

# **Singapore Company Update**

22 October 2024 Property | REITS

# Keppel REIT (KREIT SP)

# **Buy** (Maintained)

### **Healthy Office Momentum Continues; BUY**

trades at 0.7x PB and remains one of our office sector Top Pick.

Target Price (Return): SGD1.05 (11.8%) Price (Market Cap): SGD0.94 (USD2,746m) ESG score: 3.2 (out of 4) Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD) 7.29m/5.59m

• Keep BUY and SGD1.05 TP with 12% upside, 6% yield. Keppel REIT's healthy set of 3Q24 numbers were in line. Portfolio occupancy (3Q) improved QoQ, aided by improvements in its Australian assets with a strong double-digit rent reversion – indicating office market conditions continue to remain healthy. Financing costs inched up during the quarter but are likely to peak by 1Q25. Valuations remain undemanding in our view, as the REIT

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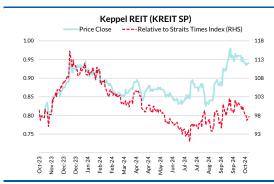


• Portfolio occupancy improved 0.6ppt QoQ to 97.6%, with an increase in leasing volumes (+21% QoQ) signed during the quarter and higher proportion of new leases (c.43% of total), indicating healthy office demand across its portfolio. Occupancy improvements came mainly from its Australian assets - 8 Exhibition Street, Melbourne and Pinnacle office Park, Sydney while the Singapore portfolio remained relatively stable. Demand came mainly from financial services, legal, and real estate sectors. BNP Paribas, one of KREIT's top 10 tenants, has slightly downsized its footprint in the Ocean Financial Centre and management noted that a third of this space has been backfilled by a legal tenant with positive rent reversions.

### **Share Performance (%)**

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	1.1	(1.6)	7.4	11.9	16.0
Relative	(10.5)	(1.3)	2.6	(1.9)	(1.5)
52-wk Price low/high (SGD)				0.79	-0.98

• Healthy double-digit rent reversions (+10.2% YTD), with a stronger doubledigit rent reversion during 3Q24 vs 1H24's 9.3%. The rent growth was supported by both Singapore and overseas assets. Management is not concerned on the slight increase in Singapore central business district (CBD) vacancy rates due to the recently completed IOI Central Boulevard, as the asking rents are higher compared to its portfolio and it expects the majority of its tenants to stay. Overall rent reversions are expected to be in the positive (mid- to high-single digits) for next year.



Valuations expected to remain stable with some room for upside, potentially from overseas assets which could lower its aggregate leverage -41.9% (from 41.3% in 2Q). Management is comfortable with KREIT's debt position while it remains open to good divestment opportunities (particularly for overseas assets), but is not in a rush to sell any of its assets.

Source: Bloomberg

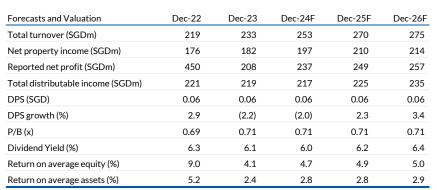
• 3Q24/9M24 distributable income from operations fell 2% YoY, mainly due to higher borrowing costs which increased 33% YoY YTD. NPI (9M24) rose 11% YoY with growth seen across all its markets driven by both organic and inorganic growth. All-in finance costs rose c.7bps QoQ to 3.38% and we expect this to peak at c.3.5% pa by 1Q25 with c.68% of borrowings fixed.

#### Overall ESG Score: 3.2 (out of 4)

No changes to estimates. ESG score is maintained at 3.2 (out of 4.0), resulting in a 2% ESG premium added for the TP. Key risks include sharp deceleration in GDP growth, and downsizing and right-sizing of office spaces by tenants.

