

# **ABO Wind AG**

Deutschland / Cleantech Börse München Bloomberg: AB9 GR ISIN: DE0005760029

2024 guidance

RATING PRICE TARGET

BUY € 106.00

Return Potential 154.8% Risk Rating High

# ABO WIND TARGETS 2024 NET PROFIT OF €25M - €31M

ABO Wind has confirmed 2023 guidance (net profit of €22m to €26m). For 2024, the company expects a net profit of €25m to €31m. Taking the respective guidance midpoints as a reference (€24m and €28m), this would result in net profit growth of 17% y/y. Management also expects net profit to rise in subsequent years. Although the wind industry is currently struggling with project delays, higher interest rates and delivery difficulties, ABO Wind also expects good results in 2024. The reason for this is a high quality internationally diversified project pipeline that has grown steadily in recent years. More and more projects are reaching construction maturity, giving ABO Wind the opportunity to either sell the project rights immediately or build the projects itself. We see our growth forecasts as confirmed and are sticking to our €106 price target. After the share price decline in recent months, ABO Wind is attractively valued at a 2024 P/E ratio of 15. We reiterate our Buy recommendation.

Growth in total output and net profit ABO Wind expects a growth in total output of 10% - 30% p.a. for 2023 & 2024. Although we are already in December 2023, ABO Wind is sticking to the forecasted net profit range of €22m to €26m as it is not yet certain how many projects will still be ready for construction or accepted by the end of the year and thus contribute to earnings. We are very encouraged that ABO Wind is already providing net profit guidance for 2024 at this point in time despite the headwinds the wind industry is currently struggling with. At €25m to €31m, the forecasted net profit range is 14% to 19% higher than the range given for 2023.

(p.t.o.)

### **FINANCIAL HISTORY & PROJECTIONS**

	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue (€m)	149.16	127.11	231.66	267.25	304.13	343.06
Y-o-y growth	18.1%	-14.8%	82.3%	15.4%	13.8%	12.8%
EBIT (€m)	22.46	22.45	43.12	42.02	48.03	52.40
EBIT margin	15.1%	17.7%	18.6%	15.7%	15.8%	15.3%
Net income (€m)	13.12	13.80	24.59	23.95	27.30	31.21
EPS (diluted) (€)	1.54	1.50	2.67	2.60	2.96	3.38
DPS (€)	0.45	0.49	0.54	0.54	0.62	0.66
FCF (€m)	40.53	-54.05	-19.10	2.23	7.66	13.57
Net gearing	5.3%	45.0%	55.0%	54.2%	50.9%	45.4%
Liquid assets (€m)	52.80	18.47	87.08	79.72	98.11	104.15

# RISKS

Main risks are project development, supply chain, financing, interest rate, and regulation.

### **COMPANY PROFILE**

ABO Wind is a project developer for renewable energies and has developed green power and storage projects with a total capacity of ca. 5 GW since ist establishment in 1996. The company also offers the management of wind farms, solar plants and storages. ABO Wind has ca. 1,100 employees. Its headquarters are in Wiesbaden, Germany.

MARKET DATA	As of 01 Dec 2023
Closing Price	€ 41.60
Shares outstanding	9.22m
Market Capitalisation	€ 383.59m
52-week Range	€ 41.50 / 96.60
Avg. Volume (12 Months)	4.055

Multiples	2022	2023E	2024E
P/E	16.5	16.9	14.8
EV/Sales	2.0	1.8	1.6
EV/EBIT	11.0	11.2	9.8
Div. Yield	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%

## STOCK OVERVIEW



COMPANY DATA	As of 30 Jun 2023
Liquid Assets	€ 34.99m
Current Assets	€ 441.17m
Intangible Assets	€ 1.13m
Total Assets	€ 460.62m
Current Liabilities	€ 33.64m
Shareholders' Equity	€ 173.97m

### **SHAREHOLDERS**

Familie Ahn	26.0%
Familie Bockholt	26.0%
Mainova	10.0%
Free Float	38.0%

**Shareholders file suit against change of legal form** On 29 November 2023, ABO Wind management announced that it had become aware of an action for annulment filed by company shareholders on 23 November 2023. This is directed against all resolutions passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 27 October 2023. Due to the action for annulment, the planned implementation of the conversion of the legal form from an AG to a KGaA will be delayed.

**Buy recommendation confirmed at unchanged price target** Although the legal dispute over the change of legal form could weigh on sentiment, we do not expect any negative repercussions on the operating business and recommend that investors Buy the share with an unchanged €106 price target.

