Maybank Kim Eng

AEM Holdings (AEM SP)

Guidance maintained

Strong earnings visibility; Maintain BUY

AEM has the strongest FY20E earnings visibility within our Singapore tech coverage, as it has maintained full year sales guidance of SGD360-380m. As demand drivers appear intact, we believe a key earnings risk is if global supply chain disruptions result in any unforeseen components shortages. Maintain BUY and ROE-g/COE-g TP of SGD2.82 (3x blended FY20-21E P/B).

Guidance kept; Intel deliveries >90% on time

On 19-Mar, AEM announced that its sales guidance of SGD360-380m for FY20 is unchanged. Further, AEM introduced 1Q20 sales guidance of a record SGD135-145m, and is cautiously confident that 1H20 will be an all-time high despite some shifts in the delivery of its sales orders due to the Covid-19 situation. On 20-Mar, key customer Intel highlighted that it is delivering more than 90% of its chips on time. This is consistent with Intel's early March message that operations are "relatively normal". Our channel checks suggest that its Penang plant has received approval to operate at half strength during the movement control order.

Robust balance sheet and solid cash generation

AEM's balance sheet is robust with net cash to equity of 80%. Strong cash generation is driven by high profitability and working capital efficiency. Since 2017 (ramp-up of HDMT test handlers), cash conversion cycle has been around 15 days or less. Intel has also kept a tight range for its days of payables outstanding (~40-50 days), even throughout the GFC, suggesting it is a good paymaster.

Accumulate on dips

While we caution further volatility in the share price, we believe this may present buying opportunities. AEM is currently trading at 2.5x FY20E P/B, around 0.5 SD below its 3-year mean of 3x. We continue to see AEM as a potential M&A play given its first-mover advantage in system level test. In that regard, we find is 4x FY20E EV/EBITDA valuation highly attractive. For comparison, Cohu acquired Xcerra for 7-8x forward EV/EBITDA.

FYE Dec (SGD m)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue	262	323	369	384	400
EBITDA	42	70	78	82	88
Core net profit	33	53	59	63	67
Core FDEPS (cts)	12.3	19.4	21.9	23.3	24.7
Core FDEPS growth(%)	3.4	58.3	12.9	6.2	6.2
Net DPS (cts)	3.4	5.1	5.5	5.8	6.2
Core FD P/E (x)	6.7	10.4	7.5	7.0	6.6
P/BV (x)	2.5	4.1	2.5	2.0	1.6
Net dividend yield (%)	4.1	2.5	3.3	3.6	3.8
ROAE (%)	45.5	47.3	37.8	31.1	26.6
ROAA (%)	26.6	29.1	25.2	22.9	20.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.0	6.3	3.9	3.2	2.5
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Consensus net profit	-	-	31	31	na
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	93.1	104.7	na

Gene Lih Lai, CFA laigenelih@maybank-ke.com.sg (65) 6231 5832

BUY

Share Price SGD 1.64 SGD 2.82 (+74%) 12m Price Target SGD 2.82 Previous Price Target

Company Description

AEM manufactures equipment used the semiconductor back-end process

Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	2.27/0.85
3m avg turnover (USDm)	13.1
Free float (%)	76.9
Issued shares (m)	273
Market capitalisation	SGD448.2M
	USD313M

Major shareholders:	
Toh Ban Leng James	7.8%
Aberdeen Standard Investments (Asia) Ltd	6.9%
Morgan Stanley	6.0%

Price Performance



-AEM Holdings / Straits Times Index - (RHS, %)

	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(27)	(13)	37
Relative to index (%)	(10)	11	73

Source: FactSet

Link to sector note:

Singapore Technology - Bracing for a storm | **NEUTRAL**

Sensitivity analysis

Fig 1: Sensitivity analysis of implied earnings expectation at various share prices.

