

Investment Services

Кеу	data	
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Price (EUR)*	10.0
Country	Finland
Bloomberg	TAALA FH
Reuters	TAALA.HE
Free float	45.0%
Market cap (EURm)	284
No. of shares (m)	28.4
Next event	Q3: 4-Nov

^{*} Price as at 16:00 CET on 19 August 2022

CEO	Peter Ramsay
CFO	Minna Smedsten

Company description

Taaleri is a Finnish financial services company. Taaleri focuses on Private Equity funds, mainly on renewables and other alternative investments. The company also has a strategic guaranty insurance subsidiary Garantia. Taaleri group consists of two key divisions: Private Asset Management & Strategic investment Garantia.

Ownership structure

Veikko Laine Oy	11.5%
Hermitage Oy	10.3%
Juhani Elomaa	6.3%

Source: Company data

Estimate changes

1	22E	23E	24E
Tot inc	-3.3%	-1.5%	-2.3%
Op prof	-6.7%	-4.6%	3.8%
EPS (adj.)	-7.8%	-4.9%	4.7%

Source: Danske Bank Equity Research estimates

Analust(s)

Daniel Lepistö

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Important disclosures and certifications are contained from page 8 of this report

Taaleri plc

Plenty of positives to build upon

Taaleri's Q2 report provided no drama, although rising interest rates affected the reported margins more than expected. These fair-value changes do not affect the big picture, and operationally the company is progressing as expected. Continuing earnings were 3% above our estimates and profitability in H2 22 is set to be strong driven by performance fees. Our fair value range of EUR11-12.5 is unchanged.

- Impact on the investment case. Neutral or slightly negative due to higher than expected negative fair value impact from the rising rates. Total income was 11% below Factset consensus expectations, but continuing earnings topped our estimates by 3%, indicating that operationally the company is heading in the expected direction. Operating profit was EUR2.4m (20.5% margin) 50% below consensus estimates, and was impacted mainly from the negative fair-value changes of investments, as well as some one-offs related to suppressed Infrastructure segment goodwill write-down. Insurance-leg Garantia continued to show positive development despite decreasing housing transaction volumes, and earned premiums decreased mainly due to changes in provisions, due to higher y/y consumer exposure, which is in-line with the company's strategy. End-year focus is set to be on the second round of the already successful Bioindustry I fund, the start of marketing of the upcoming flagship SolarWind III fund, and CTO biorefinery Fintoil's start of operations. Overall, we restate our view that Taaleri is building a solid foundation as an impact investment focused asset manager, driven by expertise in Renewable Energy and Bioindustry segments.
- Estimate changes. We adjust our carried interest and fair value change assumptions.
- Valuation. Our valuation methodology derives a 12M fair value range of EUR11.0-12.5 (unchanged). Based on our 2023 estimates, the midpoint of the range implies P/E of 16.2x (previously 15.4x). In our view, if Taaleri is able to demonstrate good progress with its Bioindustry and Renewable Energy fund operations, the consequential higher exposure to ESG should warrant a premium to the company's historical valuation (14.6x over the previous 5Y NTM P/E).

Year-end Dec (EUR)	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E		
Total income (m)	69.5	72.6	60.8	64.7	63.5	¹⁵ 15	
Total income growth	3.5%	4.4%	-16.3%	6.4%	-1.8%	14 -	
Total expenses (m)	-51.9	-43.8	-33.7	-35.8	-38.5		
Operating profit (m)	17.6	28.8	27.1	28.9	25.0	13 -	
Operating profit growth	10.5%	63.5%	-6.0%	6.7%	-13.4%	12 - 2000	
Operating profit margin	25.3%	39.7%	44.5%	44.7%	39.4%	11 John Mary Willy	Μ
EPS (adj.)	0.45	0.75	0.72	0.72	0.63	10	/M/M1
DPS	1.32	1.20	0.75	0.70	0.30	9 A S O N D J F M A	
Dividend yield	16.3%	10.7%	7.5%	7.0%	3.0%	ASONDJFMA	MJJA
ROE	9.0%	74.0%	9.2%	9.5%	8.4%	-TAALA.HE -MSCI Europe/Bank	s rebased
P/E (adj.) (x)	17.9	15.0	13.9	13.8	15.7	1M 3M	12M 5Y
P/BV	1.59	1.38	1.31	1.32	1.33	Absolute 3% -2%	-8% -3%
						Rel. local market 4% -6%	0% -419
						Rel. EU sector -2% -2%	-7% 41%

