Université Libre de Bruxelles
Faculté SOCO
2005-2006

Final Exam
2nd session
Form A

Saturday 2 September 2006

Indications

Please follow these indications:

1. The exam lasts 3 hours.

2. Please verify that your document contains exactly 4 pages.

3. Sub-questions have a weight of 1 point each (a total of 16 points).

4. Please write your firstname and lastname on all pages.

5. Good work!!!

Questions

Q1 IPOs and M&As

Matthew Mackenzie (MattMax for the insiders), the long-time CEO of HydroFuse, comes to talk to his CFO, Kevin Larsson (Kevlar for the insiders). Both have founded the company some years ago and it is has proven to be highly successful.

MattMax seems to be highly excited with the idea of running an IPO procedure. He tells Kevlar : "Hey! Everybody around us is going public when their company goes well! Imagine, our company listed on the stock exchanges! What do you think?"

(1) What do YOU think? What could be the advantages of going public?

MattMax continues: "Hey, M. Kevlar, you can help with that. You are a perfect CFO and it should be easy for you to organise that. Don't be too rigid this time, ok?"

(2) Is it so easy to go public? What do you have to care about when going public? Please comment duly.

MattMax continues, unstoppable: "Kevin, by the way, how much do you think we could raise per share?" Kevin has never been though the valuation of their shares until now.

(3) Several methods of valuation exist, among which we find the "multiples" method, the Dividend Discount Model (DDM) and the Free Cash Flow Model (FCFM). What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method?

Assume Kevin chooses a FCFM and compiles the following data:

- The riskfree rate is 4% and the expected market return is 10%.
- The tax rate is 34%

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- The beta of assets of comparable firms is 1.5.
- The target debt/value (D/V) ratio of HydroFuse is 50% and their cost of debt is 9%.

Moreover, Kevin, as a good CFO with a strong Solvay background, thinks that he should use a WACC that is consistent with 2 ideas: the WACC should be consistent with a constant debt ratio and with the value of tax shields being discounted at the required rate of return on assets, k_a.

(4) Compute k_a and the WACC to be used in the present case.

The firm expects to generate unlevered free cash flows of €2.5 million (first year), growing at a pace of 10% during the next 5 years. Then, from year 6 onwards, the growth rate should be reduced to 3% per year to remain prudential on the valuation. There are 2'000'000 shares.

(5) Provide a value for the shares of HydroFuse.

(6) How much is the present value of tax shields responsible for in your valuation?

The bank is calling you today to determine the price around which the subscription interval will be defined when issuing the prospectus. Even though you have been through the valuation procedure before, you will not necessarily determine with him the same value to be the issuing price…

(7) Imagine that the value found before for the share price is the "true price". Explain why you may not be proposing the true price as an issuing price? Will you propose a higher or a lower price to be proposed to the market? Why? Comment carefully on the underlying reasons if any.

The value of this kind of firms happens to be quite volatile. Assuming a very simple uniform distribution, we can think that the value could be in a range of €10 higher or lower than the value found above for the share price. Moreover, these new powering technologies attract a lot of attention of the investors and given that you had to deal with many partners, you may guess that the amount of informed investors is relatively high, let's say 20%.

(8) What price do you propose then to the banker?

Remark:

The roots of a second-order polynomial can be found through the following expression:
$$x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$

Q2 Added-value

MattMax comes the following day to Kevlar telling him: "I have been looking at the valuation you made yesterday. The free cash flows include the values of some licenses that we would not develop and that we could sell. How the hell have you been able to put a value on those?"

(9) Can you help Kevlar to answer? Comment carefully.

(10) What are the exact inputs you would require to put your valuation into place? What proxies could you use for some of them? Otherwise said, provide the exact details of the inputs and methodology together with its implementation to value those licenses.

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Q3 M&A

MattMax's mind is clearly skyrocketing. He finally not so convinced about willing to run an IPO process and continue developing internal growth after. He thinks that another solution could be to try to find the right acquisitive partner instead of going through an IPO.

(11) What do you think about the choice of an IPO vs. an acquisition by a bigger counterpart?

MattMax continues, arguing that for the potential acquirer he's thinking about, HydroFuse could bring them diversification and that has some value in itself.

(12) What do you think of this? How would you value it? Argue carefully.

Q4 Issuing more equity

Splantex Inc., a company dedicated to the production of car bumpers, is considering investing in a new project. The project requires an investment of 5 mio € and is expected to generate, during a life of 10 years, a starting EBIT of €1 million the first year that will then grow at 2% for the remaining years. The investment will be depreciated linearly over the 10 years. There will be no maintenance reinvestment during the life of the project. The tax rate is 34%. Let's assume there is no debt. The riskfree rate is 4% and the expected market return is 10%. The beta of equity is 1.2.