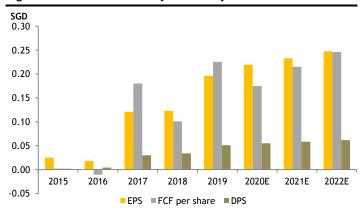
Pricest						
	Implied					
Share price (SGD)	FY20-21E average ROE	FY19-21E earnings CAGR (linear basis)				
2.80	34.3%	9.5%				
2.60	32.5%	4.7%				
2.40	30.8%	0.0%				
2.20	29.0%	-5.0%				
2.00	27.1%	-10.3%				
1.80	25.0%	-16.0%				
1.60	22.9%	-21.8%				
1.40	20.7%	-28.0%				
1.20	18.5%	-34.5%				
1.00	16.2%	-41.3%				

Source: Maybank Kim Eng

Balance sheet and cash flow

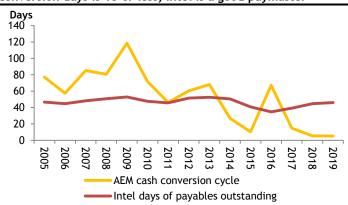
AEM has a 25% dividend pay-out ratio policy, which is comfortably funded by free cash flow. Balance sheet is robust, with net cash to equity of 80%. Since ramping up HDMT test-handlers in 2017, AEM's cash conversion cycle has improved considerably to 15 days or below. Furthermore, Intel has a track record of being a good paymaster, with days of payables outstanding ranging 40-50 days, even throughout the GFC.

Fig 2: Dividends comfortably funded by free cash flow



Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

Fig 3: Since ramping up HDMT TH in 2017, AEM's cash conversion days is 15 or less; Intel is a good paymaster



Source: FactSet, Company, Maybank Kim Eng

Valuation

AEM is currently trading on 2.5x FY20E P/B, around 0.5 SD below its 3-year mean. We have chosen a time period of 2017-present as we believe this time period is most relevant to AEM's prospects, as prior periods were marked by corporate restructuring under current management (2011-2016), and different business dynamics under previous management with a different product portfolio (prior to 2011).

During this period, forward P/B troughed in early 2017 during the investor discovery period for the stock. In recent sell-offs (Jan-19, May-19), AEM tended to have found support near 1.75x, or 1SD below mean.

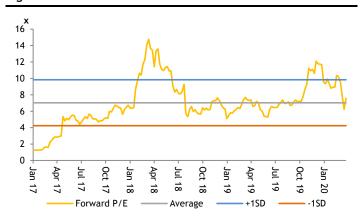
We continue to see AEM as a potential M&A play given its first-mover advantage in system level test. In that regard, we find is 4x FY20E EV/EBITDA valuation highly attractive. For comparison, Cohu acquired Xcerra for 7-8x forward EV/EBITDA.

Fig 4: Peer comparisons

Company	BBG	MKE	MKE TP	Price	FYE	Мсар		P/I	E (x)		EV /EBI TDA (x)	Div yield (%)	ROE (%)
	Code	Rec	(LC)	(LC)	mm	USDm	Act	FY1	FY2	FY3	FY1	FY1	FY1
AEM	AEM SP	Buy	2.82	1.67	12	311	8.5	7.6	7.2	6.8	4.1	3.3	37.8
Global back-end test handler peers													
Cohu	COHU US	NR	_	13.09	12	543	145.4	15.6	7.8	6.9	8.4	1.8	7.3
Tesec	6337 JP	NR	-	808	03	42	4.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chroma ATE	2360 TT	NR	-	111.50	12	1,544	25.2	16.3	13.4	11.5	13.6	3.9	16.8
Pentamaster Corp	PENT MK	NR	-	3.18	12	344	26.4	17.7	15.4	13.1	8.4	0.4	19.6
Average							46.6	15.4	11.8	10.3	10.8	3.0	17.6
Global back-end equipment peers													
Koh Young Technology	098460 KS	NR	_	89,700	12	1,001	35.1	27.7	21.8	18.9	16.8	1.0	15.9
Advantest	6857 JP	NR	-	4,570	03	8,184	15.1	18.6	16.5	14.2	11.0	1.6	21.5
Vitrox	VITRO MK	Sell	6.50	7.06	12	758	31.5	41.0	27.3	22.5	33.9	0.6	-
Hirata	6258 JP	NR	-	4,665	03	450	10.6	32.3	11.3	8.7	-	0.9	3.1
ASM Pacific	522 HK	NR	-	74.00	12	3,903	48.7	19.6	13.2	12.2	10.7	-	12.3
BE Semiconductor	BESI NA	NR	-	25.93	12	2,249	24.5	20.7	14.8	12.2	14.4	4.6	29.4
KLA-Tencor	KLAC US	NR	-	137.47	06	21,551	16.2	13.9	13.3	12.1	11.1	2.4	54.8
Teradyne Average	TER US	NR	-	54.24	12	9,046	19.0 20.2	16.8 16.9	14.9 14.6	13.4 13.0	11.7 11.8	0.5 1.9	35.2 39.0

