Industrials - Germany



**Buy** (old: Buy) 09.01.2025

**EUR 7.00** (old: EUR 7.00)

## Mixed FY25e outlook due to restrained demand; chg. est.

**Topic:** After an already muted FY24e, we expect the situation to remain challenging during FY25e. Nevertheless, mid-term prospects continue to be solid and the investment case remains intact.

Thus far, sales in 9M'24 declined by 5.8% due to a soft order backlog and investment reluctance across all portfolio companies except ELWEMA. With a book-to-bill ratio of 0.86x, the order backlog decreased 19.8% yoy to only  $\in$  165m end of 9M'24. This should put further pressure on top-line growth for FY25e in addition to low order intake numbers. Hence, we expect sales to come in at  $\in$  364m, showing a flat development yoy. Moreover, we expect EBITDA to decline to  $\in$  25m due to increasing personnel costs and a  $\in$  4.5m positive one-off in Q3'24 from a litigation in connection with the sale of NSM Packtec.

The situation is particular troublesome for bdtronic due to low order intakes affected by the EV crisis. Especially Germany showed decreasing EV (excluding PHEV) registrations of 26% yoy in 11M'24 (source: VDA) due to the abrupt end of the environmental bonus in December 2023. In addition, the supply of affordable cars from China increases the competition for bdtronic's core market (Germany 35% of sales in FY23, other Europe 33%). While FY24e was still able to benefit from a solid order book at the end of FY23, FY25e should be affected increasingly from the recently declined backlogs (€ 30m 9M'24 vs. € 76m 9M'23). Consequently, we expect a material sales decline to € 77m next year and EBIT-DA to remain on a low level due to negative operating leverage and the increased headcount during 2023. Having said that, bdtronic remains a leading expert in its field and once the cyclical demand recovers, we expect top- and bottom-line to normalize.

**On the other hand, Elwema shows resilience**. Thanks to a steady stream of follow-up orders (+26% yoy order intake in 9M'24) and long lead times of 12-18 months, the company has secured already well enough projects for FY25e. Hence, we expect to see mid- to high single digit growth rates for FY25e.

Sale of MA micro supports bottom-line: MAX received c. € 70m cash inflow for the sale of MA micro in Q3'24, of which c. € 60m was used to reduce debt. This should lead to an interest expense reduction of € 4-5m in FY25e (eNuW) supporting the bottom-line substantially and could potentially even lead to an increase in earnings from continuing operations (eNuW FY25e € 6.2m vs. € 5.5m in FY24e).

### Reiterate BUY with an unchanged PT of € 7.00, based on DCF.

Y/E 31.12 (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Sales	349.1	342.7	397.4	361.1	363.8	381.5
Sales growth	13.7%	-1.8%	16.0%	-9.1%	0.8%	4.9%
EBITDA	25.7	29.4	34.6	30.1	25.4	28.1
Net debt (if net cash=0)	88.6	95.8	124.5	48.7	26.4	8.4
FCF	20.9	-12.1	6.4	16.2	22.3	18.0
Net Debt/EBITDA	3.4	3.3	3.6	1.6	1.0	0.3
EPS pro forma	-0.05	0.43	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.20
EBITDA margin	7.4%	8.6%	8.7%	8.3%	7.0%	7.4%
ROCE	5.5%	9.6%	8.3%	7.3%	5.1%	6.4%
EV/sales	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
EV/EBITDA	10.3	9.8	9.6	8.5	9.2	7.7
PER	-130.0	14.4	16.7	46.0	41.0	30.2
Adjusted FCF yield	4.3%	6.7%	5.7%	6.4%	5.1%	6.1%

Source: Company data, NuWays, Close price as of 20.12.2024



Market uata	
Share price (in €)	6.20
Market cap (in € m)	254.1
Number of shares (in m pcs)	41.1
Enterprise value (in € m)	233.6
Ø trading volume (6 months)	5,854

Market data

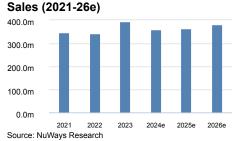
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Bloomberg	MXHN GR
Reuters	MAXG
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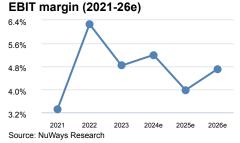
Key snarenoiders				
Günther Group	66.0%			
BWVA	5.0%			
Werner Weber	4.2%			
LOYS	5.0%			
Free Float	19.8%			

