# Singapore Company Focus

# Frencken Group Limited

Bloomberg: FRKN SP | Reuters: FREN.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

# DBS Group Research . Equity

# **BUY**

(Initiating Coverage)

**Last Traded Price ( 12 Apr 2019):** \$\$0.60 (**STI :** 3,331.98) **Price Target 12-mth:** \$\$0.75 (25% upside)

**Potential Catalyst:** New customers and products; positive US-China trade developments

#### **Analyst**

Lee Keng LING +65 6682 3703 leekeng@dbs.com



Forecasts and Valuation	20474	20404	20405	20205
FY Dec (S\$m)	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F
Revenue	515	626	677	741
EBITDA	45.2	61.5	67.6	73.4
Pre-tax Profit	40.4	40.2	47.7	51.8
Net Profit	33.4	30.0	35.7	38.8
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	23.0	33.9	35.7	38.8
EPS (S cts)	8.03	7.12	8.48	9.22
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	5.52	8.05	8.48	9.22
EPS Gth (%)	105	(11)	19	9
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	41	46	5	9
Diluted EPS (S cts)	8.03	7.12	8.48	9.22
Net DPS (S cts)	2.39	2.14	2.54	2.76
BV Per Share (S cts)	59.4	62.8	68.8	75.2
PE (X)	7.5	8.4	7.1	6.5
PE Pre Ex. (X)	10.9	7.5	7.1	6.5
P/Cash Flow (X)	7.2	10.1	4.5	5.9
EV/EBITDA (X)	5.5	4.2	3.5	3.1
Net Div Yield (%)	4.0	3.6	4.2	4.6
P/Book Value (X)	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
ROAE (%)	13.5	11.3	12.3	12.2
Consensus EPS (S cts):			6.70	7.80
Other Broker Recs:		B: 1	S: 0	H: 0

ICB Industry: Industrials

ICB Sector: Electronic & Electrical Equipment

**Principal Business:** Frencken Group is a high-technology capital equipment, automotive and consumer product solution provider of complete and integrated one-stop outsourcing solutions to a diversified customer base comprising of renowned global companies.

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

# 15 Apr 2019

# **Beauty of diversification**

- Initiate coverage with BUY and 25% potential upside to \$\$0.75 TP
- Diversification of business segments, manufacturing facilities and customer base brings resilience and stability
- Benefitting from technological advancement and rising transformation trend
- Attractive valuations trading at steep discount to peers PE and offers c.4% dividend yield

Diversification brings resilience and stability. Frencken has a strong presence in a wide variety of industries and business segments, with a global customer base. It operates five key segments - Automotive, Analytical & Life Science, Medical, Semiconductor and Industrial & Industrial Automation. Design and manufacturing sites are located close to customers and span across three regions – USA, Europe and Asia, in 16 locations.

**Beneficiary of technological advancement.** The accelerating scope of technological changes, like data analytics and Internet of Things (IoT), as well as the transformation of the Automotive industry and advances in the Analytical and Medical segments are some of the key drivers for Frencken's business.

Attractive valuation with c.4% yield. At 7.1x FY19F and 6.5x FY20F earnings, Frencken is trading at about 40% discount to peers' average of 12x PE, which is too steep, in our view. Furthermore, the stock is supported by a dividend yield of about 4% to 5%, based on a 30% payout ratio.

#### Valuation:

Initiate with BUY, TP: \$\$0.75 for 25% upside. We believe a target valuation of 8.5x PE based on blended FY19F and F20F earnings is fair, pegged to a 20% discount to peer average, given its smaller scale. This valuation peg also coincides with its +1SD PE band. Accordingly, we derive a target price of \$\$0.75 per share, which translates to an upside of 25% from the current price.

# **Key Risks to Our View:**

**Dependent on global market conditions.** As Frencken has exposure to customers in the US, EU and Asia, a broad global economic slowdown could impact demand and earnings.

# At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	422
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	253 / 188
Major Shareholders (%)	
Low Heang Thong	6.32
Micro Compact Sdn Bhd	6.23
Precico Singapore	6.19
Free Float (%)	81.26
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	0.46







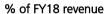
# **Investment Summary**

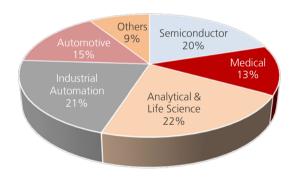
Initiate with BUY, TP: S\$0.75 for 25% potential upside. We initiate coverage on Frencken with a BUY call and target price of S\$0.75, which implies potential upside of 25% from current price. We like Frencken for its diversification in terms of business segments, location of manufacturing facilities and customer base. We believe that current PE valuation of 7.1x FY19F and 6.5x FY20F earnings, standing at about 40% discount to peers' average of 12x, is too steep. Furthermore, the stock is supported by a dividend yield of about 4% to 5%, based on a 30% payout ratio.

**Diversification brings resilience and stability.** Frencken is present in a wide variety of markets and business segments, with a global customer base.

