# **Huddlestock**

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# Strategic Expansion and Recurring Revenue Surge

Huddlestock Fintech AS ("Huddlestock" or the "Company") has demonstrated a high business pace during the third quarter, continuing to execute on the Company's stated strategy of achieving profitable growth. The strengthened offering within the *Investment-as-a-Service* has contributed to increased recurring revenues and a robust pipeline of new prospects, which, in combination with a strong value proposition, is expected to contribute to new deals and growth going forward. This, combined with a strong outlook for the *Professional Financial* division in 2024, justifies a high activity throughout the year 2024. Huddlestock is estimated to reach a revenue of NOK 172M in 2024, and based on an applied EV/S target multiple of 4.1x, a potential fair value of NOK 2.9 (3.2) per share is derived in a Base scenario.

# High Revenue Growth YoY

During the third quarter of 2023, the net revenue amounted to NOK 21.7M (11.6), corresponding to a growth of 87% YoY. The revenue increase is partly explained by Huddlestock's acquisitions, but also new customers and mandates within both the Technology and Professional Service division. Compared to the net revenue previous quarter (Q2-23), which amounted to NOK 24.3M, represents a decrease of 11%, attributed to seasonal effects within the Professional Service division. Looking at the first nine months of 2023 (Q1-Q3), consolidated revenue amounted to NOK 62.6M (32.9), corresponding to a growth of approximately 90%.

# Heading Towards a Positive EBITDA in year 2024

Huddlestock's EBITDA result amounted to NOK -4.1M (-0.8) during Q3-23, indicating an increased EBITDA loss of NOK -3.0M YoY. Looking at 9M 2023 (Q1-Q3), the consolidated EBITDA result amounted to NOK -8.4M (-6.4), corresponding to an EBITDA margin of -13.4% (-19.6%), representing an improvement in EBITDA margin of 32% YoY. Huddlestock has thus delivered on its stated strategy towards profitable growth and is expected to maintain a strong focus on achieving a positive EBITDA result for the full year 2024.

# Updated Valuation Range

After the quarter's end, Huddlestock has successfully completed a private placement, which has strengthened the working capital, which enables Huddlestock to execute on the Company's growth opportunities. In addition, Huddlestock has conducted a divestment of Huddlestock Solutions to establish a strict focus on the Company's technological offering, Investment-as-a-Service. Despite a stable quarter, which was in line with our expectations, this entails a financial impact, prompting us to make slight adjustments to our financial forecasts. Furthermore, the capital raising has brought in new capital along with an increased number of shares, which, in combination with the above, results in an updated valuation range in all three scenarios. However, there has been a slight multiple expansion within the Peer group, which has consequently affected our valuation in all three scenarios.

VALUATION RANGE				
Bear NOK 1.1	Base NOK 2.9	)	Bu NO	II K 4.4
KEY INFORMATION				
Share Price (2023-12-05)				1.2
Shares Outstanding <sup>1</sup>			184	,477,549
Market Cap (NOKm)				217
Net cash(-)/debt(+) (NOKm)				0.8
Enterprise Value (NOKm)				218
List		Ει	ıronext Gro	wth Oslo
Quarterly report 4 2023			20:	24-02-22
SHARE PRICE DEVELOPMENT				
3 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ar <sup>23</sup> jun <sup>23</sup> ji	1,12, V12,5	say oct is	agar 23
Owners (Source: Interim I	REPORT)			
Nordnet Bank AB				10.9%
Njord Group AS				7.3%
SAA Invest				5.9%
Vision Invest Stavanger AS				4.9%
Bank Julius Bär & Co				4.2%
Estimates (NOKm)	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net revenue	46.7	92.6	171.7	256.6
Total Group Revenue	46.7	92.6	171.7	256.6
Materials/subcontractors	-12.8	-5.6	-14.6	-23.1
Personnel costs	-43.6	-80.6	-116.8	-152.7
Other operating expenses	-5.0	-16.7	-25.8	-35.9
EBITDA	-14.7	-10.2	14.6	44.9
EBITDA margin	-31.5%	-11.0%	8.5%	17.5%
P/S <sup>1</sup>	4.6	2.3	1.3	0.8
EV/S <sup>1</sup>	4.6	2.3	1.3	0.8
EV/EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	-14.7	-21.3	14.8	4.8

# Introduction



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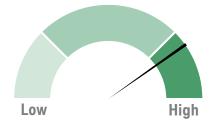
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## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Huddlestock is a WealthTech and TradeTech company that develops SaaS solutions for digitizing work processes for financial companies, custody banks, asset managers and retail trading venues. Huddlestock's SaaS empowers the embedding of low-cost, efficient white-label trading and investment services, underpinning Huddlestock's mission of delivering financial inclusion by democratizing access to capital markets. Through its expert professional services business, Huddlestock delivers strategic technology solutions and process automation for the financial services industry. Huddlestock is listed on Euronext Growth Oslo since November 2022.

CEO AND CHAIRMAN	
CEO	John Egil Skajem
Chairman	Øyvind Hovland
Analyst	
Name	David Rimbe
Phone	+46 70 336 33 84
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# **Value Drivers**



Huddlestock offers a crucial services for their clients, which results in a strong business moat. Huddlestock can grow with its clients with low sales efforts, which facilitates increased sales and operating margins going forward. Additional value drivers are the new clients in all verticals, where Huddlestock possess a strong pipeline of new prospectus especially within the technological offering, Investment-as-a-Service, and expects to expand target market with the complete end-to-end solutions.

# **Historical Profitability**



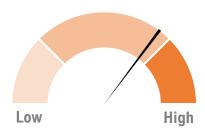
Huddlestock has been focusing on developing the Company's product portfolio, through investing in technology and develop the previous acquired firms, which has led to a negative short-term effect on the Company's profitability. Analyst Group expects that Huddlestock will scales up the client portfolio going forward, as well as prioritize profitable growth, and are estimated to reach a positive EBITDA in 2024. The grade is based solely on the historical profitability of the Company.

# **Management & Board**



The executive team and the board of directors consist of an experienced team, who are deemed to possess the right qualifications to successfully scale up the business. Additionally, founders / major shareholders from the acquired businesses have taken positions in the new organization, with lock-up agreements typically spanning 3 years, which indicates strong incentives to create shareholder value. John E. Skajem, Group CEO of Huddlestock, has a long career within international finance and has worked for global investment banks, asset managers, and large universal banks.

# **Risk Profile**



As of September 30st, 2023, Huddlestock's cash and cash receivables amounted to NOK 6.5M, while the current loans and borrowing amounted to NOK 24.8M. After the end of the third quarter, Huddlestock completed a private placement, raising NOK 17.5M in gross proceeds, by issuing approx. 14.6 million new shares. The capital raising also includes warrants, meaning that Huddlestock has the opportunity to raise an additional NOK 13.2M through the warrants by the end of 2024, consequently reducing the risk of further external capital raising in the future.

# **Comment on Q3-Report 2023**



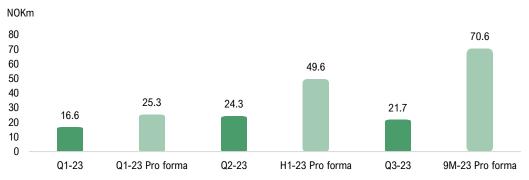
### Net Revenue Growth of 87% YoY in the Third Quarter

During the third quarter of 2023, net revenues amounted to NOK 21.7M (11.6), representing an 87% YoY growth compared to the same quarter the previous year. This increase in revenue amounts to approximately NOK 10.1M in absolute terms YoY. The revenue increase is attributed partly to Huddlestock's acquisitions of Tracs Group, Dtech, and Bricknode, which were successfully consolidated during Q2-23 and is thus not included in the comparative figure of Q2-22. Additionally, revenue growth has been driven by new customers, as well as expansion among Huddlestock's existing customers within the Technology business division, and extended new mandates within the Professional Service Division. During the previous quarter (Q2-23), net revenue amounted to NOK 24.3M, reflecting a QoQ decrease of 11%. The QoQ revenue decline is explained by a seasonal effect within the Professional Service Division. For the first nine months of 2023 (Q1-Q3), Huddlestock's consolidated revenues reached NOK 62.6M (32.9), corresponding to a growth of 90%. While the proforma revenue, incorporating the acquired companies Tracs Group, Dtech, and Bricknode from the beginning of the year, the net revenue amounts to NOK 70.6M (45.4), corresponding to a proforma growth of 56%.

NET REVENUE AMOUNTS TO NOK 70.6M PRO FORMA 9M 2023

### **Huddlestock Demonstrates a High Growth.**

Net revenue Huddlestock, Q1-Q3-23, pro forma revenues Q1-23, H1-23 and 9M-23 Proforma.



Source: Huddlestock

Huddlestock's revenue mix comprises recurring revenue from the Company's technological Business Division and income from projects within the Professional Service Division. During the third quarter of 2023, recurring revenues amount to NOK 10.1M (2.5), reflecting an impressive growth of 313%. In comparison to the preceding quarter (Q2-23), which constitutes a more representative benchmark due to acquisitions in 2023, recurring revenues have increased by 5.4% QoQ, which amounted to NOK 9.6M. The Company's recurring revenues generates from various recurring fees, such as monthly licenses, Assets under Management (AuM), and transaction fees, indicating that Huddlestock has secure and stable recurring revenues that simultaneously grow with its customers. While Huddlestock does not explicitly disclose specific SaaS metrics such as ARR, NRR, or GRR, Analyst Group assumes a very low churn rate, attributed to the high MOAT and business-critical services Huddlestock provides. Recurring revenues for the third quarter correspond to an ARR exceeding NOK 40M, and the Company's modular offering indicate an NRR exceeding 100%. During the third quarter, recurring revenues accounted for 47% of the group's total revenues, marking an increase from 40% in the previous quarter. Summing up the first nine months of 2023 (Q1-Q3), recurring revenues amount to NOK 29.2M (4.7), demonstrating a high growth of 620%.

