

# **Singapore** Results Review

8 August 2019

Property | REITS

SGD0.82 (+12%)

# BUY (Maintained)

# EC World REIT (ECWREIT SP)

# **Another Stable Quarter Barring FX Impact; BUY**

- Keep BUY with new SGD 0.82 TP from SGD 0.85, 12% upside plus 9% yield. 2Q results met: Earnings outlook remained stable with minimal uncertainty post master lease extensions, and loan refinancing. Its latest acquisition, Fuzhou E-Commerce's (FEC) logistic asset should contribute positively from 3Q19. The potential impact from the rising US-China trade tensions on EC World REIT's assets are minimal, as they cater largely to the domestic market. However, a prolonged CNY weakness should have a negative impact on DPU.
- TP revised. We revise our COE higher by 30bps to 10% in light of the increasing macroeconomic risks and currency fluctuations, resulting in a lower TP. Valuation remains attractive at 0.8x P/BV and FY19F yield of 8.6%.
- Loan tenure extended by c.3 years at similar interest cost. EC World REIT completed the refinancing of all its loans (end-July) from a mixture of offshore and onshore facilities. The majority of loans are on 3-year tenure (except the CNY77m loan, which has a 10-year tenure). While interest cost for its onshore/offshore facilities have gone up slightly, management noted that overall all-in running interest rate is expected to be similar to the current 4.5%. This is due to the tweaking of its debt mix to 60% offshore and 40% onshore from 50% and 50% previously.
- Mild positive rent reversions expected from 2020 lease renewals. About 3%/14% of leases by gross rental income are due for renewal in 2H19-2020. The bulk of 2020 lease renewal is from lease expiry of a major state owned enterprise tenant - China Tobacco - which occupies c.95% of Hengde Logistics. Management expressed confidence in terms of renewing the lease upon expiry due to the customised nature of the warehouse asset, but guided that rental uplift is likely to be modest, at best. Overall, we expect rental reversion to remain positive at 3-5% for leases expiring this year and the next.
- FEC contributions to kick in from 3Q. The acquisition of FEC is expected to be completed in the next two weeks, after which the asset will be master leased to sponsor for a tenure of five years (with option to extend for another five years). The asset – acquired at an initial NPI yield of 6.4% – is accretive to both pro-forma (FY18) DPU and NAV, and also has a built-in rent escalation of 2.25% pa. Gearing post transaction should increase to c.39%, and is close to management's comfortable level of 40%. Consequently, future acquisitions are likely to be funded by a combination of equity and debt.
- Current hedging policy is to hedge 75% of its distributable income on a rolling 6-month basis using put spread option. Management is currently revisiting its hedging strategy in light of the CNY's fluctuations.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Total turnover (SGDm)	91.4	96.2	97.3	100.0	104.1
Net property income (SGDm)	82.7	87.3	96.7	106.7	110.8
Reported net profit (SGDm)	47.6	46.9	56.6	61.7	64.4
Distributable income (SGDm)	47.1	49.0	50.3	52.5	55.3
DPS (SGD - cents)	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.8
DPS growth (%)	5.4	2.4	2.5	3.3	4.5
P/BV (x)	8.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Dividend Yield (%)	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.9	9.3
Return on average equity (%)	6.0	5.9	7.0	7.5	7.7
Return on average assets (%)	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7
Interest coverage (x)	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.6

Source: Company data, RHB

# **Analyst**

Market Cap:

Price:

Vijay Natarajan +65 6232 3872 vijay.natarajan@rhbgroup.com

Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)

Target Price (Return)



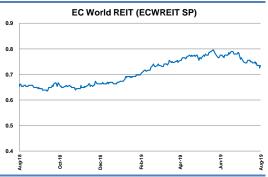
SGD0.735

USD423m

0.8m/0.6m

# **Share Performance (%)** YTD

6m 12m 1m 3m Absolute 6.5 (6.4)(5.8)0.7 3.5 Relative 2.7 (1.0)(2.0)1.1 8.1 52-wk Price low/high (SGD) 0.68 - 0.81



Source: Bloomberg



Property | REITs 8 August 2019

# **Financial Exhibits**

Asia	
Singapore	
Property	
EC World REIT	

Bloomberg ECWREIT SP

# Valuation basis

## We use DDM:

- i. COE of 10.0%;
- ii. Risk free rate of 4.5%; iii. 2% Terminal growth.

### Key drivers

- i. Increasing logistics sector demand;ii. Accretive acquisitions;
- iii. Pick-up in logistics demand driving rents.

## Key risks

- Prolonged trade tensions leading to slowdown in GDP and economic activity;
- ii. Tenant defaults.