Frencken has two key business divisions - Mechatronics and Integrated Manufacturing Services (IMS) - which can be further classified under five key business segments – Automotive,

Diversification with five key segments





Source: Company, DBS Bank

Analytical & Life Science, Medical, Semiconductor and Industrial & Industrial Automation. The diversification helps to buffer the Group from adverse impact from a cyclical downturn of a particular industry and in turn brings resilience and stability to the Group.

Frencken's design and manufacturing sites span across three regions – USA, Europe and Asia, in 16 locations. For now, there is no urgent need for Frencken to diversify out of China as China only accounts for five (excluding the Chuzhou plant expected to be ready in mid 2019) out of the 16 locations.

Attractive valuation with c.4% yield. At current PE valuation of 7.1x FY19F and 6.5x FY20F earnings, Frencken is trading at about 40% discount to peers' average of 12x, which is too steep, in our view. Furthermore, the stock is supported by a dividend yield of about 4% to 5%, based on a 30% payout ratio.

#### 16 manufacturing sites

Mechatronics Division	IMS Division
6 Global Centres	10 Global Centres (excl.
Eindhoven, Netherlands	Chuzhou, China in mid 2019)
Reuver, Netherlands	Noida, India
Bangi, Malaysia	Bangkok, Thailand
Singapore	Selangor, Malaysia
Wuxi, China	Johor, Malaysia
Spokane, USA	Singapore
	Jakarta, Indonesia
	Zhuhai (Jinding and
	Nanshui), China
	Tianjin, China
	Chuzhou, China (mid
	2019)
	Rotterdam, Netherlands
	Grenchen, Switzerland

Source: Company, DBS Bank

# 12-month forward PE



Source: Company, DBS Bank

#### DPS and payout ratio





Diversified blue chip customer base; largest customer accounts for 20% of total revenue. Frencken's customers are mainly market leaders in their respective sectors. In the automotive segment, its customers are tier #1 and OEM automotive companies. In the semiconductor space, its customers are market leaders for wafer fabrication, diagnostics and backend integrated circuit process equipment. In FY18, the top four major customers accounted for 48% of the trade receivables. These four customers are involved in different spectrum of industries and are exposed to a variety of end markets to which they sell. The largest customer, which is from the Mechatronics division, accounts for 25.6% of the revenue for this division, and 20% of total revenue.

Frencken's customers are also located globally, with about 51% from Asia (13% from China), 42% from Europe, 5% from USA and the balance 2% from other regions, based on FY18 revenue. A diversified customer base would help to minimise any negative impact from the ongoing US-China trade war.

Offers full suite of services. One of Frencken's competitive edge is that it is a one-stop global integrated technology solutions provider.

The Group offers end-to-end solutions across the entire customer value chain - from product conceptualisation, integrated design, prototyping and new product introductions, to supply chain design and management, state-of-the-art value and volume manufacturing and logistics services.

#### Customers (selected) - by segment



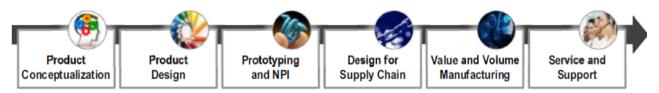
Source: Company website

#### Customers - by location



Source: Company; DBS Bank

# Integrated solutions provider



Source: Company



# **Valuation & Peers Comparison**

Trading at steep discount to peers, which is unwarranted. At current PE of 7.1x FY19F and 6.5x FY20F earnings, Frencken is trading at about 40% discount to peers' average PE of 11.8x FY19F and 10.6x FY20F earnings, and also to SGX-listed peer, Venture Corporation. The discount is too steep, in our view. Furthermore, the stock is supported by a dividend yield of about 4% to 5% based on a 30% payout ratio.

Expect PE to move back to 8.5x, at +1SD of mean. Frencken's PE has been hovering within 4.5x (-1SD of its mean valuation) and 8.5x (+1SD of mean) in the last three to four years. With the continued restructuring and rationalisation exercise in place to optimise productivity and improve efficiencies and

profitability, we believe Frencken should trade up to +1SD of its mean i.e. 8.5x.

Initiate BUY with TP of \$\$0.75. We believe a valuation of 8.5x PE based on blended FY19F and F20F earnings is fair, pegged to a 20% discount to peer average, given its smaller scale. This valuation peg also coincides with the +1SD PE band. Target price works out to \$\$0.75 per share, which translates to an upside of 25% from the current price.

Initiate coverage with a BUY rating and TP of S\$0.75.

