

SPONSORED RESEARCH

9 May 2023

PharmaNutra

Europe - Pharmaceuticals

FLASH NOTE

Buy

PT: €86.00

Key data	
Ticker	PHN IM
Price (8 May 2023)	€51.20
Upside to Price Target (%)	68.0
Market Cap (m)	496
Free Float (%)	35.0
No. of Shares (m)	9.68
1mth perf (%)	(5.8)
3mth perf (%)	(12.8)
12mth perf (%)	(5.8)
12mth high-low (€)	72 - 49

Key financials

(In EUR M)

Year to Dec	2022A	2023E	2024E
Group revenue	82.7	98.0	110
EBITDA (rep.)	24.4	23.9	27.5
EBIT (rep.)	23.0	22.0	24.9
EPS (adj.)	1.56	1.58	1.79
DPS	0.80	0.79	0.81
Net debt/(cash)	(11)	(9.3)	(17)
ROCE (NOPAT) (%)	47.4	38.2	41.7
EPS (adj.) y/y (%)	13.4	1.4	13.1
Net debt/EBITDA	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.6)
EV/Sales	5.9	5.0	4.4
EV/EBITDA (adj.)	20.1	20.5	17.6
EV/EBIT (adj.)	21.3	22.4	19.5
P/E (adj.)	32.8	32.4	28.6
Dividend yield (%)	1.6	1.5	1.6
Free CF yield (%)	0.7	1.5	3.3
EV/CE	10.1	8.5	8.1

Prices are as of close 8 May 2023

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All sources unless otherwise stated: Company data, FactSet, Stifel estimates

Share price performance (indexed)



Q1-23 results: A positive start to the year

Key Points

PharmaNutra delivered a very solid set of results, with revenue and Adj. Net Profit beating our estimates by 3% and 8% respectively. Commentary on current trading was reassuring, with Italy expected to continue to grow 20% and International business outpacing management expectations. Moreover, a different phasing of the guided €5-7m start-up costs could lead to a potentially positive impact on FY-22 profitability, which in conjunction with the recent de-rating on the stock should result in a more compelling timing to look back at the equity story.

Key numbers

- Revenue: Q1 Net Sales were up +25% YoY to €23.6m, c.3% above SFe, with growth primarily driven by volumes and to a less extent by product mix, while the contribution of Akern was €1.5m (SFe: €1.2m). By division, Italy was up +27% YoY to €16.6m (in line with SFe), with March hitting record-high volumes of 400k units sold and the International, accelerating sequentially to +21% YoY in Q1 (SFe +16% YoY; Q4 +3%). By product, all product categories registered double-digit growth with all-important SiderAL up +15% YoY (SFe: +14%) and Cetilar, ApportAL and UltraMag all up strong growth above 30%.
- Profitability: Adj. EBITDA came to €6.6m, in line with our estimate, with a broadly inline margin of 27.7% (-10bps YoY), while Adj. Net Profit came to €4.6m (SFe: €4.3m), which excludes a positive €0.8m one-off related to a contractual indemnity. FCF was negative for -€5.7m (SFe -€1.7m) after a higher-than-expected WC absorption linked to higher inventory built-up, driving Net Cash to €2.9m (-7.7m vs FY-22).
- Outlook: Management expects high double-digit organic growth trends in terms of revenues driven by a +20% YoY increase in Italy. While the group margins should be slightly impacted by the implementation of the new business.

Conference call feedback - key points

- Current trading commentary: We understood that the positive trends of Q1 are fully intact, with Italy remaining resilient and International business performing above management expectations.
- Key projects update: 1. Cetilar Nutrition product line was launched at the end of March through a dedicated sales network and a specific e-commerce website. 2. PharmaNutra Espana branch has been set up with a specific sales network (six sales reps) and two office staff. Management is finalizing logistics and distribution agreements in the country. 3. PharmaNutra USA (two commercial staff already hired) is currently recruiting additional sales reps and will start the commercialization phase in September. 4. Akern's integration is ongoing and the business will be progressively strengthened both in Italy and on international markets.
- Start-up costs: The release of the total start-up costs, which were quantified at
 around €5/7m at the time of CMD/FY-22, could have a different phasing than
 previously expected. Management highlighted a rump up for these costs in the coming
 quarters, without ruling out that a part of them could even shift to early next year.
- **Inventory buildup:** is linked to the anticipation of an increase in the International business as well as the forecast ramp-up of Cetilar Nutrition products.

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PharmaNutra: 1Q-23 Results review

