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# Research Report - Update

Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

# Simulations Plus, Inc.

**Rating: Speculative Buy** 

Howard Halpern

# **SLP \$37.64** — (**NasdaqCM**)

May 5, 2020

	2017 A	2018 A	2019 A	2020 E	2021 E
Net sales (in millions)	\$24.1	\$29.7	\$34.0	\$39.0	\$48.5
Earnings per share	\$0.33	\$0.42*	\$0.46*	<i>\$0.41</i> **	\$0.68***

52-Week range	\$43.63 - \$22.47	Fiscal year ends:	August
Shares outstanding a/o 04/09/20	17.8 million	Revenue/shares (ttm)	\$2.07
Approximate float	12.8 million	Price/Sales (ttm)	18.1X
Market Capitalization	\$694 million	Price/Sales (2021) E	14.4X
Tangible Book value/shr	\$1.29	Price/Earnings (ttm)	75.3X
Price/Tangible Book	29.2X	Price/Earnings (2021) E	55.4X
Annual Dividend	\$0.24	Dividend Yield	0.6%

<sup>\*</sup>Excludes a \$0.08 per share tax benefit due to the 2017 tax reform act in 2018 and approximately \$0.02 per share related to corporate tax deductions from exercise of stock incentive options.

\*\*Excludes an Est. \$0.07 per share in acquisition related costs that were spread out over 2Q20 and 3Q20 \*\*\*Excludes an Est. \$0.10 per share in acquisition related amortization costs.

Simulations Plus, Inc., based in Lancaster, CA, develops drug discovery/development software, and provides preclinical/clinical consulting for regulatory submissions.

## **Key Investment Considerations:**

Maintaining Speculative Buy rating and increasing our 12-month price target to \$44.50 per share from \$39.00 per share primarily based on an increase in sector valuation.

Long-term growth should be driven by the increased use of software tools and consulting analytics for drug discovery. SLP estimates it has penetrated approximately 20% of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and generic companies that would be potential users of its software and/or consulting services. Future penetration should be supported by continual upgrades to SLP's existing software, consulting services, and scientific staff.

On April 2, 2020, SLP announced it acquired Lixoft, headquartered in Paris, France. Lixoft's software products are designed to save the time of biotech and pharmaceutical researchers. Lixoft expands SLP European operations and should provide recurring annual revenue of at least \$3 million, as well as offering the potential to add consulting services to their existing customer base.

2Q20 EPS (reported 04/09/20) was \$0.12 on sales growth of 22.2% to \$10.4 million, which included approximately \$0.01 per share in acquisition related costs. We projected sales of \$9.7 million and EPS of \$0.14. In 2Q19, EPS was \$0.12 on sales of \$8.5 million.

In FY20, we project EPS of \$0.41\*\* (prior was \$0.54) on sales growth of 14.7% to \$39 million (prior was \$39.5 million). Our reduced EPS forecast is primarily due to increased costs (G&A and amortization costs) related to the acquisition of Lixoft, as well as reduced 2H20 customer activity reflecting the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY21, we project EPS of \$0.68 per share (unchanged) on sales growth of 24.4% to \$48.5 million (prior was \$45.9 million). Sales growth reflects increased customer activity for all its offerings, as well as recurring revenue from the Lixoft acquisition. Our FY21 EPS forecast excludes an estimated \$0.10 per share of acquisition related amortization costs.

Please view our Disclosures pages on 15-17.

#### Investment Recommendation

We are maintaining our Speculative Buy rating on shares of Simulations Plus. Our rating reflects projected earnings and adjusted EBITDA growth due primarily to the build out of company's sales and contract services infrastructure through the increased hiring of its scientific staff, and the April 2020 acquisition of Lixoft. That acquisition should generated at least \$3 million in recurring software revenue, but also increase expenses stemming from a significant increase in amortization expense that could approximate \$3.5 million annually. We anticipate adjusted EBITDA (excluding stock-based compensation and D&A expenses) increasing 53.5% to nearly \$21 million in FY21, up from an estimated \$13.7 million in FY20.

We are increasing our 12-month price target to \$44.50 per share from \$39.00 per share due primarily to an

increase in sector valuation for our price/earnings/growth (P/E/G) valuation model. We believe the companies (in the chart on the right) align with SLP's offerings. The four comparative companies have an average forward P/E/G multiple of 3.4X (prior was 2.4X) on 20.5% earnings growth compared to a forward P/E/G multiple of 2.9X (prior was 1.9X) on 22% normalized two-year (FY21 from FY19) annualized EPS growth for SLP (excluding cash and non-cash expenses).

			Market	EPS							
		Price	Cap in	Growth							
Name	Symbol	05-04-20	\$Mil	Rate	P/E/G						
Medic											
Charles River Laboratories	CRL	138.35	6846	20.8%	2.2						
Agilen Technologies, Inc.	Α	74.56	23088	15.5%	3.7						
Healthcare Information Services											
Veeva Systems Inc.	VEEV	189.14	25006	21.0%	5.0						
Cerner Corporation	CERN	67.06	12930	12.9%	2.8						
Combined Average				20.5%	3.4						
Company					FY21- P/E/G						
Simulations Plus Inc.	SLP	37.64	669	22%*	2.9						

Source: Taglich Brothers, FINVIZ.com

\*Growth Rate Normalized for FY20 acquisition costs

We anticipate investors are likely to accord a P/E/G multiple equal to that of its four larger comparative (peer) companies due primarily to SLP's higher FY21 EPS growth rate and no debt on its balance sheet. The company also has the flexibility to make strategic accretive (no debt) acquisitions, which it did in April 2020 with the acquisition of Lixoft. Additionally, SLP's ability to obtain user licenses for its software from the US Food & Drug Administration should drive sales to commercial companies that need to submit data to the FDA. Applying a P/E/G multiple of 3.4X, discounted for execution risk, provides a year-head price target of approximately \$44.50 per share, implying a total (including a 0.6% dividend yield) return in excess of 15%.

Simulations Plus shares are best suited for investors seeking exposure to a software company offering consulting services that are targeting research scientists in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and drug development sectors.

#### **Overview**

Simulations Plus, Inc., headquartered Lancaster, CA develops drug discovery and development software for mechanistic modeling and simulation, as well as machine-learning-based prediction of properties of molecules based on their structure. The company's software and consulting operations provide scientists knowledge and data to predict the properties and outcomes of pharmaceutical and biotechnology agents, as well as a wide range of early discovery, preclinical, and clinical consulting services and software.

SLP provides consulting services ranging from early drug discovery through preclinical and clinical trial data analysis and for submissions to regulatory agencies. Besides its Lancaster operations, the company generates revenue from three additional subsidiaries, Cognigen (based in Buffalo, NY), DILIsym Services, Inc. (based in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina), and Lixoft (based in France – acquired April 2020).

### **Recent Developments**

On March 26, 2020, the company announced the establishment of StrategiesPlus COVID-19 ACT Program in order to speed consulting assistance to any organization involved in coronavirus research. The company will be working with pharmaceutical companies, universities, and government agencies, in order to speed the virtual

#### Simulations Plus, Inc.

candidate evaluation pipeline and/or drug repurposing assessments to improve predictions of clinical outcomes, drive research priorities, and accelerate regulatory approval.