ANNUAL RECURRING REVENUE (ARR) EXCEEDS NOK 40M

The revenues from the Professional Service Division are derived from consulting income within the financial market, where the Company has clients such as SEB, Nordea, and the Danish central bank, to name a few. During the quarter, the business segment extended current mandates and secured new ones, with the Company guiding towards a stable outlook, indicating a high utilization rate by the end of 2023 and into 2024. In the third quarter, revenues from the Professional Service Division amount to approximately NOK 11.5M (9.1), reflecting a growth of 26%. However, QoQ revenues have decreased by 21%, a decline attributed to seasonal effects, making the comparison less indicative of the overall performance.

# **Comment on Q3-Report 2023**



### **High Business Activity and Strong Value Drivers Going Forward**

After the quarter's end, Huddlestock has demonstrated high business activity and strong momentum, signing two new clients in the month of October within the Company's technological Business Division, Investment-as-a-Service, as commented on here. The clients are within Wealth and Asset Management and Corporate Finance, consisting of Tind Asset Management and Norse Securities, showcasing the broad application of Huddlestock's products and services within Investment-as-a-Service, and suggesting greater potential within the entire financial markets. Additionally, Huddlestock entered into a strategic partnership agreement with the Norwegian Block Exchange (NBX), where Huddlestock's platform will provide investors access to various markets from traditional stocks to tokenized assets, while NBX's secure digital asset exchange platform offers a safe and efficient way to trade digital assets.

STRONG PIPELINE
OF NEW
PROSPECTS –
VALUE DRIVERS
GOING FORWARD

Furthermore, in conjunction with the Company's conference call, Huddlestock reports having a strong pipeline of new prospects within Investment-as-a-Service, with significant prospects in the German, Norwegian, and Swedish markets. Despite high business activity during the initial months of Q4-23, Analyst Group assesses that Huddlestock has a good opportunity to continue delivering new deals, despite sales having a generally long sales cycle nature. Investment-as-a-Service and the growth opportunities the Company has within this segment, especially in the German and Nordic markets, constitute clear and strong value drivers going forward.

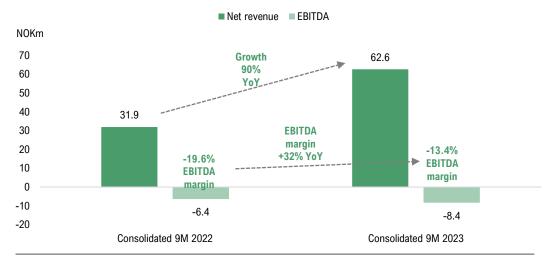
### Improved EBITDA Margin of 32% YoY (Consolidated 9M 2023)

Considering the total operating expenses (incl. cost of materials/subcontractors), these amounted to NOK 25.7M (12.4) during the third quarter of 2023. In the preceding quarter, the total operating expenses amounted to NOK 26.2M, representing a decrease of NOK 0.5M and in comparison, to proforma Q1-23 (31.3) the decrease amounts to NOK 5.5M. Huddlestock has continued to demonstrate effective cost control and execution of previously stated cost synergies since the acquisitions were completed. The consolidated EBITDA result during the third quarter amounted to NOK -4.1M (-0.8), indicating an increased EBITDA loss of NOK -3.0M YoY. The consolidated EBIT result for the quarter amounted to NOK -20.1M (4.4), where the increase in depreciation and amortization is particularly explained by accounting write-downs from the acquisitions, having no impact on the Company's cash flow.

Looking at the nine-month period in 2023 (Q1-Q3), the consolidated EBITDA result amounted to NOK -8.4M (-6.4), corresponding to an EBITDA margin of -13.4% (-19.6%). Compared to the same period the previous year, the consolidated EBITDA margin has improved by 32% YoY. However, a more accurate comparison is pro forma for the first nine months of 2023, where the EBITDA result amounted to NOK - 10.5M (-8.4), corresponding to an EBITDA margin of -14.8% (-18.3%) and indicating an EBITDA margin improvement of 23% YoY.

# Improved EBITDA Margin and High Growth YoY.

Net revenue, EBITDA and EBITDA margin, Consolidated 9M 2022 and 9M 2023 (Q1-Q3).



REDUCED COST BASE QOQ



# **Comment on Q3-Report 2023**



STRONG FOCUS ON **POSITIVE EBITDA** IN 2024

Huddlestock has a strong focus on continuing to demonstrate high growth, while also achieving a positive EBITDA and positive cash flow in 2024. In conjunction with the report, the Company highlights a roadmap to achieve a positive EBITDA result for the full year 2024. This includes, among other things, a strict focus on Investment-as-a-Service, prioritizing the most financially attractive deals, ensuring that product development deliveries support the positive EBITDA objective for 2024, and maintaining a focus on cost/benefit through effective cost control. Given that Huddlestock has already executed on several stated cost synergies from the acquisitions, with the effects of some of these synergies expected to fully materialize in 2024, and has demonstrated a reduced cost base in 2023, along with possessing high scalability in the business model, Analyst Group estimates that Huddlestock will achieve a positive EBITDA result for the full year 2024, particularly with continued acquisition of new customers.

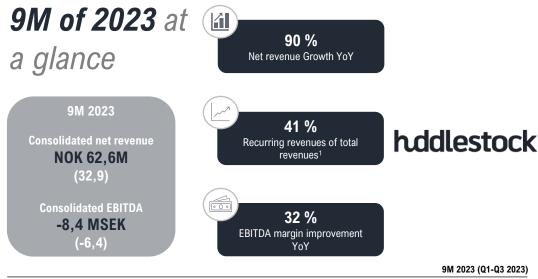
### **Financial Position and Completed Private Placement**

At the end of Q3-23, Huddlestock's cash and equivalents amounted to NOK 6.5M, compared to NOK 10.8M at the end of June (Q2-23), corresponding to a net change in cash of NOK -4.3M. Regarding the net cash flow from operating activities from continuing operations, it amounted to NOK -13.6M during the first nine months of 2023, equating to an operational burn rate of NOK 1.5M per month over the period. In comparison with the first half of 2023 (Q1-Q2 2023), the operational burn rate was approximately NOK 1.9M per month, signifying a significant improvement during the third guarter of 2023. Subsequent to the quarter's end, Huddlestock successfully completed a private placement, raising NOK 17.5M in gross proceeds, as commented on last week, read the comment here. The private placement strengthens Huddlestock's working capital and supports the Company's growth opportunities in Germany, as well as expediting sales and onboarding activities related to new customers in the Nordic region.

In conclusion, Huddlestock has delivered a stable quarter, where revenue and operating results align closely with Analyst Group estimates. Recurring revenues constitute an increasing portion of the total revenues, which, however, during the quarter is a result of a seasonally weaker effects from the Professional Business Division. Huddlestock maintains a strict focus on Investment-as-a-Service, as confirmed by the divestment of Huddlestock Solutions, formerly F5 IT AS, carried out through a management buyout during the quarter. The Company has also during the quarter signed a Letter of Intent with Stack by me and went live with Garantum Wealth Management, followed by two new clients in Investment-as-a-Service and a new strategic partnership after the quarter's end. Thus, Huddlestock demonstrates high business activity and continues to take operational steps towards becoming a European B2B Investment-as-a-Service provider. With a strengthened financial position after the end of the quarter, Huddlestock can advance its position in the German and Nordic markets, where the Company already holds a strong position and currently has a robust pipeline of new prospects.



SUCCESSFUL





# **Investment Thesis**



PROVIDES
INVESTMENT-ASA-SERVICE

56% YoY PRO FORMA GROWTH

STRONG PIPELINE OF NEW PROSPECTS

> NOK 172M NET REVENUE 2024E

¹Including not yet issued shares to Bricknode and given recent private placement. Given this the number of shares is calculated to be 206.616.460.

### **Huddlestock Benefits From Strong Underlying Market Growth**

Huddlestock's offering cater to a broad and global market segment, ranging from fintech startups to established financial institutions. By enabling financial companies to digitize their operations and democratizing access to capital markets, Huddlestock capitalizes on the growing demand in the market. The global Core Banking Software (CBS) market was valued at USD 12.5 billion in 2022, and the market is expected to grow to USD 40.7 billion by 2029, corresponding to a CAGR of 18.3%. The rising adoption of cloud-based solutions, digitalization and increased investment are the main drivers of the estimated market growth. Huddlestock provides Investment-as-a-Service and offers services within the core banking ecosystem and therefore operates in a market with a high underlying growth. Huddlestock addresses a wide range of financial companies and institutes which enables the digitalization of the financial markets. Huddlestock's position as a solution provider and business expert can benefit of the global digitalization trend without being exposed to the risks associated with individual financial companies or the volatility of the B2C market. We consider this strategic advantage to be beneficial for Huddlestock.

