



Critical Holdings (CHB MK)

Pure play on Malaysia's Critical **Facilities Build-Out**

Beneficiary of Malaysia's high-tech build-out

Malaysia's third investment upcycle offers a compelling backdrop for Critical Holdings (CHB), supported by policy-driven industrialisation under NIMP 2030, NSS and sizeable data centre (DC) led capital flows. These policies reinforce steady demand for critical facilities, which are CHB's core strengths. We initiate BUY on CHB with a TP of MYR1.14 based on 15x FY6/26 EPS.

Provides MEP for critical facilities

CHB is a specialist MEP and critical facilities provider which include cleanrooms, plantrooms and atmospheric sensitive facilities like DCs. For CHB, rising approved private investments, supported by policy catalysts under NIMP 2030 and NSS, are accelerating industrial activity. CHB's revenue momentum of 57% CAGR (2020-2024) has outperformed Malaysia's 23% CAGR in approved investments over the same period.

Scaling for larger, higher-value projects

CHB's strategic presence in Penang, Johor and Selangor places it within Malaysia's busiest high-tech strategic corridors, where sustained investment growth continues to drive demand for cleanrooms, plantrooms and MEP solutions. This backdrop has enabled CHB to undertake larger, more complex jobs with average contract sizes rising to MYR30m-80m, vs its average contract size of MYR10-20m per contract before its IPO. To support a growing pipeline, the group is expanding its workforce.

Initiate with a BUY

Backed by Malaysia's strengthening position as a regional DC hub and CHB's strong fundamentals, we believe the group is well positioned to benefit from strong demand for critical facilities. Coupled with its growing order book visibility and undemanding valuations relative to peers, we see meaningful room for a re-rating as execution momentum builds. Applying a target 15x P/E on FY6/26E (in-line with sector peer average), we initiate coverage on CHB with a BUY and TP of MYR1.14. Key risks include concentration on selected sectors and delay in project awards.

FYE Jun (MYR m)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	268	329	334	373	392
EBITDA	38	37	37	42	45
Core net profit	27	28	28	32	34
Core EPS (sen)	7.3	7.5	7.6	8.6	9.1
Core EPS growth (%)	174.0	2.4	1.1	13.3	5.6
Net DPS (sen)	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.3
Core P/E (x)	13.3	12.8	10.8	9.6	9.1
P/BV (x)	5.5	4.0	2.8	2.3	1.9
Net dividend yield (%)	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.8
ROAE (%)	43.9	36.0	28.3	26.2	23.0
ROAA (%)	26.2	15.6	13.3	13.4	12.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.3	7.4	5.4	4.2	3.5
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Consensus net profit	-	-	31	35	37
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(10.0)	(7.9)	(9.7)

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MYR 0.83 12m Price Target MYR 1.14 (+38%)

Company Description

Critical Holdings is a MEP design and engineering service provider for critical functions of facilities and buildings.

Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	1.09/0.58
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.1
Free float (%)	34.7
Issued shares (m)	372
Market capitalisation	MYR306.7N
	USD75N

61.9%
4.6%
4.6%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(8)	(17)	(14)
Relative to index (%)	(10)	(19)	(16)

Source: FactSet

Abbreviations

AI - Artificial Intelligence

DC - Data Centre

DDI - Domestic Direct Investment E&E - Electrical & Electronics

FDI - Foreign Direct Investment

IPO - Initial Public Public Offering

MEP - Mechanical, Electrical and Process Utilities

NIMP - New Industrial Master Plan

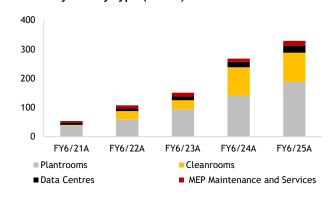
NSS - National Semiconductor Strategy



Value Proposition

- Critical Holdings is principally involved in providing mechanical, electrical and process utilities (MEP) for critical facilities, which includes plantrooms, cleanrooms and data centres (DC).
- The group's current orderbook is exposed to the DC and semicon industries.
- The increase in DC investments in Malaysia provides a growth catalyst for the group, while maintenance services to clients provides a steady revenue for the group.

Revenue by facility type (MYRm)



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research



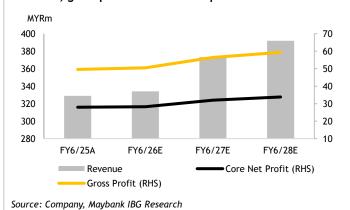
Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- 1. Listed on ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia on 18 Dec 2023 at MYR0.35/sh.
- 2. First contract win announcement post its IPO.
- 3. US President Trump formally announced Liberation Day tariffs.
- 4. Transferred listing to the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia on 9 Oct 2025.
- 5. The agreement between the United States of America and Malaysia on Reciprocal Trade (ART) was signed on 26 Oct 2025

Financial Metrics

- Net profit grew at a 3-year EPS CAGR of 49% over FY21-24.
- We forecast a 3-year FY6/25-28E core net profit CAGR of 7%, backed order book replenishment from DC and semiconductor jobs.
- Unbilled order book of MYR188.2m as at Dec-2025 and active tender book of MYR700m to provide earnings visibility over the next 3-18 months.

Revenue, gross profit and core net profit trend



Swing Factors

Upside

- Stronger-than-expected new contract wins.
- Higher exposure to DC and/or a more favourable product mix.
- Acquisitions or new partnerships.

Downside

- Project delays may impact billing and cash flow.
- Slower rollout of jobs.
- Softening global demand due to unfavourable regulatory environment.

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1. Investment thesis

1.1 Will investments continue to support demand for critical infrastructure?

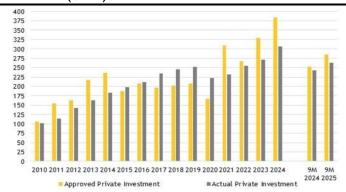
Critical Holdings Berhad (CHB) provides mechanical, electrical and process utilities (MEP) design and engineering services for critical facilities which support uninterrupted businesses and essential services. This is a niche and specialised market that focuses on cleanrooms and plantrooms for data centres (DC), semiconductor, pharmaceuticals/medical, solar and telecommunication industries. Demand for critical facilities is a function of a country's fixed capital formation growth.

