

Singapore Company Guide

ComfortDelGro

Version 18 | Bloomberg: CD SP | Reuters: CMDG.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

5 Feb 2020

BUY (Upgrade from HOLD)

Last Traded Price (5 Feb 2020): S\$2.14 (STI : 3,200.13)
Price Target 12-mth : S\$2.45 (14% upside) (Prev S\$2.48)

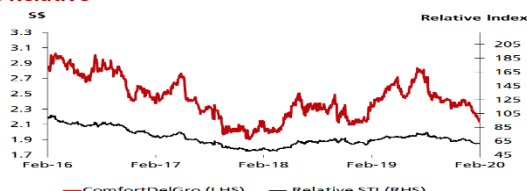
Analyst

Andy SIM, CFA +65 6682 3718 andysim@dbs.com

What's New

- Accumulation opportunity with share price down by 10% YTD; upgrade to BUY, TP: S\$2.45
- China accounts for 4%/9% of revenue and operating profits
- Experience from 2003 SARS indicate impact is only temporary
- Valuation at -1SD historical average, based on our below-consensus earnings forecasts

Price Relative



Forecasts and Valuation

FY Dec (S\$m)	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	3,805	4,026	4,149	4,268
EBITDA	833	846	854	879
Pre-tax Profit	439	431	431	443
Net Profit	303	294	294	302
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	303	294	294	302
Net Pft Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	0.6	(3.1)	0.1	2.7
EPS (S cts)	14.0	13.6	13.6	13.9
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	14.0	13.6	13.6	13.9
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	1	(3)	0	3
Diluted EPS (S cts)	14.0	13.5	13.5	13.9
Net DPS (S cts)	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7
BV Per Share (S cts)	121	124	126	130
PE (X)	15.3	15.8	15.8	15.4
PE Pre Ex. (X)	15.3	15.8	15.8	15.4
P/Cash Flow (X)	6.9	5.8	5.9	5.7
EV/EBITDA (X)	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.2
Net Div Yield (%)	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
P/Book Value (X)	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
ROAE (%)	11.6	11.1	10.9	10.9
Earnings Rev (%)		0	(3)	(1)
Consensus EPS (S cts):		13.7	14.3	14.7
Other Broker Recs:		B: 8	S: 1	H: 5

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

Riding against the bug; contrarian or foolhardy?

Riding against the bug; accumulation opportunity. We upgrade our recommendation to BUY, with TP at S\$2.45. While we acknowledge impact to CD's China operations from the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), we believe this to be temporary and manageable. Firstly, we estimate that China accounts for only c.4%/9% of the Group's revenue and operating profits while the 10% decline YTD (vs STI's -1%) imply that most of these negatives are priced in. Moreover, with the 2003 SARS experience, we see the company better prepared this time round, and the impact is likely to be only temporary, in our view. As such, trading at 15.8x/1.7x at -1SD of its 5-year historical PE and PB band, we see this as an attractive accumulation point.

Where we differ: Lower range of consensus. For upcoming 4Q19 results, we expect a y-o-y decline (est. -7%), but smaller compared to that seen in 3Q19 (-11%). The expected drop is largely due to one-off gain seen in 4Q18. We trimmed our forecasts by 3%/1% and are at the lower end of consensus given our muted take on taxi fleet recovery, and factoring impact on China operations. We believe the latter impact is temporary. In our scenario analysis, we also estimate that in the event of rental rebates for taxis in Singapore, this could shave off 0.9-3.9% from our FY20F forecasts.

Potential catalysts: A reversal and expansion in taxi fleet, and/or changes in ride hailing/taxi industry dynamics could lead to earnings upgrades. **Inorganic growth acquisitions** could also support its growth profile.

Valuation:

Our TP is based on the average of discounted cash flow (DCF) and price-earnings ratio (PE) valuation methods. This implies 18.1x PE (FY20F).

Key Risks to Our View:

Heightened and prolonged irrational competition from private hire booking leading to further contraction in taxi fleet, loss of bus contracts, changes in regulations on operations, and pandemics may impact our forecast. Upside risks could arise from acquisitions.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	2,166
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	4,635 / 3,382
Major Shareholders (%)	
Blackrock Inc	7.0
Free Float (%)	93.0
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	13.4
GIC Industry : Industrials / Transportation	



Live more, Bank less

WHAT'S NEW

Riding against the bug; contrarian or foolhardy?

An opportunity to accumulate; upgrade to BUY, TP: S\$2.45.

We believe the recent weakness in CD's share price (-10% YTD vs STI's -1%) could present an opportunity for accumulation. Notwithstanding the impact on its China operation arising from the outbreak of novel coronavirus in Wuhan and across the Hubei province, we believe the implications for CD should be temporary. Share price is trading at 16x FY20F which is -1SD below its 5-year historical average, coupled with a c.5.0% dividend yield. Granted that it will be tough to indicate if share price has reached a near-term bottom, particularly given the fluid situation, we believe we could be around it.

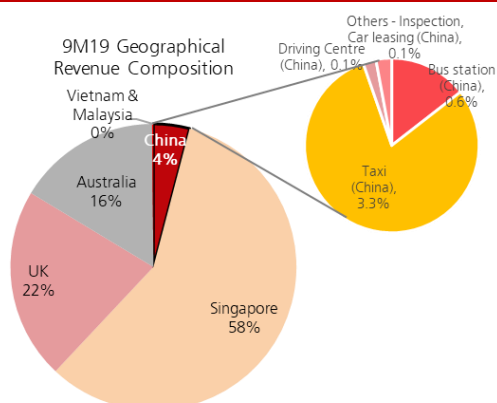
China ops affected by Wuhan virus... CD announced last week via a media release that its China operations are feeling the impact of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). As of the release, it was shared that its Nanjing driving centre has been instructed to suspend operations, and its bus station in Guangzhou saw a 15% decline in traffic during the Chinese New Year period, compared to a year ago.

But China operations account for only 4%/9% of Group revenue and operating profits.

CD's operations in China spans nine cities – Beijing, Jilin, Shengyang, Chengdu, Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Nanning. It does not have operations in Wuhan or the Hubei province. As of 9M19, China accounted for **4% of Group's revenue** and **c.9% operating profits**. Its business in China includes operation of taxi fleet, car rental, bus station and driving centres. We estimate that taxi (c.11,000 fleet size) is the largest contributor to its China operations, accounting for c.50% of China profits or 4% of the Group's operating profits.

