Strong Buy

January 23, 2015

Target Price **Current Price** Upside Potential **RON 1.09 RON 0.86** 27%

(\$3bn)

(\$5.6mn)

Deep Value Matrix

30% Discount to NAV

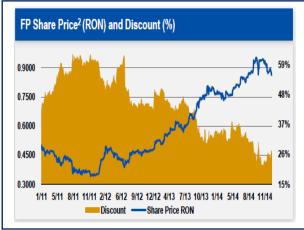
5.8% Dividend Yield

0.7x P/B; 7.7x P/E

Company Profile / Data

ON 12bn
).9 bn
0.9/ 100%
73 / 0.96
ON 22mn





Sandy Mehta, CFA (1) 617-848-8279 Vijay Lohia, CFA (1) 617-996-9260

30% Discount to NAV; NAV Discount Narrowing

As of December 31, 2014, the net asset value [NAV] of the fund's underlying investments was Ron1.21 per share. At the current stock price of Ron0.86, this approximates to a discount of -30% to its NAV. Since the stock's listing in January 2011, the NAV discount has continuously come down [from a high of 60% to 30% currently] due to a change in the shareholding structure and various corporate actions [more details below]. Additionally, there are a number of catalysts in the near-term like the London listing, disposal of unlisted investments, buybacks/dividends, numerous capital market changes, etc. that are likely to bring the NAV discount to below -10% over the next one year, in our view. Furthermore, the underlying investment companies are themselves very attractively valued which should result in a likely 10%-15% increase in NAV annually. We are initiating coverage on Fondul with a twelve-month price target of Ron1.09 which represents 33% total return potential including the 6% current dividend yield. Our price target represents 10% discount to the fund's current NAV. When we recently spoke with management, they pointed out that there is no capital gains tax in Romania if the shareholding in the underlying company is greater than 10%. Fondul has a 10% or higher ownership in all of its top 10 holdings which accounts for over 76% of the NAV.

London Listing to be a Major Catalyst

Fondul's secondary listing on the London Stock Exchange sometime in the first half of this year should be a major catalyst for the stock, in our opinion. It is interesting to note that the average closed-end country fund on the LSE trades at low-single-digit NAV discount vs. -30% for Fondul. Additionally, once listed, Fondul will be the 3rd largest closed-end fund on the LSE [market cap. of US\$3.2 bn]. Although the company's NAV discount has narrowed in anticipation of the listing, we expect the discount to reduce further as the company's presence on the LSE and a still substantially high NAV discount vs. the other LSE stocks is bound to get noticed by astute investors. [See more details on this later in the report]. The initial plan for the secondary listing on the LSE was for December 2014 using Depository Interests [DIs]. DIs were originally selected over Global Depositary Receipts [GDRs], to facilitate easier trading of the existing shares on the London Stock Exchange [LSE], without requiring a separate instrument to be listed on the LSE. Investors also would have been able to buy or sell via the London or Bucharest markets with settlement during the normal T+2 cycle. However, on November 26, 2014, the Romanian FSA rejected the draft regulation that would have enabled the London listing using DIs. The company now plans to list through the GDR route [dual listings through GRDs are currently permitted in Romania] by the first half of this year.

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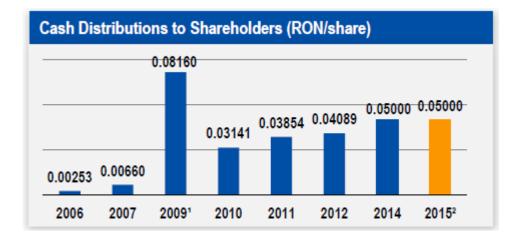
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Templeton Manages the Fund

One of the key concerns for investors investing in an emerging market economy is the corporate governance. In this regard, it is very reassuring to know that Fondul's investment portfolio is solely managed by Franklin Templeton Investment Management Ltd. [FTIM] who was appointed by the fund through an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders on September 06, 2010. FTIM has extensive global experience in managing the operations of similar closed-end funds in other developed and emerging markets. The fund manager has a local team consisting of investment analysts and a range of administrative service staff covering accounting, NAV calculation, investor relations, public relations, legal and regulatory compliance matters. Each department is supported by the global resources of the Franklin Templeton Investments Group. In particular, the investment team has the support of more than 40 investment professionals in the Templeton Emerging Markets Group. The various actions taken by the FTIM since its appointment, like pushing for board changes at the underlying investment companies, realigning management's compensation structure, stock buybacks, etc, have definitely added value to company's shareholders which is evident from the fact that the NAV discount has narrowed significantly over the last few years.

6% Dividend Yield; Fully Covered by Cash Flow

The company has an excellent track record of returning cash to shareholders through dividends and buyback's. Since 2010, dividends have increased at a 12.3% CAGR and the current dividend of Ron5 cents per share approximates to a 5.8% dividend yield [dividends are paid annually]. The next dividend payment [6% yield] is coming up in April and the stock is very well placed for a dividend capture trade in our view. Since its listing in January 2011, the company has made total dividend payments of Ron2.0 bn which approximates to 17.3% of company's current market cap. We expect Ron5 cents in dividends for 2015 and expect dividends to increase over time driven by increased dividend payments received by Fondul from the underlying investment companies and divestment of its stake in the various unlisted companies. Importantly, all dividend payments have been fully covered from the fund's income from the underlying investments. In 2014, the company paid Ron5 cents as a "return of capital" rather than the normal dividend distribution which does raise a red flag initially. However, when we spoke with management, they clarified that the payment was fully covered by dividends received from underlying investment companies and they had to distribute cash to shareholders through the return of capital route to comply with regulatory requirements [see details later in the report].



We are initiating coverage on Fondul with a twelve-month price target of Ron1.09 which represents 33% total return potential including the 6% current dividend yield. Our price target represents 10% discount to the fund's current NAV. When we recently spoke with management, they pointed out that there is no capital gains tax in Romania if the shareholding in the underlying company is greater than 10%. Fondul has a 10% or higher ownership in all of its top 10 holdings which accounts for over 76% of the NAV.

We expect Ron5 cents in dividends for 2015 and expect dividends to increase over time driven by increased dividend payments received by Fondul from the underlying investment companies and divestment of its stake in the various unlisted companies. Importantly, all dividend payments have been fully covered from the fund's income from the underlying investments.

