Singapore Telecommunications (ST SP)

Fairest of them all

Highest ESG rating among Singapore telcos

We have introduced an enhanced ESG tear sheet for Singtel and assigned it an above-average overall score of 85. This is the highest ESG rating within the SG telco sector, based on the group's aggregated quantitative/qualitative/target-based metrics. Singtel is committed to improve the group ROIC to a high single digit while protecting its ability to pay sustainable dividends. Maintain BUY and SOTP-based TP of SGD3.15.

Leading ESG traits

Singtel displays a very high degree of transparency in its ESG disclosures and there are no major compliance issues, as far as we can assess. Its overall ESG score is 85, which is above average on our ESG rating (average ESG rating = 50), and it is one of the highest among telcos in our coverage.

Financed emission targets to establish

Among its ESG goals, Singtel targets a 25% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2025 from its 2015 baseline. Against this target, the telco has thus far achieved a 3.3% reduction. In FY22, Singtel identified 15 categories of indirect GHG (Scope 3) emissions from its value chain. There is, however, no mention of its progress on sustainable financing target for which it should be looking to establish a baseline soon.

Higher ROIC targets and sustainable dividend yield

Singtel expects to improve its ROIC to a high single digit in the next 2-3 years, up from 5% in FY22. Proceeds from asset recycling (SGD5b earmarked from partial stake sale of Bharti, Optus tower and monetisation of Singtel HQ) would be used to cover incremental 5G capex in Australia and current growth engines (regional data centre, NCS). We like Singtel's ability to pay sustainable dividends. With stronger core operating cashflows and an expected earnings recovery, we expect future dividends to grow in line with earnings, at 70-75% payout ratio as compared to its dividend policy of 60-80% of underlying net profit.

FYE Mar (SGD m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	15,428	14,915	16,036	16,383	16,557
EBITDA	3,617	3,343	4,042	4,270	4,366
Core net profit	1,518	1,558	2,520	2,878	3,206
Core FDEPS (cts)	9.3	9.5	15.4	17.6	19.6
Core FDEPS growth(%)	41.3	2.6	61.8	14.2	11.4
Net DPS (cts)	7.5	9.3	10.9	12.4	13.8
Core FD P/E (x)	26.3	27.7	17.0	14.9	13.4
P/BV (x)	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4
Net dividend yield (%)	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.3
ROAE (%)	5.7	5.8	9.1	10.0	10.8
ROAA (%)	3.1	3.2	5.0	5.6	6.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.4	15.8	12.7	11.7	11.0
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	45.7	35.5	29.8	24.1	17.7
Consensus net profit	-	-	2,524	2,880	3,242
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(0.2)	(0.1)	(1.1)

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BUY

Share Price	SGD 2.62
12m Price Target	SGD 3.15 (+20%)
Previous Price Target	SGD 3.15

Company Description

Singtel is the largest integrated telecommunications service provider in Singapore and has significant share in Australia, India and ASEAN

Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	2.83/2.32
3m avg turnover (USDm)	41.6
Free float (%)	41.8
Issued shares (m)	16,515
Market capitalisation	SGD43.3B
	USD30.1B
Major shareholders:	
Temasek Holdings	52.2%
Central Provident Fund	4.9%
Capital Research	1.2%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(1)	2	6
Relative to index (%)	1	1	3
Source: FactSet			

Singtel / Straits Times Index - (RHS, %)

-Singtel - (LHS, SGD)



- Telco conglomerate whose companies have significant, if not leading, shares in their markets.
- High-growth phase for wireless segment has passed. Competition is generally on the rise in this segment in most markets.
- Enterprise and 5G to provide next legs of growth, while cash is harvested from wireless leadership to support investments and capex.
- Healthy balance sheet backs DPS payout ratio of 60-80%. Proceeds from sale of non-core assets are partly committed to exceptional payouts.