### Selective Acquisitions Fuel Huddlestock's Investment-as-a-Service Offering and Market Presence

Huddlestock has, during the year 2022 and the early part of 2023, pursued a value creation strategy centered around selective and accretive acquisitions. This strategy involves identifying significant synergies that support Huddlestock's 'Technology first' focus. The Company has successfully completed several acquisitions, including Visigon Nordic, F5 IT, Tracs Group, Dtech, and Bricknode. Notably, F5 IT (Huddlestock Solution) was divested during H2-23 after developing a key component of Huddlestock's Investment-as-a-Service offering. Visigon Nordic is a supplier of financial consultancy services and a technology provider with multi-year relationships with most Swedish and Danish banking groups and Nordic central banks, to mention a few. Tracs Group constitute a full-service RegTech and Investor Services organization for the Investment and Wealth Management industry, licensed by the Norwegian FSA. Dtech provides solutions for portfolio management and fund order technology for the pension market and pension providers. Bricknode is a B2B-focused SaaS company offering scalable, cloud-based software comprising the complete infrastructure of a financial service operation. The integrated offering developed by Huddlestock represents a unique end-to-end solution empowering Investment-as-a-Service. Huddlestock holds a strong position with a robust product mix of technology software for the financial market, complemented by an expert professional service business. Huddlestock's pro forma revenues during the first nine months of 2023 amounted to NOK 71M, (45.4), corresponding to a growth of 56%.

# Strong Value Proposition Within Investment-as-a-Service – a Strong Value Driver Going Forward

Huddlestock has significantly strengthened the Company's offering by combining the capabilities of the acquired businesses, resulting in a robust Investment-as-a-Service proposition. Since then (Q2-23), Huddlestock has secured five (5) new clients, including those in Wealth and Asset Management, Corporate Finance, as well as the Company's first Family Office utilizing Portfolio Management. These deals are estimated to contribute to increased *Annual Recurring Revenue* (ARR) throughout the year 2024. The acquisition of five new clients within the Technology Division not only validates the strong value of the Company's product offering but also serves as proof of Huddlestock's versatility within the sector, suggesting significant potential across the entire financial markets. Additionally, Huddlestock possesses a strong pipeline of new prospects, particularly in the German and Nordic markets, where new clients is expected to be strong value drivers in the future. This reaffirms the compelling value proposition that the combined companies can offer, enabling a growing ARR from the end of 2023 and onwards.

### Forecast and Valuation: a Summary

Through a continued strong business momentum with new clients and the successful integration of the acquired firms which expands Huddlestock's product offering, this is expected to drive growth going forward. In combination with a continued high activity within consultancy services, Huddlestock is estimated to reach a revenue of NOK 172M in 2024. Based on an EV/S multiple of 4.1x (3.9) on the 2024 forecast and adjusted for the estimated net debt, a potential net present fair value of NOK 2.9 (3.2) per share is derived, in a Base scenario, after taking a discount rate of 12% into account.<sup>1</sup>

### **Expanded Share Owner Base Poses a Risk of Downward Pressure**

Huddlestock has carried out several acquisitions and, in particular, financed them through the issuance of shares in Huddlestock, with major shareholders entering into lock-up agreements. The acquisition of Bricknode involves the issuance of shares in three (3) tranches, which is expected to be completed during H1-24. In addition to the shares already issued, approximately 21 million shares will be issued to Bricknode's previous shareholders. Bricknode has earlier been listed on First North Stockholm, and several shareholders may view the acquisition as an exit opportunity, which poses a risk of significant selling pressure associated with the issuance of multiple shares.



# **Company Description**



WHAT IS INVESTMENT-AS-A-SERVICE?

Investment-as-a-Service (IaaS) is powering unique, customisable investment products for the financial market, as fintechs, brands and banks.

Huddlestock's unique
API solution connects
future clients to
securities brokerage
and custody services
with
Banking-as-a-Service
partners.

**Huddlestock**, established in 2014, is a Norway-based *Wealthtech* and *Tradetech* Company, that develops, implements and provides SaaS solutions for capital markets, treasury and wealth management industry, as well as financial institutions and financial companies. The solutions empowers *Investment-as-a-Service*, through innovative technology software solutions and expert professional services business. Huddlestock has since the IPO adopted a strategy to create value through selective and accretive acquisitions, where Huddlestock has completed acquisitions of Visigon Nordic AB, F5 IT<sup>1</sup>, Tracs group (Trac Services AS and Trac Technology), Dtech and Bricknode Holding AB. As of today, Huddlestock offers Fintech infrastructure with innovative technology software, scalable products and professional services. Huddlestock has offices in Norway, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, United Kingdom and Malaysia.

Huddlestock has Acquired Firms to Create a Unique End-to-End Financial Solution

Huddlestock's acquired firms in a timeline between year 2021 - 2023

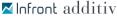
### hddlestock **Acquisitions** 🕼 visigon Dtech TRACS Bricknode F5 IT's mission is to Tracs's mission is Visigon Nordic's Dtech's mission is Bricknode's deliver efficient and to act as a mission is to sell to sell pension mission is to profitable regulatory umbrella professional solutions as a provide products technology and to provide services to financial service to the that can be licensed projects.1 back-office institutions. pension market and to customers administration. as a SaaS model. pension providers. 2021 2022 2023 Source: Huddlestock

# **Product Portfolio and Revenue Model**

Huddlestock offers technology software solutions and consulting services within the financial market, which constitute the Company's two primary business areas. In the technology business, Huddlestock is a software provider in the financial market, offering innovative, compliant, and data-centric SaaS solutions across several verticals, including Wealthtech, Tradetech, and Investment services, among others. The technology business comprises Huddlestock's own solutions as well as solutions from the acquired businesses Tracs Group, Dtech, and Bricknode, which collectively provide an end-to-end solution for the financial markets. Through Huddlestock's diverse product mix, the Company caters to a broad palette of clients, empowering them by delivering "Investment-as-a-Service". Huddlestock addresses a wide range of customers in the financial market, including asset management firms, financial institutions, family offices, fund managers, neobanks, corporate finance firms, and other financial companies. The revenue model in the technology business is based on recurring revenue from platform usage, as well as recurring revenue derived from functionality and volume, which can include metrics such as the number of trades, AUM, accounts, regulatory license or admin users, for example. The solutions are cloud based, API-integrated and connected through a wide partner network. At the same time is the platforms built through a modular approach, and therefore possess a high granularity that enables a high level of scalability. During the month of November 2023 Huddlestock completed the divestment of Huddlestock Solutions, formerly F5 IT AS, by a management buyout, which was conduct to maintain a strict focus on Investment-as-a-Service.

Within the consulting business segment, Huddlestock offers professional services through Visigon Nordic, which was acquired in 2021. Visigon Nordic provides strategic technology solutions and process automation for the financial services industry. Huddlestock's expert consultants are established as the leading player in the Nordics with significant multiyear relationships with most Swedish and Danish banking groups, disruptor neobanks and innovative platforms. The consulting business segment strengthens the technological operations by maintaining strong relationships with numerous companies within the financial sector. This creates sales opportunities and allows Huddlestock to leverage its strong human capital to further develop its own technology. The revenue model is primarily based on securing contracts / mandates for longer-term projects with major financial institutions / banks and/or financial companies, providing good visibility into the level of activity within the consulting business.

Eco Partners<sup>2</sup>





Clients Visigon<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> F5 IT AS (Huddlestock Solution) was divested in H2-23.

<sup>2</sup> Example of Eco Partners and clients Visigon



# **Company Description**



# hddlestock

**Clients Germany** 



Tomorrow<sup>\*</sup>

Clients Bricknode<sup>1</sup>

EAST CAPITAL







**Clients Dtech** 





## **BRICKNODE BROKER**

Bricknode Broker is a complete Portfolio Management system and Back Office Solution, enabling clients to launch customer front ends, websites for advisors, external partners and complete back-office site.

# HUDDLESTOCK INVESTOR SERVICES

Outsourced back office, Compliance, KYC, Custody.

### **HUDDLESTOCK TRADER**

Huddlestock Trader is a White Label Trading API. A flexible, modular trading solution, easily integrated alongside already-existing client services via APIs.

### HUDDLESTOCK TECHNOLOGIES

Outsourced technology solutions. Customized software solutions on web and mobile with seamless integrations.

# HUDDLESTOCK WEALTH & INVESTMENT MANAGER

A fully integrated White Label Wealth and Investment Manger solution for front office, built on top of a White Label Trading API Huddlestock Core/Broker/Trader.

# PROFESSTIONAL SERIVCES

Expert financial consultancy for strategic technology planning, pre- and postimplementation support services.

Huddlestock's main products are listed above. Huddlestock Trader, Bricknode Broker, and Investor Services are examples of the core products, as well as the verticals within pension from Dtech and lending from Bricknode. From the core products, Huddlestock can offer various layers of services to clients, such as tailor-made solutions, features, and/or integrations. Additionally, Huddlestock can provide back-office operations. This, combined with a license that enables Huddlestock to offer a regulatory umbrella to firms that want to offer investment solutions without their own license, creates a robust end-to-end solution and contributes to a strong value proposition and moats.

# Strategic Outlook

Huddlestock has identified several strategic opportunities that constitute its main priorities for the year 2024:

- · Prioritizing profitable growth and recurring revenues
- · Executing and acquiring clients by leveraging existing products
- · Streamlining the organization and executing on synergies
- · Creating a Nordic white-label B2B brokerage solution
- · Preparing and scaling operations in Germany for winning client contracts and future growth
- Extending regulatory licenses in Norway and Germany to cover the entire EU through passport regulation
- Expanding ecosystem partnerships

<sup>1</sup>Example of clients Bricknode



# **Market Analysis**



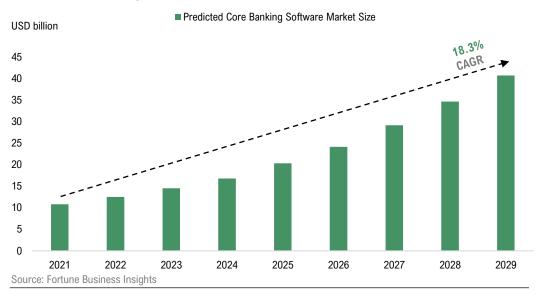
RISING ADOPTION OF CLOUD-BASED SOLUTIONS

### The Global Core Banking Software Market is Expected to Grow Fast

The global Core Banking Software (CBS) market was valued at USD 12.5 billion in 2022, and the market is expected to grow to USD 40.7 billion by 2029, corresponding to a CAGR of 18.3%. The rising adoption of cloud-based solutions, and increased investments by key players in fintech technologies are driving factors of the estimated market growth. Despite Huddlestock addressing only certain segments within the overall CBS market, the market demonstrates strong underlying market growth for Huddlestock.

