

## EQUITY RESEARCH

STAR7 RESULTS REVIEW

# BUY TP 12.2€ (vs 12.0€) <sup>Up/Downside: 118%</sup>

## STAR7 sta diventando sempre più internazionale.

STAR7 ha pubblicato ieri i dati preliminari relativi ai ricavi del S1 2024, in crescita organica del 18%, significativamente superiore alla nostra stima del 12.4%. La crescita è stata trainata dalla divisione Product Knowledge (+39.2% YoY) e dalla divisione Engineering (+30.8% YoY) ed è stata principalmente concentrata in Brasile (+51.5% YoY) e negli Stati Uniti (+37.7% YoY).

STAR7 ha pubblicato ieri i risultati preliminari per il primo semestre del 2024, mostrando una crescita interamente organica del 18% (rispetto al 12.4% previsto). La divisione Product Knowledge and Experience è diventata nuovamente la principale divisione (34.2% dei ricavi), grazie a una crescita YoY del 39.2%, in parte trainata dal nuovo contratto di collaborazione con un nuovo cliente negli Stati Uniti e in Brasile. Successivamente, Global Content (34.1% dei ricavi) è cresciuta del 12.1% YoY, grazie ai significativi progressi con il principale cliente della divisione, con il quale l'azienda sta attivamente collaborando allo sviluppo di tecnologie principalmente rivolte al mercato indiano. La divisione Engineering (20.4% dei ricavi) è cresciuta del 30.8%, evidenziando sempre più la capacità di cross-selling dell'azienda. Infine, la divisione Printing (11.3% dei ricavi) ha chiuso con un calo YoY del 20.2%.

Analizzando gli stessi dati per regione, l'Italia rimane il principale mercato di STAR7, generando il 51.2% dei ricavi del primo semestre (+5.7% YoY). Gli Stati Uniti seguono, rappresentando ora il 25.1% dei ricavi grazie a una significativa crescita del 37.7%. Anche il Brasile è cresciuto sostanzialmente, con un aumento del +51.5% YoY, rimanendo il terzo polo geografico dell'azienda con il 18.1% dei ricavi. Infine, il resto del mondo (principalmente l'Europa) ha registrato un calo YoY del 9.2%.

Abbiamo rivisto al rialzo le nostre previsioni di crescita dei ricavi per il 2024 al 15% (rispetto al 12.4% precedentemente), così come l'EBITDA, ora a €19m (rispetto ai €18.8m precedentemente). La previsione del debito netto di fine anno rimane invariata a causa di tre aggiustamenti. Abbiamo ridotto la previsione degli investimenti in capex di circa €2m, poiché stimiamo che l'azienda sia ben avanzata nella fase di integrazione di CAAR e quindi avrà bisogno di investire meno. Abbiamo anche migliorato la generazione di flussi di cassa operativi di €3m, poiché riteniamo che l'azienda sarà in grado di gestire meglio il suo capitale circolante quest'anno. Infine, abbiamo incluso un'uscita di cassa per il pagamento della divisione ingegneristica di CAAR di €5m, poiché stimiamo che l'acquisizione potrebbe essere pagata entro la fine dell'anno. L'impatto sul debito netto per il 2024 è neutrale, ma lo scenario di generazione di cassa a partire dal 2025 è significativamente migliorato. Stiamo alzando il target di prezzo su STAR7, che riteniamo fortemente sottovalutata, a €12.2.

12/23	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e	Va
105.6	121.5	129.3	137.3	EV
10.0	13.3	14.9	16.3	EV
9.5	11.0	11.5	11.9	EV
0.76	1.04	1.17	1.30	PH
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Sc
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
-2.7	7.0	5.9	5.2	
	105.6 10.0 9.5 0.76 0.00 0.0	105.6 121.5   10.0 13.3   9.5 11.0   0.76 1.04   0.00 0.00   0.0 0.0	105.6 121.5 129.3   10.0 13.3 14.9   9.5 11.0 11.5   0.76 1.04 1.17   0.00 0.00 0.00   0.0 0.0 0.0	105.6 121.5 129.3 137.3   10.0 13.3 14.9 16.3   9.5 11.0 11.5 11.9   0.76 1.04 1.17 1.30   0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

Valuation Ratio	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
EV/Sales	0.7	0.6	0.5
EV/EBITDA	4.5	3.8	3.2
EV/EBIT	6.5	5.4	4.6
PE	5.4	4.8	4.3
Source: TPICAP Midcan			

