

Wolters Kluwer 2014 Third-Quarter Trading Update

November 5, 2014 - Wolters Kluwer, a global leader in professional information services, today released its scheduled 2014 third-quarter trading update.

Highlights

- Full-year 2014 guidance reiterated.
- Nine-month revenues up 2% in constant currencies and up 1% organically.
 - Leading, growing positions (47% of total revenues) up 7% organically.
 - Digital products (67% of total) up 5% organically, more than offsetting decline in print.
 - North America (54% of total) and Asia Pacific & ROW (8% of total) driving growth.
- Nine-month adjusted operating profit margin declined in line with our expectations, reflecting planned restructuring costs.
- Nine-month adjusted free cash flow declined modestly in constant currencies, on track to meet our full-year guidance.
- Net-debt-to-EBITDA improved and is expected to be 2.5x or better by year-end 2014.

Nancy McKinstry, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board, commented:

“Our leading, high growth positions continued to achieve strong organic revenue growth in the third quarter, supporting the transformation of our portfolio. Market conditions in Europe remain a challenge, but our digital products in this region are delivering good organic growth, and we are driving further efficiencies in the print operations. Datacert and other recent acquisitions are performing well. I am confident we will deliver on our guidance for the full year.”

Nine Months to 30 September

In constant currencies, nine months revenues grew 2%, including organic growth of 1%. The effect of acquisitions, mainly Datacert, more than offset the effect of disposals made in 2013 and 2014. In reported currencies, nine-months revenues were flat due to the effect of exchange rate movements, in particular the strength of the Euro against the U.S. Dollar and other currencies during the first nine months of the year.

Total recurring revenues (77% of total revenues) increased 2% organically in the first nine months, in line with the trend seen in the first half of the year. Transactional revenues declined overall, as expected, due to structural decline in printed books and cyclical decline in transaction revenues related to the downturn in the U.S. mortgage refinancing market in our Financial & Compliance Services division.

The nine-month adjusted operating profit margin declined modestly, attributable to the increase in restructuring costs which we announced at the start of the year. For the full year, restructuring costs are expected to be at the upper end of the range indicated in February, at approximately €30 million.

Legal & Regulatory: Nine-month organic revenue trend for the division was -1%, in line with the first half. Corporate Legal Services (CLS) maintained steady organic growth in subscription revenues and saw transaction volumes pick up in the third quarter driven by company formations and trademark search. Legal & Regulatory Solutions saw a slight deterioration in revenue trends in the third quarter, mainly relating to print revenues in Europe; digital products continued to see organic growth. Our expectation for the full year is unchanged: we expect CLS to achieve good organic growth, albeit slower than in 2013 as a result of the current downcycle in UCC-3 filings. For the division as a whole, we anticipate organic revenue decline due to continued challenges in the European legal market and the U.S. legal education segment. We continue to expect revenue trends combined with additional restructuring costs and the effect of dilutive disposals and transfers to lead to a lower margin in 2014.

Tax & Accounting: Nine-month organic growth was 2%, broadly in line with first half performance. Tax & accounting software solutions sustained organic growth momentum in all regions of the world, including Europe. This performance continues to be partially offset by weakness in publishing and training globally, and U.S. bank products. Prosoft in Brazil is experiencing robust organic growth. For the full year, we continue to expect our software businesses to achieve good organic growth, partly offset by trends in

publishing, training and bank products. We expect to see some margin contraction in 2014 due to increased restructuring which was weighted towards the first half of the year.

Health: Nine-month organic growth for the division was 5%, similar to the first half. Clinical Solutions achieved double-digit organic growth in the first nine months. Medical Research delivered solid growth in digital revenues, which more than offset the ongoing decline in print journal subscriptions. Professional & Education digital learning solutions continue to grow rapidly, but this was outweighed by declines in printed books. For the full year, the Health division is on track to see good organic growth and margin improvement.

Financial & Compliance Services: Organic growth for the first nine months was 2%, an improvement on the first half trend, following a better than expected third quarter. Finance, Risk & Compliance saw strong growth in the third quarter on the back of upfront licensing and implementation revenues. Our Audit unit's organic growth is positive for the nine month period, despite a tough comparable in the third quarter and the effect of product rationalization. The Originations unit continues to be impacted by the market-wide downturn in U.S. mortgage refinancing volumes. Our European Transport Services business saw revenue decline, albeit at a slower rate, and continues to transition to a subscription model. For the full year, we continue to expect the division to see positive organic growth and a broadly stable margin.

Cash Flow, Acquisitions, Divestitures, and Net Debt

Nine-month cash conversion improved slightly compared to the first half of the year. For the full year, we continue to expect cash conversion of around 95% (FY 2013: 95%). Adjusted free cash flow declined in constant currencies, mainly reflecting higher tax paid and higher interest paid. Our guidance for full-year 2014 adjusted free cash flow remains unchanged at \geq €475 million in constant currencies.

In the nine months to September 30, net acquisition spending including earnouts amounted to €165 million. The main acquisitions were Datacert (remaining 62%), Financial Tools, LexisNexis Poland, and Dingxin Chuangzhi. The largest disposal in the year to September 30 was our legal publishing operation in Canada.

On October 7, 2014, we completed the share buy-back program announced at the start of the year, purchasing a total of approximately 1.2 million shares for a total consideration of €25 million.

Twelve month rolling net-debt-to-EBITDA was 2.5x as of September 30, 2014, improving from 2.6x at the end of June 2014. By year-end, we expect this leverage ratio to be in line with, or better than, our target of 2.5x.

Full-Year 2014 Outlook

Our full-year 2014 guidance is unchanged. Our full-year margin guidance includes restructuring costs, which are expected to be around €30 million, at the upper end of the range set out in February 2014 (€25-€30 million).

Performance indicators	2014 Guidance
Adjusted operating profit margin	20.5%-21.5%
Adjusted free cash flow	\geq €475 million
Return on invested capital	\geq 8%
Diluted adjusted EPS	Low single-digit growth

Guidance for adjusted free cash flow and diluted adjusted EPS is in constant currencies (EUR/USD 1.33).

Our guidance is based on constant exchange rates. Wolters Kluwer generates more than half of its revenue and adjusted operating profit in the United States. As a rule of thumb, based on our 2013 currency profile, a 1 U.S. cent move in the average EUR/USD exchange rate for the year causes an opposite 1.0 euro-cent change in adjusted diluted EPS. The average EUR/USD rate during the first nine months of 2014 was 1.36, compared to 1.32 in the first nine months of 2013. The closing rate at September 30, 2014 was 1.26.

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