2009E

Dividend Yield (%)

Israel

David Kaplan

LBIE, London

New

13206

4415

965

1867

0.70

6807

5.4

9.0

N/A

N/A

N/A

17.27

2010E

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European Telecom Services

Bezeq (BEZQ.TA - ILS 6.37) 1-Overweight

Earnings Review/Sales Analysis

Seeing Past the Overhang

Investment Conclusion

Bezeq reported solid 1Q 08 results. Revenues of ILS 3,100m were -2% vs. our estimates, EBITDA of 1,093m and net income of 398m were +9% and +8% vs. our estimates respectively. We continue to focus on three short-term catalysts that we believe will provide potential upside to current share price. Bezeq is our top pick in Israeli Telecoms.

Summary

- The nearest term catalyst is a potential resolution to the share overhang revolving around the sale of up to 17% of Bezeq's shares. Recent press reports (Haaretz and Globes) have spurred speculation that this will occur in the short term.
- The second catalyst is the potential changes to the regulatory environment expected at the end of the summer. We expect the Minister of Communications decisions will remove uncertainty surrounding the future of Bezeq's NGN.
- □ Lastly, the upgrade of Bezeq's wireless network expected to be operational in 1Q 09. The upgrade is the only catalyst that we have included in our financial model and is the main source of upside.

Stock Rating		Target F	Price	6
New:	1-Overweight	New:	ILS 9.00	5
Old:	1-Overweight	Old:	ILS 9.00	5
-				4

Sector View: 3-Negative

Currency ILS Actual Old New Old New Old Revenues (Cons.) 12400 12657 12636 12927 12961 N/A EBITDA (Cons.) 3949 4186 4252 4289 N/A 4124 1948 Free Cash Flow 1547 1381 N/A 1820 471 Net Income (m) 1361 1447 1604 1752 1752 N/A EPS (Adj.) 0.51 0.56 0.62 0.67 0.67 N/A Net Debt (m) 4023 4092 5184 3735 5736 N/A **EV/EBITDA** 5.0 N/A 5.1 N/A 5.2 N/A P/E 12.5 11.0 9.7 9.5 9.5 N/A **Market Data Financial Summary** 5-Year EPS CAGR (%) Market Cap (m) 16594 Units Outstanding (m) 2605.0 3-year EBITDA CAGR (%) Net Debt/EBITDA FY07 Float (%) 36

17.27

No

N/A

2008E

2007A

Stock Overview

Convertible

Shares per ADR

Net Distribution Yield (%)

FY Dec



Bioomberg	BEZQTI				
ADR	64063				
Performance	1M	3M	12M		
Absolute %	2	-7	-9		
Rel. Market %	1	-7	-4		
Rel. Sector %	0	0	0		

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Share Overhang

Recent press reports have implied that the receiver responsible for the 17% of Bezeq owned by Zeevi holdings is getting close to distributing the shares to the debt holders or to the market. The exact method by which the shares would be distributed is unclear but we believe that once the method is found that the stock will respond positively.

A little background:

- In October 1999 The Zeevi Group purchased a 19.6% stake in Bezeq for \$733 million. The acquisition was financed by the local Israeli banks whose share of the debt is shown in the chart below.
- In December 2001 Zeevi defaulted on a \$40 million payment to the banks, which triggered the banks to call redemption of all the debt, according to the credit agreement.
- In December 2002 the Israeli court appointed Alex Hartman as the official receiver of shares representing a 17.0% stake in Bezeq.

Privatisation efforts and other issues prevented the exercise of the shares in favor of debt redemption but it now seems that appears most issues have been resolved.

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⁵² Week Range 7.57 - 6.10

Figure 1: Local Bank's share of Zeevi Debt



Source: Israeli Securities Authority

Results review

Bezeq's 1st quarter results were better than market expectations. Group revenues of ILS 3,100m were flat vs. last year and -2% vs. LEH estimates, EBITDA was 1,093 (+1% and +9%) and net income of 398m was flat y-o-y and +8% vs. our estimates. EBITDA margins at each of the business proved more resilient to competition than we expected with particular strength in the fixed line business, Pelephone and YES.

Figure 1: Key Group Financials							
ILS m	Q1 07	Q2 07	Q3 07	Q4 07	2007	Q1 08	Q1 08 Est
Net Revenue	3,089	3,053	3,139	3,120	12,400	3,100	3,159
% Growth	2.5%	1.1%	1.8%	0.1%	1.4%	0.4%	2.3%
Underlying EBITDA	1,083	1,010	1,041	1,062	4,215	1,093	1,005
% Growth	11.0%	0.8%	1.5%	45.6%	12.9%	0.9%	-7.2%
% Margin	35.1%	33.1%	33.2%	34.0%	34.0%	35.3%	31.8%
Underlying EBIT	6,047	571	596	513	2,336	664	577
Net Income	399	361	255	315	1,330	398	368
Underlying Net Income	-174	376	253	343	1,414	-124	384
Capex	128	138	194	352	1,073	334	258
Capex / Revenue	4.1%	4.5%	6.2%	11.3%	8.7%	10.8%	8.2%
Underlying EBITDA - Capex	955	872	847	710	3,142	762	747
% Change	15.6%	2.3%	-7.5%	4914.5%	20.4%	-20.2%	-21.9%
Source: Company reports; Lehman Bros							

Pelephone

Pelephone had a solid Q1 in-line with its peers. Revenues of ILS 1,173m were slightly below our estimates of ILS 1,205m while EBITDA of 343m was ahead of our expectations by 5%. Number portability had an impact on inventory and cash flow but was not a significant factor in subscriber additions or ARPU. Pelephone added 118k 3G customers (most of these were upgrades of existing Pelephone subscribers). Average revenue per user (ARPU) was down significantly to 126 from 132 while minutes of use (MOU) were up (355 vs.

