Maybank

AIMS APAC REIT (AAREIT SP)

Earnings in line

Maintain BUY; raise TP

AAREIT posted 3QFY24 DPU of SGD2.34cts, 0% QoQ/-9.7% YoY mainly on an enlarged unitholder base from its equity raising. 9MFY24 DPU of SGD6.99cts forms 76% of our FY est. While the mark-to-market narrative has not changed, we have progressed through much of it (see overleaf). While we still see positive rental growth extending into 2024, especially from its logistics ramp-up, contribution from asset enhancements (AEI) and redevelopment will likely drive growth. We raise our FY24E DPU by c.1% on improved NPI margin, and lift our TP by 2% to SGD1.39 on a lower discount rate. Maintain BUY on attractive FY25E DPU yield of 7.5%.

Stable operating metrics

Portfolio occupancy held up at 98.1%. In 3Q24, AAREIT inked renewal leases with KWE (c.6% GRI) and 16 others at +13% rental reversion. Logistics assets continued show the highest reversions (+13.5%), followed by industrial assets (+7.9%). As market rents are hitting a ceiling, AAREIT's mark-to-market momentum may slow after the current cycle. WALE stood at 4.6 years as of 3Q24, with WALE for logistics at an extended 2.4 years (see overleaf). We like the strengthened lease profile in view of supply building up. Leasing demand for business park remains tepid. Nonetheless management does not expect downside surprise from 1A IBP. Australian BP assets (Optus Centre and Woolworths) remain 100% leased.

Growth prospects

Two announced AEI projects are at design stage. Management expects downtime of 6-12 months at one AEI site upon start of work. Capex is estimated at SGD25-30m, with potential arrangements with tenants such as rentalisation. We have not factored in any income gap from potential AEI downtime, as some more progress lies ahead in AEI planning.

Gearing to remain stable

Gearing remained largely stable at 32.2%, up 10 bps from the previous quarter. All-in COD stood unchanged at 4%, while the 100m-MTN due in Nov'25 is currently priced at 3.6%. With upcoming capex for AEIs, gearing is expected at c.34%. Management would like to sustain this gearing level. Australian assets could see valuations soften in Mar-24, while a stronger valuation for Singapore assets should underpin the overall portfolio.

FYE Mar (SGD m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	142	167	175	180	184
Net property income	103	123	129	134	137
Core net profit	65	72	74	79	82
Core EPU (cts)	9.4	9.9	9.3	9.6	10.0
Core EPU growth (%)	4.9	5.3	(5.8)	3.6	3.6
DPU (cts)	9.4	9.9	9.3	9.6	10.0
DPU growth (%)	4.9	5.3	(5.8)	3.6	3.6
P/NTA (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
DPU yield (%)	6.8	7.5	7.1	7.4	7.6
ROAE (%)	10.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.7
ROAA (%)	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.5
Debt/Assets (x)	0.35	0.34	0.29	0.29	0.29
Consensus DPU	-	-	9.8	9.8	9.9
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(4.6)	(1.1)	0.9

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BUY

Share Price SGD 1.31

12m Price Target SGD 1.39 (+6%)

Previous Price Target SGD 1.36

Company Description

AAREIT is sponsored by AIMS Financial Group. It owns warehouses, industrial and business park properties in Singapore and Australia.

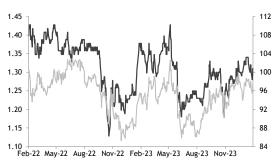
Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	1.43/1.18
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.9
Free float (%)	74.3
Issued shares (m)	809
Market capitalisation	SGD1.1B
	HSD793M

Major shareholders:

Dragon Pacific Assets Ltd.	11.2%
APG Asset Management NV	8.7%
AIMS Fund Management Ltd.	7.5%

Price Performance



——AIMS APAC REIT - (LHS, SGD) ——AIMS APAC REIT / Straits Times Index - (RHS, %)

	- 1741	-3/4	- 1 2/41
Absolute (%)	1	9	(4)
Relative to index (%)	4	6	2

Source: FactSet

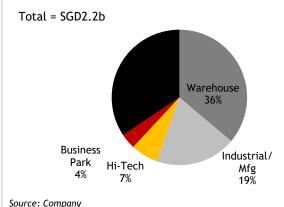


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Value Proposition

- Diversified industrial property portfolio offers exposure to warehouses (52% of 4Q21 rental income), light industrial buildings (10) and business parks (16%).
- Sponsor AIMS Financial Group, founded and controlled by George Wang, boasts real estate fund and asset management expertise.
- Acquisitions and proactive redevelopment initiatives have led to 10-year CAGR NAV growth of c.8% to FY21, and should remain a key driver of portfolio value accretion.
 - Growth optionality supported by redevelopment potential from under-utilised portfolio GFA at about 7% of existing NLA.

