

Malaysia Oil & Gas

POSITIVE

[Unchanged]

Uncertainty looms for local-centric upstream OGSE names?

POSITIVE sector weight maintained, but local-centric upstream OGSE players may see slower growth ahead

Over the past month, we met multiple companies (both listed and unlisted names). We flag that there is a possibility that many local-centric upstream OGSE names may see slower growth velocity/a reset in growth expectations in 2024-2025E. While we remain POSITIVE on the sector, we now favour: i) defensive midstream companies which will be unaffected; ii) OGSE names with regional exposure & capabilities. Top BUYs are Dialog & Velesco. We also U/G Wasco to BUY (from HOLD) as value has emerged.

Petros is now the sole gas aggregator in Sarawak

State-owned Petroleum Sarawak (Petros) has been officially appointed as the sole gas aggregator for the state of Sarawak, taking over from PETRONAS wef 1 Jul 2024. This marks a significant shift in the control of Sarawak's natural gas resources away from PETRONAS. This also means that Petros will be responsible for: i) buying gas from all upstream producers in Sarawak; ii) selling gas to all downstream buyers, including LNG processing plants; and iii) managing the distribution and supply of natural gas within Sarawak. We believe this transition of gas trading responsibilities could impact PETRONAS' revenue stream and free cash flows although we are unable to quantify the impact just yet.

If “capex deferrals” happen, who will be hit?

Quoting The Edge ([link](#)), PETRONAS and Petros are in discussions to achieve a “mutual resolution” out of this developing issue. We believe that a PETRONAS capex deferral is a possibility as a significant portion of its trading revenues have been lost. Consequently, further E&P works/developing projects may be “deferred” until a resolution is mutually achieved between both parties. **Under a capex deferral scenario, we expect this to first impact OGSE names with exposure in the exploration sub-segment - before flowing to the development, production & decommissioning sub-segments. Affected in the former category are i) OSVs; ii) HUC; and iii) offshore fabrication** potentially impacting names like Dayang Enterprise, Perdana Petroleum, Icon Offshore, Sealink, Marine & General, Carimin, MMHE and Petra Energy. While most of these names are showing strong earnings momentum now, potentially lower PETRONAS capex spending could lead to reduced activities/demand/service providing rates, potentially as early as in 2H24-2025E - which will result in slower growth/a reset in growth expectations for these local-centric OGSE names in 2024-2025E.

Midstream & regional-exposed OGSE names preferred

Given this on-going development, we advise investors to choose more defensive and stable names in: i) the midstream space; and ii) OGSE names with regional exposure & capabilities like **Dialog** and **Wasco**. Meanwhile, we also U/G Wasco to BUY (from HOLD) with an unchanged TP of MYR1.55 based on 12x FY24E PER, with the stock now offering 32% potential upside.

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Abbreviation

HUC = Hook-up and Commissioning
OSV = Offshore Support Vessel

Other PLCs mentioned in this report

Dayang Enterprise (DEHB MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR2.72)
Carimin Petroleum (CARIP MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.875)
Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering (MMHE MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.42)
Petra Energy (PENB MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.1.50)
Perdana Petroleum (PETR MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.44)
Sealink International (SELI MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.38)
Marine & General (MARG MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.325)
Hengyuan Refining (HYR MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR2.40)
Petron Malaysia (PETRONM MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR4.44)
Lotte Chemical Titan (TTNP, SELL, TP: MYR0.94, CP: MYR0.96)
Petronas Chemicals (PCHEM, SELL, TP: MYR5.05, CP: MYR5.43)
Petronas Dagangan (PETD MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR17.78)
Reach Energy (REB MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.025)
Dagang NeXchange (DNEX MK, Not Rated, CP: MYR0.385)

Stock	Bloomberg code	Mkt cap (USD'm)	Rating	Price (LC)	TP (LC)	Upside (%)	P/E (x)		P/B (x)		Div yld (%)	
							24E	25E	24E	25E	24E	25E
MISC	MISC MK	8,630	Hold	8.55	8.13	(1)	15.7	14.6	1.0	0.9	4.2	4.2
Dialog Group	DLG MK	3,192	Buy	2.50	3.17	28	24.0	19.3	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.5
Yinson Holdings	YNS MK	1,728	Buy	2.40	4.78	99	8.2	7.6	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.7
Bumi Armada	BAB MK	670	Buy	0.50	0.66	31	3.5	4.7	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0
Hibiscus Petroleum	HIBI MK	413	Hold	2.27	2.31	5	3.5	3.7	0.6	0.5	3.3	3.3
Velesto Energy	VEB MK	390	Buy	0.21	0.32	51	10.9	7.1	0.7	0.6	1.8	2.8
Wasco	WSC MK	209	Buy	1.19	1.55	30	9.2	8.8	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.0
Icon Offshore	ICON MK	141	Sell	1.00	0.49	(48)	130.6	24.4	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.0

