# Kromek Group plc



# '3-2-1...we have lift-off' for all of KMK's end markets

Albeit not wanting to tempt fate, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 will hopefully 'go down' in UK history as the day Covid switched from being a pandemic to an endemic disease. A watershed moment for the country, especially those 5.3m (& climbing) NHS patients sitting on waiting lists and holiday makers desperate to travel abroad after the removal of guarantine restrictions for 'amber listed' destinations.



14th July 2021

EPIC	AIM:KMK
Price (previous close)	16p
52 weeks Hi/Lo	25p/8p
Market cap	£69.1m
Share count	431.9m
Net cash April 2021	£7.4m
ED valuation	26p/share
Average daily volume	1.6m

**Company Data** 





Source: Flight Radar. Commercial passenger + cargo + charter + some business jet flights.

Moreover, this pent-up demand & acceleration of deferred OEM product launches should also provide a **multi-year tailwind** for Kromek's end markets of Medical Imaging (elective procedures – see below), Security Screening (Airports) and Homeland Security (city centre footfall – see overleaf).





Description

Kromek is a radiation detection company operating globally in 4 high-value markets – Medical Imaging (eg BMD, SPECT), Nuclear Detection (D3S), Security Screening (Airport baggage/bottles) & Bio-threat surveillance primarily using cadmium zinc telluride (CZT) crystals.

Headquartered in Sedgefield (UK), Kromek has 150+ employees, of which approx. 118 are in R&D, with 2 further sites in California & Pittsburgh. The firm has >250 registered patents.



Paul Hill (Analyst) 0207 065 2690 paul.hill@equitydevelopment.co.uk

Source: BMA

In particular, Kromek's 'best-in-class' CZT detectors are increasingly being adopted for single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), molecular breast imaging (MBI) and bone mineral densitometry (BMD) applications. Here they are used to more accurately & earlier diagnose & treat patients with cancer, Parkinson's, cardiovascular illnesses and osteoporosis.

City centre traffic too is rising (eg New York & London) as offices, theatres, museums & other attractions reopen. Similarly driving interest in the firm's proprietary D3S dirty bomb detectors & ground-breaking biological threat detector.



#### Source: iPhone tracking data

# Accuracy of airborne Covid detector comparable to PCR tests

The latter of which is already making great strides, having commenced field trials in schools, 2<sup>nd</sup> airports (eg Teesside International) and other locations under a £1.25m project with funding from Innovate UK. Plus the device's efficacy is presently being clinically validated by 3rd party laboratories. Where it is demonstrating "*very positive*" performance in terms of sensitivity and specificity. In fact, comparable with 'gold standard' PCR tests.

# Significant opportunities across all core verticals

Additionally, the US Dept of Defence (DARPA) has expanded the scope of its agreement with Kromek to develop this device by \$11.2m (last increase being \$6m). With the aim of combatting the risk of say rogue states, organised criminals, terrorists &/or even authorised labs accidentally releasing harmful pathogens into the environmental.

Elsewhere the D3S family of dirty bomb detectors is attracting significant interest too from the UK, US, Europe and Asia. The UK government is planning to spend £329m over the next 4 years from Apr'21 to improve its nuclear detection capability. Most of the budget is being allocated for border and inland security (city & critical infrastructure) – from which Kromek, being a British supplier post Brexit, should (at least) receive its fair share.





Source: Kromek

# Large SPECT OEM is accelerating deliveries

Not wishing to be out-gunned, Kromek's biggest SPECT OEM client (7-year \$58.1m order signed Jan'19) is also ramping up deliveries.



Source: Equity Development

Meanwhile, there's recently been a spate of smaller orders (worth £829k in aggregate) post period end, across all segments for delivery this year.

In turn, more than underpinning our <u>conservative</u> FY'22 revenue, adjusted EBITDA and y/e net cash projections of £15.0m, -£0.1m & £2.0m respectively. Which do not include any bio-threat detector sales, nor possible receipt of some of the £13m of Asian debt (AROC) that was written off in FY'20. (AROC). Plus, we understand there is already 60% orderbook cover & 76% forward visibility (incl. awards & run-rate) over our Est. FY22 turnover of £15m.



# Fine, but what about today's FY21 results?

Well in terms of the numbers (see below), adjusted FY'21 EBITDA (pre SBPs) came in slightly better than our estimates at -£1.7m (vs ED -£1.9m) on turnover of £10.35m (ED £10.0m). Alongside net cash closing April at £7.4m (split cash +£15.6m, debt £8.2m), after Feb's £13.0m (gross) fundraise at 15p.