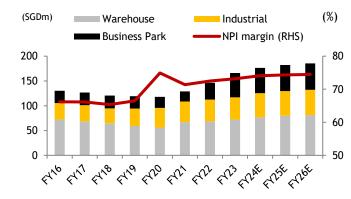
AUM profile (as of end-Mar 2023)



Financial Metrics

 Expect stable NPI margins given comparable growth profiles for both master lease and multi-tenanted properties.

Revenue breakdown



Source: Company

Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- 1. Jul 2019: Secured 10-year master lease at 3 Tuas West Ave 2 with rent escalations every two years (and 20-year extension option) at 7.3% initial NPI yield.
- 2. Aug-20: Acquires 7 Bulim Street for SGD129.6m at 7.1% NPI yield to be fully-leased to Kintetsu World Express, with five-year renewal option from Jun 2023.
- 3. Oct-21: Announces acquisition of Woolworths Sydney HQ its largest deal to-date, for c.AUD463m (SGD454m), at +4.7% DPU accretion, implying 5.17% NPI yield.
- 4. Jun-23: Completed EFR of SGD100m via private placement and preferential offering.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Strong demand for logistics assets leading to higher-thananticipated rental reversions.
- Accretive acquisitions or redevelopment projects.
- Faster-than-expected interest rate cuts.
- Favourable exchange rate between AUD and SGD.

Downside

- Prolonged slowdown in economic activity and reduced demand for industrial space.
- AUD/SGD volatility, which could impede hedging efforts and affect DPU.
- Extended period of high interest costs

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AIMS APAC REIT





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Risk Rating & Score ¹	17.3 (Low)
Score Momentum ²	-0.0
Last Updated	02 Dec 2022
Controversy Score ³	0

Business Model & Industry Issues

- AAREIT draws on its available pool of funds to invest in industrial real estate, carry out asset enhancements, and redevelop
 properties to optimise value for its unitholders. It is susceptible to sustainability-focused investors with strong preference for
 investing in companies that meet specific ESG criteria, given its incessant need for additional capital.
- Its activities relating to permissible investments, leverage limits and annual reporting requirements are regulated by the MAS under Singapore's code on collective investment schemes. Independence, real estate and capital markets experience on its board is high, with strong representation by members with international experience, essential in our view, as its overseas portfolio is increasingly a growth platform.

Its redevelopment of six properties in Singapore since FY12 have added 1.9m sf or 22% to its portfolio GFA, and supported growth in both revenue and AUM

Material E issues

- Nearly half of its Singapore portfolio by NLA is BCA Green Mark compliant as of end-Mar 2021. Its Optus Centre in NSW Australia maintained a NABERS Energy Base Building Rating of 5 stars and Water Rating of 3.5 stars in FY21.
- Secured a BCA Green Mark (Gold) award for the 3 Tuas Avenue 2 redevelopment and BCA Green Mark certification for the AEI at 29 Woodlands Industrial Park E1 NorthTech in FY20, in line with its FY19 targets.
- Reporting metrics are limited to the consumption of energy and water for 20 out of 28 properties in its portfolio, which trails the measurements on intensities, and also greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are disclosed by its peers.
- Obtained its first PUB Water Efficient Buildings (WEB), for 10 Changi South Lane after the completion of upgrading works in Dec 2020.

Material S issues

- Each employee received at least 18.0 training hours in FY21, up from 17.4 hours in FY20 (and against 32.4 hours in FY19), again missing its 26-hour minimum target due to Covid-19, which resulted in the inability to reschedule training programmes in 2H20. Will continue to aim for the minimum training hours in FY22.
 - Gender diversity is fairly high, with 15 females amongst its 22 employees, and 2 out of 5 in the management team.

Key G metrics and issues

- Previously known as MI-REIT prior to a recapitalisation exercise in 2009, and now externally managed by a whollyowned subsidiary of its sponsor AIMS Financial Group, which supports its growth via a pipeline of property assets from its development activities, and access to capital markets.
- Three of four board members are independent with the CEO the only executive and non-independent member.
- Management fee structure, with a base fee at 0.5% of its deposited property, the performance fee at 0.1% of deposited property if DPU growth >2.5% YoY and 0.2% if >5.0% YoY, as well as acquisition and disposal fee at 1.0% and 0.5% deal value, is comparable to peers.
- Does not disclose the cumulative remuneration of its key management team including the CEO.
- Payout ratio for taxable income has been consistently maintained above the minimum 90% threshold for tax transparency.
- Secured a new 12-year master lease with Optus, its largest tenant in FY20, achieving a 17% IRR on its FY14 AUD184m investment.
- Redevelopment projects have resulted in increases to both portfolio GFA and valuations; this rose for 20 Gul Way from SGD41.8m to SGD306.4m upon completion in Sep 2014.
- Was ranked third out of 45 S-REITs and business trusts in the Governance Index for Trusts in FY20 and retained in the SGX Fast Track programme by the SGX RegCo.
- Has maintained a sound balance sheet as leverage has averaged c.35% over the last five years, despite a c.64% growth in its AUM.

