

Orège

Initiation of coverage

Innovation in environmental sustainability

Orège has developed a proprietary technology that reduces sludge treatment costs for clients by up to 80% and implies average payback periods of less than three years. FY18 appears to be an inflection point for Orège, with a large pick-up in order intake. Although the early stage of commercial development implies risks, we believe there is large valuation upside if Orège can establish its technology as industry standard.

Year end	Revenue (€m)	EBITDA (€m)	EBIT (€m)	Net income (€m)	EV/Sales (x)
12/16	0.7	(15.0)	(17.2)	(17.8)	117.9
12/17	0.7	(10.1)	(11.4)	(13.5)	136.7
12/18e	2.6	(7.9)	(8.9)	(11.2)	41.5
12/19e	6.3	(6.1)	(6.9)	(10.0)	18.8

Note: *Net income is normalised, excluding amortisation of acquired intangibles, exceptional items and share-based payments.

Significant economic and environmental benefits

Orège operates in the global wastewater equipment market (\$9.5bn per year market size with 5–6% annual growth). Orège has developed a proprietary and patented technology (Solid Liquid Gas, SLG) that reduces sludge treatment costs for utilities by up to 80%, with a strong investment case for its clients (payback periods of less than three years). In addition to large economic savings, SLG drives important environmental sustainability advantages to the sludge treatment process (lower energy use and volumes transported, improved sludge quality, etc). Over the last few years Orège has developed several successful references for various applications and geographies and is now ready to achieve its full commercial potential, particularly in the UK and North America. Client feedback on the technology strongly supports the effectiveness of the SLG technology.

Large pick up in orders in 2018 ytd

2018 appears to be an inflection point for Orège, with a strong pick up in order intake, which we expect to lead to a large year-on-year increase in revenues, albeit from a low base. We forecast FY18 revenues increasing 2.7x to €2.6m and rising to our estimated base case of €57m in FY23, based on our forecast of an addressable market size of €439m a year (North America, UK, Germany and France). We calculate that EBITDA and cash flow break-even require €18m and €21m revenues respectively. As Orège's net equity fell below half of its called-up share capital in 2017, there is a regulatory requirement for Orège to proceed with a capital increase by the end of FY19.

Valuation: Large upside if SLG becomes standard

Due to the early stage of commercial deployment, investors should assess a large range of potential growth outcomes and valuations. Our base case valuation of $\in \! 3.86/\!\!$ share reflects a sustained growth in revenues mostly in the UK and North America. If Orège can establish its technology as industry standard and its products become widely adopted, we believe there is very large upside to the current share price (our valuation would be $\in \! 9.36/\!\!$ share). On the contrary, the bear case of $\in \! 1.64$ reflects the impact of potential delays in ramping up the commercial development of the company.

Utilities

€3.39

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Market cap	€63m
Net debt (€m) 30 June 2018	38.6
Shares in issue	18.7m

Free float 18%
Code ORÈGE

Primary exchange Euronext
Secondary exchange N/A

Share price performance

Price



%	1m	3m	12m
Abs	(4.8)	(4.0)	(10.3)
Rel (local)	(1.1)	0.5	(7.2)
52-week high/low		€4.28	€3.17

Business description

Founded in 2006 and listed on Euronext in 2013, Orège is a clean-tech company that has developed an innovative, patented technology (SLG) to significantly reduce sludge treatment costs and improve environmental sustainability of the treatment process. Its core markets include North America, UK, Germany and France.

Next events

FY18 results Q119

Analyst

Dario Carradori +44 (0)20 3077 5700

industrials@edisongroup.com

Edison profile page

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Investment summary

Orège: Innovation for environmental sustainability

Orège's proprietary SLG technology reduces sludge treatment costs for utilities by up to 80%, with a strong investment case for its clients (payback periods of less than three years). In addition to large economic savings, SLG brings significant environmental sustainability advantages to the sludge treatment process (lower energy use and volumes transported, improved sludge quality, etc). Over the last few years Orège has developed several references for various applications and geographies and is now ready to achieve its full commercial potential. We see the greatest potential in both industrial and municipal clients in North America (by far the largest market for Orège, in our view) and in the UK water industry (smaller than North America opportunity but with a much more concentrated potential client base).

Valuation: Large upside if SLG becomes industry standard

As Orège is at an early stage of commercial deployment, a large range of potential growth outcomes and valuations should be considered. Our base case valuation of €3.86/share reflects a sustained pick up in revenues as a result of growing adoption of its technology. If Orège can establish its technology as industry standard and its products become widely adopted (as clients fully trust the economic and environmental benefits of the technology), we believe there is significant upside to the current share price (our valuation would be €9.36/share). On the contrary, the bear case of €1.64 reflects the impact of potential delays in ramping up the commercial potential of the company. Development of new products and entry in new geographies would represent upside to our forecasts and valuation. We expect new order announcements, growth shows at FY18 results and a potential FY19 guidance announcement to be the key catalysts for the share price over the next 12 months.

Financials: Strong revenue and EBITDA growth

FY18 appears to be an inflection point for Orège, with a strong pick-up in order intake (also driven by recent prominent client win and feedback, such as from Anglian Water) that we expect to lead to a large year-on-year increase in revenues, albeit from a low basis. We forecast FY18 revenues increasing 2.7x to €2.6m and rising to our estimated base case revenue potential of €57m in FY23. Our estimates are based on a forecast of a €439m annual addressable market size for SLG technology (current applications only) in North America, UK, Germany and France. We expect high operational leverage to drive a strong margin improvement, leading to a positive EBITDA in FY21 and cash flow in FY22. As Orège's net equity fell below half of its called-up share capital in 2017, there is a requirement for Orège to proceed with a capital increase by the end of FY19.

Sensitivities and risks

We have considered bull-bear scenarios in addition to the base case included in our forecasts. We have applied various penetration rates to our estimate of the SLG addressable market. Our analysis suggests a revenue range of €22–93m (vs base case of €57m) for medium-term revenues (we have assumed five years from now, in 2023). We have estimated that Orège requires c €18m revenues to reach break-even EBITDA. Similarly, to reach cash flow break-even (excluding costs related to the financial structure, ie financial expenses), we estimate Orège needs to generate revenues of €21m. Key risks to our forecasts and valuations include: delays in ramping up commercial development, including risks associated with the requirement to organise public tenders for municipal clients; higher/lower competition and its impact on profit margins; and potential impact from Brexit and trade wars (most of the addressable market is in the UK and North America).

