# Singapore Company Update



7 July 2023

# ComfortDelGro (CD SP)

# New Contract Win In Australia; Still BUY

- Maintain BUY and SGD1.35 TP, 13% upside with c.4% FY23F yield. ComfortDelGro's indirect subsidiary CDC NSW has won an >AUD200m 8year outer metropolitan bus contract in Australia - it will commence in Jul 2024. While earnings contributions from the contract will be insignificant, we view it as a positive sign of CD's continuous growth in Australia. Australia represents CD's largest investment outside of Singapore and accounted for c.19% of FY22 operating profit. We remain positive on CD, amidst expectations of an improvement in its operations and earnings.
- New Australian contract. CD's indirect subsidiary, CDC NSW, has won an outer metropolitan bus contract worth over AUD200m, in New South Wales (NSW). The contract was awarded to Red Bus CDC NSW, a 50:50 JV between CDC NSW and Red Bus Services, an established NSW bus operator with over 80 years of experience. The contract is for Region 7, which covers the NSW Central Coast including The Entrance, Gosford, Wyong and the surrounding areas. This 8-year contract, which will commence in Jul 2024, entails bus services that are estimated to serve more than 2m passengers each year.
- · Limited earnings impact, but CD is building strong capabilities outside Singapore. Assuming the contract value is evenly spread over the eight calendar years, the annual revenue contribution of SGD25m would account for 3.5% of CD's 2022 revenue from Australia. Based on the high single-digit EBIT margin that CD made in Australia during 2022 and CD's 50% share of the earnings, the overall profit contribution from this contract win should be insignificant. Nevertheless, the win adds to CD's recently won contracts worth AUD1.7bn for operating two bus contracts in Metropolitan Sydney. With a total investment of SGD1.2bn to date, Australia is CD's largest investment outside of Singapore and accounted for c.19% of its operating profit in 2022.
- Unchanged investment thesis. We maintain our positive outlook for CD based on our expectations of: i) An improvement in public transport earnings in overseas operations during 2H23, amidst the indexation of higher operating costs in the UK, ii) improvement in its rail ridership in Singapore, and iii) improvement in taxi earnings amidst a reduction in taxi rent rebates, and iv) the introduction of a new platform fee for taxi and private-hire bookings on its platform. We see scope for better earnings if the commission rates for bookings on CD's Zig app are increased (CD charges only 5%, compared to the 20% levied by Grab and Gojek). We continue to value CD using a DCF-based methodology. Due to its high ESG score, we also add a 8% ESG premium to its fair value of SGD1.25 to derive our TP.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover (SGDm)	3,538	3,781	3,826	3,920	4,017
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	155	173	176	193	215
Recurring net profit growth (%)	46.3	11.7	1.5	9.9	11.2
Recurring P/E (x)	16.79	15.03	14.81	13.47	12.11
P/B (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
P/CF (x)	3.93	4.32	4.57	4.55	4.30
Dividend Yield (%)	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.8	5.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.01	3.76	3.80	3.58	3.32
Return on average equity (%)	5.8	8.0	6.7	7.2	7.8
Net debt to equity (%)	net cash				
Source: Company data, RHB					

Industrials | Road & Rail

# Buy (Maintained)

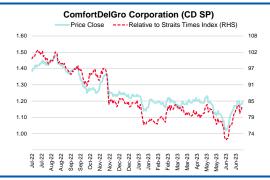
Target Price (Return):	SGD1.35 (+13%)
Price (Market Cap):	SGD1.20 (USD1,922m)
ESG score:	3.4 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)	8.96m/6.65m

## Analyst

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	( / )				
	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(2.4)	16.5	0.8	(2.4)	(13.1)
Relative	(0.4)	16.7	4.3	0.4	(15.7)
52-wk Price low/hi	gh (SGD	)		1.02	2 – 1.48