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. ***2Score** Momentum** - 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. **3controversy Score** - 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).

1. Business update highlights

1.1 Financial updates

9M NPI and DPU forms 76% of our FY estimates

NPI margin expanded by 1.5ppt in 3Q24, leading us to lift our FY NPI forecasts.

Fig 1: Financial highlights

	Jun- 22	Sep- 22	Dec- 22	Mar- 23	Jun- 23	Sep- 23	Dec- 23					
(SGD m)	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	%QoQ	3Q, YoY	9M23	9M22	9M, YoY
Gross revenue	41.3	41.9	42.0	42.2	43.2	43.7	44.8	2.6%	6.7%	131.63	125.20	5.1%
Property expenses	(10.3)	(11.7)	(11.1)	(11.7)	(10.9)	(11.7)	(11.3)	(3.2%)	1.9%	(33.86)	(33.16)	2.1%
Net property income	31.0	30.2	30.9	30.5	32.3	32.0	33.5	4.7%	8.4%	97.77	92.04	6.2%
NPI margin (%)	75.0	72.0	73.6	72.2	74.9	73.2	74.7			74.3	73.5	
Share of JV results Borrowing costs		11.5 (15.5)		4.5 (17.8)		7.5 (17.8)						
Number of units entitled to DPU (m)		718.0		725.0		810.1	810.6			810.6	718.01	12.8%
Total distributable income (SGD m)	16.3	17.4	18.7	19.2	17.2	18.9	19.0	0.4%	1.6%	55.10	52.42	5.1%
Capital distribution (SGD m)		11.2		11.7		9.4						
DPU (SGD cts)	2.28	2.42	2.59	2.65	2.31	2.34	2.34	0.0%	(9.7%)	6.99	7.29	(4.1%)
NAV per unit (SGD)	1.39	1.40	1.38	1.37	1.34	1.35	1.35	0.0%	(2.2%)	1.35	1.38	(2.2%)
Total gross debt (SGD m)	830.7	813.4	805.2	796.0	736.0	688.0	694.0					
Aggregate leverage (%)	37.0	36.5	36.4	36.1	32.9	32.1	32.2					
All-in financing cost (%)	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.0					
% hedged to fixed rates	88.0	88.0	88.0	88.0	87.0	77.0	76.0					
ICR (x)	5.0	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8					
Adjusted ICR (x)	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3					

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

1.2 Operational updates

WALE stands at 4.6 years as of 3Q24, with WALE for logistics & warehouse assets at a record 2.4 years. Lease profile was strengthened after renewing with KWE (5-year lease) and Aalst Chocolate (10-year lease).

Fig 2: Occupancy, reversion and WALE

	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23
	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24
Portfolio Occupancy (%)	97.9	97.5	97.8	98.0	98.1	98.1	98.1
Rental growth (% YoY)	9.5	6.2	21.1	36.8	38.0	33.7	13.0
Occupancy (by geography)	97.9	97.5	97.8	98.0	98.1	98.1	98.1
SG	97.6	97.1	97.4	97.7	97.9	97.9	97.8
AUS	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Occupancy (by asset type)	97.9	97.5	97.8	98.0	98.1	98.1	98.1
Logistics & warehouse	98.5	97.6	97.9	98.3	98.4	98.4	98.4
Business park	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.3	94.3	94.3	93.9
Hi-tech	100	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8
Industrial				99.1	99.4	99.4	99.4
General industrial	97.7	99.4	99.4	99.4	n/d	n/d	n/d
Light industrial	97.9	96.8	98.6	98.6	n/d	n/d	n/d
Rental reversion (by asset class)	9.5	6.2	21.1	36.8	38.0	33.7	13.0
Logistics & warehouse	16.5	10.3	25.7	41.6	39.5	33.9	13.5
Business park	-2.2	0.7	-6.4	-1.2	-5.4	n/a	n/a
Hi-tech	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial	3.4	n/d	n/d	23	18.6	7.3	7.9
General industrial	8	n/a	22.2	23	n/d	n/d	n/d
Light industrial	2.8	6.8	6.7	n/a	n/d	n/d	n/d
Renewed lease NLA (sqm)		52.922	52.658	156.176	91,320	11,743	97,453
New & renewed # of lease		47	27		30	8	17
WALE (by asset class)	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.6
Logistics & warehouse		1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.4
Business park		9.1	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.2	7.8
Hi-tech		7.4	7.3	7	6.8	6.5	6.3
Industrial					3.7	3.5	3.4
General industrial		4	3.9	3.6	n/d	n/d	n/d
Light industrial		4.7	4.3	4.3	n/d	n/d	n/d

