



Singapore

March 28, 2022 - 8:52 PM

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 16	Hold 2	Sell 0
Current price:			S\$2.65
Target price:			S\$3.30
Previous target:			S\$3.30
Up/downside:			24.5%
CGS-CIMB / Consens	sus:		4.3%
Reuters:		;	STEL.SI
Bloomberg:			ST SP
Market cap:		US\$3	32,256m
		S\$4	13,746m
Average daily turnove	r:	USS	\$56.61m
		S	76.56m
Current shares o/s		1	15,934m
Free float:			49.7%
*Source: Bloomberg			

Key financial forecasts

	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Net Profit (S\$m)	1,955	2,540	2,979
Core EPS (S\$)	0.12	0.16	0.18
Core EPS Growth	12.8%	30.0%	17.3%
FD Core P/E (x)	22.21	17.09	14.57
Recurring ROE	7.3%	9.2%	10.4%
P/BV (x)	1.60	1.53	1.49
DPS (S\$)	0.09	0.12	0.14
Dividend Yield	3.38%	4.39%	5.15%



		Source:	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	1.9	14.2	11.8
Relative (%)	-1.7	4.4	3.1
Major shareholders			% held

50.3

Analyst(s)

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SingTel

NCS speedily climbs its growth ARQ

- NCS acquired digital services firm ARQ Group for A\$290m, in line with its strategy to expand into Australia. Valuation is in line with past transactions.
- We think Singtel can sustain a 75% payout ratio, aided by asset recycling, including the recent 1.6% stake sale in Airtel Africa & Comcentre divestment.
- Reiterate Add and TP of S\$3.30. Singtel is our top Singapore telco pick.

NCS further accelerates its expansion by buying ARQ for A\$290m...

Singtel's wholly-owned subsidiary, NCS (Unlisted), is acquiring 100% of ARQ Group (Unlisted) for A\$290m (S\$297m or 2 Scts per Singtel share), consisting of A\$265m upfront and A\$25m earn-outs in tranches over 3 years. ARQ is a digital services company that specialises in cloud, digital, data & analytics solutions and serves half of the Australian Securities Exchange's (ASX) top 20 companies, including ANZ (ANZ AU, Not Rated, CP: A\$27.79), Qantas (QAN AU, Not Rated, CP: A\$5.14) and Domino's (DMP AU, Not Rated, CP: A\$80.50). Singtel expects the deal to be finalised by May 2022. This is NCS's fourth acquisition in Australia in the past 15 months, after The Dialog Group (A\$325m, Mar 22), Eighty20 (Oct 21) and Riley (Sep 21).

...attaining scale and end-to-end enterprise solution capabilities

- The acquisition of ARQ is in line with Singtel's previously stated strategy to regionalise NCS's operations to Greater China and Australia. ARQ's 560 staff will bring NCS's headcount in Australia to 1,900 and, coupled with earlier acquisitions, will give NCS the capabilities to offer Australian (as well as regional) clients an end-to-end suite of enterprise solutions.
- ARQ expects to generate revenue of A\$118m (+38% yoy) and EBITDA of A\$18.4m for FY22F. This implies an FY22F EV/EBITDA of 15.8x, which is justified given ARQ's growth prospects, in our view. This is also in line with the valuation of ASX-listed Data#3 (FY22F: 15.8x, based on Bloomberg consensus estimates) and multiples for similar transactions in 2021 (14-15x). Market research firm IDC expects the digital services market in Australia to grow at a healthy CAGR of 8.7% in 2020-25.

Driving growth will not be at the expense of dividends, in our view

• While Singtel continues to undertake these investments in ICT, data centre and digital banking to drive future earnings growth, it is also carrying out asset recycling initiatives to fund them. This includes last week's non-core asset sale of a 1.6% stake in Airtel Africa (AAF LN, Not Rated, £141.10) for S\$150m (leaving a balance 3.9% direct stake) and its announcement in Feb 22 of the divestment of Comcentre, its headquarters along the Orchard Road belt, to a joint venture company, which we estimate may raise net cash proceeds of S\$1.0bn-1.2bn for Singtel upon property handover in CY24F. Our analysis of the projected outflows and inflows in FY22-24F (see Fig 2) suggests that Singtel can comfortably sustain a 75% dividend payout ratio (policy: 60-80%).

