



Initiating Coverage

Analyst

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Price HK\$4.14
Target HK\$6.00
HSI 22,327

Historical Chart



Performance	1m	3m	6m
Absolute (%)	5.6	110.0	175.2
Relative (%)	3.8	106.3	149.3

Stock Information

Bloomberg code	746 HK
Market cap (US\$m)	422
52-week high (HK\$)	4.25
52-week low (HK\$)	0.425
Shares issued (m)	825
6m avg daily volume (m)	1.4
Free float (%)	19.9
Maior shareholders (%)	

The Lee Family (75.0)
DJE Investment (5.1)

Key Indicators

ROE (%)	29.8
Net gearing (%)	20.1
NTA (HK\$)	1.21

Lee & Man Holding

Explosive chemicals mix, upstream domestic consumption play Initiating with BUY and TP of HK\$6.00

What's New

- Lee & Man Holding (LMH) was only a handbag manufacturer previously, with profit of ~HK\$100m per annum.
- In late-2006, it invested ~Rmb1.2b to set up Lee & Man Chemical (LMC) (main products: Chloromethane, caustic soda, and hydrogen peroxide).
- The chemical segment is already profitable and will likely become a new driver in the coming years. We believe the market has not fully reflected its potentials.

Our View

- With CMS supply shortage in China creating opportunities, LMC is well positioned over peers in terms of location, synergy with sister company, and industry know-how; the company is looking at expanding capacity further and developing new products.
- With stable recurring income from the traditional handbag business, we believe the potential high-growth chemical business offers an attractive story. LMH is not being covered by any other broker house at present.
- LMH's balance sheet is quite stretched (net gearing near 50%). We forecast the company to return to net cash position in FY10, assuming recurring free cashflow of more than HK\$350m p.a. However, we do not rule out the possibility of a fund-raising exercise in case expansion opportunities arise.

Action & Recommendation

- We initiate coverage on LMH with a BUY rating and a target price of HK\$6, equivalent to 13x FY10E earnings. Further upside to our target price would depend on the pace of the un-projected expansion.
- A short-term potential catalyst would be the FY09 results (due Apr-10). We expect LMH's FY09 net profit to be more than 3x that of FY08. We believe the stock would then undergo a re-rating.
- We expect strong demand growth for LMC's products, driven by continued support from the government on spending on household appliances.

Year end Dec 31	2008	2009F	2010F	2011F	2012F
Sales (HK\$m)	1,064.1	1,352.8	1,814.0	1,875.0	2,195.0
Pre-tax profit (HK\$m)	91.6	287.1	426.7	431.4	537.9
Net profit (HK\$m)	81.6	257.6	376.1	380.1	473.4
EPS (HK\$)	0.10	0.31	0.46	0.46	0.57
EPS growth (%)	(23.0)	215.8	46.0	1.1	24.5
PER (x)	41.9	13.3	9.1	9.0	7.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	43.0	10.5	6.4	5.9	4.4
Yield (%)	1.0	2.6	4.4	5.0	6.2

SEE APPENDIX I FOR IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES AND ANALYST CERTIFICATIONS

Overview

Decision to step into a new business proving to be a success; but still not noticed by the market

Lee & Man Holdings Ltd. (LMH, "the group") was listed on the HKSE in 1997. It owns 100% of Lee & Man Handbag, an OEM/ODM handbag manufacturer (Fig.1).

Handbag business is stable, but records low growth LMH's handbag business generates around HK\$100m recurring profit per annum and is a cash cow for the company (Fig. 2). The handbag business is very stable and was not much affected even during the global credit crunch in 2H08. The segment's profit in 1H09 and 2H08 was HK\$49m and HK\$48m respectively, not much lower than the HK\$52m the company recorded before the economic crisis in 1H08.

LMH set up the chemical unit in late-2006 In late-2006, LMH invested Rmb1.2b to set up Lee & Man Chemical Limited (LMC, 100% owned). LMC reported profit of HK\$22m in 1H09 and we believe that it will be the growth driver for the group.

Market has still not fully recognized LMH's potential LMH is not being covered by any broker house at present. We believe that the market has still not recognized the company's potential, considering it an old-fashioned handbag maker with little growth. LMC's profit is set to rise rapidly in 2H09, as Phase 2A and 2B of the new production facilities commenced production in February and June 2009 respectively. For similar reasons, we expect the chemical segment's profit to be significantly higher in FY10 than in FY09. (Fig.3)

Upcoming results should trigger a rerating LMH's FY09 results (due April-10) would be a short-term share price catalyst, in our view. We expect LMH's FY09 net profit to be more than 3 times that of FY08. (Fig.4) We believe that the stock would then undergo a re-rating. We estimate the company to deliver 55% net profit CAGR over FY08-FY12E (22% net profit CAGR over FY09-FY12E).