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

1.3 Mark-to-market cycle

Lofty rental reversions in the past 12 months was primarily supercharged by AAREIT's mark-to-market cycle. As the REIT progresses through its current cycle, we expect to see hefty reversions upon lease expiry start to taper off, barring any sector-wide rental uplift.

Nonetheless, we like AAREIT for its ramp-up assets amid relatively tight supply and strong demand, and expect to see rental growth remain solid for these assets.

Fig 3: Current mark-to-market cycle

	Avg. passing rent	Market rent range		Upside (low)	Upside (high)	Reversions achieved	
Logistics & w	rarehouse						
3Q24	1.4	1.4	1.8	0%	29%	13%	
2Q24	1.3	1.5	1.9	15%	46%	33.90%	
1Q24	1.25	1.5	1.9	20%	52%	39.50%	
4Q23	1.22	1.4	2	15%	64%	41.60%	
Business parl	(
3Q24	3.73	3.5	4.2	-6%	13%	n/a	
2Q24	3.71	3.5	4.2	-6%	13%	n/a	
1Q24	3.73	3.5	4.2	-6%	13%	-5.40%	
4Q23	3.82	3.8	4.5	-1%	18%	-1.20%	
Hi-tech space	e						
3Q24	2.51	2.8	4	12%	59%	n/a	
2Q24	2.51	2.8	4	12%	59%	n/a	
1Q24	2.51	2.8	4	12%	59%	n/a	
4Q23	2.51	2.8	3.5	12%	39%	n/a	
Industrial							
3Q24	1.78	1.6	2.1	-10%	18%	7.90%	
2Q24	1.67	1.5	2.1	-10%	26%	7.30%	
1Q24	1.54	1.5	2.1	-3%	36%	18.60%	

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

1.4 Australia portfolio breakdown

Fig 4: Peer comparison

	AAREIT	ESR-LOGOS
Asset type	Two business parks, one light industrial asset	20 logistics assets
Size as of last FYE (AUD m)	885.47	730.1
Occupancy (%)	100	100
AUD loan (SGD m)	478	361.3
% in overall loan	69	20.5

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

 $\label{lem:Addressing} \ \ \text{Investor comments on AAREIT's Australian portfolio and how it compares with an industrial peer.}$

Management guided that cap rates for logistics assets in Australia range from 5.5% -6.0% in Sydney and Melbourne, over 6% in Brisbane, and sub-7% in Adelaide.

2. Forecast changes

We adjust our forecasts on improved NPI margin ($\pm 1.5 ppt$ in 3Q24), potential downtime from AEI projects in FY25, and outlook for a plateau in interest rates.

Fig 5: Forecast changes

(SGD m)	FY24E (old)	FY25E (old)	FY24E (New)	FY25E (New)	FY24E (% change)	FY25E (% change)
Revenue	174.7	181.0	174.7	180.3	0.0%	-0.4%
NPI	128.8	134.0	129.5	134.0	0.5%	0.0%
Distribution to unitholders	73.1	78.1	73.5	78.9	0.7%	0.9%
DPU (SGD cts)	9.2	9.6	9.3	9.6	0.7%	0.9%

Source: Maybank IBG Research



3. Valuation

We value AAREIT using a 3-stage dividend discount model. We increase our FY24/25E DPU forecasts by c.0.7%/0.9%. We apply a lower discount rate on a reduced risk-free rate assumption. As a result, we raise our TP by c.2%.

