

Hi-P International (HIP SP)

Worst is over

Improved FY20E outlook priced in; maintain HOLD

Hi-P's 1H20 PATMI was ahead of our expectation, falling only 3.3% YoY to SGD24.2m despite Covid-19 disruptions in 1Q20. This was due to strong production momentum in 2Q20, as well as grants and subsidies. Hi-P also raised guidance for FY20 profit to be similar YoY from lower YoY previously. We raise FY20-22E EPS by 26-48%. We also roll forward our valuation base to FY21E, and our ROE-g/COE-g TP rises to SGD1.23 (1.4x FY21E P/B, prev: 1x FY20E P/B). Given neutral risk-reward, we maintain HOLD.

Sales resilient; PATMI shored by grants and subsidies

1H20 revenue fell only 5.1% YoY, as products that benefit from the work-from-home (WFH) trend, such as Keurig coffee machines, Seagate components, and modules for certain Apple products compensated for loss production time due to China's lockdown in 1Q20. Gross margin was relatively resilient too, falling only 0.7ppt YoY despite 1Q20 production disruptions, due to government grants. Other income rose 61.4% YoY to SGD7.6m due to various subsidies granted to Hi-P.

Worst is over; but environment still challenging

Some of Hi-P's rationale for raising its full-year profit forecast include: i) a continuation of government grants in 2H20; and ii) continued strength from products in 2H20 that did well in 1H20. Presently, Hi-P is still expecting growth in FY21E from new projects and improved allocations, although it acknowledges that the business environment remains very challenging. Our forecasts assume net margins bottoming in FY20E (5.9%, flat YoY).

Wait for better risk-reward

If the economic recovery is slower than expected, a key risk is that products that do well in FY20E due to WFH may create a high comparison base for FY21E. As such, we would prefer to either wait for better risk-reward or stronger clarity on FY21E growth prospects before potentially turning more bullish on the stock. For now, we prefer AEM (BUY, TP SGD4.04), UMS (BUY, TP SGD1.00) and Frencken (BUY, TP SGD1.20) for Singapore tech sector exposure, as we believe their earnings clarity are better.

FYE Dec (SGD m)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue	1,402	1,368	1,392	1,521	1,619
EBITDA	194	178	186	200	214
Core net profit	95	80	82	95	102
Core FDEPS (cts)	11.7	9.9	10.0	11.7	12.5
Core FDEPS growth(%)	(21.5)	(15.3)	1.1	16.4	7.3
Net DPS (cts)	5.0	2.8	3.0	5.0	5.0
Core FD P/E (x)	7.5	15.4	12.8	10.9	10.2
P/BV (x)	1.3	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.3
Net dividend yield (%)	5.6	1.8	2.3	3.9	3.9
ROAE (%)	18.5	13.9	13.1	14.0	13.9
ROAA (%)	7.6	6.4	6.3	6.9	7.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.1	5.7	4.8	4.3	4.0
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Consensus net profit	-	-	63	66	62
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	29.9	44.3	64.9

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HOLD

[Unchanged]

Share Price SGD 1.28
12m Price Target SGD 1.23 (-1%)
Previous Price Target SGD 0.78

Company Description

Hi-P is an EMS provider with 13 manufacturing sites across 4 countries

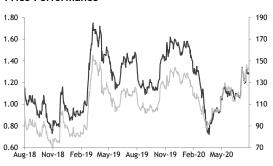
Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	1.62/0.72
3m avg turnover (USDm)	2.6
Free float (%)	13.4
Issued shares (m)	887
Market capitalisation	SGD1.1B
	USD828M

Major shareholders:

Yao Hsiao Tung	84.7%
FMR LLC	1.9%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LLP	0.5%

Price Performance



— Hi-P Int'l - (LHS, SGD) —— Hi-P Int'l / Straits Times Index - (RHS, %)

	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	21	20	(8)
Relative to index (%)	24	24	20

Source: FactSet



Fig 1: Forecast changes

		FY20E			FY21E			FY22E	
	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)
Revenue (SGDm)	1,392.1	1,380.3	0.9	1,520.5	1,488.4	2.2	1,618.5	1,583.6	2.2
Gross profit (SGDm)	186.1	152.5	22.0	207.2	173.2	19.6	222.2	195.4	13.7
EBIT (SGDm)	105.8	66.1	60.2	115.3	81.5	41.5	123.7	97.3	27.2
Core net profit (SGDm)	81.8	54.7	49.5	95.3	67.5	41.2	102.2	80.5	27.0
Core EPS (cts)	10.0	6.8	48.3	11.7	8.3	40.1	12.5	10.0	26.0
			Chg (ppt)			Chg (ppt)			Chg (ppt)
Gross margin	13.4%	11.1%	2.3	13.6%	11.6%	2.0	13.7%	12.3%	1.4
SGA as % of sales	6.7%	6.7%	0.0	6.7%	6.7%	0.0	6.7%	6.7%	0.0

Source: Maybank Kim Eng

We raise EPS by 26-48%, which are primarily driven by tweaks to our gross margin assumptions and other cost items. This is to factor in our view that net margin may bottom in FY20E as Hi-P continues to deliver revenue resilience whilst managing pricing pressure. Our ROE-g/COE-g TP is based on FY21-23E average ROE of 13.9%, and LTG of 2%.

