

## PRE-IPO

# **VALUE RANGE**

EUR 10.33 - 12.62



#### Wednesday, 30 September 2020

Intrinsic Price (€)	11.48
Value Range Low (€)	10.33
Value Range High (€)	12.62
Implied MCAP (m)	€35.82
Implied EV (m)	€35.69
LSE	REPX
Financial YE	31-Dec
Currency	EUR

#### **Business Activity**

Fintech

### **Key Metrics**

Close Price (€)	NA
MCAP (m)	NA
Net Debt (Cash) (m)	-€0.1
EV (m)	NM
52 Wk Hi (€)	NM
52 Wk Lo (€)	NM
Key Ratios	
Net Debt /	-0.36%

# Fintech Sector Research LSE Market Index

Shareholder Equity %

**Analyst Team** 

+44 20 7419 7928

financials@acfequityresearch.com

# The Reputation Exchange Plc

## Fintech Company with Social Engagement

The Reputation Exchange (REPX) is a finetch company with a unique social engagement model. With multiple prepaid cards assigned to top sporting brands planned for roll-out in the next two years, we expect significant growth in sales and strong margins. Low marketing, overhead and infrastructure expenses should result in high profitability and positive cash flows in short order. World-class affiliations and reliable product roll-out should drive aggressive subscriber base growth and keep subscriber acquisition costs (SACs) low. We have been highly conservative in terms of subscriber market share and used this conservatism as the basis of our valuation approach. Our valuation is highly sensitive to successful execution by the management, a key risk to our valuation.

- Partner social selling model delivers lower SACs, higher profitability;
- > Two products launched, more planned in the next two years;
- Partnership subscriber reach currently ~450m;
- World-class affiliations include two large global sports club brands;

ACF est. € (mn)	Revenue	EBITDA	FCF	EPS	EPS (diluted)
2020E	0	0	-1	-0.01	-0.01
2021E	10	4	2	0.84	0.84
Multiples	EV/	EV/	EV/	P/	P/ EPS
	Revenue	EBITDA	FCF	EPS	(diluted)
2020E	208.1x	NM	NM	NM	NM
2021E	3.6x	10.0x	14.6x	42.5x	42.5x



	No. of	
	Shares	
	in	Fully
Share Price History	issue	diluted
NoSh (m)	3.1	3.1
Implied Intrinsic Price	€11.48	€11.48
Value Range Low	€10.33	€10.33
Value Range High	€12.62	€12.62
NYSE	REPX	
Financial YE	31-Dec	
Reporting Currency	EUR	
NoSh (m)		3.1
NoSh (m) expected		3.1
dilution (Exp D)		
NoSh (m) full dilution		3.1
, ,		
Key Metrics	€	adj.
MCAP (m)	35.8	35.8
Net Debt (Cash) (m)	(0.1)	(0.1)
EV (m)	35.7	35.7
52 Wk Hi	NM	NM
52 Wk Lo	NM	NM
Free Float	NM	NM
*Key Metrics FCF adj.	2020E	2021E
****	2026-	20245
*Key Metrics FCF adj.	<b>2020E</b>	<b>2021E</b>

REPX compares itself to other non-bricks and mortar banking companies such as Revolut, N26 and Monzo which offer prepaid cards.

-0.21

-0.21

-0.21

NM

NM

NM

0.78

0.78

0.78

45.9x

45.9x

45.9x

Value Range MCAP EUR 34m – 38m

### **Investment Case**

A Fintech company with a unique 'social selling' model — REPX is a fintech company leveraging technology and social media to monetize the massive fan base of celebrities, sports teams, and entertainers. REPX offers co-branded prepaid cards and other digital products to the fan base and splits the revenue in different proportions with the team or celebrity. This model allows REPX to lower its subscriber acquisition cost (SAC) compared to its neobank peers as it gains access to the distribution power of already established top-flight brands with loyal, even dedicated, followings.

We view this distribution power as a material competitive advantage compared to other early stage fintech start-ups which must burn significantly higher amounts of cash per subscriber acquisition. As a result, REPX also requires less cash to reach breakeven. The lower SACs vs. peers increase the potential returns for investors via higher margin positive cash flows earlier in its business cycle.

Two products launched, more in pipeline – REPX via its subsidiary Next Wallet launched two prepaid proof-of-operational-concept debit cards in July 2020. More than 3,500 subscribers (subs) mainly in Italy and Switzerland are using these cards. REPX management expects 10,000 subs YE20. REPX has a multiple product launch pipe 2H20 and early 2021. These products include The Clan Card (launch October 20E), The Payfan Card and The Cover Card (launch March 21E), and The Fashion Card, Two Chip Card and the Black Box Card (launch January 22E). The 12 co-branded partnerships already signed suggest a strong growth start on formal launch.

Top brand contracts extend reach to ~450m followers - REPX has onboarded 12 partners and several renowned sports teams (including two of the biggest global sports clubs), celebrities, influencers and iconic cities. In total, this equates to a social media fan base of 447.5m dedicated followers. Employing an extremely conservative conversion rate of 0.20% vs. peers, REPX has the potential to sell nearly 450k cards to this initial audience by year three of our forecast horizon.

