

Sea Ltd (SE US)

Rise of AI commerce: assessing risks and upside

AI: Shopee uncertainties; Monee opportunities

AI commerce is gaining momentum, which is raising increasing concerns over Shopee's demand ownership & monetisation durability. We have analysed Shopee's unit economics under multiple AI commerce scenarios. The outcomes are asymmetric: in our best case (AI -additive demand), Sea's TP could rise to USD186 (up 21%), while bear case (logistics-utility risk) implies downside to USD72 (down 54%). Despite the AI-related Shopee uncertainties, we see Monee well positioned to benefit from AI-driven payments while also capturing a portion of Shopee's monetisation upside. BUY, TP: USD156 (SoTP)

The rise of AI commerce

AI commerce has rapidly progressed from early plugin-based models focused on assisted discovery all the way to native in-chat checkout (Walmart-OpenAI). OpenAI (ACP) & Google (UCP) are advancing open protocols to standardize agent-led transactions. Adoption signals are encouraging: Adobe reported a 47x YoY surge in generative AI-driven retail traffic, Salesforce estimated AI influenced ~20% of global holiday sales, while Similarweb observed ChatGPT drove 15% of Walmart referral traffic in Sep-2025. As AI interfaces move closer to checkout, they increasingly influence discovery, advertising, payments, data control & broader platform monetisation layers.

Shopee: AI commerce outcome scenario framework

We evaluate 3 scenarios for Shopee, ranging from a bear case where it risks becoming merely a logistics utility to a positive outcome where AI acts as a GMV capture funnel while Shopee retains its platform moats, by varying unit economics & GMV. The scenarios differ across key AI-driven levers, including AI-sourced GMV share, agent channel fees, ad revenue migration, take-rates, CAC relief, and incremental technology costs. Based on differing value leakage or accretion assumptions across monetisation layers, we estimate Shopee's long-term margin outcomes could range between 0.6% and 2.8%, versus our base case of 2.5%. Incorporating potential GMV impacts under agentic commerce pathways, we see Sea Ltd's valuation exposure spanning a material downside of -54% to upside of +21%, highlighting asymmetric risk-reward dynamics as AI interfaces increasingly influence platform economics.

Monee: AI-enabled monetization & growth engine

AI introduces new monetisation vectors for Monee across defensible financial layers. As agentic transactions scale, licensed wallets remain central to authorization, settlement, fraud controls, and embedded credit/BNPL, supporting ShopeePay/Monee's role as a critical execution rail. Sea's early collaboration with Google on AP2 highlights potential participation in emerging agentic payment flows. Beyond payments, AI lowers advisory and servicing costs, enabling scalable small-ticket wealth products, evidenced by MariBank's >USD1b money market fund and USD1-entry gold-linked trust.

FYE Dec (USD m)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	13,064	16,820	22,608	28,919	34,287
EBITDA	783	1,101	2,382	3,463	4,471
Core net profit	269	444	1,656	2,334	3,026
Core FDEPS (cts)	45.7	72.8	258.7	361.1	468.2
Core FDEPS growth(%)	nm	59.4	255.2	39.6	29.7
Net DPS (cts)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Core FD P/E (x)	88.6	nm	43.3	31.0	23.9
P/BV (x)	3.5	7.3	6.2	4.8	3.8
Net dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ROAE (%)	4.4	5.9	17.4	19.0	19.1
ROAA (%)	1.5	2.1	6.8	8.2	9.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	30.9	57.3	26.3	17.3	12.6
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash

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BUY

Share Price	USD 112.10
12m Price Target	USD 156.00 (+39%)
Previous Price Target	USD 156.00

Company Description

Sea is an internet company that has businesses in gaming, e-commerce and digital financial services.

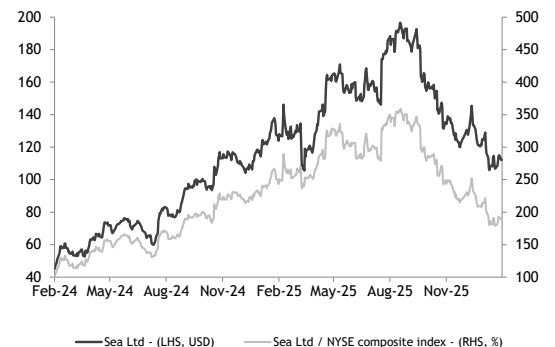
Statistics

52w high/low (USD)	196.50/105.57
3m avg turnover (USDm)	136.7
Free float (%)	99.0
Issued shares (m)	593
Market capitalisation	USD66.4B
	USD66.4B

Major shareholders:

Tencent	18.6%
Li Xiaodong	17.1%
Gang Ye	6.1%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(10)	(17)	(12)
Relative to index (%)	(12)	(24)	(24)

Source: FactSet

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Evolution of agentic commerce

Agentic commerce should be understood as a capability stack progressing through 4 layers: discovery → decision support → checkout execution → post-purchase automation. The market structure and monetization evolves as interfaces move up this stack.

From plugins to in-chat checkout

In early 2023, OpenAI introduced “plugins” for ChatGPT to access third-party services (including shopping and travel partners). Shopify, Instacart, Klarna, Expedia, and others were cited among the initial plugin collaborators—enabling ChatGPT to retrieve product options or start commerce-related workflows, but typically still requiring redirects for transaction completion.

This was still largely “AI-assisted intent formation” rather than native, standardized checkout.

The key evolution occurred in late 2025: OpenAI launched Instant Checkout in ChatGPT for U.S. users, beginning with Etsy sellers and expanding to Shopify merchants. Critically, OpenAI described this as “the first steps toward agentic commerce,” explicitly linking chat-based discovery to checkout completion.

