

# EQUITY RESEARCH

August 11, 2022

ALTUS GROUP LIMITED

Analytics Benefitting From Platform Approach

### **Our Conclusion**

Altus reported a solid Q2 that was in line with headline estimates and showed strong organic growth in Altus Analytics and Over Time revenue. Extended tax cycles in the U.K. and Ontario drove property tax growth in the quarter, although partially offset by FX. Altus' transformation into a CRE data and analytics provider appears to be well on track, with improvements still to come as the platform backbone is further built out. While we like the strides made in transitioning the business, we still prefer to remain on the sidelines due to valuation, with the shares currently trading at 17x our 2023 EV/EBITDA estimate. We rely on a sum of the parts for our valuation, applying a 23x multiple on analytics and 13x on CRE consulting, leading to our \$58 price target (from \$54 previously).

#### **Key Points**

**Strategic Transformation On Track:** Altus' plans to become an intelligence-as-a-service provider are progressing well, as new acquisitions are contributing growth, while also enhancing the capabilities of other analytics assets. Altus will roll out its Performance Platform in Q4 that will unite the tech stack, leading to stronger data integration and engineering efficiency. Prior to the full platform being rolled out, Analytics saw Q2 constant currency (c.c.) organic growth of 26% and Over Time c.c. organic growth of 28%. In the medium term, we expect Analytics to generate adjusted EBITDA margins of ~30%, and our 2023 forecast calls for 500 bps Y/Y expansion to 21.8%.

Limited Impact From Macro Backdrop: To-date, inflation and rising interest rates have had a minimal impact on Altus' sales activity. Altus clients and their investments are particularly impacted by macroeconomic factors and they rely on Altus solutions to help navigate complex and constantly changing situations. CRE investors continue to turn to technology to enhance their operations and minimize expenses by limiting headcount. Recurring bookings grew by a high double-digit figure in the midst of the uncertainty, underlining the value that Altus Analytics provides.

**Property Tax Update:** Q2 is a seasonally strong quarter for the property tax business, with U.K. annuity billings paid out. Year-to-date, the property tax business has been driven by a rebound in U.S. settlement volumes while Canada remains flat Y/Y and the U.K. is modestly down, given FX headwinds and a slowdown in settlement volumes. With 2022 marking the final year of extended tax cycles in the U.K. and Ontario, management expects 2023 tax revenue and adjusted EBITDA to be below 2022 levels.

**Amended Credit Facility:** Altus increased the size of its credit facility from \$400 million to \$550 million and the funded debt to EBITDA covenant from 4.0x to 4.5x. While management noted that there were no specific acquisitions on the horizon, we expect that management would only extend leverage above the current 2.6x level for a material acquisition. In terms of targets, we expect a focus on Analytics capabilities or property tax tech.

All figures in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

Please see "Price Target Calculation and Key Risks to Price Target" information on page 5. For required regulatory disclosures please refer to "Important Disclosures" beginning on page 6.

# CIBC CAPITAL MARKETS

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Earnings Update

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### Neutral

Current Price (8/11/22):	C\$55.36
Price Target (12-18 mos.):	<b>↑</b> C\$58.00
Previous:	C\$54.00

#### **CIBC Estimates and Valuation**

(Dec. 31)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adj. EPS	1.66A	1.90A	1.74E	1.88E
Prior			1.56E	2.37E
Adj. EBITDA(mln)	98.9A	109.7A	132.0E	158.1E
Prior			132.1E	150.1E
Adj. EPS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023	0.24E	0.74E	0.36E	0.54E
Prior	0.98E	0.44E	0.43E	0.51E
2022	0.27A	0.77A	0.26E	0.44E
Prior		0.41E	0.40E	0.48E
Adj. EBITDA(mln)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023	27.8E	51.9E	37.5E	41.0E
Prior	27.4E	45.9E	36.5E	40.3E
2022	17.7A	49.7A	29.5E	35.0E
Prior		49.6E	29.9E	34.8E
Valuation	2020	2021	2022	2023
P/E	33.4x	29.1x	31.9x	29.4x
EV/EBITDA	27.0x	24.3x	20.2x	16.9x