Large addressable market opportunity – We consider REPX relevant valuation peers to be the global neo and challenger banking market. According to Allied Market Research, the global neo and challenger banking market is expected to reach \$356 billion by 2025, representing a CAGR of 45.8% during 2019-2025.

## **Catalysts**

Raising of equity capital to fund hard launch. Successful launch of new products; Partnerships with world-renowned sports teams or celebrities.

CPS (C\$)

P/CPS

CPS (Exp D) (C\$)

CPS (FD) (C\$)

P/CPS (Exp D)

P/CPS (FD)

REPX's key product categories include -

consumer prepaid cards (Nextcard and Topcard), sports team co-branded prepaid

card (Clan Card), social engagement app

(Befriend App) and social engagement

prepaid card (Payfan Card).



### **Operational Strategy**

The Reputation Exchange Plc (REPX) is a fintech company that allows celebrities, sports teams and other entertainers to monetize their brand and reputation on social media by offering various payment products such as branded prepaid cards and social banking apps. Its strategy revolves around establishing partnership with celebrities, sports teams and entertainers, gaining access to their established social media fan base.

**Exhibit 1: Product Timeline** 

Compelling strategy for monetisation of social media fan bases of sports teams and celebrities.



Sources: ACF Research; Company reports.

Consumer Prepaid Cards – This includes the NextCard and Topcard launched in July 2020 by REPX's subsidiary, Next Wallet. Topcard is targeted at high net worth customers, while Nextcard is for the broader prepaid card user audience. More than 3,500 users mainly in Italy and Switzerland are currently using Next Wallet cards and our projections suggest 10,000 subscribers by YE 2020.

**Exhibit 2: Next Wallet Cards** 



Sources: ACF Research; Company reports.



Multiple prepaid cards to be rolled out over the next two years.

Clan Card: is a sports team co-branded prepaid card and will be launched in October 2020. REPX partners with sports teams to offer this co-branded prepaid card free to fans, followers and supporters. This distribution model allows for rapid penetration and market share gains in the growing prepaid card market. At the date of this note four Italian professional football teams have signed up to offer REPX co-branded cards. REPX estimates 50,000 Clan cards to be distributed by the end of 2020.

Next Wallet Cards (Nextcard and Topcard) launched in July 2020.

PayFan Card: is a prepaid card which offers fans and followers a more personalized payment experience. A sports team song, a celebrity quote or saying and other customized messages play every time the card is used. It works on a subscription feebased model. The fee revenue is divided equally between REPX and the participating star.

Clan Card, PayFan Card and Befriend App – All to be launched by or before January 2021 Befriend App: is a free-to-download app that allows users to search for any celebrity on the web and access their related news, content and promotions. The app offers a landing page for each celebrity with an opportunity for fans to interact directly with celebrities on the platform. The app works on a freemium model. It has a premium version which offers additional forms of access to celebrities for an annual subscription fee. REPX expects to launch the Befriend App in early 2021.

Other Products: REPX has a pipeline of promising patented products likely to be launched in 2021 or 2022. The new product pipeline includes the following:

- Cover Card: is a co-branded cell phone cover that also acts as a contactless prepaid card. It is likely to be launched in 2021.
- *The Fashion Card*: is a chip solution embedded in fashion products. It allows luxury brands to get access to buying behaviours of the customer base and gain control of the second-hand resale market data.
- Twin Chip Card: is a prepaid card that gives brands and shops the ability to offer real-time, variable pricing on their products.
- Black Box Card: is a prepaid card that gives users the control over their personal data.

'Other products' launch timetable: REPX expects to launch the Cover Card March 2021 and has already secured partnerships with two of the world's largest football teams. REPX expects to launch The Fashion Card, Two Chip Card and Black Box Card in 2022 with a target of one million total cards sold at the end of the third year after launch.



#### REPX two chip card system

Retailer marketing and communications channel

The two-chip card system used by REPX conveys additional features to all its cards.

The second chip provides additional data protection for the user whilst allowing innovative marketing incentives to be provided by vendors.

Consumer feature flexibility

REPX cards can be supplied without specifically predefined features. The feature selection can be left to the user to be spoke, according to need and preference.

Consumer additional security tools

Retailer advantages from two-chip card – For the retailer, the two-chip card facilitates marginal pricing incentive strategies. For example, the second chip holds the price of an item or items in a specific store or venue. When a consumer is within range, the supplier is notified of his or her presence.

The supplier can run a campaign that provides a discount or loyalty bonus on an item for REPX card holders.

Once the presence of the card is detected the supplier sends the consumer a notification via the card app stating that a particular item now costs €X as opposed to the €Y shown on the price tag. The price of the item, which is held on second chip, is updated appropriately on the second chip.

If the consumer then purchases the item with his or her REPX two-chip card the discounted price is the one that will be charged to the card.

Consumer advantages from two-chip card — For the consumer, the two-chip card acts as a repository for rewards and loyalty programs much like any 'advantage' card. All rewards are stored directly on the second chip where they are then ready for use by the consumer. The rewards or loyalty system is automatically tallied (credited or debited) on the second chip.