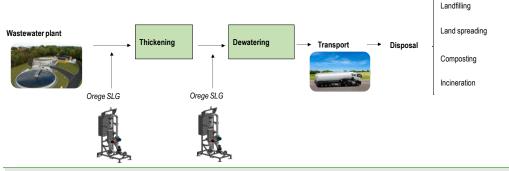


SLG drives large savings and improved sustainability

Orège: Solutions for improved sludge thickening/dewatering

Orège provides advanced solutions for improved sludge thickening and dewatering processes to industrial and municipal customers. Following the wastewater treatment (including sedimentation, aerobic biological process, filtration, disinfection etc), the remaining sludge material is normally treated further. Thickening is the first step of the sludge treatment process and aims at further separating liquids from solids. Dewatering reduces the amount of water remaining in the solid portion. The thickening and dewatering processes are essential to improve the efficiency of the operations, to reduce the volume of the transported sludge, the size of the facilities and ultimately to reduce operating costs for the utilities. Following treatment, sludge is transported for disposal.

Exhibit 1: Sludge treatment process and the role of SLG technology



Source: Company data, Edison Investment Research

Patented SLG technology is the key asset for Orège

Orège's key technology is SLG, a compact add-on solution that can be added to clients' existing water treatment equipment to improve the performance of their thickening and dewatering equipment. The installation of SLG technology requires only limited and inexpensive modifications to the existing client equipment, so the switching cost is generally limited to the purchase and installation of the SLG equipment. Combined with other equipment, Orège has also commercialised a standalone solution for thickening. The SLG technology changes the sludge physical, chemical and rheological characteristics. The 'SLG effect' generates an emulsion that enables improved thickening/dewatering of raw sludge. This improvement is achieved in several stages including the collision and mixing of the gas (ambient air) and the solid/liquid (sludge) using a specific injection system, and sequences of compression/depression. The process results in two different effects: 1) macro, which consists in a significant increase in the porosity of the sludge and a replacement of part of the water with injected air; and 2) micro, which includes the destructuring of bacterial colonies and the reduction of their aggregate size, resulting in increased porosity. Eight key patents protect the technology (and the associated equipment) in around 50 countries, for 20 years starting from 2010–15.



Exhibit 2: SLG process explained



Source: Orège

Orège also patented SOPHYS, a more complex and much more expensive technology (€1.5m vs €0.1m–0.4m for SLG) aimed at effluent treatment; however, Orège has decided to focus on SLG, which has been assessed as having stronger commercial potential and a clearer investment case for clients. SOPHYS is a technology that brings more environmental than economic benefits to clients; hence it is mostly driven by tightening regulations (push) rather than economic benefits for clients, whereas SLG offers substantial savings for clients (pull), hence it is easier to persuade potential clients of the benefits of the technology.

Product offering includes thickening and dewatering solutions

Orège's flagship SLG technology is included in six different products:

- Three aimed at thickening activities: SLG stationary unit; SLG mobile unit + fixed FLOSEP (a thickening unit with proprietary technology); fully mobile SLG + FLOSEP.
- Three aimed at dewatering activities: SLG stationary unit either positioned before screw press, before belt filter press, or before centrifuge.

The SLG unit is very compact: it can be easily transported by a 2m x 4m trailer attached to a light vehicle and is set up in under 10 minutes. The equipment operates at an ambient temperature and consumes little electricity (< 0,5kW/m³/h). The compact size and transportability make this equipment particularly suited for small sludge treatment plants, which are widespread in the UK, US and France. As an indication, depending on application (dewatering vs thickening) and the associated equipment and geography in which it is deployed, Orège's SLG solution costs €100,000–400,000 per unit. Excluding product manufacturing, Orège directly carries out all the other activities itself, including R&D, industrial design/engineering, certain product assembly, marketing or commercial activity, installation and other services at its clients' premises.

Orège has financial support by a strong shareholder (Eren, 69% stake)

Orège was founded in 2005 by Pascal Gendrot (CEO), Patrice Capeau (scientific director) and Michel Lopez (who retired in 2015). The company was listed on Euronext in July 2013 (IPO price €3.24). In 2014, Eren increased its stake to 69% with a public offer (at €4.20/share). Eren is a conglomerate focused on 'natural resources efficiency' with >€600m of shareholder equity and significant investments in renewable energy, water equipment, energy solutions and infrastructure monitoring. Over the years Eren has provided all the required financing to Orège (which at the end



of H118 had c €37m outstanding debt to Eren). In the case of a capital increase at Orège, we would expect Eren to convert a large part of its debt into new equity. Orège has around 60 employees (including consultants). In addition to the French headquarters and research centre, Orège has subsidiaries in the US and the UK. Over the last several years, Orège has achieved several references for its SLG technology and run successful tests in France, Germany, UK and North America. Orège has received international awards, including 2016 Distinction in the category 'Breakthrough Technology of the Year' at the Global Water Intelligence Awards and Most Innovative Technology at Birmingham Utility Week in 2017.

Date	Company	Company statement
24-Sep-18	Town of Hammonton, New Jersey	As we developed our long-term sludge dewatering strategy, the SLG solution was clearly the most environmentally friendly and financially attractive option for the Town of Hammonton.
25-Jun-18	Wessex Water	The main challenge successfully addressed by Orège and its SLG solution has made it possible to drastically reduce transportation costs while maintaining effluent compliance.
09-May-18	Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority	We have chosen to implement the SLG solution for its outstanding performance capabilities, enabling us to reduce our sludge transport costs. These costs represent a major expense for us and we had been looking for a suitable solution to reduce them for a long time. The SLG solution is perfectly aligned with our environmentally responsible approach, giving us more effective control over the risks associated with the conditioning of our sludge.
15-Mar-18	Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA)	The results are impressive. The SLG project has exceeded all of the established performance criteria.
28-Feb-18	Anglian Water	The cost savings for the Newmarket Water Recycling Centre and surrounding sites are around £150,000 per year, and another five areas have already been identified with similar levels of savings. Carbon emissions from transportin the sludge in tankers are forecasted to be down by 50 per cent as a result of the project.

