S&T AG Austria - IT Services



H&A FIRST TAKE

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04-November-21

Q3 below exp. but upbeat comments on FY'22E

EUR	Q3'21	Q3'21	Q3'21	Q3'20	yoy	Q2'21	qoq	9M'21	9M'20	yoy
LON		est	cons.							
Sales	313	315	322	298	5%	306	2%	914	836	9%
EBITDA	27.3	29.8	30.5	31.7	-14%	30.1	-9%	85.6	83.7	2%
EBITDA margin	8.7%	9.5%	9.5%	10.7%	- 2.0 pp	9.8%	- 1.1 pp	9.4%	10.0%	- 0.6 pp
EBIT	11.7	13.7	14.5	17.2	-32%	13.9	-16%	38.3	41.5	-8%
EBIT margin	3.7%	4.3%	4.5%	5.8%	- 2.0 pp	4.5%	- 0.8 pp	4.2%	5.0%	- 0.8 pp
EPS	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.18	-8%	0.16	1%	0.48	0.48	2%

Topic: soft Q3 results missed expectations on EBITDA and EBIT. The FY'21E guidance was confirmed, though S&T is now likely to reach the low-end only.

- Q3 organic growth was slightly negative due to € 40m of further projects delays driven by chip shortages. The total project overhang now stands at € 79m for the 9M'21. Positive overall sales growth was supported by M&A contributions from CITYCOMP (IT Services) and Iskratel (IoT Europe).
- Despite € 2.4m yoy higher R&D capitalisation, Q3 EBITDA dropped 14% yoy to € 27.3m due to cost inflation amidst shortages and a limited positive M&A impact on the bottom-line. The negative EBITDA impact should have amounted to € 3m in 9M'21, of which € 1.5m accrued in Q3'21 (eH&A). This includes € 1m of reengineering expenses (see below). Also, S&T incurred € 0.5m severance costs in Q3 due to a 10% cost reduction in IoT Americas. Q3 EPS of € 0.16 was in-line thanks to an unexpected favourable tax effect from tax loss carry forwards.
- FY'21E guidance confirmed but mid- / high-end now looks out of reach. S&T expects € 1.33-1.40bn sales and EBITDA of € 133-140m. EBITDA in Q4 would need to rise by 2% yoy to reach the low end of the FY'21 guidance. Anything above the low-end looks too ambitious in this environment. Importantly, street estimates of € 135m EBITDA already largely discount this.

While Q3 was soft, upbeat comments during the conference call suggest that S&T has passed the trough and that prospects for FY'22E look more favourable again:

- The supply situation is set to normalise in 2022. First, S&T has received positive signs from key supplier Intel that more complex chips will soon be shippable. These are used in high-margin products. Management expects € 30m of the overhang to turn into revenues in Q1'22E and another € 10-20m in Q2'22E. Second, S&T is in the process of redesigning products to rely on newer chips, which have better availability, leading to short-term pain (€ 1m re-engineering expenses in Q3'21) but long-term gain. Re-engineering should take six months; another € 30m of the project overhang should hence be turned into revenue in H2'22E.
- S&T will push through price increases to offset higher input prices. The company raised prices by 6% in Sept. '21 and will raise by another 10% in Jan. '22 on average. Procurement spot prices were up 7% on average, hurting EBITDA by € 2m this year (see above).
- Management still expects positive operating cash flow of € 30-50m for the FY'21E, implying € 45-65m positive operating cash flow in Q4. CFO was € -15m in 9M'21.

Tim Wunderlich, CFA
Analyst

tim.wunderlich@ha-ib.de +49 40 4143885 81

Buy

Price target: EUR 31.00

Price: EUR 20.78

Close price as of: 29.10.2021

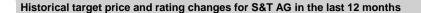
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Company	Disclosure
S&T AG	3





Company	Date	Analyst	Rating	Target price	Close
S&T AG	26.10.2021	Wunderlich, CFA, Tim	Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,82
	12.10.2021	Wunderlich, CFA, Tim	Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,22
	10.09.2021	Wunderlich, CFA, Tim	Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 22,70
	07.09.2021	Wunderlich, CFA, Tim	Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
	07.09.2021	Wunderlich, CFA, Tim	Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04

n Buy	ELID 24 00	EUD 04.04
	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,04
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 22,02
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,46
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,22
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,22
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 21,22
n Buy	EUR 31,00	EUR 23,80
n Buy	EUR 33,00	EUR 22,76
n Buy	EUR 33,00	EUR 19,20
n Buy	EUR 33,00	EUR 18,33
	Buy	Buy EUR 31,00 Buy EUR 33,00 Buy EUR 33,00 Buy EUR 33,00 Buy EUR 33,00

