18 September 2009



IT Distributors Poland

Current price	PLN 12.60
Target price	PLN 14.59
Market cap*	PLN 216.0m
Free float	PLN 77.5m
Avg. daily trading volume (3M)	PLN 0.25m
* including stock options	

Shareholder Structure	
Piotr Bieliński	29.15%
Olgierd Matyka	21.46%
Wojciech Wietrzykowski	8.53%
Oksana Baliasz	5.00%
Others	35.86%

Sector Outlook

According to research agencies, over 3.7 million computers were sold in Poland in 2008, including 2.1 million laptops. This year, sales volumes are expected to increase by 3% to 6%, while revenues will be on a downward curve.

Company Profile

Action is a leading Polish distributor of computer hardware, but its sales mix also includes electronic equipment and household goods. The company runs small-scale operations in the Ukraine, where it runs a chain of big-box and midsized stores The organization is complemented by the "Sferis" chain and the A.pl online store



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Update



Action

ACT.PW; ACTN.WA

Buy (Upgraded)

Waiting for 2010

The quarter that just ended brought an over-40% decline in operating income, but given the limited number of new tenders and the volatility of foreign-exchange rates, we were positively surprised by Action's earnings. We believe the Management's target - i.e. matching last year's results - may be tough to meet, despite the fact that FY2008/2009 will last 17 months. The weakness of this year's earnings is largely a consequence of what happened in Q1, however, when the Company recorded high losses on unhedged payables. This was a one-off factor and when the bottom line is adjusted for it, the Company's performance so far can be commended. Its current approach to currency-risk hedging gives hope that we will not face another poor quarter like that. This is why we expect next year to bring an improvement, despite the tough macroeconomic environment and the continuing deterioration of revenues. We expect Action to generate a net income of PLN 21.4m in 2010, which entails a P/E of 10.1. The median for peers is 13.8. In expectation of earnings improvement next year, we recommend buying the stock and we set our price target at PLN 14.59 per share.

Earnings Deteriorated in Q4 2008/2009, But...

In the fourth guarter of its fiscal year (April-July), Action saw its earnings plunge, with EBIT falling by over 40%. This was a consequence of the lack of public-sector tenders, which did a lot to improve earnings last year, as well as the rapid appreciation of the zloty, which, with a significant portion of payables hedged, led to net F/X losses. In addition, earnings were weighed down by subsidiaries Action Ukraina and Sferis.

... Next Year Will Be Better

Although 2010 is likely to be another very tough year for IT distribution, we expect Action to improve its earnings on the four guarters FY2008/2009 that are already over, mostly thanks to changes in its FX risk hedging policies, which will offset the impact of the fluctuations of the zloty exchange rate on earnings (PLN 9m in the four quarters of FY2008/2009 that are already over). In the following year, improvement should be driven by a stronger rebound of the IT distribution market.

(PLN m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F
Revenues	1 797.5	2 343.4	3 136.2	2 122.6	2 306.9
EBITDA	37.7	65.3	62.2	42.8	46.9
EBITDA margin	2.1%	2.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
EBIT	30.4	57.3	49.2	33.9	37.9
Net income	22.0	33.8	31.2	21.4	24.0
DPS	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
P/E	9.4	6.4	11.1	10.1	9.0
P/CE	7.0	4.8	7.9	7.2	6.6
P/BV	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
EV/EBITDA	7.3	5.3	8.3	7.7	7.0

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Awaiting Tougher Times

Financial Standing

Fourth-Quarter Results

Action's earnings for the fourth quarter of the extra-long (17M) fiscal year were lower than last year, but still above expectations. The Company reported revenues of PLN 430.2m vs. PLN 582.3m a year ago. Due to the trend towards the appreciation of the zloty, gross margin declined sharply vs. the first three quarters of the fiscal year (10.9%), but it was still higher than a year ago (8.4% vs. 8.1%). This slight increase in gross margin was not enough to offset lower sales, and the pre-tax profit fell by over 23%, to PLN 36.1m.