SLG technology: A series of environmental and economic benefits

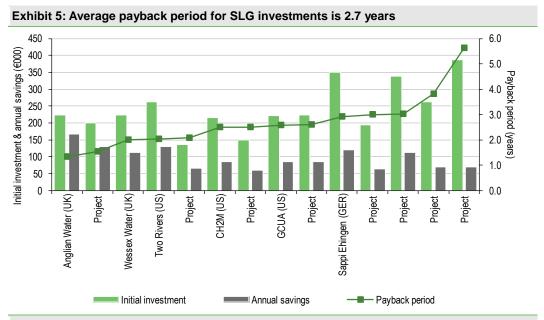
The SLG offers a series of significant economic and environmental benefits. We classified these benefits into four categories, although we acknowledge these categories often overlap:

Lower volumes	Higher waste quality, improved environmental sustainability	Higher efficiency	Lower costs
Significant sludge thickening with reduction of sludge volumes by up to 90% Improvement in cake dryness by 3 to 6 points	Lower volumes transported imply higher environmental sustainability Improved sludge quality and valorisation (composting and land spreading) Immediate and long-lasting reduction of sludge odours Very high quality of recovered water (filtrate): suspended matter < 100 mg/l; redox potential increased by at least + 100 mV	Increase in the treatment rate of existing thickening or dewatering equipment by as much as +200% More efficient anaerobic digestion	Reductions of up to 80% in sludge treatment costs Reduced polymer consumption (the chemicals used in the dewatering process) by up to 50% Reduced energy consumption of both the sludge workshop and the wastewater treatment plant overall

Cost savings potential is the key selling point for SLG

We believe SLG's ability to save costs for utilities / industrial operators is the key selling point for the technology. We have analysed Orège's key historical projects. Based on client's investments in the projects and savings from the implementation of these solutions, we have calculated an average payback period of 2.7 years (with a range of 1.3 to 5.6 years), which we see as very attractive for both municipal and industrial clients.





Source: Company data, Edison Investment Research. Note: 'Project' refers to undisclosed projects.

Strategy: Establish proprietary technology as industry standard and enter new geographies and technological applications

Orège's strategy is focused on achieving several references for various applications in the core target geographies of the group: North America, UK, Germany, France. With the development of several references, Orège aims at establishing its solutions as technical standard in the sludge thickening and dewatering market, to achieve full commercial potential. In addition to these core strategic objectives, Orège aims at developing further business potential, both in new geographies (in particular in Asia-Pacific, where the company is not present) and in new technological applications (enhanced anaerobic digestion, pelleting).

A committed management team

Orège's management includes most of the key people that in the 12-year history of Orège were responsible for developing the technology, for listing the company in 2013 and for attracting the investment of one of the most significant investor in the clean-tech space (Eren, 69% stake). Key executives include: Pascal Gendrot, CEO and co-founder, with more than 20 years experience helping small to medium sized corporates to fundraise and grow internationally; Patrice Capeau, scientific director and co-founder, who is responsible for all Orège technology and patent development since inception; George Gonsalves, CFO, who has a background in accounting and corporate finance consultancy in France and the UK and a previous experience as CFO of the French subsidiary of the Game Group (consoles and video games). These three executives own c 11% of the capital of Orège.

Wastewater treatment is a global environmental issue

The treatment of wastewater/sludge is universally recognised as one of the greatest environmental challenges globally. While in low-income countries the biggest issue is the lack of infrastructure, in high-income countries tightening environmental regulations and potential economic benefits suggest the need of an upgrade of the existing treatment plants.

■ **Low-income countries:** while in high-income countries around 70% of wastewater is treated, this ratio drops to 28% in lower to middle income countries and to 8% in low-income countries.



Overall 80% of wastewater globally is returned to the ecosystem without treatment or re-use (Unesco, 2017). As a result 1.8 billion people drink water contaminated with faeces, which exposes them to infectious diseases (Unicef, 2015). Although there has been some progress with global access to sanitation facilities (increasing to 68% in 2015 from 54% in 1990), the improvement fell short of the UN Millennium Development Goal (77% sanitation access), with the largest areas for improvement in African countries and large parts of South America and Asia

High-income countries: most mature economies have facilities in place for wastewater/sludge treatment, but there is large room for the improvement of their economic and environmental performance. Focusing on the economic benefits of an improved sludge treatment process, the cost of sludge disposal is generally high. As a result, large savings are possible in the case of efficiency gains in the treatment process. At the forefront of sludge treatment options are new technologies aiming at extracting energy from sludge, through anaerobic digestion and composting, transforming sludge to a valuable resource. In addition to economic benefits, significant environmental benefits can be achieved with upgraded treatment infrastructure, such as higher quality of the disposed material, lower energy use, etc In some cases, upgrades are driven by tightening regulations (eg German market, page 11).

Addressable market and competitive landscape

Orège: Innovation in \$9.5bn global equipment market

Orège's SLG product offers a technological innovation to a market that is characterised by well-established and consolidated technologies, which, for most part, have been employed for several years. The size of the market where Orège operates is significant: according to a study by Frost&Sullivan (2016 Global Water Market Outlook), of the \$54bn global water and wastewater treatment equipment market (2016 revenues), approximately \$9.5bn relates to the business areas where Orège operates, ie equipment for wastewater pre-treatment (\$2.1bn), sludge thickening (\$2.2bn), dewatering (\$2.8bn), sludge digestion (\$1.1bn) and drying (\$1.2bn). These figures exclude the revenues from services associated with the equipment sale (such as installation, maintenance, etc), which we estimate are equivalent to 50–100% of the equipment business. According to Global Water and Intelligence, the growth rate of the global wastewater market is 5–6% a year.

Orège focuses on four geographies where it sees significant growth potential: France, Germany, North America and the UK. In Germany, c €550mn is spent annually in new wastewater equipment according to the Federal Statistical Office and the DWA. In the US Global Water Intelligence estimated \$1.1bn was spent in new wastewater equipment in 2017, of which c \$330m for municipal dewatering/thickening specifically. In the UK, Global Water Intelligence estimated there was \$365m investment in sludge management equipment in 2016.

Competitive landscape dominated by well-established technologies

The sludge dewatering and thickening processes are generally undertaken with a plate/frame filter press, centrifuge or a belt filter press. Most of these technologies have been employed for a long time (20 years+) and little innovation has taken place. Orège's SLG is an add-on performance enhancer to any of these technologies. The largest companies operating in this industry are Alfa Laval (pumps, centrifuges, filters, etc.), Andritz (Separation division, which manufactures centrifuges and other pumps), Suez (Water Technologies & Solutions division, which recently acquired GE Water), Veolia (Veolia Water technologies division), HUBER Technology (product offering including screw presses, belt filter presses, dryers) and Hiller (which manufactures mobile dewatering plants). One of the most innovative companies in the industry, Cambi is a leader in advanced



anaerobic digestion and biogas solutions for sewage sludge and organic wastewater management and in thermal hydrolysis.

While most companies offer traditional sludge dewatering and thickening equipment, Orège offers an innovative add-on solution (as well as a standalone thickening solution), ie a patented performance-improving technology that aims at reducing utility costs, improving environmental sustainability and increasing the efficiency of the process. Crucially, the SLG is a mechanical wastewater/sludge treatment technology and not a chemical process, which uses expensive chemicals and has much greater environmental impact.