Source: Bloomberg

### Overall ESG Score: 3.4 (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.

See important disclosures at the end of this report



# **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	0.08	0.09	0.10
Industrials	DPS	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06
ComfortDelGro	BVPS	1.25	1.19	1.22	1.26	1.29
CD SP	Return on average equity (%)	5.8	8.0	6.7	7.2	7.8
Buy	Valuation metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
	Recurring P/E (x)	16.79	15.03	14.81	13.47	12.11
Valuation basis	P/B (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Our TP is derived through DCF	FCF Yield (%)	16.6	11.5	8.4	6.6	7.9
-	Dividend Yield (%)	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.8	5.4
Key drivers	EV/EBITDA (x)	4.01	3.76	3.80	3.58	3.32
i. More earnings-accretive acquisitions;	EV/EBIT (x)	11.68	8.73	8.21	7.49	6.69
ii. Higher dividend payouts;						
iii. Contributions from acquisitions;	Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
<ul><li>iv. Fare increases boosting its train business;</li><li>v. Pause in taxi fleet contraction;</li></ul>	Total turnover	3,538	3,781	3,826	3,920	4,017
vi. Favourable regulations supporting the taxi	Gross profit	3,538	3,781	3,826	3,920	4,017
industry.	EBITDA	612	627	599	635	678
· · · · · · ·	Depreciation and amortisation	(402)	(357)	(322)	(332)	(341)
Key risks	Operating profit	210	270	277	303	337
i. Losing the Bukit Merah and Jurong West bus	Net interest	(11)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)
packages or retaining them at lower-than-	Pre-tax profit	230	310	281	309	343
estimated service fees;	Taxation	(45)	(54)	(59)	(65)	(72)
ii. Higher-than-estimated operating costs;	Reported net profit	155	210	176	193	215
<li>iii. Weak taxi earnings from a failure to gradually phase out rental rebates.</li>	Recurring net profit	155	173	176	193	215
phase our remainebales.	Cash flow (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Company Profile	Change in working capital	(22)	17	0	0	(0)
ComfortDelGro, one of largest land transport	Cash flow from operations	661	602	569	571	606
companies in the world, is a market leader in	Capex	(228)	(302)	(350)	(400)	(400)
Singapore and has a significant overseas presence.	Cash flow from investing activities	(204)	(251)	(335)	(384)	(383)
ts businesses include bus, taxi, rail, car rental &	Dividends paid	(107)	(171)	(95)	(120)	(133)
easing, automotive engineering services, testing	Cash flow from financing activities	(287)	(275)	(108)	(133)	(146)
services, driving centre, insurance broking services,	Cash at beginning of period	743	919	967	1,092	1,147
outdoor advertising, and car dealerships.	Net change in cash	170	77	125	55	77
	Ending balance cash	919	967	1,092	1,147	1,224
	Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
	Total cash and equivalents	919	967	1,092	1,147	1,224
	Tangible fixed assets	2,431	2,038	2,067	2,135	2,193
				05	37	39
	Total investments	29	33	35	0.	00
	Total investments Total assets	29 4,955	33 4,701	4,705	4,842	4,994
		4,955 24	4,701 27	4,705 27	4,842 27	4,994 27
	Total assets	4,955	4,701 27 265	4,705	4,842	4,994 27 265
	Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities	4,955 24 317 1,819	4,701 27 265 1,701	4,705 27 265 1,579	4,842 27 265 1,593	4,994 27 265 1,605
	Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity	4,955 24 317 1,819 3,136	4,701 27 265 1,701 2,999	4,705 27 265 1,579 3,126	4,842 27 265 1,593 3,250	4,994 27 265 1,605 3,388
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	Total assets Short-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity Total liabilities & equity Key metrics Revenue growth (%)	4,955 24 317 1,819 3,136 4,955 Dec-21	4,701 27 265 1,701 2,999 4,701 Dec-22	4,705 27 265 1,579 3,126 4,705 <b>Dec-23F</b> 1.2	4,842 27 265 1,593 3,250 4,842 Dec-24F	4,994 27 265 1,605 3,388 4,994 Dec-25F
	Total assets Short-term debt Total long-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity Key metrics	4,955 24 317 1,819 3,136 4,955 <b>Dec-21</b> 9.1	4,701 27 265 1,701 2,999 4,701 <b>Dec-22</b> 6.9 11.7	4,705 27 265 1,579 3,126 4,705 <b>Dec-23F</b> 1.2 1.5	4,842 27 265 1,593 3,250 4,842 Dec-24F 2.5	4,994 27 265 1,605 3,388 4,994 <b>Dec-25F</b> 2.5
	Total assets Short-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity <b>Key metrics</b> Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%)	4,955 24 317 1,819 3,136 4,955 <b>Dec-21</b> 9,1 46,2	4,701 27 265 1,701 2,999 4,701 <b>Dec-22</b> 6.9	4,705 27 265 1,579 3,126 4,705 <b>Dec-23F</b> 1.2 1.5 100.0	4,842 27 265 1,593 3,250 4,842 <b>Dec-24F</b> 2.5 9,9	4,994 27 265 1,605 3,388 4,994 <b>Dec-25F</b> 2.5 11.2
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	Total assets Short-term debt Total liabilities Total equity Total liabilities & equity <b>Key metrics</b> Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) Operating EBITDA margin (%)	4,955 24 317 1,819 3,136 4,955 <b>Dec-21</b> 9,1 46.2 100.0 17.3 4.4	4,701 27 265 1,701 2,999 4,701 <b>Dec-22</b> 6.9 11.7 100.0 16.6 5.6	4,705 27 265 1,579 3,126 4,705 <b>Dec-23F</b> 1.2 1.5 1.5 100.0 15.7 4.6	4,842 27 265 1,593 3,250 4,842 <b>Dec-24F</b> 2.5 9,9 100.0 16.2 4,9	4,994 27 265 1,605 3,388 4,994 <b>Dec-25F</b> 2.5 11.2 100.0 16.9 5.3

Source: Company data, RHB



# 7 July 2023

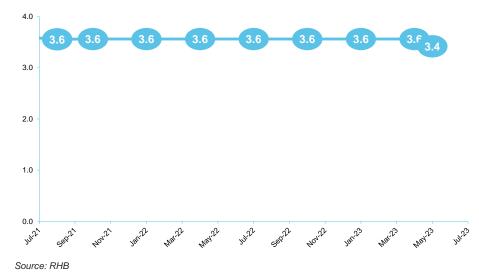
# **Recommendation Chart**



Buy		
Duy	1.35	1.16
Buy	1.25	1.12
Buy	1.40	1.18
Buy	1.40	1.22
Buy	1.60	1.16
Buy	1.65	1.17
Buy	1.80	1.23
Buy	1.80	1.35
Buy	1.75	1.47
Buy	1.77	1.42
Buy	1.77	1.41
Buy	1.90	1.40
Buy	2.10	1.58
Buy	2.03	1.62
Buy	2.03	1.63
	Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy Buy	Buy       1.40         Buy       1.40         Buy       1.60         Buy       1.65         Buy       1.65         Buy       1.80         Buy       1.80         Buy       1.75         Buy       1.77         Buy       1.77         Buy       1.90         Buy       2.10         Buy       2.03

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

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