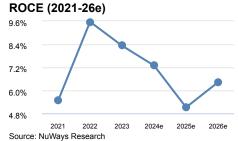
Estimates changes						
	<u>2024e</u>	<u>2025e</u>	<u>2026e</u>			
Sales	-1%	-4%	-4%			
EBIT	3%	-35%	-31%			
EPS	-7%	-33%	-30%			

### Comment on changes

 We changed our sales and OPEX estimates as the current weakness in some of MAX's core industries such as the EV market seems to hold on longer than previously expected.







### Company description

MAX Automation is an expert for automation, production and assembly solutions, mostly serving niche applications across various end-markets. The subsidiaries operate in technology and innovative fields including e-mobility, medical, electronics and environmental.

#### Guidance

- 2024 Sales: € 350-380m
- 2024 EBITDA: € 27-31m

Update - 09.01.2025



# **Financials**

Profit and loss (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	202
let sales	349.1	342.7	397.4	361.1	363.8	381
Sales growth	13.7%	-1.8%	16.0%	-9.1%	0.8%	4.9
ncrease/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	4.8	21.3	9.2	-0.7	3.5	1
otal sales	353.8	364.0	406.6	360.4	367.3	382
other operating income	19.8	9.3	6.7	14.4	10.2	10
laterial expenses	174.7	186.1	199.5	161.8	165.5	172
ersonnel expenses	122.5	107.0	122.4	127.8	132.6	130
Other operating expenses	50.7	50.9	56.9	55.0	54.0	5
otal operating expenses	328.1	334.6	372.0	330.3	342.0	35
BITDA	25.7	29.4	34.6	30.1	25.4	2
Depreciation	5.0	4.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	
BITA	20.7	24.5	28.8	24.2	19.4	2
mortisation of goodwill	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	
Amortisation of intangible assets	9.2	3.1	4.4	5.4	5.0	•
mpairment charges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
BIT (inc revaluation net)	11.6	21.5	19.2	18.8	14.4	1
nterest income	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	
nterest expenses	8.3	8.8	12.8	12.6	7.5	
nvestment income	0.0	2.7	4.6	1.4	1.5	
inancial result	-8.3	-5.7	-8.1	-10.9	-5.6	-
Recurring pretax income from continuing operations	3.2	15.8	11.1	7.9	8.8	1
xtraordinary income/loss	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
arnings before taxes	3.2	15.8	11.1	7.9	8.8	1
ncome tax expense	4.1	-0.8	5.5	2.3	2.6	
let income from continuing operations	-0.9	16.6	5.6	5.5	6.2	
ncome from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0.0	1.6	-9.6	0.0	0.0	
let income	-0.9	15.0	15.2	5.5	6.2	
Ainority interest	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	
let profit (reported)	-1.4	14.7	15.2	5.5	6.2	
Average number of shares	29.5	38.0	41.1	41.1	41.1	4
PS reported	-0.05	0.39	0.37	0.13	0.15	0
Profit and loss (common size)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	202
let sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.
ales growth	13.7%	-1.8%	16.0%	-9.1%	0.8%	4.
ncrease/decrease in finished goods and work-in-process	1.4%	6.2%	2.3%	-0.2%	1.0%	0.
otal sales	101.4%	106.2%	102.3%	99.8%	101.0%	100.
Other operating income	5.7%	2.7%	1.7%	4.0%	2.8%	2.
Naterial expenses	50.0%	54.3%	50.2%	44.8%	45.5%	45.
Personnel expenses	35.1%	31.2%	30.8%	35.4%	36.5%	35.
Other operating expenses	14.5%	14.9%	14.3%	15.2%	14.8%	14.
otal operating expenses	94.0%	97.7%	93.6%	91.5%	94.0%	92.
BITDA	7.4%	8.6%	8.7%	8.3%	7.0%	7.
Depreciation	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.
BITA	5.9%	7.2%	7.2%	6.7%	5.3%	5.
mortisation of goodwill	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
mortisation of intangible assets	2.6%	0.9%	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.
mpairment charges	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.
BIT (inc revaluation net)	3.3%	6.3%	4.8%	5.2%	4.0%	4.
nterest income	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.
nterest expenses	2.4%	2.6%	3.2%	3.5%	2.1%	2.
nvestment income	0.0%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.
Financial result	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	n
Pocurring protay income from continuing apprations	0.0%	4 60/	2 90/	2 20/	2 40/	2

