

Singapore Company Focus

CSE Global

Bloomberg: CSE SP | Reuters: CSES.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

6 Sep 2019

BUY

(Initiating Coverage)

Last Traded Price (5 Sep 2019): S\$0.47 (STI : 3,146.83)

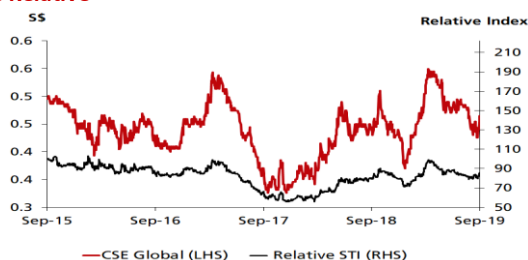
Price Target 12-mth: S\$0.65 (39% upside)

Potential Catalyst: Contract wins, rising oil prices

Analyst

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Price Relative



Forecasts and Valuation

FY Dec (S\$m)	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	377	408	435	457
EBITDA	34.5	42.1	55.5	59.0
Pre-tax Profit	26.1	28.7	36.4	39.3
Net Profit	20.1	22.5	27.6	29.8
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	20.1	22.5	27.6	29.8
EPS (S cts)	3.95	4.41	5.43	5.85
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	3.95	4.41	5.43	5.85
EPS Gth (%)	nm	12	23	8
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	nm	12	23	8
Diluted EPS (S cts)	3.95	4.41	5.43	5.85
Net DPS (S cts)	2.78	2.74	2.74	2.74
BV Per Share (S cts)	33.6	35.3	38.0	41.1
PE (X)	11.9	10.6	8.7	8.0
PE Pre Ex. (X)	11.9	10.6	8.7	8.0
P/Cash Flow (X)	5.0	8.4	6.0	5.6
EV/EBITDA (X)	5.9	6.4	4.5	3.8
Net Div Yield (%)	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8
P/Book Value (X)	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	0.2	0.1	CASH
ROAE (%)	11.6	12.8	14.8	14.8

Consensus EPS (S cts): 4.5 5.2 5.6
Other Broker Recs: B: 4 S: 0 H: 0

ICB Industry: Technology

ICB Sector: Software & Computer Services

Principal Business: CSE Global provides process control systems, telecommunication network, and security solutions in the oil and gas, infrastructure, and mining industries.

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

Well-oiled for the upflow

- Initiate coverage with BUY and 39% potential upside to S\$0.65 TP
- Earnings CAGR of 15% from FY19F-21F supported by stable, high recurring revenue; attractive yield
- Beneficiary of expected increase in capex of oil majors
- Riding on smart nation initiatives in Singapore; increasing infrastructure projects in Australia

Earnings growth supported by stable, high recurring revenue; attractive yield. We project FY19F-21F earnings CAGR of 15% for CSE, driven by the expected increase in capex of oil majors, and riding on the smart nation initiatives in Singapore and increasing infrastructure projects in Australia. About 90% of CSE's total revenue is generally recurring in nature. This stable stream of revenue, coupled with its high customer retention rate and strong operating cashflows should support a consistent DPS of 2.75Scts p.a, or attractive yield of c.6%.

Benefitting from expected increase in capex of oil majors; margins expansion from undertaking more profitable projects. With oil prices stabilizing above US\$50/bbl in the past one year (breakeven for crude oil: c.US\$40/bbl) and an optimistic outlook on the demand for oil in the long term, the collective capex of the four oil majors are expected to grow at a CAGR of c.11% from 2Q19 to FY21F. In addition, its focus on more profitable projects in U.S. and margins-accretive acquisition will lift earnings.

Riding on smart nation initiatives in Singapore; Increasing infrastructure projects in Australia. CSE will be pursuing more Singapore government projects to capitalize on the smart nation initiatives. In Australia, more infrastructure projects in fast-growing cities should lead to a growing demand for provision and installation of a variety of control systems as well as turnkey telecommunication network and security solutions, in which CSE specializes.

Valuation:

Initiate with BUY, TP of S\$0.65 for 39% upside. Our TP is pegged to 5-year average PE of 12.0x on FY20F earnings.

Key Risks to Our View:

Steep drop in oil prices, global macroeconomic slowdown, lack of new order wins.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	508
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	239 / 172
Major Shareholders (%)	
Serba Dinamik International	25.2
FMR LLC	10.1
Edgbaston Investment Partners	4.9
Free Float (%)	59.8
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	0.20



Live more, Bank less

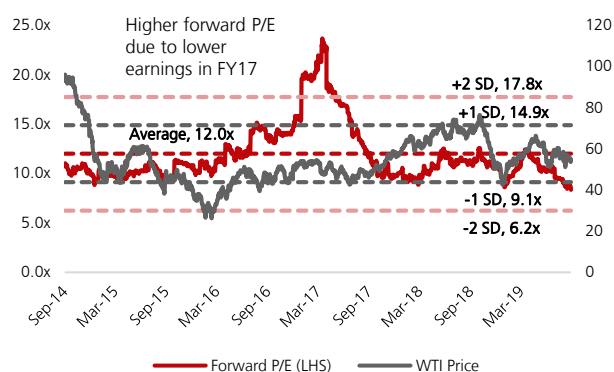
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Investment Summary

Initiate with BUY, TP of S\$0.65 for 39% upside. Our TP is based on a normalized, forward PE valuation multiple of 12.0x, which is the 5-year average forward PE. CSE currently trades at 8.7x its FY20F earnings, slightly below -1SD level, which we believe will re-rate towards the average given our expectations of the pick up in earnings growth of 12%/23%/8% in FY19F/20F/21F.

5-Year Historical Forward P/E (x) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)



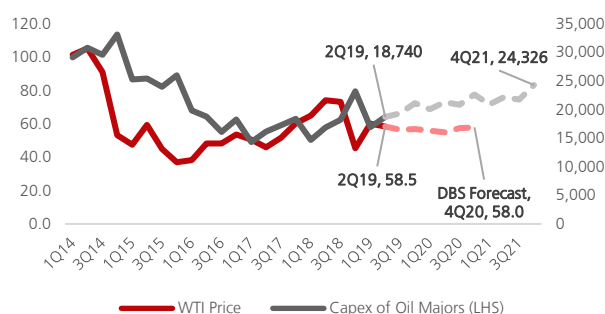
Source: Company, Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank

Benefitting from expected increase in capex for oil majors. Oil prices have stabilised above the US\$50/bbl range in the last year, which is above the c.US\$40/bbl breakeven point for crude oil, and even lower for shale oil, according to The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) estimates. For the bigger players like ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, and Shell, the breakeven point can be lower, in the range of US\$30-40/bbl, due to their economies of scale.

Coupled with oil majors remaining confident about the increase in oil demand in the longer term, the collective capex of the four oil majors is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.0% from US\$18.7bn in 2Q19 to US\$24.3bn in 4Q21 based on estimates from Bloomberg. This bodes well for CSE in providing the support services such as process control systems, telecommunication network, and security solutions for the oil majors and related players.

Recent acquisition drives inorganic growth for its O&G segment. On 2 September 2019, CSE announced the acquisition of 100% interest in Volta and its properties, for S\$58.4m, which we believe will be fully funded by debt given its current low level of net cash of S\$8.6m. Specific synergies will be gained by sharing access to each company's customer list. This acquisition is expected to contribute c.15% to CSE's bottom-line from FY20F, propelling the Group to the next stage of growth.

