

3Q11 preview: silence before the storm

QIHU is our sector TOP BUY. It will report 3Q11 results on Wednesday, 16 November, after the market closes. We expect QIHU to report net revenue of US\$44m, up 185% YoY, ahead of consensus of US\$42m, and non-GAAP EPADS to be US\$0.12 versus consensus of US\$0.07, driven by strong operating leverage, traffic growth resulting from adoption of 360 browsers, and strong demand from e-commerce advertisers. We, however, expect a large amount of share-based compensation (SBC) in 3Q and hence our GAAP EPADS is only in line with consensus. We believe QIHU will guide ahead of consensus for 4Q with US\$51m of revenue versus consensus of US\$47m. We have built SBC into our DCF to be fully expensed. In 2012, we expect a pivotal launch of a "Google-Related"-type contextual ads product to augment strong growth in Personal Startup Page (PSP) advertising and web game. We forecast revenue growth of 112% YoY in 2012. We maintain our TP at US\$37.5 and reiterate our BUY rating, but express our concern on SBC.

Earnings call is scheduled at 7:30pm EST on 16 November (8:30am BJ/HK on 17 November 2011). Dial in: USA: +1-866-519-4004, Int'l: +1-718-354-1231, Passcode: "QIHU#".

» Strong 3Q/4Q top line and non-GAAP earning growth should validate operating leverage of QIHU's business model

» We suggest QIHU to exercise prudence in issuing options. Numerous tech companies have gone through the exercise of trying to ignoring SBC as a cost. It is a cost.

» We are excited about QIHU's entry into search recommendation. We expect the company to launch a "Google-Related"-like contextual product in 1H12, which we believe can significantly expand QIHU's advertising inventory and much better monetize QIHU's traffic.

» Trading at 19.6 x 2012 P/E, but with a 3-year earnings CAGR of 123%, QIHU is the most exciting growth story in Chinese Internet. We rate QIHU as our sector TOP BUY.

We are confident on QIHU's 3Q top line growth

We are modeling an average 30% QoQ growth of QIHU 3Q Personal Startup Page (PSP) advertising revenue, driven by an average 25% QoQ price per link hike (driven by ~60% QoQ price per link hike by e-commerce advertisers) and growth in ad inventory, thanks to the addition of new vertical channels, such as shopping, video and travel. E-commerce, which contributed about 35% of 2Q11 revenue, is continuing its robust growth momentum in 3Q and 4Q. (Figure 1)

See the last page of this report for important disclosures

Target price **US\$37.5**

Current price (14 November 2011) **US\$19.5**

Upside/downside 92.6%

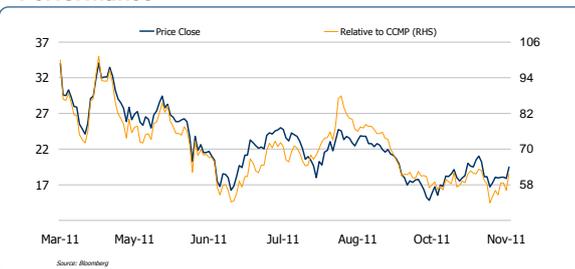
Consensus target price **US\$31.7**

Difference from consensus 18.3%

Forecast earnings & valuation

Fiscal year ending	Dec-10A	Dec-11E	Dec-12E	Dec-13E
Revenue (US\$m)	57.7	153.0	324.9	563.3
Op EBIT (US\$m)	8.8	10.2	112.7	197.1
Net income (US\$m)	8.5	2.1	89.8	160.6
Norm profit (US\$m)	8.5	2.1	89.8	160.6
EPS - ADS (US\$)	0.12	0.02	0.75	1.33
EPS growth	86.0%	-84.0%	3812.8%	78.2%
P/E (x)	122.5	766.1	19.6	11.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	96.6	53.8	10.1	5.0
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
P/B (x)	8.4	9.8	5.0	2.9
ROE	12.2%	2.0%	49.2%	48.2%
Net debt/equity	-82.4%	-87.0%	-91.0%	-90.6%
Cons EPS (US\$)	0.12	0.04	0.46	0.44
Prev EPDS (adj) (US\$)				

Performance



Trading data

Market cap (US\$b/US\$m)	2.28/2,284		
Shares outstanding	184.5m		
Free float	30%		
52-week price high/low	US\$14.8 - 34.0		
Daily average turnover (3M)	US\$13.1m		
Performance	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	5.2%	-10.8%	-42.7%
Relative to NASDAQ	5.6%	-16.8%	-48.2%
Absolute (US\$)	5.2%	-10.8%	-42.7%
Major shareholders			
CEO	18.5%		
President	10.7%		

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Source for above data: Bloomberg, companies, Mirae Estimates

Based on our research, the average 25% QoQ price per link hike is backed by roughly 20% QoQ traffic growth contributed by the growing coverage in browsers, a slight increase in price per click for certain e-commerce clients, and enhancing traffic conversion rate and bargaining power.

