# China / Hong Kong Company Update

# Lenovo Group

Bloomberg: 992 HK EQUITY | Reuters: 0992.HK

# DBS Group Research . Equity

# 11 Aug 2022

# BUY

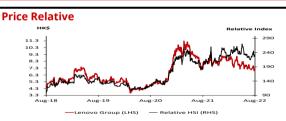
Last Traded Price (10 Aug 2022): HK\$6.90 (HSI: 19,611) Price Target 12-mth: HK\$11.90 (72% upside) (Prev HK\$13.00)

# Analyst

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# What's New

- 1Q net profit increased 11% y-o-y to US\$ 516m, ahead of the market consensus by 6%, driven by margin expansion
- Operating margin increased 0.2ppt y-o-y to 4.6%, due to increased contribution from the service business
- Cut FY3/23 and FY3/24 earnings forecast by 13%/4% to reflect the cut in shipment and margin assumption
- Lower TP of HK\$ 11.9 on lower EPS; maintain BUY on a 19% FY22-25F earnings CAGR and an undemanding valuation



### **Forecasts and Valuation**

Torceases and valuation				
FY Mar (US\$m) Turnover EBITDA Pre-tax Profit Net Profit Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%) EPS (US\$) EPS (HK\$) EPS Gth (%) Diluted EPS (HK\$)	<b>2022A</b> 71.618 4.338 2.768 2.030 2.030 67.6 0.16 1.22 52.6 1.24	<b>2023F</b> 71.141 4.293 2.833 2.068 2.068 1.9 0.16 1.24 1.9 1.24	<b>2024F</b> 80.241 5.424 3.957 2.888 2.888 39.7 0.22 1.73 39.7 1.73	<b>2025F</b> 87.326 6.130 4.666 3.406 3.406 17.9 0.26 2.04 17.9 2.04
DPS (HK\$) BV Per Share (HK\$) PE (X) P/Cash Flow (X) P/Free CF (X) EV/EBITDA (X) Net Div Yield (%) P/Book Value (X) Net Debt/Equity (X) ROAE(%)	1.24 0.31 3.25 5.7 2.8 4.1 2.6 4.5 2.1 CASH 47.5	0.41 4.01 5.6 3.3 5.2 2.4 5.9 1.7 CASH 37.1	1.73 0.57 5.16 4.0 2.2 3.1 1.6 8.2 1.3 CASH 41.1	2.04 0.67 6.57 3.4 2.1 2.8 1.1 9.7 1.1 CASH 37.9
Earnings Rev (%): Consensus EPS (US\$) Other Broker Recs:		(13) 0.16 B:19	(4) 0.16 S:1	New 0.18 H:6

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

# Service-led transformation on track

# **Investment Thesis**

Tech hardware giant transforming into a service-led company by leveraging the world's largest active PC user base (218m) and its strong reputation in hardware products, channeling growth into the services and solutions business.

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

New SSG business's operating profit is projected to grow at a CAGR of 30% in FY22-25F, on a strong industry trend and low attached rate, boosting the company's operating margin to 5.7% in FY3/25 from 4.3% in FY3/22, as SSG's operating margin is 22% (vs. 4% of the group).

**FY3/24 and FY3/25 net profit 24% and 37% higher than the market**, due to a stronger boost from structural growth in data centres, edge computing, investment in the "Eastern Data, Western Computing" initiative, and higher contributions from the services and solutions business.

# Valuation:

We set our TP at HK\$11.9, based on an 8.5x FY23 PE, in line with the historical average. The re-rating is supported by a stronger growth profile over the next two to three years.

# Where we differ:

FY3/24 and FY3/25 net profits are 24% and 37% higher than the market due to stronger operating margins of SSG and IDG.

# Key Risks to Our View:

Rigorous competition in PCs, smartphones, and servers. Prolonged weak consumer sentiment for consumer electronics.