Capex of Oil Majors (US\$m) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)



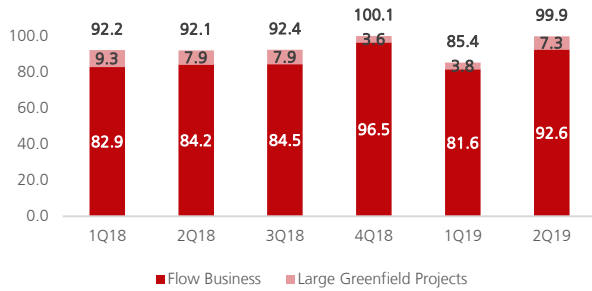
Source: OPEC, DBS Bank

Riding on smart nation initiatives in Singapore; increasing infrastructure projects in Australia. After securing S\$85m-worth of infrastructure contracts from the Singapore government in 4Q18, which involves process control solutions and systems, telecommunication and security systems, as well as maintenance work, CSE will be pursuing more Singapore government projects to capitalise on the smart nation initiatives. CSE can capitalise on the growing demand for security-related products against the backdrop of an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment.

In Australia, CSE is riding on the need for spending on infrastructure to relieve the congestion in certain cities due to population growth. With more infrastructure projects, there is a growing demand for the provision and installation of a variety of control systems as well as turnkey telecommunication network and security solutions, in which CSE specialises.

Stable, high recurring revenue from its flow business. CSE derives c.90% of its total revenue from its flow business, which is generally recurring in nature. Flow business revenue includes service and maintenance revenue and streams of smaller greenfield and brownfield projects that the group can predict with a high degree of certainty. We believe that this stable stream of revenue establishes a strong base for the group's revenue. The balance c.10% of the total revenue is derived from larger greenfield projects which tend to be lumpier in nature.

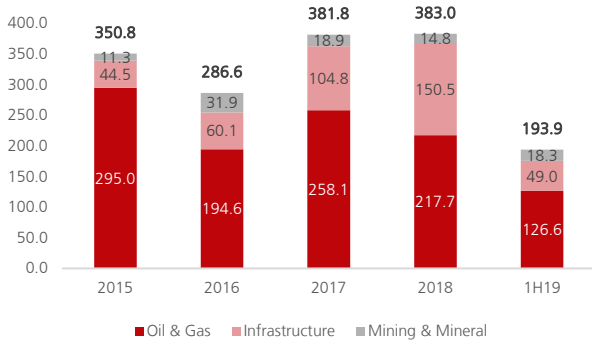
Revenue for Flow Business vs Large Greenfield Projects (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

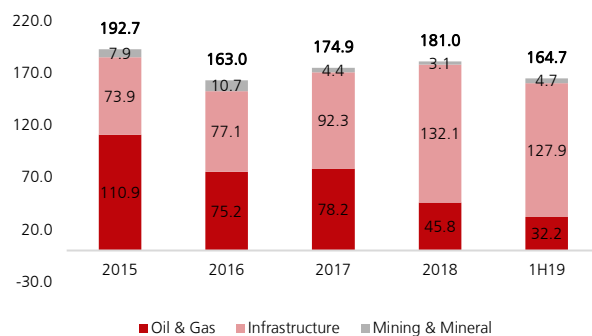
Growing project order book. CSE has maintained a constant flow of order intake or new orders over the last few years, at about S\$380m per annum, except in FY16 when oil price crashed to a low of c.US\$30/bbl. From 2015 to 1H19, CSE has been able to maintain a healthy order backlog in the range of S\$160-200m, indicating the stability of its business. Going forward, we expect CSE to win more orders, both in the Oil & Gas (O&G) and Infrastructure segments, riding on the positive dynamics in both industries.

New Orders (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Outstanding Orders (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

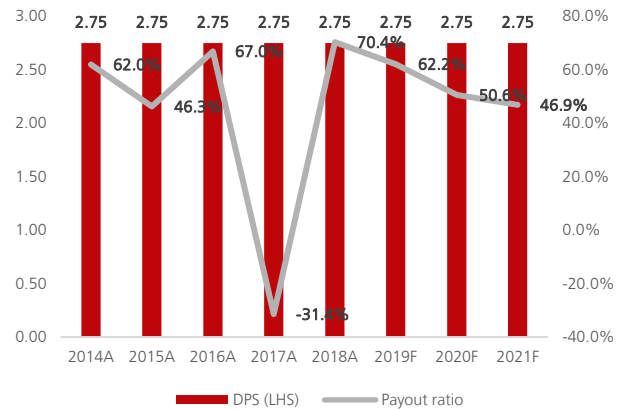
Entry of substantial shareholder, Serba Dinamik presents opportunities.

Serba Dinamik (Serba) became the major shareholder after acquiring a 25% stake in CSE from eight existing shareholders, including an 11.1% stake from founder Mr Tan Mok Koon, back in April 2018, for S\$57.7m or S\$0.45 per share. Serba provides engineering solutions to the O&G and power generation industries. Synergies can be derived from the two entities, and CSE can also leverage on Serba's key customers.

High customer retention. CSE provides process control systems to customers in high-integrity environments (O&G, power and nuclear). This, combined with a supplier's trustworthiness in quality which can be seen through long-lasting working relationships, result in high customer stickiness. More than 90% of CSE's flow business is from repeat customers.

Attractive dividend; implies c.6% yield. CSE continues its good track record of consistently paying dividends to shareholders. In each of the last five years, the group managed to pay a dividend of 2.75 Scts per share, averaging a dividend payout ratio of c.60%. We expect this trend to continue, given CSE's strong operating cash flows.

Dividend per Share (Scts/share) vs. Payout Ratio (%)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Valuation and Earnings Forecasts

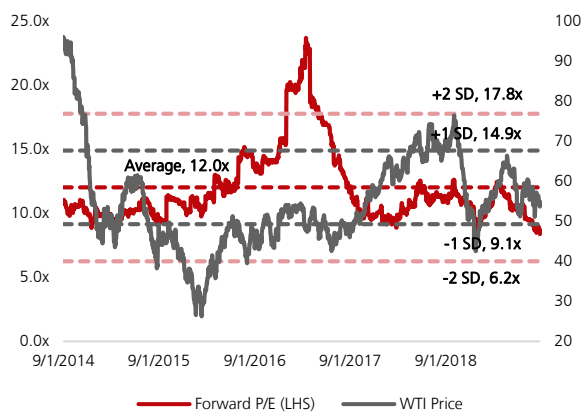
Valuation Methodology

Forward PE multiple. We chose a forward PE multiple as the valuation method as the market mainly price CSE according to the outlook of oil prices. High oil prices and a positive outlook would cause CSE’s forward multiple to be re-rated upwards, and vice versa. There are not many direct listed peers, with the closer ones being Serba Dinamik listed on Bursa Malaysia, trading at 9x to 11x forward PE, and technology-related stocks which are trading at average forward PE of about 12x.

Forward Price-to-Earnings ratio of 12.0x indicates potential upside. We used the 5-year average forward PE of 12.0x and during this period, the average oil price was US\$54, which is close to the current oil price. CSE is currently trading at 9.0x its FY20F earnings, which is c.-1SD below the 5-year average.

Using a forward PE multiple of 12.0x and FY20F’s EPS at 5.43 Scts, the target price is S\$0.65, implying an upside of 39%.

5-Year Historical Forward PE (x) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)

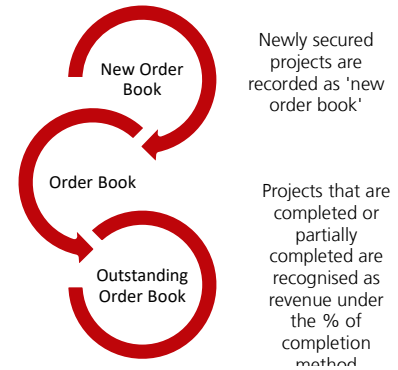


Source: Company, Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank

Order Book Projection

Newly secured projects from customers are first booked in as ‘new order book’. Subsequently, when these projects begin, they will be recognised as revenue using the percentage of completion method. This amount recognised under revenue will then be taken out of the order book, and the remaining amount will be reported as outstanding order book. As such, our revenue forecasts are based on expectations of new order books and using the average percentage of drawdown of its order book in the last four quarters.

