Singapore

Flash Note

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

13 Aug 2019

UOL Group (UOL SP): BUY

Mkt. Cap: US\$4,378m | 3m Avg. Daily Val: US\$6.4m

Last Traded Price (8 Aug 2019): S\$7.20 Price Target 12-mth: S\$8.53 (18% upside)

Analyst

Rachel TAN +65 6682 3713; racheltanlr@dbs.com Derek TAN +65 6682 3716; derektan@dbs.com

Buoyed by fair value gains

- 1H19 earnings improved on higher FV gains; net profit (ex-FV gains) fell marginally
- Ongoing projects had 75% take-up; Avenue South Residences expected to launch end-Aug19
- · Marina Mandarin transitioning to PARKROYAL brand
- Maintain BUY; TP S\$8.53

Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Dec (S\$m)	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F
Revenue	2,114	2,397	1,854	2,535
EBITDA	667	828	760	841
Pre-tax Profit	1,038	710	535	640
Net Profit	880	434	326	415
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	352	348	326	415
Net Pft Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	8.4	(0.9)	(6.3)	27.1
EPS (S cts)	105	51.5	38.7	49.2
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	41.8	41.3	38.7	49.2
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	4	(1)	(6)	27
Diluted EPS (S cts)	105	51.5	38.7	49.2
Net DPS (S cts)	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
BV Per Share (S cts)	1,123	1,145	1,166	1,198
PE (X)	6.9	14.0	18.6	14.6
PE Pre Ex. (X)	17.2	17.4	18.6	14.6
P/Cash Flow (X)	6.5	nm	5.8	5.4
EV/EBITDA (X)	20.6	17.8	18.8	16.4
Net Div Yield (%)	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
P/Book Value (X)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
ROAE (%)	10.0	4.5	3.4	4.2

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

Company Guide



Summary of our point of view, and highlights the relevant data points, which are actively tracked

<u>UOL Group</u>- iBanking Login <u>UOL Group</u>- Institution Login

What's New

Fair value gains lift 1H19 earnings. UOL Group's (UOL) 1H19 earnings grew to \$\$268m (+29% y-o-y, mainly due to higher fair value (FV) gains (+182% y-o-y) but offset by the accounting reversal of development property backlog of \$\$76.4 in 1H19 (vs \$\$15.3m in 1H18). All development property backlog previously recognised were fully amortised with the completion of Park Eleven, Shanghai and The Clement Canopy at end-1Q19.

FV gains were mainly from the UIC office portfolio, including Singapore Land Tower, The Gateway and UIC Building which saw a cap rate compression of 25bps. Velocity@Novena Square was uplifted by its ongoing Asset Enhancement Initiative (AEI).

Excluding FV gains, net profit fell to S\$164m (2% y-o-y).

1H19 revenue fell 4% y-o-y, mainly due to lower contribution from property development (-10% y-o-y) and hotel operations (-4% y-o-y). These segments were impacted by lower occupancies and room rates at Marina Mandarin and PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, as well as ongoing refurbishments at PARKROYAL on Kitchener Road.

However, these were offset by higher revenue from property investments (+3% y-o-y) in the UIC Building, maiden contribution from 72 Christie St, Sydney acquired in Dec18 and higher dividend income (+18% y-o-y).

2Q19 net profit was up (+48% y-o-y) to \$\$195m mainly due to higher FV gains. Excluding these FV gains, net profit was slightly down (-1% y-o-y).







Higher gross margins. Gross margins improved to 49% (vs 42% in 1Q19 and 45% in 4Q18) due to lower contribution from property development with lower margins and higher dividend income.

Outlook

Ongoing projects achieved more than 75% take-up. UOL's ongoing projects (Amber45 and The Tre Ver) launched in May18 / Jul18 has achieved more than 75% sales take-up. Meyer House opened for private previews in May 2019 and sold 2 units as at June 2019 (3.6% take-up).

UOL is targeting to launch Avenue South Residences (1,074 units) in end-Aug 2019 and plans to launch in 3 segments at different price range. 70% of the project will comprise 1-2 bedroom units to ensure affordability.

In China, UOL received its sales permit and is targeting to launch phase 2 in 4Q2019. The approved sales price should be above Phase 1 prices of RMB77k psqm. In UK, UOL is targeting to soft launch One Bishopsgate Plaza (160 units) in 4Q19.

Marina Mandarin transitioning to PARKROYAL. Marina Mandarin's occupancy dropped and revenue per available room (RevPAR) fell by high single digits, affected mainly by its transition to a new operator effective 1 Jan 2020. UIC has appointed PARKROYAL as its new operator and will rebrand under the PARKROYAL portfolio.

