

Singapore Company Update

27 February 2023

Industrials | Aerospace & Defence

ST Engineering (STE SP)

Strong Growth With Steady Dividends; BUY

- BUY, SGD4.10 TP from SGD4.15, 15% upside, c.5% FY23F yield. 2022's SGD535m PATMI was below estimates. ST Engineering should see strong growth in 2023-2025 as a global aviation traffic revival boosts its commercial aerospace (CA) segment. The Urban Solutions & Satcom (USS) segment should sustain 2H22's strong turnaround as the TransCore acquisition contributes to earnings from 2024. Sale of the US Marine business will relieve pressure on its Defense Public Security (DPS) segment, which should also benefit from rising global defence spending.
- 2022 core profit was below expectations. STE reported 2022 revenue of SGD9bn (+17 YoY), with all business segments contributing to the growth. 2022 reported PATMI was at SGD535m (-6% YoY). Excluding the pre-tax one-off pension restructuring gain of SGD72m, core net profit of SGD481m (-16% YoY) accounted for 88% of our estimates. If we exclude the impact of energy inflation, TransCore's transactions and integration, as well as the tax exemption effect of government support, the recurring base operating PATMI would have been SGD549m. STE plans to issue USD500m of fixed-rate debt in 2023, which would move its weighted average interest cost to c.3%, assuming the US Federal Funds rate rises by up to 100bps. As expected, the full-year dividend came in at 16 cents.
- Firing on all engines. STE's CA segment, which is witnessing its hangars operating at capacity, should see benefits from China's reopening. STE's passenger-to-freighter (PTF) programme's gross profit margin turned positive in 4Q22, and the PTF conversion slots are fully booked until 2026. We expect CA to see gradual margin improvement during 2023-2025. We were positively surprised with the USS segment reporting a turnaround in 2H22, ending the year with a positive EBIT of SGD29m vs our estimate of a loss. TransCore has achieved positive cash flow and could become earnings-accretive in 2024, boosting the segment's earnings further. The DPS segment should see some margin improvement with the sale of the loss-making US Marine business in Nov 2022.
- Order wins and a strong orderbook. STE won new contracts worth SGD2.8bn in 4Q22 (-12% YoY, -41% QoQ). Strong YoY order wins were reported by its USS segment. STE reported an order backlog of SGD23bn, implying a book-to-bill ratio of 2.5 years. SGD7.2bn of the order book will be delivered this year, at 76% of our 2023 revenue estimates.
- Adjusting earnings, still see an upside. Despite cutting 2023-2024 profit
 by 7-9% to account for higher expenses and interest costs, STE should
 see 17-19% profit growth in 2023-2025 with a steady 16 cents dividend
 payout. Our TP includes an 8% ESG premium over SGD3.80 fair value.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover (SGDm)	7,693	9,035	9,535	10,179	10,838
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	571	481	564	671	787
Recurring net profit growth (%)	9.3	(15.7)	17.3	19.0	17.3
Recurring P/E (x)	19.43	23.04	19.64	16.51	14.08
P/B (x)	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.8
P/CF (x)	9.95	16.47	12.26	6.44	5.95
Dividend Yield (%)	4.2	6.2	4.5	4.5	4.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.11	14.62	10.58	9.35	8.24
Return on average equity (%)	24.3	22.2	23.2	26.3	28.3
Net debt to equity (%)	48.7	223.6	231.0	197.1	153.4

Source: Company data, RHB

Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): SGD4.10 (15.2%)
Price (Market Cap): SGD3.56 (USD8,228m)
ESG score: 3.40 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD) 14.3m/10.7m

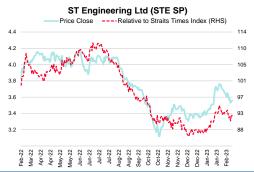
Analyst

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Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	6.3	1.4	2.6	(6.8)	(5.8)
Relative	5.3	1.8	1.7	(8.3)	(6.0)
52-wk Price low/	high (SGD))		3.12	- 4.17



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.40 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

STE believes in conserving resources and contributing to a sustainable future by developing and deploying greener products and solutions. In 2021, it reported a 46% reduction in GHG emissions intensity over 2010 base year and is working towards its target to achieve a 50% absolute Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions reduction by 2030 compared to a 2010 base year.