**In March 2020**, Sandra Suarez-Sharp, Ph.D., joined SLP as its VP-Regulatory Affairs. She spent 10-years at the FDA and most recently was Master Reviewer and Scientific Advisor for the division of Biopharmaceutics. Her task at SLP will be to oversee a new Regulatory Strategies team that will be supporting companies in their interactions with global health authorities.

On April 2, 2020, SLP announced it acquired Lixoft, headquartered in Paris, France. Lixoft's software products are designed to save the time and energy of pharmacometricians and biostatisticians. At closing the company paid \$11 million consisting of \$7.3 million in cash and common stock amounting to nearly \$3.7 million. Future earn-out consideration (over a two-year period) is up to\$ 5.5 million with a majority in cash and the balance in common shares. A portion of the closing consideration, totaling \$2 million, was held against any indemnification claims for a two-year period.

In April 2020, the company announced it partnered with a large pharmaceutical company to its ADMET Predictor software offer to enhance high-throughput PBPK (physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling used to quantitatively translate in vitro data and evaluate temporal effects from drug-drug interaction) capabilities. This partnership should result in extended capabilities in high-throughput PBPK calculations at the discovery and developmental level. This enhancement to ADMET Predictor should demonstrate it is possible to front-load PK considerations at the discovery stage at an unprecedented level of speed and with more sophisticated models that ultimately leads to improved efficiencies with less attrition in the transition from discovery into early development.

# **Operations**

The company's simulation software (see description on page 4) assists pharmaceutical scientists in rapidly predicting certain key potential drug dynamics and compound properties, thereby reducing the risk of multimillion dollar clinical trial failures, and reducing the time to market of effective new medications. Pharmaceutical software and consulting services sales growth is driven by the company's technical and research and development staff, which increased to 78 at August 31, 2019, up from 69 at August 31, 2018 and six in FY06. The Lancaster, CA division ended FY19 employed 52 Ph.Ds. in their respective science or engineering disciplines, and 24 employees hold one or more Master's degrees. In FY19, net sales consisted of annual site license revenue and consulting services from the company's portfolio of pharmaceutical software offerings.

Cognigen, based in Buffalo, NY, offers pharmacokinetic (the study of the bodily absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs) and pharmacodynamic (the study of the action or effects of drugs on living organisms) modeling simulation services to the clinical pharmacology sector. This division generates revenue from services provided to customers during Phase I through IV of clinical drug development. Over the last five years, approximately 45% of its projects have resulted in direct regulatory interaction. Cognigen offerings include a private cloud-based validated platform (KIWI) to efficiently and consistently organize, as well as process, visualize, evaluate, and communicate modeling and simulation results.

DILIsym Services, Inc., based in North Carolina primarily provides Drug Induced Liver Injury modeling and simulations software and contract research services. DILIsym's software also provides analysis of potential drug-induced liver injury, as well as a simulation program for analyzing nonalcoholic fatty liver disease called NAFLDsym. The difference between DILIsym and NAFLDsym is the former estimates the potential for a particular drug molecule to induce liver injury, while the latter estimates the likelihood of new molecules to treat nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and is unique to the mechanisms involved in such treatment.

DILIsym Services offerings are expanding as it received NIH small business funding for the development of RENAsym (predicting drug-induced kidney injury) and two-year agreement with a large pharmaceutical company for the development of IPFsym, a quantitative systems pharmacology modeling application that should have the ability to predict the efficacy of drugs being developed to treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. DILIsym also

announced it will lead the development of RADAsym<sup>TM</sup> a drug development program for lifesaving countermeasures to acute radiation syndrome. This is a funded multiyear project with a global pharmaceutical company.

Lixoft, headquartered in Paris, France (acquired on March 31, 2020), was founded in 2011 by Jérôme Kalifa and Marc Lavielle (who will remain with the company). Lixoft designs software solutions based on scientific breakthroughs to reduce the cost and increase the success rate of new drug development. Its primary software offering (that is renewed annually) is the Monolix Suite, a unique population PKPD modeling solution that projects from the first data exploration to clinical trial simulations.

Offerings	Description
ADMET* Predictor <sup>TM</sup> / ADMET Modeler <sup>TM</sup> *absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination, and toxicity	The predictor component (molecular property prediction program) enables pharmaceutical researchers to rapidly estimate a number of ADMET properties of new chemical entities. The modeler component allows researchers to build artificial neural network ensembles or support vector machine ensemble models from their own data to rapidly calculate quantum level descriptors. Prediction of sites of metabolism, new atomic level descriptors, adds skin permeability, transporter, and toxicity models that includes air/water partition coefficient and an improved mutagenicity models in toxicity module, and integrates with its MedChem Designer program. The MedChem Studio module enables the mining of data to design new drug-like molecules. Additional updates include new toxicity models, rapid compound library screening in virtual humans and rates, as well as synthetic feasibility assessments for virtual molecules, and an HTPK Simulation Module. In 2019, Version 9.5 was released to provide novel approaches to calculate uncertainty estimates on all regression models, new machine learning models for metabolism and transporter endpoints and for a primary toxicity endpoint required during risk assessment, as well as a structure sensitivity analysis visualization tool. Developing improved structure and tautomer (each of two or more isomers of a compound which exist together in equilibrium) handling capabilities that will support data integrity across the different discovery platforms.
$\mathrm{DDDPlus^{TM}}$	DDDPlus (dose disintegration & dissolution) enables formulation scientists to predict how changes in formulation or experimental setup affect dissolution rate in laboratory experiments. DDDPlus integrates with ADMET Predictor and provides dosage form options for immediate and controlled release formulations. Customers in the US use DDDPlus with multiple licenses used at FDA, and in Europe, and Japan. Includes parameter sensitivity analysis, a virtual trial capability, immediate release capsule dosage form, and new input/output functions. Released in 2019, Version 6 provides long-acting injectable model developed from an FDA grant and precipitation assay and biphasic dissolution models.
GastroPlus™	GastroPlus simulates absorption, pharmacokinetics (the process by which a drug is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated by the body), and pharmacodynamics (the combination of therapeutic and adverse effects on the body) for orally dosed and injected drugs. For drug development it aids researchers in dosage formulation by allowing the adjustment of formulation variables (solubility, particle density, dose, and radius) versus time, in order to achieve a target plasma concentration. GastroPlus is also capable of providing drug interactions for ocular, nasal, dermal, and pulmonary drug delivery, and drug interactions with transporter and induction capabilities, as well as precipitation models, infant PBPK physiologies model, built-in enzyme expression levels, and biologics from large molecules. GastroPlus has added an intramuscular dosing model and antibody-drug conjugate model for biologics, and new physiology models, including Chinese and hepatic impairment populations, as well as revamped workflows for building in-vitro in-vivo correlations and reporting capabilities, making it easier for companies wishing to submit results to regulatory agencies. In 2018, Version 9.6 provided customers with new special population physiology models and improvements to all mechanistic absorption models. In 2019, Version 9.7 was released to include improvements to population simulations, dissolution, absorption, PBPK models, drug-drug interactions, dermal absorption, and immune response was added to the intramuscular injection models. Working on various collaborations to add additional modules.
MembranePlus™	MembranePlus, launched in 4Q14, simulates laboratory experiments for measuring permeability of druglike molecules through various membranes, including several different cell cultures, as well as artificially formulated membranes. MembranePlus will integrate with GastroPlus. Clinical research departments should be the primary customers of this offering. The September 2017 release of version 2.0 added new models to analyze data collected from hepatocyte (liver cells).
PKPlus™	PKPlus, launched in 4Q16, provides a complete level of functionality needed by pharmaceutical industry scientists to generate the analyses and output needed to satisfy regulatory agency requirements for both noncompartmental and compartmental pharmacokinetics analysis. While version 2.0 (released in February 2018) fix items reported to the company by initial customers, version 2.5 (released in July 2019) provided enhancement such as the simplification of pharmacokinetic data analyses, as well as automating and streamlining key routines. In the process of designing the next-generation engine that automates the import and mapping of data, selection of calculation templates, and generation of reports within a streamlined, validated system.
	Source: company reports and presentations Future Updates/Enhancements are in Bold