(13) Compute the expected value of this project for the firm. What do you decide?

(14) Would the use of the APV method procure any advantage(s) in the present case? Comment.

Market analysts estimate the value of assets of the firm before the project to be at €100 million. In fact, this is a rough average. This kind of firms is subject to some volatility and everybody agrees that, in the case of Splantex, this could mean a high value of €120 million or a low value of €80 million, with both states being equiprobable.

(15) Knowing that the firm wants to make use of more equity to finance this project (they don't have enough retained earnings to use instead), do you think shareholders will agree to proceed with this project?

(16) What could you do in general to reduce the problem that may appear and that was described through the present question?

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N(x) & N(-x)=1-N(x)

H. Pirotte - SBS/ULB - FinMetrics SA - Mai 2005

x	0.000	0.005	0.010	0.015	0.020	0.025	0.030	0.035	0.040	0.045	0.050	0.055	0.060	0.065	0.070	0.075	0.080	0.085	0.090	0.095
0.0	0.5000	0.5020	0.5040	0.5060	0.5080	0.5100	0.5120	0.5140	0.5160	0.5179	0.5199	0.5219	0.5239	0.5259	0.5279	0.5299	0.5319	0.5339	0.5359	0.5378
0.1	0.5398	0.5418	0.5438	0.5458	0.5478	0.5497	0.5517	0.5537	0.5557	0.5576	0.5596	0.5616	0.5636	0.5655	0.5675	0.5695	0.5714	0.5734	0.5753	0.5773
0.2	0.5793	0.5812	0.5832	0.5851	0.5871	0.5890	0.5910	0.5929	0.5948	0.5968	0.5987	0.6006	0.6026	0.6045	0.6064	0.6083	0.6103	0.6122	0.6141	0.6160
0.3	0.6179	0.6198	0.6217	0.6236	0.6255	0.6274	0.6293	0.6312	0.6331	0.6350	0.6368	0.6387	0.6406	0.6424	0.6443	0.6462	0.6480	0.6499	0.6517	0.6536
0.4	0.6554	0.6573	0.6591	0.6609	0.6628	0.6646	0.6664	0.6682	0.6700	0.6718	0.6736	0.6754	0.6772	0.6790	0.6808	0.6826	0.6844	0.6862	0.6879	0.6897
0.5	0.6915	0.6932	0.6950	0.6967	0.6985	0.7002	0.7019	0.7037	0.7054	0.7071	0.7088	0.7106	0.7123	0.7140	0.7157	0.7174	0.7190	0.7207	0.7224	0.7241
0.6	0.7257	0.7274	0.7291	0.7307	0.7324	0.7340	0.7357	0.7373	0.7389	0.7405	0.7422	0.7438	0.7454	0.7470	0.7486	0.7502	0.7517	0.7533	0.7549	0.7565
0.7	0.7580	0.7596	0.7611	0.7627	0.7642	0.7658	0.7673	0.7688	0.7704	0.7719	0.7734	0.7749	0.7764	0.7779	0.7794	0.7808	0.7823	0.7838	0.7852	0.7867
0.8	0.7881	0.7896	0.7910	0.7925	0.7939	0.7953	0.7967	0.7981	0.7995	0.8009	0.8023	0.8037	0.8051	0.8065	0.8078	0.8092	0.8106	0.8119	0.8133	0.8146
0.9	0.8159	0.8173	0.8186	0.8199	0.8212	0.8225	0.8238	0.8251	0.8264	0.8277	0.8289	0.8302	0.8315	0.8327	0.8340	0.8352	0.8365	0.8377	0.8389	0.8401
1.0	0.8413	0.8426	0.8438	0.8449	0.8461	0.8473	0.8485	0.8497	0.8508	0.8520	0.8531	0.8543	0.8554	0.8566	0.8577	0.8588	0.8599	0.8610	0.8621	0.8632
1.1	0.8643	0.8654	0.8665	0.8676	0.8686	0.8697	0.8708	0.8718	0.8729	0.8739	0.8749	0.8760	0.8770	0.8780	0.8790	0.8800	0.8810	0.8820	0.8830	0.8840
1.2	0.8849	0.8859	0.8869	0.8878	0.8888	0.8897	0.8907	0.8916	0.8925	0.8934	0.8944	0.8953	0.8962	0.8971	0.8980	0.8988	0.8997	0.9006	0.9015	0.9023
1.3	0.9032	0.9041	0.9049	0.9057	0.9066	0.9074	0.9082	0.9091	0.9099	0.9107	0.9115	0.9123	0.9131	0.9139	0.9147	0.9154	0.9162	0.9170	0.9177	0.9185
