China / Hong Kong Company Update

ZTE

Bloomberg: 763 HK EQUITY | 000063 CH Equity | Reuters: 0763.HK | 000063.SZ

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

7 Feb 2024

H: BUY

Last Traded Price (6 Feb 2024):HK\$14.34(HSI: 16,137)
Price Target 12-mth: HK\$19.80 (38.1% upside) (Prev HK\$37.30)

A: BUY

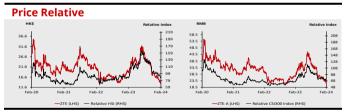
Last Traded Price (6 Feb 2024): RMB23.08 (CSI300 Index : 3,312)
Price Target 12-mth: RMB36.10 (56.4% upside) (Prev RMB56.50)

Analysts

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What's New

- Expect accelerating growth of 7% and 20% in FY24 revenue of domestic carriers and corporate business, respectively
- Benefiting from strong demand in computing power related products given strengthening product competitiveness
- Earnings to sustain solid growth of 16%/14%/11% for FY23/24/25, respectively
- Maintain BUY on ZTE-H/ZTE-A on its increasing share in telecom equipment sector; TPs of HK\$19.8/Rmb36.1



Forecasts and valuati	ion			
FY Dec (RMBm)	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Turnover	122.954	125.154	135.316	146.664
EBITDA	13,301	14,342	15,720	16,701
Pre-tax Profit	8,752	10,445	11,879	13,139
Net Profit	8,080	9,389	10,678	11,811
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	18.6	16.2	13.7	10.6
EPS (RMB)	1.71	1.98	2.25	2.49
EPS (HK\$)	1.86	2.16	2.45	2.71
EPS Gth (%)	16.3	16.2	13.7	10.6
Diluted EPS (HK\$)	1.86	2.16	2.45	2.71
DPS (HK\$)	0.33	0.38	0.43	0.48
BV Per Share (HK\$)	13.47	15.30	17.38	19.66
PE (X)	7.7	6.7	5.9	5.3
P/Cash Flow (X)	8.2	3.8	5.2	5.0
P/Free CF(X)	23.6	5.7	10.1	8.8
FV/FBITDA (X)	4.6	3.6	2.9	2.4
Net Div Yield (%)	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.3
P/Book Value (X)	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
ROAE(%)	14.7	15.0	15.0	14.7
Earnings Rev (%):		(1)	Nil	Nil
Consensus EPS (RMB)		2.04	2.27	2.46
Other Broker Recs:		B:17	S:1	2.40 H:4
Other broker Nets.		۵.۱7	٦.١	11.4

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

Back on track

Investment Thesis

Second-largest telecom equipment provider in China. ZTE currently holds a c.20% market share in the domestic telecom equipment sector. Its carrier network business is driven by investments from mobile operators. The company also provides connection-related products to government and corporate customers, and handset products to consumers.

Sustained growth in carrier network business. ZTE offers many products, e.g., storage servers, switch/routers, and data centre facilities, to cater to its carrier customers' needs. While operators' capex for mobile network is peaking out, we expect ZTE's carrier network business will be supported by industrial digitalisation, and grow at a rate of c.7% y-o-y going forward.

ZTE to gain share, with operators' capex stabilising. Operators are shifting from mobile to computing power investments, and we expect computing power related investments to increase by c.30% in FY24. The company has continued to enhance its product competitiveness over the last few years, and successfully gained market share from both domestic and international competitors. We expect the trend will continue, given the company's increasing R&D efforts.

Maintain BUY with TPs of HK\$19.8/Rmb36.1. We trim FY23 earnings by 1% on lower revenue assumptions for corporate and consumer businesses but maintain BUY on ZTE-H/ZTE-A, as ZTE continues to gain market share in the telecom equipment space, with TPs of HK\$19.8/Rmb36.1 (lowered from HK\$37.3/Rmb56.5). Our TPs for ZTE-H and ZTE-A are based on 8x and 16x FY24 PE (lowered from 15x and 25x), respectively, slightly lower than its historical average given its muted near-term revenue growth. The A-H valuation premium is in line with the recent trading averages.

Key Risks

Lower capex budget by Chinese telecom operators, which are ZTE's major customers, will lead to slower growth.

Co-building and co-sharing by telecom operators. The co-building and co-sharing of a 5G network by China Mobile (CM), China Telecom (CT), and China Unicom (CU) in more areas will reduce demand for telecom equipment.