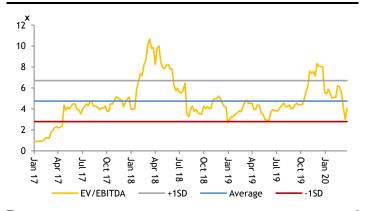
Source: Maybank Kim Eng

Fig 5: Forward P/E band



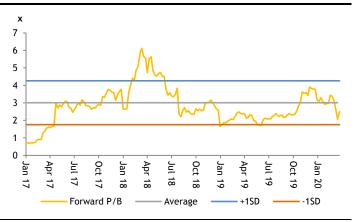
Source: FactSet, Maybank Kim Eng

Fig 7: EV/ forward EBITDA band



Source: FactSet, Maybank Kim Eng

Fig 6: Forward P/B band

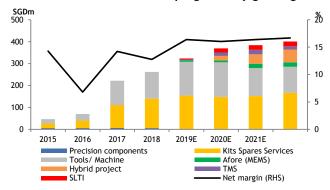


Source: FactSet, Company, Maybank Kim Eng

Value Proposition

- Back-end test-equipment manufacturer that has codeveloped the HDMT handler for a market-leading chipmaker with a market cap of USD250b.
- Leading-edge HDMT technology has helped its core customer achieve 2x savings in chip-testing costs.
- AEM provides strong synergies like field-service capabilities and manufacturing scale for the high-tech companies that it acquires.
- High single-customer and product risks.

Share of new revenue sources progressively growing

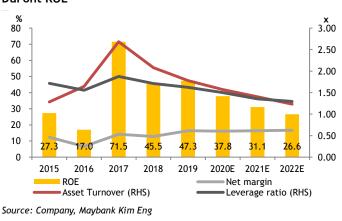


Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

Financial Metrics

- We expect 12% earnings growth in 2020E, driven by sustained sales to Intel and contributions from new initiatives and customers.
- AEM is not a capex-intensive company. Improved cashflow from 2016 levels has allowed AEM to pursue highly synergistic acquisitions.
- Training a batch of engineers during pre-production ramp up could take 5-6 months. During such time, staff costs could be elevated and profitability could temporarily decline.
- Adopted 25% dividend payout ratio policy in 2017.

DuPont ROE



Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, FactSet, Maybank Kim Eng

- Announced favourable 1Q17 net profit as HDMT handlers delivery pick up momentum. There were also insider purchases.
- Announced 2018 guidance for SGD255m in revenue and SGD42m PBT.
- 3. Announced accretive acquisition of Afore, Finnish-based MEMS test-solutions provider.
- Novo Tellus distributes AEM shares in-specie to investors;
 Core customer announces 10nm delay.
- AEM's core customer denies rumours from tech-blog SemiAccurate that its 10nm process was cancelled.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Revenue expansion from securing new customers or wallet expansion/increased orders from existing customers.
- Synergistic and accretive acquisitions.
- Positive customer-related news flow that could catalyse improved orders for AEM, such as capacity expansion or launch of new chips.

Downside

- Order cancellation, delays and earnings misses.
- Emerging technology from rivals that could erode AEM's competitive position with customer(s).
- Erosion in the competitive advantages of the core customer as a result of company specific or industry related developments.