Listed Companies	Ticker	% stake	Total value	% of NAV	Valuation method
OMV Petrom SA	SNP	18.99%	4,289.5	32.3%	Mark to market
Romgaz S.A. BRD-Groupe Societe Generale	SNG	10.00%	1,337.4	10.1%	Mark to market
SA	BRD	3.64%	241.0	1.8%	Mark to market
Nuclearelectrica SA	SNN	9.72%	215.8	1.6%	Mark to market
Banca Transilvania SA	TLV	2.93%	149.9	1.1%	Mark to market
Conpet SA	COTE	29.70%	147.6	1.1%	Mark to market
Alro Slatina SA	ALR	10.21%	83.1	0.6%	Mark to market
Others			59.8	0.5%	
Total Listed			6524.0	49.1%	
Unlisted Companies					
					Independent valuator's
Hidroelectrica SA		19.94%	2,185.8	16.5%	report Independent valuator's
ENEL Distributie Banat SA		24.12%	641.6	4.8%	report Independent valuator's
Enel Distributie Muntenia SA		12.00%	465.6	3.5%	report Independent valuator's
GDF Suez Energy Romania		12.00%	461.4	3.5%	report Independent valuator's
ENEL Distributie Dobrogea SA		24.09%	397.4	3.0%	report
CN Aeroporturi Bucuresti SA **		20.00%	330.8	2.5%	Independent valuator's report
E.ON Moldova Distributie SA		22.00%	276.3	2.1%	Independent valuator's report
Electrica Distributie Muntenia Nord SA		21.99%	235.4	1.8%	Independent valuator's report
Electrica Distributie Transilvania Sud SA		21.99%	207.0	1.6%	Independent valuator's report
Electrica Distributie Transilvania Nord SA		22.00%	201.8	1.5%	Independent valuator's report
E.ON Gaz Distributie SA		12.00%	165.2	1.2%	Independent valuator's report
Societatea Nationala a Sarii SA		48.99%	142.1	1.1%	Independent valuator's report
E.ON Energie Romania SA		13.39%	133.9	1.0%	Independent valuator's report
CN Administratia Porturilor Maritime SA		19.99%	132.6	1.0%	Independent valuator's report
Electrica Furnizare SA ***		22.00%	126.5	1.0%	Independent valuator's report
Others			379.2	2.9%	
Total Unlisted			6,482.28	48.8%	
Total [listed+unlisted]			13,006.32	98.0%	
Cash & Receivables			269.60	2.0%	
Total NAV [Ron Mn]			13,275.9	100.0%	
Shares o/s			10,916.0		
NAV/Share			1.22		

The company has bought back 2.2 bn shares outstanding in the last two years which approximates to 17% of the total shares outstanding. In 2013, management bought back 1.1 bn shares [8.3% of the total shares outstanding] and in 2014 it bought back 1.15 bn shares [9.5% of the total shares outstanding].

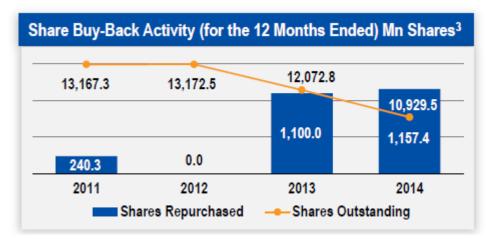
The fund's No. 1 holding, OMV Petrom [ESNP_RO], is trading at very compelling metrics of 0.8x P/B, 5.9x P/E [FY2015], 3.5x EV/EBITDA and net debt to equity of 0.25x. One can easily expect 10%-15% increase in the NAV from an increase in value of these underlying investments.

Top 15 Funds on LSE

Fund	Symbol	Listing Currency	Total NAV (USD mn)	Premium / Discount to NAV (%)	% Listed (approximately)
Scottish Mortgage	SMT	GBP	4.68	2.7%	97
Alliance Trust	ATST	GBP	4.03	-12.5%	100
Fondul Proprietatea	FP.	USD	3.73	-27.0%	46
F&C Investment Trust	FRCL	GBP	3.69	-6.1%	99
RIT Capital Partners	RCP	GBP	3.33	-3.9%	98
HICL Infrastructure Company	HICL	GBP	2.97	17.2%	101
Templeton Emerging Markets UK	TEM	GBP	2.77	-11.1%	93
New Europe Property Investment	NEPI	EUR	2.52	48.7%	0
Witan	WTAN	GBP	2.19	1.0%	101
Mercantile Investment Trust	MRC	GBP	2.16	-11.8%	89
Kennedy Wilson Europe Real Estate	KWE	GBP	2.15	5.0%	0
3i Infrastructure	3IN	GBP	2.03	12.7%	7
Murray International	MYI	GBP	1.97	4.2%	87
Caledonia Investments	CLDN	GBP	1.94	-14.5%	97
NB Global Floating Rate Income	NBLS	GBP	1.82	-0.6%	0

17% Share Buyback in the Last 2 Years

In addition to normal dividend distributions to shareholders, which itself have increased over the years, management has been aggressively buying back its stock over the last few years. The company has bought back 2.2 bn shares outstanding in the last two years which approximates to 17% of the total shares outstanding. In 2013, management bought back 1.1 bn shares [8.3% of the total shares outstanding] and in 2014 it bought back 1.15 bn shares [9.5% of the total shares outstanding]. So including Ron9 cents dividends distributed in the last two years, the total returns to shareholders works out to 27%. We expect stock buybacks to be a regular feature as management looks to narrow the stock's discount to its underlying NAV.



<u>Underlying Investments Trading at Attractive Deep Value</u> Metrics

While the stock is trading at a noticeable -30% discount to its NAV, the underlying investments remain pretty attractively valued, in our view. The fund's top 10 holdings account for ~76% of the total NAV. The top 20 holdings are trading at an average price to book of 1.0x, EV/EBITDA of 4.3x, P/E of 11.4x and net debt/equity of -0.03 [i.e. net cash]. The fund's No. 1 holding, OMV Petrom [ESNP_RO], is trading at very compelling metrics of 0.8x P/B, 5.9x P/E [FY2015], 3.5x EV/EBITDA and net debt to equity of 0.25x. One can easily expect 10%-15% increase in the NAV from an increase in value of these underlying investments. We also expect value creation when some of the unlisted investments get sold off

