXT e-solutions	7.7	6.5	16.4	14.1
Small & Mid Cap peers' average	12.8	10.9	26.1	21.7
CIRCLE	8.3	5.7	18.5	10.1
Discount/Premium to AIM peers	-18%	-16%	-31%	-34%
Discount/Premium to Small & Mid Cap peers	-35%	-48%	-29%	-53%
Discount/Premium to peers	-26%	-32%	-30%	-44%

Source: PMI Capital for Circle and AIM peers data as of April 6th, 2021. FactSet data as of April 6th, 2021 for Small & Mid Cap peers.

CIRCLE IN BRIEF

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

CIRCLE Group, listed on AIM Italia since October 2018 and registered Innovative SME is an international player specialised in providing innovative technological solutions for automation and digitalisation of the entire supply chain, with distinctive vertical skills in the port and intermodal logistics sectors. Through a vertically integrated business model, the Group completes its offering with services supporting its clients in gathering European funding and achieving a strategic positioning at European level.

The Group, which in the 2012-2020 period has recorded a +25% CAGR thanks to a strategy based on a mix of organic growth and M&A, counts 70 employees and recorded revenues of Euro 7.5 m in FY 2020, of which over 30% realised outside Italy (Southern Europe, Mediterranean area, Black Sea and Middle East). Since 2017, the Group has concluded 4 M&A transactions and signed 4 strategic alliances.

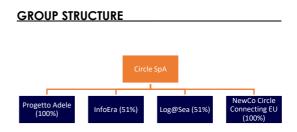
REFERENCE MARKET

CIRCLE operates in the **niche market of digital transformation and supply chain optimization for the port and intermodal logistics sector** in countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

Digitalisation and the arrival of innovative IoT technologies have created a disruption (digital disruption) in the local market of the logistics and the multimodal Supply Chain.

OPPORTUNITIES_

- Strong M&A track record with 3 acquisitions since 2017 (InfoEra, Progetto Adele and Log@Sea)
- Growing international trade and need of modernisation and automation of obsolete infrastructure in ports and intermodal hubs.
- Well positioned to exploit opportunities in growing markets thanks to its already extended international footprint.
- Historical track-record and long-lasting relations with clients.
- Technological innovation and different proprietary software.
- Solid expertise in business process reengineering and project management, as well as of EU policies, allowing the Company to offer a product portfolio anticipating EU regulations.



BUSINESS UNITS

Business Unit	Innovative and Smart Supply Chain	Global Supply Chain Visibility	Connecting EU
Actors / Customers	 Inland and Port terminal Operators Multimodal Transport Operators & Rail Companies Port Authorities and Port Communities Shipping Agencies 	 Shippers Freight Forwarders Customs Operators 	 Private and Public entities specialized in port, transport and logistics
Products / Services	(Milos (Sinfomar	(Milos (MasterSPED	Project Anticipation EU Branding

STRATEGY

- Continuous development of proprietary products, in particular Milos®, MasterSped®, and MasterTrade
- EU services evolution
- Geographical expansion in target areas
- External growth through acquisitions of companies and/or strategic assets and joint ventures.
- New "federative" services launched in September 2020 to meet the needs for a full digitalization of the Supply Chain

MAIN RISKS

- Highly competitive market.
- Difficulty in recruiting new skilled human resources.
- Limited brand awareness and bargaining power.
- Implementation of the strategies and future development plans.
- Obsolete IT systems of clients and hacking risks.

CIRCLE ON AIM ITALIA

IPO

Trading Market: AIM Italia – Borsa Italiana SpA Date: October 26th, 2018 Price: 2.40 Capital raised: Euro 1,532,160 Capitalisation: Euro 7.57 m

SHARES (as of April 6th, 2021) Code: CIRC Bloomberg: CIRC:IM Reuters: CIRC.MI ISIN: IT0005344996 Shares: 3,470,115 Share Capital: Euro 233,000 Price: Euro 2.94 Performance from IPO: +23%¹ Capitalisation: Euro 10 m Free Float: 23.17% NomAd and Specialist: Integrae Sim SpA Auditing firm: BDO Italia SpA

OWNERSHIP

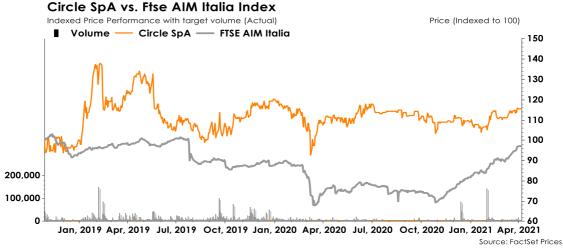
CIRCLE is owned by the co-founder, and CEO Luca Abatello, who holds 63.05% of outstanding shares. The share capital subscribed and paid up is Euro 233,000, mad up by 3,470,115 ordinary shares without nominal value. Innotech, LigurCapital, CapitalImpresa and Alcalela have a lock-up agreement with the NomAd pm their shares for 30 months from the IPO date (April 26,2021).

Shareholder	N° of shares	%
Innotech Srl ¹	2,187,966	63.05%
LigurCapital SpA ²	169,851	4.89%
CapitalImpresa SpA ²	169,851	4.89%
Alcalela Srl ³	121,407	3.50%
Own Shares	17,160	0.49%
Market	803,880	23.17%
Total	3,470,115	100.00%

Source: Company data as of April 6th, 2021

¹ 100% Luca Abatello, ² Funds, ³ Related to Alexio Picco, CIRCLE's co-founder and Director

STOCK PERFORMANCE



Circle SpA vs. Ftse AIM Italia Index

¹ Considering IPO price adjusted for script dividend

DISCLAIMER

UPDATES: This Research is an update coverage made by IR Top Consulting S.r.I. (IR Top) on CIRCLE (the "Company"). Update frequency might depend on circumstances considered to be important (corporate events and changes of recommendation, etc.) or on further advisory commitment. Last Research on the same Company was released on February 1st 2021. Opinions and estimates of this Research are as the date of this material and are subject to change. Information and opinions have been obtained from sources public and believed to be reliable, but no warranty is made as to their accuracy or correctness. Past performances of the Company are not guarantee of future results. During the last 12 months, the following indicctions have been disseminated:

	Date	Target Price	Market Price	Validity Time			
	April 6 th , 2021	4.52	2.94	12 months			
	February 1st, 2021	4.53	2.72	12 months			
	September 30th, 2020	4.40	2.82	12 months			
	April 21st, 2020	4.49	2.86	12 months			
	September 26 th , 2019	4.91	2.57	12 months			
	March 21st, 2019	4.86	2.96	12 months			
	November 15th, 2018	3.71	2.50	12 months			

VALUATION METHODOLOGY (HORIZON: 12M): IR Top obtained a fair value using different valuation methodologies including Discounted Cash Flow method and Multiple-based models. Moreover, IR Top used a proprietary model, "AIM Positioning rating", which incorporates a number of variables selected by IR Top based on research of "Osservatorio AIM Italia", managed by IR Top and focused on research about performance of Companies listed on AIM Italia.

Detailed information about the valuation or methodology and the underlying assumptions and information about the proprietary model used is accessible at IR Top premises.

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No other people or companies participated or anyhow contributed to the Research. Neither the members of the research team, nor any person closely associated with them have any relationships or are involved in circumstances that may reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the Research, including interests or conflicts of interest, on their part or on the part of any natural or legal person working for them, who was involved in producing the Research.

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