

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

2 Feb 2024

BUY

Last Traded Price (1 Feb 2024): S\$0.310 (STI : 3,143.06)

Price Target 12-mth: S\$0.34 (10% upside) (Prev S\$0.34)

Analysts

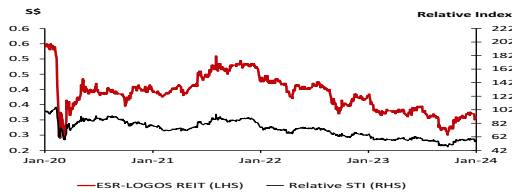
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What's New

- FY23 DPU of 2.56Scts; makes up more than 99% of our estimates
- Short-term pressure on DPU is viewed as a trade-off for long-term gains as EREIT's portfolio "trades up"
- Latest acquisition of a stake in ESR Japan Income Fund will generate a c.1.8% accretion to DPU
- Maintain BUY with unchanged TP of S\$0.34

Price Relative



Forecasts and Valuation

FY Dec (\$m)	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F
Gross Revenue	343	386	364	372
Net Property Inc	244	273	264	270
Total Return	(290)	(85.6)	141	146
Distribution Inc	177	193	181	181
EPU (S cts)	2.71	1.08	1.83	1.90
EPU Gth (%)	(20)	(60)	69	4
DPU (S cts)	3.00	2.56	2.35	2.36
DPU Gth (%)	0	(15)	(8)	0
NAV per shr (S cts)	36.2	31.8	32.1	32.0
PE (X)	11.4	28.6	17.0	16.3
Distribution Yield (%)	9.7	8.3	7.6	7.6
P/NAV (x)	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Aggregate Leverage (%)	46.2	42.1	43.0	43.3
ROAE (%)	7.9	3.3	5.7	5.9

Distn. Inc Chng (%):		(2)	(3)
Consensus DPU (S cts):		2.40	2.60
Other Broker Recs:	B: 8	S: 0	H: 0

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

"Trading up" for better portfolio quality

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 its share price is yet to re-rate. With a dividend yield of more than 10% (c.400bps higher than its large-cap industrial S-REIT peers), it looks attractive. The manager is executing an asset recalibration strategy post-merger, which we believe should be value accretive and drive a share price re-rating.

Portfolio repositioning and rejuvenation underway. EREIT continues to carry out their portfolio repositioning exercise with more than S\$440m in divestments of non-core assets in FY23. 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 asset enhancement initiatives (AEIs) 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 that is valued at 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 a c.3% accretion to DPU.

Maintain BUY with unchanged TP of S\$0.34. Despite the near-term challenges as interest rates continue to rise, as well as the recent S\$300m equity fund raising (EFR) exercise leading to a dilution in DPU, we see EREIT's ongoing AEIs and redevelopment projects as key drivers to its earnings in the future.

Key Risks

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

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	7,199
Mkt. Cap (S\$m/US\$m)	2,232 / 1,670
Major Shareholders (%)	
E-Shang Infinity Cayman Ltd	9.4
Free Float (%)	90.6
3m Avg. Daily Val (US\$m)	2.7
GIC Industry : Real Estate / Equity Real Estate Investment (REITs)	

WHAT'S NEW



Watchlist the stock on Insights Direct to receive prompt updates

“Trading up” for better portfolio quality

Revenues and NPI increased 12.6% and 11.8% y-o-y. FY23 revenues reached S\$386.4m, indicating a robust 12.6% increase year-on-year. FY23 NPI amounted to S\$273.2m, marking a substantial 11.8% growth compared to the previous year. This impressive financial performance can be attributed to the full-year contribution from ALOG Trust (acquired in April 2022) and the acquisition of ESR Sakura DC in October 2022. However, it's important to note that these gains were partially offset by divestments carried out during FY23.

FY23 DPU of 2.564Scts was slightly below our estimates. DPU for FY23, of 2.564Scts, declined c.14.5% y-o-y. While it came in slightly – i.e., c.0.7% – below our estimates, there are several factors contributing to this performance. Although NPI was higher y-o-y, distribution income was diluted due to higher financing costs and an enlarged unit base resulting from the EFR conducted in February and April 2023. Included in the DI is a total of S\$27.7m in capital gains that was distributed in FY23. Following this, approximately S\$18m remains, and management has indicated that they plan to continue tapping into capital gains distribution in FY24 to support overall income distribution, as earnings are expected to be disrupted by the ongoing AEs.

