

# Singapore Company Update

## ESR-LOGOS REIT

Bloomberg: EREIT SP | Reuters: ESRR.SI

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

27 Jul 2023

### BUY

Last Traded Price (26 Jul 2023): S\$0.345 (STI: 3,304.96)

Price Target 12-mth: S\$0.38 (11% upside) (Prev S\$0.40)

#### Analyst

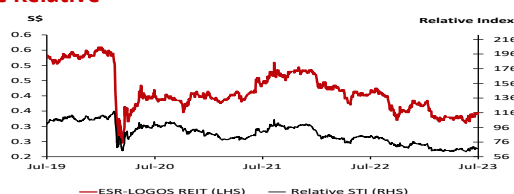
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#### What's New

- Strong double-digit positive rent reversions continued at +11.6% in 1H23
- Redevelopment of ALOG Cold Centre announced with an estimated ROI of 7.0%
- FY23 marked the year of "reset" with divestments and redevelopments; organic growth to be amplified from FY25
- Maintain BUY with revised TP of S\$0.38

#### Price Relative



#### Forecasts and Valuation

FY Dec (\$m)	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Gross Revenue	343	387	373	382
Net Property Inc	244	284	277	284
Total Return	0.0	171	176	182
Distribution Inc	148	194	200	205
EPU (S cts)	7.66	2.30	2.29	2.36
EPU Gth (%)	653	(70)	0	3
DPU (S cts)	3.00	2.60	2.60	2.65
DPU Gth (%)	0	(13)	0	2
NAV per shr (S cts)	36.2	35.7	35.4	35.3
PE (X)	4.5	15.0	15.1	14.6
Distribution Yield (%)	8.7	7.5	7.5	7.7
P/NAV (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Aggregate Leverage (%)	45.9	38.4	38.5	38.6
ROAE (%)	22.2	6.6	6.4	6.7

Distn. Inc Chng (%)	(2)	(4)	(4)
Consensus DPU (S cts)	2.70	2.70	2.80
Other Broker Recs:	B: 8	S: 1	H: 0

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

### Recapitalised for growth

#### Investment Thesis

**Rising large-cap industrial S-REIT.** Following a successful merger in April 2022, EREIT is now the fifth largest industrial S-REIT with a total asset base of c.S\$5.5bn, but is yet to re-rate. With a yield of more than 7% (c.200bps higher than its large-cap industrial S-REIT peers), it is attractive. The manager is executing an asset recalibration strategy post-merger, which we believe should be value accretive and drive a re-rating of the share price.

**Portfolio repositioning and rejuvenation underway.** EREIT will embark on the repositioning of its portfolio soon, having more than S\$500m in divestments since FY21. EREIT will continue to divest non-core assets and recycle the proceeds into higher yielding opportunities. The rejuvenation of its portfolio entails redevelopment projects and AELs to drive organic growth in earnings and NAV.

**Enviably sponsor pipeline.** While its peers find it increasingly challenging to make accretive acquisitions given the negative cap rate spreads in most major markets, EREIT can look to its sponsor's pipeline of c.US\$2.0bn. It recently completed the acquisition of a modern logistics facility in Japan from its sponsor at a relatively attractive yield and is projected to generate c.3% accretion to DPU.

**Maintain BUY with a TP of S\$0.38.** Despite near-term challenges as interest rates continue to rise, as well as the recent S\$300m EFR leading to dilution in DPUs, we see EREIT's ongoing AELs and redevelopment projects as key drivers to earnings in future.

#### Key Risks

**Slower-than-anticipated deployment of debt headroom.** As EREIT continues to divest non-core assets and utilise proceeds to recapitalize its balance sheet, there will be a void in earnings from these divestments. We understand that EREIT continues to actively look at redeploying proceeds into better quality assets in the long-term, but a slower-than-anticipated deployment will keep earnings depressed.

