China / Hong Kong Company Update

Geely Automobile Holdings

Bloomberg: 175 HK EQUITY | Reuters: 0175.HK

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29 Mar 2022

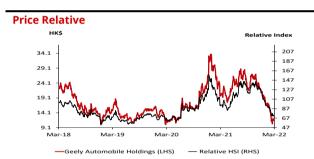
BUY

Last Traded Price (28 Mar 2022): HK\$11.60 (HSI: 21,685) **Price Target 12-mth:** HK\$20.00 (72% upside)

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What's New

- 2022F sales budget of 1.65m units unchanged; autorelated services income a sustainable profit contributor
- High level of raw material inventory to buffer supply shortfall
- Improvement in product mix to enhance FY22F margins
- Maintain BUY; HK\$20 pegged to 18x FY22F PE



Forecasts and valuation					
FY Dec (RMBm)	2020A	2021A			
Turnover	92,114	101,611			
EBITDA	11,724	11,278			
Pre-tax Profit	6 441	4 665			

FY Dec (RIVIBM)	2020A	202 TA	2022F	2023F
Turnover	92,114	101,611	130,563	156,225
EBITDA	11,724	11,278	15,387	19,049
Pre-tax Profit	6,441	4,665	9,854	12,844
Net Profit	5.397	4.720	8,751	11,379
Net Pft (Pre Ex) (core profit)	5,397	4.720	8,751	11,379
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(34.1)	(12.5)	85.4	30.0
EPS (RMB)	0.56	0.48	0.89	1.16
EPS (HK\$)	0.69	0.59	1.10	1.42
EPS Gth (%)	(37.4)	(14.9)	85.4	30.0
Diluted EPS (HK\$)	0.69	0.59	1.09	1.42
DPS (HK\$)	0.09	0.39	0.22	0.29
BV Per Share (HK\$)	7.75	8.16	9.06	10.28
PE (X)	16.7	19.6	10.6	8.1
P/Cash Flow (X)	56.4	6.0	9.8	8.3
P/Free CF (X)	nm	7.4	16.9	14.9
EV/EBITDA (X)	6.7	6.5	4.8	3.9
Net Div Yield (%)	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.5
P/Book Value (X)	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
ROAE(%)	9.7	7.5	12.7	14.7
Earnings Rev (%):			Nil	Nil
Consensus EPS (RMB)			0.85	1.05
Other Broker Recs:		B:37	S:0	H:7

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters

Better performance ahead

Investment Thesis

Post FY21 results conference call takeaways: management confident of meeting sales targets. Company reaffirmed its sales target for 2022 with improvements from the various brands. While supply chain disruptions remain a global issue, Geely's management believes they are in better control with a comfortable level of raw material stockpiles on hand. The chip shortage and sporadic lockdowns in certain cities had affected 1Q22 sales by 10%-15%, yet decent supply from the T2/3 chip suppliers should help support production volume for rest of the year. In addition, auto services is a sustainable income source with decent contributions to net earnings (FY21: ~Rmb1bn).

Better profit margins expected. While supply chain disruptions and expenses related to Zeekr's initial launch affected the group's FY21 GPM, FY22 profitability is expected to improve on account of a better revenue mix (high-end China Star series vehicle volume +30% y-o-y; 2-3x higher GP compared to normal Geely brands). In FY21, Zeekr's impact on the GPM was about 1.5ppt. A better margin is expected this year on the back of cost discipline and a better product mix.

Zeekr in a ramp-up phase; software upgrade expected to lift sentiment. Vehicle software functions have been upgraded to provide a better driving experience to customers. 2022 volume to be shipped is budgeted at 70k, vs. 8.4k last year.

Valuation:

2022E

2022F

Our HK\$20 TP is based on a 18x FY22F PE. The auto sector has been sold down recently and Geely is trading at FY22F 11x PE, which is 1SD below historical mean.

Where we differ:

Our FY23F net earnings are above the consensus as we believe its accelerated NEV development is expected to generate higher contributions to earnings.

Key Risks to Our View:

Product margin erosion on rising raw material costs and market share decline as a result of intense competition.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	10,018
Mkt Cap (HK\$m/US\$m)	116,209 / 14,842
Major Shareholders (%)	
Proper Glory Holding, Inc.	26.3
Zhejiang Jirun Automobile Co., Ltd.	7.9
Free Float (%)	65.7
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	115.06
GICS Industry: Consumer Discretionary / Automobi	iles &
Components	







WHAT'S NEW

Anticipating better 2H

We hosted a post-2021 annual results group conference call with the Geely management recently. Below are the key takeaways.

Sales volume improvement and better revenue mix are possible

Q: Can management breakdown the 2022 sales volume target by technology?