laigenelih@maybank-ke.com.sg



FYE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	9.2	6.2	7.5	7.0	6.6
Core P/E (x)	6.7	10.3	7.5	7.0	6.6
Core FD P/E (x)	6.7	10.4	7.5	7.0	6.6
P/BV (x)	2.5	4.1	2.5	2.0	1.6
P/NTA (x)	2.5	4.1	2.5	2.0	1.6
Net dividend yield (%)	4.1	2.5	3.3	3.6	3.8
FCF yield (%)	12.2	11.2	10.7	13.1	15.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.0	6.3	3.9	3.2	2.5
EV/EBIT (x)	4.1	6.9	4.2	3.5	2.7
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m)					
Revenue	262.3	323.1	369.1	384.0	400.5
Gross profit	89.1	130.8	146.2	150.2	157.6
EBITDA	41.9	69.5	77.6	82.4	87.5
Depreciation	(1.9)	(4.4)	(4.6)	(5.1)	(5.4)
Amortisation	0.0	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.5)
EBIT	40.0	63.6	71.5	75.9	80.6
Net interest income /(exp)	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Associates & JV	(0.0)	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	40.0	63.9	71.3	75.7	80.4
Income tax	(6.5)	(11.0)	(12.1)	(12.9)	(13.7)
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	33.5	52.9	59.2	62.8	66.7
Core net profit	33.5	52.9	59.2	62.8	66.7
DAL ANCE CUEET (CCD)					
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)	F0 0	407.7	420.7	470.4	227.6
Cash & Short Term Investments	58.8	107.7	138.6	179.4	227.6
Accounts receivable	21.7	28.0	28.6	30.3 62.3	31.2
Inventory Property Plant & Equip (not)	28.2 5.7	57.5 6.3	40.2 5.7	5.6	50.9 5.2
Property, Plant & Equip (net) Intangible assets	16.8	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9
Investment in Associates & JVs	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Other assets	0.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Total assets	135.5	228.0	241.6	306.1	343.3
ST interest bearing debt	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accounts payable	36.6	73.1	49.0	66.3	53.5
LT interest bearing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other liabilities	9.0	20.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Total Liabilities	46.0	93.6	62.9	80.3	67.4
Shareholders Equity	89.5	134.3	178.7	225.9	275.9
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total shareholder equity	89.5	134.3	178.7	225.9	275.9
Total liabilities and equity	135.5	228.0	241.6	306.1	343.3
CASH FLOW (SGD m)	40.5	40.5	-	 -	
Pretax profit	40.0	63.9	71.3	75.7	80.4
Depreciation & amortisation	1.9	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.9
Adj net interest (income)/exp	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in working capital	(6.2)	2.3	(14.1)	(6.3)	(2.3)
Cash taxes paid	(4.2)	(5.8)	(12.1)	(12.9)	(13.7)
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	31.5	65.8	51.2	63.0	71.3
Capex	(4.0)	(5.0)	(4.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)
Free cash flow	27.5	60.9	47.2	58.0	66.3
Dividends paid	(8.4)	(10.5)	(14.8)	(15.7)	(16.7)
Equity raised / (purchased)	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	0.3	(0.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	(1.7)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.5)
Effect of exch rate changes	(11.0)	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	12.7	48.9	30.9	40.9	48.1

FYE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	18.4	23.2	14.2	4.0	4.3
EBITDA growth	11.3	65.8	11.6	6.3	6.1
EBIT growth	8.3	58.8	12.4	6.2	6.2
Pretax growth	8.5	59.9	11.6	6.2	6.2
Reported net profit growth	6.4	58.1	11.8	6.2	6.2
Core net profit growth	6.4	58.1	11.8	6.2	6.2
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	16.0	21.5	21.0	21.5	21.8
EBIT margin	15.3	19.7	19.4	19.8	20.1
Pretax profit margin	15.2	19.8	19.3	19.7	20.1
Payout ratio	27.6	26.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	12.8	16.4	16.0	16.4	16.7
Revenue/Assets (x)	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.2
Assets/Equity (x)	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.2
ROAE (%)	45.5	47.3	37.8	31.1	26.6
ROAA (%)	26.6	29.1	25.2	22.9	20.6
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	5.2	5.2	7.9	17.8	22.7
Days receivable outstanding	31.0	27.7	27.6	27.6	27.6
Days inventory outstanding	66.5	80.2	78.9	78.9	83.8
Days payables outstanding	92.3	102.7	98.6	88.8	88.8
Dividend cover (x)	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0
Current ratio (x)	2.4	2.2	3.5	3.6	4.8
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.9	2.4	3.8	3.8	5.1
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash				
Net interest cover (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capex/revenue (%)	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.2
Net debt/ (net cash)	(58.5)	(107.7)	(138.6)	(179.4)	(227.6)