We estimate SLG addressable market is €439m pa (UK, Germany, France, North America)

We derived our forecasts for Orège's top line by applying a range of penetration rate assumptions to the estimated size of the core market opportunities for the flagship product SLG in the key countries for Orège: UK, North America, Germany and France. We provide detailed calculations below. We highlight that our forecasts are exclusively based on these four geographies and do not include several large business opportunities for Orège, see Future development for more details.

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Exhibit 6: Estimated annual addressable market for SLG (equipment + services, €000s)

Source: Edison Investment Research. Note: *French potential estimate based on other markets' size.

The North American market is fragmented but we believe has the largest potential for Orège

Orège entered the US market relatively recently, in 2015. Business development for Orège has been faster than in Europe, with the company involved in nine projects in North America to date (completed or in progress), selling 12 SLG units. The key opportunity for Orège is the dewatering market, where it can target a large number of clients: according to company estimates around 9,000 belt filter presses and between 1,000 a 2,000 screw filter presses operate in this region. Additional concrete business potential includes the sale of add-on solutions for the thickening market, where an estimated additional 3,000 plants operate (gravity belt and rotary drum thickeners). We estimate the addressable market for Orège's SLG technology in North America is €260m a year, which is significantly larger than the combined potential in the UK, Germany and France. The estimate includes a large contribution from services revenues, which we believe is an attractive market with visible long-term prospects for Orège. This estimate does not include the business potential related to dewatering solutions for centrifuges (c 5,000 centrifuges operate in North America, according to Orège) and to static thickeners and gravity tables.



Exhibit 7: Estimated annual addressable market for Orège's SLG tec America	hnology in No	rth
North America (US and Canada)		
Estimated belt filter presses (BFP) - dewatering	#	9,000
Estimated screw presses - dewatering	#	1,500
Estimated thickeners (rotary drum and gravity belt)	#	3,000
Total number of presses and thickeners	#	13,500
Number of SLG units required (2 SLG for 1 thickener)	#	16,500
Assumed proportion of installations for which payback period of <3 years can be achieved	%	50%
Number of SLG installations for which payback can be achieved	#	8,250
\$ cost of delivered solution	\$000	377
€ cost of delivered solution	€000	325
Equipment addressable market	€000	2,684,053
Asset life*	years	10
Annual equipment addressable market	€000	268,405
Cost of service per SLG/year	€000	10.8
Annual service addressable market	€000	88,901
Annual equipment + service addressable market	€000	357,306

Source: Edison Investment Research. Note: *asset life could be extended to 15–20 years with additiona maintenance capex.

The UK municipal market: Smaller but more concentrated than North America

The UK sludge treatment market is characterised by a large number of small plants (about 9,000 sewage treatment works). Orège's SLG mobile unit is particularly suited to addressing this market as it can operate over several treatment plants and achieve large efficiencies and returns for the utility. In the UK, Orège has sold four SLG units (one to Wessex Water and three units to Anglian Water). In particular Orège has received a strong endorsement by Anglian Water (see quote in Exhibit 1), which has subsequently stimulated interest for SLG technology from the entire UK water industry. The key advantage of the UK market is the high client concentration (12 wastewater companies in total), which should speed up the commercial development. We estimate the addressable market is €37m a year. This estimate refers mostly to mobile solutions and does not include other business opportunities such as fixed thickening solutions for gravity tables and dewatering solutions (for belt filter presses or for screw presses).

Number of wastewater plants	#	9,000
Proportion of suitable plants for SLG (technically and economically)	%	60%
Addressable plants	#	5,400
Number of plants for SLG unit	#	5
Potential number of SLG units installed	#	1,080
Price per SLG	€000	269
Equipment addressable market	€000	290,867
Asset life*	years	10
Annual equipment addressable market	€000	29,087
Cost of service per SLG/year (maintenance only)	€000	7.7
Annual service addressable market	€000	8,316
Annual equipment + service addressable market	€000	37.403

As a cross-check to our forecasts and to assess the materiality of the savings brought by SLG for potential UK clients, we have carried out an analysis of the impact of SLG adoption on the UK water sector. Assuming a payback period for SLG investments of between one and five years (the average payback for Orège references is 2.7 years), we estimate that Orège's SLG technology could lift profit before tax of the UK regulated water sector between 3% and 16%, which we view as very significant. This economic benefit would be on top of large environmental benefits.



Exhibit 9: Potential PBT uplift from adoption of SI	LG technolo	gy for UK wa	ter industry			
UK addressable market for Orège (excl. service revenues)	€m		29	0.9		
Assumed payback period	Years	1	2	3	4	5
Annual savings for UK water industry	€m	290.9	145.4	97.0	72.7	58.2
Estimated UK water pre-tax profits 2017/18	€m		1,8	600		
% potential uplift to UK water industry annual pre-tax profits	%	16%	8%	5%	4%	3%
Source: Edison Investment Research						

Germany: Regulation drives business opportunities

The German market is characterised by more stringent regulation, which sets a favourable environment for the development of Orège. New regulations (Sewage Sludge Regulation, which introduces the obligation of phosphorus recovery for larger sewage treatment and Fertilizer Ordinance, which introduces stricter pollution limits) restrict sludge land-spreading and favour higher incineration use, which is very expensive. Hence we believe solutions, such as Orège's SLG, which reduce sludge volumes and improve dryness have strong development potential and can achieve very large savings for municipalities.

The largest market targeted by Orège in Germany is the sale of SLG add-on solutions to centrifuges (the most widespread dewatering technology in Germany, with 47% market share). We understand Orège is concluding its first reference in German centrifuges and is able to offer a fully commercial solution. The number of large German dewatering plants (>100,000 people equivalent) where Orège's technology have highest technical and commercial rationale, can be estimated at 400–500 units, based on company information.

On this basis and including the revenue potential related to services activities, we estimate an annual addressable market for Orège (municipal centrifuges only) of €12m. Additional applications include add-on solutions for the industrial sector (for example, food and beverages and industrial chemicals), for anaerobic digestion plants (1,200 dewatering plants, or 13% of the German total, are already equipped with anaerobic digestors) and screw press plants, where, however, Orège has yet to develop references.