Summary H1 vs H2 split							
£'000s	Act H1'20	Act H1'21	Act H2'20	Act H2'21	Act FY20	Act FY21	Est FY22
Turney	E 222	4 570	7 707	E 770	42.420	40.252	45.000
Turnover LFL % growth	5,333 44.7%	<b>4,576</b> -14.2%	<b>7,787</b> -28.1%	<b>5,776</b> -25.8%	<b>13,120</b> -9.6%	<b>10,352</b> -21.1%	15,000 44.9%
Gross Profit	3,093	2,493	3,115	2,513	6,208	5,006	7,800
% Margin	58.0%	54.5%	40.0%	43.5%	47.3%	48.4%	52.0%
	0 70 4	0.000	0.045	0.007	0.040	0.000	7 000
Overheads (ex SBPs)	-3,704	-3,366	-2,945	-3,327	-6,649	-6,693	-7,900
Adjusted EBITDA (pre SBPs)	-611	-873	170	-814	-441	-1,687	-100
Share based payments	-100	-120	-125	14	-225	-106	-131
Adjusted EBITDA (post SBPs)	-711	-993	45	-800	-666	-1,793	-231
Depreciation & Amortisation	-1,631	-2,100	-1,341	-1,944	-3,327	-4,044	-4,289
Depreciation & Amonisation	-1,031	-2,100	-1,341	-1,944	-3,327	-4,044	-4,209
Adjusted EBIT	-2,342	-3,093	-1,296	-2,744	-3,993	-5,837	-4,520
Margin	-43.9%	-67.6%	-16.6%	-47.5%	-30.4%	-56.4%	-30.1%
Net interest	-311	-306	-233	-240	-544	-546	-571
Adjusted PBT	-2,653	-3,399	-2,186	-1,054	-4,537	-6,383	-5,091
Net cash / (debt)	7,674	-1,772	3,838	7,399	3,838	7,399	1,999
Sharecount (Ks)	344,642	344,751	344,644	358,912	344,644	358,912	358,912

Source: Equity Development





Overheads & cashflow remain tightly controlled, and there is sufficient CZT production capacity to meet all immediate requirements, with the CZT manufacturing facilities currently running at about 60% of installed capacity. Capitalised R&D climbed 4% to £5.5m (£5.3m LY) vs associated amortisation of £2.4m (£2.1m).

Further out, the group should be **self-funding from FY23 onwards**. Albeit if the airborne pathogen opportunity really takes off, then extra working capital MAY be required.

#### Stock appears undervalued in absolute & relative terms

Finally with regards to potential upside, we **reiterate our 26p/share valuation** based on the **strong rebound in demand.** Noting the stock at 16p trades on 4.1x FY22 EV/sales vs 5.0x for the sector (see below), yet is set to grow materially faster over the next few years.

**Improved operational gearing too should materially drive profits**, as a large chunk of incremental revenues drop through to the bottom line (Est FY22 gross margins of 52% vs 48% FY21).



Source: Equity Development

CEO Arnab Basu concluding: "Against a backdrop of significant global uncertainty, **Kromek has emerged** from the 2021 financial year in a stronger position than when we entered. While the disruption across our markets in the early part of the year impacted our sales, our H2 revenue was 26% (£5.8.m) above H1 (£4.6m), with the strong momentum continuing post year end.

In particular, we are seeing continued traction in the medical imaging segment as our customers increasingly roll out their products incorporating our technology. We are extremely encouraged by the results that we are receiving from the piloting of our biological-threat detection solution. We also believe that we are well-positioned to benefit from the increase in government defence and security spending globally, including in the UK, as evidenced by our announcement today of the receipt of our first major order for our D5 RIID.

As a result, and with excellent visibility (>75%) over full year forecasts, we are on track to deliver our highest ever annual revenue for the full year to 30 April 2022, representing significant growth over 2021.

Consequently, and combined with the successful fundraising completed in the year under review, we are well-placed to capitalise on the substantial opportunities across our business and the Board continues to look to the future with increased confidence."

# Key risks

- Although Kromek is presently commercialising its leading technology, there is no absolute certainty that anticipated revenues or growth can be achieved. Plus the adoption of new break-through science can take longer and cost more than originally thought.
- Covid-19 related effects endure longer than expected, thus impacting Kromek's major image scanning markets.
- Orders tend to be lumpy in nature, and therefore by their nature difficult to forecast.
- The company is executing on many fronts, and therefore it is important there is sufficient management resource to facilitate the growth.
- Scaling up production and aftermarket support to satisfy substantially higher volumes could cause teething problems.
- Protection of intellectual property, especially from patent challenges.
- Competitive pressures yet given Kromek's leading position in CZT, then this looks a less immediate threat.
- Customer concentration (largest client generated sales of £2.8m in FY21), and regulatory changes which may impact the introduction of CZT based products.
- Foreign exchange fluctuations.
- The firm is loss making. In the event more funding is required, then it is not certain that future capital would be available at commercial rates.