Not for US distribution

Q2 22 key conclusions

Taaleri reported expectedly messy numbers with rising interest rates notably affecting its fairvalue changes of investments, especially with insurance-leg Garantia's fixed-income portfolio. Overall, there was no drama in the operational performance, as continuous earnings developed better than expected, and the pipeline for upcoming news flow with Bioindustry I and SolarWind III is set to be solid. Moreover, we expect that the unraveling of the balance sheet from nonstrategic investments will continue.

Some negative one-offs appeared in the Private Asset Management segment, as some writedowns regarding goodwill of the Infrastructure business, which has been in difficulties due to the current market environment. However, as the highest potential lies on the Bioindustry and Renewable Energy segments, we again see no drama on winding up the operations, as Taaleri's competitive edge on the fairly mature infrastructure segment has thus far been difficult to conceptualise. The marketing of the new SolarWind III fund will also start this year, and its target size is around 2x the size of its predecessor SolarWind II (some EUR350m), we believe.

Garantia developed positively, despite decreasing housing transaction volumes causing headwind. Earned premiums decreased 8% y/y, but the sale of guaranty insurances grew. The decrease was a result of the change in provision for unearned premiums, which was larger than y/y, due to higher exposure to consumer clients, instead of corporate. This is a cautious decision and we do not expect the claims ratio to increase in short-term from 1-2% in past two years.

Table 1: Estimate deviation

	Actual	Cons.		Danske	
EURm	Q2 22	Q2 22E	Diff	Q2 22E	Diff.
Total income	11.9	13.4	-11%	12.8	-7%
Operating profit	2.4	4.8	-50%	4.8	-50%
Operating profit-%	20.2%	35.8%		37.8%	
adj. EPS	0.00	0.13	-100%	0.13	-100%
AuM	2,400	n.a.	n.a.	2,300	4%

