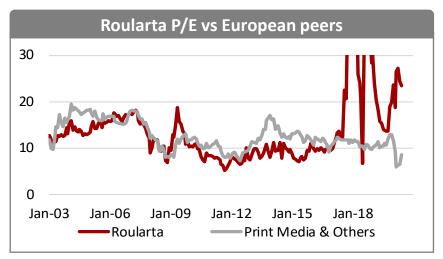
Roularta Media Group

BELGIUM

Bloomberg: ROU:BB Reuters: RLRT.BR

Roularta Media Group



€m	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020e	2021e	2022e
Sales	278.6	258.3	278.4	298.0	245.5	285.7	283.1
EBIT	6.7	-13.0	-63.7	7.5	-0.1	7.6	12.0
Net profit	21.5	-10.9	79.9	10.9	2.4	10.6	16.0
EPS (€)	1.65	-0.84	6.14	0.83	0.19	0.81	1.22
DPS (€)	0.50	0.00	5.50	0.50	0.00	0.55	0.55
P/E (x)	14.7	na	3.2	16.3	66.0	15.3	10.1
Yield (%)	2.1	0.0	28.0	3.7	0.0	4.4	4.4
Adj. EV/EBIT (x)	32.7	na	na	3.1	na	na	na

Source: Merodis Equity Research, Factset

Pricing date: 30/6/2020

Market review and peer benchmarking

14 July 2020

Key quarterly insights: 2Q20

Some light at the end of the tunnel while lockdown measures are easing

The Covid-19 outbreak and its lockdown measures from mid-March to May confronted Roularta with two trends: a positive impact on subscriber revenues, but a more severe negative one on advertising revenue, external printing and events related to magazine brands. After cutting the previously proposed dividend (EUR 0.50/share) to nil on 1 April, the Board decided to hand in part of the Directors' fees and Roularta's management will waive its bonus for FY20. However, there are some signs of light ahead as Roularta restarted printing and distributing their free media titles in May, after a five weeks pause of iconic publications such as: De Zondag and De Streekkrant (17% of FY19 sales).

In search for higher yields

On 2 June, Belfius, a Belgian state-owned bank, acquired a minority stake of 30% in Immovlan, Belgium's #2 residential real estate web site, which until then was a 50/50 JV between Roularta and Rossel, another leading Belgian media company. Although the price tag was not disclosed, we expect a decent cash-in for Roularta from this transaction, which could also help to crystalise the value of its remaining 35% stake in Immovlan. The proceeds of the transaction should bring Roularta's net cash position to exceed EUR 100m, providing for a decent leeway to invest in value-accretive M&A opportunities, chasing higher returns than those offered by banks for cash holdings. In line with this strategy, Roularta announced a binding offer on 2 Belgian French-speaking television magazines: Moustique and Télé Pocket, appearing weekly with 50k and 20k copies respectively. This logic of this bid is probably linked to filling the capacity of its printing press as well as exploiting synergies such as content, subscription model and digital roll-out towards these two brands.

Valuation assessment

The market currently values Roularta at an enterprise value (EV) of a mere EUR 12m, which includes a market cap of EUR 163m, the value of restated minorities of EUR 6m, EUR 96m of net cash expected in 2020e as well as the estimated value of EUR 60m for its 50% stakes in Mediafin and Bayard (down from EUR 74m previously estimated). Our fair equity value estimate is at EUR 16/share (from EUR 15). We value the core Print Media activity at an EV of €59m (7.8x EV/EBIT '21e). We believe this business has more potential value, given, among others, Roularta's leading market positions in free newspapers and in (news, business and women) magazines as well as it state-of-the-art printing facilities.



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Monthly market review dashboard

Goals of this Dashboard

- ⇒ Follow-up to our coverage of Roularta which was launched in October 2015
- Tool to keep investors up to date with Roularta's equity story as well as its valuation in a sector context
- Update investors on recent company and sector news flow

Corporate calendar of Roularta's upcoming announcements and events

Friday, 14 August 2020: 1H20 results (8.15AM CET; Analyst meeting at 1PM)

Access our recent research reports on Roularta:

- "4Q19 market review" (quarterly dashboard), 8 January 2020
- "1Q20 market review" (quarterly dashboard), 8 April 2020





Company profile

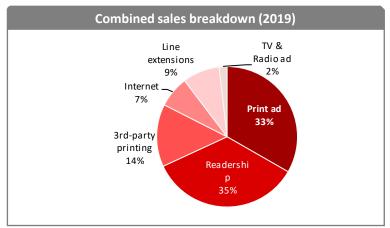
A domestic leader in high-quality print media

