

Hengan International

Fri, 04 Sep 2009

Cheap wood pulp stock to boost margin HOLD (unchanged)

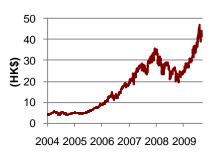
Financial summary							
Year to Dec	07A	A80	09F	10F	11F		
Turnover (HK\$m)	5687	8002	10860	13779	17116		
Net Profit (HK\$m)	1,110	1,434	1,935	2,381	2,828		
EPS (HK\$)	1.018	1.253	1.587	1.940	2.319		
EPS ∆%	57.9	23.2	26.6	22.3	22.8		
P/E (x)	43.5	35.3	27.9	22.8	19.1		
P/B (x)	9.45	7.79	6.00	5.36	5.06		
EV/EBITDA (x)	34.9	27.9	19.3	15.7	13.2		
Yield (%)	1.4	1.6	2.2	2.6	2.9		
ROE (%)	27.1	23.7	24.1	25.0	25.2		
ROCE (%)	18.9	18.3	19.8	20.5	21.9		
N. Gear. (%)	Cash	Cash	Cash	Cash	Cash		

Source: SBI E2-Capital

Price Performance

	1 mth	3 mth	12 mth
Relative to HSI (%)	+1.8	+17.0	+67.0
Actual price changes (%)	-0.6	+28.4	+66.4
	09F	10F	11F
Consensus EPS (HK\$)	1.618	1.925	2.242
Previous forecasts (HK\$m)	1776	1865	2103
Previous EPS (HK\$)	1.552	1.630	1.838





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subject to market's need.

 Ticker:
 1044.HK
 12 mth range:
 HK\$18.6-49.5

 Price:
 HK\$44.25
 Market cap:
 US\$6,917.3m

 Target:
 HK\$44.43 (+0%)
 Daily t/o, 3 mth:
 US\$13.3m

 Free float %:
 58.3%

Key points:

- Better-than-expected 1H results due to low raw materials costs.
- * 260,000 cheap wood pulp inventory to sustain gross margin.
- * Well scheduled tissue capacity expansion.
- New paper diaper product to spur 2H sales.
- * Consolidating Qinqin with existing networks.
- Earnings estimates revised up.
- * Target price moved to HK\$44.43.
- * HOLD unchanged.

IH results ahead of expectation. Top line went up 36.1% to HK\$5,112.7m in 1H FY12/09A. Blended gross margin widened 5.8pcp to 45.0% as a result of stable selling prices but lowered raw materials costs. Thus net profit jumped 54.0% to HK\$966.7m. An interim dividend of HK\$0.50 per share was declared. The results, especially margin expansion, are better than we expected mainly due to: 1) a further ~10% slide in wood pulp price since our last update in Mar to Apr; 2) the company's timely procurement and stock of low-cost wood pulp.

Sustainable high gross margin in short term. Hengan has accumulated ~260,000 tonnes cheap wood pulp, including 190,000 tonnes in hand and remaining balance contracted and under delivery, which, according to the management, will be sufficient to cover the company's need till May 2010. The average cost is ~RMB3,250/tonne for short fiber pulp (140,000 tonnes) and ~RMB3,950/tonne for long fiber one (120,000 tonnes). As wood pulp price has been strengthening since Apr (spot price: RMB4,800 for short fiber and RMB5,500 for long fiber), which might support prices of paper products in general, we reckon Hengan will be able to retain the current high gross margin in 2H FY12/09F and 1H FY12/10F.

Scheduled capacity expansion. The company has made detailed plan to raise tissue capacity from 360,000 tonnes at end-08 to 420,000 tonnes this year and 540,000 tonnes the next year. We believe such a plan is critical to ensure a sound growth because of: I) bright market outlook backed by still low penetration rate of tissue paper in China; 2) relatively long construction period of tissue capacity, which usually costs ~ two years; 3) large capex associated. For the other products, the management intends to keep flexibility in hand and add new capacities

Diapers to catch up. Sales of paper diapers increased only 10.0% in 1H to HK\$990.1m. The management admitted the performance is somewhat below its own expectation and blamed it to a delay in launching new products. Nevertheless, the new product has been released in Jul. Market response during before trial was satisfactory. Therefore, the management expects growth of diaper business to pick up in 2H.