€, Mn	4Q21	2021	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	2022	1Q23	1Q23-E	△ (%)
<u>P&L</u>										
NET REVENUES	18.8	68.1	18.8	20.9	20.6	22.5	82.7	23.6	23.0	3%
chge% YoY	19.3%	20.7%	32.3%	15.7%	20.7%	19.4%	21.4%	25.3%	22.0%	
Adj. EBITDA	4.3	20.1	5.3	7.2	6.7	5.3	24.4	6.6	6.6	0%
chge% YoY	14.5%	25.4%	36.7%	11.5%	20.5%	23.6%	21.3%	24.4%	24.9%	
margin	22.6%	29.5%	27.8%	34.2%	32.5%	23.3%	29.4%	27.7%	28.5%	-80bp
EBIT	3.8	18.7	5.0	6.8	6.3	4.9	23.0	7.0	6.1	15%
chge% YoY	34.2%	41.4%	39.4%	11.3%	20.8%	31.0%	23.3%	40.1%	22.4%	
margin	20.0%	27.4%	26.4%	32.8%	30.6%	21.9%	27.9%	29.5%	26.5%	+300bp
Net Financial Result	0.0	0.1	0.0	(0.0)	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	
PRE TAX PROFIT	3.8	18.8	5.0	6.8	6.6	5.0	23.4	7.1	6.1	16%
Taxes	(0.9)	(5.0)	(1.5)	(2.1)	(2.0)	(2.8)	(8.4)	(1.7)	(1.8)	
Tax Rate (%)	-23.9%	-26.8%	-30.0%	-30.6%	-30.2%	-56.0%	-35.7%	-30.0%	-30.0%	
NET INCOME	2.9	13.8	3.5	4.7	4.6	2.2	15.0	5.4	4.3	28%
Adj. NET INCOME	2.9	13.3	3.5	4.7	4.6	3.6	16.4	4.6	4.3	8%
chge% YoY	6.9%	14.8%	39.4%	16.5%	20.5%	24.2%	23.5%	32.0%	22.2%	
Adj. EPS	0.30	1.38	0.36	0.49	0.48	0.37	1.56	0.48	0.44	8%
Cash Flow & Balance Sheet										
FCF	7.2	15.4	0.8	(0.6)	(1.6)	4.7	3.3	(5.7)	(1.7)	226%
NET DEBT / (CASH)	(28.1)	(28.1)	(27.1)	(19.6)	(7.3)	(3.3)	(10.6)	(2.9)	(8.9)	-67%
NET DEBT/EBITDAx	(6.6) x	(1.4) x	(5.1) x	(2.7) x	(1.1) x	(0.6) x	(0.4) x	(0.4) x	(1.3) x	

Source: Company accounts, Stifel Research and Estimates

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Company Snapshot

Investment case summary

PharmaNutra's competitive advantage stems from its proprietary raw materials employed in its products, as well as its patented technologies, which serve as a valuable barrier to entry from the competition. In the past 18 years, the company grew revenue from zero to c.€60m, maintaining healthy profitability and strong free cash generation leading to a net cash position. As the company is still at an earlier stage of development while enjoying a clear leading position in the OTC oral iron supplements market in Italy, we believe it can benefit from multiple growth opportunities going forward, both organically and externally.

Target price methodology

A weighted average of DCF valuation, computed using a WACC of 7.0% and a terminal growth rate of 4.0%, and peer multiples.

Risk to our valuation and rating

- Macroeconomic and country risk: Any deterioration in its key markets due to macro-related issues.
- Strategy execution risk: Slower/faster-than-expected delivery against the 2022-30 business plan.
- Operational risk: Lack of skilled workforce or labor cost inflation; global supply chain constraints leading to higher manufacturing costs; new HQ construction delays; higher than budgeted costs to develop the US market.
- Capital allocation: Cheap/expensive M&A or capital injections to accelerate growth.
- Competition risk: New product launches undermining/strengthening its leadership in the oral iron market or in the muscle painkillers segment.
- Regulatory risk: Change in food supplements regulation.
- Technological risk: From the obsolescence of patented technologies and approvals in new markets.

Kev dates

16 March 2023: FY-22 results

26 April 2023: AGM

8 May 2023: Q1-23 results

11 September 2023: Q2-23 results

6 November 2023: Q3-23 results

Company description

Established by Andrea and Roberto Lacorte in 2003, PharmaNutra is an Italian operator active in the R&D, commercialisation, and distribution of nutraceutical products and medical devices. The company is the market leader in the OTC oral iron supplement segment, with its SiderAL product line retaining a c.54% market share in Italy. It also focuses on topical muscle pain treatments through its Cetilar product line. Its flagship products are covered by patents. PHN's business model relies on R&D, with a widespread distribution network in Italy, including c.150 scientific sales representatives, providing access to doctors and pharmacies. Abroad, PHN operates in 56 countries through 39 exclusive key partners, selected among the world's primary pharmaceutical companies. As of 2020, PharmaNutra had 17 patents, 37 trademarks, 17 proprietary raw materials and 34 products backed by 122 observational studies.

Key products, clients and end markets

By product:

- SiderAL line: Nutritional supplement based on sucrosomial Iron (75% FY-22e reported net revenue)
- Cetilar line: Topical muscle pain treatment medical devices (10%)
- Apportal: Nutritional supplement containing 19 different ingredients (10%)
- Ultramag: Nutritional supplement based on sucrosomial Magnesium (1%)
- Others: Including Ribomicin, Dolomir, and Lactozepam (4%)
- Akern: Medical devices and software for body composition analysis (2% reported; 6% pro-forma)

By region:

Italy (37% of volumes; 71% of revenue in FY-20) and, RoW (63%; 29%), with Europe and the Middle East representing the bulk of foreign sales.

Key shareholders

- Andrea Lacorte, Chairman: 31.4%
- Roberto Lacorte, CEO: 23.1%
- Carlo Volpi, COO: 10.5%
- Free Float: 35.0%

Senior management

- Andrea Lacorte, Chairman and co-founder
- Roberto Lacorte, CEO, Vice-chariman and co-founder
- Carlo Volpi, COO
- Francesco Sarti, CFO
- Germano Tarantino, Chief Scientific Officer

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PharmaNutra (PHN IM) as of May 05, 2023 (in EUR)



*Represents the value(s) that changed.

Buy=B; Hold=H; Sell=S; Discontinued=D; Suspended=SU; Discontinued=D; Initiation=I

For a price chart with our ratings and any applicable target price changes for PHN IM go to http://stifel2.bluematrix.com/sellside/Disclosures.action?ticker=PHN IM

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