# MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

## Credit Opinion: MAN SE

Global Credit Research - 17 Sep 2010

Munich, Germany

# Ratings

Category	Moody's Rating
Outlook	Stable
Issuer Rating	A3
Senior Unsecured -Dom Curr	A3
ST Issuer Rating	P-2
ST Issuer Rating	P-2

#### Contacts

Analyst	Phone
Falk Frey/Frankfurt am Main	49.69.707.30.700
Rainer Neidnig/Frankfurt am Main	
Eric de Bodard/Paris	33.1.53.30.10.20

## **Key Indicators**

#### MAN SE[1]

	6/30/2010(L)	12/31/2009	12/31/2008	12/31/2007	12/31/2006
Sales (USD Billions)	\$1 <b>8</b> .2	\$16.8	\$22.0	\$19.3	\$16.4
EBITA Margin	5.4%	4.2%	11.8%	13.2%	8.6%
EBITA / Avg Assets	4.6%	3.5%	12.0%	13.2%	8.5%
EBIT / Interest	2.8x	2.1x	33.1x	20.3x	9.3x
Gross Debt / EBITDA	2.1x	2.7x	0.2x	0.5x	1.4x
RCF / Net Debt	49.0%	21.3%	298.9%	-654.9%	134.5%
FCF / Gross Debt	50.3%	24.5%	-74.3%	175.8%	48.9%
Gross Debt / Book Capital	28.0%	30.1%	7.6%	17.7%	32.1%
(Cash & Marketable Securities) / Debt	41.4%	25.6%	17.2%	130.6%	62.6%

[1] Standard adjustments in accordance with "Rating Methodology: Moody's Approach to Global Standard Adjustments in the Analysis of Financial Statements for Non-Financial Corporations, Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3". In addition, Moody's adjusts for one time items. Source: Moody's Financial Metrics

Note: For definitions of Moody's most common ratio terms please see the accompanying User's Guide.

#### Opinion

#### **Corporate Profile**

Headquartered in Munich, Germany, MAN SE ("MAN"; rated A3/Prime-2/stable) is a diversified transport-related engineering group operating on a global scale. Its two main activities are Commercial Vehicles (including trucks and buses) as well as Power Engineering (Diesel Engines, Turbo Machinery, and Renk (76% stake)). In addition, the group offers financial services for MAN Nutzfahrzeuge division. Commercial vehicles is the largest division accounting for 72% of group sales and 45% of group operating profit in H1 2010. In H1 2010 the group generated revenues of EUR 6,734 million (EUR 12,026 million in FY 2009) and reported an operating profit of EUR 404 million (EUR 504 million).

### **Rating Rationale**

MAN's A3 rating is supported by (i) the solid market position of its commercial vehicle and power engineering divisions; (ii) the group's prudent financial policies and adequacy of its liquidity profile; as well as (iii) its overall strong credit metrics exhibited in recent years. As a result of these strengths the group was able to moderate the impact of the severe downturn in commercial vehicles markets on its operating performance and credit metrics. During 2009 revenues declined by approx. 20% from EUR15 billion to EUR12 billion. Despite the magnitude of this contraction the group generated an operating margin of 3.0%, EBIT/interest of 2.1x, debt/EBITDA of 2.7x and a positive free cash flow of around EUR560 million.

However, the rating is constrained by (i) MAN's exposure to cyclical industries, which require timely adjustments of its cost structure and production levels to protect profit margins against significant swings in demand; (ii) the group's limited scale and geographical diversification relative to peers, though Moody's acknowledges that the acquisition of VW Trucks & Buses Brazil and its 25%+1 stake in Sinotruk helped to

broaden its geographical spread and make the group well positioned to benefit from strong demand in these countries.

#### DETAILED RATING CONSIDERATIONS

#### PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION MITIGATES VULNERABILITY TO CYCLICAL DOWNTURNS

Last year's protracted downturn in the truck industry caused revenues at MAN's Commercial Vehicle division to fall by 40% and resulted in an operating loss of approximately EUR90 million. However, the impact on the group's overall operating performance was mitigated by the relative resilience of its Power Engineering division, which is subject to different demand cycles, as well as buoyant truck demand from Brazil.

While the commercial vehicle market remains MAN's core market (around 70% of revenues), the group began to reduce its exposure to the volatility of European demand by broadening its geographical spread with investments in Brazil and China. In China MAN seeks to launch a new truck brand this year together with its partner SINOTRUK.

Despite the beneficial impact of increasing diversification by product and geography one of the key risk factors in MAN's credit profile remains its exposure to cyclical industries.

#### RECOVERY IN TRUCK DEMAND GAINED MOMENTUM IN H1 2010 BUT TREND VARIES BY REGIONS

Global demand for commercial vehicles began to recover in the current year supported by strong economic growth in Asia and Brazil as well as a modest recovery in Europe. MAN benefited in particular from its competitive position in Brazil following the acquisition of VW Truck & Bus Brazil but its European operations also returned to profitability in the second quarter of this year.

Operating performance at its Power Engineering division remained strong (Operating income of EUR245 million in H1 2010), mainly a function of a solid order backlog. However, demand for marine systems and shipping engines remains relatively weak as freight volumes in the shipping industry pick up more slowly. In addition, its power plants segment reported an operating loss of EUR85 million in Q2 2010. According to the group, profitability at its power plant division suffered from significant start up costs as well as certain non-profitable contracts.

