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TECHNOLOGY

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT & INSTRUMENTS

ikeGPS

1H24 Transactional Revenue Weakness

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ikeGPS (IKE) experienced a challenging 1H24, witnessed by a -32% fall in revenues to NZ\$10.5m from 1H23. The decline stemmed from a significant, but well-signalled, -60% drop in transactional revenue due to project delays from key long-term customers. In contrast, the subscription segment (revenue +24%) demonstrated resilience, onboarding a net +29 new customers in 1H24. IKE's gross margin improved from 53% in 1H23 to 59% in 1H24, largely due to positive changes in the product mix. Monthly cash burn in 1H24 was ~NZ\$1.3m, with net cash at the end of the period NZ\$10.2m. To maintain its timeline for reaching EBITDA breakeven, IKE began cost reduction measures in 3Q24. IKE's long-term prospects remain favourable, underpinned by: 1) strong ongoing demand for productivity solutions in telecommunications (5G and fibre rollouts), 2) the energy sector (grid capacity and resilience); 3) the recent launch of the revised IKE Structural product; and 4) the potential of the Google partnership for IKE Insight's AI data analytics. We amend our forecasts to reflect short-term revenue challenges and cost out initiatives, which sees our blended spot valuation fall by -13% to NZ\$0.84.

NZX Code	IKE	Financials: Mar/	23A	24E	25E	26E	Valuation (x)	23A	24E	25E	26E
Share price	NZ\$0.54	Rev (NZ\$m)	31.1	22.1	35.4	43.8	PE	n/a	n/a	n/a	42.5
Spot Valuation	NZ\$0.84 (from 0.96)	NPAT* (NZ\$m)	(7.9)	(12.0)	(2.7)	2.0	EV/EBIT	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.0
Risk rating	High	EPS* (NZc)	(4.9)	(7.5)	(1.7)	1.3	EV/EBITDA	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.5
Issued shares	160.0m	DPS (NZc)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Price / NTA	4.1	10.4	25.2	17.0
Market cap	NZ\$86.4m	Imputation (%)	0	0	0	0	Cash div yld (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Avg daily turnover	45.4k (NZ\$38k)	*Based on normalised profits			Gross div yld (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		

What's changed?

- Earnings: Our FY24, FY25, and FY26 revenue estimates decrease -6%, -28%, and -27% respectively
- Spot valuation: Our blended spot valuation falls by -12cps to NZ\$0.84.

Transactional slowdown

Transactional revenue experienced a notable fall to ~NZ\$3.7m, down -60% versus the prior comparable period. While well signalled by the company, it remains disappointing that IKE's three largest customers all delayed transactional activity at similar times. IKE noted that, 'These long-term customers are not lost, some have resumed placing contracts already in Q3 or are communicating that they expect strong transaction volumes to resume, and that the multi-year outlook for use of IKE platform is robust.'

Customer wins driving Subscriptions growth

Although not enough to offset transactional revenue declines, subscription revenue increased +24% to ~NZ\$5.1m, evidencing solid customer acquisition and low churn (<4%) in this segment. As subscription revenues are at much higher margins (~88% in 1H24), the positive shift in the sales mix allowed IKE's gross margin percentage to expand +600bp from 1H24 to 59%. IKE is still winning circa one new customer per week and now has 408 enterprise customers, up a net +29 in 1H24. IKE's customer list remains impressive. It has five of the top ten North American utilities on its 'customer council' — which helps IKE develop products. Further, it has seven of the top ten North American utilities as customers — using IKE PoleForeman and IKE Office Pro.

Cost out programme implemented in 3Q24 in an effort to maintain a path towards EBITDA breakeven

To counteract revenue declines, IKE is reducing its global headcount by -19%, mostly in US-based service and back-office roles, alongside lowering contractor costs. IKE expects to generate annual cost savings of ~NZ\$4.0m.



ikeGPS Group (IKE)