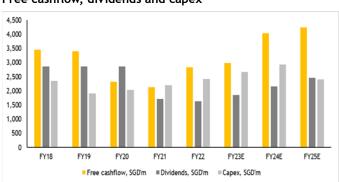
Singtel SOTP valuation

Valuation	Stake (%)	Valuation method	Valuation (LC)	Exch rate (SGD/LC)	Valuation (SGD m)	Per share (SGD)	% of total
SingTel Core Business	100.0	SingtelDCF (6.9% WACC, 1% TG, 0.90 beta) Optus DCF (6.0% WACC, 1% TG, 0.71 beta)	19,717	1.00	19,717	1.21	
(Less) Consol Net Debt					-8,403	-0.51	
Sub Total					11,314	0.69	22%
	Stake	Valuation method	Valuation	Exch rate	Valuation	Per share	% of
	(%)	valuation method	(LC)	(S\$/LC)	(SGD m)	(SGD)	total
Associates				-			
Telkomsel (Indonesia)	35.0	70% of Market Cap listed Telkom	113,827,444	10,645	10,693	0.66	16%
Bharti Airtel (India)	31,7	DCF (9.4% WACC, 3% TG,1.0 beta), mcap of africa and tower businesses	1,538,551	55.83	27,558	1.69	40%
AIS (Thailand)	23.3	DCF (7.0% WACC, 2% LTG, 1.0 beta)	159,323	24.05	6,625	0.41	10%
Globe (Philippines)	47.0	DCF (5.7% WACC, 1% LTG, 0.7 beta)	185,155	38.13	4,856	0.30	7%
Intouch (Thailand)	21.1	SOTP (AIS TP and mkt cap of THCOM TB)	46,473	24.05	1,932	0.12	3%
NetLink NBN Trust (Singapore)	24.8	DDM (COE 6%, 0% LTG, 0.5 beta)	966	1.00	966	0.06	15
SingPost (Singapore)	21.7	Market Cap	305	1.00	305	0.02	0%
Sub Total					52,631	3.24	
Conglomerate Discount		25% discount				(0.8)	
Associates' value						2.46	77%
Total Equity Value						3.15	100%

Source: Maybank IBG

Financial Metrics

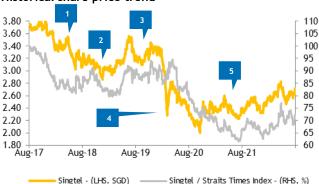
- We forecast 5.9% EBITDA CAGR over FY23-25E due to recovery following Covid-19.
- Pre-tax associate income could contribute to bottom line by growing 27% in the same period, led by Bharti's swing to net profit from net loss.
- We expect net debt to EBITDA, including associate dividends, to remain healthy at 1.6x-2.2x in FY23-25E; providing support to its fixed DPS commitment.



Free cashflow, dividends and capex

Price Drivers





Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- 1. Proposal for fourth mobile licence. Bharti's profits started to taper off.
- 2. Proposal to increase effective stake in Bharti to 39.5%. Share price continued to be pressured by competitive environment.
- 3. Australia wireless pricing went through industry-wide reflation.
- 4. Earnings marred by weakness in ARPU on the back of lower usage of roaming and data given travel restriction and work-from-home arrangements.
- 5. Ongoing global economic disruption brought about by
- 6. COVID-19 and structural challenges brought about by intense market competition.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Strong growth in enterprise and Digital Life to positive operating leverage.
- Stronger-than-expected ARPU due to easing in price competition in countries it operates in.
- Faster-than-expected monetisation of 5G development.

Downside

- Further wireless margin compression triggered by competition in Singapore and / or Australia.
- Worse-than-expected cannibalisation of wireless voice, SMS and roaming by data.
- Failure to monetise 5G development.

Source: Company, Maybank IBG

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Risk Rating & Score ¹	18.5
Score Momentum ²	-0.0
Last Updated	16 Dec 2021
Controversy Score ³ (Updated: 16 Dec 2021)	0 - No reports

Business Model & Industry Issues

- Singtel is most exposed to cybersecurity and personal data leakage risks given its nature of business. There have been minor lapses due to IT, process and human errors over the years, and Singtel was penalised for an immaterial sum.
- Going forward, Singtel will continue to educate its staff and improve practices and processes to minimise data breaches.
- As Singtel is in the business of connectivity, it is supporting digital inclusion through connecting communities and supporting the disadvantaged.
- Notably in FY20, the telco supported migrant workers with free remittance service and their WiFi and mobile data needs. It
 also provided refurbished laptops and data SIMs to disadvantaged students for their home-based learning. In Australia, Optus
 scaled up "Donate Your Data" to support disadvantaged students by offering them free mobile data access for online learning.
- Singtel displays no exceptional risks for a telco operator for ESG and is in line with peers in tackling ESG issues.

