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News comment

Equity Research from Kepler Cheuvreux

Release date: 24 September 2026

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Arverne Buy

France | Utilities

Beta Profile: MOMENTUM

MCap: EUR243.3M

Target Price: EUR9.30
Current Price: EUR6.56
Up/downside: 41.8%
Market data: 23 September 2026

Bloomberg: ARVEN FP
 Free float 47%
 Avg. daily volume (EURm) 0.0
 YTD abs performance 33.9%
 52-week high/low (EUR) 11.00/4.58

Reuters: ARVEN.PA

H1 2026: operational progress, funding ahead

Key points:

- Arverne published its H1 2026 results yesterday evening, which were relatively solid.
- Most of the focus is likely to remain on the upcoming capital increase (expected by the end of the year) and on recent operational progress (notably in Alsace).
- We reiterate our Buy rating.

H1 2026: this bodes well

- H1 gross business volume (+60% to EUR16.8m) was boosted by internal drilling work, more than offsetting the drop in consolidated revenues (-20% to EUR7.4m) due to lower contribution from large contracts. In other words, the group is now focusing on developing its own projects (notably in Alsace), while placing lower priority to third-party projects.
- Inter-segment drilling reached EUR7.9m over H1-26 (47% of the gross business volume). This activity reflects the ramp-up of Arverne's own strategic projects, consistent with the group's vertically integrated model.
- Opex increased in line with the group's ramp-up. Operating expenses: +21% to EUR13.8m and personnel expenses: +12% to EUR14.6m. Net loss for the period widened to EUR13.8m (vs EUR11.7m last year).
- Capex reached EUR26.3m in H1-26 (vs EUR9.4m last year), reflecting the ramp-up of the group's projects.
- At the end of June-26, the gross cash position stood at EUR45.5m (vs EUR78m at the end of FY25).
- Given the group's vertical integration, consolidated figures offer limited visibility. The key takeaways are the increase in gross business volume (+60%) and the level of capex (+179%) which point to future growth.
- **Lithium project in Alsace: promising progress**
 - The Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE) demonstration unit, operational since June 2026, has delivered initial results in line with targeted lithium concentration and recovery rates. Since being connected to geothermal brine over the summer, the unit has also demonstrated stable 24/7 continuous operation. These results provide technical validation of the process and further de-risk the project.
 - An independent assessment (by Sproule ERCE) estimates LdF's indicated and inferred resources in Alsace at 26mt LCE, with total potential of up to 43mt LCE. The next key milestone is reserve certification (Q1 2027).
 - The project targets production of c.27kt/yr of LCE over more than 30 years. Arverne has already signed an offtake contract with Renault (25kt/5-year) and discussions with other potential customers are also well advanced.
 - Next steps for the project :
 - End-2026: completion of the DFS
 - Q1-2027: Reserve certification
 - During 2027: Final Investment Decision (FID)
 - 2027: Start of geothermal heat production
 - 2028: First lithium production

Capital increase: how much dilution should we expect ?

- We model an equity raise requirement of c.EUR100-150m.
- Cumulative net capex for FY 2026 and FY 2027 is estimated at EUR155m (i.e., EUR320m of gross capex and EUR165m of subsidies) and the cash position at end-FY 2025 stood at EUR78m.

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- The recent EUR70m ORANE issuance is a meaningful first step towards funding Arverne's 2026-27 investment programme. It strengthens liquidity, validates investor support for the strategy and reduces the residual funding requirement.
 - In terms of timing, we expect the transaction to take place by year-end.
 - Given the expected size of the operation and the stock's limited liquidity, we expect a substantial discount (double digit).
 - Note that the issue price of the new shares received upon redemption of the ORANEs will be equal to the subscription price of the capital increase less a 20% discount.

Company description

Arverne is a French industrial group driving the energy transition through the sustainable valorisation of subsoil resources. Leveraging its deep expertise in drilling and subsurface engineering, the company develops innovative geothermal and lithium projects to provide renewable heat and low-carbon materials essential for the decarbonisation effort.

