

Wednesday, 15 September 2021 | special comments

Cognor: High Rebar Margins Drive Profits

Recommendation: accumulate | target price: PLN 5.05 | current price: PLN 3.97

COG.PW; COG.PA | Metallurgical Industry, Poland

Analyst: Jakub Szkopek +48 22 438 24 03

Cognor shares have nosedived 20% from their mid-August high, meanwhile domestic rebar margins in the Polish market are holding up at record-high levels.

As a result, we believe that Cognor will deliver another big quarter in Q3 2021 with EBITDA topping PLN 100m.

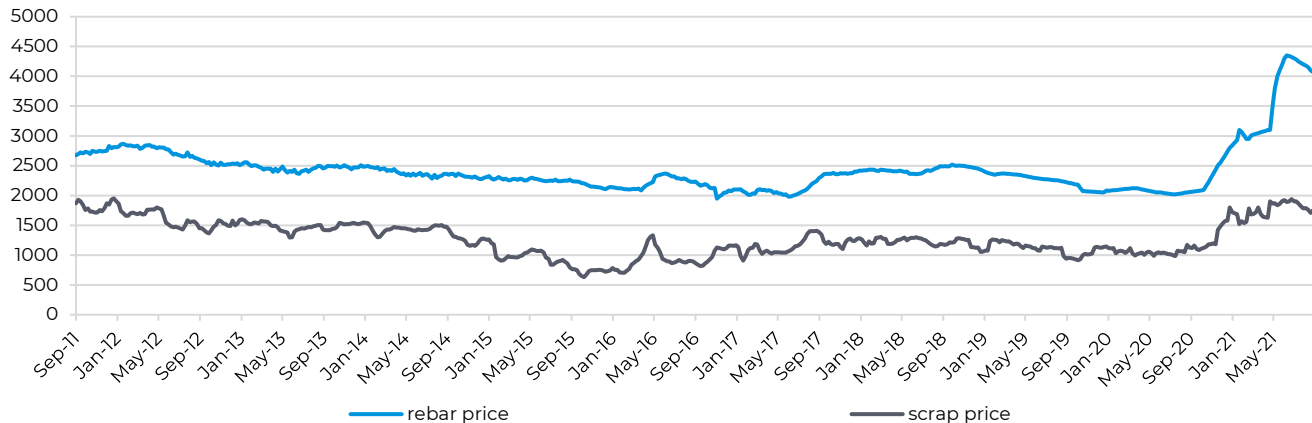
As an added bonus, Cognor stock is going ex-dividend on September 28th, ahead of a PLN 0.15-a-share shareholder distribution scheduled for October 11th – that's a dividend yield of nearly 4% at the current price level.

With all this in mind, without changing our accumulate recommendation, or the target price, we would take the current share price weakness as an opportunity to increase positions in COG.

- Domestic **prices of steel products** tracked by the industry association PUDS have been on a **gentle decline** since July, bringing the quotes on hot-rolled steel down 8% relative to their late June/early July highs, alongside a 6% decrease in rebar prices.

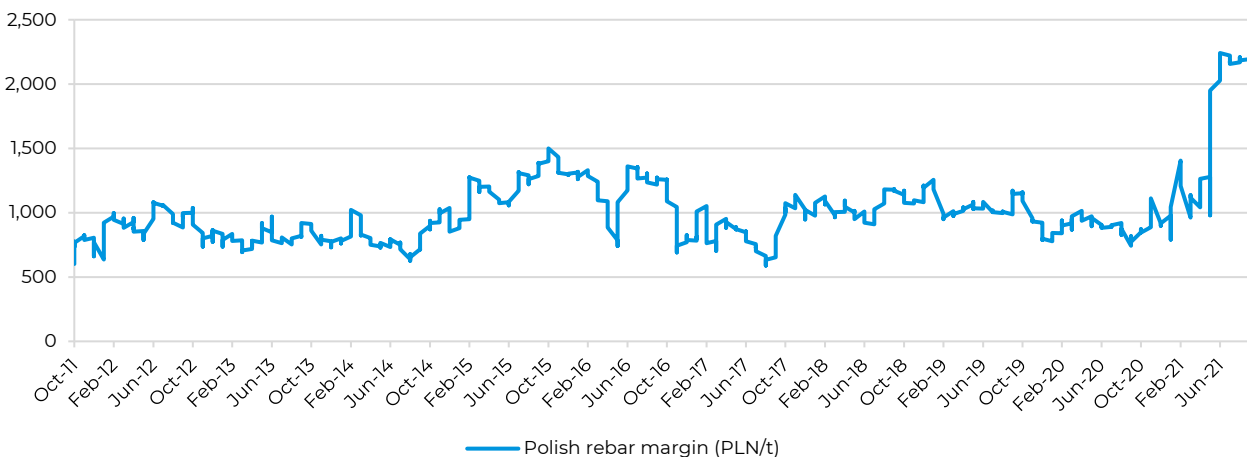
- Set against prices of scrap feedstocks, down about 7% in the same period, this allows local rebar manufacturers like Cognor to achieve high sales **margins** as they continue to hold at **record-high levels**.
- Even so, shares in Cognor have registered a decline of 20% from the high reached after the 13 August publication of 2021 Q2 results. We see this as an undeserved loss considering the strong earnings prospects for the **third quarter**, when Cognor is expected to report recurring **EBITDA of more than PLN 100m**.
- A major reason why Cognor is able to capitalize fully on the current market trends is a conscious decision to postpone seasonal maintenance of its Ferrostal smelter from August to January 2022.
- We believe a possible explanation why investors may have lost some of their confidence in Cognor lately is the persistent worldwide rise in prices of electricity. What investors might not realize is that Cognor has **secured power supply** for its facilities for the next two years **at prices well below the current market levels** (i.e. at less than PLN 250 MWh) – a policy which next year can provide substantial cost advantage over the competition.