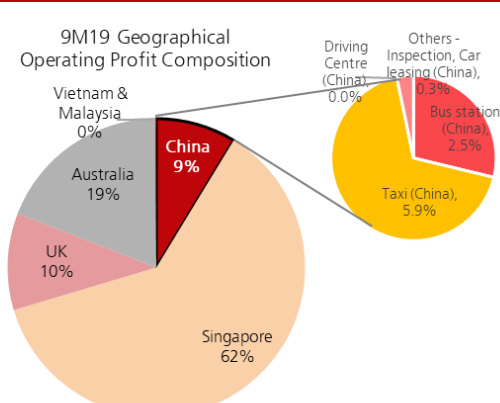
We estimate that the **driving centres and bus station account for less than 3% of the Group's operating profits**, based on 9M19 figures. While we acknowledge that there would be impact on its other operations, we do believe (and hope) that this is only temporary.

China ops account for 4% of revenue



Source: Company, DBS Bank estimates

...and 9% of operating profits (as of 9M19)



Source: Company, DBS Bank estimates

ComfortDelGro's China operations, across nine cities

Province	City	Operations	Fleet size
Beijing	Beijing	Taxi	5,501
Jilin	Jilin	Taxi, Online Car Hailing Service	729 taxis/ 100 private online car (on order)
Liaoning	Shengyang	Taxi	1,516
Sichuan	Chengdu	Taxi, Car rental & leasing, Driving Centre	560
Shanghai	Shanghai	Taxi	484
Jiangsu	Suzhou	Taxi	165
Jiangsu	Nanjing	Taxi, Driving Centre	679 taxis/ 35 driving centre fleet cars
Guangdong	Guangzhou	Bus Station	
Guangxi	Nanning	Taxi	834

Source: Company annual report, based on 2018; DBS Bank

Looking back at history: SARS – drawing lessons, and price action. Drawing reference from SARS in 2003, CD's taxi operations in Singapore were impacted. During that period, the company **extended S\$10/day rental rebates** to taxi hirers for **two months from April to June**, and this was stepped down to S\$7/day in July for a month and thereafter to S\$3.50/day in August for another month. In addition, diesel rebates were also extended to taxi hirers. During that period, CD had a total operating fleet of about 16,000 taxis.

Share price reaction on news of taxi driver contracting SARS. We looked at the price action of its shares during that period. Over that period from April* to July 2003, save for a brief bout of panic selling when a Comfort taxi driver was diagnosed with SARS, share price remained relatively resilient. (*note: CD share price was listed only on 1 April 2003, with the merger between Comfort and DelGro.)

Singapore Budget 2020 could see relief packages for transport operators. We believe some silver lining could arise from the upcoming **Singapore Budget 2020** to be revealed on 18 February 2020. Back in **2003**, the Singapore Government unveiled a **S\$230m SARS relief package** for the service, tourism and transport sectors. For the transportation industry, the measures in 2003 pertained to the diesel tax rebate for taxis and deferment of the taxi operator licence fees that was meant to be introduced on 1 June 2003.

Diesel tax currently at S\$850/year, and taxi operator licence at 0.3% of revenue. The Special diesel tax for taxis was most recently reduced to S\$850/ year, down by S\$100, from 18 February 2019. This was on the back of higher diesel tax. For taxi operator licence fee, it currently stood at 0.3% of gross revenue. Based on our estimates, both these **cost items amount to c.S\$11m for CD**; and we expect relief, if any, to be passed on to taxi drivers for their benefit.

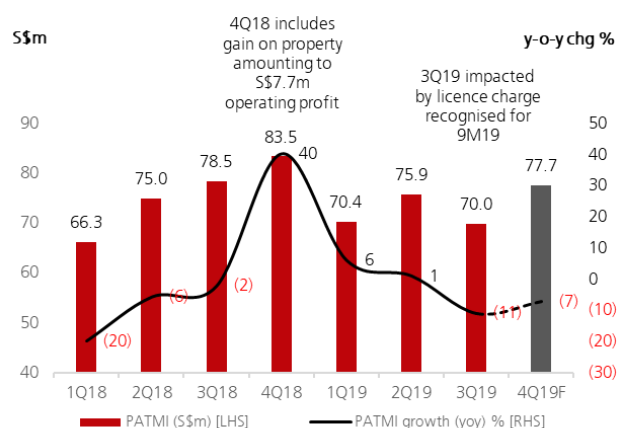
Worst-case scenario should taxi rental rebates come into play; ~0.9%-3.9% on profits. We undertook some scenarios assuming rental rebates come into play in Singapore. Assuming similar situation and response by CD undertaken during SARS in 2003, we worked out scenarios of extending taxi rental rebates. Assuming a rental rebate of S\$10-15/day extended to its fleet of 11,200 taxis, we **estimate this could shave off about 0.9-3.9%** (or c.S\$2.8-11.5m) from our **FY20F net profit forecasts** depending on the amount and period offered (and should this be implemented). While this may seem significant, we believe this is unlikely to be extended for a prolonged period, and once removed would revert to normalcy relatively quickly (assuming fleet size do not contract further).

Scenario assuming Singapore fleet taxi rental rebate

Scenarios		\$10/day		\$15/day	
Assume fleet size of 11,200, impact net of tax		S\$m (net of tax)	FY20F impact (%)	S\$m (net of tax)	FY20F impact (%)
a) 1 month		\$2.8	0.9%	\$4.2	1.4%
b) 2 months		\$5.6	1.9%	\$8.4	2.8%
c) 2 months, 1 month 50%, 1 month 25% of rebate amt		\$7.7	2.6%	\$11.5	3.9%

Source: DBS Bank estimates

Expect 4Q19 net profit to show smaller y-o-y decline



Source: Company, DBS Bank estimates

Summary of timeline, events during outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003

Date/ Timeline	Event description
12 March 2003	World Health Organisation issued a global alert warning of a severe form of pneumonia in Hong Kong and Vietnam.
31 March 2003	Comfort taxi driver came forward to indicate he might be the person to have ferried a SARS victim and her mother from the airport to the hospital. Taxi drivers' net income fell from an average of S\$68 per day to S\$46 per day in the first week of April 2003 alone. Taxi Industry Task Force was formed on 31 March 2003, with the purpose to help taxi drivers should they fall ill or be quarantined
9 April 2003	Started to disinfect its fleet of 16,000 taxis on a daily basis; five service centres started to service to spray cab interiors with non-toxic, non-allergenic disinfectants.
10 April 2003	Meeting with Taxi Association, offered S\$10 taxi rental rebate for one month and a S\$0.04 per litre discount off its diesel price.
17 April 2003	Government announced overall SARS assistance package, including diesel tax rebate and licence fee waiver, amongst others
17 April 2003	Comfort taxi driver was one of four people diagnosed with SARS and Ministry of Health trying to trace the passengers who took his taxi
30 April 2003	Reported that a 43-year-old driver who had died had been diagnosed earlier as having viral fever, had actually been suffering from SARS
End May	WHO removed Singapore from list of SARS-affected areas by end-May 2003. CD announced that it would be deferring S\$10 rental for two months, starting 6 May 2003. Extended the daily rental rebate at reduced rate of S\$7 from 11 June 2003 until 10 July 2003. Revised to S\$3.50 per day from 11 July until 10 August 2003.