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344) implying growing data revenues. Capex was only 9% of revenues, somewhat suprising given the ongoing network upgrade. The UMTS upgrade will bring Pelepohne in-line with peers in terms of services, ARPU and EBITDA margin.

Figure 2: Pelephone

J i i i i i i							
ILS m	Q1 07	Q2 07	Q3 07	Q4 07	2007	Q1 08	Q1 08 Est
ARPU	132	129	135	130	131	126	139
MOU	344	350	363	358	354	355	347
Revenues	1,147	1,151	1,203	1,182	4,684	1,173	1,205
EBITDA	330	355	340	258	1,283	343	325
EBITDA Margin %	28.8%	30.8%	28.3%	21.8%	27.4%	29.2%	27.0%
Capex	75	75	81	117	376	103	203
Capex/Revenue %	6.5%	6.5%	6.7%	9.9%	8.0%	8.8%	16.9%
Source: Company reports: Lehman Bros es	stimates						

Bezeq Fixed Line

In no real surprise Bezeq's fixed line business continued to lose market share to HOT (the cable operator) although the rate at which customers are switching has begun to slow. We believe that Bezeq's market share in the residential market will fall below 85% during the next quarter but that falling much below 80% is not a likely scenario. HOT telecom has offered a triple-play (multi-channel television, broadband Internet and fixed line telephony) ever since December 2005. The triple play is priced at close to a 20% discount to what Bezeq charges for the same services without bundling. We believe that the introduction of LNP removed the last excuse for consumers who had not yet moved to HOT and wanted to and gave HOT a significant boost in market share in 4Q 07 and 1Q 08. In our view, the market is now in a position where the consumers that wanted to switch to HOT have done so and the significant changes in market share are behind us. Furthermore, once Bezeq's market share falls below 85% it will be able to be more competitive on pricing and potential compete with HOT on a bundled service offering.

Figure 3: Fixed							
ILS m	Q1 07	Q2 07	Q3 07	Q4 07	2007	Q1 08	Q1 08 Est
Fixed Subs	2,797	2,778	2,767	2,761	2,761	2,713	2,751
ADSL Subs	912	924	942	963	963	970	0
ARPU	86	83	84	83	84	85	78
MOU	348	356	383	388	280	394	280
Revenues	1,442	1,393	1,425	1,453	5,713	1,408	1,442
EBITDA	607	478	563	573	2,221	586	534
EBITDA Margin %	42.1%	34.3%	39.5%	39.4%	38.9%	41.6%	37.0%
Capex	0	0	0	118	351	124	0
Capex/Revenue %	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	6.1%	8.8%	0.0%
Source: Company reports; Lehman Bros est	imates						

Bezeq International

Bezeq International's revenues and EBITDA were slowed by a highly competitive long distance (ILD) and Internet service provider (ISP) markets. Revenues were 314m and EBITDA margin was 24% a mixed result.

Figure 4: Bezq Int'l							
ILS m	Q1 07	Q2 07	Q3 07	Q4 07	2007	Q1 08	Q1 08 Est
Revenues	323	322	326	334	1,304	314	323
EBITDA	73	77	76	65	291	75	71
EBITDA Margin %	22.6%	23.9%	23.3%	19.5%	22.3%	23.9%	22.0%
Capex	8	18	29	36	91	28	13
Capex/Revenue %	2.5%	5.6%	8.9%	10.8%	7.0%	8.9%	4.0%
Source: Company reports; Lehman Bros	s estimates						

YES

Bezeq's multi-channel television business (49% owned and fully consolidated) saw EBITDA margin jump to 24% from 20.5% in 1Q 07. In the event that the regulator permits a second company to offer a triple-play YES would in all likelihood be the main beneficiary.

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Figure 5: YES

ILS m	Q1 07	Q2 07	Q3 07	Q4 07	2007	Q1 08	Q1 08 Est
Subscribers	542	543	545	549	549	549	547
Revenues	354	354	360	347	1,415	381	375
EBITDA	73	100	62	75	329	92	75
EBITDA Margin %	20.6%	28.2%	17.2%	21.6%	23.3%	24.1%	20.0%
Capex	45	45	84	81	255	79	41
Capex/Revenue %	12.7%	12.7%	23.3%	23.3%	18.0%	20.7%	11.0%
Source: Company reports; Lehman Bros	s estimates						

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Company Description:

The Bezeq Group is the principal provider of communications services in the State of Israel. The Bezeq Group implements and provides a broad range of telecommunications operations and services, including fixed-line domestic services, cellular services, international communications services, transmission to the public of satellite multi-channel television broadcasts, internet access services, customer call centers, maintenance and development of communications infrastructures, provision of communications services to other communications providers, satellite services, transmission to the public of television and radio broadcasts, provision of services and maintenance of equipment on customer premises (network end point services).

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Important Disclosures:

Date

Bezeg (BEZQ.TA)

Rating and Price Target Chart:

ILS 6.37 (21-May-2008)

1-Overweight / 3-Negative

BEZEQ



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Risks Which May Impede the Achievement of the Price Target: Upcoming regulatory decisions provide the greatest risks for the telcom industry. Any regulatory decisions that hold up unbundling of services, rolling back of corporate sepatation and require full access to infrasstructure by competitors would hurt Bezeg's ability to improve profitability.

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Company Name	Ticker	Price (21-May-2008)	Stock / Sector Rating
Bezeq	BEZQ.TA	ILS 6.37	1-Overweight / 3-Negative

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