Healthy portfolio occupancy rates and continued positive rental reversions. Portfolio occupancy rate experienced a notable improvement, increasing by 2.5ppt to reach 92.8% in 4Q23. This improvement was primarily driven by higher occupancy rates in Singapore. Additionally, Australia and Japan maintained full occupancy, both at 100%. Positive rental reversions were strong, achieving a notable +11.1% for the entirety of FY23. The positive momentum in rental reversions was mainly driven by leases in Australia and Singapore. Importantly, positive rental reversions were recorded across all four asset types, with particularly notable increases observed in the high-spec industrial, logistics, and general industrial categories.

Looking ahead, while rental reversions are anticipated to remain positive, achieving double-digit growth may become challenging. This cautious outlook is due to the expectation of increased supply entering the market in the next few years, which could potentially impact demand dynamics. Approximately 18.3% of EREIT's portfolio leases are due to expire in FY24.

Gearing has improved to 35.7% following EREIT's active portfolio rejuvenation exercise. Approximately S\$440.6m in divestments were carried out during FY23, and these were executed at a c.1% premium to valuations. The majority of the proceeds from divestments were utilised to redeem S\$100m in perpetual securities, with the remaining funds used to repay loans. This divestment strategy has led to an improvement in gearing to 35.7% in 4Q23. Similarly, EREIT's debt ratio (D+P)/A saw a stark improvement y-o-y, improving by 54bps to 48.0% in 4Q23.

With the improved balance sheet, EREIT has just announced the acquisition of a stake in ESR Japan Income Fund that will bring

gearing back up to c.37%. In addition, EREIT also has additional capital commitments in the near term for AEs and redevelopment projects that will lead to gearing inching up further. For FY24, there are no further refinancing requirements. The S\$163m in loans expiring this year will be refinanced using a two-year sustainability-linked loan facility. Borrowing costs remained relatively stable at 3.91%. With interest rates appearing to have stabilised, it is anticipated that financing costs will remain close to the current levels in FY24.

On portfolio valuations, EREIT's Singapore portfolio saw a c.2% decline while its Australian portfolio's valuations remained relatively stable. The decline in valuations for the Singapore portfolio was mainly due to shortening land tenures. In Australia, although cap rates expanded by 75-100bps, the higher underlying rents were able to offset the valuation declines, and, in fact, reported some gains in AUD. However, due to FX translation losses, the Australian portfolio valuations saw a very marginal decline in SGD y-o-y.

S\$440.6m in divestments carried out in FY23

Asset	Sale price (S\$m)	Premium/(discount) to valuation	Expected completion
70 Seletar Aerospace View	7.1	4.8%	01-Nov-23
49 Pandan Road	43.5	15.1%	21-Feb-23
3 Pioneer Sector 3	95.0		23-Aug-23
4 & 6 Clementi Loop	37.6		16-Oct-23
6 Chin Bee Avenue	93.0	-5.1%	16-Oct-23
21 Changi North Way	30.1		23-Aug-23
30 Toh Guan Road	57.8		23-Aug-23
22 Chin Bee Drive	13.8	6.2%	15-Sep-23
51 Musgrave Road (Australia)	9.7	2.4%	26-Jul-23
2 Tuas South Avenue 2	53.0	35.2%	01-Nov-23
Total	440.6	0.9%	-

Source: ESR LOGOS REIT, DBS Bank Ltd

Successfully carried out various portfolio rejuvenation initiatives, with several more underway. Some of the recently completed initiatives include:

- 7002 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5
 - TOP in 3Q23
 - Occupancy improved to 62% in 4Q23
 - Estimated yield on cost is c.7.1%
- 21B Senoko Loop
 - TOP January 2024
 - Secured a 15-year master lease to NTS with annual rental escalations, tripled net lease

- 3 Tuas South Avenue 4
 - Signed a 20-year master Lease with PharmaGend Global Medical Services in January 2024
 - Includes built-in rental escalations
 - Rents under the new lease are more than 35% higher than the previous lease
- 16 Tai Seng Street
 - Slight delay for the c.S\$32.0m AEI, with the expected completion now in 1Q25
 - Estimated yield on cost is c.6.0%
- 2 Fishery Port:
 - Redevelopment of 2 Fishery Port into a modern ramp-up cold storage facility is expected to commence in late 2H24
 - Estimated redevelopment cost is S\$240.0m
 - Expected to be completed in FY27
 - Estimated yield on cost ranges between 6.5%-6.75%
 - Asset will likely be leased out as a multi-tenanted property, considering negotiations with the previous master tenant did not materialise
 - There is a possibility of undertaking the redevelopment together with the sponsor, given the size and scale of the project