1. The value chain, in a nutshell

Figure 1: Malaysia's Oil and Gas Sector Value Chain

Activities	Malaysian Listed Companies Involved
Upstream	
Drilling Rig	Velesto Energy, Sapura Energy
Hydraulic Workover Unit (HWU)	Velesto Energy, Uzma, T7 Global
Offshore Fabrication (WHP/ CPP)	MMHE, Sapura Energy
FPSO	Bumi Armada, Yinson, MISC
MOPU	T7 Global
Offshore Support Vessel (OSV)	Perdana Petroleum, Dayang Enterprise, Icon Offshore, Petra Energy, Keyfield International, Sealink International, Marine & General
Hook-up and Commissioning (HUC)	Carimin Petroleum, Dayang Enterprise, Petra Energy
Maintenance, Construction and Modification (MCM)	Carimin Petroleum, Dayang Enterprise, Petra Energy
Plugging and Abandonment	Velesto Energy, Uzma, T7 Global
Pipeline Services	Wasco
Midstream	
LNG Shipping / Petroleum Tankers	MISC
Tank Terminals	Dialog
Gas Pipelines	Petronas Gas
Downstream	
Refining	Heng Yuan, Petron Malaysia
Petrochemicals	Lotte Chemical Titan, Petronas Chemicals
Downstream Plant Turnaround	Dialog
Marketing and Distribution	Petronas Dagangan

Source: Maybank IBG Research

The Oil and Gas industry comprises three main segments: upstream, midstream and downstream.

The **upstream segment** typically consists of companies involved in the **E&P** (exploration and production) of oil and gas. This involves the search for reservoirs for natural crude oil or natural gas fields to recover oil and gas.

Malaysian listed companies that are involved in E&P include: (i) Hibiscus Petroleum; (ii) Dagang Nexchange (via 90%-owned Ping Petroleum); (iii) Dialog Group; (iv) Sapura Energy (via its 50%-JV entity SapuraOMV); (v) Petra Energy; (vi) Reach Energy.

We highlight that E&P companies do not usually own all of their own equipment. For example, they contract out the drilling of wells to other companies - and these companies typically bill E&P companies based on the length of time they spend working for them. We call these players the Oil and Gas Services and Equipment (OGSE) players. These OGSE players do not generate revenue that is tied directly to oil and gas production volume but will indirectly benefit from the capex/opex spending of the pure-play E&P companies.

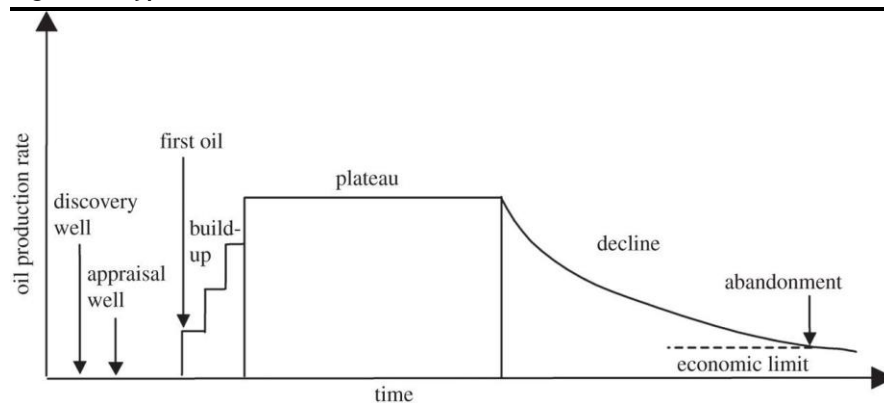
We classify upstream into four different sub-segments:

- (i) **Exploration:** Exploration activities are processes and methods used to locate potential oil and gas drilling and extraction sites via three methods: (a) geophysical surveys; (b) geological surveys; (c) geochemical surveys.
- (ii) **Development:** Involves the process of preparing an oil and gas field for production. This involves building the necessary infrastructure, such as wells, pipelines, and processing facilities. The development process begins with the creation of a field development plan. The field development plan outlines the steps that will be taken to prepare the field for production. This includes the selection of well locations, the design of the production system, and the construction of the necessary infrastructure. This infrastructure may include pipelines, processing facilities, and storage facilities. The infrastructure must be designed to handle the volume and quality of oil and gas that is expected to be produced from the field.
- (iii) **Production:** The process of extracting oil and gas resources from the reservoir. As production begins, hydrocarbons extracted can now be sold commercially, making this the turning point for cash flow generation. However, we highlight that a typical hydrocarbon production profile can be broken down into three phases: (a) Build-up period - ramping up of production; (b) Plateau period - relatively stable production rate; and (c) Decline period - a natural decline in production rates due to shrinking reserves.
- (iv) **Decommissioning:** The process of shutting down and removing all infrastructure associated with an oil and gas field once it has reached the end of its productive life. This process is essential to protect the environment to prevent oil and gas spills, groundwater contamination, and surface subsidence. Wells are plugged and abandoned to prevent oil and gas from leaking into the environment. This involves filling the wellbore with cement and placing a cap on the top of the well. Infrastructure and pipelines will also be dismantled and removed from the site.

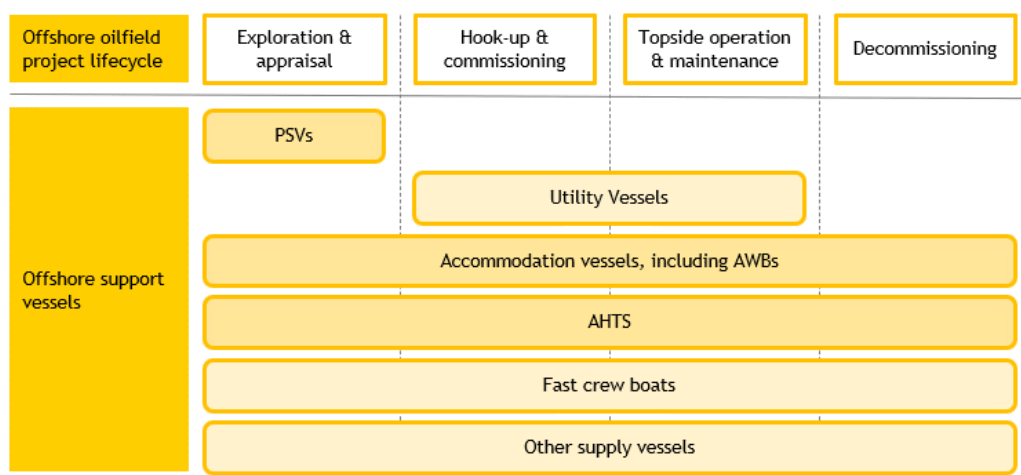
Figure 2: OGSE subsegments throughout different activity phases

	Exploration	Development	Production	Decommissioning
Drilling Rig	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hydraulic Workover Unit (HWU)			✓	✓
Offshore Fabrication (WHP/CPP)		✓		
FPSO			✓	
Offshore Support Vessel (OSV)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hook-up and Commissioning (HUC)		✓		
Maintenance, Construction and Modification (MCM)			✓	
Plugging and Abandonment				✓

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Figure 3: Typical Oil and Gas Production Curve


Source: Royal Society Publishing

Figure 4: Types of OSVs used in different life cycles of an oilfield


Source: PROVIDENCE, Maybank IBG Research

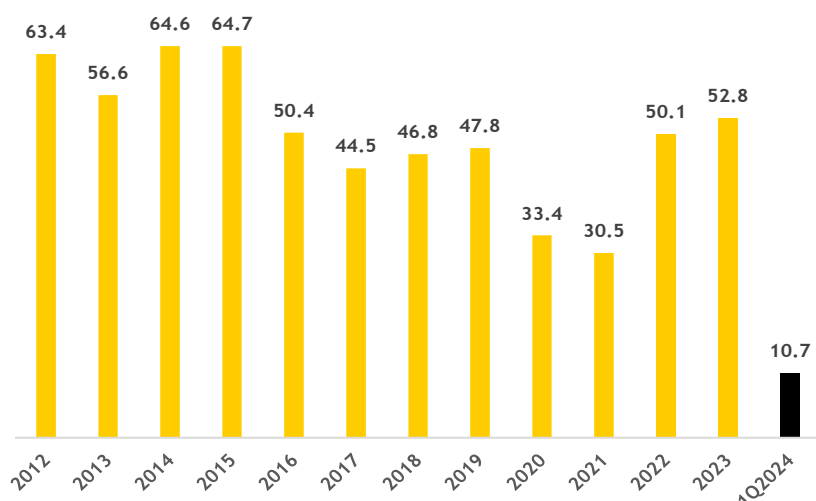
2. Midstream/downstream more resilient

As we have articulated, a potentially lower capex spending by PETRONAS could lead to reduced activities/demand/service providing rates, potentially as early as in 2025E - which will result in slower growth/a reset in growth expectations for local-centric OGSE names in 2024-2025E.