Prices of steel rebar in the Polish market vs. Rotterdam scrap steel quotes (PLN/t)



Source: Bloomberg, PUDS, mBank

Steel rebar margins in Poland



Source: Bloomberg, PUDS, mBank



List of abbreviations and ratios contained in the report:

EV (Enterprise Value) – Equity Value + Net Debt; **EBIT** – Earnings Before Interest and Taxes; **EBITDA** – EBIT + Depreciation & Amortisation; **Net Debt** – Borrowings + Debt Securities + Interest-Bearing Loans - Cash and Cash Equivalents; **P/E** (Price/Earnings) – Price Per Share Divided by Earnings Per Share; **P/CE** (Price to Cash Earnings) – Price Per Share Divided by Earnings + Depreciation & Amortisation; **P/B** (Price to Book Value) – Price Per Share Divided by Book Value Per Share; **P/CF** (Price to Cash Flow) – Price Divided by Cash Flow from Operations; **ROE** (Return on Equity) – Earnings Divided by Shareholders' Equity; **ROCE** (Return on Capital Employed) – EBIT x (Average Assets - Current Liabilities); **ROIC** (Return on Invested Capital) – EBIT x (1-Tax Rate) / (Average Equity + Minority Interest + Net Debt); **FCFF** (Free Cash Flow to Firm) – Cash Flow from Operations - CAPEX - Lease Payments; **FCFE** (Free Cash Flow to Equity) – Free Cash Flow to Firm - Net Interest Expense (incl. Debt + Leases) - Lease Payments

OVERWEIGHT (OW) – a rating which indicates that we expect a stock to outperform the broad market
NEUTRAL (N) – a rating which indicates that we expect the stock to perform in line with the broad market
UNDERWEIGHT (UW) – a rating which indicates that we expect the stock to underperform the broad market

Recommendations of Biuro maklerskie mBanku:

A recommendation is valid for a period of 9 months, unless a subsequent recommendation is issued within this period. Expected returns from individual recommendations are as follows:

BUY – we expect that the rate of return from an investment will be at least 15%
ACCUMULATE – we expect that the rate of return from an investment will range from 5% to 15%
HOLD – we expect that the rate of return from an investment will range from -5% to +5%
REDUCE – we expect that the rate of return from an investment will range from -5% to -15%
SELL – we expect that an investment will bear a loss greater than 15%

Recommendations are updated at least once every nine months.

mBank S.A. with its registered office in Warsaw at Prosta 18 renders brokerage services via a dedicated organisational unit, the Brokerage Bureau, which uses the Polish name Biuro maklerskie mBanku.

mBank S.A. as part of the Exchange's Analytical Coverage Support Programme ("Programme", <https://www.gpw.pl/eacsp>) prepares analytical reports for the following companies: Cognor Holding, Pozbud, Sygnity. These documents are prepared at the request of Giełda Papierów Wartościowych w Warszawie S.A. ("WSE"), which is entitled to copyrights to these materials. mBank S.A. receives remuneration from the WSE for the preparation of the reports. All documents prepared for the Programme are available at: https://www.mdm.pl/ui-pub/site/market_and_analysis/analysis_and_recommendations/analytical_coverage_support_programme

This document has been created and published by Biuro maklerskie mBanku. The present report expresses the knowledge as well as opinions of the authors on day the report was prepared. The opinions and estimates contained herein constitute our best judgment at this date and time, and are subject to change without notice. The present report was prepared with due care and attention, observing principles of methodological correctness and objectivity, on the basis of sources available to the public, which Biuro maklerskie mBanku considers reliable, including information published by issuers, shares of which are subject to recommendations. However, Biuro maklerskie mBanku, in no case, guarantees the accuracy and completeness of the report, in particular should sources on the basis of which the report was prepared prove to be inaccurate, incomplete or not fully consistent with the facts. mBank S.A. bears no responsibility for investment decisions taken on the basis of the present report or for any damages incurred as a result of investment decisions taken on the basis of the present report.

