Maybank Investment Bank

Westports Holdings (WPRTS MK)

Long awaited green light for expansion

Positive on latest development; maintain BUY

We maintain our BUY rating for Westports, raising DCF-TP by 18% to MYR4.35. Our FY23E/24E earnings forecasts are largely unchanged, with a slight -2% adjustment to FY25E. Our higher DCF valuation is mainly due to the port's extended concession period to 2082, now reflected in our projections, along with the Westports 2.0 (WP2) expansion. We reduced our WACC to 6.7% from 8.7%, aligning with updated debt-to-equity and adjusted beta. We view this development positively.

Details of the supplemental privatisation agreement

Westports' third supplemental privatisation agreement covers existing and new port facilities, including a sustainable development plan for CT10 to 17. This expansion aims to increase port capacity from 14m TEUs to 27m TEUs by 2053. The expansion will involve an initial development capex of RM12.6b, with preliminary construction to start in Jan 2024. Westports plans to fund the expansion through a mix of internally generated funds, new equity, and a proposed MYR5b Sukuk program.

Our key assumptions

In our forecasts, we project a total capex of MYR39.4b until 2082, in line with guidance (annual maintenance/facilities upgrade capex = MYR450m-MYR500m). Additionally, we anticipate a 30% increase in container tariffs in FY27E, coinciding with the start of CT10 operations. Our assumptions include a moderate 1%-2% p.a. long-term growth for container throughput.

Extended long-term visibility

We are optimistic on Westports' outlook, driven by sustained growth in intra-Asia trade and increasing FDIs in Malaysia, which will boost its gateway volume expansion. The long-awaited CT10-CT17 expansion extends Westports' growth prospect. With a net gearing of 0.15x at end-FY22, it has substantial debt capacity, supported by a robust FCF of >MYR800m p.a. An equity call is only anticipated in 2027. Our current forecasts have factored in a dividend reinvestment plan for FY26E/27E.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	1,978	2,055	2,170	2,222	2,292
EBITDA	1,287	1,188	1,291	1,286	1,260
Core net profit	737	673	785	827	799
Core EPS (sen)	21.6	19.8	23.0	24.3	23.4
Core EPS growth (%)	7.0	(8.6)	16.6	5.3	(3.4)
Net DPS (sen)	16.2	14.8	17.3	18.2	17.6
Core P/E (x)	18.7	19.2	15.5	14.7	15.2
P/BV (x)	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.1
Net dividend yield (%)	4.0	3.9	4.8	5.1	4.9
ROAE (%)	27.1	21.9	23.3	23.1	21.2
ROAA (%)	13.8	12.6	14.8	15.6	9.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.2	11.3	9.7	10.0	11.0
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	18.0	14.9	9.0	20.2	42.8
Consensus net profit	-	-	743	786	830
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	5.8	5.2	(3.7)

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BUY

Share Price MYR 3.57

12m Price Target MYR 4.35 (+27%)

Previous Price Target MYR 3.68

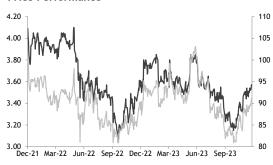
Company Description

Westports Holdings Bhd is a key transhipment port at Straits of Malacca and is also a key port in Malaysia serving the Klang Valley area.

Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	3.85/3.15
3m avg turnover (USDm)	1.5
Free float (%)	21.1
Issued shares (m)	3,410
Market capitalisation	MYR12.2B
	USD2.6B
Major shareholders:	
Pembinaan Redzai Sdn. Bhd.	42.4%
South Port Investment Holdings Ltd.	23.5%
Employees Provident Fund	9.2%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	7	6	1
Relative to index (%)	8	7	3

Source: FactSet



The 3rd Supplemental Privatisation Agreement

Westports first signed its privatization agreement and lease agreement back in 1994 to operate the Westport in Port Klang for 30 years (until 31 Aug 2024). The privatization was subsequently extended for 30 years (until 2054) in July 2014.

As the concession holder, Westports sets the levy charges on port users for the services provided. Nevertheless, these fees are subject to a ceiling defined by the Port Klang Authorities (PKA) and Government of Malaysia (GoM). As consideration to operate and lease the port property, Westports pays (i) a fixed lease, i.e. annual lease payment for the use of port infrastructure and facilities (the initial rate was determined at the start of the concession agreement and is adjusted every few years), and (ii) a variable lease, i.e. profit-sharing with the authorities based on the volume of containers and conventional cargoes handled.

Concession extension

The 3rd supplemental agreement, inked on 8 Dec 2023, will extend the concession period to 2082 for the existing port facilities (2,011 acres under 'WP1') and for the new facilities to be built (under 'WP2') at a cost of MYR39.6b.

