

Thailand Corporate News Flash

2 December 2024

Consumer Cyclical | Leisure & Entertainment

The Erawan Group (ERW TB)

Land Lease For New Bangkok Hotel Project; Still BUY

- Keep BUY and THB5.60 TP (DCF), 40% upside, c.2% yield. The Erawan Group's new land lease for a new non-Hop Inn hotel in Bangkok in 2030 may support its earnings in the long term. We maintain our view that its 4Q24-1Q25 outlook is promising, given its business expansions and the high season for tourism. The stock is our current Top Pick among Thai hotels.
- Land lease for new hotel project. ERW has entered into c.2-rai long-term land lease agreements with 11 land owners, with the land located near the Phrom Phong BTS Station in Bangkok. The nominal rental value of THB6.14bn is for 60 years, including the initial term from 1 Dec 2028 to 30 Nov 2058 and the extended lease term from 1 Dec 2058 to 30 Nov 2088. ERW plans to utilise the leased area for a c.THB2bn new hotel property, targeting the premium-economy to upscale segment. It expects to kick off construction by late 2026 and complete it by early 2030. ERW may finance c.70% of the project with bank loans and the rest from internal cash flows.
- Long-term earnings support. Located in one of Bangkok's prime shopping and tourism areas, the project should help support ERW's earnings in the long run. Its matured dual hotel properties, Ibis and Mercure Bangkok Sukhumvit 24, located in the same area are an indication of its success. The new hotel should attain a favourable EBITDA margin of 35-40%. All depreciation and finance costs will be capitalised throughout the construction period, so we expect no impact to its P&L statement over the next five years prior to the opening in 2030. Its THB1.24bn cash and 1.5x IBD/E ratio (excluding leases) in 3Q24 (with the latter still below the 2.0x covenant) should support the project financing.
- 4Q24F QTD updates. ERW saw healthy 11% 4Q24 QTD growth in revenue per available rooms (RevPar) for non-Hop Inn hotels (driven by the economy hotel segment) and 3% for Hop Inn hotels (driven by properties in Japan), compared to 3Q24. We maintain our view that ERW will see better earnings momentum in 4Q24, with YoY and QoQ growth supported by: i) Strong demand in November, fuelled by the corporate segment and events, ii) a positive trend in the leisure segment during the December festive period, iii) back-to-normal operations of its Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok (GHEB) hotel with 87% OR in Nov 2024, iv) the re-launch of Holiday Inn Pattaya in Oct 2024 post major asset enhancement works, which should boost ARR by >10%, and v) the ramping-up of 13 new Hop Inn hotels opening this year.
- Valuation. Maintain our forecasts, expecting a core profit expansion of 7% YoY this year, and 15% in 2025. We applied a 4% ESG discount to ERW's intrinsic value to derive our unchanged TP. ERW is trading at an attractive 21x FY25F P/E. The expected strong 4Q24-1Q25 earnings during the high travel season should be a near-term catalyst.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover (THBm)	4,629	6,986	7,736	8,343	8,782
Recurring net profit (THBm)	(237)	743	796	918	1,021
Recurring net profit growth (%)	(88.3)	-	7.1	15.4	11.2
Recurring EPS (THB)	(0.05)	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.21
DPS (THB)	-	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.08
Recurring P/E (x)	na	24.41	23.69	21.31	19.16
P/B (x)	4.63	3.93	2.99	2.80	2.56
Dividend Yield (%)	na	1.8	2.4	1.9	2.1
Return on average equity (%)	(5.7)	17.4	20.8	13.6	14.0
Net debt to equity (%)	222.0	221.8	124.0	108.9	88.4

Source: Company data, RHB

Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): THB5.60 (40.0%)
Price (Market Cap): THB4.00 (USD570m)
ESG score: 3.0 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (THB/USD) 77.2m/2.29m