The cost-cutting program, launched last year and focused on Action Ukraina and Sferis, allowed Action to cut SG&A expenses from PLN 41.5m to PLN 32.3m, i.e. by nearly 22.1%. That said, these two subsidiaries remain in the red. The scale of losses they generate is unknown, because the Company decided not to disclose this information while restructuring is ongoing.

Action had other net operating income of PLN 4.4m, thanks to the stronger zloty and the ensuing F/X gains of PLN 3.7m. This allowed it to generate operating earnings of PLN 8.2m vs. 13.8m a year ago (a decline of over 40%).

Finance losses amounted to PLN 1.3m, vs. PLN 2.5m a year ago. This reduction was made possible by a reduction in interest expenses brought about by a reduction in working capital and the considerable reduction in net debt, from PLN 139.7m to PLN 76.2m. Due to the considerable losses generated by Action Ukraina and Sferis, minority losses amounted to PLN 1.6m; with tax at PLN 2.8m, net income attributable to shareholders was PLN 5.7m vs. 8.5m a year ago.

Q4 2008/09 earnings

	Q4 08/09	Q4 07/08	Change	2008/09F	2007/08	Change
Revenues	430.2	582.0	-26.1%	3136.2	2343.4	33.8%
EBITDA	10.6	13.8	-22.9%	62.2	65.3	-4.8%
margin	2.47%	2.37%	-	0.0	0.0	-
EBIT	8.2	13.8	-40.7%	49.2	57.3	-14.1%
Pre-tax income	6.9	11.3	-39.1%	40.3	51.1	-21.2%
Net income	5.7	8.5	-33.0%	31.2	33.8	-7.6%
Source: Action						

Source: Action

Future Outlook

Further Cost Cutting

The Management promises to continue with cost-cutting efforts, especially at the loss-making Action Ukraina and Asbis. According to the CEO, Mr. Bieliński, all alternatives are being considered for these two subsidiaries, which must mean that they may end up being divested. We believe this is an unlikely scenario. The Ukrainian subsidiary may in the future do well in a market "cleared" by the crisis; Action will not decide to treat the money it has spent so far as sunk cost and leave the Ukrainian market. The situation is similar for Sferis: the retail segment, which has been suffering greatly at the time of an economic slowdown, should improve its earnings the fastest when an economic revival comes – thus, if Action does decide to divest it, it will probably wait until there is a rebound in the IT sector so as to get the best possible price. We believe that the restructuring steps the Management promises will lead to further downsizing coupled with a reduction in sales floor area at the existing stores. We do not expect such savings to approach the levels achieved in the first stage of the cost-cutting program. We estimate the potential savings at PLN 1-2m per quarter.

Outlook for FY2008/09

The Management's target for this fiscal year, which lasts 17 months, is to achieve a bottom line comparable to previous year's earnings (PLN 33.8m). In a friendlier market environment, this target would be realistic, but given the progressing decline in revenues, lack of prospects for a sharp increase in the number of contract tenders and the possibility that the problems of subsidiaries will continue, we think it might be difficult to reach. In our forecasts, we expect net income of PLN 31.3m. We expect the slump in gross margins seen in the past quarter to persist through the end of the fiscal year, but it will be partially offset by F/X gains recorded under other operating profit. The net effect will be positive, with operating profitability increasing to ca. 2.0% in the final stages of the year vs. 1.4% for the first four quarters.

Outlook for 2010

We believe 2010 may be a tough year for the entire IT distribution segment, due to the lack of public-sector tenders and the possible slump in retail demand (until now, with businesses cutting their IT investment, households have been helping the IT market stay afloat). We do not expect a revival in the market until Q4 2010. It will then be possible to recover some of the lost ground in sales. Problems with demand will affect Action as well, and in its case they will be exacerbated by the problems of its Ukrainian arm. We expect the Company's revenues to continue declining in 2010, in accordance with its margin-focused strategy. Due to the considerable decline in sales observed so far, we do not expect this further reduction in trading volumes to be significant. We estimate that in 2010, revenues will decline by 1.8% vs. the corresponding 4 quarters of FY2008/2009. Earnings attained in Q4 2010, when we expect the market to grow by several percent, will play an important role.