#### **Peers Comparison**

BB Code	Name	Price	Mkt Cap	545	Hist PE		Next Yr PE	P/B		EV/EBITDA	ROE	Op Mgn	Net Mgn
		(Local Curr)	(US\$m)	FY End	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(%)
FRKN SP	Frencken Group	0.55	170.7	Dec-18	6.8	7.6	6.4	0.9	0.4	2.9	11.7	7.3	4.8
VMS SP	VENTURE CORP	18.76	4,002.5	Dec-18	16.0	14.0	13.1	2.3	1.7	7.4	16.4	11.8	10.6
FLEX US	FLEX LTD	10.93	5,699.1	Mar-18	19.1	9.6	8.7	1.9	0.2	5.1	4.6	2.5	1.7
JBL US	JABIL INC	29.16	4,457.9	Aug-18	13.0	9.8	8.6	2.4	0.2	4.4	8.5	2.5	0.4
CLS US	CELESTICA INC	8.75	1,197.9	Dec-18	11.5	9.6	7.2	0.9	0.2	7.8	7.3	1.6	1.5
PLXS US	PLEXUS CORP	64.97	2,008.5	Sep-18	15.3	17.4	14.8	2.2	0.7	9.0	14.5	4.1	0.5
BHE US	BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS	28.31	1,140.7	Dec-18	22.2	16.3	13.7	1.1	0.5	5.6	1.8	2.3	0.9
SANM US	SANMINA CORP	31.32	2,143.2	Sep-18	15.1	10.1	9.0	1.4	0.3	6.4	6.4	1.7	(1.3)
2354 TT	FOX CONN TECHNOLOGY	65.40	3,003.5	Dec-18	10.1	10.4	10.3	0.9	0.7	2.8	7.8	6.1	6.4
2317 TT	Hon hai precision	82.40	37,088.0	Dec-18	8.7	10.3	9.6	0.9	0.2	5.2	11.2	2.6	2.4
4938 TT	PEGATRON CORP	53.30	4,519.9	Dec-18	12.5	10.9	10.4	0.9	0.1	6.2	7.5	0.9	0.8
	Average (ex Frencken	1)			14.3	11.8	10.6	1.5	0.5	6.0	8.6	3.6	2.4

Source: DBS Bank, Bloomberg Finance L.P.

#### Sensitivity analysis for TP

Discount to		Target price (S\$) peg to earnings for :-					
peers FY1 PE	Peers PE (x)	FY19F	FY20F	Blended FY19F/FY20F			
10%	10.6	0.90	0.98	0.94			
20%	9.5	0.80	0.87	0.84			
30%	8.3	0.70	0.76	0.73			

Discou	ınt to	Target price (S\$) peg to earnings for :-					
peers FY2 PE	Peers PE (x)	FY19F	FY20F	Blended FY19F/FY20F			
10%	9.5	0.81	0.88	0.84			
20%	8.5	0.72	0.78	0.75			
30%	7.4	0.63	0.68	0.65			

Source: DBS Bank, Bloomberg Finance L.P.



#### **Critical Factors**

Earnings momentum. Frencken's earnings recovered strongly in FY16, after a prolonged period of negative earnings growth from FY11 to FY15. During that period, besides challenging market conditions, the Group was also hit by impairment losses for subsidiaries and deferred development costs, and optimisation exercise was taken and some subsidiaries were wound up for a leaner structure. A sustainable and improvement of its earnings momentum should continue to rerate the stock.

Technology advancements and rising transformation trend. The accelerating technological advancements and market trends in cloud computing, big data, artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), proliferation of connected devices and Internet of Things (IOT), as well as the transformation of the automotive industry and advances in the analysis of biotech genomics are drivers for Frencken's business. Among the rising trends are electric cars and connectivity technologies (e.g. smart Wi-Fi systems).

Frencken collaborates closely with existing and new customers to develop the next generation of products and technology. Its Mechatronics Division has the capability to provide leading edge technologies that mirror customers' needs, timely solutions, coupled with high quality support to customers on a global scale. Its IMS Division has been gaining traction in securing new programmes from existing and new customers in the automotive segment.

**Exposure to higher growth segments.** Among the five key business segments, we expect Analytical & Life Sciences, Industrial & Industrial Automotive and Automotive segments to

be the main growth drivers. The proliferation and advancement of technology is giving rise to greater research and analysis, and demand for high-tech products to improve efficiencies and to raise productivity. Frencken is in a sweet spot with its exposure to ever-evolving technologies, especially in the Analytical & Life Sciences and Industrial & Industrial Automotive segments.

For the <u>semiconductor</u> industry, uncertainties still prevail in the near term. In the longer term, Gartner expects good long-term revenue growth with a CAGR (2017 to 2022) of 5.1%, outpacing 2011 to 2016 CAGR of 2.6%. After a strong 2018 with 13.4% revenue expansion, Gartner forecasts slower growth of 2.6% for 2019, picking up to 8% growth in 2020. We could see a structural change in the semiconductor industry, led by major enablers like AI, IoT and 5D.

Optimisation for a leaner organisation structure. The strategic divestment of loss-making Precico Group Sdn Bhd (PESB), a wholly-owned subsidiary, in FY17 enabled the Group to unlock the value of this business unit at a profit. In FY15, Frencken took a hit to wind up certain subsidiaries in Malaysia and China.

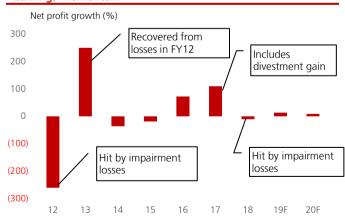
Operational efficiencies to drive margins. Frencken has implemented various programmes to realise operational efficiencies to drive margins. Major initiatives implemented include the rebranding of Frencken as a global integrated technology solution company, the drive to identify and eliminate waste, and to unite the strengths of all its strategically located businesses while centralising and leveraging its resources to support its growing customer base. Its prudent control of expenses should lead to improving margins.