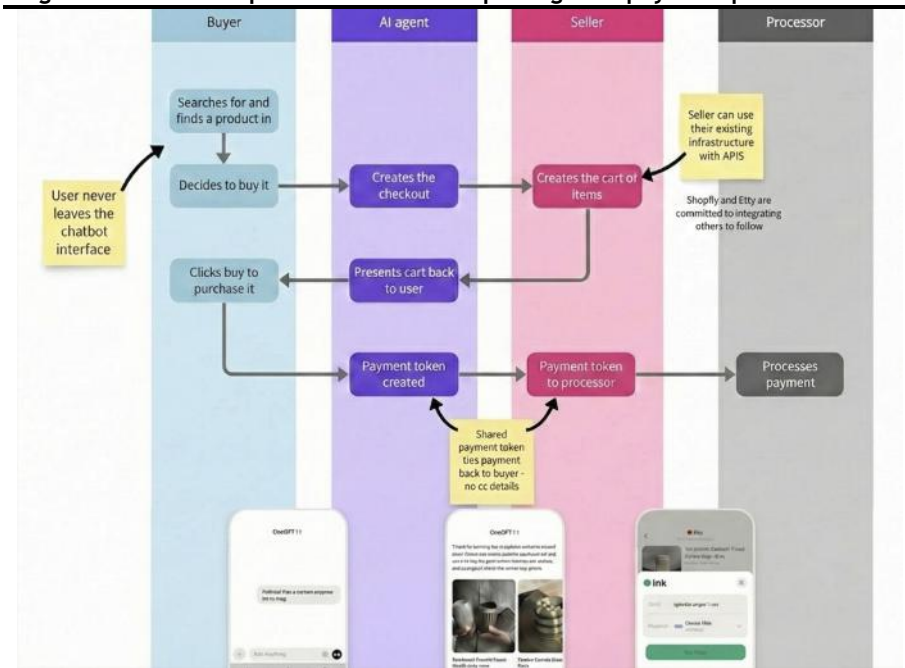
Open protocols: standards for AI commerce

Agentic commerce protocols are emerging technical frameworks that govern how AI assistants connect with merchants, marketplaces, and payment systems. Conceptually, they function as a shared rulebook – core objective is to make AI-driven commerce scalable, interoperable, and operationally reliable while preserving merchant control and economics.

Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP) - OpenAI / Stripe. ACP reflects OpenAI’s early effort to standardize agent-merchant interactions, emphasizing secure tokenization, merchant-controlled order acceptance, and cross-platform interoperability. The economic logic centres on enabling agent-led checkout while maintaining merchant-of-record status. Stripe’s complementary initiatives focus on payments abstraction, identity, and credential tokenization rather than consumer discovery.

Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP) - Google. UCP is framed as an open, platform-agnostic layer supporting native checkout across Google’s AI surfaces, including Search and Gemini. Its design prioritizes retailer control, ensuring merchants retain ownership of payments, fulfilment, and customer relationships.

Fig 1: Overview of OpenAI’s ACP and Stripe’s agentic payment protocol



Source: Maybank IBG Research, Stripe

Evidence that AI-driven traffic is becoming economically meaningful

Large datasets now show that AI-driven shopping traffic is growing rapidly but remains relatively early in terms of conversion maturity.

Fig 2: Shopee app-led discovery revenue & cost breakdown - per USD100 GMV

Observer	Observation	Comments
Adobe	Generative AI-driven traffic to U.S. retail sites rose 4,700% YoY in July 2025	Also observed conversion from generative AI sources remained lower than non-AI traffic but the gap is narrowing over time
Salesforce	AI and agents influenced ~20% of global retail sales, contributing \$262B in revenue through personalization and engagement during 2025 holiday shopping season (Nov 1–Dec 31)	
Similarweb	ChatGPT accounted for ~15% of Walmart’s referral traffic in September 2025 (up from 9.5% in August)	Still representing <1% of total web traffic—suggesting rapid directional growth from a small base

Source: Maybank IBG Research, Adobe, Salesforce

Case studies and partnership landscape

Walmart-OpenAI/Google partnership

Walmart confirmed that customers can shop and complete purchases directly inside ChatGPT and Gemini via Instant Checkout, removing the need to visit its website or app. This positions conversational AI platforms as a new digital storefront where consumer intent may increasingly originate. Early data cited by Reuters indicates rapidly growing ChatGPT-driven referrals, though from a small base, suggesting AI interfaces are becoming a meaningful discovery channel. Strategically, Walmart is pursuing a dual-track AI approach by developing its own assistant (Sparky) while also partnering with external AI platforms to capture high-intent demand without sacrificing first-party engagement.

Other partnerships shaping the ecosystem

OpenAI - Etsy / Shopify: Etsy allows US ChatGPT users to search, browse, and buy products directly inside ChatGPT using cards or wallets. Shopify highlights a similar model with no redirects, where merchants remain the merchant of record and orders flow into Shopify's system with clear attribution. Importantly, merchants pay OpenAI a fee on completed purchases.

Google Gemini partnerships: Google is working with retailers such as Walmart, Shopify, and Wayfair to enable shopping and instant checkout within the Gemini chatbot.

Shopee. Shopee has also established multiple partnerships, including with OpenAI, Google and Meta. These are discussed in detail in the later section.