At A Glance

ALA Giarice	
Issued Capital - H shares (m shs)	756
- Non H shrs (m shs)	4,020
H shs as a % of Total	16
Total Mkt Cap (HK\$m/US\$m)	111,757 / 14,286
Major Shareholders (%)	
Zhongxingxin Telecom Co Ltd.	23.8
Major H Shareholders (As % of H shares)	
Capital World Investors	5.1
H Shares-Free Float (%)	94.9
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	11.30
GICS Industry: Information Technology / Technolog	gy Hardware &
Equipment	

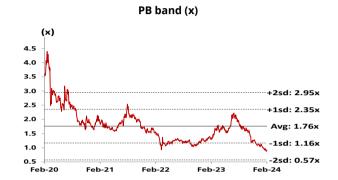




Company Background

ZTE is a leading telecom network equipment manufacturer in China. It is the second-largest Chinese carrier network equipment supplier with a market share of c.20%-c.30%.

Historical PE and PB band



Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS HK



Key Assumptions

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Sales growth of carriers' networks (%)	2.3	5.7	5.0	7.0	7.0
Gross Margin %	35.2	37.2	41.6	41.7	41.7
Sales growth of consumer products (%)	59.2	9.9	(1.2)	5.9	6.4
Source: Company, DBS HK					

Segmental Breakdown (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenues (RMB m)					_
Carriers' networks	75,712	80,041	84,043	89,926	96,220
Government and	13.079	14.628	13.165	15.798	18.958
corporate	13,073	14,020	13,103	13,730	10,550
Consumer	25,731	28,286	27,947	29,593	31,486
Others	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	114,522	122,954	125,154	135,316	146,664

Source: Company, DBS HK

Income Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenue	114,522	122,954	125,154	135,316	146,664
Cost of Goods Sold	(74,160)	(77,228)	(73,134)	(78,929)	(85,474)
Gross Profit	40,362	45,727	52,021	56,387	61,190
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(33,769)	(37,059)	(42,365)	(45,805)	(49,646)
Operating Profit	6,593	8,668	9,656	10,583	11,544
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	2,869	247	332	363	397
Associates & JV Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(963)	(163)	457	934	1,198
Dividend Income	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	8,499	8,752	10,445	11,879	13,139
Tax	(1,463)	(960)	(1,149)	(1,307)	(1,445)
Minority Interest	(223)	289	93	106	117
Preference Dividend	0	0	0	0	0
Net Profit	6,813	8,080	9,389	10,678	11,811
Net Profit before Except.	6,813	8,080	9,389	10,678	11,811
EBITDA	14,050	13,301	14,342	15,720	16,701
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	12.9	7.4	1.8	8.1	8.4
EBITDA Gth (%)	48.1	(5.3)	7.8	9.6	6.2
Opg Profit Gth (%)	64.2	31.5	11.4	9.6	9.1
Net Profit Gth (%)	59.9	18.6	16.2	13.7	10.6
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	35.2	37.2	41.6	41.7	41.7
Opg Profit Margin (%)	5.8	7.0	7.7	7.8	7.9
Net Profit Margin (%)	5.9	6.6	7.5	7.9	8.1
ROAE (%)	14.4	14.7	15.0	15.0	14.7
ROA (%)	4.3	4.6	5.1	5.5	5.7
ROCE (%)	5.8	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6
Div Payout Ratio (%)	13.6	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6
Net Interest Cover (x)	6.8	53.1	NM	NM	NM
Source: Company, DBS HK					
1 2/					



Interim Income Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	1H2021	2H2021	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023
Revenue	53,071	61,451	59,818	63,136	60,705
Cost of Goods Sold	(33,893)	(40,267)	(37,663)	(39,565)	(34,469)
Gross Profit	19,178	21,184	22,155	23,571	26,236
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(15,960)	(17,809)	(17,495)	(19,564)	(20,606)
Operating Profit	3,218	3,375	4,660	4,007	5,629
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	2,790	79	855	(608)	(384)
Associates & JV Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(481)	(482)	(304)	141	814
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	5,527	2,972	5,212	3,540	6,059
Tax	(976)	(487)	(665)	(295)	(667)
Minority Interest	(472)	249	19	270	80
Net Profit	4,079	2,734	4,566	3,514	5,472
Net profit bef Except.	4,079	2,734	4,566	3,514	5,472
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	12.4	13.3	12.7	2.7	1.5
Opg Profit Gth (%)	22.5	142.8	44.8	18.7	20.8
Net Profit Gth (%)	119.6	13.8	11.9	28.5	19.9
Margins					
Gross Margins (%)	36.1	34.5	37.0	N/A	43.2
Opg Profit Margins (%)	6.1	5.5	7.8	N/A	9.3
Net Profit Margins (%)	7.7	4.4	7.6	N/A	9.0
Source: Company, DBS HK					