0.9%

0.0%

0.9%

-0.3%

0.0%

-0.3%

0.1%

-0.4%

127.6%

4.6%

0.0%

4.6%

-5.1%

4.8%

0.5%

4.4%

0.1%

4.3%

Net profit (reported)
Source: Company data, NuWays

Extraordinary income/loss

Earnings before taxes

Tax rate

Net income

Minority interest

Recurring pretax income from continuing operations

Net income from continuing operations

Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)

NuWays AG 2

2.8%

0.0%

2.8%

1.4%

-2.4%

3.8%

0.0%

3.8%

25.0%

2.4%

0.0%

2.4%

30.0%

1.7%

0.0%

1.7%

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1.7%

3.1%

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30.0%

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1.5%

Update - 09.01.2025



Palance shoot (FLID m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Balance sheet (EUR m) Intangible assets	54.4	54.5	37.8	34.8	20256	20266
Property, plant and equipment	43.2	46.1	50.7	53.4	54.0	54.9
Financial assets	7.1	42.6	47.4	47.4	47.4	47.4
FIXED ASSETS	104.8	143.2	135.9	135.6	130.1	124.4
Inventories	53.5	89.6	92.5	80.9	72.0	75.0
Accounts receivable	31.9	40.1	49.8	42.5	42.8	44.9
Other assets and short-term financial assets	37.2	52.1	41.6	47.0	45.0	46.0
Liquid assets	30.2	35.7	26.6	28.1	49.4	62.4
Deferred taxes	10.6	15.6	16.0	16.5	14.0	14.0
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	9.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT ASSETS	173.0	233.1	249.1	215.1	229.2	242.3
TOTAL ASSETS	277.8	376.3	385.0	350.7	359.3	366.7
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	39.8	92.9	114.9	181.6	189.5	200.0
MINORITY INTEREST	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long-term liabilities to banks	1.0	117.0	120.9	51.0	50.0	45.0
Bonds (long-term)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
other interest-bearing liabilities	31.5	14.0	29.6	25.0	25.0	25.0
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	14.7	14.4	15.2	12.0	13.0	13.0
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	48.1	145.9	166.2	88.5	88.5	83.5
Short-term liabilities to banks	86.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8
Accounts payable	32.2	62.9	52.2	40.7	40.4	42.4
Advance payments received on orders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accrued taxes	0.7	1.6	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	62.1	61.4	38.3	28.0	28.0	28.0
Deferred taxes	7.9	10.3	9.7	9.0	10.0	10.0
Deferred income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT LIABILITIES	189.1	136.8	103.9	80.5	81.2	83.2
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	277.8	376.3	385.0	350.7	359.3	366.7
Balance sheet (common size)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Intangible assets	19.6%	14.5%	9.8%	9.9%	8.0%	6.0%
Property, plant and equipment	15.6%	12.2%	13.2%	15.2%	15.0%	15.0%
Financial assets	2.6%	11.3%	12.3%	13.5%	13.2%	12.9%
FIXED ASSETS	<b>37.7%</b> 19.3%	<b>38.1%</b> 23.8%	<b>35.3%</b> 24.0%	<b>38.7%</b> 23.1%	<b>36.2%</b> 20.0%	33.9%
Inventories Accounts receivable	19.5%	23.6% 10.6%	24.0% 12.9%	23.1% 12.1%	20.0% 11.9%	20.4% 12.2%
Other assets and short-term financial assets	13.4%	13.8%	10.8%	13.4%	12.5%	12.2%
Liquid assets	10.9%	9.5%	6.9%	8.0%	13.8%	17.0%
Deferred taxes	3.8%	4.2%	4.2%	4.7%	3.9%	3.8%
Deferred charges and prepaid expenses	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CURRENT ASSETS	62.3%	61.9%	64.7%	61.3%	63.8%	66.1%
TOTAL ASSETS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	14.3%	24.7%	29.8%	51.8%	52.8%	54.5%
MINORITY INTEREST	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Long-term liabilities to banks	0.4%	31.1%	31.4%	14.5%	13.9%	12.3%
Bonds (long-term)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
other interest-bearing liabilities	11.3%	3.7%	7.7%	7.1%	7.0%	6.8%
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Other provisions and accrued liabilities	5.3%	3.8%	3.9%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	17.3%	38.8%	43.2%	25.2%	24.6%	22.8%
Short-term liabilities to banks	31.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Accounts payable	11.6%	16.7%	13.6%	11.6%	11.3%	11.6%
				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Advance payments received on orders	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.070	0.070
• •		0.0% 0.4%	0.0% 0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Advance payments received on orders	0.0%					
Advance payments received on orders Accrued taxes	0.0% 0.2%	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Advance payments received on orders Accrued taxes Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts)	0.0% 0.2% 22.3%	0.4% 16.3%	0.8% 10.0%	0.6% 8.0%	0.6% 7.8%	0.5% 7.6%
Advance payments received on orders Accrued taxes Other liabilities (incl. from lease and rental contracts) Deferred taxes	0.0% 0.2% 22.3% 2.8%	0.4% 16.3% 2.7%	0.8% 10.0% 2.5%	0.6% 8.0% 2.6%	0.6% 7.8% 2.8%	0.5% 7.6% 2.7%

