18 February 2018

Independence & Integrity

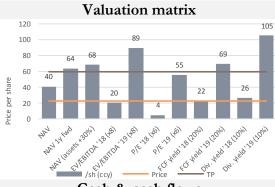
 $(\lambda) = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

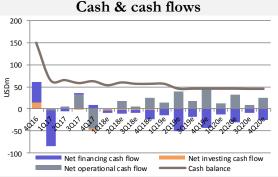
\$AVANCE (#BUY, 60) 4Q17 review: Report was as expected. We see massive share upside ahead, with 2Q seasonally uptick as the first kicker

AVANCE-NO

BUY/TP 60







Gersemi Research / Analysts

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Massive upside ahead

The 4Q17 numbers was in-line with expectations, with few surprises emerging in the report or presentation. Avance rallied 7% on the day amongst a general appreciation of the VLGC segment. As we enter the seasonally strong period from April to August, we simultaneously expect supply growth to turn negative. Add annualized demand growth of ~10% and we remain highly optimistic on the share price development over both the short- and long-term horizon. We reiterate our BUY recommendation and have a NOK 60 target price.

4Q17 review: The results were largely in-line with ours and consensus' forecast. The company achieved a timecharter equivalent (TCE) on its fleet of \$12,262/day, below our forecast of \$13,823. However, this was offset by a utilization of 97% in the quarter vs our 91% forecast. There is naturally a trade-off between utilization and spot rates achieved in the currently depressed market, and Avance struck a balance which was very close to our expectations.

Investment case: Avance is our #1 pick in the VLGC space, trading at a P/NAV of 0.54 (peers 0.60) and 1y fwd NAV of 0.34 (0.46) even after applying a China-discount to its applicable fleet. Add historically high operational leverage and we see EV/EBITDA in '19E of 4.0 (4.5) and potential dividend yield of 48% (29%). We have generated a 139% return on our recommendations since Mar/14 (vs consensus' -81%), and see 175% upside potential ahead as the VLGC segment is repriced in concert with the cyclical upturn.

Ke	ers			
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020
Net sales	54	116	185	144
EBITDA	9	72	140	99
EBIT	-31	32	100	59
PTP	-55	6	76	37
Net earnings	-55	6	76	37
EPS	-0.86	0.09	1.18	0.57
DPS	-	0.34	1.35	0.61
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fwd NAV	335	526	601	600
Adj. equity ratio	40%	52%	57%	59%
FCF yield	-8%	20%	63%	41%
Dividend yield	0%	12%	48%	22%
EV/EBITDA	65.3	8.2	4.0	5.3
P/E (adj.)		29.3	2.4	4.9

Ke	ey numb	ers		
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020
Net operational cash flow	-12	46	116	77
Free cash flow	-15	37	114	74
Net cash flow	-87	-6	-11	-0
TCE/day	11,567	23,658	37,220	28,930
Cash break-even	24,986	17,738	20,814	19,830
Liquidity	62	56	45	45
Property & Equip. (incl. NBs)	823	793	755	718
Total equity	404	388	377	374
Interest bearing debt	488	467	429	395
Net interest bearing debt	425	411	384	350
Market Cap.	182	180	180	180
Enterprise value	607	590	564	529
Capex	3	10	2	3

Source: Gersemi Research, Bloomberg, company data

Disclaimer: The publisher currently owns shares in the company. More disclaimers at the end of this document



AVANCE-NO BUY/TP 60

 $f(\lambda) = a_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

Table of Contents

Massive upside ahead	1
4Q17 Review	3
Valuation	4
Estimate Changes	5
Our Estimates vs Consensus	6
Market Balance	9
Econometrics	10
Peer Group	11
Disclaimers	12



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BUY/TP 60

 $f(\lambda) = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

4Q17 Review

The 4Q17 results were largely in-line with ours and consensus' forecast (see table below). The company achieved a timecharter equivalent (TCE) on its fleet of \$12,262/day, below our forecast of \$13,823. However, this was offset by a utilization of 97% in the quarter vs our 91% forecast. There is naturally a trade-off between utilization and spot rates achieved in the currently depressed market, and Avance struck a balance which was very close to our expectations.

