# Singapore Company Update



15 March 2023

# ComfortDelGro (CD SP)

## **Compelling Valuations And Strong Yields; BUY**

- Stay BUY and SGD1.40 TP, 21% upside and 5% 2023F yield. ComfortDelGro should deliver 11% profit growth in 2023, aided by the recoveries in Singapore rail ridership, Australia bus charters, UK coach services, and Singapore and China taxi services. CD's share price has outperformed the rapidly falling STI in the last month, as investors value its ability to deliver growth despite macroeconomic uncertainties. They also like its ability to sustain higher dividend payouts. The stock is trading at an attractive 2023 P/E of 13x vs its historical mean of 16x.
- Singapore rail ridership and taxi earnings to improve. SBS Transit (SBUS SP, NR), CD's Singapore public transport subsidiary, is witnessing continuing improvements in rail ridership. The average daily ridership in February was 51% and 38% higher than the ones in Feb 2022 and Feb 2021 (Figure 1). The YTD average daily rail ridership was only 7% below 2019's levels. We believe this improvement, which should sustain itself during the coming months, will help support the profits from the public transport business. While the taxi fleet in Singapore is on the decline, CD has gradually increased its market leadership position within this segment. Strong demand for taxi services should continue to support driver earnings and enable CD to gradually taper off rental rebates.
- Steady earnings growth. Public transport ridership in Singapore had seen a strong recovery in 2022 as more people returned to work and leisure activities after two years of COVID-19-related restrictions. We expect the public transport services, especially rail services, to witness a strong increase in ridership on higher tourist arrivals in 2H23. CD's Singapore and China taxi businesses should also benefit from the East Asian nation's economic reopening. Despite expectations of higher operating costs, the uncertainty over the timing of indexation formulas, and lower bus service fees, we believe CD can deliver c.10% profit growth during 2022-2025.
- Expectations for higher dividends. Despite our estimate of a gradual rise in capex during 2023-2025, we expect CD to deliver a FCF yield of 7.7-9.4% during this period. This, we believe, will enable the company to pay higher dividends. While CD has a policy to pay out at least 50% of PATMI as dividends, we estimate a 65% payout ratio for 2023-2025, which implies yields of 5-6%. Note: Our TP includes a 12% ESG premium (based on our proprietary methodology) over the SGD1.25 FV.
- Key downside risks: i) Losing the Bukit Merah and Jurong West Bus Packages or retaining them at lower-than-estimated service fees, ii) higher-than-estimated operating costs, and iii) weak taxi earnings from a failure to gradually phase out rental rebates.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover (SGDm)	3,538	3,781	3,843	3,937	4,035
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	155	173	192	213	235
Recurring net profit growth (%)	46.3	11.7	10.8	10.8	10.4
Recurring P/E (x)	16.23	14.53	13.11	11.83	10.71
P/B (x)	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
P/CF (x)	3.80	4.17	4.30	4.23	3.99
Dividend Yield (%)	3.6	4.0	5.0	5.5	6.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.87	3.62	3.50	3.26	3.02
Return on average equity (%)	5.8	8.0	7.3	7.9	8.4
Net debt to equity (%)	net cash				

Source: Company data, RHB

# Buy (Maintained)

Industrials | Road & Rail

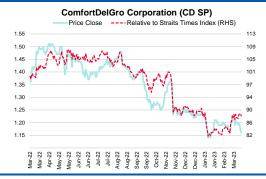
Target Price (Return):	SGD1.40 (20.7%)
Price (Market Cap):	SGD1.16 (USD1,868m)
ESG score:	3.56 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)	8.38m/6.28m

## Analyst

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	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(5.7)	(2.5)	(6.5)	(16.6)	(15.3)
Relative	(2.0)	3.2	(2.0)	(12.7)	(12.1)
52-wk Price low	ı/high (SGD	)		1.14	4 – 1.51



Source: Bloomberg

## Overall ESG Score: 3.56 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

CD incorporated the creation of an energy-efficient transport system as one of its three key pillars of sustainability framework. It set clear goals and targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, improvements in energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy.