Continued strong demand from Brazil and improving demand conditions in Europe should help to mitigate a possible slowdown of its power engineering unit, in Moody's view. In addition, the group continues to benefit from a solid order backlog of EUR7.7 billion per June 30, 2010.

## HIGHER DEMAND AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE COSTS SHOULD SUPPORT RECOVERY IN OPERATING PERFORMANCE

An expected increase in truck unit sales and benefits of last year's cost reduction initiatives should facilitate modest improvements in the group's financial metrics (EBITA margin 4.2%, RCF/net debt 21.3%, EBIT/interest expense 2.1x in 2009) in the current year. Nonetheless, a slowdown in its Power Engineering division or weaker truck demand in Europe and Brazil than currently anticipated could temper the pace of financial improvements compared to 2009. In addition, low capacity utilization rates and weak used truck prices could also pressure profitability.

#### FINANCIAL POLICY

One strength of MAN's rating is the group's strong balance sheet, the adequacy of its liquidity profile and positive free cash flow generation over past years. Despite the EUR 1.3 billion acquisition of VW Truck & Bus Brazil in 2009 and an accompanied increase in debt, the group's capital structure remains moderately leveraged evidenced by a debt/book Capital ratio of 28% per June 30, 2010. Debt/EBITDA deteriorated to 2.2x per June 30, 2010 from 0.2x in 2008 reflecting also the decline in profitability during last year's downturn.

Moody's expects MAN to generate modest levels of positive FCF in 2010 (EUR469 million in H1 2010) on the back of improving funds from operations despite an anticipated increase in working capital needs and capital expenditures.

We anticipate the group to continue to employ a prudent financial policy going forward and financial flexibility consistent with the A3 rating.

## Liquidity Profile

Maintaining adequate liquidity is an essential feature of a group's ability to sustain its rating during a downturn. In Moody's stress case scenario, where access to debt markets is assumed to be closed for 12 months and maturing finance assets are replaced, the group's available key sources of liquidity consisting of EUR 861 million cash on balance sheet, EUR 158 million in marketable securities per June 30, 2010 as well as its unused committed credit facility of EUR 1.5 billion and various bilateral credit lines fully cover the potential needs arising from debt maturities, capital expenditures, working capital, day to day needs and dividend payments.

Moody's notes that the group's EUR 1.5 billion committed credit facility matures during December 2011, however, we anticipate that the facility will be renewed well ahead of maturity. Along with maintaining a prudent financial policy, we expect that MAN will remain committed to preserving the adequacy of its liquidity profile.

#### **Rating Outlook**

The stable outlook reflects Moody's view that MAN has the operating and financial strength to support the A3 rating despite its exposure to cyclical industries. The benefits of the group's competitive position, last year's cost reduction initiatives and improving demand for commercial vehicles should support a recovery of MAN's operating metrics despite an expected modest recovery in Europe and a possible slowdown in its Power Engineering division. In addition, we anticipate MAN to maintain a prudent liquidity profile as well as a modestly leveraged capital structure going forward.

#### What Could Change the Rating - Down

MAN's rating could come under pressure in case of (i) the group's failure to achieve an average EBIT margin of around 6.0% through a business cycle and generate free cash flows over such period as well as (ii) increased debt/EBITDA to above 2.0x.

#### What Could Change the Rating - Up

A rating upgrade over the short to medium term is unlikely, but the outlook could be changed to positive in case the group should (i) achieve an average EBIT margin above 7.5% through the cycle, (ii) maintain leverage at levels of no more than 1.5x debt/EBITDA at the low point of the

cycle and (iii) further profitably diversify its business by geography.

## Other Considerations

# Rating Factors (Methodology)

The grid-implied rating from the global heavy manufacturing methodology grid indicates an A1 rating based on historical 3-year averages for the period 2007-2009, benefiting from the group's strong performance prior to 2009.

# **Rating Factors**

## MAN SE

Heavy Manufacturing	Aaa	Aa	Α	Baa	Ba	В	Caa
Factor 1: Scale and Market Position (30.0%) [1][2] a) Sales (USD Billions) b) Market Structure and Issuer's Position			\$16.8 X				
Factor 2: Resilience to Market Volatility (30.0%) [1][2] a) Five-Year Sales Volatility b) Industry Diversification (No. of segments with = 10% of sales) c) Vulnerability to Cyclicality		x	11.1%	х			
Factor 3: Profitability (10.0%) [1][2] a) EBITA Margin (3 Year Avg) b) EBITA / Avg Assets (3 Year Avg)			10.0%	9.6%			
Factor 4: Leverage and Financial Policy (30.0%) [1][2] a) EBIT / Interest (3 Year Avg) b) Gross Debt / EBITDA (3 Year Avg) c) RCF / Net Debt (3 Year Avg) d) FCF / Gross Debt (3 Year Avg) e) Gross Debt / Book Capital (3 Year Avg) f) (Cash & Marketable Securities) / Debt (3 Year Avg)	11.8x 0.8x 218.1% 57.4%	19.4% 55.5%					
Rating: a) Indicated Rating from Grid b) Actual Rating Assigned			A1 A3				

[1] Standard adjustments in accordance with "Rating Methodology: Moody's Approach to Global Standard Adjustments in the Analysis of Financial Statements for Non-Financial Corporations, Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3". In addition, Moody's adjusts for one time items. [2] As of FY 2009; Source: Moody's Financial Metrics



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