#### At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	7,199
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	2,484 / 1,871
Major Shareholders (%)	
Tong Jinquan	5.6
Free Float (%)	94.4
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	2.8

**GIC Industry :** Real Estate / Equity Real Estate Investment (REITs)

## WHAT'S NEW

### Recapitalised for growth

#### Higher revenues and NPI mainly due to ALOG merger

- 1H23 Revenues and NPI were 33.35% and 37.0% higher, mainly due to April 2022's merger with ALOG
  - it was also partly due to acquisition of Sakura Distribution Centre in October 2022
- When compared against 2H22, NPI was down slightly (c.-0.5%) as higher revenues were offset by higher operating expenses
  - Partially also due to the divestment of Pandan Logistics Hub on 21 February

#### 1H23 DPU of 1.378 Scts in line with our projections

- 1H23 DI of S\$101.5m was 37.9% higher y-o-y, mainly due to the merger with ALOG as well as the acquisition in Japan
  - Partially offset by higher financing costs
  - Includes S\$17.5m in capital gains distribution
- Capital gains distribution likely to continue in coming quarters to help offset some of the absence of income from ongoing AEs and redevelopments
  - Estimated to have a remaining S\$30m in capital gains able to be utilised
- 1H23 DPU was c.5.6% lower y-o-y, mainly due to enlarged unit base
  - S\$150m private placement on 27 February 2023
  - S\$150m preferential offering on 28 April 2023
- The 1.378 Scts makes up c.52% of our previous FY23 DPU projections

#### Slight decline in overall portfolio valuations

- Compared to 31 December 2023, portfolio valuations declined c.2.0% (c.S\$94m)
  - Mainly due to the divestment of Pandan Logistics Hub
  - Partly due to valuation decline of hotel components at ESR BizPark @ Changi
  - Hotel lease renewed for two years at a c.25%-30% lower rent
  - Land lease decay of Singapore portfolio also contributed to some of the valuation decline
- Cap rates could continue to expand in the medium-term as interest rates remain high
  - Cap rates in Singapore could expand slightly (c.25bps), but valuations should be held up by higher rents
  - Cap rates in Australia could expand by c.50-75bps, but to be partly offset by higher rents
    - EREIT's exposure to Australia is relatively small (c.20% of AUM)
- Every 25bps increase in overall portfolio cap rates could lead to a c.2.3% (or c.S\$115m) decline in portfolio valuations

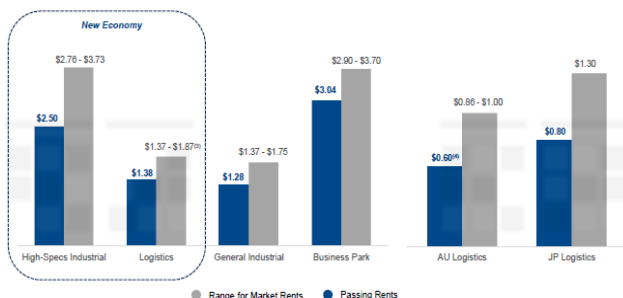
#### Double-digit positive rental reversions

- Strong double-digit positive rental reversion of +11.6% for 1H23
  - Vs. +7.3% in 1Q23
  - Positive rental reversions in 1H23 recorded across property segments:
    - +35.6% for high-specs industrial
    - +16.1% for general industrial
    - +10.9% for logistics
    - +5.1% for business parks
  - Exceptionally high positive rental reversions for high-specs industrial was mainly due to a renewal from an anchor tenant at 16 Tai Seng Drive, where rents renewed at c.40% higher
    - Higher rents at the property following the AEs
- Positive rental reversion reports expected to continue in 2H23 and next year.
  - Overall positive rental reversions for FY23 expected to be between +9% to +10%
  - Positive rental reversions in 2H23 expected to remain strong, but slightly lower than 1H23
    - Rate of rent increases for high-spec industrial and general industrial should taper off
- 15.1% of leases will be due for renewal in 2H23; bulk from the logistics segment
- 20.6% and 21.3% of leases will be due to expire in FY24 and FY25
  - Positive rental reversions should continue as majority of leases are from logistics property
  - There is room for further positive reversions as passing rents across portfolio are still significantly below current market rents
- Slight improvement in portfolio occupancy rates to 92.9% in 2Q23
  - Occupancy rates were 92.1% in 1Q23
  - Higher occupancy rates were driven by Singapore and Australia portfolios

## Room for further positive rental reversions

Passing Rents<sup>(1)</sup> vs Market Rents<sup>(2)</sup>  
(in S\$/sqftm)

All of portfolio passing rents are below market, signalling potential positive reversions for upcoming expiries



Source: ESR-LOGOS REIT

### Gearing expected to improve to c.35% by year end

- Divestments on track to be completed by 3Q23 and 4Q23; proceeds will mostly be used to repay loans due in FY24
- Current gearing of 39.4% will improve to c.33.6% once divestments are completed
  - To inch up to c.35% when payments for AEl and redevelopments are gradually paid by year end
- All loans maturing in FY23 have already been refinanced
- Significant portion of S\$505m of loans due for refinancing in FY24 will be repaid once divestment proceeds are received
  - C.S\$320m in divestment proceeds to be received in 3Q23 and 4Q23
- All-in financing costs maintained at 3.96% (vs. 3.95% in 1Q23)
- 74.8% of loans hedged to fixed rates
  - Average hedge duration of 1.7 years
  - Will increase to more than 80% of loans hedged once loans are gradually repaid
- We see a potential slight compression in loan margins even as base rates remain high

