

Nanexa AB

Novo Nordisk deal offers both scientific validation and investor-friendly financing

Johan Widmark | 2022-12-23 09:00

The combination of an exclusive evaluation agreement and directed share issue to Novo Nordisk, global leader in diabetes treatment, provides both a significant validation of PharmaShell and a 63 MSEK capital injection that secures runway into 2024, thereby eliminating the risk of a previously impending rights issue.

Based on rough assumptions of 20% probability for a licensing deal with Novo Nordisk, an application of PharmaShell on 10% of Novo's portfolio long-term and a 5% royalty rate, this motivates a new fair value of 6.3-7.9 (6.6-8.1) SEK per share, after adjusting for 17% dilution and a mutual exclusivity between a Novo Nordisk license and NEX-22. After a +80% surge in the share price after the news, this leaves a significant revaluation potential, where we find support from a broad pipeline of activities moving into 2023.

First exclusive evaluation agreement

As a Christmas gift to its tested shareholders, Nanexa has signed a Material Transfer and Feasibility Study Agreement with Novo Nordisk for the evaluation of PharmaShell on Novo Nordisk products. For this, Nanexa will receive payment of 42 MSEK in an upfront for the exclusivity and another 4.4 MSEK for work performed. The exclusivity is limited to an unspecified substance class that is narrow enough not to affect or restrict Nanexa in relation to other evaluation agreements in any meaningful way.

The deal also lets Nanexa continue the development of the proprietary project NEX-22, a long-acting formulation of liraglutide for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, which is in competition with Novo Nordisk's own portfolio. However, should Nanexa reach a license agreement with Novo Nordisk sometime in the future, NEX-22 would most likely be either included in the deal or shut down, although that is not clear at the moment. See details in our report [New project NEX-22 to add significant daily benefits for 50m patient market](#).

Capital injection alleviates risk of near-term rights issue

In addition, Nanexa also carries out a directed share issue to Novo Nordisk of 10m shares at a price of 1.72 SEK per share, making Novo Nordisk Nanexa's largest shareholder at 16%. Combined with the exclusivity Nanexa will receive 59 + 4 MSEK, which along with existing cash at the end of Q3'22 at 46 MSEK, will finance all activities through 2023. Interestingly, the price at 1.72 SEK per share means a hefty 33% premium compared to the previous close at 1.23 SEK but a more balanced premium of 10% compared to 20-day VWAP.

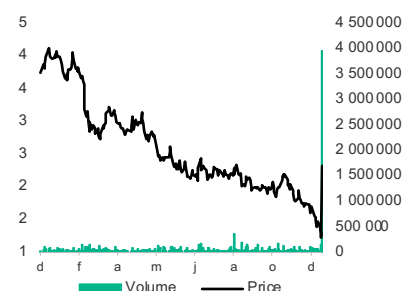
Potential Novo license deal > current Market Cap

The deal provides a renowned, strategically important and financially strong shareholder that can bring valuable industry and sector knowledge. This means a significant validation of Nanexa's scientific thesis and investment case.

Based on rough assumptions of 20% probability for a future license deal with Novo Nordisk, an applicability of PharmaShell on 10% to Novo

Nanexa

Fair Value, SEK	6,3 - 7,9
Current Price, SEK	2,33
Number of Shares (M)	60,7
Mkt Cap (MSEK)	141
Net Debt (MSEK)	-105
Enterprise Value (MSEK)	37
Market	First North



Nordisk's portfolio long term, a 5% royalty with upfront and milestones attached, and similar clinical development LOA as in the case of NEX-22, and a 15% discount rate, this corresponds to an rNPV of 187 MSEK or 3.1 SEK per share.

It is worth noting however that a potential license deal with Novo Nordisk and a continued development of NEX-22 on a stand-alone basis are most likely mutually exclusive. But it's hard to make a meaningful scenario analysis of how that might pan out at this point, which is why our valuation range is made up of each scenario's SOTP value.

All in all, we now find support for a fair value of SEK 6.3-7.9 per share, and with the recent start of phase I with NEX-20 (a long-acting injectable of lenalidomide for the treatment of multiple myeloma), and phase I with NEX-22 in 2023 and NEX-18 (long-acting injectable azacitidine for myelodysplastic syndrome) in 2023 or 2024, we expect an eventful year ahead.