Order Book Flow

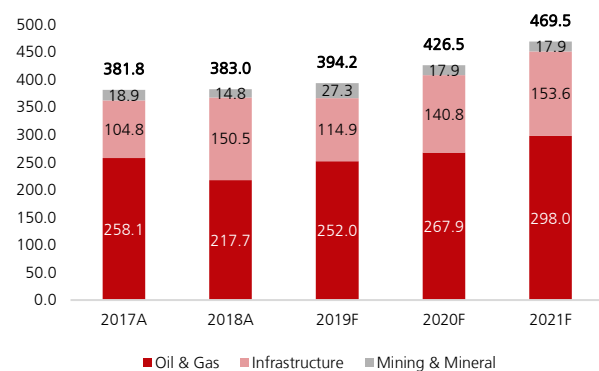


Source: DBS Bank

Conservative estimates of new order book. As large greenfield projects are lumpy and difficult to forecast, we relied on the more stable stream of flow business revenue to compute the growth rate. In the last few quarters, CSE’s flow business revenue grew at an average rate of 2.2% per quarter, or c.9.3% per annum. As such, in forecasting our new order book for its O&G and Infrastructure business segments, we applied a conservative 2.9% p.a. growth rate to their new order book in FY19F due to the high-base effect from the Singapore government infrastructure project secured in 4Q18.

Growth rates of 8.2% p.a. and 10.1% p.a. were applied to their new order book values for FY20F and FY21F respectively, on the back of the expected increase in capex for oil majors and growing demand for security-related products. Our conservative estimate is against the backdrop of an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment in the near term and an alleviation in the medium term.

New Order Win Projections (\$m)



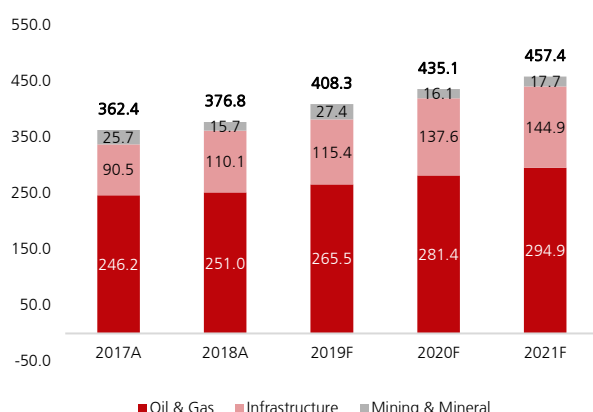
Source: Company, DBS Bank

Earnings Forecasts

66%/ 25%/ 9% revenue split for O&G/Infrastructure/Mining in 1H19. Together with the revenue derived from the new order book, which is typically the large greenfield projects, coupled with the bulk from the recurring revenue segment, we derived the total revenue for the group's various segments.

Historically, the O&G segment accounts for 66-68% of the total revenue while the Infrastructure accounts for 25-29% and the balance of 4-7% stems from the Mining division. We expect this trend to continue going forward.

Revenue Projections by Industry Segments (\$m)



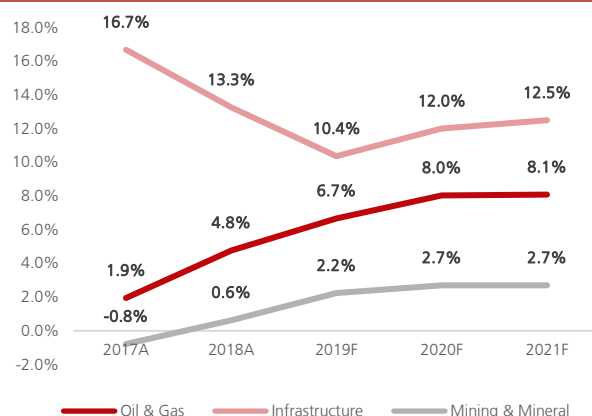
Source: Company, DBS Bank

Improvement in O&G margins from reduction in EMEA exposure and margin accretive acquisition of Volta. EBIT margins improved from 4.8% in 1H18 to 6.2% in 1H19 mainly due to the cessation of its O&G business operations in the unprofitable EMEA. CSE has been gradually reducing its exposure in EMEA from 2H18 onwards and the remaining O&G projects in EMEA are expected to end in 2H19. In addition, given the business Volta is operating in, we believe that the acquisition would be margin accretive. As such, we

are projecting a one-time increase in its O&G EBIT margins from 4.8% in FY18 to 6.7% in FY19F. From FY20F-21F, we are expecting O&G EBIT margins to jump to c.8% due to the full-year effects of the Volta acquisition.

Infrastructure margins to normalise to 12.5% in FY21F. We expect EBIT margins for FY19F to be lower at c.10.4% as we believe higher costs were incurred in preparing for the large Singapore government project awarded end of last year that would contribute to revenue from 2H19. We anticipate Infrastructure EBIT margins to normalise progressively back to 12.5% in FY21F, which is a conservative estimate to its average EBIT margin of 15.0% in FY17 and FY18, after the ramp-up in its infrastructure business.

EBIT Margins Projections (%)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

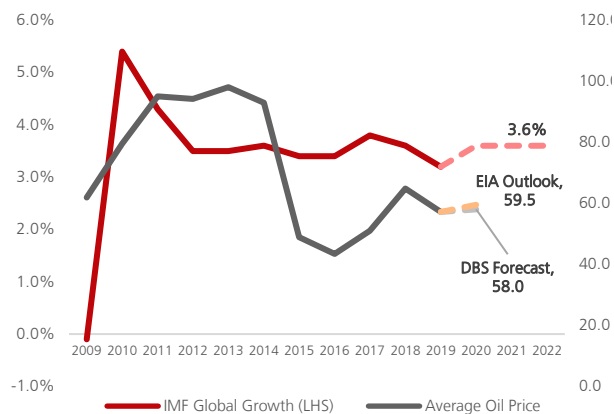
Overall, we are projecting earnings growth of 12%/ 23%/ 8% for FY19F/ FY20F/ FY21F, on the back of increasing capex for oil majors, earnings contribution from its Volta acquisition, and growing demand for IoT and security-related products. This is against the backdrop of a growing demand for oil, Singapore's Smart Nation Initiative and Australia's increased infrastructure spending.

Key Risks

Steep drop in oil prices. Oil price, which is a function of the demand-and-supply dynamics for oil, is a metric oil firms use for their capex projection. A steep drop in oil prices would lead to a cut in capex spending which could flow down to the supply chain, ultimately affecting oil & gas solution providers such as CSE.

Global macroeconomic slowdown. Major geo-political events (US-China Trade War, Brexit, Japan-Korea Trade Feud, Hong Kong Protests) have dragged on longer than anticipated, and have started to take a toll on global growth. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgraded its projections of FY19's global growth from 3.9% in July last year to 3.2% last month. A further deterioration of the global macroeconomic slowdown could affect oil price, which tends to move in tandem with global GDP growth.

Global GDP Growth (%) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)

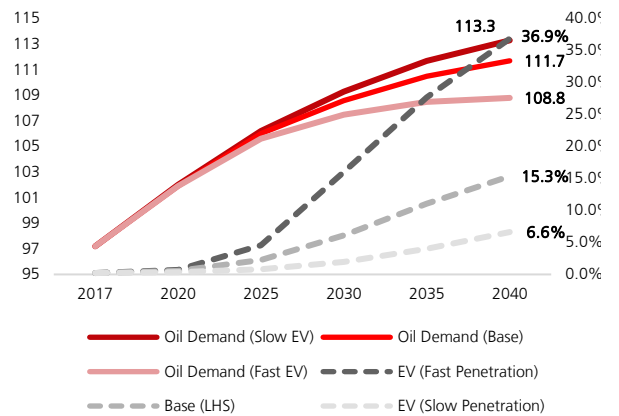


Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., IMF, EIA, DBS Bank

Larger-than-expected shift towards renewable energy. A significant portion of the oil demand growth (29.0%) is expected to be contributed by road transportation from 2017-2040. The expansion of electric vehicles (EVs) is likely to negatively affect road transportation oil demand. OPEC currently anticipates total vehicle stock to increase by 1.1bn

units during this period, of which 320m is expected to be EVs, accounting for 15.3% of the global vehicles. The implication of the bull and bear case illustrated is fairly limited (1 million barrels per day [mb/d]) over the next 10 years, but would start widening from 2030 to 2040 to 4mb/d level.

