Singapore Company Focus **SMRT**

Bloomberg: MRT SP | Reuters: SMRT.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

29 Oct 2015

FULLY VALUED (Downgrade from HOLD)

Last Traded Price: S\$1.485 (STI: 3,040.51)
Price Target: S\$1.24 (16% downside) (Prev S\$1.22)

Reason for Report : Downgrade recommendation; results review

Potential Catalyst: Rail reforms

Where we differ: Below consensus on higher costs assumptions

Analyst

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Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Mar (S\$m)	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
Revenue	1,164	1,236	1,312	1,297
EBITDA	255	315	326	326
Pre-tax Profit	74.7	111	106	107
Net Profit	61.9	91.0	85.7	86.5
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	61.9	91.0	85.7	86.5
EPS (S cts)	4.07	5.98	5.63	5.69
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	4.07	5.98	5.63	5.69
EPS Gth (%)	(26)	47	(6)	1
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	(26)	47	(6)	1
Diluted EPS (S cts)	4.06	5.98	5.62	5.68
Net DPS (S cts)	2.20	3.25	3.25	3.25
BV Per Share (S cts)	52.7	56.5	58.9	61.3
PE (X)	36.5	24.8	26.4	26.1
PE Pre Ex. (X)	36.5	24.8	26.4	26.1
P/Cash Flow (X)	9.6	8.1	9.4	8.2
EV/EBITDA (X)	10.7	9.3	9.8	9.9
Net Div Yield (%)	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.2
P/Book Value (X)	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0
ROAE (%)	7.9	11.0	9.8	9.5
Earnings Rev (%):			-	-
Consensus EPS (S cts):			5.9	6.6
Other Broker Recs:		B: 2	S: 6	H: 4

ICB Industry : Consumer Services ICB Sector: Travel & Leisure

Principal Business: Primarily involved in operating the main MRT line in Singapore.

Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank, Bloomberg Finance L.P

Take a further step back

- Cut recommendation to FULLY VALUED as market has prematurely priced in rail reforms, in our view
- Limited upside from current level in the event of the fruition of the NFF on our assumed terms (\$\$1.55)
- 2Q16 results in line; operating loss of \$4m from rail ops, while buses turned profitable on lower diesel costs, higher ridership
- R&M related expenses for rail expected to increase over the next few quarters

Cut to Fully Valued, TP: \$\$1.24. With the recent surge in share price, we believe the market may have been overly optimistic on the possible impact of the New Rail Financing Framework (NFF) for SMRT. While this should relieve SMRT of its future capex burden, the details and timing are not known. At 26.4x / 26.1x PE, valuations look too stretched to take a "blind-faith" bet. As such, we downgrade to Fully Valued (from HOLD) with a TP of \$\$1.24 based on PE/DCF valuation methodology. This represents c.22x FY16F/17F PE, slightly above its historical 10-year average PE of 20x.

Limited upside from current price based on our estimates.

We took a stab at estimating the potential upside based on our view of the NFF. Assuming the NFF comes into effect at the start of SMRT's next financial year (FYMar17), we project that it can lift our FY17F/18F earnings by c.8%-15%. We estimate that our PE/DCF based TP would be around S\$1.55 in the event of the fruition of the NFF. While the event should be a positive catalyst for SMRT (when it happens), we believe there is limited upside at current share price.

2Q16 earnings within expectations; R&M-related expenses to increase. SMRT's 2Q16 results are within expectations, with net profit up by 2% y-o-y to S\$25.7m. Revenue grew by 4.7% to S\$328.8m driven by higher fares and non-fare revenue contribution, namely rental, advertising and taxis. Management indicated that rail-related maintenance expense as a percentage of rail revenue is projected to rise to 50% by end-FY16F, up from 41% in 2Q16, on the back of its aging fleet and expanded network.