### The Global Core Banking Software Market Is Expected to Grow With a CAGR of 18,3 %

Predicted Global Core Banking Software Market Size, 2021 – 2029E



### **Affluent Segment Constitutes as a Growth Opportunity**

According to the World Wealth Report 2023 by Capgemini, affluent individuals with investable assets of USD 250K - 1M represent a growth opportunity. The affluent segment currently holds nearly USD 27 trillion in wealth and encompasses a large population base. The report reveals that only 18% of this segment is satisfied with their current wealth management service provider, making them ripe for the taking if offered a better experience. This segment is rapidly expanding and requires assistance with financial literacy, easy financial planning, and tools that facilitate a collaborative experience with their advisor.

New business models and technologies solutions, therefore, present significant growth opportunities within the affluent segment. Examples of these models and technologies may include:

- Leveraging the existing wealth management setup while accelerating digital transformation from front to back to unlock relationship manager productivity, develop Al-driven digital tools, and orchestrate an omnichannel experience.
- Developing a Wealth-as-a-Service (WaaS) proposition to deliver wealth services to affluents using thirdparty channels, such as retail banks and independent advisors. WaaS can streamline the delivery of cost-effective services and enable personalized offerings.
- Building a dedicated platform for wealth services and other value-added offerings to reach the affluent segment, enhanced with self-service tools to improve customer engagement.

Huddlestock, with its technological offering and business service experts, enables firms to significantly reduce the cost of service and expand personalization from commoditized modular offerings to tailored products that resonate with the aspirations of the affluent segment. This can create a more loyal client base with high lifetime value for Huddlestock's customers. Huddlestock possesses a strong position to shape the future of wealth management and address this significant growth opportunity.

AFFLUENT SEGMENT HOLDS USD 27 TRILLION IN WEALTH

# **Market Analysis**



Examples of Neobanks



Revolut





### **Huddlestock Enables Investing for Neobanks and Online Banks**

Neobanks/online banks are fintech companies that offer banking services digitally, through apps, software and other technologies, in order to streamline, democratize and personalize mobile and online banking. Neobanks have successfully disrupted the financial sector and are transforming the whole banking industry. The business model of the neobanks often relies on the basic banking functions and products, such as savings accounts, lending and money transfers. But lately, neobanks have expanded their offerings by including higher-margin services such as investment accounts, credit cards, insurances and mortgages. This creates an opportunity for neobanks to create better user experience with a higher profitability. For example, the U.K. based neobank Revolut have lately added stock trading and investment accounts to their offering, with DriveWealth as a carrying broker for Revolut's brokerage services. In Europe there are approximately 99 neobanks, with Lunar, Revolut and Tide Bank being the more well-established ones. According to a study conducted by Bricknode, it was found that only 48% of 61 surveyed B2C European neobanks offered investment accounts to their customer, with 54% listing more than one asset class (e.g. funds and stocks). Huddlestock empowers clients by deliviering *Investment-as-a-Service*, e.g. through white label trading API, and has direct access to the capital markets, with over 60,000 financial instruments, such as Equities, Bonds, Commondities, Funds, ETFs, Certificates and Options.

### Only 48% of European Neobanks Offers Investments

Illustration over European neobanks



# Digitalization of Asset Management Has Lagged Behind

many industries, while the asset management sector is lagging behind. EFAMAs report 2022 shows that the total assets under management in Europe reached EUR 32.2 trillion at the end of 2021, compared to EUR 28.5 trillion at the end of 2020, corresponding to an increase of 12.9%. Digital transformation has been disrupting the financial industry, but there is still a long way to go for asset management. One of three major trends and opportunities within asset management is digitalization of middle- and back-office systems. By implementing next generation automation, robotics and machine learning enables enhance process efficiencies, reduce manual frictions, and enable more straight-through processing. Digital technologies, like Huddlestock's solutions and platforms, will enable asset managers to capture value across the value chain, as for example the cost reduce is estimated by EFAMA for middle- and back-office to 20-30%. As well as a report from McKinsey illuminates that a fully scalable and API supported software with full cloud architecture within asset management benefits of lower costs in supporting functions and increases sales effectiveness. Accelerate digital transformation in Asset Management is essential to minimize operational risk and delaying digital changes, transformations or new technologies contributes to risk as becoming uncompetitive, additional costs for regulatory compliance and deterioration of the quality of services, for examples. The operational risk in Asset Management of delaying digital changes is illustrated on the next side.

According to EFAMA (European Fund and Asset Management Association) has digitalization revolutionized

COST REDUCE OF MIDDLE AND BACK-OFFICE BY 20-30%

# **Market Analysis**



## **Accelerating Digital Transformation in Asset Management to Minimize Operating Risks**

Examples of the biggest risks of delaying digitalization changes in Asset Management



# **Potential within Corporate Finance**

In December 2022 Huddlestock signed the new customer Vator Securities to Bricknode Broker, who is also Huddlestock's first client within the corporate finance segment and can therefore be seen as a proof of Huddlestock's wide range of use, and also imply a greater potential within the corporate finance segment, where other corporate finance and Project Finance firms can be supported by Huddlestock's solutions, such as Bricknode Broker. Huddlestock supports the operations needs of asset managers, fintech, banks, neobanks, and also corporate finance firms through Vator. Corporate finance firms often offers services such as IPOs, Mergers and Acquisitions, raising capital, right issues and private placements. Vator chose Bricknode Broker in order to digitalize their processes and streamline their share issue operations. According to the Swedish Finansinspektionen, approx. 100 firms has a license to act as a securities company in Sweden, which is required to offer the services that corporate finance firms often do. Even though some of these companies are not corporate finance firms, it gives an indication of the number of firms that Huddlestock can address and help digitalize within just the Swedish market.

~100 CORPORATE FINANCE FIRMS TO ADDRESS



### Revenue Forecast 2023-2025

Huddlestock's consolidated net revenues amounted to NOK 46.7M (23.4) during the full year 2022, corresponding to a growth of 100%. The consolidated net revenue consists of revenues from the consulting services and recurring revenues (ARR) from the technology business. Since the acquisition of Visigon Nordic AB, which was acquired and consolidated in the financial statements in June 2021, revenues from consulting services have constituted the largest portion of Huddlestock's total revenues. For the full year 2022, revenues from consulting services accounted for approximately 84% of the total revenues (NOK 39.5M), with recurring revenues accounting for approximately 16% of total revenues (NOK 7.4M), compared to a share of 87% for consulting services and 13% for recurring revenues in the full year 2021. During 2022, recurring revenues (ARR) from technology business grew by 174% Y-Y to NOK 7.4M, while consolidated total revenues grew by 100%. Huddlestock announced the acquisitions of Tracs group, which, however, were not consolidated in the financial statements for the year 2022. Therefore, on a pro forma basis for the full year 2022, the revenues amounted to NOK 61.6M, and in 2023, the acquisitions of Dtech and Bricknode were announced, which, when included, pro forma revenues for the full year 2022 are estimated by Analyst Group to be approximately NOK 75M, given the divestment of F5 IT in H2-23.

### **Increased Pro Forma Revenues**

Huddlestock's acquired firms, consolidated dates, stand-alone revenues and Pro forma revenues year 2021 - 2022



Source: Huddlestock

In the first nine months of 2023, the consolidated net revenue amounted to NOK 62.6M (31.9), corresponding to a growth of 90%. The most commonly used financial metric for SaaS businesses is the Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR) since it is an accurate metric for future cash flows, as it illustrates the obtained fees every year for the life of a subscription. For Huddlestock the recurring revenues is referred to as Technology revenues, i.e., technology related revenues for Huddlestock, which were further strengthened during Q3-23 to NOK 10.1M, indicating an ARR above NOK 40M. Pro forma revenues during the first nine months 2023 amounted to NOK 70.6M (45,4), corresponding to a proforma growth of 56%. Considering the pro forma recurring revenues which amounted to NOK 29.2M during Q1-Q3-23, accounting for 41% of the total pro forma revenues. As previously mentioned, Huddlestock acquired Dtech and Bricknode, which was announced during Q1-23. The acquisition of Dtech was completed late March 2023, and at the same time, Huddlestock received approval from the Norwegian FSA to acquire Trac Services and Tracs Technology, which entailed that the acquisition was completed on 31st of March 2023. The acquisition of Bricknode was announced in the middle of March 2023 and was completed on 4th of April 2023. The completion of the acquisitions means that all companies are consolidated during the second quarter of 2023. Revenues from Tracs group, Dtech and Bricknode contains of a high rate of ARR, which is why technology revenue accounts for a higher portion of total revenue on a pro forma basis in the year 2023.

41 % RECURRING REVENUE OF TOTAL REVENUES



<sup>1</sup>Pro forma numbers includes Visigon, consolidated June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. <sup>2</sup>Pro forma numbers are estimated by Analyst Group and includes Tracs group, Dtech and Bricknode.





