Singapore Company Update

Keppel Corporation

Bloomberg: KEP SP | Reuters: KPLM.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

BUY (Upgrade from HOLD)

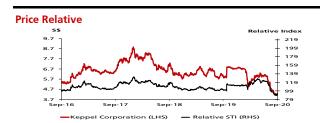
Last Traded Price (29 Sep 2020): \$\$4.30 (**STI**: 2,471.61) **Price Target 12-mth:** \$\$5.50 (28% upside)

Analyst

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What's New

- Upgrade to BUY; S\$5.50 TP implies 28% upside with 3-4% dividend yield
- Stock has corrected c.20% post Temasek's partial offer withdrawal, trades at 0.7x P/BV or 2SD below 5-year mean
- Reaffirmation of capital recycling and launch of strategic review on O&M could restore confidence
- Improving property sentiment is another catalyst



Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Dec (S\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
Revenue	5,965	7,580	8,329	8,597
EBITDA	1,456	1,464	741	1,801
Pre-tax Profit	1,240	953	149	1,097
Net Profit	944	707	(171)	830
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	944	707	(171)	830
Net Pft Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	15.8	(25.1)	nm	nm
EPS (S cts)	51.9	38.9	(9.4)	45.7
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	51.9	38.9	(9.4)	45.7
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	16	(25)	nm	nm
Diluted EPS (S cts)	51.7	38.8	(9.4)	45.5
Net DPS (S cts)	30.0	20.0	11.0	18.0
BV Per Share (S cts)	620	617	587	622
PE (X)	8.3	11.1	nm	9.4
PE Pre Ex. (X)	8.3	11.1	nm	9.4
P/Cash Flow (X)	62.7	nm	nm	4.3
EV/EBITDA (X)	9.3	11.9	24.7	9.5
Net Div Yield (%)	7.0	4.7	2.6	4.2
P/Book Value (X)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.5	8.0	0.9	0.7
ROAE (%)	8.4	6.3	(1.6)	7.6
Earnings Rev (%):			0	0
Consensus EPS (S cts):		. .	6.80	40.8
Other Broker Recs:		B: 7	S: 4	H: 2

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

30 Sep 2020



Brain Box

(Our NEW Pilot Research Platform) is available to Institutional Investors on Demand. Please contact your DBSV Institutional Sales contact for a demonstration.

Correction presents opportunity

Investment Thesis:

Upgrade to BUY; unchanged \$\$5.50 TP implies 28% upside and 3-4% dividend yield. Recent price correction of c.20% has dragged its valuation to near trough of 0.73x P/BV or 2SD below its 5-year mean (1.1x P/BV).

Set on recovery path. Property sales is improving especially in China and Singapore while O&M activity is picking up. Clearer V2030 roadmap and reaffirmation of capital recycling to unlock \$\$3-5bn from identified assets over the next 3 years should restore confidence.

Strategic review of O&M shines some light at the end of tunnel. Yard restructuring is much needed in this prolonged downturn.

Valuation:

SOTP-based S\$5.50 TP (0.9x FY20F P/BV): (1) Property at 35% discount to RNAV or 0.9x P/BV, similar to Capitaland; (2) Tianjin Eco-city using DCF assuming 10% WACC, (3) O&M at 1.0x impaired book, (4) Infrastructure/Investment at 15x FY20F PF

Where we differ:

Positive on Tianjin Eco-city. Keppel's huge land bank of ~5m sqm is held at low cost. Half is under development, progressively unlocking its RNAV over the next 3-5 years. Of the remaining undeveloped land bank, 30% is for projects in Tianjin Eco-city, which is not reflected in our RNAV.

Key Risks to Our View:

Lower-than-expected en-bloc sales and O&M orders pose downside risks to forecast. En-bloc sales are lumpy by nature, accounting for more than half of property profit in 2018 but only 10% in 2019. O&M revenue is expected to fall to the ~S\$2-3bn level p.a. in FY20-21, versus S\$7-8bn in FY12-14.