# R&D Budget Pressures – Simulation Tools to the Rescue

A strategic shift in drug development should drive the use of simulation software tools. According to data from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), the global pharmaceutical industry invested nearly \$1.4 trillion in R&D during 2007 to 2016. ABPI forecasts the industry to invest \$181 billion annually in R&D by 2022.

To enhance productivity in drug development, technologies employed by scientists and engineers in laboratories are expected to continuously evolve over the next several years, especially with the increasing use of big data predictive analytics. The 2020 global life sciences outlook published by consulting firm Deloitte, predicts

computational medicine and drug discovery software (predictive analytics) market growth of 5.1% annually reaching nearly \$8 billion in 2023 from 2018.

Biosimulation (use of computer aided simulation of biological processes and systems) market growth reflects the cost and time spent on drug discovery and development programs and the failures of drug candidates. Regulatory agencies in the US and Europe are using and promoting the use of predictive technologies in order to streamline the drug approval process, reduce R&D costs, and potentially eliminate late stage drug failures. In April 2019, Zion Market Research published a report that indicates the global biosimulation technology market to grow annually by 15.7%, reaching \$4.6 billion by 2025, up from an estimated \$1.7 billion in 2018. Biosimulation market growth is segmented into software and services with the software segment holding the largest share of the market. Driving market growth is the adoption of biosimulation software by pharmaceutical and research organizations and the increasing R&D investment for pharmaceutical research.

Analysis by the Industrial Research Institute and the biosimulation market forecast suggest sales gains by SLP's simulation software tools such as GastroPlus, ADMET Predictor/Modeler, DDDPlus, and ClassPharmer. In the very early stage of drug development, these tools can help determine whether or not to proceed with continued development of a potential drug candidate. SLP software tools that enable clinicians to meet clinical trial endpoints could potentially save millions of dollars, especially if a simulation software tool detects a failure prior to Phase III testing.

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies continue to seek innovative alternatives to lower the cost of drug development and submission processes to regulatory agencies. Simulation software should be increasingly important in reducing costs and increasing productivity as R&D budgets shrink. Simulations Plus software can increase productivity and reduce the risk of failure in late stage clinical trials as the prediction and data mining models can provide the researcher with a better understanding of drug reactions in the human body, enabling a more informed go/no-go decision.

### Strong Growth Prospects

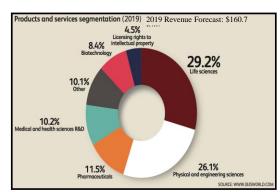
We project sales and net income growth in FY21 due primarily to acquisition of Lixoft (April 2020), and sustained growth from SLP's prior acquisitions of Cognigen and DILIsym Services, as well as new funded collaborations (with the FDA, National Institute of Health, and large pharmaceutical companies), and consulting services in all four operating subsidiaries.

Sales prospects for 2H20 are likely to be muted due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. As of April 9, 2020, the company had not seen any measurable decrease in demand for its offering. However, delays in buying decisions are occurring as customers wait for clarity into the economic impact of the pandemic. While SLP continues to close new software license business, albeit at a slower than historical pace, its new software pipeline is growing.

EPS prospects for 2H20 are likely to be diminished compared to our prior forecast due primarily to an additional one-time professional fee related to the April 2020 acquisition of Lixoft that should occur in 3Q20. In the 2H20 and FY21, we have estimated additional amortization expense of approximately \$1 million and \$3.5 million, respectively. This reduced our prior EPS forecast as described in the operations section on page six.

#### Industry Dynamics

IBISWorld projects total US Scientific R&D spending through 2025 to grow 1.1% annually reaching \$217.2 billion, up from an estimated \$160.7 billion in 2019. Based on IBISWorld's January 2020 forecast for the Scientific R&D Development industry, if the percentages for biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and other segments hold (30% total – see chart on the right), 2025 spending on those three categories should approximate \$65.2 billion, up from \$48.2 billion forecast for 2019. Growth should be driven by the increased outsourcing to companies with specialized skill sets.



#### **Fundamentals**

SLP's software sales growth is driven primarily by utilizing the company's database of over 2,000 potential customers, which has grown annually by approximately 20%. We project annual customer additions could reach approximately 133 in FY21, up from 96 (prior was 118 – the decrease due to customer delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic) in FY20. Entering 3Q20, the company had a \$10 million backlog of secured business and after a review, approximately 10% of the backlog at risk of delay or cancellation. Of note, about \$200,000 to \$300,000 in new software licenses from Asian customers have been delayed. In the short-term, the company's consulting service operations have also see a slowdown in closure of new business, but once pandemic restrictions ease, consulting work for clients should resume.

# **Operations**

For FY20, we project 14.7% sales growth to \$39 million (prior was \$39.5 million), reflecting a 35.4% increase in DILIsym sales to nearly \$6.9 million stemming from accelerated consulting working for two existing clients in 1H20, a 7.6% increase in the company's Lancaster, CA. division sales to \$21.1 million reflecting the addition of approximately 96 (prior was 118) new customers, and a 10.4% increase at its Cognigen division to \$10.3 million due to a growing customer base. We project sales of \$750,000 (or five month worth of license renewals) from the company's April 2020 acquisition of Lixoft.

For FY21, we project 24.4% sales growth to \$48.5 million (prior was \$45.9 million), reflecting a 22.8% increase in DILIsym sales to \$8.4 million, a 17.7% increase in the company's Lancaster, CA. division sales to \$24.8 million reflecting the addition of approximately 133 new customers due primarily to consulting customer conversions and license renewals from regulatory agencies, and a 15.2% increase at its Cognigen division to \$11.9 million due to a growing customer base. We anticipate sales from the company's Lixoft subsidiary of \$3.4 million, up from \$750,000.

The table below outlines the cost structure we anticipate for fiscal years 2021 and 2020 vs. 2019 results.

