

26 January 2023

Sunway Construction (SCGB MK)

Strategically Repositioning Itself; Keep BUY

- Keep BUY with MYR2.07 TP, 24% upside and c.5% FY23F yield. We expect Sunway Construction's 4Q22 core net profit to increase 30-50% QoQ and reach MYR35-40m backed by improved labour supply and operating conditions. This would translate to a FY22 earnings growth of >20%. Aside from venturing into data centres that are gaining traction, further earnings upside may come if SCGB takes on the job as an EPC contractor for a power plant in Vietnam (effective contract value of MYR6bn to SCGB). Key risks include labour shortage and failure to secure new jobs.
- Orderbook update. We estimate SCGB's outstanding orderbook MYR5.5-6.0bn after taking into account the MYR1.7bn job win in Dec 2022 for the data centre in Johor – which translates into an orderbook-to-revenue cover ratio of 3.2-3.5x – higher than the peer average ratio of c.3x. We view the data centre job in Johor to be an impetus for earnings growth amid better PBT margins of c.8% and larger earnings recognition spread over a shorter period of 21 months compared to its normal construction jobs of MYR200-300m that are billed over two to four years on average. We also gathered that there are also some data centre jobs under SCGB's tenderbook size of >MYR10bn which likely includes jobs such as the Johor Bahru – Singapore Rapid Transit System Link.
- Labour supply update. As SCGB plans to venture into data centre jobs with shorter timelines, we draw comfort from SCGB's incoming foreign labour supply. In Nov 2022, SCGB received 342 of the 400 foreign workers approved, with the remainder likely to have arrived by now. We believe the month of Dec 2022 could see higher activity levels at work sites. SCGB also applied for another 600 foreign workers (likely to be approved in 1Q23). If this application is approved, SCGB's total foreign worker manpower would stand at c.1,000 workers vs c.800 workers (pre-pandemic period).
- Outlook. We consider SCGB's move to bid for data centre or industrial-related jobs to be strategic. Such move may mitigate the risks of slow job replenishments from public infrastructure projects, ie Mass Rapid Transit (MRT3) that may likely be subject to cost review. For context, 8% of SCGB's outstanding orderbook came from infrastructure/piling jobs as at end Sep 2022 vs >40% as at end Dec 2018. Meanwhile, its precast segment is expected to be supported by launches of Singapore's Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats with 23k HDB flats slated to be launched in 2023 according to Singapore's HDB. Recall that >90% of SCGB's precast revenue comes from projects in Singapore.
- We make no changes to our earnings estimates and retain our yearly new job win target of MYR2.5bn for FY23-24F. Therefore, our TP remains at MYR2.07 based on an unchanged 15.5x target P/E pegged to FY23F EPS after imputing a 4% premium to our intrinsic valuation based on our ESG scoring methodology. The valuation target is above the KLCON Index's 5-year mean of 12x to reflect SCGB's commendable orderbook/revenue cover ratio of 3.2-3.5x, backed by a lean balance sheet.

| Forecasts and Valuation | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24F |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total turnover (MYRm) | 1,553 | 1,729 | 2,264 | 3,304 | 3,620 |
| Recurring net profit (MYRm) | 92 | 110 | 141 | 166 | 176 |
| Recurring net profit growth (%) | (31.6) | 19.9 | 27.4 | 18.3 | 6.0 |
| Recurring P/E (x) | 23.47 | 19.58 | 15.36 | 12.98 | 12.25 |
| P/B (x) | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| P/CF (x) | 10.25 | 18.12 | 36.14 | 11.75 | 10.65 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 2.4 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 14.34 | 9.62 | 7.03 | 6.10 | 5.99 |
| Return on average equity (%) | 11.6 | 17.2 | 19.3 | 21.1 | 20.6 |
| Net debt to equity (%) | 16.7 | 21.1 | 35.7 | 26.9 | 17.8 |

Source: Company data, RHB

Market Dateline / PP 19489/05/2019 (035080)

Malaysia Company Update

Construction & Engineering | Construction

Buy (Maintained)

| Target Price (Return): | MYR2.07 (24%) |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Price (Market Cap): | MYR1.67 (USD502m) |
| ESG score: | 3.20 (out of 4) |
| Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD) | 0.83m/0.19m |