A: In 2022, Geely plans to derive some 20% of total sales from NEEV. By brands, Zeekr: 70k units; Geometry: 160k; Leishen PHEV: 100k; and about 30k from exiting PHEV models. There are also plans to roll out the 3 HEV model later this year, which should generate about 50k in sales volume.

Q: How confident is the company in being able to achieve the 1.65m unit sales target given the current challenging environment?

A: We are confident of achieving a 24% increase in sales volume, as we have straightened some of the supply issues; and new technology such as Zeekr and Leishen should support vehicle shipment. Hence, Geely is confident that Zeekr/Leishen/Geometry are going to achieve strong sales growth this year.

Q: Vehicle ASP increased about 8% in FY21. How much was attributable to new models and how much was due to raw material cost increases?

A: Generally, Geely fixed the vehicle selling prices for dealers. Yes, we were able to price higher for our new models and offer lower rebates to dealers to protect product margins. For example, our Xinyue L model was priced at Rmb160k when it launched in Jul 21 and Xinrui at an ASP of Rmb130k. We are moving the higher ASP range, compared to the previous segment, of around Rmb100k. From 2H, Leishen will have one new model each month to support sales.

Q: GP margin comparison between export sales and domestic operations?

A: It depends on the overseas markets. For example, Malaysia GP margin is higher than China. Other markets are slightly lower.

We estimate overseas to achieve 160k units this year (excluding Lynk's 30k to western Europe). We are successful in Malaysia with Proton taking a market share of 20% since we entered that market in 2017.

Impact of chip shortage and rise in raw material costs

Q: How many auto chips are developed in-house and what is the self-sufficiency rate?

A: We focus on developing the advanced chips (such as MCU chips) to support infotainments, smart cockpit, autonomous driving, etc. The manufacturing activity will be outsourced.

Q: What is the impact of the geopolitical (Russia-Ukraine) conflict on raw materials and business?

A: We carry out spot trading of raw materials as well as lock in inventory (about two months of precious metals) to support our production. We noticed some volatility since 2H21 and have stockpiled some inventory.

Q: Can the company discuss the battery operations and the customer base?

A: We collaborate with CATL on battery cells and battery pack production. We also have a JV with Sunwoda (欣旺達電動汽車電池有限公司) on battery development and sales. Our parent is also in discussion with Funeng (字能电池) about battery cell development. We currently supply the battery products to Volvo and Lynk & Co. The battery collaborations are important, especially for Zeekr's EV development.

Zeekr business outlook expected to improve

Q: Zeekr derives revenue from two sources: Car sales and supply of auto components. Based on 8.4k unit sales in 2021, it managed to generate positive gross margins. In 2022, Zeekr targets a 70k volume shipment, hence, it should be favourable on the company, especially as we have good cost discipline.

Q: Any updates on the Zeekr business after last year's operational issues?

A: We have incorporated the feedback from customers and upgraded the software to provide a better driving experience to car owners. A lot of the interface has been upgraded. However, due to the shortage of auto chips, our Jan-Feb sales were not good. We expect the operation to improve.

Q: Any update on ADAS development?

A: Different brands have different strategies. We focus on the camera function as part of the facilitation solutions and it will be developed in-house. We have entered into collaborations with Waymo and Mobileye for L4 development. Zeekr, being a high-end brand, will follow its parent's ADAS development path.



Leading hybrid technology through Leishen Power

Q: What is Leishen Power's strengths compared to its peers in the hybrid segment?

A: Leishen is one of the best in the hybrid market. It can achieve fuel savings of about 40%, meaning for a 1.8L vehicle, the fuel consumption is about 4.3L/100km, so this is a very good achievement. Also, Leishen covers not only PHEV and HEV but also the extended range hybrid. Leishen was developed with dedicated engine/transmissions and a battery pack. Hence, it offers a lot of flexibility, as it is on a modular platform.

Q: What percentage of your model fleet will incorporate with Leishen Power solutions?

A: Most of the China Star series (high-end segment) will carry the Leishen technology while Lynk & Co. is expected to reach 100% of its models by 2023.

Lynk & Co. business outlook

Q: Lynk suffered a decline in net profit, although revenue was flat in 2H. Net margins also declined. What are the reasons?

A: Lynk is developing its business (subscription and direct sales channel) in Europe. About 80,000 subscription accounts were secured in 2021 and over 10,000 vehicles were shipped. Therefore, net margins were affected. We expect 30,000 unit shipments for 2022. Lynk expanded into the B segment in 2H21 after the launch of the new

model in Oct 21, leveraging on the Volvo platform. Hence, we expect 2022 would be better.