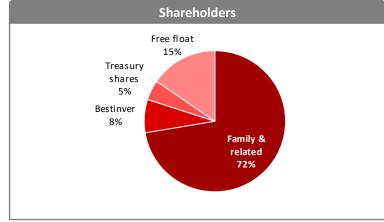
Company description

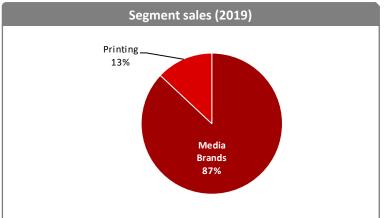
Roularta is Belgium's leading media company offering

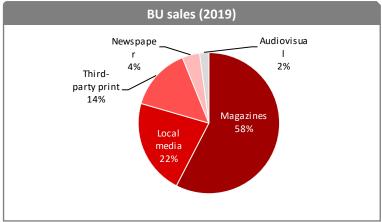
- (1) local weekly free newspapers in Flanders (Deze Week, De Zondag, Steps),
- (2) nationwide weekly news, business and women magazines (Knack, Le Vif L'Express, Trends, Trends Tendance, Libelle/Femme d'Aujourd'hui and Flair and Feeling/Gael),
- (3) internet platforms (Storesquare, Digilocal, Proxistore, own content websites) and
- (4) a 50% JV stake in Mediafin, Belgium's leading daily business newspapers (De Tijd and L'Echo).

Combined group sales are almost entirely generated in Belgium through (1) Print Media Advertising (33%), (2) Readers Market (subscriptions and newsstand sales) (35%), (3) Third-Party Printing (14%), (4) Internet advertising and related (7%), (5) other sources of revenues (inc. Line Extensions) (8%) and (6) TV and Radio advertising revenues (2%). Roularta's consolidated accounts include the full contribution of its Print Media activity (advertising and readers market ex-Bayard, internet activity, line extensions and third-party printing). The 50% stakes in Mediafin and Bayard are equity-accounted. The company acquired the women magazines in an asset deal with Sanoma (June 2018), with sales in the region of €70m for a consideration of €25m. The company restated its business segmentation to include two activities: Media Brands (87% of group sales in 2019) and Printing Services (13%).







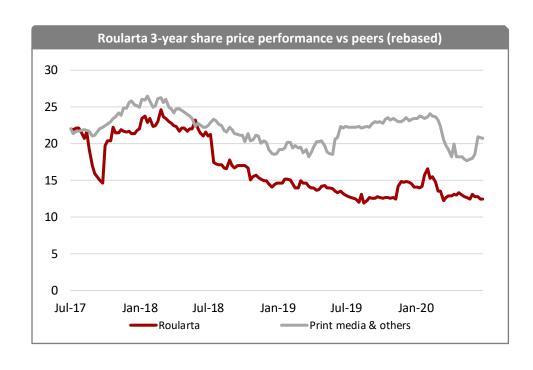


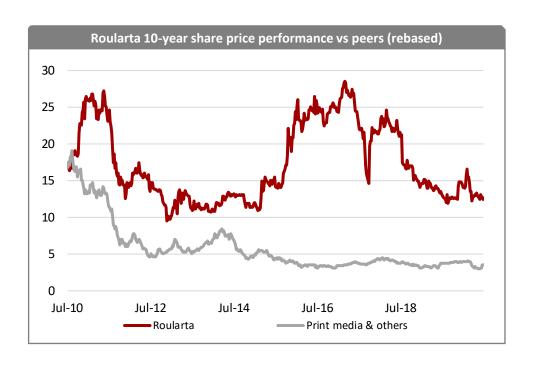




Share price performance

Under pressure since 1Q17, with transformational deals and strong 2H18, 1H19 & 2H19 to the rescue









Analyst Recommendations, Earnings Expectations

Consensus stabilizes after downgrading due to Covid-19

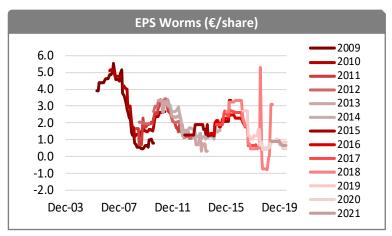
Consensus view

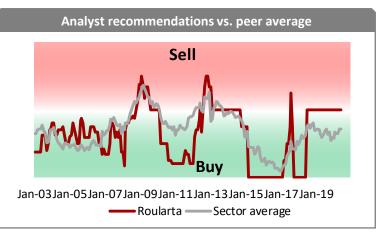
2020 consensus EPS estimates for Roularta have been stable (0% qo-q) following a 39%-downwards revision since December, 2019. We expect top-line to be severely hit, particularly in 1H20, with an 18% drop in sales which we expect for FY20e. Costs should come down too as the company makes good use of government unemployment subsidies, but we expect a sharp EPS impact (down 77% in 2020e).