Key risk lies in the fruition of the rail reform and terms which may be significantly better than our expectations and/or assumptions.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	1,524
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	2,263 / 1,620
Major Shareholders	
Temasek Holdings Private Ltd (%)	54.6
Free Float (%)	45.4
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	2.6



INVESTMENT THESIS

Profile

SMRT Corporation Limited is the market leader in rail in Singapore as it operates the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and LRT (Light Rail Transit) systems. It also provides bus, taxi, charter hire services, and consultancy and project management services.

Rationale

Take profit from recent surge, downgrade to Fully Valued. SMRT's share price had surged by c.25% since our upgrade (to HOLD) on 4 Sep 2015. We believe this is largely on speculation of a speedy outcome of the widely expected rail reforms. We believe the market is getting ahead of itself at this juncture. Fundamentally, valuation looks stretched at 26.4x/ 26.1x FY16F/17F PE on the back of a challenging operating environment. We downgrade to Fully Valued (from HOLD) with a TP of S\$1.24. This implies c.22x FY16F/17F PE, slightly above its historical 10-year average PE of 20x.

Limited upside from current price with NFF, based on our assumptions. Based on our assumptions, we estimate that our PE/DCF based TP would be c.S\$1.55 in the event of the fruition of the New Rail Financing Framework (NFF). Assuming the NFF comes into effect at the start of SMRT's next financial year (FYMar17F), we project that it will lift our FY17F/18F forecasts by c.8% - 15%. While the event should be a positive catalyst for SMRT when it happens, we believe there is limited upside at current share price.

Prefer a margin of safety. We believe the devil is in the details with respect to the NFF and the impact on SMRT. Our take is that it is pre-mature to be positive, particularly with current valuations and that the share price has surged by c.25% since Sep. Even so, based on our estimates and assumptions, there seems to be limited upside from current share price.

Valuation

Our target price is adjusted to S\$1.24, based on the average of our discounted cash flow (DCF) and price-earnings (PE) ratio valuation methodology. We peg our PE valuation at 15x FY16F/17F. Our DCF methodology is based on a weighted cost of capital of 5.8% and a terminal growth assumption of 1%.

Risks

Regulatory changes. Significant changes in the regulatory framework that could benefit or pose a risk to the group's financials.

Service disruptions. Further train service disruptions leading to higher repair/maintenance costs, operating expenses and regulatory fines.

Oil price spike. Energy and fuel costs account for about 12% of SMRT's costs (FY15F) and a surge in oil price may impact margins and vice versa. The surge in oil price may have a greater impact on SMRT compared to CD (at this juncture), given the latter's proactive stance in hedging.

Rail financing reforms. Upside risk to our recommendation could arise from fruition of the rail reform framework. This could alleviate the capex burden and potentially aid in turning around the profitability of the MRT.

Source: DBS Bank

Too hyped up; take a step back

Market getting ahead of reality; take profit from recent surge, downgrade to Fully Valued. SMRT's share price had surged by c.25% since our upgrade (to HOLD) on 4 Sep 2015. We believe this is largely on speculation of a speedy outcome of the widely expected rail reforms. We believe the market is getting ahead of itself at this juncture. Fundamentally, valuation looks stretched at 26.4x/ 26.1x FY16F/17F PE on the back of a challenging operating environment. We downgrade to Fully Valued (from HOLD) with a TP of \$\$1.24. This implies c.22x FY16F/17F PE, slightly above its historical 10-year average PE of 20x.

Limited upside from current price with NFF, based on our assumptions. Based on our assumptions, we estimate that our PE/DCF-based TP would be c.S\$1.55 in the event of the fruition of the New Rail Financing Framework (NFF). Assuming the NFF comes into effect at the start of SMRT's next financial year (FYMar17F), we project that it will lift our FY17F/18F earnings by c.8% - 15%. While the event should be a positive catalyst for SMRT when it happens, we believe it leaves limited upside at current share price.

