

Mercor

Disposing the best part of the business

We issue a Sell recommendation for Mercor with a 12M target price at PLN 24.50 per share (14.0% downside potential). The crucial information is the preliminary agreement with Kingspan Group to sell a significant part of the business, which we do not perceive as positively as the market does. For us, the picture after the transaction also matters. We consider the Company's market price overvalued and base our conclusions on:

- Although the selling price for the business subject to the transaction seems decent and fair, the transaction may pertain from 2/3 to 3/4 of the Company's revenue and an even higher share of EBITDA. Furthermore, the business subject to the transaction has higher profitability than the remaining business, which should result in lower margins in the future. Moreover, due to an inverse effect of economies of scale, the ratio of the Company's SG&A to its revenue should rise, and the resulting operating results on a continued basis may be disappointing for the market.
- The current economic situation in the cubature construction industry is weak. The vacancy rate approached around 8%. We are witnessing the erosion of margins and an increased competition should put additional pressure on profitability. By the way, a weak short-term outlook in the sector puts a possible earn-out at risk.
- Although we assume a generous DPS of PLN 15.00 in 2025/26e, a more modest level of DPS might result in a negative market reaction. In our view, the perspective of a high dividend led the market price to the current high level.

Mercor, Key figures

PLN mn	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e
Revenues	628	587	477	145	151	160
EBITDA	88	76	44	251	23	10
Adj. EBITDA	88	76	44	6	8	10
EBIT	69	57	26	246	18	5
Adj. EBIT	69	57	26	2	3	5
Net income	42	49	18	221	20	9
EPS	2.68	3.17	1.16	14.45	1.33	0.61
DPS	0.63	1.51	0.77	15.00	0.29	0.67
DY	2.3%	5.5%	5.5%	52.6%	1.0%	2.3%
P/E	10.5	8.9	24.6	155.2	59.1	46.9
EV/EBITDA	5.7	6.7	11.6	55.3	40.4	33.4
Net Debt	67	74	69	-107	-119	-114
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.8	1.0	1.6	-17.9	-15.2	-11.8

Note: The table above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Multiples based on adjusted figures.

Source: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

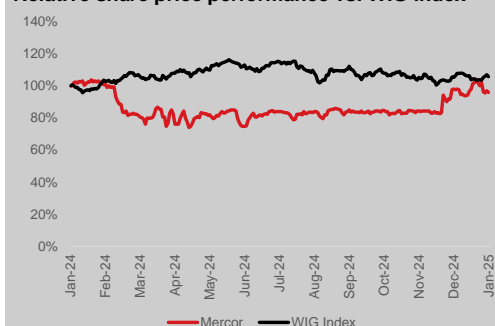
Sell (Downgraded)

Target price **PLN 24.50**

Upside to TP **-14.0%**
 Price on 9 January 2025 **PLN 28.50**

ESG rating **C**
Final ESG score **0.87**

Relative share price performance vs. WIG Index



UPCOMING EVENTS

3Q'2024/25 results **TBA**

STOCK DATA

Reuters/Bloomberg **MCRP.WA/MCR:PW**
 Free float (%) **41.7**
 Market capitalization (PLNm) **437**
 No. of shares in issue (mn) **15.3**

Shareholders **PERMAG sp. z o.o. 26.35%**
Bangtino Limited 21.34%
Nationale Nederlanden PTE 9.34%

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Recent developments

A preliminary transaction to sell a significant part of the business to Kingspan Group

Key facts

In late November 2024, the Company announced that it had entered into a preliminary transaction for the sale of a significant part of its business with Kingspan Group PLC. The subject of the sale are the shares of companies holding assets related to the business in the field of:

- The manufacture and sale of complex natural smoke exhausting systems.
- The manufacture and sale of complex fire ventilation systems.

Under the agreement, the purchaser agreed to pay the Company an amount of PLN 420mn as consideration for the shares of the subsidiaries subject to the transaction, of which payment of a portion of the price in the amount of up to PLN 60mn is deferred and contingent on the achievement of certain thresholds of consolidated EBITDA for the 12-month period ending in March 2026 generated from the spin-off business. Depending on the EBITDA target, the Company may not receive an additional deferred price payment or may receive an additional payment ranging from PLN 15mn to PLN 60mn.

Due to the fact that the individual entities subject to the transaction are also engaged in different activities, it will be necessary to spin off the assets related to the transaction to other entities, which shares will be sold to the investor. In the other case (Spain), assets not related to the subject of the transaction will be transferred to a subsidiary of the issuer.

The closing of the transaction will be subject to: (1) the approval of the relevant antitrust authority, (2) the approval of the AGM, (3) the completion of the spin-off and (4) the approval of the Company's financing banks. The Company informed it plans to recommend a significant portion of the amount received from the investor for dividends.

Our view

In our view, the information about the planned disposal of the Company's core assets should have been treated neutrally, but the market liked the news and the Company's share price rose shortly thereafter. It is important, that the assumed unconditional value of the transaction amounts to PLN 360mn, which is quite fair given that the vast majority of the Company's business is subject to the deal. Unfortunately, the Company has not disclosed revenue or results by operating segments, but we suppose that from around 2/3 to 3/4 of the Company's revenue may be involved in the transaction. Furthermore, the business subject to the transaction has better profitability compared to the remaining business. The main question mark is what portion of the Company's EBITDA is subject to the transaction, we suppose it may be around 80% or even more.

