# Further progress with COVID-19 vaccine

ExpreS<sup>2</sup>ion reported Q4 2021 figures. For the quarter, the operating income declined -16%, though this was primarily influenced by lower grant revenues compared to last year and a changing CRO business model, as was the case in the last few quarters. The company's cash position has remained solid and now stands at SEK 138.9m. The remaining Phase II data of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate data was announced on February 28th, which confirms positive results published earlier. As a result, we have increased the LOA of the project to 81%. We have also adjusted the timeline of the breast cancer vaccine project, pushing the start of Phase I trial and other subsequent milestones by a year, which has resulted in a minor impact to the share price. Finally, we have modeled in an increase in costs expected in the near term. We increase our target price to SEK 99 (from SEK 88) and reiterate our Buy recommendation.

## COVID-19 vaccine candidate remains major near-term catalyst

During Q4 '21, significant progress was made with the COVID-19 vaccine as the headline Phase II trial showed very positive results. The remaining data was announced February 28th, which confirms that existing levels of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies increased by 2-40-fold, depending on the initial levels of antibodies, while no serious adverse events have been reported. The following catalyst should be the start of the Phase III trial planned within a few months and should include about 4,000 seropositive subjects.

### Q4 '21 results

Total operating income came in at SEK 4.430m (Q4 '20: SEK 5.277m). The decline is attributable primarily to lower grant revenues realized in the current quarter, while the net sales more than tripled. Despite slowing total operating income, the net loss fell YoY, down to SEK -14.320m (Q4 '21: SEK -17.353m), as the prior period incurred higher operating costs related to the COVID-19 vaccine project.

SEKm	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Revenues	15	14	12	286	204
EBITDA	(28)	(47)	(97)	183	159
EBIT	(31)	(48)	(101)	179	155
EPS	(1.15)	(1.59)	(3.74)	6.64	5.75
EPS adj	(1.15)	(1.59)	(3.74)	6.64	5.75
DPS	-	-	-	-	-
EV/EBITDA	-	-	-	2.0	1.5
EV/EBIT	-	-	-	2.0	1.5
P/E adj	-	-	-	3.3	3.8
P/B	3.18	7.23	7.77	2.31	1.44
ROE (%)	-	-	-	108.2	46.6
Div yield (%)	-	-	-	-	-
Net debt	(104)	(35)	42	(103)	(228)

Source: Pareto Securities

Target price (SEK) Share price (SEK)	<b>99</b> 22	<b>A</b>	BUY
		-	HOLD
		$\blacksquare$	SELL

#### Forecast changes

%	2022e	2023e	2024e
Revenues	(5)	23	NM
EBITDA	(26)	(1)	NM
EBIT adj	(25)	(1)	NM
EPS reported	(71)	36	NM
EPS adj	(71)	36	NM

Source: Pareto Securities

Ticker	EXPRS2.ST, EXPRS2 SS
Sector	Healthcare
Shares fully diluted (m)	31.2
Market cap (SEKm)	682
Net debt (SEKm)	42
Minority interests (SEKm)	0
Enterprise value 22e (SEKm)	510
Free float (%)	83

## Performance



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# Q4 '21 – Cash position remains solid

On February 24th, ExpreS2ion Biotech announced Q4' 21 figures. Total operating income came in at SEK 4.430m (Q4'20: SEK 5.277m). The -16% decline is attributable primarily to lower grant revenues realized in the current quarter, while client projects appear to be showing positive trends compared to last year. In fact, net sales more than tripled to SEK 3.398m (Q4'20: SEK 0.794m).

Despite slowing total operating income, the net loss fell YoY, down to SEK -14.320m (Q4 '21: SEK -17.353m), as the prior period incurred higher operating costs related to the COVID-19 vaccine project, as well as lower interest expense. On the other hand, R&D costs related to the transition to a pipeline driven strategy, continued to increase, specifically due to the breast cancer therapeutic vaccine candidate. Furthermore, the increases in non-cash incentive-based compensation including the introduction of the new TO7 warrant program have burdened the bottom line.

As it relates to the breast cancer vaccine project, ExpreS2ion Biotech announced earlier that an additional preclinical safety study needs to be performed, which is planned for H1 2023. This came as a result of the feedback from a scientific advice meeting with the Danish Medicines Agency ("DKMA"), in order to increase the robustness of the project's preclinical data. The preclinical study has already been outsourced to a contract research organization, which confirmed the timeline. Consequently, the clinical trial application for the Phase I trial is planned to be filed in H2 2023, which will push the start of the trial to H1 2024.

