

Press Metal Aluminium (PMAH MK)

Temporary upside from war premium

War premium offers near term earnings upside

We maintain our forecasts, TP of MYR7.50, and HOLD on PMAH. While the ongoing Middle East conflict introduces a positive war premium for aluminium prices, we believe any share price impact on PMAH is likely temporary. On 3 Mar 2026, Norsk Hydro announced a controlled shutdown of its aluminium JV in Qatar amid escalating tensions. The Middle East accounts for c.8% of global aluminium capacity, although Qatar itself represents <1%. Based on our sensitivity analysis, every USD100 increase in aluminium prices lifts PMAH's revenue by c.3%, but contributes <1% to net profit.

Historical precedent points to short lived price spike

We benchmark the current situation against the Russia-Ukraine conflict (2021-2022). Aluminium prices surged sharply to a peak of USD3,877 from a pre-war range of USD2,600-2,700, but the rally was short-lived, lasting around two quarters (Dec 2021-Jun 2022) before normalising. Notably, the upside was not purely geopolitical. China's announcement of production curbs and a post-Covid demand rebound also contributed. Consequently, despite elevated peak prices, the average aluminium price over the period was USD3,061 (vs. our FY26E spot assumption of USD3,100).

Upside from PE expansion

During that same period, PMAH experienced a sharp valuation rerating. Its PER peaked at ~+2SD above the historical mean, exceeding 40x, while the average PER across the cycle stood at ~35x (FY22: ~32x), vs. our current valuation peg of 27x. Should valuation rerate back to +2SD, our blue-sky TP would be MYR11.10 (at peak).

Temporary uplift; neutral stance maintained

Overall, we see PMAH as a temporary beneficiary of the current war-related disruptions. Upside drivers include a sustained wider aluminium-alumina spread (margin accretive) and firmer regional aluminium premiums. However, given the historically short-lived nature of such rallies and uncertainty around conflict duration, we maintain our neutral stance and existing assumptions on PMAH. Our HOLD rating and MYR7.50 TP (27x FY26E PER) is maintained.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	14,910	16,200	16,238	16,770	16,906
EBITDA	2,664	3,345	3,579	3,901	3,927
Core net profit	1,858	2,161	2,288	2,672	2,823
Core EPS (sen)	22.5	26.2	27.8	32.4	34.3
Core EPS growth (%)	49.5	16.3	5.9	16.8	5.6
Net DPS (sen)	7.0	8.0	8.7	10.2	10.8
Core P/E (x)	21.7	27.1	26.7	22.8	21.6
P/BV (x)	4.8	6.3	5.6	4.8	4.1
Net dividend yield (%)	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5
ROAE (%)	22.9	23.5	22.5	22.5	20.5
ROAA (%)	11.6	12.1	11.4	12.2	11.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.7	18.6	17.7	16.0	15.5
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	22.9	13.0	net cash	net cash	net cash
Consensus net profit	-	-	2,493	2,802	2,856
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(8.2)	(4.6)	(1.2)

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HOLD

Share Price MYR 7.40
12m Price Target MYR 7.50 (+2%)
Previous Price Target MYR 7.50

Company Description

Press Metal is a local integrated aluminium producer with an extensive global market reach.

Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	7.78/4.25
3m avg turnover (USDm)	32.8
Free float (%)	37.5
Issued shares (m)	8,240
Market capitalisation	MYR61.0B USD15.5B

Major shareholders:

Paul Koon Pte Ltd.	33.7%
Employees Provident Fund	7.9%
KOON POH MING	5.3%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(3)	10	53
Relative to index (%)	(2)	4	39

Source: FactSet

Figure 1: Current conflict vs. Russian-Ukraine war

Key factors	Russia-Ukraine War (2021-2022)	Middle East War (2026)
Demand-Supply	Multi-factor driven rally, resulting in both supply and demand shocks	Primarily driven by supply shocks; demand growth is structural but slower (less exuberance compared with the post-Covid rebound)
Aluminium-Alumina spread	Spot aluminium-alumina spread at ~13%	40% hedged at ~14.5%; spot spread likely lower, but alumina spot price is already nearing costs
LME Inventories	LME inventories fell from ~770 kt to ~450 kt	LME inventories currently stand around 465 kt
Output Disrupted	Russia and Ukraine together accounted for ~5.75% of global aluminium output	Middle East accounts for 8-10% of global aluminium output, but Qatar alone contributing <1% (Qatar's Qatalum smelter shutdown is the only confirmed \to date)