Sum-of-the-parts Nanexa

Project	LOA	Launch	NPV per share	
			MSEK	SEK
NEX-18	6,4%	2028	96	1,6
NEX-20	6,4%	2028	57	0,9
NEX-22	5,0%	2029	89	1,5
Novo Nordisk	20,0%	-	187	3,1
Other PharmaShell	20,0%	-	142	2,3
SOTP (NEX-18, NEX-20, NEX-22, other PharmaShell)			384	6,3
SOTP (NEX-18, NEX-20, Novo Nordisk, other PharmaShell)			482	7,9

Source: Emergers

About Nanexa

Nanexa is a drug delivery company focused on long-acting injectable drugs based on the company's patented PharmaShell ALD technology which combined with traditional drug development enables the company to develop Long Acting Injectables (LAI) on theoretically any drug, both small molecule and biomedical. This is expected to enable drugs with improved efficacy, reduced side effects, improved availability and increased adherence to the treatment plan from patients.

Nanexa was listed on Spotlight (formerly Aktietorget) in 2015 and is listed on Nasdaq First North since 2020. Due to a number of capital injections and delays in the projects, the share has been under significant pressure since.

PharmaShell ALD

ALD technology is used in a number of other areas outside the pharmaceutical industry. PharmaShell's ALD technology means that Nanexa can coat each individual particle with an extremely thin layer (10-50 nm) of inorganic oxides. The thickness and properties of this layer in turn control how the drug is released into the body.

PharmaShell has several benefits

- Makes it possible to tailor the length of the deposition in the body, to weekly, monthly or even longer. This means that you can reduce the number of treatment opportunities, which in turn can
 - benefit the patient's compliance with the treatment plan
 - reduce the perceived discomfort
 - reduce the cost of providing the treatment.
- Check the initial release of the drug in the body (initial burst), which also reduces the side effects.

- Adds very little to the volume (10-20%), which enables a high load capacity (up to 80% compared to other solutions of 30-50%).
 - This reduces the volume injected
 - Enables the use of less potent active substances
 - Longer depots
- Opportunity to apply to a wide range of different drugs
 - Small molecule
 - Biological, peptides and proteins etc.

All this, in turn, is expected to enable a more patient-centered treatment, with the possibility of developing treatments for "unmet clinical needs" and ultimately a better treatment effect and thus opening up a giant market.

Two-part strategy for realizing value in technology

Nanexa has two main strategic orientations for developing and realizing the potential of PharmaShell.

- **Own product portfolio** which involves developing own long-acting injectable formulations of existing drugs where the patents have expired. The goal is to take these own projects to proof of concept and then license them out or possibly take them further under their own auspices. So far, the company has presented three of its own projects, NEX-18, NEX-20 and NEX-22.
- **Partner projects** where PharmaShell is licensed in product-exclusive licenses to other pharmaceutical companies. The company has about 10 such pilot projects in pre-clinical development or pilot stage. In addition to AstraZeneca, which is a partner, Nanexa is so far silent about who these partners are and what these projects are focused on. While the own projects so far are in oncology and type 2 diabetes, the partner projects are covering a wider range of indication areas. Several partner projects have passed in vitro proof of concept and also shown positive results in animal studies.

Licensing deal Novo Nordisk

Licensing scenario

			Annual Average		
			Clinical Phase	Sales Ramp-up	Maturity
Assumptions			2023-2028	2029-2033	2034-2042
Novo Nordisk Revenue	DKKm		224 177	312 644	393 838
Share of revenue applicable w PharmaShell	10%		-	31 264	39 384
Royalty	DKKm	5%	-	1 404	1 969
Upfront	DKKm		1 249	-	-
Milestone	DKKm	Ph I	1 708	-	-
Milestone	DKKm	Ph II	2 180	-	-
Milestone	DKKm	Ph III	2 678	-	-
Milestone	DKKm	Appr.	3 746	-	-
Total Revenue	DKKm		1 302	1 404	1 969
Tax paid	20,0%		-260,5	-280,7	-393,8
CF post tax, Risk adj.			1042,0	1122,9	1575,4
rNPV					
Discount factor		15%	0,725	0,333	0,131
PV	DKKm		712,3	357,2	200,9
LOA	%		-	-	-
Accumulated LOA	%		16,8%	5,0%	5,0%
rNPV	DKKm		73,7	17,8	10,0
SUM rNPV	DKKm	621,7			
SUM rNPV	SEKm	932,6			
rNPV per share	SEK	15,4			
Probability of license deal					
Total rPNV	20%	186,5			
rNPV per share	20%	3,1			

