RHB•

Singapore Company Update

30 July 2024

Keppel REIT (KREIT SP)

Divestments Likely Ahead; Buy

Property | REITS

Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return):	SGD1.05 (19.4%)
Price (Market Cap):	SGD0.88 (USD2,500m)
ESG score:	3.2 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)	4.41m/3.26m

Analyst

Vijay Natarajan

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- Keep BUY, new SGD1.05 TP from SGD1.08, 19% upside and 6% Yield. 1H results came in slightly below. Operationally, Keppel REIT's performance continues to outperform, with higher occupancies (2Q) and high single-digit positive rent growth, which are expected to be maintained in 2H, in our view. Financing costs continues to remain a drag, though, with further increases anticipated in 2H weighing on DPU. Management guided for divestments in the near term to bring gearing below 40% levels. Valuations are relatively attractive to peers, trading at a >30% discount to book.
- **Portfolio occupancy rose 0.6ppts QoQ to 97%**, aided by occupancy upticks across all its markets. Rent reversion for the quarter moderated to 7.2% from 10.9% in 1Q, but is expected to be in the high-single digits for 2H. KREIT is not overly concerned on the supply and competition in Singapore, as it expects the majority of its upcoming leases to be renewed. While there has been market talk on <u>BNP Paribas cutting space</u> from its current six floors at Ocean Financial Centre (3% of KREIT's overall rental income) due to right-sizing, we believe this could be backfilled at higher rents considering the prime location and rise in market rents since the initial lease signing.
- Targeting divestments to reduce gearing to below 40% levels. Post the completion of 255 George Street acquisition in 2Q which was fully funded by debt gearing has risen to 41.3% from 39.4% as of 1Q. Management noted that its comfortable level remains slightly below 40% and would look at divestments in the near-term. Possible divestment options could include <u>T-Tower</u>, which was earlier indicated to be in advanced stages, as well as few of KREIT's mature Australian assets in our view.
- The Singapore portfolio's value rose 0.6% HoH on higher income, while cap rates remained unchanged. Australian assets, on the other hand, saw slight declines from a 25-50bps cap rate expansion, resulting in a relatively flat (-0.2%) portfolio value on a same-store basis.
- **1H DPU down 3.4% YoY,** mainly impacted by higher-than-expected financing costs, which rose 30% YoY, and elevated property taxes. Financing costs have risen 42bps since the start of the year to 3.31% pa, and is expected to stabilise around 3.5-3.7% levels for FY24-25.
- We lower our FY24F-26F DPU by 2-3%, factoring in higher interest costs, including for KREIT's JV & associate contributions. The unchanged ESG score of 3.2 (out of 4.0) is a notch above country median score. Hence, a 2% ESG premium is applied to our new DDM-derived TP of SGD1.05.

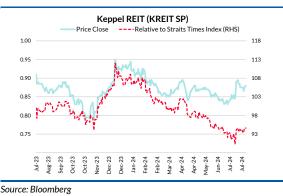
Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover (SGDm)	219	233	253	270	275
Net property income (SGDm)	176	182	197	210	214
Reported net profit (SGDm)	450	208	237	249	257
Total distributable income (SGDm)	221	219	217	225	235
DPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
DPS growth (%)	2.9	(2.2)	(2.0)	2.3	3.4
P/B (x)	0.64	0.67	0.66	0.66	0.66
Dividend Yield (%)	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.8
Return on average equity (%)	9.0	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.0
Return on average assets (%)	5.2	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9

Source: Company data, RHB

Share Performance (%)

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	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(5.4)	5.4	0.6	(1.7)	(2.8)
Relative	(11.7)	2.1	(4.3)	(11.4)	(5.0)
52-wk Price l	ow/high (SC	GD)		0.79	-0.95



Overall ESG Score: 3.2 (out of 4)

E: EXCELLENT

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 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

Diverse employee workforce with 75% of KREIT's full-time employees and c.30% directors being female. The manager, together with the staff of Keppel Capital, contributed >c.630 hours for various community initiatives. G: GOOD

