# Maybank IB Research

# Petronas Chemicals (PCHEM MK)

# **ASP softened since Apr 21**

# Earnings may peak in 2Q21; D/G to HOLD

1Q21 results were above expectations. ASPs has peaked in Mar 21 and softened since Apr 21. However, the average ASP in QTD-2Q21 is still slightly higher than that of 1Q21. As such, we think earnings may remain strong in 2Q21 but could soften in 2H21 on higher supply. Our FY21 EPS is raised by 21% as we raise ASP by 4%, but maintain our FY22-23E. Our TP of MYR8.25 is retained as it is based on unchanged 9x FY22E EV/EBITDA (10-year mean). D/G to HOLD in view of the softening ASPs.

# Results above expectations

Excluding a net foreign exchange gain of MYR99m, 1Q21 core PATMI was MYR1.36b (+4.1x YoY, +2x QoQ), accounting for 43% of ours and street's full-year estimates due to exceptionally strong ASPs across all products. The group's net cash position was higher MYR11.3b (+11% YoY, +6% QoQ) as at the end of 1Q21.

# 1Q21: Buoyed by stronger ASPs

Key takeaways from the 1Q21 results: Revenue grew 22% QoQ (20% YoY) on broadly higher ASPs (+27% YoY, 30% QoQ), while EBITDA margins expanded to 36% YoY (+21% QoQ) on the back of higher product spreads. This was despite a drop in production volumes (-6% YoY/QoQ) from lower blended plant utilisation rates (1Q21: 90%; 1Q/4Q20: 94%) as 3 F&M plants had to undergo corrective maintenance.

# Earnings may soften in 2H21 on higher supply

The exceptionally strong ASPs in 1Q21 was mainly due to the supply tightness (US plant outages from polar storm, regional plant turnarounds, ME feedstock shortage), amid a healthy demand from the reopening of key economies. We note that ASPs have already peaked in end-March and are currently on the downtrend as supply tightness ease on the resumption of production at US and North Asia, as well as new supply from China. That said, average ASP in QTD-2Q21 is still slightly higher than that of 1Q21. As such, we expect 2Q21 to remain solid but to soften in 2H21 on the back of higher supply and the easing of logistical issues.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	16,370	14,362	16,841	17,011	18,504
EBITDA	4,448	3,523	6,057	5,956	6,716
Core net profit	2,950	1,816	3,781	3,279	3,840
Core EPS (sen)	36.9	22.7	47.3	41.0	48.0
Core EPS growth (%)	(38.4)	(38.4)	108.2	(13.3)	17.1
Net DPS (sen)	18.0	12.0	23.6	20.5	24.0
Core P/E (x)	19.9	32.7	17.3	19.9	17.0
P/BV (x)	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Net dividend yield (%)	2.4	1.6	2.9	2.5	2.9
ROAE (%)	9.3	5.4	12.1	9.9	11.0
ROAA (%)	7.7	4.6	9.2	7.6	8.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.1	14.1	9.0	9.0	7.8
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Consensus net profit	-	-	3,396	3,558	3,853
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	11.3	(7.8)	(0.3)

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# HOLD

[Prior:BUY]

Share Price MYR 8.17

12m Price Target MYR 8.25 (+4%)

Previous Price Target MYR 8.25

## **Company Description**

Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd manufactures, markets, and sells petrochemicals.

#### **Statistics**

52w high/low (MYR)	8.35/5.34
3m avg turnover (USDm)	6.7
Free float (%)	27.1
Issued shares (m)	8,000
Market capitalisation	MYR65.4B
	USD15.8B
Maday abayabal daya	

#### Major shareholders:

64.4%
8.1%
5.9%

#### Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	4	10	35
Relative to index (%)	6	10	24

-Petronas Chem. / Kuala Lumpur Composite Index - (RHS, %)

