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Year 3 (May '03 - May '04)	70.6%
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Year 5 (May '05 - May '06)	77.8%
Year 6 (May '06 - May '07)	17.4%
Year 7 (May '07 - May '08)	-36%
Year 8 (May '08 - May '09)	-7.4%
Year 9 (May '09 - May '10)	50.2%
Year 10 (May '10 - May'11)	45.4%
Year 11 (May '11 - May '12)	-18.0%
Year 12 (May '12 - May '13)	3.1%
Year 13 (May '13 - May '14)	26.6%
Year 14 (May '14 - May '15)	23.0%
Year 15 (May '15 - May '16)	33.0%
Year 16 (May '16 - May '17)	16.8%
Year 17 (May '17 - May '18)	-7.1%
Year 18 (May '18 - current)	4.4%
Cumulative Gain	735%
Av. Annual gain (17 yrs)	17.1%

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# Bioshares

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Delivering independent investment research to investors on Australian biotech, pharma and healthcare companies

Extract from Bioshares -

# The Investment Proposition – Does the Means Justify the End?

At the 14th *Bioshares* Biotech Summit, the CEOs of four companies – Micro-X, LBT Innovations, Osprey Medical and Adherium – were each asked to address the topic, 'The Investment Proposition – Does the Means Justify the End?'. The inspiration for this topic is that while the development and commercialisation of medical devices and diagnostics is not only capital intensive but lengthy, success is to be measured by product revenues. Below we summarise the presentations from Micro-X and LBT Innovations.

#### LBT Innovations Compares APAS to MALDI-TOF Uptake Curve

Over the last eight years, LBT Innovations (LBT: \$0.13) has been developing APAS Independence, an instrument for use in the clinical microbiology departments of pathology laboratories. The instrument uses robotics and algorithms (artificial intelligence) to sort and detect cultured agar plates, suplmenting human readers. Clearly positive and indeterminate results – about 30% of urine samples – are sent to human readers for re-assessment and qualification, with other analyses to follow.

A driver for automation has been the change of the labour demographics of the clinical microbiology workforce, which has been aging, and not been adequately renewed by younger replacements.

LBT Innovations has been developing additional modules for APAS, covering MRSA (drug resistant staph infections), for sputum and faecal samples, and for dairy and water industry applications.

The company has taken a strategic decision to in-source core capabilities in the areas of science, artificial intelligence and software engineering so that it can control and optimise the development of these new modules and opportunities.

LBT has commenced selling APAS, but the focus (initially) has been on labs which process more than 400 plates a day. It has identified a target group of 100 labs in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the USA.

#### Sales Process

A challenge for selling into the clinical microbiology sector is that it is a highly conservative, science-based community. LBT Innovations CEO Brent Barnes said that the company is being very realistic about bringing a new capability to the market, with an emphasis on the need for reference sites and publications. Barnes expects to have five instrument sales by the end of this calendar year, a quite modest number for the first year of launch.

Barnes said that it took six years and about \$12 million to take APAS to from concept through to clinical trials. The following product development stage involved \$12 million over two years, but this was a de-risking stage for the program.

Continued over

The current third stage of market development is funded until 2020, when positive cashflow from the APAS product are expected.

#### **MALDI-TOF Comparison**

Barnes discussed the introduction of large MALDI-TOF (mass spectrometry) systems by Bruker and bioMerieux into the microbiology lab. MALD-TOF technology has enabled accurate 'finger printing' of pathogens, such as bacteria.

These systems were launched in 2004, achieving sales of 800 units after eight years, before FDA clearance in 2013 paved the way for 700 units being sold thereafter. A corollary for LBT would be for cumulative APAS sales of 1,500 units, 10 years post launch, delivering cumulative revenues of  $\sim\!\!5600$  million (shared 50:50 with JV partner, after costs and fees) and nett licence fees building to \$60 million per annum.

LBT must obtain US FDA 510k clearance for its APAS automated system which is expected at the end of this year. This would be a supplemental clearance, to the existing clearance for its APAS manual system.

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#### **How Bioshares Rates Stocks**

For the purpose of valuation, Bioshares divides biotech stocks into two categories. The first group are stocks with existing positive cash flows or close to producing positive cash flows. The second group are stocks without near term positive cash flows, history of losses, or at early stages of commercialisation. In this second group, which are essentially speculative propositions, Bioshares grades them according to relative risk within that group, to better reflect the very large spread of risk within those stocks. For both groups, the rating "Take Profits" means that investors may re-weight their holding by selling between 25%-75% of a stock.

#### Group A

Stocks with existing positive cash flows or close to producing positive cash flows

**Buy** CMP is 20% < Fair Value **Accumulate** CMP is 10% < Fair Value

**Hold** Value = CMP

**Lighten** CMP is 10% > Fair Value **Sell** CMP is 20% > Fair Value

(CMP-Current Market Price)

#### Group B

Stocks without near term positive cash flows, history of losses, or at early stages commercialisation.

#### Speculative Buy - Class A

These stocks will have more than one technology, product or investment in development, with perhaps those same technologies offering multiple opportunities. These features, coupled to the presence of alliances, partnerships and scientific advisory boards, indicate the stock is relative less risky than other biotech stocks.

#### Speculative Buy - Class B

These stocks may have more than one product or opportunity, and may even be close to market. However, they are likely to be lacking in several key areas. For example, their cash position is weak, or management or board may need strengthening.

#### Speculative Buy - Class C

These stocks generally have one product in development and lack many external validation features.

 $Speculative\ \ Hold-Class\ A\ or\ B\ or\ C$ 

Sell

## **Corporate Subscribers:** Cogstate, Bionomics, LBT Innovations, Opthea, ResApp, Pharmaxis, Dimerix, Cyclopharm, Adalta, Medibio, Pharmaust

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