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



Financial Exhibits

Asia	Financial summary	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Singapore	Recurring EPS (SGD)	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07
Property	EPS (SGD)	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07
Keppel REIT	DPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
KREIT SP	BVPS (SGD)	1.37	1.32	1.32	1.33	1.33
Buy	Return on average equity (%)	9.0	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.0
24,	Weighted avg adjusted shares (m)	3,724.39	3,770.60	3,816.99	3,864.47	3,912.96
Valuation basis		3,724.37	3,770.00	3,010.77	5,004.47	3,712.70
DDM methodology	Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
DDI I methodology	Recurring P/E (x)	7.28	15.95	14.18	13.63	13.39
Key drivers	P/E (x)	7.28	15.95	14.18	13.63	13.39
i. Positive outlook for Singapore office sector with	P/B (x)	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
firm demand and limited supply:	FCF Yield (%)	3.1	22.1	(4.2)	3.7	3.6
ii. Strong quality Grade-A assets and sponsor;	Dividend Yield (%)	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.8
iii. Inorganic and merger opportunities.	EV/EBITDA (x)	na	2.77	3.44	3.31	3.37
		10.04	4.55	5.06	4.78	4.84
Key risks	EV/EBIT (x)	10.04	4.55	5.06	4.70	4.04
i. Singapore economy tipping into recession;	Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
ii. Sharp deceleration in tech demand and increase	Total turnover	219	233	253	270	275
in shadow spaces;	EBITDA	(61)	210	195	208	211
iii. Downsizing and right-sizing of office spaces by	Depreciation and amortisation	180	(82)	(62)	(64)	(64)
key tenants.	Operating profit	119	128	133	144	(04)
Company Profile	Net interest	(32)	(60)	(64)	(65)	(65)
	Income from associates & JVs	101				
KREIT is a real estate investment trust listed on the SGX. Sponsored by Keppel Land, the trust owns and invests in			104	111	111	110
a portfolio of income-producing commercial real estate	Pre-tax profit	450	208	237	249	257
and real estate related-assets in Singapore, Australia,	Recurring net profit	450	208	237	249	257
South Korea, and Japan.	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)	(125)	(15)	(15)
	Cash flow from investing activities	32	16	139	144	145
	Dividends paid	(217)	(220)	(218)	(221)	(230)
		(149)	(810)	(218)	(283)	(230)
	Cash flow from financing activities	189				
	Cash at beginning of period	189	186	142 6	148	148
	NTO DECISION PROVIDE	(0)				
	Net change in cash	(3)	(45)		0	(7)
	Net change in cash Ending balance cash	(3) 186	(45) 142	148	148	(7) 141
	-					
	Ending balance cash	186	142	148	148	141
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm)	186 Dec-22	142 Dec-23	148 Dec-24F	148 Dec-25F	141 Dec-26F
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents	186 Dec-22 186	142 Dec-23 142	148 Dec-24F 148	148 Dec-25F 148	141 Dec-26F 141
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments	186 Dec-22 186 8,086	142 Dec-23 142 8,090	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 265	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370
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	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644 2,208 3,016 3,016	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 265 2,074 2,508	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500 2,138 2,841	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380 2,288 2,883 2,883	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370 2,328 2,919
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities Shareholders' equity	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644 2,208 3,016 5,119	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 265 2,074 2,508 5,005	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500 2,138 2,841 5,076	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380 2,288 2,883 2,883 5,154	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370 2,328 2,919 5,233
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities Shareholders' equity Minority interests	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644 2,208 3,016 5,119 444	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 265 2,074 2,508 5,005 444	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500 2,138 2,841 5,076 465	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380 2,288 2,883 5,154 488	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370 2,328 2,919 5,233 5,11
	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities Shareholders' equity Minority interests Total equity	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644 2,208 3,016 5,119 444 5,865	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 265 2,074 2,508 5,005 444 5,751	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500 2,138 2,841 5,076 465 5,842	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380 2,288 2,883 5,154 488 5,944	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370 2,328 2,919 5,233 5,11 6,046
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	Ending balance cash Balance sheet (SGDm) Total cash and equivalents Total investments Total assets Short-term debt Total log-term debt Total liabilities Shareholders' equity Minority interests Total equity Net debt Total liabilities & equity Key metrics Revenue growth (%)	186 Dec-22 186 8,086 8,881 644 2,208 3,016 5,119 444 5,865 2,665 8,881 Dec-22 1.2	142 Dec-23 142 8,090 8,259 2,65 2,074 2,508 5,005 444 5,751 2,197 8,259 Dec-23 6,3	148 Dec-24F 148 8,506 8,683 500 2,138 2,841 5,076 465 5,842 2,490 8,683 Dec-24F 8,7	148 Dec-25F 148 8,649 8,827 380 2,288 2,883 5,154 488 5,944 2,520 8,827 Dec-25F 6,7	141 Dec-26F 141 8,794 8,965 370 2,328 2,919 5,233 511 6,046 2,557 8,965 Dec-26F 1.9 1.9
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Source: Company data, RHB



Keppel REIT

Singapore Company Update

Property | REITS

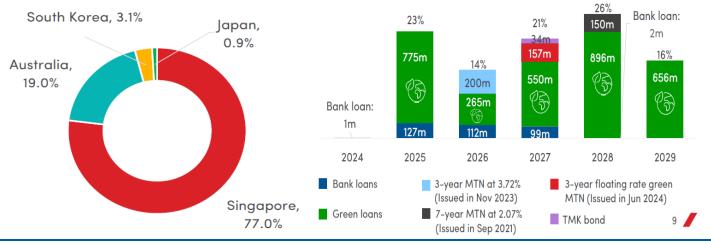
30 July 2024

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)	0.88				
Price upside (%)	19.4%				
Distribution yield (%)	6.4%				
Total returns (%)	25.8%				
Assumptions					
Risk-free rate (%)	2.8				
Beta	0.9				
Cost of equity (%)	7.6				
Terminal growth (%)	2.0				

Source: RHB





Source: Company data

Source: Company data



Property | REITS

Emissions And ESG

Trend analysis

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

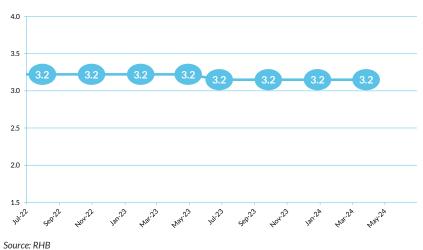
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	1,572	1,551	1,453
Scope 2	17,293	16,124	18,189
Scope 3	-	27,241	27,602
Total emissions	18,865	44,916	47,244
Source: Company data, RHB			

Source: Company data, RF

Latest ESG-Related Developments

- 64% sustainability-focussed funding higher than 50% as at end Dec 2022.
- KREIT has commenced reporting on Scope 3 emissions from 2021 onwards and is among a very few handfuls of S-REITs that currently do so.

ESG Rating History



Recommendation Chart



Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
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
2019-10-17	Neutral	1.23	1.25

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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