Top 20 Portfolio Holdings – Key Financial Ratios

Top 20 Holdings ¹	% Stake¹	Net Debt/Equity	P/BV	EV/EBITDA	P/E
1 OMV Petrom SA	19	0.00	0.94	3.45	6.50
2 Hidroelectrica SA ²	20	0.08	0.63	5.92	14.69
3 Romgaz SA	10	(0.11)	1.4	3.64	13.00
4 ENEL Distributie Banat SA	24	(0.37)	1.08	4.67	12.46
5 ENEL Distributie Muntenia SA	12	(0.39)	1.01	5.72	14.75
6 GDF Suez Energy Romania SA	12	0.02	0.95	4.70	7.54
7 ENEL Distributie Dobrogea SA	24	(0.24)	1.06	4.93	11.79
8 E.ON Moldova Distributie SA ⁴	22	0.00	0.89	6.16	18.04
9 Electrica Distributie Muntenia Nord SA	22	(0.21)	0.97	7.22	10.64
10 CN Aeroporturi Bucuresti SA	20	0.10	0.69	6.89	19.99
11 Nuclearelectrica SA	10	0.15	0.28	3.99	4.74
12 BRD Groupe Societe Generale SA	4	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.00
13 Electrica Distributie Transilvania Nord SA	22	0.07	2.53	4.69	14.75
14 Electrica Distributie Transilvania Sud SA	22	0.07	0.84	4.44	12.58
15 E.ON Gaz Distributie SA ⁴	12	0.12	1.06	7.08	20.30
16 Banca Transilvania SA	3	0.00	1.47	0.00	11.24
17 E.ON Ennergie Romania SA	13	(0.06)	1.37	4.09	4.35
18 Conpet SA	30	(0.44)	0.65	1.74	11.38
19 Complexul Energetic Oltenia SA	22	0.34	0.10	4.41	121.19
20 SN a Sarii Salrom SA	49	0.00	0.91	3.96	10.43
Average		(0.04)	1.00	4.39	17.02
Weighted Average ³		(0.03)	0.96	4.33	11.42

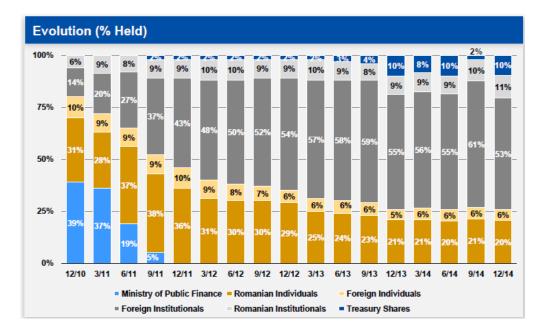
No.	Portfolio Company	Status	Majority Shareholder	% Stake ¹	NAV as at 28 November 2014 (EUR mn)	% in NAV as at 28 November 2014
1	OMV Petrom SA	Listed	OMV	19.0%	1,016.4	32.2
2	Hidroelectrica SA	Insolvency	Romanian State	19.9%	475.8	15.1
3	Romgaz SA	Listed	Romanian State	10.0%	296.2	9.4
4	ENEL Distributie Banat	Unlisted	Enel Group	24.1%	129.6	4.1
5	ENEL Distributie Muntenia	Unlisted	Enel Group	12.0%	106.9	3.4
6	GDF Suez Energy Romania	Unlisted	GDF Suez	12.0%	91.4	2.9
7	ENEL Distributie Dobrogea	Unlisted	Enel Group	24.1%	85.7	2.7
8	E.ON Moldova Distributie SA ²	Unlisted	E.ON Group	22.0%	78.1	2.5
9	Electrica Distributie Muntenia Nord SA	Unlisted	Electrica Group	22.0%	66.9	2.1
10	CN Aeroporturi Bucuresti SA	Unlisted	Romanian State	20.0%	65.0	2.1
Top 1	0 Portfolio Holdings				2,412.0	76.5
NAV					3,159.2	100.0
NAV	Per Share (EUR)				0.2681	

Evolution of Shareholding Structure

FP's shareholding structure has evolved over the years with the stock trading at a massive discount of 60% to its NAV at the time of listing in January 2011. This was driven by very low volumes initially as the government held more than 40% stake in the company. Later that year, the government resumed the restitution process by awarding shares to individuals who had lost their assets during the communist regime. This created further selling pressure on the stock as the claimants started cashing out. The shareholding structure has undergone changes over the last few years and looks much better now with foreign individuals and institutions having the largest holding and Romanian individuals owing just 20% of total shares outstanding. As a result of this, and various other measures discussed above, the NAV discount

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has continued to come down over the years.



<u>Declining Share of Unlisted Investments in the Portfolio</u>

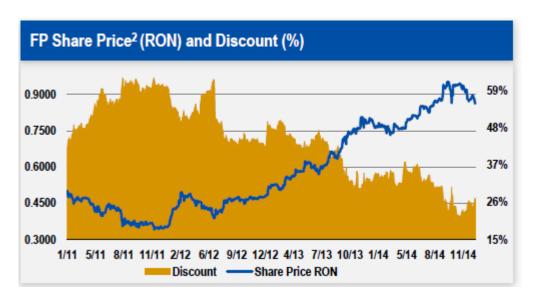
As a part of its mandate to bring the NAV discount below 15%, the fund manager's objective is to increase the listed part of the portfolio to 100%. The fund currently has 54 portfolio companies of which 17 are listed and 37 unlisted. Unlisted companies comprise approximately 45% of the total portfolio NAV. The share of unlisted companies has been coming down over the past couple of years and there are plans to get them further down by selling out some of these assets and listing the remaining on the stock exchanges. Management plans to dispose its stake in all the unlisted power and gas distribution companies which currently comprise of 23% of total NAV over the next 12-18 months. This will increase transparency and make the portfolio more liquid and easy to value.

Fund Manager Fee Aligned with Market Cap Expansion

The fund manager's [FTIM] compensation is structured in such a way that it aligns their personal interests with that of the fund's ordinary shareholders. FTIM receives a base fee of 0.6% of the average quarterly market cap of the fund. Additionally, it receives a distribution fee of 2% of the total non-dividend distributions which is applicable from September 2014 to October 2015 and 2% thereafter. Non-dividend distributions include share buy-backs, public tender buy-backs, reduction of the share capital, etc. The fund manager's performance is reviewed each year at the GSM and shareholders have the right to vote on the continuance of the mandate of the fund manager. In April 2014, the fund's shareholders had approved the extension of FTIM's contract for 2 more years.