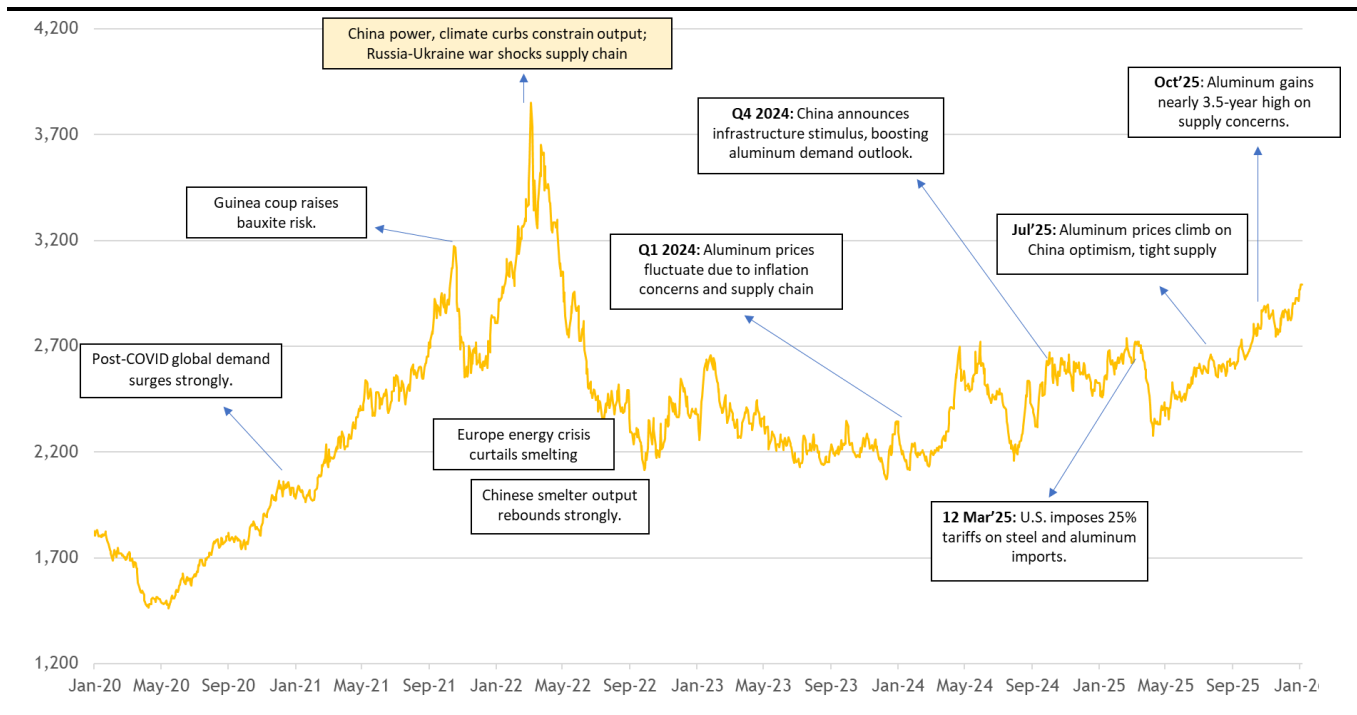
Source: Maybank IBG Research

Figure 2: Valuation sensitivity

PER	Scenarios	TP (MYR)
27x	base case	7.50
34x	+1 SD	9.44
40x	+2 SD	11.11

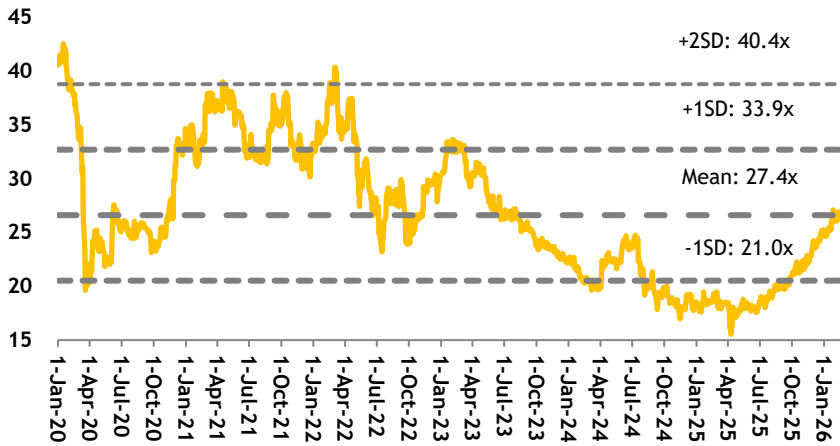
Source: Maybank IBG Research

Figure 3: Aluminium historical price trend



Source: Maybank IBG Research, various news sources

Figure 4: PMAH's 1Y forward P/E band



Source: Maybank IBG Research, Bloomberg

Figure 5: Aluminium spot price



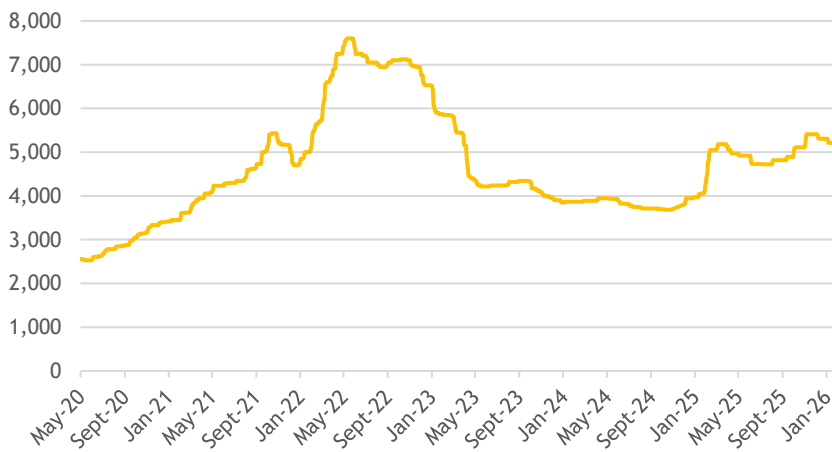
Source: Maybank IBG Research, Bloomberg

Figure 6: Alumina spot price



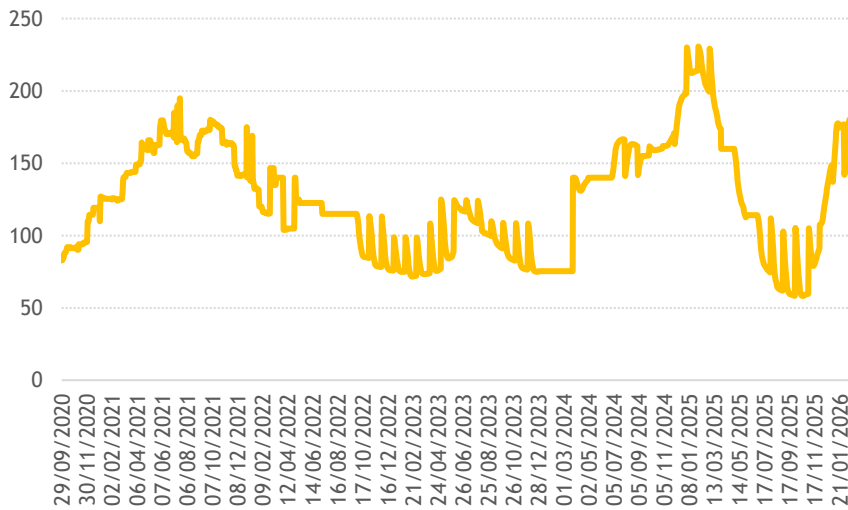
Source: Maybank IBG Research, Bloomberg

Figure 7: Carbon Anode spot price



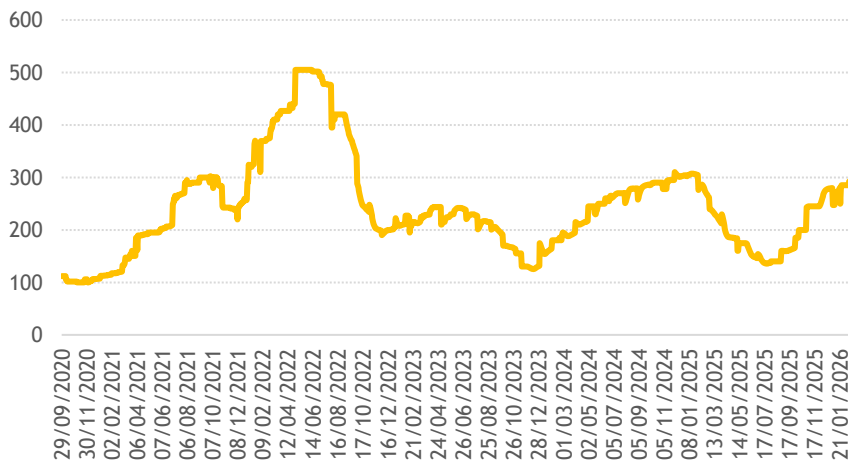
Source: Maybank IBG Research, Bloomberg

Figure 8: Aluminium Japan Premium (Platts) (NYM \$/MT)



Source: Maybank IBG Research, Factset

Figure 9: Aluminium European Premium Duty-Unpaid Metal Bulletin (NYM \$/MT)

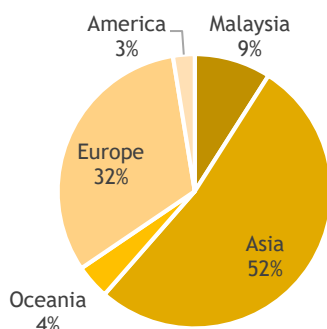


