

Singapore Company Update

19 August 2024

Industrials | Aerospace & Defence

ST Engineering (STE SP)

Growth Momentum To Continue; Keep BUY

- Keep BUY and SGD5 TP, 10% upside and 3.5% yield. ST Engineering delivered a strong set of 1H24 results, aided by growth across all business segments. We expect Commercial Aeropsace (CA) to maintain its operating momentum while Defence & Public Security (DPS) continues delivering on its orderbook. We also see tailwinds from a potential recovery in Urban Solution & Satcom (USS) and likely lower interest rates in 2025, which ought to continue supporting mid-teen earnings CAGRs during 2023-2026. We expect STE's net debt position to improve while dividends remain steady.
- Outlook remains strong. We leave our estimates unchanged and maintain
 that the continuing demand for aviation MRO work, higher aircraft engine
 nacelle deliveries, and improving margins for its passenger-to-freighter (PTF)
 conversions will drive the CA business higher in 2H24. We maintain the rightsizing and cost optimisation exercises for the USS segment undertaken in
 2023 should boost EBIT in the coming years. We expect growth in the DPS
 segment to sustain, as the group continues to deliver the orderbook.
- Record high orderbook and potential for lower interest costs. STE won new contracts worth SGD3.1bn in 2Q24 (-35% YoY, unchanged QoQ). It reported a record order backlog of SGD27.9bn, implying a book-to-bill ratio of 2.8 years. SGD4.9bn of the orders will be delivered in 2H24, at c.90% of our 2H24 revenue estimate. STE estimates its 2024 weighted average borrowing costs at 3.7% (our estimate: 3.5%), assuming no US Federal Reserve rate cuts in 2024. Amidst our expectations of two rate cuts in 2H24, and additional rate cuts in 2025, we see a possibility of lower interest costs in 2025 (not in our estimates yet). This is because 39% of STE's debt remains exposed to a floating interest rate.
- Strong 1H24 results. All three business segments reported YoY growth in revenue and improvements in EBIT. Revenue and EBIT for the USS division came in below our estimates, while the DPS unit's EBIT significantly exceeded our expectations. We note that this deviation could be due to project delivery timing. We maintain the view that the USS wing should see sustained improvements in operations during 2H24, as STE remains focused on improving processes and optimising costs for this business. The group is only involved in the operations & maintenance of the New York congestion pricing project. It is not impacted by the pause in the project, as it is not responsible for revenue collection.
- As expected, an interim dividend was declared. STE declared an interim dividend of 4 SG cents. We continue to derive our TP using an average of P/E, P/BV, EV/EBITDA, and DCF. The TP includes a 4% ESG premium over the fair value of SGD4.81.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover (SGDm)	9,035	10,101	10,876	11,715	12,644
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	482	612	713	840	926
Recurring net profit growth (%)	(15.5)	26.9	16.6	17.7	10.3
Recurring P/E (x)	29.45	23.21	19.91	16.91	15.33
P/B (x)	5.9	5.8	5.3	4.7	4.2
P/CF (x)	21.09	12.05	10.89	9.61	9.83
Dividend Yield (%)	4.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.25	14.65	13.20	11.64	10.71
Return on average equity (%)	22.2	24.1	27.8	29.5	28.7
Net debt to equity (%)	223.6	209.1	192.1	159.1	127.9

Source: Company data, RHB

Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): SGD5 (9.6%)
Price (Market Cap): SGD4.56 (USD10,782m)
ESG score: 3.3 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD) 19.5m/14.5m

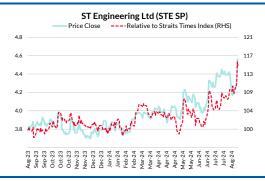
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Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	17.2	4.3	7.8	16.6	18.1
Relative	13.7	8.2	6.4	12.5	13.8
52-wk Price lo	w/high (SC	GD)		3.70	-4.56



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.3 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

In 2023, STE reported a 36% reduction in absolute Scope 1 and 2 emissions over the 2010 base year, and is on track to meet its target of achieving a 50% reduction in absolute Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 compared to the 2010 base year.