Lower portfolio valuations mainly due to divestments. Portfolio valuations were c.S\$521m lower y-o-y. A substantial portion of this decrease, around S\$442m, was attributable to divestments. Excluding the impact from divestments, the rest of the portfolio valuations declined by c.S\$79m, and this was primarily attributed to two main factors: The shortening land tenures for the Singapore portfolio as well as FX translation losses. Cap rates in Australia expanded by between 75-100 bps. However, higher underlying rents were able to offset the valuation declines resulting from the expansion of cap rates.

DPU and NAV-accretive share buyback programme. EREIT has acquired and subsequently cancelled a total of c.9.7m units to date. The total amount spent on these share buybacks is c.S\$2.7m, with an average acquisition price per unit of S\$0.2805. Share buybacks continue to be considered an option, especially if units are trading at a significant discount to NAV. However, management highlighted that the likelihood of further share buybacks in the near term is low. This is attributed to the recovery of the unit price and the availability of debt headroom that can be utilised for other revenue growth initiatives, such as acquisitions or AEIs.

Recycling of capital has begun with the acquisition of a stake in ESR Japan Income Fund. EREIT is acquiring an 8.4% stake in the fund for US\$70m (c.S\$93.0m). The fund currently consists of five freehold logistics assets with an average age that is relatively young, standing at just 3.9 years. The properties are fully occupied with a WALE of 4.2 years on average. The investment is expected

to have a cash-on-cash yield of c.5.0%, implying an accretion of c.1.8% to DPU. As the investment is set to be fully funded by new JPY loans with an all-in cost of c.1.5%, the gearing of EREIT is expected to increase slightly to around c.37%. The acquisition is scheduled to be completed in June 2024.

Our views.

The overall sentiment remains optimistic regarding EREIT's ongoing portfolio rejuvenation efforts, which has led to a **significant improvement in its balance sheet metrics**, with gearing now at only 35.7%. However, the improvement in gearing has come at the cost of divestments. The divestments, combined with an enlarged unit base, may exert pressure on DPU in the near term. Despite this, the **expectation is for DPU to gradually improve in the medium term**. This improvement is anticipated to materialise as proceeds from divestments are gradually redeployed into acquisitions, AEIs, and redevelopment projects.

Our projections have not assumed any acquisitions, presenting an avenue for a potential upside to our estimates. The expectation is that **EREIT will leverage its debt headroom to pursue accretive acquisitions** as part of its ongoing portfolio rejuvenation exercise.

In summary, the positive outlook is supported by the improvement in its balance sheet metrics and the strategic approach to portfolio management. The **short-term pressure on DPU is viewed as a trade-off for long-term gains**, especially as funds are strategically redeployed into growth initiatives. The potential for acquisitions further underscores the proactive stance taken by EREIT in maximising value for its unitholders. As such, we will be maintaining our **BUY** recommendation with TP unchanged at **S\$0.34**.

Areas to watch: i) How quickly debt headroom would be redeployed to drive earnings growth, ii) rental reversions in FY24 as the Zc.18.1% of leases are renewed, and iii) interest rate movements, as borrowing costs are widely expected to remain relatively stable.

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).

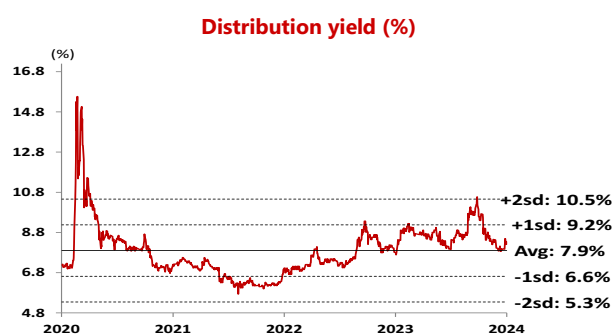
Interim Income Statement (\$m)