Black Box Card security feature – The focus of the features on the REPX Black Box card is consumer data protection. The first chip is reserved for payments. The second chip has additional optional security features and tools.

Data protection focus



Innovative Business Model: REPX has an innovative customer engagement model with low marketing and overhead expenses, which potentially allows for higher margins versus its neobank competitors. Partnering with sports teams and celebrities allows REPX to gain access to the team or celebrity fan bases at a fraction of the typical SACs of its peers and then to monetize these connections via retail offerings. REPX's expects to be EBITDA and cash flow positive year 1 post raises.

More products to be launched in late 2021 and beyond

World-class Partner Affiliations: REPX has established partnerships with leading sports teams, celebrities, brands and iconic cities. In total, 12 partners have been onboarded including the world's two largest football clubs giving access to ~450 million followers.

**Exhibit 3: Contract Portfolio** 

Signed Partnership ('000)	IG	FB	TW	YT	Tourists	Customers	Total subs	Potential
								subs
International influencer	13,600	405	32	-	-	-	14,037	13,600
Top football players	5,500	4,500	8,200	-	-	-	18,200	8,200
Top Olympian footballer	3,000	1,900	1,300	-	-	-	6,200	3,000
Spanish Lega team	90,000	111,000	34,000				235,000	11,000
Italian Seria A team	8,000	25,000	7,400				40,400	25,000
Italian Seria A team	2,900	9,500	1,800	324	-	-	14,200	9,500
UK Premier League team	32,900	73,000	20,756	2,370	-	-	129,026	73,000
Italian Seria A team	265	298	30	10	-	-	602	298
Italian Serie B team	42	64	12	3	-	-	121	64
Top sports marketing co.	-	130	-	-	-	-	130	130
Italian iconic city	-	-	-	-	598	-	598	598
South American Airline	194	16	326	-	-	250	486	250

Sum of people reached on already signed contracts considering the sum of the social platforms & iconic cities tourists & brands customers ('000)

459.000

Sum of people reached on already signed contracts considering only the largest social platform & iconic cities tourists & brands customers ('000)

122,840

Sources: ACF Research; Company reports.

Unique customer engagement model with low marketing expenses

Conversion rate – Nielsen's most conservative rate - an expected conversion of 2% of followers to buyers. We have adopted a far more conservative approach by adopting a 0.2% conversion rate (which is 10x lower) in our model and forecasts. We forecast more than 400,000 REPX cards issued in year one post raise growing to 1,000,000 cards in year three post raise.

12 signed partnerships ensure access to ~450m followers

Capital Raise: REPX intends to execute two additional equity placements of EUR 1.5m (expected close end Autumn 20) — use: produce and sell the first 50k cards; and EUR 5 to EUR 10m (expected start 21) — use: production and marketing of REPX prepaid card obtain REPX's EMI (Electronic Money Institution) licence.



## Market Outlook - Neo and Challenger Banks

Neobanks refers to digital only banks without any physical branches. They offer many banking services including prepaid cards and payment transfers.

In our assessment REPX is part of the global neo and challenger banking market. REPX compares itself to other non-banking card companies such as Revolut, N26 and Monzo which offer prepaid cards. According to Allied Market Research, the global neo and challenger banking market is expected to reach \$471 billion by 2027, representing a CAGR of 48.1% during 2019-2027.

**Exhibit 4: Global Neobank Market** 

Global market

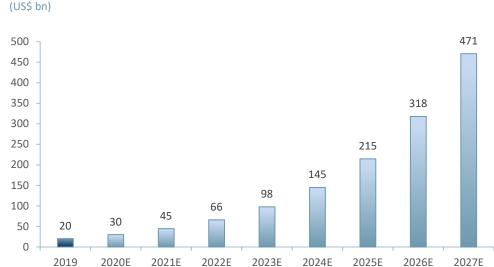
500 -

Lighter colour columns are forecast years.

Darker columns are historical years.

Global neobank market estimated to reach

\$471 billion by 2027.



Sources: ACF Research; Allied Market Research.

The neo and challenger banks provide a range of financial services including loans, payment services, payment cards and other banking solutions. Convenience, flexibility, interest rate differentials compared to traditional banks, and favourable regulatory scenarios have aided growth of the global neo and challenger bank market. Europe contributed the highest share of the global neobank market in 2019 and is expected by a range of data providers to maintain its dominance throughout the forecast period.

Changing customer expectations and a shift towards digital content and channels have also been driving the industry growth rate. This has been further accelerated due to Covid-19 which has pushed the world toward a "no-touch" payment economy.



Convenience, flexibility, higher interest rates and surge in smartphone usage driving growth of Neobank market **Competitive Positioning** - While there are a number of neo and challenger (the largest include nuBank, Chime, N26, Monzo and Revolut) that offer prepaid cards and other services, REPX has a particularly innovative and fortified positioned due to its social engagement model.

Through REPX's co-branded prepaid cards in partnership with the world's most iconic sports teams, fashion houses, celebrities and cities, REPX engages with a multitude of followers and fans.