**Cost Structure** 

Margin Analysis	FY19A	FY20E	FY20E	FY21E	FY21E
	Actual	Prior	Current	Prior	Current
Gross Profit	73.4%	73.0%	73.4%	73.3%	74.3%
SG&A expenses	32.9%	33.4%	45.2%	31.8%	38.9%
R&D expenses	7.4%	6.8%	7.2%	6.2%	6.4%
Operating income	31.3%	32.9%	21.0%	35.5%	29.0%
Tax rate	18.7%	24.0%	24.5%	24.0%	24.5%

Source: Taglich Brothers estimates and company reports

Our gross margin projection reflects FY20 and FY21 Cognigen margins of 50.3%, and 50.5%, respectively, vs. 85.1% and 88.3%, respectively for each period in the Lancaster, CA division. We estimate the DILIsym division should have gross margin of 70.8% and 70.6% in FY20 and FY21. We anticipate the company's Lixoft division to have gross margin of approximately 84.7% and 85.6%, respectively, in FY20 and FY21. We forecast consolidated gross margin to remain at 73.3% and 74.3%, respectively, for FY20 and FY21. Our gross margin forecast reflects the hiring of additional scientific staff in FY19 and FY20 in order to fulfill the increase in consulting and analytical study contracts from new and existing customers during the upcoming two fiscal years. We anticipate the costs associated with the new personnel should gain additional leverage due to increased productivity as the staff is able to handle more consulting and analytical study contracts.

For the next two fiscal years, we project SG&A margins of 45.2% and 38.9%, respectively, and R&D margins of 7.2% to 6.4%, respectively (see table on prior page). Our operating expense forecasts reflect nearly a 17% increase in the company's scientific staff in FY19 and additional staff hiring growing at least 10%, partly offset by operational efficiencies created from marketing initiatives at its three divisions in order to obtain and support new customers and expand the functionality of SLP's software programs. Overall expenses will include support for workshops and training sessions in Germany, Korea, India, New Jersey, and at customer sites, as well as global participation in scientific meetings, conferences, and poster presentations. We have included additional

non-cash amortization expense of approximately \$1 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, in FY20 and FY21 stemming from the April 2020 acquisition of Lixoft.

In FY20, operating expenses should increase 42.8% to \$20.4 million reflecting a 49.4% increase in SG&A expense to \$17.6 million and R&D expense increase of 11.8% to \$2.8 million. The increase in SG&A expense reflects spending to support growth initiatives at its four operating divisions, including incremental expenses related to the acquisition (over \$1.2 million in professional fees) and operations of Lixoft (its fourth division) that includes amortization expense. The \$2.8 million in spending on R&D reflects the development and enhancement of new and existing software offerings. We project operating expense margin increasing to 52.4% from 40.1% in FY19. We project a decrease in operating income to \$8.2 million compared to \$10.6 million in FY19.

In FY20, we project other income of \$35,000 compared to an expense of \$92,000 in FY19. The swing to income from an expense reflects no recognition of imputed-interest in FY20 compared to \$109,000 in FY19 (the latter offset by interest income of approximately \$33,000). Including acquisition related costs, our net income projection is \$6.2 million or \$0.34 per share. We previously forecasted net income of \$9.9 million or \$0.54 per share. We estimate excluding one-time professional fees related to the acquisition of Lixoft, EPS could approximate \$0.41 per share.

In FY21, operating expenses should increase 7.5% to nearly \$22 million reflecting a 7% increase in SG&A expense to \$18.9 million and a \$306,000 increase in R&D expense to \$3.1 million. The increase in SG&A expense should support sales growth of the company's software offerings and consulting/analytical services and includes amortization expense related to the acquisition of Lixoft. We project operating expense margin decreasing to 45.3% from our forecast of 52.4% in FY20 due to higher sales and the acceleration of scientists' productivity across the company's software and analytical consulting services platforms, as well as no one-time costs that occurred in the year-ago period stemming from the Lixoft acquisition. We project 71.9% operating income growth to \$14.1 million with operating margin of 29%.

In FY21, we project other income of \$20,000 compared to \$35,000 in FY20, reflecting a reduction in the company's cash balances for most of the year and reduction in interest rates. Our FY21 net income projection is \$10.6 million or \$0.58 per share. We previously forecast net income of \$12.4 million or \$0.68 per share. We estimate excluding amortization costs related to the acquisition of Lixoft, EPS could approximate \$0.68 per share.

#### **Finances**

For FY20, we project cash earnings of \$11.9 million and an increase in working capital of \$2.2 million due primarily to increases in receivables and revenue in excess of billings and a decrease in deferred tax accruals. Cash from operations of \$9.7 million is unlikely to cover software development costs, contingent and contract payments, common stock dividends, and the acquisition of Lixoft. Cash should decrease by nearly \$5.8 million to \$5.6 million at the end of FY20.

For FY21, we project cash earnings of \$18.1 million and an increase in working capital of \$3.7 million due primarily to an increase in revenue in excess of billings and a decrease in deferred tax accruals. Cash from operations of \$14.4 million should cover software development costs and common stock dividends, increasing cash by \$6.3 million to nearly \$12 million at the end of FY21.

### 2Q20 and 1H20 Results

#### 2Q20

Sales increased 22.2% to \$10.3 million due primarily to revenue growth 44.7% to \$1.7 million at its North Carolina DILISym subsidiary, a 20% increase to nearly \$2.8 million at its Buffalo Cognigen subsidiary, and 17.9% growth to \$5.9 million at its Lancaster, CA division. The revenue growth at DILISym reflects seven active consortium licensees, and 20 active DILISym consulting projects including two NALFDsym projects. Revenue growth at Cognigen was due primarily to 14 new projects initiated in 2Q20. The company's Lancaster divisions' growth reflects approximately \$600,000 increase in software and software-related sales reflecting 28 new customers consisting of 12 commercial clients and 16 nonprofit groups. All of the company's subsidiaries

combined, software and software-related sales increased by \$629,000 or 13.2%, while consulting and analytical study revenues increased nearly \$1.3 million or a 33.6% compared to the year-ago period.

Gross profit increased 22.7% to \$7.7 million due primarily to higher sales and gross margins expanding to 74.2% compared to 73.9% in the year-ago period. Gross margin for the software and services division improved to 85.7% versus 83.2% in the year ago period. However, SLP's Cognigen division had gross margin decrease to 51.2% compared to 54% and theDILIsym subsidiary's gross margin contracted to 71.7% versus 73.2% in 2Q19 due primarily to higher direct contract cost.

Operating expense margin increased to 46.9% from 41.7% due primarily to a \$300,000 increase in legal and consulting fees (included in SG&A expense) stemming from the March 31, 2020 acquisition Lixoft and expenses related to build an infrastructure to support accelerated revenue growth FY21. SG&A expense increased 46.3% to \$4.1 million with R&D expense increased marginally by \$23,600 to \$748,000. The increase in SG&A expense includes higher payroll taxes (\$132,000 increase), insurance (\$64,000 increase), salaries and wages (\$476,000 increase) reflecting increased stock compensation, annual salary increases, 401K expense, and increased headcount, commissions and advertising (\$91,000 increase), contracted labor (\$169,000 increase) related to outsourced services and director compensation, and corporate travel expense (\$47,000 increase).