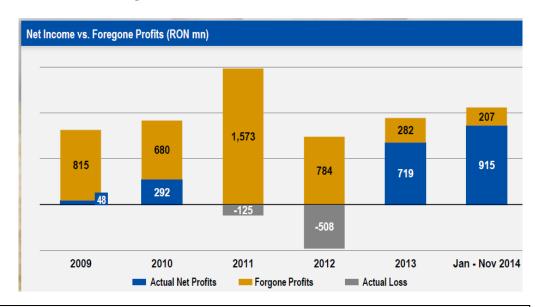
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The company has turned profitable since the last two years and is generating positive free cash flow. The company is now only selling 30% of electricity in the regulated market and expects to sell 100% to the free market by 2017. The company had 28% market share in Romanian power generation in 2013. The company was initially planning an IPO [dual listing in Bucharest and London] in June 2014 which got delayed due to pending litigations and insolvency proceedings. Management now anticipates an IPO in *late* 2015 *or early* 2016. The fund manager [FTIM], expects Ron170 mn in dividends from Hydroelectrica [25% of the total dividends received from underlying investments in 2014] after its IPO.



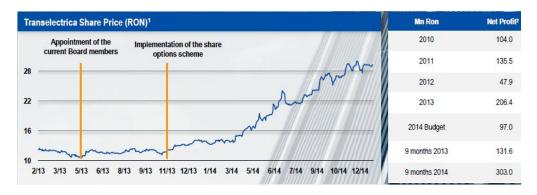
Turnaround @ Hidroelectrica [15% of NAV] from Insolvency

Hidroelectrica was placed into insolvency in June 2012 as the company was incurring losses, burning cash and owed a huge amount of money to creditors. This resulted from extreme mismanagement where the company had entered into bilateral contracts with energy traders which saw them selling electricity at 50%-60% discount to the market price. The company burned cash by incurring unnecessary CAPX and paid very high staff salaries. Unfavorable regulatory environment like high water tax, low electricity prices and poor hydrological conditions also contributed to the company's downfall. However, the company has shown an amazing turnaround since then as a result of key changes in the management team. The amount due to creditors has gone down from over Ron4 bn in 2012 to around Ron1.3 bn currently. The company has turned profitable since the last two years and is generating positive free cash flow. The company is now only selling 30% of electricity in the regulated market and expects to sell 100% to the free market by 2017. The company had 28% market share in Romanian power generation in 2013. The company was initially planning an IPO [dual listing in Bucharest and London] in June 2014 which got delayed due to pending litigations and insolvency proceedings. Management now anticipates an IPO in late 2015 or early 2016. The fund manager [FTIM], expects Ron170 mn in dividends from Hydroelectrica [25% of the total dividends received from underlying investments in 2014] after its IPO.



Investor Activism at the Underlying Investment Companies

From the time of getting the mandate to manage Fondul's fund in 2011, FTIM has acted as an activist investor at a number of underlying investment companies which has created value for the fund's shareholders. Net profits of the Fund's top 20 holdings have increased by 44.4% from 2011 to 2013, and dividends received have increased by 36.7% from 2011 to 2014. At Transelectrica, the fund manager was instrumental in bringing about a change in the compensation of the board members to align it with shareholder interest. In short, the board members were granted phantom options as their variable remuneration which was linked to share price performance. The stock has done well since then as a result of the improvement in the company's net profits. [See chart below].

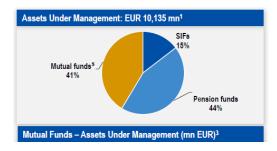


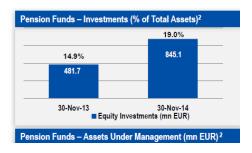
At another investment company, Constanta Port [APM], the fund manager vigorously pushed for changes in the board and there was a visible improvement in results post their appointment in November 2012.

RON mn	2011	2012	2013	% YoY	30.06.2013	30.06.
Operating revenues	244.3	269.6	285.9	+6.1%	132.4	137
Operating profit	51.0	46.3	76.6	+65.6%	33.7	50
Net Income	42.3	35.6	65.0	+82.8%	29.7	41

Growing Local Institutional Investor Base

The Romanian capital markets continue to evolve with growing local institutional investor base. Assets under management for the mutual funds have increased steadily over the years from Euro255 mn in 2008 to over Euro 4.2 bn currently. Similarly, pension funds continue to increase their exposure to the equity markets. While their assets under management have grown from Euro209 mn in 2008 to Euro 4.2 bn currently, their investments have increased from 14.9% [as a % of total assets] in 2013 to 19% currently.

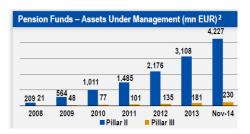




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Thus foreign investors are fully exposed to currency movements of the Romanian Leu [Bloomberg symbol RON; 3.88 to the USD; 4.50 to the EUR]. RON has been essentially flat versus the Euro YTD in 2015, as well as the year 2014. Against the US\$, the picture is a lot different. YTD in 2015, the RON is down -4.6% versus the USD, and down -14.3% in 2014, after appreciating +3.7% in 2013.



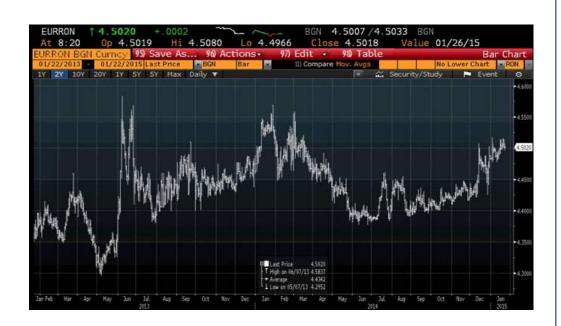


<u>Currency Risk – Important Factor for US\$ Investors</u>

Fondul is domiciled in Romania, as are all of the underlying investments. Thus foreign investors are fully exposed to currency movements of the Romanian Leu [Bloomberg symbol RON; 3.88 to the USD; 4.50 to the EUR]. RON has been essentially flat versus the Euro YTD in 2015, as well as the year 2014. Against the US\$, the picture is a lot different. YTD in 2015, the RON is down -4.6% versus the USD, and down -14.3% in 2014, after appreciating +3.7% in 2013. Given that the RON has been flat versus the Euro suggests that the weakness versus the US\$ is not so much about RON weakness, but general broad-based US\$ strength. In that respect, many currencies globally are experiencing similar weakness against the dollar.

