Wednesday, 21 April 2021

RESEARCH REPORT



Kazia Therapeutics

Another Deal – Kazia Inlicences New Anti-Cancer Med From Highly Impressive Partner Share Price & Estimated Future Price

Price in 12-months*	\$2.60
Current Price	\$1.48
Implied Increase/Dec	+76%
* Price at end FY21/beginning FY22	

That is three deals in two-months, with Kazia in-licencing EVT801, an oral, small molecule, first-in-class cancer drug candidate from Evotec SE (FRA:EVT; Market Cap (MC): €5.4b (AUD8.4b). Kazia gained exclusive global rights to the drug for €1m (AUD1.6m) upfront, €308m (AUD480m) in milestones and a tiered single-digit royalty on sales. Evotec, whose corporate strategy precludes taking drugs into the clinic, developed EVT801 with Sanofi (NASDAQ:SNY; MC:USD128.9b (AUD165.7b) meaning the provenance of the compound is impeccable. Kazia has slated EVT801 to start a phase I trial in 2HCY21. Another A+ deal by Kazia in our eyes.

The Molecule: EVT801 is a highly specific inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor 3 (VEGFR3). VEGFR3 is one of a family of molecules involved in the growth of blood vessels and lymph vessels. Avastin® (bevacizumab; Roche Hldgs AG), which targets VEGF-A, was and still is a true, breakthrough, blockbuster drug (USD5.5b 2020 sales). Other drugs targeting this family have sales >USD1b. It is thought EVT801 will kill VEGFR3 expressing tumour cells directly and that it will inhibit lymph vessel formation and a cancer's ability to spread. It may also alleviate an issue with anti-VEGF-A drugs, which promotes a tumour's ability to gain resistance to the drug. Molecules of the same/similar families often have similar functional regions meaning a drug designed to inhibit one member of a family may also inhibit several others. This means side-effects that can limit a drug's safety, tolerability and sales. This is a real problem with VEGF family targeting drugs. EVT801, essentially, inhibits VEGFR3 only and is expected to have relatively few side-effects, which would prove highly commercially valuable. The lymphatic system is also highly associated with the immune system. Kazia also released data showing that EVT801 acted synergistically with an immune checkpoint inhibitor, the hottest oncology drugs of the last 7-years.

Phase I Trial: We expect the phase I trial of EVT801 will be an open-label study with several arms (e.g., combining different drugs with EVT801) undertaken in patients with tumours more-likely to respond to EVT801 than others. The study will have a dose escalation phase to find the best dose of EVT801, likely, followed by an expansion phase where Kazia can look for signals of activity in different cancers to determine which cancer(s) are best studied in phase II and how.

Evotec as a Partner: This is one of the best aspects of the deal. Evotec is a substantial global company with 3,500 employees. They are true experts in discovery and preclinical drug development, have a partnering focus, alliances with a who's who of drug companies and >200 development programs. Evotec may not do clinical development, but they do have many capabilities, like clinical trial management, as well as a huge network Kazia can leverage as it develops EVT801. Accordingly, the two companies have agreed to collaborate on EVT801. To a small company like Kazia, this is hugely helpful. Remember, Kazia's success is Evotec's as well and a company like Evotec would not be successful if it did not understand that.

Thoughts on the Deal & Kazia: Kazia has shown the end-to-end success of its core strategy by adding value to in-licenced drugs and coalescing that value by out-licencing them. Paxalisib, Kazia's, lead drug, is in a fully funded phase III program and, while we may see new investigator sponsored studies, its course is set. Moreover, transactions and raisings will see Kazia report a strong cash balance in its next 4C (~mid \$30m). **The time was right for this transaction**. Kazia has stuck to its core competency in oncology and it has a chance to build out its internal capabilities, both of which are always nice to see. We assume the deal was done at fair value and will not be raising our target price. As Kazia de-risks EVT801, however, that will not be the case. The deal does diversify Kazia's risk profile, which is good for shareholders with a low exposure to the sector and it should attract new investors who like to see a diversified pipeline.

