

Greatech Technology (GREATEC MK) Bargain-hunting

Downside risk largely priced-in; U/G to BUY

We opine that GREATEC's recent acquisition from a distressed seller has the potential to accrete long-run value as it diversifies exposure towards higher value-add process automation. With a weaker outlook from US tariff tiff uncertainties largely priced in, we U/G GREATEC to BUY. Our TP of MYR1.95 (26x FY26E PER, at -1.0SD to 5Y mean) and FY25-27E earnings are unchanged. As its fundamentals remain largely intact, GREATEC is well-positioned to capitalise on global IR4.0 & factory automation trends.

2nd EU-based acquisition for EUR1m in 18 months

On 28 Feb, GREATEC announced it had entered into an SPA for the purchase of 100% equity interest in Manz Slovakia SRO (MSSRO) for EUR1m, a contract manufacturer of standardised/custom equipment. MSSRO is profitable (FY24: EUR744k) and with an acquisition multiple of just 1.3x FY24 earnings, we view the acquisition favourably. The acquisition has the potential to drive synergies for GREATEC's move up the value chain from factory automation to process automation and mechatronics, with MSSRO acting as a foreign outpost for EU-based customers. GREATEC's last acquisition (100% equity in Ireland-based Allied Automation for EUR1m in 4Q23) was a success, contributing c.EUR7m to its topline in FY24.

Outstanding O/B remains healthy despite FY24 delays

GREATEC's had a healthy outstanding O/B of MYR785m as at 13 Feb 2025, sufficient to comfortably last 4 quarters. Despite falling short of its own internal O/B target in FY24, mgmt targets to secure MYR900m worth of new orders in FY25, primarily from the solar and e-mobility segments. The medical segment is also expected to post revenue growth of >50% in FY25.

Attractive valuations; future tariff passthrough likely

We believe value has emerged following the sentiment-driven correction afflicting the tech sector that has seen GREATEC's share price retrace 30% YTD. Current valuations are attractive at 21x FY26 PER (5Y Fwd Mean: 39x). Accounting for the potential imposition of blanket tariffs on MY, we take comfort that GREATEC may be able to pass on near-to-medium term marginal cost increases to its customers, owing to *force majeure* caveats.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	659	752	782	832	941
EBITDA	175	195	219	247	275
Core net profit	151	146	170	186	212
Core EPS (sen)	6.0	5.8	6.8	7.4	8.5
Core EPS growth (%)	19.5	(3.4)	16.0	9.9	13.7
Net DPS (sen)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Core P/E (x)	39.7	39.6	23.8	21.6	19.0
P/BV (x)	8.1	6.5	3.8	3.2	2.8
Net dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ROAE (%)	23.2	18.9	17.3	16.1	15.6
ROAA (%)	14.7	12.2	12.5	12.1	12.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	32.1	27.1	15.7	13.1	11.3
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Consensus net profit	-	-	177	194	214
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(4.4)	(3.7)	(0.9)

Anand Pathmakanthan anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com (603) 2297 8783

Arvind Jayaratnam arvind.jayaratnam@maybank.com (603) 2297 8692

BUY

[Prior:HOLD]

MYR 1.95

Share Price MYR 1.61

12m Price Target MYR 1.95 (+21%)

Company Description

Previous Price Taraet

A niche automation specialist with core expertise in customisable capital equipment for the solar photovoltaic (PV) & electric vehicle (EV) industry.

Statistics

Free float (%) 33.8 Issued shares (m) 2,511 Market capitalisation MYR4.0B	52w high/low (MYR)	2.92/1.13
Issued shares (m) 2,511 Market capitalisation MYR4.0B	3m avg turnover (USDm)	1.0
Market capitalisation MYR4.0B	Free float (%)	33.8
	Issued shares (m)	2,511
USD911M	Market capitalisation	MYR4.0B
		USD911M

Major shareholders:

major snarenolders:	
TAN ENG KEE	57.7%
AIA Bhd.	3.2%
Kenanga Investors Bhd.	3.0%
Kenanga Investors Bhd.	

