

CEE Equity Research | Romania | Telecommunication 28 February 2025

DIGI Communication

Recommendation: BUY

Target price (12m ex-div): RON 84 (unch.)

EUR mn	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	Change YoY	75
Revenues	452	514	13.9%	65
EBITDA	161	174	8.2%	
EBIT	53	52	-3.0%	55
Net Profit	52	N/A	N/A	
Net debt	1,623	1,361	-16.2%	45
EBITDAaL margin	31.3%	28.0%	-3.3%	35
Net debt to TTM EBITDA	2.7	1.3	-53.8%	
Total RGUs (ths)	23,864	27,789	16.4%	25
ARPU – Romania (EUR)	4.5	4.4	-2.2%	02/24 06/24 10/24 02/25
ARPU - Spain (EUR)	9.3	8.7	-6.5%	——DIGI ——STOXX EU Telco Index
Share price close as of 28/02/2025		RON 68	Bloomberg DIGI RO	
Number of shares [mn]			95.2	Reuters DIGI.BX
Market cap. [RON bn/EUR bn]			6.5/1.3	Free float 35.1%
Daily turnover 12M [EUR million]			0.3	52-week range RON 48 - 69

Solid performance in Q4, new markets are on track

DIGI posted its key numbers today morning, however detailed report hasn't been published yet. Revenues increased by 14% YoY and came in at EUR 1.925bn which was boosted by additional EUR 407mn from the sale of its Spanish FTTH network in Q3, hence total revenues were EUR 2.33bn, 37% higher YoY.

Revenues in Romania reached EUR 296mn in Q4 (+12% YoY), Spain added EUR 211mn (+20% YoY) in revenues while Other segment, including the newly launched Portugal operation reached EUR 22mn in Q4, up by 113% YoY and 243% QoQ. OPEX increased by 67% YoY in Q4, mainly driven by network expansion, customer base growth and the launch in Portugal also increased the costs. In Q4 EBITDA reached EUR 174mn, 8.2% higher YoY and 69% lower QoQ, while EBITDAaL came in at EUR 144mn, up by 2% YoY and -4% QoQ. Both EBITDA and EBITDAaL margins hit the lowest level in this year, due to the costs associated with expansion and certain inflationary pressures. EBITDA margin was 33.8% (1.8%pt lower YoY), while EBITDAaL decreased to 28% from 31.3% YoY.

For the full year of 2024, Adjusted EBITDA reached EUR 685mn in 2024 which shows a 16% increase YoY, EBITDA margin arrived at 35.4%, 0.8%pt higher than last year. Adjusted EBITDAaL arrived at 580mn, 14% higher YoY. EBITDAaL margin slightly increased by 0.2%pt to 30%. Net financial costs decreased by 15% to EUR 62mn, primarily driven by the valuation of a derivative financial asset which resulted in EUR 10.7mn financial income. Overall, Q4 results were in line with previous quarters, however full year EBTIDA was boosted by the Spanish sale.

Group level net debt decreased by 16% YoY and stand at EUR 1.36bn, net debt to EBTIDA ratio decreased to 1.3x from 2.7x a year ago. CAPEX/Sales ratio reached 63% in Q4 mainly due to the completion of Nowo acquisition. For the full year, CAPEX reached EUR 896mn (+23% YoY), 46% of total sales. CAPEX without the acquisition was EUR 775mn and DIGI forecast it to be around the same level in 2025. Solely based on EBITDA and the increased CAPEX level, FCF were around EUR -120mn.

Equity Analyst Krisztian Karikas, CFA +361 489 2213 k.karikas@con.hu

55-61 Alkotas Street, Budapest www.con.hu



Total RGUs reached 27.8mn subscribers (+16.4% YoY) and the group level ARPU decreased to EUR 5.7, EUR 0.1 lower than in 2023. In Romania Pay TV RGUs increased by 3.3% YoY, internet and mobile subscribers increased by 7 and 13% YoY, respectively. Fixed-line telephony RGUs decreased by 4.6% YoY. ARPU shows a 2% decrease YoY and reached EUR 4.4. In Spain Fixed internet RGUs increased by 42% to 1.95mn, Mobile RGU were up by 26% to 5.86mn, fixed telephony customers also increased by 41% YoY to 626k. During 2024, Spanish ARPU decreased by EUR 0.6. Italian segment also performed well, DIGI added 70k customers while ARPU decreased by EUR 0.5 to EUR 5.7. DIGI also shared the KPIs of its new Portugal operation which added 676k subscribers to the group and ARPU is at EUR 7.6. Management expects that ARPU will decrease in Portugal as the migration of Nowo customers continue.