S: EXCELLENT

STE serves its communities through a combination of volunteer work and skills-based contributions, as well as in kind and monetary support. In 2023, it contributed SGD2.3m to community causes. The group promotes the professional and personal development of its employees, as seen by the increase in the average number of training hours per employee.

G: EXCELLENT

Despite having exposure to the defence business, STE does not design, produce, or sell anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, white phosphorus munitions, or their related key components. STE's board comprises 13 directors, of whom seven are independent (54%), and three are female (23%).



Financial Exhibits

Singapore
Industrials
ST Engineering
STE SP
Buy

Asia

Valuation basis

Our TP is derived by using an average of forward P/E, P/BV, EV/EBITDA and DCF of adjusted free cash flows.

Key drivers

- New order wins and continuing delivery of orderbook;
- ii. Sustained improvements in the global aviation market;
- iii. Contributions from acquisitions.

Key risks

- i. Slower revival in commercial aerospace sector;
 ii. Lower margins from higher costs caused by supply chain issues;
- iii. Delays in the delivery of orderbook;
- iv. Lower-than-expected contributions from acquisitions

Company Profile

ST Engineering is an integrated engineering group in the Commercial Aerospace (CA), Urban Solutions & Satcom (USS), and Defence & Public Security (DPS) sectors. The company has over the years, diversified its businesses and geographical coverage.

Financial summary (SGD)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring EPS	0.15	0.20	0.23	0.27	0.30
DPS	0.22	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
BVPS	0.77	0.79	0.85	0.96	1.10
Return on average equity (%)	22.2	24.1	27.8	29.5	28.7

Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	29.45	23.21	19.91	16.91	15.33
P/B (x)	5.9	5.8	5.3	4.7	4.2
FCF Yield (%)	(0.5)	6.3	4.6	7.2	7.5
Dividend Yield (%)	4.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.25	14.65	13.20	11.64	10.71
EV/EBIT (x)	30.68	24.10	20.85	17.95	16.41

Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover	9,035	10,101	10,876	11,715	12,644
Gross profit	1,699	1,973	2,215	2,446	2,630
EBITDA	1,181	1,382	1,531	1,705	1,812
Depreciation and amortisation	(517)	(541)	(562)	(600)	(629)
Operating profit	665	840	970	1,105	1,183
Net interest	(138)	(210)	(209)	(203)	(189)
Pre-tax profit	597	704	875	1,030	1,137
Taxation	(54)	(100)	(140)	(165)	(182)
Reported net profit	535	586	713	840	926
Recurring net profit	482	612	713	840	926

Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Change in working capital	(442)	(101)	(205)	(192)	(332)
Cash flow from operations	673	1,179	1,304	1,478	1,445
Capex	(743)	(279)	(650)	(450)	(380)
Cash flow from investing activities	(4,571)	(201)	(582)	(371)	(290)
Dividends paid	(686)	(499)	(498)	(498)	(498)
Cash flow from financing activities	3,698	(1,226)	(810)	(1,003)	(1,091)
Cash at beginning of period	816	602	353	265	368
Net change in cash	(201)	(248)	(89)	104	64
Ending balance cash	602	353	265	368	432

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total cash and equivalents	602	353	265	368	432
Tangible fixed assets	2,076	2,076	2,358	2,401	2,344
Total investments	468	567	499	421	331
Total assets	14,964	15,379	15,609	15,775	15,822
Short-term debt	3,628	2,564	0	0	0
Total long-term debt	2,907	3,544	6,008	5,708	5,308
Total liabilities	12,311	12,627	12,620	12,419	12,010
Total equity	2,653	2,752	2,989	3,356	3,813
Total liabilities & equity	14,964	15,379	15,609	15,775	15,822

