FINANTSINSPEKTSIOON

Company AS Tallink Grupp

Type Company Release

Category Management interim statement or quaterly financial report

Disclosure time 09 Nov 2017 09:50:00 +0200

Attachments:

- Tallink Grupp 2017-Q3 ENG.pdf (http://oam.fi.ee/en/download?id=3196)

- Tallink Grupp 2017-Q3 EST.pdf (http://oam.fi.ee/en/download?id=3197)

Currency

Title AS Tallink Grupp Unaudited Consolidated Interim Report Q3 2017

Tallinn, 2017-11-09 08:50 CET (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --AS Tallink Grupp Unaudited Consolidated Interim Report Q3 2017

In the third quarter (1 July - 30 September) of 2017, Tallink Grupp AS and its subsidiaries (the Group) carried 2.9 million passengers, 2% more than in the third quarter of 2016. The Group's unaudited third-quarter revenue grew by 3.3% to EUR 282.7 million (EUR 273.6 million, Q3 2016). Unaudited EBITDA for the third quarter improved by 12.3% to EUR 75.4 million (EUR 67.1 million, Q3 2016) and unaudited net profit increased by 11.7% to EUR 47.8 million (EUR 42.8 million, Q3 2016).

In the third quarter, the Group's revenue and operating result were impacted by following operational factors:

after the rerouting of ships in December 2016, carriage capacity increased on a number of operated routes;
in the third quarter of 2017, during June and August, one cruise ferry operated the Tallinn - Helsinki route in contrast to two cruise ferries in last year;

increased competition on Tallinn - Helsinki route.

Sales and segments

In the third-quarter, the revenues from all core operational segments increased compared to third quarter last year. The shops and restaurant revenue increased by EUR 3 million and ticket revenue by EUR 1.2 million, the growth was supported by the 2% increase of passenger number. The third-quarter cargo revenue increased by EUR 3.5 million compared to same period last year, the growth was supported by the increase of number of transported cargo units in all geographical segments.



The third-quarter revenue of the Estonia - Finland routes decreased by 6% compared to same period last year. The decrease was driven by decline in passenger numbers that was attributable to smaller total carriage capacity on the routes and increased competition from added capacity by competitors during the summer high season. Despite lower revenue, the Estonia - Finland routes segment result improved as more optimal operating costs resulting from three vessels on the Tallinn - Helsinki route. On the Tallinn - Helsinki route the new Shuttle ferry Megastar started operating in January 2017, next to Shuttle ferry Star. On the Tallinn - Helsinki route cruise service only one cruise ferry is operating in 2017, compared to two cruise ferries in the period of March to August in 2016.

The third-quarter revenue of the Finland-Sweden routes increased by 4% compared to same period last year. Growth was supported by a 1.8% higher passenger number and by a 13.7% increase of number of transported cargo units. The segment's third quarter result increased by EUR 1.9 million, compared to same period last year, amounting to EUR 17.9 million.

The Estonia-Sweden routes third-quarter revenue grew by 8.6% compared to same period last year. Growth was supported by an 8.1% higher passenger number. The number of transported cargo units increased by 2.9%. The segment's result increased by 4.9% to EUR 7.8 million compared to same period last year.

The Latvia-Sweden route third-quarter revenue increased by 66.4% compared to same period last year and the number of transported cargo units increased by 120%. The segment's third-quarter result increased by 4.2% to EUR 4.4 million. Since December 2016, two ships have been operating on the route compared to one ship in the third quarter last year.

Earnings

In the third quarter of 2017, the Group's gross profit grew by EUR 5.2 million compared to the same period last year, amounting to EUR 81.9 million. Third-quarter EBITDA increased by EUR 8.3 million to EUR 75.4 million. Third quarter growth was driven by a higher number of passengers and transported cargo units, attributable to the higher capacity, and more optimal operating costs resulting from three vessels on the Tallinn - Helsinki route. On the other hand, the result was also impacted by a year-on-year rise in fuel costs.

Net finance costs decreased by EUR 0.3 million compared to the third quarter last year mainly from lower interest expenses. The total exchange rate differences and the revaluation of cross currency and interest rate derivatives were on the same level.

The Group's unaudited net profit for the third quarter of 2017 was EUR 47.8 million or EUR 0.071 per share compared to a net profit of EUR 42.8 million or EUR 0.064 per share in the same period last year.

Results of the first 9 months of 2017

In the first 9 months (1 January - 30 September) of 2017, the Group carried 7.4 million passengers which is 2.9% more compared to the same period last year. The Group's unaudited revenue for the period increased by 3.2% to EUR 734.1 million. Unaudited EBITDA increased almost by EUR 10 million and amounted to EUR 129.5 million (EUR 119.6 million, 9M 2016), unaudited net profit for the period was EUR 45.4 million (EUR 40.6 million, 9M 2016 net profit).

The financial result for the first 9 months 2017 was influenced by the scheduled maintenance of five cruise ferries in the first quarter of 2017 and a rise in carriage capacity on several routes after the rerouting of vessels in December 2016. In the first nine months the competition in the maritime traffic between Estonia and Finland has increased, which has put pressure on ticket prices.

Financial position

In the third quarter, the Group's net debt decreased by EUR 18.6 million to EUR 635.2 million. The net debt to EBITDA ratio was 4.0 at the reporting date.

At the end of the third quarter, total liquidity (cash, cash equivalents and unused credit facilities) amounted to EUR 87.5 million (EUR 116.3 million, 30 September 2016) providing a strong financial position for sustainable operations. The Group had EUR 80.2 million (EUR 88.8 million, 30 September 2016) in cash and cash equivalents and EUR 7.3 million (EUR 27.5 million, 30 September 2016) in unused credit lines.