During Q4 '21, the company had a mild cash burn of only SEK 3.1m, which was influenced by an income tax refund and an improvement of current receivables / current liabilities ratio. This has brought the cash balance (including the SKAT account) to SEK 138.9m. While 2022 should experience higher costs and thus more cash burn than in 2021 (SEK -46m), we believe the company has enough liquidity well into 2023.

On February 28th, ExpreS2ion Biotech announced additional positive Phase II results from the COVID-19 vaccine (ABNCoV2). The data was related to the group of 66 seropositive subjects who received one lower dose (50µg) of ABNCoV2. The results confirm similar high neutralizing antibody levels against the same SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern as observed with the higher dose. Looking at another group that included 28 seronegative subjects, the results were positive as well. These subjects, who had not been previously vaccinated or infected with SARS-CoV-2, received 2 doses of the 100µg formulation of the vaccine 4 weeks apart. The results showed that the neutralizing antibody levels against the Wuhan variant were elevated to levels reported to be highly efficacious (>90%) against the virus. In terms of the safety, the ABNCoV2 was determined to be generally well-tolerated, with no related serious adverse events reported and no relevant difference in the safety profile between subjects receiving either the low (50µg) or high dose (100µg) of ABNCoV2.

As a result of these positive results, Bavarian Nordic continues to plan its Phase III trial launch, which should come within a few months. The dose to be used is 100µg, which should maximize the likelihood of success full study data and will be studied head-to-head with an mRNA-vaccine to demonstrate inferiority, ABNCoV2 to the licensed mRNA vaccine. The number of seropositive patients in the trial is expected to be around 4,000.

## **Valuation**

We value ExpreS2ion Biotech using a Sum of the Parts (SOP) approach in which we combine individual project NPV results. The cash flows from each project are discounted using WACC of 10%.

As a result of the further progress with ABNCoV2, we have increased the LOA of the project to 81%, which has added SEK 14 to our target price. We have also adjusted the timeline of the breast cancer vaccine project, pushing the start of phase I trial and other subsequent milestones by a year, which has had a much minor impact of roughly SEK -1.5. We have also modeled in an increase in costs as additional preclinical trial needs to be conducted. We have arrived at a target price of SEK 99.

The near term COVID-19 project contributes to more than half of our valuation as ABNCOV2 and the AdaptVac equity stake result in combined 73% of the company value.

# Sum-of-the-Parts Analysis

Sum of the Parts Valuation	NPV (SEK m)	Per Share (SEK)	% of Total Fair Value
	, ,		
ABNCoV2 (Royalties)	510	15.56	16%
ES2B-C001	457	13.95	14%
Influenza	322	9.84	10%
Malaria	144	4.40	4%
Unallocated	-195	-5.94	-6%
AdaptVac Equity Stake	1,864	56.90	57%
Total	3,103	94.71	96%
Debt	-2	-0.06	i 0%
Cash & CE (Pro Forma for Dilution)	159	4.85	5%
Shares outstanding (Pro Forma for Dilution)	32.76		
Fair Value	3,260	99	100%
Source: Pareto Securities			