Meanwhile, we believe that the midstream & downstream segments will be more resilient and may not be affected should a lower capex spending scenario were to come into play.

3. Valuations - case study on the previous cycle

Figure 5: PETRONAS capex trend (2012-1Q24)

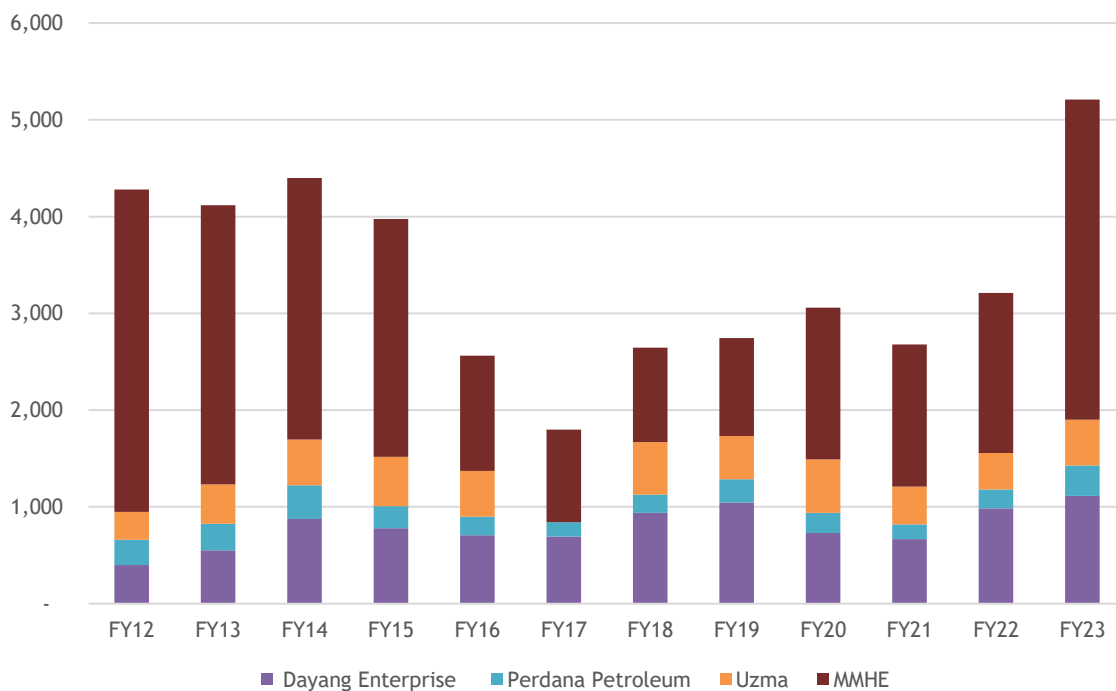


Source: PETRONAS, Maybank IBG Research

As shown in Figure 5 above and Figure 6 overleaf, local-centric OGSE players' revenues in the past (in this case - we chose Dayang Enterprise, Perdana Petroleum, Uzma and MMHE) were generally positively correlated with PETRONAS's capex spending. For instance, the aggregate OGSE players' revenue mirrored the fall in capex spending in 2016 and 2021.

Applying what we have observed in the past, we flag that there is a possibility that many local-centric upstream OGSE names may see slower growth/need a reset in growth expectations in 2024-2025E due to the ongoing industry development.

Figure 6: Local OGSE revenue trend (FY12-23)



Source: Maybank IBG Research

Relating to valuations, we chose Dayang Enterprise (DEHB MK) as our case study as the other names have significantly more volatile earnings and have taken on multiple corporate exercises over the past 15 years, which have significantly distorted their historical forward P/E band charts - making them inappropriate for our research purpose.

During the previous upcycle (2009-2014), after stripping out one-offs, we saw Dayang Enterprise trading between a 1 year forward P/E multiple range of 3.9x to as high as 16.4x (Figure 7). Throughout the 7-year horizon, the average mean 1-year forward multiple was 10.1x. Note that Dayang registered losses in 2017.