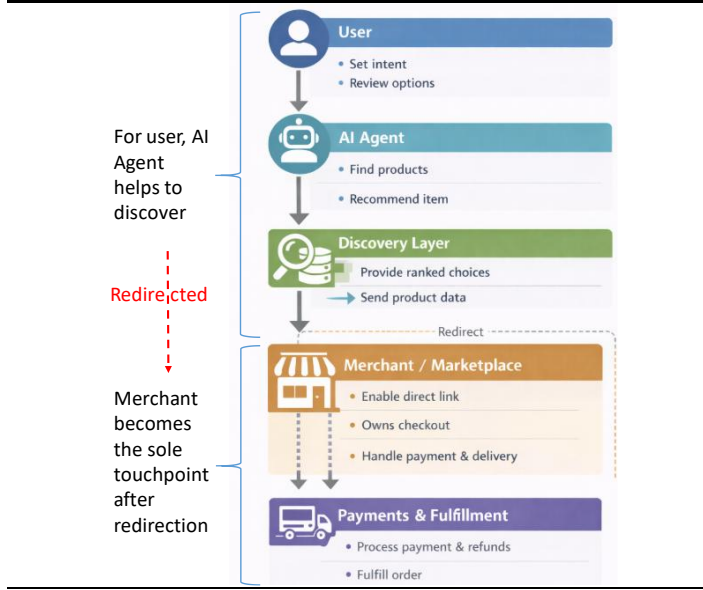
Open-loop vs closed-loop commerce architectures

Closed-loop commerce means the platform controls the primary consumer interface (discovery), the transaction layer (checkout/payment rails or embedded payment), and typically the post-purchase layer (delivery/returns/support), enabling greater capture of retail media, first-party data, and take-rate expansion.

Open-loop commerce means the primary interface for discovery (and sometimes checkout) is controlled by an external agent/aggregator, and merchants/marketplaces integrate via protocols and data feeds. Control is shared and monetization is contested.

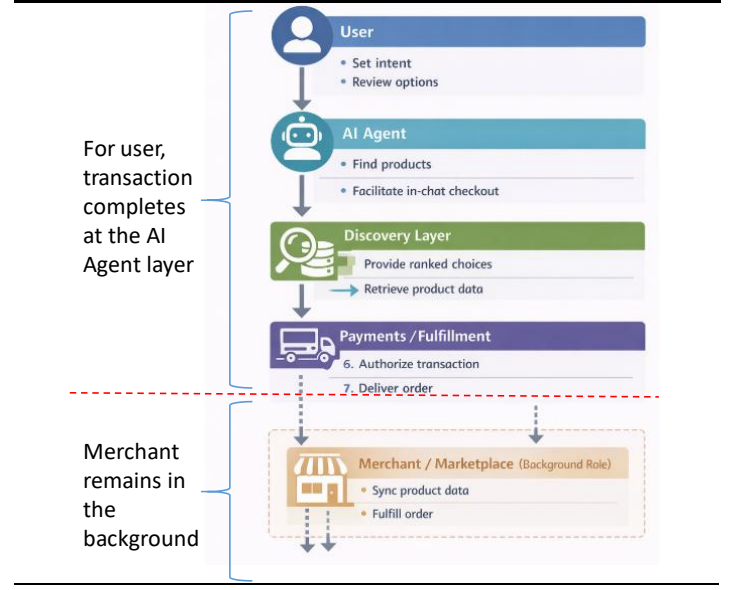
Amazon & Alibaba align with closed-loop models. Amazon embeds AI assistants (Rufus, Alexa+) directly within its own app and website, keeping discovery, checkout, payments, and fulfilment inside Amazon's ecosystem. Features like Auto Buy further anchor agentic execution to Amazon's proprietary stack. Alibaba follows a similar architecture: its Qwen-powered AI interfaces connect natively to Taobao/Tmall and complete payments via Alipay, preserving end-to-end control within its ecosystem.

Fig 3: Chat GPT's Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP) - merchant checkout process



Source: Maybank IBG Research, Company

Fig 4: Chat GPT's Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP) - agent integrated checkout process



Source: Maybank IBG Research, TikTok Shop

Where does Shopee likely sit on this spectrum? Shopee’s positioning is best characterised as hybrid, balancing open-ecosystem participation with reinforcement of platform-native moats. The recently expanded Sea-Google partnership – spanning agentic commerce prototypes (Shopee) and agentic payments collaboration (Monee/AP2) – signals clear alignment with emerging AI interfaces rather than a closed, walled-garden approach. This complements earlier signals from Sea’s OpenAI engagement, supporting “open-loop readiness” as AI assistants increasingly influence discovery and transaction flows. At the same time, Shopee continues to emphasise defensible physical layers – logistics infrastructure, payments integration, seller services, and ecosystem incentives.

How AI reshapes open-loop monetization

Open-loop economics can be viewed across five layers: discovery, transactions, payments, data/control, and fulfilment.

Discovery & ads. Search may start in AI chatbots, shifting ad spend toward AI interfaces. Marketplaces may respond by serving sponsored products via APIs.

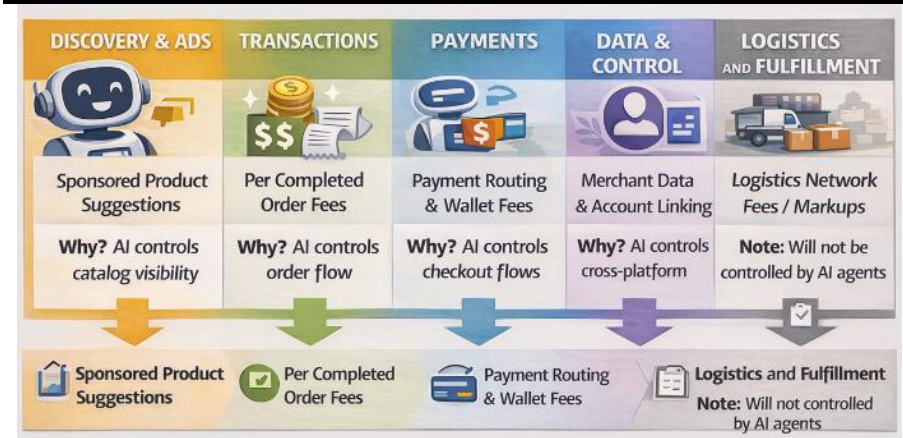
Transaction fees. AI agents can charge per completed order by controlling the checkout flow, even without owning the merchant relationship.

Payments & value capture. Payments remain the key control point. Whoever controls credentials and checkout captures the economics, fraud management, and customer ownership.

