Hargreaves Services plc (AIM: HSP)

# **Company Summary**

#### **Investment Profile**

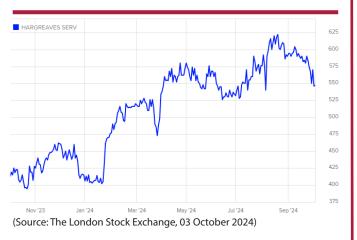
- 1. Recently increased (+71%) high yielding sustainable dividend
- 2. Strong debt free balance sheet; cash generative
- 3. Robust contracts portfolio (65+) provides high level of secured revenues in Services
- 4. Renewable energy land assets being primed for sale over the medium term
- 5. HRMS to deliver improving profits with focus on longer term realisation
- Clear focus on realising and delivering value

#### **Share Information**

Ticker	HSP
Share Price	542.0p
Shares in issue	32.9m
Market Cap	£179.9m
12m Hi/Low	630.0/389.3p

(Source: The London Stock Exchange, 03 October 2024)

#### 12-Month Share Price



#### Major Shareholders (as of 03 October 2024)

Name	%
Harwood Capital	27.97
Canaccord Genuity Group	9.90
GB Holdings (2021) Limited	8.41
Downing	4.00
(Source: company website)	

## **Company Overview**

Hargreaves Services plc (AIM:HSP) is a diversified group delivering key projects and services to the industrial, environmental and property sectors. The company's three business segments are:

- **Services**
- **Hargreaves Land**
- **German joint venture, Hargreaves Raw Materials Services GmbH (HRMS)**

## **Strategic Overview**



## **Board Increases Dividend 71% to 36p**

Hargreaves has increased its full year dividend by 71% to 36p, a 6.7% yield at the 546p share price. This is a result of the additional free cash flow available following the buy-in of the pension scheme at a lower than anticipated cost, and corresponding release of an £1.8m annual liability, as well as a material cash receipt from HRMS. The management team of HRMS have agreed to maintain a minimum cash return to the Group of £7m per annum and therefore the Board believes these dividend levels are sustainable going forward.

#### **Hidden Value of Renewables Portfolio**

The first tranche of Hargreaves' renewable energy land portfolio went to market in FY2025. The assets have been valued independently at **between £27.0m and £28.8m**, with proceeds to be returned to shareholders over time. The group expects to receive £10m+ for the first tranche sale.



## **ESG and Net Zero Strategy**

The group continues to make positive strides with regard to ESG and has recently appointed its first Head of ESG and Marketing. This appointment will spearhead Hargreaves' efforts to minimise its impact on the environment whilst also championing its ESG credentials, which will be crucial to unlocking new commercial opportunities.

Furthermore, the group has published it's first Net Zero Strategy, outlining ambitious goals to become Net Zero by 2030 at a corporate level, with a scale of targets through all its activities up to 2050. You can read the plan on Hargreaves' website here.

#### **Services Division Shows Continued Growth**

Hargreaves' Services division continued its strong momentum delivering 25% underlying growth in PBT to £11.4m in the year to 31 May 2024, not factoring in the non-recurring asset sales from the previous period. Services boasts 65+ term and framework contracts, over 70% of budgeted revenue secured heading into the new financial year, and a strong pipeline of future growth opportunities. While HS2 will deliver at least another two years of work, the company is confident in winning further major infrastructure project work at either Sizewell C or Lower Thames Crossing. Hargreaves also has a strong contractual position at Tungsten West (TW), where work will commence depending on TW's receipt of further funding.

### **Record Profit for Land and HRMS Recovery**

Hargreaves Land delivered a record profit in the most recent financial year of £8.2m, benefitting from significant disposals at Westfield and Maltby. HRMS benefited from strong trading in H2 as pig iron prices reacted to new EU sactions on Russian exports and DK Recycling increased gate fees for steel waste dust. Looking forward, coke has been secured at lower prices and the increased gate fees will contribute to HRMS's recovery.

## **Latest Corporate Video**



## **Key Newsflow**

Aug'24: Full year results

Oct'24: AGM

**Dec'24:** Half year trading update

Jan'25: Half year results

## **Management Team**

The experienced management team led by Chair Roger McDowell has a track record of executing strategic growth leading to substantial increases in shareholder value.

CEO Gordon Banham joined Hargreaves in 2001 and led a management buyout in 2004, with the company's flotation on the LSE the following year.

Stephen Craigen, Chief Financial Officer, joined Hargreaves in 2013 and spent six years as Group Financial Controller, giving him a deep understanding of the Hargreaves business model. He was appointed to the Board in August 2023.

David Anderson, Group Property Director, joined Hargreaves in 2018. He was previously a Managing Director of Henry Boot Developments, the property development subsidiary of Henry Boot plc.

Additionally, the Board comprises three other nonexecutive directors in Nigel Halkes, a former senior partner at E&Y, Christopher Jones, an experienced property advisor and Nicholas Mills, employed by Harwood Capital LLP, the Group's largest shareholder.

# Hargreaves in the Media

MIDAS, The Daily Mail - August 2024 **Questor, The Telegraph - April 2024** MIDAS, The Mail on Sunday - February 2024 **Investors' Chronicle - January 2024** 

#### Forecasts (Source: Factset)

TP: 803.5p	FY'24 (Actual.)	FY'25 (Est.)	FY'26 (Est.)	FY'27 (Est.)
Sales (£m)	211.1	222.6	226.9	231.8
EBITDA adj (£m)	29.4	27.1	27.3	27.7
PBT (£m)	16.9	16.5	17.3	17.8
adj. EPS (p)	37.4	42.5	44.5	45.7