Rating: Buy S&P 500: 1183

# **Lukoil Oil Company Profit Advances**

| Symbol                        | (LKOH) LUKOY | Ebitda Next Twelve Months ending 12/31/05 (US\$mm) | 8,700 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--|-------|
| Rating                        | Buy          | North American Natural Gas/Ebitda (%)              | 0     |
| Price (US\$/sh)               | 118.25       | Natural Gas and Oil Production/Ebitda (%)          | 40    |
| Pricing Date                  | 1/11/05      | Adjusted Reserves/Production NTM                   | 12.2  |
| Shares (mm)                   | 209          | EV/Ebitda  | 3.0   |
| Market Capitalization (US\$m  | (m) 24,700   | PV/Ebitda  | 5.2   |
| Debt (US\$mm)                 | 1,500        | Undeveloped Reserves (%)                           | 40    |
| Enterprise Value (EV) (US\$m  | am) 26,200   | Natural Gas and Oil Ebitda (US\$/boe)              | 5.58  |
| Present Value (PV) (US\$mm)   | 44,900       | Present Value Proven Reserves(US\$/boe)            | 1.82  |
| Net Present Value (US\$/share | 208          | Present Value Proven Reserves(US\$/mcfe)           | 0.30  |
| Debt/Present Value            | 0.03         | Earnings Next Twelve Months (US\$/sh)              | 22.06 |
| McDep Ratio - EV/PV           | 0.58         | Price/Earnings Next Twelve Months                  | 5     |
| Dividend Yield (%/year)       | 2.9          | Indicated Annual Dividend (US\$/sh)                | 3.45  |

Note: Estimated cash flow and earnings tied to one-year futures prices for oil and refined products.

Reported results may vary widely from estimates. Estimated present value per share revised only infrequently.

### **Summary and Recommendation**

Results for the third quarter of 2004 reported on January 11, 2005 exceeded our cautious projections and reinforce appreciation prospects for the buy-recommended stock. There is enough profit potential in Russian oil production and refining/marketing that despite high transportation costs and high excise taxes Lukoil's profits have advanced. Next twelve months cash flow, Ebitda, is perhaps half of a competitive international level on an integrated basis. Lukoil's unlevered multiple of cash flow, EV/Ebitda, is the lowest of any stock in our coverage. The stock has appreciation potential to our estimated present value of \$208 a share. We would compensate for the political risk by owning half a normal unlevered position in a diversified energy portfolio.

## Rising Cash Flow despite High Transportation Cost and Excise Tax

Gains of 12% in Russian export price contributed to a 32% gain in Ebitda that drove a 59% gain in earnings in the third quarter compared to the second quarter 2004 (see table Next Twelve Months Operations). A lower than normal share of cash flow, 40%, is attributed to the production business. Yet, the company produces about twice as much oil as it refines. Crude oil for domestic consumption commands a low price in Russia. As a result the downstream business provides an opportunity to earn some of the profits that are diverted to transportation and excise tax.

The company laments that the government-controlled pipeline and rail transportation system charges costs that equal all other operating costs of producing and refining. A spokesperson calls it "ridiculous".

The excise tax applies to exports. Like the politically-named "windfall profits tax" the U.S. government once imposed, the Russian crude oil tax applies disproportionately as price increases.