Source: Company; Maybank

Research Offices

MACRO

Sadiq CURRIMBHOY Head of Regional Macro Research (65) 6231 5836 sadig@maybank-ke.com.sg

ECONOMICS

Suhaimi ILIAS

Chief Economist Malaysia | Philippines | Global (603) 2297 8682 suhaimi ilias@mavbank-ib.com

CHUA Hak Bin

Regional Thematic Macroeconomist (65) 6231 5830 chuahb@maybank-ke.com.sg

LEE Ju Ye Singapore | Thailand (65) 6231 5844 leejuye@maybank-ke.com.sg

Linda LIU Singapore | Vietnam (65) 6231 5847 lindaliu@maybank-ke.com.sg

Dr Zamros DZULKAFLI

(603) 2082 6818 zamros.d@maybank-ib.com

Ramesh LANKANATHAN (603) 2297 8685 ramesh@maybank-ib.com

William POH (603) 2297 8683 william.poh@maybank-ib.com

Saktiandi SUPAAT

Head of FX Research (65) 6320 1379 saktiandi@maybank.com.sg

Christopher WONG (65) 6320 1347 wongkl@maybank.com.sg

(65) 6320 1378 tanyx@maybank.com.sg

Fiona LIM (65) 6320 1374 fionalim@maybank.com.sg

STRATEGY

Willie CHAN

Regional (852) 2268 0631 williechan@kimeng.com.hk

Anand PATHMAKANTHAN

(603) 2297 8783 anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

FIXED INCOME

Winson PHOON, ACA (65) 6812 8807 winsonphoon@maybank-ke.com.sg

SE THO Mun Yi (603) 2074 7606 munvi.st@mavbank-ib.com

REGIONAL EQUITIES

Anand PATHMAKANTHAN Head of Regional Equity Research (603) 2297 8783 anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

WONG Chew Hann, CA Head of ASEAN Equity Research (603) 2297 8686 wchewh@maybank-ib.com

ONG Seng Yeow Research, Technology & Innovation (65) 6231 5839 ongsengyeow@maybank-ke.com.sg

MALAYSIA

Anand PATHMAKANTHAN, Head of Research (603) 2297 8783

anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

Desmond CH'NG, BFP, FCA (603) 2297 8680 desmond.chng@maybank-ib.com • Banking & Finance

LIAW Thong Jung (603) 2297 8688 tjliaw@maybank-ib.com Oil & Gas Services- Regional

ONG Chee Ting, CA (603) 2297 8678 ct.ong@maybank-ib.com Plantations - Regional

YIN Shao Yang, CPA (603) 2297 8916 samuel.y@maybank-ib.com • Gaming - Regional • Media

TAN Chi Wei, CFA (603) 2297 8690 chiwei.t@maybank-ib.com • Power • Telcos

WONG Wei Sum, CFA (603) 2297 8679 weisum@maybank-ib.com

Property

LEE Yen Ling (603) 2297 8691 lee.yl@maybank-ib.com Glove • Ports • Shipping • Healthcare

Petrochem

Kevin WONG (603) 2082 6824 kevin.wong@maybank-ib.com REITs • Consumer Discretionary • Technology

(603) 2297 8687 jade.tam@maybank-ib.com • Consumer Staples

TEE Sze Chiah Head of Retail Research (603) 2082 6858 szechiah.t@maybank-ib.com

Nik Ihsan RAJA ABDULLAH, MSTA, CFTe (603) 2297 8694

nikmohdihsan.ra@maybank-ib.com
• Chartist

Amirah AZMI

(603) 2082 8769 amirah.azmi@mavbank-ib.com

SINGAPORE

CHUA Su Tye (65) 6231 5842 chuasutye@maybank-ke.com.sg • REITs

LAI Gene Lih. CFA

(65) 6231 5832 laigenelih@maybank-ke.com.sg • Technology • Healthcare

Thilan WICKRAMASINGHE (65) 6231 5840 thilanw@maybank-ke.com.sg • Banks • Consumer

