

KAMCO Research

Humansoft Holding

Equity Research Update

Sector – Education

Compelling FCF & Dividend Play

Humansoft transitions to a divided yield pick

Our investment case on Humansoft has evolved from being a growth story to a high FCF and strong dividend yield play. The opening of Kuwait University's new campus will impact the number of new enrollments at AUM and ACM, but market fears of a complete collapse in new enrollments is excessive in our view. We maintain our 'Outperform' rating on the stock, given the high margins of the company, strong FCF generating capability, and comfortable net cash position, that should aid in pursuing acquisition opportunities if needed. Moreover, the company trades at a higher 2019 and 2020 dividend yield than the broader market, which provides protection against downside risk, and should attract investors going forward.

New majors at AUM to keep enrolled students count steady; KU fears overdone

We forecast the total enrollment of students to remain stable at an average of 12,500 students (AUM and ACM combined) over 2019-2021, post the opening of the new Kuwait University campus. Further, we see limited scope for an increase in fees for AUM and ACM, as variable teaching costs remain stable, and due to the company's high operating margins. As a result, we forecast group revenue growth to come in at a CAGR of 1.6% CAGR over 2018-2021, and expect revenues to reach KWD 70.8 Mn in 2019 and KWD 71.7 Mn in 2020. The opening of Kuwait University's (KU) new Shadadiya campus with a capacity of 37,000+ students will lead to slower growth in the number of new enrollments for AUM and ACM, but overall demand for college education is still higher at around 31,000-32,000 high school students graduating each academic year.

Margins & ROCE story very much intact

Humansoft's EBITDA margins are forecasted to improve from around 55% in 2018 to above 57% average over 2019-21, as a result of the cost-containment measures implemented in 2019. We expect the ROCE of the company to remain healthy at around 30% over 2019-21, as strong profitability metrics reaffirms our positive case on the company. Moreover, the company's low future capex requirements, repayment of debt from internal cashflows should drive further improvement in its net cash position from KWD 1.7 Mn in 2018 to KWD 49.7 Mn in 2021.

Valuation & Risks – TP of KWD 3.60/share

Our TP of KWD 3.60/share for Humansoft is based on a blend of DCF and relative valuation methods, which represents an upside of over 16.5% from current levels. The company currently offers a 2019 dividend yield of 7.3% and 2020 dividend yield of 7.4%, as compared to the Premier Market's 5.8% and 6.1%, respectively. *Key Downside risks:* 1) Lower number of high school graduates in Kuwait; 2) Reduction in scholarships from Private Universities Council 3) Higher migration to other universities in and outside Kuwait.

Key Financials	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Revenue (KWD Mn)	61.8	69.3	70.8	71.7	72.6
GPM (%)	77.0%	77.3%	77.3%	77.3%	77.2%
EBITDA (KWD Mn)	32.6	38.0	40.9	41.3	41.5
Net Income (KWD Mn)	28.1	31.5	34.5	34.7	34.9
EPS (KWD)	0.231	0.259	0.283	0.285	0.287
P/E (x)	16.2	12.7	10.9	10.8	10.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.0	10.5	9.6	9.5	9.5
Dividend Yield (%)	4.7%	5.6%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%

Sources: KAMCO Research, and Humansoft

Outperform				
CMP 31-Oct-19:	KWD 3.09			
Target Price:	KWD 3.60			
Upside/Downside:	+ 16.5 %			



Price Perf.	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	-1.1%	-5.5%	1.3%
Relative	-1.8%	1.0%	-12.1%

Stock Data	
Bloomberg Ticker	HUMANSFT KK
Reuters Ticker	HUMN.KW
Last Price (KWD)	3.09
MCap (KWD Mn)	376
MCap (USD Mn)	1,245
EV (KWD Mn)	392
Stock Perfromance - YTD (%)	-5.8%
PE - 2019E (x)	10.9
EV/EBITDA - 2019E (x)	9.6
Dividend yield - 2019E (%)	7.3%
52-Week Range (KWD)	2.91/3.50
Sources: KAMCO Besearch & Bloomborg	<