#### **Stock Performance and Key Indicators**

Enterprise Value:	C\$2,668M	Shares O/S:	44.5M
Market Cap.:	C\$2,464M	Float:	44.2M
52-wk Range:	C\$41.52 - C\$71.96	Div. / Yield:	C\$0.60/1.08%

#### TSX Composite Index vs. AIF-TSX



#### Altus Group Limited (AIF-TSX) — Neutral

Price (8/11/22) C\$55.36 12-18 mo. Price Target C\$58.00 Sector: Real Estate Scott Fletcher, CPA, CA +1 416-956-3229 Scott.Fletcher@cibc.com

Boor Comparison	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Peer Comparison P/E - Real Estate Services	40.0x	2021 24.3x	2022E	2023E
P/E - Real Estate Services	40.0x 41.3x	24.3x 41.7x	22.3x 49.0x	-
EV/EBITDA - Real Estate Services	23.7x	41.7X 17.3x	49.0X 14.9x	-
EV/EBITDA - Altus	32.5x	30.4x	25.5x	-
P/FCF - Real Estate Services	8.7x	10.1x	20.07	
P/FCF - Altus	40.5x	44.8x	-	_
Key Financial Metrics	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.5x	2.1x		10101
Sales Growth	(1.1%)	11.4%	18.7%	7.1%
Per Share Data	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
FCFPS	1.60	1.10	1.03	2.04
Adj. EPS Dil.	1.66	1.90	1.74	1.88
Wgt Avg # of Shares	40.1	41.7	44.4	45.8
FD Number of Shares	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4
Income Statement	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Revenue	561	625	743	795
Tot Operating Exp	465	532	632	656
OpEx (% of Revenue)	82.82%	85.10%	85.14%	82.47%
Adj. EBITDA	99	110	132	158
Adj EBITDA Margin	17.6%	17.5%	17.8%	19.9%
D&A	(42)	(47)	(61)	(58)
Interest Expense	(7)	(6)	(16)	(27)
Pretax profit	38	34	16	55
Tax Expense	11	9	4	10
Net Income	22	26	11	45
Net Margin	4.8%	4.1%	1.5%	5.6%
Cash Flow Statement	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Net CFO	72	56	69	100
Capex	(8)	(11)	(23)	(7)
Free Cash Flow	64	46	46	93
Balance Sheet	2020	2021	2022E	2023E
Cash & ST Investment	70	51	85	155
Intangible Assets	78	287	278	240
Goodwill	261	467	478	478
Total Assets	735	1,199	1,209	1,244
ST Int-Bearing Debt	0	0	0	0
LT Int-Bearing Debt	122	287	343	343
Total Liabilities	352	610	659	672
Shareholders' Equity	383	589	551	572

Source: Factset, Company Reports and CIBC World Market Inc.

#### **Company Profile**

Altus is provider of independent advisory services, software and data solutions to the global commercial real estate industry with more than 2,300 employees

#### **Investment Thesis**

Altus' strategy has been to consolidate the real estate services business through acquisitions and to cross-sell and expand its information services offering.

#### Price Target (Base Case): C\$58.00

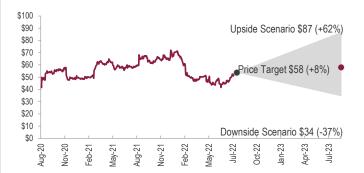
Our price target of \$58 is calculated using a sum-of-the-parts valuation that uses a 13x EV/EBITDA multiple on the CRE Consulting business and a 23x EV/EBITDA multiple on the analytics division.

#### Upside Scenario: C\$87.00

Our upside is calculated using \$400 Million in Analytics Revenue, a 30x EV/EBITDA multiple on the Analytics Revenue and CRE Consulting growth of 3% and a 16x EV/EBITDA multiple.

#### Downside Scenario: C\$34.00

Downside is calculated using 2% revenue growth and a 20x EV/EBITDA multiple on the Analytics business and -5% growth and a 10x EV/EBITDA multiple on the CRE Consulting Business



### **Financial Summary**

**Divisional Results:** Analytics revenue of \$82.1 million was up 37.0% Y/Y in constant currency, and margins in the division were 16.8%, up 180 bps Y/Y. Over Time analytics revenue was \$70.9 million in the quarter, up 40.6% Y/Y in constant currency.