Germany		
Number of centrifuges suitable for SLG (economically and technically) based on size of > 100,000 people equivalent	#	450
Number of plants for SLG unit	#	1
Potential number of SLG units installed	#	450
Price per SLG	€000	162
Equipment addressable market	€000	72,717
Asset life*	Years	10
Annual equipment addressable market	€000	7,272
Cost of service per SLG/year (maintenance only)	€000	10.0
Annual service addressable market	€000	4,500
Annual equipment + service addressable market	€000	11,772

2018 ytd orders intake shows inflection point

The water industry is generally conservative, risk averse and dominated by well-established technologies. Innovation is slow and new technologies generally need a large number of tests and references before being widely adopted. In this context the lack of growth of Orège's revenues over the last few years may be frustrating for investors but not surprising to industry operators. We note, however, that FY18 appears to be an inflection point for the company with a large pick up in order intake, which we estimate should allow for 2.7x year-on-year revenue growth (albeit from a low basis). The pick up is driven mostly by the US (with orders from both municipal and industrial clients), and the UK, where the Anglian Water support at the end of FY17 appears driving large interest from other utilities (see Exhibit 1).



Date	Country	Client	Contract	Value
24-Sep-18	US	Town of Hammonton, New Jersey	Two SLG solutions on 10-year lease	\$500,000
12-Sep-18	UK	Anglian Water	Two integrated mobile SLG + Flosep solutions to Anglian Water	£400,000
02-Jul-18	US	Mullins Cheese	One SLG solution for agrifood sector	\$300,000
25-Jun-18	UK	Wessex Water	One integrated mobile SLG + Flosep solution	£200,000
14-Jun-18	US	Trinity River Authority of Texas	One SLG solution	\$400,000
09-May-18	US	Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority	One SLG solution	\$260,000
09-Apr-18	US	Municipality of Gresham, Oregon	One SLG solution	\$300,000
Total 2018 ytd			9 SLG solutions	€2,016,828

H118 results show revenue pick up and lower operating costs

H118 results showed a strong pick up in revenues, +100% year-on-year to €559k (albeit from a low basis). Higher revenues combined with a 17% reduction in operational costs led to a smaller EBIT loss (€4,567k vs €5,780k) and a smaller net loss (€5,593k vs €6,764k).

Future opportunities: New products and new geographies

- New products: the ability of Orège's SLG technology of improving the separation of water from solids has the potential to drastically improve advanced sludge treatment solutions, such as anaerobic digestion and pelleting. We would expect the company to develop new solutions for these markets over the next few years.
- New geographies: although our forecasts assume relatively high penetration in four markets, we have not included any contribution from several geographical areas with high potential. In Europe, countries such as Switzerland, Italy and Spain could be large markets for Orège, although the company has no examples of completed projects in those countries currently. Asian countries have huge development potential for Orège, but the region has not been a priority until recently. On 16 October 2018, however, Orège announced that it has signed a partnership for distribution and integration of its SLG solutions in Japan with ITCMT, a subsidiary of the Japanese ITOCHU Corporation. Orège's partnership with ITCMT covers the marketing and distribution, integration and maintenance of its SLG solutions throughout Japan, for both industrial businesses and municipalities. This partnership may accelerate product deployment in the region.

Management team

The management team includes most of the key executives that in the 12-year history of Orège were responsible for developing the technology, for listing the company and for attracting the investment of Eren, one of the largest clean-tech investors. Key executives include:

Pascal Gendrot, CEO and co-founder is a post-graduate of the Management School of Lyon and has an accounting background. He has more than 20 years' experience helping small to medium-sized corporates fundraise and grow internationally. In 2002 he founded and ran his own consulting firm providing advice to small to medium-sized businesses and in 2006 co-founded Orège. He started his career at Peat Marwick (now part of KPMG) and later joined BDO Group, where he became a partner, founding manager of the corporate finance and strategy department, and member of the management committee and managing partner of BDO France.

Patrice Capeau, scientific director, is an engineer who started his career in applied engineering in the water sector and had technical responsibility for businesses involved in the supply of drinking water and in the treatment of organic waste and sludge (Sogreah, Alcatel Alsthom Group, then Alpha Logic). He created Hodis in 2005, which became Orège in 2006.

George Gonsalves, CFO, is a Chartered Accountant who started his career at BDO Binder Hamlyn in London and then joined the corporate finance team in Paris advising on acquisition due diligence,



fundraising and auditing. In 2002 he joined the French subsidiary of the Game Group (consoles and video games), where he served as CFO until 2009.

Kevin Dunlap, Orege North America CEO has 22 years' experience in sales and management roles in the water and wastewater treatment industry (including at American Water, US Filter, ITT Industries, Waterlink and BCR Environmental).

lan Patehyjohns, Orege UK CEO has 26 years' experience in various roles in the water and wastewater treatment industry, including innovation management, strategy and business leadership (at Siemens, United Utilities, Atkins).

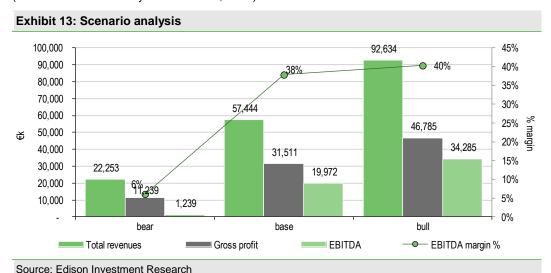
The management team owns a significant stake in the company. As of 28 February 2018, Pascal Gendrot owned 6.40% of the capital, Patrice Capeau 4.11% and George Gonsalves 0.70%.

Scenarios: Flexing penetration rates

We believe the potential for adoption of Orège's SLG technology is large, but a number of potential outcomes should be assessed. We have therefore considered bull and bear scenarios in addition to the base case included in our forecasts. Starting from our estimate of the addressable market, we have applied various penetration rates, based on several factors including discussions with the commercial teams of Orège and our assessment of the product adoption speed and business development potential of the company.

	Addressable			
€000s	market	Bear	base	bull
US	268,405	6%	15%	24%
UK	29,087	17%	37%	57%
Germany	7,272	10%	25%	40%
France	25,000	0%	5%	10%
Revenues – equipment	329,764	20,434	52,749	85,063
Revenues – services and other		1,819	4,695	7,571
Total revenues		22,253	57,444	92,634

Our analysis suggests a revenue range of €22–93m (base case €57m) for medium-term revenues (we have assumed five years from now, 2023).



Source: Edison investment Research



We calculate EBITDA and cash flow break-even requires c €18-21m revenues

As set out in Exhibit 14, we have estimated that Orège requires c €18m revenues (approximately 72 SLG units assuming an average price of €250k for one SLG) to reach break-even at EBITDA, which, in our base case we expect in 2021. Similarly, to reach cash flow break-even (excluding costs related to the financial structure, ie financial expenses) we estimate Orège needs revenues of €21m (84 SLG units). These calculations are based on the cost structure, gross margin, capex and working capital we estimate for our 2019e base case.