Clearly, as can be seen from the chart below, investors have lumped in the Romanian currency with the broader Eastern European country basket, which in turn has been negatively impacted by the issues plaguing the Russian currency. Many of the Eastern European nations have close economic ties with Russia, in addition to the geographic proximity. Importantly, Romania does not have such linkages with Russia, and only 4% of its exports are with that country. In fact, Russia is not even one of Romania's top 10 trading partners. So we feel that with a one-year view, the RON has clearly over-shot versus the US\$ and will add to USA clients returns on Fondul's stock, while conceding that the 3-6 month view is much more difficult a call and it is a risk for clients to assess. If investors can hedge it would make sense to do so in the very short-term, but we presume that is not a practical proposition and it would be prohibitively expensive especially in today's market environment.

Importantly, as detailed in this report, Romania appears to have its economic house in order, and key metrics such as GDP growth, inflation, budget and current-account deficit, foreign currency reserves, etc. do not support the recent fall in the currency. It is clear that the RON's actions are not about Romania per se, but Romania being perhaps a decent house in a bad neighborhood, and investors are shooting first and not bothering to ask any questions. In this regard, the steep slide in the Russian ruble has snowballed in the past several months coinciding with the steep fall in oil prices. Interestingly, on November 27, 2014, the day of the OPEC meeting in Vienna where the group took no action to counter weak oil prices, Brent was trading at \$78, and the Ruble was \$47. Since that day of the OPEC "non announcement", Brent has declined as much as -42% [to a low of \$45], while the Ruble has plunged -38% to today's level. For what it's worth, we believe that Brent has already seen its recent lows. Our view is based on the surge in news related to supply-side cuts in the past couple weeks; there appears to be cascading announcements of huge CAPX, expense, and labor cuts. The market is reacting rapidly to the steep plunge in oil, and a significant supply-side response is well and truly underway. If this is correct, this should likely ease the pressure on the Ruble, and other currencies such as the RON which have been caught up in the downdraft may decouple and trade on its own merits.





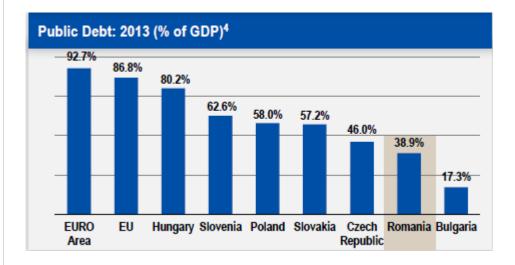
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Name	Price	Net Chg	Time	1D%1	5D%	1M%	3M%	6M%	YTD9
10) Iceland Krona (BGN)	131.75	07	8:21	+.053	091	-3.863	-8.083	-12.751	-3.188
II) Bulgarian Lev (BGN)	1.6829		8:21						
12) Hungarian Forint (BGN)	271.31		8:21	+.100	+2.153				-3.564
13) New Romanian Leu (BG	3.8734		8:21						
14) Polish Zloty (BGN)	3.6981		8:21	+.160	+.289			-16.892	
15) Israeli Shekel (BGN)	3.9308	0112	8:21	+.285	120	649	-4.508	-13.069	817
16) Czech Koruna (BGN)	24.0016		8:21	+.335					
I)) South African Rand (BG	11.4667	0469	8:21	+.409	+.846	+.925	-4.070	-7.796	+.906
18) Turkish Lira (BGN)	2.3338		8:21					-9.761	+.051
19) Russian Ruble (BGN)	64.5759		8:21						

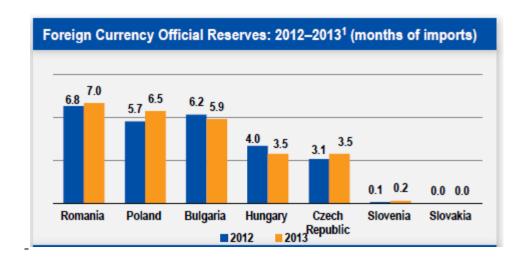
Romanian Economy

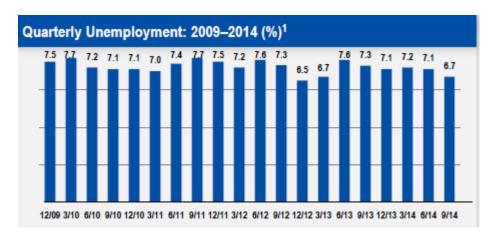
Overall, the Romanian economy remains relatively stable and continues to show improvement in the broader macro-economic variables. Romania joined the European Union on January 01, 2007 and initially hoped to adopt the Euro in 2014, but with the deepening of the Euro crisis and with its own problems, such as a low workforce productivity, postponed its adoption plans indefinitely. Until 2008, Romanian economic growth was among the fastest in Europe [officially 8.4% in 2008 and more than three times the EU average]. However, the economy took a hit during the 2009 financial crisis but has recovered since then with improvement in the GDP growth numbers [3.5% growth in 2013 and 3% expected in 2014].

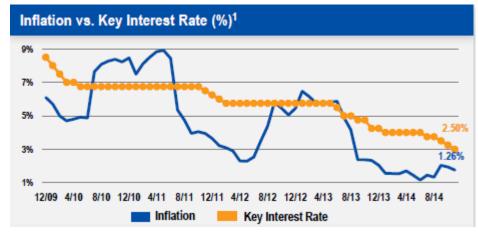


The country's public debt remains the second lowest in the Eastern European economies at 38.9% vs. 92.7% for the Euro Area. The current account deficit continues to come down from a high of 13.4% in 2007 to 1.1% in 2013 while the budget deficit has come down from 8.5% in 2009 to 2.5% in 2013. The inflation rate also remains quite comfortable at 1.26%.









The company plans a secondary listing in London which was first expected to happen in December 2014. However, the regulators rejected changes to the local regulation. There seems to be two possible scenarios now: either the company overcomes the regulators' concerns over the draft regulations or takes advantage of new regulations introduced that allow secondary listings via GDR [Global Depositary Receipt]. *The latter requires more* paperwork which means the IPO may get delayed.

Catalysts

London Listing

The company plans a secondary listing in London which was first expected to happen in December 2014. However, the regulators rejected changes to the local regulation. There seems to be two possible scenarios now: either the company overcomes the regulators' concerns over the draft regulations or takes advantage of new regulations introduced that allow secondary listings via GDR [Global Depositary Receipt]. The latter requires more paperwork which means the IPO may get delayed. Whichever route the company eventually takes remains to be seen, but we remain confident that the IPO will certainly happen within the next few months and would significantly boost the stock price. At the GSM held On January 20, 2015, management said that it plans the London listing by April-May of this year.

