

Going All Out; Keep BUY

Synergy House (SYNERGY MK)

29 April 2024

Malaysia Company Update

Consumer Cyclical | Consumer Products

Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): MYR1.61 (21%) Price (Market Cap): MYR1.33 (USD139m) ESG score: 2.9 (out of 4) Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD) 1.06m/0.22m

Analyst

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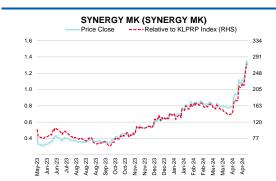


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Share Performance (%)

| | YTD | 1m | 3m | 6m | 12m |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|-------|--------|
| Absolute | 88.7 | 66.3 | 62.2 | 186.0 | 0.0 |
| Relative | 71.6 | 65.9 | 53.0 | 167.2 | 0.0 |
| 52-wk Price low/high (MYR) | | | | 0.33 | - 1.37 |



Source: Bloomberg

• Keep BUY, new MYR1.61 TP from MYR1.08 (21% upside), c.2% FY25F yield. We are optimistic on the potential of data analytics to study customer behaviour and boost traffic, thereby driving scalability in Synergy House's business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce business. Given its higher-thanexpected earnings growth (compelling FY24F PEG of 0.3x) and scalability, we have raised the P/E ratio from 15x to 20x FY24F earnings, resulting in our higher TP. The valuation is consistent with the 5-year average P/E of its closest regional peer, Zhiou Home Furnishing Tech.

- Business-to-business (B2B) sales growing. In 4Q23, Synergy fulfilled the first batch of a new order for interlocking drawers from its US wholesaler, Customer A. The order was in response to new safety standards enforced by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, requiring interlocks in clothing storage units. Following positive customer feedback, Customer A placed 400 more container orders for one of the world's largest hypermarkets to sell in stores and online in the US. While existing B2B product line orders are unchanged, we adjusted our B2B sales growth from flattish to a 10% hike. We revise FY24F and FY25F core earnings projections upwards by 12% and 12.5% to MYR40.2m (+54% YoY) and MYR51.3m.
- Embracing artificial intelligence (AI). At a recent site visit, we saw how Synergy fully integrated AI and data analytics into its operations, from design and development to project management, advertising, monitoring, marketing, and shipping. It has adopted cutting-edge semi-automatic drawing software for product design, and instead of manual photography, it uses 3D product images and room views. In advertising and monitoring, it conducts competitor analysis by monitoring changes in pricing and sales via Al-powered tools. It uses data analytics to identify most-searched keywords to reach its target customers. In marketing, it uses data analytics to access real-time data from online platforms on order replenishment and market trend analysis, including preferred colours and best-selling designs. Al is used in drafting product descriptions, while chatbots and AI are used for customer service. Al adoption enhances productivity and speeds up B2C sales growth.
- Expansion on track. Synergy had 185 employees as of March, and aims to reach 200 this year. In efforts to diversify its reliance on Wayfair US, its B2C sales in the UK and other new platforms are growing fast. Early this year, Synergy kept sufficient inventory in third-party fulfilment centres for new year sales in the US and UK after experiencing a shortage in 1Q23. This year, it is also increasing its B2C SKUs by 25%. As B2C sales growth is anticipated to outpace B2B, we expect higher-margin B2C sales to eclipse B2B sales in FY24. B2C sales are also expected to account for 70% of total sales in FY25.
- **Key risks:** Absence of long-term contracts with B2B customers, competition risk, and high exposure to FX fluctuations.

| Forecasts and Valuation | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total turnover (MYRm) | 194 | 270 | 376 | 456 | 569 |
| Recurring net profit (MYRm) | 17 | 26 | 40 | 51 | 70 |
| Recurring net profit growth (%) | (5.8) | 51.1 | 54.2 | 27.4 | 36.1 |
| Recurring P/E (x) | 38.52 | 25.49 | 16.53 | 12.97 | 9.53 |
| P/B (x) | 14.3 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| P/CF (x) | 34.04 | na | 11.40 | 15.73 | 12.14 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 23.95 | 16.25 | 10.63 | 8.12 | 5.80 |
| Return on average equity (%) | 41.2 | 34.7 | 35.0 | 34.8 | 36.7 |
| Net debt to equity (%) | 76.7 | 17.0 | net cash | net cash | net cash |

Source: Company data, RHB

Overall ESG Score: 2.9 (out of 4)

Synergy uses particle boards which do not contribute to more deforestation, as the raw material of its home furniture sold and has obtained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificates.

S: MODERATE

Synergy promotes good health and a healthy working environment by having company events and weekly sports activities among its staffs. It also contributes to the society via donation.

G: EXCELLENT

Synergy established a comprehensive framework for the prevention and detection of bribery and corruption. The group also introduced an Internal Controls Policy which includes code of conduct declaration by all employees as well as mandatory learning to cover business ethics.

Small cap stocks are defined as companies with a market capitalisation of less than USD0.5bn.



Financial Exhibits

| Asia |
|-------------------|
| Malaysia |
| Consumer Cyclical |
| Synergy House |
| SYNERGY MK |
| Buy |
| |

Valuation basis

20x P/E on FY24F EPS

Key drivers

- i. Business-to-business (B2B) sales growing;
- ii. Embracing AI;
- iii. Expansion on track.