### Announced the redevelopment of ALOG Cold Centre

- Redevelopment of two Fishery Ports into a modern ramp-up cold storage facility
- Estimated redevelopment cost S\$240.0m; projected ROI c.7.0%
  - Construction expected to start in 4Q23
  - Construction to take 29 months
  - Remaining land tenure of 42.5 years
- Non-binding lease with a master tenant for 20+5 years with built-in annual rental escalations signed
- Likely to be carrying out redevelopment together with EREIT's Sponsor
  - EREIT will still maintain majority stake in the redevelopment
  - Development risks to spread out and tap on Sponsor's expertise

### Portfolio recalibration still ongoing

- c.S\$350m in divestments have been announced so far in FY23
- Still looking at another S\$150m in divestments of non-core assets in 2H23
- Working on breaking up ESR BizPark @ Changi into separate strata titles (ie. office, hotel, and convention centre)
  - Looking to divest hotel and convention centre components as they are non-core and not aligned to EREIT's strategy
  - Obtaining separate strata titles could take another six months or more
    - Any potential divestment of the hotel and convention centre component will only happen in FY24
- On the lookout for higher yielding assets with freehold or long land tenures
  - With asset repricing going on globally, EREIT sees potential opportunities within Sponsor's pipeline and third parties

### Our views

With the c.S\$350m in divestments expected to complete in 2H23, we anticipate a c.4.5% downside in DPUs due to the absence in income. The recently announced redevelopment of ALOG Cold Centre will also lead to a further absence in FY24. Despite this, there will be **significant savings in borrowing costs** as the bulk of the proceeds will be used to repay debt. Moreover, EREIT has distributed S\$17.5m in capital gains in 1H23 and will continue to **tap on capital gains distribution** to account for the transitional absence of income from divestments and ongoing redevelopments.

As such, we have revised our projections to account for the **portfolio "reset" in 2H23** as EREIT continues to divest non-core assets and work on further redevelopment and AEI projects in order to rejuvenate its portfolio. Although there will be some near-term pressure to earnings due to the absence of income, EREIT is now in a **financially stronger position with ample debt headroom** to seize accretive acquisitions and portfolio improvement initiatives. Due to the enlarged unit base, divestments (and redevelopments), we have revised our estimates for FY23 and FY24 as we expect DPU to remain relatively flat, before posting a **healthy organic growth from FY25 onwards**.

Looking ahead, we continue to remain positive on EREIT as its 4R strategy (Reinforce Sponsor commitment, Rejuvenate portfolio, Recycle capital, and Recapitalise for growth) bears fruit. Despite the absence of income from ALOG Cold Centre – which will begin its redevelopment – the completion of AEI works at 7002 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5, 16 Tai Seng Street, and 21B Senoko Loop will help partially offset the dip in income. Moreover, **EREIT's recapitalised balance sheet** places them in a strong position to act on accretive acquisitions. We have not priced in any acquisition assumptions

## ESR-LOGOS REIT

into our forecasts, and any accretive acquisitions will lead to an upside to our estimates. We maintain our BUY recommendation with a slightly lowered TP of S\$0.38 on the back of our lower DPU estimates arising from recent divestments and properties taken offline for AEI.

### Company Background

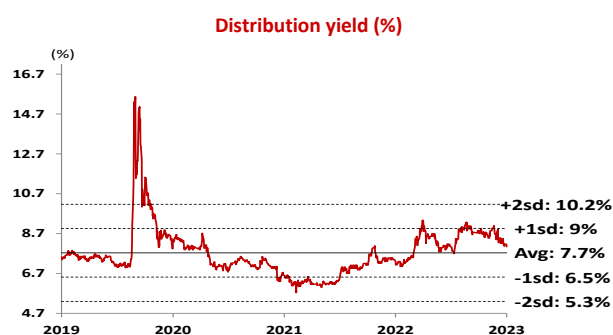
Following the successful merger with ARA LOGOS Logistics Trust (ALOG) on 28 April 2022, ESR REIT was renamed ESR-LOGOS REIT (EREIT). Including the c.S\$2.0bn ALOG portfolio, EREIT's total assets are valued at c.S\$5.5bn. Its portfolio consists of 81 properties in Singapore, Japan, and Australia, as well as investments in three property funds which make up c.7.8% of EREIT's AUM (EREIT's stake in the funds is valued at c.A\$377.8m).

