

Solidere releases unaudited H1 2014 Results:

Revenues of \$37 million and no land sales declared yet

Company Loss of \$1.7million and Consolidated Profits of \$628k

Share Price:	USD 11.99		
Target Price:	USD 13.31		
Bloomberg / Reuters Symbol:	SOLDA.LB/ SOLA.BY		

October 13, 2014

Contact Information

Head of Equities: Maya Mantach, CFA maya.mantach@blominvestbank.com

Head of Research: Marwan Mikhael marwan.mikhael@blominvestbank.com

Solidere's Year Proves Tough on the Back of Security Complications

The first half of 2014 came with no surprises on Solidere's financial statements as the company has not sold any land so far in 2014. The deteriorating political and economic environment in Lebanon took its toll on the Real estate sector, weighing down on investment appetite and dwindling both foreign direct investment in the country and foreign participation in real estate transactions.

Solidere's revenues came in line with our estimates on the level of rental income which totaled \$27million in the first half, and revenues from rendered services which reached \$3million. However, revenues from land sales were limited to \$6million and were the result of additional BUA added to some previously sold lands. While Solidere usually recognizes its sales towards the end of the year, there hasn't been any sign of concluded sales up until now.

The company recorded a loss of \$1.7 million in the first half of 2014, and gross margins on rents and rendered services slightly deteriorated. Solidere's SG&A reached \$17million over the 6 months period, and interest expenses amounted to \$16 million. Losses were smoothed by a write back of \$2million of provisions and a higher interest income of \$10 million.

SOLIDERE

Liquidity Tightens Further

On the company's balance sheets, total assets decreased by 0.5% since December 2013 and the change was mainly driven by the decrease of cash from \$165 million to \$148 million by June 30, 2014. On the other side, liabilities decreased by 1.33% on \$10 million on lower bank debts in addition to fewer payable accounts. Equity also decreased by 0.16% to \$1,876 million.

Consolidated Results Post Profits thanks to Solidere International

On the group level, Solidere' s unaudited consolidated results showed profits of \$628k, boosted by Solidere International LTD performance. The latter contributed with \$10.9 million to the group' s profits in the first half of 2014, while the rest of the associates recorded a joint loss of \$2million.

For the record, Solidere's consolidated results include Solidere Management Services SAL, Solidere Management services (offshore), Solidere international Holdings SAL, and BHC Holding and its subsidiaries.

Our Recommendation

While Solidere's standing has historically relied on the company's revenues from land sales, this dependence continues to be costly in these times of uncertainty and threatens the company's liquidity. However, we believe the company's considerable portfolio sustains its long-term value, and we expect Solidere' share price to regain investors' confidence once a political improvement is achieved, as a success on this front would partly waive the reigning uncertainty in Lebanon.

To note that the major bulk of Solidere's remaining inventory is concentrated in the waterfront area, where about 1.42 million sqm are available for sale, while about 38,000 sqm are still available in the traditional area.

Except for land sales, the company's results are still in line with our estimates which were based on forecasted cash flows from delayed sales. Hence we maintain our target price unchanged at \$13.31, although we believe this price will be difficult to achieve before year end if the current political deadlock persists, especially that the company hasn't been able to recognize any sales during the first 10 months of 2014.

SOLIDERE

Income Statement Summary

	2011	2012	2013	H1 2014
Revenue (USDm)	297	111	155	37
Revenue Growth (%)	-22.3	-62.6	39.6	-77
Gross Profit (USDm)	231	75	112	22
Gross Margin (%)	77.8	67.6	72.3	61.1
Net Profit (USDm)	162	16	40	-1.7
Profit Margin (%)	54.5	14.4	25.8	-2.8
Net Profit Growth (%)	-17.3	-90.1	150.0	-102.5

Balance Sheet Summary

(USDm)	2011	2012	2013	30/6/2014
Cash & Cash Balances	165	149	165	148
Accounts & Notes Receivables	551	546	435	438
Inventory of Land & Real Estate	1,132	1,208	1,143	1,153
Investment Properties	445	437	565	563
Other Assets	392	405	476	468
Total Assets	2,685	2,745	2,784	2,770
Total Liabilities	819	908	905	893
Book Value Per Share (USD)	11.96	11.48	11.74	11.73
Price-to-Book Value	1.07	1.11	1.09	1.02

Source: Solidere

SOLIDERE

BLOMINVEST BANK s.a.l.

Research Department Verdun, Rachid Karameh Street POBOX 11-1540 Riad El Soloh Beirut 1107 2080 Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 743 300

research@blominvestbank.com

For your Queries:

Marwan Mikhael, Head of Research marwan.mikhael@blominvestbank.com

+961 1 743 300 Ext: 1234

Maya Mantach, Head of Equities maya.mantach@blominvestbank.com

+961 1 1 743 300 Ext: 1240

Equity Rating Key

Recommendations are based on the upside (downside) between our 12-month Fair Value estimate and the current Market Price.

Buy: Fair Value higher than Market Price by at least

20%

Accumulate: Fair Value higher than Market Price by

10% to 20%

Hold: Fair Value ranges between -5% to +10% in

relation to Market Price

Reduce: Fair Value lower than Market Price by 5% to

15%

Sell: Fair Value lower than Market Price by at least 15%

Risks are based on share price volatility along with qualitative factors such as the nature of the business,

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This research is based on current public information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such.

Blom Bank SAL or Blom Invest SAL can have investment banking and other business relationships with the companies covered by our research. We may seek investment banking or other business from the covered companies referred to in this research.

Our salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to our clients and our proprietary trading desks that reflect opinions that are contrary to the opinions expressed in this research. Our asset management area, our trading desks and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations or views expressed in this research.

We and our affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, excluding equity analysts, will from time to time have long or short positions in, act as principal in, and buy or sell, the securities or derivatives (including options and warrants) thereof of covered companies referred to in this research.

This research is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. It does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients.

Clients should consider whether any advice or recommendation in this research is suitable for their particular circumstances and, if appropriate, seek professional advice. The price and value of the investments referred to in this research and the income from them may fluctuate.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance, future returns are not guaranteed, and a loss of original capital may occur. Certain transactions, including those involving futures, options, and other derivatives, give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. Fluctuations in exchange rates could have adverse effects on the value or price of, or income derived from, certain investments.

Copyright 2014 BLOM Invest SAL.

No part of this material may be copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form by any means or redistributed without the prior written consent of Blom Invest SAL.