Eco World Development (ECW MK)

Earnings on track

Profit and sales in line

ECW's 4QFY23 core net profit of MYR92m (+12% YoY, +40% QoQ) was within our expectation but above consensus. FY23 locked-in property sales of MYR3.61b were 3% above ECW's FY23 sales target of MYR3.5b but in line with our sales assumption. Management sets a lower sales target of MYR3.5b for FY24 (-3% YoY). We lower our FY24-25E earnings forecasts by 4-13%. Our new TP is MYR1.10 (-2sen) on an unchanged 0.7x FY24E PBV (+1SD to mean). Maintain HOLD.

Results boosted by land sale

Excluding MYR84m one-off [including MYR82m impairment related to its investment in Eco World International (ECWI MK; TP: MYR0.26; HOLD)], ECW's 4QFY23 core net profit of MYR91.8m lifted FY23 core net profit to MYR272.9m (+18% YoY), accounting for 98%/114% of our/consensus' FY23 earnings estimates. The +40% QoQ increase in 4QFY23 core net profit was boosted by a land sale (92 acres) to Haitian group in Eco Business Park II. ECW has declared a final DPS of 2 sen (YTD: 6 sen [+20% YoY]) - in line.

Sets MYR3.5b sales target for FY24

ECW has secured MYR3.61b in property sales in FY23, 3% above its own FY23 sales target but within our assumption of MYR3.69b. Of the MYR3.6b sales, 43% came from landed properties while the remaining 29% was from industrial properties, 14% high-rise and 14% commercial lots. Contributions from the high-rise segment is expected to rise as ECW intends to launch more *duduk series* products (affordable apartment) in FY24. Management has set a slightly lower sales target of MYR3.5b for FY24 (-3% YoY).

Earnings adjustments

We revise FY24/25E earnings by -4.1%/-13% after factoring in: i) dividend (MYR162m effective stake) from ECWI and our adjustments to ECWI loss projections (see <u>our report</u> dated 14 Dec 2023) and ii) actual FY23 results. Our FY24E sales assumption is MYR3.7b. ECW is actively seeking new landbank opportunities. In end-Oct 23, net gearing improved to 0.25x, from 0.31x in end 3QFY23, providing debt headroom of up to MYR1.65b for landbanking based on 0.6x internal net gearing cap. Unbilled sales were MYR3.4b in end Oct 2023 or 1.2x of our FY24E revenue.

FYE Oct (MYR m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	2,044	2,227	2,850	2,975	3,323
EBITDA	341	388	396	435	498
Core net profit	231	273	289	314	373
Core EPS (sen)	7.9	9.3	9.8	10.7	12.7
Core EPS growth (%)	0.2	17.9	6.1	8.5	18.9
Net DPS (sen)	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Core P/E (x)	7.7	10.9	10.2	9.4	7.9
P/BV (x)	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Net dividend yield (%)	8.3	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0
ROAE (%)	3.3	4.0	6.0	6.3	7.3
ROAA (%)	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.6	10.8	10.6	9.6	8.4
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	31.4	25.2	25.6	24.7	23.4
Consensus net profit	-	-	271	305	na
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	7.0	2.9	na

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HOLD

Share PriceMYR 1.0012m Price TargetMYR 1.10 (+10%)Previous Price TargetMYR 1.12

Company Description

Eco World Development is principally involved in the property development business.

Statistics

Statistics	
52w high/low (MYR)	1.10/0.61
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.5
Free float (%)	30.5
Issued shares (m)	2,944
Market capitalisation	MYR2.9B
	USD630M
Major shareholders:	
Syabas Tropikal Sdn. Bhd.	32.9%
LIEW KEE SIN	9.4%
Eco World Development Holdings Sdn. Bhd.	7.5%

Price Performance

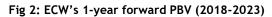


	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(4)	1	52
Relative to index (%)	(4)	1	55
Source: FactSet			

FY Oct		0	Quarterly			C	umulative	
(MYRm)	4Q23	4Q22	%YoY	3Q23	%QoQ	FY23	FY22	%YoY
Turnover	844.5	559.3	51.0	476.9	77.1	2,226.9	2,043.6	9.0
EBIT	100.5	98.8	1.7	102.6	-2.0	387.8	341.4	13.6
JV/Associate	34.9	26.6	31.2	19.1	82.3	87.0	62.3	39.6
Finance costs	-33.3	-21.3	-56.0	-30.4	9.7	-122.7	-96.9	-26.7
Impairment	-82.0	-81.0	-1.2	-	NA	-82.0	-81.0	-1.2
Pretax profit	20.1	23.0	-12.9	91.3	-78.0	270.0	225.8	19.6
Tax	-16.8	-21.3	21.1	-25.0	-33.0	-80.7	-68.6	-17.7
MI	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	NA
Net profit	3.3	1.8	85.1	66.3	-95.0	189.3	157.2	20.4
Net profit ex-El	91.8	82.2	11.7	65.5	40.2	272.9	231.5	17.9
Net DPS	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	6.0	5.0	20.0
			+/- ppt		+/- ppt			+/- ppt
EBIT margin (%)	11.9	17.7	-5.8	21.5	-9.6	17.4	16.7	0.7
Tax rate (%)	-83.6	-92.3	8.7	-27.4	-56.2	-29.9	-30.4	0.5

Fig 1: ECW's results summary table

Source: Company





Source: Bloomberg, Company data, Maybank IBG Research

Upside/ Downside risks

There are several risk factors to our earnings estimates, target price and rating for ECW. Risks could come from a prolonged slowdown in the property sector, higher-than-expected losses from its 27%-owned associate-ECWI, weaker-than-expected operating margins on higher marketing expenses and raw material prices, and policy risks.