Management

Pierre Brossollet, CEO & Chairman
Thierry Trouyet, Deputy CEO
Emeline Othax, CFO

Key shareholders

Free float	47.00%
Arosco (P. Brossollet)	20.03%
Eiffel Essential	9.85%
ADEME	9.27%

Investment case

- Arverne is an industrial player specialised in the valorisation of subsoil resources. The group is focused on three units: 1) geothermal heat and cooling, 2) Lithium de France (geothermal heat and lithium), and 3) Arverne Drilling Services (drilling operations).
- Its main competitive advantage stems from the synergy potential among its three entities, with drilling being crucial for the successful development of any geothermal activity.
- We see Arverne as a high-risk, high-reward story. Indeed, its development strategy relies exclusively on the development of geothermal energy and lithium, and to date, these activities generate no sales.

Catalysts

- Production of the first geothermal heating plant (2027)
- Production of the first lithium tonnes (2028)
- Announcement of a subsidy.

Valuation methodology

- We value Arverne using a sum-of-the-parts method to separate the geothermal, lithium, and drilling activities.
- The geothermal and the lithium activities are valued using a DCF and the drilling activities are valued with a FY 2026E EV/sales target multiple (0.5x).

Risks to our rating

- Our valuation is highly dependent on the company's ability to scale up successfully.
- The group's growth will be capital-intensive. The group expects to obtain subsidies for 35% of this envelope. Lower-than-expected subsidies should therefore generate the need for dilutive financing.
- Potential delay in the democratisation of geothermal energy

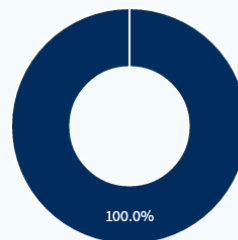
Key data charts

Price performance



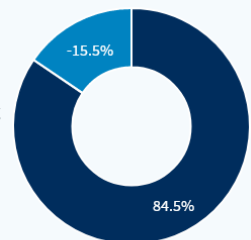
Sales split by region

■ France



Sales split by division

■ Arverne Drilling Services
■ Others



SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Provides local, low-carbon, renewable energy.
- Business model offering strong synergies.
- Deep know-how in drilling activities.

Opportunities

- Greater democratisation of geothermal heat.
- Increasing public aid to develop geothermal heat.
- International expansion.

Weaknesses

- The group has no track record.
- Tensions regarding financing.
- Small cap with limited free float

Threats

- Ambitious business plan: execution risk.
- Slower democratisation of EVs.
- Increased competition in these nascent markets.