Despite rumors of wide spread difficulties in group buying companies, our channel checks showed that 4Q group buying spending on QIHU remained robust. Further, since QIHU has limited ad inventory and a high Return On Investment (ROI), it is able to demand one quarter prepayment for its long queue of advertisers.

There is a long queue of advertisers waiting to advertise on QIHU

Figure 1. Sample listing price for link of an e-commerce advertiser (in 000 Rmb)

	2Q	3Q	Q-Q
Paid links on the homepage (K Rmb)	255	410	61%
Paid graphic links on sub-pages (K Rmb)	112	175	56%
Paid links on subpages (K Rmb)	48	30	(38%)

Source: Mirae Asset Research

The high traffic volume also attracts more advertisers to the platform as evidenced by the additional ad-spots created by the company during the recent redesign of its online video and e-commerce platforms. According to our server checks, QIHU has been adding significant numbers of servers since August, which indicated a good quarter.

Web game business, which accounted for 23-24% of total revenue in 2Q11 is also surging in 3Q, with register users likely reaching 20-30m, monthly active users reaching 5m, and DAU reaching 500-600,000 with ARPU reaching Rmb370/quarter. This agrees with our observation that while social games tend to have a far lower ARPU than client games, web game tend to have similar ARPU's. QIHU offers its 30+ third party web game developers security protection, open ID registration and revenue sharing (7:3).

We expect at least 100% YoY growth in PSP advertising in 2012

We forecast the e-commerce sector to grow steadily at roughly 60% YoY (excluding Taobao which will grow at 100% YoY) in 2012. Alibaba and 360BUY's bid of Rmb430m+ in the 2012 CCTV Prime Time Auction demonstrated the robustness of e-commerce ad spending (please see our "First Glance: 2012 CCTV Prime Time Auction" for details, View report). We expect QIHU's largest advertiser Taobao to increase spending by 75% to 100% on QIHU in 2012.

While we do see uncertainties associated with smaller e-commerce and group buying companies' ability to continue to spend in 2012, we expect large ones to proceed with their existing business plans. QIHU remains the top choice for effective advertisers and QIHU will be able to maintain its marquee list of clients and attract new ones thanks to its ROI, now higher than search engine, portals and vertical media platforms. QIHU also benefits from the scarcity of its ad inventories versus search engines. According to our channel checks, a significant amount of mid and small size e-commerce companies are relying on QIHU PSP to acquire new users and to do business.

A lot of businesses are relying on QIHU to do business. QIHU PSP's ROI is the second highest for e-commerce advertisers

QIHU has made a good effort to construct an e-commerce-friendly ad environment by focusing on group buying and start-up page. We expect at least 50% YoY increase in PSP price per link as 360's recent average PSP price per link is 30% lower than that of hao123, with traffic 20-25% lower and price per click is 10-20% lower, based on our checks.

QIHU's PSP price is still 30% below Baidu Hao123's

According to our channel checks, QIHU's average ROI is the second highest for e-commerce advertisers after Taobao.com (Figure 2).

Figure 2. ROI comparison based on our checks with a group of e-commerce advertisers

Company	Taobao	QIHU	BIDU PSP	BIDU.com	Tencent	FENG	Xunlei	NTES	SOHU	SINA
Ads. platform	Taobao.com	hao.360.c	Hao123.co	baidu.com	qq.com + IM	ifeng.com	Xunlei.com	163.com	sohu.com	sina.com
Conversion rate	2.0%	0.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
Average ROI	2.5-3.0	1.3-1.5	1.1-1.5	1.0	0.7-1.1	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9	0.4-0.8	0.4-0.7	0.3-0.5

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research

But 3Q11 share based compensation could hit high gear

We believe QIHU's 2Q SBC level at 6% of revenue (US\$2m/quarter) is not representative of QIHU's normal option expense. We believe normal SBC would be US\$6-8m/quarter. We are modeling a similar option expense for the next several quarters with 250,000 per quarter increase of ADS counts due to option exercise (QIHU has 123m ADS outstanding as of 2Q).