KEY FIGURES

For the period	Q3 2017	Q3 2016	Change %
Revenue (million euros)	282.7	273.6	3.3%
Gross profit (million euros)	81.9	76.8	6.7%
Net profit for the period (million euros)	47.8	42.8	11.7%
EBITDA (million euros)	75.4	67.1	12.3%
Depreciation and amortisation (million euros) Capital expenditures (million euros) Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding Earnings per share	22.2 2.4 669 882 040 0.071	19.3 15.1 669 882 040 0.064	15.3% -84.1% 0.0% 11.7%
Number of passengers	2 912 759	2 855 112	2.0%
Number of cargo units	91 335	81 170	12.5%
Average number of employees	7 566	7 366	2.7%



As at
Total assets (million euros)
Total liabilities (million euros)

Total assets (million euros)	1 714.5	1 739.0	-1.4%
Total liabilities (million euros)	875.6	948.0	-7.6%
Interest-bearing liabilities (million euros)	715.3	735.7	-2.8%
Net debt (million euros)	635.2	653.7	-2.8%
Net debt to EBITDA	4.0	4.3	-7.9%
Total equity (million euros)	838.9	791.1	6.0%
Equity ratio (%)	48.9%	45.5%	
Number of ordinary shares outstanding	669 882 040	669 882 040	0.0%
Equity per share	1.25	1.18	6.0%
Ratios	Q3 2017	Q3 2016	
Gross margin (%)	29.0%	28.1%	
EBITDA margin (%)	26.7%	24.5%	
Net profit margin (%)	16.9%	15.7%	

30.09.17 30.06.17

Change %

EBITDA: Earnings before net financial items, share of profit of equity accounted investees, taxes, depreciation and amortisation Earnings per share: net profit / weighted average number of shares outstanding Equity ratio: total equity / total assets Equity per share: shareholder's equity / number of shares outstanding Gross margin: gross profit / revenue EBITDA margin: EBITDA / revenue Net profit margin: net profit / revenue Net debt: interest-bearing liabilities less cash and cash equivalentsNet debt to EBITDA: net debt / 12-months trailing EBITDA

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Unaudited, in thousands of EUR	Q3 2017	Q3 2016	9M 2017	9M 2016
Revenue (Note 3) Cost of sales		273 615 -196 839	734 121 -578 026	711 670 -560 154
Gross profit	81 946	76 776	156 095	151 516
Sales and marketing expenses Administrative expenses Other operating income Other operating expenses	-17 068 -11 780 108 -38	-16 571 -12 548 180 22	-54 182 -37 234 444 -182	-53 166 -38 825 1 753 -6
Result from operating activities	53 168	47 859	64 941	61 272



Finance income (Note 4) Finance costs (Note 4)	-102 -5 214	4 398 -9 999	-23 183	-29 685
Profit/loss before income tax	47 852	42 258		
Income tax	-12	580	-4 138	245
Net profit/loss for the period		42 838		
foreign operations		-99		-264
		-99		-264
Total comprehensive income/expense for the period	47 800	42 739	45 404	40 328
Basic and diluted earnings per share (in EUR per share, note 5)				
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIC	NC			
Unaudited, in thousands of EUR		30.09.2017	31.12.2	2016
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables		80 161 51 951		773 674
Prepayments			50	
Prepaid income tax		34		91
Inventories		46 314	38	719
Current assets		192 381	164	183
Investments in equity-accounted investees		363		363
Other financial assets		353		348
Deferred income tax assets		18 797		791
Investment property		300		300
Property, plant and equipment (Note 7) Intangible assets (Note 8)		1 452 732 49 579		897 127





Non-current assets TOTAL ASSETS			124 505 =====			
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Interest-bearing loans and borrowings (Note 9) Trade and other payables Payables to owners ¹ Income tax liability Deferred income		96	855 505 3 4 010		103	280 4 10
Current liabilities		284	377		240	301
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings (Note 9) Derivatives (Note 6)			466 798		-	
Non-current liabilities Total liabilities		875	264 641		725	453
Share capital (Note 10) Share premium Reserves Retained earnings	.==:	361 70	736 639 958 531		361 68	736 639 774
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Parent Total equity		838 838	864		813 813	556 556
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1	714	505	1	539	009

¹ Payments related to reduction of share capital.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Unaudited, in thousands of EUR	9M 2017	9M 2016
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit/loss for the period	45 426	40 592
Adjustments	84 328	79 014
Changes in:		
Receivables and prepayments related to operating activities	-20 727	-9 914



Inventories Liabilities related to operating activities		238	-8 427 -326
Changes in assets and liabilities Cash generated from operating activities Income tax paid received/ paid		560 194	
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	96	203	99 318
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Purchase of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets (Notes 7, 8, 9)	-212	031	-46 197
Proceeds from disposals of property, plant, equipment Interest received		224 1	144 51
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	-211	806	-46 002
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES Proceeds from loans received (Note 9) Repayment of loans received (Note 9) Change in overdraft (Note 9) Payments for settlement of derivatives Payment of finance lease liabilities (Note 9) Interest paid Payment of transaction costs related to loans Dividends paid (Note 11) Reduction of share capital Income tax on dividends paid 	-51 27 -2 -16 -20 -4	698 -78 159 -216 096 -1 100	44 096 -3 341 -74 -18 434 0 -13 398
TOTAL NET CASH FLOW	1	388	6 796
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period Increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents	1	388	81 976 6 796
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period		161 =====	

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