Revenue in the Tax division was \$94 million, up 10.5% Y/Y in constant currency with margins of 45.0% compared to 45.8% in Q2/21. Revenue in the Valuation and Cost Advisory segment was \$31 million, up 12.9% Y/Y in constant currency with margins of 14.6% up 470 bps Y/Y. The cloud migration is on track, with 52% of AE users now on the cloud and management expects to convert the majority of users by end of 2023.

### Exhibit 1: AIF – Financial Summary – Q2/F22

		Q2-F2022					
	Actual	CIBCe	Cons.	Q2-F2021	Y/Y%	Q1-F2022	Q/Q%
Consolidated							
Revenue (\$mm)	206	203	202	174	19.0%	168	23.2%
Altus Analytics	82	73	79	59	38%	80	2.3%
Property Tax	94	102	94	87	8%	58	60.0%
Valuation and Cost Advisory	31	28	28	28	12%	29	6.7%
Adj. EBITDA (\$mm)	49.7	49.6	48.8	42	18%	18	180.4%
Adj. EBITDA Margin	24.1%	24.4%	24.2%	24.3%	-1%	10.6%	127.6%
Adjusted EPS	0.77	0.41	0.69	0.75	2%	0.27	187.6%

Source: Company reports, FactSet and CIBC World Markets Inc.

**Changes To Our Model:** We have updated our model to reflect Q2 results and the strong Analytics organic growth as well as commentary on 2023 tax revenue and Adjusted EBITDA coming in below 2022 level.

#### Exhibit 2: ISV - Changes To Our Model - 2021 - 2023E

	Revenues (\$MM)	Adj. EBITDA (\$MM)	EPS (\$)
2021A	625	110	1.90
2022E			
CIBC est. – new	743	132	1.74
CIBC est. – prior	736	132	1.56
Consensus	737	135	1.94
2023E			
CIBC est. – new	795	158	1.88
CIBC est. – prior	778	150	2.37
Consensus	789	149	2.28

Source: Company reports, FactSet and CIBC World Markets Inc.

#### Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Metrics for AIF-TSX

CIBC ESG Metrics					
Governance Metrics	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Insider Ownership	1.7%	1.7%	1.1%	1.0%	0.5%
Board Gender Diversity	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%
Separation of Chair & CEO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dual-class Ownership?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Disclose ESG Data?	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Social Metrics	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CEO Comp./Mkt Cap*	\$1.2	\$1.0	\$1.5	\$1.3	\$0.7
Diversity Targets	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Women Managers	22%	22%	19%	20%	30%
Environmental Metrics	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Emissions Intensity**	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Net-zero Targets?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

\*CEO Compensation is shown as per thousand dollars of market capitalization

\*\*Emissions Itensity calculated as total emitted CO2e divided by million \$ of CAD revenue

#### **Sustainalytics Material ESG Issues**

These are the Material ESG Issues driving the ESG Risk Report

Su	ustainalytics	ESG Risk R	ating	
8.8	-0.9	B:	gligible	
Updated on Jul 26, 2022	Momen		SK	
NEGL	LOW	MED	HIGH	SEVERE
0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40+
Su	stainalytics	ESG Risk Ra	ating Ranki	ng
UNIVERSE		RA	NK P	ERCENTILE

	(1 <sup>st</sup> = lowest risk)	(1 <sup>st</sup> = lowest risk)
Global Universe	<b>108</b> /14443	2nd
Real Estate INDUSTRY	<b>23</b> /1014	3rd
Real Estate Services SUBINDUSTRY	<b>4</b> /25	13th

Issue Name	ESG Risk Exposure	ESG Risk Management	ESG Risk Rating	Contribution to ESG Risk Rating
	Score   Category	Score   Category	Score   Category	
Corporate Governance	9.0 High	60.5 Strong	3.6 Low	40.2%
Human Capital	4.0 Medium	34.5 Average	2.7 Low	30.4%
ESG Integration -Financials	3.2 Low	17.8 Weak	2.6 Low	29.3%
Overall	16.2 Low	45.9 Average	8.8 Negligible	100%

