

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Corporate Finance
Student:	Maksim Adaskevich
Title of thesis:	DETERMINANTS OF PUBLIC-TO-PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS: EVIDENCE FROM THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

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 goal of the study conducted by Adaskevich M. is to find a solution to the following research problem "which external and internal factors serve as the determinants of the probability of a company being delisted as a result of being bought out by private equity fund or management?" Based on contemporary research on this topic Maksim provides lists of both groups of factors and shows why they lead to a change in probability of being delisted as a result of being bought out by private equity fund or management. After conducting such analysis, he soundly singles out for his study such factors as ownership structure and analyst following. More and more studies in modern international articles are devoted to discussion of this topic. Therefore, the topic of Master thesis of Adaskevich M. is relevant from scientific and practical point of view. The structure of Master thesis is as following. In Introduction part, Adaskevich M. justifies relevance of the topic, states the goal and objectives, gives short description of methods of the research and points out bibliography. In the first chapter, he provides a review of existing literature on the determinants of public-to-private transactions classifies the theories explaining the motives for public-to-private deals; takes a closer look at two of deals with a LSE-listed company as a target in light of those theories and formulates hypotheses.

In the second chapter, he describes research design chosen, sample selection. Model construction is done in a proper way, control variables are fully justified. Results of empirical study are presented in a clear and understandable manner. Finally, Adaskevich M. presents and discusses the empirical results of his study and concludes with a summary of key results and implications of the study.

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.

Thesis is logically constructed, has clear structure and does not have any logical bias to one or another issue, the quality of introduction and conclusion parts is good. Theoretical background, used in the thesis is directly connected with the practical part. In the paper it is clearly shown how results of empirical study could be applied to managerial decisions. Each part of the paper is logically connected with the previous one and the text flow is concise and structured.

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.

Adaskevich M. showed himself as mature and independent researcher. The thesis demonstrated the ability of the author to identify, understand and wisely express the main problem, and propose options for solving it.

The paper is distinguished by the independence demonstrated in the analysis of literature review, by the development of methodology and by the empirical research. In the empirical part Maksim showed good skills in the use of statistical and econometric techniques. Independent, competent and reasonable approach to the formulation of the research problem and its solution is presented; independent choice and justification of the Cox's model, methods of regression analysis are applied on representative data sample of UK companies. Thesis is performed at a good level and is conclusive.

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 is valid and relevant. The sample contains 11 701 firm-year observations representing 1857

unique firms. The methodology and analysis methods (descriptive statistics and regression analysis) are relevant for this research, processing the data collected. The list of references is relevant and contains recent papers as well as classical ones devoted to the chosen study issue.

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 author demonstrated the scientific thinking in solving research problem, the thesis is conducted independently. Scientific part of the research is done in a good way; all the necessary explanations are presented. The author applied existing methodology used in previous studies (Cox's model) to identify the link between insider ownership, the number of analysts and the probability of going private. The variables of the empirical study are presented in a good way and are fully justified. Results of empirical analysis are presented in a good and concise way and support the independence and scientific thinking of the author.

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.

Empirical results are interpreted properly and presented in a good and clear way.

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

The layout of the thesis meets the requirements for master thesis preparation.

The Master thesis of Adaskevich M. meets the requirements for master thesis of MCF program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

10.06.2015

Scientific Advisor:
Asc. Prof. Irina Berezinets