EBITDA break-even		Cash flow break-even	
Fixed costs	9,326	Fixed costs	9,326
Required gross profit for EBITDA = 0	9,326	Capex	800
Gross margin assumed	52%	Tax credits	-800
Revenues	17,934	Delta working capital	1,619
Average SLG price	250	Required gross profit for cash flow = 0	10,945
Number of SLG units required	72	Gross margin assumed	52%
		Revenues	21,048
		Average SLG price	250
		Number of SLG units required	84

Valuation reflects early stage of development

As Orège is at an early stage of commercial deployment, a range of potential growth outcomes and valuations are possible and there are significant downside/upside risks to our forecasts and valuation. As the company is loss making, we believe its value depends on its ability to grow and generate cash flow in the future. Our base case valuation of €3.86/share reflects a sustained pick up in revenues. If Orège can establish its technology as industry standard and its products become widely adopted, we believe there is significant upside to the current share price (our valuation would be €9.36/share). On the contrary, the bear case of €1.64 shows the potential impact on valuation in case of delays in ramping up the commercial potential of the company. We expect new order announcements, growth shown in FY18 and a potential FY19 guidance announcement to be the key catalysts for the share price over the next 12 months.



Source: Company data, Edison Investment Research

To reflect the early stage of Orège, we used a methodology similar to the one we use for early-stages biotech companies: we estimated the addressable market size, assumed penetration rates (see Exhibit 12 for more details on bull-bear penetration rates assumptions) and used a DCF methodology to take into account the future prospects of the group. We have used a 12.5% WACC, consistent with the rate we use for companies at a similar stage of development (sensitivity to higher and lower rates in Exhibit 19).



Exhibit 16: Base case valuation is €3.86/share					
Sum discounted cash flow 19e–35e, €m	88,910				
Present value of terminal value, €m	27,156				
Enterprise value (2018 YE), €m	116,066				
-net debt (2018 YE), €m	-43,999				
-provisions (2018 YE), €m	-143				
Equity (2018 YE), €m	71,925				
NOSH (2018 YE)	18,653				
Value/share, €/sh	3.86				
Source: Edison Investment Research					

To calculate the terminal value, we have normalised EBITDA and EBIT margins post-2035 (Orège patents expire between 2030 and 2035) to align them with the average margins of mature water equipment companies. We have then applied the peer group average FY18 EV/sales, EV/EBITDA and EV/EBIT multiples (Exhibit 17) to Orège's corresponding financial metrics. Our terminal value for Orège is based on the average of the values implied by the respective peer group multiples (see Exhibit 18).

Exhibit 17: Mature water equipment valuation multiples													
Company	EV/sales			l	EV/EBITDA			EV/EBIT			P/E		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	
Fluence	N/A	0.9x	0.7x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Alfa Laval	3.1x	2.7x	2.4x	17.6x	14.6x	12.6x	24.3x	18.1x	15.2x	30.5x	22.6x	19.4x	
Mueller Water Products	2.3x	2.2x	2.0x	11.3x	10.9x	9.3x	NA	14.6x	11.3x	26.2x	22.2x	18.2x	
Xylem	3.4x	3.1x	2.9x	18.7x	16.6x	14.3x	25.6x	22.0x	18.6x	33.4x	27.5x	23.4x	
Evoqua	2.3x	2.1x	1.9x	15.1x	12.1x	10.2x	40.8x	19.0x	15.1x	43.0x	25.0x	20.7x	
The Gorman-Rupp Company	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.1x	23.6x	21.6x	
Franklin Electric	N/A	13.4x	11.8x	N/A	13.4x	11.8x	N/A	17.3x	15.1x	24.8x	20.7x	19.0x	
Andritz Group	0.7x	0.8x	0.7x	8.0x	9.0x	7.9x	10.7x	11.7x	10.2x	10.7x	11.7x	10.2x	
Beijing Enterprises Water Group	3.8x	3.8x	3.6x	12.7x	12.2x	11.4x	13.3x	13.4x	12.6x	9.0x	8.3x	7.4x	
Watts Water Technologies	2.1x	1.9x	1.8x	13.5x	12.2x	11.2x	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.5x	22.2x	20.2x	
Pentair	1.8x	3.0x	2.8x	8.9x	14.6x	13.2x	10.1x	17.0x	15.4x	12.4x	19.0x	17.5x	
Itron	N/A	1.4x	1.2x	N/A	13.0x	8.2x	N/A	703.6x	12.0x	21.1x	22.0x	15.1x	
Forterra	1.0x	1.1x	1.0x	11.0x	9.7x	8.6x	41.8x	33.2x	22.2x	N/A	N/A	72.0x	
Median	2.3x	2.1x	2.0x	12.7x	12.2x	11.2x	24.3x	17.7x	15.1x	26.2x	22.2x	19.2x	

Source: Edison Investment Research. Note: prices as at 27 September 2018.

Exhibit 18: Terminal value calculation						
	2030e	Applied peer group multiple	Implied EV			
Sales	105,752	2.1x EV/sales	222,079			
EBITDA normalised (14.9% margin)	15,757	12.2x EV/EBITDA	192,236			
EBIT normalised (10.1% margin)	10,681	17.7x EV/EBIT	189,053			
Terminal value (average, undiscounted)			201,123			
Terminal value (average, discounted to 2018YE)			27,156			
Source: Edison Investment Research.						

Valuation sensitivities

We highlight the valuation is very dependent on the WACC and the implied terminal value multiple (the implied base case terminal EV/sales multiple of 1.9x is based on the average of the valuations obtained by applying the average peer based EV/sales, EV/EBITDA and EV/EBIT multiples to Orège's sales, EBITDA and EBIT as per Exhibit 18). These sensitivities are presented in Exhibit 19.



			Terminal val	ue implied EV/Sales	S	
		0.9x	1.4x	1.9x*	2.4x	2.9x
	10.5%	4.33	4.85	5.37	5.89	6.41
.[11.5%	3.67	4.12	4.57	5.01	5.46
S S	12.5%	3.09	3.47	3.86	4.24	4.62
*	13.5%	2.57	2.90	3.23	3.56	3.89
•	14.5%	2.10	2.39	2.67	2.95	3.24

Based on the bull/bear scenarios included in Exhibits 12 and 13, we have calculated the valuation sensitivities in Exhibit 20. The wide valuation range (€1.64 to €9.36) shows the impact of various growth scenarios and the speed at which Orège is able to develop its business. Ultimately we believe it is the reflection of the early stage of development of the company and of the risks associated with it.

