

August 09, 2010

AIR ARABIA (AIRA.DU)

12-Month Fair Value: Under Review

Last Close (08 August, 2010): AED 0.85

Recommendation: Under Review - Risk Level: 4

- Air Arabia's total revenue reached AED 485 million in 2Q2010, a 6% increase from the same period last year. This was 13% lower than our forecast of AED 556 million for 2Q2010.
- The number of passengers flying Air Arabia increased by 11%, year-on-year, in 2Q2010 to 1.1 million. Load factor increased by 400 basis points to 82% in 2Q2010 compared to 2Q2009, and was 100 basis points higher than our forecast of 81%. However, the weakness came from the continued pressure on yields, where the airline witnessed a 4% decline in revenue per passenger in 2Q2010 compared to 2Q2009. In our forecasts we were anticipating a 4% increase in yield, which highlights the main reason for the variation between Air Arabia's result and our forecasts.
- We do not have a breakdown of operating costs for 2Q2010, thus we cannot assess Air Arabia's performance at the EDITDAR level. However, based on the preliminary reading of the results we expect to see a significant variation at the EBITDAR level compared to our forecasts.
- The 46% increase in interest income to AED 57 million in 2Q2010, was more than offset by AED 26.9 million in other expenses (which relate mostly to the share of losses from Air Arabia's new hubs).
- Overall, Air Arabia's net income dropped by 44% year on year, closing in at AED 50 million in 2Q2010. The company attributes weaker earnings to changing market dynamics, along with higher fuel costs and lower yield margins. Of the two reasons cited by the airline for weaker profitability, we are more concerned with the latter (lower yields). Air Arabia seems to be facing difficulty in increasing its prices without seeing a drop in load factor—a sign of increased competition in the region. All in all, the third quarter remains the most important quarter for Air Arabia, and will be the ultimate test for the airline's pricing ability.
- Air Arabia's balance sheet remains strong with AED 1.8 billion in cash and no debt. We feel this is worth highlighting, given that the cash balance accounts for 46% of the company's market cap.
- Air Arabia will be hosting a conference call for investors on August 12, 2010, which we expect to shed more light on the company's performance and its prospects for 2010. However, we regard the company's performance in 2Q2010 to be weaker than our expectations, and accordingly place the stock "under review" till we revise our forecasts.

Samir Murad, CFA

T. +965 2259 5145

E. samir.murad@nbkcapital.com

Related Research

- Air Arabia Analyst Comment - 09 May 2010
- Air Arabia Analyst Comment - 20 April 2010
- Air Arabia Update - 24 March 2010

RISK AND RECOMMENDATION GUIDE

RECOMMENDATION		UPSIDE (DOWNSIDE) POTENTIAL		
BUY		MORE THAN 20%		
ACCUMULATE		BETWEEN 5% AND 20%		
HOLD		BETWEEN -10% AND 5%		
REDUCE		BETWEEN -25% AND -10%		
SELL		LESS THAN -25%		
RISK LEVEL				
LOW RISK		HIGH RISK		
1	2	3	4	5

DISCLAIMER

The information, opinions, tools, and materials contained in this report (the "Content") are not addressed to, or intended for publication, distribution to, or use by, any individual or legal entity who is a citizen or resident of or domiciled in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability, or use would constitute a breach of the laws or regulations of such jurisdiction or that would require Watani Investment Company KSCC ("NBK Capital") or its subsidiaries or its affiliates to obtain licenses, approvals, or permissions from the regulatory bodies or authorities of such jurisdiction. The Content, unless expressly mentioned otherwise, is under copyright to NBK Capital. Neither the Content nor any copy of it may be in any way reproduced, amended, transmitted to, copied, or distributed to any other party without the prior express written consent of NBK Capital. All trademarks, service marks, and logos used in this report are trademarks or service marks or registered trademarks or registered service marks of NBK Capital.

The Content is provided to you for information purposes only and is not to be used, construed, or considered as an offer or the solicitation of an offer to sell or to buy or to subscribe for any investment (including but not limited to securities or other financial instruments). No representation or warranty, express or implied, is given by NBK Capital or any of its respective directors, partners, officers, affiliates, employees, advisors, or representatives that the investment referred to in this report is suitable for you or for any particular investor. Receiving this report shall not mean or be interpreted that NBK Capital will treat you as its customer. If you are in doubt about such investment, we recommend that you consult an independent investment advisor since the investment contained or referred to in this report may not be suitable for you and NBK Capital makes no representation or warranty in this respect.

The Content shall not be considered investment, legal, accounting, or tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate for your individual circumstances or otherwise constitutes a personal recommendation to you. NBK Capital does not offer advice on the tax consequences of investments, and you are advised to contact an independent tax adviser.

The information and opinions contained in this report have been obtained or derived from sources that NBK Capital believes are reliable without being independently verified as to their accuracy or completeness. NBK Capital believes the information and opinions expressed in this report are accurate and complete; however, NBK Capital gives no representations or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the Content. Additional information may be available upon request. NBK Capital accepts no liability for any direct, indirect, or consequential loss arising from the use of the Content. This report is not to be relied upon as a substitution for the exercise of independent judgment. In addition, NBK Capital may have issued, and may in the future issue, other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusions from the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views, and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared the reports, and NBK Capital is under no obligation to ensure that such other reports are brought to your attention. NBK Capital may be involved in many businesses that relate to companies mentioned in this report and may engage with them. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information, opinions, and estimates contained in this report reflect a judgment at the report's original date of publication by NBK Capital and are subject to change without notice.

