



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

*10 June 2003 - London*

## **AQ Germany 2003 report: local houses shine in rankings**

### **BW BANK CLAIMS POLE POSITION**

Accuracy Quotient ('AQ'), the London-based independent research firm, today makes its 2003 Germany country report available. The analysis - available in hardcopy and pdf formats - is based on the accuracy of EPS forecasts by equity analysts in the DAX, MDAX and TecDAX indices and covering 15 industrial sectors from Autos to Utilities. This year the first analysis of the effectiveness of brokers' Buy, Hold and Sell share recommendations is also included.

"The results show that locally based analysts are doing a good job in forecasting German companies," states Graham Field, AQ's Managing Editor. "However, companies here continue to present a very mixed picture in meeting market expectations. The most significant improvement is perhaps across the TecDAX index, where predictability has risen from scores recorded on Nemax-constituents last year," he added.

Specifically, the results are as follows:-

- BW Bank has the highest average AQ in this report. It is also top on the industrial goods sector - the largest constituent in the report (20 companies).
- HvB Corporates & Markets, which has refocused its research effort on Germany emerges as the top rated house on the DAX 30 for the second year in a row. HvB has a good all round performance with top five rankings in half a dozen sectors.
- Helaba Trust moves up to second overall from fifth last year. It has the highest-ranked individual analyst in healthcare specialist Thomas Brenning.
- CAI Cheuvreux has improved its standing noticeably in the German report. Cheuvreux is a "glocal" house that has retained a research presence in major European financial centres. Juergen Kolb is second highest rated individual analyst.
- Oppenheim is ranked fifth overall and its analysts shine on the TecDAX, where they obtained four first places, and in the technology sector overall.
- WestLB has the best average score on MDAX stocks, while Merck Finck is the highest scoring house on TecDAX stocks

- Analysts at WGZ Bank are the best on the DAX recommendations analysis, where they work on the basis of index relative recommendations.
- DZ Bank comes second on recommendations, which is an impressive achievement for a house using absolute recommendations.

"Medion is the most predictable company in Germany after another year in which it proved to be successful in meeting analysts' expectations – having ranked second last year. Rhoen Klinikum takes the runners-up spot, followed in third by Fja," stated Roger Aitken, AQ Deputy Editor. "While the least predictable company is Infineon, six of the top 10 most predictable for 2002 also appear in this year's top 10," he added.

## **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 is in the process of expanding its analysis to the US and has launched a database product later this year ("AQUTE") in conjunction with Bureau van Dijk Electronic Publishing, the specialist electronic financial information provider (see [www.bestequityresearch.com](http://www.bestequityresearch.com)). 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 country reports. Its first Asian report was published in June.

### **Methodology**

AQ's Q2 analysis was based on the accuracy of forecasts of 2000, 2001 and 2002 EPS. The analysis includes more than 100 broking firms looking at the top 300 companies in Europe.