# At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	12,042
Mkt Cap (HKm/US\$m)	83,090 / 10,589
Major Shareholders (%)	
Legend Holdings Corporation	29.9
Union Star Ltd	6.0
Sureinvest Holdings Ltd.	5.2
Free Float (%)	58.9
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	43.5
GICS Industry: Information Technology / Technology Equipment	/ Hardware &







### WHAT'S NEW

Margin expansion from higher service contribution, PC shipment growth in 2H slowed

# 1QFY3/23 results highlights

**1QFY3/23 results ahead:** 1Q revenue was flat at US\$17.0bn y-o-y, due to sluggish growth in consumer electronics caused by supply chain and logistics challenges and economic headwinds, in line with market expectations.

Segment wise, Intelligent Devices Group (IDG) revenue decreased slightly, by 2.7% y-o-y, due to a decline in PC shipments caused by supply and logistics woes and weak consumer sentiment. Solutions and Services Group (SSG) revenue increased 22.9% y-o-y to US\$1.5bn due to the continuous penetration of its attached service. Server business (ISG) revenue increased 13.7% y-o-y to US\$2.1bn as a result of structural growth in the data centre, edge computing, and hybrid cloud segments.

### Operating margin (OPM) increased 0.2ppt y-o-y to 4.6%,

due to increased contribution from the high-margin service segment. IDG operating margin was maintained at 7.5% while ISG/SSG's operating margin increased 1.1/0.4 ppt y-o-y to 0.5.%/22.6%, respectively. These are driven by the ramp-up in the scale of the server and service business.

### Accordingly, net profit increased by 10.7% y-o-y to US\$

**514m**, ahead of the market consensus by 6.4%, driven by operating margin expansion.

### Our View

We expect the weak PC shipments caused by weak market sentiment to be maintained in 2HFY3/23. Meanwhile, we are more optimistic about Lenovo's server business on the back of the continuous structural growth in the data center, edge computing, and hybrid cloud computing segments, which are catalysed by the "Eastern Data, Western Computing" initiative in China. The service and solutions business will continue to be driven by the penetration of the service business in the company's large PC user base in the coming few years.

# We revised down the PC shipment forecast by 8.4% in

**FY3/23** to reflect the continuation of weak consumer sentiment for smart devices and PCs in 2H22.

Meanwhile, we revised up the OPM forecast for ISG by 0.3ppt to 0.8% in FY3/23 due to increased operating efficiency as a result of it ramping up scale. We also cut OPM for the SSG segment by 1.5ppt each to 22.5% and 23.5% for FY3/23 and FY3/24, respectively, to reflect the smoother progress in margin improvements. Therefore, overall OPM decreased by 0.4ppt and 0.4ppt for FY3/23 and FY3/24.

Accordingly, we decrease the earnings forecast for FY3/23 and FY3/24 by 12.9%, 3.9%, and revised our TP to HK\$11.9 on a lower FY3/23 EPS. Lenovo is currently trading at 4.9x FY3/23 PE, well below its five-year average of 8.5x. We maintain our BUY rating and TP based on its undemanding valuation and strong earnings growth profile of 18.8% FY22-25F CAGR.

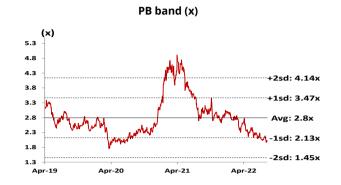
### **Company Background**

Founded in 1984 and listed in 1994, Lenovo is the largest global PC vendor, with a 24% global market share in 2021. Lenovo expanded into the server business through the acquisition of IBM's x86 server business and the smartphone business through the acquisition of Motorola Mobility in 2014. (1) Intelligent Devices Group (IDG), (2) Infrastructure Solutions Group (ISG), and (3) Solutions and Services Group (SSG) accounted for 89.6%, 10.4%, and 8.0% of FY3/20 gross revenue, respectively. Yang Yuanqing, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of Lenovo, holds a c.9.3% stake in the company.