S: EXCELLENT

In 2021, it delivered SGD7.2bn in economic contributions despite challenging business conditions. With people remaining the cornerstone of its business, STE further strengthened learning and development framework, accelerated workforce digitalisation and deepened our engineering, technology and innovation capabilities.

G: EXCELLENT

Despite having exposure to defence business, STE does not design, produce or sell anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, white phosphorus munitions, and their related key components. STE's board comprises of 13 directors, of which 9 are independent (69%) and 2 are female (15%).



ST Engineering

Financial Exhibits

Singapore
Industrials
ST Engineering
STF SP

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

- i. Strong order wins:
- ii. Contributions from acquisitions.

Key risks

- i. Slower revival in commercial aerospace sector;
 ii. Lower than expected contribution from acquisitions;
- iii. Delay in the implementation of Singapore's smart nation initiative.

Company Profile

ST Engineering (STE) is an integrated engineering group in the aerospace, electronics, land systems and marine sectors. The company has over the years, diversified its businesses and geographical coverage.

Dividends paid

Net change in cash

Cash flow from financing activities

Cash at beginning of period

Financial summary (SGD)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Recurring EPS	0.18	0.15	0.18	0.22	0.25
DPS	0.15	0.22	0.16	0.16	0.16
BVPS	0.77	0.77	0.79	0.84	0.93
Return on average equity (%)	24.3	22.2	23.2	26.3	28.3
Valuation metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Recurring P/E (x)	19.43	23.04	19.64	16.51	14.08
P/B (x)	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.8
FCF Yield (%)	7.4	(0.6)	2.5	10.7	12.9
Dividend Yield (%)	4.2	6.2	4.5	4.5	4.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.11	14.62	10.58	9.35	8.24
EV/EBIT (x)	19.57	25.99	22.52	18.93	15.99
Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover	7,693	9,035	9,535	10,179	10,838
Gross profit	1,535	1,699	1,873	2,066	2,257
EBITDA	1,044	1,181	1,664	1,824	1,973
Depreciation and amortisation	(398)	(517)	(882)	(923)	(957)
Operating profit	646	665	782	901	1,017
Net interest	(36)	(138)	(188)	(188)	(175)
Pre-tax profit	638	597	674	802	941
Taxation	(71)	(54)	(101)	(120)	(141)
Reported net profit	571	535	564	671	787
Recurring net profit	571	481	564	671	787
Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Change in working capital	137	(442)	(747)	(73)	(73)
Cash flow from operations	1,114	673	904	1,721	1,862
Capex	(296)	(743)	(630)	(530)	(430)
Cash flow from investing activities	(414)	(4,571)	(578)	(471)	(363)

Ending balance cash	817	602	184	397	864
Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total cash and equivalents	816	602	184	397	864
Tangible fixed assets	1,794	2,076	2,330	2,443	2,423
Total investments	483	468	417	357	290
Total assets	10,516	14,964	14,716	14,700	14,802
Short-term debt	560	3,628	0	0	0
Total long-term debt	1,555	2,907	6,485	6,135	5,785
Total liabilities	7,847	12,311	11,989	11,789	11,595
Total equity	2,668	2,653	2,728	2,912	3,208
Total liabilities & equity	10,516	14,964	14,716	14,700	14,802

(686)

3,698

816

(201)

(498)

(743)

602

(418)

(498)

184

213

(1,037)

(504)

397

467

(1,032)

(468)

(615)

731

86

Key metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue growth (%)	7.5	17.4	5.5	6.8	6.5
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	9.4	(15.7)	17.3	19.0	17.3
Gross margin (%)	20.0	18.8	19.6	20.3	20.8
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	13.6	13.1	17.5	17.9	18.2
Net profit margin (%)	7.4	5.9	5.9	6.6	7.3
Dividend payout ratio (%)	82.0	128.2	88.3	74.2	64.0
Capex/sales (%)	3.8	8.2	6.6	5.2	4.0
Interest cover (x)	13.5	4.5	3.9	4.6	5.4