Higher share-based compensation (SBC) cost could be a negative for 3Q

According to QIHU's filing, more than 20% of QIHU's employees received options and QIHU's employee headcount reached 1,600 by 3Q11, up from 900 in 4Q10. According to QIHU's prospectus:

6,060,950 share options were granted to employees and 5,913,950 are outstanding. On 25 January 2006, the Company adopted the 2006 Employee Share Option Plan for the granting of share options to employees and nonemployees to reward them for services to the Company and to provide incentives for future service. The share options expires ten years from the date of grant. On 30 June 2009, the Company granted 911,950 share options to employees at an exercise price of \$1.5 per share. On 1 January 2010 and 1 July 2010, the company granted 110,000 and 939,000 share options to employees at an exercise price of \$2.2 and \$2.8 per share, respectively.

During the years ended December 2008 and 2009, the company did not grant any share options to non-employees. On 1 July 2010, the company granted 4.1m share options to non-employees for consulting and investment advisory services of four years at an exercise price of US\$2.8 per share. The fair value of the share options granted to the non-employees at the commitment date were US\$1.40 per share, and re-measured at the end of each reporting period. The fair value was determined based on Level 3 inputs.

We disagree with QIHU's compensation structure but acknowledge it is certainly disruptive

We view QIHU's oversized SBC with very mixed views. We were glad to see the company's encouragement of employee ownership, innovation and entrepreneurship. But we hope the company also realizes that such encouragement comes at a cost, its share price, which is the economic benefit enjoyed by its shareholders. We expect QIHU's operation expenses to gradually decline in proportion of revenue going forward, or we have to reassess the attractiveness of the QIHU investment.

QIHU is exploring browser's strategic value in contextual ads

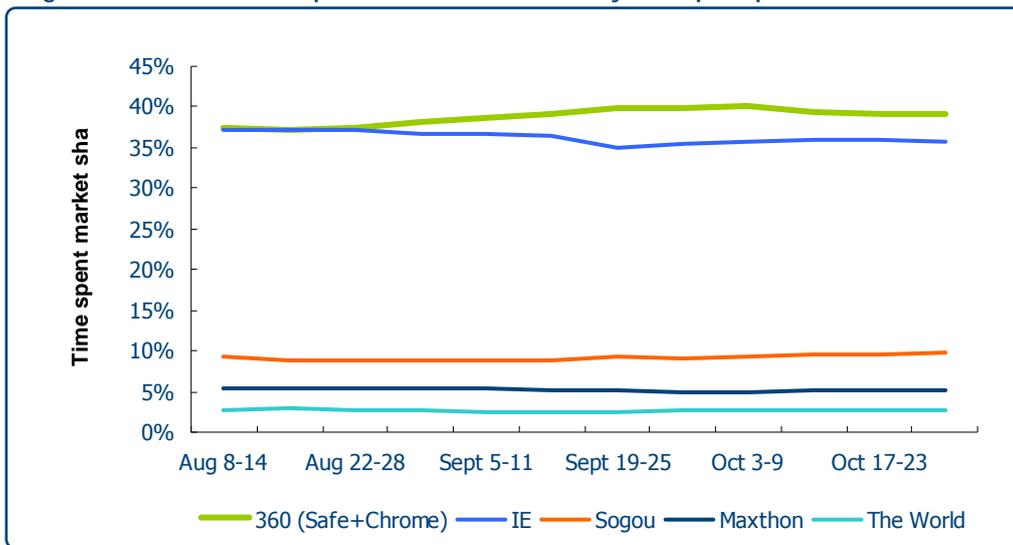
In early August, 360 browsers (Safe browser and Chrome browser) surpassed IE in terms of weekly time spend, earlier than we expected. Weekly time spend share of combined 360 browsers is 39.2% versus IE's 35.8% of IE by the end of October. (Figure 3).

In terms of monthly user coverage, QIHU was second to IE, with installation in 62% of browsers monthly user coverage in September, versus IE 92% and SOGOU 25% (Figure 4). Many Chinese Internet users still keep IE, but are increasingly shifting their browsing time to QIHU browsers.