Reiterate Add and SOP-based TP of S\$3.30

 We keep our forecasts and TP unchanged for now, given ARQ's immaterial earnings impact on the Singtel Group in the near-term. Re-rating catalysts: FY22-23F core EPS recovery, further asset monetisation, and expansion into higher growth business areas (e.g. regional data centres, digital banking). Its current share price implies FY22F EV/EBITDA of just 2.8x for Singtel Singapore and Optus. Downside risk: price wars.

Figure 1: Valuation of ARQ is in line with similar transactions in 2021

Acquiror	Acquiree	Stake transacted	Acquisition consideration (A\$ m)	Implied EV/EBITDA (x)*		
Capgemini	Empired	100.0%	234	15.0		
Wipro	Ampion	100.0%	117	14.0		
NRI Australia	Planit Test Management Solutions	100.0%	300	15.0		
*Based on acquisition consideration & EV21 ERITDA						

*Based on acquisition consideration & FY21 EBITDA SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG, TIMES OF INDIA, CONSULTANCY, COM, AU

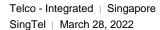




Figure 2: Asset recycling at Singtel to drive future growth & sustain dividends Total Total Total Outflow Inflow Inflow (incl. potential asset sales) FY22-24F FY22-24F FY22-24F Capex (ex-spectrum) 6,669 CFO (incl asso dvd, ex-TSEL special) 13,225 Amobee (NBV after May 21 write-off) 511 Spectrum (SG: 2.1GHz, 700MHz; AU: 900MHz) 1,862 ATN 70% stake sale 1,900 Trustwave (NBV after May 21 write-off) 695 Interest payments 1,447 TSEL 10k tower sales (STs share) 417 Airtel Africa 3.9% stake 365.625 Dividends (75% payout) TSEL +6k tower sales (Singtel's share) 249 4,747 SecureTrust sale 108 Bharti rights issue - direct stake 539 1,000 1,500 Comcentre (announced, est. value) Optus satellites Bharti rights issue - indirect stake (BTL) 681 Sale of 1.6% stake in Airtel Africa 150 NLT 25% stake 1,072 SPOST 21.7% stake Regional DC investment 500 439 Digital bank equity injection (SG, MY, ID) 944 NCS: Acquisition of The Dialog Group 325 NCS: Acquisition of ARQ Group 297 Total 18,011 Total 16,800 Total (incl. announced asset sales) 21,631 Surplus/(Shortfall) -1,212 3,620 Net debt (end-FY21) 12,365 12,365 Net debt (end-FY24) 13,577 8,745 FY24F EBITDA 7,745 7,745 Net debt/EBITDA (x) 1.8 1.1 SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Company	Bloomberg	Basam	Current share	Target price	Market cap	Core	P/E (x)	EV/EBI	TDA (x)	EV/Op	FCF (x)	3-year (CAGR (%)	Dvd Yi	eld (%)
Company	Ticker	Recoill.	Current share price (local curr.)	(local curr.)	(US\$ m)	2022F	2023F	2022F	2023F	2022F	2023F	EPS	EBITDA	2022F	2023F
Maxis	MAXIS MK	REDUCE	4.02	3.80	7,462	27.1	21.7	10.1	9.6	14.9	13.5	6.3	3.4	4.2	5.0