PROFIT & LOSS (fiscal year) (SEKm)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Revenues	10	9	14	15	14	12	286	204
EBITDA	(9)	(16)	(16)	(28)	(47)	(97)	183	159
Depreciation & amortisation	(2)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(4)	(4)	(4)
EBIT	(11)	(18)	(19)	(31)	(48)	(101)	179	155
Net interest	(0)	(1)	(1)	(4)	1	(0)	(0)	(0)
Other financial items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Profit before taxes	(12)	(19)	(20)	(35)	(48)	(101)	179	155
Taxes	2	2	2	3	4	21	(37)	(32)
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net profit	(10)	(17)	(17)	(32)	(44)	(80)	142	123
EPS reported	(0.73)	(1.35)	(0.63)	(1.15)	(1.59)	(3.74)	6.64	5.75
EPS adjusted	(0.73)	(1.35)	(0.63)	(1.15)	(1.59)	(3.74)	6.64	5.75
DPS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE SHEET (SEKm)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Tangible non current assets	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Other non-current assets	11	9	7	5	105	102	100	97
	5	5	, 5	6	9	7	7	97 7
Other current assets	2	6	5 5	107	9 37			230
Cash & equivalents	2 17	21		107 <b>119</b>	1 <b>52</b>	(40)	105 <b>212</b>	230 <b>335</b>
Total assets			19			<b>70</b>		
Total equity	7 6	8 7	(1) 1	95 2	140 2	60 2	202 2	325 2
Interest-bearing non-current debt	0	,			2		2	2
Interest-bearing current debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Debt	4	6	18	22	10	8	8	8
Total liabilites & equity	17	21	19	119	152	70	212	335
CASH FLOW (SEKm)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Cash earnings	(8)	(13)	(12)	(17)	(47)	(76)	146	127
Change in working capital	(0)	0	(1)	(2)	1	0	-	-
Cash flow from investments	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cash flow from financing	4	19	13	123	75	-	-	-
Net cash flow	(5)	5	(1)	101	(70)	(77)	145	126
VALUATION (SEKm)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Share price (SEK end)	9.6	5.9	3.59	10.9	36.8	21.9	21.9	21.9
Number of shares end period	13	12	28	28	28	21	21	21
Net interest bearing debt	5	1	(4)	(104)	(35)	42	(103)	(228)
Enterprise value	133	74	95	196	980	510	366	240
EV/Sales	13.6	8.4	6.9	12.9	-	42.5	1.3	1.2
EV/EBITDA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	1.5
EV/EBIT	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	1.5
P/E reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.8
P/E adjusted	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.8
P/B	19.1	8.8	-	3.2	7.2	7.8	2.3	1.4
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
ROE adjusted (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	108.2	46.6
Dividend yield (%)	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_
EBITDA margin (%)	-	_	_	_	_	-	64.0	77.8
EBIT margin (%)	-	_	_	_	_	-	62.6	75.8
NIBD/EBITDA	(0.53)	(0.05)	0.25	3.69	0.76	(0.44)	(0.56)	(1.44)
EBITDA/Net interest	-	-	_	_	52.94	-	-	-

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Selvaag Bolig	4,289,865	4.58%
Spar ebank 1 Nor d-Nor ge	4,287,282	4.27%
SpareBank 1 Ringerike Hadeland	100,000	0.64%
Spar ebank 1 SM N	1,970,442	1.52%
Spar ebank 1 SR-Bank	1,857,563	0.73%
SpareBank 1 Østfold Akershus	1,232,229	9.95%
Spar eBank 1 Østlandet	3,833,163	3.61%
Spar ebanken Mør e	290,038	2.94%
Spar ebanken Sør	433,744	2.77%
Spar ebanken Vest	6,862,344	6.39%
NEXT Biometrics	710,901	0.78%
Consellant & Consest Novem	4 774 200	2.049/

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Aker Carbon Capture	0	5,481	
Aker Clean Hydrogen	0	140,540	
Aker Horizons	0	125,848	
Aker Of f shor e Wind	0	165,118	
Aprila Bank ASA	0	22,675	
Archer	0	30,170	
ArcticZymes Technologies	0	684	
Austevoll Seaf ood	0	3,600	
AutoStore	0	2,085	
B2Holding AS	0	13,940	
Bonheur	0	32,088	
Borregaard ASA	0	650	
Bouvet	0	2,940	
BRAbank	0	31,499	
BW Ener gy	0	97,965	
BW Of f shore	0	16,076	
Circa Group	0	16,550	
Cloudberry Clean Energy	0	100,250	
DNB	0	48,805	
DNO	0	151,978	
Elkem	0	39,367	
ELOP	0	130,000	
Equinor	0	2,690	
Europris	0	13,208	
Fj or dkr af t Hol ding	0	15,313	
Flex LNG	0	1,317	
Frontline	0	87,635	

