

Monday, 30 October 2023

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Com	panv	Results

Axis REIT (AXRB MK/HOLD/RM1.80/Target: RM1.86)

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3Q23: Results below expectations.

CTOS Digital (CTOS MK/HOLD/RM1.44/Target: RM1.52)

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3Q23: Results in line. Maintain HOLD and target price of RM1.52 as growth catalysts have been reasonably priced in.

Company Update

Ekovest (EKO MK/BUY/RM0.48/Target: RM1.10)

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Latest details from the restructuring are better than expected and enhance earnings accretion

OM Holdings (OMH MK/BUY/RM1.45/Target: RM2.26)

Page 11

9M23 production volume came in within expectations. OMH has successfully adapted another dual-use MetSi furnace to produce FeSi for a production boost.

UOBKH Highlights

CIMB Group (CIMB MK/BUY/RM5.68/ Target: RM6.00)

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3Q23: Aided by cost discipline and lower provisions.

TRADERS' CORNER

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Able Global (ABLE MK): Technical BUY SWS Capital (SWS MK): Technical BUY

KEY INDICES

	Index	pt chg	% chg
FBMKLCI	1,441.90	1.3	0.1
Bursa Emas	10,634.00	2.3	0.0
Ind Product	172.73	0.9	0.5
Finance	16,233.37	(9.4)	(0.1)
Consumer	553.50	2.0	0.4
Construction	186.72	(0.1)	(0.1)
Properties	847.30	(2.0)	(0.2)
Plantations	6,888.85	13.4	0.2

BURSA MALAYSIA TRADING & PARTICIPATION

Malaysia Turnover	27-Oct-23	% chg
Volume (m units)	2,723	(15.8)
Value (RMm)	1,695	(14.7)
By Investor type	(%)	ppt chg
Foreign investors	30.6	(4.7)
Local retail	26.3	0.4
Local institution	43 1	42

TOP TRADING TURNOVER / GAINERS / LOSERS

Chg 5-day ADT

Top Trading Turnover	(RM)		(RM'000)
AirAsia X	1.98	(4.8)	16
AEON Credit	11.48	0.5	1,707
Alliance Bank Malaysia	3.37	0.3	1,393
AMMB Holdings	3.83	0.3	6,550
Astro Malaysia	0.41	0.0	1,103
Top Gainers			
UEM Sunrise	0.82	9.3	30,981
YTL Corp	1.40	5.3	45,091
GD Express Carrier	0.21	5.0	242
Eastern & Orient	0.59	3.5	4,065
MRCB	0.43	2.4	13,170
Top Losers			
Parkson Holdings	0.28	(3.4)	4,871
IOI Properties	1.78	(2.7)	16,670
Axiata Group	2.35	(2.5)	9,599
Yinson	2.40	(2.4)	12,879
Inari Amertron	2.87	(2.4)	20,581
OTHER STATISTICS			
	27-Oct-23	chg	% chg
RM/US\$ CPO 3rd mth future	4.78	(0.01)	(0.2)
or o sid murridude			

Notes:

(RM/mt)

ADT = Average daily turnover.

Top trading turnover, gainers and losers are based on FBM100 component stocks.

3,775

13.0

0.3

Daily



COMPANY RESULTS

Malaysia

Axis REIT (AXRB MK)

3Q23: Results Below Expectations

AXRB's 9M23 core net profit of RM103.6m declined 15% mainly due to lower-thanexpected rental income. Given the recent increase in the 10-year MGS rate to 4.108%, AXRB's forward dividend yield of 4.4-5.0% for the period 2023-25F does not appear as appealing. Downgrade to HOLD. Target price: RM1.86.

3Q23 RESULTS

Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	3Q23	2Q23	qoq % chg	yoy % chg	9M23	yoy % chg
Revenue	71.5	68.1	5.0	0.0	209.3	(0.5)
Property Expenses	(10.7)	(10.3)	4.4	2.1	(32.6)	11.6
Net Property Income	`60.7 [′]	`57.8 [′]	5.1	(0.4)	176.7	(2.4)
Other Income	0.3	0.4	(16.5)	69.3	1.1	83.8
Trust expenses	(8.2)	(9.8)	(17.0)	6.4	(29.7)	28.8
Finance costs	(15.6)	(14.6)	6.9	8.4	(44.6)	18.7
Core PAT	37.3	33.7	10.5	(4.6)	103.6	(14.5)
Core EPU (sen)	2.1	1.9	10.5	(10.1)	6.1	(18.0)
Core DPU (sen)	2.2	2.1	4.9	(12.2)	6.3	(15.8)
<u>Margins</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	+/- ppt chg	+/- ppt chg	<u>%</u>	+/- ppt chg
Net property income	85.0	84.9	0.1	(0.3)	84.4	(1.7)
Core PAT	52.2	49.6	2.6	(2.5)	49.5	(8.1)

Source: Axis REIT, UOB Kay Hian

RESULTS

- Below expectations. Axis REIT (AXRB) reported 3Q23 revenue of RM71.5m (-5% qoq, 0% yoy) and core net profit of RM37.3m (+11% qoq, -5% yoy). Cumulatively, 9M23 core net profit of RM103.6m (-15% yoy) accounted for 62% and 68% of our and consensus' full-year forecasts respectively. The negative deviation was mainly due to lower-than-expected rental income.
- Nonetheless, 3Q23 revenue increased by 5% qoq while net profit increased by 11% qoq on new commencement of tenancy from Bukit Raja Distribution Center 2 as well as new tenancy for Axis Shah Alam Distribution Centre 3 since Aug 23.
- 9M23 core net profit of RM103.6m was arrived at after excluding non-cash items of RM3.9m (mainly on fair value gain of derivatives) from reported net profit of RM107.5m.
- 2.15 sen dividend declared for the quarter. 9M23 dividend of 6.25 sen (9M22: 7.42 sen) represents an annualised yield of 4.6%.

KEY FINANCIALS

Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2021	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	242	282	284	300	315
EBITDA	184	212	204	220	235
Operating profit	183	211	204	219	234
Net profit (rep./act.)	201	188	143	154	164
Net profit (adj.)	138	158	143	154	164
EPU (sen)	9.5	9.6	8.2	8.9	9.4
DPU (sen)	9.5	9.8	7.9	8.5	9.1
PE (x)	19.0	18.7	21.9	20.3	19.1
P/B (x)	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
DPU Yld (%)	5.3	5.4	4.4	4.7	5.0
Net margin (%)	82.8	66.6	50.5	51.4	52.2
Net debt/(cash) to asset (%)	25.8	35.3	36.7	38.8	40.6
Interest cover (x)	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.4
ROE (%)	8.6	7.4	5.5	5.8	6.1
Consensus DPU (sen)	n.a.	n.a.	8.8	9.9	10.5
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	0.90	0.86	0.86

n.m.: not meaningful; negative PE, EV/EBITDA reflected as "n.m."

Source: Axis REIT, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

HOLD

(Downgraded)

Share Price	RM1.80
Target Price	RM1.86
Upside	+3.3%
(Previous TP	RM2.04)

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Axis Real Estate Investment Trust is a real estate investment trust that owns and invests in a portfolio of commercial, office and office/retail real estate located in Malaysia.