Despite MIBG's forecast for Malaysia's economy to slow from 4.7% in 2025 to 4.5% next year, MIBG's economics team expects fixed capital formation to hold steady at 9.7% growth, supported by private investments and foreign direct investments (FDI) growth which offsets slower government development expenditures.

Fig 1: Malaysia real GDP (% YoY)

MAYBANK OFFICIAL 1Q 2025 2Q 2025 3Q 2025 2024 9M2025 2025E 2025E 2026F 2026F Real GDP 4.7 4.0-4.8 4.0-4.5 5.2 5.1 4.7 4.5 4.4 4.4 5.0 3.7 41 47 40 40 3.8 3.8 3.0 Manufacturing Agriculture 0.7 2.5 0.4 3.1 1.2 1.5 1.0 2.2 14.2 12.1 10.1 Construction 11.8 17.5 12.6 12.0 8.8 6.1 Domestic Demand 6.3 6.0 6.3 5.3 5.0 5.1 5.0 5.1 Public Consumption 43 64 7.1 47 59 6.0 39 40 Gross Fixed Capital Formation 12.1 12.0 10.6 7.3 Public Investment 11.6 13.6 74 11.1 10.7 10.0 8.9 12.7 Net External Demand 19.6 (72.6)17.7 9.2 (8.0)(14.8) Exports of Goods & Services Imports of Goods & Services 3.1 6.6 0.4 8.2 3.3 3.5 4.5 3.1 5.8

Fig 2: Approved private investments v actual private invesments (MYRb)



Source: DOSM, Ministry of Finance, Bank Negara Malaysia, Maybank IBG Research

Source: MIDA, Maybank IBG Research

In our view, the robust approved and actual private sector investment trends that resumed since the 2020 pandemic will be supported by five pillars:

- FDI-led industrial parks and investments to accelerate Malaysia's move up the value chain. New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030 and National Semiconductor Strategy (NSS) are main enablers with the latter aiming for MYR500b of investments in the higher-end semiconductor industry.
- 2) Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zones (JSSEZ) where the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) aims to attract investments worth MYR226.5b into Iskandar Malaysia over 2024-2030. According to IRDA, slightly over 50% of this pool (MYR130b) is projected to come from DC sector as capacity is expected to more than double from 982GW (in operation and under construction) to 2.53GW by 2030.
- 3) The GEAR-uP initiative, that will see MYR120b in domestic direct investment (DDI) from government-linked companies such as Khazanah, EPF and PNB over 2024-2029.
- Green investments under the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) with a projected total investment of MYR1.2-1.3tn over 2023-2050.
- 5) Ongoing infrastructure investments announced in Budget 2026 which allocated MYR97b in development expenditure and through multi-year funding under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

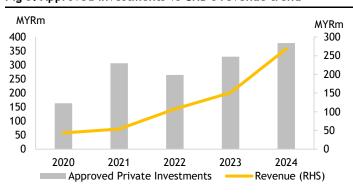


For CHB, we believe NIMP 2030 and NSS will be the key policies to sustain job replenishment upside for integrated MEP engineering solutions - from design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning, and maintenance and services.

NIMP's agenda is in-line with the Malaysia's New Investment Policy launched in Oct 2022 that has identified five strategic sectors to help lift future exports of complex products in aerospace, chemicals & petrochemicals, digital economy, electrical & electronics (which includes medical devices) and pharmaceuticals industries. NSS on the other hand is aimed at advancing Malaysia's technology capabilities and competencies in the upstream value chain.

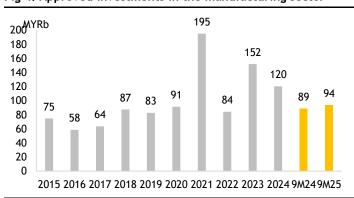
To this effect, CHB's revenue and investment flows have shown some degree of correlation. Between 2020 and 2024, approved investments grew at a 4-year CAGR of 23% while CHB's revenue grew at a CAGR of 57% over the same period (Figure 3).

Fig 3: Approved investments vs CHB's revenue trend



Source: MIDA, Company, Maybank IBG Research

Fig 4: Approved investments in the manufacturing sector



Source: MIDA, Maybank IBG Research

Fig 5: Notable projects in the manufacturing sector

Company	Project Description	Location	Approved Investment Value (MYR bn)
SIP Technology-related semiconductor investor	New advanced semiconductor facility (SIP, MEMS, sensors, advanced packaging)	Kulim High-Tech Park, Kedah	3,510
PROTON Holdings Bhd.	Expansion of Tanjung Malim complex to support NEV/EV models, metal stamping, casting & components production	Tanjung Malim, Perak	1,290
Ferrotec Silicon Materials Malaysia S/B	Expansion of silicon-materials facility for semiconductor supply chain	Pasir Gudang, Johor	256
Vitrox Technologies S/B	Manufacturing facility expansion for semiconductor inspection & testing equipment	Penang	250
T. Hasegawa (Malaysia) S/B	New food-tech facility for liquid flavours, flavour powders, seasoning powders	Techpark@Enstek, Negeri Sembilan	185
URC Snack Foods (Malaysia) S/B	Expansion of confectionery & snack-food production lines	Pasir Gudang, Johor	100

Source: MIDA, Maybank IBG Research



1.2 Is CHB too late in the cycle as it pivots from Semicon to Data Centre jobs?

We do not think so. Amid Singapore power capacity limitations and land constraints, Malaysia ranks as one of the fastest growing DC markets in Asia Pacific as it is endowed with the right fundamentals of ample land, power and water supply, as well as favourable government regulation/ support. For the full anthology of the key DC demand/supply drivers for Malaysia, refer to MIBG initiation of HE Group - Powering up for growth dated 19 Aug 2025.

The total addressable market in Malaysia for AI capex is significant. In MIBG's recent note on the Asean AI capex landscape ASEAN Economics: Riding the AI and FDI waves dated 10 Dec 2025, US investments in artificial intelligence (AI) equipment and software have also not slowed down but is instead surging. Notably, America's six largest hyper-scalers are planning to increase capex by about +36% in 2026. We think this momentum is unlikely to abate in the medium term and will create opportunities for MEP players like CHB.