# **VALUATION MODEL**

DCF valuation model								
All figures in EUR '000	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E
Net sales	267,249	304,129	343,058	384,225	461,070	509,273	558,579	608,344
NOPLAT	30,224	34,590	39,026	45,661	54,420	58,878	63,911	68,139
+ depreciation & amortisation	3,378	2,486	2,938	3,404	3,902	4,522	5,136	5,744
Net operating cash flow	33,602	37,076	41,964	49,065	58,322	63,400	69,047	73,883
- total investments (CAPEX and WC)	-31,372	-29,415	-28,392	-31,649	-52,535	-35,451	-36,478	-37,083
Capital expenditures	-3,741	-4,258	-4,803	-5,379	-6,350	-6,898	-7,439	-7,964
Working capital	-27,631	-25,157	-23,589	-26,270	-46,185	-28,553	-29,039	-29,119
Free cash flows (FCF)	2,230	7,661	13,573	17,416	5,787	27,948	32,569	36,800
PV of FCF's	2,218	7,122	11,796	14,151	4,395	19,843	21,617	22,835

All figures in thousands	
PV of FCFs in explicit period (2023E-2037E)	282,820
PV of FCFs in terminal period	787,956
Enterprise value (EV)	1,070,776
+ Net cash / - net debt	-93,505
+ Investments / minority interests	36
Shareholder value	977,307
Number of shares (diluted)	9,221
Fair value per share in EUR	105.99

Terminal growth	3.5%
Terminal EBIT margin	13.5%

WACC	7.0%
Cost of equity	11.1%
Pre-tax cost of debt	4.0%
Tax rate	30.0%
After-tax cost of debt	2.8%
Share of equity capital	50.0%
Share of debt capital	50.0%
Price target in EUR	106.00

I erminal grow th rate							
	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%
5.5%	138.27	153.77	175.56	208.43	263.71	376.17	729.61
6.0%	116.10	126.58	140.59	160.29	189.99	239.95	341.58
6.5%	99.04	106.39	115.85	128.50	146.28	173.10	218.21
7.0%	85.54	90.83	97.45	105.99	117.40	133.44	157.63
7.5%	74.61	78.51	83.27	89.24	96.93	107.21	121.66
8.0%	65.60	68.52	72.03	76.32	81.69	88.61	97.86
8.5%	58.07	60.29	62.91	66.06	69.91	74.74	80.96

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  for layout purposes the model shows numbers only to 2030, but runs until 2037



All figures in EUR '000	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenues	149,155	127,109	231,658	267,249	304,129	343,058
Changes in inventory	20,206	60,346	76,434	72,157	82,115	88,166
Ow n w ork	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total output	169,361	187,455	308,092	339,406	386,244	431,224
Cost of goods sold	72,592	78,280	148,807	170,238	198,292	228,134
Gross profit	96,769	109,175	159,285	169,169	187,952	203,090
Personnel costs	50,776	63,397	77,730	86,586	96,200	103,800
Other operating income	6,362	5,141	5,111	6,526	6,083	6,861
Other operating expenses	17,593	20,440	29,694	33,406	36,496	39,452
EBITDA	34,762	30,479	56,972	55,702	61,339	66,700
Depreciation and amortisation	1,649	1,929	3,002	3,378	2,486	2,938
Depreciation of current assets	10,653	6,102	10,846	10,304	10,819	11,360
Operating income (EBIT)	22,460	22,448	43,124	42,021	48,034	52,401
Net financial result	-1,755	-1,485	-4,887	-6,273	-7,294	-7,815
Pre-tax income (EBT)	20,705	20,963	38,238	35,748	40,741	44,586
Income taxes	7,589	7,152	13,661	11,797	13,444	13,376
Minority interests	4	-6	13	0	0	0
Net income / loss	13,120	13,804	24,590	23,951	27,296	31,210
Diluted EPS (in €)	1.54	1.50	2.67	2.60	2.96	3.38
Ratios						
Gross margin on total output	57.1%	58.2%	51.7%	49.8%	48.7%	47.1%
EBITDA margin on revenues	23.3%	24.0%	24.6%	20.8%	20.2%	19.4%
EBIT margin on revenues	15.1%	17.7%	18.6%	15.7%	15.8%	15.3%
EBT margin on revenues	13.9%	16.5%	16.5%	13.4%	13.4%	13.0%
Net margin on revenues	8.8%	10.9%	10.6%	9.0%	9.0%	9.1%
Tax rate	36.7%	34.1%	35.7%	33.0%	33.0%	30.0%
Expenses as % of revenues						
Personnel costs	34.0%	49.9%	33.6%	32.4%	31.6%	30.3%
Depreciation and amortisation	1.1%	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	0.8%	0.9%
Depreciation of current assets	7.1%	4.8%	4.7%	3.9%	3.6%	3.3%
Other operating expenses	11.8%	16.1%	12.8%	12.5%	12.0%	11.5%
Y-Y Growth						
Revenues	18.1%	-14.8%	82.3%	15.4%	13.8%	12.8%
Operating income	14.3%	-0.1%	92.1%	-2.6%	14.3%	9.1%
Net income/ loss	15.1%	5.2%	78.1%	-2.6%	14.0%	14.3%