Key metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue growth (%)	17.4	11.8	7.7	7.7	7.9
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(15.5)	26.9	16.5	17.7	10.3
Gross margin (%)	18.8	19.5	20.4	20.9	20.8
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	13.1	13.7	14.1	14.6	14.3
Net profit margin (%)	5.9	5.8	6.6	7.2	7.3
Dividend payout ratio (%)	128.2	85.0	69.9	59.3	53.8
Capex/sales (%)	8.2	2.8	6.0	3.8	3.0
Interest cover (x)	4.47	3.34	4.40	5.16	5.83

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 1: 1H24 results summary

								1H24 % of
	unit	2H22	1H23	2H23	1H24	HoH %	YoY %	2024 est.
Income statement (SGDm)								
Revenue	SGDm	4,765.2	4,863.4	5,237.6	5,520.4	5%	14%	51%
Cost of sales	SGDm	(3,915.4)	(3,883.0)	(4,245.3)	(4,467.5)	5%	15%	52%
Gross profit	SGDm	849.8	980.4	992.3	1,052.9	6%	7%	48%
Operating Profit	SGDm	304.2	420.8	419.3	484.6	16%	15%	50%
Finance costs	SGDm	(104.1)	(92.8)	(117.7)	(106.5)	-10%	15%	51%
Net other income / (expense)	SGDm	23.9	(0.2)	16.7	(0.1)	-100%	-71%	0%
Associates and JVs	SGDm	22.3	23.6	34.5	38.4	11%	63%	54%
Profit before tax	SGDm	246.4	351.4	352.8	416.5	18%	19%	48%
Income tax	SGDm	14.6	(66.0)	(33.8)	(68.3)	102%	3%	49%
Profit after tax	SGDm	261.0	285.4	319.1	348.2	9%	22%	47%
Minority Interest	SGDm	(5.9)	(4.7)	(13.2)	(11.7)	-12%	146%	53%
Profit for equity holders	SGDm	255.0	280.6	305.9	336.5	10%	20%	47%
PATMI (recurring)	SGDm	255.0	299.6	312.2	336.5	8%	12%	47%
Depreciation & amortisation	SGDm	(289.2)	(266.4)	(275.1)	(263.2)	-4%	-1%	48%
EBITDA	SGDm	593.4	687.2	694.4	747.8	8%	9%	49%
Margins (%)								
Gross margin	%	17.8%	20.2%	18.9%	19.1%			
Operating margin	%	6.4%	8.7%	8.0%	8.8%			
EBITDA margin	%	12.5%	14.1%	13.3%	13.5%			
Net margin	%	5.4%	5.8%	5.8%	6.1%			

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 2: 1H24 segment results

								1H24 % of
	unit	2H22	1H23	2H23	1H24	HoH %	YoY %	2024 est.
Revenue (SGDm)								
Commercial Aerospace	SGD m	1,587.0	1,855.6	2,049.7	2,230.5	9%	20%	54%
Urban Solutions & Satcom	SGD m	1,015.0	890.7	1,053.1	918.3	-13%	3%	42%
Defence & Public Security	SGD m	2,163.2	2,117.2	2,134.8	2,371.5	11%	12%	52%
Segment EBIT (SGDm)								
Commercial Aerospace	SGD m	118.2	177.5	159.7	189.7	19%	7%	41%
Urban Solutions & Satcom	SGD m	41.3	(8.1)	44.1	8.8	-80%	-209%	10%
Defence & Public Security	SGD m	191.0	300.7	266.7	324.4	22%	8%	67%
Segment EBIT margin (%)								
Commercial Aerospace	%	7.5%	9.6%	7.8%	8.5%			
Urban Solutions & Satcom	%	4.1%	-0.9%	4.2%	1.0%			
Defence & Public Security	%	8.8%	14.2%	12.5%	13.7%			