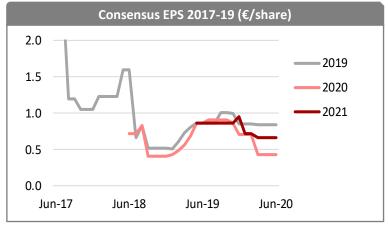
Consensus currently expects 2021e earnings of €0.66 (stable 0% q-o-q) per share vs. our forecast of €0.81. Our 2022e EPS forecast, which we expect at €1.22, shows a strong EPS growth y-o-y (51%), reflecting improving EBITDA margins to 8.8% from 7.1% in 2021e.

Roularta's share price was down 3.9% in 2Q20, faring worse than the broader market (+12.6% for the Euro Stoxx 600), and lagging behind Belgian SMCs (+8.2%) and Print Media peers (+2.7% q-o-q). The share's 12 months low was €11.75 (intraday on 7 August 2019), while its high during the year was €17.20 (29 January 2020).

Only one broker covers the stock according to Factset, KBC Securities (Hold recommendation with €16 target price). Kepler Chevreux, which initiated coverage in September 2018, is no longer listed on Factset as actively covering the stock and Degroof Petercam does not appear to have published anything recently according to Factset.







The second design of the second secon		· (,	(, ,
	<u>2020e</u>	<u>2021e</u>	<u>2022e</u>
Sales	-9.8	1.2	0.0
EBITDA	-17.8	1.5	-0.6
EBIT	-77.3	-5.1	-0.2
EPS	-56.5	23.2	0.4
DPS	-100.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash	8.3	0.1	0.0
			I

Merodis Equity Research estimates (MERe) vs. consensus (%)





Sector benchmarking and valuation analysis

Benchmarking Print Media peers and listed Printing companies

Sector financial benchmarking

		Freefloat	Liquidity	Depr/	Capex/	N	D/EBITDA		EBITD	EBITDA margin (%)			margin (%)		Net	margin (%)			ROE (%)		2020-22e CAGR (%)			
	Company	(%) 2020	(daily,€m)	EBITDA	Sales	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	EPS	EBITDA	Sales	
	Impresa	41	0.05		2%	6.4			13.7			10.2			5.1			6.7						
₫	Solocal	90	1.98	12%	7%	4.6	5.7	4.2	29.4	24.4	29.5	23.6	18.4	23.6	7.8	-2.2	2.6				-19.1	3.2	3.0	
5	Gruppo Editoriale	33	0.45	36%	2%	0.5	0.0		7.1	7.2					1.2	0.5								
111	Mondadori	46	0.57	33%	1%	0.1	0.0	0.1	10.5	10.6	11.9	5.5	7.0	8.4	2.5	3.3	4.1	11.0	12.9	15.0				
≥	RCS	15	0.43	27%	2%	3.1	1.9	1.5	10.8	13.0	12.9	4.8	7.3	8.0	2.7	4.7	5.4	7.9	13.0	11.4				
	Vocento	55	0.06	48%	2%	3.3	2.1	1.6	6.2	9.3	11.5	1.1	4.6	6.8	-1.6	1.0	2.7				144.9	41.4	3.7	
	Sanoma	38	1.40	-383%	3%	1.5	1.1	1.0	27.3	29.0	29.5	11.4	13.4	14.0	7.5	9.1	9.7				13.6	8.4	4.2	
	Connect	94	0.12	55%	1%	1.8	1.4	0.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	1.8	2.2	2.3	1.2	1.5	1.6		39.9	92.3	15.9	9.8	-3.0	
Δ.	Wilmington	88	0.16	32%	2%	2.7	1.4		13.3	17.8		10.7	15.2		5.8	9.2								
	Axel Springer	4	0.71	30%	6%																			
	PRINT MEDIA AVERAGE	50	0.59	-12%	3%	2.7	1.7	1.5	13.4	14.3	16.4	8.7	9.7	10.5	3.6	3.4	4.3	8.6	21.9	39.6	38.8	15.7	2.0	
	PRINT MEDIA MEDIAN	43	0.44	32%	2%	2.7	1.4	1.2	10.8	11.8	12.4	7.9	7.3	8.2	2.7	2.4	3.4	7.9	13.0	15.0	14.8	9.1	3.3	
	Roularta (consolidated)	15	0.03	101%	3%	-7.9	-5.7	-5.1	5.0	7.1	8.8	0.0	2.7	4.2	1.0	3.7	5.6	1.1	4.7	6.8	155.3	42.5	7.4	
	% prem./(disc.) vs median	-65	-92.3	217.9	35.1	-394.3	-511.4	-515.0	-53.9	-40.1	-29.0	-100.4	-63.8	-48.6	-63.2	52.8	67.9	-86.5	-64.1	-54.5	951.9	366.1	122.1	