Source: Emergers

Valuation overview of NEX-18, NEX-20 and NEX-22

NEX-18 (all the way to market scenario)

Own development to market

Assumptions	Annual Average		
	Clinical Phase 2023-2026	Sales Ramp-up 2027-2033	Maturity 2034-2040
Number of patients	71 753	80 746	89 995
Peak mkt share			
Market share	10%	n.a.	5%
Patients treated NEX-18			6%
Price increase			
Treatment Price USD	1,0%		
Treatment Rev/ly USD	9,0	0	37 473
Revenue	0,0	165,5	194,7
Cost			
Phase 1	-0,2	0,0	0,0
Phase 2	-0,8	0,0	0,0
Phase 3	-6,0	0,0	0,0
Approval	0,0	-0,1	0,0
COGS	15%	0,0	-24,8
SG&A	20%	0,0	-33,1
Total Cost	-7,0	-58,0	-68,1
CF pre tax	0,0	107,5	126,5
Tax paid	20%	0,0	-21,5
CF post tax	0,0	86,0	101,2
Discount factor	15%	0,771	0,321
PV		0,0	22,0
NPV, MUSD	266		12,8
NPV, MSEK	2394		
Investment	-315		
NPV, MSEK	2079		
rNPV, MSEK	134		

Source: Emergers

NEX-18 (licensing scenario)

Licensing after phase II

Assumptions	Annual Average		
	Clinical Phase 2023-2026	Sales Ramp-up 2027-2033	Maturity 2034-2040
Upfront	10 MUSD	3,3	0,0
Milestone phase II	20 MUSD	6,7	0,0
Milestone phase III	48 MUSD	48,0	0,0
First Sale	12 MUSD	0,0	1,5
Royalties	15%	0,0	24,8
Total CF pre tax	15,4	26,3	29,2
Tax paid	20,6%	-3,2	-5,4
CF post tax, Risk adj.	12,2	20,9	23,2
Discount factor	15%	0,771	0,321
rPV		7,8	5,6
rNPV, MUSD	104		2,9
rNPV, MSEK	940		
Investment	-45		
NPV, MSEK	895		
rNPV, MSEK	58		

Value midpoint, MSEK

Value midpoint, SEK per share

Source: Emergers

NEX-20

Own development to market

Assumptions	Annual Average			
	Clinical Phase 2021-2026	Sales Ramp-up 2027-2031	Maturity 2032-2041	
Number of patients	67 318	72 661	80 695	
Immunomodulatory Immunomodulatory Patients treated with lenalidomid	Market share Market value BUSD	65% 9 230	9% 1 400	9% 1 400
Market share Patients treated w NEX-20 Treatment cycles per patient	Peak mkt share 10%	n.a.	3%	7%
Treatment Price USD	Price increase 1,0%	118 792	35 707	38 486
Revenue		0,0	68,8	210,9
Cost				
Phase 1		-0,2	0,0	0,0
Phase 2		-0,7	0,0	0,0
Phase 3		-5,0	0,0	0,0
Approval		0,0	-0,2	0,0
COGS	15%	0,0	-10,3	-31,6
SG&A	20%	0,0	-13,8	-42,2
Total Cost		-5,8	-24,3	-73,8
CF pre tax		-5,8	44,5	137,1
Tax paid	20,0%	0,0	-7,6	-27,4
CF post tax		-5,8	36,9	109,7
Discount factor	15%	0,725	0,333	0,124
PV		-3,3	10,9	13,9
NPV, MUSD	174			
NPV, MSEK	1567			
Investment	-315			
NPV, MSEK	1252			
rNPV, MSEK	81			