Operating income increased 3.5% to \$2.8 million due to higher sales and gross margin expansion, offset in part by higher operating expenses including \$300,000 in expenses related to the acquisition of Lixoft. Other income was \$10,000 compared to an expense of \$35,000 in the year-ago period. 2Q20 recorded interest income of \$12,000 offset in part by loss on currency exchange of \$2,000. The expense in the year-ago period was due primarily to recognition of contingent consideration (imputed interest) of \$38,000.

Net income was nearly \$2.2 million or \$0.12 per share compared to \$2.1 million or \$0.12 per share in the year-ago period. In the current period the company recorded an income tax expense of \$686,000 compared to \$596,000. Excluding the \$300,000 in expense to acquire Lixoft, we estimate EPS would have been approximately \$0.13 per share. We projected net income of \$2.5 million or \$0.14 per share on sales of \$9.7 million.

#### 1H20

Sales increased 23.4% to \$19.8 million due to a nearly \$1.2 million increase in software and software-related sales stemming from 66 new customers consisting of 28 commercial clients and 38 nonprofit groups. Sales growth was enhanced by a nearly \$2.6 million increase in consulting and analytical study revenues due primarily to the company's Buffalo subsidiary (Cognigen) and North Carolina subsidiary (DILISym).

	6 Mos. '20	6 Mos. '19	% D
Net sales	\$ 19,751	\$ 16,008	23.4%
Cost of sales	5,309	4,407	20.5%
Gross Profit	14,442	11,601	24.5%
Total Operating Expenses	8,897	6,784	31.2%
Operating Income (loss)	5,544	4,817	15.1%
Total Other Income (expense)	25	(100)	NM
Pre-Tax Income (loss)	5,570	4,717	18.1%
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	1,361	1,082	NM
Net Income	4,208	3,635	NM
Earnings per share	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.20	NM
Avg Shares Outstanding	18,306	17,984	
Margin Analysis			
Gross margin	73.1%	72.5%	
Operating margin	28.1%	30.1%	
Pre-tax margin	28.2%	29.5%	
Source: company reports			

Gross profit increased 24.5% to \$14.4 million due to higher sales and gross margin expansion to 73.1% from 72.5%.

Operating expense margin increased to 45% from 42.4% due to expenses increasing 31.2% to \$8.9 million, which is a faster pace than sales growth of 23.4%. SG&A expense increased 37.9% to \$7.6 million (including approximately \$300,000 in professional fees related to the acquisition of Lixoft) and a marginal \$20,000 increase in R&D expense to \$1.3 million.

Operating income increased 15.1% to \$5.5 million due to sales growth and gross margin expansion, partly offset by higher operating expenses. Other income was \$25,000 compared to an expense of \$100,000 in the year-ago period. The primarily change in other expense was due to no recognition of contingent consideration (imputed interest) of \$76,000 in the current period compared to last year and a swing to a currency gain of \$2,000 compared

#### Simulations Plus, Inc.

to a loss of \$33,000. In 1H20, net income was \$4.2 million or \$0.20 per share compared to \$3.6 million or \$0.20 per share.

#### **Finances**

In 1H20, cash earnings of \$6.3 million and an increase in working capital of \$2.5 million resulted in cash from operations of \$3.8 million. Cash from operations covered capitalized software expenses, payments on contract payables, and common stock dividends, increasing cash by \$813,000 to \$12.2 million at February 28, 2020.

#### Strategy

The company aims to expand its contract research, consulting, and workshop services offered to the industry. The consulting offering is a marketing tool since it demonstrates the capabilities of the company's life sciences team and simulation tools, which often lead to site licenses for its software offerings.

**SLP** is engaged in the practice of seeking funded research consulting agreements with government agencies and commercial pharmaceutical companies. In 1H20, the Lancaster division was working on ten funded collaborations with clinical stage biotechnology and large pharmaceutical companies to enhance its software offerings. The DILISym subsidiary is actively working on a funded collaboration with the NIH and two funded collaborations with large pharmaceutical companies. The potential future value of the DILISym collaborations is approximately \$4.4 million.

# Competitive Landscape

Pharmaceutical companies conduct drug discovery and development efforts through internal development staffs and outsourcing some of this work. Smaller companies need to outsource a greater percentage of this research. SLP also competes with in-house development teams at some pharmaceutical companies.

Drug makers have turned to innovative drug treatments that serve unmet needs in order to get regulatory approval. In 2015, the FDA approved 45 novel drugs, four more than in 2014 and the most since the all-time record of 53 set in 1996. In 2016, FDA approvals fell to 22, the lowest number since 2010. In 2017, FDA approvals rebounded to 46 and accelerated in 2018 to 59, but decreased to 48 in 2019.

The company's pharmaceutical software and services business competes against companies that provide more extensive and higher cost screening, testing, and research services, and products that are not based on simulation software. There are also software companies whose products do not compete directly, but are related. We were unable to find other companies that might pose a competitive threat to GastroPlus, DDDPlus, and/or MembranePlus. Those simulated software offerings appear to be unique. ADMET Predictor/ADMET Modeler operates in a more competitive environment; however, independently published product comparisons have been very favorable, with ADMET Predictor consistently ranked first in predictive accuracy.

#### Risks

# <u>Technology</u>

The software industry is highly competitive and changes rapidly. The company's operating results could be significantly affected by its ability to maintain and increase acceptance of its products.

## COVID-19

Declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic, COVID-19 is impacting worldwide economic activity. The spread of COVID-19 and mitigation measures taken by governments could disrupt the supply chain and adversely impact SLP's business, financial condition or results of operations. The extent to which the pandemic impacts the company's results will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain.

# Shareholder Control

Walter Woltosz, co-founder and chairman of the board, and Virginia Woltosz, co-founder, own approximately 27.4% of the outstanding voting stock (based on SEC filing in March 2020). Walter and Virginia Woltosz might

#### Simulations Plus, Inc.

greatly influence the outcome on all matters requiring stockholder approval in ways that may not be in the best interests of other shareholders.

# **Intellectual Property Rights**

Third parties may infringe on or misappropriate IP rights, or otherwise independently develop substantially equivalent products and/or services. The loss of intellectual property protection or the inability to secure or enforce intellectual property protection could harm its business and/or ability to compete.

# Cyber Security

SLP operates large and complex computer systems that contain significant amounts of client data. Unauthorized third parties could attempt to gain entry to its computer systems for the purpose of stealing data or disrupting the systems. The company believes appropriate measures are in place to protect client data from intrusion, and will constantly work to improve and enhance its computer systems. However, if its systems prove not to be secure, the company could suffer significant harm since client contracts typically contain provisions that require their data to remain confidential.

#### Foreign Exchange

While nearly all of SLP's transactions are denominated in US dollars, approximately 18% and 18% of sales were to Asian and European customers, respectively, in FY19. In Japan and China, the company receives payment in Yen and Yuan, respectively. If foreign currency transactions increase significantly, the company may engage in hedging in order to mitigate risk. So far exchange rate exposure has had no material impact.

## Miscellaneous Risk

The company's financial results are subject to other risks and uncertainties including competition, operations, financial markets, regulatory risk, and/or other events. These risks may cause actual results to differ from expected results.