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(11)	(30)	(30)
Relative to index (%)	(8)	(27)	(30)

Source: FactSet

Abbreviations:

IPO = initial public offering IRL = Ireland

IKL = Ireland

LT = long-term

M&A = mergers & acquisitions

MAG = Manz AG (Germany)

MSSRO = Manz Slovakia SRO NP = net profit

SPA = Sales & Purchase Agreement

SPE = semiconductor production equipment

sqm = square metres

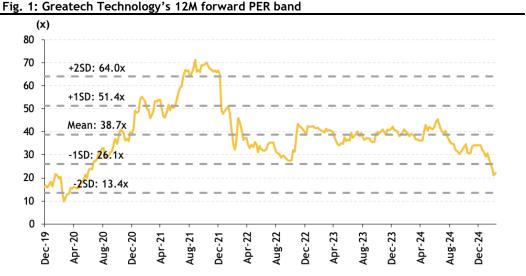


Tear Sheet Insert



Additional details in relation to the MSSRO acquisition

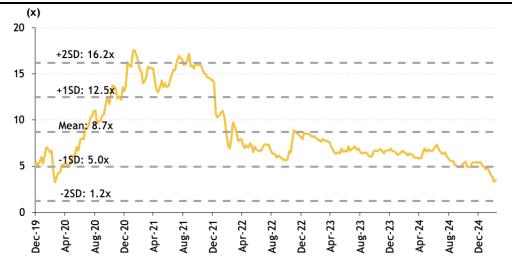
- MSSRO is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Manz AG, Germany (MAG). MAG filed for insolvency on 20 December 2024. As such, the official vendor is the solicitor acting as the insolvency administrator for MAG.
- MSSRO's capabilities include designing, developing, prototyping, fabricating, assembling, commissioning, installing and servicing production lines with a focus on e-mobility and battery solutions. MSSRO is also a contract manufacturer for semiconductor packaging, medical and automotive customers.
- MSSRO has a 250-strong workforce. Its production facilities in Slovakia span 7.5k sqm. The purchase consideration for the acquisition also includes the facility's surrounding landbank totalling 40k sqm.
- MSSRO registered a turnover of EUR39.1m/48.1m/48.9m in FY22-24 respectively.
- MAG's comparable peer in Slovakia, Easys SRO was acquired by Taiwanbased BizLink in Nov 2024 for 9.3x Easys' FY23 net profit of EUR5.5m. Thus, acquiring MSSRO at 1.3x PER underlies GREATEC's mgmt's business acumen in sourcing deep value in its M&A targets.
- Mgmt has plans to double MSSRO's workforce and expand its customer base to include Tier-1 SPE customers - this could effectively raise NP margins to 10-15%.
- Longer-term, mgmt also plans to spin-off the combined strength of its Penang & Slovakian mechatronics units via an IPO



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Maybank
Investment Bank

Fig. 2: Greatech Technology's 12M forward PBV band



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Risk statement

There are several risk factors for our earnings estimates, target price and rating for Greatech Technology. A downturn in the PV/EV industries will affect Greatech Technology's earnings. Additionally, forex volatility, especially USD/MYR, will also affect Greatech Technology's earnings, as >95% its revenue and about 25% of its COGS are denominated in USD.





anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

Risk Rating & Score ¹	14.5 (Low)
Score Momentum ²	-4.0
Last Updated	19 Nov 2024
Controversy Score ³ (Updated: 07 Nov 2024)	0 - No reported incidents