#### Revenue and earnings trend



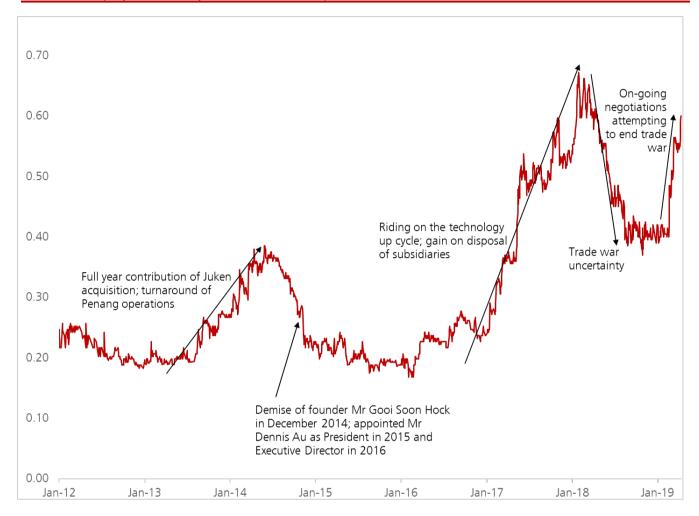
Source: Company, DBS Bank

#### Earnings momentum





# A look at Company's listed history – what drives its share price?



Source: DBS Bank, Bloomberg Finance L.P.



#### **Financials**

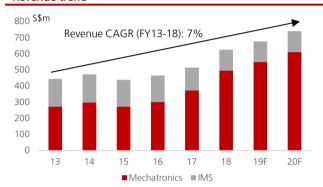
**Uptrend in revenue intact.** Revenue has been trending up in recent years, at 7% CAGR during FY13 to FY18. We expect this uptrend to continue, projecting another 8% to 9% growth in FY19F and FY20F, as the Group continues to gain wallet share from its existing customers and build market share through the acquisition of new customers and product segments.

Slightly more volatile earnings but gross margins steady. Net earnings have been relatively more volatile compared to revenue, partly affected by impairment charges and gain / loss

from disposal of subsidiaries, as the Group undertook several exercises to restructure and rationalise to build a stronger base.

Gross margins have been trending up slowly, from 14%-15% during FY13-16 to about 16% in FY17-18. We expect Frencken to at least maintain gross margins at this level. Net margins, excluding FY17 which included a divestment gain, also improved, on the back of the efforts by the Group to raise operational efficiency and control costs to improve profitability.

#### Revenue trend



Source: DBS Bank, Company

Net profit and margins trend

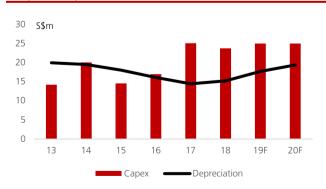


Source: DBS Bank, Company

Capex to remain higher than depreciation. Going forward, we expect the Group to continue acquiring property, plant and equipment to expand the business. Thus, capex is expected to remain higher than depreciation expense.

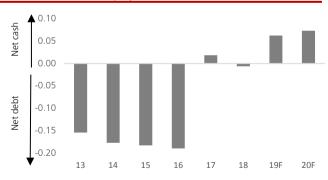
Expect to move back to net cash position. The bulk of Frencken's borrowing is in short term borrowings and forms an integral part of the Group's cash management. The borrowings are mainly denominated in EUR, USD, SGD, INR and MYR and bear interest at rates ranging from 1.36% to 11.75% (for FY18). We expect the Group to move back to net cash position in FY19F, barring any major capex outlay.

