# Cosmo Bio (TYO: 3386)

Sales and profits declined, continuing from 2Q, affected by the weak yen. Research reagent sales to trend upwards in the near term.

# Summary of 3Q results for FY12/2023: Sales and profits declined, affected by the weak yen.

FY12/2023 3Q results of Cosmo Bio showed a 3.5% YoY decline in sales and a 36.4% decline in operating profit. 3Q sales of research reagents show a recovery trend, but the drop in sales from 1Q to 2Q weighed on the cumulative 9-month results. The business was significantly affected by the foreign exchange rate move due to the nature of the business as an import trading company, as well as an increase in SG&A expenses, resulting in a continued decline in profits from 2Q. The weak yen is expected to continue for some time, so the company continues its cost-cutting efforts. As a new initiative, it announced the launch of a contract service matching website, Scientist<sup>3</sup>.

The share price has been below 1,000 yen since February this year. The yen is expected to remain weak for the time being, and the company will likely undergo a difficult period in terms of profitability. On the other hand, sales activities have returned to pre-pandemic levels following the downgrade of COVID-19 to Category 5. Hence, a gradual recovery in sales can be expected. In addition, some of the selling price changes implemented in response to rising procurement costs appear to penetrate. The share price should reflect the improvement in profitability due to these measures. PBR below 1x is also a matter of management concern, and we are interested in keeping a close eye on how the company will move.

#### Results for 3Q FY12/2023

The 3Q results for FY12/2023 show sales of 6,877 million yen (-3.5% YoY), operating profit of 447 million yen (-36.4% YoY) and quarterly profit attributable to owner of parent of 366 million yen (-19.4% YoY).

In terms of sales, on top of the high sales in the same period of the previous year, the growth of the Drug Discovery and Contract Services segment, which requires a long time for the results of sales activities to bear fruit, was affected by COVID-19 in the first half of the year. There were also delays in introducing new technologies from overseas. However, as a result of countermeasures, sales of research reagents have been recovering since the beginning of 3Q.

By product, sales of Research reagents, Equipment and Clinical diagnostic reagents decreased to 5,421 million yen (-2.0%), 1,413 million yen (-6.6%), 43 million yen (-48.8%) YoY, respectively. As mentioned above, the main reason was the delay in developing new products and customers due to the inability to conduct sufficient sales activities during the COVID-19 expansion. On the other hand, sales of contract services and consumables other than reagent sales continued to decline, which was a major factor in the latest decline in sales. Sales of consumables, which are included in Equipment, were sluggish due to the inventory hangover of the customers.

### 3Q results update

# Pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical wholesalers

As of December 8, 2023

Share price (12/7)	<b>969</b> Yen
52weeks high/low	¥1,028/937
Avg Vol (3 month)	4,960 thou shrs
Market Cap	¥5.8 bn
Enterprise Value	¥2.6 bn
PER (23/12 CE)	12.55 X
PBR (22/12 act)	0.67 X
Dividend Yield (23/12 CE)	3.10 %
ROE (TTM)	5.23 %
Operating margin (TTM)	6.02 %
Beta (5Y Monthly)	0.51
Shares Outstanding	6.048 mn shrs
Listed market	TSE Standard section

## Share price performance



3/7/23	6/7/23	9/7/23	12/7/23		
	1mo.	3mo.	12mo.		
	-0.7%	0.4%	-4.6%		
re price	-1.9%	1.4%	-21.3%		
		1mo. -0.7%	1mo. 3mo. -0.7% 0.4%		

#### **Points of interest**

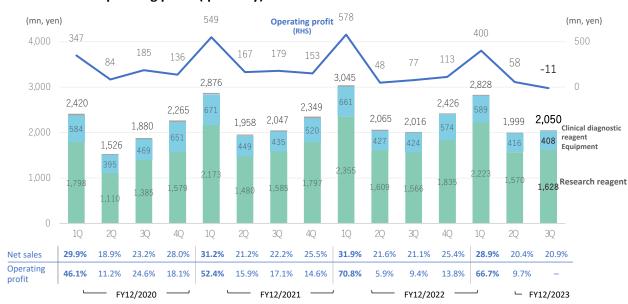
Specialist biotechnology trading company with the objective of 'Contribute to the advancement of life sciences'. To meet the diverse needs of researchers, the company offers more than 10 million items from some 600 manufacturers worldwide. In recent years, the company has focused on its manufacturing function and is expanding into in-house contract services and manufacturing and sales of its products.