Initially, the AI Diffusion policy of the Biden administration had created some ambiguity on how much AI computing power US tech companies could deploy in Tier 2 regions including Southeast Asia - the threshold was then set at no more than 7% of their total capacity. On 13 May 2025, the Trump administration's Department of Commerce formally rescinded the AI Diffusion Rule and though a formal replacement has yet been issued, it did release a set of guidance targeted at the sale of advanced integrated circuits (ICs) to China and usage for training or inference of Chinese AI models.¹ One of the pathways forward, which the United States Studies Center of the University of Sydney posits, is that US may eventually consider a stricter global baseline control for Tier 2 countries but with exemptions via bilateral deals.

On this scenario, Malaysia is certainly making good strides with the US that it can continue to be a compliant and trusted AI hub in the region. Among the main bilateral instruments that Malaysia recently concluded with the US at the Oct 2025 ASEAN Summit included a legally binding Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) which covers protecting and enforcing intellectual property on sensitive tech and commits Malaysia to enabling cross-border data transfers across trusted borders and refraining from imposing digital services taxes or requiring U.S. social media platforms and online service providers to pay into Malaysia's domestic fund. This matters to hyperscalers and enterprise AI tenants because the business model relies on the ability to 1) move data legally; 2) operate cloud services predictably; and 3) avoid sudden discriminatory digital levies.²

Eyeing for more Johor projects. As at 1H25, Johor had 422MW of DC capacity under construction (+87% from 2H24) according to Cushman & Wakefield, adding to the 560MW in operation. Planned capacity has grown +61% to 1,324MW which is 2.6x more than Bangkok's 515MW. In comparison, Singapore has just 20MW under construction and 226MW planned, which is not surprising given aforementioned limitations.

² Office of the United States Trade Representative, <u>Factsheet: The United States and Malaysia Reach</u> an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade





¹ Tom Barret et al, United States Studies Center, <u>The US Al Diffusion Rule: What is it, why did the US</u> rescind it and implications for Australia, 21 Jul 2025



Fig 6: DC capacity under construction and planned as of 1H25

		Capacity (MW)				
City In Operat	In Operation	Under Construction	Planned	Remarks		
Singapore	1002	20	226	Data center development slow because of power restrictions. Key indicators mostly similar to 2H 2024		
Johor	560	422	1324	Operational Capacity: +40% from 2H 2024 Under-construction Capacity: +87% from 2H 2024		
				Planned Capacity: +61% from 2H 2024		
Greater Jakarta	278	102	607	Operational Capacity: relatively stable Under-construction Capacity: +30% from 2H 2024 Planned Capacity: +30% from 2H 2024		
Bangkok	109	169	515	Operational Capacity: grew marginally from H2 2024 Under-construction Capacity: +267% from 2H 2024 Planned Capacity: +177% from 2H 2024		
Manila	68	23	93	Operational Capacity: +31% from 2H 2024		
Ho Chi Minh City	25	15	61	DC development quiet over the last 6 months and showing minimal to no movement.		

Source: Crushman & Wakefield, "Asia Pacific Data Centre H1 2025 Update"

As reported in the media, Johor's 42 approved DC projects represent a massive multi-year pipeline and we see CHB as a direct beneficiary. With the group's strategic expansion into Johor, which positions it closer to the hub of commercial activities in the southern region, CHB is well-positioned to capture recurring tenders and larger package sizes especially as Al-driven DCs demand higher value per MW. In our view, this unprecedented capex trend meaningfully expands CHB's addressable market and sets the stage for stronger order-book replenishment and earnings growth upside.

Fig 7: Major DC investments in Malaysia

Investor / Company	Investment Value	Location	Project Type / Notes	Status
Amazon Web Services (AWS)	USD6.2b (≈MYR29b) through 2038	Cyberjaya + Malaysia Region (3 AZs)	New AWS Asia Pacific (Malaysia) Region; large hyperscale cloud DC	Announced; multi-year build-out underway
Microsoft	USD2.2b over 4 years	Greater KL & Johor	Cloud + AI infrastructure; 3 data centres to go live in 2025	Under construction
Google	USD2b	Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan	First Google DC + Cloud Region in Malaysia	Announced; site development started
YTL Power / YTL Data Centres	MYR15b (c.USD3.2b)	Kulai, Johor	500-acre Green Data Centre Park; target 500 MW capacity	Phase 1 operational; expansion ongoing
YTL-NVIDIA Partnership	MYR20.6b (c.USD4.3b)	Johor	Al compute + DC infrastructure; supercomputing hub	Announced 2024; initial phases progressing
GDS Holdings	~MYR4-5b cumulative	Johor (Nusajaya Tech Park)	Multiple hyperscale DCs targeting >300 MW	Under expansion
AirTrunk	>MYR2b	Johor	Hyperscale DC (AirTrunk JH1)	Operational
Princeton Digital Group (PDG)	~MYR2b	Sedenak, Johor	150 MW campus (JC1)	Phase 1 active
Bridge Data Centres (BDx)	~MYR1b+	Sedenak, Johor	Expansion of DC facility cluster	Ongoing

Source: Various news portals, Maybank IBG Research

Al training workloads are far more power-dense. Al-optimised DCs typically command higher project value per MW given the denser rack configurations, specialised cooling and more complex electrical systems required to support Al workloads. For CHB, this translates into structurally larger MEP and critical-facility packages per project, enabling the group to secure higher contract values per MW compared to conventional colocation builds. As Malaysia accelerates hyperscale AI-DC deployments, we believe CHB is well-positioned to benefit from this value uplift, underpinned by its established track record in delivering cleanrooms, plantrooms and MEP installations for DC clients.



Already serving the DC market. CHB has built its reputation in the DC space, supported by a growing track record of completed and ongoing projects. The group has completed two DC-related jobs since 2020 worth MYR9.4m in aggregate. Notably, CHB has three ongoing DC-related jobs worth MYR100.4m in aggregate. We believe CHB's early involvement in hyperscale and colocation builds has strengthened its position in missioncritical MEP and fit-out works, enabling the group to compete for larger, higher-specification jobs over time.

Fig 8: Critical's ongoing DC related projects

Contract	Contract Value (MYRm)	Expected completion date
Fan wall package for a proposed DC development in Kulai, Johor	38.5	Jul-26
Installation of air conditioning and mechanical ventilation systems for a DC in Cyberjaya	21.1	4Q25
Supply and maintenance of mechanical systems for a DC in Bukit Jalil	40.8	Dec-26

Source: Maybank IBG Research, Company

1.3 Potential boon from global semiconductor upcycle

Under NIMP 2030, the E&E sector is explicitly designated as one of Malaysia's key priority industries, reflecting its role as a major export contributor and strategic pillar of industrial upgrading. So we do not see this as a sunset industry, not in the least bit. As a matter of fact, NIMP's policy underscores the need to strengthen Malaysia's position in high-value E&E activities such as advanced packaging, semiconductor manufacturing, automation, and next-generation electronics. With semiconductor related workflows contributing 88% of CHB's topline in FY6/25, the company's strong track record in semiconductor-related critical facilities is a boon for diversification.