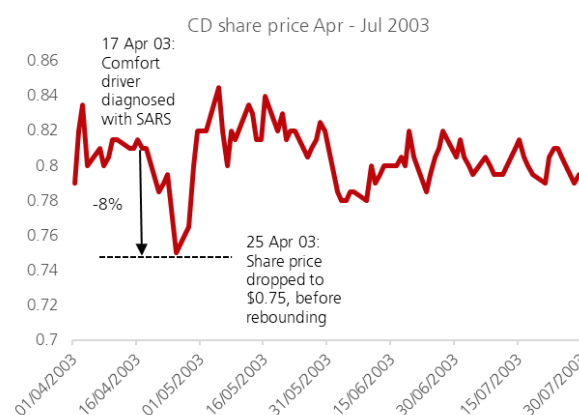
Source: Company, media reports, DBS Bank

SARS relief package details in 2003 - Transport

Diesel tax rebate for taxis reduced to S\$2,000/year from S\$4,700, from 1 May 2003 to 31 December 2003	Lowered operating costs by an estimated S\$25m for taxi operators
Waiver of taxi operator licence fee of S\$25 per taxi to introduced on 1 June 2003, was waived till 31 December 2003	

Source: Ministry of Finance, DBS Bank

ComfortDelGro's share price during SARS in 2003



Source: ThomsonReuters, DBS Bank

4Q19 expected to see smaller decline of 7% vs that seen in 3Q19 (-11%); full-year results should be within our estimates, 3% y-o-y decline. CD is due to release its 4Q19 and FY19 results on 14 February 2020, after market close. We are expecting 4Q19 net profit to post a decline of c.7% y-o-y (from 4Q18) to around S\$77-78m, reaching FY19F net profit of c.S\$294m (-3% y-o-y). Assuming our expectations materialise, this would amount to a smaller y-o-y decline as compared to that seen for 3Q19 (vs 3Q18).

We expect the **net profit drop in 4Q19E** to be due to: (i) higher licence charge from DowntownLine MRT line; and, (ii) high base effect arising from S\$7.7m gain recognized in 4Q18 from sale of a JTC site by its inspection business unit. In addition, we are also pencilling in a **final dividend of 6.15 Scts to be proposed**, as per last year. Coupled with the interim dividend of 4.5 Scts paid, full-year DPS would amount to 10.65 Scts or yield of 5.0% for FY19F.

Revised FY20F/21F down by 3%/ 1% on China ops, higher cost. We are tuning down our FY20F/21F forecasts by 2.7%/1.4% to reflect the current implications on its China operations, a subdued taxi fleet assumption arising from the uncertainty, coupled with increases in costs arising from preventive measures taken. With that, we are projecting 0%/3% profit growth for FY20F/21F. That said, we expect dividend payout ratio to remain high at c.78%, implying yield of c.5%.

Balance sheet strength not to be overlooked; potential for acquisitions a catalyst. As of 9M19, the Group was in a slight net debt position of S\$115.3m or net D/E of 3.9%, from net cash as of December 2018. This arose largely from higher capex as well as higher receivables, which we believe pertains to timing of payments from authorities, namely the Land Transport Authority (LTA) arising from the bus contracts.

With its strong balance sheet and low gearing, we believe this could allow the Group to capitalise on opportunities to supplement growth. Between **January 2018 and April 2019, the Group delivered over S\$450m worth of acquisitions**, and it has been relatively quiet since. We believe further acquisitions could provide a catalyst for further growth, and hence share price.

Capitalising on opportunity; upgrade to BUY, TP revised marginally to S\$2.45. While it may seem foolhardy at the current uncertain stage for our upgrade, we believe there are opportunities for investors to accumulate the counter, rather than succumb to panic selling. For one, there had been an episode back in 2003 and the company/management is well prepared, in our view. We also believe that while operations may be impacted in the near term, normalcy will prevail over time. The counter is currently trading at **15.8x and 1.7x FY20F PE and PB respectively**, which are **-1SD of its 5-year respective historical averages**. Our TP is revised down slightly to S\$2.45 on our changes in forecasts, but still presents 14% potential 14% upside with 5.0% projected dividend yield.

Downside of 1-11% to current price. Our FY20F forecast is 5% below consensus. Assuming share price trades down to -2SD of consensus earnings, or -1SD of our forecasts, this represents -1% (S\$2.12) to -7% (S\$1.99) to current price. In the unfortunate event that it trades to -2SD of our forecasts, this represents 11% downside from current levels. We would be on the lookout for these levels for further accumulation.

Risks. Prolonged and further deterioration of current outbreak into a pandemic, leading to major disruptions to taxi and public transport services. In addition, our current estimates are at the lower end of consensus, and cuts to forecasts may trigger share price to retreat.

Assuming -2SD of consensus and our below-consensus forecasts, levels to watch for is S\$1.99 and S\$1.89

	FY20F EPS (Scts)	-1SD 15.6x	Downside from current	-2SD 13.9x	Downside from current
DBS EPS	13.6	2.12	-1%	1.89	-11%
Consensus EPS	14.3	2.23	5%	1.99	-7%
DBS vs Consensus	95%				

Source: DBS Bank estimates

PE at -1SD of 5-year historical average



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

PB also at -1SD of 5-year historical average



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

Valuation and TP

Methodology	Market Cap (S\$m)	Remarks
PE	4,709	16x FY20F earnings
DCF	5,939	WACC 9.1%; terminal growth 0.5%
Average	5,324	Average of PE and DCF
Price Target (S\$/share)	2.45	