Electric Vehicle Penetration Rate (mb/d, %)



Source: OPEC, DBS Bank

Risk of litigation. A repeat of the lawsuit in 2017 with regards to payment in US\$ for non-US goods and services to Iran could affect the group's bottom line.

CSE paid US\$12.0m in 2017 to settle with the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on alleged violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations. The alleged violations, which occurred between June 2012 and March 2013, arose out of payments in US\$ for non-US goods and services lawfully rendered by a subsidiary, directly or indirectly through non-US third party vendors, to Iran or persons located in Iran. Excluding the impairment charge recorded that year, the one-off settlement charge resulted in a net loss in FY17.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable, high recurring revenue from its flow business, which includes service and maintenance revenue and streams of smaller greenfield and brownfield projects that the group can predict with a high degree of certainty. • High customer retention. Process control systems are provided to customers in high-integrity environments (O&G, power and nuclear), resulting in high customer stickiness. • Experienced management team which is able to identify opportunities and execute the necessary strategic plays to capitalise on these trends. • Attractive dividend yield. CSE has been consistently paying DPS of 2.75 Scts per annum over the last few years, implying yield of c.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on oil prices. As c.60% of CSE's total revenue is derived from the O&G segment, a steep drop in oil prices could lead to lower capex for oil majors.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in demand for oil and lower breakeven prices incentivise production for oil firms in the US. • Need for spending on infrastructure in Australia to cater to the congestion in certain cities as a result of population growth. • Singapore's Smart Nation Initiative will drive spending for process control systems and security systems for the collection, monitoring and management of data. • Leverage on major shareholder, Serba, for more order wins or synergistic tie-ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A protracted US-China Trade War might weigh on global growth, and thus the demand for oil and spending on upstream oil production.

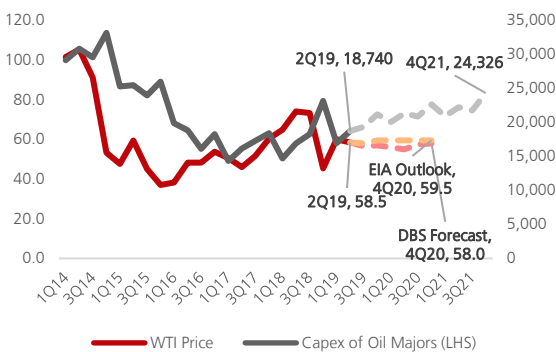
Source: DBS Bank

Critical Factors

Outlook on oil prices. Oil price is a key determinant for the capex spending of oil majors, which will in turn affect the demand for CSE’s services. Stabilising or rising oil prices would encourage oil majors to increase their capex spending. Oil prices have largely recovered from the lows in 2016 (US\$26/bbl), after the steep decline from their highs in 2014 (>US\$100/bbl). A stabilising oil price above the US\$50/bbl level, which is above the breakeven point for oil majors, is beneficial to CSE. We are expecting oil prices to trend towards the US\$58/bbl mark by end-2020.

Capex of oil majors. CSE’s order book for its O&G segment is dependent on the capex of oil majors, where oil price is a key determinant. With a lower breakeven point of c. US\$40/bbl for crude oil and even lower breakeven point for shale oil, oil majors are beginning to increase their capex spending. Furthermore, oil majors remain confident about the increase in oil demand in the longer term. Thus, the collective capex by the four oil majors is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.0% from US\$18.7bn in 2Q19 to US\$24.3bn in 4Q21, based on estimates from Bloomberg. This bodes well for CSE in providing the support services for the oil majors and related players.

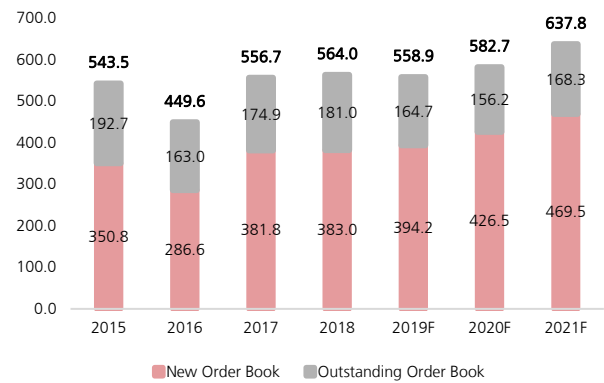
Capex of Oil Majors (US\$m) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)



Source: OPEC, DBS Bank

Order win momentum. CSE has managed to maintain a constant flow of order intake or new orders over the last few years. Thus, order backlog has been healthy in the range of S\$280-380m, and that helps sustain business activities. Going forward, we expect CSE to win more orders both in the Oil & Gas and Infrastructure segments, riding on the positive dynamics in both industries.

Total Order Book (S\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Major Contract Wins in the Last Five Years

Date	Contract Size (S\$m)	Project Details
Jan 19	84.8	Singapore government infrastructure – process control solutions and systems, telecommunication and security systems, maintenance work
Mar 17	42.0	Two offshore projects for integrated control systems in the Gulf of Mexico, from 1Q17-4Q18
Apr 15	40.0	Two contracts: 1. Telecommunication system and maintenance work in Abu Dhabi; 2. Three-year maintenance contract for O&G services in Mexico
Apr 15	45.3	Process control systems for O&G in Americas
Nov 14	22.0	Two contracts for an offshore project in the Gulf of Mexico from 4Q14-4Q15

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Infrastructure spending in Singapore and Australia

Singapore’s Smart Nation Initiative will drive spending for process control systems and security systems for the collection, monitoring and management of data. CSE is well positioned to ride on the growing demand for security-related products against the backdrop of an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment.

In Australia, the growing need for spending on infrastructure to relieve the congestion in certain cities due to population growth bodes well for CSE. With more infrastructure projects, there is a growing demand for provision and installation of a variety of control systems as well as turnkey telecommunication network and security solutions, in which CSE specialises.

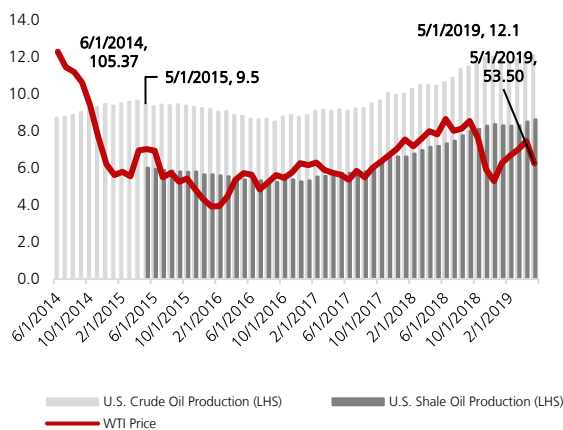
Strategy

Oil & Gas - Leveraging on the increasing capex spending of oil majors

Oil price trending towards US\$60 level. Oil majors are increasing their capex spending as oil prices have recovered from their lows of US\$30/bbl in the beginning of 2016. Based on EIA's estimates and our house view, oil prices are expected to rise toward US\$59-60/bbl in FY20F. This bodes well for CSE in providing the support services for the oil majors and related players. CSE will be building a steady pipeline of small greenfield and brownfield projects.