Material E issues

- Achieved carbon emissions intensity reduction of 70% in 2020, well exceeding our 2030 target of 50%.
- Over 84% of waste generated disposed via reuse, recycling or incineration with energy recovered.
- Only Southeast Asian company among a pioneer group of 28 global companies in July 2019 that committed to keeping global temperature increase within 1.5°C and net zero emissions by 2050.

Material S issues

- 28% of female employees in middle and top management.
- Singtel was included in the 2020 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index and the Refinitiv Global Diversity & Inclusion Index 2019 and named as one of the top 10 employers for Gender Diversity at The Leonie Awards 2019.
- Total training investment of SGD21.9m and pledged SGD45m to boost the digital skills of its workforce through companywide initiatives over three years.
- Zero fatality rate across Singtel and Optus in FY20.
- To promote digital inclusion, Optus has launched "Donate Your Data" in Australia to help disadvantaged young people bridge the digital divide.
- Singtel also supported 1,000 vulnerable seniors under CareLine 24-hour telephone befriending service with free mobile phone services to promote digital inclusion and wellbeing.

Key G metrics and issues

- Board consists of 10 directors, of which one is executive officer (MD/CEO), the remaining are non-executive & independent directors (including Chairman). 30% are female directors.
- The nomination, audit, investment and remuneration committees are chaired by independent directors.
- Key management/directors' compensation accounted for 9.4%/1.3% of total employee compensation in 2019.
- There have been no corruption cases reported for the past three years.
- Cyber security and data leakage risks. Conducts its businesses in strict adherence to data protection laws - the Personal Data Protection Act in Singapore and the Privacy Act and Telecommunications Act in Australia.
- There have been minor lapses due to IT, process and human errors. Singtel will continue to educate its staff and improve practices and processes to minimise data breaches.

1*Risk Rating & Score* - derived by Sustainalytics and assesses the company's exposure to unmanaged ESG risks. Scores range between 0 - 50 in order of increasing severity with low/high scores & ratings representing negligible/significant risk to the company's enterprise value, respectively, from ESG-driven financial impacts. <u>2*Score Momentum*</u> - indicates changes to the company's score since the last update - a negative integer indicates a company's improving risk score; a positive integer indicates a deterioration. <u>3*Controversy Score*</u> - reported periodically by Sustainalytics in the event of material ESG-related incident(s), with the impact severity scores of these events ranging from Category 0-5 (0 - no reports; 1 - negligible risks; ...; 5 - poses serious risks & indicative of potential structural deficiencies at the company).

		Quantitative para	ameters (Score	: 88)		
	Particulars	Unit	2020	2021	2022	Starhub (STH SP, FY22)
	Scope 1	mtCO2e	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.0014
	Scope 2	mtCO2e	0.57	0.53	0.49	0.055
	Total	mtCO2e	0.58	0.54	0.50	0.056
	Scope 3	mtCO2e	0.18	7.9	7.3	0.01
	Total	mtCO2e	0.75	8.43	7.80	0.066
	Scope 1 emission intensity	tCO2e/MWh	0.0064	0.0095	0.0077	27.4
Е	Green energy share of capacity	%	21.5%	21.6%	22.5%	NA
E	Net water consumption	m m³	0.954	0.909	0.933	0.0058
	Use of recycled water instead of portable water	m m ³	0.192	0.238	0.287	NA
	Water Intensity	m3/SGDm	56	58	62	2.84
	Total Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste	tons	8,541	4,921	3,952	81.5
	Customer E-waste Recycling	tons	70	50	41	73
	% of women in workforce	%	35.4%	54.8%	54.4%	42%
S	% of women in management roles	%	20%	28%	32%	20%
	Lost time injury frequency rate	number	0.4	0.4	0.3	3
_	Group CEO salary as % of net profit	%	0.43%	0.43%	0.18%	0.18%
<u> </u>	Top 10 employees salary as % of profit	%	1.11%	2.97%	0.71%	1.2%
G	Independent director on board	%	70%	83%	85%	54%
	Women directors on board	%	40%	25%	31%	23%

Qualitative parameters (Score: 83)

a) is there an ESG policy in place and whether there is a standalone ESG Committee or is it part of Risk committee?
Yes, the group has established a Board Sustainability Committee chaired by the CEO. This is supported by Group Sustainability Council comprising of pillar heads. There are KPIs, business objectives, governance enablers and risks for each of the segments.
b) is the senior management salary linked to fulfilling ESG targets?

No

c) Does the company follow TCFD framework for ESG reporting?