The company reported a net cash flow for the quarter of +\$4m vs our forecast of -\$7m. This mainly relates to a \$15m draw down under the revolving credit facility. That leaves \$50m in undrawn credit + \$62m in liquidity which should easily suffice against a low cash break even and improving spot rates ahead.

P&L

. 02							
4Q17 review				Actu	als vs	Actua	als vs
USDm	Actuals	GR	Consenus	GR	Consensus	GR	Consensus
Net sales	15.3	16.2	15.8	-0.9	-0.5	-6%	-3%
EBITDA	4.1	5.1	4.4	-1.0	-0.3	-23%	-7%
EBIT	-5.8	-5.0	-5.7	-0.8	-0.1	-14%	-1%
PTP	-12.3	-11.4	-11.2	-0.9	-1.1	-7%	-9%
Net earnings	-12.4	-11.4	-11.6	-0.9	-0.8	-8%	-6%
EPS	-0.19	-0.18	-0.17	-0.02	-0.02	-9%	-11%
DPS	-	-	-	-	-		
Implied, line by line	Actuals	GR	Consenus	GR	consensus	GR	consensus
TCE revenue	15.3	16.2	15.8	-0.9	-0.5	-6%	-3%
Opex & G&A	11.1	11.1	11.3	0.0	-0.2	0%	-2%
Depreciation	9.9	10.0	10.2	-0.1	-0.2	-1%	-2%
Net finance	6.5	6.5	5.5	0.0	1.0	1%	16%
Taxes & Minorities	0.1	_	0.4	0.1	-0.3	100%	-580%

CF & BS

4Q17 review				Actu	als vs	Actua	als vs
USDm	Actuals	GR	Consenus	GR	Consensus	GR	Consensus
Net operational cash flow	-3	-1		-2		-56%	***************************************
Free cash flow	-6	-2		-4		-66%	
Net cash flow	4	-7		11		267%	
TCE/day	12,262	13,823		-1,561		-13%	***************************************
Utilization	97%	91%		6%		6%	
Cash break-even	12,923	17,666		-4,743		-37%	
Liquidity	62	51		11		18%	
Interest bearing debt	488	473		15		3%	
Net interest bearing debt	425	421		4		1%	



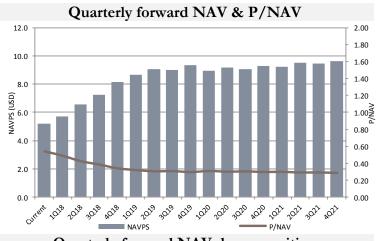
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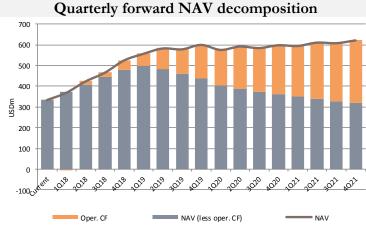
BUY/TP 60

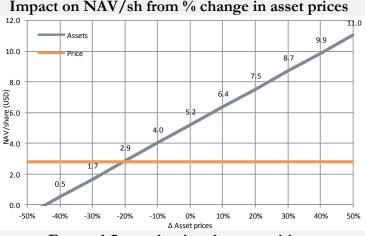
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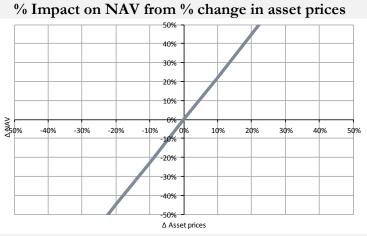
Valuation