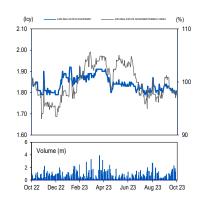
STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Real Estate
Bloomberg ticker:	AXRB MK
Shares issued (m):	1,741.1
Market cap (RMm):	3,133.9
Market cap (US\$m):	656.0
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	0.3

Price Performance (%)

52-week h	igh/low	RM1.92	2/RM1.78	
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
(1.6)	(0.6)	(5.3)	(3.7)	0.6
Major Sh	nareholders		%	
Employees	s Provident Fu		16.2	
Kumpulan	Wang Persar		10.5	
Tabung Ha	aji		5.2	
FY23 NAV/Share (RM)				1.53
FY23 Net Debt/Share (RM)				0.94

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

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TOCK IMPACT

- 9M23 revenue was largely flattish as termination of lease agreement with Yongnam Engineering was partly offset by new commencement of tenancy from Bukit Raja Distribution Center 2. As at 3Q23, occupancy stood at 92% (2Q23: 89%; 3Q22: 95%).
- NPI margin was also lower. 9M23 net property income (NPI) margin fell 1.7ppt to 84.4% on higher opex (+11.6% yoy) mainly due to higher one-off building expenses for the portfolio in 1H23 (which we estimate to be around RM2m). Additionally, there were increases in trust expenses (+28.8% yoy) mainly due to higher provision of doubtful debt (about RM5.3m) from rental default on one of its tenants (Yongnam Engineering) as well as higher financing cost (+18.7%), which contributed to 15% decline in PAT. Excluding the one-off building expenses and provision of doubtful debt, we estimate PAT to decline about 8% (from higher financing cost). Net gearing stood at 34.6%.
- However, we expect a better 4Q23 on full quarter contribution from Bukit Raja Distribution Center 2. The Bukit Raja Distribution Centre 2 development project was successfully handed over to Shopee Express Malaysia and rental has commenced since 1 Aug 23 with starting rental of RM1.35m per month or RM16.2m annually (which translates to gross yield of 6.5% on RM250m development cost including land). The recently announced acquisition in Sendayan Tech Valley (with purchase price of RM48m) is expected to be completed in 1H24 with RM3m rental income annually (6.5% gross yield). ARXB also received an acceptance of Letter of Offer to acquire a hypermarket for RM25.8m located in Temerloh, Pahang (we estimate rental income to be RM1.7m annually assuming 6.5% gross yield).

EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

 We cut our net profit forecast by largely 14% for 2023-25F to account for lower rental income.

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

Downgrade to HOLD with a lower target price of RM1.86 (from RM2.04) as we cut our earnings base. Our target price is based on a dividend discount model (required rate of return: 7.3%, terminal growth: 1.7%) with an implied yield of 4.9%. Given the recent increase in the 10-year MGS rate to 4.108%, AXRB's forward dividend yield of 4.4-5.0% for the period 2023-25F does not appear as appealing with its yield spread now reaching -2SD below to five-year historical mean of 1.47ppt.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG) UPDATES

Environmental

- Total energy consumption and GHG emissions decreased by 10% in 2022 when compared to the 2019 baseline year.
- Received provisional GreenRE Gold-certification for Bukit Raja Distribution Centre 2 development and provisional GreenRE Silver-certification for Axis Facility 2 @ Bukit Raja.
- Acquired DW1 Logistics Warehouse, which is a GBI-certified building.

Social

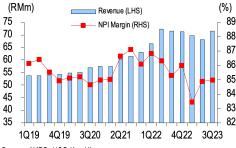
- Annual allocation of RM150,000 by the Manager to support qualified employees' children in furthering their education.
- CSR budget in 2022 was around RM193,000, and this was channeled for Health services for children with disabilities at IQ70+ and Ambulance donation to St John Ambulance of Malaysia.

Governance

- In addition to the Board Charter and the Code of Conduct, the company has a Whistle-Blowing Policy and an Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy.
- Independent Directors made up the majority of the Board and this complies with the requirements prescribed under the SC's Guidelines on Listed REITs.
- A participant member of GRESB, a widely-recognised, international ESG benchmark used by investors, developers and property managers globally, measures the sustainability performance of a company's assets and provides a comparative analysis against industry peers.

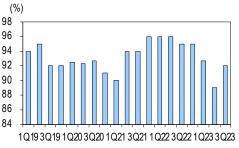
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REVENUE AND NPI MARGIN



Source: AXRB, UOB Kay Hian

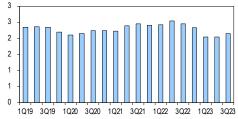
OCCUPANCY RATE



Source: AXRB, UOB Kay Hian

DIVIDEND PER UNIT

DPU (sen)



Source: AXRB, UOB Kay Hian

ASSUMPTIONS

	2023F	2024F	2025F
Portfolio Occupancy (%)	93	94	95
Blended rental step-up (%)	-1.2	+1.0	+1.5

Source: UOB Kay Hian

FORWARD YIELD SPREAD



Source: Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian



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PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	282	284	300	315	Fixed assets	4,186	4,395	4,505	4,614
EBITDA	212	204	220	235	Other LT assets	2	2	2	2
Deprec. & amort.	1	1	1	1	Cash/ST investment	44	52	24	41
EBIT	211	204	219	234	Other current assets	24	32	30	31
Associate contributions	0	0	0	0	Total assets	4,255	4,481	4,561	4,688
Net interest income/(expense)	(53)	(60)	(65)	(70)	ST debt	813	963	1,063	1,213
Pre-tax profit	189	143	154	164	Other current liabilities	55	55	58	61
Tax	(2)	0	0	0	LT debt	733	733	733	733
Minorities	0	0	0	0	Other LT liabilities	83	68	31	(9)
Net profit	188	143	154	164	Shareholders' equity	2,572	2,662	2,676	2,690
Net profit (adj.)	158	143	154	164	Minority interest	0	0	0	0
					Total liabilities & equity	4,255	4,481	4,561	4,688
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (%)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Operating	228	166	190	198	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	158	143	154	164	EBITDA margin	75.2	71.9	73.3	74.6
Tax	0	0	0	0	Pre-tax margin	67.2	50.5	51.4	52.2
Deprec. & amort.	1	1	1	1	Net margin	66.6	50.5	51.4	52.2
Working capital changes	17	(8)	5	2	ROA	4.6	3.3	3.4	3.6
Other operating cashflows	53	30	30	31	ROE	7.4	5.5	5.8	6.1
Investing	(537)	(210)	(110)	(110)					
Capex (growth)	(57)	(10)	(10)	(10)	Growth				
Investments	(487)	(200)	(100)	(100)	Turnover	16.2	0.8	5.7	4.8
Others	7	0	0	0	EBITDA	15.0	(3.6)	7.8	6.7
Financing	163	58	(107)	(71)	Pre-tax profit	(7.4)	(24.3)	7.6	6.5
Distribution to unitholders	(157)	(132)	(142)	(151)	Net profit	(6.5)	(23.6)	7.6	6.5
Issue of shares	11	100	0	0	Net profit (adj.)	14.8	(9.4)	7.6	6.5
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0	0	0	EPU	1.6	(14.6)	7.6	6.5
Loan repayment	360	150	100	150	0		()		0.0
Others/interest paid	(52)	(60)	(65)	(70)	Leverage				
Net cash inflow (outflow)	(147)	14	(28)	16	Debt to total capital	37.5	38.9	40.2	42.0
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	185	38	52	24	Debt to total capital Debt to asset				
Changes due to forex impact	5	0	0	0	Net debt/(cash) to asset	36.3	37.8	39.4	41.5
Ending cash & cash equivalent	44	52	24	41	ואבו עפטוי(נמטוו) וני מטטפו	35.3	36.7	38.8	40.6



