

press release

31 July 2009

Reckitt cleans up in economic downturn as BG Group suffers from oil price drop

- Reckitt Benckiser results beat market expectations
- BG report profits down 31%
- The Share Centre recommends investors Buy into both companies

Reckitt Benckiser has beaten market expectations with its second-quarter results, raising both its sales and profit targets for the full-year. Nick Raynor, investment adviser at The Share Centre comments on today's results and why it remains a favourite:

"Reckitt Benckiser continues to shrug off the economic downturn and beat market expectations with ease as profits have risen by a third and sales are up 23%. As a result, the company raised estimates for both sales and growth for a full year, making this a great investment.

"Reckitt has been a favorite of ours for a long time. Its basic portfolio of products that prove essential to most households, has helped keep the share price at a healthy level during 2009. We continue to list the company as a defensive buy with its income becoming more appealing with its half year dividend rising 34% to 43p."

Also issuing results today, BG Group saw profits fall by a third due to the slump in oil price. However, these were at the top end of analysts' expectations, Nick Raynor continues:

"Shares in BG group dropped 2.1% following this morning's news. With the weakness in the world economy, the demand for gas is being hit harder than oil, with BG not being able to meet its 2009 production target.

"Investors should keep an eye on further updates on its deep under water oil discovery, known as Tupi based in Brazil. Tupi is one of the largest finds in decades and is key to BG's long-term growth. Production is due to begin in 2010 and may contain between 12bn-20bn barrels of oil - up from previous estimates of 1.7bn-10bn barrels.

thesharecentre:

“BG has increased its dividend by 20% but overall it is still negligible and we advise i only for those looking for growth and not income. We continue to list BG as a buy for growth seekers only. “

-- Ends --

thesharecentre:

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Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPP are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on www.share.com. Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#)

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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