Source: Company data, RHB

19 August 2024

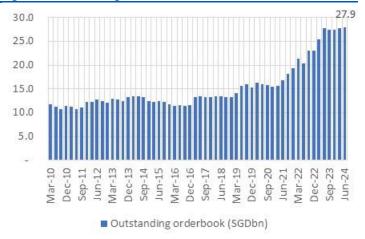
Figure 3: 1H24 business results

								1H24 % of
	SGDm	2H22	1H23	2H23	1H24	HoH %	YoY%	2024 est.
Commercial Aerospace revenue								
- Aerospace MRO	SGDm	760.0	0.888	1,089.0	1,148.0	5%	32%	55%
- Aerostructures & Systems	SGDm	846.0	951.0	1,026.0	1,140.0	11%	20%	54%
- Aviation Asset Management (AUM)**	SGDm	1,821.0	1,964.0	2,081.0	2,297.0	10%	17%	na
Urban Solutions & Satcom revenue								
- Urban Solutions	SGDm	821.0	741.0	892.0	805.0	-10%	9%	43%
- Satcom	SGDm	216.0	165.0	183.0	132.0	-28%	-20%	37%
Defence & Public Security revenue								
- Marine	SGDm	460.0	314.0	300.0	373.0	24%	19%	61%
- Land Systems		817.0	770.0	847.0	810.0	-4%	5%	48%
- Digital Systems & Cyber	SGDm	727.0	848.0	820.0	980.0	20%	16%	56%
- Defence Aerospace	SGDm	232.0	245.0	226.0	258.0	14%	5%	52%

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 4: Quarterly order wins

Figure 5: Outstanding orderbook



Source: Company data, RHB

Source: Company data, RHB

Emissions And ESG

Trend	

Although overall emissions have been on the rise on the back of rising economic output, during 2020-2023, STE reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity as a measure of revenue for its Singapore operations to 10.99 tCO2e/SGDm in 2023 from 16.34 tCO2e/SGDm in 2020 and 14.82 tCO2e/SGDm in 2021.

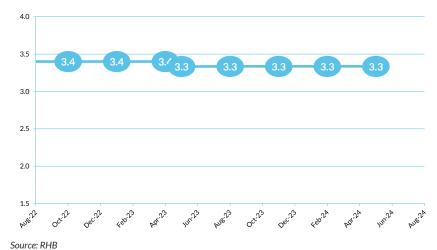
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	36,000	39,000	37,000
Scope 2	78,000	71,000	74,000
Scope 3	1,900	33,000	39,000
Total emissions	115,900	143,000	150,000

Source: Company data, RHB

Latest ESG-Related Developments

- In 2021, STE set a target to halve its absolute Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions by 2030 compared to a 2010 base year. In the same year, it also set a target to increase its sustainability linked revenue to more than SGD3bn by 2026.
- In 2022, STE was included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Asia Pacific Index as identified by S&P Global through the Corporate Sustainability Assessment. It is also a component stock of the iEdge SG ESG Transparency Index and the iEdge SG ESG Leaders Index.
- In 2023, STE implemented an internal shadow carbon price on major capital expenditure, established roadmaps, and embarked on the development of a product carbon footprint for its major products and services.

ESG Rating History



Recommendation Chart



Aug-19 Feb-20 Aug-20 Feb-21 Aug-21 Feb-22 Aug-22 Feb-23 Aug-23 Feb-24

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2024-07-21	Buy	5.00	4.45
2024-04-08	Buy	4.50	3.98
2024-03-04	Buy	4.50	3.95
2024-02-21	Buy	4.50	3.92
2023-10-23	Buy	4.45	3.75
2023-10-09	Buy	4.45	3.81
2023-08-14	Buy	4.50	3.85
2023-08-02	Buy	4.25	3.70
2023-05-08	Buy	4.05	3.65
2023-02-27	Buy	4.10	3.54
2023-01-18	Buy	4.15	3.45
2022-11-08	Buy	4.15	3.33
2022-10-11	Buy	4.10	3.34
2022-09-23	Buy	4.60	3.66
2022-08-15	Buy	4.60	4.00

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

Not Rated: Stock is not within regular research coverage

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