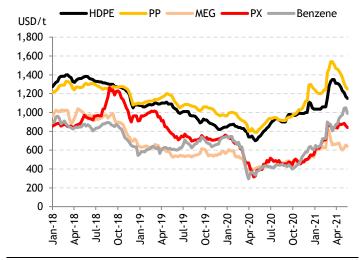
Source: FactSet

Figure 1: Quarterly results summary

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FY 31 Dec (MYR m)	1Q21	1Q20	% YoY	4Q20	% QoQ		
Revenue	4,675	3,891	20.1	3,836	21.9		
EBITDA	1,695	764	>100.0	1,149	47.5		
Depreciation & Amortisation	(402)	(408)	(1.5)	(418)	(3.8)		
Net interest expense	22	56	(60.7)	(7)	n.m.		
Associates & JVs	133	(32)	n.m.	(34)	n.m.		
Exceptionals	99	176	n.m.	(232)	n.m.		
Pretax profit	1,569	568	>100.0	519	>100.0		
Tax	(103)	(75)	<i>37.3</i>	(63)	63.5		
Minority interest	5	13	(61.5)	10	(50.0)		
PATMI	1,461	506	>100.0	466	>100.0		
Core PATMI	1,362	330	>100.0	698	>100.0		
Core EPS (sen)	17.0	4.1	>100.0	8.7	95.1		
DPS (sen)	0.0	0.0	n.m.	7.0	n.m.		
Net Cash (MYRm)	12,045	10,228	17.8	10,515	14.6		
Margins & tax rate	1Q21	1Q20	+/- ppt	4Q20	+/- ppt		
EBITDA margin (%)	36.3	19.6	16.6	30.0	6.3		
Core PATMI margin (%)	29.1	8.5	<i>20.7</i>	18.2	10.9		
Tax rate (%)	6.6	13.2	(6.6)	12.1	(5.6)		
Segmental breakdown	1Q21	1Q20	% YoY	4Q20	% QoQ		
Revenue	4,675	3,891	20.1	3,836	21.9		
Olefins & Derivatives	2,853	2,401	18.8	2,123	34.4		
Fertilisers & Methanol	1,565	1,261	24.1	1,490	5.0		
Others	259	229	13.1	223.0	16.1		
PAT (before MI)	1,466	493	197.4	456	>100.0		
Olefins & Derivatives	867	(17)	n.m.	29	>100.0		
Fertilisers & Methanol	528	359	47.1	476	10.9		
Others	71	151	(53.0)	(49)	n.m.		
PAT (before MI) margin (%)	31.4	12.7	18.7	11.9	19.5		
Olefins & Derivatives	30.4	n.m.	n.m.	1.4	29.0		
Fertilisers & Methanol	33.7	28.5	5.3	31.9	1.8		
Operating statistics	1Q21	1Q20	% YoY	4Q20	% QoQ		
Product volumes (m tons)	2.5	2.7	(5.5)	2.7	(6.4)		
- Olefins & Derivatives	1.0	1.0	(1.6)	0.9	4.5		
- Fertilisers & Methanol	1.5	1.6	(7.8)	1.7	(12.3)		
Plant Utilisation rate (%)	90.3	94.0	(3.7)	94.0	(3.7)		

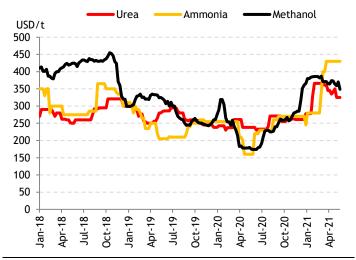
Source: Company data, Maybank Kim Eng

Figure 2: Olefin & Derivatives (O&D) division's key ASPs



Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg

Figure 3: Fertiliser & Methanol (F&M) division's key ASPs



May 28, 2021

Figure 4: 12M rolling forward EV/EBITDA (trading at 8.6x now)

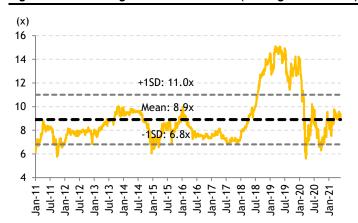
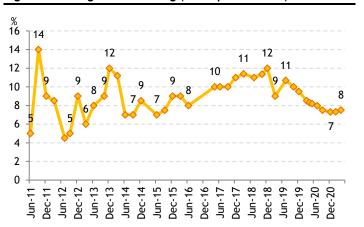


Figure 5: Foreign shareholding (end-Apr 2021: 8%)



Source: Bloomberg, Company data, Maybank Kim Eng

Source: Company data

# **Risk statements**

Key downside risks to our call/earnings forecasts: (i) Slower than expected global demand on global economy slowdown and more countries banning usage of single-use/non-biodegradable plastics; (ii) Re-escalation of US-China trade war may result in greater dumping from US into this region; (iii) Pengerang plants achieve poor operating earnings on weaker-than-expected utilisation rate of <60% in FY21-22E.