REPX uniquely positioned due to its lower customer acquisition cost

Besides the large challenger banks, REPX also faces competition from other innovative companies such as Baron App Inc in the United States (cameo.com), which allows celebrities to sell short, personalised video shoutouts, and the GCOX Group in Singapore (gcoxgroup.com), which is attempting to 'tokenise' celebrities and brands with distributed ledger technology.



### **Management Team**

### CEO, Alfredo Maria Villa.

Alfredo has over two decades of experience establishing and managing businesses in the financial services and wealth management sectors. Mr. Villa obtained a BA in Economics from the University of Geneva and an MA in Theology from the Facolta Teologica di Lugano (Switzerland).

#### Chief Operating Officer, Pierantonio Idini.

Pierantonio is an entrepreneur and start-up mentor with over forty years of experience in the technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) sector. His expertise revolves around planning, corporate strategy, operations and business development. He has held executive positive across various consulting multinationals including such as Rai, Mediaset, Sky, Wind, as well as for National Associations such as Italian Confindustria.

#### Chief Marketing Officer, Antonio Matta.

Antonio has over 25 years of experience in the marketing, communication and advertising sectors as journalist, entrepreneur, marketing and media manager. Previously, he has served with many public sector companies. This includes 6 years as Chairman and CEO of a public Multi-Utility company.

#### **▶** Next Wallet CEO, Fausto Sacco.

Fausto has a long history as a successful private banker in Switzerland. His experience, connections and ability to understand HNWI needs, will be helpful for the successful sales development of the Next Wallet Top Card line of business.



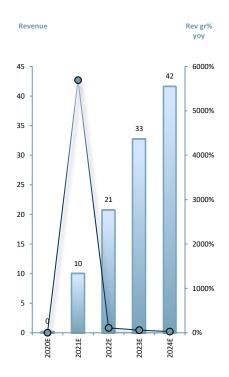
### **Forecasts**

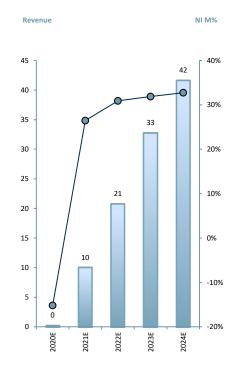
**Exhibit 5: REPX financial metrics** 

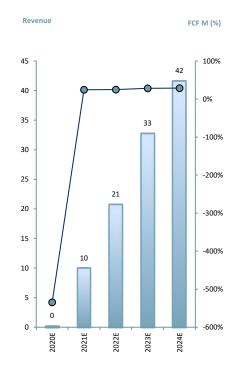
The charts show our 5-year forecasts for key metrics REPX.

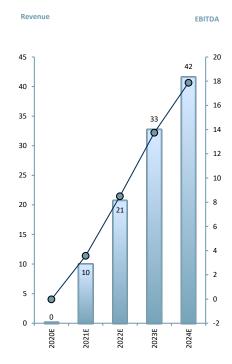
Note that columns and lines show our forecast values.

The EBITDA chart shows dramatic acceleration in EBITDA over our 5-year forecast horizon, as we expect new product launches to meaningfully contribute to profitability. The net income margins also witness acceleration and we forecast margins of ~35% at the end of 2023.









Our forecasts are based upon management guidance and our own sensitivity analysis. We focus on cash proxies (EBITDA) and free cash flow (FCF). However, Net Income remains important for assessing elements of balance sheet strength, nevertheless we are strongly of the view that only cash matters.



### **Valuation - DCF**

Exhibit 6: REPX WACC, DCF and Value Range

ACF est. € (m)	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenue	0	0	10	21	33
EBITDA	0	0	4	8	14
Net Income	0	0	3	6	10
FCF	0	-1	2	5	9
CPS (diluted) (\$)	NM	-0.21	0.78	1.64	2.93

We see fair value of REPX at EUR 9.97 per share.

REPX - WACC Calc	
Pre-tax cost of debt	0.0%
ETR	23.2%
After-tax cost of debt	0.0%
Current Leverage	0.0%
Debt/(Cash)	-
Equity	1.5
Target Leverage	0.0%
D / (D+E)	0.0%
ACF βadjlevered	1.80
rf	2.00%
ERP	5.7%
Cost of equity	12.2%
Risk adj.	8.0%
WACC	20.24%

**Note:** Successful completion of feasibility study will significantly reduce our WACC.

We arrive at a discount rate of 20.24% for REPX as shown in the calculation here. We use an additional risk adjustment factor of ~8% as it is still in early stage of operations.

Valuation Range		
NPV FCF (€m)	35.7	
Net Debt/(Cash) (k)	-0.1	
Fair Value (€m)	35.8	
NoSh (m)	3.1	
NoSh (diluted) (m)	3.1	
Intrinsic Value Per Share (€)	11.48	
Close Price (€)	NA	
VR (low - high)	10.33	12.62
VR Spread	5.00%	
Implied VR (low - high)	NM	NM

**Note:** implied value range in this ACF research note is based upon diluted shares in issue (0m) at the date of this note.