COMPANY RESULTS

CTOS Digital (CTOS MK)

3Q23: Results Within Expectations; Growth Adequately Priced In

CTOS' 3Q23 core net profit of RM29.2m was largely in line, fueled by yoy improving Malaysia operations as momentum ramps up across all three business segments, and stronger associate contribution. While we anticipate CTOS to continue charting earnings growth driven by better services penetration, customer base expansion and synergies with associates, we maintain our view that these have been fairly priced in. Maintain HOLD. Target price: RM1.52.

3Q23 RESULTS

Year to 31 Dec	3Q23	qoq %	yoy %	9M23	yoy %
(RMm)		chg	chg		chg
Revenue	66.5	6.8	25.7	188.3	32.6
Key Accounts	29.7	7.2	47.2	83.1	55.5
Commercial	30.9	6.9	7.8	88.4	14.1
Direct-to-business	5.8	3.7	46.3	16.8	50.6
International B2B	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	n.a.
Gross Profit	50.7	6.3	11.6	146.0	21.0
EBITDA	23.6	(9.0)	(4.0)	73.3	20.1
PBT	30.4	16.6	10.1	78.4	17.1
Tax Expense	(6.1)	22.7	24.9	(16.4)	77.0
Net Profit	24.3	15.2	7.0	62.1	7.5
Core Net Profit	29.2	14.6	10.8	75.5	17.1
Margins	(%)	qoq ppt chg	yoy ppt chg	(%)	yoy ppt chg
EBITDA	35.5	(6.2)	(11.0)	38.9	(4.1)
PBT	45.8	3.9	(6.5)	41.7	(5.5)
Core net profit	44.0	3.0	(5.9)	40.1	(5.3)

Source: CTOS DIgital Berhad, UOB Kay Hian

RESULTS

- Within expectations. CTOS Digital's (CTOS) 3Q23 core net profit came in at RM29.2m (+10.8% yoy, +24.6% qoq), excluding RM4.9m in exceptional items. 9M23 core net profit accounted for 71% and 72% of our and consensus full-year estimates respectively.
- **Declared third interim dividend of 0.64 sen.** The group has announced a third interim dividend of 0.64 sen, bringing 9M23 dividend to 1.62 sen. This represents a payout ratio of 60% and is in line with the group's minimum dividend policy of 60%.

KEY FINANCIALS

Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2021	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	153	195	238	285	343
EBITDA	47	62	86	105	127
Operating profit	51	67	91	109	132
Net profit (rep./act.)	43	71	106	125	149
Net profit (adj.)	55	71	106	125	149
EPS (sen)	2.5	3.1	4.6	5.4	6.5
PE (x)	58.0	46.6	31.5	26.5	22.3
P/B (x)	10.3	6.5	6.1	5.6	5.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	72.9	55.8	40.0	32.9	27.1
Dividend yield (%)	0.8	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.7
Net margin (%)	28.1	36.7	44.3	44.0	43.6
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	(5.6)	25.3	22.2	12.8	3.1
Interest cover (x)	9.1	16.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
ROE (%)	20.6	17.5	20.0	22.1	24.1
Consensus net profit	-	-	105	123	147
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	1.00	1.02	1.02

Source: CTOS Digital Berhad, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

HOLD

(Maintained)

Share Price	RM1.44
Target Price	RM1.52
Upside	+5.6%

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

CTOS is mainly involved in the business of credit reporting, digital software-related services, software development, outsourcing and training services, and investment holding. It also facilitates credit extension and commercialises credit risk management

STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Industrials
Bloomberg ticker:	CTOS MK
Shares issued (m):	2,310.0
Market cap (RMm):	3,326.4
Market cap (US\$m):	696.3
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	0.9

Price Performance (%)

52-week h	igh/low	RM1.5	7/RM1.27	
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
2.9	4.3	2.9	7.5	1.4
Major Sh	nareholder		%	
Jade Vine	Sdn Bhd		18.4	
Employee	s Provident F		11.5	
Abrdn Ass	et Managem		5.6	
FY23 NAV	//Share (RM)		0.24	
FY23 Net	Debt/Share ((RM)		0.05

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

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• Revenue and profit improved 6.8% and 14.6% qoq respectively. In 3Q23, CTOS recorded commendable revenue of RM66.5m (+25.7% yoy, +6.8% qoq), mainly reflecting strong growth for all three business segments in its Malaysian operations as well as impressive international operations. The earnings growth also reflects better demand of CTOS Data Systems reports and comprehensive portfolio review and analytics services within the key accounts and commercial customers' segments. On a qoq basis, bottom line grew 14.6% qoq due to the higher net margin and stronger contribution from share of associates (+24.7% qoq), aided by discipline cost control.

STOCK IMPACT

- Recent three acquisitions and partnership synergistic... With the recent acquisitions and
 partnership, CTOS is paving its way to become an established multinational platform with
 comprehensive data analytics and performance insights. The acquisition of Prime Analytics
 and Finscore as well as strategic partnership with FICO are deemed to enhance CTOS'
 ability to penetrate and address the emerging digital lending space in Philippines, Indonesia
 and Thailand, besides strengthening its core business with strong synergies that will be
 realised moving forward.
- ... and bridging the gap for ASEAN's underserved and unbanked population. Within ASEAN, Indonesia and Philippines are among the countries that have the lowest household debt vs GDP per capita ratio at <20% of GDP. This is opposed to Malaysia and Thailand at >75%. Meanwhile, the Indonesia and Philippines markets are also largely underbanked, with unbanked population at 81% and 75% respectively, making it difficult for lenders to evaluate consumers' new loans application with traditional methods. As such, we deem that the recent acquisition of Prime Analytics and Finscore is able to help CTOS further penetrate into these underserved countries and provide analytics for lenders to limit the potentially high credit risk within these underserved market segments.
- Credit growth moderation resumes, but well-weathered by CTOS' inelastic business model. Malaysia's loans growth sustained its downward momentum and declined to 4.1% in Aug 23 (July: 4.2%) on slower working capital loans growth. Nevertheless, CTOS' products and digital solutions are counter-cyclical in nature and widely utilised in assessing counterparty risk and creditworthiness during periods of economic expansion or recessions. Furthermore, a big chunk of the company's business is habitually recurring income (>75% for key accounts). As such, we believe that CTOS will chart strong revenue growth of 20-22% in 2023-25, riding on more activations and income pulls for its various business analytic and credit assessment solutions.

EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

No changes.

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

 Maintain HOLD and target price of RM1.52. Our target price implies 28x 2023F PE (industry's five-year mean). We still reckon that CTOS is well-positioned to be the direct proxy to growing demand for Malaysia's credit reporting industry, but current risk-reward appears neutral at this juncture.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG) UPDATES

Environmental

- No environmental issues which may materially impact biodiversity or climate change in any significant way.

Social

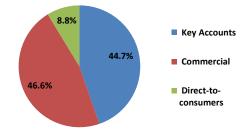
- Conducted over 200 financial education roadshows for Malaysia's consumers.

Governance

- Comprehended and applied Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance (MCCG).

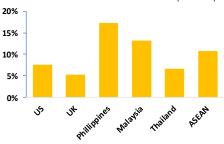
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REVENUE BY SEGMENT (3Q23)



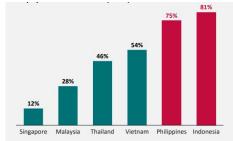
Source: CTOS, UOB Kay Hian

CREDIT REPORTING INDUSTRY CAGR (2023-25)



Source: IDC Malaysia, CTOS, UOB Kay Hian

UNBANKED AND UNDERBANKED AS % OF POPULATION IN ASEAN (2022)



Source: CTOS, Bain & Company, Temasek, Google

MALAYSIA TOTAL LOANS GROWTH



Source: BNM, UOB Kay Hian



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PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	195	238	285	343	Fixed assets	16	26	25	25
EBITDA	62	86	105	127	Other LT assets	657	658	659	659
Deprec. & amort.	(5)	(5)	(5)	(4)	ST debt	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
EBIT	67	91	109	132	Cash/ST investment	11	18	64	119
Associate contributions	23	20	23	26	Other current assets	47	56	66	77
Net interest income/(expense)	(4)	0	0	0	Total assets	731	758	813	880
Pre-tax profit	85	111	132	157	Other current liabilities	70	62	70	80
Tax	(14)	(6)	(7)	(8)	LT debt	139	139	139	139
Minorities	0	0	0	0	Other LT liabilities	2	2	2	2
Net profit	71	106	125	149	Shareholders' equity	510	545	591	648
Net profit (adj.)	71	106	125	149	Total liabilities & equity	731	758	813	880
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (%)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Operating	82	106	125	149	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	85	111	132	157	EBITDA margin	31.7	36.2	36.7	37.1
Tax	(14)	(6)	(7)	(8)	Pre-tax margin	43.8	46.6	46.3	45.9
Deprec. & amort.	8	5	5	4	Net margin	36.7	44.3	44.0	43.6
Associates	(23)	(20)	(23)	(26)	ROA	13.1	14.2	16.0	17.6
Working capital changes	(2)	(3)	(2)	(3)	ROE	17.5	20.0	22.1	24.1
Non-cash items	13	19	21	24					
Investing	(359)	(35)	(5)	(5)	Growth				
Capex (growth)	(13)	(5)	(5)	(5)	Tumover	27.2	22.4	19.7	20.1
Investments	(336)	(30)	0	0	EBITDA	30.7	39.4	21.5	21.3
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	0	0	0	Pre-tax profit	61.2	30.2	18.8	19.0
Others	(11)	0	0	0	Net profit	65.8	47.8	18.8	19.0
Financing	271	(63)	(75)	(90)	Net profit (adj.)	30.9	47.8	18.8	19.0
Dividend payments	(42)	(63)	(75)	(90)	EPS	24.7	47.8	18.8	19.0
Proceeds from borrowings	224	0	0	0					
Loan repayment	(74)	0	0	0	Leverage				
Others/interest paid	163	0	0	0	Debt to total capital	21.5	20.4	19.1	17.7
Net cash inflow (outflow)	(6)	8	46	55	Debt to equity	27.4	25.6	23.6	21.5
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	17	11	18	64	Net debt/(cash) to equity	25.3	22.2	12.8	3.1
Changes due to forex impact	0	0	0	0	Interest cover (x)	16.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ending cash & cash equivalent	11	18	64	119				******	



COMPANY UPDATE

Ekovest (EKO MK)

Latest Details From Restructuring Enhance Earnings Accretion

The latest details of the restructuring involve a lower acquisition price (for land acquisition of TOD 2 & 3 and Credence), resulting in reduced dilution and making it more earnings-accretive for Ekovest. There are no changes to our earnings and target price pending completion of the exercise. Maintain BUY. Target price: RM1.10.

WHAT'S NEW

 Recall that on 27 Sept 23, Tan Sri Lim Kang Hoo (TSLKH), who is a major shareholder of Ekovest Bhd (Ekovest), Knusford Bhd (Knusford), Iskandar Waterfront Holdings (IWH) and Iskandar Waterfront City (IWC), proposed to streamline its businesses under an enlarged Ekovest. Following this, on 27 Oct 23, all respective companies involved announced the details of the proposal, as compiled in Table 1 (see the back).

COMMENT

Positive on the proposal. As mentioned in our <u>initiation report</u>, we are positive on the restructuring proposal as Ekovest after restructuring will have a stronger asset portfolio and vast strategic landbank. The new details of the restructuring involve a lower acquisition price (for land in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) 2 & 3, as well as the Credence acquisition), resulting in reduced dilution (9% vs 15% in old assumption) and making it more earnings-accretive for Ekovest.

EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

No changes to our earnings pending completion of the restructuring.

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

- Maintain BUY with an unchanged target price of RM1.10, based on a 50% discount to its SOTP of RM2.21, which is largely anchored by the valuation of its highways. We hold an optimistic view on the company's outlook, riding on the potential monetisation of its DUKE highways as well as the rising vibrancy of the Johor property market (through its access of IWC-IWH landbanks and TOD 2 & 3 near RTS Bukit Chagar).
- We estimate our new theoretical target price after the restructuring under the new
 assumption to be RM1.68 (vs RM1.32 under the old assumption) after considering higher
 value accretion from TOD 2 & 3 (new NPV of RM792m vs RM660m), higher Ekovest stake
 in IWC-IWH (leading to higher earnings/value recognition) as well as lower dilution from
 lower acquisition price.

KEY FINANCIALS

Year to 30 Jun (RMm)	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	809	1,117	1,209	1,220	1,093
EBITDA	241	304	341	420	431
Operating profit	180	237	272	352	363
Net profit (rep./act.)	(124)	(111)	(85)	(41)	(37)
Net profit (adj.)	(90)	(26)	20	64	68
EPS (sen)	(3.0)	(0.9)	0.7	2.2	2.3
PE (x)	n.m.	n.m.	72.6	22.2	21.0
P/B (x)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	34.7	27.5	24.6	20.0	19.4
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net margin (%)	(15.4)	(9.9)	(7.1)	(3.3)	(3.4)
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	269.8	280.2	260.5	257.9	259.0
Interest cover (x)	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.9
ROE (%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Consensus net profit	-	-	20	64	68
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	0.98	1.00	1.00

Source: Ekovest Berhad, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

n.m.: not meaningful; negative P/E, EV/EBITDA reflected as "n.m."