#### Lukoil Oil Company Next Twelve Months Operations

| Next   Next |
|---|
| 3/31/04 6/30/04 9/30/04 12/31/04 <b>2004E</b> 3/31/05 6/30/05 9/30/05 12/31/05 <b>12/31/05</b>  |
|   |
| Volume  |
|   |
| Oil (mmb) 154 158 159 159 <b>630</b> 156 157 159 159 <b>631</b>   |
| Oil (mbd) 1,706 1,739 1,730 1,730 1,730 1,730 1,730 1,730 1,730 1,730   |
| Price   |
| Oil (\$/bbl)  |
| WTI Cushing 35.23 38.34 43.89 48.30 <b>41.44</b> 45.35 44.89 43.87 42.93 <b>44.26</b>   |
| Lukoil export 28.05 32.50 36.52 40.18 <b>34.37</b> 37.73 37.35 36.50 35.72 <b>36.82</b>   |
| NY Harbor 3-2-1 (\$/bbl) 6.98 12.78 7.83 5.17 <b>8.19</b> 6.31 7.88 7.31 6.34 <b>6.96</b>   |
| Revenue (\$mm)  |
| Oil 4,307 5,142 5,813 6,395 <b>21,657</b> 5,875 5,879 5,810 5,685 <b>23,249</b>   |
| Other 2,275 2,885 4,009 4,009 13,179 4,009 4,009 4,009 4,009 16,038   |
| Total 6,582 8,027 9,822 10,405 <b>34,836</b> 9,884 9,889 9,819 9,694 <b>39,287</b>  |
| Expense   |
| Fixed 1,871 2,286 2,466 2,466 <b>9,088</b> 2,466 2,466 2,466 <b>9,863</b>   |
| Variable 1,871 2,286 2,466 2,713 <b>9,336</b> 2,492 2,494 2,465 2,412 <b>9,862</b>  |
| Other 1,391 1,777 2,677 2,904 <b>8,749</b> 2,781 2,628 2,679 2,767 <b>10,855</b>  |
| Ebitda (\$mm)   |
| Exploration and Production 564 571 881 1,217 <b>3,233</b> 917 919 879 808 <b>3,523</b>  |
| Other 884 1,108 1,332 1,106 <b>4,430</b> 1,228 1,381 1,331 1,243 <b>5,182</b>   |
| Total Ebitda 1,448 1,679 2,213 2,323 <b>7,663</b> 2,145 2,301 2,210 2,050 <b>8,706</b>  |
| Exploration 30 57 38 38 <b>163</b> 38 38 38 <b>152</b>  |
| Deprec., Deplet., & Amort. 248 266 292 292 1,098 292 292 292 292 292 1,168  |
| Ebit 1,170 1,356 1,883 1,993 <b>6,402</b> 1,815 1,971 1,880 1,720 <b>7,386</b>  |
| Interest 68 75 77 77 <b>297</b> 77 77 77 <b>308</b>   |
| Ebt 1,102 1,281 1,806 1,916 <b>6,105</b> 1,738 1,894 1,803 1,643 <b>7,078</b>   |
| Income Tax 276 397 397 670 <b>1,740</b> 608 663 631 575 <b>2,477</b>  |
| Net Income (\$mm)   |
| Exploration and Production 286 259 528 647 <b>1,720</b> 479 488 463 418 <b>1,848</b>  |
| Other 533 618 871 588 <b>2.610</b> 642 733 700 643 <b>2.718</b>   |
| Unallocated 8 7 10 9 34 8 9 9 8 34  |
| Total 827 884 1,409 1,245 <b>4,365</b> 1,130 1,231 1,172 1,068 <b>4,601</b>   |
| <b>Shares</b> (millions) 209 209 209 209 209 209 209 209 209 209  |
| Per share (\$) 3.96 4.24 6.76 5.97 <b>20.93</b> 5.42 5.90 5.62 5.12 <b>22.06</b>  |
| Ebitda Margin (E&P) 13% 11% 15% 19% 15% 16% 16% 15% 14% 15%   |
| Tax Rate 25% 31% 22% 35% 28% 35% 35% 35% 35% 35% 35%  |

# **Profit Suppression May Fade**

It seems to be human nature for governments to extract a disproportionate share of oil profits when they can and to attempt to shield consumers from price increases. The question is how long might the policies last. When the government and its citizens feel the need for more supply, the policies usually change eventually to encourage that outcome. The gradual unfolding of an improved environment for energy producers in Russia may provide a continuing source of gain for Lukoil.

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# McDep Associates Independent Stock Idea January 12, 2005

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