When assessing the deal based on the LTM figures known at the date of the publication (i.e. revenue of PLN 572.4mn and EBITDA of PLN 71.1mn) and assuming that 80% of EBITDA will be subject to transaction (PLN 56.8mn), the worst-case scenario (without any earn-out) would imply LTM EV/EBITDA of 6.3x. The best-case scenario (with PLN 60mn of earn-out) would imply LTM EV/EBITDA of 7.4x. However, we expect a deterioration in the Company's financial performance this year as a result of the slowdown in the industry, so the implied EV/EBITDA multiples may be higher. Taking that into account, the transaction might be perceived as slightly positive as forward multiples are certainly higher than LTM multiples.

The most important is the picture after the transaction. Given that a 20% portion of EBITDA would remain in the Company (PLN 14.2mn), the LTM EV/EBITDA for the remaining business would imply a ca. 10.3x and 6.1x for the worst and best-case scenarios, respectively, given the latest closing and similar level of net debt. However, due to the inverse effect of economies of



scale, the ratio of the Company's SG&A costs to its revenue should rise which should result in worse financial results and the implied higher multiples for the remaining business.

Looking at forward EV/EBITDA, it is important to determine the level of recurring EBITDA following the transaction. The table below presents the implied EV/EBITDA multiples after the transaction given various levels of adj. EBITDA for 2025/26e and an array of scenarios for earn-out (in fact to be paid in 2026/27e, but we also take it into account and correct the EV by this item). In our view, the most probable levels of EBITDA are between high-single-digits and low-double-digits. Regarding earn-out, it may be difficult for the Company to achieve a decent earn-out given weak short-term perspective in the industry and the fact, that its level will depend on the performance of the business subject to the transaction in FY 2025/26. In such circumstances, we do not perceive the multiples after the transaction as a bargain. So, we do not see more upside here. Only the Company's intention to allocate a significant portion of the price to a dividend might be seen slightly positively.

Implied EV/EBITDA multiples (x) after the transaction given various levels of adj. EBITDA for 2025/26e (PLN mn) and an array of scenarios for earn-out

Adj. EBITDA (columns) / earn-out (rows)	5.0	7.5	10.0	12.5	15.0	17.5	20.0
PLN 0mn	20.0x	13.3x	10.0x	8.0x	6.7x	5.7x	5.0x
PLN 15mn	17.6x	11.7x	8.8x	7.0x	5.9x	5.0x	4.4x
PLN 30mn	15.1x	10.1x	7.6x	6.1x	5.0x	4.3x	3.8x
PLN 45mn	12.7x	8.5x	6.4x	5.1x	4.2x	3.6x	3.2x
PLN 60mn	10.3x	6.9x	5.1x	4.1x	3.4x	2.9x	2.6x

Source: Pekao Equity Research.

Financial results 2Q'2024/25

On December 31, 2024, the Company released its 2Q'2024/25 results with the following data:

- Revenues amounted to PLN 125.3mn (-8% y/y, +0% q/q).
- Gross profit amounted to PLN 30.0mn (-10% y/y, -11% q/q).
- EBITDA amounted PLN 11.6mn (-38% y/y, -15% q/q).
- EBIT amounted to PLN 6.9mn (-52% y/y, -24% q/q).
- Net profit amounted to PLN 5.4mn (-70% y/y, -10% q/q).
- Operating cash flow in 1H'2024/25 amounted to PLN 33.2mn (+9% y/y).
- The Company's net debt at the end of 2Q'2024/25 amounted to PLN 66.5mn (vs. PLN 73.8mn at the end of 4Q'2023/24).

In our opinion, 1Q'2024/25 results were neutral. Although revenue was only slightly lower than our forecast, it would be quite higher than our forecast assuming no change in the consolidation method of OOO Mercor-Proof, the Russian subsidiary. As we expected, the Company experienced a decline in the GP margin. EBITDA margin was 0.4 p.p. higher than our forecast, which translated to nominal EBITDA of PLN 11.6mn, i.e. close to our forecast. Although net profit declined by 70% on a comparable basis, it was 39% higher than our forecast. Due to the lack of quarterly comparable data regarding the OCF, we can only comment on the OCF generated in the whole first half of 2024/25, which was 9% higher than one year ago (slightly positive).

Mercor: 2Q'2024/25 results review

PLN mn	2Q'23/24	3Q'23/24	4Q'23/24	1Q'24/25	2Q'24/25	Y/Y	Q/Q	Pekao	vs. Pekao
Revenues	136.5	145.4	166.1	125.0	125.3	-8%	0%	127.9	-2%
COGS	-103.2	-103.0	-122.9	-91.5	-95.4	-8%	4%	-97.3	-2%
Gross profit	33.3	42.4	43.2	33.5	30.0	-10%	-11%	30.7	-2%
SG&A	-19.4	-26.4	-27.8	-23.7	-22.7	17%	-4%	-24.2	-6%
EBITDA	18.7	20.9	18.7	13.7	11.6	-38%	-15%	11.4	2%
EBIT	14.3	15.8	13.8	9.1	6.9	-52%	-24%	6.5	7%
EBT	16.9	17.6	10.6	8.3	6.7	-60%	-19%	5.2	29%
Net profit	18.3	13.1	6.2	6.1	5.4	-70%	-10%	3.9	39%
<i>Gross profit margin</i>	24.4%	29.2%	26.0%	26.8%	23.9%			24.0%	
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	13.7%	14.4%	11.2%	11.0%	9.3%			8.9%	
<i>EBIT margin</i>	10.5%	10.9%	8.3%	7.3%	5.5%			5.1%	
<i>Net profit margin</i>	13.4%	9.0%	3.7%	4.9%	4.3%			3.1%	
Operating CF	27.2	7.7	10.7	22.3	10.9	-60%	-51%	11.8	-8%
Investing CF	-4.2	-8.3	-5.7	-4.0	-3.1	-26%	-23%	-3.4	-8%
Financing CF	-14.0	-13.8	-9.1	-15.2	-7.7	-45%	-49%	-1.1	591%
Net debt	80.1	76.0	73.8	58.6	66.5	-17%	13%	51.3	30%
<i>ND/EBITDA (LTM)</i>	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.81	1.02			0.84	
Order intake	153.4	140.7	116.4	148.6	150.2	-2%	1%	125.6	20%
Book-to-bill ratio (x)	1.12	0.83	0.82	1.19	1.20	7%	1%	0.98	22%

Notes: Due to the limited scope of restated data, the above-presented data are as follows:

P&L: 1Q'2024/25, 2Q'2024/25, and 2Q'2023/24 P&L results are restated, other P&L results has not been restated.