Financials

Q: We noticed selling expenses increased by 25%. What are the reasons?

A: The increase in selling expenses was due to the Zeekr sales network expansion. The company set up Zeekr Space and services centres (50 last year) and budgeted to have over 300 outlets this year.

Q: 2021 had an Rmb1.2bn share-based payment. Will this continue this year?

A: The Rmb1.2bn was a non-cash item. We expect this item to recur this year and expect it to narrow in 2023.

Q: What is the dividend policy this year?

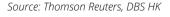
A: We will maintain a 30% payout ratio for the long term. 2021 payout was 35% because of a record net cash level.

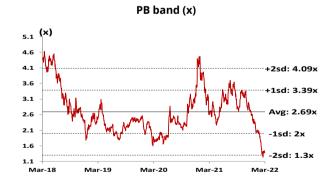
Company Background

Geely Automobile Holdings Limited (Geely), through its subsidiaries, manufactures and sells automobiles and related components under the Geely and Lynk brands. To broaden its new energy vehicle (NEV) product offerings, Geely introduced the Geometry brand in 2019.

Historical PE and PB band









Key Assumptions

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F
Car sales ('000 units)	1,233.5	1,144.8	1,107.5	1,329.0	1,488.5
Blended ASP (RMB/unit)	74,457	73,216	79,183	84,725	89,809
Source: Company, DBS HK					

Segmental Breakdown (RMB m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F
Revenues (RMB m)					
Auto mobile sales	91,843	83,814	87,697	112,602	133,681
Parts & components	5,130	6,989	8,798	11,438	14,869
Licensing of IP	428	566	1,275	1,531	1,684
Others	N/A	745	3,840	4,992	5,990
Total	97,401	92,114	101,611	130,563	156,225

Source: Company, DBS HK

Income Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F
Revenue	97,401	92,114	101,611	130,563	156,225
Cost of Goods Sold	(80,485)	(77,377)	(84,199)	(107,584)	(127,323)
Gross Profit	16,917	14,737	17,412	22,979	28,902
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(8,052)	(9,380)	(14,232)	(15,320)	(19,032)
Operating Profit	8,864	5,357	3,180	7,659	9,869
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Associates & JV Inc	664	875	1,205	1,803	2,671
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	108	208	280	392	303
Dividend Income	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	9,636	6,441	4,665	9,854	12,844
Tax	(1,375)	(866)	(312)	(886)	(1,221)
Minority Interest	(72)	(41)	494	(90)	(116)
Preference Dividend	0	(137)	(127)	(127)	(127)
Net Profit	8,190	5,397	4,720	8,751	11,379
Net Profit before Except.	8,190	5,397	4,720	8,751	11,379
EBITDA	13,261	11,724	11,278	15,387	19,049
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(8.6)	(5.4)	10.3	28.5	19.7
EBITDA Gth (%)	(23.3)	(11.6)	(3.8)	36.4	23.8
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(38.6)	(39.6)	(40.6)	140.9	28.9
Net Profit Gth (%)	(34.8)	(34.1)	(12.5)	85.4	30.0
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	17.4	16.0	17.1	17.6	18.5
Opg Profit Margin (%)	9.1	5.8	3.1	5.9	6.3
Net Profit Margin (%)	8.4	5.9	4.6	6.7	7.3
ROAE (%)	17.1	9.7	7.5	12.7	14.7
ROA (%)	8.2	4.9	3.9	6.3	7.6
ROCE (%)	14.0	7.2	4.1	8.7	10.0
Div Payout Ratio (%)	25.1	30.3	36.0	20.3	20.2
Net Interest Cover (x)	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
Source: Company, DBS HK					





Interim Income Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2H2019	1H2020	2H2020	1H2021	2H2021
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Revenue	49,843	36,820	55,294	45,032	56,579
Cost of Goods Sold	(41,395)	(30,518)	(46,859)	(37,273)	(46,926)
Gross Profit	8,448	6,302	8,435	7,759	9,653
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(3,951)	(4,196)	(5,184)	(5,645)	(8,587)
Operating Profit	4,497	2,106	3,251	2,114	1,066
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	1	1
Associates & JV Inc	315	446	430	706	499
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	59	89	120	101	179
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	4,872	2,640	3,801	2,923	1,747
Tax	(657)	(320)	(546)	(512)	199
Minority Interest	(34)	(23)	(18)	(28)	522
Net Profit	4,180	2,297	3,237	2,381	2,466
Net profit bef Except.	4,180	2,298	3,238	2,385	2,470
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(5.8)	(22.6)	10.9	22.3	2.3
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(33.0)	(51.8)	(27.7)	0.4	(67.2)
Net Profit Gth (%)	(28.9)	(42.7)	(22.6)	3.7	(23.8)
Margins					
Gross Margins (%)	16.9	17.1	15.3	17.2	17.1
Opg Profit Margins (%)	9.0	5.7	5.9	4.7	1.9
Net Profit Margins (%) Source: Company, DBS HK	8.4	6.2	5.9	5.3	4.4