Business Model & Industry Issues

- As a leading automation solutions provider, Greatech manages its ESG exposures through energy-saving initiatives, as well as compliance with international and local regulatory requirements, i.e. environmental, and health & safety impact of its products.
- From a social perspective, Greatech ensures that its employees are well-trained and upskilled whenever necessary. Only 3% of its workforce were foreign employees/expatriate in FY23 we deem this as very low, within our tech sector coverage.
- The Group is looking forward to a greater degree of adaptation to sustainable growth with various product expansion and initiatives. In our view, these would sustain Greatech's ESG-compliant operations, going forward.
- Despite the Group CEO's high stake in the company (58%), Board composition is well-balanced with high independent director participation (FY23: 75%) and there were no notable governance issues in the past.
- Greatech also scores above-average in our ESG proprietary scoring methodology (see Pg.3) with an overall score of 66/100.

Material E issues

- Greatech's facilities in Penang are installed with: (i) lowenergy lighting and related electrical equipment; and (ii) manufacturing line optimisation; to reduce energy consumption.
- Disposed of 93 tonnes of hazardous waste with no significant spills in FY23 (FY22: 59 tonnes).
- Water consumption intensity increased by 29% YoY in FY23.
- Did not receive penalties or sanctions concerning environmental issues since listing.
- Working towards switching all operating facilities to lowenergy lighting to maximise energy saving and have completed installation of solar panels in Aug 2023.

Material S issues

- 70% of its workforce is below the age of 30, while 29% is between 30-50 and only 1% is above 50 years old.
- A champion for women leadership: in FY23, 28% of the managerial positions were held by females, and 33% of the senior management positions were held by women.
- An advocate for localisation: in FY23, 97% and 55% of Greatech's workforce and suppliers are Malaysians. Most of Greatech's operations are still in Malaysia.
- The Group has a low rate of lost-time injury (LTIR) at 2.2 per 1,000,000 work hours in FY23 (FY22: 1.3), with only 7 work-related injury and zero fatalities in FY23. It also has a low average monthly voluntary turnover.
- In FY23, it provided 68,331 training hours and MYR0.45m was invested to up-skill employees and promote awareness of workplace safety and health.
- The Group donated MYR1.07m and took part in various community engagements in FY23.

Key G metrics and issues

- Greatech's Board comprises of 7 directors, 5 2 of whom are independent non-executive directors (71% representation, including the Chairman.
- 3 of its non-executive directors head the Nominating Committee, Remuneration Committee and Audit & Risk Management Committee respectively.
- A very experienced and gender-diversified Board: all the Board members are over the age of 50, and 29% are female.
- Tan Eng Kee, Group CEO and executive director, has a substantial indirect 58.1% interest in the Company. He also has shares in all the subsidiaries.
- The CEO and the Board's total remuneration of MYR1.0m/ MYR2.2m for FY23 accounted for 0.7%/1.4% of the Group's FY23 net profit of MYR154m, respectively.
- Greatech is audited by Messrs BDO PLT.
- Greatech does not have a dividend payout policy.
- The Group appointed KPMG Management & Risk Consulting in FY19 to help implement the Enterprise Risk Management Framework for effective risk management and internal control.
- In FY23, there were no related party transactions. The only notable related party transaction was MYR7.6m in FY19 as remaining balance paid for acquisition of land.

<u>*Raking & Score</u> - 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>*Score Momentum</u> - indicates changes to the company's score since the last update - a <u>negative</u> integer indicates a deterioration. <u>****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).