QIHU's two browser brands are gaining share

We see a sharp pick up of 360 Chrome browser starting from July as QIHU started promoting its new Chrome based browser which is aimed at Chrome browser users. 360 Chrome browser achieved 3%, 6% and 8% monthly user coverage in July, August and September respectively (Figure 5).

Figure 3. 360 browser surpassed IE in terms of weekly time spend per user



Source: IUT data, Mirae Asset Research

Figure 4. Monthly user coverage of browsers



Source: IUT data, Mirae Asset Research

Figure 5. Monthly user coverage (in 0,000 users)

	2011-01	Share 2011-02	Share 2011-03	Share 2011-04	Share 2011-05	Share 2011-06	Share 2011-07	Share 2011-08	Share 2011-09	Share	
Total	38,785	39,200	39,611	39,176	39,280	40,178	40,474	41,118	41,068		
1 IE	35,750	92%	36,100	92%	36,137	92%	36,705	93%	36,896	92%	
2 360 Safe	17,246	44%	17,743	45%	19,217	49%	20,130	51%	20,164	51%	
3 Sogou	7,463	21%	6,412	18%	8,069	22%	8,951	25%	9,180	25%	
4 Maxthon	5,124	30%	4,779	27%	5,079	26%	5,361	27%	5,158	26%	
5 360 Chrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,277	3%	2,640	6%
360 Total		44%	45%	49%	51%	51%	52%	54%	58%	62%	

Source: IUT, Mirae Asset Research

"360 Related": A contextual ads system that sits on a browser

We believe QIHU's entry into search commendation market is a high probability event in 2012. Our channel checks suggested that QIHU is readying a pivotal product to attack Baidu's soft spot: contextual ads.

Contextual ads (Google AdSense) contributed 50% of Google China's revenue but only 5% of Baidu's revenue. Baidu is actively developing its contextual ads product, code named "Dipper" (北斗) but QIHU might have a leg up in this competition due to its advantage in browser.

We understand QIHU’s new search product will be modeled after Google’s “Google Related” product, which is a tool bar plug-in in Google’s Chrome Browser. This tool bar will show relevant recommendation products with rich text, image, map and video when users browse.

“Google Related” is a browser plug-in Google developed for Chrome

We further understand that QIHU has hired a high quality ex-Google team to develop this product.

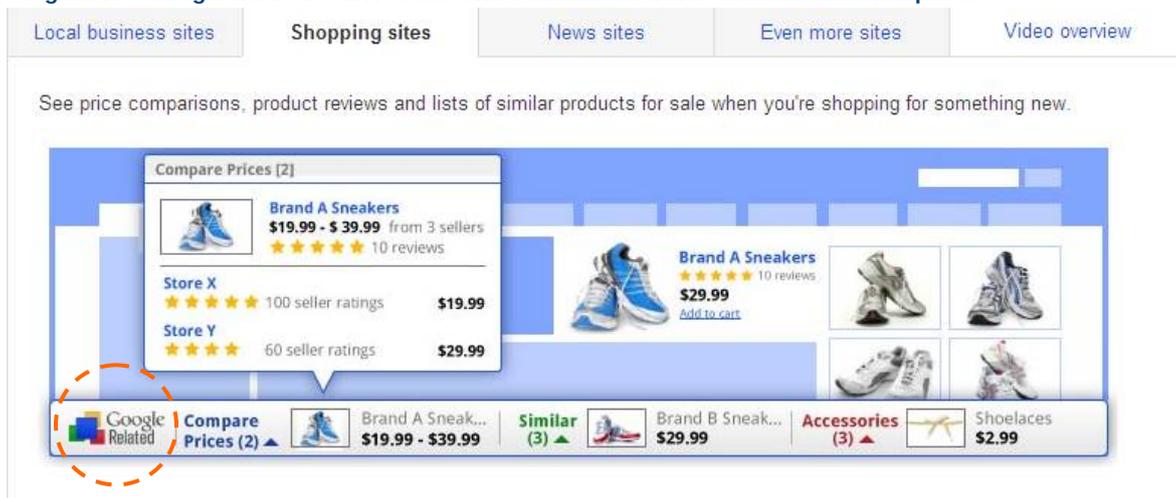
We believe “Google Related” is a pivotal product for QIHU because it solved its ad inventory problem and leveraged its browser dominance. It showed that on the level of critical thinking of Internet, the veteran team at QIHU is on the same wavelength of their counterparts in Silicon Valley.

