

# METROBRIDGE NETWORKS CORPORATION (TSXV-MEB C\$0.46)

### **DEAL ADDS SCALE AND PROFIT**

- Yesterday, MetroBridge announced the signing of a Letter of Intent to acquire 100% of WiBand Communications Corp., a fixed wireless broadband operator in Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg, for \$9 million (\$3.5 million in cash and \$5.5 million in MetroBridge common shares to be issued over a three-year period).
- This acquisition is significantly larger than the acquisitions that we forecasted in our Initiating Report of September 19, 2007 – WiBand's revenue and EBITDA run rates are estimated to be \$5 million and \$1 million, respectively, versus our expectation of \$2.2 million and nil.
- We believe that at this purchase price, WiBand is accretive in value to MetroBridge's stock. The Company paid 1.8x revenue and 9x EBITDA for a profitable company with strong infrastructure and a commercial customer base over 500 customers. Our previous forecast estimated MetroBridge would pay 2x revenue for a business with only 350 customers.
- This acquisition is also positive because WiBand's \$425 Average Revenue Per User ("ARPU") offers MetroBridge a higher starting point than previously forecasted. For example, the ARPU for Phoenix was approximately \$120 at acquisition.
- With this acquisition, MetroBridge competes directly with TeraGo Networks in each of Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg. We believe that there is enough opportunity in each of the markets to support multiple broadband wireless vendors.
- The acquisition of WiBand is a strong strategic fit because it operates primarily as a broadband network for small businesses. Because WiBand is profitable with relatively substantial revenue, we anticipate that this acquisition could accelerate MetroBridge's profitability inflection point to Q4 2008, which is approximately one year ahead of our original forecast.

Recommendation: SPECULATIVE BUY

Revised 12-Month Target: C\$1.25

Previous 12-Month Target: C\$1.00 Risk Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE

Sector: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Analyst: RON SHUTTLEWORTH

e-mail: ron.shuttleworth@jenningscapital.com Tel: (416) 304-2192 Fax: (416) 214-0177

Associate: MARC CHARBIN, CA

e-mail: marc.charbin@jenningscapital.com Tel: (416) 304-2191 Fax: (416) 214-0177

<b>Company Statistics</b>	
52-week range	\$0.60 - \$0.31
Common Shares O/S	42.8MM
Fully Diluted Shares O/S	75.4MM
Management & Insiders	6.5MM
Fully Diluted Market Cap.	\$34.7MM
Average Daily Trading Volume	41,200
Cash	\$4.0MM
Debt	\$3.2MM

Earnings Summary						
FYE: December	2006A		2007E		2008E	
Revenue (000s)	\$	2,058	\$	3,730	\$	12,746
Gross Margin (000s)	\$	1,135	\$	2,174	\$	7,187
Gross Margin (%)		55%		58%		56%
EBITDA (000s)	\$	(1,481)	\$	(1,553)	\$	(363)
EPS - Fully diluted	\$	(0.13)	\$	(0.06)	\$	(0.02)



MetroBridge is a provider of high-speed wireless internet access in Western North America. The Company plans to grow organically and by acquisition in order to penetrate the last-mile broadband market for small and medium-sized businesses. MetroBridge is currently competing in the unlicensed wireless spectrum and plans to differentiate itself from competitors by way of providing value-added services to customers.



#### FORECAST AND VALUATION

Our financial model has been revised to include WiBand revenue beginning in FY 2008. FY 2008 revenue is now estimated to be \$12.7 million, up from \$7.8 million. EBITDA is expected to improve to (\$0.4) million up from (\$1.3) million. The \$5 million revenue run rate estimated by the Company for FY 2007 includes \$1.3 million for a network-build in the city of Edmonton that is not recurring. Although this project should conclude at the end of this year, a second phase has been forecasted at \$0.9 million during FY 2008. The remainder of the revenue replacement for FY 2008 should come by way of new network customers and higher ARPU.

We forecast that within two years, ARPU in Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg should increase marginally to \$500 and that within three years, the commercial customer base should double. These assumptions are consistent with those for acquired companies stated in our Initiating Report.

We have assumed that gross margins for the consolidated entity should remain consistent with WiBand's current operations for FY 2008 at 55%, improving to 60% during FY 2009 as capital expenditures improve network efficiencies, and as higher margin services are added to the product mix. We have forecasted increases in operating expenses to reflect management's intentions to expand the direct sales force by an additional six to seven people during FY 2008. Profit margins should improve for FY 2009 as the sales force matures and offers more leverage.

Although the detailed terms of the purchase price have not been settled, we have forecasted that the \$3.5 million in cash will be paid in Q4 2007 and that the common shares will be issued equally over the three years following the transaction closing date. We estimate that the Company has approximately \$7.5 million in cash, which is sufficient to complete the transaction.

In addition to this surprise acquisition, based on statements made by the Company during its Q2 conference call, MetroBridge is actively pursuing at least two additional acquisitions. The size and timing of such acquisitions are unclear, so we maintain our forecast of a possible capital raise during the first part of FY 2008 (as per our Initiating Report).