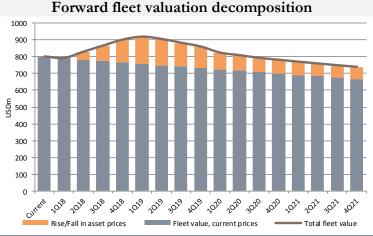
Valua	tion & targ	get price	
Net asset values			
USDm	4Q17	Fair value	Implied
Primary assets	823	755	602
Contract value	0	0	0
Other	14	14	11
GAV	838	769	614
Net debt	-425	-425	-425
Capex	0	0	0
Other	-9	-9	-9
NAV	404	335	180
Shares	65	65	65
NAVPS	6.26	5.19	2.78
Share price	48.7	40.4	21.7
P/NAV	0.45	0.54	1.00
EV/GAV	0.73	0.80	1.00
Adj. Total Assets	910	842	689
Adj. Equity Ratio	44%	40%	26%
Target price	NOK	60	175%
Impact on NAV/sl	n from % c	hange in as	set prices

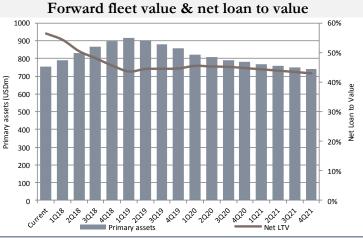














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 $f(\lambda) = a_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

Estimate Changes

				Pro	fit & Lo	ss						
Estimate changes		New				Old				Change		
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Net sales	54	116	185	144	56	125	201	154	-2	-9	-16	-10
EBITDA	9	72	140	99	12	81	157	110	-2	-9	-16	-10
EBIT	-31	32	100	59	-29	40	117	69	-2	-9	-16	-10
PTP	-55	6	76	37	-53	15	93	48	-2	-9	-17	-12
Net earnings	-55	6	76	37	-53	15	93	48	-2	-9	-17	-12
EPS	-0.86	0.09	1.18	0.57	-0.82	0.24	1.45	0.75	-0.04	-0.14	-0.27	-0.18
DPS	-	0.34	1.35	0.61	-	0.38	1.48	0.86	-	-0.04	-0.13	-0.24
									2017	2018	2019	2020
							TCE	revenue	-2	-9	-16	-10
							Ope	x & G&A	0	-0	-0	-0
							Dep	reciation	-0	-0	-0	-0
							Ne	t finance	0	1	1	1
							Taxes & N	linorities	0	0	-	-

			Cas	h Flows	& Bala	nce She	et					
Estimate changes										Change		
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Net operational cash flow	-12	46	116	77	34	55	133	88	-45	-9	-17	-12
Free cash flow	-15	37	114	74	33	51	132	88	-48	-15	-18	-15
Net cash flow	-87	-6	-11	-0	-54	2	-	-	-33	-8	-11	-0
TCE/day	11,567	23,658	37,220	28,930	10,965	24,406	39,306	30,086	602	-748	-2,086	-1,157
Cash break-even	24,986	17,738	20,814	19,830	29,083	18,487	20,292	19,290	-4,097	-749	522	540
Liquidity	62	56	45	45	53	55	55	55	10	2	-9	-10
Property & Equip. (incl. NBs)	823	793	755	718	822	785	747	707	2	8	8	11
Total equity	404	388	377	374	403	393	391	384	1	-5	-14	-10
Interest bearing debt	488	467	429	395	473	448	411	378	15	19	18	16
Net interest bearing debt	425	411	384	350	420	393	357	324	5	18	27	26
Market Cap.	182	180	180	180	190	190	190	190	-8	-10	-10	-10
Enterprise value	607	590	564	529	610	583	547	513	-3	7	17	16
Capex	3	10	2	3	1	4	2	-	2	6	0	3

				V	aluation							
Estimate changes		New				New				Change		
USDm	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018		2020
Fwd NAV	335	526	601	600	335	531	623	630	-0	-5	-22	-30
Adj. equity ratio	40%	52%	57%	59%	40%	53%	59%	61%	-1%	-1%	-2%	-2%
FCF yield	-8%	20%	63%	41%	17%	27%	69%	47%	-25%	-7%	-6%	-5%
Dividend yield	0%	12%	48%	22%	0%	13%	50%	29%	0%	-1%	-2%	-7%
EV/EBITDA	65.3	8.2	4.0	5.3	52.8	7.2	3.5	4.7	12.6	1.0	0.5	0.6
P/E (adj.)		29.3	2.4	4.9		12.4	2.0	3.9	#VALUE!	17	0	1