Opinion: KPIs are mostly in line with our expectations. We expect that further RGU growth will drive revenues and EBITDA further in the upcoming years. Management expects some positive improvement in EBITDA margin. Successful launch in Portugal and Belgium are expected to provide additional customers, however decreasing ARPUs erode the growth potential in profitability. Increased CAPEX level could decrease the cash generation potential of the group without further improvement in profitability, however EUR 250mn proceeds are still expected from the Spanish fiber transaction in the next 2.5 years.

We reiterate our Buy recommendation and maintain our TP of RON 84 per share.



QUARTERLY RESULTS [EUR MILLION]

QUARTERLY RESULTS	2023		20	Difference			
[EUR mn]	Q4	Q1	Q2	QЗ	Q4	YoY	QoQ
Revenue	451.6	446.7	472.9	490.6	514.4	13.9%	4.8%
-Romania	265.1	260.7	274.2	281.3	295.8	12%	5.2%
-Spain	176.0	177.5	191.7	202.8	211.0	20%	4.0%
-Others	10.5	7.1	7.1	6.5	22.3	113%	243.1%
OPEX	-294.8	-283.7	-304.5	-315.3	-492.0	66.9%	56.0%
DD&A	19.8	-113.3	-116.0	-118.3			
EBIT	53.3	49.7	54.3	447.1	51.7	-3.0%	-88.4%
EBITDA	160.9	163.1	170.2	565.4	174.0	8.2%	-69.2%
EBITDAal	141.4	139.9	144.7	150.8	144.2	2.0%	-4.4%
Financial income	0.8	2.6	2.2	5.5			
Financial expense	-10.2	-21.5	-22.2	-20.9			
Net finance cost	-9.5	-18.9	-20.0	-15.4	-7.7	-18.9%	-50.0%
Profit before tax	43.9	30.0	34.0	431.7	44.1	0.5%	-89.8%
Tax	8.6	-4.4	-5.3	-88.9		-100.0%	-100.0%
Profit	52.4	25.6	28.8	342.8		-100%	-100%
EBITDA margins	35.6%	36.5%	36.0%	115.2%	33.8%	-1.8%pt	-81.4%pt
EBITDAaL margins	31.3%	31.3%	30.6%	30.7%	28.0%	-3.3%pt	-2.7%pt
	2023	2024			Difference		
KPI's	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YoY	QoQ
RGU							
Romania	16,963	17,266	17,561	17,886	18,183	7.2%	1.7%
Spain & Italy	6,481	7,027	7,517	7,941	8,440	30.2%	6.3%
Others	420	435	456	475	490	16.7%	3.2%
Portugal					676		
Total RGU	23,864	24,728	25,534	26,302	27,789	16.4%	5.7%
ARPU							
-Romania	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	-2.2%	-2.2%
-Spain	9.3	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	-6.5%	0.0%
-Others	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.7	-8.1%	1.8%
-Portugal					7.6		
Trailing 12m EBITDA	591	621	645	1,060	1,073	81.5%	1.2%
Net debt	1,623	1,695	1,863	1,340	1,361	-16.2%	1.6%
Net debt to Trailing 12m EBITDA	2.7	2.7	2.9	1.3	1.3	-53.8%	0.3%
CAPEX / Sales	42.8%	36.3%	43.1%	32.0%	63.0%	20.2%pt	31.0%pt

Source: DIGI, Concorde Research



Concorde Securities Ltd. does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interests that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision. For analysts' certification and other important disclosures, please refer to the "Disclaimer" section at the end of this report.

DISCLAIMER I.

This research report has been prepared by Concorde Securities Ltd., a full-service Hungarian investment banking, investment management and brokerage firm. Concorde Securities Ltd. is under the supervision of the National Bank of Hungary in its capacity as financial supervisory authority.

Concorde Securities Ltd. is registered in Hungary and does not have any subsidiaries, branches or offices outside of Hungary. Therefore we are not allowed to provide direct investment banking services to US investors and restrictions may apply to our potential investment banking services according to your country's jurisdiction.

Our salespeople, traders and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to our clients that reflect opinions that are their own and may be contrary to the opinions expressed in our research products, and our proprietary trading and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed by our analysts or traders.