FYE 31 Oct	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	15.0	12.5	10.2	9.4	7.9
Core P/E (x)	7.7	10.9	10.2	9.4	7.9
P/BV (x)	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
P/NTA (x)	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Net dividend yield (%)	8.3	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0
FCF yield (%)	44.0	7.1	4.4	6.4	6.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.6	10.8	10.6	9.6	8.4
EV/EBIT (x)	9.6	10.8	10.7	9.7	8.5
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	2,043.6	2,226.9	2,849.8	2,974.7	3,322.8
EBITDA	341.4	387.8	396.1	435.4	498.2
Depreciation	0.0	0.0	(4.3)	(5.0)	(5.6
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	341.4	387.8	391.8	430.4	492.6
Net interest income /(exp)	(96.9)	(122.7)	(74.9)	(75.9)	(75.6
Associates & JV	62.3	87.0	64.0	57.4	71.8
Exceptionals	(81.0)	(82.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
•	(81.0) 0.0	(82.0) 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income					
Pretax profit	225.8	270.0	380.9	412.0	488.8
ncome tax	(68.6)	(80.7)	(91.4)	(98.9)	(117.3
Winorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	157.2	189.3	289.5	314.1	373.5
Core net profit	231.5	272.9	289.5	314.1	373.5
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	1,316.0	1,336.6	1,288.9	1,302.2	1,320.
Accounts receivable	460.3	642.6	822.4	858.5	958.9
nventory	360.8	238.8	305.6	319.0	356.
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	150.0	144.3	166.3	186.6	205.
ntangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
nvestment in Associates & JVs	2,342.0	2,142.5	2,142.5	2,142.5	2,142.
Other assets	4,770.7	4,398.0	4,608.2	4,744.7	4,995.0
Total assets	9,399.7	8,902.8	9,333.9	9,553.5	9,979.3
ST interest bearing debt	1,077.7	740.0	740.0	740.0	740.0
Accounts payable	893.7	844.4	1,080.6	1,128.0	1,259.9
nsurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
T interest bearing debt	1,727.0	1,800.9	1,800.9	1,800.9	1,800.9
Other liabilities	963.0	744.0	826.0	861.0	958.0
Total Liabilities	4,661.3	4,129.3	4,447.5	4,529.8	4,758.7
Shareholders Equity	4,738.5	4,773.5	4,886.3	5,023.8	5,220.0
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total shareholder equity	4,738.5	4,773.5	4,886.3	5,023.8	5,220.6
Total liabilities and equity	9,399.7	8,902.8	9,333.9	9,553.5	9,979.3
CASH FLOW (MYR m) Pretax profit	225.8	270.0	380.9	412.0	488.8
			4.3		
Depreciation & amortisation	0.0	0.0		5.0	5.0
Adj net interest (income)/exp	(120.2)	(125.6)	(74.9)	(75.9)	(75.6
Change in working capital	823.7	418.0	115.3	23.1	64.4
Cash taxes paid	(65.6)	(51.9)	(91.4)	(98.9)	(117.3
Other operating cash flow	72.4	61.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	936.0	572.1	270.2	207.9	294.3
Capex	(133.7)	(356.0)	(261.1)	(100.0)	(100.0
Free cash flow	783.2	210.4	129.0	188.9	194.
Dividends paid	(147.2)	(176.7)	(176.7)	(176.7)	(176.7
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
Change in Debt	(75.3)	(263.9)	0.0	0.0	0.
Other invest/financing cash flow	(97.7)	(340.1)	119.9	82.0	1.
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.

FYE 31 Oct	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	0.0	9.0	28.0	4.4	11.7
EBITDA growth	28.3	13.6	2.1	9.9	14.4
EBIT growth	28.3	13.6	1.0	9.9	14.5
Pretax growth	(5.7)	19.6	41.1	8.2	18.7
Reported net profit growth	(14.0)	20.4	52.9	8.5	18.9
Core net profit growth	0.2	17.9	6.1	8.5	18.9
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	16.7	17.4	13.9	14.6	15.0
EBIT margin	16.7	17.4	13.7	14.5	14.8
Pretax profit margin	11.0	12.1	13.4	13.8	14.7
Payout ratio	93.6	93.3	61.0	56.2	47.3
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	7.7	8.5	10.2	10.6	11.2
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Assets/Equity (x)	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
ROAE (%)	3.3	4.0	6.0	6.3	7.3
ROAA (%)	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.8
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	31.4	25.2	25.6	24.7	23.4
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	31.4	25.2	25.6	24.7	23.4
Net interest cover (x)	3.5	3.2	5.2	5.7	6.5
Debt/EBITDA (x)	8.2	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.1
Capex/revenue (%)	6.5	16.0	9.2	3.4	3.0
Net debt/ (net cash)	1,488.8	1,204.3	1,251.9	1,238.7	1,220.1

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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Malaysia

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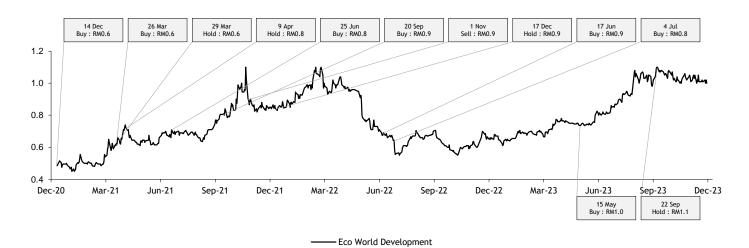
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