Data & control. Identity and account linking become critical as merchants try to protect first-party data and loyalty.

Logistics & Fulfilment. Physical delivery remains independent and unlikely to be controlled by AI agents.

Fig 5: How AI agents monetize each layer



Source: Maybank IBG Research

Shopee: AI commerce scenarios & implications

This section translates the AI commerce debate into Shopee’s unit economics and monetisation sensitivities. All numbers are per USD100 GMV, using your baseline and modelled scenario deltas. The scenarios vary along six key AI-driven levers that map directly to the open-loop monetization debate: (i) AI-sourced GMV share; (ii) AI “channel fee” (% of AI-sourced GMV); (iii) ad revenue migration; (iv) take-rate compression; (v) CAC relief; and (vi) incremental tech/ops costs to become agent-ready.

Besides unit economics, we also factor in potential leakage or growth in GMV due to agentic commerce.

Fig 6: Shopee app-led discovery revenue & cost breakdown - per USD100 GMV

Revenue (USD)	Value	Notes
Commission / Take Rate	10.0	
Advertising Revenue	3.0	LT ad spend
Other Seller Services	0.8	
Logistics / Services Revenue	1.2	
Total Revenue	15.0	
Cost Component (USD)	Value	
Fulfillment & Payments	-4.8	
Customer Service	-0.6	
Tech & G&A	-1.4	
Sales & Marketing (CAC)	-3.3	
Incentives / Subsidies	-2.4	
Total Costs	-12.5	
Adj EBITDA (USD)	2.5	LT steady state Adj EBITDA

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Light AI economics shift - base-case scenario

For Shopee, this would be a benign scenario where AI agents influence discovery and comparison but do not displace Shopee’s demand ownership. Shopee retains control over checkout, seller relationships, and monetisation, with AI acting as an incremental traffic and conversion channel rather than a disruptor. Take rates and advertising face only moderate pressure as brands and sellers continue to value Shopee’s native demand, merchandising tools, and ecosystem integration.

Economically, Shopee may see mild ad dilution and modest commission compression, partly offset by higher conversion, lower CAC, and improved basket efficiency from higher-intent AI-driven users. AI-related fees remain limited, resembling referral economics rather than structural taxation, while logistics, payments, and seller services continue to anchor profitability.

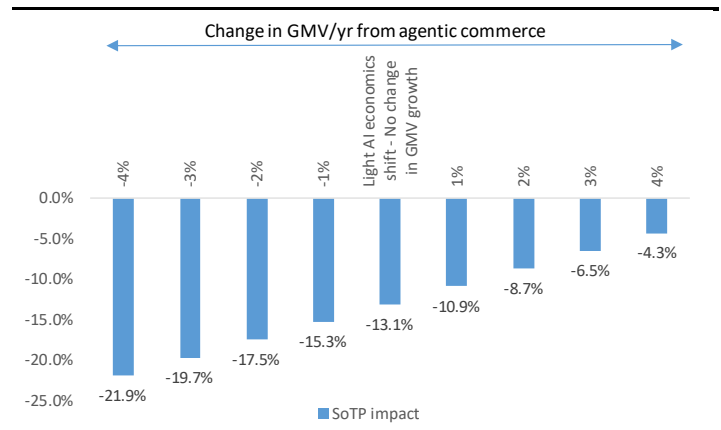
Under these scenario, we see our Sea Ltd SoTP decline by -13% to USD136. These figures may further change depending on AI’s impact on GMV growth.

Fig 7: Adj EBITDA Per USD100 GMV – baseline vs light AI economics shift scenario

	Baseline	Logistics-Utility Risk	Key Driver
Revenue (USD)			
Commission / Take Rate	10.0	9.5	Mild pricing pressure
Advertising Revenue	3.0	2.6	Partial discovery leakage
Other Seller Services	0.8	0.9	Higher attach / tools usage
Logistics / Services Revenue	1.2	1.3	Stable fulfilment demand
Total Revenue	15.0	14.3	
Costs (USD)			
Fulfillment & Payments	-4.8	-4.9	Largely stable
Customer Service	-0.6	-0.6	Stable
Tech & G&A	-1.4	-1.6	AI / infra investment
Sales & Marketing (CAC)	-3.3	-2.7	Better traffic efficiency
Incentives / Subsidies	-2.4	-2.1	Less paid stimulation
AI Platform Fees	0.0	-0.4	Limited partner economics
Total Costs	-12.5	-12.3	
Adj EBITDA (USD)	2.5	2.0	

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Fig 8: Impact on Sea Ltd SoTP of various GMV leakage or growth scenarios



Source: Maybank IBG Research

AI additive demand - best-case scenario

The AI additive demand scenario would represent a best-case outcome for Shopee where AI-driven commerce enhances rather than disrupts marketplace economics. AI interfaces reduce search friction, improve discovery, and unlock incremental purchase occasions, particularly from lower-frequency and/or offline users, while Shopee retains control over checkout, seller relationships, and fulfilment. In this setup, AI acts as a demand amplifier, not a substitution channel.

Economically, Shopee benefits from higher GMV density and better marketing efficiency due to higher-intent AI-driven demand. Although referral or interface fees may emerge, the net impact remains positive, supported by take-rate resilience and operating leverage. Advertising remains relevant as brands continue to prioritise visibility at the transaction layer.

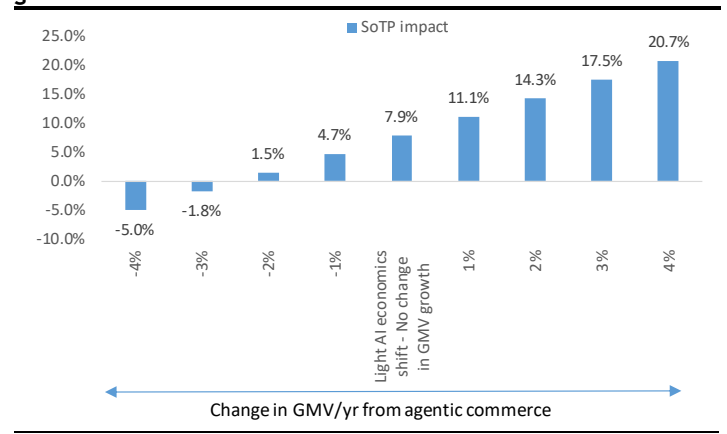
Under these scenario, we see our Sea Ltd SoTP increases by 8% to USD168. These figures may change further depending on AI’s impact on GMV growth.