#### Capex vs depreciation



Source: DBS Bank, Company

#### Net cash / (debt) to equity



Source: DBS Bank, Company





Cey Assumptions							Margins Trend
FY Dec	2015A	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	7.0%
Gross Margin %	15.3	15.2	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	6.5% -
% of SGA	11.9	11.8	11.6	9.80	9.80	9.80	5.5% -
							5.0% -
egmental Breakdown							4.5% -
Y Dec	2015A	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	4.0% -
Revenues (S\$m) Mechatronics	274	302	373	497	550	611	3.0%
IMS	166	164	142	129	127	130	2016A 2017A 2018A 2019
- Fotal	439	466	515	626	677	741	→Operating Margin % →Net Income
Operating profit (EBIT) (S	5\$m)						
Mechatronics	12.8	13.5	19.0	30.3	39.7	44.0	
IMS _	5.09	9.08	2.97	1.95	1.93	1.91	
otal	17.9	22.5	22.0	32.3	41.7	45.9	
Operating profit (EBIT) N Mechatronics	largins (%) 4.7	4.5	5.1	6.1	7.2	7.2	
IMS	3.1	5.5	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	
otal	4.1	4.8	4.3	5.2	6.2	6.2	
Y Dec	2015A	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	
Revenue	439	466	515	626	677	741	
Cost of Goods Sold	(372)	(396)	(431)	(524)	(567)	(620)	
Gross Profit	67.3	70.8	83.9	102	110	121	Gain from disposal of
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(52.1)	(55.0)	(59.9)	(61.3)	(66.4)	(72.6)	subsidiary
Operating Profit	15.2	15.8	24.0	40.4	44.1	48.2	
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	6.81	5.90	6.35	4.64	4.64	4.64	
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(1.3)	(1.4)	(0.3)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	(6.0) ~	0.0	10.5	(3.9)_	0.0	0.0	
Pre-tax Profit	14.7	20:3	40.4	40.2	47.7	51.8	Impairment loss for
ax	(5.1)	(4.3)	(6.6)	(9.8)	(11.7)	(12.7)	goodwill attributable to The Netherlands plant
Minority Interest	(0.4)	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Q.0	0.0	
Net Profit	9.22	15.9	33.4	30.0	35.7	38.8	
Net Profit before Except.	15.2	15.9	23.0	33.9	35.7 35.7	38.8	
EBITDA	40.2	37.8	45.2	61.5	67.6	73.4	Impairment loss; disposal loss and indemnity
Growth	+∪.∠	57.0	13.2	51.5	37.0	, , , ,	compensation and post
Revenue Gth (%)	(7.1)	6.2	10.4	21.5	8.3	9.4	contractual remuneration
EBITDA Gth (%)	4.1	(6.0)	19.6	35.9	10.0	9.4 8.6	
Opg Profit Gth (%)		3.5	52.0	68.8	9.0	9.4	
· =	24.0						
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	25.9	4.7	44.5	47.7	5.3	8.7	
Margins & Ratio	45.3	15.2	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	
Gross Margins (%)	15.3	15.2	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	
Opg Profit Margin (%)	3.5	3.4	4.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	
Net Profit Margin (%)	2.1	3.4	6.5	4.8	5.3	5.2	
ROAE (%)	4.5	7.5	13.5	11.3	12.3	12.2	
ROA (%)	2.7	4.4	8.0	6.5	7.2	7.3	
ROCE (%)	5.3	5.2	7.1	9.6	9.5	9.6	
Div Payout Ratio (%)	32.9	30.7	29.8	30.0	30.0	30.0	
Net Interest Cover (x)	11.4	11.6	70.8	40.5	44.2	48.3	

Source: Company, DBS Bank





Quarterly	y / Interim Income Statement (	S\$m)
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FY Dec	3Q2017	4Q2017	1Q2018	2Q2018	3Q2018	4Q2018
Revenue	129	125	139	147	164	176
Cost of Goods Sold	(109)	(107)	(116)	(123)	(139)	(146)
Gross Profit	20.7	18.4	23.1	24.2	25.2	29.3
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(14.1)	(11.7)	(14.2)	(14.7)	(13.1)	(14.7)
Operating Profit	6.64	6.66	8.87	9.53	12.1	14.6
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	0.01	(0.1)	0.01	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.4)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.27	0.0	0.0	0.0	(4.1)	0.14
Pre-tax Profit	6.93	6.59	8.88	9.09	7.83	14.4
Tax	(1.9)	(1.0)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.4)	(3.2)
Minority Interest	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net Profit	5.01	5.51	6.76	7.00	5.26	11.0
Net profit bef Except.	4.74	5.51	6.76	7.00	9.30	10.9
EBITDA	10.5	10.6	12.7	13.8	16.4	18.5
Growth						
Revenue Gth (%)	2.6	(2.9)	10.6	6.3	11.2	7.2
EBITDA Gth (%)	(11.7)	1.0	20.6	8.4	18.8	13.2
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(20.3)	0.3	33.3	7.4	26.7	21.0
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(28.5)	16.3	22.6	3.6	32.9	16.9
Margins						
Gross Margins (%)	16.0	14.6	16.7	16.4	15.3	16.7
Opg Profit Margins (%)	5.1	5.3	6.4	6.5	7.4	8.3
Net Profit Margins (%)	3.9	4.4	4.9	4.7	3.2	6.3



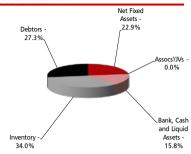




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FY Dec	2015A	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F
Net Fixed Assets	97.7	100	93.9	97.4	105	110
Invts in Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other LT Assets	32.4	33.2	32.1	26.9	32.8	32.7
Cash & ST Invts	14.7	18.5	68.2	67.1	88.0	94.2
Inventory	98.9	109	112	145	139	152
Debtors	87.4	90.7	100	116	117	128
Other Current Assets	8.32	11.4	13.5	11.9	11.9	11.9
Total Assets	339	363	420	464	493	529
ST Debt	50.1	57.4	61.7	67.5	67.5	67.5
Creditor	45.0	51.5	61.9	79.2	76.3	83.5
Other Current Liab	32.6	33.2	39.9	42.8	49.9	50.9
LT Debt	1.79	1.32	1.87	1.21	1.21	1.21
Other LT Liabilities	4.40	4.82	5.25	5.47	5.47	5.47
Shareholder's Equity	204	213	247	265	290	317
Minority Interests	1.97	2.02	2.34	2.63	2.95	3.27
Total Cap. & Liab.	339	363	420	464	493	529
			720			
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	117	127	124	150	142	157
Net Cash/(Debt)	(37.2)	(40.3)	4.55	(1.6)	19.3	25.5
Debtors Turn (avg days)	72.6	71.0	71.1	67.6	63.0	63.0
Creditors Turn (avg days)	46.4	49.6	54.3	56.9	50.8	50.8
Inventory Turn (avg days)	102.0	105.1	98.3	104.0	92.5	92.5
Asset Turnover (x)	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
Current Ratio (x)	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
Quick Ratio (x)	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.2	0.2	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	0.2	0.2	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	28.1	29.0	39.4	34.5	36.4	36.4