Lower breakeven point leading to oil production boom in the US, with the bulk from shale oil. Through continued innovation in production efficiency, the average breakeven price of oil production in the Permian Basin has fallen from US\$75/bbl in 2014 to US\$40/bbl today. As such, although crude oil prices have declined from their high of US\$100/bbl in 2014, US oil production has boomed in recent years. Of the 2.64 million barrels increase from the period May 2014-May 2019, 2.60 million barrels (or 98.5%) were attributable to shale oil production. In 1H19, US shale oil accounted for approximately 70.5% of total US oil production.

US Crude Oil Production (mb/d) vs. WTI Price (US\$/bbl)



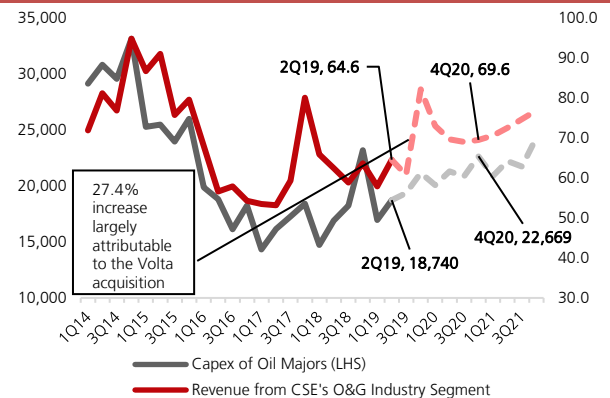
Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank

In the medium term, Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is projecting an increase of 7.3mb/d in crude oil demand by 2023 (from 97.2mb/d in 2017). The demand is mainly driven by an expanding middle class, high population growth rates, and stronger economic growth potential in developing countries.

Oil demand and efficiency in production catalyses US oil production. Due to their economies of scale, the oil majors (ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, and Shell) have achieved even lower

breakeven prices in the range of US\$30-40/bbl. They have outlined plans to increase production to meet the growing oil demand by 2040, and should continue to do so as long as oil prices remain above US\$50/bbl. This gives us confidence that the oil majors would continue to renew CSE's existing maintenance services, and present the group with new project opportunities.

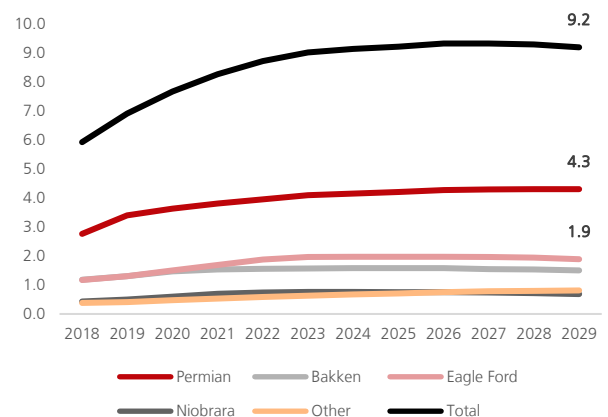
Capex of Oil Majors (US\$m) vs. O&G Revenue (S\$m)



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank

CSE strategically located near two key basins. OPEC projects in the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford are expected to have the highest oil production by 2029. Collectively, the oil production in these two basins is expected to increase by 57.5% from 3.9mb/d in 2018 to 6.2mb/d in 2029, accounting for 67.4% of US shale oil production. We note that most of CSE's offices in the US are situated near these two key basins and the management has also highlighted that it will be pursuing shale projects in these two areas. As such, we believe that CSE is set to capitalise on the US shale oil trend.

US Shale Oil Production by Basin (mb/d)



Source: OPEC, DBS Bank

Infrastructure - Capitalising on the smart nation initiatives in Singapore; infrastructure projects in Australia

CSE has outlined two key focus areas, which are Singapore government projects, and its radio communication projects in Australia.

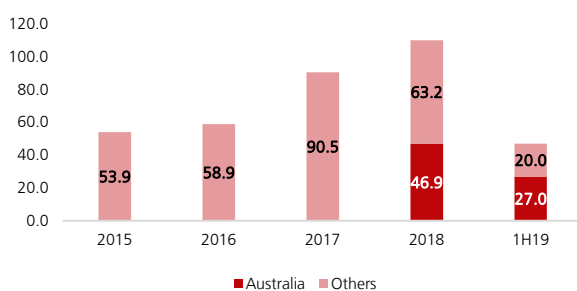
Placing emphasis on Singapore government projects. Since the launch of the Smart Nation Initiative in November 2014, the Singapore government has been increasing spending on digital initiatives to improve efficiency. In 2018, the government handed out S\$2.6bn worth of contracts to information and communications technology (ICT) players as it plans to digitalise its economy.

In 4Q18, the group's new order book for infrastructure jumped from an average of S\$21.7m in the previous four quarters to a record-high of S\$84.8m as CSE secured government infrastructure projects in Singapore. These projects are expected to contribute to revenue from 2H19.

The Singapore government has outlined plans till 2022 and these efforts to collect, store and allow the seamless transition of data would mean that the government would have to spend to ensure that the flow of sensitive information is managed carefully. Projects requiring the installation of process control systems and security systems will be handed out, which would bode well for CSE moving forward.

Capitalising on Australia's infrastructure expansion plans. Since 2015, more than A\$123bn worth of construction work has commenced, with over A\$200bn committed in the forward pipeline. From 2015-2017, CSE spent S\$11.4m on five acquisitions to grow its infrastructure business in Australia. In March this year, CSE entered into an agreement to acquire RCS Telecommunications for A\$11.6m in cash, adding to the capacity of its radio communications business in Australia. With its recent acquisitions, CSE is thus well positioned to capitalise on the infrastructure project opportunities in Australia.

Revenue from Infrastructure Industry Segment (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Focusing on Americas and APAC, winding down operations in EMEA

The group is winding down its operations in EMEA as profitability remains challenging in the O&G sector in that region. The group's remaining projects in this region are anticipated to end by 2H19. Moving forward, management has guided that it will only take up profitable projects in that region. CSE will instead be focusing on expanding its O&G and telecommunications businesses in its two key regions, Americas and APAC.

Earnings growth through strategic acquisitions

In recent years, management has been making strategic acquisitions that are in line with its focus on more profitable O&G markets in the US, as well as its infrastructure business in Australia. Their successful execution has enabled CSE to increase its EBIT contribution from the above-mentioned businesses.

Recent Major Acquisitions (2016-2019)

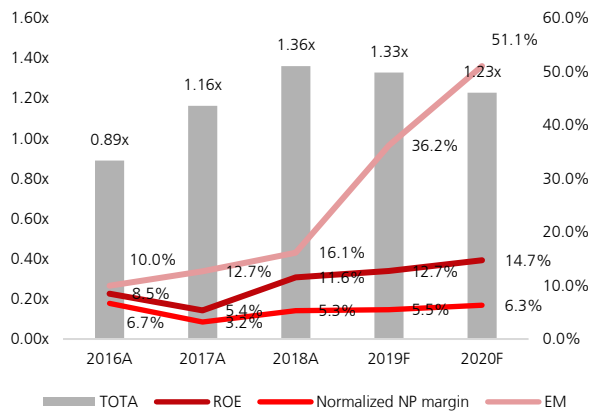
Announcement Date, Name	Industry, Region	Consideration (\$m)	Operations
02 Sep 19, Volta	O&G, Americas	58.4 (34.8 + 23.6)	Designing and fabrication of large-scale electrical equipment centers
22 Mar 19, RCS Telecoms	Infrastructure, Australia	11.3	Communications networking and 2-way radio systems design & implementation
10 Jan 19, Blackstar Services	O&G, Americas	3.3	Design and disposal technology for O&G markets
12 Jan 17, Gulf Coast Power & Control of Louisiana	O&G, Americas	7.0	Provision of equipment and services for mid and downstream O&G
19 Jan 16, Certain assets of CC American Group	O&G, Americas	8.7	Manufacturing and repairing of pressure vessels for wellhead O&G production, and other production equipment
Total		88.7	

Source: Company; DBS Bank

Financials

Improvements in operating efficiencies. Based on the DuPont analysis, the rise in return on equity (ROE) from 12.7% to 16.1% in FY18 can be attributed to the slight increase in leverage (12.7% to 16.1%), increase in utilisation of assets (1.16x to 1.36x), and the increase in profitability (3.2% to 5.3%) as the group made efforts to implement cost-cutting measures, expand its operations, as well as to pursue more profitable projects.