Conclusion: Price target of \$2.60 maintained

Company Information

ASX Ticker	KZA
NASDAQ Ticker	KZIA
NASDAQ Price	USD10.77
Shares on Issue	126.6m
Fully Diluted Shares on Issue	137.9
Market Capitalisation	\$193.7m
ASX Vol. (Shares/Day)	325k

Cash Sufficiency

	\$ Million			
A) Last Appendix 4C	End December 2020			
B) Cash & Equivalents at 4C	25.0			
C) Burn ¹	-10.0 ^A			
D) Quarters Cash Remaining ²	3.1 ^A			
E) Estimated Current Q Burn ³	-10.1 ^A			
F) Estimated Cash Raised Post 4C ⁴	16.2			
G) Estimated Current Cash ⁵	31.2			
U) Significant Estimated New	Dhees Triel of			

H) Significant Estimated New Phase I Trial of Commitment(s)⁶ EVT801 (\$5 to \$10m)

A These numbers above are likely to be highly misleading. Q2 FY21 saw large one-expenses related the establishment of the GBM AGILE Trial. The Estimated Current Q Burn could be as much as \$7m overestimated. Similarly, Quarters Cash Remaining could be up to 10

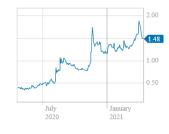
1 Burn = Net Cash from/used In Operating Activities; 2 Quarters Cash Remaining = G/C

3 Equals C *(# Days Since previous Q end Q4 / # Days in Current Q); 4 Equals Capital Raising(s) – Estimated Costs + Licencing /Milestones Receipts; 5 Equals B – E + F

6 Equals estimated maximum new significant commitments that the company has or is likely to become contractually or ethically committed to.

Key Personnel	
Mr. Iain Ross	Chairman
Dr. James Garner	MD & CEO
Mr. Bryce Carmine	NED
Mr. Steven Coffey	NED

Share Price Chart



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Kazia Therapeutics (ASX: KZA)

Market Capitalisation: \$193.7m

Valuation Data (AUD Million)						Profit and Loss (AUD Million)					
Year Ending Jun	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	Year Ending Jun	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Profit	(12.5)	(10.1)	(18.3)	(25.0)	14.8	Total Revenue	1.0	12.6	2.9	3.2	36.5
EPS (¢)	(8.2)	(9.9)	(8.0)	(14.5)	(19.8)	R&D Tax Rebate	1.0	1.4	2.8	2.5	3.4
						Expenses	(13.8)	(23.0)	(21.5)	(28.5)	(22.0)
Balance Sheet (AUD Million)					EBITDA	(11.8)	(9.5)	(17.6)	(24.4)	15.4	
Year Ending Jun	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	D&A	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)
Cash & Equivalents	7.6	13.9	(1.0)	6.3	(8.4)	EBIT	(12.9)	(10.6)	(18.7)	(25.5)	14.4
R&D Tax Rebate	1.4	2.8	2.5	3.4	2.2	Net Interest	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Current Assets	9.0	16.7	1.5	9.7	(6.2)	Profit - Pre-Tax	(12.8)	(10.4)	(18.6)	(25.3)	14.5
Intangibles	12.4	11.3	10.2	9.2	8.1	Tax	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Non-Current Assets	12.4	11.3	10.2	9.2	8.1	Profit - After-Tax	(12.5)	(10.1)	(18.3)	(25.0)	14.8
Total Assets	21.4	28.0	11.8	18.8	1.9	Comprehensive Profit	(12.5)	(10.1)	(18.3)	(25.0)	14.8
Trade & Other Payables	3.5	5.0	4.7	6.2	4.8						
Provisions	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	Cashflow (AUD Million)					
Contingent Consider.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	Year Ending Jun	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Current Liabilities	5.1	6.6	6.3	7.8	6.4	Operating Cashflow	(9.2)	(17.5)	(14.8)	(20.9)	(14.7)
Deferred Tax	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.3	Investing Cashflows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contingent Consider.	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.5	Financing cashflows	12.1	23.8	0.0	28.2	0.0
Non-Current Liabilities	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	Net Equity Raised	12.1	23.8	0.0	28.2	0.0
Total Liabilities	8.9	10.3	10.0	11.5	10.2	∆Cash	2.9	6.3	(14.8)	7.3	(14.7)
NetAssets	12.5	17.7	1.8	7.3	(8.3)	Cash	7.6	13.9	(1.0)	6.3	(8.4)
Contributed Equity	48.8	72.6	72.6	100.8	100.8						
Reserves/Other	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5						
Accumulated Losses	(36.2)	(46.3)	(64.6)	(89.6)	(74.8)						
Total Equity	14	28	9	13	27						

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