# Historical PE and PB band



Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS HK



# **Key Assumptions**

Rey Assumptions					
FY Mar	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
ISG Revenue ('000 USD)	6,331.1	7,140.1	8,810.5	14,296.0	16,803.8
Operating Margin (%)	(2.1)	0.1	0.8	4.2	4.2
SSG Revenue ('000 USD)	N/A	5,441.5	6,730.9	8,687.1	10,767.2
Operating Margin (%) Source: Company, DBS HK	N/A	22.0	22.5	23.5	24.5

### Segmental Breakdown (US\$ m)

FY Mar	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenues (US\$ m)					
IDG	54,411	62,310	59,300	61,431	64,297
ISG	6,331	7,140	8,811	14,296	16,804
SSG	0	5,442	6,731	8,687	10,767
Intersegment cancellation	0	(3,274)	(3,700)	(4,173)	(4,542)
Total	60,742	71,618	71,141	80,241	87,326

Source: Company, DBS HK

# Income Statement (US\$ m)

FY Mar	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025
Revenue	60,742	71,618	71,141	80,241	87,326
Cost of Goods Sold	(50,974)	(59,569)	(59,078)	(65,935)	(71,450
Gross Profit	9,768	12,049	12,063	14,306	15,876
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(7,587)	(8,968)	(8,909)	(10,048)	(10,935
Operating Profit	2,180	3,081	3,154	4,257	4,94
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	0	(
Associates & JV Inc	(32)	(7)	(46)	(54)	(66
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(374)	(306)	(276)	(247)	(208
Dividend Income	0	0	0	0	(
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	(
Pre-tax Profit	1,774	2,768	2,833	3,957	4,666
Tax	(461)	(622)	(652)	(910)	(1,073
Minority Interest	(102)	(116)	(113)	(158)	(187
Preference Dividend	0	0	0	0	(
Net Profit	1,211	2,030	2,068	2,888	3,40
Net Profit before Except.	1,211	2,030	2,068	2,888	3,40
EBITDA	3,219	4,338	4,293	5,424	6,13
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	19.8	17.9	(0.7)	12.8	8.
EBITDA Gth (%)	33.9	34.8	(1.0)	26.3	13.
Opg Profit Gth (%)	51.6	41.3	2.4	35.0	16.
Net Profit Gth (%)	68.4	67.6	1.9	39.7	17.
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	16.1	16.8	17.0	17.8	18.
Opg Profit Margin (%)	3.6	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.
Net Profit Margin (%)	2.0	2.8	2.9	3.6	3.
ROAE (%)	35.8	47.5	37.1	41.1	37.
ROA (%)	3.5	4.9	4.6	6.0	6.
ROCE (%)	13.7	20.0	18.3	21.7	21.
Div Payout Ratio (%)	35.9	23.6	30.2	30.2	30.
Net Interest Cover (x)	5.8	10.1	11.4	17.3	23.
Source: Company, DBS HK					