Market Data (NZ\$)						Spot valuation (NZ\$)					0.84
Priced as at 29 Nov 2023					0.54	DCF					0.87
52 week high / low				1	.01/0.53	EV/sales relative					0.80
Market capitalisation (NZ\$m)					86.4						
Key WACC assumptions						DCF valuation summary					
Risk free rate					4.50%	Total firm value					136.3
Equity beta					1.30	(Net debt)/cash					7.2
WACC					10.8%	Less: Capitalised operating leases					-2.9
Terminal growth					2.0%	Value of equity					140.5
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	Valuation Ratios	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue	16.0	31.1	22.1	35.4	43.8	EV/Sales (x)	4.3	2.1	3.2	2.2	1.8
Normalised EBITDA	(5.3)	(2.1)	(8.0)	0.2	7.6	EV/EBITDA (x)	n/a	n/a	n/a	>100x	10.5
Depreciation and amortisation	(2.5)	(3.6)	(4.3)	(3.0)	(5.5)	EV/EBIT (x)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.0
Normalised EBIT	(7.8)	(7.8)	(12.3)	(2.8)	2.0	PE (x)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	42.5
Net interest	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.3	0.1	0.0	Price/NTA (x)	3.4	4.1	10.4	25.2	17.0
Associate income	0	0	0	0	0	Free cash flow yield (%)	-12.1	-9.1	-12.7	-6.3	-0.8
Tax	0	0.0	0	0	0	Adj. free cash flow yield (%)	-8.0	-3.1	-8.3	0.0	6.3
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0	Gross dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Normalised NPAT	(7.9)	(7.9)	(12.0)	(2.7)	2.0	Net dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Abnormals/other	0	0	0	0	0	0 11 101 1	20004	00004	00045	00055	202/5
Reported NPAT	(7.9)	(7.9)	(12.0)	(2.7)	2.0	Capital Structure	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Normalised EPS (cps)	(4.9)	(4.9)	(7.5)	(1.7)	1.3	Interest cover EBIT (x)	n/a	n/a	40.0	25.3	n/a
DPS (cps)	0	0	0	0	0	Interest cover EBITDA (x)	n/a	n/a	26.1	n/a	n/a
						Net debt/ND+E (%)	-161.5	-113.5	-52.2	-13.1	-7.8
Growth Rates	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	4.6	8.6	0.9	n/a	n/a
Revenue (%)	56.6	93.9	-28.7	59.9	23.7						
EBITDA (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>100	Key Ratios	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EBIT (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Return on assets (%)	-16.1	-17.9	-41.2	-11.0	7.3
Normalised NPAT (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Return on equity (%)	-19.9	-23.2	-56.9	-16.3	11.0
Normalised EPS (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Return on funds employed (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ordinary DPS (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	EBITDA margin (%)	-33.3	-6.8	-36.2	0.5	17.3
6 1 51 (N)54 N		00004	20045		000/5	EBIT margin (%)	-48.6	-25.0	-55.5	-7.9	4.6
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	Capex to sales (%)	22.3	16.5	17.3	15.5	14.0
EBITDA	(5.3)	(2.1)	(8.0)	0.2	7.6	Capex to depreciation (%)	360	378	230	6,621	261
Working capital change	(1.7)	(1.2)	0.8	(0.0)	(1.9)	Imputation (%)	0	0	0	0	0
Interest & tax paid	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.3	0.1	0.0	Pay-out ratio (%)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0.5	0.9	0	0	0						
Operating cash flow	(6.6)	(2.5)	(6.9)	0.3	5.7	Operating Performance	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Capital expenditure	(3.6)	(5.1)	(3.8)	(5.5)	(6.1)	Sale of products revenue (\$m)	6.4	6.5	6.8	7.3	7.9
(Acquisitions)/divestments	0	0	0	0	0	IKE Platform revenue (\$m)	8.1	22.1	13.2	23.7	29.9
Other	(0.4)	0.1	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	IKE Structural revenue (\$m)	1.1	1.8	2.4	4.0	5.5
Funding available/(required)	(10.6)	(7.5)	(10.8)	(5.3)	(0.6)	Spike revenue (\$m)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Dividends paid	0	0	0	0	0	Other revenues (\$m)	0.1	0.3	-0.6	0.1	0.1
Equity raised/(returned) (Increase)/decrease in net debt	23.1	0 (7.5)	(10.8)	0 (5.2)	0	Total Revenues (\$m)	16.0	31.1	22.1	35.4	43.8
(increase)/decrease in net debt	12.5	(7.5)	(10.8)	(5.3)	(0.6)						
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	Sale of products % of revenues	40.2	21.0	29.8	20.7	18.1
						IKE Platform % of revenues	50.5	71.9	58.1	67.1	68.4
Working capital	4.2	5.4	4.6	4.6	6.6	IKE Structural % of revenues	7.0	6.0	10.5	11.2	12.7
Fixed assets	1.8	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.5	Spike % of revenues	2.2	1.2	1.6	1.0	0.8
Intangibles	14.1	13.1	12.8	13.0	13.4						
Right of use asset	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	Sale of products gross margin (%)	72.3	73.4	73.0	73.5	75.0
Other assets	1.8	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	IKE Platform gross margin (%)	48.8	43.1	47.0	55.0	56.0
Total funds employed	22.1	22.9	20.9	21.6	24.1	IKE Structural gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Net debt/(cash)	(24.4)	(18.0)	(7.2)	(1.9)	(1.3)	Spike Gross margin (%)	51.0	62.2	62.2	62.2	62.2
Lease liability	0	0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	Overall Gross margin (%)	61.9	53.1	60.6	63.9	65.1
Other liabilities	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1						
Shareholder's funds	39.4	33.9	21.1	16.5	18.4						
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0						
Total funding sources	22.1	22.9	20.9	21.6	24.1						