Source: DBS Bank estimates

CRITICAL DATA POINTS TO WATCH

Critical Factors

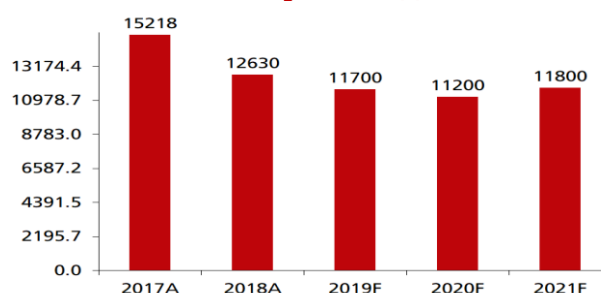
Taxis' hired-out rates and competition from private-hire vehicles. Taxi operations now contribute about 26% of the Group's operating profit, with Singapore operations accounting for the majority (estimated at around 70%). The total taxi industry fleet has shrunk, arising from competition by private hire rental car. Most recently, CD's total fleet size has also shrunk to about 11,200 (as of November 2019) from about 16,800 taxis (in December 2016), with market share at around 60%. A key share price driver would be the bottoming-out of taxi-fleet contraction and/or an improved operating environment. We continue to take the stance that private cars for hire and taxis would co-exist over the longer term.

Public transport operations in Singapore and overseas. The Public Transport Services segment accounted for c.70% and c.49% of Group revenue and operating profit respectively in FY18. The major profit contributors are Singapore, Australia, followed by the UK. Within these areas of operations, revenue and earnings drivers are based on tenders for routes, coupled with CD meeting the service requirements set forth by the authorities. Over in Singapore, the model has transited to the Bus Contracting Model since 1 September 2016, under which the fare revenue risk has been transferred to the government, save for its rail operations.

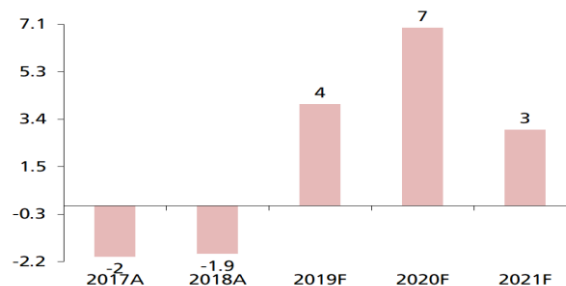
Overseas presence through acquisitions. Since 2003, revenue contribution from overseas has increased from 35% to 45% (as of end-2014), but that dialled back to 41% in 2017 and 2018 partly due to translation effects and stronger contribution from its public transport services in Singapore. Operating profit contribution stood at 36% as of 2018 (from 26% a decade ago). Management has indicated a target of further increasing contribution of overseas revenue to 70% over the longer term. This is likely to be achieved through organic growth (winning of tenders) and inorganic sources, such as bite-sized acquisitions.

Earnings for FY20F to take a step back, but not accounting for further acquisitions. CD's earnings growth has been stable, posting an average CAGR of 6% from 2011-2016. Arising from challenges in the taxi industry, earnings dipped by 5% in FY17, followed by a marginal improvement of 1% in 2018. This has had an impact on share price. We are projecting earnings to contract slightly in FY19 and could remain flat in FY20F arising from current outbreak of coronavirus. We believe growth should pick up again in FY21F. We are currently not factoring in acquisitions which could supplement growth.

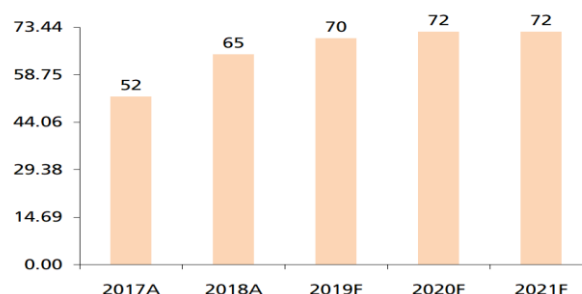
SGP avg taxi fleet (#)



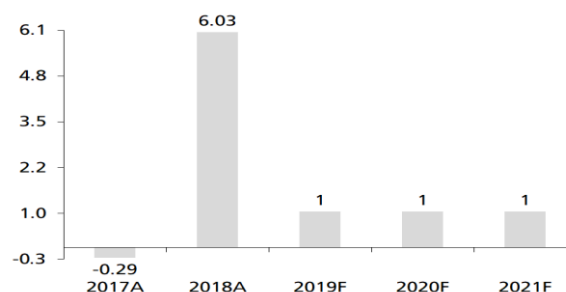
SGP fare chg (%)



Avg oil price (US\$)



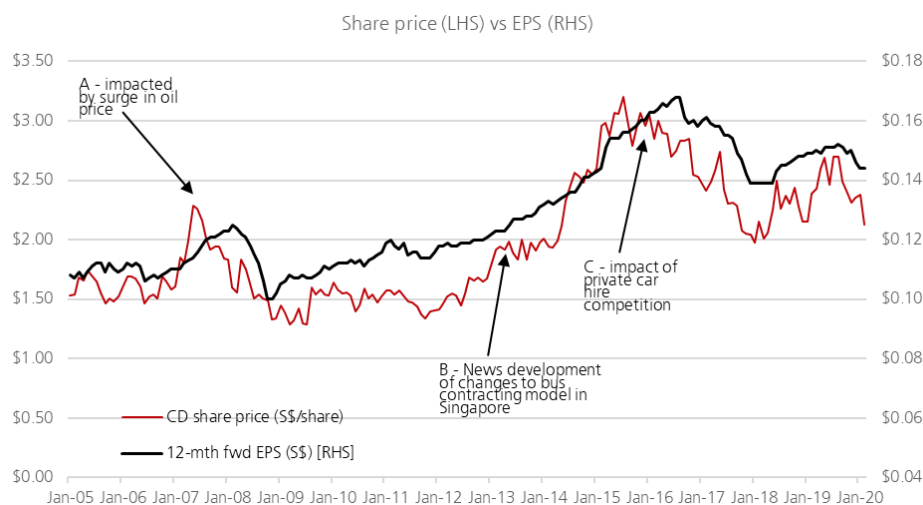
Chg in staff strength (%)



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Appendix 1: A look at Company's listed history – what drives its share price?