## **Sensitivity Analysis**

DCF valuation range €34-38m, at 5% standard deviation.

Trading valuation per subscriber forecast basis mid-point €40m

Trading valuation financial statement metrics suggests a value range €45.6 – 50m, at 5% standard deviation.

We believe our valuation is conservative. We have factored in a risk adjustment to account for execution risk associated with REPX's prepaid cards roll out program. We have assumed, arguably, a rather modest subscriber conversion rate, transaction volumes, card usage and an aggressive churn rate amongst other conservative factors. Our DCF valuation approach leads to an REPX value of "EUR 35.8m. Assuming a standard deviation of 5%, our valuation range comes in around EUR 34.0 – 37.6m. A standard deviation of 10% suggests a valuation range of EUR 32 - .39.4m. Our trading metrics valuation late in this note (based on peer metrics) using a 10% standard deviation suggests a valuation range of "EUR 43 – 53m.

Below, we highlight the sensitivity of our REPX fair value per share (Exhibit 7) to changes in various input parameters. Our model is most sensitive to changes in terminal growth and discount rate.

Exhibit 7: Valuation sensitivity to Terminal Growth and WACC

WACC (%)	

Source: ACF Research Estimates.

	Equity Value				
	Terminal Gro	wth (%)			
	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%
16%	44.36	45.38	46.46	47.63	48.88
18%	38.95	39.70	40.50	41.34	42.25
20%	34.65	35.22	35.82	36.46	37.13
22%	31.15	31.60	32.06	32.55	33.07
24%	28.25	28.60	28.97	29.36	29.76
26%	25.80	26.09	26.38	26.69	27.01



### **Peer Group Comparators**

**Exhibit 8: Trailing REPX peer group metrics** 

Trailing TTM Metrics / Company Name	Market N	/ICAP (\$ m)	EV (\$ m)	Revenue (\$ mn)	EBITDA (\$ m)	EV/Revenu e (x)	EV/EBITDA (x)
Fiserv	Nasdag	69,369	92,080	14,410	4,520	6.4	20.4
Global Payments	NYSE	53,116	61,300	6,669	2,500	9.2	24.5
Discover Financial Srvc	NYSE	17,049	26,170	5,910	2,665	4.4	9.8
Edenred	Euronext	11,089	13,182	1,758	650	7.5	20.3
WEX	NYSE	6,228	7,890	1,680	542	4.7	14.6
Evertec	NYSE	2,506	2,880	496	180	5.8	16.0
Bottomline Tchnlgs	Nasdaq	1,903	1,920	442	38	4.3	50.0
Qiwi	Nasdaq	1,091	1,080	524	139	2.1	7.8
EVO Payments	Nasdaq	1,041	2,100	457	105	4.6	20.0
Cardtronics	Nasdaq	902	1,660	1,230	254	1.3	6.5
i3 Verticals	Nasdaq	770	564	220	26	2.6	22.0
Average			19,166	3,072	1,056	4.8	19.3
Median			2,880	1,230	254	4.6	20.0

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Companies reports; Bloomberg.

We think the most relevant peer group for REPX are companies in the Neo and Challenger banking sector. These include business such as nuBank, Chime, N26, Monzo an Revolut. However, these companies are not listed, which makes it difficult to get data needed for peer comparison. As a result, we have chosen listed fintech companies which offer payments technology and solutions including prepaid cards, debit cards and other payment instruments. These are REPX's closest and most relevant peers for valuation purposes, in our view.

REPX does not make up a constituent of our average or median values in the peer group metrics at the bottom of Exhibit 8:. We have excluded REPX from these values to make comparison with the rest of the peer group as clean and undistorted as possible.

The neo and challenger banking peers are typically valued on a per card basis. These businesses justify valuations in the range of EUR 400-600 per customer (subscriber). Revolut's valuation of EUR 4.6bn with around 12m customers', equates to a valuation of approximately EUR 388 per subscriber. Similarly, N26 is valued at EUR 593 per subscriber and Monzo is valued at EUR 417 per subscriber.

REPX is at an early stage of its business cycle, so we attribute a discount of 75% to the peer average to arrive at an REPX per user value of ~EUR 116.5 per forecast subscriber. This implies an equity value of ~EUR 40m for REPX.



### **Peer Group Selection**

Revolut is a UK-based fintech company that offers various banking services including prepaid cards, currency exchange, peer-to-peer payments. As of July 2020, it had ~12m active subscribers.

N26 is a German based neobanking company which provides various financial services including current account, debit card, money transfer, overdraft and other services. The customers can access all the services via a smartphone application. Its operations are spread across the European Union as well as the United States. As of July 2020, the company had nearly 5m active subscribers.

Monzo is a UK based digital only bank that allows customers to access a range of products and services including current account, debit cards, and other banking services. These services can be accessed by customers via their mobile phones. As of July 2020, it had 4m active subscribers.

nuBank is a Brazil based neobank and the largest fintech company in Latin America. It provides banking services to a population, the majority of whom did not have access to traditional banking. It offers services including credit cards, direct deposits, personal loans and others. As of June 2020, it had 25m active subscribers and has been valued at over \$10 bn.

