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| EQUITIES | Close | Change | % +/- | P/E '07 | YTD |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| ISEQ | 7559 ↑ | 7 | 0.10% | 11.0 | 2.65% |
| FTSE 100 | 5884 ↓ | -1 | -0.02% | 12.4 | 4.71% |
| DAX 30 | 5729 ↑ | 16 | 0.29% | 15.0 | 5.93% |
| DOW | 11228 ↑ | UNCH | 0.00% | 19.5 | 4.13% |
| NASDAQ | 2190 ↑ | UNCH | 0.00% | 15.6 | -0.68% |
| S&P | 1280 ↑ | UNCH | 0.00% | 21.0 | 2.83% |

| CURRENCIES | Euro | Dollar | Stg | Yen |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Euro | 1.0000 | 1.2785 | 0.6934 | 146.9300 |
| Dollar | 1.2785 | 1.0000 | 1.8439 | 114.9000 |
| Sterling | 0.6934 | 1.8439 | 1.0000 | 211.8700 |
| Yen | 146.9300 | 114.9000 | 211.8700 | 1.0000 |
| Oil (Nymex) | 73.9300 | | | |

This Week's Research
Fyffes
BHP Billiton

Today's Research
CRH

Today's Recommendation

Breaking News

Tullow Oil trading statement and operational update

The group said that in the first half of 2006 the Group drilled 18 development wells increasing average Group working interest production to 63,200 boepd, 8% higher than 2005 levels. Working interest production in 2006 is expected to average approximately 66,000 boepd and exceed 75,000 boepd by year-end. The prospectivity of the Albertine Basin in Uganda has been significantly enhanced by the Mputa and Waraga discoveries and excellent results to date from the Waraga well test. Further exploration and appraisal work, including the Kingfisher well, is planned for the next 12 months.

IFG AGM statement

IFG Group PLC said at the AGM that the current year has started well with each of its three divisions reporting strong trading. The financial services company remains confident of delivering growth for the full year. IFG Group confirmed that at the Annual General Meeting of the Company held Tuesday all resolutions were approved unanimously.

Newcourt Group announces Nifast acquisition

Newcourt Group plc said it has acquired risk management specialist Loss Control Services Ltd, which operates as Nifast, from Coyle Hamilton Willis Ltd for €2.50m on completion and for a deferred payment of €0.75m after 12 months. The Nifast acquisition enhances the range of services offered by Newcourt to its existing client base. It complements and expands Newcourt's training, recruitment, facilities management, business processes and security services. Nifast services include Occupational Hygiene Services, Noise Monitoring, Process Safety Management, Construction Safety and Loss Prevention. In the year ended Dec 31, 2005, Nifast had turnover of €4.45m and EBITDA of €579,000.

CRH (€26.25) Trading statement released Stuart Draper

- Trading statement : This morning, CRH released its H1 2006 trading update, stating that profit before tax growth of 33% to €509m would be generated for the 6 months ended 30/06/06. The statement referred to a "particularly good start" to the year, with the company expecting a "healthy full year advance" in 2006.
- US diversity : Even though the update confirmed that US residential demand is moderating from high levels, it stated that both non-residential (industrial and commercial), and infrastructure demand are both strong and growing. The update also indicated that higher energy prices continue to be successfully passed on in the form of higher cement prices.
- European recovery : The statement confirmed that a significant year on year recovery is taking place at several of the group's European businesses. Its European Materials business is expected to report a "broad-based improvement", its European Products business is expected to report a "much improved first half", and CRH's European Distribution business is expected to show a "strong improvement" on 2005.
- Acquisition growth : The statement noted that acquisition spending year to date had totaled €801m, including the €280m MMI Products US acquisition and the €170m Halfen-Deha European acquisition. This is almost 4 times the level of H1 2005, and when combined with the upbeat trading statement, is likely to result in the consensus 2006 eps forecast being raised by c.2.5% from €2.10 to €2.15, and the consensus 2007 eps forecast being raised by c.2% from €2.28 to €2.32. With due diligence continuing in relation to the potential \$1 bn APAC deal, there is also the potential for further earnings upgrades.
- Further upside : As a result, we upgrade our 12 month price target from €27 to €30 (14% further upside), which is based on 13x 2007 eps of €2.32. Our view remains that a multiple of 13x forward earnings is a fair rating for CRH, given the multiple range of 14x to 16x forward earnings at which deals have recently taken place in the cement sector. CRH's share price has risen by 9% since our BUY note of 19/06/06 : **BUY**.

Business Press

- C&C ready to wrap up €55m of Tayto (II)
- Shares in O'Mahony firm double in value (IT)
- Power raise glass to exit of England and Brazil (II)

Investment Press

- Auto Alliances: International auto partnerships are notoriously difficult to nurture, yet company executives persist in taking up the challenge. As Nissan and Renault confirm their interest in General Motors it is sobering to recall the list that have under-delivered.



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