CD's share price vs 12-month forward EPS



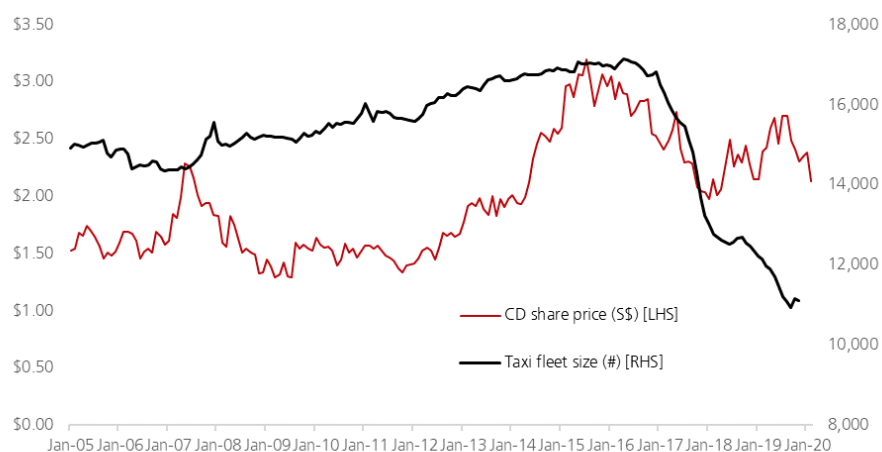
CD's share price has tracked 12-month forward EPS. Previously, back in 2008, EPS forecasts took a dip given expectations of lower profits with the surge in oil price (point A – see chart).

In 2014, the spike in share price was driven by news development of the bus contracting model in Singapore which would help earnings (B).

Most recently, EPS forecasts have taken a dip on licence charge on Downtown MRT line. There could be further downward revision on the outbreak of coronavirus, but we believe this has been priced in with recent retreat in share price.

Source: ThomsonReuters, DBS Bank

CD's share price (\$\$/share) [LHS] vs Comfort/CityCab total taxi fleet in Singapore [RHS]



Concerns on the competition from private car hailing apps and the impact on taxi fleet have had an influence on share price since 2015. CD's total taxi fleet currently stands at around 11,100 (November 2019). There was a period of stabilisation in early 2018, but dipped further over the course of 2019. Rate of decline seems to have stabilised.

We estimate that Singapore taxis account for about one-fifth of CD's revenue and operating profits.

Source: LTA, DBS Bank

Balance Sheet:

Low gearing provides opportunities for inorganic growth. The Group's balance sheet remains strong with gross debt-to-equity at c.0.2x while net debt-to-equity hovers near zero. This provides CD with ample headroom for overseas acquisitions to supplement growth and further diversify its geographical exposure out of Singapore.

Share Price Drivers:**Abating taxi competition, equilibrium operating landscape.**

Based on our critical factor study, the challenging taxi business has weighed down its share price. We believe a turnaround in the fleet size could help to re-rate its share price.

Acquisitions. CD has successfully diversified its operations outside of Singapore over the past decade through bite-sized acquisitions. Further accretive acquisitions to leverage its strong balance sheet could provide further catalysts to its share price.

Key Risks:

Prolonged irrational competition from private-hire car apps/disruptive technologies. There have been concerns about the taxi industry being impacted by the aggressive competition from private-car operators. A further increase in the competitive landscape and funding of its loss-making businesses could raise concerns about the profitability of taxi operations.

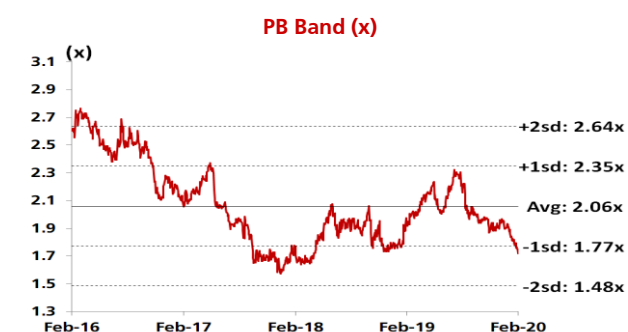
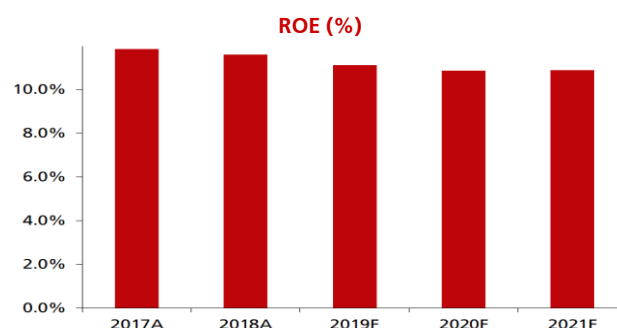
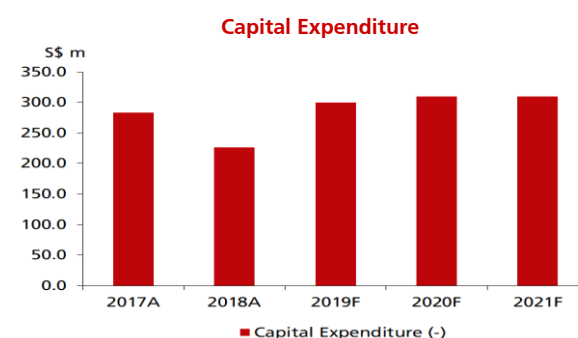
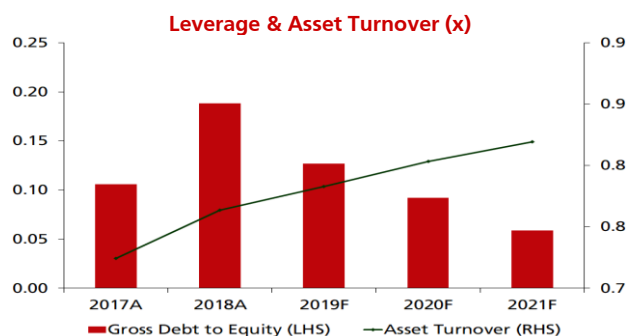
Regulatory risks, government budget cuts. Lower-than-expected fare hikes and/or changes in regulations on operations and government budget cuts may impact our forecasts.

Environment, Social, Governance:

CD published its fourth Sustainability Report for FY18 and reiterated its commitment to sustainability. Being in the public transportation business, impact on environment is key, and the Group has set a short-term target to reduce its carbon emissions by 1-3% over the next one to three years. In Singapore, it expects to phase out diesel usage in its taxi operations by 2024.

Company Background

ComfortDelGro Corporation Limited (CD) is a land transport service company. Its business includes bus, taxi, rail, car rental and leasing, automotive engineering services, testing services, etc. Besides being a market leader for buses and taxis in Singapore, its business spans other geographies such as the UK, Australia, China, Vietnam, and Malaysia.