At A Glance

At A diance	
Issued Capital (m shrs)	1,817
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	7,815 / 5,709
Major Shareholders (%)	
Temasek Holdings	21.0
Free Float (%)	79.0
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	17.8
GIC Industry: Industrials / Capital Goods	







WHAT'S NEW

Back to fundamentals; Restoring confidence through V2030

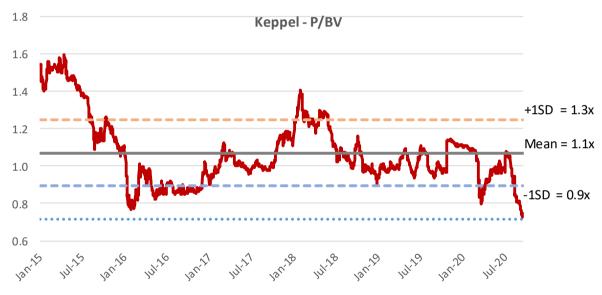
Sharp correction in share price

Share price corrected c.20% post Temasek's withdrawal of partial offer on 10 Aug, following Keppel's non-fulfilment of Material Adverse Change (MAC) pre-conditions in its 2Q20 results due to massive impairment of S\$919m largely for the O&M segment.

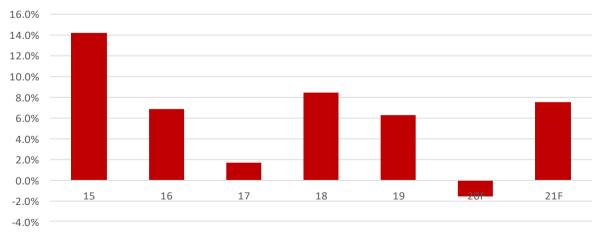
Please click our recent reports on 1H20 results (Keppel Corporation: Deal or no deal?) and downgrade (Keppel Corporation: Temasek withdrew partial offer)

Valuation drops to undemanding level of 0.73x P/BV or 2SD below 5-year mean (1.1x P/BV). This is below GFC and 2016 troughs of 1.21x and 0.77x P/BV respectively, reflecting weak earnings, particularly O&M, which swung into losses.

Keppel's P/BV vs ROE



Keppel-ROE



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank



Set on recovery path

After the kitchen sinking 1H20, we believe the worst is now behind Keppel, operational improvements ahead should drive valuation rerating towards 1SD below mean with ROE inching up to estimated 7-8% next year. Recent press release on Vision 2030 (V2030) roadmap with strategic review on O&M alleviates concerns and restores confidence.

Property sales to pick up. While the battle against COVID-19 might be here to stay for some time with clinical trials of vaccines underway, the global economy is gradually opening, particularly in several of Keppel's core markets – China and Singapore.

In China, residential sales growth surged 29% y-o-y in Aug 2020 on the back of a 15% increase in residential GFA sold and 13% higher ASP. Despite tightening policy, our China property team expects physical market to conclude the year with 0-5% growth in both residential GFA and ASP.

In Singapore, responses to recent new launches have been encouraging. It is worth noting that sales of Penrose hit >60% in its first weekend launch, marking one of the most successful weekend launches post lifting of certain circuit breaker restrictions. Keppel is likely to launch two new residential developments this year - Nassim project, which was soft-launched prior to Circuit Breaker, and Coral plot 4 by the end of the year.

O&M remains challenging but sequential improvements possible. Keppel O&M Singapore was only operating for essential ship repair services with only ~1,200 workers during the circuit breaker in 2Q20. Yard operations have progressively resumed with ~5,000 workers post Phase 2 reopening in July and further increasing to ~10,000 as of end Sept. Hopefully, we can see yard activity back to pre-COVID levels with all 24,000 workers back by 4Q20.

Restoring confidence with V2030 roadmap; Strategic Review of O&M

Subsequent to unveiling of V2030 at end May-2020 (<u>Keppel Corporation: Vision 2030: A Sustainable Future</u>), Keppel hosted another briefing to share more details about the roadmap.

Plans to unlock value from \$\$3-5bn of assets in the next 3 years. Shedding more light on its asset-light model and proactive capital recycling plans, Keppel has identified assets with a total carrying value of approximately \$\$17.5bn (based on its balance sheet as at 30 June 2020) that can potentially be monetised, yielding \$\$3-5bn net of debt. This can be partially channeled towards growth initiatives.