Source: Emergers

NEX-20

Licensing after phase II

Assumptions	Annual Average			
	Clinical Phase 2021-2026	Sales Ramp-up 2027-2031	Maturity 2032-2041	
Cost phase I				
Upfront	10 MUSD	2,5	0,0	0,0
Milestone phase II	13 MUSD	4,4	0,0	0,0
Milestone phase III	31 MUSD	15,7	0,0	0,0
First Sale	8 MUSD	0,0	1,6	0,0
Royalties	15%	0,0	10,3	31,6
Total CF pre tax		8,9	11,9	31,6
Tax paid	20%	-1,8	-2,4	-6,3
CF post tax, Risk adj.		7,1	9,5	25,3
Discount factor	15%	0,725	0,333	0,124
PV		4,0	3,0	3,2
NPV, MUSD	61			
NPV, MSEK	553			
Investment	-45			
NPV, MSEK	508			
rNPV, MSEK	33			
Valuation Midpoint, MSEK	57			
Valuation Midpoint, SEK per share	0,9			

Source: Emergers

NEX-22

Licensing scenario after phase II

	Assumptions	Annual Average		
		Clinical Phase 2023-2028	Sales Ramp-up 2029-2033	Maturity 2034-2041
GLP-1 treatments	USDbn	22,363	35,534	44,028
Market Share	%	0,0%	1,9%	2,6%
Revenue	USDm	-	712	1130
Upfront	USDm	10	-	-
Milestone Phase III	USDm	33	-	-
Milestone Approval	USDm	10	-	-
Royalty	10%	-	71,2	113,0
Total revenue		7,6	71,2	113,0
Cost	USDm	-2,0	-	-
EBIT	USDm	6,1	71,2	113,0
Tax loss (opening)		2,4	88,2	911,1
Tax loss (utilized/generated)		6,1	71,2	113,0
Tax loss (closing)		8,6	159,3	1024,1
Tax paid	20,0%	-1,5	-14,2	-22,6
CF post tax, Risk adj.		4,7	56,9	90,4
rNPV				
Discount factor	15%	0,683	0,290	0,121
PV	USDm	2,0	13,5	12,5
LOA	%	-	-	-
Accumulated LOA	%	21,0%	5,0%	5,0%
rNPV	USDm	0,0	0,7	0,6
Total rNPV	USDm	8,3		
Total rNPV	SEKm	89,3		
rNPV per share	SEK	1,5		

Source: Emergers

Clinical success rate & Likelihood of Approval

Based on statistics for "off-patent" and oncology

	Basis	Likelihood off-patent	Accumulated off-patent	Likelihood oncology	Accumulated oncology	Est. LOA NEX-18/20	Est. Acc NEX-18/20
Pre-clinical	Estimate	70,0%	10,3%	70,0%	3,7%	70,0%	6,4%
Phase 1	Statistical	60,4%	14,7%	48,8%	5,3%	54,6%	9,2%
Phase 2	Statistical	37,6%	24,3%	24,6%	10,8%	31,1%	16,9%
Phase 3	Statistical	70,3%	64,6%	47,7%	43,9%	59,0%	54,3%
Approval	Statistical	91,9%	91,9%	92,0%	92,0%	92,0%	92,0%

Source: Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Emergers

Clinical success rate & Likelihood of Approval

Based on statistics for "off-patent", Autoimmune and Chronic High prevalence

	Pre-clin Estimate	Phase I Statistical	Phase 2 Statistical	Phase 3 Statistical	Approval Statistical
Likelihood					
Chronic, high prevalence disease		46,0%	23,1%	59,5%	92,6%
Off-patent		60,4%	37,6%	70,3%	91,9%
Autoimmune		55,2%	31,4%	65,3%	94,1%
Likelihood	50,0%	53,9%	30,7%	65,0%	92,9%
Accumulated Likelihood					
Chronic, high prevalence disease		5,9%	12,7%	55,1%	92,6%
Off-patent		14,7%	24,3%	64,6%	91,9%
Autoimmune		10,7%	19,3%	61,4%	94,1%
Acc. LOA	5,0%	10,0%	18,5%	60,4%	92,9%

Source: Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Emergers

Risks

In addition to the above-mentioned risks of failure in clinical development, which can have a strong negative impact on the company's value and constitute an inherent operational risk in all companies that develop drugs, there are additional risks to note.