Sources: KAMCO Research & Bloomberg

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Valuation and Risks

Target price of KWD 3.60/share; strong dividends yields protect upside

Our investment case on Humansoft has evolved from being a growth story to a high FCF and strong dividend play. Key drivers for our outlook and forecasts are driven by 1) the total enrollment of students remaining stable at an average of 12,500 students (AUM and ACM combined) over 2019-2021 post the opening of the new Kuwait University campus and 2) stable tuition fees over the forecast period. We forecast Humansoft's group EPS to grow from 259 fils in 2018 to 283 fils in 2019 and 285 fils in 2020 on SG&A cost containment and strong margins. Our TP of KWD 3.60/share is based on a blend of DCF and relative valuation methods.

Weighted Average Fair Value

	Fair value per share (KWD)	Weight (%)	Weighted Value (KWD)
DCF	3.52	70%	2.46
Relative Valuation	3.79	30%	1.14
Weighted Average Fair Value per Share			3.60
Current market price			3.09
Upside/Downside			16.5%

Sources: KAMCO Research and Bloomberg

We retain our 'Outperform' rating on Humansoft, given the impressive cashflow fundamentals and strong net cash position that should hold the company in good stead for any potential acquisition opportunities in the Education space. Moreover, we feel the market's concerns of Private Universities such as AUM and ACM receiving a significantly lower number of new enrollments with the opening of Kuwait University to be unwarranted. In our DCF valuation, we assume a terminal growth rate of 2.0%, and average WACC of 9.7% over our forecast period, which we believe adequately represents the sustainable long-term growth rate for the company and competition in the market. For the terminal value, we have assumed a return on new investment capital (RONIC) that is comparable to the terminal year WACC. Accordingly, we arrive at a DCF value of KWD 3.52/share.

Play on strong 2019 & 2020 dividend yields

Humansoft vs. Boursa Kuwait Premier Market - Div. Total Return - Humansoft vs. Boursa Kuwait Premier Market (Jan 2016 - Oct 2019) Yield (%) 600 7.4% 8.0% 7.3% 500 7.0% 6.1% 5.8% 400 6.0% 300 5.0% 200 4.0% 3.0% 100 2.0% 0 Jul-16 1.0% Jan-16 0ct-16 Jan-18 Apr-18 Jul-18 0ct-18 Jan-19 lan-17 Apr-17 Jul-17 0ct-17 0.0% 2019F 2020F Humansoft — Premier Market - Boursa Kuwait Premier Market - Boursa Kuwait Humansoft

Humansoft looks attractive on 2019 and 2020 dividend yields when compared to Boursa Kuwait's Premier Market.

Sources: KAMCO Research, Bloomberg

The company currently trades at a 2019 dividend yield of 7.3% and 2020 dividend yield of 7.4%, as compared to the Premier Market's 5.8% and 6.1% respectively. Moreover, in total shareholder returns (TSR) terms, Humansoft continues to outperform the broader Premier Market. We believe the higher

Sources: KAMCO Research, Bloomberg

dividend yields provides protection against downside risk from current levels, and the stock should rally going forward.

Best-in-class FCF yields amongst global education peers

The company's strong dividend yields are supported by its strong FCF generating ability, as the company trades at a FCF yield of +8% over 2019-21 based on current market price. Humansoft is also positioned as one of best FCF and margin stories globally in the listed Education sector. Amongst the top positive FCF companies, Humansoft appears cheap in relative terms as the company trades at an EV/FCF (2019) of 9.4x as compared to peer average of 30.9x. Moreover, the company enjoys higher margins than most of its global peers, which makes the company a compelling outperformer fundamentally, in our view.