1.4	0.9192	0.9200	0.9207	0.9215	0.9222	0.9229	0.9236	0.9244	0.9251	0.9258	0.9265	0.9272	0.9279	0.9285	0.9292	0.9299	0.9306	0.9312	0.9319	0.9325
1.5	0.9332	0.9338	0.9345	0.9351	0.9357	0.9364	0.9370	0.9376	0.9382	0.9388	0.9394	0.9400	0.9406	0.9412	0.9418	0.9424	0.9429	0.9435	0.9441	0.9446
1.6	0.9452	0.9458	0.9463	0.9468	0.9474	0.9479	0.9484	0.9490	0.9495	0.9500	0.9505	0.9510	0.9515	0.9520	0.9525	0.9530	0.9535	0.9540	0.9545	0.9550
1.7	0.9554	0.9559	0.9564	0.9568	0.9573	0.9577	0.9582	0.9586	0.9591	0.9595	0.9599	0.9604	0.9608	0.9612	0.9616	0.9621	0.9625	0.9629	0.9633	0.9637
1.8	0.9641	0.9645	0.9649	0.9652	0.9656	0.9660	0.9664	0.9667	0.9671	0.9675	0.9678	0.9682	0.9686	0.9689	0.9693	0.9696	0.9699	0.9703	0.9706	0.9710
1.9	0.9713	0.9716	0.9719	0.9723	0.9726	0.9729	0.9732	0.9735	0.9738	0.9741	0.9744	0.9747	0.9750	0.9753	0.9756	0.9759	0.9761	0.9764	0.9767	0.9770
2.0	0.9772	0.9775	0.9778	0.9780	0.9783	0.9786	0.9788	0.9791	0.9793	0.9796	0.9798	0.9801	0.9803	0.9805	0.9808	0.9810	0.9812	0.9815	0.9817	0.9819
2.1	0.9821	0.9824	0.9826	0.9828	0.9830	0.9832	0.9834	0.9836	0.9838	0.9840	0.9842	0.9844	0.9846	0.9848	0.9850	0.9852	0.9854	0.9856	0.9857	0.9859
2.2	0.9861	0.9863	0.9864	0.9866	0.9868	0.9870	0.9871	0.9873	0.9875	0.9876	0.9878	0.9879	0.9881	0.9882	0.9884	0.9885	0.9887	0.9888	0.9890	0.9891
2.3	0.9893	0.9894	0.9896	0.9897	0.9898	0.9900	0.9901	0.9902	0.9904	0.9905	0.9906	0.9907	0.9909	0.9910	0.9911	0.9912	0.9913	0.9915	0.9916	0.9917
2.4	0.9918	0.9919	0.9920	0.9921	0.9922	0.9923	0.9925	0.9926	0.9927	0.9928	0.9929	0.9930	0.9931	0.9931	0.9932	0.9933	0.9934	0.9935	0.9936	0.9937
2.5	0.9938	0.9939	0.9940	0.9940	0.9941	0.9942	0.9943	0.9944	0.9945	0.9945	0.9946	0.9947	0.9948	0.9948	0.9949	0.9950	0.9951	0.9951	0.9952	0.9953
2.6	0.9953	0.9954	0.9955	0.9955	0.9956	0.9957	0.9957	0.9958	0.9959	0.9959	0.9960	0.9960	0.9961	0.9962	0.9962	0.9963	0.9963	0.9964	0.9964	0.9965
2.7	0.9965	0.9966	0.9966	0.9967	0.9967	0.9968	0.9968	0.9969	0.9969	0.9970	0.9970	0.9971	0.9971	0.9972	0.9972	0.9972	0.9973	0.9973	0.9974	0.9974
2.8	0.9974	0.9975	0.9975	0.9976	0.9976	0.9976	0.9977	0.9977	0.9977	0.9978	0.9978	0.9978	0.9979	0.9979	0.9979	0.9980	0.9980	0.9980	0.9981	0.9981
2.9	0.9981	0.9982	0.9982	0.9982	0.9982	0.9983	0.9983	0.9983	0.9984	0.9984	0.9984	0.9984	0.9985	0.9985	0.9985	0.9985	0.9986	0.9986	0.9986	0.9986
3.0	0.9987	0.9987	0.9987	0.9987	0.9987	0.9988	0.9988	0.9988	0.9988	0.9988	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989	0.9990	0.9990	0.9990	0.9990
3.1	0.9990	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9993	0.9993	0.9993	0.9993	0.9993
3.2	0.9993	0.9993	0.9993	0.9993	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995
3.3	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9997	0.9997
3.4	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998
3.5	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9998	0.9999
3.6	0.9998	0.9998	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999
3.7	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999
3.8	0.9999	0.9999	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
3.9	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
4.0	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

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