Singapore Company Update Cromwell European REIT

Bloomberg: CERT SP | Reuters: CROM.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

BUY

Last Traded Price (23 Feb 2022): EUR2.36 (STI : 3,393.00) Price Target 12-mth: EUR2.80 (19% upside) (Prev EUR3.00)

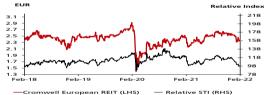
Analyst

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What's New

- FY21 NPI increased 10.9%, mainly due to industrial/logistics acquisitions valued at EUR212.6m during the year
- Positive rental reversions of 5.0% despite some pressure on office occupancies
- Some disruption to earnings in the near term due to ongoing portfolio repositioning; earnings to rebound in FY23
- Maintain BUY with a revised TP of EUR2.80

Price Relative



Forecasts and Valuation	n			
FY Dec (EURm)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Gross Revenue	200	205	211	215
Net Property Inc	130	134	138	141
Total Return	96.4	84.8	87.5	88.4
Distribution Inc	93.6	95.4	97.5	98.5
EPU (Euro cts.)	18.0	15.1	15.6	15.8
EPU Gth (%)	16	(16)	3	1
DPU (Euro cts.)	17.0	17.0	17.4	17.6
DPU Gth (%)	(3)	0	2	1
NAV per shr (Euro cts.)	252	252	252	252
PE (X)	13.1	15.6	15.1	15.0
Distribution Yield (%)	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.4
P/NAV (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Aggregate Leverage (%)	37.4	38.2	39.1	39.9
ROAE (%)	7.1	6.0	6.2	6.3
Distn. Inc Chng (%):		(4)	(3)	(2)

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank, Bloomberg Finance L.P.

24 Feb 2022

Pivot to logistics has paid off

Investment Thesis

Diversified portfolio in European gateway cities. Cromwell European REIT (CERT) is a fast-growing Pan-European S-REIT with a diversified portfolio of office, industrial, and logistics assets valued at more than EUR2.5bn. CERT has been an active asset recycler, driving portfolio yields and optimising returns to unitholders. CERT is currently repositioning its portfolio and pivoting towards more light industrial/logistics exposure.

Resilient financial performance amid COVID-19. CERT has weathered the COVID pandemic well in our view, reporting resilient occupancies and achieving positive rental reversions. Although the office portfolio is facing some near-term headwinds, there are plans in place to reposition some of the older properties and carry out AEIs and redevelopment work to prepare for the economic rebound and long-term growth.

Emerging logistics play. We remain excited about the management's pivot to the industrial/logistics sector, which accounted for c.53% of assets as of February 2022. The REIT continues to increase exposure in this fast-growing subsector, and we believe this strategy will drive a further compression in yields for the stock.

Valuation:

Our target price of EUR2.80 is based on DCF valuation with a WACC of 5.7% (risk-free rate of 2.5%). This implies a target yield of 6.1% and a P/NAV multiple of 1.1x.

Where we differ:

CERT is gradually emerging as a logistics play with its pivot towards greater portfolio exposure in the industrial/logistics segment. We believe this could drive a further compression in its yield.

Key Risks to Our View:

The key risk to our view is lower-than-expected rental income arising from loss of tenants or slower upturn in rents/inflation.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs) Mkt. Cap (EURm/US\$m)	561 1,324 / 1,500
Major Shareholders (%)	,- ,
Tang Gordon	9.1
BlackRock Inc	5.9
Cromwell Singapore Holdings Pte	5.6
Free Float (%)	74.4
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	0.84
GIC Industry : Real Estate / Equity Real Estate Investm	ient (REITs)







WHAT'S NEW

Pivot to logistics has paid off

FY21 NPI increased 10.9% y-o-y. CERT's FY21 NPI increased 10.9% y-o-y to EUR130.1m, mainly due to acquisitions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the UK, Italy, and the Netherlands. On a like-for-like basis, FY21 NPI increased 2.3%, mainly due to the improved performance in its light industrial/logistics portfolio (+3.0%) and office portfolio (+2.1%). However, the decline in occupancy of its office portfolio is likely to put some pressure on this portfolio in the coming quarters.

FY21 DPU of 16.961 Euro cents was 2.6% lower y-o-y.

Although CERT's distributable income of EUR93.6m was 5.0% higher y-o-y, DPU declined slightly by 2.6%. The decline was mainly due to i) the absence of a capital gains distribution of EUR2.8m paid in FY20 (accounts for 0.55 Euro cents in FY20), ii) a timing difference between private placement and the completion of an acquisition, and iii) higher interest due to the refinancing of EUR500m through a bond issuance.