Sources: KAMCO Research, Bloomberg

Sources: KAMCO Research, Bloomberg

Downside risks to our rating & forecasts include:

- Lower number of high school graduates in Kuwait
- Reduction in scholarships from Private Universities Council
- Higher migration to other universities in and outside Kuwait
- Slower development of the education sector in Kuwait

Investment Thesis

Revenues to remain stable as new majors should keep enrollments steady

Group revenues for Humansoft grew at CAGR of 27.5% over 2013 -18 from KWD 20.6 Mn to KWD 69.3 Mn. Revenue growth was primarily driven by 1) growth in enrollments of students in existing courses offered, and new enrollment of students in the new majors added by AUM and ACM. 2) Fee increase every five years, approved by the Private Universities Council, last implemented in 2014 and 2015 for AUM and ACM respectively. Going forward, we forecast group revenue growth to come in lower at a CAGR of 1.6% CAGR over 2018-2021, and expect revenues to reach KWD 70.8 Mn in 2019 (Cons. Estimates: KWD 72.7 Mn) and KWD 71.7 Mn in 2020 (Cons. Estimates KWD 75.5 Mn). We remain comfortable with our lower estimates vs. consensus estimates, as we expect the opening of Kuwait University's new AI Shadadiyah campus to keep new enrollments into existing majors AUM & ACM broadly stable. Our forecasts are based on total students enrolled of around 12,500 students (AUM and ACM combined) over 2019-2021, with drop-out ratios of 3% for AUM and 7% for ACM. Further, we do not include any fee increases going forward, and expect blended fees to remain around KWD 5,500/annum per student over our forecast period. Our estimates however do factor in growth in new enrolments within the newly introduced Civil Engineering major, and the upcoming Architecture and Petroleum Engineering majors, and represents the marginal growth from 12,385 students enrolled in the Fall 2019 intake.



Higher Education segment and Humansoft revenues



Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

Past enrollment growth unlikely in future; but KU new campus opening is not the end of the road The opening of Kuwait University's (KU) new Shadadiya campus will lead to slower growth in the

number of new enrollments for Private Universities like AUM, GUST etc. in our view, as the new campus has a higher capacity of over 37,700 students across all six colleges (excluding Health Sciences).

Kuwait University new campus capacity		
Kuwait University - Al Shadadiyah Campus	Student Capacity	Faculty Capacity
College of Art and College of Education (COAE)	6,805	905
College of Business and College of Women (COBW)	7,000	1,400
College of Engineering and Petroleum (COEP)	5,175	1,413
College of Science and the Faculty Club	8,300	1,500
College of Social Science, Sharia and Law (CSSL)	6,800	1,184
College of Architecture & College of Computer and Engineering Sciences	3,658	853
Health Sciences Center Campus *	NA	NA
Total	37,738	7,255

Sources: Sabah Al Salam Kuwait University website, *estimates not available

The break-neck pace of new enrollments into Private Universities was largely due to the under capacity of Kuwait University. Nevertheless, we expect the market's fears of Private Universities such as AUM and ACM receiving a significantly lower number of new enrollments than in the past to be overdone. With around 31,000-32,000 high school graduates expected to graduate over 2020 and 2021 per annum, we expect Private Universities to continue to play a role in admitting high school graduates who receive scholarships from the government. Moreover, Humansoft mentioned that the percentage of students who received scholarships from the Private Universities Council and joined AUM and ACM remained at around 92% with 39%-40% application acceptance rate. Our view is that the government will remain proactive in achieving its goal of increasing the enrollment capacity for higher education mentioned in Kuwait Vision 2035 and that Private Universities will play role in fulfilling this goal. As a result, we do not foresee a large drop in the aggregate number of new enrollments in Private Universities and in turn Humansoft's AUM and ACM.

We therefore remain sanguine on our revenue forecasts for Humansoft over 2019-21 and the number of enrolled students into AUM and ACM over the period.

Proactive SG&A costs containment amidst limited room for a fee hike

The last tuition fee hike that AUM and ACM were able to incorporate was affected in 2014 and 2015 respectively with the approval from Private Universities Council. Private Universities were eligible to apply for higher tuition fees every five years, with significant increase in teaching costs as the main rationale behind the application. Nevertheless, AUM did not increase their fees on completion of five years post the last fee hike for their Fall 2019, and did not give guidance for any further fee hikes in future, which are incorporated into our numbers as well.

