





ADD (no change)

Hold 0 Sell 0 Consensus ratings*: Buy 1 Current price: RM0.985 Target price: RM1.30 Previous target: RM1.50 32.0% Up/downside: CGS-CIMB / Consensus: -13.3% AEML.KL Reuters: AMLS MK Bloombera: US\$157.1m Market cap: RM657.5m US\$1.37m Average daily turnover: RM5.76m Current shares o/s: 667.5m Free float: 66.0% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

- > FY22F EPS decreased by 9.3%.
- FY23F EPS decreased by 9.3%.
- FY24F EPS decreased by 9.3%.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	-17.2	-16.5	18.7
Relative (%)	-16.3	-16.1	21.5

Major shareholders	% held
Ng Sang Beng	23.0
Yeoh Chee Keong	11.0

Aemulus Holdings Bhd

A strong start to FY22

- 1QFY9/22 results were in line at 25% of our full-year net profit forecast.
- We see a stronger 2HFY9/22F, driven by healthy order book replenishment, new testers launches and expansion into mixed signal tester market.
- Reiterate Add with a lower RM1.30 TP to reflect dilution from PP and lower P/E multiple of 31.5x, still based on Malaysian ATE mean.

Core net profit in 1QFY22 jumped 7.2x yoy

1QFY9/22 revenue rose 62% yoy to RM18.6m, a new record quarter, driven by higher contributions from all testers segments – mobile and tablet, data centre, automotive and CMOS image sensors (CIS). We estimate the group's utilisation rate rose from 87% in 4QFY21 to 93% in 1QFY22. The stronger sales were mainly driven by higher contributions from the China market, which made up 53% of Aemulus' revenue in 1QFY22. As a result of higher operating leverage, EBITDA margin expanded 16.5% pts yoy to 30.5% in 1QFY22. Stripping out exceptional items, such as fair value gain on derivative and sales of intellectual properties, Aemulus registered a significantly higher RM4.5m core net profit in 1QFY22 against RM621k core net profit in 1QFY21.

Healthy order book and new products pipeline driving growth

We gather from management that Aemulus's order book is hovering between RM45m to RM50m as at 8 Feb 22. This is mainly driven by robust demand for radio frequency (RF), RF filter, automotive and CIS testers. The group expects to start delivery of the first few units of its new 5600-CIS tester in 2QFY22F. This will be part of an 80 CIS testers contract worth RM20m that was secured in 2021. In addition, the group also plans to launch the updated version of its RF and RF filter tester utilising 100% local content with in-house IP design. This is part of the group's strategy to increase the local content of its testers portfolio in order to participate in the Made in China 2025 initiative.

New plant expansion will raise production capacity by 50%

Aemulus raised about RM63.7m through a private placement (PP) following the issuance of 60.7m new shares at RM1.05/share in mid-Dec 21. The group plans to utilise the proceeds for its capacity expansion plan at Aemulus Base, research & development (R&D), additional investment in its China joint venture, TMSS Technology, repayment of borrowings and working capital requirement. We gathered from management that new capacity expansion at Aemulus Base, Bayan Lepas, could increase the group's production capacity by 50% by 1QCY23F.

Reiterate Add with a lower RM1.30 TP

We revise down our EPS to reflect the dilution from new share issuances. Reiterate our Add rating on the stock with a lower RM1.30 TP, based on a lower 31.5x CY23F P/E (vs. 33x previously), as we update our target P/E multiple to reflect the weak sentiment in the global tech sector arising from concerns over interest rate hikes. However, we still peg our valuation to Malaysian Automated Test Equipment (ATE) sector historical mean P/E.

Financial Summary	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
Revenue (RMm)	19.3	61.1	81.9	103.0	120.0
Net Profit (RMm)	(3.61)	10.45	18.20	26.32	31.08
Core EPS (RM)	(0.007)	0.018	0.027	0.039	0.047
Core EPS Growth	12.3%		54.2%	44.7%	18.1%
FD Core P/E (x)	NA	53.10	34.46	24.98	21.15
Price To Sales (x)	27.97	9.76	8.02	6.39	5.48
DPS (RM)	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend Yield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
EV/EBITDA (x)	NA	41.59	27.63	19.74	15.49
P/FCFE (x)	NA	NA	27.0	195.3	14.6
Net Gearing	(14.7%)	(2.1%)	(21.1%)	(21.0%)	(42.4%)
P/BV (x)	5.31	5.30	5.03	4.18	3.49
ROE	(4.1%)	10.0%	14.9%	18.3%	18.0%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(9.27%)	(9.27%)	(9.27%)
CGS-CIMB/Consensus EPS (x)			0.80	0.80	0.91

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Analyst(s)



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Potential catalysts and risks >

Higher-than-expected tester shipment volumes from mobile, tablet and CIS segments, successful expansion into new segments and potential transfer to the Bursa Main market are potential re-rating catalysts, while softer demand for mobile device applications, delays in commissioning production for its associate company in China, and disruptions in supply chains due to the impact of Covid-19, are key downside risks.