DuPont Analysis

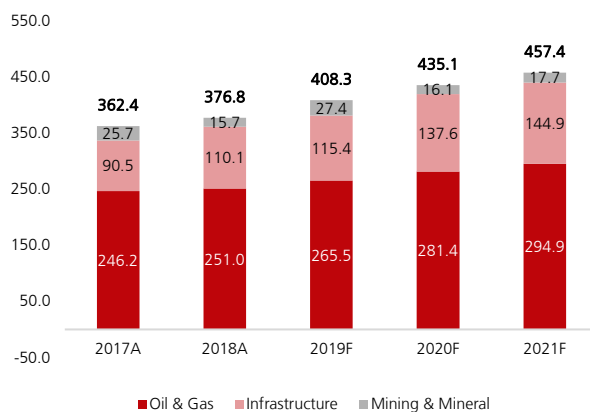


Source: Company, DBS Bank

Income Statement

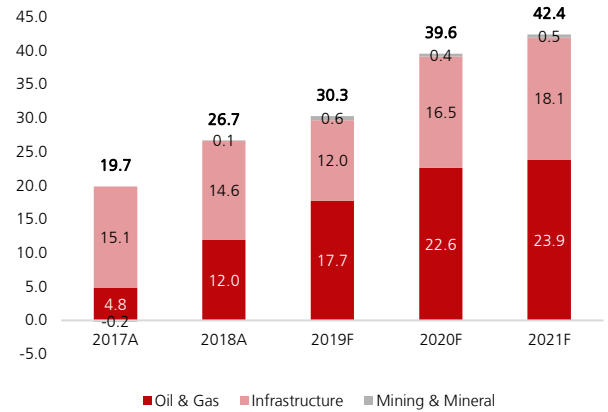
Lower O&G margins, higher revenue and EBIT. As most of the growth stems from the onshore O&G market in the US, we expect the proportion of CSE's onshore O&G revenue to increase. While this will reduce margins for its O&G industry segment, we believe that it is still an overall benefit to CSE.

Revenue Contributions by Industry Segment (\$\$m)



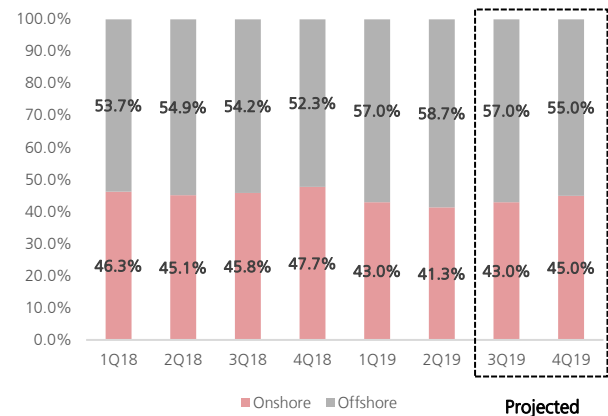
Source: Company, DBS Bank

EBIT Contribution by Industry Segment (\$\$m)



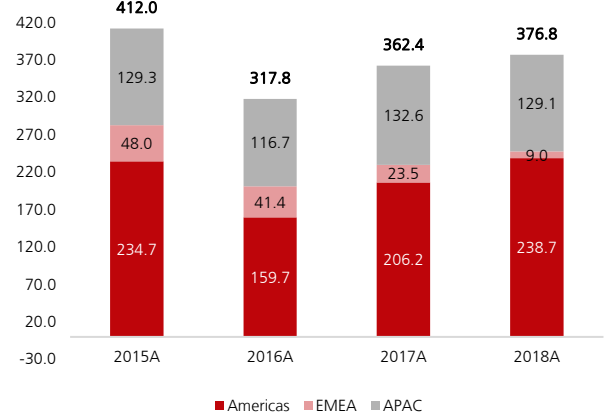
Source: Company, DBS Bank

O&G Revenue Contributions by Type (\$\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Revenue Contributions by Geography (\$\$m)



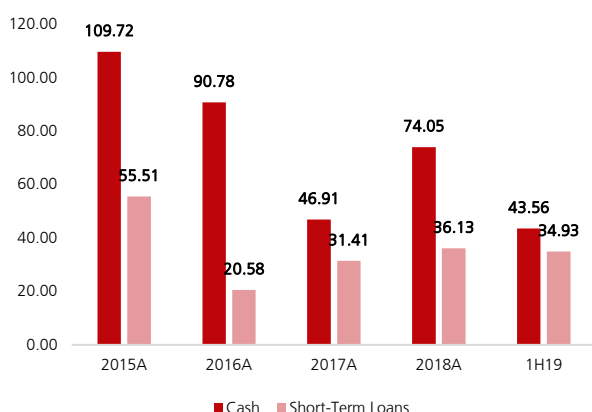
Source: Company, DBS Bank

Balance Sheet

In net cash financial position as at 1H19; net debt with recent acquisition. CSE mainly relies on short-term loans to fund its operations. The unsecured short-term loans are denominated in SGD, USD, and AUD, where the group has operations in, and bear an interest rate of between 2.65% and 3.07% in FY18. As at 1H19, the group continued to maintain its net cash position by holding S\$43.6m in cash and having short-term loans of S\$34.9m.

However, with the proposed acquisition of a US company, Volta and its properties, CSE would move to a net debt position. We expect the Group to be in a net cash position again in FY20F. Volta develops, designs, manufactures, and services custom-engineered electrical equipment centres.

Cash vs. Short-Term Loans (\$m)

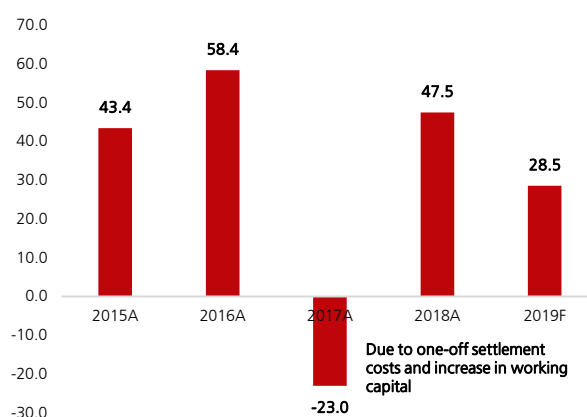


Source: Company, DBS Bank

Cash Flow

High-quality operating cash flows. CSE has been able to generate healthy positive cash flows from its operations (excluding exceptional items). With flow or recurring revenue accounting for c.90% of the total revenue, we expect the group to continue generating strong cash flows from operations, barring the occurrence of exceptional items. The negative cash flow in FY17 was attributable to the one-off settlement costs for the litigation suit and increase in working capital.