BUY

(Maintained)

Share Price RM0.48
Target Price RM1.10
Upside +130.1%

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

A conglomerate with exposure in construction, property development, highway concessionaires and plantation operations.

STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Industrials
Bloomberg ticker:	EKO MK
Shares issued (m):	2,965.4
Market cap (RMm):	1,423.4
Market cap (US\$m):	297.9
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	6.4

Price Performance (%)

52-week high/low			RM0.590	/RM0.310
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
(14.3)	14.3	28.0	43.3	41.2
Major Sh		%		
Tan Sri Da	to' Lim Kang		28.01	
Norges Ba	nk		4.58	
Khoo Char	ng Chiang		3.51	
FY24 NAV	/Share (RM)		0.79	
FY24 Net I	Debt/Share (2.07	

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

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ESSENTIALS

TABLE 1: CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS

Proposals	Old Assumption	(based on latest announcement)
Proposal 1: Knusford to acquire	We make no valuation assumption on	Knusford to acquire ECSB for RM450m
Ekovest Construction Sdn Bhd	the Ekovest side since Knusford is the	(indicative P/E of 13-14x). Ekovest's
(ECSB), Ekovest's wholly-owned	acquirer. We understand Ekovest was	estimated effective stake in the
construction arm, through	guided to own an effective stake of at	Knusford-Ekovest Construction entity
issuance of new Knusford shares	least 65% in the Knusford-Ekovest	would be around 65-66% which is well
with an issue price of RM0.60	Construction merged entity.	within management's earlier guidance.
apiece.		

Proposal 2: Ekovest to acquire We assume purchase price of Total purchase price of RM310m 15.82 acres of land along the RM500m, equivalent to RM725psf. (RM210m for TOD 2's 6.18 acres land or alignment of RTS Bukit Chagar TOD 2 & 3 are expected to yield NPV RM780psf; RM100m for TOD 3's 9.64 for potential TOD 2 & 3 through of RM660m assuming a five-year acres land or RM238psf) implies a issuance of new shares in development period with GDV of RM5b, blended purchase price of RM450psf, Ekovest at RM0.60 per share. net margin of 20%, 80% take-up rate 38% cheaper than our initial and WACC of 5.9%. We estimate assumption. TOD 2 & 3 are expected to Ekovest to issue 833m new shares yield NPV of RM792m assuming a five-

based on share price of RM0.60.

Proposal 3: Ekovest to acquire We estimate Ekovest to acquire Ekovest to acquire Credence at at least 51% and up to 70% of Credence at RM1.3b with a 51% RM1.15b with a 70% stake, hence the the issued share capital of stake. Based on IWH's net asset value implied 100% value of Credence is Credence (currently 100% owned of RM4b as of end-21 (which already RM1.64b (36% cheaper than our initial by TSLKH and family) through includes its 34%-owned IWC), we assumption). Ekovest is expected to issuance of new shares in value Credence at RM2.56b (as have a 37% stake in the merged IWC-Credence owns 63% of IWH). This IWH, equivalent to RM16.69psf proposal will allow Ekovest to have a purchase price for a 37% stake in 27% stake in IWC-IWH. Assuming a IWC-IWH with a 4,212-acre landbank. RM1.3b purchase value, we estimate We estimate Ekovest to issue 1.9b Ekovest is only paying RM26.04psf new shares based on share price of for a 27% stake in IWC-IWH with a RM0.60. 4,212-acre landbank. We estimate

acre landbank.

Ekovest at RM0.60 per share.

Proposal 4: IWC to acquire IWH We estimate IWC to acquire IWH No change in assumption. According IWC to issue 4.8b new shares, hence assessment,

Ekovest to issue 2.17b new shares based on share price of RM0.60.

and all its direct subsidiaries based on IWH's net asset value to announcement, the IWC-IWH merger through issuance of new shares (RM3.8b). This would mean IWC is deal will need an extension of 3 months in IWC at RM0.80 per share. The only paying RM26.90psf for IWH's with an option for an additional 3-month merged entity will have a 4,212- 3,250-acre landbank. We estimate extension to allow for thorough evaluation. the total enlarged shares will be 5.7b. negotiations on the binding heads of agreement. This is in line with our expectations, as we understand that a merger deal of the size of IWC-IWH typically requires more time to materialise

Source: Respective companies, UOB Kay Hian

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)

- Implementation of ISO14001:2015 on environmental management system.
- No material accident and injury reported in the workplace during the year.

Governance

- Five of its nine directors are independent directors.

Monday, 30 October 2023

SOTP

New Assumption

(based on latest announcement)

year development period with GDV of

RM5b, net margin of 24% (cost saving

from cheaper purchase price), 80%

take-up rate and WACC of 5.9%. We estimate Ekovest to issue 517m new shares based on share price of RM0.60.

Segment	Stake	Fair Value (RMm)	Remarks
Property			
development	100%	766.0	RNAV
Construction	100%	972.8	10x FY24 PE
Duke 1&2	60%	4,557.0	DCF to concenssion expiry, 5.5% WACC
Duke 3	100%	5,170.1	DCF to concenssion expiry, 6.6% WACC
Plantation	62%	204.6	Book value
Enterprise Value		11,670.4	
(-) Net debt		(5,120.5)	End-FY23
Equity Value		6,549.9	
Enlarged no. of shares (mil shares)		2,965.4	After the latest private placement
Equity Value/share		2.21	
Discount		50%	
Target Price (RM)		1.10	

^{*} Net debt took out 40% of RM2.4b debt from DUKE Phase 1 and Phase 2 (40% owned by EPF)

PREVIOUS THEREOTICAL SOTP AFTER CORPORATE EXERCISE UNDER OLD ASSUMPTION

Segment	<u>Stake</u>	Fair Value (RMm)	Remarks
Property development	100%	766.0	RNAV
Construction/Knusford	65%	671.5	10x FY24 PE
Duke 1&2	60%	4,557.0	DCF to concenssion expiry, 5.5% WACC
Duke 3	100%	5,170.1	DCF to concenssion expiry, 6.6% WACC
Plantation	62%	204.6	Book value
TOD 2 & 3	100%	660.3	NPV based on GDV of RM5b, 20% net profit margin, 5.9% WACC
IWH-IWC	27%	4,320.0	After tax net realisable value of RM16b (100% basis)
Enterprise Value		16,349.4	
(-) Net debt		(5,120.49)	End-FY23
Equity Value		11,228.9	
Enlarged no. of shares (mil shares)		5,973.4	
Equity Value per share	<u>.</u>	1.88	_
Discount	·	30%	
Target Price (RM)		1.32	