This document does not constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for or purchase any financial instruments and neither this document nor anything contained herein shall form the basis of any contract or commitment whatsoever. It is being furnished to you solely for your information and may not be reproduced or redistributed to any other person. This document does not constitute investment, legal, accounting or other advice, and mBank is not liable for damages resulting from or related to the use of data provided in the documents. This document may not be copied, duplicated and/or be directly or indirectly distributed in the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan, nor transferred to citizens or residents of a state where its distribution may be legally restricted, which does not limit the possibility of publishing materials prepared for the Programme on Cognor Holding, Pozbud, Sygnity, mBank or WSE websites. Persons who disseminate this document should be aware of the need to comply with such restrictions.

Recommendations are based on essential data from the entire history of a company being the subject of a recommendation, with particular emphasis on the period since the previous recommendation.

Investing in shares is connected with a number of risks including, but not limited to, the macroeconomic situation of the country, changes in legal regulations as well as changes on commodity markets. Full elimination of these risks is virtually impossible.

mBank S.A. bears no responsibility for investment decisions taken on the basis of the present report or for any damages incurred as a result of investment decisions taken on the basis of the present report.

It is possible that mBank S.A. in its brokerage activity renders, will render or in the past has rendered services for companies and other entities mentioned in the present report.

mBank S.A. does not rule out offering brokerage services to an issuer of securities being the subject of a recommendation. Information about any conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with the issuance of recommendations (should such a conflict exist) is provided below, and it is valid as of the date of the most recent *Monthly Report* published by Biuro maklerskie mBanku or as of the date of the most recent recommendation issued for an issuer, as applicable.

This document was not transferred to the issuers prior to its publication.

mBank S.A. may have received compensation from the following companies in the last 12 months: Alchemia, Alior Bank, Ambra, Amica, Answear, Asseco Poland, ATM, Bank Handlowy, Bank Millennium, Bank Pekao, BNP Paribas Bank Polska, Boryszew, BOŚ, Capital Park, CD Projekt, Centrum Nowoczesnych Technologii, Ceramika Nowa Gala, Cognor, Echo Investment, Elemental Holding, Elzab, Enea, Energoaparatura, Erbud, Ergis, Ferrum, GetBack, Getin Holding, Getin Noble Bank, GPW, Groclin, i2 Development, ING BSK, Kruk, Lokum Developer, LW Bogdanka, Mennica Polska, Mo-BRUK, Netia, Neuca, NWA1 Dom Maklerski, Oponeo.pl, OTP Bank, PA Nova, PBKM, PGNiG, PKO BP, Polimex-Mostostal, Polnord, Polwax, Poznańska Korporacja Budowlana PEKABEX, Prochem, Projprzem, PZU, Raiffeisen Bank International, Rawlplug, Rubicon Partners NFI, Santander Bank Polska, Seco/Warwick, Skarbiec Holding, Solar Company, Sygnity, Tarczyński, Ten Square Games, TIM, Unibep, Vercom, Vistal Gdynia, Wittchen, Work Service, YOLO, Zastal, ZUE.

Asseco Poland provides IT services to mBank S.A.

mBank S.A. has a cash service agreement in place with Pekao and a phone subscription agreement in place with Orange Polska S.A.

mBank S.A., its shareholders and employees may hold long or short positions in the issuers' shares or other financial instruments related to the issuers' shares. mBank, its affiliates and/or clients may conduct or may have conducted transactions for their own account or for account of another with respect to the financial instruments mentioned in this report or related investments before the recipient has received this report.

Copying or publishing the present report, in full or in part, or disseminating in any way information contained in the present report requires the prior written agreement of mBank S.A. Recommendations are addressed to all Clients of Biuro maklerskie mBanku.

Recommendations are addressed to all Clients of Biuro maklerskie mBanku.

All investment recommendations and strategies issued by mBank S.A. over the last 12 months are available at: http://www.mdm.pl/ui-pub/site/market_and_analysis/analysis_and_recommendations/fundamental_analysis/recommendations?recent_filter_active=true&lang=en

The activity of mBank S.A. is subject to the supervision of the Polish Financial Supervision Commission.

Individuals who did not participate in the preparation of recommendations, but had or could have had access to recommendations prior to their publication, are employees of Biuro maklerskie mBanku authorised to access the premises in which recommendations are prepared and/or individuals having to access to recommendations based on their corporate roles, other than the analysts mentioned as the authors of the present recommendations.

This publication constitutes investment research within the meaning of Art. 36.1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565.