ESR-LOGOS REIT

FY Dec	2H2022	1H2023	2H2023	% chg yoy	% chg hoh
Gross revenue	196	197	190	(3.1)	(3.7)
Property expenses	(54.1)	(56.0)	(57.2)	5.7	2.1
Net Property Income	141	141	132	(6.5)	(6.0)
Other Operating expenses	(14.3)	(15.0)	(13.3)	(7.1)	(11.2)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Associates & JV Inc	2.22	1.96	1.92	(13.4)	(1.8)
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(52.1)	(40.3)	(53.6)	(2.9)	(33.1)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	43.2	(1.8)	(7.1)	nm	294.4
Net Income	126	76.4	180	42.8	136.3
Tax	2.37	(0.2)	2.31	(2.4)	nm
Minority Interest	(4.3)	(2.4)	(1.3)	68.6	(44.7)
Net Income after Tax	124	73.7	181	45.8	146.1
Total Return	67.9	(22.3)	70.7	4.3	(417.9)
Non-tax deductible Items	26.8	110	134	399.1	21.0
Net Inc available for Dist.	103	97.1	213	107.7	119.8
Ratio (%)					
Net Prop Inc Margin	72.3	71.5	69.8		
Dist. Payout Ratio	300.0	300.0	300.0		

Source of all data: Company, DBS Bank Ltd

Historical Distribution Yield and PB band



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



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

ESR-LOGOS REIT

Income Statement (\$m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F
Gross revenue	241	343	386	364	372
Property expenses	(68.0)	(99.0)	(113)	(99.9)	(102)
Net Property Income	173	244	273	264	270
Other Operating expenses	(16.1)	(15.2)	(19.1)	(14.4)	(11.9)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	7.70	5.34	3.88	5.58	5.61
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(55.7)	(86.0)	(108)	(94.1)	(96.7)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	39.0	39.2	(48.7)	0.0	0.0
Net Income	148	188	101	161	167
Tax	(2.2)	(9.5)	2.10	0.0	0.0
Minority Interest	(4.1)	(6.8)	(3.8)	(2.6)	(2.6)
Preference Dividend	(6.9)	(12.0)	(18.2)	(18.2)	(18.2)
Net Income After Tax	135	159	81.2	141	146
Total Return	94.6	(290)	(85.6)	141	146
Non-tax deductible Items	18.9	438	244	40.2	35.3
Net Inc available for Dist.	114	177	193	181	181
Growth & Ratio					
Revenue Gth (%)	4.9	42.3	12.6	(5.7)	2.0
N Property Inc Gth (%)	5.5	41.0	11.8	(3.2)	2.1
Net Inc Gth (%)	116.1	17.9	(49.0)	73.3	3.8
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Net Prop Inc Margins (%)	71.8	71.2	70.7	72.6	72.6
Net Income Margins (%)	56.0	46.4	21.0	38.6	39.3
Dist to revenue (%)	47.4	51.6	49.9	49.7	48.8
Managers & Trustee's fees	6.7	4.4	4.9	4.0	3.2
ROAE (%)	8.9	7.9	3.3	5.7	5.9
ROA (%)	4.1	3.5	1.5	2.7	2.8
ROCE (%)	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1
Int. Cover (x)	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.7	2.7

Dip in revenues as a result of the S\$440.6m in asset divestments in FY23

Source: Company, DBS Bank Ltd

ESR-LOGOS REIT

Interim Income Statement (\$m)

FY Dec	2H2021	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023	2H2023
Gross revenue	121	148	196	197	190
Property expenses	(35.2)	(44.9)	(54.1)	(56.0)	(57.2)
Net Property Income	86.3	103	141	141	132
Other Operating	(9.0)	(12.1)	(14.3)	(15.0)	(13.3)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	4.48	3.13	2.22	1.96	1.92
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(28.2)	(33.9)	(52.1)	(40.3)	(53.6)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	15.0	(439)	43.2	(1.8)	(7.1)
Net Income	70.1	(374)	126	76.4	180
Tax	(2.2)	(11.9)	2.37	(0.2)	2.31
Minority Interest	(2.1)	(2.5)	(4.3)	(2.4)	(1.3)
Net Income after Tax	65.7	(389)	124	73.7	181
Total Return	39.5	(346)	67.9	(22.3)	70.7
Non-tax deductible Items	20.8	411	26.8	110	134
Net Inc available for Dist.	63.7	68.9	103	97.1	213
Growth & Ratio					
Revenue Gth (%)	1	22	32	1	(4)
N Property Inc Gth (%)	(1)	19	38	0	(6)
Net Inc Gth (%)	(2)	(691)	(132)	(41)	146
Net Prop Inc Margin (%)	71.1	69.6	72.3	71.5	69.8
Dist. Payout Ratio (%)	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0

