

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Corporate Finance
Student:	Kirill N. Naumov
Title of thesis:	Value Creation through Acquisitions: The event study of Russian traded companies

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.

The problem of whether value is created through acquisitions is permanently under attention of researchers. There is no universal answer for all times and all countries. So the problem for Russia is quite relevant. The author focuses on analysis in three industries.

Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

Chapter 1 is devoted to the exposition of basic material and literature survey in acquisitions and event studies as a main method of acquisition analysis. Chapter 2 presents an advanced method for event studies. Chapter 3 contains author's calculation for the case of Russia. Theoretical part is not new but empirical implementation is due to the author.

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

Author adequately presents models and uses them in creative way on Russian data. He outlines also possibilities of further research and accurately provide the assumptions. It is quite good.

Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.

The data are taken from the public sources. The most important choice is about acquisition events where a concrete researcher's work is needed. He has focused at three industries during 2006-2012. The list of references is relevant.

Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.

The conclusion of the thesis is clear. It documents abnormal returns for acquisitions in Oil&Gas and Financial industries whereas for Metals&Mining industry no influence was observed. This is important information for analysts.

Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.

As I mentioned above the thesis is useful for analysts. As the vast majority of regression-oriented papers it does not have any particular information for a concrete company/case and does not suggest, which factors affect value creation. This does not diminish positive impression of the paper.

Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

Layout fulfils the requirements and of good quality. Though the size of Appendices is not limited I would like to mention excessive size of those with a plenty of data, which say nothing to a reader.

The Master thesis of Kirill N. Naumov meets the requirements for master thesis of MCF program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date: June 12, 2012

Scientific Advisor:
Professor of Finance

Alexander Bukhvalov