Source: Company data, Factset, Danske Bank Equity Research estimates

Table 2 : Quarter	ig estimates
EURm	Q1 21
Total income	12.1

EURm	Q1 21	Q2 21	Q3 21	Q4 21	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22E	Q4 22E
Total income	12.1	17	13.2	30.2	7.1	11.9	24.1	17.8
Growth y/y		19.20%		-3.50%	-41.90%	-30.40%	82.80%	-41.20%
Total expenses	-7.4	-14.3	-8.6	-15.5	-7.7	-9.4	-8.3	-8.3
Operating profit	4.7	2.7	4.6	14.7	-0.7	2.4	15.9	9.4
Operating margin	38.80%	16.10%	34.90%	48.70%	-9.30%	20.50%	65.70%	53.10%
Segment income								
Other Private Equity	1.2	1	0.7	6.1	1.5	1.5	16	2.7
Insurance	7	7.2	6.6	9.4	0.1	-1.1	3.9	3.4
Renewables	4	4.3	3.6	10.2	3.8	4.3	3.6	9.6
Other	1.5	1.7	1.4	3.8	1.7	7.1	0.6	2.1
Total	13.7	14.3	12.3	29.4	7.1	11.9	24.1	17.8
Income growth (y/y)								
Other Private Equity		-88.10%		-72.20%	27.90%	41.40%	2085.10%	-55.40%
Insurance		300.00%		16.80%	-98.90%	-114.90%	-40.80%	-64.10%
Renewables		98.50%		171.20%	-4.50%	0.90%	0.70%	-5.50%
Other		-279.80%		176.60%	13.30%	312.60%	-58.10%	-44.10%
Total		14.20%		-7.50%	-48.40%	-17.00%	96.10%	-39.50%
Segment operating profit								
Other Private Equity	-0.4	-1.1	-1.2	1.8	-0.6	-1.1	13.5	0.1
Insurance	5.4	5.8	4.6	6.9	-1	-2.3	2.8	2.3
Renewables	0.3	0.4	0.4	4.9	0.6	0.4	0.4	6.4
Other	-0.2	-0.7	0.8	1.1	0.3	5.5	-0.8	0.7
Total	5.1	4.4	4.6	14.7	-0.7	2.4	15.9	9.4
Operating profit margin								
Other Private Equity	-32.40%	-107.60%	-162.80%	29.60%	-42.60%	-74.30%	84.50%	4.80%
Insurance	76.90%	80.60%	69.40%	73.40%	-1195.00%	215.80%	72.10%	68.20%
Renewables	7.40%	10.20%	11.70%	48.30%	17.00%	8.70%	9.70%	66.10%
Other	-14.20%	-43.20%	58.10%	29.60%	18.00%	76.50%	-139.70%	31.50%
Total	37.40%	30.80%	37.50%	50.10%	-9.30%	20.50%	65.70%	53.10%
Reported EPS (EUR)	0.24	4.02	0.11	0.41	-0.04	0	0.45	0.23
Adj. EPS (EUR)	0.12	0.08	0.11	0.41	-0.04	0	0.45	0.23
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ROE	20.10%	282.90%	6.60%	20.90%	-2.20%	0.10%	23.10%	12.10%
ROE (adj.)	10.50%	5.40%	6.60%	20.90%	-2.20%	0.10%	23.10%	12.10%
- ()/								
AuM								
Mutual funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private equity funds	578	947	980	1,040	1,144	1,096	1,136	1,136
Wealth management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energia / Renewables	1,238	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272
Total AuM	1,800	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
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 $Source: Company\ data,\ Factset,\ Danske\ Bank\ Equity\ Research\ estimates$

Executive summary

Renewable funds are creating new, sustainable business opportunities. Taaleri's Energy division has one of the largest dedicated wind and solar investment teams in Europe and is one of the largest private equity owner-operators in the Finnish wind market, with 116 turbines producing almost 1% of all the country's electricity. These infrastructure investments in wind and solar power are the main drivers of Taaleri's asset and revenue growth. We see strong growth in the renewables business for Taaleri as the company is now able to attract institutional money, but remains small enough not to compete with the larger global payers, and is able to invest in smaller assets.

Earnings boost from carried interest from existing alternative investments in 2022-24E. Taaleri has in total over 20 alternative investment funds, consisting of real estate, energy infrastructure, and private equity funds. As the funds mature, Taaleri could earn significant performance fees, or carried interest, in fund exits. In successful funds, carry could be larger than the total fund management fees.

M&A opportunities remain, even after the Aktia transaction. There are several medium-sized asset managers in Finland, with both complementary and overlapping operations. These players include companies such as CapMan, eQ, and Evli. Even though Taaleri has now entered into cooperation with Aktia and is set to provide the private equity funds for its needs until further notice, the simplified structure of Taaleri and streamlined future ambitions increase the chances that Taaleri would be part of the asset management M&A activity in Finland in the future, in our view.

ESG focus and impact investing should expand valuation multiples. We believe the increasing focus on ESG among all investors will benefit companies such as Taaleri, which promotes sustainability in its strategy and operations.

Key risks with the case

Disposal of Wealth Management significantly decreases Taaleri's AUM and size. Even though, in our view, Taaleri gains significant focus benefits from the transaction, the absolute size of the company's AUM and continuing earnings will decrease. The smaller size and excess cash in hand might turn risky in the long-term, if the company fails to capitalise on attracting new talent and growing its AUM organically and through M&A. In the worst-case scenario, investors are paid most of the excess capital, but are left with a smaller scale business with low growth.

High earnings volatility. Although Taaleri's operations are not cyclical by nature, the group's reported earnings have historically been volatile. This has partly been due to performance fees in the Wealth Management division and the group's own investments, as well as the insurance company profit volatility in IFRS reporting. Some of these, mainly in terms of visibility, will be resolved over time after the transaction, as Taaleri has communicated that it could be opening up its private equity fund lifecycles, management fees, and estimated carried interest in more detail in the future.