This report (financial update) has been prepared at the request of Cosmo Bio. For details, please refer to the Disclaimer on the last page.

JPY, mn, %	Net sales	YoY %	Oper. profit	YoY %	Ord. profit	YoY %	Profit ATOP	YoY %	EPS (¥)	DPS (¥)
2019/12	7,590	4.5	405	23.5	470	16.5	237	-8.6	40.14	14.00
2020/12	8,092	6.6	752	85.6	817	73.7	674	183.2	113.70	34.00
2021/12	9,231	14.1	1,048	39.4	1,099	34.5	737	9.4	126.94	36.00
2022/12	9,553	3.5	816	-22.2	790	-28.1	517	-29.8	89.13	36.00
2023/12 (CE)	9,800	2.6	600	-26.5	660	-16.5	450	13.0	77.41	30.00
2022/12 3Q	7,127	3.6	703	-21.5	690	-26.4	454	-26.3	78.21	0.00
2023/12 3Q	6,877	-3.5	447	-36.4	554	-19.6	366	-19.4	62.84	0.00



#### Sales and operating profit (quarterly)

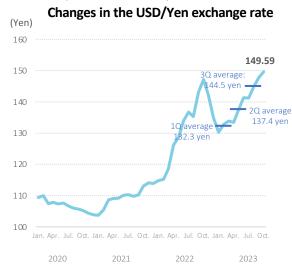


Note: Clinical diagnostics reagent sales are insignificant, and figures have not been shown. The table at the bottom shows the composition of the quarterly record to the full-year figures; The figures for FY12/2023 are a progress ratio to the full-year forecast.

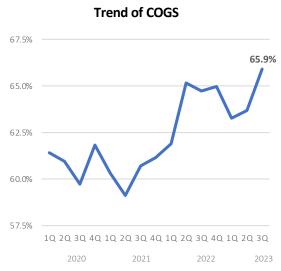
Source: Omega Investment from company materials

Analysis of changes in 3Q operating profit has not been published. However, given that the exchange rate impact accounted for 177 million yen of the YoY OP decrease of 168 million yen in 2Q, and considering the average exchange rate depreciated to 145 yen in 3Q (the third quarter only, Bank of Japan data, see chart below left) from 135 yen in the first half, the exchange rate move is assumed to have had a significant impact. Looking at the company's purchases by currency, the US dollar accounts for just under 60% of purchases, the EUR for just under 10%, and only around 1/3 are settled in Japanese yen. Thus, currency movements directly affect the company's COGS ratio. The exchange rate in 1Q-3Q previous year was 128 yen to the US dollar, but in 1Q-3Q 2023, it was 138 yen, a depreciation of 10 yen (see chart below left, based on the Bank of Japan's rate).

Although the company has mitigated the risk of exchange rate fluctuations to some extent by using forward exchange rate contracts, the impact on earnings is still significant. The company is assuming an exchange rate of 140 yen for the year's second half. However, considering that the average exchange rate for the third quarter only was already 145 yen (based on the Bank of Japan rate), the impact on profits is likely to be even greater. In response to the weak yen (i.e. deterioration in COGS ratio due to higher import costs), the company has been gradually raising prices on some products (by several to 20% depending on the product) since last autumn, which has begun to have an effect. Still, the company believes that the market environment and price competition with other companies in the industry will remain harsh.



Source: Bank of Japan, Tokyo interbank quotes, monthly average.



Source: Omega Investment from company materials

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SG&A expenses were 2,017 million yen, up 6.8% YoY, and the SGAE ratio rose 2.8 percentage points YoY to 29.3%. The company has been recruiting talented people in line with its long-term growth strategy, and the increase in personnel costs weighs heavily.