Fig 9: Adj EBITDA Per USD100 GMV – baseline vs AI-additive-demand scenario

	Baseline	AI additive demand	Key Driver
Revenue (USD)			
Commission / Take Rate	10.0	10.0	Better conversion / mix
Advertising Revenue	3.0	2.7	Mild channel shift
Other Seller Services	0.8	0.8	Higher attach / tools
Logistics / Services Revenue	1.2	1.2	Higher order density
Total Revenue	15.0	14.7	
Costs (USD)			
Fulfillment & Payments	-4.8	-5.1	Volume-linked scaling
Customer Service	-0.6	-0.6	Stable efficiency
Tech & G&A	-1.4	-1.7	AI / infra investment
Sales & Marketing (CAC)	-3.3	-2.2	Higher-intent traffic
Incentives / Subsidies	-2.4	-1.8	Lower paid stimulation
AI Platform Fees	0.0	-0.5	Referral / interface economics
Total Costs	-12.5	-11.9	
Adj EBITDA (USD)	2.5	2.8	

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Fig 10: Impact on Sea Ltd SoTP of various GMV leakage or growth scenarios



Source: Maybank IBG Research

Logistics-utility risk - bear-case scenario

The logistics-utility risk scenario represents a bear-case outcome for Shopee where AI agents increasingly control discovery, comparison, and checkout, reducing Shopee’s role to fulfilment and payment processing. Traffic becomes less proprietary, weakening pricing power over take rates and advertising as value shifts to AI interfaces that own demand routing. Competition then centres on cost, speed, and reliability, raising the risk of margin compression and platform commoditisation.

Economically, commissions and ad yields face sustained pressure. While customer acquisition costs may decline as AI delivers high-intent demand, these savings are unlikely to offset revenue leakage and emerging AI platform fees. Shopee’s P&L becomes more utility-like – volume-sensitive, lower-margin, and increasingly dependent on logistics scale and cost efficiency. Under such assumptions, platform economics could turn structurally negative.

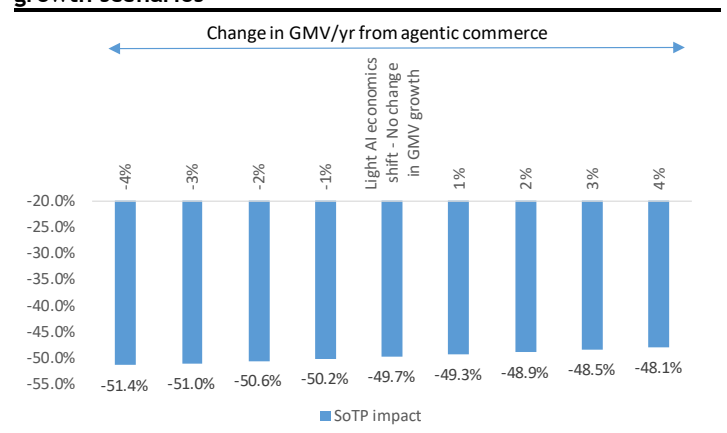
Under these scenario, we see our Sea Ltd SoTP decline by -50% to USD78.

Fig 11: Adj EBITDA Per USD100 GMV – baseline vs logistics-utility risk scenario

	Baseline	Logistics-Utility Risk	Key Driver
Revenue (USD)			
Commission / Take Rate	10.0	7.5	Reduced pricing power
Advertising Revenue	3.0	1.2	Discovery shifts to AI
Other Seller Services	0.8	0.6	Lower attach rates
Logistics / Services Revenue	1.2	2.4	Higher fulfilment mix
Total Revenue	15.0	11.7	
Costs (USD)			
Fulfillment & Payments	-4.8	-5.0	Higher logistics intensity
Customer Service	-0.6	-0.4	Only fulfillment linked
Tech & G&A	-1.4	-1.5	AI / infra costs
Sales & Marketing (CAC)	-3.3	-1.8	Lower paid acquisition
Incentives / Subsidies	-2.4	-1.2	Rationalised competition
AI Platform Fees	0.0	-1.2	Demand access cost
Total Costs	-12.5	-11.1	
Adj EBITDA (USD)	2.5	0.6	

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Fig 12: Impact on Sea Ltd SoTP of various GMV leakage or growth scenarios



Source: Maybank IBG Research

Monee as an AI-era monetisation lever

Marketplace support wallet → Ecosystem payment infrastructure

ShopeePay's potential alignment with Google's Agent Payments Protocol (AP2) carries implications beyond simple payment integration, reinforcing a structural transition from a marketplace support wallet toward broader ecosystem payment infrastructure. AP2 standardizes how AI agents initiate transactions but still relies on licensed wallets and settlement rails. ShopeePay, through Monee, already controls key components – stored value balances, KYC-linked identities, merchant acceptance, and embedded credit – positioning it as a natural execution layer within emerging agentic commerce architectures.

