

Growens

Sector: Marketing Technology

Cash Sales at €33.8mn in 1H21, +3.4% y/y

Growens is an integrated industrial group that creates technologies for predictive marketing, mobile messaging and content creation, meant for organisations wishing to communicate effectively with their customers worldwide.

2Q21 – recurring revenues at 32% of total

Growens just released its 2Q21 unaudited Cash Sales at €16.9mn, recording a +3.1% like-for-like y/y growth, still affected by negative implications linked to Covid-19-related sanitary emergency, and almost in line with sales dynamics faced during 1Q21. In 2Q21, management efforts were mostly focused on: (i) push on the SaaS component, with recurring revenues at €5.5mn (+11% y/y, ca. 32% of total), (ii) business internationalisation (foreign Sales at €8.5mn, ~50% of total), (iii) hiring of new top managers for MailUp, BEE and Datatrics, expected to bring on satisfactory results by 2021 year-end, and (iv) acquisition of new top tier customers (NBA and LVMH just to make a few names), thus achieving 26.4k total number of clients (+3.6% y/y).

Less SMS, more emails. BEE grows impressively

Looking at 2Q21 results across different business segment, the SMS channel still suffered the slowdown of retail SMS traffic, particularly in Italy, with sales from Agile Telecom at €10.2mn, down 3% y/y.

On the other side, the email channel resumed to grow at double digit speed. MailUp, the Italian based provider reached €4.4mn Sales (+13% y/y), confirming a gradual recovery of marketing investments at domestic level, while Acumbamail, active in Spain and Latam, kept growing +25%/y/y. The strongest performance was pursued by BEE, the California based email and content editor, with Sales at €1.2mn (+25% y/y, or +41% y/y at constant exchange rate), thanks to a combined increase in both customer base and revenue per client on the BEE Pro component, partially compensating the slowdown of BEE Plugin's sales cycle. Datatrics – still in the middle of the reorganization process – reported the worst growth performance in Cash Sales, down 9% y/y, heavily impacted by pandemic implications.

Slight top line estimates revision. Fair value stable at €5.65

We are slightly modifying the expected revenues mix, i.e. slower sales growth from Agile Telecom and Datatrics, partially offset by some acceleration from MailUp and Acumbamail, which in turn trigger higher margins, consistent with management guidance to focus more on the profitability side instead of mere sales growth.

We update our SoP valuation, which confirm a €5.65 fair value per share, implying 1.0x EV/Sales and 11.2x EV/EBITDA 2022E fair multiples.



Analysts

Marco Greco

+39 02 80886654

marco.greco@value-track.com

Pietro Nargi

pietro.nargi@value-track.com

Fair Value (€) 5.65

Market Price (€) 4.53

Market Cap. (€m) 67.8

KEY FINANCIALS (€m)	2020A	2021E	2022E
TOTAL REVENUES	65.2	70.0	80.5
EBITDA	5.1	5.5	6.9
EBIT	1.4	1.7	3.0
NET PROFIT	0.6	1.2	2.1
NET PROFIT ADJ.	0.6	1.2	2.1
EQUITY	17.3	18.4	20.5
NET FINANCIAL POS.	2.5	3.1	6.6
EPS ADJ. (€)	0.04	0.08	0.14

Source: Growens (historical figures), Value Track (2021E-22E estimates)

KEY FINANCIALS (€m)	2020A	2021E	2022E
EBITDA MARGIN (%)(*)	8.0	8.0	8.7
EBIT MARGIN (%)(*)	2.2	2.5	3.8
NET DEBT / EBITDA (x)	nm	nm	nm
NET DEBT / EQUITY (x)	nm	nm	nm
EV/SALES (x)	1.0	0.9	0.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.8	11.8	8.6
EV/EBIT (x)	nm	37.9	20.2
P/E ADJ. (x)	nm	nm	33.0

Source: Growens (2020A), Value Track (2021E-22E estimates)

(*) As % of Net Revenues from Sales

STOCK DATA

FAIR VALUE (€)	5.65
MARKET PRICE (€)	4.53
SHS. OUT. (m)	15.0
MARKET CAP. (€m)	67.8
FREE FLOAT (%)	36.8
AVG. -20D VOL. (#)	10,135
RIC / BBG	GROW.MI / GROW IM
52 WK RANGE	4.02-5.68

Source: Stock Market Data



Business Description

Growens is a leading cloud based digital marketing technology hub currently offering its solutions to several thousand customers worldwide, with a consolidated expertise on small to medium-sized enterprises.