Looking at 3Q alone, sales increased by 1.7% to 2,050 million yen, reversing the decline in 1Q and 2Q (see also table on p. 5). By product line, sales of Research reagents were 1,628 million yen (+4.0%), Equipment 408 million yen (-3.8%) and Clinical diagnostic reagents 15 million yen (-42.3%), with Research reagent sales recording YoY growth due to the effect of price revisions and the resumption of sales activities after COVID-19. The company posted an operating loss of 11 million yen, with the average exchange rate for July-September at 144.5 yen against the dollar, a more significant swing to a weaker yen than the 132.3 yen in 1Q and 137.4 yen in 2Q, which had a considerable impact on costs (see previous page, based on the Bank of Japan's rate). As a result, the COGS ratio worsened by 2 percentage points from 1H to 3Q, from 63.3% in 1Q to 63.7% in 2Q to 65.9% in 3Q, and, on top of that, the increase in SGAE is considered to be the reason for the operating loss (see previous page, bottom right-hand diagram).

In the BS, current assets at the end of September 2023 increased by 297 million yen compared to the end of the previous year. Cash and deposits increased by 402 million yen, while trade receivables decreased. Investment securities increased by 190 million, and non-current assets increased by 164 million yen to 3,340 million yen, bringing total assets to 10,773 million yen (up 460 million yen). As for liabilities and equity, total liabilities increased to 1,773 million yen (up 78 million yen) due to an increase in long-term liabilities. At the end of September 2023, the equity ratio was 78.2%, an improvement of 0.1 percentage points YoY. The company is virtually debt-free, has ample cash and a high equity ratio, and has sound financial health.

### ♦ Forecast for FY12/2023: No change from initial forecasts

The company's forecasts for FY12/2023 were 9.8 billion yen (+2.6%) for net sales, 0.6 billion yen (-26.5%) for operating profit, 0.66 billion yen (-16.5%) for ordinary profit and 0.45 billion yen (-13.0%) for net profit attributable to owners of parent company, and as of the end of 3Q there were no changes. At the end of 3Q, the progress ratios against the full-year forecasts were 70.2%, 74.5%, 83.9% and 81.3%, respectively. Considering that the company's results are heavily biased towards the 1Q, further sales and operating profit increases must be delivered to meet the forecasts.

The company has not changed its dividend policy: interim dividend of 14 yen a share (16 yen in 1H of last year) and 2H dividend of 16 yen (20 yen in the previous year), for a total dividend of 30 yen (36 yen last year). The dividend payout ratio for the current financial year is expected to be 38.8%, which will be lower than that of the previous year.

#### **♦**Topics/future initiatives

Scientist<sup>3</sup>": On 30 October, the company announced the launch of "Scientist<sup>3</sup>", a matching website for contract services for life science researchers, from spring 2024. "Scientist<sup>3</sup>" is a matching service platform specializing in life science research, a system that matches domestic and foreign suppliers of contract services with domestic researchers who use those contract services. Researchers can make inquiries, place orders, deliver and pay for contract services they are interested in, all online. The company has set 'Contribute to the advancement of life science' as the group's objective in its new three-year plan from 2023, and this service is in line with this mission. It is the first platform service of its kind in Japan and is attracting attention as a new attempt in the research reagent industry, where face-to-face sales have traditionally been the mainstay.

Expanding overseas operations: The company has also identified expanding its overseas operations, including its export business, as one of the group's long-term strategies in its new three-year plan. It intends to increase its overseas sales, which currently stand at around 10%. Globally, the US is the leading country in the bio-industry; therefore, the US reagent industry is also led by US reagent companies. As a result, foreign exchange rates heavily influence the company's earnings during periods of yen depreciation, such as now. The company has seen delays in its overseas expansion due to the curtailment of activities and self-restraint following the outbreak of COVID-19 but intends to strengthen its export business further. By strengthening the export business, the company plans to expand sales and shift to an earnings structure less susceptible to the effects of foreign exchange rates.

#### ♦ Share price outlook: Expectations for earnings recovery in 4Q

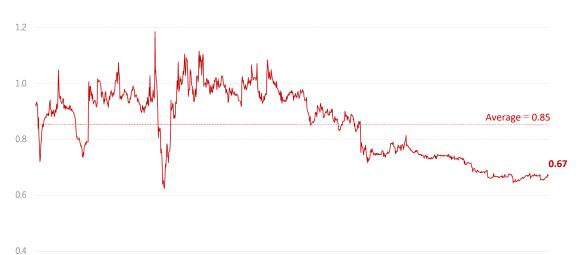
The company's share price has been below 1,000 yen for a long time since February this year. The yen is expected to remain weak for some time, given the interest rate differential between Japan and the US and the policies of the monetary authorities, and the company is forecasting lower profits for the full year as well, so there may be a lack of positive expectations on the shares' near-term performance. However, the fact that sales of research reagents are improving in 3Q is positive news, and if the company can mitigate the impact of foreign exchange rates to some extent by further controlling costs, these should positively affect the share price. The company's PBR below 1x is also a matter of the management's concern, and we are interested to see how they respond to this.