- The concession period will be extended to 31 Aug 2070 (effectively by 16 years from 2054, ie. the 1st extension) after CT10-CT13 are built. CT10 is targeted to commence operations by 2H27, and CT11 by 2H29.
- The concession period will be further extended to 31 Aug 2082 (by another 12 years from 2070), post construction of the remaining CTs ie. CT14-CT17 as well as post transfer of a 3rd piece of land (underwater) by 31 Aug 2045.

Lease terms and payments to PKA

- Fixed lease for WP1 The annual fixed lease will be revised upwards to MYR90m effective 1 Sep 2024. This compares to MYR61m paid in 2022. Moving forward, the lease increase rate will be in line with the container tariff revision rate.
- Fixed lease for WP2 The annual fixed lease will be MYR1m considering that two pieces of land (totalling 743 acres and costing MYR610m) would have been transferred to PKA by then (ie. by 1 Sep 2024 and 31 Aug 2026 respectively).
- Variable lease This is effectively a 'profit-sharing' arrangement with PKA, and it comprises two parts, relating to container and conventional cargoes.
 The profit-sharing amount for container cargoes will be revised up, while the profit-sharing for conventional cargoes will be unchanged.

Revised variable lease rate

Cargoes type			Rates	(MYR)
		(ft)	New	Old
	Gateway	20	3.00	1.00
Container		40	4.50	1.00
Container	Transhipmont	20	2.00	1.00
	Transhipment	40	3.00	1.00
Conventional			0.10	0.10

Source: Westports

December 11, 2023



More on the terms relating to land lease/ownership

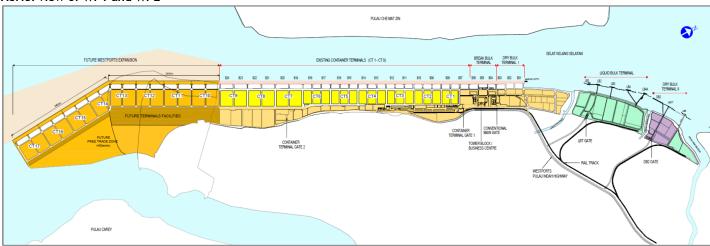
Westports will transfer two parcels of land to PKA (total land costs: c.MYR610m) by 1 Sep 2024 and 31 Aug 2026 respectively. In return, the fixed land lease for WP2 will be only MYR1m p.a., compared to MYR90m for WP1. Moreover, Westports is required to acquire and transfer a third parcel of land (underwater) by 31 Aug 2045, as a condition to further extend the concession period from 2070 to 2082.

Land details

Land		Size (acres)	Deadline for ownership transfer
WP1		2011	-
	PKNS land	381	01-Sep-24
WP2	Marina land	362	31-Aug-26
	Underwater land	NA	31-Aug-45

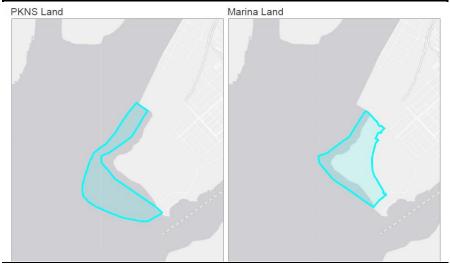
Source: Westports

Aeriel view of WP1 and WP2



Source: Westports

Existing two parcels of land to be transferred under WP2



Source: Westports



Westports' capex

The overall total projected capex for both WP1 and WP2 until 2082 is e.MYR39.6b, including replacement of all equipment and maintenance capex, and with automation and digitalization plans to be executed. This includes the 1) procurement of e-RTGs and electric terminal tractors, 2) incorporating flexibility for complete and semi-automation of terminal equipment, and 3) incorporating facilities that support future advancements such as IoT, blockchain, AI, etc.

For WP2, the initial development capex is in line with the previous guidance of MYR12.6b (or MYR6.3b respectively for both Phase 1 and Phase 2), as shown below:

WP2's capex

Phase	hase Expansion		MYR b
	Land reclamation, dredging, containment bund	2024-2028	0.25-0.6 p.a.
Phase 1	CT10-CT11	2024-2029	2.2-2.4
	CT12-CT13	2029-2038	2.2-2.4
Phase 2 CT14-CT17		2036-2053	6.3
	Total overall projected capex to 2082	2024-2082	39.6

Source: Westports

Financing for future capex

Westports is considering the following financing mix:

- New MYR5b perpetual (and green) Sukuk programme for WP2, as it targets a maximum debt-to-equity ratio of 40:60.
- New MYR800-MYR1.2b equity by 2027 via dividend reinvestments, share placement or strategic investor.

