Singapore Company Update

Keppel Pacific Oak US REIT

Bloomberg: KORE SP \mid Reuters: KPEL.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

26 May 2022

A star is born!

BUY

Last Traded Price (25 May 2022): US\$0.685 (STI: 3,179.58) Price Target 12-mth: US\$0.86 (26% upside) (Prev US\$0.85)

Analyst

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What's New

- Stands to benefit from US reopening story, with a significant portion of its submarkets displaying positive recovery outlook
- Unique exposure to technology tenants, which still comprise the bulk of office demand and still expanding
- Yield is attractive at c.9.2% and c.0.9x P/NAV
- Maintain BUY; raised TP marginally to US\$0.86

Price Relative US\$ Relative Index 0.9 0.9 0.8 0.7 0.7 0.6 0.6 0.5 0.5 0.4 May-18 May-19 May-20 May-21 May-22

Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Dec (US\$m)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Gross Revenue	141	152	159	168
Net Property Inc	82.7	93.4	97.6	103
Total Return	77.4	64.3	67.8	70.8
Distribution Inc	62.4	67.0	70.4	73.2
EPU (US cts.)	7.44	6.13	6.40	6.58
EPU Gth (%)	24	(18)	4	3
DPU (US cts.)	6.34	6.40	6.52	6.67
DPU Gth (%)	2	1	2	2
NAV per shr (US cts.)	82.1	81.5	80.8	80.3
PE (X)	9.2	11.2	10.7	10.4
Distribution Yield (%)	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.7
P/NAV (x)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Aggregate Leverage (%)	37.1	37.4	38.0	38.3
ROAE (%)	9.5	7.5	7.9	8.2
Distn. Inc Chng (%):		2	_	_
Consensus DPU (US cts.):		6.1	6.7	6.7
Other Broker Recs:		B: 4	S: 0	H: 1

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

Investment Thesis

Unique technology exposure. KORE's assets in the tech hubs of Seattle, Austin, and Denver contribute more than 60% of its Net Property Income (NPI).

Riding on US reopening story. KORE's submarkets are relatively more stable and displaying a strong positive recovery outlook, and they also contribute a significant portion of its NPI, the highest among its peers.

EPRA NAREIT index inclusion candidate. KORE is one of the candidates for the EPRA NAREIT index inclusion, with the recent change in rules. Previously, KORE traded closer to its peers post inclusion in the MSCI Singapore Small Cap Index. Currently, it is trading at a c.9.2% yield and c.0.9x P/NAV.

Valuation:

Maintain BUY; raised TP to US\$0.86. We marginally raised our DCF-based TP to US\$0.86 from US\$0.85 previously, based on a beta of 0.95x and higher risk-free rate of 3.5%. Our TP implies a c.7.4% yield and c.1x P/NAV.

Where we differ:

Unique technology exposure to ride on US reopening. While recognising the disappointment over the rights issue in late 2018, we believe the market has not appreciated KORE's exposure to Seattle and Austin, which represent c.60% of its portfolio in terms of asset value. KORE is a beneficiary as the US reopens.

Key Risks to Our View:

Slower-than-expected economic recovery and new COVID-19 variants. The key risks to our view are lower-than-expected rental income arising from the loss of tenants or a slower upturn in spot office rents, and a potential outbreak of new variants of COVID-19 infections causing another lockdown.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	1,042		
Mkt. Cap (US\$m/US\$m)	714 / 714		
Major Shareholders (%)			
Temasek Holdings Pte Ltd	10.9		
Hillsboro Capital Ltd	7.9		
Keppel Corporation	6.1		
Free Float (%)	75.1		
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	0.59		
GIC Industry: Real Estate / Equity Real Estate Investment (REITs)			







WHAT'S NEW

Optimistic recovery trends

Overall occupancy relatively stable though larger decline seen in Powers Ferry and The Plaza; expect mid-single digit full-year reversions with positive recovery signs in the office market.