### 3386: 5-year stock price move



### Historical PBR (LTM, last five years)



2018-12-10 2019-06-17 2019-12-12 2020-06-16 2020-12-11 2021-06-11 2021-12-08 2022-06-09 2022-12-06 2023-06-05 2023-11-29



## Financial data I (quarterly)

	2020/12				2021/12				2022/12				2023/12		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q
[Statements of income]															
Net sales	2,420	1,526	1,880	2,266	2,878	1,957	2,046	2,350	3,047	2,064	2,016	2,426	2,828	1,999	2,050
Year-on-year basis	12.7%	-7.3%	4.4%	13.6%	18.9%	28.2%	8.8%	3.7%	5.9%	5.5%	-1.5%	3.2%	-7.2%	-3.1%	1.7%
Research reagent	1,798	1,110	1,385	1,579	2,173	1,480	1,585	1,797	2,355	1,609	1,566	1,835	2,223	1,570	1,628
Equipment	584	395	469	651	671	449	435	520	661	427	424	574	589	416	408
Clinical diagnostic reagent	37	21	26	35	32	29	27	32	29	29	26	17	16	12	15
Cost of sales	1,486	930	1,123	1,401	1,736	1,157	1,242	1,437	1,886	1,345	1,305	1,576	1,789	1,273	1,350
Gross profit	934	595	757	866	1,142	800	803	913	1,160	719	712	849	1,039	726	699
Gross profit margin	38.6%	39.0%	40.3%	38.2%	39.7%	40.9%	39.2%	38.9%	38.1%	34.8%	35.3%	35.0%	36.7%	36.3%	34.1%
SG&A expenses	586	512	572	729	593	632	625	759	581	672	635	736	638	668	711
Operating profit	347	84	185	136	549	167	179	153	578	48	77	113	400	58	-11
Year-on-year basis	53.5%	460.0%	62.3%	172.0%	58.2%	98.8%	-3.2%	12.5%	5.3%	-71.3%	-57.0%	-26.1%	-30.7%	20.8%	_
Operating profit margin	14.3%	5.5%	9.8%	6.0%	19.1%	8.5%	8.7%	6.5%	19.0%	2.3%	3.8%	4.7%	14.1%	2.9%	_
Non-operating profit	8	43	9	11	7	42	9	13	6	27	11	13	16	85	16
Non-operating expenses	0	0	0	6	22	-8	2	4	20	19	18	26	0	0	0
Ordinary Profit	355	127	194	141	534	218	185	162	565	55	70	100	416	136	2
Extraordinary profit	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
Extraordinary expenses	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
Income before income taxes	355	318	194	141	534	218	185	162	565	55	70	100	416	136	2
Total income taxes	114	98	60	35	184	55	58	34	179	15	19	25	137	37	2
Net profit	232	218	125	99	333	157	125	122	366	41	47	63	264	97	5
Year-on-year basis	57.8%	581.3%	56.3%	-550.0%	43.5%	-28.0%	0.0%	23.2%	9.9%	-73.9%	-62.4%	-48.4%	-27.8%	136.6%	-89.4%
Net profit ratio	9.6%	14.3%	6.6%	4.4%	11.6%	8.0%	6.1%	5.2%	12.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%	9.3%	4.9%	0.2%
[Balance Sheets]															
Current assets	6,315	6,300	6,383	6,756	6,975	6,797	6,983	7,310	7,754	7,409	7,089	7,136	7,558	7,570	7,433
cash and deposits	2,407	3,171	3,251	3,159	2,702	3,235	3,147	3,255	2,994	3,370	3,347	3,036	2,926	3,752	3,438