Valuation table

Last model update: 15 September 2026

FY to 31/12 (EUR)	na	na	na	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Per share data (EUR)										
EPS adjusted	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.20	-0.34	-0.58	-0.79	-1.15	-0.77
% Change	na	na	na		-1,902.8%	84.6%	-71.6%	-34.7%	-46.8%	33.3%
EPS adjusted and fully diluted	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.34	-0.29	-0.57	-0.78	-1.15	-0.77
% Change	na	na	na		-2,027.3%	87.7%	-99.3%	-35.6%	-48.6%	33.3%
EPS reported	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.20	-0.34	-0.58	-0.79	-1.15	-0.77
% Change	na	na	na		-1,902.8%	84.6%	-71.6%	-34.7%	-46.8%	33.3%
EPS Consensus	na	na	na					-0.7	-1.2	-1.3
Cash flow per share	na	na	na	-0.09	-0.76	-0.24	-0.38	-0.77	-0.84	-0.22
Book value per share	na	na	na	-0.18	7.44	4.88	4.39	3.42	2.19	1.34
DPS	na	na	na	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Number of shares, YE (m)	na	na	na	27.0	24.0	34.8	36.2	37.1	37.1	37.1
Nbr of shares, fully diluted, YE (m)	na	na	na	27.0	24.0	34.8	36.2	37.1	37.1	37.1
Share price										
Latest price / year end	na	na	na	9.9	9.5	4.0	4.9	6.6	6.6	6.6
52 week high	na	na	na	10.0	11.5	9.7	5.6	11.0		
52 week low	na	na	na	9.6	8.8	3.8	3.7	4.6		
Average price (YTD)	na	na	na	9.9	9.8	6.4	4.7	6.6	6.6	6.6
Enterprise value (EURm)										
Market capitalisation	na	na	na	266	234	222	169	243	243	243
Net financial debt	na	na	na	2	-132	-109	-64	69	152	262
Pension provisions	na	na	na	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
IFRS 16 debt	na	na	na	0	0	25	26	26	26	26
Market value of minorities	na	na	na	2	-18	-11	-28	-30	-30	-30
MV of equity affiliates (net of tax)	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterprise value	na	na	na	270	86	128	104	311	394	504
Valuation										
P/E adjusted	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
P/E adjusted and fully diluted	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
P/E consensus	na	na	na					nm	nm	nm
P/BV	na	na	na	nm	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.9	3.0	4.9
P/CF	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Dividend yield (%)	na	na	na	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dividend yield preference shares (%)	na	na	na	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Share buybacks over market cap (%)	na	na	na	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Attributable FCF yield (%)	na	na	na	-1.3%	-14.9%	-7.4%	-32.1%	-60.9%	-95.1%	-106.1%
ROE (%)	na	na	na	False	-64.7%	-5.7%	-12.6%	-20.2%	-41.1%	-43.6%
ROIC (%)	na	na	na	False	-1,174.7%	-55.4%	-43.6%	-22.6%	-19.4%	-9.7%
EV/Sales	na	na	na	25.98	8.53	9.03	5.81	20.40	9.82	4.63
EV/EBITDA adj.	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/EBIT adj.	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/NOPAT	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/IC	na	na	na	nm	5.5	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.9
ROIC/WACC	na	na	na		nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
EV/IC over ROIC/WACC	na	na	na	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm

Income statement

Last model update: 15 September 2026

FY to 31/12 (EUR)	na	na	na	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Sales	na	na	na	10	10	14	18	15	40	109
<i>Sales % Change</i>	na	na	na		-3.0%	40.2%	27.0%	-15.2%	163.3%	171.3%
Gross profit	na	na	na	9	9	13	16	14	36	98
<i>Gross profit margin (%)</i>	na	na	na	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%
EBITDA reported	na	na	na	-2	-16	-18	-21	-23	-29	-1
EBITDA adjusted	na	na	na	-2	-16	-18	-21	-23	-29	-1
EBITDA margin (%)	na	na	na	-19.4%	nm	nm	nm	nm	-71.9%	-1.2%
<i>EBITDA adjusted % Change</i>	na	na	na		-693.4%	-14.7%	-14.3%	-8.4%	-26.7%	95.5%
Depreciation and amortisation	na	na	na	-2	-2	-2	-5	-7	-15	-28
Goodwill impairment	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other financial result and associates	na	na	na	0	-48	0	0	0	0	0
EBIT reported	na	na	na	-4	-65	-21	-26	-30	-44	-29
EBIT adjusted	na	na	na	-4	-65	-21	-26	-30	-44	-29
EBIT margin (%)	na	na	na	-38.3%	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	-27.1%
<i>EBIT adjusted % Change</i>	na	na	na		-1,541.1%	68.3%	-23.8%	-15.8%	-47.1%	32.6%
Net financial items	na	na	na	0	4	11	2	-2	-2	-2
Associates	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	na	na	na	1	2	-2	-1	0	0	0
Earnings before tax	na	na	na	-3	-59	-11	-25	-32	-46	-32
Tax	na	na	na	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Tax rate (%)</i>	na	na	na	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
Net profit from continuing op.	na	na	na	-3	-58	-11	-24	-32	-46	-32
Net profit from disc. activities	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit before minorities	na	na	na	-3	-58	-11	-24	-32	-46	-32
Minorities	na	na	na	0	2	1	3	3	3	3
Net profit reported	na	na	na	-3	-56	-10	-21	-29	-43	-29
Adjustments	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit adjusted	na	na	na	-3	-56	-10	-21	-29	-43	-29
Net profit margin (%)	na	na	na	-28.5%	nm	-70.6%	nm	nm	nm	-26.2%
<i>Net profit adjusted % Change</i>	na	na	na		-1,792.0%	82.2%	-107.3%	-39.0%	-48.6%	33.3%
EPS reported (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.20	-0.34	-0.58	-0.79	-1.15	-0.77
EPS adjusted (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.20	-0.34	-0.58	-0.79	-1.15	-0.77
EPS adj. and fully diluted (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.11	-2.34	-0.29	-0.57	-0.78	-1.15	-0.77
EPS adj. and fully diluted % Change	na	na	na		-2,027.3%	87.7%	-99.3%	-35.6%	-48.6%	33.3%
DPS (EUR)	na	na	na	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>DPS % Change</i>	na	na	na		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Payout ratio (%)</i>	na	na	na	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DPS preference shares (EUR)	na	na	na	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Consensus Sales (EURm)	na	na	na					18	40	82
Consensus EBITDA (EURm)	na	na	na					-21	-24	10
Consensus EBIT (EURm)	na	na	na					-30	-44	-36
Consensus EPS (EUR)	na	na	na					-0.7	-1.2	-1.3