Key risks

- i. Dependent on third-party manufacturers;
- ii. Absence of long-term contracts with B2B customers;
- iii. High exposure to FX fluctuation;
- iv. Competition risk.

Company Profile

Synergy is a cross border e-commerce seller and furniture exporter who specialises in aesthetically pleasing designs which are affordable and ready-to-assemble (RTA) home furniture.

| Financial summary (MYR) | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Recurring EPS | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.14 |
| DPS | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.04 |
| BVPS | 0.09 | 0.20 | 0.26 | 0.33 | 0.43 |
| Return on average equity (%) | 41.2 | 34.7 | 35.0 | 34.8 | 36.7 |
| | | | | | |

| Valuation metrics | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Recurring P/E (x) | 38.52 | 25.49 | 16.53 | 12.97 | 9.53 |
| P/B (x) | 14.3 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| FCF Yield (%) | 1.5 | (1.2) | 8.2 | 6.1 | 7.9 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 23.95 | 16.25 | 10.63 | 8.12 | 5.80 |
| EV/EBIT (x) | 25.45 | 17.03 | 10.99 | 8.42 | 5.96 |

| Income statement (MYRm) | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total turnover | 194 | 270 | 376 | 456 | 569 |
| Gross profit | 46 | 81 | 115 | 144 | 185 |
| EBITDA | 29 | 42 | 60 | 76 | 102 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (2) | (2) | (2) | (3) | (3) |
| Operating profit | 28 | 40 | 58 | 74 | 99 |
| Net interest | (3) | (3) | (3) | (2) | (2) |
| Pre-tax profit | 23 | 36 | 56 | 71 | 97 |
| Taxation | (7) | (10) | (15) | (20) | (27) |
| Reported net profit | 17 | 26 | 40 | 51 | 70 |
| Recurring net profit | 17 | 26 | 40 | 51 | 70 |

| Cash flow (MYRm) | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Change in working capital | 0.0 | 0.0 | 13.4 | (14.0) | (19.6) |
| Cash flow from operations | 19.5 | (5.6) | 58.3 | 42.3 | 54.8 |
| Capex | (9.7) | (2.6) | (3.5) | (2.0) | (2.0) |
| Cash flow from investing activities | (14.7) | (3.5) | (3.5) | (2.0) | (2.0) |
| Dividends paid | (5.9) | (0.7) | (11.9) | (15.1) | (20.6) |
| Cash flow from financing activities | (3.6) | 28.4 | (21.5) | (17.4) | (22.4) |
| Cash at beginning of period | 21.5 | 27.4 | 46.7 | 80.0 | 102.8 |
| Net change in cash | 1.3 | 19.3 | 33.3 | 22.8 | 30.4 |
| Ending balance cash | 27.4 | 46.7 | 80.0 | 102.8 | 133.2 |

| Balance sheet (MYRm) | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total cash and equivalents | 27 | 47 | 80 | 103 | 133 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 55 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 56 |
| Total assets | 131 | 220 | 258 | 304 | 366 |
| Short-term debt | 25 | 38 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| Total long-term debt | 38 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Total liabilities | 85 | 120 | 128 | 138 | 151 |
| Total equity | 46 | 101 | 130 | 166 | 215 |
| Total liabilities & equity | 131 | 220 | 258 | 304 | 366 |

| Key metrics | Dec-22 | Dec-23 | Dec-24F | Dec-25F | Dec-26F |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue growth (%) | 5.3 | 39.2 | 39.1 | 21.4 | 24.7 |
| Recurrent EPS growth (%) | (5.8) | 51.1 | 54.2 | 27.4 | 36.1 |
| Gross margin (%) | 23.9 | 30.1 | 30.7 | 31.6 | 32.5 |
| Operating EBITDA margin (%) | 15.1 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 16.7 | 17.9 |
| Net profit margin (%) | 8.6 | 9.4 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 12.3 |
| Dividend payout ratio (%) | 35.5 | 31.4 | 29.5 | 29.5 | 29.5 |
| Capex/sales (%) | 5.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Interest cover (x) | 8.07 | 10.36 | 15.38 | 18.50 | 24.85 |

Source: Company data, RHB



Emissions And ESG

| Trend analysis | |
|----------------|--|
| na | |

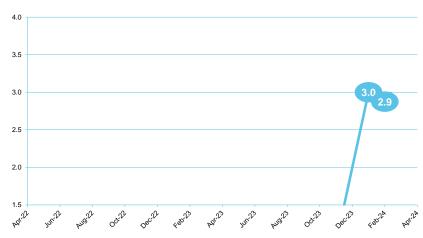
| Emissions (tCO2e) | Dec-21 | Dec-22 | Dec-23 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Scope 1 | na | na | na |
| Scope 2 | na | na | na |
| Scope 3 | na | na | na |
| Total emissions | na | na | na |

Source: Company data, RHB

Latest ESG-Related Developments

 Synergy uses particle boards, which do not contribute to more deforestation, as the raw material of its home furniture sold. It has also obtained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificates.

ESG Rating History



Source: RHB

Recommendation Chart



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

| Date | Recommendation | Target Price | Price |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 2024-02-28 | Buy | 1.08 | 0.87 |
| 2024-01-14 | Buy | 1.08 | 0.69 |
| 2023-10-02 | Buy | 0.64 | 0.44 |

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

RHB Guide to Investment Ratings

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

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