### F: FXCFLLENT

All of KREIT's Singapore buildings are Green Mark Platinum certified, with Keppel Bay Tower being the country's first zero-energy commercial building that is fully powered by renewable energy. It has set a target to reduce energy consumption by 10%, water usage by 5% and increase use of renewal to 40% of portfolio by 2030 (from 2019's levels) and is progressing towards the target. S: GOOD



employees and c.30% directors being female. The manager together with the staff of Keppel Capital contributed >c.630 hours for various community initiatives.

Diverse employee workforce with 75% of KREIT's full-time

#### G: GOOD

Majority independent board. There is improving transparency levels in earnings and information disclosures, as well as established corporate governance frameworks related to board matters.

Source: Company data, RHB

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### **Financial Exhibits**

Asia
Singapore
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Keppel REIT
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#### Valuation basis

DDM methodology

### Key drivers

- i. Positive outlook for Singapore office sector with firm demand and limited supply;
- ii. Strong quality Grade-A assets and sponsor;
- iii. Inorganic and merger opportunities.

#### Key risks

- i. Singapore economy tipping into recession;ii. Sharp deceleration in tech demand and increase in shadow spaces; and
- iii. Downsizing and right-sizing of office spaces by key tenants.

### Company Profile

KREIT is a real estate investment trust listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited. Sponsored by Keppel Land, the trust owns and invests in a portfolio of income-producing commercial real estate and real estate related-assets in Singapore, Australia, South Korea and Japan

Financial summary	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring EPS (SGD)	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07
EPS (SGD)	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07
DPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
BVPS (SGD)	1.37	1.32	1.32	1.33	1.33
Return on average equity (%)	9.0	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.0
Weighted avg adjusted shares (m)	3,724.39	3,770.60	3,816.99	3,864.47	3,912.96
Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	7.77	17.04	15.14	14.56	14.30

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Recurring P/E (x)	7.77	17.04	15.14	14.56	14.30
P/E (x)	7.77	17.04	15.14	14.56	14.30
P/B (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
FCF Yield (%)	2.9	20.7	(3.9)	3.4	3.4
Dividend Yield (%)	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	na	3.85	4.62	4.43	4.48
EV/EBIT (x)	11.92	6.31	6.79	6.39	6.44

Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover	219	233	253	270	275
EBITDA	(61)	210	195	208	211
Depreciation and amortisation	180	(82)	(62)	(64)	(64)
Operating profit	119	128	133	144	147
Net interest	(32)	(60)	(64)	(65)	(65)
Income from associates & JVs	101	104	111	111	110
Pre-tax profit	450	208	237	249	257
Recurring net profit	450	208	237	249	257

Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Change in working capital	(53)	574	(302)	(53)	(62)
Cash flow from operations	115	749	(125)	140	140
Capex	(14)	(14)	(15)	(15)	(15)
Cash flow from investing activities	32	16	139	144	145
Dividends paid	(217)	(220)	(218)	(221)	(230)
Cash flow from financing activities	(149)	(810)	(7)	(283)	(292)
Cash at beginning of period	189	186	142	148	148
Net change in cash	(3)	(45)	6	0	(7)
Ending balance cash	186	142	148	148	141

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total cash and equivalents	186	142	148	148	141
Total investments	8,086	8,090	8,506	8,649	8,794
Total assets	8,881	8,259	8,683	8,827	8,965
Short-term debt	644	265	500	380	370
Total long-term debt	2,208	2,074	2,138	2,288	2,328
Total liabilities	3,016	2,508	2,841	2,883	2,919
Shareholders' equity	5,119	5,005	5,076	5,154	5,233
Minority interests	444	444	465	488	511
Total equity	5,865	5,751	5,842	5,944	6,046
Net debt	2,665	2,197	2,490	2,520	2,557
Total liabilities & equity	8,881	8,259	8,683	8,827	8,965