Cash flow statement

Last model update: 15 September 2026

FY to 31/12 (EUR)	na	na	na	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Net profit before minorities	na	na	na	-3	-58	-11	-24	-32	-46	-32
Depreciation and amortisation	na	na	na	2	-4	3	4	7	15	28
Goodwill impairment	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change in working capital	na	na	na	0	-5	5	3	-5	-2	-7
Others	na	na	na	-1	47	-3	2	2	2	2
Levered post tax CF before capex	na	na	na	-2	-19	-7	-14	-28	-31	-8
% Change	na	na	na		-716.5%	64.2%	-94.8%	-108.3%	-10.9%	73.9%
Capex	na	na	na	-1	-16	-10	-41	-120	-200	-250
Capex / Sales (%)	na	na	na	11.2%	154.5%	67.2%	225.8%	787.8%	498.6%	229.8%
Free cash flow	na	na	na	-4	-35	-16	-54	-148	-231	-258
Free cash flow % Change	na	na	na		-886.5%	53.0%	-228.8%	-173.9%	-56.1%	-11.6%
Acquisitions	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divestments	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividend paid	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share buy back	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital increases	na	na	na	4	115	1	0	0	0	0
Others	na	na	na	-3	54	-113	-112	-19	63	89
Change in net financial debt	na	na	na	2	-134	129	167	168	169	170
Change in cash and cash equiv.	na	na	na	False	140	-19	-46	-133	-83	-110
Attributable FCF	na	na	na	-4	-35	-16	-54	-148	-231	-258
Attributable FCF / Net profit(%)	na	na	na	119.7%	62.4%	164.7%	261.3%	514.8%	540.5%	904.8%
Cash flow per share (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.09	-0.76	-0.24	-0.38	-0.77	-0.84	-0.22
% Change	na	na	na		-764.3%	69.0%	-61.3%	-101.7%	-9.6%	73.9%
Attributable FCF per share (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.13	-1.37	-0.56	-1.53	-4.05	-6.24	-6.96
% Change	na	na	na		-944.3%	59.3%	-172.2%	-165.3%	-54.2%	-11.6%