In greater detail, Growens is involved in the provisioning of email marketing services, delivery of mobile text messages (for both transactional and marketing purposes), email editing support, Predictive Marketing CDP and professional services to business clients.

Key Financials

€mn	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Total Revenues	65.2	70.0	80.5	92.1
Chg. % YoY	7.3%	7.3%	15.0%	14.4%
EBITDA	5.1	5.5	6.9	8.3
EBITDA Margin (%)	8.0%	8.0%	8.7%	9.1%
EBIT	1.4	1.7	3.0	4.4
EBIT Margin (%)	2.2%	2.5%	3.8%	4.9%
Net Profit	0.6	1.2	2.1	2.9
Chg. % YoY	-51.0%	nm	78.6%	41.7%
Adjusted Net Profit	0.6	1.2	2.1	2.9
Chg. % YoY	-51.0%	nm	78.6%	41.7%
Net Fin. Position	2.5	3.1	6.6	10.9
Net Fin. Pos. / EBITDA (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm
Capex	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.5
OpFCF b.t.	1.5	1.1	4.5	5.8
OpFCF b.t. as % of EBITDA	30.3%	20.6%	64.5%	69.7%

Source: Growens SpA (historical figures), Value Track (estimates)

Investment case

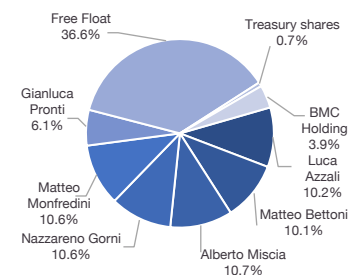
Strengths / Opportunities

- ◆ Full range of marketing technology services (SMS, email, email editor, CDP services, professional ones);
- ◆ Highly diversified customer base ranging from professional marketers to developers and to wholesalers both at a domestic and international level;
- ◆ Intense and effective R&D effort generating high-value opportunities.

Weaknesses / Risks

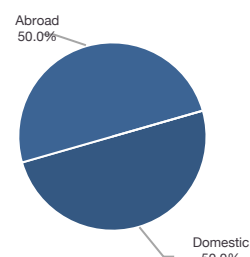
- ◆ Much smaller size if compared to Anglo-Saxons competitors;
- ◆ MarTech moves fast and Growens capability to keep up with the pace could be limited due to financial availabilities.

Shareholders Structure



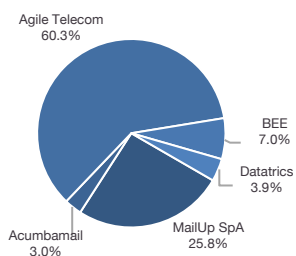
Source: Growens SpA

2Q21 Gross Sales by geography



Source: Growens SpA

2Q21 Gross Sales by business unit



Source: Growens SpA

Stock multiples @ €5.65 Fair Value

	2021E	2022E
EV / SALES (x)	1.2	1.0
EV / EBITDA (x)	14.8	11.2
EV / EBIT (x)	nm	25.7
EV / CAP.EMP. (x)	5.3	5.6
OpFCF Yield (%)	1.2	5.3
P / E (x)	nm	41.2
P / BV (x)	4.6	4.1
Div. Yield. (%)	0.0	0.0