Source: Maybank IBG Research, Factset

Value Proposition

- Press Metal captures value through full integration from alumina to downstream products, leveraging Malaysia’s low-cost energy, low-carbon hydropower advantage and strategic location.
- It is ASEAN’s largest smelter (>1mtpa), now shifting focus from expansion to integration and margin optimisation.
- The company is well positioned in a tightening supply cycle, benefiting from China’s production cap and trade shifts driven by geopolitical tensions.
- Serves as a proxy to aluminium’s constructive outlook, with demand growth expected to outpace supply and underpinned by structural drivers in clean energy, AI, and data centres.

Revenue breakdown by countries

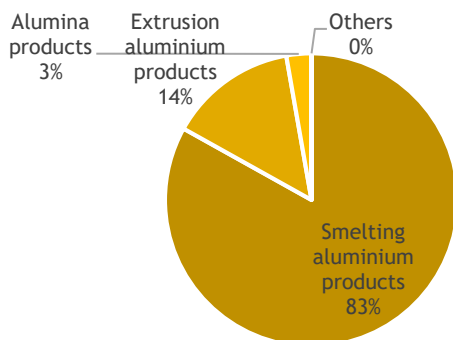


Source: Company

Financial Metrics

- Aluminium price movements directly impact top line, with hedging (65%/50%/40% at USD2,600/2,650/2,700 for FY25E/26E/27E) smoothing near-term earnings volatility.