Source: Ekovest, UOB Kay Hian

NEW THEREOTICAL SOTP AFTER CORPORATE EXERCISE UNDER NEW ASSUMPTION

Segment	Stake	Fair Value (RMm)	<u>Remarks</u>
Property development	100%	766.0	RNAV
Construction/Knusford	65%	671.5	10x FY24 PE
Duke 1&2	60%	4,557.0	DCF to concenssion expiry, 5.5% WACC
Duke 3	100%	5,170.1	DCF to concenssion expiry, 6.6% WACC
Plantation	62%	204.6	Book value
TOD 2 & 3	100%	792.4	NPV based on GDV of RM5b, 24% net profit margin, 5.9% WACC
IWH-IWC	37%	5,920.0	After tax net realisable value of RM16b (100% basis)
Enterprise Value		18,081.5	
(-) Net debt		(5,120.5)	End-FY23
Equity Value		12,961.0	
Enlarged no. of shares (mil shares)		5,395.4	
Equity Value per share		2.40	
Discount		30%	
Target Price (RM)		1.68	

Source: Ekovest, UOB Kay Hian

Source: Ekovest, UOB Kay Hian



Monday, 30 October 2023

PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 30 Jun (RMm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 30 Jun (RMm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	1,117	1,209	1,220	1,093	Fixed assets	1,369	1,370	1,372	1,370
EBITDA	304	341	420	431	Other LT assets	8,688	8,653	8,618	8,583
Deprec. & amort.	67	68	68	68	Cash/ST investment	20	181	101	88
EBIT	237	272	352	363	Other current assets	1,308	1,172	1,134	1,086
Associate contributions	0	0	0	0	Total assets	11,386	11,376	11,225	11,127
Net interest income/(expense)	(247)	(240)	(232)	(226)	ST debt	568	631	607	598
Pre-tax profit	(10)	32	119	137	Other current liabilities	895	996	1,108	1,100
Tax	(99)	(114)	(137)	(142)	LT debt	5,910	5,682	5,462	5,385
Minorities	(2)	(4)	(23)	(32)	Other LT liabilities	1,216	1,216	1,216	1,216
Net profit	(111)	(85)	(41)	(37)	Shareholders' equity	2,305	2,355	2,314	2,277
Net profit (adj.)	(26)	20	64	68	Minority interest	491	495	518	550
					Total liabilities & equity	11,386	11,376	11,225	11,127
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 30 Jun (RMm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 30 Jun (%)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Operating	507	224	200	104	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	(10)	32	119	137	EBITDA margin	27.2	28.2	34.4	39.5
Tax	(9)	(114)	(137)	(142)	Pre-tax margin	(0.9)	2.7	9.8	12.6
Deprec. & amort.	67	68	68	68	Net margin	(9.9)	(7.1)	(3.3)	(3.4)
Associates	0	0	0	0	ROA	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Working capital changes	194	237	150	40	ROE	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other operating cashflows	265	0	0	0					
Investing	(83)	(34)	(35)	(32)	Growth				
Capex (growth)	(332)	(34)	(35)	(32)	Tumover	38.1	8.3	0.9	(10.4)
Proceeds from sale of assets	5	0	0	0	EBITDA	26.0	12.0	23.2	2.8
Others	244	0	0	0	Pre-tax profit	n.a.	n.a.	269.7	15.2
Financing	(427)	(30)	(245)	(85)	Net profit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dividend payments	0	0	0	0	Net profit (adj.)	n.a.	n.a.	227.1	5.8
Issue of shares	0	135	0	0	EPS	n.a.	n.a.	227.1	5.8
Proceeds from borrowings	(429)	(165)	(245)	(85)					
Others/interest paid	2	0	0	0	Leverage				
Net cash inflow (outflow)	(4)	160	(80)	(13)	Debt to total capital	69.8	68.9	68.2	67.9
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	24	20	181	101	Debt to equity	281.0	268.1	262.3	262.8
Changes due to forex impact	0	0	0	0	Net debt/(cash) to equity	280.2	260.5	257.9	259.0
Ending cash & cash equivalent	20	181	101	88	Interest cover (x)	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.9



COMPANY UPDATE

OM Holdings (OMH MK)

9M23 Production Within Expectations; Awaiting More Clarity On MetSi Production

OMH's 9M23 production output is in line with our expectations, as operations have gradually recovered amid ongoing major maintenance work. We anticipate even stronger production in 2H23, as the group has successfully converted another MetSi furnace to FeSi. OMH could see a meaningful rebound in 2024 on the reversal of US interest rate cycle alongside expansion of capacity. Maintain BUY with a lower target price of RM2.26.

WHAT'S NEW

- Ferroalloy production is expected to improve... 3Q23 production volumes of ferrosilicon (FeSi) and manganese (Mn) alloy improved to 39,296mt (+32% qoq) and 86,934mt (+23% qoq) respectively. The strong production improvement in both FeSi and Mn alloys was due to an increase in furnace operation from 14 to 15 units following the conversion of its dualuse silicon metals (MetSi) furnace, higher utilisation rate and higher production capacity being allocated to produce high carbon ferromanganese, HCFeMn (a product with higher daily output). As at end-September, 15 out of its 16 furnaces were in operation (seven FeSi and eight Mn alloy). The remaining FeSi furnace was shut down for scheduled major maintenance. For the operating FeSi furnaces, one is scheduled to commence major maintenance in 4Q23, while the other two are scheduled for 2025 after further assessment on the furnace condition.
- ...with the new expanded capacity. In 3Q23, OM Holdings (OMH) successfully adapted another dual-use silicon metals (MetSi) furnace to produce FeSi (total: two MetSi furnaces to produce FeSi). The furnace has entered production phase and is expected to provide an additional capacity of 23,000mt/year to bring OMH's total production to 176,000mt/year. The rationale behind the conversion is to minimise overhead costs while generating earnings at the same time. OMH has the flexibility to convert its furnace to different metals and alloys, with a conversion period as short as six months.
- Ferroalloy: Still not out of the woods. In 3Q23, prices of FeSi and Mn alloy were range-bound at US\$1,360-1,400/mt and US\$935-945/mt respectively, given the slow recovery of the steel market. Prices were mainly pressured by: a) the fear of recession, b) soft demand from steel mills, and c) elevated global power costs and weak sentiment in the current rising rates environment. According to the International Manganese Institute, world crude steel production during July and August 2023 was 319.4m tonnes, which represented an increase of 2.4% as compared with the same corresponding period in 2022. We expect prices to improve gradually in 2024 as demand recovers following the reversal of the US interest rate cycle.

KEY FINANCIALS

Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2021	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	3,510	3,854	3,296	3,990	4,620
EBITDA	601	643	277	387	524
Operating profit	429	521	156	218	356
Net profit (rep./act.)	277	305	92	209	322
Net profit (adj.)	341	348	92	209	322
EPS (sen)	46.2	47.1	12.4	28.3	43.7
PE (x)	3.6	3.5	13.3	5.8	3.8
P/B (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
Dividend yield (%)	5.5	2.7	0.7	1.6	2.5
Net margin (%)	7.9	7.9	2.8	5.2	7.0
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	62.5	50.9	48.7	32.1	15.9
Interest cover (x)	9.0	7.7	2.8	5.8	8.5
ROE (%)	16.0	17.8	5.0	10.7	14.7

Source: OMH, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

BUY

(Maintained)

Share Price	RM1.45
Target Price	RM2.26
Upside	+55.9%
(Previous TP	RM2.95)

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

ASX-listed OM Holdings is a manganese and silicon smelting company, with vertical exposure in mining and trading. It is engaged in the business of trading raw ores, smelting and marketing of processed ferroalloys (manganese alloys and ferrosilicon). Its smelting plants in Sarawak operate using low-cost sustainable energy – hydropower.

STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Materials
Bloomberg ticker:	OMH MK
Shares issued (m):	738.6
Market cap (RMm):	1,071.0
Market cap (US\$m):	224.2
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	0.0

Price Performance (%)

52-week high/low			RM2.64/RM1.45			
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD		
(4.0)	(17.6)	(26.8)	(23.7)	(31.0)		
Major S	hareholder		%			
Huang Ga	ang		14.0			
Amplewoo	od Resource		13.6			
Low Ngee	Tong			9.2		
FY23 NAV	//Share (RM))		2.53		
FY23 Net	Debt/Share (RM)		1.23		

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

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• Update on MetSi furnace. Recall that in Jan 23, OMH announced that it had successfully converted one of its FeSi furnaces to produce MetSi. However, there are technical issues being addressed during the commissioning process, including challenges related to yield and recovery, as OMH has no prior experience with MetSi (recall that OMH took about a year for commissioning of FeSi). On a positive note, OMH did manage to achieve the target grade of 5-5-3 MetSi (around 98.5% purity) during its short initial commissioning phase, and are striving to produce an even higher grade of 4-4-1 MetSi (around 99% purity), which has superior purity and higher ASP. Currently, both of the dual-use MetSi furnaces have already been converted into production of FeSi and management targets to recommence the hot commission of the two furnaces for the production of silicon metal in 1Q24.

STOCK IMPACT

- Favourable structural supply-demand dynamics may have yet to be fully reflected in OMH's share price as rising global energy prices have widened the cost differential gap between OMH and other fossil-fuel dependent smelters. This gives OMH significant low-cost advantage due to its long-term access to 350MW of inexpensive hydropower in Sarawak. Generally, electricity accounts for 40% of smelting cost. For OMH, we estimate electricity costs at US\$0.04-0.06/kwhr, with a 1.5-2.5% p.a. escalation; this places OMH in the lowest quartile for production costs (fifth-largest FeSi producer, ex-China). Comparable global smelters run at a cost that can be 2-3x higher.
- Diversification of product offerings to capture further growth potential. OMH is diversifying into MetSi in order to deliver higher value-added products. It aims to produce the highest grade (98-99% purity level) it possibly can as silicon metal commands higher margins. It is used in different industries based on the level of contaminants and is typically used for manufacturing microchips, steel and solar cells. This marks OMH's first step in diversifying into the aluminium, chemicals and solar downstream industries. Depending on the grade and region sold, MetSi prices are currently hovering at US\$1,900-2,235/mt vs historical average of around US\$2,245/mt. The price trajectory and cost structure are similar to FeSi. The only major difference is that it requires 40-50% more in terms of power intensity.
- Flexibility of conversion of furnace. OMH's decision to convert its furnaces will be based on profitability and long-term outlooks for each alloy. Management believes that Mn alloys and MetSi would generate higher returns per furnace compared to FeSi. The furnaces' flexibility allows for potential future conversions if market demand for metals or alloys changes. The conversion process involves dismantling, civil works, equipment installation, modifications, furnace lining, and performance testing before hot commissioning. The conversion can be completed in as soon as six months

EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

- Upgrade 2023 earnings by 12% but downgrade 2024 earnings by 5% mainly to account for:

 a) higher FeSi production resulting from the conversion of both MetSi furnaces in 2023, and
 b) a temporary halt in production to undergo the hot commission phase of MetSi in 1Q24.
- Based on our sensitivity analysis, every US\$100/mt increase in our FeSi and Mn alloy price assumptions would boost OMH's earnings by about 25% annually.

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

Maintain BUY with a lower target price of RM2.26, implying 8x 2024F PE.
The assigned target PE of 8x represents a slight discount compared to the 10x PE, which is
the average for selected mining and smelting companies listed on Bursa Malaysia. This
discount is attributed to OMH's secondary listing on Bursa and its relatively tight liquidity.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG) UPDATES

• Environmental

- Eco-friendly smelters help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2.2m mt p.a.

Social

- OMH offers career opportunities and provides training to the indigenous community.

Governance

- Majority of the board are independent directors (5 out of 7 non-exec directors).

Monday, 30 October 2023

SILICON METAL COMSUMPTION Folyillon Silicones Alwinium JUS Bollenes 122

Automotive

Anode/ Energy

storage

Source: Ferroglobe

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

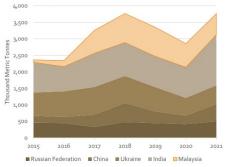
Medical &

Cosmetics

	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Production ('000 mt)				
Alloy				
Malaysia - FeSi	140	140	147	153
Malaysia - Mn	217	260	320	400
ASP (US\$/mt)				
FeSi alloy	1,900	1,300	1,400	1,500
Mn alloy	1,400	900	950	1,100
MetSi	2,950	-	-	-

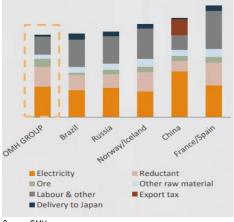
Source: OMH, UOB Kay Hian

TOP MANGANESE ALLOY PRODUCING COUNTRIES



Source: OMH

FESI PRODUCTION COST COMPARISON



Source: OMH



Malaysia	laysia Daily Monday, 30 October 2023				023				
PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net turnover	3,854	3,296	3,990	4,620	Fixed assets	48	40	40	40
EBITDA	643	277	387	524	Other LT assets	2,446	2,676	2,676	2,666
Deprec. & amort.	122	121	169	169	Cash/ST investment	240	161	334	543
EBIT	521	156	218	356	Other current assets	1,253	1,211	1,356	1,563
Associate contributions	38	65	118	119	Total assets	3,987	4,088	4,405	4,811
Net interest income/(expense)	(84)	(100)	(67)	(62)	ST debt	225	327	430	533
Pre-tax profit	475	121	269	412	Other current liabilities	653	682	819	944
Tax	(104)	(29)	(64)	(99)	LT debt	922	742	562	382
Minorities	(66)	0	5	9	Other LT liabilities	389	456	523	590
Net profit	305	92	209	322	Shareholders' equity	1,782	1,865	2,050	2,332
Net profit (adj.)	348	92	209	322	Minority interest	16	16	21	30
					Total liabilities & equity	3,987	4,088	4,405	4,811
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Dec (RMm)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F	Year to 31 Dec (%)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Operating	886	146	366	399	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	475	121	269	412	EBITDA margin	16.7	8.4	9.7	11.4
Tax	(104)	(29)	(64)	(99)	Pre-tax margin	12.3	3.7	6.7	8.9
Deprec. & amort.	122	121	169	169	Net margin	7.9	2.8	5.2	7.0
Working capital changes	128	114	(7)	(83)	ROA	7.3	2.3	4.9	7.0
Other operating cashflows	265	(180)	0	0	ROE	17.8	5.0	10.7	14.7
Investing	(139)	(47)	(38)	(34)					
Capex (growth)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(7)	Growth				
Capex (maintenance)	(177)	(45)	(45)	(45)	Turnover	9.8	(14.5)	21.1	15.8
Investments	5	0	5	9	EBITDA	7.1	(57.0)	39.9	35.6
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	0	5	9	Pre-tax profit	25.0	(74.6)	122.6	53.5
Others	35	0	0	0	Net profit	10.3	(70.0)	127.5	54.5
Financing	(813)	(186)	(160)	(161)	Net profit (adj.)	1.9	(73.6)	127.5	54.5
Dividend payments	(49)	(9)	(20)	(31)	EPS	1.9	(73.6)	127.5	54.5
Issue of shares	0	0	5	9					
Proceeds from borrowings	103	103	103	103	Leverage				
Loan repayment	(297)	(180)	(180)	(180)	Debt to total capital	38.9	36.2	32.4	27.9
Others/interest paid	(570)	(100)	(67)	(62)	Debt to equity	64.3	57.3	48.4	39.2
Net cash inflow (outflow)	(66)	(87)	168	204	Net debt/(cash) to equity	50.9	48.7	32.1	15.9
					. , , ,				