Fig 13: Agentic payments - ShopeePay already controls key layers

Core Layer	Function	AI Platforms (Google / OpenAI)	External Payment Partners (ShopeePay / GrabPay etc.)
User Interface & Agent Logic	Captures intent, initiates transactions	✓✓ Primary control	✗✗ Not required
Identity & Permissions	User verification, payment mandates	✓ Partial control	✓✓ Regulated KYC & wallet identity
Payment Credentials & Wallet Balances	Stores payment methods / funds source	✗✗ Limited native custody	✓✓ Core wallet function
Payment Authorization & Settlement	Legally moves money	✗✗ Structurally constrained	✓✓ Requires licensed entities
Fraud, Risk & Compliance	Manages financial liability & regulation	✓✓ Risk signals / models	✓✓ Financial & regulatory responsibility
Credit & Financing Rails	BNPL, instalments, lending economics	✗✗ Not core capability	✓✓ Wallet / lender domain strength

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Strategically, AP2 compatibility could strengthen ShopeePay's role as a wallet of choice, particularly in ASEAN where credit card penetration remains low and wallet-native behaviour dominates. As AI interfaces increasingly influence discovery and checkout, globally scaled agents will require trusted local payment endpoints. ShopeePay's integration into agentic payment flows may accelerate adoption beyond the Shopee ecosystem, consolidating consumer usage across a wider set of online and offline payment scenarios rather than remaining tethered solely to marketplace activity.

Defensive Angle: Protection against AI disintermediation. This evolution is economically meaningful for Sea's digital financial services strategy. Even if AI agents compress marketplace monetisation levers, payments, credit authorization, and fraud management remain structurally defensible layers. Expanding ShopeePay's relevance from transaction support to ecosystem-level infrastructure preserves value capture while creating new demand vectors. In this context, agentic payment standards such as AP2 could act as adoption catalysts, deepening ShopeePay's utility, reinforcing network effects, and supporting monetisation durability at the Monee level.

Fig 14: ShopeePay value capture levers



Source: Maybank IBG Research

AI-enabled wealth platforms: An untapped opportunity

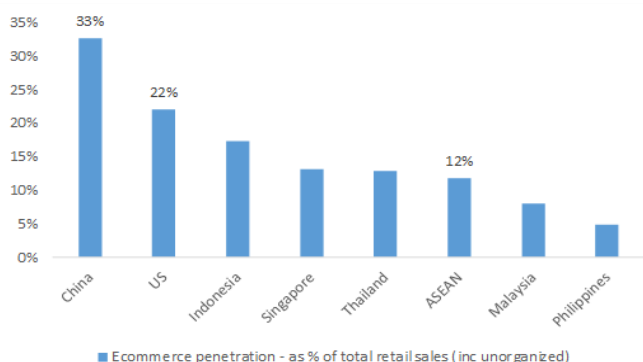
Sea’s Monee business presents structural expansion opportunities beyond core payments and credit, particularly in AI-assisted wealth and investment products. Globally, platforms such as PayPal and Alipay have demonstrated that scaled payment ecosystems can successfully layer on investment and treasury products, including money market funds and low-ticket savings vehicles. Wealthfront, Robinhood, and Nubank similarly illustrate how technology-led models enable small-balance investing by structurally lowering distribution and servicing costs. Monee to an extent has demonstrated this – 1) Monee operates the 4th largest money market fund in Singapore, which has surpassed USD1b in AUM and 2) Monee recently launched Singapore’s first physical gold-linked unit trust. Users can invest starting with USD1 in these funds/trusts.

AI capabilities further accelerate this transition by compressing advisory and customer acquisition frictions. Automated portfolio construction, risk profiling, and conversational interfaces materially reduce the cost-to-serve for mass-market users – a dynamic visible across digital wealth platforms and neobanks. This shift is particularly relevant for emerging markets, where traditional wealth management models remain inaccessible due to high minimum balances and limited financial advisory penetration.

Value Proposition

- Sea Ltd is a Singapore-founded internet company with businesses in digital entertainment, e-commerce, and digital financial services. It has dominant e-commerce market share in ASEAN and Taiwan
- We estimate ASEAN GMV to grow at a 19% CAGR over 2030E.
- Own logistics & strong balance sheet remains key competitive moat. Risk of TikTok disruption is abating while cross-border platforms have unfavourable unit economics in ASEAN.
- Although Sea's gaming business is highly dependent on Free Fire, we see it is a defensive franchise with its position in less crowded and budget conscious EM markets.

Shopee is exposed to fast-growing ASEAN e-commerce GMV

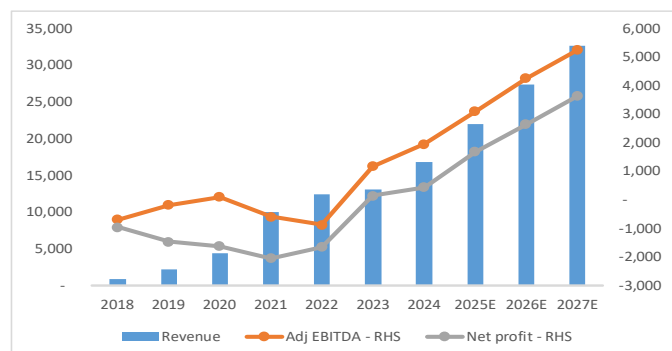


Source: Euromonitor

Financial Metrics

- We forecast FY24-27E revenue CAGR of 25%, driven by all the three business segments.
- Adjusted EBITDA is expected to grow at a 42% CAGR, helped by e-commerce business and digital financial services.
- Cash balance as of 2Q25 stood at USD10.6b.