Accounts receivable	2,911	2,033	2,188	2,784	3,262	2,431	2,434	2,714	3,390	2,567	2,436	2,799	3,332	2,488	2,485
Goods and products	721	861	804	572	551	742	804	805	900	1,054	1,077	1,055	981	1,005	1,061
Non-current assets	2,980	3,003	3,039	2,883	2,957	2,838	2,789	2,761	2,801	2,905	3,009	3,176	3,136	3,281	3,340
Property, plant and equipment	689	673	649	636	624	606	593	599	591	586	583	577	578	566	568
Investments and other assets	2,101	2,157	2,224	2,081	2,168	2,037	1,998	1,979	2,038	2,149	2,269	2,428	2,391	2,550	2,615
Total assets	9,295	9,304	9,422	9,640	9,933	9,635	9,773	10,072	10,556	10,315	10,098	10,313	10,695	10,852	10,773
Current liabilities	1,158	976	1,057	1,226	1,327	1,015	915	1,093	1,450	1,131	927	1,038	1,203	1,037	1,042
Short-term borrowings	142	199	199	180	180	190	199	183	183	188	188	184		20	20
Non-current liabilities	600	593	570	552	609	597	654	658	632	632	639	656	663	726	731
Total liabilities	1,758	1,569	1,628	1,779	1,937	1,613	1,570	1,752	2,083	1,763	1,566	1,695	1,866	1,763	1,773
Total net assets	7,537	7,734	7,794	7,861	7,996	8,022	8,203	8,319	8,473	8,552	8,531	8,617	8,828	9,088	9,000
Shareholders' equity	7,052	7,247	7,299	7,358	7,479	7,499	7,678	7,787	7,924	8,004	7,979	8,052	8,250	7,789	8,426
Share capital	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918
Capital surplus	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,252	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,261	1,261
Retained earnings	4,366	4,584	4,662	4,761	4,940	5,097	5,153	5,274	5,502	5,543	5,496	5,560	5,708	5,805	5,728
Treasury shares	-67	-67	-67	-67	-207	-251	-239	-239	-239	-216	-216	-216	-216	-194	-194
Accumulated other comprehensive income	582	560	533	494	575	483	586	574	484	498	520	530	580	719	712
Non-controlling interests	485	487	495	503	517	523	525	532	549	548	552	565	578	579	574
Total liabilities and net assets	9,295	9,304	9,422	9,640	9,933	9,635	9,773	10,072	10,556	10,315	10,098	10,313	10,695	10,852	10,773
Shareholders' equity ratio	75.9%	77.9%	77.5%	76.3%	75.3%	77.8%	78.6%	77.3%	75.1%	77.6%	79.0%	78.1%	77.1%	78.4%	
[Statements of cash flows]															
Cash flow from operating activities		735		803		600		648		480		284		848	
Cash flow from investing activities		70		42		-187		-145		-260		-291		-33	
Cash flow from financing activities		-49		-97		-343		-420		-142		-236		-119	
Net increase in cash and cash equiv.		755		743		76		95		115		-218		715	
Cash and cash equiv. at beginning of period		2,416		2,416		3,159		3,159		3,255		3,255		3,036	
Cash and cash equiv. at end of period		3,171		3,159		3,235		3,255		3,370		3,036		3,752	