Source: Merodis, Factset

Sector valuation

		Price	MCap		P/E			EV/Sales		E ^v	V/EBITDA			EV/EBIT			P/B			DYield	
Company	Country	(local)	(local m)	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2020e	2021e	2022e
Impresa	PORTUGAL	0.14	23	2.5			1.0			7.3			9.8			0.2			0.0		
✓ Solocal	FRANCE	0.16	94	4.1		6.3	1.6	1.6	1.4	5.3	6.6	4.9	6.7	8.8	6.1				0.0	0.0	0.0
Gruppo Editoriale	ITALY	0.46	225	46.0	46.0		0.4	0.4		6.1	5.8								0.0	0.6	
Mondadori	ITALY	0.96	248	11.9	9.4	7.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.3	3.0	2.8	6.2	4.5	3.9	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.7	4.8	5.8
≥ RCS	ITALY	0.62	319	14.0	7.7	7.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	6.8	4.8	4.4	15.3	8.5	7.1	1.1	0.9	0.8	2.4	4.9	4.9
► Vocento	SPAIN	0.74	89	55.2	11.6	9.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	7.6	4.8	3.8	41.0	9.6	6.3				1.4	1.8	5.4
Z Sanoma	FINLAND	9.01	1,470	16.1	13.2	12.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	6.6	5.6	5.3	15.7	12.1	11.3			2.5	5.6	6.1	6.3
Connect	UNITED KINGDOM	0.17	43	2.5	2.1	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.0	2.5	1.9	4.0	3.2	2.7	0.7	1.1	4.3	5.8	5.8	6.1
Wilmington	UNITED KINGDOM	1.24	108	18.8	11.0		1.4	1.2		10.2	6.6		12.8	7.7					0.0	4.7	
Axel Springer	GERMANY	63.00	6,797																		
PRINT MEDIA AVERAGE				19.0	14.4	7.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	6.3	4.9	3.8	13.9	7.8	6.2	8.0	1.1	2.2	1.8	3.6	4.7
PRINT MEDIA MEDIAN				14.0	11.0	7.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	6.6	5.2	4.1	11.3	8.5	6.2	0.9	1.1	1.8	0.7	4.7	5.6
Roularta (consolidated)	BELGIUM	12.40	163	66.0	15.3	10.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	1.0	-0.3	-0.8	-141.1	-0.8	-1.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	4.4	4.4
% prem./(disc.) vs media	n			370.9	38.9	34.9	-93.3	-103.9	-114.0	-85.1	-105.6	-119.5	-1,351.7	-109.1	-126.6	-17.3	-34.5	-61.8	-100.0	-6.6	-20.9





P/E valuation relative to the sector

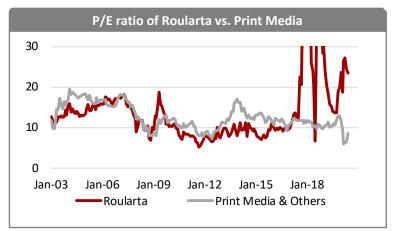
A recent normalisation driven by regained profitability momentum

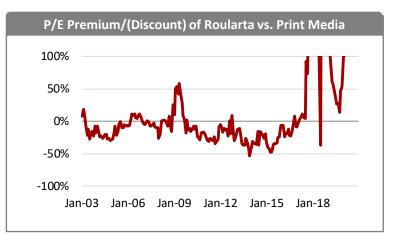
Valuation

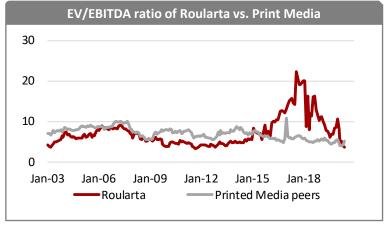
On consensus EPS estimates, Roularta shares trade at a P/E 12M forward of 23.4x, a hefty premium versus Print Media peers in Europe (currently at a median of 8.6x; the premium was 348% in March 2020). Importantly, the volatility is due to profitability at Roularta which is still expected to be negatively impacted by weak market conditions in the ad space for Roularta's core activity.