As for its existing MYR850m Sukuk MTN, it will be retained until its full redemption in 2028. Westports intends to use **internally generated funds** of <MYR400m in the first year for land reclamation and dredging.



Our financial forecasts & valuation

We've made the following adjustments in our updated forecasts:

- (i) Extended our projection to 2082 to account for the new concession period, incorporating WP2 expansion and associated funding requirements.
- (ii) Assumed a 30% increase in container tariff adjustment in FY27E, coinciding with the commencement of CT10 operations. Although no specific guidance is available yet, the company has indicated active engagement with authorities on this matter.
- (iii) Included a moderate long-term growth assumption for container throughput volume at 1%-2% p.a.
- (iv) Projected a 0% cash dividend payout for FY26E and FY27E to preserve cash for funding WP2 expansion.
- (v) Set a total capex assumption (until 2082) for the combined WP1 enhancement and WP2 development at MYR39.4b, closely aligned with the company's estimate of MYR39.6b.
- (vi) Lowered our DCF discount rate (WACC) to 6.7% from 8.7% following updates to our debt-to-equity ratio target and adjusted beta value.

Consequently, our new target price is MYR4.35, a 19% increase from our previous target of MYR3.68. We maintain a BUY recommendation.



Impact on P&L and BS

Timeline	Developments	Profit & Loss (P&L) Impact	Balance Sheet (BS) Impact
2024	Completes Marina Land acquisition and transfer of both lands to PKA		Addition to BS as concession assets, with amortisation over the concession period (until 2070; another adjustment to be made when the concession period is being extended to 2082).
	Dredging and reclamation capex (c. <myr400m)< td=""><td></td><td>Will be classified under assets under construction.</td></myr400m)<>		Will be classified under assets under construction.
	Depreciation and amortisation (D&A)	Will be lower as D&A period will be extended, inline with the extension of concession period.	
	Financing costs		Will be capitalised until CT10 commences operation.
	10 years Investment Tax Allowances (ITA) from 2022-2031	Effective tax rate is estimated to be within 18%-21%.	
Sep-24	Adjustment of rental income	Recognition of rental income from land and building on straight line basis over the lease term. Expecting substantial increment, inline with the increment of fix land lease to be paid to PKA in the new agreement (c.+40% YoY).	
	Payments to PKA (recognise under 'other expenses')	Will be higher, inline with the new rates for both WP1 land lease and profit-sharing rates, as well as adjustment to the new lease liablities.	To recognise the revised lease liabilities from 1 Sep 2024.
2025- 2028	Dredging, reclamation, containment bund capex (MYR250m-MYR600m p.a.)		Will be classified under assets under construction.
	10 years Investment Tax Allowances (ITA) from 2022-2031	Effective tax rate is estimated to be within 18%-21%.	
2027	Equity injection		Equity fund raising of MYR800m-MYR1.2b.
	CT10 commences operations (2H27)	Recognition of contributions from CT10.	
	Financing costs	Recognition of higher financing costs associated to the construction capex post commencement of CT10 operations.	
2029	CT11 commences operations (2H29)	Recognition of contributions from CT11.	