Our research, sales and trading professionals are paid based on the profitability of the respective divisions of Concorde Securities Ltd., which from time-to-time may include revenues from the firm's capital market activity. Concorde Securities Ltd. does not prohibit analysts, salespeople and traders from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or futures of any companies that they cover or trade on their clients' behalf in strict compliance with the Hungarian Capital Markets Act.

ANALYSTS CERTIFICATION

The research analysts undersigned and responsible for the preparation of this report hereby certify that (i) the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers referred to in this research report; (ii) no part of the analysts' compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation or views expressed in this report and (iii) no part of their compensation is tied to any specific investment transactions performed by Concorde Securities Ltd.

Name and job title of individuals involved in the production of this report are disclosed at the end of this report.

Concorde Securities Ltd. is a leading manager and underwriter of Hungarian equity offerings. We have investment banking and other business relations with a substantial percentage of the companies traded on the Budapest Stock Exchange and covered by our research department. Concorde Securities Ltd, its directors and employees may have a position in these securities, which may change at any time.

Concorde Securities Ltd. acted as Lead Manager of the private and public share placement of the shares of FHB in 2003, Masterplast in 2012 and Duna House in 2016. Concorde Securities Ltd. acted as the Co-lead Manager of Gedeon Richter's exchangeable bond issue in September 2004. Concorde Securities Ltd. has provided financial advice to Magyar Telekom.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Rating	Trigger
Buy	Total return is expected to exceed 20% in the next 12 months
Accumulate	Total return is expected to be in the range of 10-20%
Neutral	Total return is expected to be in the range of 10%-(-10%)
Reduce	Total return is expected to be in the range of -10-(-20%)
Sell	Total return is expected to be lower than -20%
Under Revision	The stock is put Under Revision if the covering analyst considers new information may change the valuation materially and if this may take more time.
Coverage in transition	Coverage in transition rating is assigned to a stock if there is a change in analyst.



Securities prices:

Prices are taken as of the previous day's close on the home market unless otherwise stated.

Valuations and risks:

Analysis of specific risks to set stock target prices highlighted in our investment case(s) are outlined throughout the report. For details of methodologies used to determine our price targets and risks related to the achievement of the targets referred to in the main body of the report or at Rating Methodology on our website. (https://www.con.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Methodology_concorde_research.pdf?tstamp=201710021038)

Research disclosures:

Concorde Securities Ltd. may have published other investment recommendations in respect of the same securities/instruments recommended in this report during the preceding 12 months. Disclosure of previous investment recommendations produced by Concorde Securities Ltd. in the previous 12 months can be found at Rating history. (https://www.con.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Rating-history.pdf?tstamp=201710021038)

GENERAL

This report is provided for information purposes only and does not represent an offer for sale, or the solicitation of any offer to buy or sell any securities.

The information, and any opinions, estimates and forecast have been obtained from sources believed by us to be reliable, but no representation or warranty, express or implied is made by us as to their accuracy or completeness. The information, opinions, estimates and forecasts may well be affected by subsequent changes in market conditions. This document may not be reproduced in whole or in part, or published for any purpose.

REPRODUCTION OR REBROADCAST OF ANY PORTION OF THIS RESEARCH REPORT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF CONCORDE SECURITIES LTD.

DISCLAIMER II.

This research/commentary was prepared by the assignment of Bucharest Stock Exchange (headquarters: 4-8 Nicolae Titulescu Avenue, 1st floor, East Wing, district 1, America House Building,011141 Bucharest, Romania; company registration number: J40/12328/2005, hereinafter: BVB) under the agreement which was concluded by and between BVB and Concorde Securities Ltd. (registered seat: H-1123 Budapest Alkotás utca 55-61., company registration number: 01-10-043521, hereinafter: Investment Service Provider)

BVB shall not be liable for the content of this research/commentary, especially for the accuracy and completeness of the information therein and for the forecasts and conclusions; the Service Provider shall be solely liable for these. The Service Provider is entitled to all copyrights regarding this research/commentary however BVB is entitled to use and advertise/spread it but BVB shall not modify its content.

This research/commentary shall not be qualified as investment advice specified in Point 9 Section 4 (2) of Act No. CXXXVIII of 2007 on Investment Firms and Commodity Dealers and on the Regulations Governing their Activities. Furthermore, this document shall not be qualified as an offer or call to tenders for the purchase, sale or hold of the financial instrument(s) concerned by the research/commentary.