FYE 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Metrics					
Price/DPU(x)	14.8	13.3	14.1	13.6	13.1
P/BV (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
P/NTA (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
DPU yield (%)	6.8	7.5	7.1	7.4	7.6
FCF yield (%)	9.1	11.3	12.3	12.5	11.0
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m)					
Revenue	142.4	167.4	174.7	180.3	183.5
Net property income	103.2	122.5	129.5	134.0	136.7
Management and trustee fees	(19.2)	(22.2)	(17.3)	(18.4)	(18.5)
Net financing costs	(22.8)	(33.3)	(35.8)	(35.1)	(35.1)
Associates & JV	48.1	16.0	15.0	15.5	15.5
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income/expenses	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Pretax profit	110.0	83.3	91.8	96.5	99.0
Income tax	(8.2)	1.7	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.7)
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total return avail to unitholders	101.8	85.0	90.3	94.9	97.3
Core net profit	65.0	71.6	73.5	78.9	82.4
Distributable inc to unitholders	67.2	71.6	73.5	78.9	82.4
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	21.4	13.2	17.3	35.7	35.8
Accounts receivable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	0.0	0.0	14.5	14.4	14.3
Inverstment properties	1,992.6	1,957.4	1,962.6	1,965.7	1,968.9
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	367.8	329.4	327.2	327.2	327.2
Other assets	21.9	36.4	27.0	27.0	27.0
Total assets	2,403.7	2,336.4	2,348.6	2,370.0	2,373.1
ST interest bearing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accounts payable	39.8	37.6	40.5	40.5	40.5
LT interest bearing debt	853.0	791.0	684.0	684.0	684.0
Other liabilities	137.2	140.4	159.2	159.2	159.2
Total Liabilities	1,029.9	969.0	883.7	883.7	883.7
Shareholders Equity	1,000.2	993.8	1,091.4	1,112.8	1,115.9
Minority Interest	373.5	373.5	373.5	373.5	373.5
Total shareholder equity	1,373.7	1,367.4	1,464.9	1,486.3	1,489.5
Total liabilities and equity	2,403.7	2,336.4	2,348.6	2,370.0	2,373.2
CASH ELOW (SCD m)					
CASH FLOW (SGD m) Cash flow from operations	97.0	109.7	130.9	137.2	122,4
Capex	(7.4)	(3.1)	(3.4)	(3.1)	(3.1)
Capex Acquisitions & investments	(7.4) (485.2)	. ,	(3.4) 12.6	0.0	(3.1)
Disposal of FA & investments	(485.2) 0.0	(9.0) 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend income from associates		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other investing cash flow	0.0 18.6	18.7	15.5	31.5	31.5
•	(474.1)				28.4
CF from investing activities	` ,	6.6 (69.3)	24.8 (73.5)	28.4 (78.9)	
Dividends paid	(71.0)	` '	(73.5)	(78.9)	(82.4)
Interest expense	(22.2)	(27.5)	(35.8)	(35.1)	(35.1)
Change in debt	260.5	3.1	(107.0)	0.0	0.0
Equity raised / (purchased)	(13.7)	(20.5)	77.4	(20.5)	(20.5)
Other financial activities	247.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from financing activities	401.3	(114.3)	(138.9)	(134.5)	(138.0)
Effect of exchange rate changes	0.1	(1.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	24.4	0.7	16.8	31.1	12.8

FYE 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	16.1	17.6	4.4	3.2	1.8
Net property income growth	17.9	18.7	5.7	3.5	2.0
Core net profit growth	7.0	10.2	2.7	7.2	4.5
Distributable income growth	6.3	6.5	2.7	7.2	4.5
Profitability ratios (%)					
Net property income margin	72.5	73.2	74.1	74.3	74.5
Core net profit margin	45.7	42.8	42.1	43.8	44.9
Payout ratio	65.3	83.3	81.5	83.2	84.7
DuPont analysis					
Total return margin (%)	71.5	50.8	51.7	52.6	53.0
Gross revenue/Assets (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Assets/Equity (x)	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1
ROAE (%)	10.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.7
ROAA (%)	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.5
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.7
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	60.5	56.9	45.5	43.6	43.5
Net interest cover (x)	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4
Debt/EBITDA (x)	10.2	7.9	6.1	5.9	5.8
Capex/revenue (%)	5.2	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7
Net debt/ (net cash)	831.6	777.8	666.7	648.3	648.2
Debt/Assets (x)	0.35	0.34	0.29	0.29	0.29

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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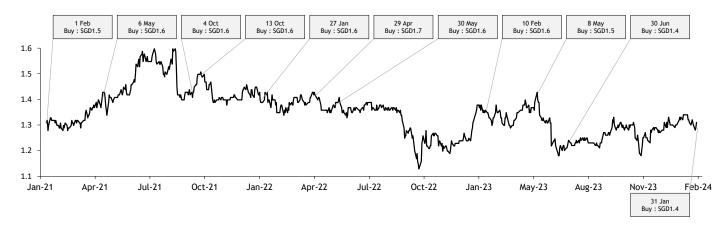
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