NEW CUSTOMERS CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED ARR

3-18 MONTHS SALES CYCLES

INCREASED RECURRING REVENUES

Huddlestock has gained five (5) new clients since the acquired firms was consolidated, which consists for example of Garantum Wealth Management, Norse and Tind Asset Management, as well as the Company's first Family Office to use Portfolio Management, and a Swedish asset management firm that has selected Bricknode Broker. The fact that Huddlestock has already secured five new clients within the Technology business validates the value of the Company's integrated product portfolio and can be seen as a proof of Huddlestock's wide range of use within the sector, which is also aligned with the Company's key priorities for 2023-2024 to execute and win clients with the existing products available, indicating a high rising ARR. Furthermore, Huddlestock has stated that the company has a strong pipeline of new prospects within Investment-as-a-Service, with significant opportunities in the German, Norwegian, and Swedish markets. Despite high business activity in the recent quarters and Huddlestock already signing five new clients across various segments, Analyst Group assesses that Huddlestock has a good opportunity to continue securing new deals. By combining and strengthening the Company's offering within Investment-as-a-Service and maintaining a strong market presence, we anticipate high business activity in the future, despite sales having a generally long sales cycle nature. Additionally, it should be noted that the Company's existing customers and recently signed ones typically scale up their usage of Huddlestock's products, explained by the modular and scalable offering, indicating growth within these customers and a Net Revenue Retention (NRR) exceeding 100%. One (1) new customer to Huddlestock Investment-as-a-Service implies ARR between NOK 0.4 - 2.5M, depending on functions and volume. Within Huddlestock Technology services, including Huddlestock Trader, Investor Service, Wealth and Investment Manager, as well as Bricknode Broker, is the revenue model based on recurring revenues, and dependent on functions and volume. The volume-based fee is, for exempel, dependent on factors such as the number of accounts, assets on the platform or assets under management (AUM), number of trades, and/or numbers of adminusers, and therefore, Huddlestock can grow with their clients as well.

Within the Technology business the relationship is often long because it constitutes as business-critical services and constitutes as foundational technologies for customers, which contributes to a high Total Contract Value (TCV). The high TCV and ARR explains why future revenues can be seen with a high degree of certainty. But at the same time, it also means that the sales cycles are long, which can be attributed to the fact that switching or selecting a software provider for financial services involves a thorough evaluation process. It constitutes significant business decisions and can be business-critical, considering the areas of use and complexity of the systems involved. Sales cycles are estimated to be 3-18 months, which is why having a substantial sales pipeline is crucial for scaling up the number of deals. Huddlestock has a strong sales pipeline with several prospects, and the newly combined product mix allows Huddlestock to execute on sales synergies, such as cross-selling and engage with all of the Company's prospects, which has also been confirmed by the new signed client which is utilizing several parts of the new Company. Beyond that, Huddlestock has stated that by the acquisition of Bricknode the revenue side has been identified to amount to approx. NOK 25M in increased customer revenues through the delivery of an improved onboarding process and a significantly shortened time to market approach. Analyst Group therefore assesses that Huddlestock has a good opportunity to continuing on delivering new deals, despite the long sales cycles. New clients within all verticals, and growth among Huddlestock's already existing clients, are driving factors for the overall growth going forward, which will contribute to increased ARR and that the share of recurring revenues gradually will constitute a larger portion of Huddlestock's total revenues.

# Recurring Revenue From Technology Expects To Constitute a Large Portion Of the Total Revenues.

Net revenue distribution year 2022-2025E and pro forma revenues year 2022 and 2023E.



Source: Analyst Group's Estimates

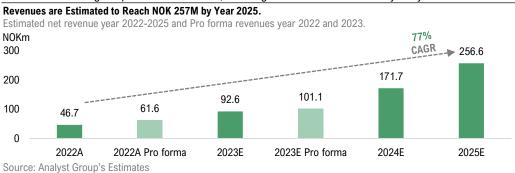
Huddlestock's consultancy service contains of the acquired firm Visigon Nordic, and was earlier also complemented by the acquired firm F5 IT, where the professional services is specialized into technology projects to financial institutions and financial companies, both also projects within the Huddlestock Group. However, it's worth noting that F5 IT primarily focused on in-house projects and played a crucial role in developing key components for the Technology offering. The consultancy service has significant multiyear relationships with most Swedish and Danish banking firms, disruptor neobanks and innovative platforms. The revenues from the Consultancy business amounted to approx. NOK 40M during the first nine months of 2023 (Q1-Q3).



LONG-TERM
CONTRACT OF
NOK ~20M

The last communicated agreement within the consultancy service consisted of a long-term contract with a Northern European central bank with an estimated value of DKK 13M, corresponding to approximately NOK 20M, over four (4) years, which is a strong validation of the high standard of the consultancy service. Huddlestock has stated that the consulting business has added more products to serve the banking industry, while maintaining good visibility throughout the year 2024 with existing and new customer contracts, despite the slightly weaker macroeconomic outlook. The consulting business also serves a wide range of customers in the financial market, creating good opportunities to integrate Huddlestock's technology with clients and/or engage consultants with new customers in the technology business, for example implementation of Huddlestock's software. As a result, Huddlestock is expected to generate additional revenue synergies as the group expands. The consulting business of Huddlestock is expected to grow at a CAGR of approximately 29% during the period 2022-2025, reaching NOK 84.7M by year 2025.

By combining and coordinating the acquired businesses and products, Huddlestock will be able to expand the addressable market with a complete end-to-end solution, win clients in all verticals, while accelerating revenues from upselling opportunities within the combined customer base. Given derived forecasts within the technology business and the consulting business, Huddlestock is expected to demonstrate a total CAGR of 77% during the period of 2022-2025, reaching NOK 257M in revenues by the year 2025.



# Estimated Costs 2023-2024

Huddlestock's consolidated total cost base amounts to NOK 91.7M LTM and NOK 61.4M in the full year 2022, including materials / subcontractors, other operating costs and staffing costs. The largest cost item for Huddlestock its personnel, which amounts to NOK 72.8M LTM and NOK 43.6M in the full year 2022. The total cost base has increased rapidly since 2021, due to upscaling the organization, by including acquisitions and continuing investments in Huddlestock's technology, adding personnel to consultancy services, as well as upgrading regulatory licenses, increasing the organizational support and customization of software. Huddlestock has outlined a cost reduction plan and an additional cost reduction plan, enabled in part by cost synergies among the acquired operations and built upon the previously communicated cost synergy initiatives, which is expected to be executed from H2-23 and throughout the year 2024.

# COST SYNERGIES FROM H2-23

### **Huddlestock Have Identified Several Cost Syneriges.**

Cost reduction program and additional cost reduction program, annual cost synergies.

Type of Cost Synergies	Effects From	NOKm
From two to one office in Stockholm	H2-23	0.9
Termination of external development consultants (Tech team)	H2-23	4.0
Simplified legal structure (accounting, auditing, licences)	H2-23	0.6
Delisting from Nasdaq with associated effects	H2-23	0.5
Digital Marketing Consultant	H2-23	0.1
One FTE	H2-23	1.0
Reduction of Servia Tech team	H2-23	1.7
Other (e.g. reduce of CRM, 365 Office, marketing license)	H2-23	0.5
Annual savings		9.2

Source: Huddlestock

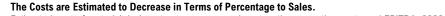


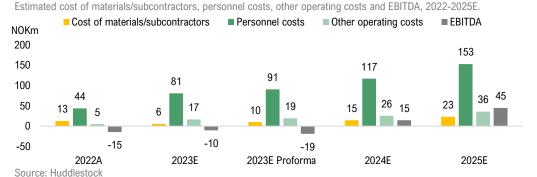
Type of Cost Synergies	Effects From	NOKm
Terminate Market Making	H2-23	0.3
Additional reduction of office cost	H1-24	0.3
Reduction of Ukraine Tech Team further	H2-23	1.2
Cancel additional company admin expenses	H2-23	0.8
Streamline organisation	H1-24	5.2
Annual savings		7.8

The total cost base pro forma, including cost of materials / subcontractors, personnel costs, and other operating costs, amounted to NOK 81.2M during 9M 2023 (Q1-Q3), compared to NOK 71.0M for the consolidated financial statements. However, as mentioned earlier, Huddlestock is expected to execute on the cost reduction plan from Q4-23, which is anticipated to decrease the total cost base going forward. Despite the expectation for Huddlestock to continue investing in its technology to remain at the forefront of the market and scale up sales, the Company possesses a scalable business model with an estimated low Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) and an Average Cost of Service (ACS). This, combined with the fact that the Company is a software provider, creates good conditions for efficiently scaling up the number of customers and services without incurring significant costs. However, in the consulting business, the operations are not as scalable as in the technology business, as more and larger mandates require more consultants. Through the acquisitions, the Company possesses a robust organization where resources can be coordinated internally, and Huddlestock can leverage experts internally and externally, which is expected to contribute to a more streamlined organization. Huddlestock has guided that the Company is expected to achieve a positive EBITDA result for the full year of 2024.

POSITIVE EBITDA FOR THE FULL YEAR 2024

Huddlestock's EBITDA result amounted to NOK -8.4M during 9M-23, while the pro forma EBITDA result amounted to NOK -10.5M. Given that Huddlestock scales up revenues through acquiring new clients, expanding the target market with a complete end-to-end solution, and leveraging upselling opportunities among the combined customer base, in combination with the Company's continued execution of cost synergies, Analyst Group estimates that Huddlestock will achieve a positive EBITDA result for the full year 2024, performing an EBITDA margin of approximately 9%.