Assets to be monetised	Carrying Value S\$ bn
Landbank / Projects under development Assets for monetisation through REITs / Trust or for sale Non-core assets (incl Keppel O&M's rigs) Funds / Investments that can be liquidated over time	7.0 4.8 3.9 1.8
Total carrying value	17.5

Source: Keppel, DBS Bank

Commencing a Strategic Review of O&M business, amid the sector's challenging environment, exploring both organic and inorganic options. Organic options include reviewing the strategy and business model of Keppel O&M, assessing its current capacity and global network of yards and restructuring to seek opportunities as a developer of renewable energy assets. While inorganic options would range from strategic mergers to disposal. Market will likely welcome the proactive move to tackle the industry challenges, alleviating a key concern.

Yard restructuring options?

Management stressed that the strategic review is imminent and expects it to conclude in a few months' time. In our opinion, key options could include:

- 1) **Further rightsizing of O&M** operations includes closure of some of the global network of yards to optimise yard operations given the lower activity level. This is a strategy that Keppel has highlighted in recent results.
- 2) Yard merger with Singapore peer, Sembcorp Marine (SMM). While another offer for Keppel by Temasek over the next 12 months from the withdrawal of partial offer on 10 Aug 2020 might be less likely, requiring Securities Industry Council of Singapore's consent under the Takeover Code, we can't rule out other potential plans on restructuring of Keppel O&M (KOM) and SMM.

We believe the merger of KOM and SMM would combine their core competencies and world-class facilities, thus strengthening their franchise and creating room for further cost rationalisation. Keppel could continue to own a stake in the combined entity or dispose KOM completely. The latter could be deemed more favourable, freeing it from the O&M drag.



3) Game-changing cross-border partnership with global peers in Korea / China. Thinking out of the box, inorganic options could be extended to cross border partnerships especially with Korean peers in the battle to fight against lower cost Chinese peers. Some synergies could be created as well, for instance, Korean yards could tap on KOM's global network of yards while KOM leverages on Korean's lower steel cost to build hulls. This will be a game changer for the shipbuilding industry, if global shipyards decide to collaborate rather than compete.

We opine that the possibility of a disposal of KOM to global peers like Chinese SOE yards is low given the technical knowhow protection and Singapore's trading hub status. In any case, the restructuring of yards is much needed in view of the prolonged structural downturn, and should bring some cheer to the market that has lost patience waiting for a recovery.

Company Background

Keppel is a diversified conglomerate with its core businesses in property investments and development, offshore marine (O&M), and infrastructure-based activities in Singapore and the region. Property is the largest segment, contributing to bulk of its profits and more than half of its RNAV, followed by O&M. It possesses strong market leadership positions as a property developer in Singapore, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and India; and as a shipyard in offshore solutions particularly newbuilding rigs, FPSO conversion, FLNG conversion, renewable facilities as well as repair and construction of high-end specialised vessels.

Historical PB band



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

SOTP valuation of Keppe

	Value (S\$ m)	Metrics
Surplus - Property (1)	(765)	35% discount to RNAV or 0.9x P/BV, less book value; Tianjin Eco-city land sale
Surplus - Tianjin Eco-city (2)	969	DCF (10% WACC)
Surplus - Offshore/Marine (3)	0	1.0x P/BV, less book value
Surplus - Infrastructure (4)	(433)	15x FY20 net profit, less book value
Surplus - Keppel Capital (5)	1,125	15x FY20 net profit, less book value
Net Surplus (1+2+3+4+5)	897	
Add: Book value (less minorities) as of 4Q19	9,186	
RNAV	10,082	
RNAV per share (S\$)	5.50	