### Interim Income Statement (S\$m)

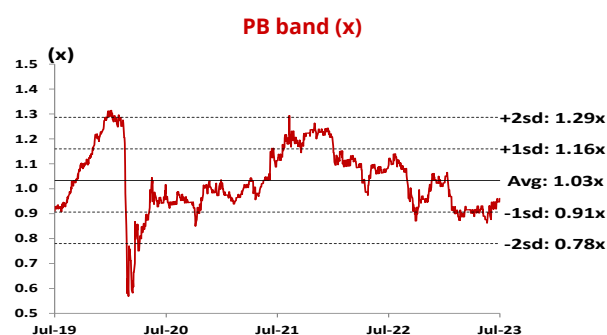
FY Dec	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023	% chg y-o-y	% chg h-o-h
Gross revenue	148	196	197	33.3	0.7
Property expenses	(44.9)	(54.1)	(56.0)	24.7	3.6
Net Property Income	103	141	141	37.0	(0.5)
Other Operating expenses	(12.1)	(14.3)	(15.0)	24.2	4.6
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Associates & JV Inc	3.13	2.22	1.96	(37.4)	(11.8)
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(33.9)	(52.1)	(40.3)	(18.9)	22.7
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	(439)	43.2	(1.8)	nm	nm
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(374)</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>nm</b>	<b>(39.6)</b>
Tax	(11.9)	2.37	(0.2)	(98.2)	(108.9)
Minority Interest	(2.5)	(4.3)	(2.4)	3.5	(43.3)
<b>Net Income after Tax</b>	<b>(389)</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>nm</b>	<b>(40.7)</b>
Total Return	(346)	67.9	(22.3)	93.6	(132.8)
Non-tax deductible Items	411	26.8	110	(73.2)	312.3
Net Inc available for Dist.	68.9	103	97.1	41.0	(5.5)
<b>Ratio (%)</b>					
Net Prop Inc Margin	69.6	72.3	71.5		
Dist. Payout Ratio	300.0	300.0	300.0		

Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank

### Historical Distribution Yield and PB band



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



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

## ESR-LOGOS REIT

**Income Statement (\$m)**

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Gross revenue	241	343	387	373	382
Property expenses	(68.0)	(99.0)	(102)	(95.9)	(98.2)
<b>Net Property Income</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>284</b>
Other Operating expenses	(16.1)	(15.2)	(16.9)	(16.5)	(16.3)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	7.70	5.34	5.55	5.58	5.61
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(55.7)	(86.0)	(80.8)	(69.0)	(70.8)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	39.0	39.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>203</b>
Tax	(2.2)	(9.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority Interest	(4.1)	(3.0)	(2.3)	(2.6)	(2.6)
Preference Dividend	(102)	274	(18.9)	(18.2)	(18.2)
<b>Net Income After Tax</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>182</b>
Total Return	0.0	0.0	171	176	182
Non-tax deductible Items	18.9	438	22.5	18.8	18.8
Net Inc available for Dist.	114	148	194	200	205
<b>Growth &amp; Ratio</b>					
Revenue Gth (%)	4.9	42.3	12.7	(3.6)	2.6
N Property Inc Gth (%)	5.5	41.0	16.5	(2.7)	2.7
Net Inc Gth (%)	(32.4)	1,013.2	(61.9)	2.9	3.3
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Net Prop Inc Margins (%)	71.8	71.2	73.6	74.3	74.3
Net Income Margins (%)	16.7	131.0	44.3	47.3	47.6
Dist to revenue (%)	47.1	43.0	50.1	53.6	53.5
Managers & Trustee's fees	6.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
ROAE (%)	2.7	22.2	6.6	6.4	6.7
ROA (%)	1.2	10.0	3.1	3.2	3.3
ROCE (%)	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1
Int. Cover (x)	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.8	3.8

Absence of income from divestment of 7 properties and redevelopment of ALOG Cold Centre.