Cash flows: the presented data base on 1H'2023/24 and 1H'2024/25 restated data and other historical data which has not been restated (published in previously issued reports).

Net debt at 2Q'2024/25 and 4Q'2023/24 is restated (other periods are not).

The order intake and book-to-bill ratios are not restated.

Źródło: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

OOO Mercor-Proof no longer fully consolidated

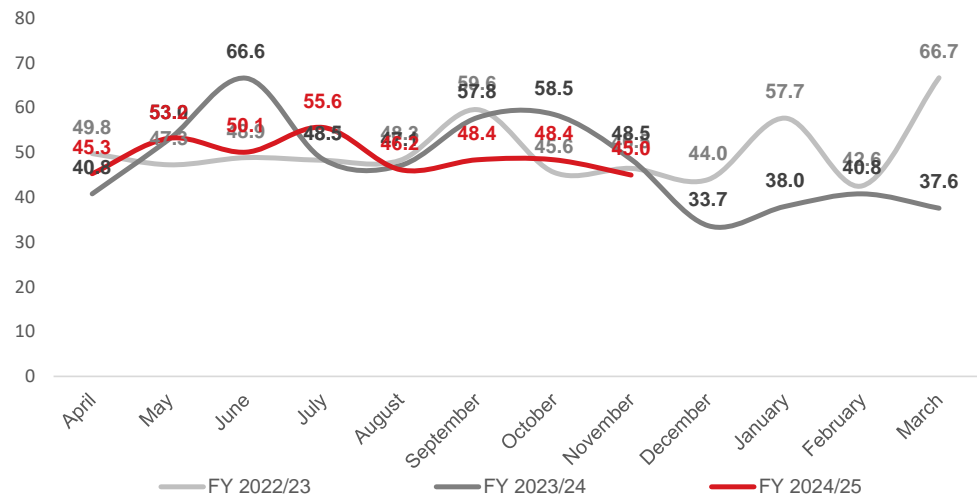
It is worth mentioning that the Company changed its accounting policy and this is the first report in which the Russian subsidiary, OOO Mercor-Proof, is no longer fully consolidated due to the Company's new perspective on the control in the Russian subsidiary, or rather lack of thereof. As a result, the Company changed its historical figures retrospectively. By the way, according to the Company's data for 1H'2023/24 (one year ago), OOO Mercor-Proof generated PLN 25.0mn of revenue, PLN 5.0mn of EBITDA, and PLN 3.5mn of net profit in 1H'2023/24. Assuming the subsidiary's financial performance was similar in the remaining half of 2023/24, that would translate to revenue of ca. PLN 50mn and EBITDA of ca. PLN 10mn, which would constitute around 8.5% and 13.2% of the Company's full-year results for 2023/24 before the change in the accounting policy. OOO Mercor-Proof generates better margins compared to the remaining business. In its assets, the Company recognized PLN 13.1mn as the investments in entities consolidated by the equity method.

Order intake

Over the recent quarters, we could see a decline in the Company's order intake. Between April and November 2024, the Company secured PLN 392mn of new orders (-6.8% y/y). The decline is slightly higher than in the whole 2023/24, in which the Company secured PLN 570mn (-5.8% y/y).



Order intake of Mercor (PLNmn)