^{*} Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend** Information on Forsyth Barr's Carbon and ESG (CESG) ratings can be found at www.forsythbarr.co.nz/corporate-news-events/cesg-report



1H24 results summary

IKE's 1H24 result was mixed, with strength in subscriptions more than offset by weakness in transactions as group revenue fell -32% to NZ\$10.5m. Subscription revenue rose +24% versus the prior comparable period to NZ\$5.1m as IKE continues to add new enterprise customers. Outside of a spike in 2Q23, subscription revenue has grown sequentially in every quarter since 3Q21 as IKE has established itself in market. Subscription margins were stable at 88%. However, steady growth and resilient margins in subscriptions could not counteract a -60% fall in transaction revenue (to NZ\$3.7m), with the number of billable transactions in the period declining -44% to 144k. Operating deleverage meant transactions gross margin contracted to 19% (from 38%) and gross profit plunged -80% to NZ\$0.7m. The fall in transactions revenue and gross profit flowed through to an NPAT decline: from a NZ\$1.1m profit to a -NZ\$6.9m loss. However, the 1H23 result was boosted by NZ\$5.2m of other income, gains and losses. This included a +NZ\$2.2m FX gain and a +NZ\$2.7m fair value movement gain. Other income, gains and losses totalled a more modest NZ\$0.4m in 1H24, which contributed significantly to the fall in NPAT.

IKE remains in a robust financial position with net cash of NZ\$10.2m. However, its monthly cash burn was ~NZ\$1.3m in 1H24. We note that the cost out programme (~NZ\$4.0m annualised benefit), recovery in transaction revenues, and launch of the new IKE Structural product should help to reduce the cash burn over coming periods.

Figure 1. IKE - half year earnings comparisons

	1H23 Actual	1H24 Actual	Change
	NZ\$m	NZ\$m	%
Operating revenue	15.4	10.5	-32%
Cost of sales	(7.2)	(4.3)	-40%
Gross profit	8.2	6.2	-24%
ross margin	53%	59%	+600bp
otal other income, gains and losses	5.2	0.4	-92%
upport costs	(0.5)	(0.7)	+32%
ales and marketing expenses	(3.9)	(4.0)	+2%
esearch and engineering expenses	(3.8)	(5.3)	+40%
orporate costs	(4.0)	(3.6)	-10%
otal operating expenses	(12.2)	(13.6)	+11%
perating profit (loss)	1.1	(7.0)	n/a
et finance (expense)/ income	(0.0)	0.1	n/a
et profit (loss) before income tax	1.1	(6.9)	n/a
ncome tax (expense)/ credit	0.0	0.0	n/a
let profit (loss) for the year	1.1	(6.9)	n/a
Basic and diluted loss per share	3.0	(4.0)	n/a