Asset Breakdown

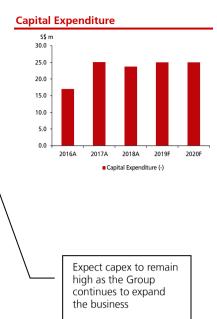






Cash Flow Statement	(S\$m)	
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FY Dec	2015A	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F
Pre-Tax Profit	14.7	20.3	40.4	40.2	47.7	51.8
Dep. & Amort.	18.2	16.2	14.9	16.4	18.9	20.6
Tax Paid	(5.1)	(4.3)	(6.6)	(9.8)	(11.7)	(12.7)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(13.6)	(11.9)	(5.6)	(26.8)	1.70	(16.8)
Other Operating CF	5.11	(1.7)	(8.3)	5.10	0.0	0.0
Net Operating CF	19.3	18.5	34.9	25.1	56.6	42.9
Capital Exp.(net)	(14.6)	(17.0)	(25.1)	(23.7)	(25.0)	(25.0) \
Other Invts.(net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	0.0	38.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	(2.7)	(2.5)	0.70	0.56	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(17.2)	(19.5)	14.2	(23.2)	(25.0)	(25.0)
Div Paid	(4.1)	(3.0)	(5.0)	(10.1)	(10.7)	(11.7)
Chg in Gross Debt	(5.8)	5.23	9.82	7.33	0.0	0.0
Capital Issues	0.03	0.37	1.91	0.95	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(9.2)	2.56	6.77	(1.8)	(10.7)	(11.7)
Currency Adjustments	0.42	0.17	(1.3)	0.34	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(6.7)	1.65	54.6	0.46	20.9	6.23
Opg CFPS (S cts)	8.13	7.47	9.72	12.3	13.0	14.2
Free CFPS (S cts)	1.17	0.36	2.35	0.32	7.50	4.24





# **Key Risks**

Dependent on global market conditions. As Frencken has exposure to customers in the US, EU and Asia, a broad global economic slowdown could have an impact on Frencken's operations due to its vulnerability to business cycles. Political and policy risks could also affect Frencken's businesses in these regions. A case in point is the on-going US-China trade war.

Forex exposure. A weakening USD against SGD, RMB and RM could impact Frencken's earnings, though the impact is minimal. Our sensitivity analysis shows that every 5% appreciation of USD against SGD, RMB and RM will increase net profit by 2%.

**Vulnerable to industry cycles.** Some industries that Frencken is exposed to, like the semiconductor industry, is cyclical in nature. A sudden swing in the cycle could affect Frencken's operations, especially its inventory level and thus, profitability.

#### No long-term commitment for orders

Customers generally do not commit to orders in advance. In certain cases, especially for top global customers in the automotive industry, Frencken would need to go through a strict qualifying process to meet industry standards throughout its manufacturing and testing processes. before being appointed as an automotive supplier. There is also no certainty that Frencken would get the orders even after being appointed as a qualified supplier.



# **SWOT Analysis**

Stre	engths	Weakness
•	Diversified business segments - Automotive, Analytical & Life Science, Medical, Semiconductor and Industrial & Industrial Automation.  Offers full suite of services; a one-stop global integrated technology solutions provider  16 operating sites across Asia, Europe and USA  Broad blue-chip customer base; largest customer accounts for about 20% of total revenue	<ul> <li>Dependent on global market conditions. Frencken has exposure to customers in the US, Europe and Asia</li> <li>No long-term commitment for orders</li> <li>Forex exposure</li> </ul>
Орр	Dortunities  Beneficiary of accelerating technology advancements and	Threats  • Dependent on global market conditions
•	transformation trends  Exposure to higher growth segments - Analytical & Life Sciences and Industrial & Industrial Automotive	Vulnerable to various industry cycles. Some industries, like semiconductor, is cyclical in nature

Source: DBS Bank



# **Company Background**

#### Corporate History.

Frencken Group is a Global Integrated Technology Solutions Group that was listed on the Singapore Exchange in May 2005.

The Group provides comprehensive original design, original equipment and diversified integrated manufacturing solutions for world-class multinational companies in the automotive, healthcare, industrial, life sciences and semiconductor industries.

Over the years, besides organic growth, Frencken has expanded its capabilities and range of services via M&A, including the merger of SGX-listed ETLA Ltd in 2009 and the acquisition of another SGX-listed company, Juken Technology, in 2012, to transform itself to an integrated solutions player today.