Company	Analyst holdings*	Total holdings
Gaming Innovation Group	0	25,912
Gjensidige Forsikring	0	7,746
Grieg Seaf ood	0	9,003
Haf nia Ltd.	0	5,000
Huddly	0	906,173
HydrogenPro	0	39,777
Ice Fish Farm	0	2,000
ice Group ASA	0	200,000
Kalera	0	26,752
Kitron	0	18,386
Komplett Bank	0	209,400
Kongsber g Gr uppen	0	34,001
KWS	75	75
Ler øy Seaf ood Group	0	39,363
Meltwater	0	30,700
Mercell	0	24,863
Mowi	0	486
MPC Container Ships	0	45,902
NEXT Biometrics	0	710,901
Nor dic Semi conductor	0	5,336
Noreco	0	790
Nor se Atlantic	0	25,000
Nor sk Hydr o	0	84,189
Norske Skog	0	98,499
Northern Drilling Ltd.	0	95,238
Okeanis Eco Tankers	0	2,000
Or kla	0	22,683
Panor o Ener gy	0	28,441
Par eto Bank	0	1,340,684
Pexip Holding	0	108,046
Protector Forsikring	0	14,000
Pryme	0	5,000
Quantaf uel	0	5,797
REC Silicon	0	37,281
SalMar	0	2,799
Sandnes Spar ebank	0	4,013
Scatec	0	30,456
Seaway 7	0	4,000
Selvaag Bolig	0	3,093
Spar ebank 1 Nor d-Nor ge	0	3,350
Spar ebank 1 SMN	0	12,740
Spar ebank 1 SR-Bank	0	16,054
SpareBank 1 Østfold Akershus	0	1,252
SpareBank 1 Østlandet Sparebanken Sør	0	9,621 16,435
	0	
Spar ebanken Vest Spar ebanken Øst	0	17,463 1,500
Stolt-Nielsen	0	1,500
Stort-Nielsen Storebrand	0	1,817
Subsea 7	0	12,893
Telenor	0	15,752
TGS	0	600
Vow	0	5,681
Vow Green Metals	0	19,681
Wallenius Wilhemsen	0	15,800
XXL	0	20,923
Yara	0	15,911
Zaptec	0	14,000
XXL	0	20,923
Yara	0	15,681
Zaptec	0	14,000
	· ·	14,000

This overview is updated monthly (last updated 15.02.2022).

 $<sup>{}^*\!</sup>Analyst\,holdings refers to position sheld by the Pareto Securities AS\,analyst\,covering the company.$ 

# Appendix B

Disclosure requirements in accordance with Article 6(1)(c)(iii) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958

Overview over issuers of financial instruments where Pareto Securities AS have prepared or distributed investment recommendation, where Pareto Securities AS have been lead manager/co-lead manager or have rendered publicly known not immaterial investment banking services over the previous 12 months:

Next Biometrics Group Nordic Halibut

Nor wegian Block Exchange Odf jell Oceanwind

Nor se Atlantic Norske Skog

Otello Corporation

Petr oT al
PHM Group
Ping Petr oleum UK Lit
poLight
Pronof a AS
Protector For sikring

Pyrum Innovations Quantafuel

Saga Robotics

Salmon Evolution Seafire AB

Seagems Nor way

Shamar an Petroleum

Siccar Point Energy Slate European Holdings

Trønderenergi AS Vegfinans AS Vestby Logistikk Holding Viking ACQ1AS, SPAC

Vow Waldorf Production UK Ltd

ZT L Payment Solution AS

wheel.me

Xeneta AS

Ymber AS

Ørn Software

Smart Wires Inc.
Strandline Resources Limited
Swedencare

SFL Corporation Ltd SGL TransGroup International A/S

Seajacks

Panor o Ener gy Petr oNor E&P Petr oTal

Nor eco Nor landia Health & Car e Group AS

2G Energy Advanzia Bank S. A Aker ASA Aker Clean Hydrogen Aker Horizons Aprila Bank ASA Ar cane Crypto Arctic Fish Arendals Fossekompani Barramundi Group Pte. Ltd. Belships Belships
Biomega Group AS
Bonheur
Bor eal Holding AS
BW LPG
BW Off shore
Cavai AS
CentralNic Group PLC
Circa Group Cloudberry Clean Energy Dampskibsselskabet NORDEN A/S DLT DNO

EcoOnline ELOP Enapter AG Energean Israel Finance Ltd. Ener gean Israel Finance Enviv AS (Bookis) Esmaeil zadeh Holding First Camp Group AB Flex LNG FREYR Batter y Funkwerk AG Gjensidige Forsikring Global Agrajes (Fertiberia group) Gol ar LNG Gol den Ocean Group Goliath Of f shor e Gram Car Carriers

Green Transition Holding Greenfood Grøntvedt AS Hagal AS Halodi Robotics AS Heimdall Power HKN Energy Ltd HMH Holding

Immunophar ma InoBat Auto International Petroleum Corporation JP/Politiken's Forlag

Kebony Kentech Global PIc Keppel FELSLimited

Kistos plc. KMC Properties

Komplett ASA Komplett Bank Komplett Bank
Kruse Smith
Kruse Smith
Kvitebjør Nør me
Laker s Holding AS
Ler ey Seaf ood Group
Lumar ine AS
Maha Ener gy
Malor ama Holding AS
Mathesa Bostadsbolaget AB
Mercell

Mercell Mime Petroleum Modex AS

Mutares SE & Co. KGaA Müller Medien GmbH (United Vertical Media GmbH)

Navios Maritime Aquisitions Navios Maritime Holdings

This overview is updated monthly (this overview is for the period 31.01.2021–31.01.2022).