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 1: 2022 results summary

											2022 %
	unit	1H21	2H21	1H22	2H22	НоН %	YoY %	2021	2022	YoY %	of est.
Income statement (SGDm)											
Revenue	SGDm	3,650.9	4,042.0	4,269.9	4,765.2	12%	18%	7,692.9	9,035.1	17%	103%
Cost of sales	SGDm	(2,906.4)	(3,251.4)	(3,421.0)	(3,915.4)	14%	20%	(6,157.8)	(7,336.4)	19%	104%
Gross profit	SGDm	744.5	790.6	848.9	849.8	0%	7%	1,535.1	1,698.7	11%	96%
Operating Profit	SGDm	332.2	313.7	360.3	304.2	-16%	-3%	645.9	664.5	3%	90%
Finance costs	SGDm	(15.3)	(20.7)	(33.5)	(104.1)	211%	402%	(36.0)	(137.6)	282%	133%
Net other income / (expense)	SGDm	11.3	0.5	13.4	23.9	79%	5026%	11.7	37.3	218%	86%
Associates and JVs	SGDm	11.6	4.4	10.9	22.3	104%	407%	16.0	33.3	108%	188%
Profit before tax	SGDm	339.8	297.8	351.1	246.4	-30%	-17%	637.6	597.5	-6%	85%
Income tax	SGDm	(46.2)	(24.4)	(68.7)	14.6	-121%	-160%	(70.6)	(54.1)	-23%	52%
Profit after tax	SGDm	293.6	273.4	282.4	261.0	-8%	-5%	567.0	543.3	-4%	91%
Minority Interest	SGDm	2.5	1.0	(2.4)	(5.9)	148%	-676%	3.6	(8.3)	-333%	-222%
Profit for equity holders	SGDm	296.1	274.4	280.0	255.0	-9%	-7%	570.5	535.0	-6%	89%
PATMI (recurring)	SGDm	296.1	274.4	226.0	255.0	13%	-7%	570.5	481.0	-16%	88%
Depreciation & amortisation	SGDm	(187.3)	(210.8)	(227.7)	(289.2)	27%	37%	(398.1)	(516.9)	30%	115%
EBITDA	SGDm	519.6	524.4	588.0	593.4	1%	13%	1,044.0	1,181.4	13%	99%
Margins (%)											
Gross margin	%	20.4%	19.6%	19.9%	17.8%			20.0%	18.8%		
Operating margin	%	9.1%	7.8%	8.4%	6.4%			8.4%	7.4%		İ
EBITDA margin	%	14.2%	13.0%	13.8%	12.5%			13.6%	13.1%		
Net margin	%	8.1%	6.8%	6.6%	5.4%			7.4%	5.9%		

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 2: 2022 segment results

											2022 %
	unit	1H21	2H21	1H22	2H22	НоН %	YoY %	2021	2022	YoY %	of est.
Revenue (SGDm)											
Commercial Aerospace	SGDm	1,136.1	1,328.7	1,404.2	1,587.0	13%	19%	2,464.8	2,991.2	21%	104%
Urban Solutions & Satcom	SGDm	527.8	662.8	757.3	1,015.0	34%	53%	1,190.5	1,772.2	49%	95%
Defence & Public Security	SGDm	1,987.0	2,050.5	2,108.4	2,163.2	3%	5%	4,037.5	4,271.7	6%	100%
Segment EBIT (SGDm)											
Commercial Aerospace	SGDm	102.6	79.3	182.7	118.2	-35%	49%	181.9	300.9	65%	107%
Urban Solutions & Satcom	SGDm	10.8	15.0	(12.1)	41.3	-442%	176%	25.8	29.2	13%	na
Defence & Public Security	SGDm	241.7	224.3	214.0	191.0	-11%	-15%	466.0	405.0	-13%	86%
Segment EBIT margin (%)											
Commercial Aerospace	%	9.0%	6.0%	13.0%	7.5%			7.4%	10.1%		
Urban Solutions & Satcom	%	2.1%	2.3%	-1.6%	4.1%			2.2%	1.6%		
Defence & Public Security	%	12.2%	10.9%	10.1%	8.8%			11.5%	9.5%		