- Aluminium-alumina spread remains the key driver of profitability, with downstream margins benefiting from lower alumina costs and hydropower advantage.
- Earnings also hinge on smelting capacity utilisation, ramp-up of associates (NAIHL, PT KAN), and downstream exports.
- Cost leadership from low energy tariffs and integrated value chain sustains competitive margins relative to peers.

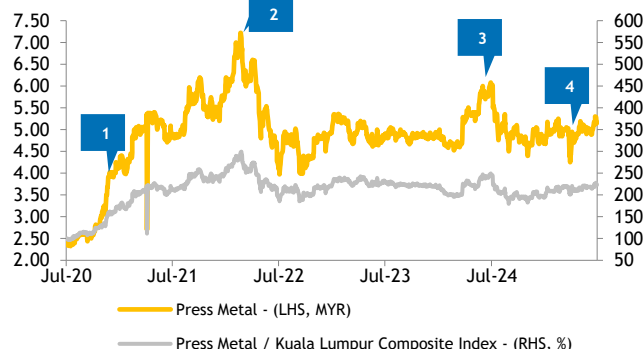
Revenue breakdown by segment



Source: Company

Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

1. Inline with aluminium price, which surged from 2020-2022 on post-pandemic demand recovery, China’s supply caps and energy curbs, and heightened geopolitical risks from the Russia-Ukraine war.
2. Inline with aluminium price, which retreated after peaking in March 2022 as the absence of direct sanctions kept Russian supply in the market, while China’s demand slowdown and smelter restarts further pressured prices.
3. Correlated with aluminium price movements.
4. Impact from the US announcement of reciprocal tariffs.