329

543

9

Interest cover (x)

161

5

334

7.7

2.8

5.8

8.5

Beginning cash & cash equivalent

Changes due to forex impact

Ending cash & cash equivalent

314

(8)

240

248

161

0



UOBKH HIGHLIGHTS

CIMB Group (CIMB MK/BUY/RM5.68/ Target: RM6.00)

3Q23: Aided By Cost Discipline And Lower Provisions

3Q23 RESULTS

Year to 31 Dec	3Q23 (Rpb)	3Q22 (Rpb)	qoq % chg	yoy % chg	9M23 (Rpb)	yoy % chg
Net-Interest Income	3,352	3,436	(2.2)	(2.4)	10,187	2.1
Non-Interest Income	1,136	1,066	(29.4)	6.6	4,320	5.1
Operating Expenses	(2,077)	(2,069)	(2.0)	0.4	(6,415)	2.6
Loan Loss Provision	(249)	(715)	(68.1)	(65.2)	(1,778)	(36.8)
PBT	2,162	1,718	1.2	25.8	6,314	25.8
Net Income	1,669	1,308	1.0	27.6	4,902	27.6
Key Analysis (%)	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	
Net Interest Margin	4.77	4.90	4.71	4.52	4.33	
Gross NPL ratio	3.6	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	
Gross Loans Growth (qoq % chg)	2.6	1.7	1.2	2.5	(0.2)	
LLC	117.9	94.7	105.0	110.7	108.8	
Cost/Income Ratio	46.0	46.5	44.5	42.1	46.3	
ROE	13.1	11.7	15.1	15.8	15.3	

Source: CIMB Niaga, UOB Kay Hian

RESULTS

- CIMB Niaga's 3Q23 earnings in line. CIMB Niaga (93%-owned) posted 3Q23 profit of Rp1,669b (+1% qoq, +28% yoy), bringing 9M23 earnings to Rp4,902b (+28% yoy). Despite 9M23 earnings forming 77-80% of our and consensus full-year forecasts, we deem the results in line as 4Q23 earnings could register a slight decline with NIM remaining under pressure.
- CIMB Niaga's yoy earnings trend. Positive Jaws due to total income growth (+3%) along with the drop in bad loans provision (-37%) translated to a robust 28% earnings growth in 3Q23.
- CIMB Niaga's qoq earnings trend. The 1% qoq increase in net profit was attributed to a significant reduction in loan loss provisions (-68%), which effectively offset the unfavourable impact of a weak top-line performance (-11%). The weak top-line performance was primarily driven by a 19bp decrease in net interest margin (NIM) and a decline in non-interest income (NII) of -29%, resulting from treasury-related losses and reduced loan recoveries.
- CIMB Niaga's NIM was impacted by higher funding cost from: a) the policy rate hike by Bank Indonesia, and b) the introduction of Bank Indonesia Rupiah Securities (SRBI) into the market, taking away some liquidity and hence driving competition for deposits. Management expects 4Q23 NIM to experience a further sequential decline.
- CIMB Niaga's loans moderated. 3Q23 loans growth moderated, coming in at +5.6% (compared to +8.6% in 2Q23) and declining 0.2% qoq. However, deposit growth was stable at +6.0% for deposits. Loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) remained steady at 87% qoq.
- CIMB Niaga's asset quality remains steady. Gross NPL ratio edged down to 2.4% in 3Q23 from 2.5% in 2Q23 on the back of recoveries. Management remains optimistic of an improving asset quality outlook in 2023 and as such, is guiding for a slight improvement to stable net credit cost outlook for 2023 (160bp-180bp vs 2022: 180bp. In addition, CIMB Niaga has already made sufficient pre-emptive provisions to cushion for any spike in GIL ratio (LLC is now at 109% vs pre-pandemic level of c.90%).
- CIMB Group Bhd: Maintain BUY and target price of RM6.00 (0.93x 2023F P/B, 9.8% ROE). Our optimism for CIMB is grounded in the potential for a positive ROE upside surprise, primarily fuelled by reduced credit costs, strong loan growth and cost optimisation. The company has successfully elevated its ROE from the pre-pandemic range of 8-9% to its current level of 10%. To offer a glimpse of the potential for upside in our target price, if we were to extend our valuations into 2024, our target price would elevate to RM6.45.

ANALYST

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Monday, 30 October 2023

TRADERS' CORNER



Source: UOBKH ChartGenie



Source: UOBKH ChartGenie

Able Global (ABLE MK)

Technical BUY with +12.3% potential return

Last price: RM1.30

Target price: RM1.41, RM1.46

Support: RM1.25 Stop-loss: RM1.24

BUY with a target price of RM1.46 and stop-loss at RM1.24. Based on the daily chart, the share price has gradually recovered to close above both the 7-day and 21-day EMA lines, which signifies a potential upward trend ahead. This was supported by both the DMI's bullish crossover as well as an uptick in RSI that suggests stronger buying momentum ahead. We peg our targets at RM1.41 and RM1.46 in the near term.

Expected timeframe: Two weeks to two

months

Note: Not available for CFD Trading

SWS Capital (SWS MK)

Technical BUY with +33.3% potential return

Last price: RM0.315

Target price: RM0.38, RM0.42

Support: RM0.28 Stop-loss: RM0.275

BUY with a target price of RM0.42 and stop-loss at RM0.275. Last Friday, the stock closed above the BBI line, which indicates upward potential in the near term. This is supported by the 7-day EMA making a cross above the 21-day EMA, indicating a bullish signal. This is consistent with the uptick in the RSI and a bullish crossover in the DMI, which suggests stronger buying momentum ahead. We expect SWS will continue the upward movement to the previous high of RM0.425 in the near term.

Expected timeframe: Two weeks to two months.

Note: Not available for CFD Trading

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