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	Q	uantitative Paramet	ters (Score: 4	1)		
	Particulars	Unit	FY21	FY22	FY23	* VITRO MK (FY23)
	Scope 1 emissions	tCO2e	32.0	45.0	55.0	22.8
	Scope 2 emissions	tCO2e	3,184.0	8,384.0	9,861.0	3,676.7
	Total	tCO2e	3,216.0	8,429.0	9,916.0	3,699.5
	Scope 3 emissions	tCO2e	N/A	N/A	901.0	1,326.9
	Total	tCO2e	3,216.0	8,429.0	10,817.0	5,026.4
Ε	GHG intensity (Scope 1 and 2)	tCO2e/MYR m	8.0	15.4	15.1	6.4
	Energy intensity	MWh/MYR m	11.7	22.4	19.5	12.9
	Water intensity	m3/MYR m	2.1	4.1	5.3	87.8
	Waste diverted away from disposal	%	56%	72%	39%	43%
	Share of renewable energy use	%	N/A	N/A	4.5%	22.3%
	Cases of environmental non-compliance	number	0	0	0	0
	Proportion of women in the workforce	%	10.5%	13.0%	14.0%	31.6%
	Proportion of women in exec leader roles	%	33%	33%	33%	35.1%
s	Occupational injury severity rate (SR)	rate/1m hours	10.6	3.8	44.3	6.3
3	Lost time injury frequency rate (LTIR)	rate/1m hours	0.7	1.3	2.2	1.6
	Training hours per employee	hours	43.8	57.0	47.0	42.0
	MD/CEO salary as % of reported net profit	%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.3%
	Board salary as % of reported net profit	%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%
G	Independent directors on the Board	%	60%	67%	71 %	33%
	Female directors on the Board	%	40%	33%	29 %	44%

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 - GREATEC has an established sustainability framework/handbook and a sustainability working group (SWG) that is led by the Group CEO and assisted by the CFO. The SWIG reports directly to the Audit & Risk Management Board Committee.

b) Is the senior management salary linked to fulfilling ESG targets?

No.

c) Does the company have a responsible sourcing policy?

Yes.

d) Have there been any incidents of cybersecurity/data privacy breach?

e) What are the 2-3 key carbon mitigation/water/waste management strategies adopted by the company?

Energy efficiency: Installed T5 fluorescent/LED lightbulbs in existing and new facilities + replacing old air conditioners with new generation energy-efficient ones; Water mgmt - regular maintenance of plumbing system; Waste - waste generated from cooling lubricants during metal fabrication/machining is disposed in accordance to EQR 2005, hazardous waste stored in designated chemical waste area.

f) Has the company faced any anti-competitive practices or IP infringement controversies?

Target (Score: 100)		
Particulars	Target	Achieved
Annual training hours per employee	36	FY23
Work-related fatalities	0	FY23

Impact N/A

* Peer Comparison

We have benchmarked GREATEC's ESG metrics against that of its closest listed peer with publicly available comparable metrics - ViTrox Corp (VITRO MK, SELL, TP: MYR3.40). The peer's ESG standing has been assessed separately.

ESG score	Weights	Scores	Final Score
Quantitative	50%	41	21
Qualitative	25%	83	21
Target	25%	100	25
Total			66

As per our ESG assessment, GREATEC has an established framework and internal policies to mitigate ESG risks, but needs to make headway in improving its "E"-related metric performance. GREATEC's overall ESG score is **66**, which makes its ESG rating **above average** in our view (average ESG rating = 50; refer to Appendix I for our ESG Assessment Scoring).