#### Trading Volume

Liquidity is a potential concern. Based on our calculations, the average daily-volume during calendar 2018 was 63,700 shares a day. In 2019, average daily volume increased to 97,300, and over the last three months (ending May 1, 2020) was 156,600. SLP has 17.8 million shares outstanding and a float of approximately 12.8 million. Investors should by aware that a thinly traded equity could experience price volatility.

# Simulations Plus, Inc. Consolidated Balance Sheets FY2017 –FY2021E (in thousands)

	F	FY17A		Y18A	FY19A		2	Q20A	F	FY20E	FY21E	
ASSETS												
Current assets:												
Cash	\$	6,216	\$	9,401	\$	11,436	\$	12,249	\$	5,647	\$	11,955
Accounts receivable, net		4,049		5,515		5,027		7,244		5,955		7,544
Revenue in excess of billings		1,481		1,986		3,234		4,113		4,500		6,000
Prepaid income taxes		462		313		765		457		525		800
Prepaid expense and other current assets		460		610		704		613		685		745
Total current assets		12,668		17,824		21,165		24,676		17,312		27,043
Capitalized computer software development costs, net		4,308		5,153		4,960		5,459		5,550		7,000
Property and equipment, net		291		335		341		335		365		370
Operating lease right of use asset		-		-		-		638		638		638
Customer relationships, intellectual property, goodwill, intangibles		21,212		19,930		18,693		18,055		30,424		26,589
Other assets		34	_	37		37	_	37		37		37
Total assets	\$	38,512	\$	43,279	\$	45,197	\$	49,200	\$	54,326	\$	61,677
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY												
Current liabilities:												
Accounts payable		241		352		204		625		479		101
Accrued payroll and other expenses		983		1,152		1,639		1,527		1,686		1,799
Operating lease liability		-		-		-		493		493		493
Contract payable		247		2,557		1,761		1,761		2,500		2,500
Billings in excess of revenues		217		385		799		892		850		800
Current portion of deferred revenue		354		382		381		183		400		400
Total current liabilities		2,042		4,827		4,783		5,481		6,409		6,094
Deferred income tax accruals		4,927		3,195		2,732		2,714		2,269		2,000
Payments due under contract payable		5,738		3,334		_		-		-		-
Operating lease liability		-		-		-		142		142		237
Stockholders' equity:												
Common stock, no par value; authorized 20,000,000 shares;		7		7		8		8		8		8
Additional paid-in capital		12,109		13,454		15,319		16,407		21,236		22,836
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)		13,688		18,462		22,354		24,448		24,263		30,503
Total stockholders' equity		25,805		31,923		37,681		40,862		45,506		53,346
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	38,512	\$	43,279	\$	45,197	\$	49,200	\$	54,326	\$	61,677
SHARES OUT		17,278		17,416		17,592		17,649		17,900		18,000

# Simulations Plus, Inc. Annual Income Statement Model FY2017 – 2021E (in thousands)

		FY17 A		FY18 A		FY19 A		FY20 E	FY21 E
Simulations Plus - Pharmaceutical software/consulting	\$	15,600	\$	17,553	\$	19,585	\$	21,081	\$ 24,820
DILIsym - North Carolina		1,238		4,257		5,065		6,858	8,425
Lixoft - Europe		-		-		-		750	3,400
Cognigen division - Consulting services		7,300		7,857		9,321		10,287	11,850
Total Net sales	\$	24,138	\$	29,667	\$	33,970	\$	38,976	\$ 48,495
								,	. ,
Cost of sales - Simulations Plus Division		2,643		3,049		3,277		3,138	3,645
Cost of sales - DILIsym		555		1,718		1,382		2,003	2,480
Cost of sales - Lixoft		_		_		_		115	490
Cost of sales - Cognigen Division		3,110		3,227		4,367		5,118	5,860
Total Cost of sales	_		_		_	9,026	-		
Total Cost of sales	_	6,308	_	7,994	_	9,020	_	10,374	12,475
Gross Profit		17,830		21,672	_	24,945	_	28,602	36,020
Operating Expenses:									
Selling, general, and administrative		8,198		9,584		11,796		17,623	18,850
Research and development		1,368		1,791		2,500		2,794	3,100
Total Operating Expenses		9,566		11,375		14,296		20,417	21,950
Operating Income (loss)		8,264		10,298		10,649		8,184	14,070
04									
Other income (expense) Interest income (expense)		(22)		(126)		(76)		33	20
Gain (Loss) on exhange of currency		(22)		(33)		(17)		2	-
Total Other Income (expense)		(24)		(159)	-	(92)	_	35	20
Total Other Income (expense)		(24)	_	(139)	_	(92)	_		
Pre-Tax Income (loss)		8,240		10,139		10,556		8,219	14,090
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)		2,453		1,204		1,973		2,011	3,450
•									
Net income (loss)		5,788		8,935		8,583		6,208	10,640
Earning (loss) per share	\$	0.33	\$	0.50	\$	0.48	\$	0.34	\$ 0.58
Avg Shares Outstanding		17,515		17,860		18,039		18,386	18,491
Dividends per Share	\$	0.20	\$	0.24	\$	0.24	\$	0.24	\$ 0.24
Adjusted EBITDA - Stock compensation and D&A	\$	11,021	\$	13,729	\$	14,477	\$	13,664	\$ 20,970
Adjusted EDITDA - Stock compensation and D&A	Ψ	11,021	Ψ	13,727	Ψ	14,477	φ	13,004	φ 20,270
Margin Analysis									
Gross margin - Simulations Plus Division		83.1%		82.6%		83.3%		85.1%	85.3%
Gross margin - DILIsym - North Carolina		55.2%		59.6%		72.7%		70.8%	70.6%
Gross margin - Lixoft - Europe		NA		NA		NA		84.7%	85.6%
Gross margin - Cognigen Division		57.4%		58.9%		53.1%		50.3%	50.5%
Total gross margin		73.9%		73.1%		73.4%		73.4%	74.3%
Selling, general, and administrative		34.0%		32.3%		32.9%		45.2%	38.9%
Research and development		5.7%		6.0%		7.4%		7.2%	6.4%
Operating margin		34.2%		34.7%		31.3%		21.0%	29.0%
Pre-tax margin		34.1%		34.2%		31.1%		21.1%	29.1%
Tax rate		29.8%		11.9%		18.7%		24.5%	24.5%
YEAR / YEAR GROWTH									
Total Revenues		20.9%		22.9%		14.5%		14.7%	24.4%

FY20 includes an estimated \$0.07 per share in acquisition related costs that were spread out over 2Q20 and 3Q20 FY21 includes an estimated \$0.10 per share in acquisition related amortization costs.