Despite the expected decline in sales, we believe Action will improve its operating earnings vs. the past four quarters, when the it was affected by the huge volatility in the forex market. According to our estimates, the Company's losses on this account have amounted to ca. PLN 9m in 2008/2009 (PLN 53m in F/X losses in financial operations and ca. PLN 44m F/X gains added to gross profit). We expect the Company's current currency-risk hedging policies will make the impact of F/X fluctuations neutral – which means that it will be able to avoid losses recorded last year. We expect net income to increase by 15.7% vs. August 2008 – July 2009, reaching PLN 21.4m.



Valuation

Valuation Summary

	PLN m	Weight	9MTP
DCF valuation	250.5	50%	
Relative valuation	213.4	50%	
based on			
P/E	251.9	50%	
EV/EBITDA	174.9	50%	
Average	231.9		251.4
per share			14.6
Source: BRE Bank Securities analysis			

DCF model assumptions

- 1. Our valuation is based on Action's forecasted earnings in 2008/09 through 2018.
- 2. Our valuation is based on net debt at year-end 2007/08 and cash flows from 2008/09-2018.
- 3. We assume a risk-free-rate of 6.2% (the yield on Polish 10Y treasury bonds). We assume a risk-free-rate of 6.2% after the forecast horizon.
- 4. We assume that FCF after 2018 will grow at a rate of 2.0%.

Relative valuation

We estimated the relative value of Action by comparing its estimated P/E and EV/EBITDA multiples in the years 2008 through 2011 with peer multiples. Each multiple is assigned a weight of 50%, and the individual years are assigned weights of 25%, 45%, and 30% respectively. Given that FY 2008/09 encompasses 17 months, the relevant multiples were annualized.

P/E and EV/EBITDA estimates for comparable IT distributors

		E	V/EBITDA			P/E	
	Price	2008/2009F	2010F	2011F	2008/2009F	2010F	2011F
Avnet		7.2	7.7	6.5	13.8	15.0	12.4
Esprinet		7.0	6.4	5.8	12.6	10.8	9.0
Ingram Micro		5.3	4.4	3.8	16.3	12.5	10.4
Synnex Corporation		7.5	6.9	5.9	12.1	11.3	10.1
Tech Data		5.4	5.4	5.0	20.6	15.3	14.1
Elektrocomponents PLC		7.8	9.6	9.4	12.5	17.2	16.3
Arrow Electronics PLC		9.2	7.4	6.9	19.6	14.5	12.5
AB		9.7	6.9	6.0	8.9	7.1	6.2
Asbis		5.4	4.1	3.7	-	8.4	5.8
Komputronik		11.7	6.4	5.4	17.7	8.4	6.3
Maximum		11.7	9.6	9.4	20.6	17.2	16.3
Minimum		5.3	4.1	3.7	8.9	7.1	5.8
Median		7.4	6.6	5.8	13.8	11.9	10.3
Action	12.6	8.3	7.7	7.0	11.1	10.1	9.0
Premium/discount		13.0%	15.4%	20.7%	-19.2%	-14.9%	-11.8%

DCF Valuation Model

(PLN m)	2008/2009F	2010F	2011F	2012F	2013F	2014F	2015F	2016F	2017F	2018F	2018+
Revenue	3 136.2	2 122.6	2 306.9	2 506.9	2 681.8	2 836.3	2 977.0	3 115.7	3 261.0	3 413.3	
change	133.8%	-32.3%	8.7%	8.7%	7.0%	5.8%	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	
EBITDA	62.2	42.8	46.9	52.8	56.6	60.6	64.4	68.2	69.8	72.6	
EBITDA margin	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	
Amortization and											
depreciation	13.0	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	
EBIT	49.2	33.9	37.9	43.7	47.5	51.3	55.1	58.8	60.3	63.0	
EBIT margin	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	
Tax rate on EBIT	9.4	6.4	7.2	8.3	9.0	9.8	10.5	11.2	11.5	12.0	
NOPLAT	39.9	27.4	30.7	35.4	38.5	41.6	44.6	47.6	48.8	51.0	
CAPEX	-32.5	-11.4	-10.1	-9.1	-8.3	-8.8	-9.3	-9.7	-10.2	-9.6	
Working capital	55.4	-17.4	-20.8	-16.3	-6.9	-12.1	-11.1	-10.9	-11.4	-12.0	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
FCF	75.8	7.5	8.8	19.1	32.4	29.8	33.6	36.4	36.8	39.1	39.9
WACC	9.4%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	11.2%
discount factor	97.1%	88.6%	81.0%	74.0%	67.5%	61.7%	56.3%	51.5%	47.0%	42.9%	38.6%
PV FCF	73.5	6.6	7.1	14.1	21.9	18.4	18.9	18.8	17.3	16.8	
WACC	9.4%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	11.2%
Cost of debt	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%
Risk-free rate	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%
Risk premium	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Effective tax rate	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%
Net debt / EV	33.8%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	31.9%	0.0%
Cost of Equity	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%
Risk premium	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Beta	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