Appendix 1: ESG Scoring Methodology

We evaluate 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 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Metrics P/E (reported) (x)	37.4	38.0	23.8	21.6	19.0
Core P/E (x)	39.7	39.6	23.8	21.6	19.0
P/BV (x)	8.1	6.5	3.8	3.2	2.8
P/NTA (x)	8.1	6.5	3.8	3.2	2.8
Net dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FCF yield (%)	1.2	1.9	2.4	4.8	3.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	32.1	27.1	15.7	13.1	11.3
EV/EBIT (x)	33.7	29.3	18.4	15.7	13.2
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	658.8	752.4	781.7	831.8	941.2
EBITDA	175.1	195.2	219.5	247.4	274.6
Depreciation	(12.9)	(18.4)	(29.1)	(36.3)	(35.1)
Amortisation	(2.5)	(3.9)	(3.9)	(3.9)	(3.9)
EBIT	166.8	180.6	186.5	207.3	235.6
Net interest income /(exp)	6.4	6.7	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Associates & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Exceptionals Other protest income	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income Pretax profit	166.1	179.6	186.2	0.0 207.0	0.0 235.3
Income tax	(11.7)	(24.6)	(16.8)	(20.7)	(23.5)
Minorities	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	154.4	155.0	169.5	186.4	211.9
Core net profit	151.2	146.1	169.5	186.4	211.9
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	398.4	507.1	605.3	799.6	936.9
Accounts receivable	134.2	153.3	159.2	169.4	191.7
Inventory	26.1	29.6	30.5	32.0	36.2
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	255.7	287.3	358.2	346.9	411.8
Intangible assets	(2.5)	(6.4)	(10.3)	(14.2)	(18.1)
Investment in Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other assets	301.9	301.9	301.9	309.0	309.0
Total assets ST interest bearing debt	1,113.9 1.1	1,272.8 1.1	1,444.9 1.1	1,642.7 1.1	1,867.5 1.1
Accounts payable	317.8	328.8	331.5	336.0	349.0
Insurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LT interest bearing debt	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.9
Other liabilities	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Total Liabilities	372.8	383.7	386.4	391.0	404.0
Shareholders Equity	741.3	896.3	1,065.8	1,252.1	1,464.1
Minority Interest	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.5)
Total shareholder equity	741.1	896.1	1,065.5	1,251.8	1,463.5
Total liabilities and equity	1,113.9	1,279.8	1,451.9	1,642.7	1,867.5
CASH FLOW (MYR m)					
Pretax profit	166.1	179.6	186.2	207.0	235.3
Depreciation & amortisation	15.4	22.3	33.0	40.2	39.0
Adj net interest (income)/exp	(6.4)	(6.7)	0.3	0.3	0.3
Change in working capital	(14.3)	(11.7)	(4.1)	(7.1)	(13.5)
Cash taxes paid	(11.7)	(24.6)	(16.8)	(20.7)	(23.5)
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	148.7	158.6	198.3	219.3	237.3
Capex Free cash flow	(75.0) 73.7	(50.0) 108.6	(100.0) 98.3	(25.0) 194.3	(100.0) 137.3
Dividends paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	73.7	108.6	98.3	194.3	137.3



FYE 31 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	20.6	14.2	3.9	6.4	13.2
EBITDA growth	28.9	11.5	12.5	12.7	11.0
EBIT growth	29.9	8.2	3.3	11.1	13.7
Pretax growth	29.9	8.1	3.7	11.2	13.7
Reported net profit growth	17.0	0.4	9.4	9.9	13.7
Core net profit growth	19.5	(3.4)	16.0	9.9	13.7
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	26.6	25.9	28.1	29.7	29.2
EBIT margin	25.3	24.0	23.9	24.9	25.0
Pretax profit margin	25.2	23.9	23.8	24.9	25.0
Payout ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	23.4	20.6	21.7	22.4	22.5
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.!
Assets/Equity (x)	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
ROAE (%)	23.2	18.9	17.3	16.1	15.6
ROAA (%)	14.7	12.2	12.5	12.1	12.1
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	(160.7)	(137.2)	(131.3)	(124.3)	(107.0
Days receivable outstanding	67.1	68.8	72.0	71.1	69.1
Days inventory outstanding	19.0	19.4	20.4	20.2	19.4
Days payables outstanding	246.8	225.4	223.6	215.6	195.5
Dividend cover (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Current ratio (x)	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.6
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.6
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash				
Net interest cover (x)	na	na	nm	nm	nn
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Capex/revenue (%)	11.4	6.6	12.8	3.0	10.6
Net debt/ (net cash)	(383.4)	(492.0)	(590.3)	(784.6)	(921.9

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research



Research Offices

ECONOMICS

Suhaimi ILIAS Chief Economist Malaysia | Philippines | Global (603) 2297 8682 suhaimi_ilias@maybank-ib.com