Source: Value Track

DISCLAIMER

THIS DOCUMENT IS PREPARED BY VALUE TRACK S.R.L. THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING FURNISHED TO YOU SOLELY FOR YOUR INFORMATION ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED, REDISTRIBUTED OR PASSED ON, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, TO ANY OTHER PERSON. IN PARTICULAR, NEITHER THIS DOCUMENT NOR ANY COPY THEREOF MAY BE TAKEN OR TRANSMITTED OR DISTRIBUTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INTO CANADA OR JAPAN OR AUSTRALIA TO ANY RESIDENT THEREOF OR INTO THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES OR POSSESSIONS. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS MAY BE RESTRICTED BY LAW AND PERSONS INTO WHOSE POSSESSION THIS DOCUMENT COMES SHOULD INFORM THEMSELVES ABOUT, AND OBSERVE, ANY SUCH RESTRICTION. ANY FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RESTRICTIONS MAY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE LAWS OF ANY SUCH OTHER JURISDICTION. THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OR FORM PART OF, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS, AN OFFER, INVITATION OR INDUCEMENT TO SUBSCRIBE FOR OR PURCHASE ANY SECURITIES, AND NEITHER THIS DOCUMENT NOR ANYTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL FORM THE BASIS OF OR BE RELIED ON IN CONNECTION WITH OR ACT AS AN INVITATION OR INDUCEMENT TO ENTER INTO ANY CONTRACT OR COMMITMENT WHATSOEVER. THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED GENERALLY AND HAS ONLY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS. IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST RELY ON THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF THE COMPANY AND ITS GROUP INCLUDING THE MERITS AND RISKS INVOLVED. THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN OR FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM ONLY TO PERSONS WHO: (I) HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO INVESTMENTS FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 19(5) OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000 (FINANCIAL PROMOTION) ORDER 2005 (AS AMENDED, THE “**FINANCIAL PROMOTION ORDER**”), (II) ARE PERSONS FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 49(2)(A) TO (D) (“HIGH NET WORTH COMPANIES, UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS ETC.”) OF THE FINANCIAL PROMOTION ORDER, (III) ARE OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM, OR (IV) ARE PERSONS TO WHOM AN INVITATION OR INDUCEMENT TO ENGAGE IN INVESTMENT ACTIVITY (WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 21 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE OR SALE OF ANY SECURITIES MAY OTHERWISE LAWFULLY BE COMMUNICATED OR CAUSED TO BE COMMUNICATED (ALL SUCH PERSONS TOGETHER BEING REFERRED TO AS “**RELEVANT PERSONS**”). THIS DOCUMENT IS DIRECTED ONLY AT RELEVANT PERSONS AND MUST NOT BE ACTED ON OR RELIED ON BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT RELEVANT PERSONS. ANY INVESTMENT OR INVESTMENT ACTIVITY TO WHICH THIS DOCUMENT RELATES IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO RELEVANT PERSONS AND WILL BE ENGAGED IN ONLY WITH RELEVANT PERSONS. IN ITALY THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO, AND IS DIRECTED AT QUALIFIED INVESTORS WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 100 OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE NO. 58 OF 24 FEBRUARY 1998, AS AMENDED, AND ARTICLE 34-TER, PARAGRAPH 1, LETTER B), OF CONSOB REGULATION ON ISSUERS NO. 11971 OF MAY 14, 1999, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED (THE “**ISSUERS’ REGULATION**”) PROVIDED THAT SUCH QUALIFIED INVESTORS WILL ACT IN THEIR CAPACITY AND NOT AS DEPOSITARIES OR NOMINEES FOR OTHER SHAREHOLDERS, SUCH AS PERSONS AUTHORISED AND REGULATED TO OPERATE IN FINANCIAL MARKETS, BOTH ITALIAN AND FOREIGN, I.E.: A) BANKS; B) INVESTMENT FIRMS; C) OTHER AUTHORISED AND REGULATED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS; D) INSURANCE COMPANIES; E) COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT UNDERTAKINGS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR SUCH UNDERTAKINGS; F) PENSION FUNDS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR SUCH FUNDS; G) DEALERS ACTING ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT ON COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY-BASED DERIVATIVES; H) PERSONS DEALING EXCLUSIVELY ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS MARKETS WITH INDIRECT MEMBERSHIP OF CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT SERVICES AND THE LOCAL COMPENSATORY AND GUARANTEE SYSTEM; I) OTHER INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS; L) STOCKBROKERS; (2) LARGE COMPANIES WHICH AT INDIVIDUAL COMPANY LEVEL MEET AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS: – BALANCE SHEET TOTAL: 20,000,000 EURO, – NET REVENUES: 40,000,000 EURO, – OWN FUNDS: 2,000,000 EURO; (3) INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS WHOSE MAIN ACTIVITY IS INVESTMENT IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING COMPANIES DEDICATED TO THE SECURITISATION OF ASSETS AND OTHER FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS (ALL SUCH PERSONS TOGETHER BEING REFERRED TO AS “**RELEVANT PERSONS**”). ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A RELEVANT PERSON SHOULD NOT ACT OR RELY ON THIS DOCUMENT OR ANY OF ITS CONTENTS. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT ADDRESSED TO ANY MEMBER OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ITALY. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THIS DOCUMENT CIRCULATE AMONG, OR BE DISTRIBUTED IN ITALY TO (I) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, (II) INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES FALLING OUTSIDE THE DEFINITION OF “QUALIFIED INVESTORS” AS SPECIFIED ABOVE OR (III) DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH INFORMATION IS OR IS LIKELY TO BECOME AVAILABLE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS. THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO AND IS DIRECTED ONLY AT PERSONS IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (“EEA”) WHO ARE “QUALIFIED INVESTORS” WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 2(1)(E) OF THE PROSPECTUS DIRECTIVE (DIRECTIVE 2003/71/EC), (“**QUALIFIED INVESTORS**”). ANY PERSON IN THE EEA WHO RECEIVES THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE REPRESENTED AND AGREED THAT IT IS A QUALIFIED INVESTOR. ANY SUCH RECIPIENT WILL ALSO BE DEEMED TO HAVE REPRESENTED AND AGREED THAT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF PERSONS IN THE EEA OTHER THAN QUALIFIED INVESTORS OR PERSONS IN THE UK, ITALY AND OTHER MEMBER STATES (WHERE EQUIVALENT LEGISLATION EXISTS) FOR WHOM THE INVESTOR HAS AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON A WHOLLY DISCRETIONARY BASIS. THE COMPANY, VALUE TRACK S.R.L. AND THEIR AFFILIATES, AND OTHERS WILL RELY UPON THE TRUTH AND ACCURACY OF THE FOREGOING REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREEMENTS. ANY PERSON IN THE EEA WHO IS NOT A QUALIFIED INVESTOR SHOULD NOT ACT OR RELY ON THIS DOCUMENT OR ANY OF ITS CONTENTS. THE EXPRESSION “PROSPECTUS DIRECTIVE” MEANS DIRECTIVE 2003/71/EC (AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, INCLUDING THE 2010 PD AMENDING DIRECTIVE, TO THE EXTENT IMPLEMENTED IN THE RELEVANT MEMBER STATE), AND INCLUDES ANY RELEVANT IMPLEMENTING MEASURE IN THE RELEVANT MEMBER STATE AND THE EXPRESSION “2010 PD AMENDING DIRECTIVE” MEANS DIRECTIVE 2010/73/EU. **GROWENS SPA (THE “COMPANY”) IS A RESEARCH CLIENT OF VALUE TRACK S.R.L.** HOWEVER ANY FORECASTS, OPINIONS AND EXPECTATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE ENTIRELY THOSE OF VALUE TRACK S.R.L. AND ARE GIVEN AS PART OF ITS NORMAL RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORISED OR APPROVED BY ANY OTHER PERSON. VALUE TRACK S.R.L. HAS NO AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY, ITS SHAREHOLDERS, ANY OF ITS ADVISORS, OR ANY OTHER PERSON IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. WHILE ALL REASONABLE CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE FACTS STATED HEREIN ARE ACCURATE AND THAT THE FORECASTS, OPINIONS AND EXPECTATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FAIR AND REASONABLE, VALUE TRACK S.R.L. HAS NOT VERIFIED THE CONTENTS HEREOF AND ACCORDINGLY NONE OF VALUE TRACK S.R.L., THE COMPANY, ITS SHAREHOLDERS, ANY ADVISORS TO THE COMPANY OR ITS SHAREHOLDERS OR ANY OTHER PERSON IN CONNECTION THEREWITH NOR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES, SHALL BE IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS HEREOF AND NO RELIANCE SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE ACCURACY, FAIRNESS, OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT. NO PERSON ACCEPTS ANY LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY LOSS HOWSOEVER ARISING FROM THE USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OR OF ITS CONTENTS OR OTHERWISE ARISING IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AND BY REGULATIONS, VALUE TRACK S.R.L. (OR ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS OR EMPLOYEES) MAY HAVE A POSITION IN THE SECURITIES OF (OR OPTIONS, WARRANTS OR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO, OR INTEREST IN THE SHARES OR OTHER SECURITIES OF) THE COMPANY AND MAY MAKE A MARKET OR ACT AS A PRINCIPAL IN ANY TRANSACTIONS IN SUCH SECURITIES.