DBS: NFF to improve SMRT's net profit by 8-15%

	Cur	rent	NFF-sc	enario	%	chg	
	FY17F	FY18F	FY17F	FY18F	FY17F	FY18F	Comments
Revenue	1,297	1,350	1,297	1,350	0%	0%	Assume no changes to fare structure
Depr & amortisation New NFF licence	(206)	(204)	(106)	(101)	-48%	-51%	Change due to transfer of rail assets Payment of licence charge for use of assets,
charge Total operating			(99)	(105)	na	na	assume at 14% of rail fare revenue
expenses	(1,216)	(1,256)	(1,215)	(1,258)	0%	0%	
EBIT	121	119	122	118	1%	-1%	Marginal change Lower interest costs from assumption that
Interest	(19)	(19)	(11)	(3)	-41%	-82%	debt repaid
PBT	107	106	116	121	8%	15%	
PAT	87	85	94	98	8%	15%	

Source: DBS Bank estimates

What are our assumptions for NFF? We attempted to pre-empt the details and structure of the NFF, and made the following list of assumptions. We acknowledged that the actual structure will be much more complicated, but this is the best we are able to achieve at this stage:

- 1. Assume NFF will be implemented at the start of FY Mar17.
- LTA to acquire the infrastructure and operating assets from SMRT at **net book value**, which we estimate to be **\$\$980m** (excluding \$200m assumed for bus assets). These include rolling stocks, power supply equipment, signal communication systems and assets under construction.
- 3. **Paring down its \$\$800m debt**, and offset of \$\$250m in accounts payable from proceeds from rail and bus assets. This results in lower interest expense.

- 4. Depreciation per year to halve to c.S\$100m/year, from c.S\$200m arising from divestment of rail-related operating assets. In its place, we believe that LTA will impose a licence charge for the use of the rail operating assets, which we assume at 14% of fare revenue. We estimate that current depreciation of rail-related assets equates to about 16% of rail revenue.
- 5. **SMRT's capex post NFF** to dwindle to just **\$\$80m/ year**, from \$\$250m to \$\$450m on our original forecasts, due to the omission of investment in rail assets post-NFF.
- 6. **Dividend payout raised** to c.85%, equating to DPS of 5.25 Scts to 5.55 Scts for FY17F/18F. This implies a yield of 3.4% 3.6% based on current share price.
- 7. PE/DCF backed TP based on a more optimistic 26x PE, which is equivalent to 5-year historical average.



Results summary

2Q16 results within expectations, helped by non-fare revenue. SMRT's 2Q16 results are within expectations, with net profit up by 1.9% y-o-y to S\$25.7m. Revenue grew by 4.7% y-o-y to S\$328.8m driven by higher fares and non-fare revenue contribution, namely rental, advertising and taxis. In addition, contribution from associate Shenzhen Zona surged, attributed to turnaround in operations and lower interest expenses.

Higher costs but mitigated by other operating income, and partially by lower energy costs. Operating costs increased across the board, save for electricity and diesel costs which decreased by 9.8% y-o-y to \$\$36m due to lower energy prices. In addition, the higher operating costs were offset by an increase of \$\$5.2m (42.3%) in other operation income, arising largely from Bus Service Enhancement Programme (BSEP) grants.

MRT and LRT incurred losses of S\$4m. In 2Q16, MRT and LRT recorded operating losses of S\$2.8m and S\$1.2m, respectively, continuing the trend from 1Q16. This is not surprising. Bus operations, on the other hand, recorded an improved operating profit of S\$2.6m, a reversal of S\$1.4m losses in 2Q15 arising from higher ridership and lower diesel costs.

Rental and non-fare segments continue to be the savior. Non-fare business segments achieved an operating profit of \$\$35m,

with rental being the main contributor (\$\$20.5m or 59%). Advertising and Taxi segments also saw improved operating profits.

Interim dividend of 1.5Scts, similar to 1H16. An interim dividend of 1.5 Scts was declared.