We continue to believe that there is potential for surprise upside due to the conservative nature of our estimates. With MetroBridge's product mix, focused marketing and a larger sales force, both the customer base and ARPU may increase at a faster pace than we have forecasted. After a period of time, there may also be an opportunity to realize cost synergies by consolidating certain aspects of operations.

We continue to value MetroBridge using a weighted average of discounted cash flow, 75%, and comparative analysis, 25%. These methods return a valuation of \$1.46 and \$0.58, respectively, with no changes to the valuation assumptions from our Initiating Report. When weighted, the average of the two methods returns a value of \$1.24, which we have rounded to \$1.25 to obtain our revised price target.

We view this acquisition positively and have **revised our price target upward to \$1.25** from \$1.00. We continue to recommend purchase of the stock with a **SPECULATIVE BUY** recommendation.



Figure I: Revised Financial Model

Income Statement (\$000s)	F'06A	F'07E	F'08E	F'09E	F'10E	F'11E	F'12E
Revenue	2,058	3,730	12,746	20,135	29,218	37,099	45,348
Cost of Sales	923	1,555	5,559	8,493	11,703	14,840	18,139
Gross Margin	<b>1,135</b> <i>55%</i>	<b>2,174</b> 58%	<b>7,187</b> 56%	<b>11,642</b> 58%	<b>17,515</b> <i>60%</i>	<b>22,259</b> <i>60%</i>	<b>27,209</b> 60%
Expenses							
Corporate office	1,099	1,521	2,250	3,000	3,750	3,850	3,950
Sales and marketing	767	1,005	2,900	3,700	4,400	5,100	5,200
Salaries and benefits	283	284	800	1,100	1,400	1,500	1,600
General and administrative	303	664	1,100	1,250	1,400	1,550	1,700
Stock-based compensation	155	241	500	750	750	750	750
Amortization	124	350	335	445	515	565	615
Bad debts	10	12	-	-	-	-	-
	2,740	4,078	7,885	10,245	12,215	13,315	13,815
EBITDA EBIT	(1,481) (1,605)	(1,553) (1,904)	(363) (698)	1,842 1,397	5,815 5,300	9,509 8,944	14,009 13,394
Net interest expense	47	(149)	18	50	168	13	(44)
Income (loss) before tax and other items	(1,652)	(2,411)	(716)	1,347	5,132	8,931	13,437
Other		(268)					
Tax expense	-	-	-	-	1,847	3,215	4,837
Income (loss) for the period	(1,652)	(2,023)	(716)	1,347	3,284	5,716	8,600
Earnings per share							
Basic	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.02)	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.11
Diluted	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.02)	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.10
Weighted average shares							
Basic	12,451	32,900	46,743	61,002	73,877	76,705	77,032
Diluted	12,451	33,037	52,890	69,794	79,677	82,823	83,379

Source: JCI

Figure II: Comparative Analysis Table

	Mkt.Cap. (\$MM)	Enterprise Value (\$MM)	Sales (\$MM) 2008E	P:Sales 2008E	EV:Sales 2008E
Towerstream	91	47	16	5.6x	2.9x
Terago	75	74	33	2.3x	2.2x
Average				4.0x	2.6x
MetroBridge	35	30	13	2.7x	2.4x

Source: Thomson, JCI

The information contained in this report was obtained from sources we believe to be reliable. We do not represent that such information is accurate or complete and it should not be relied on as such. Any opinions expressed herein reflect our judgment at this date and are subject to change. Jennings Capital Inc. and/or employees from time to time may hold shares, options or warrants on any issue included in this report and may buy or sell such securities. This report is not to be construed as an offer to sell or solicitation to buy securities. **Member – CIPF. Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. is a member of SIPC.** 

#### **Jennings Capital Inc. Research Disclosures**

Company Ticker

MetroBridge Networks Corporation

TSXV-MEB

I, Ron Shuttleworth, hereby certify that the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities or issuers. I also certify that I have not, am not, and will not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation in exchange for expressing the specific recommendations or views in this report.

**Note:** We initiated coverage on **MetroBridge Networks Corporation** on September 19, 2007 with a SPECULATIVE BUY recommendation, a C\$1.00 target price and an ABOVE AVERAGE risk rating. Share price at that time was C\$0.40.

#### **U.S. Client Disclosures**

This research report was prepared by Jennings Capital Inc., a member of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and a Participating Organization of the Toronto Stock Exchange and the TSX Venture Exchange. Jennings Capital Inc. is an affiliate of Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. accepts responsibility for the contents of this research report, subject to the terms and limitations as set out above. Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. is a registered broker-dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers Inc.

## THE FIRM THAT PREPARED THIS REPORT MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO U.S. RULES WITH REGARD TO THE PREPARATION OF RESEARCH REPORTS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANALYSTS.

This report does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any of the securities discussed herein. Any transaction in these securities by U.S. persons must be effected through either Westminster Securities Corporation, a U.S. broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers Inc. and the New York Stock Exchange Inc. or through Jennings Capital (USA) Inc., A U.S. broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers Inc.