### **Company Profile**

EC World REIT was established with the investment strategy of investing principally – directly or indirectly – in a diversified portfolio of income-producing real estate. The latter assets are used primarily for ecommerce, supply-chain management, and logistics purposes. The REIT also focuses on real estate-related assets. The initial geographical focus is the People's Republic of China.

Financial summary	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Recurring EPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.11	0.08
EPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.11	0.08
DPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07
BVPS (SGD)	0.92	0.87	0.88	0.89	0.90
Weighted avg adjusted shares (m)	785	792	799	806	814

Valuation metrics	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Recurring P/E (x)	11.5	11.7	8.3	6.5	8.8
P/E (x)	11.5	11.7	8.3	6.5	8.8
P/B (x)	0.8	8.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
FCF Yield (%)	10.7	5.9	(26.9)	14.3	14.7
Dividend Yield (%)	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.9	10.3	12.2	11.2	10.9
EV/EBIT (x)	10.9	10.3	12.2	11.2	10.9

Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Total turnover	91	96	97	100	104
Gross profit	83	87	97	107	111
EBITDA	77	84	92	101	105
Depreciation and amortisation	0	0	0	0	0
Operating profit	77	84	92	101	105
Net interest	(24)	(26)	(32)	(40)	(40)
Income from associates & JVs	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional income - net	0	2	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	71	70	85	92	96
Taxation	(24)	(23)	(28)	(31)	(32)
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Recurring net profit (adj)	48	47	57	62	64

Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Change in working capital	(4)	(5)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Cash flow from operations	61	63	75	82	85
Capex	(2)	(30)	(225)	(2)	(2)
Cash flow from investing activities	6	(30)	(225)	(2)	(2)
Dividends paid	(47)	(48)	(50)	(52)	(55)
Cash flow from financing activities	(72)	(76)	74	(102)	(105)
Cash at beginning of period	145	185	154	90	81
Net change in cash	(6)	(43)	(76)	(21)	(21)
Ending balance cash	139	142	78	69	60

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Total cash and equivalents	139	142	78	69	60
Tangible fixed assets	1337	1335	1587	1620	1654
Intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total investments	1337	1335	1587	1620	1654
Total other assets	36	39	40	40	41
Total assets	1511	1516	1704	1729	1755
Short-term debt	40	475	10	10	10
Total long-term debt	395	0	641	646	651
Other liabilities	358	353	354	359	365
Total liabilities	794	827	1004	1015	1026
Shareholders' equity	718	689	700	715	729
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	718	689	700	715	729
Net debt	436	466	651	656	661
Total liabilities & equity	1511	1516	1704	1729	1755

Key metrics	Dec-17	Dec 18	Dec 19F	Dec 20F	Dec 21F
Revenue growth (%)	(4.4)	5.3	1.2	2.8	4.0
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(30.6)	(2.3)	41.4	27.6	(26.4)
Gross margin (%)	90.5	90.8	99.3	106.6	106.5
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	84.7	87.6	94.4	101.1	100.8
Net profit margin (%)	52.1	48.8	58.1	61.6	61.9
Dividend payout ratio (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Capex/sales (%)	2.4	31.6	231.2	1.5	1.4
Interest cover (x)	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.6

Source: Company data, RHB



# **Results And Operations Review**

**2Q19 DPU down 1.5%YoY, results met.** Revenue and NPI were down 4.8% and 7.2%YoY in SGD terms, but up 3.6% and 3.4% in CNY terms (including straight-line adjustments). Finance costs were up slightly 2.1%YoY, mainly due to higher standby letter of credit loan quantum. The results met, with 1H19 DPU accounting for 49% of our estimates.

Committed occupancy declined slightly to 99.1% (1Q19: 99.9%) mainly on non-renewal of space (c.5,000sq m) at Wuhan Meiluote. Management is in active discussions with few prospective tenants to backfill the space currently.

Figure 1: Results summary

FYE Dec (SGD m)	2Q19	2Q18	YoY(%)	1H19	YoY(%)	Comments
Revenue	23.7	24.9	(4.8)	47.6	(2.6)	Lower mainly due to CNY depreciation; In CNY terms revenue was 3.6% higher YoY.
NPI	21.2	22.8	(7.2)	42.3	(4.4)	Same as above; in CNY NPI was 3.4% higher YoY.
NPI (%)	89.2%	91.5%	(2.3ppts)	89%	(1.7ppts)	
Unit holders distribution	12.3	12.4	(0.6)	24.2	0.8	100% payout maintained.
DPU (cents)	1.547	1.570	(1.5)	3.0	0.3	
Committed occupancy (%)	99.1	99.2	(0.1ppt)	99.1	-	

