

SECTOR: Specialty Pharmaceuticals

January 16, 2014

Virbac (VIRP-FR, NC, €169.50) just released its 4Q13 and 2013 results. In summary, 2013 sales were up 6% YOY, but currency posed a significant headwind (especially in 2H13). 2013 sales growth at constant exchange rates was 11%. Sales growth was primarily driven by food producing animals (or livestock), the Emerging Markets, and acquisitions. We highlight key data points, which provide read-throughs to ZTS (BUY, \$31.81) as well as the rest of the animal health industry below.

- Global factors that adversely impacted Virbac's organic growth include poor economic environment and unfavorable weather conditions.
- The contribution from recent acquisitions (Centrovet in Chile, Stockguard in New Zealand, as well as Santa Elena in Uruguay, now fully controlled and consolidated) has been significant and in line with the company's expectations.
- Business by species reflects the geographic trends. At constant scope, sales in the companion animals segment remained stable (+0.2%) despite the decrease of CaniLeish and the low market trends in Europe on one hand, and the Iverhart situation in the U.S. on the other.
- Growth in the **food producing animals** segment reached **+5.5%**, driven by emerging countries but partially offset by the negative trends observed in Europe and a difficult year in Australia. The company's development has been similar globally, outside Europe, in the bovine sector and in the industrial sector (swine and poultry), with growth of above 7%. Yet the situation remains unfavorable in Europe, with a decrease of around 2% in both sectors.
- Growth has been mostly driven by emerging markets (Latin America, Asia, India, South Africa).
- Business in Europe was stable globally but reflects a certain contrast between regions, with a good level of growth in the UK, Scandinavian, and Eastern European countries, offset by a slight decrease in France and Northern Europe and a decline in Southern Europe.
- In the U.S., sales were down around 5% as a consequence of the Iverhart Plus withdrawal, while other specialties (dermatology, endocrinology, dentals) generated a strong performance.

**Potential Stock Moving Catalysts.** 1) Operating margin expansion; 2) new product launches; 3) business development; 4) expansion into adjacent categories; 5) U.S. drought subsides.



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