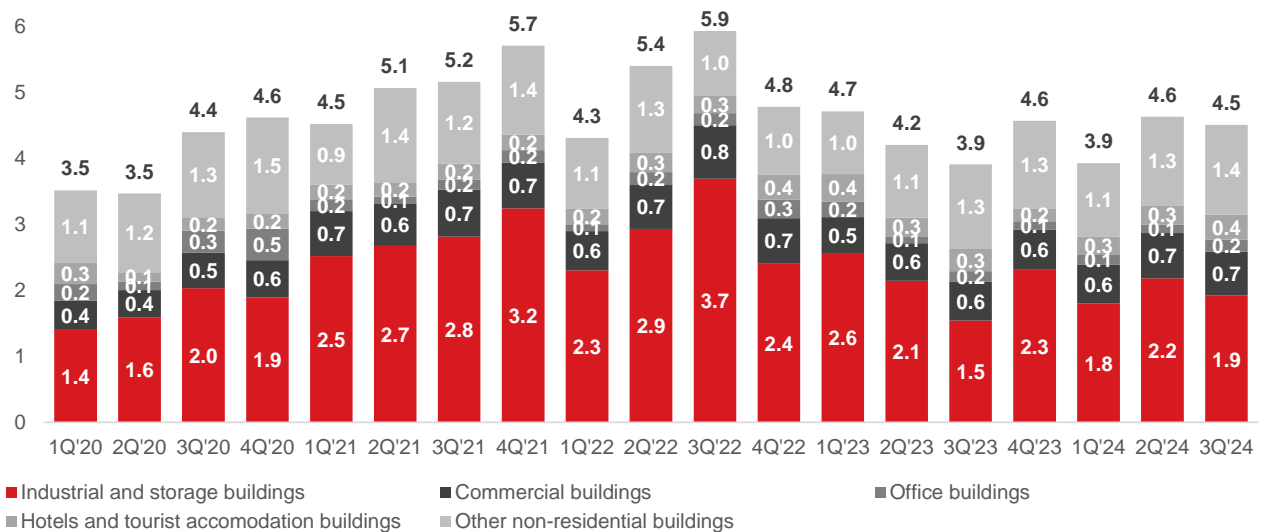


Źródło: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

Update of forecasts

The years 2021 and 2022 in the cubature construction sector in Poland were exceptionally good, which was visible in the issued building permits and notifications of construction with a construction project for non-residential buildings. The first signs of a slowdown were visible already at the turn of 2022 and 2023, and the worst was in 3Q'2023, in which the decline was 34% y/y. Ultimately, in 2023, permits issued for the construction of non-residential buildings in Poland covered an area of 17.4 million m², i.e. 14.8% less than a year earlier, of which the area for industrial and warehouse buildings was lower by 24.4% y/y. 1Q'2024 was weak with permits issued for 3.9 million m² (-16.7% y/y), but we witnessed a slight rebound with building permits issued for 4.6 million m² in 2Q'2024 (+10.2% y/y) and 4.5 million m² in 3Q'2024 (+15.4% y/y). The first three quarters of 2024 saw permits issued for 13.1 million m² of non-residential buildings in Poland (+1.9% y/y). However, industrial and warehouse buildings experienced a decline by 5.6% y/y to 5.9 million m² in 1-3Q'2024.

Useful floor area of non-residential buildings in issued building permits and construction notifications with a construction project in Poland since 2020 (million m²)



Source: GUS.



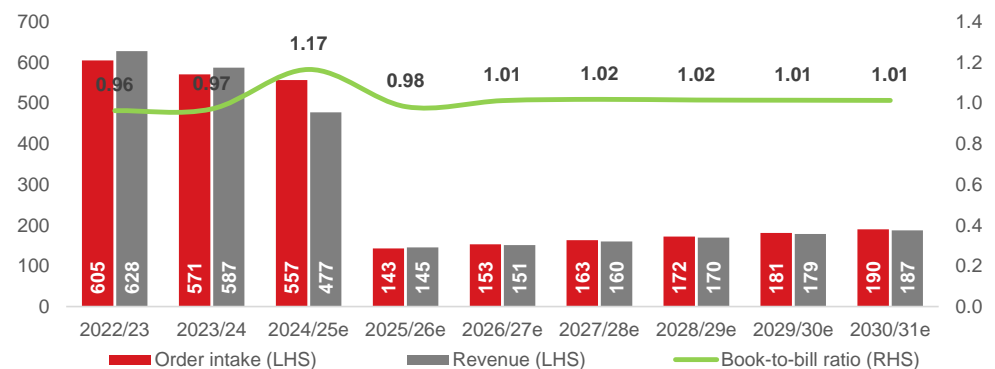
The situation in the Company's key markets varies from market to market. According to Eurostat, Hungary and Romania experienced a decrease in the area of non-residential building permits issued in 1-3Q'2024 by -41% y/y and -11% y/y, respectively. On the other hand, Slovakia doubled the area of permits issued in 1-3Q'2024, but this is a very tiny market. In turn, Spain experienced a growth of 34% y/y and the area of permits in the Czech Republic increased by 18% y/y in 1-3Q'2024, but it is worth remembering that these two markets together were smaller in 2023 than Poland alone. In the European Union, there was a 2.7% y/y increase in the useful floor area in 1-3Q'2024.

In the short term, we see no clear signs of an improvement in the industry. In Poland, we would rather expect a new-normal level of industrial and warehouse building permits for around 8 million m² per year in the mid-term given a higher level of vacancy rate approaching around 8%. Furthermore, the data on construction and assembly production are weak. According to GUS, the construction and assembly production from January to November 2024 declined by 11% y/y, however, the construction of buildings was lower by 4% y/y. Data from foreign markets are mixed.

We expect the above will contribute to a decline in the number of orders in the short term and a return to normalized levels. In the case of warehouse and industrial buildings in Poland, a high number of newly constructed facilities resulting from the record number of permits issued in 2021 and 2022 and the high vacancy rate may pose a risk of a longer slowdown.

In 2024/25, we assume a slight decrease in order intake to PLN 557mn (-2.4% y/y) (incl. Russian OOO Mercor-Proof). According to our estimates, the Company should generate PLN 477mn of revenue in 2024/25e (excl. Russian OOO Mercor-Proof). Beginning from 2025/26e, the chart below presents order intake and revenue from continuing operations.

Mercor's order intake and revenue forecast (PLN mn)



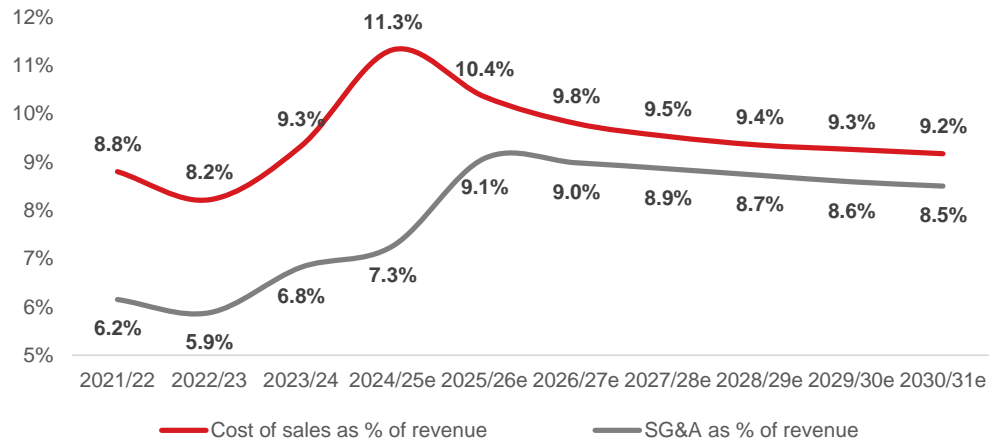
Note: The chart above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

So far, Mercor looked decent in terms of gross profit margin, but we expect its deterioration due to a weaker market and higher competition, which has already been visible in the reported data. Furthermore, the business remaining in the Company is less profitable than that subject to the transaction, so we expect a visibly lower gross profit margin in 2025/26e. Furthermore, the ratio of the Company's SG&A costs to its revenue should rise which should result in a higher burden from SG&A costs and lower profitability. Margins should improve once the market returns to growth. In our opinion, Mercor is able to achieve a high-single-digit EBITDA margin in the long-term.