Source: Company, DBS Bank

Key Assumptions

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
SGP avg taxi fleet (#)	15,218	12,630	11,700	11,200	11,800
SGP fare chg (%)	(2.0)	(1.9)	4.00	7.00	3.00
Avg oil price (US\$)	52.0	65.0	70.0	72.0	72.0
Chg in staff strength (%)	(0.3)	6.03	1.00	1.00	1.00

Segmental Breakdown

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenues (\$\$m)					
Public Transport Svc	2,401	2,711	2,971	3,101	3,183
Taxi	805	727	686	675	711
Automotive Engr	171	166	170	175	175
Vehicle Inspection	101	108	104	104	104
Others	99.0	94.1	94.5	94.4	95.3
Total	3,576	3,805	4,026	4,149	4,268
EBIT (\$\$m)					
Public Transport Svc	179	217	224	238	247
Taxi	135	129	120	115	124
Automotive Engr	33.9	25.3	27.2	28.0	28.0
Vehicle Inspection	32.6	39.8	33.4	33.4	33.4
Others	28.6	27.8	31.1	16.2	2.91
Total	409	439	436	430	435
EBIT Margins (%)					
Public Transport Svc	7.5	8.0	7.5	7.7	7.7
Taxi	16.8	17.8	17.5	17.0	17.5
Automotive Engr	19.8	15.2	16.0	16.0	16.0
Vehicle Inspection	32.4	37.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Others	28.9	29.5	32.9	17.2	3.1
Total	11.4	11.5	10.8	10.4	10.2

Dialled back on taxi fleet assumption.

Income Statement (\$\$m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Revenue	3,576	3,805	4,026	4,149	4,268
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(3,167)	(3,366)	(3,591)	(3,719)	(3,833)
Operating Profit	409	439	436	430	435
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	4.60	0.10	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	11.6	0.40	(5.1)	1.39	7.35
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	425	439	431	431	443
Tax	(76.5)	(80.5)	(84.0)	(84.1)	(86.3)
Minority Interest	(47.4)	(55.5)	(52.7)	(52.8)	(54.2)
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	302	303	294	294	302
Net Profit before Except.	302	303	294	294	302
EBITDA	823	833	846	854	879
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(11.9)	6.4	5.8	3.1	2.9
EBITDA Gth (%)	(4.7)	1.3	1.5	1.0	2.9
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(11.5)	7.2	(0.7)	(1.4)	1.3
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(4.9)	0.6	(3.1)	0.1	2.7
Margins & Ratio					
Opg Profit Margin (%)	11.4	11.5	10.8	10.4	10.2
Net Profit Margin (%)	8.4	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.1
ROAE (%)	11.8	11.6	11.1	10.9	10.9
ROA (%)	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.8
ROCE (%)	8.2	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.4
Div Payout Ratio (%)	74.6	75.0	78.5	78.5	76.6
Net Interest Cover (x)	NM	NM	86.3	NM	NM

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Quarterly / Interim Income Statement (\$5m)

FY Dec	3Q2018	4Q2018	1Q2019	2Q2019	3Q2019
Revenue	968	1,017	947	981	979
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(855)	(897)	(840)	(866)	(870)
Operating Profit	113	120	107	115	109
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	3.20	2.80	3.40	2.40	2.90
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(2.7)	(3.6)	(5.5)	(5.4)	(5.3)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	114	119	105	112	107
Tax	(21.6)	(19.9)	(22.0)	(21.9)	(23.1)
Minority Interest	(13.8)	(16.0)	(12.9)	(14.2)	(13.4)
Net Profit	78.5	83.5	70.4	75.9	70.0
Net profit bef Except.	78.5	83.5	70.4	75.9	70.0
EBITDA	214	224	217	224	217

Impacted partially by licence charge recognised for its Downtown Line MRT accrued for nine months. 4Q19 to see licence charge but likely to be normalised amount instead.

Includes gain from sale of JTC property in Singapore by its inspection business.

Growth

Revenue Gth (%)	2.8	5.1	(6.9)	3.5	(0.2)
EBITDA Gth (%)	2.2	4.7	(3.5)	3.5	(3.3)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	3.6	6.0	(10.6)	7.1	(5.3)
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	4.7	6.4	(15.7)	7.8	(7.8)

Margins

Gross Margins (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Opg Profit Margins (%)	11.7	11.8	11.3	11.7	11.1
Net Profit Margins (%)	8.1	8.2	7.4	7.7	7.2

Balance Sheet (\$5m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Net Fixed Assets	2,723	2,691	2,581	2,467	2,333
Invts in Associates & JVs	9.00	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Other LT Assets	930	1,167	1,204	1,241	1,278
Cash & ST Invts	607	586	652	755	888
Inventory	114	139	144	148	152
Debtors	251	275	288	296	305
Other Current Assets	195	277	277	277	277
Total Assets	4,828	5,137	5,147	5,185	5,234
ST Debt	114	90.4	100	100	100
Creditor	677	691	732	754	776
Other Current Liab	154	228	247	247	250
LT Debt	208	480	300	200	100
Other LT Liabilities	637	621	621	621	621
Shareholder's Equity	2,618	2,614	2,680	2,744	2,815
Minority Interests	420	414	466	519	573
Total Cap. & Liab.	4,828	5,137	5,147	5,185	5,234
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(271)	(228)	(271)	(280)	(291)
Net Cash/(Debt)	284	16.2	252	455	688
Debtors Turn (avg days)	24.9	25.2	25.5	25.7	25.7
Creditors Turn (avg days)	92.3	84.0	81.7	82.3	82.4
Inventory Turn (avg days)	12.9	15.5	16.2	16.2	16.2
Asset Turnover (x)	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Current Ratio (x)	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Quick Ratio (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	88.0	39.7	75.0	103.3	155.0
Z-Score (X)	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Cash Flow Statement (\$\$m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019F	2020F	2021F
Pre-Tax Profit	425	439	431	431	443
Dep. & Amort.	409	394	410	424	444
Tax Paid	(72.0)	(82.1)	(64.5)	(84.0)	(84.1)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(4.6)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(146)	(55.0)	23.8	9.19	8.90
Other Operating CF	(30.1)	(27.6)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Operating CF	582	669	800	781	812
Capital Exp.(net)	(284)	(226)	(300)	(310)	(310)
Other Invt.(net)	0.0	(419)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
Invt in Assoc. & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc. & JV	6.80	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	22.9	7.00	13.0	13.0	13.0
Net Investing CF	(254)	(638)	(337)	(347)	(347)
Div Paid	(225)	(225)	(227)	(231)	(231)
Chg in Gross Debt	(51.5)	216	(170)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Capital Issues	12.2	3.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(243)	(23.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(507)	(29.0)	(397)	(331)	(331)
Currency Adjustments	(4.1)	(12.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(183)	(10.1)	65.7	103	133
Opg CFPS (\$ cts)	33.6	33.4	35.8	35.6	37.0
Free CFPS (\$ cts)	13.8	20.4	23.1	21.7	23.1

Currently not factoring in major acquisitions, vs the total amount delivered in FY18.