Figure 1: Results of	omparisor	1					
FYE Sep (RM m)	1QFY22	1QFY21	yoy %	4QFY21	qoq %	FY22F	
			chg		chg		Comments
Revenue	18.6	11.5	61.7	17.3	7.4	81.9	Higher RF filter and enterprise storage tester shipment volume
Operating costs	(12.9)	(9.9)	30.7	(11.6)	11.0	(58.1)	
EBITDA	5.7	1.6	> 100	5.7	(0.1)	23.8	In line
EBITDA margin (%)	30.5	14.0	16.5	32.8		29.0	
Depn & amort.	(1.0)	(0.8)	25.7	(0.8)	26.2	(4.1)	
EBIT	4.7	0.8	> 100	4.9	(4.2)	19.7	In line
Interest expense	(0.3)	(0.2)	77.5	(0.2)	30.1	(1.0)	Borrowings of RM26.5m as at Dec-21
Interest & invt inc	0.1	0.1	(8.5)	0.1	(1.7)	0.5	Total cash of RM88.5m as at Dec-21
Associates' contrib	0.0	(0.1)	-	0.6	-	-	
Exceptionals	0.0	0.9	(96.7)	(0.8)	> 100	-	
Pretax profit	4.6	1.6	> 100	4.6	(1.5)	19.2	
Tax	(0.0)	(0.1)	(60.7)	(0.6)	(93.8)	(1.0)	
Tax rate (%)	0.8	5.6		12.1		5.0	
Net profit	4.5	1.5	> 100	4.1	11.2	18.2	In line
Core net profit	4.5	0.6	> 100	4.8	(7.1)	18.2	1Q22 core net profit made up 25% of CGS-CIMB FY22F forecast
EPS (sen)	0.7	0.2	> 100	0.6	11.2	2.7	
Core EPS (sen)	0.7	0.1	> 100	0.7	(7.1)	2.7	
							SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

	1QFY22	1QFY21	yoy %	4QFY21	qoq %	
			chg		chg Commen	nts
ATE	16.8	9.9	69.1	15.7	6.9 Higher sa	lles 7600, 7300 and 5600 testers
Related services	1.8	1.6	14.8	1.6	11.7	
Total	18.6	11.5	61.7	17.3	7.4	
	1QFY22	1QFY21	yoy %	4QFY21	qoq %	
			chg		chg	
Malaysia	3.6	2.4	49.5	6.3	(42.3)	
Singapore	1.5	2.5	(40.2)	1.2	22.8	
China	9.8	3.7	> 100	6.8	44.7 Driven by	7300 and 7600 tester
USA	1.1	1.8	(41.4)	1.3	(20.4)	
Korea	0.5	1.0	(43.9)	1.5	(63.9)	
Taiwan	-	0.0	(100.0)	0.1	> 100	
Others	2.1	0.2	> 100	0.1	> 100	
Total	18.6	11.5	61.7	17.3	7.4	





ESG in a nutshell

Aemulus is mainly involved in the design and development of automated test equipment (ATE), test and measurement instruments, and test-related services in the semiconductor industry. The group's sustainability approach is based on four pillars – Economic, Environmental, Social and Governance considerations. The group is currently not ranked under FTSE Russell ESG rating.

Keep your eye on

As at end-Jun 2021, Aemulus's total workforce stood at 168 employees. We gather that the existing workforce is sufficient to support the group's near-to-mid-term strategy, but the group will need to scale up its operations in order to take advantage of joint-venture TMSS in China.

Implications

We see the inability to secure additional headcount to scale up operations or a potential rise in employee turnover posing key operational risks to the group. We think the group needs to implement an employee retention strategy, such as an employee share option scheme to reward high performing employees and setting up networks with local higher learning institutions and universities to create a pipeline of new talent.

ESG highlights

Female employees make up 32% of Aemulus's total workforce. Although the company may not be able to change the demographics of the engineering-oriented industry, which tends to have a higher percentage of male than female employees, it is working towards giving more opportunities to women by not considering factors such as pregnancy and family or relationship commitment status. For example, the group is also working towards removing information such as marital status and number of children in job applications.

Implications

We gather that Aemulus has one the best gender equality ratios within the Malaysian semiconductor equipment sector. We believe the move towards removing information on marital status and number of children in job applications will provide more opportunities for female employees to participate in the engineering field and move the company closer to meeting one of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals on Gender Equality.

Trends

The group moved into its new facility, Aemulus Base, in Jul 2020 as part of its relocation process. Aemulus Base was given the partial sustainable green building status, with reference to the green building index. For example, the use of perforated bricks walls and coated double-glazed windows and the design of the building have lessened reliance on air conditioners and increased electricity efficiency.

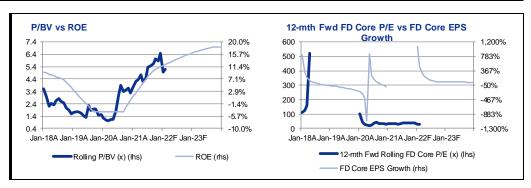
Implications

The group managed to keep its monthly electricity cost similar to the cost incurred at its former premises, even though the new facility is five times larger in terms of built-up square footage.