Nevertheless, as against showing higher costs for a fee hike application, Humansoft on the contrary was able to make significant progress in SG&A cost containment in 2019. SG&A costs as a percentage of revenues fell from 22.5% in 2018 to 19.4% in 2019. The lower costs were ascribed to rationalization of overheads, mainly in construction project teams as construction of new classrooms is completed, and marketing related expenses where initiatives were moved more online. Although, we expect these cost related improvements to be likely one-time adjustments, the stable number of students enrolled are likely to keep teaching costs stable, given the variable nature of these costs based on student-to-teacher ratios. We therefore forecast total SG&A costs of around KWD 13.9 Mn in 2019 and KWD 14.1 Mn in 2020 from KWD 15.6 Mn in 2018.





Further, we see limited scope for an increase in fees for Humansoft as mentioned earlier, due to limited growth in teaching costs and due to the company's high existing operating margins. EBITDA margins are forecasted to improve from around 55% in 2018 to above 57% average over 2019-21, as a result of the cost-containment measures implemented in 2019. Our EBITDA estimates of KWD 40.9 Mn for 2019 and KWD 41.3 Mn for 2020 are broadly in line with estimates. Moreover, we expect the ROCE of the company to remain healthy at around 30% over 2019-21.

Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

Balance sheet strength augurs well for potential acquisitions

Humansoft guided that their current capacity for students at AUM and ACM combined is around 14,000. The capex was largely debt funded and repaid from cash generated from the asset. The company mentioned that they had no growth capex plans as of now, given the ample headroom for addition of new students, and AUM and ACM's current focus on quality of education delivered. We believe that the current capacity of 14,000 students should be adequate going forward, even with the new majors such as Civil Engineering, Architecture and Petroleum Engineering. We further expect total capex to drop from KWD 7.5 Mn to an average of KWD 3.5 Mn over 2019-21, as capex spend should largely constitute only maintenance capex and built-to-suit adjustments, if needed.





Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

Sources: KAMCO Research, Humansoft

With limited capex, repayment of debt to be funded by internal cashflows, and the company's high rate of FCF generation, we expect the company to improve on its net cash position from KWD 1.7 Mn in 2018 to KWD 49.7 Mn in 2021. The strong net cash position will aid the company while looking at acquisition opportunities. The management of Humansoft guided that they are keen on opportunities in the Education and Learning space.

Financial Forecasts

KAMCO Research broadly in line with consensus; higher DPS for 2019 expected

Our forecasts for 2019 and 2020 are broadly in line with consensus estimates. However, for 2019, we expect a higher dividend payout and forecast a DPS of KWD 0.225/share. Further we expect a higher net cash position for both 2019 and 2020, from our lower debt and capex estimates.

Humansoft forecasts – KAMCO Research vs. Consensus								
		2019F		2020F				
Humansoft Forecasts Estimates	KAMCO Research	Consensus	KAMCO vs. Consensus	KAMCO Research	Consensus	KAMCO vs. Consensus		
Revenues (KWD Mn)	70.8	72.7	-2.6%	71.7	75.6	-5%		
Gross Margins (%)	77.3%	78.4%	-1.1%	77.3%	78.3%	-1%		
EBITDA (KWD Mn)	40.9	40.1	2.0%	41.3	41.4	0%		
Net Income (KWD Mn)	34.5	34.2	0.7%	34.7	35.6	-2%		
EPS (KWD)	0.283	0.281	0.7%	0.285	0.289	-1%		
DPS (KWD)	0.225	0.205	10.0%	0.230	0.226	2%		
Net Cash (KWD Mn)	21.8	12.4	75.7%	36.1	16.3	122%		

Sources: KAMCO Research, Bloomberg

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Humansoft Holding Financials