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Contacts: Hauck & Aufhäuser Privatbankiers AG

Hauck & Aufhäuser Research

Hauck & Aufhäuser Privatbankiers AG Mittelweg 16/17 20148 Hamburg Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 40 414 3885 91 Fax: +49 (0) 40 414 3885 71 Email: research@ha-ib.de www.ha-research.de

Tim Wunderlich, CFA

Head of Transactional Research Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 81 E-Mail: tim.wunderlich@ha-ib.de

Christian Sandherr

Head of Equity Advisory Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 79 E-Mail: christian.sandherr@ha-ib.de

Christian Glowa

Analyst Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 95 E-Mail: christian.glowa@ha-ib.de

Jorge González Sadornil

Senior Analyst Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 84 E-Mail: jorge.gonzalez@ha-ib.de

Simon Bentlage

Analyst Tel.: +49 40 450 6342 3096 E-Mail: simon.bentlage@ha-ib.de

Henning Breiter

Head of Research Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 73 E-Mail: henning.breiter@ha-ib.de

Alexander Galitsa

Analyst

Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 83 E-Mail: alexander.galitsa@ha-ib.de

Christian Salis

Analyst Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 96 E-Mail: christian.salis@ha-ib.de

Nicole Winkler

Analyst Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 97 E-Mail: nicole.winkler@ha-ib.de

Marie-Thérèse Grübner

Head of Capital Advisory Tel.: +49 40 450 6342 3097

E-Mail: marie-therese.gruebner@ha-ib.de

Alina Köhler

Analyst

Tel.: +49 40 450 6342 3095 E-Mail: alina.koehler@ha-ib.de

Frederik Jarchow

Analyst Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 76 E-Mail: frederik.jarchow@ha-ib.de

Philipp Sennewald

Analyst

Tel.: +49 40 450 6342 3091 E-Mail: philipp.sennewald@ha-ib.de

Hauck & Aufhäuser Sales

Alexander Lachmann

Equity Sales Tel.: +41 43 497 30 23

E-Mail: alexander.lachmann@ha-ib.de

Christian Bybjerg

Equity Sales

Tel.: +49 414 3885 74

E-Mail: christian.bybjerg@ha-ib.de

Markus Scharhag

Equity Sales

Tel.: +49 89 23 93 2813 E-Mail: markus.scharhag@ha-ib.de

Vincent Bischoff

Equity Sales Tel.: +49 40 414 38 85 88 E-Mail: vincent.bischoff@ha-ib.de

Carlos Becke

Equity Sales

Tel.: +44 203 84 107 97 E-Mail: carlos.becke@ha-ib.de

Hugues Madelin

Equity Sales Tel.: +33 1 78 41 40 62

E-Mail: hugues.madelin@ha-ib.de

Rune Dinesen

Equity Sales

Tel.: +49 40 414 38 85 72 E-Mail: rune.dinesen@ha-ib.de

Christian Schwenkenbecher

Equity Sales

Tel.: +44 203 84 107 96

E-Mail: christian.schwenkenbecher@ha-ib.de

Imogen Voorspuy

Equity Sales

Tel: +44 203 84 107 98

E-Mail: imogen.voorspuy@ha-ib.de

Valentin Popow

Equity Sales Tel.: +49 69 2161 1749

E-Mail: valentin.popow@ha-ib.de

Hauck & Aufhäuser Sales Trading

Hauck & Aufhäuser Privatbankiers AG Mittelweg 16/17 20148 Hamburg Germany

Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 78 Fax: +49 40 414 3885 71 Email: info@hauck-aufhaeuser.com www.hauck-aufhaeuser.com

Fin Schaffer

Tel.: +49 40 414 38 85 98

E.Mail: fin.schaffer@hauck-aufhaeuser.com

Tom Warlich

Middle-Office Tel.: +49 40 414 3885 78

E.Mail: tom.warlich@hauck-aufhaeuser.com

Nils Carstens

Tel.: +49 40 414 38 85 85 E.Mail: Nils.Carstens@ha-ib.de

Carolin Heidrich

Middle-Office

Tel.: +49 176 10 59 41 52

E-Mail: carolin.heidrich@hauck-aufhaeuser.com