TAN Chin Poh Head of Retail Research (65) 6231 5928 chinpoh@maybank-ke.com.sg

Eric ONG

(65) 6231 5924 ericong@maybank-ke.com.sg • Retail Research

Matthew SHIM (65) 6231 5929

matthewshim@maybank-ke.com.sg

· Retail Research

Kareen CHAN (65) 6231 5926 kareenchan@maybank-ke.com.sg • Retail Research

INDIA

Jigar SHAH Head of Research

(91) 22 4223 2632 jigar@maybank-ke.co.in

• Strategy • Oil & Gas • Automobile • Cement

Neeray DALAL

(91) 22 4223 2606 neerav@maybank-ke.co.in • Software Technology • Telcos

Kshitiz PRASAD

(91) 22 4223 2607

kshitiz@mavbank-ke.co.in

INDONESIA

Isnaputra ISKANDAR Head of Research (62) 21 8066 8680 isnaputra.iskandar@maybank-ke.co.id

Strategy • Metals & Mining • Cement
 Autos • Consumer • Utility

Rahmi MARINA

(62) 21 8066 8689

rahmi.marina@maybank-ke.co.id

Banking & Finance

Aurellia SETIABUDI

(62) 21 8066 8691 aurellia.setiabudi@maybank-ke.co.id • Property

Arnanto JANURI

(62) 21 8066 8683 arnanto.januri @maybank-ke.co.id

Construction

PHILIPPINES

Katherine TAN

(63) 2 8849 8843

kat_tan@maybank-atrke.com
Banks • Conglomerates • Ports

Romel LIBO-ON

(63) 2 8849 8844

romel_libo-on@maybank-atrke.com
• Property

Kayzer LLANDA (63) 2 8849 8839

Kayzer_llanda@maybank-atrke.com
• Utilities

Fredrick De GUZMAN

(63) 2 8849 8847 fredrickdaniel.deguzman@maybank.com

Consumer

THAILAND

Maria LAPIZ Head of Institutional Research Dir (66) 2257 0250 | (66) 2658 6300 ext 1399 Maria.L@maybank-ke.co.th

• Strategy • Consumer • Materials • Services

Teerapol UDOMVEJ, CFA (66) 2658 6300 ext 1394

teerapol.U@maybank-ke.co.th
• Healthcare

Jesada TECHAHUSDIN, CFA

(66) 2658 6300 ext 1395 jesada.t@maybank-ke.co.th • Banking & Finance

Kaushal LADHA, CFA

(66) 2658 6300 ext 1392 Kaushal.l@maybank-ke.co.th • Oil & Gas

Ekachai TARAPORNTIP Head of Retail Research (66) 2658 5000 ext 1530 Ekachai.t@maybank-ke.co.th

Surachai PRAMUALCHAROENKIT (66) 2658 5000 ext 1470 Surachai.p@maybank-ke.co.th · Auto · Conmat · Contractor · Steel

Suttatip PEERASUB (66) 2658 5000 ext 1430

suttatip.p@maybank-ke.co.th
• Media • Commerce

Jaroonpan WATTANAWONG (66) 2658 5000 ext 1404 jaroonpan.w@maybank-ke.co.th
• Transportation • Small cap

Thanatphat SUKSRICHAVALIT (66) 2658 5000 ext 1401 thanaphat.s@maybank-ke.co.th • Media • Electronics

Wiiit ARAYAPISIT (66) 2658 5000 ext 1450 wijit.a@maybank-ke.co.th

 Strategist Kritsapong PATAN (66) 2658 5000 ext 1310 kritsapong.p@maybank-ke.co.th
• Chartist

VIETNAM

LE Hong Lien, ACCA Head of Institutional Research (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8181 lien.le@maybank-kimeng.com.vn
• Strategy • Consumer • Diversified

LE Nguyen Nhat Chuyen (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8082 chuyen.le@maybank-kimeng.com.vn • Oil & Gas

QUAN Trong Thanh (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8184 thanh.quan@maybank-kimeng.com.vn

NGUYEN Thi Sony Tra Mi (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8084 mi.nguven@mavbank-kimeng.com.vn Consumer

Tyler Manh Dung Nguyen (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8180 dung.nguyen@maybank-kimeng.com.vn
• Utilities

NGUYEN Thi Ngan Tuyen Head of Retail Research (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8081 tuyen.nguyen@maybank-kimeng.com.vn
• Food & Beverage • Oil & Gas • Banking

(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8086 thanhlam.nguyen@maybank-kimeng.com.vn