TM	TMK	ADD	4.83	7.50	4,323	15.3	10.8	4.9	4.6	7.9	7.5	14.2	3.2	3.9	5.5
MY telcos	average (ex	c-outliers)			23.8	20.3	7.9	7.5	12.5	11.6	10.4	3.4	3.8	4.7
SingTel	ST SP	ADD	2.65	3.30	32,154	17.1	14.6	7.5	13.5	17.6	16.7	21.4	2.1	4.4	5.1
Starhub	STH SP	HOLD	1.29	1.40	1,641	28.1	22.7	8.0	6.8	21.1	12.3	(9.9)	1.6	3.9	3.9
SG telcos	average (ex	c-outliers)			22.6	18.7	7.7	10.1	19.4	14.5	5.8	1.8	4.1	4.5
TLKM	TLKM IJ	ADD	4,600	4,850	31,733	16.2	15.1	7.5	7.2	12.4	11.5	9.9	4.9	4.6	5.0
XL Axiata	EXCL IJ	ADD	2,790	3,550	2,084	20.1	14.6	4.5	4.1	11.0	9.3	32.9	7.3	3.0	4.8
Indosat	ISAT IJ	HOLD	5,225	6,200	2,934	nm	nm	4.4	3.9	nm	38.1	16.5	22.4	0.0	0.0
Link Net	LINK IJ	ADD	4,340	5,200	865	13.0	11.9	4.9	4.4	13.5	12.9	5.8	8.6	2.3	4.2
Indo telco	os average (e	ex-outlier	rs)			16.4	13.9	5.3	4.9	12.3	18.0	16.2	10.8	2.5	3.5
AIS	ADVANC TB	ADD	232.00	254.00	20,421	25.5	24.9	8.0	7.6	11.7	10.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.6
DTAC	DTAC TB	ADD	49.00	55.20	3,434	41.1	78.0	5.9	6.0	11.9	12.9	(24.2)	2.0	3.6	2.1
True	TRUE TB	HOLD	5.00	5.40	4,934	nm	nm	6.9	7.0	13.4	12.0	28.1	3.1	1.4	1.4
Jasmine	JASIF TB	REDUCE	10.90	10.00	2,581	9.8	9.6	10.0	9.6	10.0	9.6	1.9	1.3	8.5	8.7
DIF	DIF TB	ADD	14.20	17.20	4,468	12.1	12.0	12.2	12.0	12.2	12.0	0.2	0.2	7.4	7.4
Intouch	INTUCH TB	HOLD	77.75	73.00	7,379	23.0	22.8	23.2	23.0	23.3	23.0	2.0	1.9	3.9	3.9
Thai telco	os average (e	ex-outlier	rs)			22.3	29.5	11.0	10.9	13.7	13.4	1.9	2.0	4.7	4.5
ASEAN Te	elcos averag	e (ex-out	liers)			21.5	21.9	8.4	8.4	13.9	14.2	7.6	4.5	3.9	4.3



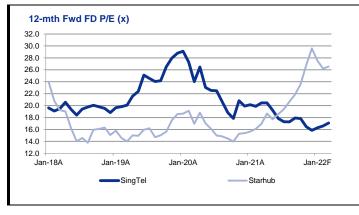
BY THE NUMBERS

Profit & Loss				
(S\$m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Total Net Revenues	15,644	15,260	15,206	15,484
Gross Profit	3,832	3,864	3,860	4,020
Operating EBITDA	3,832	3,864	3,860	4,020
Depreciation And Amortisation	-2,685	-2,702	-2,675	-2,688
Operating EBIT	1,147	1,163	1,185	1,332
Financial Income/(Expense)	-395	-346	-425	-482
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	1,798	2,327	3,132	3,725
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	2,550	3,144	3,892	4,575
Exceptional Items	-1,179	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	1,371	3,144	3,892	4,575
Taxation	-811	-1,178	-1,340	-1,583
Exceptional Income - post-tax				
Profit After Tax	560	1,967	2,552	2,991
Minority Interests	-6	-12	-12	-12
Preferred Dividends				
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax				
Other Adjustments - post-tax				
Net Profit	554	1,955	2,540	2,979
Recurring Net Profit	1,733	1,955	2,540	2,979
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	1,733	1,955	2,540	2,979