			Вι	ıll						Bear			
	Terminal value EV/Sales					,		Termir	nal value	EV/Sales	3		
		0.9x	1.4x	1.9x	2.4x	2.9x			0.9x	1.4x	1.9x	2.4x	2.9x
	10.5%	10.17	11.09	12.00	12.91	13.83		10.5%	1.94	2.37	2.81	3.24	3.67
	11.5%	9.03	9.81	10.60	11.38	12.16	ဗ္ဗ် -	11.5%	1.44	1.81	2.18	2.56	2.93
WACC	12.5%	8.01	8.68	9.36	10.03	10.70	¥	12.5%	1.01	1.32	1.64	1.96	2.28
≱	13.5%	7.10	7.68	8.26	8.84	9.42	1	13.5%	0.62	0.89	1.17	1.44	1.71
-	14.5%	6.29	6.79	7.29	7.79	8.29		14.5%	0.28	0.51	0.75	0.98	1.22

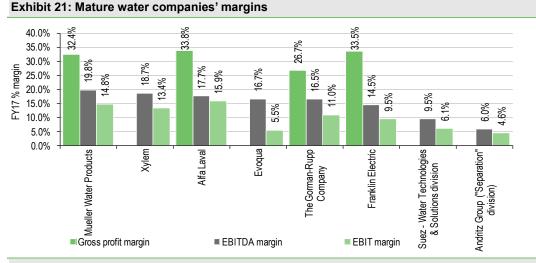
Financials

Income statement: We forecast €57m revenues in FY23e

Revenues: we have assumed that Orège reaches our base case revenue potential (€57m) five years from now, in FY23. This is based on our central case penetration rates applied to the estimated addressable markets of North America, UK, Germany and France (€439m a year).

Profit margins: our forecasts are based on the following considerations: 1) our estimate of current margins achieved by Orège; 2) the lack of competitors being able to offer a technology with the same potential should imply margins significantly higher than mature water companies (Exhibit 21); 3) the fact that economies of scale are likely to drive at least some margin expansion over the next few years; and 4) our valuation reflects a drop in margins to the industry's average levels post-2035 when the key company patents expire.





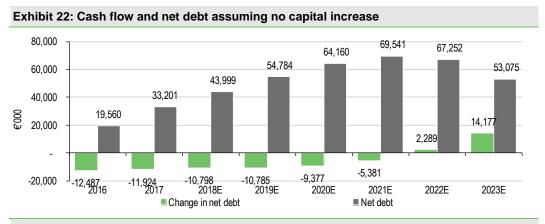
Source: Company data, Edison Investment Research

EBITDA: our forecasts suggest Orège will break even at EBITDA 3.5 years from now, in FY21. The EBITDA improvement is driven by the pick up in revenues, only partly offset by the growth in fixed costs (which we assume will grow 23% from €9.2m in FY18 to €11.3m in FY23). The high operational leverage to higher revenues means the EBITDA margin will increase to 25% and 35% in FY22 and FY23, on our forecasts.

Net income: Orège can benefit from a large accumulated tax loss position (€70m at the end of H118). As a result we do not expect the company to pay taxes for the next 10 fiscal years at least. We forecast a FY23 net income of €14.2m.

Cash flow and balance sheet: Capital increase required

Orège has been generating negative cash flow, accumulating a net debt of c €39m at the end of H118 (of which c €37m to shareholder Eren, with a maturity of two to three years at a cost of 7%). We expect Orège to generate additional negative cash flow until the end of FY22 (€34m in FY18-FY22, including financial expenses), after which we expect sizeable positive cash flow generation. Our forecasts include a significant positive contribution (€0.8m a year) from French state grants (linked to R&D and development investments). Under French company law, if net equity falls below half of its called-up share capital, shareholders can vote to continue the corporate activity but there is a requirement to proceed with a recapitalisation by the end of the second fiscal year following the vote. Orège's shareholders voted for this in the eighth resolution of the annual shareholders meeting of 24 May 2017 and so the company has until the end of FY19 to recapitalise. As per Edison policy, our forecasts assume the negative cash flow is financed by new debt.



Source: Company data, Edison Investment Research



Risks to forecasts and valuations

We list below the key risks we see to our forecasts and valuations:

Delays in ramping up commercial development: municipal clients (which we estimate represent more than 50% of the addressable market size we estimate for Orège) are often required to organise public tenders when they place large orders. As a result sales to these clients are most at risk of experiencing delays, in our view. The development potential we see in the UK market is almost entirely from municipal clients, hence this risk is mostly concentrated in the UK, in our view. As a sensitivity, we estimate that every one-year delay in reaching our base case revenues pushes down our base case valuation by c 15%. Our bear case scenario reflects a significant delay in ramping up the commercial development of the company.

Competition and profit margins: there appears to be limited competition Orège's technology at the moment, which we believe should allow for higher than sector average profit margins for Orège. The emergence of significant competitors may put downward pressure on margins.

Brexit and tariffs: most of Orège's growth potential is in the UK (which is also one of the main sources of revenue at present) and in North America. Frictions to trade as a result of Brexit or changes to international trade agreements may impact our forecasts and valuation.