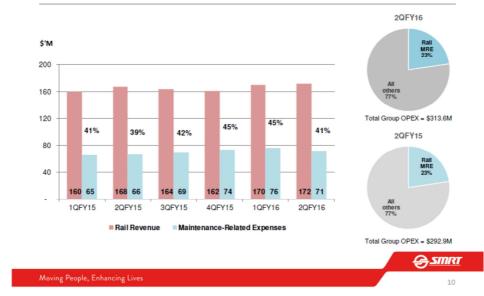
Outlook

Rail-related maintenance to increase. SMRT indicated that rail-related maintenance expenses accounted for 41% of rail revenue in 2Q16. While this was down from 45% registered in 1Q16, it is up from 2Q15's 39%. Management further elaborated that rail-related maintenance expense as a percentage of rail revenue is projected to pick up to 50% by end-FY16F. We have already factored a higher R&M into our forecasts.

Forecasts largely intact. 1H16 accounted for 53% of our forecasts, relatively similar to 1H15's 52% on FY15 profits. Going forward, we expect operating performance to remain at roughly similar levels in 3Q16, but with a dip in 4Q16 with the fare cuts recently announced, coupled with the projected pick up in repair and maintenance, and staff costs as hiring picks up. The Public Transport Council has announced fare cuts of 1.9% with effect from 27 Dec 2015, as part of the 2015 Fare Review Exercise.

Rail-related maintenance projected to increase to 50% of rail revenue by end FY16

Rail Maintenance-Related Expenses



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Valuation & Recommendation

Share price already factors in potential catalyst from NFF. SMRT's share price has surged by 24% since early Sep, after our upgrade. We believe the market is looking at the potential positive catalyst arising from the widely expected rail reforms. Valuations looks stretched at 26.4x/ 26.1x FY16F/17F PE. While the conclusion of the NFF will be positive for SMRT in that it would be relieved of the heavy strain of future capex for rail operating assets, we believe this could be compensated in other areas, such as the introduction of a

Fully Valued, TP: S\$1.24. In our view, the devil is in the details with respect to the NFF and the impact on SMRT. Our take is

that it is too pre-mature to be positive, particularly with current valuations and that the share price has surged by c.25% since Sep. Even so, based on our estimates and assumptions, there seems to be limited upside from current share price. Hence, from a fundamental perspective, we cut our recommendation to Fully Valued, with a TP of S\$1.24.

Key risk to our recommendation lies in the fruition of the rail reform and terms which may be significantly better than our expectations and/or assumptions.

DBS valuation methodology

licence charge for the use of the assets.

Methodology	Market Cap (S\$m)	S\$/share	Remarks
PE	1,291	0.85	15x on 16F/17F earnings, -0.5 std dev on 10-year historical average
DCF	2,480	1.63	WACC 5.8%, terminal growth 1%
Average	1,885	1.24	Average of PE and DCF

Implied PER - FY16F 22.0 Implied PER - FY17F 21.8

Source: DBS Bank estimates

Key Assumptions

FY Mar	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
MRT ridership growth (%)	5.58	2.89	2.00	3.00	3.00
Bus ridership growth (%)	3.24	4.59	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fare chg (avg) (%)	1.00	(0.3)	3.00	2.00	(2.0)
Oil price (US\$/bbl)	99.0	100	90.0	80.0	70.0
Chg in staff (%)	8.32	6.01	1.49	6.00	(6.0)

Had previously factored in fare cuts from the 2015 Fare Review exercise

Drop in staff strength from lower number of bus drivers, with contracts won by new operators.