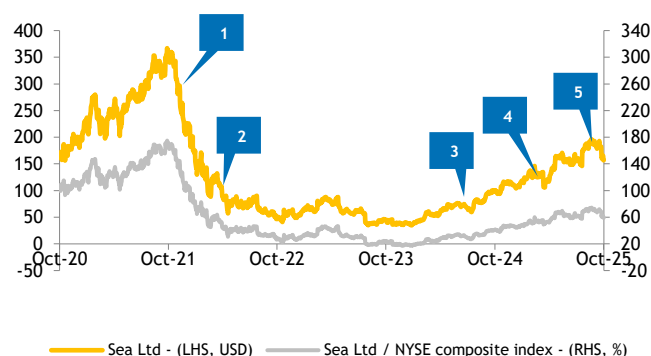
Revenue, EBITDA and net profit projections (USD m)



Source: MIBG, Company

Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- Sell-off due to broader weakness for pre-earnings growth companies amid hawkish Fed outlook.
- Sell-off due to concerns of normalising growth for Garena Free Fire, as well as.
- Better than expected 3Q24 results helped by improvement across the segments.
- Better than expected 1Q25 results helped by improvement across the segments.
- Sell-off linked to Shopee margin improvement concerns.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Stronger-than-expected user growth (across all businesses).
- Share buybacks
- Seller take rate increases and ad penetration leading to better than expected margins improvements.

Downside

- Weaker-than-expected consumer spending in the region amid macro uncertainties hurting Shopee's GMV growth.
- Slowing user growth metrics, especially if this is due to increasing competition across SE's offerings.
- Higher-than-expected credit costs for SeaMoney due to a slowdown in economic growth.
- New entrants which could intensify competition in the Southeast Asia e-commerce industry.

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Risk Rating & Score ¹	na
Score Momentum ²	na
Last Updated	na
Controversy Score ³	na

Business Model & Industry Issues

- As an internet business, we believe social issues is the most relevant, followed by governance and then environmental.
- In the e-commerce business, driving social good (e.g. providing and teaching merchants how to use services) is integral to sustainably grow the platform and to retain merchants while monetising them. For instance, in Indonesia, 57% of MSMEs reported that they generated higher profits on Shopee than on other marketplaces.
- We believe the key issues for Garena are: i) addiction; and ii) compliance to local laws. For instance, Bangladesh is reportedly trying to ban Free Fire (alongside other addictive apps like PUBG and Tik Tok). Garena's response to appease authorities is important.
- The financial sector is also a highly regulated one. In our view SeaMoney's growth will be in part influenced by not just adherence to local laws, but how SeaMoney advances government agendas (e.g. facilitate roll-out of financial assistance in Malaysia and regulatory support for digital banking initiatives in ASEAN).
- Data security is also a critical ESG factor. SE has employed various security measures to ensure this. (e.g. encryption of sensitive data, monitoring for unauthorized access etc).

Material E issues

- Aside from the increased use of packaging materials associated with e-commerce as compared to traditional commerce, we do not see much environmental issues as the remaining businesses are digital based (i.e. gaming and digital financial services).
- We believe carbon emissions from running the computer servers that SE uses is also a key environmental footprint, although not much has been discussed in SE's sustainability report pertaining to environmental factors.

Material S issues

- Of Sea's >30,000 global workforce, 46% are females. Furthermore, 46% of the middle to senior management positions are held by females. Sea also boasts a diverse culture of over 50 different nationalities in its company.
- Sea strongly believes in hiring and grooming local talent, and is one of the largest employers of fresh graduates across Southeast Asia.
- During the pandemic, Shopee provided financial support and relief to SMEs by easing operational costs and attracting new customers. Shopee also provided the SMEs with online courses to help them to scale their business in the long run. Furthermore, Sea committed more than USD35m worth of Covid-19 Seller Support Packages across its markets, and provided donations of more than USD510,000.

Key G metrics and issues

- The board has 6 members, 3 of which are non-executive.
- From a data-security standpoint, Sea is committed to ensuring that the processing of personal data of consumers, employers and other stakeholders are carried out lawfully. Sea states that it uses its data collected to improve products to better serve its communities.
- Given a large part of Sea's competitive advantage is derived from the network effects from its large user base across multiple markets, compliance with laws is of utmost importance.

¹**Risk Rating & Score** - derived by Sustainalytics and assesses the company's exposure to unmanaged ESG risks. Scores range between 0 - 50 in order of increasing severity with low/high scores & ratings representing negligible/significant risk to the company's enterprise value, respectively, from ESG-driven financial impacts. ²**Score Momentum** - indicates changes to the company's score since the last update - a **negative** integer indicates a company's improving risk score; a **positive** integer indicates a deterioration. ³**Controversy Score** - reported periodically by Sustainalytics in the event of material ESG-related incident(s), with the impact severity scores of these events ranging from Category 0-5 (0 - no reports; 1 - negligible risks; ...; 5 - poses serious risks & indicative of potential structural deficiencies at the company).

FYE 31 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	126.7	100.1	39.5	28.6	22.3
Core P/E (x)	89.6	144.4	39.5	28.6	22.3
Core FD P/E (x)	88.6	nm	43.3	31.0	23.9
P/BV (x)	3.5	7.3	6.2	4.8	3.8
P/NTA (x)	3.5	7.2	6.2	4.8	3.8
Net dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FCF yield (%)	7.6	4.3	2.7	6.1	6.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	30.9	57.3	26.3	17.3	12.6
EV/EBIT (x)	70.6	95.3	31.8	19.9	14.2

INCOME STATEMENT (USD m)

Revenue	13,063.6	16,819.9	22,607.8	28,918.8	34,286.7
EBITDA	783.5	1,101.4	2,382.1	3,463.5	4,470.8
Depreciation	(440.8)	(439.3)	(412.4)	(452.7)	(493.2)
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	342.7	662.2	1,969.7	3,010.8	3,977.6
Net interest income / (exp)	290.2	327.5	327.5	327.5	338.5
Associates & JV	(7.0)	(9.8)	(19.6)	(19.6)	(19.6)
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	(82.6)	(210.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	543.2	769.0	2,277.6	3,318.7	4,296.5
Income tax	(262.7)	(321.2)	(618.3)	(981.4)	(1,266.7)
Minorities	(12.0)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	268.6	444.3	1,655.8	2,333.8	3,026.2
Core net profit	268.6	444.3	1,655.8	2,333.8	3,026.2

BALANCE SHEET (USD m)