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Target Price & Ratings History



S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	14 Feb 19	2.43	2.57	BUY
2:	15 May 19	2.52	2.59	HOLD
3:	14 Aug 19	2.51	2.59	HOLD
4:	14 Nov 19	2.32	2.48	HOLD

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

Source: DBS Bank

Analyst: Andy SIM, CFA

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Share price appreciation + dividends

Completed Date: 5 Feb 2020 17:41:29 (SGT)

Dissemination Date: 5 Feb 2020 18:26:31 (SGT)

Sources for all charts and tables are DBS Bank unless otherwise specified.

GENERAL DISCLOSURE/DISCLAIMER

This report is prepared by DBS Bank Ltd. This report is solely intended for the clients of DBS Bank Ltd, its respective connected and associated corporations and affiliates only and no part of this document may be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form or by any means or (ii) redistributed without the prior written consent of DBS Bank Ltd.

The research set out in this report is based on information obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but we (which collectively refers to DBS Bank Ltd, its respective connected and associated corporations, affiliates and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents (collectively, the "DBS Group")) have not conducted due diligence on any of the companies, verified any information or sources or taken into account any other factors which we may consider to be relevant or appropriate in preparing the research. Accordingly, we do not make any representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness of the research set out in this report. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice. This research is prepared for general circulation. Any recommendation contained in this document does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific addressee. This document is for the information of addressees only and is not to be taken in substitution for the exercise of judgement by addressees, who should obtain separate independent legal or financial advice. The DBS Group accepts no liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect and/or consequential loss (including any claims for loss of profit) arising from any use of and/or reliance upon this document and/or further communication given in relation to this document. This document is not to be construed as an offer or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any securities. The DBS Group, along with its affiliates and/or persons associated with any of them may from time to time have interests in the securities mentioned in this document. The DBS Group, may have positions in, and may effect transactions in securities mentioned herein and may also perform or seek to perform broking, investment banking and other banking services for these companies.

Any valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments herein constitutes a judgment as of the date of this report, and there can be no assurance that future results or events will be consistent with any such valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments. The information in this document is subject to change without notice, its accuracy is not guaranteed, it may be incomplete or condensed, it may not contain all material information concerning the company (or companies) referred to in this report and the DBS Group is under no obligation to update the information in this report.

This publication has not been reviewed or authorized by any regulatory authority in Singapore, Hong Kong or elsewhere. There is no planned schedule or frequency for updating research publication relating to any issuer.

The valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments described in this report were based upon a number of estimates and assumptions and are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies. It can be expected that one or more of the estimates on which the valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments were based will not materialize or will vary significantly from actual results. Therefore, the inclusion of the valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments described herein IS NOT TO BE RELIED UPON as a representation and/or warranty by the DBS Group (and/or any persons associated with the aforesaid entities), that:

- (a) such valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments or their underlying assumptions will be achieved, and
- (b) there is any assurance that future results or events will be consistent with any such valuations, opinions, estimates, forecasts, ratings or risk assessments stated therein.

Please contact the primary analyst for valuation methodologies and assumptions associated with the covered companies or price targets.

Any assumptions made in this report that refers to commodities, are for the purposes of making forecasts for the company (or companies) mentioned herein. They are not to be construed as recommendations to trade in the physical commodity or in the futures contract relating to the commodity referred to in this report.

DBSVUSA, a US-registered broker-dealer, does not have its own investment banking or research department, has not participated in any public offering of securities as a manager or co-manager or in any other investment banking transaction in the past twelve months and does not engage in market-making.

ANALYST CERTIFICATION

The research analyst(s) primarily responsible for the content of this research report, in part or in whole, certifies that the views about the companies and their securities expressed in this report accurately reflect his/her personal views. The analyst(s) also certifies that no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to specific recommendations or views expressed in the report. The research analyst (s) primarily responsible for the content of this research report, in part or in whole, certifies that he or his associate¹ does not serve as an officer of the issuer or the new listing applicant (which includes in the case of a real estate investment trust, an officer of the management company of the real estate investment trust; and in the case of any other entity, an officer or its equivalent counterparty of the entity who is responsible for the management of the issuer or the new listing applicant) and the research analyst(s) primarily responsible for the content of this research report or his associate does not have financial interests² in relation to an issuer or a new listing applicant that the analyst reviews. DBS Group has procedures in place to eliminate, avoid and manage any potential conflicts of interests that may arise in connection with the production of research reports. The research analyst(s) responsible for this report operates as part of a separate and independent team to the investment banking function of the DBS Group and procedures are in place to ensure that confidential information held by either the research or investment banking function is handled appropriately. There is no direct link of DBS Group's compensation to any specific investment banking function of the DBS Group.

COMPANY-SPECIFIC / REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

1. DBS Bank Ltd, DBS HK, DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd ("DBSVS") or their subsidiaries and/or other affiliates have a proprietary position in ComfortDelGro recommended in this report as of 31 Dec 2019.
2. Neither DBS Bank Ltd nor DBS HK market makes in equity securities of the issuer(s) or company(ies) mentioned in this Research Report.
3. DBS Bank Ltd, DBS HK, DBSVS, their subsidiaries and/or other affiliates have a net long position exceeding 0.5% of the total issued share capital in ComfortDelGro recommended in this report as of 31 Dec 2019.

Compensation for investment banking services:

4. DBSVUSA does not have its own investment banking or research department, nor has it participated in any public offering of securities as a manager or co-manager or in any other investment banking transaction in the past twelve months. Any US persons wishing to obtain further information, including any clarification on disclosures in this disclaimer, or to effect a transaction in any security discussed in this document should contact DBSVUSA exclusively.


Disclosure of previous investment recommendation produced:

5. DBS Bank Ltd, DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd ("DBSVS"), their subsidiaries and/or other affiliates may have published other investment recommendations in respect of the same securities / instruments recommended in this research report during the preceding 12 months. Please contact the primary analyst listed in the first page of this report to view previous investment recommendations published by DBS Bank Ltd, DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd ("DBSVS"), their subsidiaries and/or other affiliates in the preceding 12 months.