Source: Company, DBS Bank

## ESR-LOGOS REIT

**Interim Income Statement (\$\$m)**

FY Dec	1H2021	2H2021	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023
Gross revenue	120	121	148	196	197
Property expenses	(32.9)	(35.2)	(44.9)	(54.1)	(56.0)
Net Property Income	87.0	86.3	103	141	141
Other Operating	(8.6)	(9.0)	(12.1)	(14.3)	(15.0)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	3.22	4.48	3.13	2.22	1.96
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(27.5)	(28.2)	(33.9)	(52.1)	(40.3)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	(4.8)	15.0	(439)	43.2	(1.8)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>(374)</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>76.4</b>
Tax	0.05	(2.2)	(11.9)	2.37	(0.2)
Minority Interest	(2.0)	(2.1)	(2.5)	(4.3)	(2.4)
<b>Net Income after Tax</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>(389)</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>73.7</b>
Total Return	62.0	39.5	(346)	67.9	(22.3)
Non-tax deductible Items	(1.8)	20.8	411	26.8	110
Net Inc available for Dist.	63.6	63.7	68.9	103	97.1
<b>Growth &amp; Ratio</b>					
Revenue Gth (%)	3	1	22	32	1
N Property Inc Gth (%)	4	(1)	19	38	0
Net Inc Gth (%)	35	(2)	(691)	(132)	(41)
Net Prop Inc Margin (%)	72.6	71.1	69.6	72.3	71.5
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0

**Balance Sheet (\$\$m)**

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Investment Properties	3,146	5,103	4,863	4,863	4,863
Other LT Assets	107	404	404	404	404
Cash & ST Invt	24.2	50.0	112	112	117
Inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debtors	23.1	40.7	29.5	28.5	29.2
Other Current Assets	29.3	56.6	56.6	56.6	56.6
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>5,469</b>
ST Debt	209	229	229	229	229
Creditor	64.3	91.6	105	101	104
Other Current Liab	74.8	85.8	85.8	85.8	85.8
LT Debt	981	1,847	1,348	1,353	1,358
Other LT Liabilities	251	552	552	552	552
Unit holders' funds	1,749	2,849	3,142	3,137	3,133
Minority Interests	0.0	0.0	2.26	4.84	7.46
<b>Total Funds &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>5,469</b>
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(86.8)	(80.1)	(105)	(102)	(104)
Net Cash/(Debt)	(1,167)	(2,026)	(1,466)	(1,471)	(1,471)
<b>Ratio</b>					
Current Ratio (x)	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Quick Ratio (x)	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Aggregate Leverage (%)	42.3	45.9	38.4	38.5	38.6
Z-Score (X)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Due to divestments announced so far in FY23.

Source: Company, DBS Bank

## ESR-LOGOS REIT

## Cash Flow Statement (S\$m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Pre-Tax Income	46.6	46.2	173	179	185
Dep. & Amort.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tax Paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc/(Loss)	(7.7)	(5.3)	(5.6)	(5.6)	(5.6)
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	6.80	93.9	24.5	(2.7)	1.89
Other Operating CF	118	(234)	22.5	18.8	18.8
<b>Net Operating CF</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>200</b>
Net Invnt in Properties	(28.5)	(98.6)	240	0.0	0.0
Other Invnts (net)	(71.3)	(56.6)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invnts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	(107)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc. & JVs	5.00	4.83	5.55	5.58	5.61
Other Investing CF	(54.6)	(9.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Net Investing CF</b>	<b>(149)</b>	<b>(267)</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>5.61</b>
Distribution Paid	(118)	(87.6)	(194)	(200)	(205)
Chg in Gross Debt	16.6	163	(498)	5.00	5.00
New units issued	146	(2.4)	293	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(60.2)	(108)	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Net Financing CF</b>	<b>(16.0)</b>	<b>(34.9)</b>	<b>(399)</b>	<b>(195)</b>	<b>(200)</b>
Currency Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(1.6)	14.4	61.7	(0.1)	5.51
Operating CFPS (S cts)	3.95	3.79	2.56	2.50	2.56
Free CFPS (S cts)	3.41	3.71	6.11	2.46	2.59

Source: Company, DBS Bank

## Target Price &amp; Ratings 12-mth History



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

S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	28 Jul 22	0.42	0.50	BUY
2:	14 Oct 22	0.35	0.50	BUY
3:	27 Oct 22	0.33	0.44	BUY
4:	01 Feb 23	0.38	0.44	BUY
5:	27 Apr 23	0.33	0.40	BUY

Source: DBS Bank

Analyst: Dale LAI

Derek TAN

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

Completed Date: 27 Jul 2023 06:34:40 (SGT)

Dissemination Date: 27 Jul 2023 08:11:02 (SGT)

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

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