Frencken now offers end-to-end solutions across the entire customer value chain - from product conceptualisation, integrated design, prototyping and new product introductions, to supply chain design and management, state-of-the-art value and volume manufacturing and logistics services.

With 16 operating sites and 3,500 employees across Asia, Europe and the USA, Frencken offers global reach backed by local expertise.

Frenken has two key divisions:- Mechatronics and IMS divisions.

#### 1) Mechatronics Division

Frencken designs and manufactures high precision and complex systems for renowned global OEMs in the healthcare, life sciences, semiconductor and industrial automation markets. The Group serves market and technology leaders from six global centres spread across Europe, Asia and the USA.

Frencken has core competencies in development and engineering, complex and high precision components, high level assembly, global supply chain management and process and quality control.

#### Build to customer's Product Design

- Optimise product design for manufacturability
- Develop a manufacturing process for quality and repeatability
- Optimise the manufacturing process for cost, quality and on-time delivery

#### **Build to customer's Requirements**

- Jointly develop product specifications
- Product Conceptualisation
- Develop and build prototype
- Develop process for production
- Production and managing the product's life cycle

#### **Build to customer's Roadmap**

- Good grasp of market drivers and requirements, mapped to the customer's solutions roadmap
- Develop a solution / product from conceptualisation to serial production
- Product fits into the customer's desired offering
- Frencken, your product design partner

#### 6 Global Centres

- > Eindhoven, Netherlands
- > Reuver, Netherlands
- Bangi, Malaysia
- Singapore
- Wuxi, China
- Spokane, USA

#### 2) IMS Division

Frencken offers integrated contract design and manufacturing services to the automotive, office automation, consumer and industrial electronics segments. With more than 30 years of experience, the Group has built extensive in-house capabilities and boasts 10 design and manufacturing facilities worldwide.

# IMS

Proven track record in product design, tooling design + manufacturing, and manufacturing + finishing of hi-precision plastic injection parts conforming to stringent automotive standards.

Secondary processes for automotive decorative finishing, modules and final assembly +test.

# **IMS Coating**

Frencken's proprietary technology PVD (Physical Vapour Deposition) solution - "Sustainable Green" environmentally friendly PVD surface coating technologies for plastic.

It is a cost effective surface coating for automotive interior panels and parts utilising Frencken's "Green" coating processes.



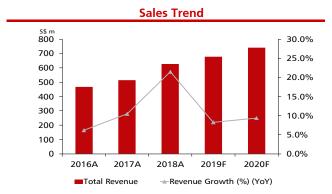
#### **IMS Filter**

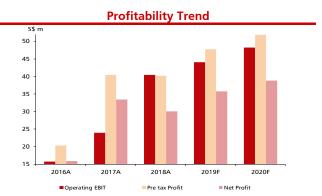
Conceptualisation, design and manufacture of high quality, reliable + efficient oil filtration solutions for automotive industry.

Automotive gearbox and engine filters. Designed to customers' needs and specifications for superior filtration. Delivering cost effective performance and superior reliability.

### 10 Global Centres

- Noida, India
- Bangkok, Thailand
- > Selangor, Malaysia
- > Johor, Malaysia
- Singapore
- Jakarta, Indonesia
- > Zhuhai, China
- > Tianjin, China
- Rotterdam, Netherlands
- > Grenchen, Switzerland

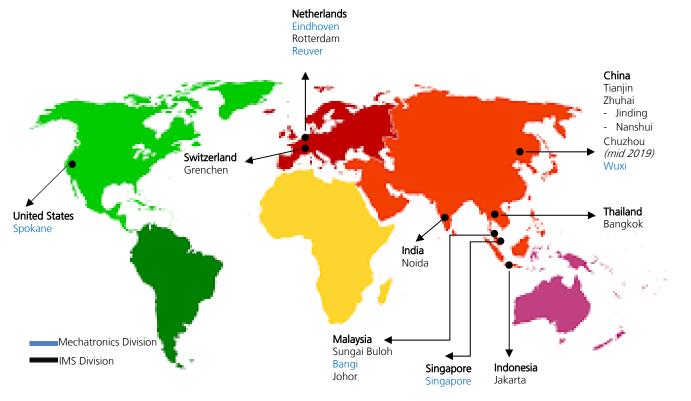




Source: Company, DBS Bank

Source: Company, DBS Bank

# 16 Design and Manufacturing Sites





#### **Five Key Segments**

Automotive



#### **Automotive**

- Gearbox Filters
- Interior plastic decorative parts
- Dashboard clusters, pointers and clocks
- Eco-PVD

Accounted for 15% of FY18 revenue (19% in FY17)

Analytical & Life Sciences



# **Analytical & Life Sciences**

Components and sub-assembly for:

- Scanning electron microscope
- Mass spectrometry
- Gas / Liquid chromatography
- Spectroscopy
  - Vacuum systems

Accounted for 22% of FY18 revenue (22% in FY17)





#### Medica

Components and sub-assembly for :

- CV (cardiovascular) patient tables
- Histopathology digital scanners
- X-Ray gantry and telescopic tubes
- Micro motor for heart implants