Swing Factors

Upside

- A sustained rally in aluminium prices would lift PMAH’s earnings leverage.
- Softer alumina or carbon anode prices would expand downstream margins faster than expected.
- Faster-than-expected commissioning of new capacity (NAIHL’s 4th line or PT KAN) could add incremental earnings earlier.

Downside

- A sharp correction in aluminium on slower global demand would erode earnings.
- Raw materials or energy cost spikes could squeeze margins despite hedging strategies.
- Unexpected outages (e.g. fire incident) or project delays could impact production and growth trajectory.

FYE 31 Dec	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	23.5	21.5	26.7	22.8	21.6
Core P/E (x)	21.7	27.1	26.7	22.8	21.6
P/BV (x)	4.8	6.3	5.6	4.8	4.1
P/NTA (x)	4.8	6.3	5.6	4.8	4.1
Net dividend yield (%)	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5
FCF yield (%)	4.4	3.0	3.9	4.4	4.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.7	18.6	17.7	16.0	15.5
EV/EBIT (x)	23.5	24.2	22.7	19.9	19.4
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	14,909.5	16,199.7	16,237.8	16,770.3	16,906.3
EBITDA	2,663.9	3,345.5	3,579.3	3,900.5	3,927.3
Depreciation	(765.0)	(775.5)	(775.5)	(775.5)	(775.5)
Amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBIT	1,898.9	2,570.0	2,803.8	3,125.1	3,151.8
Net interest income / (exp)	(154.8)	(131.8)	11.4	139.9	279.7
Associates & JV	559.3	426.2	438.3	537.6	586.6
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	2,303.4	2,864.4	3,253.5	3,802.6	4,018.1
Income tax	(178.7)	(357.2)	(405.8)	(474.2)	(501.1)
Minorities	(359.0)	(406.4)	(560.0)	(656.1)	(693.8)
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	1,765.7	2,100.8	2,287.8	2,672.3	2,823.1
Core net profit	1,857.5	2,161.1	2,287.8	2,672.3	2,823.1
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	1,508.7	2,620.3	3,780.9	5,116.8	6,613.4
Accounts receivable	1,470.6	1,541.3	1,544.9	1,595.6	1,608.5
Inventory	2,621.2	2,659.5	2,665.7	2,753.2	2,775.5
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	7,029.5	7,839.8	7,864.3	7,888.8	7,913.4
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	2,001.0	2,223.5	2,661.7	3,199.4	3,786.0
Other assets	2,003.1	2,289.8	2,289.8	2,289.8	2,289.8
Total assets	16,634.2	19,174.1	20,807.3	22,843.5	24,986.5
ST interest bearing debt	1,842.5	1,014.0	764.0	514.0	264.0
Accounts payable	1,342.1	1,408.6	1,411.9	1,458.2	1,470.0
Insurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LT interest bearing debt	2,028.0	3,103.7	2,853.7	2,603.7	2,353.7
Other liabilities	1,116.0	2,139.0	2,139.0	2,139.0	2,139.0
Total Liabilities	6,329.1	7,664.8	7,168.2	6,714.5	6,226.3
Shareholders Equity	8,476.2	9,369.8	10,939.7	12,773.5	14,710.8
Minority Interest	1,829.0	2,139.5	2,699.5	3,355.6	4,049.4
Total shareholder equity	10,305.1	11,509.3	13,639.2	16,129.1	18,760.2
Total liabilities and equity	16,634.2	19,174.1	20,807.3	22,843.5	24,986.5
CASH FLOW (MYR m)					
Pretax profit	2,303.4	2,864.4	3,253.5	3,802.6	4,018.1
Depreciation & amortisation	765.0	775.5	775.5	775.5	775.5
Adj net interest (income)/exp	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in working capital	(169.6)	76.8	(6.6)	(91.8)	(23.4)
Cash taxes paid	(39.7)	(121.5)	(405.8)	(474.2)	(501.1)
Other operating cash flow	(309.3)	(247.0)	(438.3)	(537.6)	(586.6)
Cash flow from operations	2,549.8	3,348.2	3,178.4	3,474.4	3,682.4
Capex	(777.4)	(1,613.5)	(800.0)	(800.0)	(800.0)
Free cash flow	1,772.5	1,734.7	2,378.4	2,674.4	2,882.4
Dividends paid	(576.8)	(638.6)	(717.8)	(838.5)	(885.8)
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perpetual securities	(550.0)	800.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	127.7	(474.4)	(500.0)	(500.0)	(500.0)
Other invest/financing cash flow	(459.3)	(205.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Effect of exch rate changes	(24.9)	(105.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	289.1	1,111.3	1,160.5	1,336.0	1,496.6