Yes

Yes

e) Does the company have a mechanism to capture Scope 3 emissions - which parameters are captured?

Yes, Singtel has developed full Scope 3 indirect GHG emissions inventory and baseline for operations in Singapore and Australia

f) What are the 2-3 key carbon mitigation/water/waste management strategies adopted by the company? Singtel has various carbon mitigation initiatives such as replacing chillers, replacing UPS and converting to energy efficient mobile base stations in Singapore

g) Does carbon offset form part of the net zero/carbon neutrality target of the company?

Target (Score: 80)		
Particulars	Target	Achieved
Singtel Group Scope 1 and 2 to reduce by 25% by 2025	25%	3.3%
Scope 3 target to reduce 30% by 2030	30%	Not disc.
Obtained a CDP rating of A-	A-	A-
Zero fatality and well-being score above 80%	80%	82%
One million digitally enabled persons and SMEs by 2025	1,000,000	740,000
Impact		
NA		
Overall score: 85		
As per our ESG matrix SingTel (ST SP) has an overall score of 85		

ESG score	Weights	Score	Final score
Quantitative	50%	88	44
Qualitative	25%	83	21
Target	25%	80	20
Total			85

As per our ESG assessment, Singtel displays a very high degree of transparency in its ESG disclosures. It is the only one amongst its peers that has high level of ESG quantitative targets. While we note some work being carried out on reducing Scope 3 financed emissions, we believe further actions should be done to meet the 2030 target. ST's overall ESG score is 85, which makes its ESG rating above average in our view (average ESG rating = 50; refer to Appendix I for our ESG Assessment Scoring).

Appendix I

Methodology of our proprietary ESG scoring methodology.

We valuate the ESG ratings based on quantitative, qualitative and ESG targets. We assign a score for each of these three parameters. The overall rating is based on the weighted average of the scores: quantitative (50%), qualitative (25%) and ESG target (25%). For the quantitative, qualitative and ESG target, the sub-parameters are assigned a score - '0' for data not available, '+1' for improving trajectory, positive change, 'Yes', better than peers or a positive number if historical is not available and '-1' for declining trajectory, negative change, 'No', lower than peers or a negative number. The total of the scores of all the sub-parameters is divided by the total number of sub-parameters is the score of each of the three parameters. The sub-parameters may be different for different industries depending on the key areas to monitor for each industry. A company should achieve a minimum score of 50 for an average ESG rating.