Figure 6. Screen shoot of “Google Related”



Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research

Figure 7. “Google Related” can recommend e-commerce advertisement and even prices



Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research

Is another disruptive change coming?

While it is too early to predict the success of QIHU’s “Google Related” type of product, we are cautiously optimistic for the following reasons:

- Browser ARPU is higher than search ARPU. A toolbar can display search results (from Google presumably) but it can do more. QIHU can add the link of its PSP customers. According to our channel checks, browser ARPU can be 3x search ARPU;

- Adoption of cost per click (CPC) model. QIHU will be able to complete the transition from pay for listing to pay for performance;
- Unlimited advertising inventory. A browser contains all the web surfing activity of all the Internet users. A plug-in makes the ad inventory dynamic and personal;
- Low technical barrier. The barrier to develop "Google Related" is significantly lower than developing core search.

Understand QIHU's product roadmap...How all this will make sense

QIHU's product roadmap to enter search must be put into the context of a series of preparation steps it has undertaken.

QIHU's first step is personalization. This involves working with SINA Weibo and Renren to drive adoption of its Open ID initiative. Recently QIHU launched a "Google +1"-like initiative called "Woxihuan" (我喜欢). Using browser plug-in's, Woxihuan can be accessed through SINA Weibo and Renren. It then allows users to submit their "likes".

Using information gathered from "Woxihuan" QIHU is preparing itself for a corresponding monetization scheme, which is "Google Related". This is the second step.

After the second step, QIHU will become a backbone platform for a service alliance that rivals Tencent and Baidu. Using Open ID as its front end and building online payment at its backend, QIHU can become an operating system of any web service that is non-Tencent and non-Baidu. QIHU can do so because HTML5 allows unlimited interoperability of web services in the browser.

QIHU will monetize this "virtual platform" using advertising and revenue sharing. We believe QIHU's vision, if realized, is superior to the first generation of Chinese Internet platforms like Tencent and Baidu in terms of scalability and sustainability.

Adjust earnings and keep TP and rating

We increase our 2011-13E top-line estimates by 3%, 6% and 19% respectively and cut our 2011-12 operating EBIT by 50% and 1%. We maintain our BUY rating on QIHU with a TP of US\$37.5. Trading at 19.6 x 2012 P/E, but with a 3-year earnings CAGR of 123%, QIHU is the most exciting growth story in Chinese Internet. We rate QIHU as our sector TOP BUY.

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QIHU is launching a product similar to Google 1+ using browser plug-in's

Figure 8. QIHU earning revision history

(US\$m)	13-Oct	15-Nov
Net revenues		
2010E	57.7	57.7
2011E	148.1	153.0
2012E	307.4	324.9
2013E	472.7	563.3
Op EBIT		
2010E	8.8	8.8
2011E	20.5	10.2
2012E	114.1	112.7
2013E	186.3	197.1
EPADS		
2010E	0.12	0.12
2011E	0.14	0.02
2012E	0.76	0.75
2013E	1.25	1.33
Rating	BUY	BUY
Target price	37.5	37.5
Notes	Initiation: The master aggregator 3Q Preview: silence before the storm	