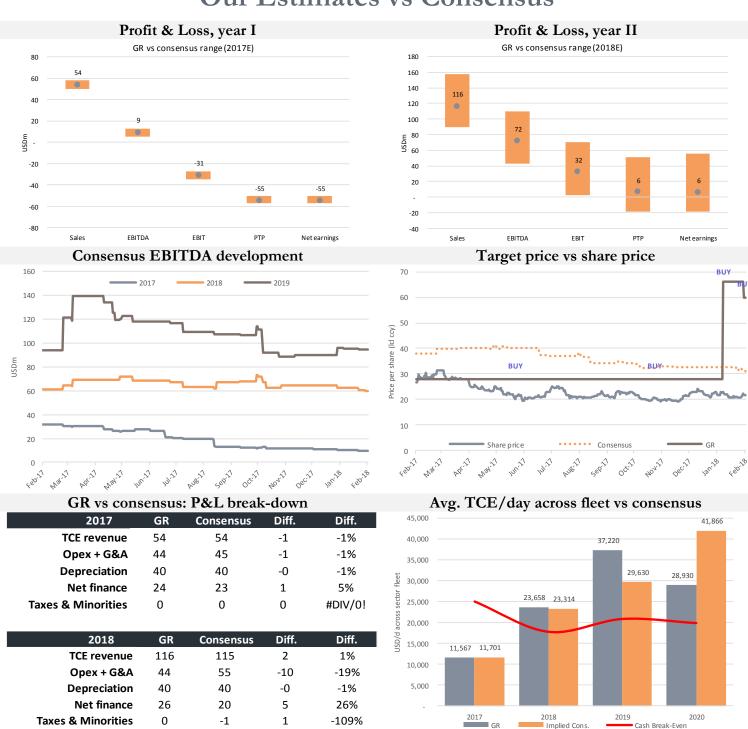


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 $f(\lambda) = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

Our Estimates vs Consensus





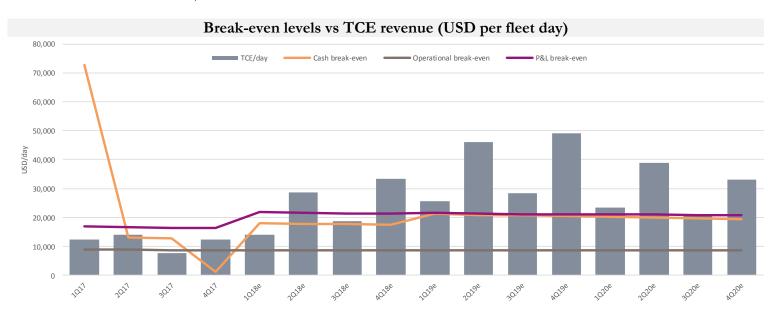
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BUY/TP 60 AVANCE-NO Profit & Loss (USDm) 2018E 2019E 2020E Net sales -100 -44 -44 -44 -44 Operational costs **EBITDA** -7 -42 -40 -40 Depreciation/Amortization -40 -40 **EBIT** -48 -31 -10 -12 Net financials -13 -20 -26 -22 -24 -24 PTP -55 -68 Taxes/Minorities O O n -68 -55 **Net earnings** Non-recurring items -55 -68 Net earnings (adj.) 0.09 **EPS** 5.04 -1.07 -0.86 1.18 0.57 5.04 EPS (adj.) -1.07 -0.86 0.09 1.18 0.57 DPS 4.74 0.51 0.00 0.34 1.35 0.61 **Balance Sheet (USDm)** 2018E 2019E 2020E Cash & short-term investments Other current assets **Total current assets** Property & equip. (incl. NBs) Other non-current assets **Total non-current assets TOTAL ASSETS** 1,119 1,033 **Total equity** Short-term debt Other current liabilities **Total current liabilities** Long-term debt Other non-current liabilities **Total non-current liabilities TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES** 1,119 1,033 Working capital, receivables Working capital, payables Net working capital Interest bearing debt Liquidity Net interest bearing debt 2018E 2019E 2020E Cash Flow (USDm) Net income -68 -55 Depreciation Other -12 Cash earnings Changes in working capital -12 Net operational cash flow -234 -6 -492 -1 -3 -10 -2 -3 Other investments Proceeds from sales Other Net investing cash flow -234 -492 -3 -10 -2 -3 -38 -35 Repayment of debt -108 -44 -72 -21 Proceeds from debt -172 Dividends paid -33 -22 -87 -40 New equity n Other -13 -72 -125 Net financing cash flow -18 -43 -74 Currency effect -87 Net cash flow -6 -11 Cash balance Free cash flow -222 -324 -15