Qinqin under consolidation. Qinqin, the newly acquired subsidiary (51% interest in Dec 08) engaged in producing food and snacks, generated HK\$482.4m revenue and HK\$43.7m net profit (before minority interest) in IH, compared with HK\$843.6m and HK\$53.3m in the full FY12/08A. The company plans to re-position Qinqin at mid & high-end market from mid-end and diversify sales channels from traditional distributors to Hengan's existing



network.

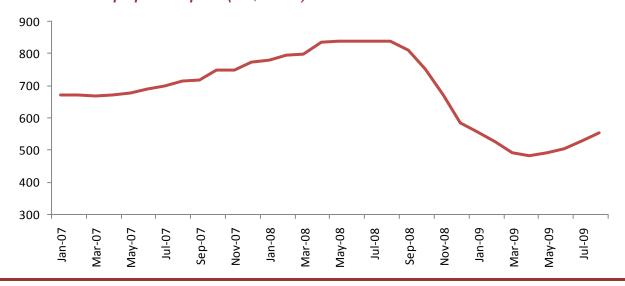
Earnings forecast penciled up. We have revised up our projection to accommodate better price trend following resilient raw materials costs and Hengan's 260,000 tonnes low-cost wood pulp inventory. The company will earn HK\$1934.8m in FY12/09F and HK\$2381.0m in FY12/10F. Accordingly, we lift our target price to HK\$44.43 based 28x FY12/09F P/E, which represents 0.8x PEG.

Table 1: 1H FY12/09A results highlight

Year to Dec (HK\$m)	07A	A80	YoY change (%)	Remarks
Revenue	3,755.8	5,112.7	36.1	
Tissue paper products	1,816.7	2,203.6	21.3	stable prices though more promotions in 1H
Sanitary napkins	943.0	1,190.6	26.3	"Space 7 Series" maintained high growth
				Growth was restricted due to delay in new product
Disposable diapers	900.4	990.1	10.0	rollout
Food and snacks	-	482.4	n.a.	
Others	95.7	246.0	157.1	
Gross profit	1,471.8	2,301.9	56.4	Substantial gross margin gain in 1H
Operating profit	779.9	1,211.9	55.4	
Net profit	627.6	966.7	54.0	
			(pcp)	
Gross margin (%)	39.1	45.0	5.9	
Tissue paper products	29.6	41.4	11.8	Wood pulp market price dropped 37.5% in 1H
				Petrochemical cost declined following oil price;
Sanitary napkins	58.7	59.3	0.6	more sales from mid-to-high-end products
				Decline in prices of petrochemicals and fluff pulp,
Disposable diapers	35.7	37.0	1.3	better cost control and product mix enhancement
Food and snacks	-	38.2	n.a.	
Others	60.0	54.1	(5.9)	

Source: Company data and SBI E2-Capital

Chart 1: FOEX PIX pulp BHKP price (US\$/tonne)



Source: Bloomberg



Table 2: P & L

Year to Dec (HK\$m)	07A	08A	09F	10F	11F
Turnover	5,687.0	8,001.5	10,860.3	13,778.6	17,116.0
COGS	(3,410.7)	(4,799.0)	(5,945.1)	(7,623.6)	(9,634.1)
Gross profit	2,276.3	3,202.5	4,915.2	6,155.0	7,481.9
Other revenue	103.4	93.0	76.0	96.5	119.8
Administrative Expenses	(221.4)	(313.5)	(597.3)	(688.9)	(770.2)
Distribution costs	(902.4)	(1,451.0)	(1,954.9)	(2,480.1)	(3,080.9)
Operating profit	1,255.9	1,531.1	2,439.1	3,082.4	3,750.6
Finance costs	(95.0)	(66.9)	(85.4)	(83.9)	(83.2)
Interest Income	21.7	46.5	35.0	44.4	55.2
Profit before tax	1,182.6	1,510.7	2,388.7	3,042.9	3,722.6
Taxation	(175.5)	(166.0)	(394.1)	(578.1)	(781.7)
Minority Interests	(1.1)	(3.7)	(59.7)	(83.7)	(112.6)
Net profit	1,006.0	1,340.9	1,934.8	2,381.0	2,828.2
EPS – basic	0.923	1.172	1.587	1.940	2.168

Source: Company data and SBI E2-Capital

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