### Balance Sheet (US\$ m)

-

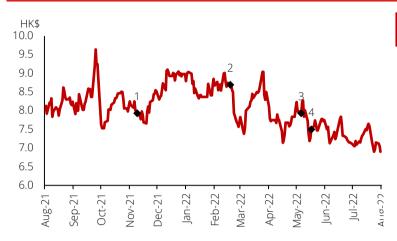
2,675 65 11,915 3,246 6,381	2,986 340 12,188 4,137	3,032 400 12,688	3,219 491	3,463 610
65 11,915 3,246	340 12,188	400		
11,915 3,246	12,188		491	610
3,246	,	12.688		010
	/ 137	12,000	13,275	13,620
6 281	4,107	5,104	7,207	9,573
0,001	8,301	8,245	8,864	9,647
13,454	16,304	15,824	17,836	19,403
254	256	255	255	255
37,991	44,510	45,548	51,148	56,572
600	700	700	700	700
				788
,	,	,	,	35,571
,				2,196
,	,	,	,	2,633
,	,	,	,	4,210
,	,	,	,	10,076
-				1,098
37,991	44,510	45,548	51,148	56,572
(6.584)	(7.111)	(7.201)	(7.948)	(8,461)
,	715		. , ,	6,151
70.0	75.8	82.4	76.6	77.8
161.4	174.4	189.7	176.8	178.0
41.4	46.0	52.2	48.3	48.1
1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6
0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
0.2	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
0.2	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
21.8	36.9	35.8	43.5	39.1
0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	NA
	254 <b>37,991</b> 698 25,332 1,342 3,300 3,709 3,559 51 <b>37,991</b> (6,584) (752) 70.0 161.4 41.4 1.7 0.9 0.6 0.2 0.2 0.2 21.8	254 256 <b>37,991 44,510</b> 698 788   25,332 30,370   1,342 1,601   3,300 2,633   3,709 3,724   3,559 4,991   51 404 <b>37,991 44,510</b> (6,584) (7,111)   (752) 715   70.0 75.8   161.4 174.4   41.4 46.0   1.7 1.7   0.9 0.9   0.6 0.6   0.2 CASH   0.2 CASH   21.8 36.9	254 256 255 <b>37,991 44,510 45,548</b> 698 788 788   25,332 30,370 29,797   1,342 1,601 1,728   3,300 2,633 2,633   3,709 3,724 3,854   3,559 4,991 6,152   51 404 596 <b>37,991 44,510 45,548</b> (6,584) (7,111) (7,201)   (752) 715 1,682   70.0 75.8 82.4   161.4 174.4 189.7   41.4 46.0 52.2   1.7 1.7 1.6   0.9 0.9 0.9   0.6 0.6 0.6   0.2 CASH CASH   0.2 CASH CASH   21.8 36.9 35.8	254 256 255 255 <b>37,991 44,510 45,548 51,148</b> 698 788 788 788   25,332 30,370 29,797 32,900   1,342 1,601 1,728 2,004   3,300 2,633 2,633 2,633   3,709 3,724 3,854 4,081   3,559 4,991 6,152 7,908   51 404 596 832 <b>37,991 44,510 45,548 51,148</b> (6,584) (7,111) (7,201) (7,948)   (752) 715 1,682 3,786   70.0 75.8 82.4 76.6   161.4 174.4 189.7 176.8   41.4 46.0 52.2 48.3   1.7 1.7 1.6 1.7   0.9 0.9 0.9 1.0   0.6 0.6 0.6 0.7   0.2 CASH CASH<

# Cash Flow Statement (US\$ m)

FY Mar	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Pre-Tax Profit	1,774	2,768	2,833	3,957	4,666
Dep. & Amort.	1,060	1,264	1,185	1,221	1,255
Tax Paid	(624)	(729)	(652)	(910)	(1,073)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(02.1)	7	46	.54	66
(Pft)/ Loss on disposal of FAs	(285)	(31)	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	1,661	365	91	747	513
Other Operating CF	65	434	(57)	81	14
Net Operating CF	3,653	4,077	3,446	5,149	5,441
Capital Exp.(net)	(872)	(1,263)	(1,225)	(1,488)	(1,339)
Other Invts.(net)	(58)	(118)	(15)	0	0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	(48)	(122)	(106)	(144)	(186)
Div from Assoc & V	2	4	0	Ó	0
Other Investing CF	0	0	0	0	0
Net Investing CF	(976)	(1,498)	(1,346)	(1,632)	(1,525)
Div Paid	(434)	(479)	(625)	(873)	(1,029)
Chg in Gross Debt	(1,076)	(747)	0	0	0
Capital Issues	18	0	0	0	0
Other Financing CF	(1,736)	(531)	(394)	(489)	(570)
Net Financing CF	(3,228)	(1,757)	(1,019)	(1,362)	(1,599)
Currency Adjustments	69	41	(128)	(51)	48
Chg in Cash	(483)	862	952	2,104	2,365
Opg CFPS (US\$)	0.17	0.28	0.26	0.34	0.38
Free CFPS (US\$)	0.23	0.22	0.17	0.28	0.31
Source: Company, DBS HK					



# **Target Price & Ratings History**



S.No.	Date	Closing Price	Target Price	Rating
1	19-Nov-21	HK\$7.98	HK\$12.50	BUY
2	28-Feb-22	HK\$8.75	HK\$11.80	BUY
3	16-May-22	HK\$7.99	HK\$11.30	BUY
4	27-May-22	HK\$7.27	HK\$13.00	BUY

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Jim Au

Tsz Wang Tam



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

Completed Date: 11 Aug 2022 09:00:38 (HKT) Dissemination Date: 11 Aug 2022 09:37:19 (HKT)

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

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