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 3: 2022 business results

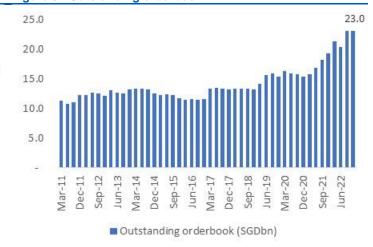
											2022 %
	SGD m	1H21	2H21	1H22	2H22	НоН %	YoY %	2021	2022	YoY %	of est.
Commercial Aerospace revenue											
- Aerospace MRO	SGDm	551.0	596.0	632.0	760.0	20%	28%	1,147.0	1,392.0	21%	113%
- Aerostructures & Systems	SGDm	619.0	773.0	825.0	846.0	3%	9%	1,392.0	1,671.0	20%	102%
- Aviation Asset Management (AUM)**	SGDm	900.0	1,054.0	1,420.0	1,821.0	28%	73%	1,054.0	1,821.0	73%	
Urban Solutions & Satcom revenue											
- Urban Solutions	SGDm	348.0	454.0	585.0	821.0	40%	81%	802.0	1,406.0	75%	100%
- Satcom	SGDm	205.0	246.0	199.0	213.0	7%	-13%	451.0	412.0	-9%	90%
Defence & Public Security revenue											
- Marine	SGDm	390.0	423.0	385.0	460.0	19%	9%	813.0	845.0	4%	109%
- Land Systems		717.0	727.0	765.0	817.0	7%	12%	1,444.0	1,582.0	10%	104%
- Digital Systems & Cyber	SGDm	719.0	737.0	777.0	727.0	-6%	-1%	1,456.0	1,504.0	3%	98%
- Defence Aerospace	SGDm	213.0	220.0	239.0	232.0	-3%	5%	433.0	471.0	9%	101%

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 4: Quarterly order wins

Mar-11 Dec-11 Sep-12 Jun-13 Mar-14 Mar-17 Sep-15 Sep-15 Sep-15 Sep-15 Sep-15 Sep-16 Mar-20 Dec-20 Sep-21 Se

Figure 5: Outstanding orderbook



Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 6: Forward P/E

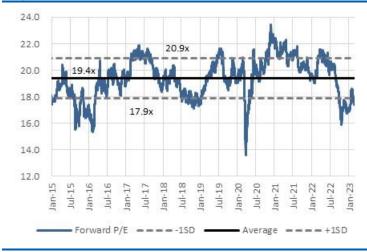


Figure 7: Forward P/BV

Source: Company data, RHB



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Recommendation Chart

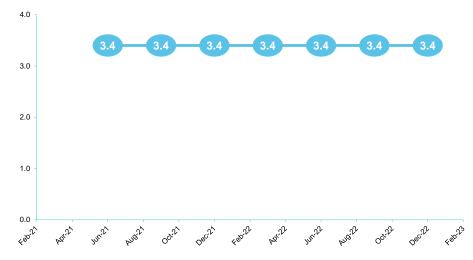


Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
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
2022-02-27	Buy	4.80	3.77
2021-10-04	Buy	4.85	3.88
2021-04-12	Buy	4.50	3.97
2021-02-22	Buy	4.25	3.82
2020-11-20	Buy	4.40	3.92
2020-05-18	Buy	3.90	3.27
2020-04-28	Buy	4.15	3.28
2020-04-17	Buy	4.65	3.36
2020-02-25	Buy	4.90	4.42
2020-01-13	Buy	4.55	4.03

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

ESG Rating History



Source: RHB

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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