Source: Company data, NuWays

Update - 09.01.2025



Cash flow statement (EUR m)	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Net profit/loss	-0.9	15.0	15.2	5.5	6.2	8.4
Depreciation of fixed assets (incl. leases)	5.0	4.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0
Amortisation of goodwill & intangible assets	9.2	6.5	10.2	5.4	5.0	4.1
Other costs affecting income / expenses	21.0	0.3	19.8	4.9	5.9	12.1
Cash flow from operating activities	18.0	-13.5	7.1	17.8	20.5	16.1
Increase/decrease in inventory	-10.2	-29.7	-7.3	11.6	8.9	-3.0
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable	-4.8	-8.3	-12.8	7.3	-0.3	-2.1
Increase/decrease in accounts payable	8.5	8.4	-22.1	-11.5	-0.3	2.0
Increase/decrease in other working capital positions	0.0	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/decrease in working capital	-6.6	-29.6	-33.7	7.4	8.3	-3.1
Cash flow from operating activities	27.7	-2.8	17.2	29.2	31.4	27.5
CAPEX	6.8	9.3	10.8	13.0	9.1	9.5
Payments for acquisitions	0.0	0.0	0.0	-70.0	0.0	0.0
Financial investments	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Income from asset disposals	3.6	1.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from investing activities	-3.3	-8.4	-9.1	57.0	-9.1	-9.5
Cash flow before financing	24.4	-11.2	8.2	86.2	22.3	18.0
Increase/decrease in debt position	-37.0	23.8	-5.9	-74.3	-1.0	-5.0
Purchase of own shares	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.9	0.0 0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0
Capital measures	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends paid Others	-5.0	-8.5	-11.4	-10.3	0.0	0.0
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	-5.0 0.1	-6.5 0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from financing activities	-42.0	16.3	-17.3	-84.6	-1.0	- <b>5.0</b>
Increase/decrease in liquid assets	-17.5	5.6	-9.1	1.6	21.3	13.0
Liquid assets at end of period	30.2	35.7	26.6	28.1	49.4	62.4
Keep and an (EUD an)	0004	0000	0000	0004-	0005-	0000-
Key ratios (EUR m) P&L growth analysis	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e
Sales growth	13.7%	-1.8%	16.0%	-9.1%	0.8%	4.9%
EBITDA growth	354.7%	-1.6% 14.1%	17.7%	-9.1% -12.9%	-15.8%	10.6%
EBIT growth	-159.3%	85.7%	-10.7%	-2.1%	-23.0%	24.3%
EPS growth	-94.7%	-914.0%	-4.7%	-63.6%	12.3%	35.8%
Efficiency	04.770	014.070	7.770	00.070	12.070	00.070
Sales per employee	218.9	215.1	238.8	206.7	198.3	200.0
EBITDA per employee	16.1	18.4	20.8	17.2	13.8	14.7
No. employees (average)	1,595	1,593	1,664	1,747	1,835	1,908
Balance sheet analysis						
Avg. working capital / sales	14.7%	16.6%	18.0%	20.7%	22.6%	21.0%
Inventory turnover (sales/inventory)	3.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.3
Accounts receivable turnover	11.8	9.5	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.5
Accounts payable turnover	12.5	7.2	6.9	8.9	9.0	9.0
Cash flow analysis						
Free cash flow	20.9	-12.1	6.4	16.2	22.3	18.0