# Appendix C

Disclosure requirements pursuant to the Norwegian Securities Trading Regulation § 3-11 (4)

#### Distribution of recommendations

Recommendation	% distribution
Buv	74%
Hold	24%
Sell	3%
Distribution of recommendations (terrestimet)	
Distribution of recommendations (transactions*)	
Recommendation	% distribution

 $^* Companies under coverage with which Pareto Securities Group has on-going or completed public$ 

This overview is updated monthly (last updated 15.02.2022).

# Appendix D

This section applies to research reports prepared by Pareto Securities AB.

#### Disclosure of positions in financial instruments

The beneficial holding of the Pareto Group is 1 % or more of the total share capital of the following companies included in Pareto Securities AB's research coverage universe: None

The Par eto Group has material holdings of other financial instruments than shares issued by the following companies included in Pareto Securities AB's research coverage universe: None

#### Disclosure of assignments and mandates

Overview over issuers of financial instruments where Pareto Securities AB has prepared or distributed investment recommendation, where Pareto Securities AB has been lead manager or co-lead manager or has rendered publicly known not immaterial investment banking services over the previous twelve months:

Josemar ia Resour ces Sedana Medical Implantica Biovica International Studentbostäder i Norden Cibus Nor dic Real Estate AB Green Landscaping Group AB Hexatronic Hexicon Surgical Science Vicor e Pharma VNV Global Isof ol Medical AB Maha Energy Media & Games Invest plc.

Members of the Pareto Group provide market making or other liquidity providing services to the following companies included in Pareto Securities AB's research coverage universe.

ByggPartner i Dalarna Holding Mentice AB Surgical Science Cibus Nor dic Real Estate Minesto Tethys Oil Isof ol Medical Saltängen Property Invest SciBase Holding Vostok Emerging Finance Logistri Fastighets AB Magnolia Bostad Sedana Medical

Members of the Pareto Group have entered into agreements concerning the inclusion of the company in question in Pareto Securities AB's research coverage universe with the following

Member of the Pareto Group is providing Business Management services to the following companies:

Aar haus Residentials Denmark AB Delarka Logistri Fastighets AB Fleming Properties AB Halmslätten Fastighets AB (publ) Korsängen Fastighets AB (publ) Backaheden Fastighets AB Mälaråsen AB Bonäsudden Holding AB (publ) Bor glanda Fastighets AB One Publicus Fastighets AB Origa Care AB (publ) Preservium Property AB Bosjö Fastigheter AB Krona Public Real Estate AB

Members of the Pareto Group have entered into agreements concerning the inclusion of the company in question in Pareto Securities AB's research coverage universe with the following

This overview is updated monthly (last updated 15.02.2022).

# Appendix E

Disclosure requirements in accordance with Article 6(1)(c)(i) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958

## Designated Sponsor

Pareto Securities acts as a designated sponsor for the following companies, including the provision of bid and ask offers. Therefore, we regularly possess shares of the company in our proprietary trading books. Pareto Securities receives a commission from the company for the

OVB Holding AG
Procredit Holding\*
PSI SOFT WARE AG\*
PWO\*
S&T AG\*
SMT Scharf AG\*
Surteco Group\* 2G Energy \* Heidelber g Phar ma\*
Inter shop Communications AG
Leif heit
Logwin\*
Manz AG\*
MAX Automation SE
Mer kur Bank
MLP\*
mutar es Biotest \*
CORESTATE Capital Holding S.A. Dal dr up & Söhne Demire Epigenomics AG\* Gesco\* Gerry Weber Syzygy AG GFT Technologies \* Gigaset \* mutares Northern Data AG TAKKTAG Viscom\*

## Appendix F

Disclosure requirements in accordance with Article 6(1)(c)(iv) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/958

#### Sponsored Research

Pareto Securities has entered into an agreement with these companies about the preparation of research reports and - in return - receives compensation.

Bavwa Gerry Weber Hypoport AG Intershop Communica Leif heit MAX Automation SE BB Biotech CLIQ Digital
Daldr up & Söhne
Der maphar m Holding SE Northern Data AG
OHB SE
OVB Holding AG
Siegfried Holding AG

This overview is updated monthly (last updated 15.02.2022).

<sup>\*</sup> The designated sponsor services include a contract ually agreed provision of research services.