Balance sheet

Last model update: 15 September 2026

FY to 31/12 (EUR)	na	na	na	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Cash and cash equivalents	na	na	na	3	143	124	78	-55	-139	-249
Inventories	na	na	na	0	0	2	3	2	4	11
Accounts receivable	na	na	na	0	3	8	6	3	8	22
Other current assets	na	na	na	9	14	14	16	16	16	16
Current assets	na	na	na	12	161	147	102	-35	-111	-200
Tangible assets	na	na	na	7	19	52	56	169	354	576
Goodwill	na	na	na	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other Intangible assets	na	na	na	4	39	53	80	80	80	80
Financial assets	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other non-current assets	na	na	na	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
Non-current assets	na	na	na	11	63	110	142	256	443	665
Short term debt	na	na	na	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Accounts payable	na	na	na	1	4	10	13	3	8	22
Other short term liabilities	na	na	na	22	18	27	23	41	191	341
Current liabilities	na	na	na	26	24	39	37	45	200	364
Long term debt	na	na	na	2	10	12	12	12	12	12
Pension provisions	na	na	na	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
IFRS16 Debt	na	na	na	0	0	25	26	26	26	26
Other long term provisions	na	na	na	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Other long term liabilities	na	na	na	0	9	8	6	5	5	5
Non-current liabilities	na	na	na	2	22	49	49	50	51	51
Shareholders' equity	na	na	na	-5	178	170	159	127	81	50
Minority interests	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total equity	na	na	na	-5	178	170	159	127	81	51
Balance sheet total	na	na	na	23	224	258	245	222	332	465
% Change	na	na	na		860.1%	15.3%	-5.1%	-9.4%	49.7%	40.1%
Book value per share (EUR)	na	na	na	-0.18	7.44	4.88	4.39	3.42	2.19	1.34
% Change	na	na	na		+chg	-34.4%	-10.2%	-22.0%	-36.1%	-38.9%
Net financial debt	na	na	na	2	-132	-109	-64	69	152	262
IFRS16 Debt	na	na	na	0	0	25	26	26	26	26
Pension provisions	na	na	na	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
Others	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net debt	na	na	na	2	-131	-83	-36	97	181	291
Net fi. debt (+IFRS16) / EBITDA (x)	na	na	na	-1.0	8.2	4.6	1.8	-4.2	-6.2	-222.0
Trade working capital	na	na	na	-1	-1	0	-4	2	4	11
Net working capital	na	na	na	-14	-5	-14	-11	-23	-170	-314
NWC/Sales	na	na	na	-134.3%	-47.6%	-96.6%	-61.0%	-150.5%	-424.9%	-288.2%
Inventories/sales	na	na	na	0.0%	4.1%	15.6%	15.2%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Invested capital	na	na	na	-7	16	41	48	150	188	268
Net fin. debt / FCF (x)	na	na	na	-0.6	3.8	6.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.7	-1.0
Gearing (%)	na	na	na	nm	-74.0%	-64.4%	-40.6%	54.3%	187.6%	518.5%
Goodwill / Equity (%)	na	na	na	0.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.9%	3.2%	6.2%	11.9%

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The investment recommendation(s) referred to in this report was (were) completed on 24/09/2026 at 06:10:01 (GMT) and was first disseminated on 24/09/2026 at 06:12:57 (GMT).

Unless otherwise stated, all prices used and mentioned in this report are aligned with the closing prices of the Market Data Date on the front page of this report.

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Kepler Cheuvreux rating split as of 24 September 2026

Rating Breakdown	A	B
Buy	57%	67%
Hold	33%	29%
Reduce	9%	3%
Not Rated/Under Review/Accept Offer	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Source: Kepler Cheuvreux

A: % of all research recommendations

B: % of issuers to which material services of investment firms are supplied

12 months rating history

The below table shows the history of recommendations and target prices changes issued by KEPLER CHEUVREUX research department (Equity and Credit) over a 12 months period.

Company Name	Date	BusinessLine	Rating	Target Price	Close Price
Arverne (EUR)	22/04/2026 06:31	Equity Research	Buy	7.3	5.72
	15/09/2026 08:51	Equity Research	Buy	9.3	7.16

Credit research does not issue target prices. Left intentionally blank.

Please refer to the following link <https://research.keplercheuvreux.com/disclosure/stock/> for a full list of investment recommendations issued over the last 12 months by the author(s) and contributor(s) of this report on any financial instruments.

Equity research

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