FYE 31 Dec	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Key Metrics P/E (reported) (x)	23.1	30.0	17.3	19.9	17.0
Core P/E (x)	19.9	32.7	17.3	19.9	17.0
P/BV (x)	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
P/NTA (x)	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Net dividend yield (%)	2.4	1.6	2.9	2.5	2.9
FCF yield (%)	4.1	2.6	4.0	4.4	5.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.1	14.1	9.0	9.0	7.8
EV/EBIT (x)	15.2	26.8	12.8	13.9	11.6
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	16,370.0	14,362.0	16,840.9	17,011.2	18,503.8
EBITDA	4,448.0	3,523.0	6,057.4	5,955.5	6,715.8
Depreciation	(1,659.0)	(1,670.0)	(1,769.7)	(2,112.8)	(2,212.5)
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	3,240.0	1,853.0	4,287.7	3,842.7	4,503.3
Net interest income /(exp)	(31.0)	(27.0)	(58.0)	(54.0)	(54.0)
Associates & JV	(54.0)	(84.0)	200.0	50.0	50.0
Exceptionals	0.0	(232.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	3,155.0	1,857.0	4,429.7	3,838.7	4,499.3
Income tax Minorities	(360.0)	(271.0)	(664.4)	(575.8)	(674.9)
Discontinued operations	16.0 0.0	42.0 0.0	16.0 0.0	16.0 0.0	16.0 0.0
Reported net profit	2,811.0	1,628.0	3,781.2	3,278.9	3,840.4
Core net profit	2,950.0	1,816.0	3,781.2	3,278.9	3,840.4
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)	42.045.0	42 707 0	12 101 1	44.500.6	47,050.0
Cash & Short Term Investments Accounts receivable	12,045.0 1,994.0	12,707.0 1,938.0	13,404.4 2,272.5	14,580.6	16,058.8
Inventory	1,658.0	1,806.0	2,272.3	2,295.5 2,139.1	2,496.9 2,326.8
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	20,482.0	20,987.0	21,817.3	22,204.5	22,492.0
Intangible assets	584.0	744.0	744.0	744.0	744.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	1,058.0	722.0	922.0	972.0	1,022.0
Other assets	1,042.0	925.0	925.0	925.0	925.0
Total assets	38,863.0	39,829.0	42,202.9	43,860.7	46,065.6
ST interest bearing debt	0.0	198.0	198.0	198.0	198.0
Accounts payable	3,063.0	2,893.0	3,392.3	3,426.6	3,727.3
Insurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LT interest bearing debt	1,875.0	1,994.0	1,994.0	1,994.0	1,994.0
Other liabilities	3,387.0	3,735.0	3,735.0	3,735.0	3,735.0
Total Liabilities	8,325.0	8,820.0	9,319.3	9,353.6	9,654.3
Shareholders Equity	29,851.2	30,364.2	32,254.8	33,894.3	35,814.5
Minority Interest  Total shareholder equity	686.8 <b>30,538.0</b>	644.8 <b>31,009.0</b>	628.8	612.8 <b>34,507.1</b>	596.8
Total liabilities and equity	38,863.0	39,829.0	32,883.6 42,202.9	43,860.7	36,411.3 46,065.6
CASH FLOW (MYR m)	2 455 0	4 057 0	4 420 7	2 020 7	4 400 3
Pretax profit	3,155.0	1,857.0	4,429.7	3,838.7	4,499.3
Depreciation & amortisation	1,659.0 (338.9)	1,670.0	1,769.7	2,112.8	2,212.5
Adj net interest (income)/exp Change in working capital	1,010.0	(197.0) (550.0)	(172.0) (146.9)	(188.6) (10.1)	(209.9) (88.4)
Cash taxes paid	(341.0)	(204.0)	(664.4)	(575.8)	(674.9)
Other operating cash flow	363.9	419.0	464.4	525.8	624.9
Cash flow from operations	5,544.0	3,015.0	5,246.0	5,369.6	5,952.5
Capex	(3,150.0)	(1,476.0)	(2,600.0)	(2,500.0)	(2,500.0)
Free cash flow	2,394.0	1,539.0	2,646.0	2,869.6	3,452.5
Dividends paid	(2,388.0)	(964.0)	(1,890.6)	(1,639.5)	(1,920.2)
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	(370.0)	(243.0)	(58.0)	(54.0)	(54.0)
Other invest/financing cash flow	123.0	32.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Effect of exch rate changes	(43.0)	(117.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	(284.0)	247.0	697.4	1,176.2	1,478.3

FYE 31 Dec	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	(16.4)	(12.3)	17.3	1.0	8.8
EBITDA growth	(36.1)	(20.8)	71.9	(1.7)	12.8
EBIT growth	(55.5)	(42.8)	131.4	(10.4)	17.2
Pretax growth	(45.2)	(41.1)	138.5	(13.3)	17.2
Reported net profit growth	(41.3)	(42.1)	132.3	(13.3)	17.1
Core net profit growth	(38.4)	(38.4)	108.2	(13.3)	17.1
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	27.2	24.5	36.0	35.0	36.3
EBIT margin	19.8	12.9	25.5	22.6	24.3
Pretax profit margin	19.3	12.9	26.3	22.6	24.3
Payout ratio	51.2	59.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	17.2	11.3	22.5	19.3	20.8
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Assets/Equity (x)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
ROAE (%)	9.3	5.4	12.1	9.9	11.0
ROAA (%)	7.7	4.6	9.2	7.6	8.5
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	11.9	7.9	9.3	11.4	10.2
Days receivable outstanding	51.3	49.3	45.0	48.3	46.6
Days inventory outstanding	50.7	57.5	59.3	61.4	60.5
Days payables outstanding	90.0	98.9	95.1	98.4	97.0
Dividend cover (x)	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0
Current ratio (x)	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.1
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash				
Net interest cover (x)	104.5	68.6	73.9	71.2	83.4
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3
Capex/revenue (%)	19.2	10.3	15.4	14.7	13.5
Net debt/ (net cash)	(10,170.0)	(10,515.0)	(11,212.4)	(12,388.6)	(13,866.8)

Source: Company; Maybank

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### Historical recommendations and target price: Petronas Chemicals (PCHEM MK)



Petronas Chemicals

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May 28, 2021 10