# Simulations Plus, Inc. Quarterly Income Statement Model FY2019 to 2021E (in thousands)

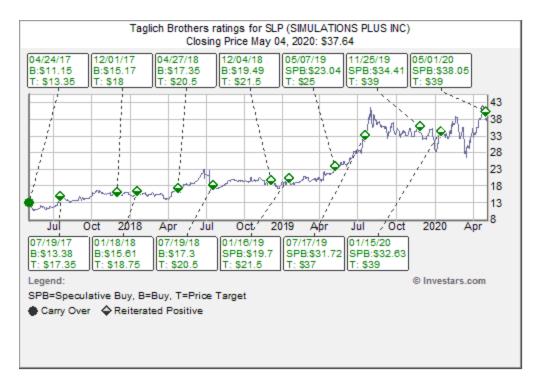
		19 A	Q2 19 A		Q3 19 A	Q4 19 A		Y19 A		20 A		20 A		Q3 20 E		Q4 20 E	FY20		Q1 21 E		Q2 21 E		Q3 21 E		4 21 E	FY21 E
Simulations Plus - Pharmaceutical software/consulting DILIsym - North Carolina		4,365 1,106	\$ 5,008 1,172		6,025 1,374	\$ 4,187 1,413	\$ 1	19,585 5,065		4,927 2,087		5,904 1,696	\$	6,100 1,525	\$	4,150 1,550	\$ 21,08 6,85		5,455 1,925	\$	7,100 2,300	\$	7,400 2,200	\$	4,865 2,000	\$ 24,820 8,425
Lixoft - Europe		-	1,1/2		1,574	1,415		-	-	-		-		350		400	75		750		1,100		990		560	3,400
Cognigen division - Consulting services	:	2,065	2,292	!	2,538	2,426		9,321	2	2,387	2	2,750		2,600		2,550	10,28		2,800		3,200		2,950		2,900	11,850
Total Net sales			\$ 8,472	_		\$ 8,026						0,350	\$	10,575	\$	8,650	\$ 38,97	6 \$	10,930	\$	13,700	\$		\$ 1		\$ 48,495
Cost of sales - Simulations Plus Division		827	840		806	805		3,277		744		844		845		705	3,13		870		955		1,040		780	3,645
Cost of sales - DILIsym		404	314	-	314	350		1,382		628		480		445		450	2,00	3	605		690		620		565	2,480
Cost of sales - Lixoft		-	-		-	-		-		-		-		55		60	11	5	95		165		145		85	490
Cost of sales - Cognigen Division		969	1,054	: _	1,205	1,139		4,367	1	1,271	1	1,342		1,265		1,240	5,11	8	1,400	_	1,535		1,475		1,450	5,860
Total Cost of sales		2,200	2,208	<u> </u>	2,324	2,293		9,026	2	2,643	2	2,666		2,610		2,455	10,37	4	2,970	_	3,345		3,280		2,880	12,475
Gross Profit		5,336	6,264	: _	7,613	5,733	2	24,945	6	5,758	7	7,683		7,965		6,195	28,60	2	7,960	_	10,355		10,260		7,445	36,020
Operating Expenses:		2,719	2,810		3,087	3,180		11,796	2	3,513		4,110		5,700		4,300	17,62	•	4,550		5,000		4,950		4,350	18,850
Selling, general, and administrative Research and development		530	724		643	603		2,500		526	4	748		750		770	2,79		700		800		850		750	3,100
Research and development		550	724		043	003		2,500		320		740		750		770	2,73	•	700		800		850		750	3,100
Total Operating Expenses	:	3,249	3,534	_	3,731	3,783	1	14,296	4	4,040	4	4,858		6,450		5,070	20,41	7	5,250		5,800		5,800		5,100	21,950
Operating Income (loss)		2,087	2,730	)	3,882	1,950	1	10,649	2	2,718	2	2,826		1,515		1,125	8,18	4	2,710		4,555		4,460		2,345	14,070
Other income (expense)																										
Interest income (expense)		(35)	(33	)	(22)	13		(76)		11		12		5		5	3	3	5		5		5		5	20
Gain (Loss) on exhange of currency		(31)	(2	) _	(8)	24		(17)		4		(2)		_		-		2	_	_					_	
Total Other Income (expense)		(65)	(35	) _	(30)	37		(92)		15		10		5		5	3	5	5	_	5		5		5	20
Pre-Tax Income (loss)		2,022	2,696		3,852	1,987		10,556	-	2,733	_	2,836		1,520		1,130	8,21	0	2,715		4,560		4,465		2,350	14,090
Fre-Tax Income (loss)		2,022	2,090	'	3,032	1,967	,	10,550		2,733	-	2,030		1,520		1,130	0,21	,	2,713		4,500		4,403		2,330	14,090
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)		486	596	,	964	(72)		1,973		675		686		370		280	2,01	1	665		1,115		1,095		575	3,450
Net income (loss)		1,536	2,099		2,889	2,059		8,583	2	2,058	2	2,150		1,150		850	6,20	8	2,050		3,445		3,370		1,775	10,640
Earning (loss) per share	\$	0.09	\$ 0.12	\$	0.16	\$ 0.11	\$	0.48	\$	0.11	\$	0.12	\$	0.06	\$	0.05	\$ 0.3	4 \$	0.11	\$	0.19	\$	0.18	\$	0.10	<u>\$ 0.58</u>
Avg Shares Outstanding	12	7,998	18,003		18,096	18,057		18,039	10	8,307	10	8,316		18,455		18,465	18,38	_	18,475		18,485		18,495	,	18,510	18,491
Avg Shares Outstanding	1	1,998	18,003	'	18,090	16,057	,	10,039	10	5,307	10	5,510		16,433		16,403	10,30	o	10,473		10,403		16,493		16,510	10,491
Dividends per Share	\$	0.06	\$ 0.06	\$	0.06	\$ 0.06	\$	0.24	\$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$ 0.2	4 \$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$	0.06	\$ 0.24
A CONTROL OF THE CONT		2.025	n 2504		4.004	e 2021				3.756		2010	d	2.040	dh.	2.050	A 12.		4.425	d	5 200	dh.	5 105		4.070	A 20 050
Adjusted EBITDA - Stock compensation and D&A	\$	3,026	\$ 3,686	\$	4,834	\$ 2,931	\$ 1	14,477	\$ 3	3,756	\$ 2	3,918	\$	3,040	5	2,950	\$ 13,66	4 \$	4,435	\$	6,280	\$	6,185	\$	4,070	\$ 20,970
Margin Analysis																										
Gross margin - Simulations Plus Division	8	81.1%	83.29	ó	86.6%	80.8%		83.3%	8	34.9%	8	35.7%		86.1%		83.0%	85.1	%	84.1%		86.5%		85.9%		84.0%	85.3%
Gross margin - DILIsym - North Carolina	6	63.5%	73.29	ó	77.1%	75.3%		72.7%	6	59.9%	7	71.7%		70.8%		71.0%	70.8	%	68.6%		70.0%		71.8%		71.8%	70.6%
Gross margin - Lixoft - Europe		NA	N/		NA	NA		NA		NA		NA		84.3%		85.0%	84.7		87.3%		85.0%		85.4%		84.8%	85.6%
Gross margin - Cognigen Division		53.1%	54.09		52.5%	53.1%		53.1%		16.8%		51.2%		51.3%		51.4%	50.3		50.0%		52.0%		50.0%		50.0%	50.5%
Total gross margin		70.8%	73.99		76.6%	71.4%		73.4%		71.9%		74.2%		75.3%		71.6%	73.4		72.8%		75.6%		75.8%		72.1%	74.3%
Selling, general, and administrative		36.1%	33.29		31.1%	39.6%		32.9%		37.4%		39.7%		53.9%		49.7%	45.2		41.6%		36.5%		36.6%		42.1%	38.9%
Research and development		7.0% 27.7%	8.59 32.29		6.5% 39.1%	7.5% 24.3%		7.4% 31.3%		5.6% 28.9%		7.2% 27.3%		7.1% 14.3%		8.9% 13.0%	7.2 21.0		6.4% 24.8%		5.8% 33.2%		6.3% 32.9%		7.3% 22.7%	6.4% 29.0%
Operating margin		27.7% 26.8%	32.29		39.1%	24.3%						27.3% 27.4%		14.5% 14.4%		13.0%	21.0		24.8%		33.3%		32.9% 33.0%		22.7%	29.0% 29.1%
Pre-tax margin Tax rate		26.8% 24.0%	22.19		25.0%	(3.6%)		31.1% 18.7%		29.1% 24.7%		24.2%		24.3%		24.8%	24.5		24.8%		24.5%		24.5%		24.5%	24.5%
- un rate	4	2 1.070	22.17		25.070	(5.0%)		10.770	2	//0		270		24.570		24.070	24.3	, 0	24.570		24.570		24.570		27.570	24.5 /0
YEAR / YEAR GROWTH																										
Total Revenues		6.6%	15.29	ó	16.2%	20.0%		14.5%	2	24.7%	2	22.2%		6.4%		7.8%	14.7	%	16.3%		32.4%		28.0%		19.4%	24.4%