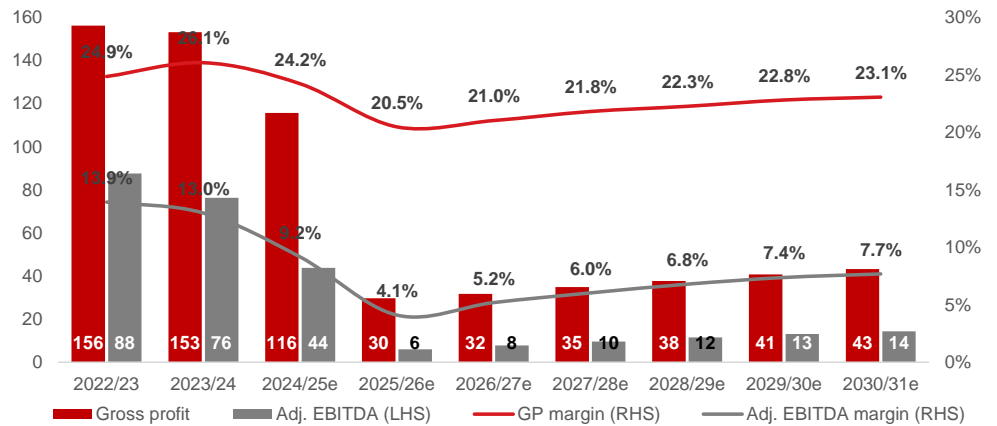
Mercor's operating costs as % of revenue



Note: The chart above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

Mercor's gross profit and adj. EBITDA (PLN mn)



Note: The chart above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.

Regarding the transaction with Kingspan Group, it is important that the M&A process may take several months. Initially, we would assume the closing in the summer of 2025 (we assume in the mid of August 2025) with a dividend payment in September/October 2025. We would not expect the Company to allocate the entire amount to dividend, but it may be more than half of that amount, which was in the case of the transaction with Assa Abloy in 2013. Following the transaction, we would expect the Company to pay a dividend of PLN 15.00/share. In the following years, we assume a modest level of dividends given the Company's lower scale of operations. In our view, earn-out is at risk given a weak short-term outlook in the sector, so we suppose that lower levels are more probable than higher levels of earn-out. For that reason, we assume that the Company will be entitled to achieve PLN 15mn of earn-out in 2026/27e. We assume that the total tax associated with the transaction will amount to PLN 29mn (including tax for earn-out). Of course, the Company will go net cash positive following the transaction.

Mercor – the assumptions of key earning's drivers

PLN mn	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e
Order intake	605	571	557	143	153	163
Book-to-bill ratio	0.96	0.97	1.17	0.98	1.01	1.02
Revenue	628	587	477	145	151	160
change y/y	26.7%	-6.5%	-18.7%	-69.6%	3.9%	6.1%
COGS	-472	-434	-362	-116	-119	-125
Gross profit	156	153	116	30	32	35
Cost of sales	-52	-55	-54	-15	-15	-15
SG&A	-37	-40	-35	-13	-14	-14
EBIT	69	57	26	246	18	5
Adj. EBIT	69	57	26	2	3	5
D&A	-19	-19	-18	-4	-4	-4
EBITDA	88	76	44	251	23	10
Adj. EBITDA	88	76	44	6	8	10
EBT	60	59	24	248	24	11
Net profit	42	49	18	221	20	9
Operating cash flow	64	49	51	-23	17	5
CAPEX	-11	-20	-12	-4	-4	-4
Free Cash Flow to the Firm (FCFF)	53	29	39	1	2	3
FCFF per share (PLN)	3.41	1.85	2.53	0.04	0.16	0.19
Net debt	67	74	69	-107	-119	-114
Net working capital	112	120	100	28	29	31
CAPEX / Revenue (%)	1.7%	3.4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Net working capital / Revenue (%)	17.8%	20.4%	20.9%	19.6%	19.5%	19.4%

Note: The table above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Mercor, Pekao Equity Research.



Risk factors

Mercor is exposed to a number of internal and external risks related to running a business, the most important of which are:

- **Economic situation in cubature and high-rise construction.** The Company's clients are mainly general contractors. The weaker economic situation in the construction industry may translate into a decrease in demand for the Company's products/services and deterioration of financial results.
- **Prices of production materials.** An increase in the prices of production materials in relation to the planned level at the time of submitting the offer may result in an increase in costs and deterioration of the Company's profitability.
- **Availability of significant raw material resources.** In its production process, the Company mainly uses steel, aluminum and polycarbonate. Lower availability of raw materials may adversely affect the Company's ability to fulfill the signed contracts and cause an increase in the prices of these raw materials.
- **War in Ukraine.** The ongoing armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine has a direct and indirect impact. The indirect impact is a possible change in investors' moods and preferences, increase in prices and problems with the availability of production and energy raw materials, potential disruptions in supply chains. In addition, Mercor holds a 55% share in the share capital of the company in Ukraine (TOB MERCOR UKRAINA sp. z o.o.) and a 55% share in the share capital of the company in Russia (OOO Mercor-PROOF LLC). Loss of control or other unfavorable events may result in a write-off, showing a loss in the financial statements and loss of markets.
- **Change in interest rates.** Mercor has debt due to credits, loans and finance leases. An increase in interest rates may result in an increased cost of servicing this debt.
- **Changes in exchange rates.** The Group has its branches and production plants abroad and concludes transactions in currencies other than the functional one. The Group uses hedging by concluding forward transactions, but it is not possible to completely eliminate the impact of changes in exchange rates.
- **Inflation rate.** Higher prices may adversely affect the Company's profitability. In addition, higher inflation may increase employees' wage expectations.
- **Counterparty credit risk.** In the event of a deterioration in the liquidity situation of customers, the Company may experience problems with recovering receivables on time.
- **Availability of workers with appropriate qualifications.** The company provides its customers with ready-made solutions in the field of fire protection in buildings, for which it is necessary to have adequately qualified employees. The shortage of employees may adversely affect the ability to implement an appropriate number of projects and decrease revenues.
- **Risk of unfavorable tax decisions.** There is a risk that the correctness of the calculated taxes will be questioned by the tax authorities and a risk of issuance of decisions unfavorable to the Company.
- **Risk of the transaction with Kingspan Group.** The risk of failure to complete the transaction to sell a significant part of the business may change the Company's picture compared to the assumed scenario in this report. There is also a risk associated with a possible payment of earn-out.



Valuation

Our valuation implies the 12M target price at PLN 24.50 per share, which constitutes a 14.0% downside potential. We base our 12M target price valuation on the DCF and multiples with 100% and 0% weighting, respectively. Our peers valuation is presented for illustrative purposes as it carries 0% weight.

Mercor: Valuation summary

Valuation method	Derived price (PLN)	Weighting (%)
12M DCF valuation	24.50	100%
12M Multiples valuation	16.24	0%
12M target price	24.50	
Current price	28.50	
Upside/downside (%)	-14.0%	

Source: Pekao Equity Research.

Peer valuation

Company name	Ticker	P/E			EV/EBITDA		
		2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e
ASSA ABLOY AB-B	ASSAB SS	22.7	20.4	18.5	14.4	13.4	12.5
LEGRAND SA	LR FP	20.6	19.1	17.8	14.2	13.2	12.4
DORMAKABA HOLDING AG	DOKA SW	21.4	19.0	16.8	7.5	6.8	6.3
ALLEGION PLC	ALLE US	17.2	16.4	15.1	13.8	13.0	12.3
BIFIRE SPA	FIRE IM	9.4	8.1	6.8	4.5	3.9	3.4
CARRIER GLOBAL CORP	CARR US	26.5	22.4	19.4	16.9	15.9	14.5
SYSTEMAIR AB	SYSR SS	21.8	19.0	16.6	11.6	10.3	9.5
Median total		21.4	19.0	16.8	13.8	13.0	12.3
Mercor		24.6	155.2	59.1	11.6	55.3	40.4
<i>Premium/discount vs. Median</i>		14%	718%	251%	-16%	325%	229%
Implied value per share (PLN)		24.89	3.49	8.12	34.81	12.04	14.09

Note: Multiples and peer valuation based on the Company's adj. EBITDA and adj. net profit.

Source: Pekao Equity Research.

ESG rating

Mercor Construction	E	S	G
Score	0.77	0.80	1.08
Sector weight	30%	40%	30%
Final ESG Score	0.87		
ESG Rating	C		

	score from:	to	Rating	WACC risk premium impact (% of RFR)
ESG Score	1.5	2	A	-15.0%
	1	1.5	B	-7.5%
	0.5	1	C	0.0%
	0	0.5	D	15.0%

Source: Pekao Equity Research.



DCF valuation

We have developed a 6-year DCF valuation model based on our detailed financial model for the Company's operating activity until 2030/31. After that, we assume a steady growth phase and apply the Gordon model to calculate the terminal value.

The resulting cash flows constitute the input to our valuation, based on which we calculate the present value of those cash flows. The key assumptions incorporated in our DCF valuation model are as follows:

- Risk-free rate of 5.8% from 2025/26e to 2030/31e and 4.0% in the terminal year.
- Equity risk premium of 6.0% from 2025/26e to 2030/31e and 5.0% in the terminal year.
- Beta coefficient of 1.0.
- No additional ESG discount/premium to the cost of equity, based on ESG rating.
- Credit margin of 2.0% based on historical data.
- Corporate income tax rate of 19%.
- Dynamic weight of equity and debt, in the calculation of weighted cost of capital (WACC).
- Target EBITDA margin of 8.0% and EBIT margin of 5.5% in the residual period, respectively.
- Terminal CAPEX at the level with a consideration of ROIC and an assumed growth rate in the residual period.
- 2.5% growth of free cash flow in the residual period.
- We adjusted the valuation by: (1) the present value of after-tax remuneration for the transaction of PLN 313mn which we assume to be paid in August 2025, (2) the present value of after-tax earn-out of PLN 10mn which we assume to be paid in August 2026, and (3) the present value of free cash flow to be generated from April 2025 to August 2025 (assumed date of closing the transaction) of PLN 8mn.
- We also added the value of non-operating assets of PLN 19mn, including PLN 13mn of the Company's stake in OOO Mercor-Proof consolidated using the equity method.