Chime is US-based neobank which provides financial services via a mobile app. Its products include checking account, savings account, debit cards, P2P payments and overdraft. It had nearly 8m subscribers as of January 2020.



## **Valuation – Trading Multiples**

In Exhibit 10 below, we show an REPX valuation based upon industry peer companies trading multiples (EV/Sales and EV/EBITDA multiples). In Exhibit 9 below we show more detail of our Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) valuation. For our REPX fair value estimate we have used DCF to achieve a **value range mid-point of EUR 35.8m.** 

DCF – Assumptions for REPX value range EUR 34.0 – 37.6m at 5% standard deviation:

- D&A equal to EUR 150k throughout the forecast period;
- Capex at ~EUR 500k for 2021, increasing to EUR 1m for the periods 2022E 23E and EUR 1.5m 2024E;
- Effective Tax Rate (ETR) assumption is 23.23%.

**Exhibit 9: Cash Flow Model** 

REPX DCF (€ m)	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E Terr	ninal Value
EBITDA	3.58	8.49	13.74	17.88	
Working Capital	0.16	-0.43	-0.44	-0.34	
Capex	-0.50	-1.00	-1.00	-1.50	
Taxes	-0.80	-1.94	-3.16	-4.12	
Cash flow after-tax	2.44	5.13	9.15	11.92	40.03
NPV	2.03	3.55	5.26	5.70	19.15
Total NPV	35.69				
Debt	0.00				
Cash	0.10				
Implied equity	35.80				

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Company reports.

Trading Multiple based Valuation – We value REPX using peer group EV/Revenue and EV/EBITDA multiples. We use average peer group multiples (shown in Exhibit 8 above) to value REPX, arriving at an equity fair value estimate of EUR 48.9m (see Exhibit 10 below)

**Exhibit 10: Peer Group Valuation** 

Peer valuation - REPX (€ m except per share)	Revenue	EBITDA
2021 estimates	9.94	3.58
Multiple (x)	4.85	19.29
EV	48.20	69.02
Debt	0.00	0.00
Cash	0.13	0.13
Implied equity	48.33	69.15
Implied equity discounted @WACC	40.20	57.51
Weight	50%	50%
Fair value estimate of implied equity	48.85	

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Company reports.



### **Revenue Drivers**

Using model assumptions for fan and follower numbers, subscription rates, card subscription prices, rebate percentages, card usage and other factors, we arrive at our revenue model. We assume two main sources of revenue: 1) Next Wallet prepaid card and 2) Partnership with Teams & Celebrities.

#### **Next Wallet Revenue Model**

The exhibits below, show details of the revenue assumptions which we have made for the Next Wallet business, based upon guidance from the REPX management team. It primarily assumes revenue from two sources – sale of cards and transaction volume rebates.

**Exhibit 11: Next Wallet Revenue** 

Next Wallet		2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E
Assumed population from FB advertising	15,000,000					
Churn rate	20%					
Selling price of Next card (€)	25					
Selling price of Top card (€)	700					
Volume rebate from VISA - Next card (€)	24					
Volume rebate from VISA - Top card (€)	240					
Volume rebates - Rate of use	80%					
Subscriber proportion			0.05%	0.10%	0.15%	0.17%
Next cards sold		3,500	7,500	15,000	22,500	25,500
Top cards sold		0	375	750	1,125	1,275
Total cards in issue		3,500	10,675	24,290	43,057	61,221
Revenue (€ m)						
Income from sale of Next cards		0.09	0.19	0.38	0.56	0.64
Income from sale of Top cards		0.00	0.26	0.53	0.79	0.89
Income from rebates Next cards		0.08	0.20	0.40	0.66	0.84
Income from rebates Top cards		0.00	0.07	0.20	0.33	0.42
Total revenue - Next Wallet		0.17	0.72	1.50	2.34	2.78

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Company reports.

#### **Teams & Celebrities Revenue Model**

The tables below, show details of the revenue assumptions which we have made for the Teams & Celebrities roll-out program, based upon guidance from the REPX management team. We have based our revenue on the 12 signed partnerships with various sports teams and celebrities.



**Exhibit 12: Total Fan Base from Signed Partnerships** 

Fan base (m)	Followers	% of active followers	Active Followers
Large Italian Serie A	40.00	50%	20.00
Large Italian Serie A	15.00	50%	7.50
Medium Italian Serie A	1.20	50%	0.60
Italian Serie B	0.60	50%	0.30
Large Sports Marketing Co	1.70	50%	0.85
Large Premier League Team	125.00	50%	62.50
World-known international football team	235.00	50%	117.50
International model & web influencer	14.00	50%	7.00
International football player Olympic gold medallist	6.00	50%	3.00
International former FIFA world player	8.00	50%	4.00
Italian iconic city	0.60	50%	0.30
International Airline	0.40	50%	0.20
Total fan base	447.50	50%	223.75

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Company reports.