Fig 2: 1H20 summary

FYE Dec	1H20	1H19	2H19	YoY Chg	HoH Chg	FYE	1H20 as a % of FYE
	(SGD m)	(SGD m)	(SGD m)	(%)	(%)	(SGDm)	
Revenue	543.8	573.2	794.4	-5.1	-31.6	1,380.3	39.4
COGS	(475.4)	(497.2)	(682.6)	-4.4	-30.4	(1,227.7)	38.7
Gross profit	68.4	76.0	111.8	-10.1	-38.9	152.5	44.8
Total SGA	(43.3)	(41.0)	(50.3)	5.6	-14.0	(92.5)	46.8
Other op. income	7.6	4.7	6.0	61.4	26.9	11.0	69.1
Other op. expenses	1.4	(2.9)	3.8	nm	-64.3	(5.0)	nm
EBIT	34.0	36.8	71.3	-7.5	-52.3	66.1	51.5
EBITDA	71.1	78.6	110.4	-9.4	-35.6	148.2	48.0
Interest inc	2.9	2.3	1.7	27.6	69.3	4.0	72.6
Interest exp	(2.2)	(3.6)	(3.1)	-38.6	-28.9	(3.8)	58.9
Associates	(0.5)	(1.2)	0.0	nm	nm	0.3	nm
Exceptional items	0.0	0.0	0.0	nm	nm	0.0	nm
Pretax profit	34.2	34.2	69.9	-0.1	-51.1	66.6	51.3
Taxation	(9.9)	(9.2)	(14.6)	7.8	-32.4	(11.6)	84.8
Net profit	24.3	25.0	55.3	-3.0	-56.0	54.9	44.2
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	nm	nm	0.2	0.0
PATMI	24.3	25.0	55.3	-3.0	-56.0	54.7	44.4
Core PATMI	24.3	25.0	55.3	-3.0	-56.0	54.7	44.4
				Change			
				(ppt)			
Gross margin	12.6%	13.3%	14.1%	-0.7	-1.5		
EBIT margin	6.3%	6.4%	9.0%	-0.2	-2.7		
Core net margin	4.5%	4.4%	7.0%	0.1	-2.5		

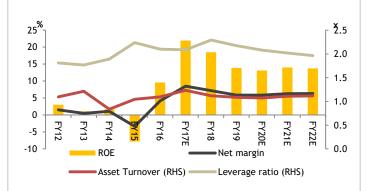
Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng



Value Proposition

- Operates in a highly competitive industry. In weak volume environments, HIP is exposed to pricing pressure.
- Strong execution with key customers, such as Apple has helped Hi-P win increased allocation in recent years.
- ODM capabilities created some form of customer stickiness in the consumer electronics segment.
- Demonstrated ability to move away from assembly projects that have razor-thin margins to prioritise better profitability ones.

DuPont ROE

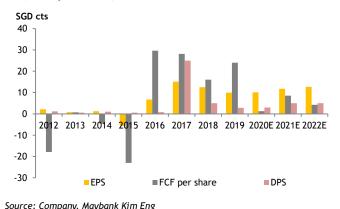


Financial Metrics

Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

- Earnings delivery has largest effect on Hi-P's share price.
- We expect FY20E earnings to be flat, on the back of resilient revenues, as well as government grants and other subsidies.
- Clean balance sheet, decent cash flow, and treasury shares provide ammunition for M&A growth.

EPS, FCF per share, DPS



Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, FactSet, Maybank Kim Eng

- 1. Hi-P commenced arbitration proceedings against Yota, claiming USD126m.
- Raised 3Q17 earnings guidance. Subsequently, Hi-P announced record quarterly profit of SGD34m, with sanguine 4Q17 outlook.
- 3. Lowered FY18 revenue and net profit guidance.
- 4. Delivered stronger-than-expected 4Q18 earnings.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Better-than-expected orders and execution from existing projects.
- New customer wins and new projects.
- Improved communication regarding strategy, as well as cost-control efforts.

Downside

- Micro- and macro-driven risks that negatively affect end-demand of products Hi-P participates in.
- Market share losses and/or payment defaults from customers.
- Sudden and steep declines in the USD (revenue exposure) against the CNY (operating exposure) and SGD (reported currency).