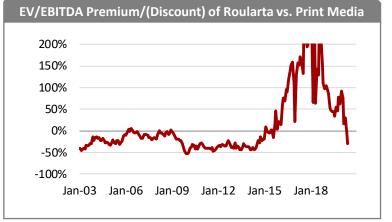
As a reminder, Roularta disposed of its stake in Medialaan in 2018, which means Roularta is now a Print Media pure play compared to the past when TV broadcasting (through Medialaan) was the main profit contributor and the key value driver of the stock (in 2016, 73% of Roularta's EBIT and 80% of its EPS was generated by Medialaan). The rerating compared to the Print Media sector is driven entirely by the share price performance since October 2017 as well as the sharp cut in Roularta's earnings estimates due to launching costs in digital initiatives such as Storesquare (discontinued as from 2019).

The Print Media sector is valued at 8.6x P/E 12M forward (from 5.9x in March 2020, ie. a 46% rise due to easing of lockdown measures and reversion of the broader market) and at 5.1x EV/EBITDA 12M forward (vs. 4.0x previously), which compares to a LT average of 12.5x and 7.0x respectively. The historical valuation range for the sector is 5.9x-19.4x (P/E) and 3.9x-10.9x (EV/EBITDA), which suggest that the sector remains at the low-end of its historical range, particularly with regards to EV/EBITDA.













Fair value estimate

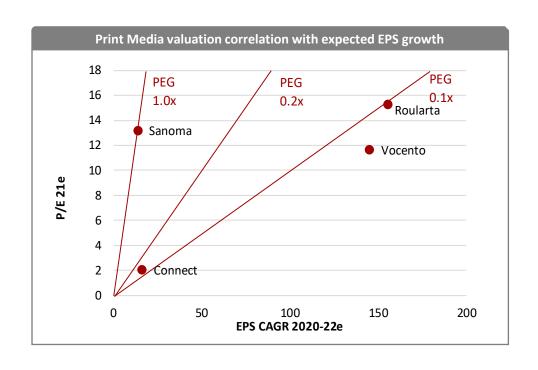
Reflecting the Medialaan disposal, the Mediafin acquisition, and, since July 2018, the Sanoma acquisition

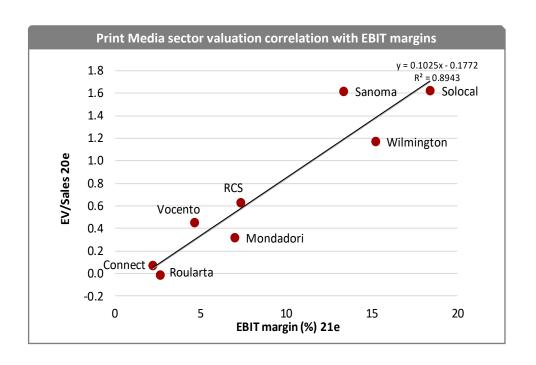
Roularta updated sum-of-the-parts														
(EURm)	Ownership (%)	Adjusted EBIT 21e	Discount to peers	EV/EBIT multiple 21e	Net debt 19e	Value	Equity value/sh.	Value split	Value w/o discount					
Print media	100%	7.6	0.0	7.8		59.0	11.8	74%	59.0					
Group enterprise value						<u>59.0</u>			<u>59.0</u>					
- Net Financial Debt/(cash) (19)						95.9			95.9					
- Other liabilities (19)						-5.6			-5.6					
+ NPV tax asset (balance sheet)						5.5			5.5					
+ Equity value of Mediafin stake	50%					43.5	3.3	21%	43.5					
+ Equity value of Bayard stake	50%	2.1	0.0	7.8	-6.1	11.3	0.9	5%	11.3					
= Estimated market value of equity						<u>209.6</u>			<u>209.6</u>					
Total share outstanding (m)						13.1			13.1					
Equity value per share						16.0		·	16.0					





Valuation indicators









Sales growth expectations

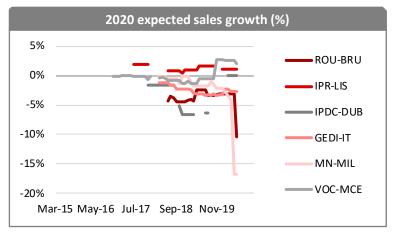
Impacted by cyclical and structural effects