Excluding the capital gains distribution in FY20, DPU in FY21 would have increased by 0.5% y-o-y.

Portfolio valuations increased by 2.4% y-o-y. On a like-forlike basis, CERT's portfolio valuation increased by c.EUR52.0m or 2.4%. This was mainly attributed to the logistics portfolio, which saw a slight compression in cap rates and improved occupancy. The logistics portfolio reported a gain of EUR56.2m, mainly due to higher valuations in France, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

Although the office and other assets portfolio saw a EUR4.2m decline in valuations, selected markets reported an increase in valuations. The office portfolios in Finland and Poland reported a 3.9% and 1.6% decline in valuations, respectively, largely due to lower occupancies, but it was partially offset by some valuation uplifts in Amsterdam and Milan.

Strong positive rental reversions of 5.0% in FY21. CERT continued to report positive rental reversions of 5.0% for FY21. Both its light industrial/logistics and office portfolios continue to record positive rental reversions of 6.4% in 4Q21. Despite the pressure on occupancy rates for its office portfolio, rental reversions were still very strong in 4Q21, averaging 14.3%.

Overall portfolio occupancy inched down to 95.0%. The slight dip in the overall portfolio occupancy rate on a q-o-q basis was mainly caused by CERT's office portfolio. The light industrial/logistics portfolio recorded a higher occupancy rate of 95.7%, but office portfolio occupancy declined to 91.9%.

The light industrial/logistics portfolio reported a strong occupancy rate of 95.7% in 4Q21 and has an average WALE of 5.0. The decline in CERT's office portfolio occupancy rate was due to lower occupancies in France and Finland. In France, a tenant from the publishing industry discontinued part of its lease, while several small office tenants returned space in Finland.

EUR250m in redevelopment and AEIs to unlock value. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{We}}$

understand that CERT has commenced planning redevelopment work and AEIs worth c.EUR250m within its portfolio to unlock value. The redevelopment of Via Nervesa 21 in Italy has commenced, and the property will be redeveloped into a Grade A office space. the redevelopment is expected to be completed in the second half of FY23. Another development that is in the works is the expansion of Nove Mesto One Industrial Park I in Slovakia. Phase 1 of the development work is expected to commence in mid-2022, and a total budget of EUR7.5m has been set aside for it.

CERT has also identified two other potential office property redevelopment spaces in the Netherlands and Italy. Although these two potential redevelopment projects are still in the early stages, the REIT targets an estimated 6% ROI for the projects.

Redevelopment and AEIs worth EUR\$250m planned for FY22



Source: Cromwell European REIT

Our thoughts

Despite the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, CERT was able to report a relatively resilient set of results. Its pivot towards more light industrial/logistics assets has enabled it to offset some of the weaknesses felt in its office portfolio. In FY21, light industrial/logistics acquisitions to the tune of EUR212.6m were done on a blended NOI yield of 6.3%, which is very attractive, given how cap rates for logistics properties have compressed significantly over the past two years.

We believe that its office portfolio will likely face further pressure as tourism in Europe remains muted and businesses continue to rationalise their space as they shift towards more work-from-home arrangements. However, we understand that CERT is actively working on repositioning some of its office assets and undertaking AEIs and redevelopment work at some of the underperforming properties. The office portfolio is likely to see further headwinds until at least the second half of FY22.

While CERT continues its pivot towards more light industrial/logistics exposure, we expect to see further divestments of low-yielding assets and those which are fully valued. This repositioning of its portfolio will likely lead to some near-term disruptions to earnings, before seeing a **pick-up by FY23.** Over the past month, CERT has divested a warehouse unit in Italy for a consideration of EUR2.8m, and subsequently completed the acquisition of another light industrial/logistics property in Italy for EUR24.5m. The absence of income from the redevelopment of Via Nervesa 21, and another two potential redevelopments will also cause a near-term disruption to its earnings.

As such, we have moderated our earnings estimates for FY22 to account for these earnings disruptions, before projecting a rebound from FY23 onwards. Moreover, we have also taken a more conservative approach in our valuations by assuming that long-term borrowing costs inch up to c.2.0%.

Although we remain positive about CERT given its relatively resilient earnings, we revised our projections to take into account near-term earnings disruptions and adjust its WACC to 5.7%, as a result of the rising interest rate environment.