	$A^{\mathbf{v}}$	VANCE	-NO	BUY	/TP 60_			$f(\lambda) = a_0 + \beta$	$_{1}\lambda^{\tau},\;R^{2}\approx1$
Share Data & Valuation (USDm)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Shares outstanding, end	_	_	_	36	64	64	65	65	65
Share price, avg (USD)		13	16	14	5	3	3	3	3
Share price, end (USD)	_	17	_	12	3	3	3	3	3
Market Cap.				445	196	182	180	180	180
NIBD				531	409	425	411	384	350
Minorities	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterprise value				977	604	607	590	564	529
Key Figures & Ratios	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
P/E (reported)				2.4			29.3	2.4	4.9
P/E (adj.)				2.4			29.3	2.4	4.9
P/CE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
P/Sales				1.7	2.1	3.4	1.5	1.0	1.3
EV/Sales				3.7	6.5	11.3	5.1	3.1	3.7
EV/EBITDA						65.3	8.2	4.0	5.3
EV/EBIT				5.0			18.5	5.6	8.9
P/B				0.9	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
FCF yield				-73%	50%	-8%	20%	63%	41%
Dividend yield				38.7%	16.7%	0.0%	12.2%	48.5%	22.1%
Return on equity (ROE)	-0.3%	2.9%		36.6%	-14.9%	-13.6%	1.6%	20.2%	9.8%
Return on capital employed (ROCE)	2.5%	9.2%		19.0%	-5.6%	-3.7%	4.0%	13.2%	8.2%
Return on assets (ROA)	0.0%	1.9%		16.4%	-6.6%	-6.0%	0.7%	9.2%	4.7%
,	0.070	1.570		10.170					
Sales growth					-65%	-42%	116%	59%	-22%
EBITDA margin					-7%	17%	62%	76%	69%
EBIT margin				74%	-52%	-57%	28%	54%	41%
Net margin				69%	-73%	-102%	5%	41%	26%
Net interest rate				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%
Tax rate	-45.4%	0.0%		0.0%	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Equity ratio	19%	65%		45%	44%	44%	44%	46%	48%
Leverage ratio	81%	35%		55%	56%	56%	56%	54%	52%
NIBD / EBITDA (past 1y)					-59.8	45.8	5.7	2.7	3.5
Operating cash flow/NIBD				0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2
Net interest coverage ratio (EBITDA)							2.8	5.8	4.4
Current ratio	0.2	2.8		1.5	5.4	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.5
Adj. equity ratio						40%	52%	57%	59%
Operating assets	548	394		1,049	884	848	818	780	743
Operating liabilities	165	143		17	18	19	19	19	19
Net operating assets	384	251		1,031	866	829	799	761	724

Source for financial items: Historical numbers primarily gathered from Bloomberg and company data. Forecast from Gersemi Research