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research

Figure 9. 3Q11 QIHU Earnings Preview

QIHU 3Q11 Preview										
(RMB m)	3Q11E	3Q11C	Guidan	2Q11A	QoQ	3Q10A	YoY	4Q11E	4Q11C	Comment
Net revenues	44.0	42.2	41-42	35.1	25%	15.5	185%	50.7	46.7	We expect QIHU to beat consensus top line by 4.3%
Cost of revenues	(4.0)			(3.7)	9%	(1.8)	124%	(5.1)		
Gross profit	40.0			31.4	27%	13.7		45.6		
Gross margin over net revenues	91%			90%	2%	88%		90%		
Operating costs & expenses										
- SG&A	(14.1)			(8.7)	63%	(4.0)	256%	(13.7)		
- R&D	(18.9)			(10.2)	85%	(6.1)	212%	(21.3)		
- Share-based compensation	(8.8)			(2.1)	324%	(1.1)	725%	(8.6)		We expect SBC to climb sharply higher
Operating profit, excl. SBC	15.8			14.6	8%	4.7	235%	19.2		
Operating margin, excl. SBC	36%			42%	(14%)	31%	17%	38%		We expect operating margin to fall on aggressive hiring but grow 235% y-y nonetheless
Operating profit, GAAP	7.0	7.1		12.6	(44%)	3.7	91%	10.6		We expect GAAP operating profit to fall 44% q-q but still match consensus and grow 91% y-y
Other income										
- Interest income, net	0.2			(1.0)		0		0.2		
- Other income or loss	(0.9)			0.0		0		(1.0)		
Pretax profit, GAAP	5.6	8.6		11.7	(52%)	4	48%	8.8	9.2	
Income tax	(0.6)			(2.9)		(0)		(1)		
Net income, adjusted	14.4	8.3		10.9	32%	5		17.4	9.3	We expect non-GAAP net income to beat consensus by 73%
Net margin, recurring	33%			31%	5%	31%		34%		
Net income, GAAP	6.3	6.5		7.8	(20%)	4		9.8	8.1	
Net margin	14%			22%	(36%)	25%		19%		
EPADS non-GAAP, diluted	0.12	0.07		0.09	32%	0.09		0.15	0.08	
EPADS GAAP, diluted (USD)	0.05	0.05		0.07	(36%)	0.05		0.07	0.07	But we expect GAAP EPADS to just meet consensus

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research

Summary financial statements

Profit & Loss

(US\$m)	Dec-09A	Dec-10A	Dec-11E	Dec-12E	Dec-13E
Revenue	32	58	153	325	563
Cost of goods sold	(8)	(7)	(16)	(33)	(58)
Gross profit	24	51	138	292	506
SG and A	(19)	(42)	(127)	(180)	(309)
Op profit	4	9	10	113	197
Op EBITDA	9	10	30	147	247
Depreciation	(4)	(1)	(5)	(9)	(15)
Amortisation	-	-	(15)	(25)	(35)
Op EBIT	4	9	10	113	197
Net interest	0	0	1	1	4
Associates and JCEs	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	0	(0)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Net exceptional income	-	-	-	-	-
Profit before tax	5	9	8	110	196
Tax	(0)	(0)	(6)	(20)	(35)
Post-tax profit	4	8	2	90	161
Minorities	-	0	-	-	-
Preferred dividends	-	-	-	-	-
Net income	4	9	2	90	161
Norm profit	4	9	2	90	161
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-
Retained earnings	4	9	2	90	161

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research estimates

Cashflow

(US\$m)	Dec-09A	Dec-10A	Dec-11E	Dec-12E	Dec-13E
Op EBITDA	9	10	30	147	247
Decrease in working capital	1	5	3	3	(6)
Other operating cashflow	(3)	3	45	34	46
Operating cashflow	7	18	78	183	286
Tax paid	0	(0)	(7)	(20)	(35)
Net interest	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-
Cashflow	7	17	71	164	251
Capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Net acquisitions	(3)	(6)	(10)	(20)	(36)
Net investments	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other investing cashflow	-	(1)	1	1	4
Investing cashflow	(4)	(9)	(10)	(20)	(33)
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-
Increase in equity	52	19	38	29	21
Increase in debt	2	(1)	1	29	54
Other financing cashflow	-	20	-	-	-
Financing cash flow	54	37	39	58	75
Beginning cash	-	28	61	109	251
Total cash generated	56	45	100	202	293
Forex effects	0	1	-	-	-
Ending cash	56	75	160	311	544

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research estimates

Balance Sheet

(US\$m)	Dec-09A	Dec-10A	Dec-11E	Dec-12E	Dec-13E
Current assets	39	73	140	317	585
Cash and equivalents	28	61	109	251	469
Receivables	9	8	22	46	80
Inventories	0	0	-	-	-
Other current assets	2	4	9	20	36
Non current assets	11	15	20	29	40
Net operating fixed assets	1	3	5	10	18
Interest in associates					
Other non-current assets	10	12	15	18	22
Total assets	50	88	160	346	624
Current liabilities	8	14	35	72	115
Payables	0	1	4	8	14
ST debt	-	-	-	-	-
Other current liabilities	8	13	31	65	102
Total non-current liabilities	2	1	2	31	85
LT debt	2	0	2	31	85
Other non-current liabilities	1	1	-	-	-
Total liabilities	11	15	37	103	200
Issued capital	47	70	70	70	70
Share premium reserve	5	13	44	161	253
Reserves/Adjustments	4	0	0	0	0
Retained earnings	-	-	9	11	100
Minorities	-	1	1	1	1
Other equity	(17)	(11)	0	0	0
Total equity	39	73	123	243	424