Robust IPO Pipeline to Unlock Value

The company has an outstanding track record of many successful IPOs in the past. In October 2013, the Ministry of Economy sold 15% stake in Romgaz, in a highly successful IPO on the Bucharest Stock Exchange which also included a GDR issue in London. Just after two months in December 2013, Fondul sold its entire 14.99% stake in Transgaz [TGN_RO] at RON 172/share via an accelerated book building process which was oversubscribed multiple times. Investment in Hidroelectrica which comprises 15% of NAV is a great turnaround story [filed for bankruptcy in June 2012 to cancel or renegotiate loos-making contracts] and continues to make good progress with an IPO expected in late 2015/early 2016. Some of the other IPO's in the pipeline include CE Oletina, Administratia Porturilor Maritime [Constanta Port – Romania's largest seaport], Aeroporturi Bucuresti [Bucharest Airport] and Salrom. This will provide greater visibility to the underlying assets and is likely to result in a further reduction in the NAV discount.

Development of the Romanian Capital Market

The Romanian capital markets are currently undergoing numerous capital market changes which will provide easier access to foreign investors to invest in the locally-listed stocks. This is very positive for Fondul's underlying listed investments as the fund's London listing will improve the visibility of its underlying investments thereby increasing the possibility of them getting re-rated as they remain high quality and inexpensive.

Development of the Romanian Capital Market - The 8 Barriers

The Great Barriers Shift Task force, dedicated to creating a modern, international capital market in Romania, identified 8 barriers which make the Romanian capital market difficult to access and trade:

- Access to the local market opening an account can take up to 6 months while in other CEE countries it takes up to few hours
- Fiscal registration |- lengthy, time-consuming and expensive process
- Investors' corporate rights difficult participation and voting process
- Dividend payment the process is not aligned to European standards; shareholders should receive their dividends automatically instead of going through different procedures
- Excessive costs related to the trading activity the market access costs' are very high and discouraging for the international investors
- Vague fiscal treatment regarding transactions on the capital market the value of the market transactions is negatively
 impacted by the fiscal treatment
- Primary market current listing and IPO procedures are inflexible and too formal
- Bonds market old and inflexible regulation environment

Proposals for legislative changes to eliminate the 8 barriers are now in force.

Disposing Unlisted Investments

Unlisted companies comprise approximately 45% of the total portfolio NAV. The share of unlisted companies has been coming down over the past couple of years and there are plans to get them further down by selling out some of these assets and listing the remaining on the stock exchanges. Management plans to dispose its stake in all the unlisted power and gas distribution companies which currently comprise of 23% of total NAV over the next 12-18 months. This will increase transparency and make the portfolio more liquid and easy to value.

Rebound in Oil Prices

Currently, energy assets comprise approximately 45% of the fund's total assets. This is both a risk as well as catalyst for the stock, in our view. While nobody can predict the movement in the oil prices in the near-term, our in-house view on oil is that it has likely bottomed out. While it might linger on at the current levels for some time, it will eventually rebound to \$70-80 levels in 12-18 months, in our view. This will be a positive catalyst for the energy stocks in the fund's portfolio.

Liberalization of Energy Markets

The Romanian energy market liberalization should help the profitability of the energy companies in the fund's portfolio. Gas prices for non-households are already fully liberalized while the subsidy for the households is likely to run until 2021 and fully liberalized thereafter.

Recent Results

For the nine months ended September, the company reported an 8% increase in the revenues from financial assets to Ron669.8 mn which represent dividend income earned from the fund's portfolio companies. The company disposed financial assets [represents proceeds from sales of portfolio company holdings which include Transelectrica, Transilvania Com and Severnav] worth Ron979.1 mn which resulted in an 84% YoY increase in overall revenues to Ron1699.4 mn. Total expenses increased 77% Yoy to Ron690.9 mn while the net income increased by 84% YoY to Ron984.5 mn. Excluding the asset sales, net income was up 4.8% YoY. As of October 31, 2014, the fund's NAV stood at Ron1.20 per share vs. the stock price of Ron0.94, implying a 22.1% discount.

Any future plans especially to enhance shareholders return like return of capital or more listings could be delayed or even completely rejected by the regulators thereby affecting the stock prices.

Given that the RON has been flat versus the Euro suggests that the weakness versus the US\$ is not so much about RON weakness, but general broad-based US\$ strength. In that respect, many currencies globally are experiencing similar weakness against the dollar.

Income Statement

RON million	Quarter 3 2013	Quarter 3 2014	9 month period ended 30 September 2013	9 month period ended 30 September 2014
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
Revenues from current activity, out of which:	49.8	246.8	924.6	1,699.4
Revenues from financial assets	15.0	20.0	619.8	669.8
Interest income	10.4	8.4	31.1	16.8
Reversal of impairment adjustments & provisions	23.6	0.2	24.6	30.2
Revenues from disposal of financial assets	0.2	216.7	248.0	979.1
Revenues from foreign exchange differences	-	0.1	0.1	1.4
Other income from current activity	0.6	1.4	1.0	2.1
Expenses from current activity, out of which:	29.2	307.7	389.4	690.9
Expenses from disposal of financial assets	0.2	277.4	319.1	605.6
Expenses from foreign exchange differences	-	0.1	0.1	2.2
Depreciation, provisions, losses from receivables and sundry debtors	11.1	0.1	12.7	2.1
Commissions and fees	4.3	9.0	15.7	23.1
Other expenses from current activity*	13.6	21.1	41.8	57.9
Gross profit / (loss)	20.6	(60.9)	535.2	1,008.5
Income tax expense	-	9.1	-	24.0
Net profit / (loss)	20.6	(70.0)	535.2	984.5

* Other expenses from current activity include bank charges and utilities expenses, salary costs, third party expenses as well as duties and other taxes.

Risks

Regulatory Risks

Regulatory risks remain one of the key risks for the company as seen in the past. Events reported in the past include: failure to approve cancellation of shares repurchased [till date] for the first time in May 2011 though the request was submitted with the regulators in May 2012, rejecting introduction of a variable fee on excess distribution though strongly approved at the shareholders meeting, etc. Any future plans especially to enhance shareholders return like return of capital or more listings could be delayed or even completely rejected by the regulators thereby affecting the stock prices.