CHUA Hak Bin

nal Thematic Macroeconomist chuahb@maybank.com

Erica TAY China | Thailand (65) 6231 5844 erica.tay@maybank.com

Brian LEE Shun Rong Indonesia | Singapore | Vietnam (65) 6231 5846 brian.lee1@maybank.com

Fatin Nabila MOHD ZAINI Malaysia | Philippines (603) 2297 8685 fatinnabila.mohdzaini@maybank-ib.com

Luong Thu Huong (65) 6231 8467

hana.thuhuong@maybank.com LEE Jia Yu

(65) 6231 5843 jiayu.lee@maybank.com

Saktiandi SUPAAT Head of FX Research (65) 6320 1379 saktiandi@maybank.com

Fiona LIM (65) 6320 1374 fionalim@maybank.com

Alan LAU, CFA (65) 6320 1378 alanlau@maybank.com

(65) 6320 1371 shaunlim@maybank.com

STRATEGY

Anand PATHMAKANTHAN

(603) 2297 8783 anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

FIXED INCOME

Winson PHOON, FCA (65) 6231 5831

PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

ONG Seng Yeow (65) 6231 5839 ongsengyeow@maybank.com

(603) 2297 8888 lim.tzekhang@maybank.com

MIBG SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

Jigar SHAH Head of Sustainability Research (91) 22 4223 2632 jigars@maybank.com

Neerav DALAL (91) 22 4223 2606 neerav@mavbank.com

REGIONAL EQUITIES

Anand PATHMAKANTHAN Head of Regional Equity Research (603) 2297 8783 anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

WONG Chew Hann, CA Head of ASEAN Equity Research (603) 2297 8686 wchewh@maybank-ib.com

MALAYSIA

LIM Sue Lin, Co-Head of Research (603) 2297 8612 suelin.lim@maybank-ib.com
• Equity Strategy

WONG Chew Hann, CA Co-Head of Research (603) 2297 8686

**Construction & Infrastructure*
 **Construction & Infrastructure*
 **Construction & Infrastructure*

Desmond CH'NG, BFP, FCA (603) 2297 8680 desmond.chng@maybank-ib.com • Banking & Finance

ONG Chee Ting, CA (603) 2297 8678 ct.ong@maybank-ib.com
• Plantations - Regional

YIN Shao Yang, CPA (603) 2297 8916

• Gaming - Regional • Healthcare • Media • Aviation • Non-Bank Financials

TAN Chi Wei, CFA (603) 2297 8690 chiwei.t@maybank-ib.com Power • Telcos

WONG Wei Sum, CFA (603) 2297 8679 weisum@maybank-ib.com
• Property • Glove

(603) 2297 8687 jade.tam@maybank-ib.com
• Consumer Staples & Discretionary

Nur Farah SYIFAA

LOH Yan Jir

(603) 2297 8675 nurfarahsyifaa.mohamadfuad@maybank-ib.com • Renewable Energy • REITS

(603) 2297 8687 lohyanjin.loh@maybank-ib.com • Ports • Automotive

Jeremie YAP (603) 2297 8688 jeremie.yap@maybank-ib.com • Oil & Gas • Petrochemicals

Nur Natasha ARIZA (603) 2297 8691 natashaariza.aizarizal@maybank-ib.com

Lucas SIM

(603) 2082 6824 lucas.sim@maybank • Technology (EMS) Arvind JAYARATNAM

(603) 2297 8692 arvind.jayaratnam@maybank.com • Technology (Semicon & Software)

TEE Sze Chiah Head of Retail Research (603) 2082 6858 szechiah.t@mavbank-ib.com Retail Research