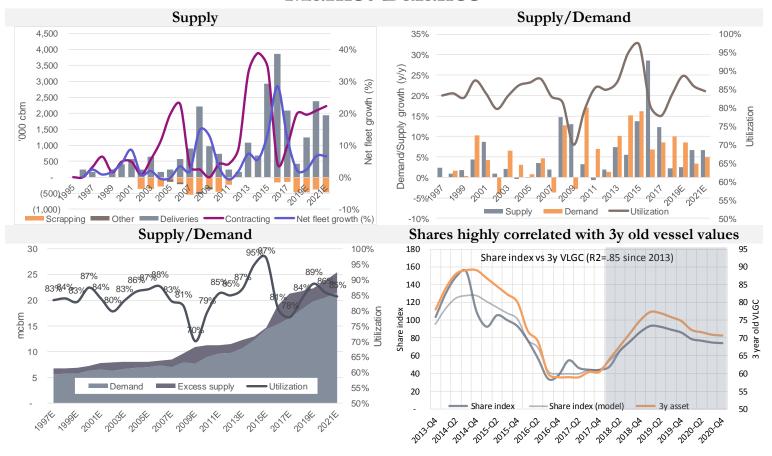


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Market Balance





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Econometrics

Demand/Supply ('000 cbm)																
Base case	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliveries ¹	575	904	2,206	975	733	244	162	1,073	669	2,935	3,863	2,081	412	1,236	2,371	1,940
Scrapping ¹	(157)	(546)	(453)	(304)	(461)	(241)	-	-	-	-	(161)	(154)	(468)	(468)	(386)	(468
Other ¹	(71)	(0)	(76)	(80)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracting ¹	2,271	325	242	-	413	415	913	3,271	3,879	3,410	416	986	1,986	1,953	2,084	2,221
Supply ²	8,279	8,438	9,685	10,945	11,297	11,223	11,447	12,292	12,979	14,760	18,977	21,316	21,791	22,332	23,832	25,407
$\Delta y/y$	3%	2%	15%	13%	3%	-1%	2%	7%	6%	14%	29%	12%	2%	2%	7%	7%
Demand ²	7,270	7,000	7,885	7,662	8,970	9,593	9,716	10,702	12,319	14,317	15,285	16,583	18,227	19,794	20,447	21,470
∆ y/y	5%	-4%	13%	-3%	17%	7%	1%	10%	15%	16%	7%	8%	10%	9%	3%	5%
Utilization ²	88%	83%	81%	70%	79%	85%	85%	87%	95%	97%	81%	78%	84%	89%	86%	85%
Spot rate ² (USD/day)	37,845	24,023	23,234	6,074	17,178	30,861	30,817	36,951	72,669	82,644	21,136	14,162	25,695	40,522	31,017	27,401
Vessel value, 3y2 (USDm)	105	92	83	71	67	73	71	73	88	83	65	60	70	76	71	70
OB ²	4,361	4,724	3,130	1,492	807	1,006	1,454	2,490	6,773	7,304	5,284	2,770	3,609	4,483	4,592	4,752
Low case	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliveries ¹	575	904	2,206	975	733	244	162	1,073	669	2,935	3,863	2,081	412	1,236	1,383	520
Scrapping ¹	(157)	(546)	(453)	(304)	(461)	(241)	-	-	-	-	(161)	(154)	(468)	(468)	(386)	(468)
Other ¹	(71)	(0)	(76)	(80)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracting ¹	2,271	325	242	-	413	415	913	3,271	3,879	3,410	416	986	743	506	499	591
Supply ²	8,279	8,438	9,685	10,945	11,297	11,223	11,447	12,292	12,979	14,760	18,977	21,316	21,937	22,712	23,721	24,009
∆ y/y	3%	2%	15%	13%	3%	-1%	2%	7%	6%	14%	29%	12%	3%	4%	4%	1%
Demand ²	7,270	7,000	7,885	7,662	8,970	9,593	9,716	10,702	12,319	14,317	15,285	16,583	16,915	17,253	17,598	17,950
∆ y/y	5%	-4%	13%	-3%	17%	7%	1%	10%	15%	16%	7%	8%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Utilization ²	88%	83%	81%	70%	79%	85%	85%	87%	95%	97%	81%	78%	77%	76%	74%	75%
Spot rate ² (USD /day)	37,845	24,023	23,234	6,074	17,178	30,861	30,817	36,951	72,669	82,644	21,136	14,162	13,087	11,542	9,568	10,214
Vessel value, 3y2 (USDm)	105	92	83	71	67	73	71	73	88	83	65	60	62	62	61	62
High case	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliveries ¹	575	904	2,206	975	733	244	162	1,073	669	2,935	3,863	2,081	412	1,236	2,896	3,327
Scrapping ¹	(157)	(546)	(453)	(304)	(461)	(241)	-	-	-	-	(161)	(154)	(468)	(468)	(386)	(468)
Other ¹	(71)	(0)	(76)	(80)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracting ¹	2,271	325	242	-	413	415	913	3,271	3,879	3,410	416	986	2,680	3,449	3,519	3,472
Supply ²	8,279	8,438	9,685	10,945	11,297	11,223	11,447	12,292	12,979	14,760	18,977	21,316	21,474	21,508	23,109	25,724
∆ y/y	3%	2%	15%	13%	3%	-1%	2%	7%	6%	14%	29%	12%	1%	0%	7%	11%
Demand ²	7,270	7,000	7,885	7,662	8,970	9,593	9,716	10,702	12,319	14,317	15,285	16,583	18,241	20,065	22,072	24,279
∆ y/y	5%	-4%	13%	-3%	17%	7%	1%	10%	15%	16%	7%	8%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Utilization ²	88%	83%	81%	70%	79%	85%	85%	87%	95%	97%	81%	78%	85%	93%	96%	94%
Spot rate ² (USD /day)	37,845	24,023	23,234	6,074	17,178	30,861	30,817	36,951	72,669	82,644	21,136	14,162	29,021	61,175	74,454	67,865
Vessel value, 3y2 (USDm)	105	92	83	71	67	73	71	73	88	83	65	60	74	94	94	90
OB ²	4,361	4,724	3,130	1,492	807	1,006	1,454	2,490	6,773	7,304	5,284	2,770	4,019	6,095	7,398	7,830
OB/Fleet ²	53%	56%	32%	14%	7%	9%	13%	20%	52%	49%	28%	13%	19%	28%	32%	30%
1Sum during period 2Average du	irina neriod															