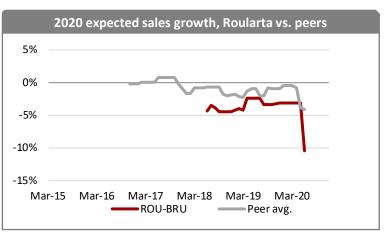
Expected Sales Growth

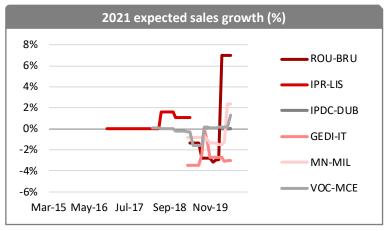
At the end of June, consensus expectations for 2020 Print Media sales stood at -10.4% (vs. -3.1% in March 2020), reflecting the Covid-19 impact. As a reminder, we expect sales to fall by 18% in FY20e with a more severe impact in 1H20e without any free media ad sales since mid March and even magazine ad revenues down by 50% since the beginning of the lockdown in Belgium on 18 March. The acquisition of 100% of Plus Magazine, a magazine for senior citizens with sales of EUR 6.6m (in 2019), should have a slight positive impact on top-line growth for 2020e.

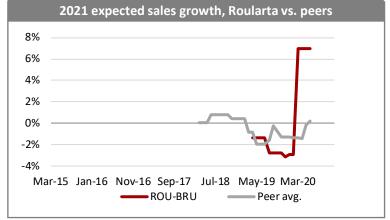
Consensus sales expectations for Roularta in 2021 increased significantly to 7.0% (vs. MERe +16% with a Covid-19 catch-up effect). Sector sales, are expected to increase slightly by 0.2% in 2021 (from -1.4% previously).

In addition to the Covid-19 crisis which is likely to affect many sectors around the world, the media sector is suffering from the structural impact of online media gaining market share over traditional Printed Media and TV in terms of advertising revenues. This is driven by changes in viewership, which is moving from the traditional media to online.













EBITDA growth and margin expectations

Advertising revenue pressure keeps hurting margins

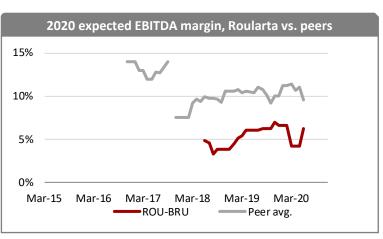
EBITDA expectations

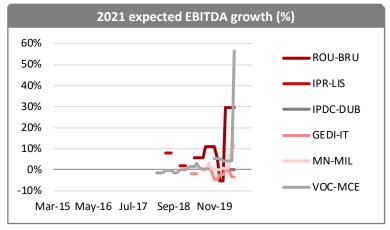
At the end of June, expected consensus EBITDA decline for 2020e at Roularta lies at -25% (significantly declined vs. previously expected - 11%, March 2020), compared to the peer average of +12% (from +17% previously expected). Margin expectations remain below the peer average for 2020 and 2021, albeit with a slightly improving trend.

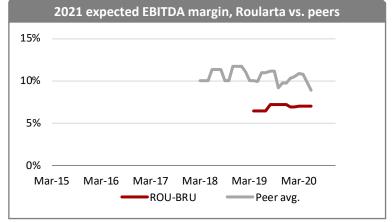
Note that consensus changes to EBIT or EBITDA at Roularta are not interpretable in a straightforward manner. In Roularta's case, its reported EBITDA margin (as reflected by Factset consensus) is positively influenced by the IFRS 11 treatment of its 50% stake in Bayard and Mediafin (from March 2018), whereby 50% of Bayard's net profit is accounted for in Roularta's EBITDA and EBIT, but where its sales are not accounted for in its top-line. Merodis estimates exclude equity accounted results from the EBITDA and EBIT lines, but other analysts may treat these figures differently, or they may have recently changed their view on them.

The transactions impact IFRS EBITDA and EBIT as the Mediafin net contribution is added as from March 2018. Sanoma's contribution is included in the consolidation scope from July 2018, as reflected in our forecasts.













Consensus payout expectations

Stable dividend outlook backed by a strong balance sheet

Dividend payout

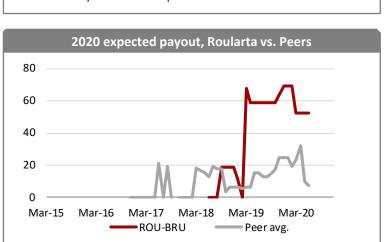
Roularta announced on 6 March 2020 that an ordinary dividend of €0.5/share would be paid out on 2019 earnings, in line with our forecast. The amount is in line with the historical average dividend of €0.55/share in years when a dividend was paid (13 years over the past 19 since the IPO). On 23 March, Roularta announced, however, like many Belgian SMEs, that the Board would, in fact, propose to scrap the dividend due to the Covid-19 crisis and the pursuing lack of visibility from the pandemic.