Figure 7: Historical 1-year forward P/E multiple for Dayang



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Figure 8: OGSE peer valuation matrix

Company	FYE	Price	Mkt Cap (MYRm)	PER (x)			Div. Yld (%)	ROE (%)	PBV (x)	EV/EBITDA	NP Growth (%)	
		10-Aug-24 (Local Currency)		Actual	1 Yr Fwd	2 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	2 Yr Fwd
DAYANG ENTERPRISE HLDGS BHD	December	2.73	3,161	14.4	12.6	10.9	1.9	13.7	1.7	6.4	14.6	15.6
UZMA BHD	June	1.03	448	12.2	8.9	7.9	NA	8.2	0.6	5.6	37.4	12.2
VELESTO ENERGY BHD	December	0.22	1,766	17.7	11.0	8.8	1.9	6.2	0.7	4.2	61.4	25.5
MALAYSIA MARINE AND HEAVY EN	December	0.42	672	-1.4	16.2	16.9	2.4	3.6	0.5	6.4	-108.6	-4.0
T7 GLOBAL BHD	December	0.46	364	11.0	8.6	5.8	NA	12.2	0.9	11.3	27.9	48.2
ICON OFFSHORE BHD	December	1.02	635	130.8	75.1	21.5	1.0	1.2	0.2	9.4	74.0	250.3
KEYFIELD INTERNATIONAL BHD	December	2.47	1,980	18.8	14.3	10.6	1.4	22.3	308.8	NA	30.8	35.1
WASCO BHD	December	1.16	898	8.3	8.8	8.0	2.8	12.8	1.1	4.9	-5.5	9.1
Mkt. Cap Simple Avg.				26.5	19.4	11.3	1.9	10.0	39.3	6.9		

Source: Maybank IBG Research

As shown in the OGSE peer valuation matrix in Figure 8, consensus is generally forecasting a YoY net profit growth in FY25E (as reflected in lower 2 yr fwd PERs vs. 1 yr) for the upstream OGSE players, which we highlight may have downside risks in the event of a lower PETRONAS capex spending environment. We also do not discount the possibility of a sector de-rating should a development like this happen.

4. We upgrade Wasco to BUY; Dialog remains our sector top pick, followed by Velesto

Given this ongoing development, we advise investors to choose more defensive and stable names in: i) the midstream space; and ii) OGSE names with regional exposure & capabilities like Dialog and Wasco.

We believe that **Wasco** would only be minimally impacted as: i) PETRONAS jobs account for <2% of Wasco's outstanding orderbook of MYR3.1b as at end-Mar 2024; and ii) PETRONAS contributed < 1% of Wasco's FY23 total revenue. Following its recent share price weakness, we now upgrade Wasco to BUY (from HOLD) with an unchanged TP of MYR1.55 (based on 12x FY24E PER) as we see value emerging for the name. Wasco is only trading at 8.6x FY25E EPS.

Figure 9: Changes in stock ratings, TPs and valuation multiples

OGSE names	PER peg (x)		Target Price (MYR)		Stock Rating	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Wasco	12	12	1.55	1.55	HOLD	BUY

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Meanwhile, we reiterate **Dialog** as our sector top BUY. Dialog has strong operational/financial stability from its LT midstream tank terminal assets. We note that it has secured a renewal for its Master Service Agreement (3+2 years) from PETRONAS (for its plant maintenance segment) beginning Jul 2024 at significantly higher rates. Also, with the gradual phase out of loss-making legacy EPCC contracts by Jun 2024, the segment (EPCC) will be profitable beginning 1QFY25E as newer jobs are also signed at improved rates. Re-rating catalysts include: i) strong earnings growth delivery; ii) new tank terminal contracts in Pengerang. Our MYR3.17 TP is based on SOP.

We also reiterate **Velesto** as one of our top BUYs. With N2, N4, N6 and N8 already locked in under LT contracts, coupled with expectations of elevated DCR jobs for N3 and N5 soon, we forecast a strong EPS growth of 53% YoY in FY25E. Velesto currently trades at 7.3x FY25E PER and we view its risk-to-reward to be favourable given its strong growth prospects, scarcity premium of a local drilling rig operator and its regional capabilities. Our MYR0.32 TP is based on 13x PER on mid-FY25E EPS.

Figure 10: Changes in stock ratings, TPs and valuation multiples

	Rating	TP (MYR)	TP basis
MISC	HOLD	8.13	Sum of Parts (SOP)
Dialog Group	BUY	3.17	Sum of Parts (SOP)
Yinson	BUY	4.78	Sum of Parts (SOP)
Bumi Armada	BUY	0.66	Sum of Parts (SOP)
Hibiscus Petroleum	HOLD	2.31	Discounted Cash Flows (DCF)
Velesto Energy	BUY	0.32	13x mid-FY25E PER
Wasco	BUY	1.55	12x FY24E PER
Icon Offshore	SELL	0.49	12x FY25E PER

Source: Maybank IBG Research

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