Accounted for 13% of FY18 revenue (14% in FY17)

Semiconductor



# Semiconductor

Components and sub-assembly for :

- Wafer Fabrication Tools (Lithography, PVD)
- Die bonding
- IC testers and manipulators
- Vacuum solutions

Accounted for 20% of FY18 revenue (23% in FY17)



#### **Industrial & Industrial Automation**

Components and sub-assembly for:

- Industrial automation
- Electric motors for custom applications
- Industrial robots
- Electrical switch-gear for industrial and home applications

Accounted for 25% of FY18 revenue (14% in FY17)

Source: Company, DBS Bank



# **Management & Strategy**

Helmed by industry veteran. Mr Dennis Au came on board after the demise of the founder, Mr Gooi Soon Hock, in late 2014. Mr Au was appointed as President of the Group in 2015 and as Executive Director in 2016. He is responsible for charting the Group's strategic direction, setting the organisation's goals, overseeing its global operations and driving its performance.

Mr Au has over 30 years of experience in the high technology industry in the aerospace and defense, automotive, communications and semiconductor markets.

# Key Directors / Management Team

Management team	Responsibility
Dato' Gooi Soon Chai  Chairman and Non-	With 30 years of experience, Dato' Gooi has amassed a wealth of knowledge and extensive network of contacts in the global technology industry.
Independent, Non-Executive Director	He is presently Senior Vice President of Keysight Technologies (previously Agilent Technologies), and President of Keysight's Electronic Industrial Solutions Group, driving Keysight's business, focusing on high-growth applications in automotive and energy, consumer electronics, education and semiconductor industries.
	Dato' Gooi holds a Bachelor of Science degree with first class honors in engineering from University of London and a Masters of Science in computing science from Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.
Dennis Au  President / Executive Director	Dennis Au was appointed as President of the Group in 2015 and as Executive Director in 2016. He is responsible for charting the Group's strategic direction, setting the organisation's goals, overseeing its global operations and driving its performance.
	In addition to his role as the Group's President, Mr Au also holds the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Mechatronics Division, and oversees the division's business development and expansion plans in Europe, Asia and the USA.
	Mr Au has over 30 years of experience in the high technology industry for aerospace & defense, automotive, communications and semiconductor markets.
	He was previously a Vice President and General Manager of Keysight Technologies for the Korea and the South Asia Pacific region.
	Mr Au holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic, Electrical and Systems) from the National University of Malaysia.
David Chin Yean Choon Chief Financial Officer	Mr Chin has overall responsibility of the treasury and cash flow management, risk management evaluation, corporate finance, audit and tax compliance, systems, in addition to the financial reporting of the Group.
	He has extensive exposure in financial management, having held several key positions in several companies both in Indonesia and Malaysia, including Coopers & Lybrand and P.T. Smart Corp.
	He is a Chartered Accountant by profession, a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales as well as a Chartered Accountant of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants.
Wang Liang Horng Vice President, Operations	Mr Wang joined the Group in 2015 as Vice President, Operations. He is responsible for providing operational leadership for all the Group's programs, enhancing the relationships with customers worldwide and overseeing the implementation of strategic initiatives at both the business divisions.
	Mr Wang has over 20 years of experience in the semiconductor equipment and high technology industries. He previously worked in Agilent Technologies (current Keysight Technologies) and HPQ.



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

Completed Date: 15 Apr 2019 07:48:17 (SGT) Dissemination Date: 15 Apr 2019 08:09:05 (SGT)

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Contact: Carol Wu 13th Floor One Island East, 18 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong Tel: 852 3668 4181 Fax: 852 2521 1812 e-mail: dbsvhk@dbs.com

# THAILAND DBS Vickers Securities (Thailand) Co Ltd

Contact: Chanpen Sirithanarattanakul 989 Siam Piwat Tower Building, 9th, 14th-15th Floor Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok Thailand 10330 Tel. 66 2 857 7831 Fax: 66 2 658 1269

Company Regn. No 0105539127012 Securities and Exchange Commission, Thailand

e-mail: research@th.dbs.com

#### MALAYSIA AllianceDBS Research Sdn Bhd

Contact: Wong Ming Tek (128540 U) 19th Floor, Menara Multi-Purpose, Capital Square, 8 Jalan Munshi Abdullah 50100

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel.: 603 2604 3333 Fax: 603 2604 3921

e-mail: general@alliancedbs.com

#### INDONESIA PT DBS Vickers Sekuritas (Indonesia)

Contact: Maynard Priajaya Arif DBS Bank Tower Ciputra World 1, 32/F Jl. Prof. Dr. Satrio Kav. 3-5 Jakarta 12940, Indonesia Tel: 62 21 3003 4900 Fax: 6221 3003 4943

e-mail: research@id.dbsvickers.com

#### SINGAPORE DBS Bank Ltd

Contact: Janice Chua
12 Marina Boulevard,
Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3
Singapore 018982
Tal: 65 6979 8989

Tel: 65 6878 8888 Fax: 65 65353 418

e-mail: equityresearch@dbs.com Company Regn. No. 196800306E