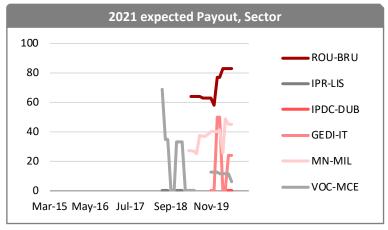
Roularta's targeted pay-out ratio is 30%, which is in line with its average payout ratio prior to the acquisition in France of c32% (2002-2006) and broadly in line with the Sector average.

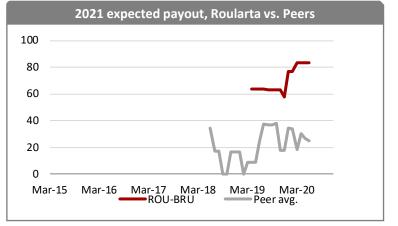
Consensus expects Roularta to pay out a dividend of €0.83/share in 2021e (vs. €0.55/share MERe), which leads to an expected payout of 126%, which is a bit excessive in our view.

The Mediafin acquisition and the Medialaan disposal are likely to have a negative impact on Roularta's (ordinary) dividend payment profile given the lower cash-generation potential of Mediafin vs. Medialaan. We believe, however, that a €0.55/share dividend in the next years is sustainable given Roularta's €96m net cash position.













Leverage expectations

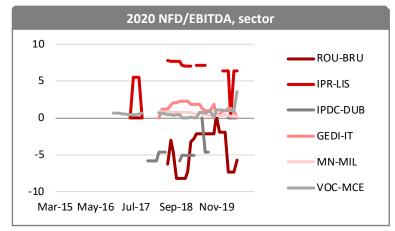
No longer an issue post the Medialaan disposal

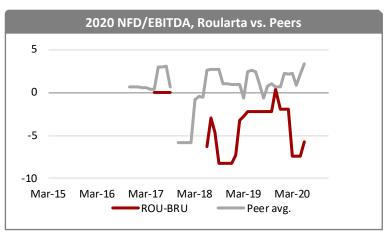
Net-debt-to-EBITDA

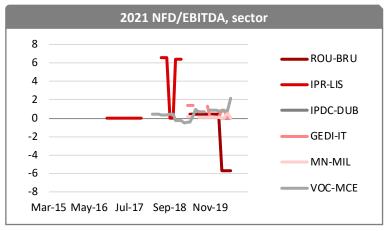
The level of expected financial leverage in the Media Sector was high in 2011 and 2012 and again in 2014 (where it exceeded 2.2x Net debt over EBITDA), but trended down since then, before moving back up with, on average, a ratio of 2x. Roularta's ratio has exceeded 2x only during 2014 but has reached a net cash position of €96m at the end of 2019, following the transactions (Medialaan disposal and the acquisitions of Mediafin and Sanoma women magazine titles) as well as the special €5/share dividend payout to shareholders in 2018.

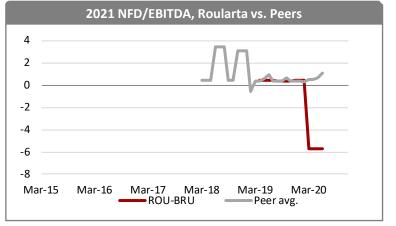
As a reminder, Roularta has paid back its €100m bond in 2018 and benefited from the first full-year impact in 2019. The company has a covenant threshold of 3.5x net debt over EBITDA based on annual EBITDA including the company's share of Mediafin's and Bayard's net profit.

Going forward, this has become a non-issue given Roularta's reported net cash position compared to a reported net debt position of €96m at the end of 2019.





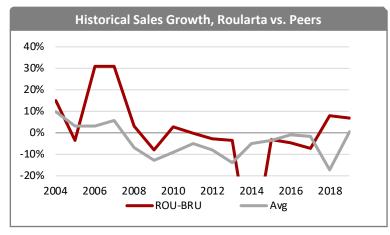


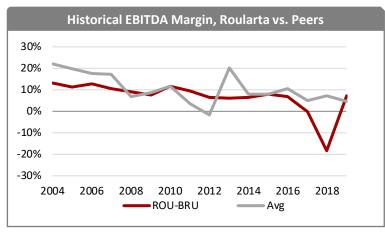


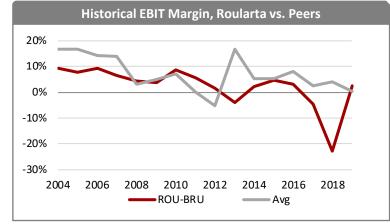


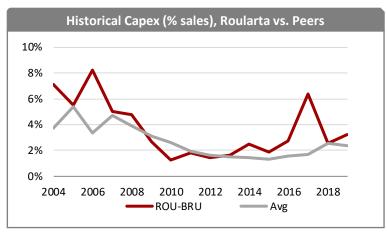


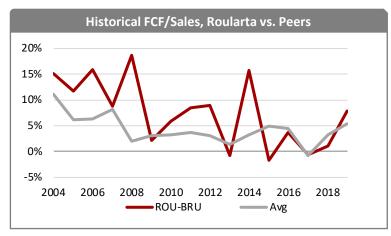
Historical P&L, CF and Balance Sheet Performance