Key data	
Price (€)	5.6
Industry	Corporate Services
Ticker	STAR7-IT
Shares Out (m)	9.000
Market Cap (m €)	50.4
Source: FactSet	

#### Ownership (%)

Dante Srl	41.7
Star Ag	33.4
Kairos Partners SGR SpA	6.1
Free float	18.8
Source: TPICAP Midcap estimates	

EPS (€)	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
Estimates	1.04	1.17	1.30
Change vs previous estimates (%)	2.88	3.78	10.02

Source: TPICAP Midcap estimates

Performance (%)	1D	1M	YTD
Price Perf	-1.8	-6.7	-26.3
Rel FTSE Italy	-1.3	-9.0	-34.8



#### Source: FactSet

Consensus FactSet - Analysts:2	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
Sales	118.9	128.6	137.5
EBIT	10.4	12.1	13.4
Net income	5.4	6.8	7.6





## FINANCIAL DATA

Income Statement	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
Sales	60.0	85.0	105.6	121.5	129.3	137.3
Changes (%)	34.6	41.6	24.3	15.0	6.5	6.1
Gross profit	56.3	79.8	99.6	116.0	123.9	131.8
% of Sales	93.7	93.9	94.3	95-5	95.8	96.0
EBITDA	8.3	15.5	14.6	19.0	21.1	23.1
% of Sales	13.8	18.3	13.8	15.6	16.3	16.8
Current operating profit	5.2	11.8	10.0	13.3	14.9	16.3
% of Sales	8.6	13.9	9.5	11.0	11.5	11.9
Non-recurring items	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
EBIT	5.1	11.6	10.0	13.3	14.8	16.2
Net financial result	-0.6	-2.3	-3.0	-3.0	-2.9	-2.8
Income Tax	-0.9	-1.9	-1.2	-2.3	-2.9	-3.4
Tax rate (%)	19.8	20.8	16.8	22.8	24.4	25.6
Net profit, group share	3.3	7.1	5.8	7.9	9.0	10.0
EPS	0.43	0.92	0.76	1.04	1.17	1.30
Financial Statement	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
Goodwill	35.5	33.6	30.0	30.2	25.7	21.5
Tangible and intangible assets	12.0	12.5	17.4	17.5	17.4	16.9
Right of Use	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial assets	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Working capital	15.3	24.9	31.0	33.0	37.2	43.1
Other Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assets	63.1	71.8	78.7	81.1	80.6	81.7
Shareholders equity group	24.6	28.3	30.5	34.9	40.3	46.6
Minorities	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
LT & ST provisions and others	5.7	7.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Net debt	31.9	35.1	37.8	35.8	29.9	24.7
Other liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liabilities	63.1	71.8	78.7	81.1	80.6	81.7
Net debt excl. IFRS 16	31.9	35.1	37.8	35.8	29.9	24.7
Gearing net	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.5
Leverage	3.9	2.3	2.6	1.9	1.4	1.1
Cool floor statement	. (.					. 1. 6
Cash flow statement	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
CF after elimination of net borrowing costs and taxes	7.7	12.4	12.3	13.6	15.2	16.8
ΔWCR	2.2	-9.6	-5.7	-2.1	-4.2	-5-9
Operating cash flow	9.9	2.8	6.6	11.5	11.0	10.9
Net capex	-6.1	-4.2	-9.3	-4.6	-5.1	-5.7
FCF	3.8	-1.4	-2.7	7.0	5.9	5.2
Acquisitions/Disposals of subsidiaries	-31.6	-2.2	0.0	-5.0	0.0	0.0
Other investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in borrowings	33.1	-1.8	-6.5	-5.2	-2.8	-2.8
Dividends paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Repayment of leasing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equity Transaction	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in net cash over the year	17.4	-5.2	-9.1	-3.3	3.1	2.4
ROA (%)	5.7%	10.3%	7.4%	9.8%	11.1%	12.2%
ROE (%)	14.6%	26.2%	19.1%	22.7%	22.3%	21.4%



### DISCLAIMER

#### Analyst certifications

This research report (the "Report") has been approved by Midcap, a business division of TP ICAP (Europe) SA ("Midcap"), an Investment Services Provider authorised and regulated by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution ("ACPR"). By issuing this Report, each Midcap analyst and associate whose name appears within this Report hereby certifies that (i) the recommendations and opinions expressed in the Report accurately reflect the research analyst's and associate's personal views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers discussed herein and (ii) no part of the research analyst's or associate's compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations or views expressed by the research analyst or associate in the Report.