Segmental Breakdown

FY Mar	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
Revenues (S\$m)					
MRT Operations	608	624	644	689	695
LRT Operations	10.7	10.3	9.76	11.3	11.2
Bus Operations	211	218	238	243	210
Taxi Operations	132	133	143	145	149
Others	88.4	97.6	120	108	112
Total	1,119	1,164	1,236	1,312	1,297

Income Statement (S\$m)

FY Mar	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
Revenue	1,119	1,164	1,236	1,312	1,297
Cost of Goods Sold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross Profit	1,119	1,164	1,236	1,312	1,297
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(1,009)	(1,080)	(1,115)	(1,196)	(1,176)
Operating Profit	110	84.2	121	116	121
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	(0.4)	(0.4)	0.99	4.00	4.80
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(4.8)	(9.2)	(10.9)	(13.7)	(18.4)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	105	74.7	111	106	107
Tax	(21.9)	(13.2)	(20.4)	(19.1)	(19.3)
Minority Interest	0.14	0.40	0.58	(1.2)	(1.3)
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	83.3	61.9	91.0	85.7	86.5
Net Profit before Except.	83.3	61.9	91.0	85.7	86.5
EBITDA	260	255	315	326	326
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	5.9	4.0	6.2	6.2	(1.1)
EBITDA Gth (%)	(7.3)	(2.0)	23.4	3.6	(0.1)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(25.9)	(23.6)	43.4	(4.3)	4.4
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(30.5)	(25.7)	47.1	(5.9)	1.0
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Opg Profit Margin (%)	9.8	7.2	9.8	8.8	9.3
Net Profit Margin (%)	7.4	5.3	7.4	6.5	6.7
ROAE (%)	10.7	7.9	11.0	9.8	9.5
ROA (%)	4.2	2.9	3.9	3.3	3.3
ROCE (%)	6.4	4.3	5.5	4.7	4.7
Div Payout Ratio (%)	45.6	54.1	54.3	57.7	57.2
Net Interest Cover (x)	23.2	9.2	11.0	8.4	6.6
Source: Company, DBS Bank					

Margins Trend



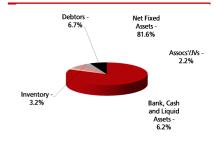
Quarterly / Interim Income Statement (S\$m)

FY Mar	2Q2015	3Q2015	4Q2015	1Q2016	2Q2016
Revenue	314	313	311	320	329
Cost of Goods Sold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross Profit	314	313	311	320	329
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(281)	(282)	(284)	(293)	(296)
Operating Profit	33.3	31.0	27.2	27.6	32.5
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.02	(0.2)	1.03	0.73	1.37
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(3.1)	(2.7)	(2.8)	(2.7)	(2.9)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	30.2	28.1	25.4	25.6	31.0
Tax	(5.4)	(5.6)	(4.6)	(5.5)	(5.2)
Minority Interest	0.43	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.0
Net Profit	25.3	22.6	20.8	20.1	25.7
Net profit bef Except.	25.3	22.6	20.8	20.1	25.7
EBITDA	80.2	80.8	79.6	79.4	85.0
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	5.7	(0.3)	(0.6)	2.9	2.7
EBITDA Gth (%)	7.9	0.7	(1.5)	(0.2)	7.1
Opg Profit Gth (%)	13.7	(6.8)	(12.5)	1.6	17.9
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	13.0	(10.6)	(7.8)	(3.4)	28.0
Margins		(/	(: : = /	(= : :/	
Gross Margins (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Opg Profit Margins (%)	10.6	9.9	8.7	8.6	9.9
Net Profit Margins (%)	8.0	7.2	6.7	6.3	7.8

Balance Sheet (S\$m)