Free cash flow/sales	6.0%	-3.5%	1.6%	4.5%	6.1%	4.7%
FCF / net profit	neg.	neg.	42.5%	292.4%	359.4%	213.2%
Capex / sales	2.0%	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%	2.5%	2.5%
Solvency Not dobt	00.6	05.0	104 E	40.7	26.4	0.4
Net debt Net Debt/EBITDA	88.6 3.4	95.8 3.3	124.5 3.6	48.7 1.6	26.4 1.0	8.4 0.3
Dividend payout ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Interest paid / avg. debt	6.0%	6.3%	9.4%	12.1%	6.6%	10.8%
Returns	0.070	0.570	J. <del>T</del> /0	12.170	0.070	10.070
ROCE	5.5%	9.6%	8.3%	7.3%	5.1%	6.4%
ROE	-3.5%	15.8%	13.2%	3.0%	3.3%	4.2%
Adjusted FCF yield	4.3%	6.7%	5.7%	6.4%	5.1%	6.1%
			0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		0.0%				
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0% 0.0			0.0	0.0
Dividend yield DPS		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.15	0.0 0.20
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported	0.0% 0.0				0.0 0.15 41.1	0.0 0.20 41.1
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported Average number of shares	0.0% 0.0 -0.05	0.0 0.39	0.0 0.37	0.0 0.13	0.15	0.20
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported Average number of shares Valuation ratios	0.0% 0.0 -0.05	0.0 0.39	0.0 0.37	0.0 0.13	0.15	0.20
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported Average number of shares	0.0% 0.0 -0.05 29.5	0.0 0.39 38.0	0.0 0.37 41.1	0.0 0.13 41.1	0.15 41.1	0.20 41.1
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported Average number of shares Valuation ratios P/BV	0.0% 0.0 -0.05 29.5	0.0 0.39 38.0 2.5	0.0 0.37 41.1 2.2	0.0 0.13 41.1 1.4	0.15 41.1 1.3 0.6 9.2	0.20 41.1 1.3 0.6 7.7
Dividend yield DPS EPS reported Average number of shares Valuation ratios P/BV EV/sales	0.0% 0.0 -0.05 29.5 4.6 0.8	0.0 0.39 38.0 2.5 0.8	0.0 0.37 41.1 2.2 0.8	0.0 0.13 41.1 1.4 0.7	0.15 41.1 1.3 0.6	0.20 41.1 1.3 0.6

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Company	Disclosures
MAX Automation SE	2

Historical target price and	rating changes for MAX Auto	mation SE			
Company	Date	Analyst	Rating	Target Price	Close
MAX Automation SE	01.11.2024	Khare, Vaishnavi	Buy	EUR 7.00	EUR 5.56
	01.11.2024	Völk, Konstantin	Buy	EUR 7.00	EUR 5.56
	05.08.2024	Khare, Vaishnavi	Buy	EUR 7.50	EUR 6.08
	05.08.2024	Völk, Konstantin	Buy	EUR 7.50	EUR 6.08

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ment towards the actual capital structure is done by discounting the calculated free cash flows with the weighted average cost of capital (WACC), which takes into account both the cost of equity capital and the cost of debt. After discounting, the calculated total enterprise value is reduced by the interest-bearing debt capital in order to arrive at the equity value.

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Date of publication creation: 09/01/2025 07:58 AM

Date of publication dissemination: 09/01/2025 07:58 AM

Update - 09.01.2025



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