In early Aug 2025, the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS) reported that the global semiconductor reached USD346b in 1H25, an increase of 18.9% YoY. Meanwhile, the global semiconductor sales reached USD72.7b in the month of Oct 2025, representing an increase of 27.2% YoY and 4.7% MoM. Notably, WSTS has revised the full-year 2025 forecast upwards to USD772b (from USD728b previously), reflecting an annual increase of 22%. This is fuelled by ongoing demand in AI, cloud infrastructure, and advanced consumer electronics with the US and Asia Pacific set to lead this growth. WSTS further anticipates the global semiconductor market to grow by more than 25% in 2026E to reach USD975b, led by Memory and Logic. All major markets are expected to expand in 2026E, with the US (+34%) and Asia Pacific (+25%) again leading the growth.

USDb 1000 900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0

Fig 9: Global semiconductor sales

Source: WSTS, Maybank IBG Research



Decades-old semiconductor ecosystem. Malaysia's entrenched semiconductor ecosystem has evolved since the 1970s. Today, the country is focused on outsourced assembly & test (OSAT), factory automation (FAS), and automated test equipment (ATE) alongside auxiliary metal fabrication, is deeply embedded in global supply chains. The industry is concentrated in Penang, Kedah (Kulim High-Tech Park) and Selangor, supported by strong infrastructure, skilled engineering workforce, and pro-investment policies.

Multinationals driving semiconductor growth. Malaysia's semiconductor landscape is dominated by multinationals such as Intel, Infineon, Broadcom, Micron, Texas Instruments, Western Digital, ASE, and OSAT/ATP players like Unisem, MPI, and Globetronics. In recent years, Malaysia has seen a wave of high-value expansions—notably Intel's advanced packaging investments, Infineon's USD5b SiC power fab expansion and multiple new ATP facilities—driven by global supply chain diversification and rising semiconductor demand from AI, EV, DC and automation.

Malaysia has signed an USD250m, 10-year deal with Arm. As reported by Reuters, Malaysia has signed a 10-year partnership with Arm, a UK-based semiconductor and software design company, to license seven advanced chip-design blueprints and provide large-scale engineering training. The deal marks a major step in Malaysia's ambition to move beyond assembly and testing into higher-value chip design, supported by Arm's plan to train up to 10,000 engineers and establish its first Southeast Asia office in Kuala Lumpur. Strategically, the collaboration positions Malaysia to develop Alrelated and next-generation chips domestically amid strong global demand driven by AI and DC expansion.

Fig 10: Major semiconductor investments in Malaysia

Company	Investment Value	Location	Type of Investment	Date Announced
Infineon Technologies	USD5b	Kulim, Kedah	SiC power fab expansion	Aug 2023
Micron Technology	>USD1b	Penang	Memory & SSD assembly/test upgrades	2023 (ongoing)
Western Digital	>USD120m	Penang	HDD & memory components expansion	2023
MPI (Malaysian Pacific Industries)	>MYR2.0b	Muar & Penang	ATP expansion (auto & industrial)	2023-2024
Intel (phase updates)	Part of USD7-8b programme	Penang & Kulim	Advanced packaging / OSAT	2023-2024
Texas Instruments (new phases)	Portion of >USD3b	Kuala Lumpur & Melaka	Analog & embedded processing expansion	2023-2024

Source: Press releases, MIDA, various media reports, Maybank IBG Research

Policy support. Government support under NIMP 2030 and the NSS further emphasises moving up the value chain into advanced packaging, design, R&D, power electronics and talent development, positioning Malaysia as a long-term beneficiary of global semiconductor growth cycles.

We believe manufacturers in the semiconductor value chain will continue to build critical facilities which CHB can provide, despite US product-specific tariffs overhang. Since the signing of the US-Malaysia Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) on 26 Oct 2025, Malaysian public listed companies (PLCs) have secured approximately MYR1.2b worth of projects related to semicon and/or DC, signalling that jobs flow is improving (figure 11).



Fig 11: Projects related to semicon and/or DC since 26 Oct 2025

Company	Contract details	Value (MYRm)
IJM Corporation	M&E fit-out works for a hyperscale DC in Elmina, Selangor	873.9
Binastra Corporation	M&E fit-out works for a hyperscale DC in Cyberjaya	188.5
Powerwell	Supply of switchboards for a DC in Selangor	9.5
Steel Hawk	To establish 275kV bulk supply connection to a DC in Southern Region of Malaysia	36.0
HE Group	To provide electrical services for a DC in Cyberjaya	56.6
Pekat Group	To construct earthing and lightning protection systems for a hyperscale DC in Eco Business Park V, Selangor	33.8
Southern Score	Electrical work package for a DC	9.8
Critical Holdings	Supply and maintenance of mechanical systems for a DC in Bukit Jalil	40.8

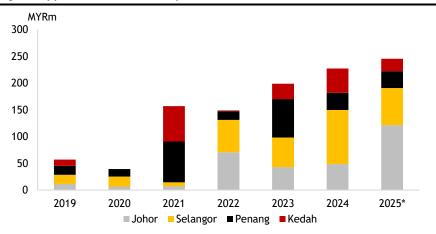
Source: Bursa Malaysia, Maybank IBG Research

2. Business Strategy

2.1 Riding on investments upswing in Penang, Kedah and Johor

Optimal geographical coverage. CHB's offices in Selangor, Penang and Johor, are in close proximity to Malaysia's most active industrial and high-tech corridors. These states have recorded steady rise in approved investment over the years, particularly in advanced manufacturing. This upward trend supports a sustained pipeline of engineering and critical-facility projects in the region, offering CHB strong job replenishment prospects and recurring demand for cleanrooms, plantrooms and MEP solutions in these investment-rich states.