DCF valuation

WACC calculation

	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e	2028/29e	2029/30e	2030/31e	Terminal Year
Risk free rate	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	4.0%
Equity risk premium	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%
Beta	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
ESG discount/premium	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cost of equity	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	9.0%
Cost of debt	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
After-tax cost of debt	6.9%	6.6%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%
Equity weight	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
WACC	11.0%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	9.0%

DCF valuation

(PLN mn)	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e	2028/29e	2029/30e	2030/31e	Terminal Year
Revenues	145.4	151.0	160.2	169.6	178.5	187.3	192.0
EBIT	1.5	3.4	5.5	7.1	8.8	10.1	10.6
Taxes on EBIT	-0.3	-0.6	-1.0	-1.3	-1.7	-1.9	-2.0
NOPAT	1.2	2.7	4.4	5.7	7.2	8.2	8.6
Depreciation and amortisation	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4
Capital expenditures	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-4.2	-4.5	-4.7	-6.4
Change in NWC	-1.5	-0.9	-1.7	-1.9	-1.8	-1.7	-0.9
FCFF	0.6	2.5	2.9	4.0	5.3	6.1	5.6
<i>Terminal value growth</i>							2.5%
Terminal value							86.9
Discount factor	0.88	0.79	0.70	0.63	0.56	0.50	0.50
Present value of FCFF and TV	0.5	2.0	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.1	43.8
Enterprise Value	56.8						
Minorities	2.6						
Net debt	69.0						
Non-operating assets	19.2						
Other adjustments	331.4						
Equity Value	335.7						
Number of shares (mn)	15.3						
12M target price per share (PLN)	24.50						
Share price on January 9, 2025 (PLN)	28.50						
<i>Upside/Downside vs. current price</i>	<i>-14.0%</i>						

Revenues growth	-70%	4%	6%	6%	5%	5%	2.5%
EBIT margin	1.0%	2.2%	3.4%	4.2%	5.0%	5.4%	5.5%
Effective tax rate	22.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%
Capex/revenues	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	
Capex/depreciation and amortization	81.6%	84.5%	95.5%	95.7%	103.3%	108.7%	

Sensitivity of 12M target price per share to Terminal value growth & WACC

Terminal value growth/WACC	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%
-2.0%	26.65	26.70	26.76	26.83	26.92	27.04	27.19
-1.0%	25.52	25.51	25.49	25.48	25.46	25.43	25.40
0.0%	24.64	24.60	24.55	24.50	24.43	24.36	24.27
1.0%	23.93	23.88	23.82	23.75	23.66	23.57	23.46
2.0%	23.35	23.28	23.22	23.14	23.05	22.96	22.85

Sensitivity of 12M target price per share to key drivers' of company earnings

Target EBITDA margin/change in the market share	-30.0%	-20.0%	-10.0%	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%
10.0%	24.35	24.67	24.98	25.29	25.60	25.92	26.23
9.0%	24.06	24.34	24.62	24.89	25.17	25.45	25.73
8.0%	23.76	24.01	24.25	24.50	24.74	24.99	25.23
7.0%	23.46	23.67	23.89	24.10	24.31	24.52	24.73
6.0%	23.15	23.33	23.51	23.70	23.88	24.05	24.23

Source: Pekao Equity Research.

Key financial data

P&L (PLN mn)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e
Revenues	628	587	477	145	151	160
Gross Profit	156	153	116	30	32	35
SG&A	-89	-95	-89	-28	-28	-29
EBITDA	88	76	44	251	23	10
Adj. EBITDA	88	76	44	6	8	10
EBIT	69	57	26	246	18	5
Adj. EBIT	69	57	26	2	3	5
Financial Income/Cost	-6	3	-5	-1	2	2
Pretax Profit	60	59	24	248	24	11
Income Tax	-13	-7	-5	-27	-4	-2
Net Profit	42	49	18	221	20	9
EPS (PLN)	2.68	3.17	1.16	14.45	1.33	0.61
Balance Sheet (PLN mn)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e
Total Current Assets	252	210	204	185	196	194
Cash and Equivalents	29	14	15	130	143	137
Other Current Assets	223	196	189	54	53	56
Total Fixed Assets	195	200	193	70	73	76
Tangible Assets	79	74	68	15	14	13
Other Fixed Assets	116	126	125	55	59	63
Total Assets	448	410	396	255	269	270
Stockholders` Equity	214	225	208	199	215	214
Noncontrolling interest	12	3	3	3	3	3
Long Term Liabilities	86	75	89	25	25	25
Long -Term Debt	82	71	84	24	24	24
Other Long - Term liabilities	4	4	6	2	1	1
Short Term Liabilities	136	107	97	28	26	28
Short -Term Debt	14	17	0	0	0	0
Other Current Liabilities	121	90	97	28	26	28
Total Equity & Liabilities	448	410	396	255	269	270
Net debt	67	74	69	-107	-119	-114
Cash Flow (PLN mn)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e
Net Profit	42	49	18	221	20	9
Depreciation and Amortisation	19	19	18	4	4	4
Other (incl. WC)	3	-20	15	-249	-8	-9
Operating Cash Flows	64	49	51	-23	17	5
Capital Expenditures	-11	-20	-12	-4	-4	-4
Other	-1	1	-1	362	4	4
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-12	-19	-13	359	0	0
Dividends paid	-10	-24	-24	-230	-4	-10
Other	-33	-20	-14	11	-1	-1
Cash Flows from Financing Activities	-43	-44	-38	-219	-5	-11
Others/FX effect	0	-2	0	0	0	0
Change in Cash	9	-14	1	116	13	-6
Cash at the end of period	29	14	15	130	143	137
DPS (PLN)	0.63	1.51	0.77	15.00	0.29	0.67
Y/Y growth ratios						
Revenues	27%	-7%	-19%	-70%	4%	6%
EBITDA	50%	-13%	-43%	473%	-91%	-58%
EBIT	56%	-17%	-55%	850%	-93%	-70%
Net profit	40%	18%	-64%	1145%	-91%	-54%
EPS	40%	18%	-63%	1145%	-91%	-54%
Margins						
EBITDA	13.9%	13.0%	9.2%	172.6%	15.1%	6.0%
EBIT Margin	10.9%	9.7%	5.4%	169.6%	12.2%	3.4%
Net Margin	6.6%	8.4%	3.7%	152.3%	13.5%	5.8%
ROE	20.9%	22.5%	8.2%	108.7%	9.8%	4.3%
Balance Sheet Ratios						
BVPS (PLN)	13.73	14.48	13.56	13.01	14.05	13.99
Net debt/EBITDA	0.8	1.0	1.6	-0.4	-5.2	-11.8
Bank Debt/Equity	45.1%	38.9%	40.2%	11.8%	10.9%	11.0%

Note: The table above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Pekao Equity Research.