(603) 2082 8769 amirah.azmi@maybank-ib.com
• Retail Research

Amirul RUSYDY, CMT (603) 2297 8694 rusydy.azizi@maybank-ib.com
• Chartist

SINGAPORE

Eric ONG

Thilan WICKRAMASINGHE Head of Research (65) 6231 5840 thilanw@maybank.com

Strategy • Consumer
 Banking & Finance - Regional

(65) 6231 5849 ericong@maybank.com
• Healthcare • Transport • SMIDs

Jarick SEET (65) 6231 5848 jarick.seet@maybank.com • Technology • SMIDs

Krishna GUHA (65) 6231 5842 krishna.guha@maybank.com • REITs • Industrials

Hussaini SAIFEE (65) 6231 5837 hussaini.saifee@maybank.com • Telcos • Internet

PHILIPPINES

Kervin Laurence SISAYAN Head of Research (63) 2 5322 5005 kervin.sisayan@maybank.com

· Strategy · Banking & Finance · Telcos

Daphne SZE (63) 2 5322 5008 daphne.sze@maybank.com Consumer

Raffy MENDOZA (63) 2 5322 5010 joserafael.mendoza@maybank.com
• Property • REITs • Gaming

Michel ALONSO

(63) 2 5322 5007 michelxavier.alonso@maybank.com Conglomerates

Germaine GUINTO (63) 2 5322 5006 germaine.guinto@maybank.com Utilities

Ronalyn Joyce LALIMO (63) 2 5322 5009 rona.lalimo@maybank.com SMIDs

VIETNAM

Quan Trong Thanh Head of Research (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8184 thanh.quan@maybank.com • Strategy • Banks

Hoang Huy, CFA (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8181 hoanghuy@maybank.com • Strategy • Technology

Le Nguyen Nhat Chuyen (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8082 chuyen.le@maybank.com • Oil & Gas • Logistics

Nguyen Thi Sony Tra Mi (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8084 trami.nguyen@maybank.com
Consumer Discretionary

Tran Thi Thanh Nhan (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8088 nhan.tran@maybank.com • Consumer Staples

Nguyen Le Tuan Loi (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8182 loi.nguyen@maybank.com Property

Nguyen Thanh Hai (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8081 thanhhai.nguyen@maybank.com
• Industrials

Nguyen Thanh Lam (84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8086 thanhlam.nguyen@maybank.com
Retail Research INDONESIA

Jeffrosenberg CHENLIM Head of Research (62) 21 8066 8680 jeffrosenberg.lim@maybank.com • Strategy • Banking & Finance • Property

Willy GOUTAMA (62) 21 8066 8688 willy.goutama@maybank.com
• Consumer

Etta Rusdiana PUTRA (62) 21 8066 8683 etta.putra@maybank.com
• Telcos • Internet • Construction

Paulina MARGARFTA (62) 21 8066 8690 paulina.tjoa@maybank.com Autos Healthcare

Jocelyn SANTOSO (62) 21 8066 8689 jocelyn.santoso@maybank.com

Hasan BARAKWAN (62) 21 8066 2694 hasan.barakwan@maybank.com
• Metals & Mining • Oil & Gas

Faig ASAD (62) 21 8066 8692 faiq.asad@maybank.com • Banking & Finance

Kevin HALIM (62) 21 8066 2687 kevin.halim@maybank.com • Property • Cement

Satriawan HARYONO, CEWA, CTA (62) 21 8066 8682 satriawan@maybank.com Chartist

THAILAND

Chak REUNGSINPINYA Head of Research (66) 2658 5000 ext 1399 chak.reungsinpinya@maybank.com Strategy • Energy

Jesada TECHAHUSDIN, CFA (66) 2658 5000 ext 1395 jesada.t@maybank.com • Banking & Finance

Wasu MATTANAPOTCHANART (66) 2658 5000 ext 1392 wasu.m@maybank.com Telcos • Technology (Software) • REITs
 Property • Consumer Discretionary

Suttatip PEERASUB (66) 2658 5000 ext 1430 suttatip.p@maybank.com • Food & Beverage • Commerce