Forecast, Base scenario (NOKm)	2022	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
Net revenue	46.7	92.6	101.1	171.7	256.6
Other operating income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Group Revenue	46.7	92.6	101.1	171.7	256.6
Cost of materials/subcontractors	-12.8	-5.6	-9.9	-14.6	-23.1
Personnel costs	-43.6	-80.6	-90.6	-116.8	-152.7
Other operating costs	-5.0	-16.7	-19.5	-25.8	-35.9
EBITDA	-14.7	-10.2	-18.7	14.6	44.9
EBITDA margin	-31%	-11%	-19%	9%	18%
Depreciation and amortization	-18.4	-45.6	-47.4	-49.0	-48.6
EBIT	-33.1	-55.8	-66.2	-34.4	-3.7
Ebit margin	-71%	-60%	-65%	-20%	-1%

# **Valuation**



The valuation of Huddlestock is based on a relative valuation were Huddlestock is compared to a peer group with a similar business model and addressable market. Due to Huddlestock's unique end-to-end solutions and product portfolio, it is challenging to find directly comparable businesses within the Nordic markets. Additionally, it should be noted that Huddlestock was the first publicly listed fintech company in Norway, further highlighting the absence of companies within the same market in Norway. Therefore, a slightly larger selection group has been used, despite that the companies differ in size in terms of market cap and sales, as well as geographic market and degree of maturity, there are still several similarities between the companies and Huddlestock, regarding business model, growth outlook, product offering, margins and addressable market. Huddlestock provides a cloud-based software to the financial sector, with full operational service support and a leading financial professional service business and thus also classified as a B2B SaaS-company. Hence, Huddlestock can be compared with other financial software providers with B2B SaaS offers and/or consultancy services, such as nCino, Q2, SimCorp, Temenos, Alkami Technology, Niiio Finance Gorup, Meridianlink Inc and Broadridge Financial Solutions.



nCino Inc., is a B2B software-as-a-service company and is a global provider of cloud banking and digital solutions for the global financial services industry. The Company enhances banks and credit unions with the technology they need to meet client expectations and regulatory requirements. The Company serves financial institution customers of all sizes, including global financial institutions, enterprise banks, regional banks, community banks, credit unions and specialty lenders.

Market Cap (MUSD) 3,389

List: Nasdaq GS



**Q2 Holdings, Inc.** is a provider of secure, cloud-based digital solutions. The Company sells its solutions to financial institutions, alternative finance and leasing companies (Alt-Fls), and financial technology companies (FinTechs). The Company's solutions enable its customers to deliver robust suites of digital banking, lending, leasing, and banking as a service (BaaS) services.

Market Cap (MUSD) 2,063

List: NYSE



**SimCorp A/S** is a Denmark-based company engaged in the development and marketing of software solutions to the financial industry. The Company's product, SimCorp Dimension, is a customizable, modular investment management software solution for professional investment managers, which supports all elements of the investment management process. In May 2023 Deutsche Börse AG offer a public takeover offer to acquire all in SimCorp A/S at a price of DKK 735 per share. Public offer corresponds to a Company value: EUR 3,870M or DKK 29,768M.

Market Cap (MDKK) 29,768

> List: Large Cap Copenhagen



**Temenos AG** is a Switzerland-based company engaged in the development and marketing of banking software systems. The Company develops, markets, and sells integrated banking software systems to banking and other financial institutions worldwide. The company provides for example Temenos Transact, a banking solution that offers banking software, and data and analytics.

Market Cap (MUSD) 4,986

> List: SIX Swiss Exchange



**Alkami Technology** is a B2B software-as-a-service company and offers cloud-based digital banking solutions in the United States. The company's Alkami Platform allows financial institutions to onboard and engage new users, accelerate revenues, and enhance operational efficiency, with the support of a proprietary, cloud-based, and multi-tenant architecture.

Market Cap (MUSD) 2,089

List: NASDAQ GS



Niiio Finance Group provides cloud-based software-as-a-service solutions for banks and financial service providers. The company offers ESG/sustainability, portfolio management, wealth management, risk management, order and execution management, advisory and financial planning, robo-advisory, client onboarding, client portal, analytics, client reporting, and billing solutions, as well as CRM for ongoing client management.

Market Cap (MEUR) 16

List: Xetra



Meridianlink Inc. a software and services company, provides software solutions for banks, credit unions, mortgage lenders, specialty lending providers, and consumer reporting agencies in the United States. The company offers MeridianLink One, a multi-product platform that can be tailored to meet the needs of customers as they digitally transform their organizations and adapt to changing business and consumer demands.

Market Cap (MUSD) 1,523

List: NYSE



Broadridge Financial Solutions provides technology-driven solutions for the financial services industry. The company's Investor Communication Solutions segment processes and distributes proxy materials to investors in equity securities and mutual funds, as well as facilitates related vote processing services; and distributes regulatory reports, class action, and corporate action/reorganization event information, as well as tax reporting solutions.

Market Cap (MUSD) 22,136

List: NYSE



# **Valuation**



Key Metrics (NOKm)	nCino <sup>1</sup>	Q2 <sup>1</sup>	SimCorp <sup>2</sup>	Temenos <sup>i</sup>	Alkami <sup>1</sup>	Niiio Finance <sup>1</sup>	Meridianlink <sup>1</sup>	Broadridge <sup>1</sup>	Average	Median	Huddlestock
Market Cap	36,162	22,014	45,889	60,385	22,295	184	16,255	236,186	54,921	29,228	242
Enterprise	36,026	26,191	41,060	69,218	22,571	186	19,995	279,848	61,887	31,108	260
Gross Margin	59%	47%	60%	67%	53%	37%	69%	30%	53%	56%	80%
EBITDA Margin	-8%	-9%	27%	22%	-26%	-29%	18%	23%	2%	5%	-21%
Solvency	79%	37%	55%	24%	67%	55%	53%	24%	49%	54%	55%
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.3	-196.6	0.0	2.3	1.3	-1.0	4.7	3.5	-23.2	0.8	-0.1
Debt Ratio	0.3	1.7	0.8	3.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	3.2	1.4	0.9	0.8
Sales Growth Y-Y	49%	13%	13%	-2%	34%	203%	8%	14%	42%	14%	100%
Sales Growth CAGR (2022A-2025E)	16%	11%	8%	7%	25%	4%	8%	6%	11%	8%	76%
EBITDA Margin 2023E	12%	11%	23%	39%	-2%	-8%	35%	23%	17%	17%	-11%

### Base Scenario

The derived fair value per share is based on a relative methodology where Huddlestock is compared to a peer group that provides financial software solutions. Huddlestock are in a rapid sales growth phase and are estimated to have a high sustainable growth going forward, which motivates the valuation to be based on sales.

Huddlestock has a relatively short financial history and has acquired several businesses in recent years. Through these acquisitions and successful coordination of operations, Huddlestock is expected to execute significant revenue synergies, while the combined offering will constitute a unique product portfolio in the market. Given successful coordination and an expanded target market through a complete end-to-end solution, as well as continued organic growth, Huddlestock is estimated to demonstrate strong growth in the coming years. However, compared to the peer group, Huddlestock is significantly smaller than the average and is in a much earlier stage, which justifies a valuation discount compared to the peer group. On the other hand, Huddlestock possesses a better capital structure than the average and median of the peer group, despite acquiring several companies, which is explained by the financing primarily being conducted through share issuances. Additionally, it should be noted that the acquired firms enables Huddlestock to leverage the operational benefit from inherent in its business model to a greater extent, which is estimated to result in improved margins. Analyst Group assumes that Huddlestock's focus going forward will primarily be on coordinating the acquired operations and products, as well as executing on the opportunities it possesses, hence a decrease in acquisition activity is anticipated. This, combined with the Company achieving a positive EBITDA result, is expected to further reduce financial risk in the future.

### Huddlestock in Relation to Peers, According to Analyst Group.

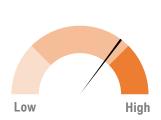
Weighted assessment based on financial history and estimates

# Low High

**Revenue Growth** 



**Profitability** 



Risk

Analyst Group's Estimates

<sup>1</sup>USD/NOK: 10.67, EUR/NOK: 11.69, DKK/NOK: 1.57. 2023-12-05 <sup>2</sup>Based on the acquisition offer and the latest reported figures



# **Valuation**



Company <sup>1</sup>		P/S			EV/S			EV/EBITDA	
	LTM	2023E	2024E	LTM	2023E	2024E	2022A	2023E	2024E
nCino	8.3	7.1	6.1	8.3	7.1	6.1	neg.	59.8	41.7
Q2	3.6	3.3	3.0	4.3	3.9	3.6	neg.	29.9	22.3
Simcorp	6.9	6.4	5.9	6.8	6.3	5.8	25.4	27.3	22.4
Temenos	5.3	5.0	4.6	6.0	5.8	5.3	30.1	14.7	13.1
Alkami Technology	10.2	8.0	6.4	10.4	8.1	6.5	neg.	128.3	42.6
Niiio Finace Group	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.9	neg.	neg.	15.9
Meridianlink Inc	5.3	5.0	4.6	6.5	6.2	5.7	26.3	17.5	15.7
Broadridge Financial Solutions	3.9	3.7	3.4	4.6	4.3	4.0	21.5	18.8	17.2
High	10.2	8.0	6.4	10.4	8.1	6.5	30.1	128.3	42.6
75th Percentile	7.9	6.9	6.1	7.9	6.9	6.1	29.2	59.8	36.9
Average	5.7	5.1	4.5	6.1	5.5	4.9	25.8	42.3	23.9
Median	5.3	5.0	4.6	6.3	6.0	5.5	25.9	27.3	19.8
25th Percentile	3.7	3.4	3.1	4.4	4.0	3.7	22.5	17.5	15.7
Low	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.9	21.5	14.7	13.1
Huddlestock	3.2	2.6	1.4	3.4	2.8	1.5	neg.	neg.	17.8

The peer group is valued at a median EV/S multiple of 6.3x LTM (average 6.1x), which is higher than Huddlestock's LTM valuation and is higher than the latest analysis update, where the EV/S multiple amounted to 6.0 and 5.7 respectively. Additionally, it should be noted that Huddlestock demonstrates significantly higher pro forma revenue and is expected to grow at a much faster rate than the average of the peer group, resulting in a comparison of forward EV/S multiple based on 2024 estimates. The median EV/S multiple is estimated to be 5.5x (average 4.9x), while Huddlestock is valued at 1.5x, according to Analyst Group's estimates for 2024. We believe that Huddlestock is undervalued at current levels and that, given its unique positioning as a B2B software provider of financial solutions, higher expected growth, and scalable business model, Analyst Group believes that the current valuation gap (1.5x – 5.5x) is too large.