FY20 includes an estimated \$0.07 per share in acquisition related costs that were spread out over 2Q20 and 3Q20 FY21 includes an estimated \$0.10 per share in acquisition related amortization costs.

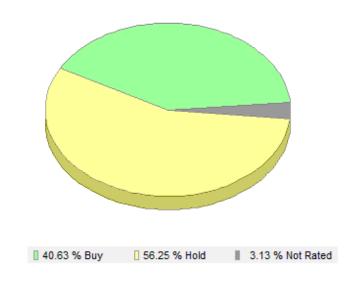
Simulations Plus, Inc. Cash Flow Statement FY2017 – FY2021E (in thousands)

	<u>FY</u>	<u>72017A</u>	F	Y2018A	<u>F</u>	Y2019A	6 N	los. 20A	FY2020E	<u>FY2021E</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities										
Net Income (loss)	\$	5,788	\$		\$	8,583	\$		\$ 6,208	\$ 10,640
Depreciation and amortization		1,248		2,721		2,750		1,345	4,195	5,900
Amortization of intellectual property		887		-		-		-	-	-
Stock-based compensation, net		622		709		1,078		785	1,500	1,600
Loss (gain) on sale of assets and change in value of contigent consideration		38	_	153	_	109	_			
Cash earnings (burn)		8,583		12,518		12,520		6,338	11,903	18,140
Changes In:										
Accounts receivable		(876)		(1,466)		488		(2,218)	(928)	(1,589)
Revenues in excess of billings		(634)		(505)		(1,248)		(880)	(1,266)	(1,500)
Deferred tax and refund and accured income taxes		(239)		(1,582)		(752)		(17)	(463)	(269)
Pre-paids and other assets		41		(154)		(94)		92	19	(59)
Accounts payable		99		111		(148)		421	275	(378)
Accrued payroll and other expenses		284		169		487		(114)	47	113
Income taxes		-		-		-		308	-	-
Billings in excess of revenues		(118)		168		414		93	51	(50)
Other and accrued income taxes		(8)		-		-			(3)	-
Deferred revenue		(253)	_	28	_	(30)	_	(197)	19	
(Increase)/decrease in Working Capital		(1,705)		(3,231)		(882)		(2,512)	(2,247)	(3,733)
Net cash Provided by Operations		6,878	_	9,287		11,638	_	3,826	9,656	14,407
Cash Flows from Investing Activities										
Purchase of property and equipment		(176)		(183)		(138)		(73)	(150)	(200)
Cash and common stock used/received to purchase company's		(2,796)		-		-		-	(11,400)	-
Purchases of intellectual property		-		-		(50)		-	-	-
Earn-out payments		-		-		-		-	-	-
Capitalized computer software development costs		(1,384)		(2,145)	_	(1,768)		(1,127)	(2,250)	(3,500)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(4,355)	_	(2,329)		(1,956)	_	(1,200)	(13,800)	(3,700)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities										
Payments on contracts payable		(1,000)		(247)		(4,239)		-	(1,761)	-
Common stock issued to acquire Lixoft		-		-		-		-	3,667	
Common stock dividends		(3,448)		(4,162)		(4,197)		(2,115)	(4,300)	(4,400)
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options and excess benefits		111		636	_	788		303	750	
Net cash provided by Financing		(4,337)	_	(3,773)	_	(7,648)		(1,812)	(1,644)	(4,400)
				•					/ <b>=</b> === :	
Net change in Cash		(1,815)		3,185		2,035		813	(5,788)	6,307
Cash Beginning of Period		8,030	_	6,216	_	9,401		11,436	11,436	5,647
Cash End of Period	\$	6,216	\$	9,401	\$	11,436	\$	12,249	\$ 5,647	<u>\$ 11,955</u>

# **Price Chart**



**Taglich Brothers Current Ratings Distribution** 



Investment Banking Services for Companies Covered in the Past 12 Months										
Rating Buy Hold Sell	<u>#</u> 1	<u>%</u> 5								
Not Rated	1	50								

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I, Howard Halpern, the research analyst of this report, hereby certify that the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers; and that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations or views contained in this report.

# **Public Companies mentioned in this report:**

None

# **Meaning of Ratings**

**Buy** – The growth prospects, degree of investment risk, and valuation make the stock attractive relative to the general market or comparable stocks.

**Speculative Buy** – Long-term prospects of the company are promising but investment risk is significantly higher than it is in our BUY-rated stocks. Risk-reward considerations justify purchase mainly by high risk-tolerant accounts. In the short run, the stock may be subject to high volatility and could continue to trade at a discount to its market.

**Neutral** – Based on our outlook the stock is adequately valued. If investment risks are within acceptable parameters, this equity could remain a holding if already owned.

**Sell** – Based on our outlook the stock is significantly overvalued. A weak company or sector outlook and a high degree of investment risk make it likely that the stock will underperform relative to the general market.

**Discontinued** – Research coverage discontinued due to the acquisition of the company, termination of research services (includes non-payment for such services), diminished investor interest, or departure of the analyst.

# Some notable Risks within the Microcap Market

Stocks in the Microcap segment of the market have many risks that are not as prevalent in Large-cap, Blue Chips or even Small-cap stocks. Often it is these risks that cause Microcap stocks to trade at discounts to their peers. The most common of these risks is liquidity risk, which is typically caused by small trading floats and very low trading volume which can lead to large spreads and high volatility in stock price. In addition, Microcaps tend to have significant company-specific risks that contribute to lower valuations. Investors need to be aware of the higher probability of financial default and higher degree of financial distress inherent in the microcap segment of the market.

From time to time our analysts may choose to withhold or suspend a rating on a company. We continue to publish informational reports on such companies; however, they have no ratings or price targets. In general, we will not rate any company that has too much business or financial uncertainty for our analysts to form an investment conclusion, or that is currently in the process of being acquired.