With our revised projections, we expect FY22 DPU to remain relatively flat before staging a rebound of c.2.3% in FY23. Based on the higher WACC, our revised target price of EUR\$2.80 implies an attractive target yield of c.6.1%. As such, we maintain our BUY recommendation with a revised TP of EUR2.80.

Company Background

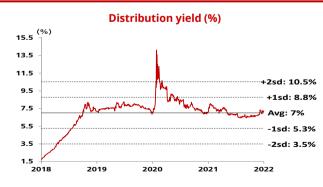
Cromwell European REIT ("CERT") is a Singaporean REIT with the principal investment strategy of investing, directly or indirectly, in a diversified portfolio of income-producing real estate assets in Europe that are used primarily for office, light industrial/logistics, and retail purposes. CERT owns a portfolio of 113 properties in, or close to, major gateway cities in the Netherlands, Italy, France, Poland, Germany, Finland, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the UK, and it has been pivoting towards logistics assets. CERT is managed by Cromwell EREIT Management Pte. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of CERT's sponsor, Cromwell Property Group. Cromwell is a real estate investor and manager with operations in 14 countries and is listed on the ASX.

Interim Income Statement (EURm)

FY Dec	2H2020	1H2021	2H2021	% chg y-o-y	% chg h-o-h
Gross revenue	93.3	99.0	101	8.3	2.1
Property expenses	(33.7)	(34.7)	(35.3)	4.7	1.6
Net Property Income	59.6	64.3	65.8	10.4	2.4
Other Operating expenses	(5.2)	(5.6)	(5.6)	8.6	0.5
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(0.2)	0.0	0.84	nm	nm
Associates & JV Inc	-	-	-	-	-
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(9.8)	(11.4)	(10.4)	(5.7)	8.8
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Net Income	44.4	47.3	50.6	14.1	7.1
Tax	(17.4)	(14.9)	(13.4)	(23.0)	(10.0)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Net Income after Tax	27.0	32.4	37.2	38.1	14.9
Total Return	60.4	60.5	36.1	(40.2)	(40.3)
Non-tax deductible Items	(16.4)	(14.4)	11.6	(171.1)	(180.9)
Net Inc available for Dist.	44.6	31.6	47.5	6.5	50.4
Ratio (%)					
Net Prop Inc Margin	63.9	64.9	65.1		
Dist. Payout Ratio	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank

Historical Dividend yield and PB band



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank estimates



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS Bank estimates



Income Statement (EURm)

FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
FIDEC	2020A	2021A	ZUZZF	2025F	202 4 F
Gross revenue	187	200	205	211	215
Property expenses	(69.6)	(70.0)	(70.8)	(72.8)	(74.2)
Net Property Income	117	130	134	138	141
Other Operating expenses	(10.5)	(11.0)	(11.9)	(12.4)	(12.5)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(0.7)	0.83	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(17.9)	(21.7)	(21.3)	(22.0)	(23.7)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	8.21	26.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income	96.5	125	101 ្	104	105
Тах	(17.2)	(28.3)	(10.9)	(11.2)	(11.5)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preference Dividend	0.0	(0.2)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)
Net Income After Tax	79.4	96.4	84.8	87.5	88.4
Total Return	79.4	96.4	84.8	87.5	88.4
Non-tax deductible Items	9.78	(2.7)	10.6	10.1	10.1
Net Inc available for Dist.	89.1	93.6	95.4	97.5	98.5
Growth & Ratio					
Revenue Gth (%)	5.6	7.0	2.3	3.0	2.1
N Property Inc Gth (%)	1.0	10.9	2.9	3.1	2.2
Net Inc Gth (%)	(27.2)	21.4	(12.0)	3.2	1.1
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Net Prop Inc Margins (%)	62.8	65.0	65.4	65.5	65.5
Net Income Margins (%)	42.4	48.2	41.4	41.5	41.1
Dist to revenue (%)	47.7	46.8	46.6	46.3	45.7
Managers & Trustee's fees	5.6	5.5	5.8	5.9	5.8
ROAE (%)	6.1	7.1	6.0	6.2	6.3
ROA (%)	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.4
ROCE (%)	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.5
Int. Cover (x)	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.4

Interest on S\$100m in perpetual securities issued in November 2021 at a cost of 5.0% p.a.