FCF growth after the forecast horizon	2.0%	Sensitivity ana	lysis				
Terminal value	433.3			FCF gro	wth in pe	rpetuity	
Present value of the terminal value (PV TV)	186.0		2.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%
Present value of FCF in the forecast horizon	213.5	WACC +1.0pp	11.7	12.4	13.3	14.3	15.6
Equity value (EV)	399.6	WACC +0.5pp	12.6	13.5	14.5	15.7	17.2
Net debt	139.7	WACC	13.7	14.6	15.8	17.2	19.0
Other non-operating assets	0.0	WACC -0.5pp	14.8	15.9	17.2	18.9	21.1
Minority interests	0.0	WACC -1.0pp	16.1	17.3	18.9	20.9	23.5
Equity value	250.5						
Number of shares (millions)	17.2						
Equity value per share (PLN)	14.5						
Cost of equity (9M) Target Price	8.4% 15.8						
EV/EBITDA('07) for the target price	10.3						
P/E('07) for the target price	13.9						
TV to EV	47%						



Income Statement

(PLN m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F	2012F
Revenue	1 797.5	2 343.4	3 136.2	2 122.6	2 306.9	2 506.9
change	25.1%	30.4%	33.8%	-32.3%	8.7%	8.7%
Cost of sales	1 679.5	2 158.2	2 839.0	1 950.3	2 118.7	2 301.7
Gross profit	118.1	185.2	297.1	172.3	188.2	205.2
Gross profit margin	6.6%	7.9%	9.5%	8.1%	8.2%	8.2%
SG&A costs	79.0	114.3	164.6	109.3	117.6	126.5
General and administrative expenses	22.5	36.5	36.1	27.6	31.1	33.5
Other operating income	13.7	22.9	-47.2	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
EBIT	30.4	57.3	49.2	33.9	37.9	43.7
change	35.0%	88.7%	-14.1%	-31.2%	11.9%	15.2%
EBIT margin	1.7%	2.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
Profit on financing activity	-2.0	-6.2	-9.0	-7.1	-7.3	-7.2
Extraordinary gains/losses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax income	28.3	51.1	40.3	26.8	30.7	36.5
Tax	6.2	15.2	11.3	5.1	5.8	6.9
Minority interests	0.1	2.1	-2.2	0.3	0.8	0.9
Net income	22.0	33.8	31.2	21.4	24.0	28.7
change	38.7%	53.4%	-7.6%	-31.3%	11.9%	19.6%
margin	1.2%	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%
Amortization and depreciation	7.3	8.0	13.0	8.9	9.0	9.1
EBITDA	37.7	65.3	62.2	42.8	46.9	52.8
change	29.8%	73.2%	-4.8%	-31.3%	9.7%	12.5%
EBITDA margin	2.1%	2.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Shares at year-end (millions)	16.4	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
EPS	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.7
CEPS	1.8	2.6	2.6	1.8	1.9	2.2