#### Methodology

This Report may mention evaluation methods defined as follows:

1. DCF method: discounting of future cash flows generated by the company's operations. Cash flows are determined by the analyst's financial forecasts and models. The discount rate used corresponds to the weighted average cost of capital, which is defined as the weighted average cost of the company's debt and the theoretical cost of its equity as estimated by the analyst.

2. Comparable method: application of market valuation multiples or those observed in recent transactions. These multiples can be used as references and applied to the company's financial aggregates to deduce its valuation. The sample is selected by the analyst based on the characteristics of the company (size, growth, profitability, etc.). The analyst may also apply a premium/discount depending on his perception of the company's characteristics.

3. Assets and liabilities method: estimate of the value of equity capital based on revalued assets adjusted for the value of the debt.

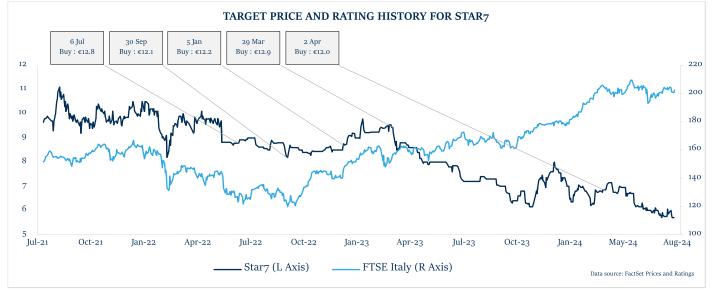
4. Discounted dividend method: discounting of estimated future dividend flows. The discount rate used is generally the cost of capital.5. Sum of the parts: this method consists of estimating the various activities of a company using the most appropriate valuation method for each of them, then realizing the sum of the parts.

#### Conflict of Interests between TP ICAP Midcap and the Issuer

G. Midcap and the Issuer have agreed to the provision by the former to the latter of a service for the production and distribution of the investment recommendation on the said Issuer: Star7

K. Midcap, according to article 3, paragraph 1, numbers (34) and (35) Regulation (EU) No 596/2014, has been commissioned to produce Equity Research for the Company by arrangement with the Specialist engaged by the Company: Star7

#### History of investment rating and target price - Star7





#### **Distribution of Investment Ratings**

Rating	Recommendation Universe*	Portion of these provided with investment
		banking services**
Buy	81%	64%
Hold	16%	64%
Sell	2%	0%
Under review	2%	100%

Midcap employs a rating system based on the following:

Buy: Expected to outperform the markets by 10% or more over a 6 to 12 months horizon.

Hold: expected performance between -10% and +10% compared to the market over a 6 to 12 months horizon.

Sell: Stock is expected underperform the markets by 10% or more over a 6 to 12 months horizon.

The history of ratings and target prices for the Issuers covered in this report are available on request at https://researchtpicap.midcapp.com/en/disclaimer.



#### **General Disclaimer**

This Report is confidential and is for the benefit and internal use of the selected recipients only. No part of it may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted without the prior written consent of Midcap

This Report is published for information purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any of the securities mentioned herein. The information contained in this Report has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable and public, Midcap makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness. The reference prices used in this Report are closing prices of the day before the publication unless otherwise stated. All opinions expressed in this Report reflect our judgement at the date of the documents and are subject to change without notice. The securities discussed in this Report may not be suitable for all investors and are not intended to recommend specific securities, financial instruments, or strategies to particular clients. Investors should make their own investment decisions based on their financial situation and investment objectives. The value of the income from your investment may vary due to changes in interest rates, changes in the financial and operating conditions of companies and other factors. Investors should be aware that the market price of the securities discussed in this Report may be volatile. Due to the risk and volatility of the industry, the company, and the market in general, at the current price of the securities, our investment rating may not correspond to the stated price target. Additional information regarding the securities mentioned in this Report is available on request.

This Report is not intended for distribution or use by any entity who is a citizen or resident of, or an entity located in any locality, territory, state, country, or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability, or use would be contrary to or limited by law or regulation. Entity or entities in possession of this Report must inform themselves about and comply with any such restrictions, including MIFID II. This Report is only intended for persons who are Eligible Counterparties or Professional Clients within the meaning of MIFID II regulation. It is not intended to be distributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other class of persons. The Report is subject to restricted circulation. The research was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of good practices for sponsored research. Midcap has adopted effective administrative and organizational arrangements, including "information barriers", to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest regarding investment recommendations. The remuneration of financial analysts who participate in the preparation of the recommendation is not linked to the corporate finance activity.