Natchaphon RODJANAROWAN (66) 2658 5000 ext 1393 natchaphon.rodjanarowan@maybank.com • Utilities • Property

Boonyakorn AMORNSANK (66) 2658 5000 ext 1394 boonvakorn.amornsank@mavbank.com • Services (Hotels, Transport)

Nontapat SAHAKITPINYO (66) 2658 5000 ext 2352 nontapat.sahakitpinyo@m Healthcare

Yugi TAKESHIMA (66) 2658 5000 ext 1530 yugi.takeshima@maybank.com • Technology (EMS & Semicon)

Tanida JIRAPORNKASEMSLIK (66) 2658 5000 ext 1396 tanida.jirapornkasemsuk@maybank.com • Food & Beverage



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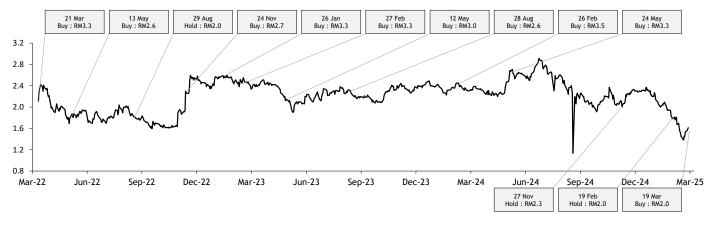
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------ Greatech Technology

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Malaysia

Maybank Investment Bank Berhad (A Participating Organisation of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad) 33rd Floor, Menara Maybank, 100 Jalan Tun Perak, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: (603) 2059 1888; Fax: (603) 2078 4194

Stockbroking Business:

Level 8, Tower C, Dataran Maybank, No.1, Jalan Maarof

59000 Kuala Lumpur Tel: (603) 2297 8888 Fax: (603) 2282 5136

Singapore

Maybank Securities Pte Ltd Maybank Research Pte Ltd 50 North Canal Road Singapore 059304

Tel: (65) 6336 9090

Indonesia

PT Maybank Sekuritas Indonesia Sentral Senayan III, 22nd Floor Jl. Asia Afrika No. 8 Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan Jakarta 10270, Indonesia

Tel: (62) 21 2557 1188 Fax: (62) 21 2557 1189

Thailand

Maybank Securities (Thailand) PCL 999/9 The Offices at Central World, 20th - 21st Floor, Rama 1 Road Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Tel: (66) 2 658 6817 (sales) Tel: (66) 2 658 6801 (research)

Sales Trading

Indonesia Helen Widjaja helen.widjaja@maybank.com Tel: (62) 21 2557 1188

Philippines Keith Roy keith_roy@maybank.com Tel: (63) 2 5322 3184 Greg Smith gsmith@maybank.com Tel: (44) 207 332 0221

India

London

Sanjay Makhija sanjaymakhija@maybank.com Tel: (91) 22 6623 2629

London

Maybank Securities (London) Ltd PNB House 77 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4AY, UK

Tel: (44) 20 7332 0221 Fax: (44) 20 7332 0302

India

MIB Securities India Pte Ltd 1101, 11th floor, A Wing, Kanakia Wall Street, Chakala, Andheri -Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai City - 400 093, India

Tel: (91) 22 6623 2600 Fax: (91) 22 6623 2604

Vietnam

Maybank Securities Limited Floor 10, Pearl 5 Tower, 5 Le Quy Don Street, Vo Thi Sau Ward, District 3 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: (84) 28 44 555 888 Fax: (84) 28 38 271 030

Hong Kong

MIB Securities (Hong Kong) Limited 28/F, Lee Garden Three, 1 Sunning Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2268 0800 Fax: (852) 2877 0104

Philippines

Maybank Securities Inc 17/F, Tower One & Exchange Plaza Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue Makati City, Philippines 1200

Tel: (63) 2 8849 8888 Fax: (63) 2 8848 5738

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