FYE 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	25.9	25.5	17.0	14.9	13.3
Core P/E (x)	26.2	27.7	17.0	14.9	13.3
Core FD P/E (x)	26.3	27.7	17.0	14.9	13.4
P/BV (x)	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4
P/NTA (x)	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3
Net dividend yield (%)	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.3
FCF yield (%)	nm	11.7	7.5	6.4	8.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.4	15.8	12.7	11.7	11.0
EV/EBIT (x)	55.8	85.1	39.0	33.9	31.7
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m)					
Revenue	15,427.8	14,915.3	16,035.6	16,383.2	16,557.0
EBITDA	3,616.8	3,343.3	4,041.9	4,269.7	4,366.5
Depreciation	(2,685.0)	(2,723.0)	(2,731.0)	(2,803.0)	(2,851.0
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	931.8	620.3	1,310.9	1,466.7	1,515.
Net interest income /(exp)	(395.0)	(361.3)	(400.0)	(399.9)	(399.9
Associates & JV	1,798.0	2,137.0	2,595.6	2,935.5	3,342.
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	2,334.8	2,396.0	3,506.5	4,002.4	4,458.
•	-	,			-
ncome tax	(811.0)	(832.2)	(980.0)	(1,118.6)	(1,245.9
Winorities	(6.2)	(6.2)	(6.2)	(6.2)	(6.2
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	1,517.6	1,557.6	2,520.3	2,877.6	3,205.
Core net profit	1,517.6	1,557.6	2,520.3	2,877.6	3,205.9
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	754.7	2,130.0	3,456.1	4,820.5	6,516.9
Accounts receivable	5,443.7	5,245.0	5,638.9	5,761.2	5,822.
nventory	271.6	270.0	320.7	327.7	331.
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	11,534.1	10,892.0	10,823.0	10,948.0	10,497.0
ntangible assets	13,129.1	11,977.0	11,977.0	11,977.0	11,977.0
nvestment in Associates & JVs	15,790.3	17,206.0	17,206.0	17,206.0	17,206.0
Other assets	1,074.9	1,412.0	1,412.0	1,412.0	1,412.0
Total assets	47,998.4	49,132.0	50,833.7	52,452.4	53,762.3
5T interest bearing debt	2,033.9	1,614.0	1,614.0	1,614.0	1,614.0
Accounts payable	6,784.8	6,402.0	7,352.0	7,511.4	7,591.
nsurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	10,825.6	10,254.0	10,245.4	10,245.6	
T interest bearing debt					10,245.
Other liabilities	1,843.0	3,444.0	3,444.0	3,914.0	4,042.0
Total Liabilities	21,487.0	21,714.0	22,655.2	23,284.8	23,492.8
Shareholders Equity	26,485.8	27,433.0	28,189.6	29,174.3	30,274.
Winority Interest	25.6	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0
Total shareholder equity	26,511.4	27,418.0	28,174.6	29,159.3	30,259.1
Total liabilities and equity	47,998.4	49,132.0	50,833.7	52,452.4	53,762.3
CASH FLOW (SGD m)					
Pretax profit	2,334.8	2,396.0	3,506.5	4,002.4	4,458.
Depreciation & amortisation	2,685.0	2,723.0	2,731.0	2,803.0	2,851.0
Adj net interest (income)/exp	(1,695.0)	(1,681.7)	(917.5)	(1,302.2)	(1,279.2
Change in working capital	878.1	(104.9)	505.4	30.2	15.
Cash taxes paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.
Cash flow from operations	4,031.2	3,332.4	5,825.4	5,533.3	6,045.
Capex	(2,200.0)	2,217.0	(2,662.0)	(2,928.0)	(2,400.0
Free cash flow	2,328.2	4,133.7	3,163.4	2,605.3	3,645.
Dividends paid	(1,722.2)	(1,090.3)	(1,764.2)	(2,014.3)	(2,244.2
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Change in Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Other invest/financing cash flow	(353.9)	(921.4)	665.6	720.3	358.
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	(244.9)	1,375.3	1,326.1	1,364.4	1,696.4

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FYE 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	(6.7)	(3.3)	7.5	2.2	1.1
EBITDA growth	(10.6)	(7.6)	20.9	5.6	2.3
EBIT growth	(52.5)	(33.4)	111.3	11.9	3.3
Pretax growth	14.5	2.6	46.3	14.1	11.4
Reported net profit growth	41.3	2.6	61.8	14.2	11.4
Core net profit growth	41.3	2.6	61.8	14.2	11.4
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	23.4	22.4	25.2	26.1	26.4
EBIT margin	6.0	4.2	8.2	9.0	9.2
Pretax profit margin	15.1	16.1	21.9	24.4	26.9
Payout ratio	80.7	97.5	70.4	70.3	70.2
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	9.8	10.4	15.7	17.6	19.4
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Assets/Equity (x)	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
ROAE (%)	5.7	5.8	9.1	10.0	10.8
ROAA (%)	3.1	3.2	5.0	5.6	6.0
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	na	na	na	na	na
Days receivable outstanding	128.4	129.0	122.2	125.3	125.9
Days inventory outstanding	na	na	na	na	na
Days payables outstanding	na	na	na	na	na
Dividend cover (x)	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4
Current ratio (x)	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	45.7	35.5	29.8	24.1	17.7
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	45.7	35.5	29.8	24.1	17.7
Net interest cover (x)	2.4	1.7	3.3	3.7	3.8
Debt/EBITDA (x)	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.7
Capex/revenue (%)	14.3	nm	16.6	17.9	14.5
Net debt/ (net cash)	12,104.8	9.738.0	8,403.3	7,039.1	5,342.7

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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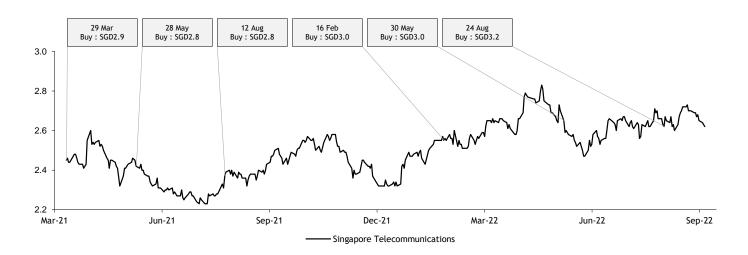
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