Summary Financials (£'000s)						
<b>Kromek</b>	2018 Act	2019 Act	2020 Act	2021 Act	2022 Est	
(April year end)	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	
Product Other	9,611 2,234	12,060 2,457	10,314 2,806			
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>11,845</b>	<b>14,517</b>	<b>13,120</b>	<b>10,352</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
% growth	32.1%	22.6%	<i>-9.6%</i>	-21.1%	44.9%	
Gross margin	<b>6,684</b>	<b>8,309</b>	<b>6,208</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>7,800</b>	
% Margin	56.4%	57.2 <i>%</i>	47.3%	48.4%	52.0%	
Adjusted EBITDA (pre SBP)	<b>482</b>	<b>1,974</b>	<b>-441</b>	<b>-1,687</b>	<b>-100</b>	
% Margin	4.1%	13.6%	-3.4%	-16.3%	-0.7%	
Depreciation	-785	-879	-1,185	-1,685	-1,400	
Amortisation of capitalised R&D	-1,907	-1,806	-2,142	-2,359	-2,889	
Share based payments	-131	-195	-225	-106	-131	
Adjusted EBIT (post SBP)	<b>-2,341</b>	<b>-906</b>	<b>-3,993</b>	<b>-5,837</b>	<b>-4,520</b>	
% Margin	-19.8%	-6.2%	-30.4%	-56.4%	-30.1%	
Underlying Interest charge	-192	-364	-544	-546	-571	
Adj. Profit before Tax (post SBPs)	-2,533	-1,270	-4,537	-6,383	-5,091	
Adj. Basic EPS (p)	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	
EPS growth rate	76.0%	75.8%	-670.5%	90.0%	-22.1%	
<u>Valuation benchmarks</u> P/E ratio						
EV/Sales EV/EBITDA (pre SBPs) EV/EBIT	4.2	3.4 25.3	3.8	4.8 -29.7	3.3 -500.3	
Effective tax rate PEG ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0% 0.0	0.0% 0.0	0.0% 0.0	
% EBITDA drop-through rate	67.5%	55.8%	172.9%	45.0%	34.1%	
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Net cash/(debt) - pre IFRS16	7,738	16,420	3,838	7,399	1,999	
Reported sharecount	260,162	275,073	344,644	358,912	434,011	
Sharecount diluted	262,768	277,655	345,729	359,285	434,384	
Shareprice (p)	16.0					



# **Appendices - sector valuation metrics and KPIs**



Source: Equity Development.



#### CY EV/revenues multiples vs peers



Source: Equity Development



# Current Year (CY) EV / EBITDA vs peers

# \_\_\_\_\_

EQUITY





Source: Equity Development.





# Current Year (CY) PERs vs peers



Source: Equity Development

#### Market capitalisation of peers

	Shareprice	Mrk Cap (Millions)	CY net cash / (debt) Millions	Enterprise Value (Millions)
Thruvision	24.5p	£35.6	£7.5	£28.1
Thermo Fisher Scientific	\$515.0	\$204,455	-\$9,869	\$214,324
Philips Healthcare	€ 39.00	€ 34,710	<b>-</b> € 2,709	€ 37,419
Siemens Healthineers	€ 54.00	€ 59,508	€ 359	€ 59,149
Canon (healthcare)	¥2,545	¥2,662,070	¥181,122	¥2,480,948
OSI Systems (Rapiscan)	\$100.0	\$1,800	-\$197	\$1,997
Intelligent Ultrasound	15.0p	£40.4	£6.0	£34.4
SDI Group	£1.92	£188	-£6	£194
Smiths Group	£16.20	£6,415	-£923	£7,338
Polarean Imaging	127c	\$266	\$27	\$240
Kromek	16.0p	£69.1	£7.4	£61.7



# **Contacts**

Andy Edmond Direct: 020 7065 2691 Tel: 020 7065 2690 andy@equitydevelopment.co.uk

Hannah Crowe Direct: 0207 065 2692 Tel: 0207 065 2690 hannah@equitydevelopment.co.uk

#### Equity Development Limited is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

# Disclaimer

Equity Development Limited ('ED') is retained to act as financial adviser for its corporate clients, some or all of whom may now or in the future have an interest in the contents of this document. ED produces and distributes research for these corporate clients to persons who are not clients of ED. In the preparation of this report ED has taken professional efforts to ensure that the facts stated herein are clear, fair and not misleading, but makes no guarantee as to the accuracy or completeness of the information or opinions contained herein.

This document has not been approved for the purposes of Section 21(2) of the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000 of the United Kingdom ('FSMA'). Any reader of this research should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents. This report is being provided by ED to provide background information about the subject of the research to relevant persons, as defined by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotions) Order 2005. This document does not constitute, nor form part of, and should not be construed as, any offer for sale or purchase of (or solicitation of, or invitation to make any offer to buy or sell) any Securities (which may rise and fall in value). Nor shall it, or any part of it, form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract or commitment whatsoever.

Research produced and distributed by ED on its client companies is normally commissioned and paid for by those companies themselves ('issuer financed research') and as such is not deemed to be independent as defined by the FCA, but is 'objective' in that the authors are stating their own opinions. This document is prepared for clients under UK law. In the UK, companies quoted on AIM are subject to lighter due diligence than shares quoted on the main market and are therefore more likely to carry a higher degree of risk than main market companies.

ED may in the future provide, or may have in the past provided, investment banking services to the subject of this report. ED, its Directors or persons connected may at some time in the future have, or have had in the past, a material investment in the Company. ED, its affiliates, officers, directors and employees, will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from any use of this document, to the maximum extent that the law permits.

More information is available on our website www.equitydevelopment.co.uk

Equity Development, 15 Eldon Street, London, EC2M 7LD

Contact: <u>info@equitydevelopment.co.uk</u> | 020 7065 2690