Balance Sheet				
(S\$m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Total Cash And Equivalents	755	2,628	2,312	661
Total Debtors	5,444	5,289	5,406	5,485
Inventories	272	261	269	266
Total Other Current Assets	62	62	62	62
Total Current Assets	6,532	8,240	8,049	6,474
Fixed Assets	11,534	11,117	10,683	10,138
Total Investments	13,735	11,612	12,688	14,066
Intangible Assets	13,129	13,914	14,609	15,340
Total Other Non-Current Assets	3,068	3,513	3,513	3,513
Total Non-current Assets	41,466	40,155	41,493	43,057
Short-term Debt	1,612	1,612	1,612	1,612
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt				
Total Creditors	6,785	5,927	6,727	6,056
Other Current Liabilities	740	740	740	740
Total Current Liabilities	9,137	8,279	9,079	8,408
Total Long-term Debt	9,042	8,242	8,342	8,542
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component				
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	2,809	4,163	3,319	2,869
Total Non-current Liabilities	11,851	12,406	11,662	11,411
Total Provisions	499	499	499	499
Total Liabilities	21,487	21,184	21,240	20,318
Shareholders' Equity	26,486	27,212	28,302	29,212
Minority Interests	26	0	0	0
Total Equity	26,511	27,212	28,302	29,212

Cash Flow				
(S\$m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
EBITDA	3,832	3,864	3,860	4,020
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.	1,434	1,892	1,282	1,365
Change In Working Capital	584	0	0	0
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions				
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense				
Other Operating Cashflow	0	0	0	0
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	-222	-443	-467	-524
Tax Paid	-164	-492	-366	-398
Cashflow From Operations	5,463	4,821	4,308	4,463
Capex	-2,214	-2,285	-2,240	-2,144
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	31	0	0	0
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	-262	1,873	-200	-204
Other Investing Cashflow	-224	-65	-376	-1,421
Cash Flow From Investing	-2,668	-477	-2,816	-3,769
Debt Raised/(repaid)	-1,693	-800	100	200
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	0	0	0	0
Shares Repurchased				
Dividends Paid	-1,273	-1,229	-1,450	-2,069
Preferred Dividends				
Other Financing Cashflow				
Cash Flow From Financing	-2,966	-2,029	-1,350	-1,869
Total Cash Generated	-171	2,316	143	-1,174
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,102	3,544	1,592	895
Free Cashflow To Firm	3,019	4,791	1,963	1,224

Key Ratios				
	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Revenue Growth	(5.43%)	(2.45%)	(0.35%)	1.82%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(15.6%)	0.8%	(0.1%)	4.2%
Operating EBITDA Margin	24.5%	25.3%	25.4%	26.0%
Net Cash Per Share (S\$)	-0.60	-0.44	-0.47	-0.58
BVPS (S\$)	1.62	1.66	1.73	1.78
Gross Interest Cover	2.88	2.79	2.69	2.67
Effective Tax Rate	59.2%	37.5%	34.4%	34.6%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	22.7%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%
Accounts Receivables Days	128.4	128.4	128.4	128.7
Inventory Days	8.52	8.53	8.53	8.55
Accounts Payables Days	203.3	203.6	203.5	204.1
ROIC (%)	7.20%	1.78%	2.23%	2.62%
ROCE (%)	2.99%	3.10%	3.12%	3.40%
Return On Average Assets	4.96%	4.37%	5.66%	6.56%



Key Drivers				
	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Singapore total mobile subs ('000)	4,128.0	4,140.0	4,222.0	4,308.0
Optus total mobile subs ('000)	9,973.8	8,852.8	9,042.8	9,232.8
Singapore blended mobile ARPU (S\$/mth/sub)	23.0	23.7	25.3	27.8
Optus blended mobile ARPU (A\$/mth/sub)	28.7	32.8	35.5	35.5

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Add	71.1%	1.5%
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Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

SingTel (ST SP)



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

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Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.	
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