Singapore Company Guide **AEM Holdings Ltd**

Version 1 | Bloomberg: AEM SP | Reuters: AEM.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

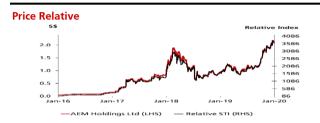
DBS Group Research . Equity

BUY

Last Traded Price (23 Jan 2020): \$\$2.05 (STI: 3,234.56) Price Target 12-mth: \$\$2.38 (16% upside)

Analyst

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Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Dec (S\$m)	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	262	308	361	394
EBITDA	41.6	60.6	69.3	76.6
Pre-tax Profit	40.0	56.3	64.2	69.8
Net Profit	33.5	46.7	53.3	57.9
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	33.5	46.7	53.3	57.9
Net Pft Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	4.1	39.4	14.1	8.8
EPS (S cts)	12.4	17.3	19.7	21.5
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	12.4	17.3	19.7	21.5
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	(75)	39	14	9
Diluted EPS (S cts)	12.4	17.3	19.7	21.5
Net DPS (S cts)	3.41	4.33	4.94	5.37
BV Per Share (S cts)	33.3	46.2	61.0	77.1
PE (X)	16.5	11.8	10.4	9.5
PE Pre Ex. (X)	16.5	11.8	10.4	9.5
P/Cash Flow (X)	16.2	15.4	10.3	8.7
EV/EBITDA (X)	11.8	7.9	6.4	5.3
Net Div Yield (%)	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.6
P/Book Value (X)	6.2	4.4	3.4	2.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
ROAE (%)	45.5	43.6	36.9	31.1
Earnings Rev (%):		0	0	0
Consensus EPS (S cts):		16.5	19.8	21.0
Other Broker Recs:		B: 4	S: 0	H: 0

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

24 Jan 2020

Re-rating catalysts intact

Semiconductor recovery playing out; maintain BUY and TP of \$\$2.38, pegged to +2 SD of its 2-year historical average. Recent data points and news surrounding the semiconductor industry reaffirm our view that the recovery is playing out. Although AEM's share price has increased to an all-time high and is trading at 10.4x FY2020F's earnings, we have noticed that AEM's forward PE closely tracks the semiconductor equipment billings, and remain bullish that the recovery will drive a rerating of its forward PE upwards to 12.1x FY2020F earnings. We continue to believe that its key customer's requirement of more test handlers, a structural increase in test times, and a diversification of revenue through new projects and customers will drive AEM's growth.

Where we differ: We are more bullish on AEM's earnings in FY2020F/21F and believe an uptick in equipment billings should drive a re-rating in its forward PE.

Potential catalysts: Stronger semiconductor equipment billings, increased sales guidance, acquisitions, new revenue streams.

Valuation:

Maintain BUY and TP of S\$2.38, pegged to 12.1x FY2020F PE, +2 SD to its 2-year historical average. It is currently trading at 10.4x FY2020F earnings, which is below its peers, Teradyne and Advantest, who are trading at 22.9x and 31.6x FY2020F earnings. We are expecting a further re-rating of its forward PE upwards on the back of a recovery in the semiconductor cycle.

Key Risks to Our View:

Single-customer concentration risk, escalation or continued protraction of geopolitical events, and FX risk.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	270
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m) 553	3/410
Major Shareholders (%)	
Standard Life Aberdeen	7.7
Toh Ban Leng	7.6
Morgan Stanley	7.0
Free Float (%)	72.7
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	9.8
CIC Indicates to form of the Total Control of the C	

GIC Industry: Information Technology / Technology Hardware & Equipment







CRITICAL DATA POINTS TO WATCH

Critical Factors

Intel's capital expenditure guidance. AEM supplies test handlers as well as provides diversified services to facilitate back-end testing of Intel's semiconductors. More than 90% of its revenue is currently derived from its key customer, Intel, and is captured in Intel's capex. Most of its revenue from Intel is classified under revenue from its 'Equipment Systems Solutions (ESS)'. Intel aims to spend c.20% of its revenue on R&D, which we believe will increase along with the upturn in the semiconductor cycle and its fast-growing total addressable market (TAM) as it shifts towards a data-centric focused business.

US semiconductor equipment billings. AEM's 12-month rolling forward PE correlates closely to the 3-month rolling US semiconductor equipment billings. SEMI and semiconductor market research firms (VLSI Research, IDC, WSTS) are projecting a recovery in the semiconductor industry in 2020. We are also positive on the industry and are expecting the equipment billings to trend upwards on the back of the development of 5G and advanced devices. We believe this will continue to drive a re-rating of AEM's forward PE.