Cash Flows from Operations (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Key Assumptions

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
New Order Book Growth	-18.3	33.2	0.3	10.2	15.2	10.2
EBIT Margins (%)	8.7	5.4	7.1	7.2	8.1	8.1

New order book to grow from its high base in 2018A due to Volta acquisition

EBIT margins to improve from a focus on more profitable projects

Segmental Breakdown

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
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Revenues (\$m)

Oil & Gas	237	246	251	265	281	295
Infrastructure	58.9	90.5	110	115	138	145
Mining & Minerals	22.0	25.7	15.7	27.4	16.1	17.7
Total	318	362	377	408	435	457

Larger increase from the full year contribution from Volta

EBIT (\$m)

Oil & Gas	17.3	4.80	12.0	17.7	22.6	23.9
Infrastructure	8.40	15.1	14.6	12.0	16.5	18.1
Mining & Minerals	1.90	(0.2)	0.10	0.61	0.44	0.48
Total	27.6	19.7	26.7	30.3	39.6	42.4

Larger increase from the full year contribution of the Singapore government project

EBIT Margins (%)

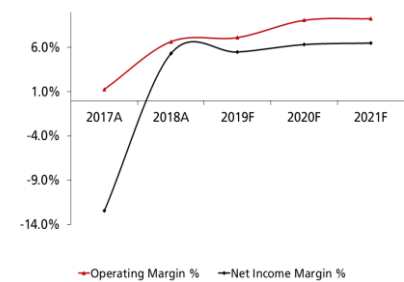
Oil & Gas	7.3	1.9	4.8	6.7	8.0	8.1
Infrastructure	14.3	16.7	13.3	10.4	12.0	12.5
Mining & Minerals	8.6	(0.8)	0.6	2.2	2.7	2.7
Total	8.7	5.4	7.1	7.4	9.1	9.3

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Income Statement (\$m)

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	318	362	377	408	435	457
Cost of Goods Sold	(217)	(268)	(272)	(294)	(313)	(329)
Gross Profit	101	94.1	105	114	122	128
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(73.7)	(89.6)	(80.0)	(84.8)	(82.2)	(85.6)
Operating Profit	27.0	4.53	25.1	29.1	39.6	42.4
Other Non Opng (Exp)/Inc	0.59	3.35	1.51	1.17	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	0.18	(0.3)	(0.6)	(1.5)	(3.2)	(3.2)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	(45.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	27.7	(37.4)	26.1	28.7	36.4	39.3
Tax	(6.5)	(9.5)	(6.6)	(6.7)	(8.8)	(9.5)
Minority Interest	0.0	1.75	0.66	0.38	0.0	0.0
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	21.2	(45.1)	20.1	22.5	27.6	29.8
Net Profit before Except.	21.2	(0.2)	20.1	22.5	27.6	29.8
EBITDA	34.7	15.2	34.5	42.1	55.5	59.0
Growth						
Revenue Gth (%)	(22.9)	14.0	4.0	8.4	6.6	5.1
EBITDA Gth (%)	(24.6)	(56.1)	126.5	22.1	31.8	6.2
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(32.6)	(83.2)	454.6	15.9	36.0	7.2
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(30.9)	nm	nm	11.7	22.9	7.9
Margins & Ratio						
Gross Margins (%)	31.7	26.0	27.9	27.9	28.0	28.0
Opg Profit Margin (%)	8.5	1.3	6.7	7.1	9.1	9.3
Net Profit Margin (%)	6.7	(12.5)	5.3	5.5	6.3	6.5
ROAE (%)	8.6	(21.2)	11.6	12.8	14.8	14.8
ROA (%)	5.9	(14.5)	7.3	7.3	7.8	8.0
ROCE (%)	7.2	(0.2)	9.3	8.6	8.7	9.0
Div Payout Ratio (%)	67.0	N/A	70.4	62.2	50.6	46.9
Net Interest Cover (x)	NM	14.2	45.1	19.0	12.5	13.4

Margins Trend



Higher interest expenses due to the undertaking of additional debt to fund the Volta acquisition

Impairment of goodwill and receivables, and litigation costs

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Quarterly / Interim Income Statement (\$Sm)

FY Dec	1Q2018	2Q2018	3Q2018	4Q2018	1Q2019	2Q2019
Revenue	92.2	92.1	92.4	100	85.4	99.9
Cost of Goods Sold	(67.5)	(67.3)	(67.0)	(69.9)	(61.7)	(72.1)
Gross Profit	24.7	24.8	25.4	30.2	23.7	27.8
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(18.4)	(19.8)	(18.9)	(23.0)	(17.9)	(21.6)
Operating Profit	6.34	5.05	6.50	7.29	5.77	6.23
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	1.49	0.18	(0.1)	(0.1)	1.27	(0.1)
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.2)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	7.70	4.97	6.29	7.12	6.71	5.92
Tax	(2.2)	(0.8)	(1.4)	(2.2)	(1.2)	(1.6)
Minority Interest	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.17	0.21
Net Profit	5.70	4.32	5.02	5.06	5.73	4.49
Net profit bef Except.	5.70	4.32	5.02	5.06	5.73	4.49
EBITDA	9.75	7.07	8.49	9.18	9.65	8.87

Growth

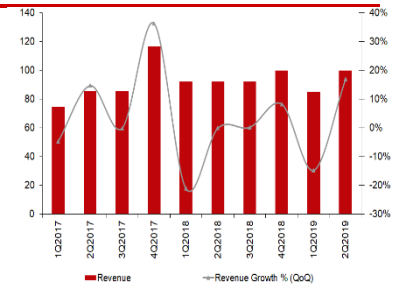
Revenue Gth (%)	(21.0)	0.0	0.3	8.4	(14.7)	17.0
EBITDA Gth (%)	10.8	(27.5)	20.0	8.2	5.1	(8.1)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(246.6)	(20.3)	28.8	12.1	(20.8)	8.0
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	91.1	(24.2)	16.1	0.9	13.1	(21.6)

Margins

Gross Margins (%)	26.8	26.9	27.5	30.2	27.7	27.8
Opg Profit Margins (%)	6.9	5.5	7.0	7.3	6.8	6.2
Net Profit Margins (%)	6.2	4.7	5.4	5.1	6.7	4.5

Source: Company, DBS Bank

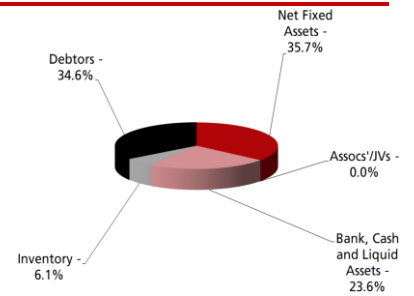
Revenue Trend



Balance Sheet (\$m)

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Net Fixed Assets	26.5	28.0	28.2	99.5	91.8	83.5
Invt in Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
Other LT Assets	72.4	31.8	30.3	28.6	26.8	25.1
Cash & ST Invt	90.8	46.9	74.1	65.6	84.8	107
Inventory	14.7	14.6	16.5	16.9	17.9	18.9
Debtors	88.7	96.3	81.8	96.5	103	108
Other Current Assets	45.5	66.3	38.1	38.1	38.1	38.1
Total Assets	339	284	269	345	362	381
ST Debt	20.6	31.4	36.1	36.1	36.1	36.1
Creditor	37.1	55.4	44.5	54.2	57.6	60.6
Other Current Liab	16.5	18.0	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3
LT Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.4	58.4	58.4
Other LT Liabilities	9.69	3.37	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83
Shareholder's Equity	251	174	171	180	193	209
Minority Interests	3.50	1.80	1.10	0.71	0.71	0.71
Total Cap. & Liab.	339	284	269	345	362	381
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	95.4	104	76.6	82.0	85.9	89.2
Net Cash/(Debt)	70.2	15.5	37.9	(28.9)	(9.7)	12.9
Debtors Turn (avg days)	112.5	93.1	86.3	79.7	83.6	84.2
Creditors Turn (avg days)	76.2	64.7	69.1	63.7	68.6	69.0
Inventory Turn (avg days)	23.1	20.5	21.5	21.5	21.4	21.5
Asset Turnover (x)	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Current Ratio (x)	3.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4
Quick Ratio (x)	2.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.9
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	0.2	0.1	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	0.2	0.1	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	32.1	24.7	16.9	86.1	6.9	6.9