### S: EXCELLENT

CD is aiming to achieve zero workplace fatalities and workplace injury rates below the national averages in its operations – targets that it achieved in 2020. It also achieved a zero fatality rate for passengers/commuters in countries where it has public transport operations. To ensure that its transport services are accessible to all regardless of age or ability, CD has ensured that 100%, >90% and >57% of its buses in Singapore, the UK, and Australia are wheelchair-accessible.

### G: EXCELLENT

CD's board is made up of ten directors, nine of which are independent (90%). Reflecting on gender diversity, 30% of the board is made up of females. CD engages with governments and regulators on different levels, to help shape public policy and regulations that support the land transport sector. It also participates in ESG ratings, such as S&P, Sustainalytics, MSCI and CDP, to disclose its ESG performance and efforts to shareholders.



## **Financial Exhibits**

## Industrials | Road & Rail

Asia	Financial summary (SGD)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Singapore	Recurring EPS	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.11
Industrials	DPS	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07
ComfortDelGro	BVPS	1.25	1.19	1.23	1.26	1.31
CD SP	Return on average equity (%)	5.8	8.0	7.3	7.9	8.4
Buy	-					
bay	Valuation metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Valuation basis	Recurring P/E (x)	16.23	14.53	13.11	11.83	10.71
	P/B (x)	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Our TP is derived through DCF	FCF Yield (%)	17.2	11.9	9.4	7.7	9.2
	Dividend Yield (%)	3.6	4.0	5.0	5.5	6.1
Key drivers	EV/EBITDA (x)	3.87	3.62	3.50	3.26	3.02
<ol> <li>More earnings-accretive acquisitions;</li> </ol>	EV/EBIT (x)	11.26	8.41	7.21	6.50	5.82
<ul><li>ii. Higher dividend pay-outs;</li><li>iii. Contributions from acquisitions;</li></ul>	Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
iv. Fare increases boosting its train business;	Total turnover	3,538	3,781	3,843	3,937	4,035
v. Pause in taxi fleet contraction;	Gross profit	3,538	3,781	3,843	3,937	4,035
vi. Favourable regulations supporting the taxi	EBITDA	612	627	625	666	710
industry.	Depreciation and amortisation	(402)	(357)	(322)	(332)	(341)
	Operating profit	210	270	303	334	369
Key risks	Net interest	(11)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)
i. Losing the Bukit Merah and Jurong West Bus	Pre-tax profit	230	310	306	340	375
Packages or retaining them at lower-than-	Taxation	(45)	(54)	(64)	(71)	(79)
estimated service fees;	Reported net profit	155	210	192	213	235
ii. Higher-than-estimated operating costs;	Recurring net profit	155	173	192	213	235
iii. Weak taxi earnings from a failure to gradually		135	115	132	215	200
phase out rental rebates.	Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Company Profile	Change in working capital	(22)	17	0	0	0
CD, one of largest land transport companies in the	Cash flow from operations	661	602	585	595	630
vorld, is a market leader in Singapore and has a	Capex	(228)	(302)	(350)	(400)	(400)
significant overseas presence. Its businesses include	Cash flow from investing activities	(204)	(251)	(335)	(383)	(382)
ous, taxi, rail, car rental & leasing, automotive	Dividends paid	(107)	(171)	(100)	(131)	(145)
engineering services, testing services, driving centre,	Cash flow from financing activities	(287)	(275)	(114)	(145)	(159)
nsurance broking services, outdoor advertising, and	Cash at beginning of period	743	919	967	1,103	1,170
car dealerships.	Net change in cash	170	77	136	67	89
	Ending balance cash	919	967	1,103	1,170	1,259
	Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
	Total cash and equivalents	919	967	1,103	1,170	1,259
	Tangible fixed assets	2,431	2,038	2,067	2,135	2,193
	Total investments	29	33	35	37	39
	Total assets	4,955	4,701	4,718	4,868	5,031
	Short-term debt	24	27	27	27	27
	Total long-term debt	317	265	265	265	265
	Total liabilities	1,819	1,701	1,577	1,590	1,602
	Total equity	3,136	2,999	3,141	3,278	3,429
	Total liabilities & equity	4,955	4,701	4,718	4,868	5,031
	Kovmetries	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 225	Dec 245	Dec 255
	Key metrics Revenue growth (%)	Dec-21 9.1	Dec-22 6.9	Dec-23F 1.6	Dec-24F 2.5	Dec-25F 2.5
	Recurrent EPS growth (%)	46.2	11.7	10.8	10.8	10.4
	Gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	10.8	10.4
	Operating EBITDA margin (%)	100.0	16.6	16.3	16.9	100.0
	Net profit margin (%)	4.4	5.6	5.0	5.4	5.8
	1 8 ( )	58.8	47.5	65.0	65.0	5.8 65.0
	Dividend payout ratio (%)			9.1	10.2	
	Capex/sales (%) Interest cover (x)	6.4 18.6	8.0 20.3	23.0	25.4	9.9 28.0