¹ An associate is defined as (i) the spouse, or any minor child (natural or adopted) or minor step-child, of the analyst; (ii) the trustee of a trust of which the analyst, his spouse, minor child (natural or adopted) or minor step-child, is a beneficiary or discretionary object; or (iii) another person accustomed or obliged to act in accordance with the directions or instructions of the analyst.

² Financial interest is defined as interests that are commonly known financial interest, such as investment in the securities in respect of an issuer or a new listing applicant, or financial accommodation arrangement between the issuer or the new listing applicant and the firm or analysis. This term does not include commercial lending conducted at arm's length, or investments in any collective investment scheme other than an issuer or new listing applicant notwithstanding the fact that the scheme has investments in securities in respect of an issuer or a new listing applicant.

RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION

General	This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation.
Australia	<p>This report is being distributed in Australia by DBS Bank Ltd, DBSVS or DBSV HK. DBS Bank Ltd holds Australian Financial Services Licence no. 475946.</p> <p>DBSVS and DBSV HK are exempted from the requirement to hold an Australian Financial Services Licence under the Corporation Act 2001 ("CA") in respect of financial services provided to the recipients. Both DBS Bank Ltd and DBSVS are regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore under the laws of Singapore, and DBSV HK is regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission under the laws of Hong Kong, which differ from Australian laws.</p> <p>Distribution of this report is intended only for "wholesale investors" within the meaning of the CA.</p>
Hong Kong	<p>This report has been prepared by a person(s) who is not licensed by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission to carry on the regulated activity of advising on securities in Hong Kong pursuant to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong). This report is being distributed in Hong Kong and is attributable to DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a registered institution registered with the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission to carry on the regulated activity of advising on securities pursuant to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong). DBS Bank Ltd., Hong Kong Branch is a limited liability company incorporated in Singapore.</p> <p>For any query regarding the materials herein, please contact Carol Wu (Reg No. AH8283) at dbsvhk@dbs.com</p>
Indonesia	This report is being distributed in Indonesia by PT DBS Vickers Sekuritas Indonesia.
Malaysia	<p>This report is distributed in Malaysia by AllianceDBS Research Sdn Bhd ("ADBSR"). Recipients of this report, received from ADBSR are to contact the undersigned at 603-2604 3333 in respect of any matters arising from or in connection with this report. In addition to the General Disclosure/Disclaimer found at the preceding page, recipients of this report are advised that ADBSR (the preparer of this report), its holding company Alliance Investment Bank Berhad, their respective connected and associated corporations, affiliates, their directors, officers, employees, agents and parties related or associated with any of them may have positions in, and may effect transactions in the securities mentioned herein and may also perform or seek to perform broking, investment banking/corporate advisory and other services for the subject companies. They may also have received compensation and/or seek to obtain compensation for broking, investment banking/corporate advisory and other services from the subject companies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  Wong Ming Tek, Executive Director, ADBSR </p>
Singapore	This report is distributed in Singapore by DBS Bank Ltd (Company Regn. No. 196800306E) or DBSVS (Company Regn No. 198600294G), both of which are Exempt Financial Advisers as defined in the Financial Advisers Act and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. DBS Bank Ltd and/or DBSVS, may distribute reports produced by its respective foreign entities, affiliates or other foreign research houses pursuant to an arrangement under Regulation 32C of the Financial Advisers Regulations. Where the report is distributed in Singapore to a person who is not an Accredited Investor, Expert Investor or an Institutional Investor, DBS Bank Ltd accepts legal responsibility for the contents of the report to such persons only to the extent required by law. Singapore recipients should contact DBS Bank Ltd at 6327 2288 for matters arising from, or in connection with the report.
Thailand	This report is being distributed in Thailand by DBS Vickers Securities (Thailand) Co Ltd.

United Kingdom	<p>This report is produced by DBS Bank Ltd which is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.</p> <p>This report is disseminated in the United Kingdom by DBS Vickers Securities (UK) Ltd, ("DBSVUK"). DBSVUK is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>In respect of the United Kingdom, this report is solely intended for the clients of DBSVUK, its respective connected and associated corporations and affiliates only and no part of this document may be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form or by any means or (ii) redistributed without the prior written consent of DBSVUK. This communication is directed at persons having professional experience in matters relating to investments. Any investment activity following from this communication will only be engaged in with such persons. Persons who do not have professional experience in matters relating to investments should not rely on this communication.</p>
Dubai International Financial Centre	<p>This research report is being distributed by DBS Bank Ltd., (DIFC Branch) having its office at units 608 - 610, 6th Floor, Gate Precinct Building 5, PO Box 506538, DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. DBS Bank Ltd., (DIFC Branch) is regulated by The Dubai Financial Services Authority. This research report is intended only for professional clients (as defined in the DFSA rulebook) and no other person may act upon it.</p>
United Arab Emirates	<p>This report is provided by DBS Bank Ltd (Company Regn. No. 196800306E) which is an Exempt Financial Adviser as defined in the Financial Advisers Act and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. This report is for information purposes only and should not be relied upon or acted on by the recipient or considered as a solicitation or inducement to buy or sell any financial product. It does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situation, or needs of individual clients. You should contact your relationship manager or investment adviser if you need advice on the merits of buying, selling or holding a particular investment. You should note that the information in this report may be out of date and it is not represented or warranted to be accurate, timely or complete. This report or any portion thereof may not be reprinted, sold or redistributed without our written consent.</p>
United States	<p>This report was prepared by DBS Bank Ltd. DBSVUSA did not participate in its preparation. The research analyst(s) named on this report are not registered as research analysts with FINRA and are not associated persons of DBSVUSA. The research analyst(s) are not subject to FINRA Rule 2241 restrictions on analyst compensation, communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst. This report is being distributed in the United States by DBSVUSA, which accepts responsibility for its contents. This report may only be distributed to Major U.S. Institutional Investors (as defined in SEC Rule 15a-6) and to such other institutional investors and qualified persons as DBSVUSA may authorize. Any U.S. person receiving this report who wishes to effect transactions in any securities referred to herein should contact DBSVUSA directly and not its affiliate.</p>
Other jurisdictions	<p>In any other jurisdictions, except if otherwise restricted by laws or regulations, this report is intended only for qualified, professional, institutional or sophisticated investors as defined in the laws and regulations of such jurisdictions.</p>

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