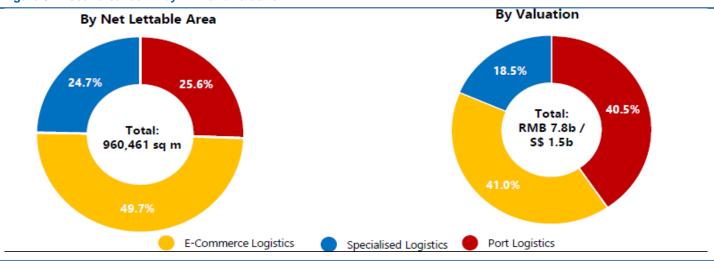
Source: RHB, Company data

Figure 2: EC World REIT's fair value is based on a dividend discount model

	FY19F	FY20F	FY21F	FY22F	FY23F	Terminal Value
DPU (SGD)	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.1	90.6
Target price (SGD)	0.82					
Current Price (SGD)	0.74					
Price Upside	11.3%					
Distribution Yield	8.6%					
Total returns (%)	19.9%					
Assumptions						
Risk-free rate (%)	4.5%					
Beta	1.0					
Cost of equity (%)	10.0%					
Terminal growth (%)	2.0%					-

Source: RHB

Figure 3: Asset breakdown by NLA and valuation



Source: Company data



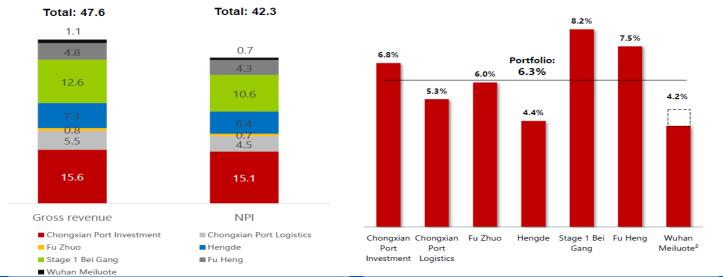
Figure 4: Refinancing terms for new loans

	Offshore Facility	Onshore Facility					
Quantum	<ul> <li>S\$424.5 million comprising</li> <li>Two multi-currency term loan facilities up to S\$402 million.</li> <li>SGD term loan up to S\$22.5 million</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>RMB1,095.0 million comprising</li> <li>Two term loan facilities totaling RMB 1,095 million</li> </ul>					
Total Quantum <sup>1</sup>	S\$640.1 million						
Drawdown	S\$354.62 million	RMB977.65 million					
Total Drawdown <sup>2</sup>	S\$547.12 million						
Tenure	Three years (save for a RMB 77.0 million portion of the Onshore Facility which has a tenure of 10 years)						

Source: Company data

Figure 5: FEC asset

Figure 6: NPI yield by asset (1H19)

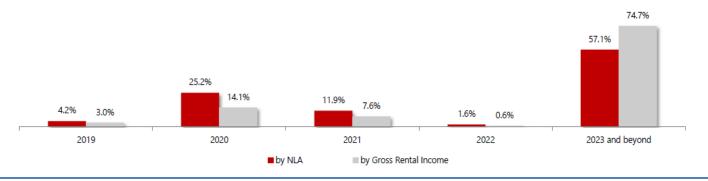


Source: Company data Source: Company data

Figure 6: Portfolio lease expiry profile

WALE by NLA: 3.6 years

WALE by Gross Rental Income: 4.6 years



Source: Company data



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Buy: Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months

Trading Buy: Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-

term outlook remains uncertain

Neutral: Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next

12 months

Take Profit: Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels Sell: Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months

Not Rated: Stock is not within regular research coverage

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## **KUALA LUMPUR**

# RHB Investment Bank Bhd

Level 3A, Tower One, RHB Centre Jalan Tun Razak Kuala Lumpur 50400 Malaysia

Tel: +603 9280 8888 Fax: +603 9200 2216

### **HONG KONG**

### RHB Securities Hong Kong Ltd.

12<sup>th</sup> Floor, World-Wide House 19 Des Voeux Road Central Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2525 1118 Fax: +852 2810 0908

### **JAKARTA**

# PT RHB Sekuritas Indonesia

Wisma Mulia, 20th Floor Jl. Jenderal Gatot Subroto No. 42 Jakarta 12710 Indonesia

Tel: +6221 2783 0888 Fax:+6221 2783 0777

# **BANGKOK**

## **RHB Securities (Thailand) PCL**

10th Floor, Sathorn Square Office Tower 98, North Sathorn Road, Silom Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand

Tel: +66 2088 9999 Fax:+66 2088 9799

# **SINGAPORE**

## RHB Securities Singapore Pte Ltd.

10 Collyer Quay #09-08 Ocean Financial Centre Singapore 049315

Tel: +65 6533 1818 Fax: +65 6532 6211