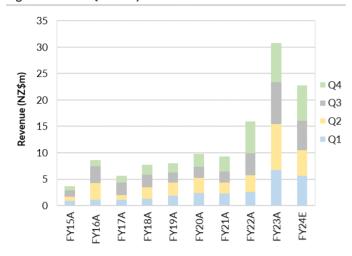
Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis

Cost out programme announced

IKE launched a significant set of cost reduction measures in 3Q24 to mitigate the challenging operating landscape and assist in its move towards EBITDA breakeven. There will be a -19% reduction in IKE's global workforce, with most of the redundant roles in US-based service and back-office positions. The redundancies, alongside reduced contractor costs, are expected to drive ~NZ\$4.0m in annual cost savings. We estimate that around NZ\$0.5m to NZ\$0.75m of savings will come from the General and Admin segment, a similar NZ\$0.5m to NZ\$0.75m from sales and marketing, and the remainder from cost of sales. We expect ~NZ\$0.7m of one-off redundancy costs to be included in the Other gains or losses line in the FY24 result. As part of the staff reorganisation, IKE has moved some engineering analysts and software engineering resources to its Mexico City office, where like-for-like salaries for talented resources are at a substantial discount to US rates. We consider it likely that IKE will expedite plans to utilise Mexican workers to do more of its processing and initial sales tasks, thereby improving ongoing gross margins.

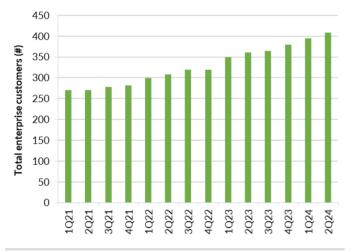


Figure 2. IKE - Quarterly revenues



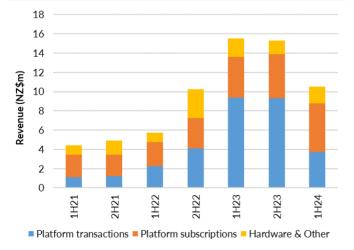
Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 4. IKE — Total enterprise customers by quarter



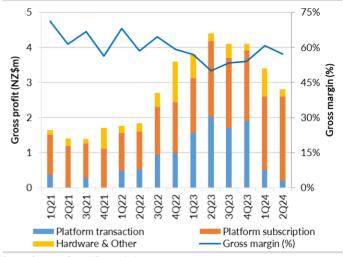
Source: Forsyth Barr analysis.

Figure 6. IKE - Revenue breakdown by segment



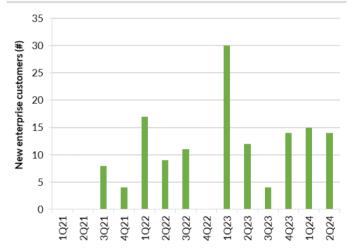
Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 3. IKE — Quarterly gross margin by segment and margin



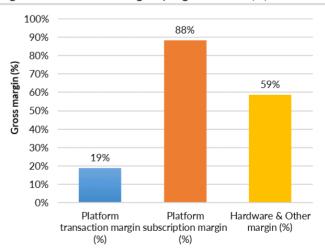
Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 5. IKE - Net enterprise customer growth by quarter



Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis.

Figure 7. IKE - Gross margin by segment 1H24 (%)



Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis



Earnings revisions

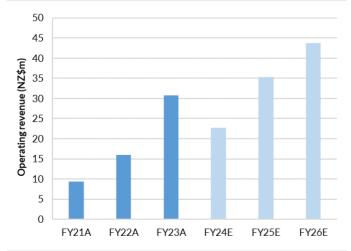
Following a weak 1H24 result, we now forecast additional impact from customer delays, leading to softer transactional revenues in 4Q24 relative to prior modelling, and expect impacts on 1H25 trading as well. While we still anticipate transaction volume to return, we anticipate the pace and magnitude of recovery will be weaker than was previously assumed. We now forecast transactional revenues in FY25 bouncing back to just below FY23 levels, although we acknowledge downside risk potential without new customer wins. Given the redundancies instigated in 3Q24 and a lower revenue base, we have also amended our cost estimates. Post adjustments, we still forecast IKE will marginally breakeven at the EBITDA level in FY25 despite the expectations of a revenue fall, given the cost-out initiatives undertaken. Whilst we note risks to timing on transactional activity, this may be more than offset by the roll out of IKE Structural and the Google Al/ IKE Insight collaboration.