¹Sum during period ²Average during period



AVANCE-NO

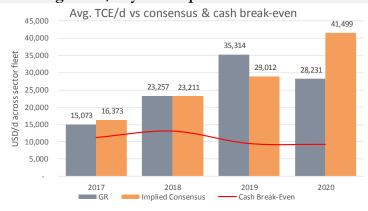
BUY/TP 60

 $f(\lambda) = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}$, $R^2 \approx 1$

Peer Group

												Va	lua	tion	m	atrix	K													
								P/NAV				EV/E	BITDA			P/E	(adj.)		Liquid	ity/(GIE	D + eq.	capex)		FCF	yield			Divide	nd yield	
USDm	Mcap	Turnover	P/sh	Value	+/-	NAV	Now	1y fwd	+20%	ε	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
AVANCE NO	1,399	1.8	22	60	175%	40.4	0.54	0.34	0.32	0.23	65.3	8.2	4.0	5.3		29.3	2.4	4.9	13%	12%	10%	11%	-8%	20%	63%	41%	0%	12%	48%	22%
BWLPG NO	4,805	5.1	34	74	119%	51.9	0.65	0.52	0.46	0.21	14.3	8.9	4.4	5.6	-	21.4	3.1	5.5	4%	5%	7%	8%	12%	18%	49%	38%	0%	7%	31%	23%
LPG US	416	3.1	7.5	15	96%	13.5	0.56	0.41	0.41	0.17	16.6	9.5	4.6	6.2	-	39.4	3.8	7.5	11%	11%	14%	15%	16%	18%	42%	28%	0%	0%	26%	17%
Average	2,206	3.3			130%		0.58	0.42	0.40	0.20	32.1	8.9	4.3	5.7	0.0	30.0	3.1	6.0	9%	9%	10%	12%	7%	19%	51%	36%	0%	6%	35%	21%
Median	1,399	3.1			119%		0.56	0.41	0.41	0.21	16.6	8.9	4.4	5.6	0.0	29.3	3.1	5.5	11%	11%	10%	11%	12%	18%	49%	38%	0%	7%	31%	22%

Avg. TCE/day across peer fleet vs consensus





AVANCE-NO

BUY/TP 60

 $f(\lambda) = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \lambda^{\tau}, R^2 \approx 1$

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