Source: Keppel, DBS Bank



FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
O&M order wins (S\$ m)	1,097	1,730	2,067	1,500	2,500
Segmental Breakdown					
FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
Revenues (S\$m)					
Offshore and Marine	1,801	1,875	2,219	2,575	2,634
Property	1,782	1,340	1,336	1,744	1,831
Infrastructure	2,207	2,629	2,927	2,666	2,720
Investments	173	121	1,097	1,345	1,412
Others	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	5,964	5,965	7,580	8,329	8,597
EBIT (S\$m)					
Offshore and Marine	(167)	(73.4)	60.0	(500)	140
Property	668	1,032	508	573	674
Infrastructure	125	105	114	133	136
Investments	175	(23.0)	195	108	113
Others	0.10	1.83	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total _	801	1,043	876	313	1,064
EBIT Margins (%)					
Offshore and Marine	(9.3)	(3.9)	2.7	(19.4)	5.3
Property	37.5	77.0	38.0	32.9	36.8
Infrastructure	5.7	4.0	3.9	5.0	5.0
Investments	101.3	(19.0)	17.8	8.0	8.0
Others	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	13.4	17.5	11.6	3.8	12.4
Income Statement (S\$m)					
FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
Revenue	5,964	5,965	7,580	8,329	8,597
Cost of Goods Sold	(3,957)	(4,188)	(5,267)	(5,908)	(5,943)
Gross Profit	2,006	1,777	2,313	2,421	2,654
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(1,205)	(735)	(1,437)	(2,107)	(1,590)
Operating Profit	801	1,043	877	313	1,064
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	19.9	9.99	64.6	16.7	17.2
Associates & JV Inc	291	222	147	(5.4)	291
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(51.3)	(34.2)	(135)	(176)	(274)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	(619)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	441	1,240	953	149	1,097

Revenue	5,964	5,965	7,580	8,329	8,597
Cost of Goods Sold	(3,957)	(4,188)	(5,267)	(5,908)	(5,943)
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Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(51.3)	(34.2)	(135)	(176)	(274)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	(619)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	441	1,240	953	149	1,097
Tax	(244)	(284)	(192)	(297)	(241)
Minority Interest	(1.4)	(12.3)	(54.2)	(22.3)	(25.7)
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	196	944	707	(171)	830
Net Profit before Except.	815	944	707	(171)	830
EBITDA	1,324	1,456	1,464	741	1,801
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(11.9)	0.0	27.1	9.9	3.2
EBITDA Gth (%)	(4.9)	10.0	0.5	(49.4)	143.0
Opg Profit Gth (%)	0.7	30.2	(15.9)	(64.2)	239.3
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	3.9	15.8	(25.1)	nm	nm
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	33.6	29.8	30.5	29.1	30.9
Opg Profit Margin (%)	13.4	17.5	11.6	3.8	12.4
Net Profit Margin (%)	3.3	15.8	9.3	(2.1)	9.7
ROAE (%)	1.7	8.4	6.3	(1.6)	7.6
ROA (%)	0.7	3.4	2.4	(0.5)	2.6
ROCE (%)	1.7	4.0	3.2	(1.3)	3.5
Div Payout Ratio (%)	204.1	57.8	51.4	N/A	39.4
Net Interest Cover (x)	15.6	30.5	6.5	1.8	3.9
Source: Company, DBS Bank					

FY Dec





Quarterly	Income Statement ((S\$m)	