Key metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue growth (%)	1.2	6.3	8.7	6.7	1.9
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	57.7	(54.4)	12.5	4.0	1.8
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	(27.8)	90.2	76.9	76.9	76.7
Net profit margin (%)	205.4	89.3	93.5	92.3	93.4
Dividend payout ratio (%)	49.0	105.1	91.6	90.1	91.5
Capex/sales (%)	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.5
Interest cover (x)	2.06	1.92	1.66	1.74	1.79

Source: Company data, RHB



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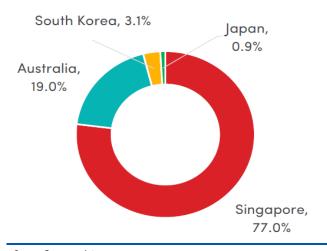
Figure 1: KREIT's DDM valuation

DDM	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	Terminal Value
DPU (SG cents)	5.66	5.79	5.99	6.11	111.99
Fair value (SGD)	1.03				
ESG Premium/(discount)	0.02				
Target Price (SGD)	1.05				
Current price (SGD)	0.94				
Price upside (%)	11.8%				
Distribution yield (%)	6.0%				
Total returns (%)	17.8%				
<u>Assumptions</u>					
Risk-free rate (%)	2.8				
Beta	0.9				
Cost of equity (%)	7.6				
Terminal growth (%)	2.0				

Source: RHB

Figure 2: Portfolio of assets under management (AUM) breakdown – SGD9.6bn total

Figure 3: Debt maturity profile



New leasing demand and expansions from	:
Banking, Insurance and Financial Services	22.1%
Legal	19.6%
Real Estate & Property Services	18.7%
Technology, Media and Telecommunications	17.8%
Manufacturing and Distribution	8.1%
Accounting & Consultancy Services	6.5%
Energy, Natural Resources, Shipping and Marine	3.2%
Retail and F&B	2.0%
Government Agency	2.0%
Total	100.0%

Source: Company data

Source: Company data

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# **Emissions And ESG**

Trend	anal	vsis

Scope 1 and 2 emissions increased 11%YoY mainly due to more tenants returning to office. But compared to base year (2019) this is 17% lower reflecting commendable and tangible results from managements consistent efforts to reduce emissions. KREIT also engages with its tenants to adopt green practices and identify opportunities to improve the environmental performance of Keppel REIT's properties, including the signing of green lease agreements, where possible.

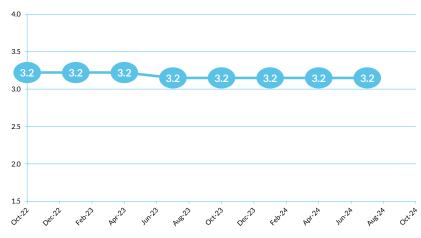
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	1,572	1,551	1,453
Scope 2	17,293	16,124	18,189
Scope 3	-	27,241	27,602
Total emissions	18,865	44,916	47,244

Source: Company data, RHB

# **Latest ESG-Related Developments**

- 64% sustainability-focused funding higher than 50% as at end-2022.
- KREIT has commenced reporting on Scope 3 emissions from 2021 onwards and is among very few SREITs which currently do so.

# **ESG Rating History**



Source: RHB

# **Recommendation Chart**



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2024-07-30	Buy	1.05	0.89
2024-04-02	Buy	1.08	0.87
2024-01-31	Buy	1.08	0.93
2023-10-18	Buy	1.08	0.84
2023-07-25	Buy	1.08	0.93
2023-01-29	Buy	1.10	0.97
2022-10-26	Buy	1.15	0.93
2022-04-20	Buy	1.31	1.19
2022-01-26	Buy	1.29	1.16
2021-10-26	Buy	1.25	1.07
2021-08-31	Buy	1.20	1.05
2021-01-26	Neutral	1.20	1.20
2020-09-14	Neutral	1.14	1.08
2020-07-20	Neutral	1.10	1.09
2020-05-04	Neutral	1.07	1.03

Source: RHB, Bloomberg



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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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