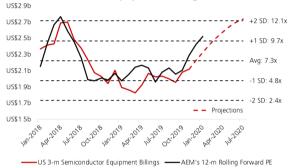
AEM's sales mix. AEM's Consumables and Services generally have slightly higher margins as compared to Tools and Machines. In 9M19, AEM's gross profit margin increased to 37.1%, from 34.0% in FY2018 largely due to a shift in revenue mix. As of 3Q19, Intel has sufficient test handlers from AEM to meet its existing production capacity. However, in Intel's 3Q19 earnings call, it guided that it will be increasing the production capacities of its 14-nm and 10-nm chips by 25% each in 2020. We believe Intel will continue to procure more test handlers from AEM, allowing it to maintain its gross profit margin.

Inventory levels of top chip makers as well as equipment suppliers in the US. Inventory levels of chip makers and equipment suppliers are a function of anticipated demand and current demand. Chip makers and equipment suppliers have built up their inventory levels ahead of the anticipated recovery in the semiconductor cycle. As the US-China trade situation improved from aggressive tariffs to a standstill to a trade deal, inventory levels fell in 3Q19. This is likely due to an overall recovery in the sector as well as an uplift in business activity following the slight easing of the US-China trade war. We believe inventory levels will decline slightly or remain at the same level as demand for chips picks up.

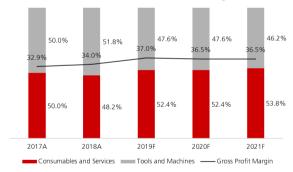
Intel's Capital Expenditure vs Equipment Systems Solutions



US Semiconductor Equipment Billings vs Forward PE



Revenue Mix vs Gross Profit Margin



BI US Chip Makers' & Equipment Suppliers' Inventory Levels



Source: Company, DBS Bank



Balance Sheet:

Net cash position with no debt. As of 3Q19, AEM has a cash balance of \$\$64.8m and no borrowings. In the last five years, AEM had close to negligible debt levels and has been financing its operations and acquisitions through its own cashflow. It is currently on the lookout for potential acquisitions that could create synergies with its existing business.

High return on equity. AEM was able to achieve a high ROE of 73.1% and 45.5% in FY2017 and FY2018, respectively. This is higher than its industry peers such as Advantest, with a ROE of 28.7%.

Share Price Drivers:

US 3-month semiconductor billings. AEM's share price and forward PE correlate closely to the US 3-month semiconductor billings. We believe that the current recovery and end-demand led by 5G and advanced devices will drive semiconductor billings and re-rate AEM's forward PE.

Order book and sales guidance. Management provides guidance on its revenue which is estimated from its order book. In FY2018, AEM raised its sales guidance four times, which resulted in its share price increasing by an average of 4.0% on each of the days of the announcement.

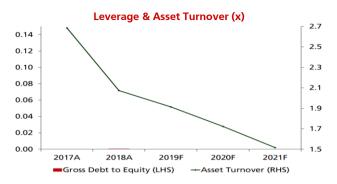
Key Risks:

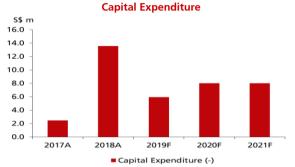
Single-customer concentration risk. Around 90% of AEM's revenue is derived from Intel. Of which, c.50% of its revenue is from the sale of its equipment, which is lumpy in nature and dependent on Intel's need to replace existing machines or increase its production capacity.

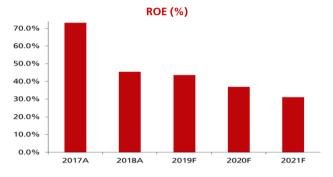
Re-escalation of the US-China trade war. The US-China trade war weighed heavily on the global manufacturing cycle, reducing the demand for semiconductor-end products as well as disrupting the supply chain. A re-escalation of the trade war could hamper the recovery of the semiconductor industry.

Company Background

AEM is a solutions provider for the back-end testing of the semiconductor manufacturing process. It works closely with its key customer, Intel, to design, engineer, and manufacture the test handlers. AEM then provides field support and post-sales replacements.











Source: Company, DBS Bank





Income Statement (S\$m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	222	262	308	361	394
Cost of Goods Sold	(149)	(173)	(194)	(229)	(250)
Gross Profit	73.0	89.1	114	132	144
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(35.4)	(49.4)	(58.1)	(68.1)	(74.4)
Operating Profit	37.6	39.8	56.0	63.8	69.4
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	0.04	0.26	0.26	0.39	0.39
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	37.5	40.0	56.3	64.2	69.8
Tax	(5.4)	(6.5)	(9.6)	(10.9)	(11.9)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	32.2	33.5	46.7	53.3	57.9
Net Profit before Except.	32.2	33.5	46.7	53.3	57.9
EBITDA	38.2	41.6	60.6	69.3	76.6
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	216.0	18.4	17.6	17.2	9.0
EBITDA Gth (%)	449.5	8.9	45.7	14.4	10.6
Opg Profit Gth (%)	474.5	5.7	40.9	13.9	8.8
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	575.3	4.1	39.4	14.1	8.8
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	32.9	34.0	37.0	36.5	36.5
Opg Profit Margin (%)	17.0	15.2	18.2	17.6	17.6
Net Profit Margin (%)	14.5	12.8	15.1	14.7	14.7
ROAE (%)	73.1	45.5	43.6	36.9	31.1
ROA (%)	39.0	26.5	29.0	25.4	22.3
ROCE (%)	72.4	44.7	42.6	36.3	30.8
Div Payout Ratio (%)	24.9	27.4	25.0	25.0	25.0
Net Interest Cover (x)	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Quarterly / Interim Income Statement (S\$m)