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research estimates

Key Ratios

	Dec-09A	Dec-10A	Dec-11E	Dec-12E	Dec-13E
Turnover growth	457.4%	78.5%	165.4%	112.3%	73.4%
Gross profit growth	NA	112.9%	170.1%	112.6%	73.0%
Operating profit growth	NA	96.3%	16.1%	1008.5%	74.9%
EBITDA growth	NA	16.1%	170.3%	429.8%	69.2%
EPS growth	NA	86.0%	(84.0%)	3812.8%	78.2%
Norm BPS growth	NA	35.9%	(14.5%)	94.9%	75.1%
Gross margin	74.0%	88.3%	89.8%	90.0%	89.8%
Operating margin	13.8%	15.2%	6.6%	34.7%	35.0%
EBITDA margin	26.6%	17.3%	17.6%	44.0%	42.9%
EBIT margin	13.9%	15.0%	4.8%	33.5%	34.1%
Net income margin	13.0%	14.8%	1.3%	27.6%	28.5%
ROE	15.0%	12.2%	2.0%	49.2%	48.2%
ROA	16.9%	12.4%	1.7%	35.5%	33.1%
Net debt/equity	(67.8%)	(82.4%)	(87.0%)	(91.0%)	(90.6%)
Interest cover ratio					
Dividend payout ratio	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inventory days	0.48	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Account receivable days	101.1	51.7	51.7	51.8	51.7
Account payable days	19.2	75.0	86.5	87.9	85.9
Reported EPS (US\$)	0.04	0.08	0.01	0.50	0.89
EPS (US\$)	0.04	0.08	0.01	0.50	0.89
Reported BPS (US\$)	0.86	1.16	0.99	1.94	3.39
Norm BPS (US\$)	0.86	1.16	0.99	1.94	3.39
DPS (US\$)					
Cashflow per share (US\$)	0.07	0.16	0.44	0.91	1.38
Reported P/E (x)	227.8	122.5	766.1	19.6	11.0
P/E (x)	227.8	122.5	766.1	19.6	11.0
P/B (x)	11.4	8.4	9.8	5.0	2.9
P/CF (x)	139.2	59.6	22.3	10.7	7.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	106.4	96.6	53.8	10.1	5.0
EV/Operating Cashflow (x)	136.4	54.0	18.7	7.9	4.2
EV/Sales (x)	28.3	16.7	9.5	4.5	2.1
Dividend yield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Research estimates

Recommendations

By stock (12 months)

Buy: A target price + 10% or more above the current price,
Hold: Target price within - 10% to +10% of the current price
Reduce: A target price of -10% or less below the current price

By industry

Overweight: over +10% of the current industry index
Neutral: -10% to +10% of the current industry index
Underweight: -10% or less than the current industry index

Earnings quality score

Earnings Quality Score = $0.70 \times (\text{Historical Earnings Stability}) + 0.15 \times (\text{Consensus Forecast Certainty}) + 0.15 \times (\text{Consensus Forecast Accuracy})$

1. Historical Earnings Stability

- The variability of the net profit growth rate (YOY) over the last 20 quarters was translated into percentage terms.
- Earnings growth variability was calculated based on MAD (Median Absolute Deviation), rather than SD (Standard Deviation) in order to minimize distortion from outliers.
- The lower the earnings growth variability, the higher this indicator.

2. Consensus Forecast Certainty

- The gap between analysts' views on 12-month forward EPS was translated into percentage terms.
- The gap is calculated by dividing the SD of 12-month forward EPS with the average value.
- The narrower the gap, the higher this indicator.

3. Consensus Forecast Accuracy

- The median value of absolute EPS surprise over the last 3-year was translated into percentage terms.
- EPS surprise was calculated based on 'the actual figure at the end of the year / the consensus estimate at the beginning of the year - 1'.
- The lower the absolute EPS surprise, the higher this indicator.

* Reference

- 1) Consensus Forecast Certainty and Consensus Forecast Accuracy were applied only to companies with more than 5 years of EPS estimates.
 - 2) We gave the average score of 50 to cases in which the aforementioned indicators could not be produced.
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