Currency Risk

Fondul is domiciled in Romania, as are all of the underlying investments. Thus foreign investors are fully exposed to currency movements of the Romanian Leu [Bloomberg symbol RON; 3.88 to the USD; 0.222 to the EUR]. RON has been essentially flat versus the Euro YTD in 2015, as well as the year 2014. Against the US\$, the picture is a lot different. YTD in 2015, the RON is down -4.6% versus the USD, and down -14.3% in 2014, after appreciating +3.7% in 2013. Given that the RON has been flat versus the Euro suggests that the weakness versus the US\$ is not so much about RON weakness, but general broad-based US\$ strength. In that respect, many currencies globally are experiencing similar weakness against the dollar.

Further Delay in London Listing

The initially planned listing on LSE has already been delayed due to regulatory rejection. In the past, the company failed to go ahead with its planned secondary listing in Poland as the regulators did not approve of the regulatory changes required to establish the link between the two countries. If the company fails to take the alternative GDR route and does not list, it may weaken the investor confidence in the stock and affect stock price.

Political Risk

Though Romania looks much more invest-able unlike some years ago, political risk including delays in implementation of the reforms, arbitrary taxation on portfolio companies was reported in the historical past. Any negative news on the country could meaningfully impact the stock prices.

High Energy Exposure

One of our main concerns with Fondul is its high exposure to energy assets which currently comprise 45% of the NAV. While oil looks to have bottomed out from its lows of \$45, any further decline in oil prices from current levels will put pressure on the fund's underlying energy assets.

Key Underlying Investments

OVM Petrom [SNP RO; US\$ 5bn Mkt. Cap; 35% of NAV]

Fondul currently has a 19% stake in the company which is valued at Ron4 bn or ~35% of its total NAV. Petrom is an integrated oil and gas company majority owned by the OMV Group [Austrian listed company; OMV AV] with a 51% stake. The other key holder is the Romanian Ministry of Economy with a 20.64% stake. Petrom is the second largest natural gas producer in Romania with a 47% market share. The company derives 48% of its revenues from Refining & Marketing activities, 40% from Exploration & Production and the remaining 12% from Gas & Power. The stock remains cheap and very attractively valued in our view. The company has proven oil & gas reserves of 775m boe in Romania and Kazakhstan, annual refining capacity of 4.5m tonnes and a network of over 800 filling stations. The company's current exploration in the Black Sea deepwater [a 50/50 JV wih ExxonMobil] looks promising and can result in value creation if successful. In 2012, the company published results from the first test well which indicated 1.5-3.0 tcf of gas. This asset alone could yield around 6 bcm/year, versus OMV Petrom's current gas production of around 5 bcm/year according to the fund manager FTIM. In its most recent investor presentation, management noted that the 2nd test well is in progress with results expected in H2 2014. A final investment decision is expected in 2016 with production starting from 2019.



OMV Petrom vs. Peer Companies

Current Market Cap: EUR 4,998 mn1

Petrom vs. Peer Companies ² Petrom Romgaz OMV MOL PGNIG Hellenic Petroleum		P/E		P/B			EV/EBITDA			EV/Sales		
	2012	2013	2014e	2012	2013	2014e	2012	2013	2014e	2012	2013	2014e
Petrom	5.2	4.9	6.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.8	2.6	2.8	0.9	0.9	1.0
Romgaz	12.3	13.1	8.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	5.7	5.4	4.0	2.7	2.8	2.3
OMV	4.7	5.9	7.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	2.8	3.0	3.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
MOL	5.6	11.2	11.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	4.1	4.5	5.1	0.4	0.4	0.5
PGNIG	11.0	8.4	9.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	7.0	4.9	4.7	1.2	1.0	1.0
Hellenic Petroleum	4.9	(10.1)	(22.2)	0.5	0.5	0.5	7.4	16.4	10.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Repsol YPF	9.4	10.5	11.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.0	4.8	5.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Statoil	6.5	8.1	9.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.4	0.6	0.7	0.8
Mean	7.5	6.5	5.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.5	5.5	4.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Median	6.0	8.3	8.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.5	4.7	4.4	0.6	0.6	0.7

Hydroelectrica [Unlisted; 15% of NAV]

Fondul has a 20% stake in the company which approximates to 15% of its total NAV. Hidroelectrica is a government owned hydroelectric company and one of the biggest producers of electricity in Romania with 28% total power generation in Romania in 2013. The company was placed into insolvency in June 2012 as the company was incurring losses, burning cash and owed a huge amount of money to creditors. This resulted from extreme mismanagement where the company had entered into bilateral contracts with energy traders which saw them selling electricity at 50%-60% discount to the market price. The company burned cash by incurring unnecessary CAPX and paid very high staff salaries. Unfavorable regulatory environment like high water tax, low electricity prices and poor hydrological conditions also contributed to the company's downfall. However, the company has shown amazing turnaround since then as a result of key changes in the management team. The amount due to creditors has gone down from over Ron4 bn in 2012 to around Ron1.3 bn currently. The company has turned profitable since the last two years and is generating positive free cash flows. The company is now only selling 30% of electricity in the regulated market and expects to sell 100% to the free market by 2017. The company 28% market share in Romanian power generation in 2013. The company was initially planning an IPO [dual listing in Bucharest and London] in June 2014 which got delayed due to pending litigations and insolvency proceedings. Management now anticipates an IPO in late 2015 or early 2016. The fund manager [FTIM], expects Ron170 mn in dividends from Hydroelectrica [25% of the total dividends received from underlying investments in 2014] after its IPO.