#### CIBC Quantitative Scorecard

Within Sector Within		Within S&	P/TSX Com	ıp.	
Style	Rank	Delta	Style	Rank	Delta
Value	42	-1	Value	184	+180
Momentum	28	+9	Momentum	139	+227
Quality	22	0	Quality	134	+138
Market	28	-3	Market	183	+181
Low Volatility	46	-1	Low Volatility	111	+123
Growth	42	-2	Growth	223	+229
Note: Ranking out of 46	stocks		Note: Ranking out of 23	37 stocks	

General Notes Behind the Quantitative Scorecard

Delta refers to the change in the ranking over the past month. Number of stocks "Within Sector" is defined by the number within the GICS. In the "Within S&P/TSX" category, we use all stocks in the S&P/TSX Composite. For detail on the Quant Factors included in each style above, please contact the CIBC Portfolio Strategy Team.

The table above is based upon quantitative, statistical, and mathematical analysis and is not intended to serve as a fundamental recommendation.

#### CIBC Technical Scorecard

	TSM		TSM
Factor	Score	Factor	Score
TSM	7	Momentum	С
Beta	0.78	MACD	А
Volatility	$\leftrightarrow$	Alpha (Sector)	В
Trend	7	Alpha (Index)	В
RSI	Neutral		

#### General Notes Behind the Technical Scorecard

TSM: The Trendspotting Matrix uses technical factors to score uptrend durability. Momentum and alpha metrics compare performance over one-month, one-quarter and one-year timeframes, outputting a rating from A to D.

Trend/Volatility metrics measure price deviations relative to underlying moving averages. RSI is an oscillator that provides mean-reversion estimations.

MACD is a momentum indicator rated from A to D based off the strength of its signal.

The table above is based upon a technical methodology that examines the past trading patterns and trades and is not intended to serve as a fundamental recommendation.

Source: Sustainalytics, Compustat, FactSet, Bloomberg and CIBC World Markets Inc.

### **Price Target Calculation**

We value Altus on a sum-of-the-parts basis under the current capital structure, valuing the CRE Consulting business and Analytics business separately. We apply a 13x EV/EBITDA multiple to the Commercial Real business and 23x EV/EBITDA to the Analytics business.

## Key Risks To Price Target

The primary risks to our price target include the following: 1) Integration risk from recent acquisitions; 2) Risks involved with Analytics' strategic shift; 3) Upside risk related to accelerating Analytics Growth; 4) Upside risk related to M&A that creates further revenue synergies; and 5) accelerated Argus Cloud Adoption leads to faster-than-expected revenue growth and margin expansion

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Outperformer OP		Stock is expected to outperform similar stocks in the coverage universe during the next 12-18 months.			
Neutral	NT	Stock is expected to perform in line with similar stocks in the coverage universe during the next 12-18 mo			
Underperformer	UN	Stock is expected to underperform similar stocks in the coverage universe during the next 12-18 months.			
Tender	TR	Shareholders are advised to tender shares to a specific offer as we do not believe a superior offer will materialize			
Not Rated	NR	CIBC World Markets does not maintain an investment recommendation on the stock.			
Restricted	ed R CIBC World Markets is restricted (due to potential conflict of interest) from rating the stock.				
Castan Datimus	Abbusyleties	Description			

Abbreviation	Description	
0	Sector is expected to outperform the broader market averages.	
Μ	Sector is expected to equal the performance of the broader market averages.	
U	Sector is expected to underperform the broader market averages.	
NA	Sector rating is not applicable.	
	O M U	

Note: Broader market averages refer to S&P 500 in the U.S. and S&P/TSX Composite in Canada.

# **CIBC World Markets Inc. Price Chart**

For price and performance charts, please visit CIBC on the web at <u>https://researchcentral.cibccm.com/#/disclaimer-central-new</u> or write to CIBC World Markets Inc., 161 Bay Street, 4th Floor, Toronto, ON M5H 2S8, Attn: Research Disclosure Chart Request.

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Neutral	132	42%	Neutral	132	100%
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Tender	4	1%	Tender	3	75%
Restricted	7	2%	Restricted	7	100%

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