Source: Westports, MIBG Research



FYE 31 Dec	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Metrics	18.0	17.0	15.5	14.7	15.2
P/E (reported) (x)	18.7	17.8 19.2	15.5	14.7	15.2 15.2
Core P/E (x) P/BV (x)	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.1
· /	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.1
P/NTA (x) Net dividend yield (%)	4.4	3.9	4.8	5.1	4.9
FCF yield (%)	5.7	5.5	7.1	2.3	nm
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.2	11.3	9.7	10.0	11.0
EV/EBIT (x)	14.0	14.6	11.9	12.3	13.4
INCOME STATEMENT (INCOME)					
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m) Revenue	1,977.8	2,055.4	2,170.5	2,222.3	2,291.9
EBITDA	1,287.0	1,187.8	1,290.8	1,285.8	1,260.0
Depreciation	(174.6)	(178.9)	(180.4)	(183.5)	(179.7)
Amortisation	(84.2)	(85.7)	(84.7)	(82.5)	(46.7)
EBIT	1,028.3	923.3	1,052.3	1,046.6	1,033.5
Net interest income /(exp)	(61.7)	(52.3)	(50.2)	(31.5)	(54.3)
	, ,				
Associates & JV	(0.4) 71.4	(0.4)	(0.4) 0.0	1.0 0.0	1.0 0.0
Exceptionals Other protex income	2.1	(14.1) 87.5	18.4		
Other pretax income				17.9	18.8
Pretax profit Income tax	1,039.5 (231.3)	943.9 (244.4)	1,020.1 (234.6)	1,034.0 (206.8)	999.0 (199.8)
Minorities	. ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	` ,
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 827.2	0.0
Reported net profit	808.2	699.6	785.5		799.2
Core net profit	736.9	673.5	785.5	827.2	799.2
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	656.0	552.1	599.5	38.8	122.0
Accounts receivable	296.3	210.1	220.6	225.3	231.7
Inventory	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	1,727.2	1,775.8	1,798.0	2,064.5	2,334.8
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other assets	2,730.4	2,738.3	2,678.0	2,987.4	9,018.6
Total assets	5,415.3	5,281.7	5,301.4	5,321.3	11,712.5
ST interest bearing debt	199.1	148.8	148.8	148.8	148.8
Accounts payable	146.6	195.3	202.6	205.9	210.3
LT interest bearing debt	1,021.3	891.5	762.5	633.4	1,633.4
Other liabilities	922.0	772.0	717.0	656.0	5,843.0
Total Liabilities	2,288.4	2,007.3	1,830.7	1,643.8	7,835.2
Shareholders Equity	3,126.9	3,274.4	3,470.7	3,677.5	3,877.3
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total shareholder equity	3,126.9	3,274.4	3,470.7	3,677.5	3,877.3
Total liabilities and equity	5,415.3	5,281.7	5,301.4	5,321.3	11,712.5
CASH FLOW (MYR m)					
Pretax profit	1,039.5	943.9	1,020.1	1,034.0	999.0
Depreciation & amortisation	258.8	264.5	265.1	265.9	226.4
Adj net interest (income)/exp	57.3	48.2	46.1	27.5	54.3
Change in working capital	1.9	34.9	(3.2)	(1.4)	(1.9)
Cash taxes paid	(204.2)	(319.7)	(234.6)	(206.8)	(199.8)
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Cash flow from operations	1,161.5	952.6	1,097.6	1,124.2	1,079.1
Capex	(370.9)	(246.1)	(235.0)	(850.0)	(1,250.0)
Free cash flow	790.6	706.4	862.6	274.2	(170.9)
Dividends paid	(510.5)	(552.1)	(589.1)	(620.4)	(599.4)
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	(150.7)	(175.8)	(125.0)	(125.0)	1,000.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	(113.3)	(108.0)	(101.0)	(88.5)	(145.3)
other invest/ infancing cash from					
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



FYE 31 Dec	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	7.7	3.9	5.6	2.4	3.1
EBITDA growth	8.2	(7.7)	8.7	(0.4)	(2.0)
EBIT growth	10.7	(10.2)	14.0	(0.5)	(1.2)
Pretax growth	20.2	(9.2)	8.1	1.4	(3.4)
Reported net profit growth	23.5	(13.4)	12.3	5.3	(3.4)
Core net profit growth	7.0	(8.6)	16.6	5.3	(3.4)
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	65.1	57.8	59.5	57.9	55.0
EBIT margin	52.0	44.9	48.5	47.1	45.1
Pretax profit margin	52.6	45.9	47.0	46.5	43.6
Payout ratio	68.4	72.2	75.0	75.0	75.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	40.9	34.0	36.2	37.2	34.9
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
Assets/Equity (x)	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	3.0
ROAE (%)	27.1	21.9	23.3	23.1	21.2
ROAA (%)	13.8	12.6	14.8	15.6	9.4
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	(53.3)	(50.6)	(67.5)	(63.6)	(55.9)
Days receivable outstanding	52.3	44.3	35.7	36.1	35.9
Days inventory outstanding	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.4
Days payables outstanding	109.1	98.0	106.0	102.4	94.3
Dividend cover (x)	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Current ratio (x)	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.6
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.4	2.6	2.9	3.2	1.5
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	18.0	14.9	9.0	20.2	42.8
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	18.0	14.9	9.0	20.2	42.8
Net interest cover (x)	16.7	17.7	21.0	33.2	19.0
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.4
Capex/revenue (%)	18.8	12.0	10.8	38.2	54.5
Net debt/ (net cash)	564.4	488.3	311.8	743.4	1,660.1

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research



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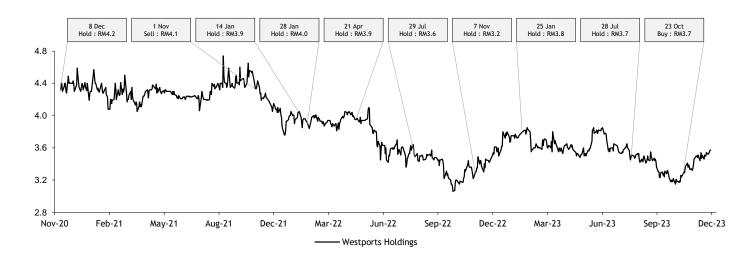
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Historical recommendations and target price: Westports Holdings (WPRTS MK)



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