# **BALANCE SHEET**

All figures in EUR '000	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Assets						
Current assets, total	236,761	282,609	437,621	462,137	509,525	543,242
Cash and cash equivalents	52,798	18,472	87,075	79,721	98,109	104,149
Short-term investments	9,331	11,684	8,775	8,775	8,775	8,775
Receivables	34,020	10,860	26,502	40,270	45,828	51,694
Inventories	64,398	133,019	124,152	142,253	165,696	187,507
Other current assets	74,825	105,708	187,664	187,664	187,664	187,664
Non-current assets, total	12,501	14,451	13,643	14,007	15,779	17,643
Property, plant & equipment	5,653	7,234	9,043	9,266	10,858	12,510
Goodw ill & other intangibles	1,116	1,474	1,574	1,715	1,895	2,107
Financial assets	5,732	5,743	3,026	3,026	3,026	3,026
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	249,262	297,060	451,264	476,144	525,304	560,885
Shareholders' equity & debt						
Current liabilities, total	44,700	56,483	97,545	103,453	128,034	108,491
Short-term debt	8,594	8,997	10,331	12,000	32,000	8,000
Accounts payable	7,081	14,034	19,081	23,320	27,163	31,251
Current provisions	19,634	21,355	36,695	36,695	36,695	36,695
Other current liabilities	9,391	12,097	31,438	31,438	32,176	32,545
Long-term liabilities, total	64,446	90,713	183,661	183,661	186,661	216,661
Long-term debt	51,662	76,950	170,249	170,249	173,249	203,249
Deferred revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other liabilities	12,784	13,763	13,412	13,412	13,412	13,412
Minority interests	30	41	36	36	36	36
Shareholders' equity	140,086	149,823	170,022	188,994	210,573	235,697
Share capital	9,221	9,221	9,221	9,221	9,221	9,221
Capital reserve	45,490	45,490	45,490	45,490	45,490	45,490
Other reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loss carryforward / retained earnings	85,671	95,329	115,401	134,373	155,952	181,076
Total consolidated equity and debt	249,262	297,060	451,264	476,144	525,304	560,885
Ratios						
Current ratio (x)	5.30	5.00	4.49	4.47	3.98	5.01
Quick ratio (x)	3.86	2.65	3.21	3.09	2.69	3.28
Net debt	7,458	67,475	93,505	102,528	107,140	107,100
Net gearing	5.3%	45.0%	55.0%	54.2%	50.9%	45.4%
Book value per share (in €)	16.47	16.25	18.44	20.50	22.84	25.56
Equity ratio	56.2%	50.4%	37.7%	39.7%	40.1%	42.0%
Return on equity (ROE)	9.4%	9.2%	14.5%	12.7%	13.0%	13.2%
Return on assets (ROA)	6.2%	5.4%	6.7%	6.5%	6.7%	7.0%
Return on investment (ROI)	5.3%	4.6%	5.4%	5.0%	5.2%	5.6%
Return on average capital employed (ROCE)	14.2%	12.1%	17.7%	14.9%	15.5%	15.6%
Days of sales outstanding (DSO)	83	31	42	55	55	55
Days inventory outstanding (DIO)	324	620	305	305	305	300
Days in payables (DIP)	36	65	47	50	50	50