In addition, it should be noted that through its acquired businesses, Huddlestock will be able to offer a unique solution in the market, enabling Investment-as-a-Service, where the combined offering can expand the market and increase the Company's Net Revenue Retention (NRR) through a modular product offering, combined customer base and a broader product portfolio. As mentioned earlier, it is challenging to find directly comparable businesses in the Nordic markets and there are only a few players in the global market with a similar offering. Some of the leading players in the market today include DriveWealth, Wealth Kernal, and FNZ, which provide various types of B2B investment platforms through SaaS models. For example, the UK-based neobank Revolut has relatively recently added stock trading and investment accounts to its offering, with DriveWealth as a carrying broker for Revolut's brokerage services. However, it should be noted that these players and Huddlestock operate in different niches within Investment-as-a-Service with slightly varying offerings and addressable client groups, and while they are privately held. The interest in these companies are high, and several funding rounds have been conducted in the past, although the transaction details are generally not disclosed, making it difficult to determine exact valuation multiples. Nevertheless, this demonstrates the strong interest in the business model.

Given this, also considering the current challenging market climate of increased risk aversion for in particular fast-growing companies that are not yet profitable, Analyst Group believes that an EV/S multiple of 4.1x on the estimated revenue of NOK 171.7m in 2024 is justified. This results in an enterprise value of NOK 697M, which, adjusted for the net debt and not yet issued shares to Bricknode's shareholders<sup>2</sup>, yields a potential present market value of NOK 598M, or NOK 2.9 per share in a Base scenario, after taking a discount rate of 12% and the recent completed private placement into account.

NOK 2.9 PER SHARE IN BASE SCENARIO

<sup>1</sup>Collected market data from Tikr. <sup>2</sup>Including not yet issued shares to Bricknode, in the calculation the number of shares is calculated to be 206.616.460.



# **Bull & Bear**



### **Bull Scenario**

The following is a selection of potential value drivers in a Bull scenario:

- Huddlestock wins clients at a faster pace than expected, driven by successful execution of the Company's pipeline of prospects and expansion into new target markets with the complete end-to-end solution.
- Huddlestock successfully realizes cost and revenue synergies, leading to a streamlined organization and margin expansion.
- Huddlestock's consulting business secures larger mandates from new and existing clients, further strengthening the market position.

Given above, Huddlestock is estimated to grow and perform a CAGR of 99% (2022-2025E), reaching a net revenue of NOK 234M in 2024 and NOK 370M in 2025.<sup>1</sup> As the Company performs better, a higher target multiple is motivated. By applying an EV/S target multiple of 4.4x, a potential present value per share of NOK 4.4 is motivated in a Bull scenario, after taking a discount rate of 12% into account.<sup>2</sup>

### Rear Scenario

The following is a selection of potential factors in a Bear scenario:

- The coordination of acquired firms and product portfolio takes longer than expected, resulting in Huddlestock's offering being less competitive and impeding the Company's ability to attract new clients.
- Huddlestock fails to streamline the organization, and the identified cost synergies are not achieved to the same extent as estimated, making it challenging for Huddlestock to achieve a positive EBITDA in the near term.
- Huddlestock's consulting business struggles to find qualified workforce, resulting in difficulties to scale
  up the operations.

Given above factors, Huddlestock is estimated to grow slower and perform a CAGR of 51% (2022-2025E), reaching a net revenue of NOK 119M in 2024 and NOK 162M in 2025.<sup>1</sup> As the Company performs worse and faces a negative EBITDA result and higher need of external capital, a lower target multiple is motivated. By applying an EV/S target multiple of 2.1x, a potential present value per share of NOK 1.1 is motivated in a Bear scenario, after taking a discount rate of 12% into account.<sup>2</sup>

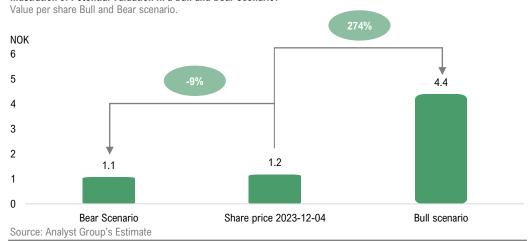
# NOK 1.1 PER SHARE IN BEAR SCENARIO

**NOK 4.4** 

PER SHARE IN

**BULL SCENARIO** 

### Illustration of Potential Valuation In a Bull and Bear Scenario.



<sup>1</sup>Refer to Appendix page 20-21 for forecasts in the Bull and Bear scenarios.

<sup>2</sup>Including not yet issued shares to Bricknode and given recent private placement, in the calculation the number of shares is calculated to be 206,616,460.



# **CEO Interview with John E. Skajem**





The third quarter 2023 has finished, and we are now beyond the midpoint of the fourth quarter. Could you provide us with a brief summary of the quarter and Huddlestock's developments during this period up to today?

Huddlestock has in the fourth quarter continued to focus on the combination of increased focus on revenue generating activities (growth) and EBITDA improving actions (cost control). The company is continuing to keep that focus in Q4.

One of the Huddlestock's goals is to achieve a positive EBITDA for the full year 2024. Could you elaborate on the plan in order to reach a positive EBITDA for the full year of 2024?

Since it is easier to control costs than revenues, cost control will be a given high priority until expected new revenues are secured.

Huddlestock has strengthened its offering within Investment-as-a-Service and now provides a strong value proposition to providers of investment services. Can you elaborate a bit more of Huddlestock's offering within Investment-as-a-Service and the potential you foresee in the future?

Huddlestock's Investment-as-a-Service is a set of services that our customer can utilize and benefit from. What differ Huddlestock's offering from traditional providers of e.g. Trading, Wealth Management, etc, is the flexible delivery model. Huddlestock provides the missing pieces of our customers needs, meaning that our Investment-as-a-Service offering is relevant and attractive both for customers that need a full set-up, but also for customers that only need "that last puzzle" to be fully competitive in their market.

Can you explain why Huddlestock is a good investment today?

- Huddlestock is an early mover in a highly growing Investment-as-a-Service Market.
- Per ultimo 2023, Huddlestock is operating in a market with few competitors.
- Huddlestock has a proven business model built on a unique combination of underlying services.
   Compared to newcomers in this market, Huddlestock has per 2023 already invested MEUR 25 it its technology which is expected to result in attractive capitalization on the coming years
- Huddlestock is one of very few service providers who also has the regulator licenses as a service.
   Regulatory licenses are very difficult to obtain, and it takes a long time (from 12 to 24 months lead time if at all).

# **Management & Board**





### Øyvind Hovland, Chairman

Øyvind is a serial entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in starting and scaling companies in various industries. In addition to Huddlestock Fintech, it is notably Cyviz AS – with offices globally, and Vision IO AS, a leading optic camera provider to the Oil and gas industry.



### Morten Flørenæss, Board member

Morten has been an instrumental part of the management in all the Tracs companies prior to now getting more engaged inn Tracs Accounting as their CEO. Morten brings stability, financial and administrative know how to the Board.



### Ramtin Matin, Board member

Ramtin is Head of Innovation at Sparebank 1 SR-Bank. He has a strong track record in technology innovation within the financial services industry, applying Al and Blockchain. His previous roles include hands-on participation in portfolio companies within SR-Banks Venture Fund Finstart Nordic, regional lead and Senior Solutions Architect for SAS Institute, management consulting with PWC.



# Jan Sigurd Vigmostad, Board member

Jan Sigurd is the Chief Operating Officer for Glastad Holding, which is the parent company of most of the Group's investments, including Huddlestock Fintech AS. He has a long and distinguished carrier with investments and finance and brings to the board a wealth of knowledge and experience.



John E. Skajem, Group CEO

John Egil is the Group CEO of Huddlestock Fintech AS. Following a long career in international finance and working for global investment banks, asset managers and large universal banks, John has gained a thorough understanding of all aspects of the financial services industry. He holds MBA work from the University of Chicago.



### **Anders Peinert, Chief Financial Officer**

Anders is the Financial Officer of the Group. Anders has a strong and solid track record from more than 30 years of experience in the financial industry. He has most of his carrier been an investment manager at leading Nordic asset management companies like Storebrand and Alecta. In his carrier he has gained international experience from working in London, Stockholm and Oslo. He has a Bachlor of Business Adminstraion from Universty of New Mexico.



# **Petter Midtsian, Chief Consulting Officer**

Petter is a co-founder of Visigon with a M.Sc in Engineering and a B.Sc. in Business from Uppsala University. He has a strong background in consulting and the financial industry with experience from many banks and financial institutions in the Nordics.