- Portfolio occupancy saw a slight decline of 0.2ppt q-o-q to 91.7%, mainly due to the large declines seen at Powers Ferry (-16.6 ppt to 68%) and The Plaza (-3.1 ppt to 88.9%).
- Powers Ferry saw a non-renewal of a large tenant (Georgia Banking) and we understand that its rent is c.10% below market. Management has undertaken some AEIs in anticipation of the vacancy and will do some work to pre-lease the space. The Atlanta market (Powers Ferry and Northridge Centre) contributes c.2.8% of NPI.
- The Plaza saw two non-renewals but expects some expansionary demand from existing tenants to backfill some of this space in 2Q2022. Management remains positive about the Seattle/Bellevue market and expects to be able to backfill the space.
- 1Q2022 rental reversions were +2.4%, mainly from the Bellevue and Sacramento markets, but were offset by the Houston, Orlando, and Atlanta markets. Although reversions are a little lower compared to 2021, management is more optimistic about the recovery for the year and expects full-year reversions to be a positive mid-single digit.
- Leasing momentum has picked up slightly in 2Q2022 and management expects a stronger 2H2022.
 Physical occupancy has crept up to c.55%, vs. 30% to 40% previously.
- Majority of the buildings have net leases in place, and the impact of utility inflationary pressures will be on vacant space only, which is unlikely to have a major

- impact on margin squeeze, according to management.
- While recovery could still be volatile, management feels optimistic about the Seattle and Austin markets, which contribute c.46% of NPI, while recovery is underway for the rest of the markets.

Maintain BUY; marginally raised TP to US\$0.86. We maintain our BUY rating and marginally raise our TP to US\$0.86, vs. US\$0.85 previously. We incorporate a higher risk-free rate of 3.5%, vs. 2.5% previously, but we roll forward our DCF valuation to FY23F. We lowered our FY22F-FY23F DPU estimates marginally by c.2% to incorporate some delay in recovery.

Despite an uneven US office market recovery, we believe KORE stands to benefit, as its submarkets are more stable and displaying a strong positive recovery outlook; it also contributes c.82% of NPI, the highest among its peers.

Company Background

Keppel Pacific Oak US REIT (KORE) is a pure play US office REIT listed in Singapore. Its portfolio consists of 13 freehold office assets located in Austin, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Sacramento, Seattle, and Orlando with an aggregate net lettable area of around 4.7m sqft.





1Q2022 Key Operational Update

Key operational data	1Q2022	4Q2021	%q-o-q	1Q2021	% y-o-y
Revenue	37.0	36.9	0.3%	34.6	6.9%
NPI	21.7	20.4	6.4%	20.4	6.4%
DI	16.6	16.6	0.1%	14.9	11.4%
DPU (est)	1.60	1.60	0.0%	1.58	1.3%
Portfolio occupancies	91.7%	91.9%	-0.2 ppt	91.6%	0.1 ppt
Rental reversions (cumulative)	2.4%	6.0%	-3.6 ppt	5.7%	-3.3 ppt
WALE (years)	3.7	3.6	0.1	3.7	-
Gearing (%)	37.5%	37.2%	0.3 ppt	37.5%	0 ppt
Av cost of debt (%)	2.9%	2.8%	0.1 ppt	2.8%	0.1 ppt
ICR (x)	5.0	5.1	(0.1)	4.8	0.2
Leases expiring in FY2022	8.7%	10.3%	-1.6 ppt	13.0%	-4.3 ppt
Leases expiring in FY2023	17.0%	17.0%	0 ppt	17.0%	0 ppt
Source: Company, DBS Bank					

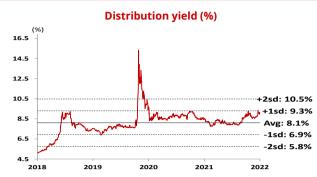
Interim Income Statement (US\$m)

