



ANALYSING THE ANALYSTS

AQ Research Ltd
40 Bowling Green Lane
London EC1R 0NE
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7689 8765
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7425 7058
www.aqresearch.com

- DZ BANK ACHIEVES BEST AVERAGE SCORE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS; MM WARBURG TOP IN GERMANY AND HAS BEST INDIVIDUAL ANALYSTS IN FOUR SECTORS

-

(Embargoed: 00:01am 3 November 2005)

London, 2 November, 2005 — AQ Research, the independent rankings firm, today publishes the results of its latest analysis of European stockbrokers' recommendations. RQ Euro 300 evaluates the performance of **Buy/Hold/Sell** recommendations in the 12 months ending September 30. The report covers Europe's largest 300 companies and analyses recommendations from more than 120 research houses and investment banks.

"It has been a good 12 months for most European markets," says Graham Field, AQ's Managing Director, "and this rewarded analysts with buy calls. DZ Bank does particularly well because it has few hold recommendations. Its analysts got off the fence and got two thirds of their calls right".

Other key highlights of the RQ Euro 300 analysis are as follows:-

- The best performing house overall was **DZ Bank**, which backed a number of the strongly performing stocks such as Ryanair, Deutsche Boerse, DSM and Commerzbank. DZ's Dirk Schlamp was outstanding on Thyssen Krupp and Oliver Schuleter did notably well in timing his upgrade on AstraZeneca.
- Second place overall went to **Oddo Securities**, which was top-rated in **France** and also in the **insurance** sector, where it made very much the right call on AGF. **Deutsche Bank** finished third overall and was also highest rated in the **telecoms** sector.
- Among smaller houses, **MM Warburg** was outstanding. Its analysts topped the rankings in **Germany**, where research head Sven Dopke was the best individual analyst. MM Warburg also had the best individual analysts in the autos, chemicals, health and insurance sectors. And it achieved the highest "hit rate" with 84% of its recommendations scoring above zero.
- Local brokers dominated the country rankings with the highest average scores in **Austria (Raiffeissen Centrobank)**, **Benelux (SNS Securities)**, **Greece (Sigma Brokerage)**, **Iberia (Espirito Sanot Research)**, **Ireland (NCB Stockbrokers)**, **Italy (Caboto Sim)**, **Scandinavia (Evli Bank)** and **Switzerland (Helvea)**. In the UK, **Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein** was highest-rated for recommendations for the fifth successive quarter.

- **JP Morgan** was the highest placed relative house overall in the rankings and its analysts did well in Switzerland, Italy and the basic resources sector. **SG Securities** achieved 29 top RQ scores on individual companies and was also top in three sectors: **chemicals, health** and **retail**.
- At sector level, other global and pan-European houses did well, with **ABN AMRO** topping the **construction, food & beverages** and **telecoms** sectors, while **UBS** was top in financial services and **ING Financial Markets** in basic resources.

CONTACT:

Graham Field, AQ Research Managing Director

Tel: 00 44 (0)20 7278 7998

Mob: 00 44 (0)7973 228980

Notes to Editor:

About AQ Research

AQ Research provides quantitative analysis of analysts' recommendations and eps forecasts, using data obtained from the broking houses involved. AQ's database product ("RATE") has been developed in conjunction with Bureau van Dijk Electronic Publishing (www.bvdep.com), the specialist electronic financial information provider. RATE provides details on 9,000 companies worldwide and more than 200 brokers. AQ has been analysing the accuracy of eps forecasts since 1998 and began publishing its RQ series of reports in 2003. In addition, it provides detailed analysis of the accuracy of research in specific national markets in a series of dedicated Research Yearbooks reports.

'RQ' Methodology

AQ scores each research houses differently, depending on whether they have absolute or relative recommendations. The period over which we are examining recommendations in this report is the 12 months to September 30, 2005. Each recommendation made during this period is assessed over its "lifetime" (i.e. until it is changed).

Analysts are scored on the basis of the percentage share price movement (+ or -) during the lifetime of a particular recommendation. Those with absolute recommendations are measured on the basis of the percentage change in the share price during the lifetime of the recommendation, while those with relative recommendations are measured on the price movement relative to the price of the relevant index. This is either a country index (e.g. FTSE All Share) for those houses which make recommendations on a local index basis or a pan-European index. For those which make sector relative recommendations, it is a sector index (the market sectors within the Dow Jones 600).

Scores have been calculated as follows:

- **A Strong Buy recommendation will receive the percentage share price movement x 1.25.**
- **A Buy recommendation will receive the percentage share price movement times x 1.**
- **A Hold has no score.**
- **A Reduce recommendation will receive the percentage share price movement x -1.**
- **A Sell recommendation will receive the percentage share price movement x -1.25.**

(Where a share price has fallen (absolutely or relatively), this means that an analyst with a Sell or Reduce recommendation will score positively).