

Rating Buy
12- Month Target Price SAR 14.00

ZAIN KSA
3Q2017 First Look

Expected Total Return

Price as on Nov.1, 2017	SAR 6.44
Upside to Target Price	117.4%
Expected Dividend Yield	0.0%
Expected Total Return	117.4%

Market Data

52 Week H/L	SAR 11.45/6.17
Market Capitalization	SAR 3,759 million
Shares Outstanding	583.73 mln
Free Float	51.84%
12-Month ADTV	3,714,199
Bloomberg code	ZAINKSA

1-Year Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg



3Q2017 (SAR mln)	Actual	RC Forecast
Revenue	1,806	1,789
Gross Profit	1,231	1,208
Net Profit	3,405	(7)
EPS (SAR)	0.1	(0.01)

Curing the Cancer

Zain announced its restructuring plans along with its unexpected positive net profit. In our past reports we expected that Zain will have to resolve its weak financial structure by reducing capital and then raising cash besides swapping debt by equity (upon banks approvals), our scenario seems closer than ever. We find this restructuring to be positive news to the current shareholders, in its absence the value for equity holders will decrease.

Capital reduction: from an equity investor's point of view the result of this transaction in profit or loss will depend on the average cost Vs share price at the date of the extraordinary general assembly. It's worth noting that the price touched a low of SAR 6.17 on the second trading day following the restructuring announcement. Tadawul will adjust the price to the new number of shares on the first trading date following the Extraordinary AGM. We assume that the right issue price will be at par value of SAR 10 per share. The major positive impact of capital restructuring is expected to be:

- Decrease in net debt will increase equity share in Zain's free cash flow, thus increasing equity (shareholder) value;
- The ability to pay dividends as the company will wipe its accumulated deficit and have a ND/EBITDA below 3.5x which is an imposed covenant by debtors;
- Discount rate should theoretically decline as a result of lower equity holding risk represented by beta;
- Finance expenses will decline by approximately SAR 350 million annually boosting bottom line.

Revenue matches our estimates

Revenue of SAR 1.8 billion, +11% Y/Y but -3% lower Q/Q, matched our estimates. We marginally missed on gross margin, as the company recorded 68%, higher than estimates by 60bps. We attribute the growth in revenues and margins to increasing demand on company's data product. Data revenues represented 52% of total revenues, compensating for the significant decline in subscriber base from 10.7 million to 8.6 million. Company's focus on data products has positive impact on margins and cash generation, at September-end free cash flow attributed to debt and equity holders has jumped 7 times Y/Y.

Maintain Buy

On an operating level, S&M and G&A expenses remained under control as it declined by -2% Q/Q leading operating profit to SAR 229 million as compared to SAR 235 million last quarter. Finance expenses remain elevated as it erodes 99% of operating profit making capital restructuring vital for the sustainability of positive profits. Our target price is expected to increase as a result of the capital restructuring. For now, maintain our Buy rating and SAR 14.00 target price. We would advise current shareholders to subscribe to the rights issue rather than exit so as to preserve their investment value and grow it post rights and restructuring.

Key Financial Figures

FY Dec31 (SAR mln)	2016A	2017E*	2018E*
Revenue	6,927	7,688	7,919
Gross Profit	4,401	5,105	5,147
EBITDA	1,795	2,696	2,737
Net Profit	(980)	69	195
EPS (SAR)	(1.68)	0.12	0.33

Key Financial Ratios

FY Dec31	2016A	2017E*	2018E*
Gross Margin	63.5%	67.8%	65.0%
EBIT Margin	-0.8%	13.1%	12.4%
NIM	-14.1%	0.9%	2.5%
EV/EBITDA	10.4x	7.5x	6.7x
P/FCF	6.3x	2.8x	2.2x

*The above forecasted key financial figures and ratios are based on the current financial structure.

Stock Rating

Buy	Neutral	Sell	Not Rated
Expected Total Return Greater than 15%	Expected Total Return between -15% and +15%	Expected Total Return less than -15%	Under Review/ Restricted

* The expected percentage returns are indicative, stock recommendations also incorporate relevant qualitative factors

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