#### **U.S. PERSONS**

This research report was prepared by an affiliate of Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. or other person that may not be registered as a broker-dealer in the United States. The firm that prepared this report may not be subject to U.S. rules regarding the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts.

Subject to the limitations on liability described above, Jennings Capital (USA) Inc. takes responsibility for the content of this research report in accordance with Rule 15a-6 under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All transactions by U.S. persons in securities discussed in this report must be performed through Jennings Capital (USA) Inc.

#### **U.K. Client Disclosures**

This research report was prepared by Jennings Capital Inc., a member of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and a Participating Organization of the Toronto Stock Exchange and the TSX Venture Exchange.

## JENNINGS CAPITAL IS NOT SUBJECT TO U.K. RULES WITH REGARD TO THE PREPARATION OF RESEARCH REPORTS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANALYSTS.

The contents hereof are intended solely for the use of, and may only be issued or passed onto, persons described in part VI of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2001.

This report does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any of the securities discussed herein.

#### **Stock Ratings**

**Speculative Buy:** The stock is expected to provide a total return in excess of 10% over the current trading price over the next 12 months; however, there is material event risk associated with the investment.

Strong Buy: The stock is expected to provide a total return in excess of 50% over the current trading price over the next 12 months.

Buy: The stock is expected to provide a total return of 10% to 50% over the current trading price over the next 12 months.

Hold: The stock is expected to provide a total return of 0% to 10% over the current trading price over the next 12 months.

**Sell:** The stock is expected to provide a negative total return over the next 12 months.

#### **Risk Ratings**

Low/Average Risk — Stocks with less volatility than the market as a whole, with solid balance sheets and dependable earnings.

**Above Average Risk** — Stocks with more volatility than the market. Financial leverage is considerable but not threatening, earnings are more erratic, or other quality concerns regarding accounting, management track record, and similar issues.

**Speculative** — Stocks of unproven companies or ones with very high financial leverage, suspicious accounting, or with other significant quality concerns. A speculative risk rating implies at least the possibility of financial distress leading to a restructuring.

Distribution Ratings: Out of approximately 68 stocks in the Jennings Capital Inc. coverage universe, the ratings distribution is as follows:

STRONG BUY	9%
BUY	26%
SPECULATIVE BUY	59%
HOLD	1%
RESTRICTED	0%
UNDER REVIEW	0%
SELL	4%

#### Revised Monthly

Security Abbreviations: NVS (non-voting shares); RVS (restricted voting shares); RS (restricted shares); SVS (subordinate voting shares); MV (multiple voting shares).

**Quarterly Recommendation Hierarchy:** Is a ranking distribution identifying the percentage of total, number, and the investment banking relationship (%) for all recommendation categories that can be found on the Jennings Capital Inc. website (www.JenningsCapital.com).

Analyst Stock Holdings: Equity Research analysts, associates and members of their households are permitted to invest in securities covered by them. No Jennings Capital Inc. analyst, associate or employee involved in the preparation of an analyst report is permitted to effect a trade in the security of an issuer whereby there is an outstanding recommendation for a period of 30 calendar days before and 5 calendar days after issuance of the research report

Compensation: The compensation of the analyst and/or associate who prepared this research report is based upon in part, the overall revenues and profitability of Jennings Capital Inc. Analysts are compensated on a salary and bonus system. Some factors affecting compensation including the productivity and quality of research, support to institutional, retail and investment bankers, net revenues to the equity and investment banking revenue as well as compensation levels for analysts at competing brokerage dealers. Analysts are not directly compensated for specific Investment Banking transactions.

Jennings Capital Inc. Relationships: Jennings Capital Inc. may receive or seek compensation for investment banking services from all issuers under research coverage within the next 3 months.

Jennings Capital Inc. or its officers, employees or affiliates may execute transactions in securities mentioned in this report that may not be consistent with the report's conclusions.

#### **Company Specific Disclosures**

Is this an issuer related or industry related publication?	Issuer	Industr
Does the Analyst or any member of the Analyst's household have a financial interest in the securities of the subject issuer? If yes, nature of interest: The analyst owns shares in the Issuer.	Yes	No
Is Jennings Capital Inc. a market maker in the issuer's securities at the date of this report?	Yes	No
Does Jennings Capital Inc. and its affiliates in the aggregate beneficially own more than 1% of any class of common equity of the issuer?	Yes	No
Does Jennings Capital Inc. or the Analyst have any actual material conflicts of interest with the issuer? Explanation:	Yes	No
Does the Analyst or household member serve as a Director or Officer or Advisory Board Member of the issuer?	Yes	No
Has the Analyst received any compensation from the subject company in the 12 months?	Yes	No
Has Jennings Capital Inc. and/or any affiliates managed or co-managed an offering of securities by the issuer in the past 12 months?	Yes	□ No
Has Jennings Capital Inc. and/or any affiliates received compensation for investment banking and related services from the issuer in the past 12 months?	Yes	☐ No
Has the Analyst had an onsite visit with the Issuer? (The extent to which the analyst has viewed the material operations is available on request)	Yes	☐ No
Has the Analyst ever been compensated for travel expenses incurred as a result of an onsite visit with an Issuer?	Yes	No