Note: For the cash flow statement, the figures for 2Q are the cumulative totals for 1Q-2Q. The figures for 4Q are the cumulative totals for 1Q-4Q. Therefore, the opening balances are also those of the previous 4Q.

Source: Omega Investment from company materials



## Financial data I (Fiscal year)

	2012/12	2013/12	2014/12	2015/12	2016/12	2017/12	2018/12	2019/12	2020/12	2021/12	2022/12
[Statements of income]											
Net sales	7,241	7,050	7,235	7,357	7,427	7,068	7,261	7,590	8,092	9,231	9,553
Year-on-year	0.7%	-2.6%	2.6%	1.7%	1.0%	-4.8%	2.7%	4.5%	6.6%	14.1%	3.5%
Cost of sales	4,057	4,429	4,811	4,976	4,655	4,535	4,602	4,710	4,940	5,572	6,112
Gross profit	3,184	2,620	2,424	2,380	2,772	2,532	2,659	2,879	3,152	3,658	3,440
SG&A expenses	2,386	2,349	2,261	2,180	2,257	2,339	2,330	2,474	2,399	2,609	2,624
Operating profit	798	271	162	200	514	193	328	405	752	1,048	816
Year-on-year	-10.4%	-66.0%	-40.2%	23.5%	157.0%	-62.5%	69.9%	23.5%	85.7%	39.4%	-22.1%
Operating profit margin	11.0%	3.8%	2.2%	2.7%	6.9%	2.7%	4.5%	5.3%	9.3%	11.4%	8.5%
Non-operating profit	46	177	128	175	21	208	89	72	71	71	57
Non-operating expenses	43	3	5	2	51	3	13	7	6	20	83
Ordinary Profit	801	444	285	373	483	397	403	470	817	1,099	790
Extraordinary profit	3	9	46	34	55	8			190		
Extraordinary expenses	30	2	1	0	82	5		81			
Income before income taxes	774	451	330	407	456	400	403	388	1,008	1,099	790
Total income taxes	336	137	131	158	180	148	126	142	307	331	238
net profit attributable to owner of											
parent	411	313	201	230	254	237	260	237	674	737	517
Year-on-year	-10.3%	-23.8%	-35.8%	14.4%	10.4%	-6.7%	9.7%	-8.8%	184.4%	9.3%	-29.9%
Net profit ratio	5.7%	4.4%	2.8%	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.1%	8.3%	8.0%	5.4%
[Balance Sheets]											
Current assets	5,413	5,527	5,234	5,266	5,495	5,143	5,668	5,927	6,756	7,310	7,136
Cash equivalents and short-term securities	2,143	2,036	1,482	1,498	1,948	1,483	2,268	2,516	3,259	3,555	3,036
Non-current assets	1,541	2,750	2,927	2,523	2,438	2,982	2,832	2,962	2,883	2,761	3,176
Property, plant and equipment	178	185	213	227	319	690	636	695	636	599	577
Investments and other assets	1,201	2,456	2,613	2,071	1,842	2,041	1,943	2,068	2,081	1,979	2,428
Total assets	6,955	8,277	8,161	7,790	7,934	8,126	8,501	8,890	9,640	10,072	10,313
Current liabilities	916	818	1,130	1,017	916	799	945	987	1,226	1,093	1,038
Short-term borrowings	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Non-current liabilities	317	660	497	394	436	488	502	581	552	658	656
Total liabilities	1,234	1,479	1,628	1,412	1,352	1,288	1,448	1,568	1,779	1,752	1,695
Total net assets	5,720	6,797	6,532	6,378	6,581	6,838	7,053	7,321	7,861	8,319	8,617
Shareholders' equity	5,230	6,311	6,050	5,951	6,135	6,381	6,581	6,843	7,358	7,787	8,052
Share capital	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918	918
Capital surplus	1,221	1,221	1,221	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,251	1,258	1,260
Retained earnings	3,119	3,314	3,397	3,521	3,680	3,812	4,026	4,181	4,761	5,274	5,560
Treasury shares	-67	-67	-67	-67	-67	-67	-67	-67	-67	-239	-216
Valuation and exchange differences	37	924	579	327	352	466	451	558	494	574	530
Total liabilities and net assets	6,955	8,277	8,161	7,790	7,934	8,126	8,501	8,890	9,640	10,072	10,313
(Equity ratio)	75.2%	76.2%	74.1%	76.4%	77.3%	78.5%	77.4%	77.0%	76.3%	77.3%	78.1%
[Statements of cash flows]											
Cash flow from operating activities	347	126	297	129	573	89	908	549	803	648	284
Cash flow from investing activities	-167	-99	-227	-263	99	-235	-185	-115	42	-145	-291
Cash flow from financing activities	-126	-126	-122	-151	-107	-109	-85	-85	-97	-420	-236
Net increase in cash and cash equiv.	61	-97	-52	-285	549	-264	684	348	743	95	-218
Cash and cash equiv. at beginning of											
period period	1,471	1,532	1,435	1,383	1,098	1,648	1,383	2,068	2,416	3,159	3,255
Cash and cash equiv. at end of period	1,532	1,435	1,383	1,098	1,648	1,383	2,068	2,416	3,159	3,255	3,036
FCF	180	27	70	-134	672	-146	723	434	845	503	-7

Source: Omega Investment from company materials



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