Accounts: IFRS, year-end: December (€000s)	2016	2017	2018e	2019e	2020e	2021e	2022e	2023€
NCOME STATEMENT								
Total revenues	703	706	2,588	6,291	11,042	19,892	36,592	57,444
Cost of sales	(1,568)	(597)	(1,375)	(2,835)	(4,976)	(8,840)	(16,442)	(25,933
Gross profit SG&A (expenses)	(865)	109	1,213 (9,101)	3,457	6,066 (10,006)	11,052 (10,492)	20,150	31,51 ⁻ (11,539
Depreciation and amortisation	(14,103) (2,241)	(10,238)	(1,000)	(9,542) (800)	(800)	(900)	(11,003)	(1,100
Reported EBIT	(17,209)	(1,242)	(8,888)	(6,886)	(4,740)	(341)	8,147	18,87
Finance income/(expense)	(822)	(1,739)	(2,324)	(3,080)	(3,835)	(4,491)	(4,868)	(4,708
Other income/(expense)	168	(411)	0	0	0	0	0	(), ; ; ; (
Exceptionals and adjustments	0	Ó	0	0	0	0	0	(
Reported PBT	(17,864)	(13,520)	(11,212)	(9,966)	(8,574)	(4,832)	3,279	14,16
ncome tax expense (includes exceptionals)	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
Reported net income	(17,750)	(13,520)	(11,212)	(9,966)	(8,574)	(4,832)	3,279	14,16
Basic average number of shares, m	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7
Basic EPS	(0.95)	(0.72)	(0.60)	(0.53)	(0.46)	(0.26)	0.18	0.76
OPS	0.00 (14,968)	0.00 (10,129)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adjusted EBITDA Adjusted EBIT	(14,966)	(10,129)	(7,888) (8,888)	(6,086) (6,886)	(3,940) (4,740)	559 (341)	9,147 8,147	19,972 18,872
Adjusted PBT	(17,864)	(13,520)	(11,212)	(9,966)	(8,574)	(4,832)	3,279	14,16
Adjusted FB1	(0.95)	(0.72)	(0.60)	(0.53)	(0.46)	(0.26)	0.18	0.70
Adjusted El 3, €/sh	(0.95)	(0.72)	(0.60)	(0.53)	(0.46)	(0.26)	0.18	0.70
BALANCE SHEET	(0.00)	(02)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.10)	(0.20)	01.0	<u> </u>
Property, plant and equipment	1,455	987	387	387	387	387	387	387
ntangible assets	242	190	190	190	190	190	190	190
Other non-current assets	1,857	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779
Total non-current assets	3,554	3,956	3,356	3,356	3,356	3,356	3,356	3,356
Cash and equivalents	950	506	506	506	506	506	506	500
nventories	1,860	1,354	2,183	3,151	3,872	4,815	6,269	6,92
Trade and other receivables	164	467	1,712	4,162	7,304	9,210	11,860	13,03
Other current assets	1,212	872	872	872	872	872	872	872
Total current assets	4,186 20,672	3,200 33,810	5,274 44,608	8,691 55,393	12,554 64,769	15,404 70,150	19,508 67,861	21,333 53,684
Non-current loans and borrowings Other non-current liabilities	20,672	143	143	143	143	143	143	53,064 143
Total non-current liabilities	20,821	33,953	44,751	55,535	64,912	70,293	68,003	53,827
Trade and other payables	1,416	1,014	2,102	3,900	6,161	7,662	9,976	11,01
Current loans and borrowings	265	323	323	323	323	323	323	323
Other current liabilities	1,658	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,17
Total current liabilities	3,339	2,513	3,601	5,399	7,660	9,161	11,475	12,51
Equity attributable to company	(16,421)	(29,310)	(39,722)	(48,887)	(56,662)	(60,693)	(56,614)	(41,650
Non-controlling interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
CASH FLOW STATEMENT	//	//>		(2.22)	/a /\	// ***		
Profit for the year	(17,750)	(13,520)	(11,212)	(9,966)	(8,574)	(4,832)	3,279	14,164
Taxation expenses Profit before tax	(114) (17,864)	(13,520)	(11,212)	(9,966)	(9.574)	(4,832)	3,279	14,164
Net finance expenses	(17,004)	1,739	2,324	3,080	(8,574)	4,491	4,868	4,70
FRIT	(17,041)	(11,781)	(8,888)	(6,886)	(4,740)	(341)	8,147	18,87
Depreciation and amortisation	5,409	1,327	1,000	800	800	900	1,000	1,100
Share based payments	0,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	.,
Other adjustments	2,243	(692)	800	800	800	800	800	800
Movements in working capital	(791)	(341)	(986)	(1,619)	(1,602)	(1,349)	(1,790)	(787
Cash from operations (CFO)	(10,180)	(11,487)	(8,074)	(6,905)	(4,742)	11	8,157	19,98
Capex	(2,168)	(870)	(400)	(800)	(800)	(900)	(1,000)	(1,100
Acquisitions & disposals net	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	(
Other investing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	// //
Cash used in investing activities (CFIA)	(2,164)	(867)	(400)	(800)	(800)	(900)	(1,000)	(1,100
Net proceeds from issue of shares	23	(72)	0	0	0 277	0	(0.000)	(4.4.477
Movements in debt	12,487 0	11,480	10,798	10,785 0	9,377	5,381 0	(2,289)	(14,177
Dividends paid Other financing activities	(164)	(23)	(2,324)	(3,080)	(3,835)	(4,491)	(4,868)	(4,708
Other financing activities Cash from financing activities (CFF)	12,346	11,385	8,474	7,705	5,542	(4,491)	(7,157)	(18,884
Currency translation differences and other	(1)	525	0,474	0	0,542	009	(7,137)	(10,004
ncrease/(decrease) in cash and equivalents	0	(444)	0	0	0	0	0	
Cash and equivalents at end of period	950	506	506	506	506	506	506	500
Net (debt) cash	(19,560)	(33,201)	(43,999)	(54,784)	(64,160)	(69,541)	(67,252)	(53,075
Movement in net (debt)/cash over period	(19,560)	(13,641)	(10,798)	(10,785)	(9,377)	(5,381)	2,289	14,17

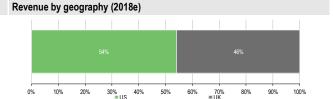
Source: Company accounts, Edison Investment Research



Contact details

Orège Parc Val Saint Saint-Quentin 2 rue René Caudron 78960 Voisins Le Bretonneux France

Pascal Gendrot: +33 (0)6 07 68 82 12 George Gonsalves: +33 (0)6 08 03 50 72



Management team

CEO: Pascal Gendrot

Pascal Gendrot has a PhD and an accounting background and more than 20 years' experience helping small to medium-sized corporates fundraise and grow internationally. In 2002 he founded his own consulting firm providing advice to small and medium-sized business and in 2006 co-founded Orège. He started his career at Peat Marwick (now part of KPMG) and later joined BDO Group, where he became a partner, founding manager of the corporate finance and strategy department, and member of the management committee and managing partner of BDO France

CFO: George Gonsalves

George Gonsalves is a Chartered Accountant who started his career at BDO Binder Hamlyn in London and then joined the corporate finance team in Paris advising on acquisition due diligence, fundraising, auditing. In 2002 he joined the French subsidiary of the Game Group (consoles & video games), where he served as CFO until 2009.

Scientific Director: Patrice Capeau

Patrice Capeau is an engineer who started his career in applied engineering in the water sector and had technical responsibility for businesses involved in drinking water and in the treatment of organic waste and sludge (Sogreah, Alcatel Alsthom Group, then Alpha Logic). He created Hodis in 2005, which became Orège in 2006.

Principal shareholders	(%)
Eren	69.01
Pascal Gendrot	6.40
Patrice Capeau	4.11
Inocap	2.78
Guy Gendrot	1.42
George Gonsalves	0.70

Companies named in this report

Eren, Cambi, Andritz, Veolia, Suez, HUBER Technology, Hiller, Alfa Laval.

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