Balance Sheet

(PLN m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F	2012F
ASSETS	405.6	572.9	515.8	542.6	582.1	622.6
Fixed assets	99.2	117.4	137.0	139.5	140.6	140.6
Property, plant and equipment	70.7	92.1	107.7	109.7	110.6	110.6
Intangible assets	15.4	9.0	12.9	13.4	13.6	13.6
Equity value	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Long-term investments	0.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Other fixed assets	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Current assets	306.4	455.5	378.9	403.1	441.5	482.0
Inventories	140.7	173.9	160.7	176.3	191.6	208.1
Short-term receivables	155.3	269.8	206.2	209.4	233.9	254.1
Cash and cash equivalents	7.8	8.9	9.0	14.6	13.2	16.9
Other current assets	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9

(PLN m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F	2012F
LIABILITIES	405.6	572.9	515.8	542.6	582.1	622.6
EQUITY	144.7	181.2	186.5	202.0	222.5	242.5
Share capital	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Other equity	143.1	179.6	184.9	200.3	220.9	240.9
Long-term liabilities	9.5	14.7	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Debt	8.8	14.7	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Other	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Short-term liabilities	251.4	376.9	312.1	323.4	342.4	362.9
Debt	59.1	133.9	90.4	100.4	100.4	100.4
Trade creditors	167.8	239.1	217.8	219.1	238.0	258.5
Other	24.5	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Debt	67.9	148.6	107.6	117.6	117.6	117.6
Net debt	60.1	139.7	98.6	103.1	104.4	100.7
(Net debt / Equity)	41.6%	77.1%	52.9%	51.0%	46.9%	41.5%
(Net debt / EBITDA)	159.5%	214.0%	158.5%	241.1%	222.7%	190.9%
Shares at year-end (millions)	16.4	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
BVPS	8.8	10.5	10.8	11.7	12.9	14.1



Cash Flows

(PLN m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F	2012F
Cash flows from operating activities	-29.3	-53.3	97.4	13.2	13.0	22.4
Net income	22.0	35.9	29.0	21.7	24.8	29.6
Amortization and depreciation	7.3	8.0	13.0	8.9	9.0	9.1
Working capital	-41.2	-76.3	55.4	-17.4	-20.8	-16.3
Other	-17.4	-20.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flows from investing activities	-24.0	-21.9	-32.5	-11.4	-10.1	-9.1
CAPEX	-22.8	-21.9	-32.5	-11.4	-10.1	-9.1
Capital investments	-1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flows from financing activities	53.6	76.3	-64.7	3.8	-4.3	-9.6
Stock offering	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt	57.1	80.7	-41.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend (buy-back)	-2.5	-4.4	-23.7	-6.2	-4.3	-9.6
Other	-1.1	-5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in cash	0,3	0.3	1.1	0.1	5.5	-1.4
Cash at the end of period	7.8	8.9	9.0	14.6	13.2	16.9

Market multiples

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09F	2010F	2011F	2012F
P/E	9.4	6.4	11.1	10.1	9.0	7.6
P/CE	7.0	4.8	7.9	7.2	6.6	5.8
P/BV	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
MC/S	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
EV/EBITDA	7.3	5.3	8.3	7.7	7.0	6.2
EV/EBIT	9.0	6.3	10.5	9.7	8.7	7.5
EV/S	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Price (PLN)	12.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares at year-end	16.4	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
MC (PLN m)	206.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net debt	60.1	139.7	98.6	103.1	104.4	100.7
Minority interests	6,9	6.9	9.8	7.6	7.9	8.7
EV (PLN m)	273.8	149.6	106.2	111.0	113.2	110.3



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List of abbreviations and ratios contained in the report: EV – net debt + market value EBIT – Earnings Before Interest and Taxes EBITDA – EBIT + Depreciation and Amortisation P/CE – price to earnings with amortisation

MC/S – market capitalisation to sales EBIT/EV – operating profit to economic value P/E – (Price/Earnings) – price divided by annual net profit per share ROE – (Return on Equity) – annual net profit divided by average equity P/BV – (Price/Book Value) – price divided by book value per share Net debt – credits + debt papers + interest bearing loans – cash and cash equivalents EBITDA margin – EBITDA/Sales

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Previous ratings issued for Action

Rating	Buy	Hold
Date issued	2009-04-30	2009-07-03
Price on rating day	8.54	13.57
WIG on rating day	28273.93	30252.24