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FYE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Key Metrics		43.0	40 =	40.0	40 :
P/E (reported) (x)	11.5	13.2	12.7	10.9	10.1
Core P/E (x) Core FD P/E (x)	7.5 7.5	15.3 15.4	12.7 12.8	10.9 10.9	10.1 10.2
` '	1.3	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.3
P/BV (x) P/NTA (x)	1.3	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.3
Net dividend yield (%)	5.6	1.8	2.3	3.9	3.9
FCF yield (%)	18.1	15.7	1.0	6.6	3.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.1	5.7	4.8	4.3	4.0
EV/EBIT (x)	4.8	9.5	8.4	7.4	7.0
INCOME STATEMENT (SCD)					
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m) Revenue	1,402.1	1,367.7	1,392.1	1,520.5	1,618.5
Gross profit	204.2	187.9	186.1	207.2	222.2
EBITDA	194.2	178.0	185.6	200.1	213.9
Depreciation	(69.3)	(69.8)	(79.8)	(84.8)	(90.2)
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	124.9	108.2	105.8	115.3	123.7
Net interest income /(exp)	(0.7)	(2.8)	0.1	0.1	0.1
Associates & JV	0.3	(1.3)	0.3	0.3	0.3
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	124.5	104.1	106.2	115.7	124.1
Income tax	(23.6)	(23.8)	(24.2)	(20.3)	(21.7)
Minorities	0.0	0.0	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	100.9	80.3	81.8	95.3	102.2
Core net profit	94.8	80.3	81.8	95.3	102.2
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	286.7	329.6	273.5	302.7	296.5
Accounts receivable	396.0	362.0	385.6	431.0	509.1
Inventory	176.9	157.7	152.9	221.4	176.5
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	293.6	296.9	317.1	312.4	302.2
Intangible assets	10.8	72.6	93.6	93.6	93.6
Investment in Associates & JVs	21.6	23.6	23.9	24.2	24.5
Other assets	39.2	49.1	55.3	55.3	55.3
Total assets	1,224.7	1,291.6	1,301.9	1,440.6	1,457.8
ST interest bearing debt	168.3	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1
Accounts payable	380.0	400.1	379.7	462.3	417.6
LT interest bearing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other liabilities	112.0	175.0	148.0	149.0	149.0
Total Liabilities	660.7	697.2	649.8	733.4	688.7
Shareholders Equity	564.0	594.4	652.0	706.8	768.5
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6
Total shareholder equity Total liabilities and equity	564.0	594.4	652.2	707.2	769.1
Total liabilities and equity	1,224.7	1,291.6	1,301.9	1,440.6	1,457.8
CASH FLOW (SGD m)					
Pretax profit	124.5	104.1	106.2	115.7	124.1
Depreciation & amortisation	69.3	69.8	79.8	84.8	90.2
Adj net interest (income)/exp	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in working capital	3.7	108.5	(51.2)	(31.2)	(78.1)
Cash taxes paid	(20.6)	(17.7)	(24.2)	(20.3)	(21.7)
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	176.6	266.0	110.3	148.7	114.2
Capex	(47.8)	(73.1)	(100.0)	(80.0)	(80.0)
Free cash flow	128.8	192.8	10.3	68.7	34.2
Dividends paid	(40.3)	(38.5)	(24.3)	(40.5)	(40.5)
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	(37.0)	(46.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	(29.0)	(56.5)	(42.2)	1.0	0.0
Effect of exch rate changes	(13.8)	(8.7)	0.0 (56.1)	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	8.7	42.9	(56.1)	29.3	(6.2)

August 2, 2020



FYE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	(1.7)	(2.5)	1.8	9.2	6.4
EBITDA growth	(11.6)	(8.4)	4.3	7.8	6.9
EBIT growth	(14.7)	(13.4)	(2.2)	9.0	7.3
Pretax growth	(14.9)	(16.4)	2.1	8.9	7.3
Reported net profit growth	(16.9)	(20.4)	1.9	16.4	7.3
Core net profit growth	(21.9)	(15.3)	1.9	16.4	7.3
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	13.9	13.0	13.3	13.2	13.2
EBIT margin	8.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.6
Pretax profit margin	8.9	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.7
Payout ratio	39.9	28.0	29.7	42.5	39.6
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	7.2	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.3
Revenue/Assets (x)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Assets/Equity (x)	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9
ROAE (%)	18.5	13.9	13.1	14.0	13.9
ROAA (%)	7.6	6.4	6.3	6.9	7.1
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	42.0	31.8	26.6	32.5	42.4
Days receivable outstanding	109.0	99.8	96.7	96.7	104.5
Days inventory outstanding	53.4	51.1	46.4	51.3	51.3
Days payables outstanding	120.4	119.0	116.4	115.4	113.4
Dividend cover (x)	2.5	3.6	3.4	2.4	2.5
Current ratio (x)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash				
Net interest cover (x)	nm	39.0	na	na	na
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Capex/revenue (%)	3.4	5.3	7.2	5.3	4.9
Net debt/ (net cash)	(118.4)	(207.5)	(151.4)	(180.6)	(174.4)

Source: Company; Maybank



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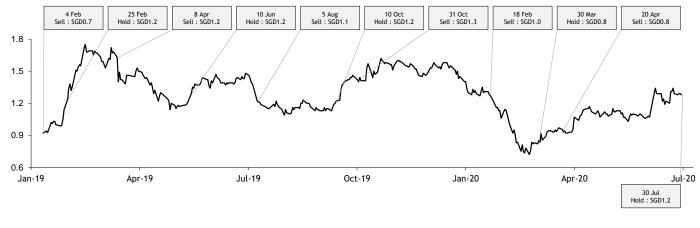
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