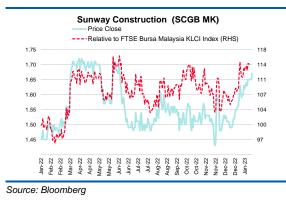
Analyst

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Share Performance (%)

| | YTD | 1m | 3m | 6m | 12m |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----|------|--------|
| Absolute | 7.1 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 11.3 | 15.2 |
| Relative | 6.8 | 8.2 | 6.0 | 9.2 | 15.8 |
| 52-wk Price low | /high (MYR) | | | 1.43 | - 1.72 |



Overall ESG Score: 3.20 (out of 4)

E: EXCELLENT

Implemented rooftop solar panels at its Sunway Precast Industries plant at Senai, Johor, to reduce the carbon emissions of site operations. With this, 98.6MWh of energy can be consumed via solar generation at this Senai plant, avoiding 57.7 tonnes of carbon emissions. In FY21, the group guided that its carbon emission intensity per unit revenue has declined from 98 tonnes carbon dioxide/MYR million.

S: GOOD

The group ensures the safety and health of all its employees, and public areas surrounding the construction sites, via various training and safety programmes. Apart from up-to-standard health & safety policies, we see active community engagement and efforts to uplift employee relations.

G: EXCELLENT

57% of its board members are independent, with full disclosure on director remuneration, including salaries and bonuses. The group has an in-house investor relations team. Accessibility to investor relations is excellent, and the team mostly helps to deal with investor queries.



Construction & Engineering Sunway Construction

Asia Malaysia

SCGB MK Buy

Valuation basis

Key drivers

Key risks

Financial Exhibits

We value the company based on FY23F P/E of 15.5x. Sunway Construction's minimal net debt position allows

Sunway Construction is one of the largest construction companies in Malaysia. Apart from civil & infrastructure construction services, the company also provides the more specialised: i. Foundation & geotechnical engineering services; ii. Mechanical, electrical & plumbing (MEP) services. In addition, it runs a highly profitable precast concrete product manufacturing operation in Malaysia and Singapore. Aside from

fulfilling local requirements, it also largely supplies hose concrete products for Housing & Development Board

(HDB) projects in the island republic.

it to gear up for more jobs moving forward.

firm busy for the next three years; ii. Recurring orders from its parent company.

i. Potential labour shortage;
 ii. Failure to secure new jobs.

Company Profile

Sunway Construction's earnings are backed by: i. An outstanding order backlog of MYR5.5-6bn, of which >90% is from construction, which would keep the