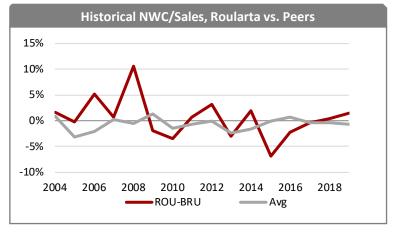










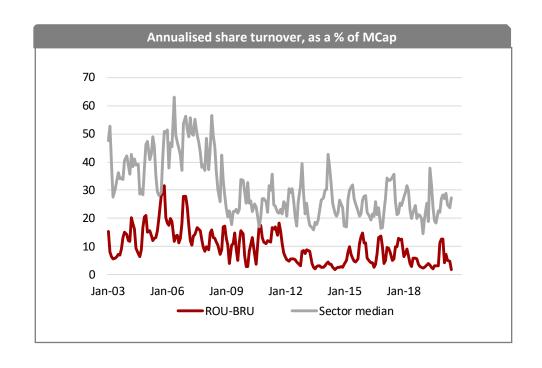


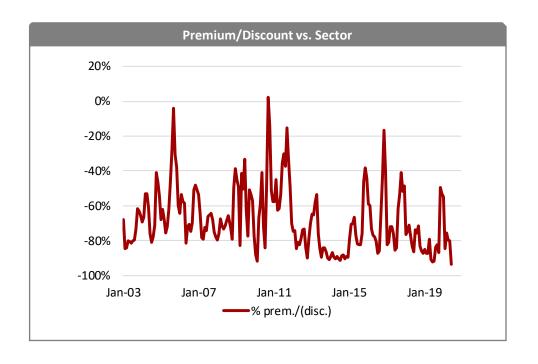




Share liquidity

Well-below peers









Merodis Equity Research

																														F	i	n	a	r	10	ci	8		t	e	2	ar	S	he	96	et
CAGR 20-22e	7.4	na	328.2 155.3	20-22e 42.5	-72.6 84.3	0.0	na	na na	634.4	12.9	na na	14.6	2.5																20-22e	15.3	0.0	na					20-22e	0.00	155.3	155.3 2.5	na					
CAGR 08-19 ;	-8.4	-12.5	-7.9	08-19 7	na -17.0	-11.1	na -3.7	na c	-40.3	-2.6	na na	-0.7 -29.9	-2.9																08-19	6.9 1	-7.9 17.0	-25.2					08-19	0.0	-2.0	-2.0	na					
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2015																														208										4.92	0.50					
2014									_																					162										-11.0	0					
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Consolidated P&L (€m)	Sales	EBIT	Pretax profit Net profit	Cash Flow (€m) Adj. EBITDA	WCR Gros Op CF	Capex FCF	Net disp./(acq.) Dividends paid	Equity issue	Net Debt (incr.)/decr.	WC	Capital Employed Discontinued Assets	Cash & Equivalent Gross Debt	Equity Growth (%)	Sales	EBIT	Net profit FCF	NWC Capital Employed	Shareholder Equity	Gross margin (%)	EBIT margin (%)	Net margin (%) Opex/Sales (%)	Depreciation/Sales (%)	Tax rate (%)	Capex/sales (%) FCF/Sales (%)	wck/sales (%) WC/Sales (%)	Capital Employed/Sales (%) Gearing (%)	Net Debt/EBITDA (x) ROCF post-fax (%)	ROE (%)	Valuation	Market Capitalisation (€m) + Net Financial Debt (€)	+ Restated Min. + others (€m) - Associates & Inv. (€m)	= Enterprise Value (€m) Assoc. NFD (gr. share) (€m)	EV/Sales (x) EV/EBITDA (x)	EV/EBIT (x) EV/FCF (x)	EV/Capital Employed (x)	P/BVPS (x)	Per share data	# or snares # of avg sh. (FD, ex-treas.)	Share price EPS	EPS FD BVPS	DPS Source: Company data, Merodis Equ					16



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