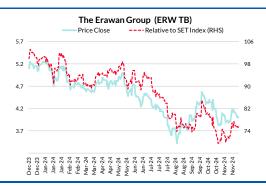
Analyst

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Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(23.8)	3.1	5.8	(11.1)	(23.8)
Relative	(24.6)	4.7	0.6	(16.9)	(26.7)
52-wk Price low/high (THB)				3.42	2 -5.30



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.0 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

ERW requires every hotel to strictly comply with the laws governing the environment and policy to maximise the use of resources. Its properties undergo regular checks and maintenance, and equipment used is supervised for effective energy consumption. For waste from hotel kitchens, ERW has saved 99.6 tons of food, rescued 174,000 meals, and reduced 189 tons of CO2 in 2020.

S: GOOD

ERW has approved a budget of not more than 0.5% of net profit to execute projects like "The Erawan for the Society and the Environment" and "Happy Home Happy Stay". It carried out activities on community development, education support, and tourism industry support. The group also pays attention to occupational health, hygiene and safety, as well as personnel talent and development.

G: GOOD

ERW conducted its business based on the Corporate Governance Principle. It has fully complied with laws and regulations in conducting business both in Thailand and the Philippines and is against all forms of corruption. It also focuses on customer satisfaction and business innovation development, as well as risk and crisis management.



Financial Exhibits

Asia	
Thailand	
Consumer Cyclical	
Erawan	
ERW TB	
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Valuation basis

DCF.

Key drivers

- i. Tourism industry recovery post COVID-19;
- ii. Opening of new hotels;
- iii. Economies of scale in operations that lead to a rise in profit margins.

Key risks

- Weaker-than-expected tourism environment and consumption;
- ii. Delays in opening of new hotel properties;
- iii. Rising competition and price pressure in particular hotel segments and locations;
- v. Unexpected incidents in Thailand and abroad, eg natural disasters, political unrest, etc.

Company Profile

The Erawan Group invests and develops hotel properties that are strategically located to match travellers' varied demands. It owns 68 hotels with 8,717 keys nationwide and eight hotels with 1,471 keys in the Philippines as of end-2022. Key properties include the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, JW Marriott Bangkok, and Holiday Inn Pattaya, as well as a chain of Ibis and its own Hop Inn budget hotels.

Financial summary (THB)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring EPS	(0.05)	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.21
EPS	(0.05)	0.16	0.25	0.19	0.21
DPS	-	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.08
BVPS	0.86	1.02	1.34	1.43	1.56
Return on average equity (%)	(5.7)	17.4	20.8	13.6	14.0
Return on average assets (%)	(1.0)	3.3	4.9	3.9	4.4
Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	na	24.41	23.69	21.31	19.16
P/B (x)	4.6	3.9	3.0	2.8	2.6
Dividend Yield (%)	-	1.8	2.4	1.9	2.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	28.54	14.42	11.64	10.68	9.63
Income statement (THBm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover	4,629	6,986	7,736	8,343	8.782
Gross profit	1,475	3,051	3,440	3,773	4,021
EBITDA	1,079	2,233	2,513	2,787	2,964
Depreciation and amortisation	(872)	(901)	(971)	(996)	(1,008)
Operating profit	207	1,332	1,542	1,791	1,956
Net interest	(458)	(589)	(704)	(654)	(612)
Pre-tax profit	(239)	743	1,201	1,137	1,344
Taxation	26	17	0	(171)	(269)
Reported net profit	(224)	743	1,160	918	1,021
Recurring net profit	(237)	743	796	918	1,021
Cash flow (THBm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Change in working capital	2,443	(1,215)	25	(58)	3
Cash flow from operations	2,442	586	3,825	1,906	2,024
Capex	(890)	(1,400)	(1,000)	(800)	(400)
Cash flow from investing activities	(879)	(1,365)	(1,000)	(800)	(400)
Dividends paid	0	(1,303)	(317)	(464)	(367)
Cash flow from financing activities	(1,273)	463	(1,328)	(1,206)	(1,702)
Cash at beginning of period	1,242	1,532	1,217	2,714	2,614
Net change in cash	290	(315)	1,497	(99)	(78)
Ending balance cash	1,532	1,217	2,714	2,614	2,536
Palance shoot (TUPm)	Doc 22	Dog 22	Dos 245	Dos 255	Doc 2/5
Balance sheet (THBm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total cash and equivalents	1,532	1,217	2,714	2,614	2,536
Tangible fixed assets	19,285 35	21,396	19,791 17	19,600 12	18,996
Intangible assets	33	27	1/	12	8