Construction & Engineering | Construction

| Financial summary (MYR) | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24 |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Recurring EPS | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| DPS | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| BVPS | 0.49 | 0.54 | 0.58 | 0.64 | 0.69 |
| Return on average equity (%) | 11.6 | 17.2 | 19.3 | 21.1 | 20.6 |
| Valuation metrics | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24 |
| Recurring P/E (x) | 23.47 | 19.58 | 15.36 | 12.98 | 12.25 |
| P/B (x) | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| FCF Yield (%) | 9.6 | 3.9 | 0.2 | 6.0 | 6.8 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 2.4 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 14.34 | 9.62 | 7.03 | 6.10 | 5.99 |
| EV/EBIT (x) | 19.64 | 11.51 | 9.09 | 7.87 | 7.33 |
| Income statement (MYRm) | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24F |
| Total turnover | 1,553 | 1,729 | 2,264 | 3,304 | 3,620 |
| Gross profit | 270 | 358 | 461 | 616 | 679 |
| EBITDA | 124 | 167 | 242 | 272 | 267 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (33) | (27) | (55) | (61) | (49) |
| Operating profit | 91 | 139 | 187 | 211 | 219 |
| Net interest | 1 | (0) | (14) | (10) | (9) |
| Pre-tax profit | 102 | 155 | 177 | 209 | (9) |
| Taxation | (28) | (41) | (36) | (43) | (43) |
| Reported net profit | 73 | 115 | 141 | 166 | (43) |
| Recurring net profit | 92 | 115 | 141 | 166 | 176 |
| | 92 | 110 | 141 | 100 | 170 |
| Cash flow (MYRm) | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24F |
| Change in working capital | 104 | (36) | (136) | (44) | (22) |
| Cash flow from operations | 211 | 119 | 60 | 184 | 203 |
| Capex | (3) | (35) | (55) | (55) | (55) |
| Cash flow from investing activities | (173) | (174) | (55) | (55) | (54) |
| Dividends paid | (62) | (52) | (84) | (100) | (106) |
| Cash flow from financing activities | (147) | (122) | (10) | (25) | (31) |
| Cash at beginning of period | 615 | 200 | 99 | 55 | 158 |
| Net change in cash | (110) | (177) | (5) | 103 | 117 |
| Ending balance cash | 505 | 23 | 94 | 158 | 276 |
| Balance sheet (MYRm) | Dec-20 | Dec-21 | Dec-22F | Dec-23F | Dec-24F |
| Total cash and equivalents | 200 | 99 | 55 | 158 | 276 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 107 | 130 | 130 | 124 | 130 |
| Total investments | 489 | 724 | 724 | 724 | 724 |
| Total assets | 1,906 | 1,869 | 1,931 | 2,454 | 2,705 |
| Short-term debt | 234 | 93 | 143 | 193 | 243 |
| Short-term debt | | | 110 | | |
| Total long-term debt | 73 | 158 | 163 | 173 | 183 |
| | | | | 173 1,687 | |
| Total long-term debt | 73 | 158 | 163 | | 1,868 |
| Total long-term debt Total liabilities | 73 1,267 | 158 1,153 | 163 1,230 | 1,687 | 1,868 838 |
| Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity | 73 1,267 639 | 158 1,153 717 | 163 1,230 701 | 1,687 767 | 1,868 838 2,705 |
| Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity | 73 1,267 639 1,906 | 158 1,153 717 1,869 | 163 1,230 701 1,931 | 1,687 767 2,454 | 1,868 838 2,705 Dec-24f |
| Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity Key metrics Revenue growth (%) | 73 1,267 639 1,906 Dec-20 | 158 1,153 717 1,869 Dec-21 | 163 1,230 701 1,931 Dec-22F | 1,687 767 2,454 Dec-23F | 1,868 838 2,705 Dec-24f 9.6 |
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| Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity Key metrics Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) | 73 1,267 639 1,906 Dec-20 (12.2) (31.6) 17.4 | 158 1,153 717 1,869 Dec-21 11.4 19.9 20.7 | 163 1,230 701 1,931 Dec-22F 30.9 27.4 20.3 | 1,687 767 2,454 Dec-23F 46.0 18.3 18.6 | 1,868 838 2,705 Dec-24f 9.6 6.0 18.7 7.4 |
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Source: Company data, RHB



Construction & Engineering | Construction

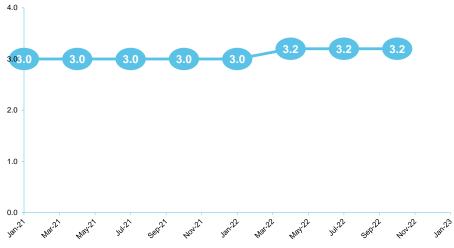
Recommendation Chart



| Date | Recommendation | Target Price | Price |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 2023-01-04 | Buy | 2.07 | 1.63 |
| 2022-11-22 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.43 |
| 2022-11-02 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.57 |
| 2022-08-24 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.56 |
| 2022-07-21 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.50 |
| 2022-05-26 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.57 |
| 2022-04-26 | Buy | 1.93 | 1.69 |
| 2022-02-24 | Buy | 1.74 | 1.47 |
| 2021-11-19 | Buy | 1.81 | 1.55 |
| 2021-08-20 | Buy | 1.81 | 1.61 |
| 2021-08-11 | Buy | 1.81 | 1.58 |
| 2021-06-29 | Buy | 1.94 | 1.64 |
| 2021-05-21 | Buy | 2.03 | 1.63 |
| 2021-04-22 | Buy | 2.18 | 1.80 |
| 2021-02-24 | Buy | 2.18 | 1.66 |

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

ESG Rating History



Source: RHB



RHB Guide to Investment Ratings

| Buy: | Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months |
|--------------|--|
| Trading Buy: | Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer- |
| | term outlook remains uncertain |
| Neutral: | Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next |
| | 12 months |
| Take Profit: | Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels |
| Sell: | Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months |
| Not Rated: | Stock is not within regular research coverage |

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