FYE 31 Dec	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	8.0	8.7	0.2	3.3	0.8
EBITDA growth	13.6	25.6	7.0	9.0	0.7
EBIT growth	14.6	35.3	9.1	11.5	0.9
Pretax growth	40.0	24.4	13.6	16.9	5.7
Reported net profit growth	45.3	19.0	8.9	16.8	5.6
Core net profit growth	49.5	16.3	5.9	16.8	5.6
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	17.9	20.7	22.0	23.3	23.2
EBIT margin	12.7	15.9	17.3	18.6	18.6
Pretax profit margin	15.4	17.7	20.0	22.7	23.8
Payout ratio	32.7	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.4
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	11.8	13.0	14.1	15.9	16.7
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Assets/Equity (x)	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
ROAE (%)	22.9	23.5	22.5	22.5	20.5
ROAA (%)	11.6	12.1	11.4	12.2	11.8
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	72.5	66.9	69.7	69.3	70.2
Days receivable outstanding	33.8	33.5	34.2	33.7	34.1
Days inventory outstanding	77.3	69.8	75.5	75.7	76.6
Days payables outstanding	38.6	36.4	40.0	40.1	40.6
Dividend cover (x)	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Current ratio (x)	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.7	4.6
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.6	2.5	2.9	3.4	4.0
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	22.9	13.0	net cash	net cash	net cash
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	22.9	13.0	net cash	net cash	net cash
Net interest cover (x)	12.3	19.5	na	na	na
Debt/EBITDA (x)	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7
Capex/revenue (%)	5.2	10.0	4.9	4.8	4.7
Net debt/ (net cash)	2,361.8	1,497.3	(163.2)	(1,999.2)	(3,995.7)

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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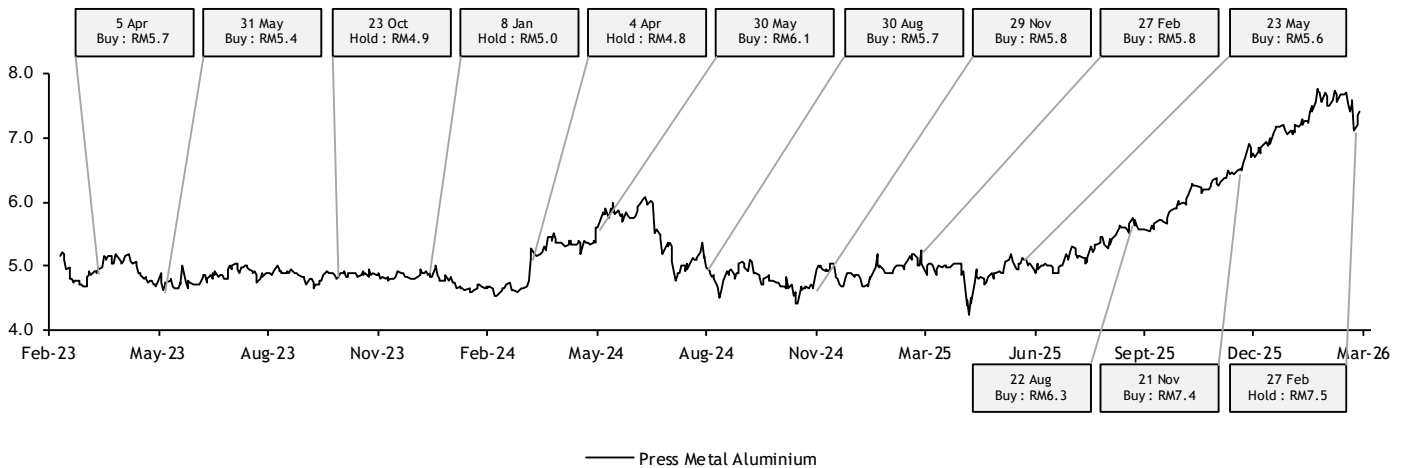
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