9					
Total liabilities	15,990	17,305	15,085	14,266	12,921
Shareholders' equity	3,916	4,612	6,533	6,988	7,641
Minority interests	23	40	290	389	415
Total equity	5,722	6,370	8,541	9,095	9,774
Total liabilities & equity	21,712	23,675	23,626	23,361	22,695
Key metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue growth (%)	211.6	50.9	10.7	7.8	5.3
Recurring net profit growth (%)	(88.3)	0.0	7.1	15.4	11.2
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(90.9)	0.0	3.0	11.2	11.2
Gross margin (%)	31.9	43.7	44.5	45.2	45.8
Recurring net profit margin (%)	(5.1)	10.6	10.3	11.0	11.6
Dividend payout ratio (%)	0.0	42.7	40.0	40.0	40.0

283

23,675

1.996

13,352

283

23,626

1.622

11,682

63

303

853

21,712

13,382

Source: Company data, RHB



84

283

23,361

2.136

10,382

84

283

22,695

2.196

8,982

Total investments

Total other assets Total assets

Short-term debt

Total long-term debt

Emissions And ESG

Trend analysis

ERW's greenhouse gas or GHG emissions (Scope 1+ Scope 2) totalled 20,541 tCO2e in 2023, up 25% YoY from 16,344 tCO2e in 2022.

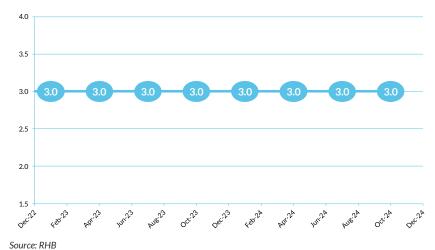
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	na	na	3,835
Scope 2	na	na	16,706
Scope 3	na	na	na
Total emissions	na	na	20,541

Source: Company data, RHB

Latest ESG-Related Developments

- ERW collected information on its energy usage and impact from all its hotel operations, to boost
 operational efficiency and seek better ways for energy management and investment that
 properly reflects the context of each asset.
- ERW has collaborated with its alliance members to put waste through a recycling process this
 project was inaugurated in Oct 2022 and is currently limited to the Bangkok area only. The group
 has also increased the ratio of eco-products in its procurement criteria.
- ERW promotes staff wellbeing. It provides capacity-building for workers' career advancement, encourages the building of a risk culture within the organisation, and strives to make the group resilient, agile, and quick to adapt to constant changes.

ESG Rating History



Recommendation Chart



Dec-19 Jun-20 Dec-20 Jun-21 Dec-21 Jun-22 Dec-22 Jun-23 Dec-23 Jun-24

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2024-11-18		5.6	4.2
2024-11-16	Buy	5.0	4.2
2024-11-05	Buy	5.6	4.1
2024-06-06	Buy	6.1	4.5
2024-02-26	Buy	6.1	4.7
2024-02-01	Buy	6.1	5.1
2023-10-17	Buy	6.1	5.3
2023-08-22	Buy	6.1	5.1
2023-06-30	Buy	5.9	4.8
2023-05-10	Buy	5.9	4.9
2023-02-22	Buy	5.3	4.9
2023-01-12	Buy	5.0	4.6
2022-11-30	Buy	5.0	4.4
2022-08-16	Neutral	3.6	3.8
2022-07-12	Neutral	3.6	3.6
2022-06-22	Neutral	3.6	4.0

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

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 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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