**Exhibit 13: Teams & Celebrities Revenue Table** 

Teams and celebrities		2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E
Fan base	223,750,000					
Subscriber proportion			0.03%	0.07%	0.10%	0.11%
New cards sold			67,125	156,625	223,750	246,125
Subscribers carried forward			0	67,125	196,900	341,890
Subscriber churn	40%		0	26,850	78,760	136,756
Net subscribers			67,125	196,900	341,890	451,259
Card purchase cost, PayFan card	59					
Revenue from card purchase			3.96	11.62	20.17	26.62
Purchase volume fee rebates						
a) Annual ticket subscribers			225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Rate of use	50%					
Annual Rebate from Visa, The Clan Card	36					
Revenue from annual ticket subscribers (€ m)			4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05
b) Fan base	223,750,000					
Net subscribers			67,125	196,900	341,890	451,259
Rate of use	50%					
Annual Rebate from Visa, PayFan Card	36					
Revenue from fan base (€ m)			1.21	3.54	6.15	8.12
Total revenue - teams and celebrities (€ m)			9.22	19.21	30.38	38.80

Sources: ACF Research Estimates; Company reports.



### **Risks to our Assumptions**

**Execution risk** — The company's success is dependent on the timely roll-out of its prepaid cards and associated revenue generation. Any delays in the roll-out program could materially impact the revenue growth.

**Low Subscriber ratio** – REPX is highly dependent on the successful conversion of followers to subscribers. REPX assumes that it will be able to convert a certain percentage of followers to subscribers. A lower than anticipated subscriber conversion ratio and an inability to attract followers could adversely impact the viability of the business model.

**Funding availability** — REPX has an aggressive roll-out program which requires availability of capital. If the company is unable to raise capital, it will adversely impact the timelines for its projects. In addition, raising equity at too lower price will lead to dilution, while debt funding will increase interest costs and so erode cash flow margins.

**Regulatory risk** – The card issuing industry is highly regulated and compliance with the regulations is costly. The regulatory environment in which REPX operates frequently changes. Regulation has increased markedly in recent years. There is a risk that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. Failure to comply with or keep up with IT implementations related to regulations could have a materially adverse impact on the business.

**Personnel** - Small and mid-sized companies are more dependent on their C-suite/executive management teams than large and mega-cap global companies. The loss of key personnel can have a disproportionate impact on valuation and investor perception compared to similar events at larger more mature (often ex-growth) companies.



# **Financial Projections**

Our forecasts assume a very conservative subscriber conversion ratio.

We reach our forecast numbers here by assuming that REPX can successfully launch products as per its estimated timelines.

P&L € (mn)	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revs	0	0	10	21	33
gr%	NM	NM	5695%	108%	58%
Total Expenses	0	0	-6	-12	-19
EBITDA	0	0	4	8	14
% Revs	NM	-15%	36%	41%	42%
FV adj.	0	0	0	0	0
% Revs	NM	0%	0%	0%	0%
EBIT	0	0	3	8	14
EBT	0	0	3	8	14
% Revs	NM	-15%	34%	40%	42%
ETR	0%	0%	23%	23%	23%
NI	0	0	3	6	10
% Revs	NM	-15%	26%	31%	32%
Adj EPS (€)	NM	-0.01	0.73	1.78	2.90
Basic EPS (€)	-	-0.01	0.73	1.78	2.90
Diluted EPS (€)	-	-0.01	0.73	1.78	2.90
Balance Sheet € (mn)	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
PP&E	0	0	1	2	2
Total Fixed Assets	0	1	1	2	3
Current assets	0	1	1	3	3
Cash	0	0	3	8	17
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	0	1	4	10	20
Total Assets	1	2	5	12	23
Creditors	0	0	1	2	2
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Loans	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	0	0	1	2	2
Net Assets	1	2	4	11	21
Share Capital	1	2	2	2	2
Accum. Profit/(loss)	0	0	2	9	19
Total Equity	1	2	4	11	21
Total Equity & Liabilities	1	2	5	12	23
Basic NAV (€)	NM	0.4	1.2	2.9	5.8
Diluted NAV (€)	NM	0.4	1.2	2.9	5.8
Cash Flow € (mn)	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
EBT Profit/(loss)	0	0	3	8	14
Finance costs	0	0	0	0	0
FV adj. + Other adj.	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Taxes	0	0	-1	-2	-3
WCap change	0	-1	0	0	0
Net CFO	0	-1	3	6	10

 $Source: ACF\ Research\ Estimates;\ Companies\ reports.$ 



## **Glossary**

Earnings before interest and tax (also often referred to or

equates to operating profit).

Earnings before interest, depreciation and amortisation – the

presentation of EBITDA by companies is not a requirement of UK GAAP or IFRS accounting standards. However, in certain

cases it can act as a close proxy to free cash flow.

EBT Earnings before tax. Also often expressed as PBT – profit

before tax.

FCF Free Cash Flow generated in ACF's models after all obligatory

cash costs have been satisfied such as Interest payable (Ip), cash taxes and maintenance capex (as opposed to investment capex). FCF represents the cash remaining for theoretical distribution or investment after all obligatory cash-based costs

including net interest payable have been deducted.