Asset Breakdown



Increase due to the acquisition of Volta

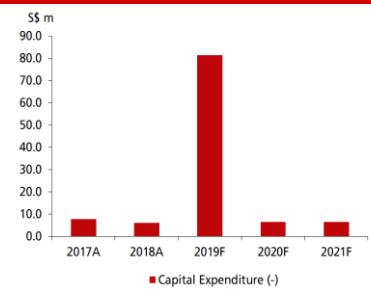
Increase in debt to fund the acquisition of Volta

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Cash Flow Statement (\$m)

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Pre-Tax Profit	27.7	(37.4)	26.1	28.7	36.4	39.3
Dep. & Amort.	7.10	7.34	7.85	11.8	16.0	16.6
Tax Paid	(3.7)	(4.5)	(8.5)	(6.7)	(8.8)	(9.5)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	25.2	(32.9)	19.7	(5.4)	(3.9)	(3.3)
Other Operating CF	2.04	44.4	2.38	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Operating CF	58.4	(23.0)	47.5	28.5	39.6	43.1
Capital Exp.(net)	(6.6)	(7.8)	(6.1)	(81.4)	(6.5)	(6.5)
Other Invts.(net)	(7.2)	5.99	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	(14.6)	(8.7)	(1.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(28.3)	(10.5)	(7.5)	(81.4)	(6.5)	(6.5)
Div Paid	(14.2)	(14.2)	(14.2)	(14.0)	(14.0)	(14.0)
Chg in Gross Debt	(34.9)	10.4	4.71	58.4	0.0	0.0
Capital Issues	0.0	0.0	(3.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(49.2)	(3.8)	(12.8)	44.4	(14.0)	(14.0)
Currency Adjustments	0.20	(6.6)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(18.9)	(43.9)	27.1	(8.4)	19.2	22.6
Opg CFPS (\$ cts)	6.43	1.90	5.46	6.67	8.56	9.11
Free CFPS (\$ cts)	10.0	(6.0)	8.13	(10.4)	6.51	7.19

Capital Expenditure



Increase in capex due to acquisition of Volta

Source: Company, DBS Bank

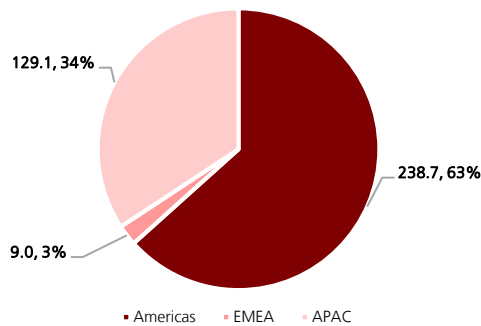
Company Background

Company history. CSE began operations in 1985 as the engineering project division of Singapore Technologies (ST) Group. Following a management buyout in 1997, CSE was listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange in 1999.

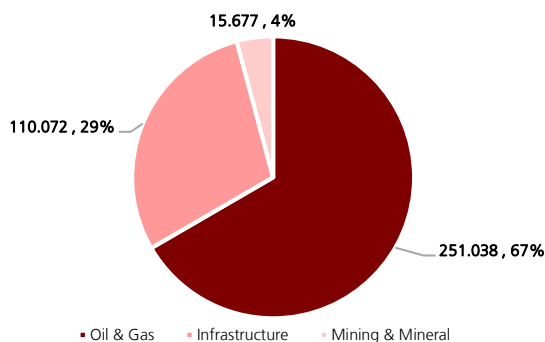
Operating geography. CSE generated more than 90% of its FY18 revenue outside Singapore, and has operations in the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and Africa regions.

Business operations. The group is involved in providing process control systems, telecommunication network, and security solutions in the O&G (onshore and offshore), infrastructure (transportation, power utilities, and water/waste utilities), and mining (commodities and minerals) industries.

FY18 Revenue by Geography (\$m)



FY18 Revenue by Industry (\$m)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Process control systems. Process control systems collect real-time data of a manufacturing process by placing equipment (sensors, measuring devices, etc.) along the production line. This allows companies to monitor and test their production process and react to a potential fault.

CSE utilises supervisory control and data acquisition systems (SCADA), distributed control systems (DCS), programmable logic controllers (PLCs), motors, drives and plant transducers to

deliver process control solutions. These systems are used mainly in the implementation of larger systems at the supervisory and control level.

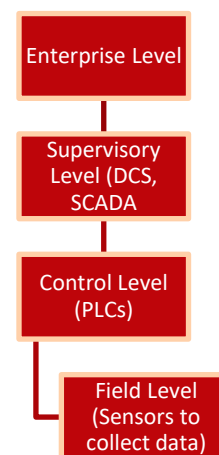
The **SCADA** and **DCS** facilitate the control and adjustment functions at the Supervisory Level. They monitor various parameters, set production targets, store historical data, and set machine start and shutdown.

- **SCADA** is a control system design that uses computers, networked data communications and graphical user interfaces for high-level process supervisory management. The operator's interface is (monitoring and issuing of process commands) handled through SCADA.
- **DCS** is a digital processor control system for a process of plant, where controller functions and field connection modules are distributed throughout the system.

At the Control Level, **PLCs** deliver automatic control functions based on sensor inputs. It allows the technician to program control functions of strategies to carry out automatic operations.

- **PLCs** range from small modular devices with tens of inputs and outputs in a housing integral with the processor, to large rack-mounted modular devices with thousands of inputs and outputs, and which are often networked to other PLCs and SCADA systems.

Functional Manufacturing Control Levels



Source: DBS Bank

Communication & security. Designs, installs, and maintains two-way radio communications for both permanent and temporary locations. CSE offers turnkey packaged solutions, rental, and managed systems, that allow its users to communicate and monitor the safety of their employees.

Management

Experienced Board of Directors. There are currently eight members on the Board of Directors following the retirement of Mr Philip Lee Soo Hoon in April this year. The Board members have an average age of 62 and offer years of experience in both the telecommunications and O&G industries.

Both Mr Lim Ming Seong (Chairman) and Lim Boon Kheng (Group MD, CEO) were with the Singapore Technologies (ST) Group during the early part of their careers. Mr Eddie Foo (Group CFO) was the Group CFO of ECS Holdings before joining CSE.

Key Management Team

Name	Background & Experiences
Lim Ming Seong, 71 <i>Chairman</i>	<p>Chairman, Non-Executive, Independent Director. Mr Lim was appointed on 17 January 1997 and holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) with a major in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Toronto and a Diploma in Business Administration from the former University of Singapore. He has also participated in Advanced Management Programmes at INSEAD and the Harvard Business School.</p> <p>Mr Lim is also currently the Chairman of First Resources Limited (a leading palm oil producer in the region), and sits on the board of Starhub Limited and several other private companies. Prior to this, he held various senior positions within the ST Group from 1986-2002, where he left as Group Director. Before joining ST Group, he served as the Deputy Secretary within the Ministry of Defence, Singapore.</p>
Lim Boon Kheng, 52 <i>Group Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer</i>	<p>Group Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer. Mr Lim was appointed on 13 August 2013 and holds a Bachelor of Accountancy from the National University of Singapore.</p> <p>Mr Lim joined CSE in 1999 as the Group Financial Controller after working his way up in ST Pte. Ltd. from 1991 as an accountant. Prior to that, he began his career in 1990 as an accountant with ULC Systems (FE) Pte. Ltd.</p>
Eddie Foo, 47 <i>Group Chief Financial Officer</i>	<p>Group Chief Financial Officer. Mr Foo holds a Bachelor of Accountancy from Nanyang Technological University and is both an Australian registered Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Accountant registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Singapore.</p> <p>Mr Foo has several years of experience in financial management, corporate finance, and merger and acquisitions in listed and multinational companies. Before joining CSE, he was the Group CFO of ECS Holdings Limited.</p>

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Report contributed by: CHUNG Wei Le

DBS Bank recommendations are based on 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 share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

Completed Date: 6 Sep 2019 07:20:25 (SGT)

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