# **Management & Board**





### **Leif Arnold Thomas, Chief Corporate Development**

Leif Arnold is Head of Corporate Development in Huddlestock. Leif ArnoldMr Thomas has more than 20 years of experience from the Nordic Fintech industry, including several years and various positions at Oslo Børs, VPS and Euronext. From 2017-2022 he was responsible of the group's Fintech spinoff Centevo, a SaaS provider within the portfolio- and fund management segment. Before entering Huddlestock, mr Thomas worked as CEO at the startup Dtech, a Fintech provider within the pension industry that became part of Huddlestock group March 2023.



# **Daniel Risberg, Chief Product Officer**

Daniel has extensive experience in product development in several roles. His years in international organizations and projects have provided broad knowledge in the FinTech industry. He has a master's degree in Information Systems and a bachelor's degree in International Business from University of Uppsala.



# Stefan Hillebrand, Chief Technical Officer

Stefan has created and developed companies within finance and technology since 1998. In 2000 he started managing money and founded a US-based hedge fund in 2001 based on algorithmic trading. In 2005 he founded SYCAP Group which offered a global trading platform for FX, Spread Betting and CFD Trading with offices in Sweden and the UK. In 2010 he founded Bricknode and has developed the company ever since.



# Erik Hagelin, Chief Strategy Officer and Board Member

Erik is responsible for strategy and partnerships among several other important tasks in Huddlestock. Before joining Bricknode, Erik was involved in the real estate investments area for more than 10 years. He joined Bricknode in 2016 and has been the Co-CEO, responsible for the commercial development and administration in the group.



# Inger Sofie Korbøl, Chief Investor Services

Inger Sofie is the Chief Investor Services as CEO, Head of compliance and the responsible manager for Tracs Services AS. Following a long career in real estate and the financial industry working with settlement and unit holder registry, Inger Sofie has gained a thorough insight and understanding for the securities trading and custodian services. She holds the licences from the Norwegian FSA.



# Robert Fuchsrgruber, Chief Commercial Officer

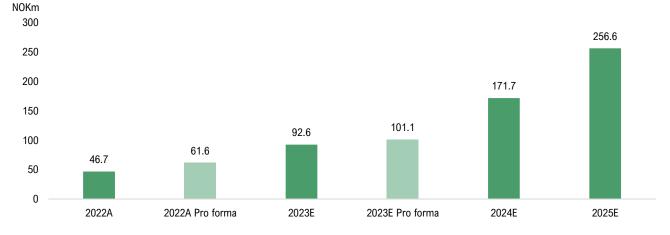
Robert is the CEO of Huddlestock's German business. He brings extensive experience from B2B business with independent wealth managers in Germany and digital solutions for private client platforms. While at DAB BNP, Robert was a member of BNP Paribas' Executive Committee for Private Investors overseeing Consorsbank, DAB and BNP Private Banking since 2016, and a member of BNP Paribas' Executive Committee for Germany. He joined DAB BNP Paribas in 2008.

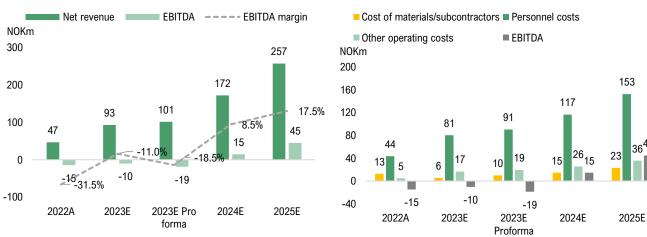
# **Appendix**



Base Scenario (NOKm)	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
Net revenues	46.7	75.8	92.6	101.1	171.7	256.6
Other operating income	0,0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Group revenue	46.7	75.8	92.6	101.1	171.7	256.6
Cost of materials/subcontractors	-12.8	-15.2	-5.6	-9.9	-14.6	-23.1
Personnel costs	-43.6	-72.9	-80.6	-90.6	-116.8	-152.7
Other operating expenses	-5.0	-3.6	-16.7	-19.5	-25.8	-35.9
EBITDA	-14.7	-15.9	-10.2	-18.7	14.6	44.9
EBITDA margin	-31%	-21%	-11%	-19%	9%	18%
Depreciation / Amortization	-18.4	-38.7	-45.6	-47.4	-49.0	-48.6
EBIT	-33.1	-54.5	-55.8	-66.2	-34.4	-3.7
EBIT margin	-71%	-72%	-60%	-65%	-20%	-1%

Key Metrics	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
P/S	5.2	3.2	2.6	2.4	1.4	0.9
EV/S	5.6	3.4	2.8	2.6	1.5	1.0
EV/EBIDA	-17.7	-16.4	-25.5	-13.9	17.8	5.8
EV/EBIT	-7.9	-4.8	-4.7	-3.9	-7.5	-70.4





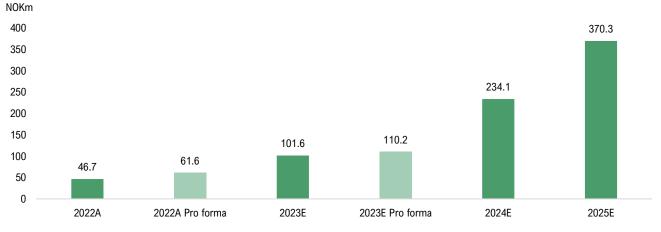


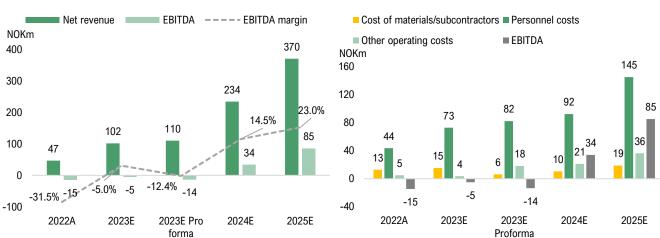
# **Appendix**



Bull Scenario (NOKm)	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
Net revenues	46.7	75.8	101.6	110.2	234.1	370.3
Other operating income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Group revenue	46.7	75.8	101.6	110.2	234.1	370.3
Cost of materials/subcontractors	-12.8	-15.2	-6.1	-10.4	-18.7	-29.6
Personnel costs	-43.6	-72.9	-82.3	-92.3	-145.1	-203.7
Other operating expenses	-5.0	-3.6	-18.3	-21.1	-36.3	-51.8
EBITDA	-14.7	-15.9	-5.1	-13.6	33.9	85.2
EBITDA margin	-31%	-21%	-5%	-12%	15%	23%
Depreciation / Amortization	-18.4	-38.7	-45.6	-47.4	-49.0	-48.6
EBIT	-33.1	-54.5	-50.7	-61.1	-15.1	36.6
EBIT margin	-71%	-72%	-50%	-55%	-6%	10%

Key Metrics	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
P/S	5.2	3.2	2.4	2.2	1.0	0.7
EV/S	5.6	3.4	2.6	2.4	1.1	0.7
EV/EBIDA	-17.7	-16.4	-51.2	-19.1	7.7	3.1
EV/EBIT	-7.9	-4.8	-5.1	-4.3	-17.2	7.1



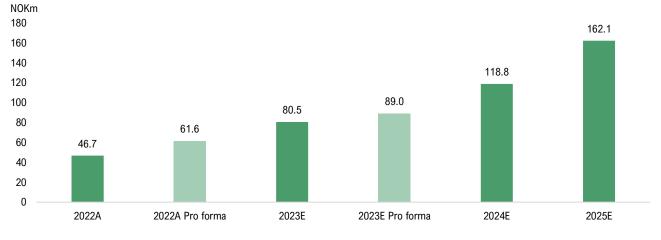


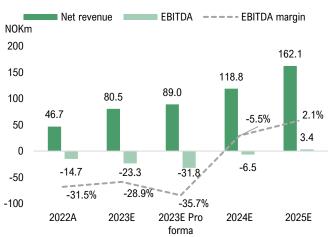
# **Appendix**

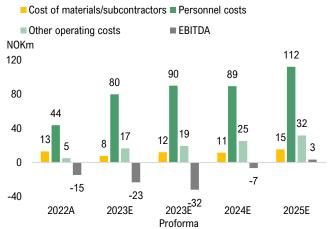


Bear Scenario (NOKm)	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
Net revenues	46.7	75.8	80.5	89.0	118.8	162.1
Other operating income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Group revenue	46.7	75.8	80.5	89.0	118.8	162.1
Cost of materials/subcontractors	-12.8	-15.2	-7.6	-11.9	-11.3	-15.2
Personnel costs	-43.6	-72.9	-79.6	-89.6	-89.1	-111.8
Other operating expenses	-5.0	-3.6	-16.5	-19.3	-24.9	-31.6
EBITDA	-14.7	-15.9	-23.3	-31.8	-6.5	3.4
EBITDA margin	-31%	-21%	-29%	-36%	-5%	2%
Depreciation / Amortization	-18.4	-38.7	-45.6	-47.4	-49.0	-48.6
EBIT	-33.1	-54.5	-68.9	-79.2	-55.6	-45.2
EBIT margin	-71%	-72%	-86%	-89%	-47%	-28%

Key Metrics	2022	LTM	2023E	2023E Pro forma	2024E	2025E
P/S	5.2	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.0	1.5
EV/S	5.6	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.2	1.6
EV/EBIDA	-17.7	-16.4	-11.2	-8.2	-39.8	76.4
EV/EBIT	-7.9	-4.8	-3.8	-3.3	-4.7	-5.8







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