

# **Singapore Company Update**

23 April 2024 Property | REITS

# Keppel REIT (KREIT SP)

presents a good medium-term buying opportunity.

# **Buy** (Maintained)

A Good Quarter; Buy

Target Price (Return): SGD1.08 (27.2%) Price (Market Cap): SGD0.85 (USD2,403m) ESG score: 3.2 (out of 4)

• Maintain BUY and SGD1.08 TP, 27% upside and c.7% yield. Keppel REIT's 1Q financial metrics came in line. Operationally, its portfolio continues to show strength despite market concerns over the office sector with strongerthan-expected double-digit rent reversions and stable occupancy. The latest yield-accretive acquisition of an Australian asset is opportunistic, and likely

levels. KREIT trades at a hefty > 35% discount to book value, which we believe

- Analyst
- Vijay Natarajan +65 6320 0825 vijay.natarajan@rhbgroup.com to be funded by proceeds from divestments - keeping gearing below 40%



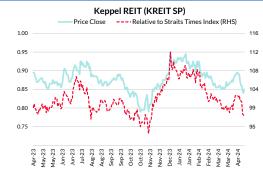
6.22m/4.67m

- Healthy positive double-digit rent reversion of 10.9% (FY23: +9.9%), driven by higher renewal rents in Singapore and Australia. Similar to its peer, KREIT highlighted continued strength in Singapore office demand and increased its guidance for full-year rent reversions to mid-to-high single digits (from low single digits earlier). Average expiring rents for Singapore office leases for FY24-26 are still 10%, 10%, and 3% below the latest average signing rents, with <10% of lease expires in any single year until 2028.
- **Share Performance (%)**

Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(8.6)	(1.2)	(7.1)	4.9	(4.5)
Relative	(8.1)	(1.4)	(9.5)	0.1	(1.6)
52-wk Price low/high (SGD)				0.79	-0.95

Portfolio occupancy dipped slightly to 96.4% (FY23: 97.1%), mainly on nonrenewal of an anchor tenant at 8 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. KREIT is in advanced stages of backfilling half of the space and marketing the remainder - it expects positive rent reversions on these. For Singapore, while media sources have highlighted the possibility of one of its top 10 tenants - BNP Paribas (3% of gross rents) - giving back space later this year, management remains confident of demand and expects occupancy to be stable. 1Q office demand came mainly from the legal and financial services segments.



The T-Tower divestment is at advanced stages based on The Korea Economic Daily, with c.10 buyers having expressed interest. T-Tower was valued at KRW305.8bn (c.SGD302m) as at end Dec 2023 and, considering the healthy bidding interest, we believe the asset could potentially be sold at a 5-15% premium to its latest valuation. The proceeds are likely to be recycled to fund the recent 255 George Street acquisition (50% stake) for AUD364m (SGD321m), which should keep gearing at c.39% levels.

Source: Bloomberg

• Distributable income (1Q) stood flat, as increases in net property income (+7% YoY) were offset by higher financing costs. All-in, interest costs rose to 3.18% pa (FY23: +2.89%) and, for the full year, we expect this to be at mid-3% levels. Around 74% of KREIT's debts are hedged, with an average weighted debt maturity of 2.3 years.

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

• No changes to estimates. As KREIT's 3.2 ESG score is a notch above the 3.1 country median, a 2% ESG premium is applied to our DDM-derived TP. Key risks include prolonged high interest rates and the economy slowing down, resulting in a weakening of office demand.

## **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.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover (SGDm)	219	233	243	270	274
Net property income (SGDm)	176	182	191	212	216
Reported net profit (SGDm)	450	208	246	260	263
Total distributable income (SGDm)	221	219	224	235	241
DPS (SGD)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
DPS growth (%)	2.9	(2.2)	1.1	3.9	1.3
P/B (x)	0.62	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64
Dividend Yield (%)	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.2
Return on average equity (%)	9.0	4.1	4.9	5.1	5.1
Return on average assets (%)	5.2	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.0

### 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.

Source: Company data, RHB

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## **Financial Exhibits**

Asia
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Keppel REIT
KREIT SP
Buy

### Valuation basis

DDM methodology

## Key drivers

- 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

Key risks include prolonged high interest rates and the economy slowing down, resulting in a weakening of office demand,

### **Company Profile**

KREIT is a real estate investment trust listed on the SGX. 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	0.07	0.07
EPS (SGD)	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.07	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	4.9	5.1	5.1
Weighted avg adjusted shares (m)	3,724.39	3,770.60	3,816.90	3,864.35	3,912.87

Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	7.03	15.40	13.19	12.63	12.63
P/E (x)	7.03	15.40	13.19	12.63	12.63
P/B (x)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
FCF Yield (%)	3.2	22.9	(4.4)	4.3	4.0
Dividend Yield (%)	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	na	2.38	3.22	2.89	2.93
EV/EBIT (x)	9.35	3.90	4.68	4.16	4.23

Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover	219	233	243	270	274
EBITDA	(61)	210	185	209	215
Depreciation and amortisation	180	(82)	(58)	(64)	(66)
Operating profit	119	128	127	146	148
Net interest	(32)	(60)	(60)	(65)	(67)
Income from associates & JVs	101	104	111	111	108
Pre-tax profit	450	208	246	260	263
Recurring net profit	450	208	246	260	263

Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Change in working capital	(53)	574	(308)	(48)	(64)
Cash flow from operations	115	749	(129)	156	148
Capex	(14)	(14)	(15)	(15)	(15)
Cash flow from investing activities	32	16	140	144	145
Dividends paid	(217)	(220)	(221)	(230)	(238)
Cash flow from financing activities	(149)	(810)	(7)	(292)	(302)
Cash at beginning of period	189	186	142	146	153
Net change in cash	(3)	(45)	4	8	(10)
Ending balance cash	186	142	146	153	143

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total cash and equivalents	186	142	146	153	143
Total investments	8,086	8,090	8,506	8,649	8,794
Total assets	8,881	8,259	8,680	8,832	8,968
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	2,834	2,883	2,918
Shareholders' equity	5,119	5,005	5,079	5,159	5,236
Minority interests	444	444	465	488	511
Total equity	5,865	5,751	5,846	5,950	6,050
Net debt	2,665	2,197	2,493	2,515	2,555
Total liabilities & equity	8,881	8,259	8,680	8,832	8,968

Key metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue growth (%)	1.2	6.3	4.4	10.7	1.8
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	57.7	(54.4)	16.8	4.4	(0.0)
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	(27.8)	90.2	76.0	77.7	78.2
Net profit margin (%)	205.4	89.3	101.0	96.5	96.0
Dividend payout ratio (%)	49.0	105.1	91.0	90.5	91.7
Capex/sales (%)	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.5
Interest cover (x)	2.06	1.92	1.67	1.76	1.76

Source: Company data, RHB



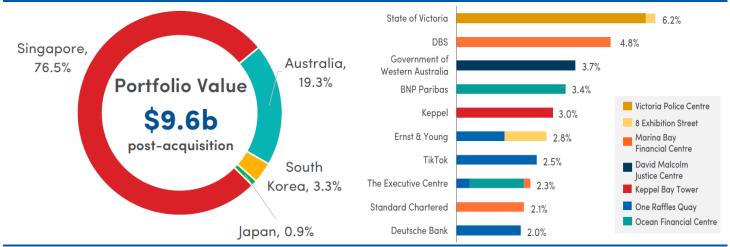
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Figure 1: KREIT's DDM valuation

DDM	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	Terminal value
DPU (Singapore cents)	5.86	6.06	6.14	6.27	112.04
Fair value (SGD)	1.04				
ESG Premium/(discount)	0.04				
Target Price (SGD)	1.08				
Current price (SGD)	0.84				
Price upside (%)	27.2%				
Distribution yield (%)	6.9%				
Total returns (%)	34.1%				
<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 composition post the Australia acquisition Figure 3: Top 10 tenants by gross rental income



Source: Company data Source: Company data

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## **Emissions And ESG**

Trend	anal	lvsis
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Scope 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.

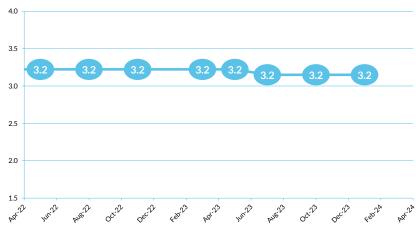
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	1,572	1,551	1,453
Scope 2	17,293	16,124	18,189
Scope 3	-	27,241	27,602
Total emissions	18,865	44,916	47,244

Source: Company data, RHB

## **Latest ESG-Related Developments**

- 64% sustainability-focussed funding as at end 2023, 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 handful of S-REITs that currently do so.

## **ESG** Rating History



Source: RHB

## **Recommendation Chart**



Source.	RHR	Rloomhera	

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



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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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