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINITI



BY THE NUMBERS



(RMm)	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
Total Net Revenues	19.32	61.09	81.93	102.96	120.00
Gross Profit	12.26	31.98	41.38	51.48	58.80
Operating EBITDA	(0.87)	14.29	22.80	31.64	37.29
Depreciation And Amortisation	(2.21)	(3.09)	(4.10)	(4.63)	(5.40)
Operating EBIT	(3.08)	11.19	18.70	27.01	31.89
Financial Income/(Expense)	(0.24)	(0.47)	(0.55)	(0.50)	(0.50)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	0.00	0.58	1.00	1.20	1.50
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	(3.32)	11.30	19.15	27.71	32.89
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	(3.32)	11.30	19.15	27.71	32.89
Taxation	(0.29)	(0.85)	(0.96)	(1.39)	(1.81)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	(3.61)	10.45	18.20	26.32	31.08
Minority Interests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	(3.61)	10.45	18.20	26.32	31.08
Recurring Net Profit	(3.61)	10.71	18.20	26.32	31.08
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	(3.61)	10.71	18.20	26.32	31.08

Cash Flow					
(RMm)	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
EBITDA	(0.87)	14.29	22.80	31.64	37.29
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	0.33	(16.60)	13.92	(16.39)	18.98
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	(0.26)	0.31	(2.00)	(2.00)	(2.00)
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(0.44)	(0.94)	(1.00)	(1.00)	(1.00)
Tax Paid	(0.29)	(0.85)	(0.96)	(1.39)	(1.81)
Cashflow From Operations	(1.54)	(3.79)	32.76	10.87	51.46
Capex	(12.08)	(7.86)	(10.00)	(8.00)	(7.00)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(9.03)	(3.28)	0.45	0.50	0.50
Cash Flow From Investing	(21.11)	(11.13)	(9.55)	(7.50)	(6.50)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	31.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid					
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(0.01)	(0.08)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash Flow From Financing	31.00	(0.08)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Generated	8.36	(15.00)	23.21	3.37	44.96
Free Cashflow To Equity	(22.64)	(14.92)	23.21	3.37	44.96
Free Cashflow To Firm	(22.20)	(13.98)	24.21	4.37	45.96

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



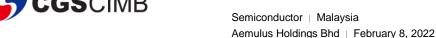
BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(RMm)	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
Total Cash And Equivalents	32.5	30.3	55.5	60.9	107.9
Total Debtors	21.8	41.5	44.0	44.2	41.7
Inventories	15.1	15.8	16.8	22.3	22.7
Total Other Current Assets	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Current Assets	72.2	89.6	118.3	129.5	174.2
Fixed Assets	35.3	40.8	46.7	50.1	51.7
Total Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Intangible Assets	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7
Total Other Non-Current Assets	7.6	14.4	15.4	16.6	18.1
Total Non-current Assets	56.6	68.9	75.8	80.4	83.5
Short-term Debt	4.6	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	9.2	16.2	33.7	23.1	39.9
Other Current Liabilities	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Total Current Liabilities	14.1	27.7	45.1	34.5	51.3
Total Long-term Debt	13.0	17.8	17.8	17.8	17.8
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total Non-current Liabilities	13.0	18.2	18.2	18.2	18.2
Total Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Liabilities	27.1	45.9	63.4	52.7	69.5
Shareholders' Equity	101.7	112.6	130.8	157.1	188.2
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	101.7	112.6	130.8	157.1	188.2

Key Ratios					
	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
Revenue Growth	(33%)	216%	34%	26%	17%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(44.6%)	N/A	59.6%	38.8%	17.9%
Operating EBITDA Margin	(4.5%)	23.4%	27.8%	30.7%	31.1%
Net Cash Per Share (RM)	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.12
BVPS (RM)	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.24	0.28
Gross Interest Cover	(6.95)	11.91	18.70	27.01	31.89
Effective Tax Rate	0.00%	7.53%	5.00%	5.00%	5.50%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Accounts Receivables Days	309.6	146.1	161.1	133.1	110.9
Inventory Days	800.5	193.7	146.4	138.7	134.6
Accounts Payables Days	220.8	80.2	152.5	144.5	140.3
ROIC (%)	(3.9%)	12.9%	16.9%	26.1%	25.6%
ROCE (%)	(2.9%)	9.0%	12.8%	16.0%	16.1%
Return On Average Assets	(3.1%)	7.6%	10.6%	13.3%	13.5%

Key Drivers					
	Sep-20A	Sep-21A	Sep-22F	Sep-23F	Sep-24F
ATE	12.9	54.5	74.7	95.0	111.3
Related services	6.4	6.6	7.2	7.9	8.7

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS





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Reduce	7.1%	0.0%	



Feb-19

Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

Aug-19

Feb-20

Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

Aug-20

Feb-21

Aug-21

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