COMMENTARY



February 28, 2014

Dear clients and colleagues,

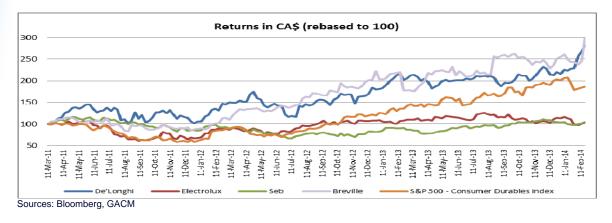
De'Longhi (DLG) is an Italian based manufacturer of small domestic appliances that operates under 4 distinctive brands; DeLonghi, Kenwood, Braun and Ariete. Its product line includes kitchen appliances (mixing machines, food processors, blenders), coffee machines (automatic espresso, capsule machines) and home care (floor cleaning, ironing, portable heaters and air conditioners). The segment of kitchen products and coffee makers, which is growing faster than the overall appliance market, generates more than 70% of its sales.

With more than half of its sales coming from the premium segment (products with an average selling price superior to €180) DLG has a unique high-end profile in the small appliance industry. Its strong market positioning and technical expertise make it a remarkable innovator.

Moreover, we believe that DLG is benefiting from a positive shift in consumer preferences and behaviors. There seems to be a growing trend for healthy food and cooking at home. This trend focuses on the quality of product, foods and consequently favors brands such as DLG. New product designs offering better functionality and quality standards should provide plenty of opportunity for companies like DLG.

At €7.9 billion, the western European small domestic appliance market is quite considerable in size. Although this market grows at 2.5% per annum, other product categories such as espresso machine are growing at more than 7%. Thanks to the global expansion of major coffee shops such as Starbucks, Costa Coffee and Illy, coffee consumption has never been so high.

DLG has delivered excellent financial results in the past years. This family owned company has successfully consolidated the market while improving its margins and maintaining a sound financial position. Since we initiated the positions 3 years ago, DLG outperformed the overall appliance industry and most of its peers.



The Global Alpha Team

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