

Morning Wrap

Today's Newsflow

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Equity Research

23 Apr 2024

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Upcoming Events

Company Events

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Economic Events

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26-Apr	GfK Consumer Confidence
25-Apr	CBI Distributive Trade Survey

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Molten Ventures 4.2% H2 GPV uplift negates 3.7% H1 decline

Molten Ventures issued a Trading Update this morning covering the year to March, in advance of Annual Results on June 12th, pointing to a "flat" annual outturn in Gross Portfolio Value (GPV). As such, a 4.2% constant currency increase in H2, served to counter the previously reported 3.7% decline in the first half of the year. The net result, despite an adverse currency movement in H2 (-£19m), is a year-end gross portfolio value of c.£1,377m driven by a £55m H2 uplift. That compares to the £1,371m reported for the year to March 2023 and a constant currency estimate in our model of £1,417m. Factoring in dealflow (Forward Partners, Seedcamp Fund III, etc), realisations and the Placing that raised £55m net of fees, NAV per share is anticipated to be c.661p, relative to the 780p reported for the same period the prior year and the 655p forecast in our model. Underpinning the relatively stable valuation trend was an indication that "value-weighted revenue growth in our Core portfolio was 63%" and that 90% of the core portfolio has more than twelve months of cash runway, with over 50% having sufficient funding to last two years.

PLC investment for the twelve months amounted to just £40m with a further £25m deployed (net of acquired cash) in the Forward Partners transaction. The PLC outlay matched cash proceeds of £39m from realisations for the year. Cash at period end stood at £57m on top of which Molten has access to an undrawn £60m RCF. On the assumption that the £90m debt facility is drawn, that would imply net debt as of September of £33m, down from £66m for the same period the prior year, and ahead of our year-end estimate of £43m.

Reflecting the outturn for FY24, the outlook statement from Molten this morning reinforces growing evidence of emerging technology valuation stability, amid stated commentary of "a more normalised realisations market with divestment proceeds expected to be meaningfully higher than the last two years". The outturn for FY24 reinforces our view that the historically conservative approach to asset valuation, allied to an enlarged portfolio (40+ assets from Forward Partners, Seedcamp value concentrated in six mature assets, c.120 direct holdings in total) has not been reflected in the share price given the current 66% discount applied by the market to Molten Ventures NAV per share.

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Recommendation: Buy
Closing Price: £2.26

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Taylor Wimpey Sales rates encouraging in the ytd; FY guidance unchanged

Taylor Wimpey has published a trading update ahead of its AGM later this morning.

Recommendation: Buy
Closing Price: £1.32

The Group notes a “good” start to 2024 with the Spring selling season progressing as expected. Excluding bulk sales, the net private sales rate in the ytd is running at 0.69 (excl bulk impact of 0.04), a touch ahead of last year’s 0.66. This also implies that sales rates (ex bulk) in the last 8 weeks since the FY results are running at 0.72, again a touch ahead of last year’s outturn. Cancellation rates remain low at 13% and the Group also notes that website traffic is encouraging.

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From a land perspective, the Group remains selective in its approach to new acquisitions. A key focus for the Group is on the conversion of plots from its strategic pipeline (successfully converted c.1.5k plots into the short term landbank in the period.) It currently has a short-term landbank of c.81k plots with a further c.140k potential plots in its strategic pipeline. From a dividend perspective, the Group’s differentiated policy of returning c.7.5% of net assets annually in two equal instalments remains unchanged. This will equate to a FY dividend yield of c.7%.

In terms of the outlook, the Group has re-iterated its expectation to deliver 9,500 to 10,000 units with completions weighted 45% / 55% in favour of the second half of the year. It has also re-iterated its guidance for its first half operating margin to be lower sequentially. On balance, we see limited changes to consensus expectations for FY24. Consensus is currently forecasting an outturn of £418m, ahead of our c.£380m. We will adjust our forecast upwards to bring us in line with consensus.

We believe this is an encouraging update from Taylor Wimpey. It is positive to see the sales rate remaining resilient in recent weeks and we can take comfort in the FY guidance remaining unchanged.

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tinyBuild FY23 results as bad as expected; cash remains a problem despite raise

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The group delivered Revenue of \$44.7m (-29% y/y) which is a reflection of the lower subscription environment, less development partnerships and exclusivity agreements. The group posted Adjusted EBITDA of -\$7.1m driven by lower subscription deals, higher amortisation of development costs and inflationary pressure. The group posted an operating loss of \$63.8m impacted by \$48.1m of impairment charges including \$36.2m on development advances and \$11.9m on Intangible Assets. Cash at year end amounted to \$2.5m compared with \$26.5m in 2022. The group raised \$12.3m from existing and new shareholders in a January placing, and at the end of March 2024, it had cash in the high-single digit million level which is expected to reduce towards the half-year point as the companies invests in the near-term pipeline including Kingmakers which it says has attracted significant social media interest ahead of launch. On outlook, the group says it has several larger high potential titles for FY24 and that the board is confident it remains on track to deliver in line with expectations. TBLD continues to remain in a weak cash position post fundraise (high single digit millions and falling), and despite expectations remaining in line for FY24, it is also severely impacted by a fall in subscription models. Commentary with respect to new releases need better execution than we have seen historically from TBLD and further raise prospects will be on the horizon should these titles not release strongly.

Back Catalogue represented 92% of Revenue in FY23 aided by Hello Neighbor 2, Potion Craft 1.0, Graveyard Keeper and others. New releases in the calendar year included Rhythm Sprouts, Punch Club 2, but by virtue of the back catalogue revenue dominance, no major new release saw significant traction.

tinyBuild reference the strong indications for Kingmakers, pre-launch, a title that we see trending in a very strong position also on wishlists, and could be a positive release for TBLD. However, it is better to wait and see TBLD deliver upon expectations which they have not done on title launches in the last 12 months.

Recommendation: Sell
Closing Price: £0.06

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