2Q2019

3Q2019

4Q2019

1Q2020

2Q2020

FY Dec	2Q2019	3Q2019	4Q2019	102020	2Q2020
Revenue	1,785	2,067	2,197	1,857	1,325
Cost of Goods Sold	(1,225)	(1,487)	(1,532)	(1,331)	(876)
Gross Profit	560	581	666	527	449
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(400)	(397)	(454)	(253)	(872)
Operating Profit	160	184	211	274	(423)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	35.7	8.85	15.6	2.12	10.3
Associates & JV Inc	50.1	77.8	35.2	(6.4)	(162)
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(39.6)	(43.3)	(24.6)	(22.4)	(29.3)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	206	227	238	247	(604)
Tax	(53.1)	(62.0)	(31.1)	(84.1)	(94.7)
Minority Interest	0.25	(5.8)	(15.0)	(2.3)	1.26
Net Profit	153	159	191	160	(698)
Net profit bef Except.	153	159	191	160	(698)
EBITDA	348	375	363	370	(474)
					, ,
Growth					()
Revenue Gth (%)	16.6	15.8	6.3	(15.5)	(28.7)
EBITDA Gth (%)	(7.9)	7.9	(3.4)	2.0	nm (2.5.4.6)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(50.2)	14.7	15.1	29.5	(254.6)
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(24.4)	3.8	20.2	(16.2)	(534.7)
Margins					
Gross Margins (%)	31.4	28.1	30.3	28.3	33.9
Opg Profit Margins (%)	9.0	8.9	9.6	14.7	(31.9)
Net Profit Margins (%)	8.6	7.7	8.7	8.6	(52.6)
Balance Sheet (S\$m)					
FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
Net Fixed Assets	2,433	2,373	3,166	3,050	2,920
Invts in Associates & JVs	5,915	6,239	6,351	6,395	6,736
Other LT Assets	4,615	4,109	7,506	7,506	7,506
Cash & ST Invts	2,477	2,108	1,899	1,032	2,301
Inventory	9,369	8,709	9,040	10,193	9,639
Debtors	3,063	2,702	2,748	3,020	3,117
Other Current Assets	524	347	611	611	611
Total Assets	28,395	26,588	31,322	31,807	32,830
ST Debt	1,714	1,481	4,555	4,555	4,555
Creditor	5,720	4,391	4,605	5,374	5,731
Other Current Liab	2,578	2,521	2,787	3,016	3,025
LT Debt	6,079	6,068	6,504	6,504	6,504
Other LT Liabilities	612	550	1,224	1,224	1,224
Shareholder's Equity	11,162	11,268	11,211	10,676	11,307
Minority Interests	530	309	435	457	483
Total Cap. & Liab.	28,395	26,588	31,322	31,807	32,830
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	4,657	4,846	5,008	5,434	4,611
Net Cash/(Debt)	(5,316)	(5,440)	(9,161)	(10,027)	(8,759)
Debtors Turn (avg days)	199.3	176.4	131.2	126.4	130.3
Creditors Turn (avg days)	510.4	460.7	335.6	331.6	367.6
Inventory Turn (avg days)	945.1	823.7	662.2	639.1	656.5
Asset Turnover (x)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Current Ratio (x)	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.2
Quick Ratio (x)	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7
Capex to Debt (%)	(6.7)	3.3	4.5	2.7	2.7
Z-Score (X)	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2
Source: Company, DBS Bank	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2



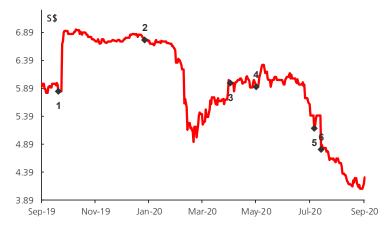


Cash Flow Statement (S\$m)

FY Dec	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020F	2021F
D T D ()	4.4.4	1 2 10	052	1.40	1.007
Pre-Tax Profit	441	1,240	953	149	1,097
Dep. & Amort.	212	182	375	416	430
Tax Paid	(363)	(196)	(264)	(248)	(297)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(291)	(222)	(147)	5.39	(291)
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	1,101	(196)	(1,437)	(475)	879
Other Operating CF	102	(684)	(306)	0.0	0.0
Net Operating CF	1,203	125	(825)	(153)	1,818
Capital Exp.(net)	523	(249)	(501)	(300)	(300)
Other Invts.(net)	0.0	1,048	(1,116)	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	(237)	(403)	(450)	(250)	(250)
Div from Assoc & JV	270	281	378	200	200
Other Investing CF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	557	677	(1,688)	(350)	(350)
Div Paid	(390)	(546)	(430)	(364)	(200)
Chg in Gross Debt	(1,007)	(390)	3,050	0.0	0.0
Capital Issues	4.29	5.74	0.14	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(122)	(117)	(274)	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(1,515)	(1,048)	2,346	(364)	(200)
Currency Adjustments	(58.2)	(46.4)	(27.3)	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	187	(292)	(195)	(867)	1,268
Opg CFPS (S cts)	5.61	17.6	33.6	17.7	51.7
Free CFPS (S cts)	94.9	(6.8)	(72.9)	(24.9)	83.5

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Target Price & Ratings History



S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	Target Price	Rating
1:	18 Oct 19	5.84	7.50	BUY
2:	24 Jan 20	6.75	7.50	BUY
3:	30 Apr 20	5.98	6.80	BUY
4:	29 May 20	5.91	6.80	BUY
5:	03 Aug 20	5.18	6.40	BUY
6:	11 Aug 20	4.80	5.50	HOLD

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

Source: DBS Bank Analyst: Pei Hwa HO



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

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

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