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EQUITIES	Close	Change	% +/-	P/E '07	YTD
ISEQ	9779 ↑	111	1.14%	14.1	3.94%
FTSE 100	6637 ↓	-4	-0.06%	13.2	6.69%
DAX 30	7619 ↑	12	0.15%	14.2	15.50%
DOW	13543 ↓	-14	-0.10%	15.2	8.66%
NASDAQ	2579 ↑	20	0.80%	26.1	6.77%
S&P	1525 ↑	2	0.15%	15.9	7.53%

CURRENCIES & RATES	Euro	Dollar	Stg	Yen
Euro	1.0000	1.3462	0.6824	163.3400
Dollar	1.3462	1.0000	1.9723	121.4600
Sterling	0.6824	1.9723	1.0000	239.1600
Interest Rates (%)	3.7500	5.2500	5.5000	0.4800
Oil (Nymex)	66.2700			

This Week's Research
ICADE

Today's Research
GSK

Today's Recommendation

GSK (£13.90) NEJM article suggests Avandia risks **Stuart Draper**
Target : £16 (26/04/07; previously £15, issued 14/12/06)

- NEJM article : An article published in the New England Journal of Medicine has suggested that GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) Type-2 diabetes drug, Avandia, increases the risk of heart attacks. The article, written by Steven Nissen, a cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic, stated that patients receiving Avandia had a 43% increase in the risk of having a heart attack compared with those not receiving the drug.
- Sales impact : Avandia is forecast to contribute c.8% of GSK group sales in 2007, increasing to c.9% in 2008 and 2009. Therefore, under a worst case scenario where it is necessary to reduce the consensus 2008 eps of £1.08 by 10% to 97.2p, there would still appear to be upside potential for the GSK share price from current levels. Given that the EU pharma sector average is currently trading at c.17x 2007 earnings, a 12 month price target for GSK based on 15x forward earnings appears reasonable to account for GSK's slightly lower than sector average earnings growth.
- Entry level : As this would imply a worst case 12 month price target of £14.50 based on 15x 2008 eps of 97.2p, any further significant weakness **sub £13.50** would appear to represent an attractive entry level for medium term investors. GSK shares will also pay investors a dividend yield of c.3.6% for waiting for this upside to be achieved.
- FDA statement : The FDA has also stated that other data provides contradictory evidence concerning the risks of Avandia, and as a result the clinical significance of the reported increased risk has not yet been confirmed. This is in line with GSK's statement yesterday that the methodology used by Mr. Nissen (meta-analysis) has significant limitations and that the most rigorous way to examine the safety of a medicine is to conduct large scale, long-term clinical trials in patients with the disease. According to GSK, its own meta-analysis (pooled) showed a cardiovascular risk of c.30%, but its long-term trials did not show "evidence of a risk at all." A US House of Representatives committee will hold a hearing on 6th June concerning the FDA's oversight of the safety of Avandia.
- Upcoming catalysts : Important other catalysts for the share price between now and the end of Q2 2007 include an FDA decision on 29th May on whether Cervarix is to be granted a fast-track status, and Phase III data for Tykerb in inflammatory breast cancer between 1st and 6th June : **BUY**.

Breaking News

British Land reports FY pretax profits of £1.44bn

British Land has reported FY pretax profits of £1.44bn against £1.5bn last year, in its first results since taking up REIT status on January 1. Underlying pretax profits were up 13% to £257m, from £228m, and the company's NAV per share increased 20% to £16.82 at year-end. It proposed a final dividend of 8.25p, from 11.8p, taking the total dividend to 20.35p, from 17p a year earlier. The company said it had an 'excellent' year in 2006/07 and looks forward with confidence to the challenges ahead. Underlying profit growth was driven by three factors: like-for-like rental growth ahead of the market, strong income from management fees and lower average interest rates affecting debt refinancing.

Paddy Power expect to post a 27% rise in operating profit

Paddy Power announced today its current year trading has started very well backed by 'exceptionally favourable' sporting results in the twenty weeks to May 15 and added it is confident of its growth prospects. The betting and gaming company said it expects a 27% growth in operating profits of about €58m for the full year, 8% above current market forecasts. Overall sportsbook turnover rose 12% in the first 20 weeks over the same period last year. Paddy Power also said it anticipates launching paddypowertrader.com, an online financial spread betting business, during the summer.

CNG announce FY results and possible MBO

CNG travel announced their full year results for the year ended 31 December 2006 today. Turnover for the year was down c.16% to \$46.4m from \$54.8m in 2005. Operating profit for the year was \$4.2m compared to a loss of \$8.4m in 2005. The sole continuing trading entity, Tzell Travel reported EBITDA profit of \$9.1m versus \$8.8m in 2005. Yesterday CNG said it has received an approach from a consortium led by its unit Tzell Travel Group's chief executive PJ King and president Barry Liben to buy CNG at 14.5p per share. The company said it has constituted an independent committee of directors to consider the possible offer and talks with the consortium are at an advanced stage.

Business Press

- Elan shares soar 18.6% on Alzheimer's drug news (IT)
- Irish e-firm to buy rival for €13.4m (IT)
- S&P index tops its record closing price (IT)
- Russia ready to revoke licence for BP Russian venture 'in days' (FT)

Investment Press

- Telecoms buy-outs: Is telecommunications next on the menu? So far, big deal-making in telecoms has been the preserve of asset-guzzling monsters such as AT&T and Telefónica. But the acquisition of Alltel by TPG Capital and Goldman Sachs shows how hungry private equity has become.

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