Hidroelectrica - Valuation

Curent Market Cap: EUR 2,386 mn¹ Based on 2014 Multiples

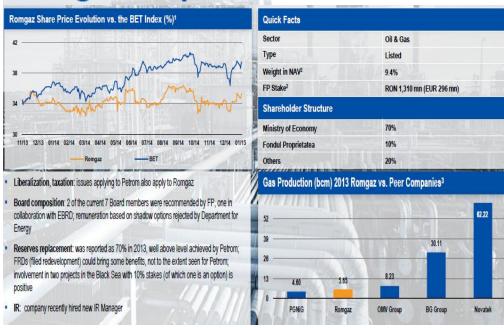
		P	E			P	В		EV/EBITDA			
	2011	2012	2013	2014e	2011	2012	2013	2014e	2011	2012	2013	2014e
Hidroelectrica	1,634.4	N/A ²		42.8		0.7	0.6	0.6	13.6		5.9	9.3
RusHydro	6.1		10.8	6.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.4	7.1	5.4	5.3
Verbund	14.0	12.7	8.5	22.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	9.8	7.7	5.8	11.1
Aes Tiete	7.7	7.2	7.4	6.1	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.0	4.6	4.4	4.5	
CEZ	7.7	7.6	8.8	12.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.8
EDF	15.2	14.6	13.6	11.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	6.2	5.2	5.1	5.2
RWE	8.8	13.8	-	13.2	1.2	1.5	1.2	-	5.0	2.9	2.6	-
Iberdrola	11.0	12.3	13.0	14.6	0.9	1.0	0.9	-	8.2	7.5	8.0	-
ENEA	8.9	10.1	9.9	11.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.7
Tauron	7.5	6.4	7.1	10.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	5.1	4.0	4.2	4.7
PGE	8.0	10.8	9.5	12.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	4.8	3.9	4.8	5.3
EDL Laos	9.3	10.5	-	8.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	-	10.7	12.1	-	-
Mean	9.5	10.6	9.8	11.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.3	5.8	5.0	6.0
Median	8.8	10.7	9.5	11.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.3
Value ³		31 May 2012 (RON mn)		30 June 2012 (RON mn)		31 December (RON mi			cember 2013 RON mn)		28 February (RON m	
Hidroelectrica SA		3 288 71		0.00		2 001 00	1		2 239 41		2 105 1	6

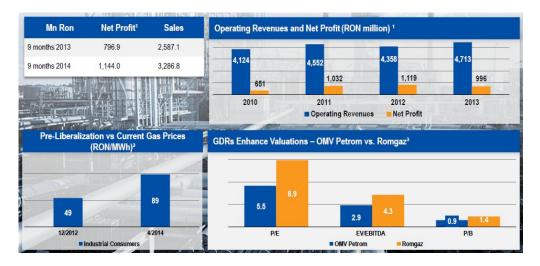


Romgaz [SNG RO/SNGR LI; US\$3.5 bn Mkt. Cap; 9% of NAV]

Fondul has a 10% stake in Romgaz which approximates to 9.4% of its total NAV. Romgaz is a market leader with over 50% market share in natural gas production and supply in Romania. The stock has done well since its IPO in November 2013 on the Bucharest stock exchange as well as the London stock exchange [GDR]. The IPO price was set at Ron30/share and the stock is up 25% since then including Ron 2.57cents in dividends. The company continues to be a beneficiary of liberalization selling all its gas to the industrial users at the market price. Household consumers, which represent 20% of the market, are currently under the government subsidy program but are expected to pay the market price from 2021.



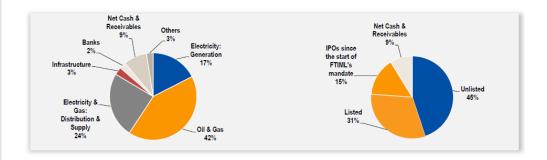




Business Description

Fondul Proprietatea is a closed-end investment company established by the Romanian government in 2005 to provide restitution to Romanians who lost property under the former communist governments. Fondul is the second-largest listed firm on the Romanian stock exchange with a market cap of US\$3.0 bn. The fund's underlying investment companies remain profitable and generally operate in the oil & gas production, electricity generation and distribution utilities and other core infrastructure sectors of the economy. Additionally, most of these companies are the largest players in their industries and enjoys monopoly positions most of the times.

Portfolio Structure – 28 November 2014



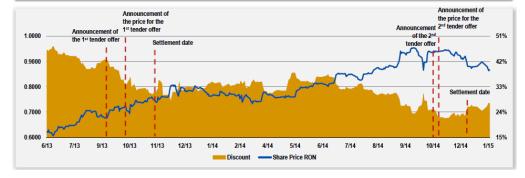
- · As at 28 November 2014, the portfolio included stakes in 54 companies (17 listed and 37 unlisted)
- · No new investments were made by the Fund in 2014
- The Fund Manager's objective is to increase the listed part of the portfolio to 100%

Appendix:

Source: Company Reports

Buy-Back Programs

Tender	Announcement date	Status			FP pre-announcement share price (RON/share)	Premium to pre- announcement share price (%)	Discount of offer price to NAV (%)
First	25 September 2013	Completed	600,000,000	1.00	0.7230	38.31%	15.12%
Second	20 October 2014	Completed	750,000,000	1.11	0.8965	23.81%	10.76%



Dividend Income - Top 20 Portfolio Companies

2013² 36	2012	2011	2242				
36		2011	2010	2014	2013	2012	2011
	40	47	46	331.4	319.0	353.1	201.6
_	_	_		_	_	_	52.5
99	85	91	109	148.5	158.9	140.6	106.0
_	_	_	56	_	_	_	20.2
_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
60	50	-	40	33.6	22.8	_	9.6
_	_	_	56	_	_	_	13.5
_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_
83	84	12	_	23.2	16.2	1.8	_
NA	85	89	117	NA	9.1	9.4	9.9
81	83	_	_	27.9	2.3	_	_
_	_	25	25	_	_	3.6	2.1
83	_	_	_	11.7	_	_	_
83	-	-	_	12.7	_	_	_
_	_	_	_	_	29.9	_	_
_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_
_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
94	92	90	90	8.8	8.4	6.6	7.0
_	85	N/A	N/A	_	10.3	N/A	N/A
NA	92	90	90	NA	9.3	0.1	0.8
				597.8	586.2	515.2	423.2
				538.6	373.9	450.1	304.0
				131.2	275.8 ⁶	168.9	215.1
				669.8	649.7	619.0	519.1
				0.0500°	0.050008	0.04089	0.03854
				0.939510	0.7640 ⁷	0.66004	0.5550 ⁵
				5.32%	6.54%	6.20%	6.94%
				3.50%	5.10%	5.09%	4.21%
	99 — — 60 — 83 NA 81 — 83 83 — — 94 — —	99 85	99 85 91 60 50 83 84 12 NA 85 89 81 83 83 83 94 92 90 94 92 90 85 NIA NA 92 90	99 85 91 109 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 56 83 84 12 17 81 83 55 25 25 83 25 25 83 25 25 83 25 25 25 83	99 85 91 109 148.5	99 85 91 109 148.5 158.9 56	99 85 91 109 148.5 158.9 140.6



Source: Bloomberg

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Value Investment Principals Ltd.

Peninsula Centre – Suite 804-805 67 Mody St, TST - Kowloon Hong Kong www.vipglogalresearch.com

Sandy Mehta, CFA sandy@vipglobalresearch.com USA: (1) 617-848-8279 HK: (852) 64788613

Vijay Lohia, CFA vijay@vipglobalresearch.com Phone: (1) 617-996-9260

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