Overall, RevPAR fell by low single digits mainly due to its business in Singapore and China. Pan Pacific London (Bishopgate, London) is expected to open by mid-2020 while Pan Pacific Orchard (Singapore) is expected to open in 2021.

Office rental reversions positive. Overall office rental reversions were slightly positive, mainly led by positive

rental reversions in the Central Business District (CBD) offices (mainly under the UIC portfolio of assets).

Overall retail rental reversions were up 5% to 6% with high occupancy of 97%. Velocity@Novena Square continued to see strong double digit tenant sales growth. Kinex is still undergoing its mall repositioning and trade remixing.

Management expects office rental reversions to increase marginally moving forward, while retail rents will remain under pressure.

Preliminary discussion on redevelopment projects. UOL's management is currently in preliminary talks with the government, reviewing and exploring different options for redevelopments. Other than the Marina Square redevelopment, it is currently studying potential redevelopment / AEI projects, especially for the UIC office portfolio.

Maintain BUY; TP of S\$8.53. We maintain our BUY rating on UOL and target price (TP) of S\$8.53 based on a 35% discount to Revised Net Asset Value (RNAV).

Given its recent actions (gaining control in UIC and now MCH), UOL is well positioned to unlock the value of its commercial and hospitality assets. The stock is currently trading at 0.6x FY19F P/NAV, close to 1SD (standard deviation) below its historical average in the last property cycle (FY13-17).

We believe that UOL can potentially trade closer to its NAV as it slowly unlocks more value from its commercial and hospitality assets. Our TP implies 0.8x P/NAV.

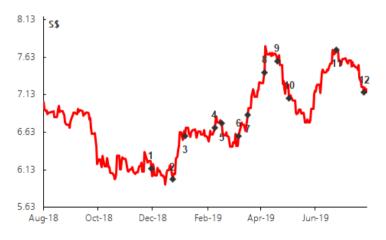


Quarterly / Interim Income Statement (S\$m)

FY Dec	2Q2018	1Q2019	2Q2019	% chg yoy	% chg qoq
Revenue	638	741	512	(19.7)	(30.9)
Cost of Goods Sold	(377)	(427)	(261)	(30.7)	(38.9)
Gross Profit	261	314	251	(3.7)	(20.0)
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(92.5)	(154)	(87.6)	(5.3)	(43.0)
Operating Profit	168	160	164	(2.9)	2.0
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	28.6	3.91	81.5	184.6	1,982.8
Associates & JV Inc	(0.5)	1.00	(0.8)	(52.7)	(176.9)
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(19.4)	(25.5)	(24.3)	(25.4)	4.9
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	39.3	1.25	104	163.8	nm
Pre-tax Profit	216	141	324	49.5	129.6
Tax	(24.4)	(29.4)	(21.9)	(10.1)	(25.3)
Minority Interest	(60.2)	(39.2)	(106)	(76.8)	171.1
Net Profit	132	72.4	195	48.1	170.0
Net profit bef Except.	92.6	71.1	91.7	(1.0)	28.9
EBITDA	230	270	269	17.0	(0.4)
Margins (%)					
Gross Margins	40.9	42.4	49.0		
Opg Profit Margins	26.4	21.6	31.9		
Net Profit Margins	20.7	9.8	38.1		

Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank

Target Price & Ratings History



			Price	
1:	10 Dec 18	6.15	7.15	HOLD
2:	03 Jan 19	6.00	7.15	HOLD
3:	17 Jan 19	6.58	7.15	HOLD
4:	19 Feb 19	6.69	7.15	HOLD
5:	27 Feb 19	6.75	7.15	HOLD
6:	18 Mar 19	6.58	7.15	HOLD
7:	28 Mar 19	6.86	7.15	HOLD
8:	16 Apr 19	7.43	8.53	BUY
9:	30 Apr 19	7.58	8.53	BUY
10:	13 May 19	7.08	8.53	BUY
11:	05 Jul 19	7.73	8.53	BUY
12:	05 Aug 19	7.16	8.53	BUY

Date of

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

Source: DBS Bank Analyst: Rachel TAN Derek TAN



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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 share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

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DBS Regional Research Offices

HONG KONG DBS (Hong Kong) Ltd

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

e-mail: research@th.dbs.com Company Regn. No 0105539127012

Securities and Exchange Commission, Thailand

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: indonesiaresearch@dbs.com

SINGAPORE DBS Bank Ltd

Contact: Janice Chua 12 Marina Boulevard, Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3 Singapore 018982 Tel: 65 6878 8888 Fax: 65 65353 418

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