The compensation of the research analysts responsible for preparing investment research is determined independently of and without regard to the compensation of or revenue generated by any other employee of the Bank, including but not limited to any employee whose business interests may reasonably be considered to conflict with the interests of the persons to whom the investment research prepared by the Research Department of Biuro maklerskie mBanku is disseminated. With that being said, since one of the factors taken into consideration when determining the compensation of research analysts is the degree of fulfillment of annual financial targets by customer service functions, there is a risk that the adequacy of compensation offered to persons preparing investment research will be questioned by a competent oversight body.

For U.S. persons only: This research report is a product of mBank SA which is the employer of the research analyst(s) who has prepared the research report. The research analyst(s) preparing the research report is/are resident outside the United States (U.S.) and are not associated persons of any U.S. regulated broker-dealer and therefore the analyst(s) is/are not subject to supervision by a U.S. broker-dealer, and is/are not required to satisfy the regulatory licensing requirements of FINRA or required to otherwise comply with U.S. rules or regulations regarding, among other things, communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

This report is intended for distribution by mBank SA only to "Major Institutional Investors" as defined by Rule 15a-6(b)(4) of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Act, 1934 (the Exchange Act) and interpretations thereof by U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in reliance on Rule 15a-6(a)(2). If the recipient of this report is not a Major Institutional Investor as specified above, then it should not act upon this report and return the same to the sender. Further, this report may not be copied, duplicated and/or transmitted onward to any U.S. person, which is not the Major Institutional Investor.

In reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the Exchange Act and interpretations thereof by the SEC in order to conduct certain business with Major Institutional Investors, mBank SA has entered into an agreement with a U.S. registered broker-dealer, Cabrera Capital Markets. ("Cabrera"). Transactions in securities discussed in this research report should be effected through Cabrera or another U.S. registered broker-dealer.

Strong and weak points of valuation methods used in recommendations:

DCF – acknowledged as the most methodologically correct method of valuation; it consists in discounting financial flows generated by a company; its weak point is the significant susceptibility to a change of forecast assumptions in the model.

Relative – based on a comparison of valuation multipliers of companies from a given sector; simple in construction, reflects the current state of the market better than DCF; weak points include substantial variability (fluctuations together with market indices) as well as difficulty in the selection of the group of comparable companies.

Economic profits – discounting of future economic profits; the weak point is high sensitivity to changes in the assumptions made in the valuation model.

Discounted Dividends (DDM) – discounting of future dividends; the weak point is high sensitivity to changes in the assumptions as to future dividends made in the valuation model.

NAV – valuation based on equity value, one of the most frequently used method in case of developing companies; the weak point of the method is that it does not factor in future changes in revenue/profits of a company.

mBank S.A.

Prosta 18
00-850 Warszawa
<http://www.mbank.pl/>

Research Department

Kamil Kliszczyk
director
+48 22 438 24 02
kamil.kliszczyk@mbank.pl
energy, power generation

Jakub Szkopek
+48 22 438 24 03
jakub.szkopek@mbank.pl
industrials, chemicals, metals

Piotr Poniatowski
+48 22 438 24 09
piotr.poniatowski@mbank.pl
industrials, gaming

Antoni Kania
antoni.kania@mbank.pl
industrials

Michał Marczak
+48 22 438 24 01
michal.marczak@mbank.pl
strategy

Paweł Szpigiel
+48 22 438 24 06
pawel.szpigiel@mbank.pl
media, IT, telco

Mikołaj Lemańczyk
+48 22 438 24 07
mikolaj.lemanczyk@mbank.pl
banks, financials

Michał Konarski
+48 22 438 24 05
michal.konarski@mbank.pl
banks, financials

Aleksandra Szklarczyk
+48 22 438 24 04
aleksandra.szklarczyk@mbank.pl
construction, real-estate development

Janusz Pięta
+48 22 438 24 08
janusz.pieta@mbank.pl
retail

Sales and Trading

Traders

Piotr Gawron
Director
+48 22 697 48 95
piotr.gawron@mbank.pl

Magdalena Bernacik
+48 22 697 47 35
magdalena.bernacik@mbank.pl

Sales, Foreign Markets

Marzena Łempicka-Wilim
deputy director
+48 22 697 48 82
marzena.lempicka-wilim@mbank.pl

Private Client Sales

Kamil Szymański
director
kamil.szymanski@mbank.pl

Krzysztof Bodek
+48 22 697 48 89
krzysztof.bodek@mbank.pl

Andrzej Sychowski
+48 22 697 48 46
andrzej.sychowski@mbank.pl

Jędrzej Łukomski
+48 22 697 49 85
jedrzej.lukomski@mbank.pl

Jarosław Banasiak
deputy director
jaroslaw.banasiak@mbank.pl

Tomasz Jakubiec
+48 22 697 47 31
tomasz.jakubiec@mbank.pl

Piotr Brożyna
+48 22 697 48 47
piotr.brozyna@mbank.pl