Fig 12: Approved investments by state



*annualised 9M25

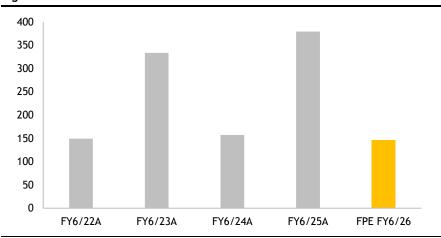
Source: MIDA, Maybank IBG Research

2.2 Capturing larger opportunities

Over the years, CHB's average contract size for MEP related works has increased from MYR10-20m per contract before listing, to MYR30-80m per contract in FY6/25, reflecting its growing capability in undertaking more complex and higher-value works.



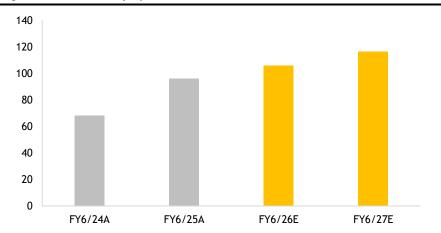
Fig 13: Historical total contracts secured



*FPE: Financial period ending Nov 2025 Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

Strengthening its internal capacity to support a larger pipeline of projects. The group has been steadily expanding its workforce to ensure that it can take on higher-value contracts and greater job volume. We understand that CHB intends to grow its workforce by at least 10-20% p.a. This proactive scaling of headcount reflects management's preparation for stronger project inflows, particularly from DC and semiconductor clients, and positions the company to execute larger, more complex critical-facilities projects without straining existing resources. Note that out of the 94 employees, approximately 60% are engineers.

Fig 14: Number of employees



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

A modest 10% annual increase in headcount can translate into meaningful topline gains. Using revenue-per-employee metrics derived from historical performance, we estimate that every 10% increase in technical and project staff could translate to up to MYR30-40m in additional annual revenue. This reflects the group's scalable operating model.



2.3 Is the medical devices industry making a comeback?

NIMP 2030 seeks to elevate Malaysia's medical-devices industry into a higher-value, export-focused, and innovation-driven sector. To drive this transition, NIMP 2030 emphasises building a more complete and competitive value chain which includes expanding local component production (plastics, rubber, EMS), developing cleanroom-intensive manufacturing, improving testing and sterilisation services, and strengthening regulatory standards through the Medical Device Authority (MDA) to ensure global compliance.

Several healthcare names are actively scaling up in the northern region, reinforcing Penang-Northern Corridor Economic Region's positioning as a med-tech and pharma hub. As reported in Bernama, in Nov 2024, Dexcom invested about MYR2.3b in Batu Kawan, Penang, its first manufacturing facility outside the US to produce continuous glucose monitoring devices for global markets. Meanwhile, home-grown UMediC Group is also doubling capacity at its Batu Kawan plant, adding production space, an integrated healthcare centre and training facilities to support higher-value medical consumables and devices.

We believe the steady stream of medical-device investments in northern Malaysia — particularly in Batu Kawan and the broader Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) cluster — is structurally positive for CHB, as medtech manufacturing is fundamentally cleanroom-driven and requires highly specialised plantroom and utilities infrastructure. We believe CHB stands to benefit from opportunities in cleanroom builds, facility upgrades and technical utility installations.

3. Financial analysis

3.1 Earnings track record

CHB's net profit has grown at a 52% 3-year EPS CAGR over FY6/22-25. Revenue grew at a 45% 3-year CAGR over the same period, driven by higher contributions from MEP engineering solutions and contract replenishment. MEP engineering solutions remained as its key contributor over the years, accounting for >90% of group revenue.

Over the years, the fluctuation in the GP margin were mainly due to the timing difference in relation to the recognition of revenue and subcontractor costs as it is dependent on the project scope, duration and the stages of works performed.

Fig 15: Revenue by business activities

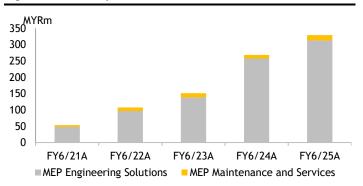
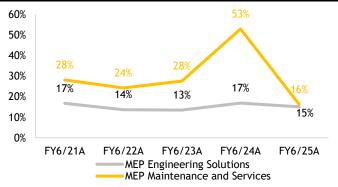


Fig 16: GP margin trend by business activities



Source: Company

Source: Company

Fig 17: Revenue and GP margin trend

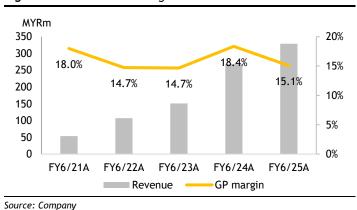
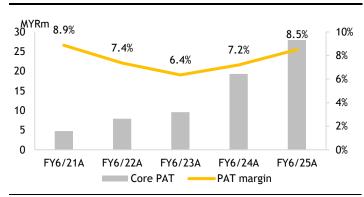


Fig 18: Core net profit and margin trend



Source: Company

3.2 1QFY6/26 results review

CHB's 1QFY6/26 PAT grew 46% YoY to MYR5.2m. The stronger 1QFY6/26 results were attributable to: 1) higher revenue (+25% YoY) on the back of higher project recognition from the cleanroom segment; and 2) margin expansion. PAT margin expanded 1.1ppts YoY to 7.5% in 1QFY6/26 (1QFY6/25 PAT margin: 6.4%) on cost efficiency efforts. In 1QFY6/26, MEP engineering solutions accounted for 94% of revenue, with maintenance & services accounting for the remaining 6%.

Fig 19: 1QFY6/26 Results Summary

FYE Jun (MYRm)	1Q26	1Q25	% YoY	4Q25	% QoQ
Revenue	69.1	55.5	24.5	110.2	-37.3
Cost of sales	-59.3	-47.8	24.0	-96.7	-38.7
Gross Profit	9.8	7.7	27.8	13.5	-27.4
Other income	0.6	0.4	59.8	0.7	-6.3
Administrative expenses	-3.5	-3.3	6.8	-3.0	17.7
Operating Profit (EBIT)	6.9	4.8	45.0	11.2	-38.1
Net finance costs	-0.1	-0.1	-52.2	0.0	800.0
Profit Before Tax (PBT)	6.9	4.7	47.3	11.2	-38.6
Taxation	-1.7	-1.1	51.8	-2.8	-39.9
Profit After Tax (PAT)	5.2	3.5	45.9	8.4	-38.1
Exceptional Items	0.0	0.0	na	-1.2	-100.0
Core Net Profit	5.2	3.5	45.9	7.2	-27.9
	1Q26	1Q25	+ / - ppts	4Q25	+ / - ppts
GP Margin (%)	14.2	13.8	0.4	12.3	1.9
Core NP Margin (%)	7.5	6.4	1.1	6.5	1.0
Revenue Breakdown	1Q26	1Q25	% YoY	4Q25	% QoQ
MEP Engineering Solutions	64.9	51.6	25.9	105.2	-38.3
MEP Maintenance and Services	4.2	3.9	6.0	5.1	-18.0
	69.1	55.5	24.5	110.2	-37.3