FY Dec	2Q2018	3Q2018	4Q2018	1Q2019	2Q2019
Revenue	72.7	84.7	39.4、	52.7	97.9
Cost of Goods Sold	(49.8)	(57.5)	(22.8)	(32.6)	(62.8)
Gross Profit	22.9	27.2	16.6	20.2	35.2
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(11.4)	(13.5)	(12.2)	(12.3)	(16.3)
Operating Profit	11.5	13.7	4.35	7.82	18.9
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.25	0.09	0.05
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.07
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	11.5	13.8	4.68	7.98	19.0
Tax	(2.0)	(2.4)	(0.3)	(1.4)	(3.3)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	9.50	11.4	4.39	6.60	15.7
Net profit bef Except.	9.50	11.4	4.39	6.60	15.7
EBITDA	11.5	13.7	4.59	7.91	18.9
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	10.7	16.5	(53.5)	34.0	85.7
EBITDA Gth (%)	15.3	19.2	(66.4)	72.1	139.3
Opg Profit Gth (%)	13.4	19.1	(68.2)	79.8	141.4
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	15.5	19.9	(61.4)	50.2	138.1
Margins					
Gross Margins (%)	31.5	32.1	42.1	38.2	35.9
Opg Profit Margins (%)	15.8	16.2	11.0	14.8	19.3
Net Profit Margins (%)	13.1	13.5	11.2	12.5	16.0

Due to a reduction in orders from its key customer





Ra	lance	Sheet	(S\$m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Net Fixed Assets	3.62	5.73	5.26	6.89	6.93
Invts in Associates & JVs	4.13	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15
Other LT Assets	3.45	17.8	19.6	20.4	21.2
Cash & ST Invts	46.1	58.9	77.2	109	150
Inventory	35.8	27.4	40.0	47.4	51.6
Debtors	23.6	18.0	35.2	41.3	46.6
Other Current Assets	0.0	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49
Total Assets	117	136	186	234	285
ST Debt	0.01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Creditor	52.2	33.1	45.3	52.2	59.1
Other Current Liab	6.04	10.6	12.9	14.2	15.2
LT Debt	0.0	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other LT Liabilities	0.59	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.21
Shareholder's Equity	57.8	89.5	125	164	208
Minority Interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Cap. & Liab.	117	136	186	234	285
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	1.10	6.22	21.6	26.8	28.5
Net Cash/(Debt)	46.1	58.8	77.2	109	150
Debtors Turn (avg days)	34.0	28.9	31.4	38.6	40.7
Creditors Turn (avg days)	85.1	90.9	75.3	79.4	83.6
Inventory Turn (avg days)	65.7	67.4	64.9	71.2	74.3
Asset Turnover (x)	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.5
Current Ratio (x)	1.8	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.4
Quick Ratio (x)	1.2	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	34,971.4	27,632.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Z-Score (X)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Cash Flow Statement (S\$m)

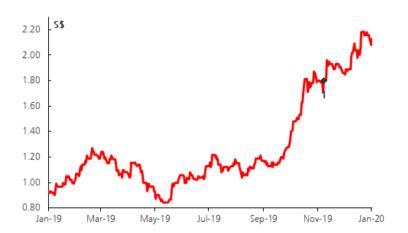
2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
27.5	40.0	56.2	64.2	69.8
				7.22
(0.3)	(5.2)	(7.3)	(9.6)	(10.9)
0.11	0.04	0.0	0.0	0.0
10.1	(4.7)	(17.7)	(6.5)	(2.6)
1.74	2.02	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.9	34.1	35.9	53.6	63.5
(2.5)	(13.5)	(5.9)	(8.0)	(8.0)
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.07	0.30	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2.4)	(13.2)	(5.9)	(8.0)	(8.0)
(4.5)	(8.4)	(11.7)	(13.3)	(14.5)
(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0
0.15	0.63	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2.0)	(1.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0
(6.4)	(9.2)	(11.7)	(13.3)	(14.5)
(1.4)	1.17	0.0	0.0	0.0
39.8	12.8	18.3	32.3	41.0
60.7	14.4	19.9	22.3	24.5
72.4	7.64	11.1	16.9	20.6
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Source: Company, DBS Bank





Target Price & Ratings History



S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	29 Nov 19	1.80	2.38	BUY

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

Source: DBS Bank
Analyst: Lee Keng LING

Singapore Research Team



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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

Completed Date: 24 Jan 2020 08:04:56 (SGT) Dissemination Date: 24 Jan 2020 08:13:09 (SGT)

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