FY Mar	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
		4.545	0.040		
Net Fixed Assets	1,436	1,642	2,042	2,286	2,336
Invts in Associates & JVs	50.6	52.6	55.8	59.8	64.6
Other LT Assets	45.8	34.3	34.2	34.2	34.2
Cash & ST Invts	546	161	156	46.4	22.3
Inventory	59.9	84.3	80.9	87.5	86.5
Debtors	86.1	98.9	168	87.5	86.5
Other Current Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Assets	2,224	2,073	2,537	2,601	2,630
CT D. L.					
ST Debt	2.35	156	8.93	8.93	8.93
Creditor	577	355	568	437	432
Other Current Liab	53.5	54.2	62.8	77.0	77.2
LT Debt	607	480	813	963	963
Other LT Liabilities	216	225	226	219	214
Shareholder's Equity	768	802	860	896	933
Minority Interests	0.31	(0.1)	(0.6)	0.52	1.82
Total Cap. & Liab.	2,224	2,073	2,537	2,601	2,630
Niana Caala Milana Canaita I	(40E)	(226)	(202)	(220)	(227)
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(485)	(226)	(382)	(339) (925)	(337)
Net Cash/(Debt)	(63.2)	(476)	(665)	. ,	(949)
Debtors Turn (avg days)	24.5	29.0	39.4	35.5	24.5
Creditors Turn (avg days)	238.7	187.3	182.9	185.4	162.6
Inventory Turn (avg days)	24.1	29.0	32.7	31.0	32.5
Asset Turnover (x)	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Current Ratio (x)	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4
Quick Ratio (x)	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.1	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	0.1	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0
Capex to Debt (%)	40.7	102.0	56.1	46.3	25.7
Z-Score (X)	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7
Source: Company, DBS Bank					

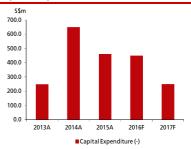
Asset Breakdown (2015)



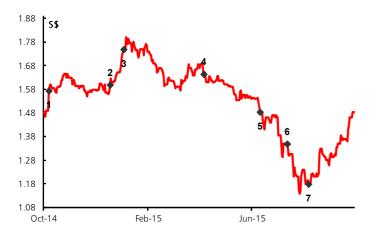
Cash Flow Statement (S\$m)

FY Mar	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016F	2017F
Pre-Tax Profit	105	74.7	111	106	107
Dep. & Amort.	151	171	193	207	200
Tax Paid	(15.2)	(4.5)	(9.0)	(4.9)	(19.1)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	0.38	0.42	(1.0)	(4.0)	(4.8)
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(18.9)	(12.8)	(10.0)	(57.3)	(3.0)
Other Operating CF	38.3	5.36	(6.6)	(6.6)	(5.3)
	260	234	277	240	275
Net Operating CF		(649)			
Capital Exp.(net)	(248)	,	(461)	(450)	(250)
Other Invts.(net)	(16.5)	5.00	5.00	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	0.0	(1.5)	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc & JV	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	2.17	1.55	1.38	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(262)	(643)	(456)	(450)	(250)
Div Paid	(109)	(30.4)	(41.1)	(49.5)	(49.5)
Chg in Gross Debt	460	28.7	189	150	0.0
Capital Issues	0.12	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	2.91	18.9	30.5	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	353	17.2	178	101	(49.5)
Currency Adjustments	(0.1)	0.21	0.81	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	351	(391)	0.59	(110)	(24.2)
Opg CFPS (S cts)	18.4	16.2	18.9	19.5	18.3
Free CFPS (S cts)	0.78	(27.3)	(12.1)	(13.8)	1.66
Source: Company, DBS Bank		. ,	. ,	. ,	

Capital Expenditure



Target Price & Ratings History



S.No.	Date	Closing Price	t Price	Rating
1:	03 Nov 14	1.58	1.86	BUY
2:	14 Jan 15	1.60	1.90	BUY
3:	30 Jan 15	1.75	1.90	BUY
4:	04 May 15	1.65	1.88	BUY
5:	09 Jul 15	1.49	1.59	HOLD
6:	10 Aug 15	1.35	1.27	FULLY VALUED
7:	04 Sep 15	1.18	1.22	HOLD

Note: Share price and Target price are adjusted for corporate actions.

Source: DBS Bank

DBS Bank recommendations are based an Absolute Total Return* Rating system, defined as follows:

STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return i.e. > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable catalysts within this time frame)

Share price appreciation + dividends

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