Source: Company

3.3 Order Book

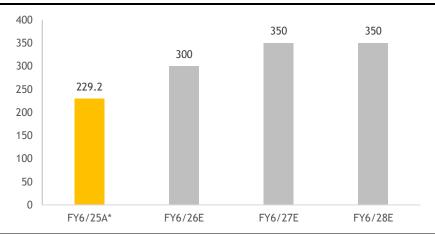
CHB's MYR188.2m orderbook - approximately 57% of its FY6/25 revenue at end-Sep 2025 - will be recognised in FY6/26E-27E. We believe jobs flow will improve and propel earnings growth.

The smaller order book size also reflects the typically short contract durations (3-12 months) within their operating segments, meaning projects are completed and recognised quickly rather than accumulated over long periods. CHB's near-term replenishment outlook is backed by its healthy sizeable MYR700b tender book. DC-related jobs account for the bulk of the tender book at approximately 60%, with semiconductor jobs making up the remaining 40%.



We gather from management that it has secured approximately MYR146.8m worth of new contracts in FY6/26. However, some of the contracts were not announced on Bursa Malaysia as they fall below the disclosure threshold. Bursa Malaysia guides that a contract is deemed material if the value of the contract is 10% or more of the issuer's latest annual published revenue.

Fig 20: MEP engineering solutions' order book replenishment



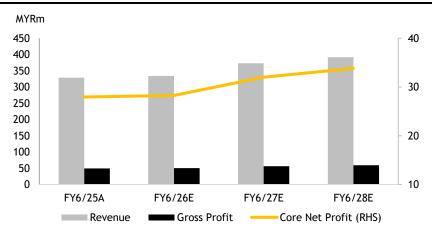
*as announced on Bursa Malaysia

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

3.4 Forecast a 7% core profit CAGR for FY6/25-28E

We anticipate CHB's net profit to grow at a 3-year CAGR of 7% for FY6/25-28E, mainly on the group's ability to secure more orders moving forward, leveraging on its exposure in the robust DC segment and the anticipated pick-up in the local semiconductor and medical devices industries landscape. For FY6/26-28E, we assume annual order book replenishment target of MYR300m/MYR350m/MYR350m p.a. respectively. Revenue is expected to grow from MYR328.9m in FY6/25 to MYR391.8m by FY6/28E, translating to a 3-year CAGR of 6%.

Fig 21: Revenue, gross profit and core net profit forecasts



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

3.5 Healthy balance sheet

As at end-Jun 2025, the group is sitting on a net cash of MYR82.6m or approximately MYR0.22/sh, which translate to 25% of its market capitalisation. The healthy balance sheet position would able the group to reinvest in its growth, while also provides the flexibility for the group to return the capital via dividends.



3.6 Dividend policy

Management has a dividend policy with a target payout of up to 25% of PAT. We have assumed a payout ratio of 25% for FY6/26-28E, which translates to a dividend yield of 2.2-2.7%.

3.7 Valuation

CHB currently trades at a CY26E P/E of 10.5x and 6.3x EV/EBITDA, representing a discount to the peer averages of 15x and approximately 13.0x, respectively. We attribute this gap largely to its smaller market capitalisation, limited institutional ownership following its recent transfer from the ACE to the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia. This gap is unwarranted, in our view, given the group's return profile—evidenced by the highest ROE in the sector at 35.8%. As order book visibility improves, we expect valuation multiplies to normalise towards the sector average, supporting our valuation.

We apply a target P/E of 15x, in line with peer average. Based on our FY6/26E EPS of 7.6sen, which translates to a target price of MYR1.14 and implicit upside of 39%. We initiate CHB with a BUY call.

Fig 22: Peer comparison

Company	Bloomberg	FYE	Price	Market Cap	PER (x)		PBV	ROE (%)	EV/EBITDA
	Ticker		MYR	MYRm	CY25E	CY26E	CY25E	CY25E	
HE Group	HEGROUP MK	Dec	0.33	122.7	10.7	8.7	1.5	17.3	6.8
CBH Engineering	CBHB MK	Dec	0.44	827.6	20.4	13.2	3.8	20.3	14.7
MN Holdings	MNHLDG MK	Jun	1.63	1,071.1	18.2	14.6	6.6	21.0	9.5
Kelington	KGRB MK	Dec	5.21	4,044.5	27.3	22.4	6.8	20.5	21.1
Average					19.1	14.7			13.0
Critical Holdings	CHB MK	Jun	0.85	315.9	11.2	10.5	4.8	35.8	6.3

*Price as at 10 Dec

Source: Maybank IBG Research, Bloomberg

3.8 Sensitivity analysis: Earnings impact from varying replenishment success rates

Our sensitivity analysis covers a range of earnings outcomes based on different scenarios of order book replenishment values. Our worst case assumes lower-than-expected replenishment success while our best case assumes a positive outcome from the semiconductor and medical devices industries, which increases the success of tenders. The resulting impact on revenue, net profit and EPS under each scenario is shown in the table below.

Fig 23: Scenario Analysis

	Worst Case			Base Case			Best Case		
	FY6/26E	FY6/27E	FY6/28E	FY6/26E	FY6/27E	FY6/28E	FY6/26E	FY6/27E	FY6/28E
Order book replenishment (MYRm)	200	250	250	300	350	350	350	400	400
Revenue (MYRm)	260.6	264.1	282.6	334	373.2	391.8	370.8	427.7	446.4
Core PATMI (MYRm)	21.7	22.3	24	28.3	32	33.8	31.6	36.9	38.7
EPS (sen)	5.8	6	6.5	7.6	8.6	9.1	8.5	9.9	10.4
Current PER	15.6			12			10.7		
Target PER ratio (x)	15			15			15		
Target Price (MYR)	0.88			1.14			1.27		

Source: Maybank IBG Research



4. Appendix

4.1 Business Background

Listed on the Main Market, CHB is a MEP design and engineering service provider for critical functions of facilities and buildings that require resilient infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted business and/or essential services. Critical facilities primarily cover cleanrooms and plantrooms. End users who procure the services are typically manufacturers from the semiconductor, pharmaceutical, solar photovoltaic (PV) panel facility owners, DC and co-location services, telecommunications, hotel and medical facility owners.