REPX The Reputation Exchange Plc (REPX) the subject company of

this ACF research note.

Joint Venture – generally a legal structure between two

corporate entities involving participation in equity capital in

the JV vehicle.

Neobank Neobank refers to digital only banks without any physical

branches.

**EUR** Refers to the symbol for Euro currency

NoSh Number of Shares in issue (NoSh).

NPV Net Present Value (NPV) refers to the current value of future

cash flows generated by the company

WACC Refers to the weighted average cost of capital for the firm.

Shareholders'

Equity represents the value (or lack of it) available for distribution to

shareholders should the entity wind up operations. It differs from the equity value expressed in market capitalisation (MCap), The ratio Debt/Equity commonly uses the Debt/MCap formula as opposed to the Debt/Shareholder equity formula.

Shareholders equity - total assets less total liabilities -



# **Notes [Intentionally Blank]**



# **Notes [Intentionally Blank]**



#### **INDEPENDENCE & DISTRIBUTION**

ACF Equity Research Ltd is a provider of issuer-pays research with a clearly defined independent ethic. ACF produces accurate, clear, focused research aimed at a professional investment audience. ACF has excellent distribution capabilities and always aims to provide access without restriction to the widest professional audience. ACF offers a range of additional services to support its clients.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

This communication is for informational purposes only. It is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument or as an official confirmation of any transaction. [The opinions expressed in this report herein do not take into account individual investor circumstances, objectives, or needs and are not intended as recommendations of particular securities, financial instruments or strategies to particular clients. The recipient of this report must make its own independent decisions regarding any securities or financial instruments mentioned herein.] ACF Equity Research Ltd has based this document on information obtained from sources it believes to be reliable, but which it has not independently verified. Neither ACF Equity Research Ltd. nor any of its directors, officers, employees or agents shall have any liability, however arising, for any error, inaccuracy or incompleteness of fact or opinion in this research report or lack of care in this research report's preparation or publication, or any losses or damages which may arise from the use of this research report. All market prices, data and other information are not warranted as to completeness or accuracy and are subject to change without notice. [Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by ACF Equity Research Ltd. with respect to future performance. Any recommendation or opinion contained in this research report may become outdated as a consequence of changes in the environment in which the issuer of the securities under analysis operates, in addition to changes in the estimates and forecasts, assumptions and valuation methodology used herein.]

#### IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES FOR U.S. INVESTORS

This research report was prepared by ACF Equity Research Ltd., a company authorized to engage in securities activities in the United Kingdom. ACF Equity Research Ltd. is not a registered broker-dealer in the United States and, therefore, is not subject to U.S. rules regarding the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts. This research report is provided for distribution to "major U.S. institutional investors" in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any U.S. recipient of this research report wishing to effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments based on the information provided in this research report should do so only through, a registered broker-dealer in the United States. The analyst who prepared this research report is not registered or qualified with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and may not be associated with a U.S. broker dealer and as such, would not be subject to applicable restrictions under FINRA Rules on communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

[Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments (including ADRs) discussed in this research report may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Foreign companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect within the United States.]

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

This report is for authorized use by the intended recipient(s) only. It may contain proprietary material, confidential information and/or be subject to legal privilege. No part of the content of this research report may be copied, forwarded or duplicated in any form or by any means without the prior consent of ACF Equity Research Ltd. and ACF Equity Research Ltd. accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

#### **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES FOR U.K. INVESTORS**

The information in this report has been prepared by ACF Equity Research Ltd (ACF). The research is published for information purposes only. It is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any securities or any financial instruments.

ACF has based this document on information obtained from sources it believes to be reliable but which it has not independently verified. All market prices, data and other information are not warranted as to completeness or accuracy and are subject to change without notice. Any comments or statements made herein do not necessarily reflect those of ACF Equity Research Limited. The material should not be regarded by recipients as a substitute for the exercise of their own judgment. Past performance does not guarantee future performance.

The analyst(s) responsible for covering the securities in this report receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of ACF which may, from time to time, solicit business from any of the companies referred to in this report. The analyst(s) responsible for covering securities in this report may not hold a position in any or related securities in this report in ACF's sector universe on in any other sector in which ACF carries out research. The company does not hold any position in the securities mentioned in this report.

This research report and its contents are intended for professional investors and not for retail investors. A marketing communication under FCA Rules, this document has not been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of the investment research. ACF Equity Research Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. However the contents of this research report are produced as if ACF Equity Research Limited is unregulated and consequently this report does not contain investment recommendations or ratings.

ACF, its directors, employees and agents accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of all or part of these materials. The information in this report is provided with the understanding that ACF is not acting in a fiduciary capacity. Certain laws and regulations impose liabilities which cannot be disclaimed. This disclaimer shall in no way constitute a waiver or limitation of any rights a person may have under such laws and/or regulations. Copyright © 2020 ACF Equity Research all rights reserved. Additional information is available upon request.

Copyright 2020 ACF Equity Research Ltd. All rights reserved.

ACF Equity Research Limited, 125 Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1AR, U.K.

Tel: +44 (020) 7558 8974

Website: www.acfequityresearch.com