The value of any investment or income may fall as well as rise, and you may not get back the full amount invested. Where an investment is denominated in a currency other than the local currency of the recipient of the research report, changes in the exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value, price, or income of that investment. In the case of investments for which there is no recognized market, it may be difficult for investors to sell their investments or to obtain reliable information about their value or the extent of the risk to which they are exposed.

NBK Capital has not reviewed the addresses of, the hyperlinks to, or the websites referred to in the report and takes no responsibility for the content contained therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to NBK Capital's own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and information, and the content of the linked site does not in any way form part of this document. Accessing such websites or following such links through this report or NBK Capital's website shall be at your own risk.

© COPYRIGHT NOTICE

This is a publication of NBK Capital. No part of this publication may be reproduced or duplicated without the prior consent of NBK Capital.

NBK CAPITAL**Kuwait****Head Office**

38th Floor, Arraya II
Al Shuhada Street, Block 6, Sharq
P.O.Box 4950, Safat 13050
Kuwait
T. +965 2224 6900
F. +965 2224 6905

MENA Research

35th Floor, Arraya II
Al Shuhada Street, Block 6, Sharq
P.O.Box 4950, Safat 13050, Kuwait
T. +965 2224 6663
F. +965 2224 6905
E. menaresearch@nbkcapital.com.kw

Brokerage

37th Floor, Arraya II
Al Shuhada Street, Block 6, Sharq
P.O.Box 4950, Safat 13050, Kuwait
T. +965 2224 6964
F. +965 2224 6978
E. brokerage@nbkcapital.com

United Arab Emirates**NBK Capital Limited**

Precinct Building 3, Office 404
Dubai International Financial Center
P.O.Box 506506
Dubai, UAE
T. +971 4 365 2800
F. +971 4 365 2805

Turkey**NBK Capital**

Arastima ve Musavirlik AS,
Sun Plaza, 30th Floor,
Dereboyu Sk. No.24
Maslak 34398, Istanbul, Turkey
T. +90 212 276 5400
F. +90 212 276 5401

NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT**Kuwait****National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Abdullah Al-Ahmed Street
P.O. Box 95, Safat 13001
Kuwait City, Kuwait
T. +965 2242 2011
F. +965 2243 1888
Telex: 22043-22451 NATBANK

Jordan**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Head Office
Al Hajj Mohd Abdul Rahim Street
Hijazi Plaza, Building # 70
P.O.Box 941297,
Amman -11194, Jordan
T. +962 6 580 0400
F. +962 6 580 0441

United States of America**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

New York Branch
299 Park Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10171, USA
T. +1 212 303 9800
F. +1 212 319 8269

Vietnam**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Vietnam Representative Office
Room 2006, Sun Wah Tower
115 Nguyen Hue Blvd, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
T. +84 8 3827 8008
F. +84 8 3827 8009

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**Bahrain****National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Bahrain Branch
Seef Tower, Al-Seef District
P.O. Box 5290, Manama, Bahrain
T. +973 17 583 333
F. +973 17 587 111

Lebanon**National Bank of Kuwait**

(Lebanon) SAL
Sanayeh Head Office
BAC Building, Justinian Street
P.O. Box 11-5727, Riyad El Solh
1107 2200 Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 1 759 700
F. +961 1 747 866

United Kingdom**National Bank of Kuwait (Intl.) Plc**

Head Office
13 George Street,
London W1U 3QJ, UK
T. +44 20 7224 2277
F. +44 20 7224 2101

China**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Shanghai Representative Office
Suite 1003, 10th Floor,
Azia Center, 1233 Lujiazui Ring Rd.
Shanghai 200120, China
T. +86 21 6888 1092
F. +86 21 5047 1011

Saudi Arabia**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Jeddah Branch
Al-Andalus Street, Red Sea Plaza
P.O. Box 15385
Jeddah 21444, Saudi Arabia
T. +966 2 653 8600
F. +966 2 653 8653

Iraq**Credit Bank of Iraq**

Street 9, Building 187
Sadoon Street, District 102
P.O.Box 3420, Baghdad, Iraq
T. +964 1 7182198/7191944
+964 1 7188406/7171673
F. +964 1 7170156

NBK Investment

Management Limited
13 George Street
London W1U 3QJ, UK
T. +44 20 7224 2288
F. +44 20 7224 2102

France**National Bank of Kuwait (Intl.) Plc**

Paris Branch
90 Avenue des Champs-Elysees
75008 Paris, France
T. +33 1 5659 8600
F. +33 1 5659 8623

ASSOCIATES**Qatar****International Bank of Qatar (QSC)**

Suhaim bin Hamad Street
P.O.Box 2001
Doha, Qatar
T. +974 447 3700
F. +974 447 3710

United Arab Emirates**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Dubai Branch
Sheikh Rashed Road, Port Saeed
Area, ACICO Business Park
P.O. Box 88867, Dubai
United Arab Emirates
T. +971 4 2929 222
F. +971 4 2943 337

Egypt**Al Watany Bank of Egypt**

13 Al Themar Street
Gameat Al Dowal AlArabia
Fouad Mohie El Din Square
Mohandessin, Giza, Egypt
T. +202 333 888 16/17
F. +202 333 79302

Singapore**National Bank of Kuwait SAK**

Singapore Branch
9 Raffles Place #51-01/02
Republic Plaza, Singapore 048619
T. +65 6222 5348
F. +65 6224 5438

Turkey**Turkish Bank**

Head Office
Valikonagl Avenue No. 1
P.O.Box 34371 Nisantasi,
Istanbul, Turkey
T. +90 212 373 6373
F. +90 212 225 0353