Lower financing costs, as divestment proceeds have been utilised to repay loans

Balance Sheet (\$m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F
Investment Properties	3,146	5,103	4,687	4,692	4,698
Other LT Assets	107	404	347	440	440
Cash & ST Invt	24.2	50.0	42.0	68.8	97.8
Inventory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debtors	23.1	40.7	27.3	27.8	28.4
Other Current Assets	29.3	56.6	3.43	3.43	3.43
Total Assets	3,330	5,654	5,106	5,232	5,267
ST Debt	209	245	180	180	180
Creditor	64.3	91.6	77.9	98.8	101
Other Current Liab	74.8	69.6	71.1	71.1	71.1
LT Debt	981	2,368	1,968	2,070	2,100
Other LT Liabilities	251	30.2	44.1	44.1	44.1
Unit holders' funds	1,749	2,849	2,765	2,765	2,765
Minority Interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.58	5.20
Total Funds & Liabilities	3,330	5,654	5,106	5,232	5,267
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(86.8)	(63.9)	(118)	(139)	(140)
Net Cash/(Debt)	(1,167)	(2,564)	(2,106)	(2,181)	(2,183)
Ratio					
Current Ratio (x)	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4
Quick Ratio (x)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Aggregate Leverage (%)	42.3	46.2	42.1	43.0	43.3

Divestment proceeds have been utilised to repay loans.

Source: Company, DBS Bank Ltd

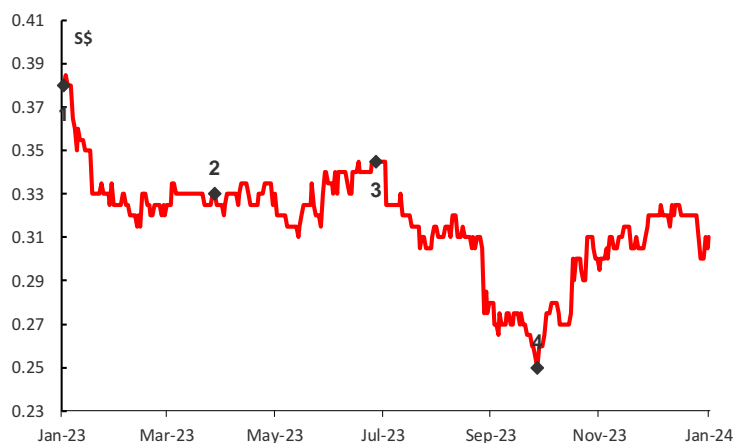
ESR-LOGOS REIT

Cash Flow Statement (\$m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F
Pre-Tax Income	141	176	82.9	143	149
Dep. & Amort.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tax Paid	0.0	(1.0)	(3.4)	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc/(Loss)	(7.7)	(5.3)	(3.9)	(5.6)	(5.6)
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	6.80	(33.2)	2.87	20.3	1.42
Other Operating CF	23.3	52.3	178	40.2	35.3
Net Operating CF	164	188	256	198	180
Net Invnt in Properties	(28.5)	(56.6)	441	(5.3)	(5.4)
Other Invnts (net)	(71.3)	(98.6)	(93.5)	0.0	0.0
Invnts in Assoc. & JV	0.0	(107)	0.0	(93.0)	0.0
Div from Assoc. & JVs	5.00	4.82	3.88	5.58	5.61
Other Investing CF	(54.6)	(9.9)	10.8	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(149)	(267)	362	(92.7)	0.21
Distribution Paid	(118)	(87.6)	(202)	(181)	(181)
Chg in Gross Debt	16.6	141	(506)	102	30.4
New units issued	146	(0.9)	295	0.0	0.0
Other Financing CF	(60.2)	40.2	(212)	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(16.0)	93.1	(626)	(78.7)	(151)
Currency Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(1.6)	14.4	(7.5)	26.8	29.0
Operating CFPS (S cts)	3.95	3.77	3.38	2.31	2.32
Free CFPS (S cts)	3.41	2.24	9.30	2.51	2.27

Source: Company, DBS Bank Ltd

Target Price & 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:	01 Feb 23	0.38	0.44	BUY
2:	27 Apr 23	0.33	0.40	BUY
3:	27 Jul 23	0.35	0.38	BUY
4:	26 Oct 23	0.25	0.34	BUY

Source: DBS Bank Ltd

Analysts: Dale LAI

Derek TAN

DBS Group Research 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: 2 Feb 2024 07:18:09 (SGT)

Dissemination Date: 2 Feb 2024 07:52:08 (SGT)

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

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