Small size and illiquid shares. Taaleri has limited institutional ownership at the moment, as either current or previous employees or related close-party institutions hold most of the shares. One could view this as negative from a governance point of view. Additional risk emerges from the fact that most of Taaleri's personnel will be transferred to Aktia, and as most of them simultaneously own Taaleri's shares, their incentives to keep their ownership in the long-term are uncertain.

Valuation

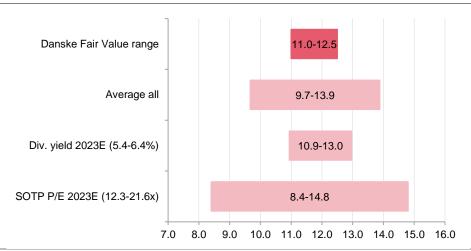
We reiterate our fair value range of EUR11.0-12.5 for Taaleri. We believe that selling the Wealth Management operations (but keeping the private equity operations) is key for Taaleri to crystallise its company value and execute a clearer strategy with higher earnings potential in the future. In addition, cleaning up the balance sheet of the non-strategic investments is set to streamline the investment case overall.

For its continuing activities, Taaleri should focus on channelling the profit from the Wealth Management sale into its operating business, both by boosting organic growth and looking into inorganic measures by attracting private equity teams from competitors to Taaleri's projects. We believe that the new Bioindustry segment will be operationally important for Taaleri in the future.

However, Taaleri is also able to pay attractive dividends and return of capital during the build-up phase of the other private asset management operations, if the company's current capabilities are on-point and the company is able to show steeper AUM growth momentum in the near future. On our estimates, the total dividend yield without any major M&A could be 7-7.5% in 2022-23.

Moreover, if Taaleri is able to demonstrate good progress with its Bioindustry and Renewable Energy fund operations, the company's increased exposure to ESG should warrant a clear premium to the historical valuation, we believe. Taaleri's previous 5Y NTM P/E is 14.6x, whereas our 2023E valuation midpoint suggests 16.2x (previously 15.4x).

Chart 1: Fair value range



Source: Danske Bank Equity Research estimates

Company summary

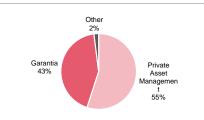
Income breakdown by geographical area



Company information

Taaleri plc Kasarmikatu 21, 00130 Helsinki Finland

Income breakdown by segment



Main shareholders

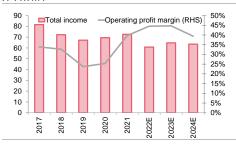
Name	Votes (%)	Capital (%)
Veikko Laine Oy	11.5%	11.5%
Hermitage Oy	10.3%	10.3%
Juhani Elomaa	6.3%	6.3%

□EPS (adj) -DPS

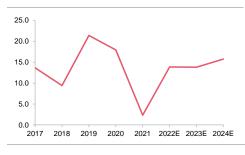
2021

EPS (adjusted) and DPS (EURm)

Total income and operating profit margin (FIIRm)



P/E NTM(x)



P/NTA NTM(x)