Summary of key financial data

PLN mn	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25e	2025/26e	2026/27e	2027/28e	2028/29e	2029/30e	2030/31e
EPS, GAAP	2.68	3.17	1.16	14.45	1.33	0.61	0.69	0.79	0.86
Revenue	628	587	477	145	151	160	170	179	187
Gross Margin %	24.9%	26.1%	24.2%	20.5%	21.0%	21.8%	22.3%	22.8%	23.1%
EBIT	69	57	26	246	18	5	7	9	10
EBITDA	88	76	44	251	23	10	12	13	14
Net Income, GAAP	42	49	18	221	20	9	11	12	13
Net Debt	67	74	69	-107	-119	-114	-115	-116	-118
BPS	13.73	14.48	13.56	13.01	14.05	13.99	14.38	14.82	15.29
DPS	0.63	1.51	0.77	15.00	0.29	0.67	0.30	0.34	0.39
Return on Equity %	20.9%	22.5%	8.2%	108.7%	9.8%	4.3%	4.9%	5.4%	5.7%
Return on Assets %	9.5%	11.5%	4.4%	68.0%	7.8%	3.5%	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%
Depreciation	13	14	12	3	3	3	3	3	3
Amortization	6	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1
Free Cash Flow	53	29	39	1	2	3	4	5	6
CAPEX	11	20	12	4	4	4	4	4	5

Note: The table above shows 2022/23 and 2023/24 figures as published, 2024/25e figures without OOO Mercor-Proof, and continuing operations from 2025/26e.

Source: Pekao Equity Research.



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Analyst	Position	Financial instrument	Number of instruments	Exposure (long/short)	Average transactions price	Transactions dates
Damian Szparaga	Expert, Analyst	Mercor	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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METHODS USED TO FORMULATE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Our company valuations are based on two valuation methods selected from among the following: discount model, multiples-based model or asset-based valuation method.

Discount models are characterized by simultaneous and comprehensive consideration of key determinants of intrinsic value, e.g. operating cash flow, capex, cost of capital (WACC). They are theoretically appealing and provide a direct computation of intrinsic value. However, discount model valuations are highly sensitive to changes in assumptions, particularly the risk free rate and terminal growth rate. Moreover, projections cannot be stated with certainty; unforeseen future events can cause income or earnings projections to be invalid.

Multiples-based models are based on the analysis of the valuation multipliers of a given company in relation to other similar companies in the industry. Among strengths of multiplier models we can highlight their simplicity, as they are easy to compute as well as to understand. Moreover, only the key statistics for investors are chosen for valuation. On the other hand, multiples are based on historic data or near-term forecasts. Valuations based on multiples will therefore fail to capture differences in projected performance over the longer term. Finally, it may be problematic to select a suitable peer group.

Asset-based models can be used even if a company has a brief record of earnings or its future existence is uncertain. However, it may be challenging to determine market value of some assets, particularly intangibles. Additionally, asset-based models do not take into account future changes in financial results, nor do they include non-balance sheet items, such as know-how.

Valuation models are dependent on macroeconomic factors, such as interest rates, exchange rates, raw materials, and on assumptions about the economy. Furthermore, market sentiment affects the valuation of companies. The valuation is also based on expectations that might change rapidly and without notice, depending on developments specific to individual industries. Our recommendations and target prices derived from the models might therefore change accordingly.

The investment ratings generally relate to a 12-month horizon. They are, however, also subject to market conditions and can only represent a snapshot. The ratings may in fact be achieved more quickly or slowly than expected, or need to be revised upward or downward. In the tables and charts throughout this report, we designate the years with an "E" to denote that the figures presented are forecasts and estimates.

Definition of ratings used in our publications:

We currently use a three-tier recommendation system for the stocks in our formal coverage: Buy, Hold, or Sell (see definitions below):

A **Buy** is applied when the expected total return over the next twelve months is higher than 15%.

A **Hold** is applied when the expected total return over the next twelve months is within the range of 0% to 15%.

A **Sell** is applied when the stock's expected total return over the next twelve months is negative.

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P/E – „Price/Earnings” is the ratio of the financial instrument price to the net financial result for the issuer of the financial instrument.

P/B – „Price/Book Value” is the ratio of the price of the financial instrument to the issuer’s equity capital.

EPS – „Earnings per Share”, i.e. net profit per share.

BVPS – „Book Value per Share”.

FWD – „Forward” - stands for the ratio (eg. P/E) calculated on the basis of the expected results.

DPS – „Dividend per Share”.

DY – “Dividend Yield”, a ratio calculated as dividends per share divided by the current share price.

EBIT – „Earnings Before Interest and Taxes”.

EBITDA - „Enterprise Value / Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization”.

EV/EBITDA – “Enterprise Value / Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization” is the company's market capitalization (price x number of shares) increased by the value of net financial debt and the value of minority shareholders divided by the operating result increased by the value of the company's asset depreciation.

AGM – Annual General Meeting