All figures in EUR '000	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EBIT	22,460	22,448	43,111	42,021	48,034	52,401
Depreciation and amortisation *	1,649	1,929	3,002	3,378	2,486	2,938
EBITDA	24,109	24,377	46,113	45,399	50,520	55,340
Changes in working capital	28,412	-68,555	-61,723	-27,631	-25,157	-23,589
Other adjustments	-10,048	-6,558	1,761	-11,797	-13,444	-13,376
Operating cash flow	42,473	-50,736	-13,850	5,972	11,919	18,375
Investments in PP&E	-1,774	-2,941	-4,597	-3,207	-3,650	-4,117
Investments in intangibles	-173	-375	-654	-534	-608	-686
Free cash flow	40,526	-54,052	-19,101	2,230	7,661	13,573
Acquisitions & disposals, net	7	462	249	0	0	0
Other investments	-1,651	-1,004	2,872	0	0	0
Investment cash flow	-3,591	-3,858	-2,130	-3,741	-4,258	-4,803
Debt financing, net	-16,575	26,764	94,375	1,669	23,000	6,000
Equity financing, net	27,145	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	-3,558	-4,149	-4,518	-4,979	-4,979	-5,717
Other financing	-2,573	-2,328	-5,650	-6,273	-7,294	-7,815
Financing cash flow	4,438	20,287	84,207	-9,584	10,727	-7,532
FOREX & other effects	-170	19	376	0	0	0
Net cash flows	43,150	-34,288	68,603	-7,354	18,388	6,040
Cash, start of the year	9,648	52,798	18,472	87,075	79,721	98,109
Cash, end of the year	52,798	18,510	87,075	79,721	98,109	104,149
EBITDA/share (in €)	4.09	3.31	6.18	6.04	6.65	7.23
Y-Y Growth						
Operating cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	99.6%	54.2%
Free cash flow	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	243.5%	77.2%
Financial cash flow	-84.8%	357.1%	315.1%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
EBITDA/share	14.2%	-19.1%	86.9%	-2.2%	10.1%	8.7%

<sup>\*</sup> Depreciation of current assets are booked in "Changes in w orking capital".



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Anschrift<sup>1</sup>

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#### PRICE TARGET DATES

Unless otherwise indicated, current prices refer to the closing prices of the previous trading day.

#### AGREEMENT WITH THE ANALYSED COMPANY AND MAINTENANCE OF OBJECTIVITY

The present financial analysis is based on the author's own knowledge and research. The author prepared this study without any direct or indirect influence exerted on the part of the analysed company. Parts of the financial analysis were possibly provided to the analysed company prior to publication in order to avoid inaccuracies in the representation of facts. However, no substantial changes were made at the request of the analysed company following any such provision.

#### **ASSET VALUATION SYSTEM**

First Berlin's system for asset valuation is divided into an asset recommendation and a risk assessment.

#### **ASSET RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendations determined in accordance with the share price trend anticipated by First Berlin in the respectively indicated investment period are as follows:

Category		1	2	
Current market capitalisation (in €)		0 - 2 billion	> 2 billion	
Strong Buy <sup>1</sup>	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 50%	> 30%	
Buy	An expected favourable price trend of:	> 25%	> 15%	
Add	An expected favourable price trend of:	0% to 25%	0% to 15%	
Reduce	An expected negative price trend of:	0% to -15%	0% to -10%	
Sell	An expected negative price trend of:	< -15%	< -10%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The expected price trend is in combination with sizable confidence in the quality and forecast security of management.

Our recommendation system places each company into one of two market capitalisation categories. Category 1 companies have a market capitalisation of  $\in 0 - \in 2$  billion, and Category 2 companies have a market capitalisation of  $> \in 2$  billion. The expected return thresholds underlying our recommendation system are lower for Category 2 companies than for Category 1 companies. This reflects the generally lower level of risk associated with higher market capitalisation companies.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The First Berlin categories for risk assessment are low, average, high and speculative. They are determined by ten factors: Corporate governance, quality of earnings, management strength, balance sheet and financial risk, competitive position, standard of financial disclosure, regulatory and political uncertainty, strength of brandname, market capitalisation and free float. These risk factors are incorporated into the First Berlin valuation models and are thus included in the target prices. First Berlin customers may request the models.

### **RECOMMENDATION & PRICE TARGET HISTORY**

Report No.:	Date of publication	Previous day closing price	Recommendation	Price target
Initial Report	12 April 2017	€7.80	BUY	€14.00
227	<b>↓</b>	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
28	2 September 2022	€56.20	BUY	€109.00
29	5 December 2022	€63.00	BUY	€112.00
30	26 January 2023	€83.00	BUY	€118.00
31	2 March 2023	€74.60	BUY	€118.00
32	21 March 2023	€72.00	BUY	€118.00
33	9 June 2023	€58.20	BUY	€118.00
34	7 September 2023	€49.40	BUY	€118.00
35	2 November 2023	€43.90	BUY	€106.00
36	Today	€41.60	BUY	€106.00

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- key sources of information in the preparation of this research report
- valuation methods and principles
- sensitivity of valuation parameters

can be accessed through the following internet link: https://firstberlin.com/disclaimer-english-link/

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