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Interim Income Statement (EURm)

FY Dec	1H2020	2H2020	1H2021	2H2021
	93.7	02.2	00.0	101
Gross revenue		93.3	99.0	101
Property expenses	(35.9)	(33.7)	(34.7)	(35.3)
Net Property Income	57.7	59.6	64.3	65.8
Other Operating	(5.3)	(5.2)	(5.6)	(5.6)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(0.4)	(0.2)	0.0	0.84
Associates & JV Inc	-	-	-	-
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(8.1)	(9.8)	(11.4)	(10.4)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income	44.0	44.4	47.3	50.6
Тах	0.25	(17.4)	(14.9)	(13.4)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income after Tax	20.4	27.0	32.4	37.2
Total Return	19.3	60.4	60.5	36.1
Non-tax deductible Items	26.1	(16.4)	(14.4)	11.6
Net Inc available for Dist.	44.6	44.6	31.6	47.5
Growth & Ratio				
Revenue Gth (%)	N/A	0	6	2
N Property Inc Gth (%)	nm	3	8	2
Net Inc Gth (%)	nm	(39)	20	15
Net Prop Inc Margin (%)	61.6	63.9	64.9	65.1
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Company, DBS Bank



Balance Sheet (EURm)

Balance Sheet (EURm)					
FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Investment Properties	2,185	2,449	2,483	2,518	2,553
Other LT Assets	4.99	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
Cash & ST Invts	43.6	59.3	36.4	36.2	36.1
Inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debtors	15.9	18.5	12.8	13.2	13.5
Other Current Assets	1.40	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87
Total Assets	2,250	2,535	2,540	2,575	2,611
ST Debt	0.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
Creditor	28.5	35.7	7.18	7.40	7.55
Other Current Liab	28.4	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5
LT Debt	847	900	934	969	1,004
Other LT Liabilities	44.4	66.3	66.3	66.3	66.3
Unitholders' funds	1,302	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477
Minority Interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Funds & Liabilities	2,250	2,535	2,540	2,575	2,611
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(39.5)	(48.8)	(26.0)	(25.8)	(25.7)
Net Cash/(Debt)	(803)	(863)	(921)	(956)	(991)
Ratio	(005)	(000)	(521)	(550)	(551)
Current Ratio (x)	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Quick Ratio (x)	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Aggregate Leverage (%)	38.4	37.4	38.2	39.1	39.9
Z-Score (X)	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	NA
()					

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Cash Flow Statement (EURm)

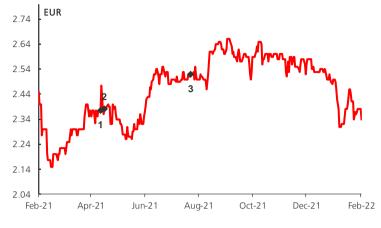
FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Pre-Tax Income	79.4	96.4	84.8	87.5	88.4
Dep. & Amort.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tax Paid	(7.7)	(5.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & V Inc/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(13.7)	(18.5)	(22.9)	(0.2)	(0.1)
Other Operating CF	30.6	24.1	10.6	10.1	10.1
Net Operating CF	88.6	96.9	72.5	97.4	98.4
Net Invt in Properties	(21.0)	(22.6)	(34.3)	(34.8)	(35.3)
Other Invts (net)	(105)	(72.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	(125)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc. & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	79.5	(12.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(46.3)	(233)	(34.3)	(34,8)	(35.3)
Distribution Paid	(96.2)	(83.2)	(95.4)	(97.5)	(98.5)
Chg in Gross Debt	26.6	75.6	34.3	34.8	35.3
New units issued	0.0	97.7 🦯	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(8.4)	61.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(78.0)	151	(61.1)	(62.8)	(63.2)
Currency Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(35.7)	15.7	(22.9)	(0.2)	(0.1)
Operating CFPS (Euro cts.)	20.0	21.5	17.0	17.4	17.6
Free CFPS (Euro cts.)	13.2	13.8	6.82	11.2	11.2

Private placement done in March 2021.

Source: Company, DBS Bank



Target Price & Ratings History



Source: DBS Bank Analyst: Dale LAI Derek TAN

S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	03 May 21	2.38	3.00	BUY
2:	07 May 21	2.38	3.00	BUY
3:	13 Aug 21	2.52	3.00	BUY



DBS Bank recommendations are based on an Absolute Total Return* Rating system, defined as follows: STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame) BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps) HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps) FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months) SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

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- 2. DBS Bank Ltd, DBS HK, DBSVS, their subsidiaries and/or other affiliates have a net long position exceeding 0.5% of the total issued share capital in Cromwell European REIT recommended in this report as of 31 Jan 2022.
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