CHB has been in the MEP engineering industry since 2013. Over the years, the group has developed expertise in certain areas for critical facilities, enabling it to handle multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted projects, and serve clients across a broad range of market sectors. The founding members Ir Tan Si Lim and Ir Chow Chin Seang each have more than 20 years of experience in the MEP engineering industry. The group has strong business relationships with a wide network of clients, primarily MNC clients that are critical facility owners and/or operators in Malaysia. Rising investment activity propagates a cycle of upgrades and retrofits, which contributes to its order book replenishment.

The group is a registered with the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) as a Grade 7 electrical contractor that allows it to bid and carry out projects without any limit on the value of work.

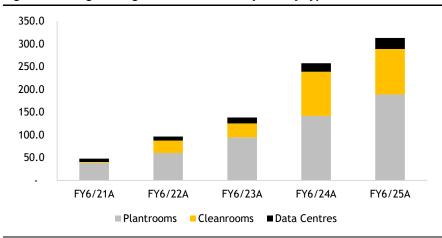


Fig 24: MEP engineering solutions revenue by facility type

Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

Cleanrooms

Broadly, a cleanroom is any given contained space where provisions are made to reduce particulate contamination and control other environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity and pressure.

CHB designs and builds cleanroom facilities according to customer's specification and needs. Major clients for this segment are the semiconductor, pharmaceutical and medical facility owners.



Plantrooms

A plantroom (sometimes also known as a mechanical room or boiler room) is a dedicated space containing equipment required to provide or supply building services. Plantrooms may contain air handling units, boilers, chillers and refrigeration units, water heaters and tanks, water pumps and pipework, gas pipework, sprinkler distribution piping and pumps, electrical equipment, amongst others.

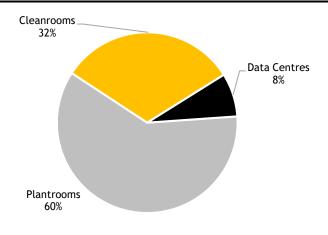
CHB is typically engaged in the design and build, project management, supply, installation, test, commissioning and maintenance of plantroom facilities. Major clients for this segment are hotel operators, semiconductor, pharmaceutical, healthcare and solar PV panel manufacturing facility owners.

Data centres

MEP Engineering Solutions are tailored to DCs which require strict adherence to moisture, light, temperature sensitivities, process utilities and particle level design standards and regulations.

The design considerations include electrical power source, battery monitoring systems, security monitoring systems, fire protection and mechanical systems for heat removal and air distribution. The design will also incorporate suitable rack layouts and determine the optimal electrical and air-cooling distribution based on the rack density or height.

Fig 25: FY6/25A MEP engineering solutions revenue by facility type



Source: Company



5. Management Team

Fig 26: Key management profile

Name	Position	Responsibilities	Age	Year of joining
IR Tan Si Lim	Execuitve Director/ Chief Executive Director	Develop and execute business strategies, spearhead business development as well as managing the MEP Maintenance and Services business segment	47	2022
IR Chow Chin Seng	Executive Director/ Chief Operating Officer	Implement business strategies and oversee the daily operations as well as MEP Engineering Solutions business segment	49	2022
Alice, Ooi Ley Ching	Financial Controller	Oversee and manage the accounting and financial functions of the group	42	2021
Yang Chee Wan	General Manager (Design & Engineering)	Design and value engineering as well as project management activities	44	2014
Albert, Ng Teik Hoe	General Manager (Project)	Plan and manage the implementation of MEP Engineering Solutions undertaken by the group	42	2018

Source: Company

6. Forensic checklist

Fig 27: Forensic checklist

Checklists	Comments
Interest and investment income	Less than 0.8x of prevailing interest rates
Tax rate	HE Group's effective tax rate is above Malaysia's 24% corporate tax rate
EBIT margins	1Q25 EBIT margins on par with industry average
Investment income and associate contribution	Less than <1% contribution to profit after tax
Auditor	No auditor resignations over the past 12 months
Depreciation policy	No policy changes in the past three years
Auditors for parent and subsidiaries	Same auditors for parent and subsidiaries
Financial year ends	Listed companies and subsidiaries have same year ends (Jun)
High cash and high debt	Cash levels are consistent with recent IPO exercise
Revaluation of assets	HE Group was listed in Jan 2024 hence valuation of assets was done prior to the release of its prospectus
Loan extended to sister companies	None
Shares in listed associates and subsidiaries pledged for loans	None
Investment securities portfolio	No existence of investment securities on balance sheet
Investment in sister companies other than associate and subsidiaries	Nil
Acquisitions	No acquisitions announced since its listing
Goodwill	No goodwill item in balance sheet
Restructuring provisions	None
Corporate Governance	Chairman of audit committee is an independent director
	More than half of the board members are independent directors
	At least one member of the audit committee has requisite accounting experience
Sales of shares	Nil

Source: Company

7. Recent transfer to Main Market

CHB transferred from the ACE Market to the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia on 9 Oct 2025. The move to the Main Market enhances market visibility and appeal to institutional investors. Based on Bloomberg data, approximately 11% of CHB's paid-up capital is held by institutional investors.



8. Malaysia National Semiconductor Strategy

NSS was launched in May 2024. It is a three-phase, 10-year roadmap backed by MYR25b (approximately USD5.3b) in fiscal support, aimed at transforming Malaysia from a strong OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) hub into a front-runner in IC design and wafer fabrication. Phase 1 focuses on modernizing and scaling advanced packaging within OSAT, Phase 2 emphasizes on building semiconductor design and equipment capabilities, and Phase 3 targets the attraction of high-end wafer fab investments. This strategy is designed to evolve in alignment with Malaysia's NIMP 2030 and broader MADANI growth objectives.

To support its ambition, the government has committed to building a national IC design ecosystem, including establishing Southeast Asia's largest IC Design Park in Selangor, skills development through the training of 60,000 engineers by 2030, and intellectual property transfers.