Financing risk

As mentioned above, we believe that Nanexa is dependent on additional financing to be able to realize the potential in its project portfolio. Should the company fail to finance its continued operations on attractive terms and levels, there is a significant risk that the value of the company will be negatively affected.

Delays

Delays in clinical trials are more the rule than the exception and as many as 86% of projects do not meet their recruitment targets within the specified time frame, which means additional costs and delays.

Competing treatments

Of the USD 186 billion spent on global drug development in 2019, it is estimated that as much as 40% went to development projects in oncology and progress is being made all the time. It is therefore difficult to determine with certainty the long-term demand and competitiveness of an individual treatment.

Corporate Governance

Nanexa has an exceptionally experienced team in terms of board, management and advisors, with heavy positions from Swedish and international pharmaceutical companies behind it. Even though not everyone is a full-time employee but closely linked to the company, it is an impressive line-up, not least in light of the company's still modest size.

Chairman **Göran Ando** has over 30 years of experience from the pharmaceutical industry, with roles as medical director of Pfizer AB, VP at Bristol-Myers, research and development manager for Glaxo Group Research, CEO of Celltech Group PLC in the UK, and not least chairman of Novo Nordisk. A / S between 2013 and 2018. Göran Ando was also Vice President and Head of Research and Development at Pharmacia, where he was also responsible for manufacturing and business development. During his eight years as head of research and development at Pharmacia, 17 new drugs were approved by the FDA, prior to Pfizer's acquisition of Pharmacia.

In addition to the board's already heavy academic and practical competence and experience with, among others, **Bengt Gustafsson**'s background as Nordic Medical Director at Novartis Oncology and Celgene, and Professor **Magnus Westgren**'s over 300 scientific publications, **Eva Nilsagård** and **Birgit Stättin Norinder** were elected as new members at the Annual General Meeting. Eva Nilsagård has over 30 years of experience in senior positions, primarily in the automotive and medical / biotechnology industries, including as CFO for Vitrolife, Plastal Industri and OptiGroup, as well as senior positions within AstraZeneca and AB Volvo.

Birgit Stättin Norinder has extensive experience from pharmaceutical and biotech companies in Sweden, the USA and the United Kingdom. She has led several research and development departments and been behind a number of new and approved drugs. She has been CEO and Chairman of Prolifix Ltd, Senior Vice President Worldwide Development at Pharmacia & Upjohn and Director International Regulatory Affairs at Glaxo Group Research Ltd. Birgit has also held a number of positions as a board member and chairman of

European biotechnology companies. She is also a board member of AddLife AB, Hansa Biopharma AB and Oasmia Pharmaceutical AB.

CEO **David Westberg** has previous experience from Pharmacia, Pharmacia-UpJohn and Orexo, where he was responsible for two of Orexo's drug projects (Edluar and Zubsolv) from the early development phase, through formulation development and clinical studies to registration for market approval with the FDA in the USA.

CFO **Björn Svanström** comes from previous roles in finance at SEB Enskilda, Teleca AB, CEO of Praktikerinvest and CFO of development companies in life science, including Dilafor AB.

In addition to the CEO and CFO, the rest of the management team has extensive experience with, among others, Chief Medical Officer, **Owe Luhrs** experience from a number of leading positions at companies such as Pfizer, Actelion and Celgene, Head of Pharmaceutical R&D, **Jonas Fransson's** long experience in product development and commercialization of pharmaceuticals. at Pharmacia, Pfizer and SOBI, and **Marie Gårdmark's** leading positions within the Medical Products Agency and experience from advisory meetings with the FDA and EMA.

In addition, Nanexa has additional advisors attached to the company, which possesses cutting-edge expertise in, among other things, hematological cancer, with Professor **Axel Glasmacher** as Head of Global Clinical Research and Development in Hematology and Oncology at Celgene, and Dr **Karthik Ramasamy** as Associate Professor of Haematology & Consultant Haematologist.

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