Figure 8. Earnings revisions

	FY24				FY25		FY26E			
	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	
Operating Revenue	24.1	22.8	-6%	48.8	35.3	-28%	60.0	43.7	-27%	
Cost of sales	(10.6)	(9.0)	-16%	(19.5)	(12.7)	-35%	(23.5)	(15.3)	-35%	
Gross profit	13.5	13.8	+2%	29.2	22.6	-23%	36.6	28.4	-22%	
Total other income, gains and losses	0.1	(0.9)	n/a	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.1	n/a	
Support costs	(1.1)	(1.1)	+0%	(1.2)	(1.2)	+0%	(1.2)	(1.2)	+0%	
Sales and marketing expenses	(8.0)	(7.6)	-6%	(9.9)	(7.3)	-26%	(11.1)	(8.1)	-27%	
Research and engineering expenses	(9.6)	(9.3)	-3%	(9.8)	(9.3)	-4%	(10.2)	(9.3)	-8%	
Corporate Costs	(7.7)	(7.4)	-4%	(8.2)	(7.6)	-7%	(8.7)	(7.8)	-10%	
Total operating expenses	(26.4)	(26.4)	-0%	(28.9)	(25.4)	-12%	(31.1)	(26.4)	-15%	
Operating profit (loss)	(12.9)	(12.3)	-5%	0.3	(2.8)	n/a	5.4	2.0	-63%	
Net finance (expense)/ credit	0.3	0.3	+0%	0.1	0.1	+14%	(0.0)	(0.0)	n/a	
Net profit (loss) before income tax	(12.6)	(12.3)	-3%	0.4	(2.7)	n/a	5.4	2.0	-63%	
Income tax (expense)/ credit	0.0	0.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a	
Net profit (loss) for the year	(12.6)	(12.3)	-3%	0.4	(2.7)	n/a	5.4	2.0	-63%	
add back Income tax paid (\$m)	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	_	-	n/a	
add back Finance costs paid (\$m)	(0.3)	(0.3)	+0%	(0.1)	(0.1)	+14%	0.0	0.0	n/a	
add back Depreciation (\$m)	1.6	1.6	-1%	-	-	n/a	2.7	2.3	-15%	
add back Lease depreciation (\$m)	0.1	0.1	+0%	0.1	0.1	+0%	0.0	0.0	+0%	
add back Amortisation (\$m)	2.6	2.6	-0%	3.0	2.9	-4%	3.4	3.2	-7%	
remove adjustments (\$m)	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	
Operating EBITDA (\$m)	(8.6)	(8.3)	-4%	3.4	0.2	-95%	11.6	7.6	-35%	

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 9. IKE - Operating revenues (NZ\$m)



Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 10. IKE - EBITDA (NZ\$m)



Source: Company, Forsyth Barr analysis



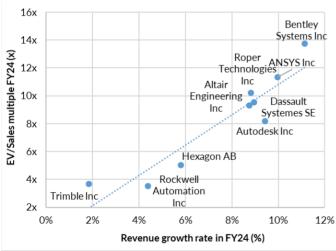
Valuation metrics

Figure 11. IKE — Table of competitor and comparable metrics

Ticker	Company	npany Head		Gross profit	EBITDA	R&D/	EV/EBITDA	EV / Sales	Previous FY
		Office	Capitalisation	margin	margin	Sales	(x)	(x)	revenue
			(NZ\$m)						growth (%)
ALTR.O	Altair Engineering Inc	USA	\$9,525	74%	5%	32%	45.9x	9.3x	8%
BSY.O	Bentley Systems Inc	USA	\$25,054	75%	25%	23%	40.5x	13.7x	14%
HEXAB.ST	Γ Hexagon AB	Sweden	\$42,234	65%	37%	6%	14.4x	5.0x	19%
TRMB.O	Trimble Inc	USA	\$18,106	56%	20%	15%	14.3x	3.7x	0%
ADSK.OQ	Autodesk Inc	USA	\$72,243	90%	24%	24%	21.7x	8.2x	16%
ANSS.O	ANSYS Inc	USA	\$41,673	87%	35%	21%	25.1x	11.3x	8%
DAST.PA	Dassault Systemes SE	France	\$102,152	77%	34%	20%	25.8x	9.5x	9%
ROK	Rockwell Automation Inc	USA	\$50,319	41%	21%	6%	15.9x	3.5x	11%
ROP	Roper Technologies Inc	USA	\$91,549	70%	40%	10%	25.5x	10.2x	11%
	Average of all comps			70%	27%	17%	25.5%	8.3x	11%
IKE.NZ	Ikegps Group Ltd	NZ	\$86	53%	-26%	37%		4.0x	93%

Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 12. Sector — EV/Sales multiple (x) vs Revenue growth (%)



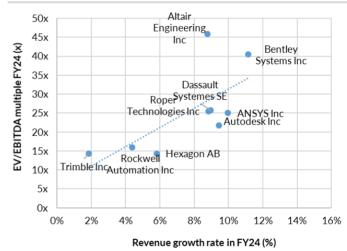
Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 14. Nasdaq emerging cloud index (EV/Sales multiple)



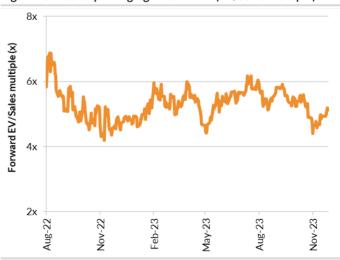
Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 13. Sector — EV/EBITDA multiple (x) vs Revenue growth



Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 15. Nasdaq emerging cloud index (EV/Sales multiple)



Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis



Figure 16. Price performance



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 17. Substantial shareholders

Shareholder	Latest Holding
Wilson Family Trust	17.5%
Scobie Ward	8.3%
TEK Trust	7.2%
K & M Douglas Trust	6.1%

Source: NZX, Forsyth Barr analysis, NOTE: based on SPH notices only

Figure 18. International valuation comparisons

Company	Code	Price	Mkt Cap	Mkt Cap PE		EV/EBITDA		EV/E	BIT	Cash Yld
(metrics re-weighted to reflect IKE'	's balance date - Marc	ch)	(m)	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2025E
ikeGPS	IKE NZ	NZ\$0.54	NZ\$86	<0x	<0x	<0x	>75x	<0x	<0x	0.0%
Autodesk Inc	ADSK US	US\$217.51	US\$46,495	28.6x	25.1x	23.5x	20.8x	23.7x	21.2x	0.0%
Altair Engineering Inc - A	ALTR US	US\$72.32	US\$5,906	66.4x	59.4x	44.7x	36.9x	51.2x	45.4x	n/a
Ansys Inc	ANSS US	US\$300.59	US\$26,113	34.2x	30.6x	25.4x	23.3x	27.4x	24.8x	0.0%
Bentley Systems Inc-Class B	BSY US	US\$52.41	US\$17,086	57.7x	50.9x	43.3x	37.9x	45.5x	39.9x	0.1%
Dassault Systemes Se	DSY FP	€42.46	€56,770	34.6x	31.6x	25.7x	24.1x	28.4x	25.7x	0.6%
Hexagon Ab-B Shs	HEXAB SS	€102.50	€277,311	>75x	>50x	>75x	>75x	>75x	>75x	0.1%
Rockwell Automation Inc	ROK US	US\$270.02	US\$30,964	21.7x	20.2x	16.1x	15.6x	18.5x	16.9x	1.9%
Roper Technologies Inc	ROP US	US\$527.13	US\$56,309	31.5x	29.1x	24.8x	22.8x	35.0x	31.3x	0.8%
Trimble Inc	TRMB US	US\$42.90	US\$10,672	16.1x	15.4x	13.5x	12.9x	14.5x	13.9x	n/a
			Compco Average:	36.3x	32.8x	27.1x	24.3x	30.5x	27.4x	0.5%
EV = Mkt cap+net debt+lease liabili	ities+min interests-in	vestments	IKE Relative:	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100%

 $Source: \verb§ForsythBarr analysis, Bloomberg Consensus, Compco metrics re-weighted to reflect headline (IKE) companies fiscal year end to reflect headline (IKE) companies fisc$



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