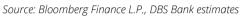
FY Dec	1H2020	2H2020	1H2021	% chg yoy	% chg hoh
Gross revenue	70.5	69.1	68.4	(3.0)	(1.0)
Property expenses	(28.6)	(28.0)	(27.8)	(2.9)	(0.7)
Net Property Income	41.9	41.1	40.6	(3.1)	(1.3)
Other Operating expenses	(4.9)	(4.0)	(4.7)	(5.0)	17.6
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(11.6)	2.98	5.19	nm	74.2
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(8.1)	(7.8)	(7.0)	12.6	9.1
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Net Income	17.3	32.3	34.0	96.7	5.2
Tax	(3.9)	(9.1)	(3.7)	(5.0)	(59.1)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Net Income after Tax	13.4	23.3	30.3	126.4	30.3
Total Return	13.4	43.0	30.3	126.4	(29.5)
Non-tax deductible Items	15.7	(13.5)	(0.4)	(102.4)	(97.2)
Net Inc available for Dist.	29.1	29.5	29.9	2.8	1.4
Ratio (%)					
Net Prop Inc Margin	59.4	59.5	59.4		
Dist. Payout Ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0		

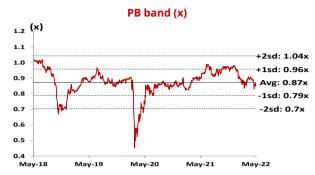
Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank



Historical Dividend yield and PB band







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





Income Statement (US\$m)

FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Gross revenue	140	141	152	159	168
Property expenses	(56.6)	(58.6)	(58.4)	(61.0)	(64.5)
Net Property Income	83.0	82.7	93.4	97.6	103
Other Operating expenses	(8.9)	(8.8)	(9.9)	(10.0)	(10.1)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(8.6)	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(15.8)	(14.6)	(19.3)	(19.8)	(22.1)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	19.7	19.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income	69.4	90.3	64.3	67.8	70.8
Tax	(13.0)	(13.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income After Tax	56.4	77.4	64.3	67.8	70.8
Total Return	56.4	77.4	64.3	67.8	70.8
Non-tax deductible Items	2.24	(14.9)	2.77	2.64	2.38
Net Inc available for Dist.	58.6	62.4	67.0	70.4	73.2
Growth & Ratio					
Revenue Gth (%)	13.6	1.2	7.5	4.4	5.6
N Property Inc Gth (%)	11.0	(0.4)	13.0	4.4	5.6
Net Inc Gth (%)	(19.1)	37.2	(16.9)	5.4	4.5
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.0	98.0
Net Prop Inc Margins (%)	59.4	58.5	61.5	61.5	61.5
Net Income Margins (%)	40.4	54.8	42.3	42.7	42.3
Dist to revenue (%)	42.0	44.2	44.1	44.4	43.7
Managers & Trustee's fees	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.0
ROAE (%)	7.4	9.5	7.5	7.9	8.2
ROA (%)	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.4	4.5
ROCE (%)	5.0	4.9	6.1	6.3	6.5
Int. Cover (x)	4.7	5.1	4.3	4.4	4.2

Source: Company, DBS Bank





Interim	Income	Statement ((US\$m)
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FY Dec	1H2019	2H2019	1H2020	2H2020	1H2021
Gross revenue	58.7	64.2	70.5	69.1	68.4
Property expenses	(22.5)	(25.6)	(28.6)	(28.0)	(27.8)
Net Property Income	36.2	38.6	41.9	41.1	40.6
Other Operating	(3.8)	(4.4)	(4.9)	(4.0)	(4.7)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	(9.4)	0.61	(11.6)	2.98	5.19
Associates & JV Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(7.9)	(8.1)	(8.1)	(7.8)	(7.0)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income	15.2	26.7	17.3	32.3	34.0
Tax	(3.6)	(16.8)	(3.9)	(9.1)	(3.7)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income after Tax	11.6	6.92	13.4	23.3	30.3
Total Return	11.6	58.1	13.4	43.0	30.3
Non-tax deductible Items	13.2	(32.1)	15.7	(13.5)	(0.4)
Net Inc available for Dist.	24.8	26.0	29.1	29.5	29.9
Growth & Ratio					
Revenue Gth (%)	N/A	9	10	(2)	(1)
N Property Inc Gth (%)	nm	7	9	(2)	(1)
Net Inc Gth (%)	nm	(14)	35	74	30
Net Prop Inc Margin (%)	61.6	60.1	59.4	59.5	59.4
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Balance Sheet (US\$m)

FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Investment Properties	1,305	1,456	1,482	1,513	1,545
Other LT Assets	0.10	2.56	2.56	2.56	2.56
Cash & ST Invts	57.3	51.0	46.2	33.8	27.7
Inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debtors	4.19	3.99	5.06	5.29	5.58
Other Current Assets	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22
Total Assets	1,367	1,514	1,537	1,555	1,582
ST Debt	41.0	122	122	122	122
Creditor	41.0 20.0	123 24.1	123 33.7	123 35.2	123 37.2
Other Current Liab	8.50	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
LT Debt	463	438	7.23 452	467	483
Other LT Liabilities	62.3	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7
Unit holders' funds	772	854	854	855	864
	0.0		0.0		
Minority Interests		0.0		0.0	0.0
Total Funds & Liabilities	1,367	1,514	1,537	1,555	1,582
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(24.1)	(27.1)	(35.7)	(37.0)	(38.7)
Net Cash/(Debt)	(447)	(511)	(529)	(556)	(579)
Ratio	,	(- /	(/	(,	(/
Current Ratio (x)	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Quick Ratio (x)	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Aggregate Leverage (%)	36.9	37.1	37.4	38.0	38.3
Z-Score (X)	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

Source: Company, DBS Bank



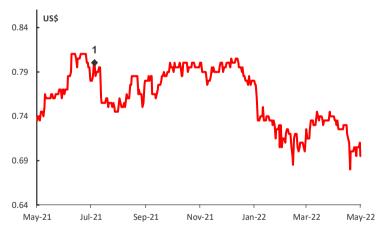


Cash Flow Statement (US\$m)

FY Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Pre-Tax Income	69.4	90.3	64.3	67.8	70.8
Dep. & Amort.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tax Paid	(1.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates &JV Inc/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(1.8)	1.77	8.58	1.27	1.69
Other Operating CF	8.26	(9.1)	2.77	2.64	2.38
Net Operating CF	74.6	82.9	75.6	71.7	74.9
Net Invt in Properties	(26.3)	(131)	(26.7)	(30.3)	(32.7)
Other Invts (net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc. & JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	0.05	0.07	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(26.3)	(131)	(26.7)	(30.3)	(32.7)
Distribution Paid	(39.0)	(65.5)	(67.0)	(69.0)	(64.6)
Chg in Gross Debt	24.7	43.0	13.3	15.1	16.4
New units issued	0.0	64.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(14.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(29.2)	41.6	(53.7)	(53.9)	(48.2)
Currency Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	19.1	(6.3)	(4.8)	(12.4)	(6.0)
Operating CFPS (US cts.)	8.11	7.80	6.40	6.65	6.80
Free CFPS (US cts.)	5.12	(4.6)	4.67	3.91	3.92

Source: Company, DBS Bank

Target Price & Ratings History



1: 28 Jul 21 0.80 0.85 BUY

Closing

Date of

Note: Share price and Target price are adjusted for corporate actions.

Source: DBS Bank

Analyst: Rachel TAN

Derek TAN

Keppel Pacific Oak US REIT



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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)

Completed Date: 26 May 2022 06:40:30 (SGT) Dissemination Date: 26 May 2022 09:35:49 (SGT)

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

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^{*}Share price appreciation + dividends

Keppel Pacific Oak US REIT



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