Cash & Short Term Investments	4,221.4	4,060.3	5,828.3	9,843.8	14,063.6
Accounts receivable	262.7	306.7	929.1	1,188.4	1,409.0
Inventory	125.4	143.2	170.1	208.4	242.4
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	1,207.7	1,097.7	1,378.5	1,808.4	2,358.8
Intangible assets	50.8	27.3	42.3	57.3	72.3
Investment in Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other assets	13,015.2	16,990.2	17,483.3	17,970.8	18,368.8
Total assets	18,883.2	22,625.5	25,831.6	31,077.1	36,514.9
ST interest bearing debt	146.7	130.6	130.6	130.6	130.6
Accounts payable	342.5	350.0	324.9	273.3	319.6
LT interest bearing debt	3,069.1	1,728.3	1,728.3	1,728.3	1,728.3
Other liabilities	8,627.0	11,939.0	12,852.0	14,972.0	16,362.0
Total Liabilities	12,185.6	14,147.9	15,035.7	17,104.3	18,540.9
Shareholders Equity	6,593.8	8,372.3	10,687.2	13,860.6	17,858.3
Minority Interest	103.8	105.2	108.7	112.3	115.8
Total shareholder equity	6,697.6	8,477.6	10,796.0	13,972.8	17,974.1
Total liabilities and equity	18,883.2	22,625.5	25,831.6	31,077.1	36,514.9

CASH FLOW (USD m)

Pretax profit	543.2	769.0	2,277.6	3,318.7	4,296.5
Depreciation & amortisation	440.8	439.3	412.4	452.7	493.2
Adj net interest (income)/exp	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in working capital	359.5	1,383.3	(274.2)	1,263.9	764.4
Cash taxes paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other operating cash flow	736.1	685.9	60.4	(122.2)	(275.7)
Cash flow from operations	2,079.7	3,277.4	2,476.2	4,913.0	5,278.4
Capex	(241.6)	(504.6)	(678.2)	(867.6)	(1,028.6)
Free cash flow	1,838.1	2,772.8	1,798.0	4,045.4	4,249.8
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	177.6	114.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	(1,998.8)	(3,729.5)	(4,362.6)	159.3	131.0
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	16.9	(842.5)	(2,564.6)	4,204.8	4,380.9

FYE 31 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	4.9	28.8	34.4	27.9	18.6
EBITDA growth	nm	40.6	116.3	45.4	29.1
EBIT growth	nm	93.2	197.5	52.9	32.1
Pretax growth	nm	41.6	196.2	45.7	29.5
Reported net profit growth	nm	65.4	272.7	40.9	29.7
Core net profit growth	nm	65.4	272.7	40.9	29.7
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	6.0	6.5	10.5	12.0	13.0
EBIT margin	2.6	3.9	8.7	10.4	11.6
Pretax profit margin	4.2	4.6	10.1	11.5	12.5
Payout ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	2.1	2.6	7.3	8.1	8.8
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
Assets/Equity (x)	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.0
ROAE (%)	4.4	5.9	17.4	19.0	19.1
ROAA (%)	1.5	2.1	6.8	8.2	9.0
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	(1.8)	(1.8)	4.5	10.6	12.2
Days receivable outstanding	7.3	6.1	9.8	13.2	13.6
Days inventory outstanding	5.9	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.6
Days payables outstanding	15.0	13.0	9.9	7.1	6.0
Dividend cover (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Current ratio (x)	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash
Net interest cover (x)	na	na	na	na	na
Debt/EBITDA (x)	4.1	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.4
Capex/revenue (%)	1.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Net debt/ (net cash)	(1,005.7)	(2,201.5)	(3,969.5)	(7,984.9)	(12,204.7)

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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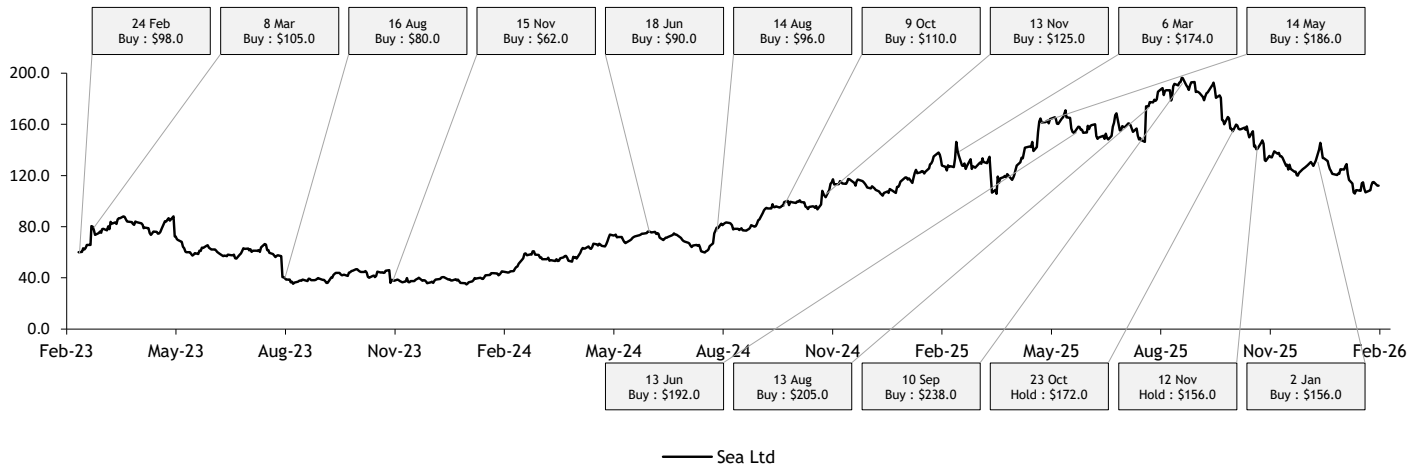
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Historical recommendations and target price: Sea Ltd (SE US)



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