Balance Sheet (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Net Fixed Assets	13,625	14,957	16,292	17,237	17,831
Invts in Associates & JVs	0	0	0	0	0
Other LT Assets	27,267	28,123	28,123	28,123	28,123
Cash & ST Invts	40,641	47,718	57,651	63,151	69,584
Inventory	36,317	45,235	42,837	46,232	50,065
Debtors	22,907	21,545	20,862	22,556	24,448
Other Current Assets	28,007	23,376	23,376	23,376	23,376
Total Assets	168,763	180,954	189,141	200,675	213,428
CT D. L.	40.407	40.700	40.700	40.700	40.700
ST Debt	10,127	10,709	10,709	10,709	10,709
Creditors	33,275	29,705	28,693	30,125	31,741
Other Current Liab	35,284	38,010	39,333	40,513	41,832
LT Debt	30,159	35,321	35,321	35,321	35,321
Other LT Liabilities	6,632	7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666
Shareholder's Equity	51,482	58,641	66,610	75,638	85,572
Minority Interests	1,806	902	809	703	586
Total Cap. & Liab.	168,763	180,954	189,141	200,675	213,428
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	18,672	22,441	19,050	21,526	24,316
Net Cash/(Debt)	355	1,688	11,621	17,121	23,554
Debtors Turn (avg days)	65.3	66.0	61.8	58.6	58.5
Creditors Turn (avg days)	162.1	157.8	155.0	144.8	139.9
Inventory Turn (avg days)	183.6	204.3	233.7	219.2	217.7
Asset Turnover (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Current Ratio (x)	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0
Quick Ratio (x)	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	13.6	10.7	12.4	12.4	11.6
Z-Score (X)	1.8	1.8	1.8	NA	NA
Source: Company, DBS HK					

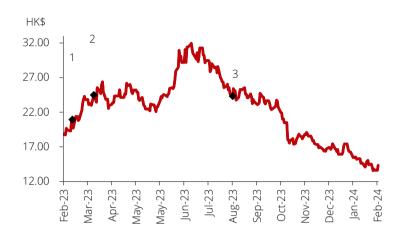
Cash Flow Statement (RMB m) FY Dec

Cash Flow Statement (RM	B m)				
FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Pre-Tax Profit	8,499	8,752	10,445	11,879	13,139
Dep. & Amort.	4,588	4,386	4,354	4,774	4,760
Tax Paid	(1,463)	(960)	(1,149)	(1,307)	(1,445)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	0	0	0	0	0
(Pft)/ Loss on disposal of FAs	(1,331)	1,131	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	2,615	(9,058)	3,392	(2,476)	(2,790)
Other Operating CF	2,815	3,327	(457)	(934)	(1,198)
Net Operating CF	15,724	7,578	16,585	11,937	12,466
Capital Exp.(net)	(5,466)	(4,928)	(5,689)	(5,720)	(5,354)
Other Invts.(net)	(6,322)	3,547	0	0	0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	1,240	117	0	0	0
Div from Assoc & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Other Investing CF	(45)	(27)	0	0	0
Net Investing CF	(10,592)	(1,291)	(5,689)	(5,720)	(5,354)
Div Paid	(2,618)	(3,688)	(1,420)	(1,650)	(1,877)
Chg in Gross Debt	5,309	5,406	0	0	0
Capital Issues	538	171	0	0	0
Other Financing CF	(450)	(435)	457	934	1,198
Net Financing CF	2,779	1,455	(963)	(716)	(679)
Currency Adjustments	(242)	260	0	0	0
Chg in Cash	7,668	8,001	9,933	5,500	6,433
Opg CFPS (RMB)	2.82	3.51	2.79	3.04	3.22
Free CFPS (RMB)	2.21	0.56	2.30	1.31	1.50

Source: Company, DBS HK



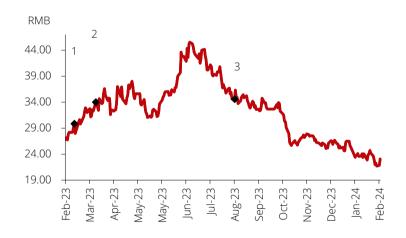
H Share - Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



S.N	o. Date	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	16-Feb-23	HK\$20.65	HK\$34.00	Buy
2:	13-Mar-23	HK\$23.00	HK\$32.90	Buy
3:	21-Aug-23	HK\$24.65	HK\$37.30	Buy

Source: DBS HK Analyst: Tsz Wang Tam Andy Yu

A Share - Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



S.N	o. Date	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	16-Feb-23	RMB29.10	RMB51.60	Buy
2:	13-Mar-23	RMB32.29	RMB49.90	Buy
3:	21-Aug-23	RMB34.61	RMB56.50	Buy

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Tsz Wang Tam

Andy Yu



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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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