Fig 28: Malaysia NSS



9. New Industrial Master Plan 2030

The NIMP 2030 is Malaysia's seven-year industrial roadmap (2023-2030) aimed at transforming the manufacturing and manufacturing-related services sectors into high-value, globally competitive, and sustainable growth engines. Launched in Sep 2023, it aligns with the Ekonomi Madani vision and sets ambitious targets, including 6.5% annual growth in manufacturing GDP, potentially adding MYR587.5b to the economy by 2030. The plan is built around four key missions: advancing economic complexity, accelerating digital and technological adoption, driving the nation toward net zero through green and sustainable practices, and ensuring economic security and inclusivity.



To deliver these goals, NIMP 2030 outlines nine mission-based projects, prioritises high-impact sectors such as E&E, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, EVs, and RE, and is supported by four enabling strategies: 1) financing mobilisation, 2) talent development, 3) streamlined investor facilitation; and 4) robust governance. Implementation will be carried out in two phases with a mid-term review in 2026, under a whole-of-nation approach involving government, industry, and community stakeholders. The plan's success will depend on effective execution, strong public-private collaboration, and the agility to respond to shifting global economic and technological landscapes.

10. Risks

Concentration risk on selected sectors. CHB's revenue is heavily tied to a few key sectors—particularly DC and semiconductor-related projects. Collectively, the two sectors combined accounted for more than 50% of the group revenue over the years. Any slowdown in these industries, shifts in investment cycles or delays in major project approvals could soften tender opportunities and disrupt order-book visibility.

Semiconductor tariff. An increase in US tariffs on semiconductor-related imports or exports could disrupt supply chains, raise input costs, or dampen demand from US-based customers.

Al diffusion risk. Any tightening of Al hardware diffusion rules may delay capacity expansion plans by global cloud providers, leading to slower tender flows for high-spec MEP and critical-facility works.

Reliance on subcontractors. CHB engages subcontractors to perform certain works specifically services requiring specialised expertise, skills, and/or licenses and specialised machinery and/or equipment or due to limitation of manpower to carry out the workload. Subcontractors' costs made up >68% of total cost of sales in FY23.

Competition risk. With multiple contractors competing for similar DC and high-tech industrial projects. Rising market interest—especially as AI-driven DC investments accelerate—may intensify pricing pressure and narrow margins.

Low trading liquidity risk. CHB's relatively low trading liquidity, stemming from its smaller market capitalisation and recent Main Market transition, may lead to higher share price volatility.



FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
14.7	11.6	10.8	9.6	9.1
13.3	12.8	10.8	9.6	9.1
5.5	4.0	2.8	2.3	1.9
2.4	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.1
1.3	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.8
5.8	10.5	9.0	10.3	11.0
8.3	7.4	5.4	4.2	3.5
8.3	7.4	5.4	4.2	3.5
268.3	328.9	334.0	373.2	391.8
37.7	37.4	37.5	42.4	44.8
0.0	0.0	0.0	na	na
0.0	0.0	0.0	na	na
37.7	37.4	37.5	42.4	44.8
(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	0.0
(8.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29.4	37.1	37.2	42.1	44.5
				(10.7)
, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	0.0
				0.0
				33.8
27.3	28.0	28.3	32.0	33.8
E4 0	97.4	107.0	121.6	154 0
				156.8
				85.9
				0.0
				0.0
				0.9
				0.0
				43.4
				287.0
-		-	-	1.5
				109.3
				0.0
				3.3
				13.0
				127.3
				159.7
				0.0
				159.7
152.3	205.7	220.2	256.1	287.0
29.4	37.1	37.2	42.1	44.5
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(0.6)	(1.4)	0.3	0.3	0.3
(9.7)	15.0	(0.8)	(0.4)	(0.2)
(6.6)	(13.2)	(8.9)	(10.1)	(10.7)
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21.4	38.5	28.3	32.4	34.3
(0.5)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)
20.9	37.8	27.6	31.7	33.6
				(8.5)
24.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(0.9)	(0.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0
	(0.0)	2.0	0	0.0
	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2.2)	(0.9) 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0
	14.7 13.3 5.5 2.4 1.3 5.8 8.3 5.8 8.3 8.3 268.3 37.7 0.0 0.0 0.0 37.7 (0.3) 0.0 (8.0) 0.0 29.4 (10.1) 0.0 0.0 19.3 27.3 54.8 71.9 0.0 0.0 0.8 77.1 0.0 0.0 19.3 27.3 54.8 71.9 0.0 0.0 0.0 86.3 66.0 0.0 66.0 152.3	14.7 11.6 13.3 12.8 5.5 4.0 2.4 1.7 1.3 1.9 5.8 10.5 8.3 7.4 8.3 7.4 0.0 0.0 0.0	14.7 11.6 10.8 13.3 12.8 10.8 5.5 4.0 2.8 2.4 1.7 1.4 1.3 1.9 2.3 5.8 10.5 9.0 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 5.4 8.3 7.4 37.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	14.7



FYE 30 Jun	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	77.7	22.6	1.6	11.7	5.0
EBITDA growth	170.3	(0.6)	0.1	13.2	5.6
EBIT growth	170.3	(0.6)	0.1	13.2	5.6
Pretax growth	122.7	26.2	0.3	13.3	5.6
Reported net profit growth	101.3	44.8	1.1	13.3	5.6
Core net profit growth	174.0	2.4	1.1	13.3	5.6
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	14.0	11.4	11.2	11.4	11.4
EBIT margin	14.0	11.4	11.2	11.4	11.4
Pretax profit margin	11.0	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.4
Payout ratio	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	7.2	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6
Revenue/Assets (x)	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4
Assets/Equity (x)	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.8
ROAE (%)	43.9	36.0	28.3	26.2	23.0
ROAA (%)	26.2	15.6	13.3	13.4	12.5
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Days receivable outstanding	76.1	82.9	82.3	74.8	77.0
Days inventory outstanding	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Days payables outstanding	87.0	114.1	122.7	112.2	115.6
Dividend cover (x)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Current ratio (x)	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash				
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash				
Net interest cover (x)	126.9	106.7	131.0	148.2	nm
Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Capex/revenue (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Net debt/ (net cash)	(50.4)	(82.6)	(103.1)	(126.8)	(152.0)

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research



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