NGUYEN Thanh Lam

Technical Analysis



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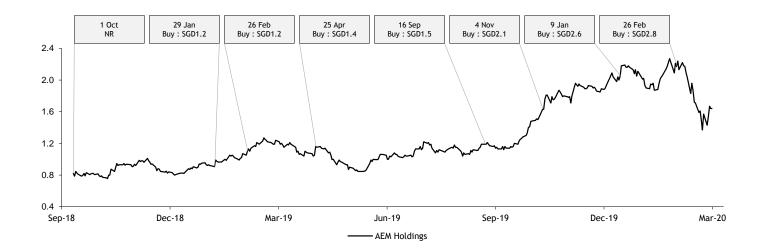
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Malaysia

Maybank Investment Bank Berhad (A Participating Organisation of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad) 33rd Floor, Menara Maybank, 100 Jalan Tun Perak, 50050 Kuala Lumpur Tel: (603) 2059 1888;

Tel: (603) 2059 1888; Fax: (603) 2078 4194

Stockbroking Business: Level 8, Tower C, Dataran Maybank, No.1, Jalan Maarof 59000 Kuala Lumpur Tel: (603) 2297 8888 Fax: (603) 2282 5136

Philippines

Maybank ATR Kim Eng Securities Inc. 17/F, Tower One & Exchange Plaza Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue Makati City, Philippines 1200

Tel: (63) 2 8849 8888 Fax: (63) 2 8848 5738

South Asia Sales Trading

Kevin Foy Regional Head Sales Trading kevinfoy@maybank-ke.com.sg Tel: (65) 6636-3620 US Toll Free: 1-866-406-7447

Indonesia

Iwan Atmadjaja iatmadjaja2@bloomberg.net (62) 21 8066 8555

New York James Lynch jlynch@maybank-keusa.com Tel: (212) 688 8886

Philippines Keith Roy

keith_roy@maybank-atrke.com

Tel: (63) 2 848-5288

Singapore

Maybank Kim Eng Securities Pte Ltd Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte Ltd 50 North Canal Road Singapore 059304

Tel: (65) 6336 9090

Hong Kong

Kim Eng Securities (HK) Ltd 28/F, Lee Garden Three, 1 Sunning Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2268 0800 Fax: (852) 2877 0104

Thailand

Maybank Kim Eng Securities (Thailand) Public Company Limited 999/9 The Offices at Central World, 20th - 21st Floor, Rama 1 Road Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Tel: (66) 2 658 6817 (sales) Tel: (66) 2 658 6801 (research)

North Asia Sales Trading

Andrew Lee andrewlee@kimeng.com.hk Tel: (852) 2268 0283 US Toll Free: 1 877 837 7635

London Greg Smith gsmith@maybank-ke.co.uk

gsmith@maybank-ke.co.uk Tel: (44) 207-332-0221

India Sanjay Makhija sanjaymakhija@maybank-ke.co.in Tel: (91)-22-6623-2629

London

Maybank Kim Eng Securities (London) Ltd PNB House 77 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4AY, UK

Tel: (44) 20 7332 0221 Fax: (44) 20 7332 0302

Indonesia

PT Maybank Kim Eng Securities Sentral Senayan III, 22nd Floor Jl. Asia Afrika No. 8 Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan Jakarta 10270, Indonesia

Tel: (62) 21 2557 1188 Fax: (62) 21 2557 1189

Vietnam

Maybank Kim Eng Securities Limited 4A-15+16 Floor Vincom Center Dong Khoi, 72 Le Thanh Ton St. District 1 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: (84) 844 555 888 Fax: (84) 8 38 271 030

New York

Maybank Kim Eng Securities USA Inc 400 Park Avenue, 11th Floor New York, New York 10022, U.S.A.

Tel: (212) 688 8886 Fax: (212) 688 3500

India

Kim Eng Securities India Pvt Ltd 1101, 11th floor, A Wing, Kanakia Wall Street, Chakala, Andheri -Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai City - 400 093, India

Tel: (91) 22 6623 2600 Fax: (91) 22 6623 2604

🐔 Saudi Arabia

In association with Anfaal Capital Ground Floor, KANOO Building No.1 - Al-Faisaliyah,Madina Road, P.O.Box 126575 Jeddah 21352 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Tel: (966) 920023423

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