2017

2018

1.40

1.20

1.00

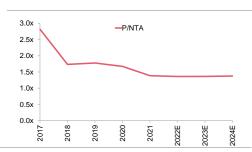
0.80

0.60

0.40

0.20

0.00



Source: FactSet, Company data, Danske Bank Equity Research estimates

Summary tables

INCOME STATEMENT										
Year end Dec, EURm	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Commissions		31.8	33.2	53.0	45.6	46.1	51.5	21.9	20.9	33.1
Total income		58.4	60.6	81.6	72.3	67.2	69.5	72.6	60.8	64.7
Costs		-39.6	-44.5	-54.0	-48.5	-50.7	-51.9	-43.8	-33.7	-35.8
Operating profit		47.4	16.3	27.6	23.6	15.9	17.6	28.8	27.1	28.9
Taxes		-3.0	-3.6	-5.8	-2.3	-5.0	-4.4	-5.2	-5.4	-5.8
Pre-tax profit		47.4	16.3	27.6	23.6	15.9	17.6	28.8	27.1	28.9
Net profit		44.1	12.8	21.4	21.3	10.6	12.8	138	20.5	20.5
Net profit (adj.)		17.3	12.8	21.4	19.8	13.9	12.8	21.2	20.5	20.5
BALANCE SHEET										
EURm	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Insurance assets	***************************************	0.0	126	136	134	153	160	169	166	161
Other interest bearing assets		0.0	55.1	34.6	26.1	29.1	37.0	53.3	82.1	77.4
Goodwill		0.0	2.5	2.2	6.6	6.5	6.8	0.7	7.9	7.5
Total assets		0.0	213	229	238	270	268	319	308	295
Insurance liabilities		13.1	15.0	20.3	23.3	32.3	34.7	39.4	42.4	40.0
Wholesale funding		29.9	64.7	54.8	54.8	34.9	34.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equity		97.1	93.9	106	122	141	144	230	216	215
NTA		97.1	91.3	104	116	134	138	229	208	208
PER SHARE DATA	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
No. of shares, fully diluted YE (m)		28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.4
No. of shares, fully diluted avg. (m)		28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.3	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.4
EPS (reported) (EUR)		1.56	0.45	0.76	0.75	0.39	0.45	4.80	0.72	0.72
EPS (adj.) (EUR)		0.61	0.45	0.76	0.70	0.49	0.45	0.75	0.72	0.72
DPS (EUR)		0.14	0.22	0.26	0.30	0.32	1.32	1.20	0.75	0.70
Book value per share (EUR)		3.43	3.32	3.75	4.32	4.97	5.09	8.10	7.63	7.60
NTA per share (EUR)		3.43	3.23	3.67	4.09	4.73	4.85	8.08	7.35	7.34
MARGINS AND GROWTH	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
C/I, adjusted	67.8%	73.4%	66.2%	67.1%	75.4%	74.7%	60.3%	55.5%	55.3%	60.6%
Op profit marg	81.1%	27.0%	33.8%	32.7%	23.7%	25.3%	39.7%	44.5%	44.7%	39.4%
Op profit grth		-65.51%	69.0%	-14.52%	-32.49%	10.5%	63.5%	-6.00%	6.73%	-13.45%
Tot inc growth		3.7%	34.7%	-11.4%	-7.0%	3.5%	4.4%	-16.3%	6.4%	-1.8%
Cost growth		-12.2%	-21.4%	10.2%	-4.5%	-2.5%	15.6%	23.0%	-6.0%	-7.7%
PPP growth		-14.2%	71.4%	-13.8%	-30.6%	6.6%	63.5%	-6.0%	6.7%	-13.4%
EPS (adj) growth		-26.1%	67.9%	-7.5%	-30.0%	-7.7%	65.1%	-3.5%	0.4%	-12.3%
PROFITABILITY	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
ROE, reported profits		65.3%	13.4%	21.5%	18.7%	8.0%	9.0%	74.0%	9.2%	9.5%
RONTA, adj. profits		25.6%	13.6%	22.0%	18.1%	11.1%	9.5%	11.6%	9.4%	9.9%
VALUATION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Share price (EUR)	6.36	8.38	8.24	10.4	7.10	8.42	8.12	11.2	10.0	10.0
Market cap (EURm)	0.50	237	233	293	201	238	230	318	284	284
		5.4	18.3	13.7	9.4	236	17.9	2.3	13.9	13.8
P/E (reported) (x)										
P/E (adj.) (x)		13.7	18.3	13.7	10.1	17.2	17.9	15.0	13.9	13.8
P/BV (x)		2.44	2.49	2.76	1.64	1.70	1.59	1.38	1.31	1.32
P/NTA (x)		2.44	2.55	2.82	1.74	1.78	1.67	1.39	1.36	1.36
Dividend yield		1.7%	2.7%	2.5%	4.2%	3.8%	16.3%	10.7%	7.5%	7.0%
Total yield (incl. buybacks)		1.7%	2.7%	2.5%	4.2%	3.8%	16.3%	10.7%	7.5%	7.0%

Source: Company data, Danske Bank Equity Research estimates

Disclosures

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