Source: Company data, RHB



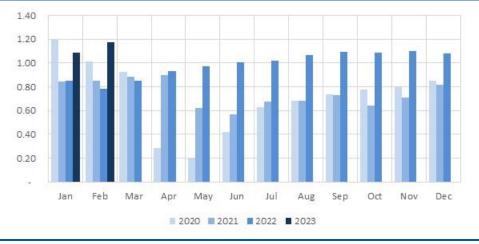
## ComfortDelGro

## Singapore Company Update

## 15 March 2023

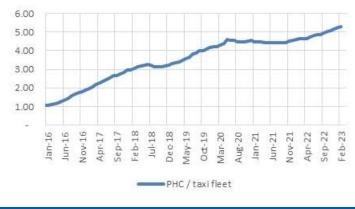
## Industrials | Road & Rail

## Figure 1: Singapore's mass rapid transit ridership for SBS Transit (m)

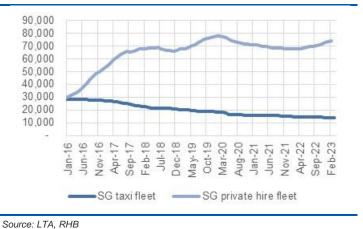


Source: Company data, RHB

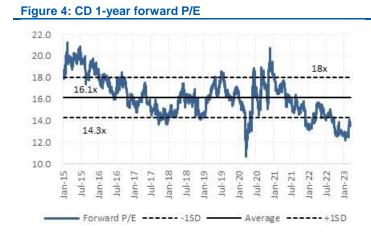




## Figure 3: Taxi fleet in Singapore continues to decline



Source: Land and Transport Authority (LTA), RHB



## Figure 5: CD 1-year forward P/BV



Source: Company data, Bloomberg, RHB



Source: Company data, Bloomberg, RHB

15 March 2023

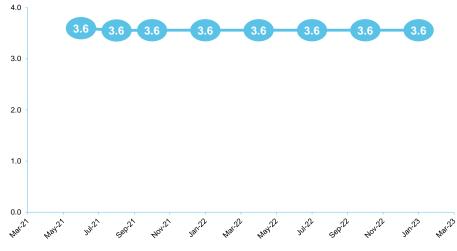
# **Recommendation Chart**



Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2023-02-27	Buy	1.40	1.22
2023-02-22	Buy	1.60	1.16
2023-01-13	Buy	1.65	1.17
2022-11-16	Buy	1.80	1.23
2022-11-08	Buy	1.80	1.35
2022-08-15	Buy	1.75	1.47
2022-03-22	Buy	1.77	1.42
2022-02-28	Buy	1.77	1.41
2021-12-15	Buy	1.90	1.40
2021-10-14	Buy	2.10	1.58
2021-09-06	Buy	2.03	1.62
2021-08-29	Buy	2.03	1.63
2021-05-19	Buy	2.00	1.61
2021-04-23	Buy	2.10	1.77
2021-02-16	Buy	1.90	1.57

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

## **ESG** Rating History



Source: RHB



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Trading Buy:	Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however
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	12 months
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