Rumanson Roluing Financials						
Balance Sheet (KWD Mn)	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F
Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	19.8	20.2	26.6	43.4	56.3	69.8
Receivables	18.0	20.1	21.0	20.7	21.0	21.6
Inventories	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total current assets	37.9	40.3	47.6	64.2	77.3	91.5
Net property, plant and equipment	39.8	50.1	54.2	54.2	54.3	54.3
Other assets	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.8
Total assets	85.7	98.4	109.9	126.7	140.1	154.6
Liabilities						
Long-term debt & Short term debt	18.9	23.3	24.9	21.6	20.1	20.0
Accounts payable and other liabilities	8.0	7.5	7.3	14.8	14.8	14.9
Deferred income & Other Liabilities	10.5	10.7	10.7	4.0	4.6	5.1
Total liabilities	37.4	41.6	42.9	40.3	39.5	40.1
Shareholders' Equity						
Share capital	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7
Retained earnings	21.9	30.5	40.7	52.8	60.1	67.1
Other Equity	12.6	12.6	12.6	19.8	26.7	33.7
Total Shareholders Equity	48.3	56.9	67.0	86.4	100.6	114.5
Total liabilities and Equity	85.7	98.4	109.9	126.7	140.1	154.6
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Income Statement (KWD Mn)	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	54.5	61.8	69.3	70.8	71.7	72.6
Cost of goods sold	(12.7)	(14.2)	(15.7)	(16.1)	(16.3)	(16.6)
Gross profit	41.8	47.6	53.5	54.8	55.4	56.0
General and administrative expenses	(13.5)	(14.9)	(15.6)	(13.9)	(14.1)	(14.5)
EBITDA	28.3	32.6	38.0	40.9	41.3	41.5
Depreciation and amortization	(2.0)	(2.5)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)
EBIT	26.3	30.2	34.4	37.3	37.7	37.9
Finance costs	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.4)
Other Income/Loss	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Net profit before taxes	25.5	29.7	33.2	36.3	36.6	36.8
Provision for Income Taxes	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(1.9)
Net profit attributable to parent	24.2	28.1	31.5	34.5	34.7	34.9
EPS (KWD)	0.199	0.231	0.259	0.283	0.285	0.287
Cash Flow (KWD Mn)	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F
Net cash from operating activities	27.5	30.0	35.8	46.7	39.1	38.9
Net cash (used in) from investing activities	(12.1)	(12.7)	(12.6)	(2.9)	(3.0)	(3.0)
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	(12.9)	(16.2)	(21.1)	(27.0)	(23.2)	(22.4)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	2.5	1.1	2.1	16.7	12.9	13.5
FX effects & others	0.5	(0.8)	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash at the end of the year	19.8	20.2	26.6	43.4	56.3	69.8

Source : KAMCO Research and Humansoft

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Key Financial Ratios						
Key Ratios	2016	2017	2018	2019F	2020F	2021F
Profitability Ratios						
Return on Average Assets (%)	28.6%	28.7%	28.2%	29.1%	26.0%	23.7%
Return on Average Equity (%)	50.7%	49.0%	44.9%	44.9%	37.1%	32.5%
ROIC (%)	37.7%	38.1%	44.5%	46.8%	52.6%	52.8%
Margins						
Gross profit margin (%)	76.7%	77.0%	77.3%	77.3%	77.3%	77.2%
EBITDA margin (%)	51.9%	52.8%	54.8%	57.7%	57.6%	57.2%
EBIT margin (%)	48.3%	48.8%	49.7%	52.7%	52.6%	52.2%
Net profit margin (%)	44.4%	45.5%	45.5%	48.6%	48.4%	48.1%
Market Data and Valuation Ratios						
Market Capitalization (KWD Mn)	328	455	399	376	376	376
Enterprise Value (KWD Mn)	326	456	400	392	392	392
Earnings Per Share (KWD)	0.199	0.231	0.259	0.283	0.285	0.287
Book Value Per Share (KWD)	0.397	0.467	0.551	0.710	0.827	0.941
Dividend Per Share (KWD)	0.160	0.174	0.184	0.225	0.230	0.235
PE (x)	13.6	16.2	12.7	10.9	10.8	10.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.5	14.0	10.5	9.6	9.5	9.5
PB (x)	6.8	8.0	6.0	4.4	3.7	3.3
Dividend Yield (%)	5.9%	4.7%	5.6%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%

Source : KAMCO Research and Humansoft

Note : Forward & Historical Valuation ratios are based on current market prices

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