Balance Sheet (RMB m)

Bulance Sheet (KWB III)					
FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F
Net Fixed Assets	27,070	26,574	30,859	32,842	35,632
Invts in Associates & JVs	8,837	9,689	10,205	12,008	14,678
Other LT Assets	22,006	23,618	27,982	29,075	29,776
Cash & ST Invts	19,322	19,151	28,018	27,988	28,521
Inventory	4,821	3,691	5,522	6,350	7,302
Debtors	19,764	24,557	27,032	30,094	33,515
Other Current Assets	6,108	3,536	4,657	4,883	5,120
Total Assets	107,928	110,816	134,341	143,305	154,611
ST Debt	0	0	1,907	1,907	1,907
Creditors	31,525	29,861	31,549	31,864	32,183
Other Current Liab	17,002	12,026	26,895	27,474	27,815
LT Debt	4,149	3,909	1,901	2,701	3,501
Other LT Liabilities	327	806	1,869	1,869	1,869
Shareholder's Equity	54,436	63,631	68,606	75,786	85,516
Minority Interests	489	582	1,615	1,705	1,821
Total Cap. & Liab.	107,928	110,816	134,341	143,305	154,611
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(17,834)	(10,103)	(21,233)	(18,011)	(14,060)
Net Cash/(Debt)	15,172	15,242	24,210	23,380	23,114
Debtors Turn (avg days)	70.9	87.8	92.7	79.9	74.3
Creditors Turn (avg days)	134.9	155.8	145.0	113.8	96.7
Inventory Turn (avg days)	21.2	21.6	21.7	21.3	20.6
Asset Turnover (x)	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
Current Ratio (x)	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
Quick Ratio (x)	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	69.2	71.8	74.4	86.8	92.5
Z-Score (X)	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4
Source: Company, DBS HK					
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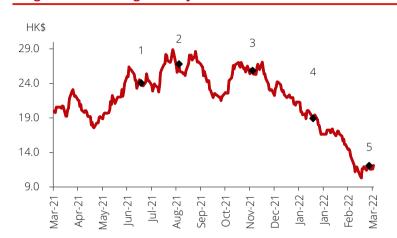
Cash Flow Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F
Pre-Tax Profit	9,636	6,441	4,665	9,854	12,844
Dep. & Amort.	3,733	5,491	6,893	5,926	6,510
Tax Paid	(1,949)	(1,371)	(1,197)	(312)	(886)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(664)	(875)	(1,205)	(1,803)	(2,671)
(Pft)/Loss on disposal of FAs	0	0	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg. Cap.	1,977	(9,784)	5,161	(3,795)	(4,287)
Other Operating CF	(195)	1,695	1,031	(393)	(304)
Net Operating CF	12,538	1,597	15,348	9,477	11,206
Capital Exp. (net)	(2,873)	(2,807)	(2,833)	(4,000)	(5,000)
Other Invts. (net)	(1,589)	819	0	0	0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Div from Assoc & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Other Investing CF	(6,330)	(3,443)	(4,326)	(4,440)	(4,496)
Net Investing CF	(10,791)	(5,430)	(7,159)	(8,440)	(9,496)
Div Paid	(2,806)	(2,058)	(1,677)	(1,699)	(1,776)
Chg in Gross Debt	688	800	0	800	800
Capital Issues	639	5,838	0	0	0
Other Financing CF	3,242	(819)	2,593	(168)	(200)
Net Financing CF	1,763	3,761	916	(1,068)	(1,176)
Currency Adjustments	34	(232)	(68)	0	0
Chg in Cash	3,544	(304)	9,037	(31)	533
Opg CFPS (RMB)	1.16	1.19	1.04	1.35	1.58
Free CFPS (RMB)	1.06	(0.13)	1.27	0.56	0.63

Source: Company, DBS HK



Target Price & Ratings History



S.No	o. Date	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	7-Jul-21	HK\$24.05	HK\$30.00	Buy
2:	19-Aug-21	HK\$26.25	HK\$34.00	Buy
3:	11-Nov-21	HK\$25.85	HK\$34.00	Buy
4:	19-Jan-22	HK\$19.24	HK\$29.00	Buy

Source: DBS HK Analyst: Rachel Miu



DBS HK 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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Sources for all charts and tables are DBS HK unless otherwise specified.

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