Figure 1: Company structure

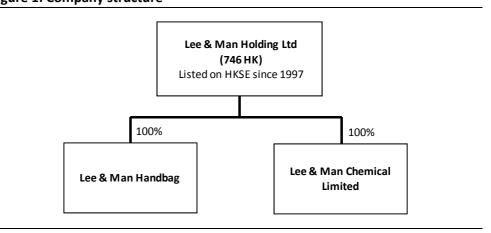
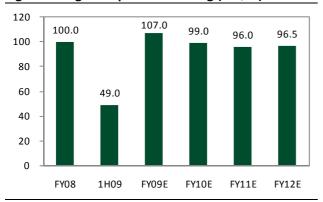
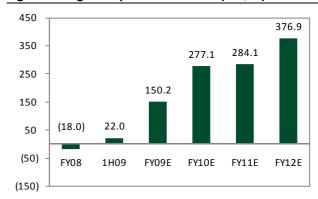


Figure 2: Segment profit: Handbag (HK\$m)



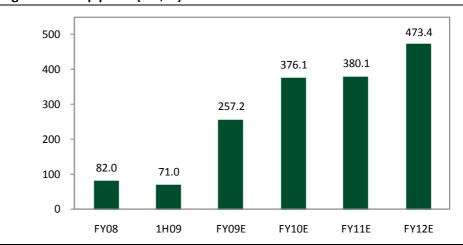
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 3: Segment profit: Chemical (HK\$m)



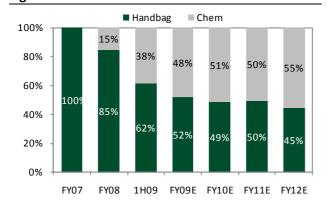
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 4: Group profit (HK\$m)



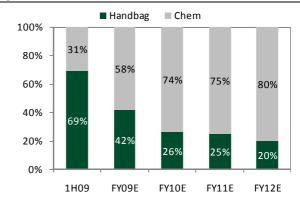
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 5: Revenue breakdown



Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 6: Profit breakdown



Products

LMC's products include chloromethanes, hydrogen peroxide, and caustic soda LMC's raw materials include common salt (NaCl, to make chlorine gas, hydrogen gas and sodium hydroxide) and methanol (CH_3OH). The chemical unit has four major products: Note that the first two products (Methylene Chloride and Chloroform) are collectively known as chloromethanes (CMS). (Fig.7)

1) Methylene Chloride (CH₂Cl₂ one of the two CMS)

CMS (Methylene Chloride and Chloroform) are the major products Other names: Dichloromethane, 二氯甲烷 in Chinese

Source: Reaction between methanol (bought outside) and chlorine (self

produced).

Uses: It is used in adhesives, solvents, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants (CFC -32) in air conditioners and refrigerators.

2) Chloroform (CHCl₃, one of the two CMS):

Mainly used for making refrigerants

Other names: Trichloromethane, 三氯甲烷 or 哥羅芳 in Chinese

Source: Same as Methylene Chloride

Uses: It is used in refrigerants (CFC-33 in air conditioners), solvents, and coating

layers of cooking utensils.

3) Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂):

Other names: 過氧化氫 or 雙氧水 in Chinese

Source: Reaction between hydrogen (self produced) and oxygen.

Uses: It is used in washing powder, disinfectant, antiseptic, and bleaching agents.

4) Sodium hydroxide (NaOH):

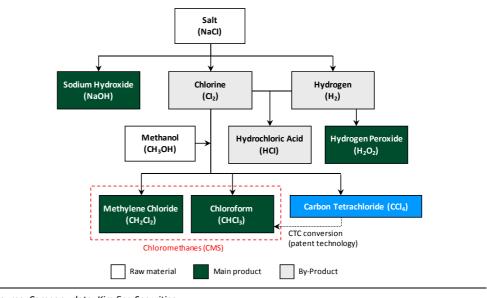
Other names: Caustic soda, 氫氧化鈉, 燒鹼 or 哥士的 in Chinese

Source: Electrolysis of brine (concentrated salt water).

Uses: It is used in manufacture of paper, textiles, soaps and drain cleaners. It is

also used as a reagent for making more complex chemicals.

Figure 7: Products



Note that LMC uses hydrogen (from electrolysis of brine) to make hydrogen peroxide, while other plants release it as waste. Similarly, chlorine (also from electrolysis of brine) is converted into CMS instead of being sold, while some companies purchase chlorine externally.

Most of the products are sold domestically at present

Currently LMC sells most of its products domestically, but it may begin exports to the USA or India in the future.

Current capacity and operations

Plants are located in Changshu, near the harbour for easy transportation LMC's current plants are located in Changshu city, 120km northwest of Shanghai, where most of its customers are located. The plants occupy around 800 hectares of land and are located near the harbour for easy transportation of raw materials and products.

Phase 2A and 2B will contribute to full-year production and profit next year LMC's current CMS capacity is 120,000 tons/year, of which 60,000 tons is for Methylene Chloride and the rest is for Chloroform. (Fig. 8). Note that Phase 2A and 2B (40,000 t/y of CMS each) commenced operations in February and June 2009 respectively. In 2010, they will contribute to full-year production and profit.

The chemical unit's current hydrogen peroxide capacity is 60,000 tons/year; it is expected to increase to 120,000 tons/year after Phase 3 is completed in February 2010.

Actual output can exceed stated capacity

The above capacities are "designed capacities"; in fact, the actual output can exceed the designed capacities by as much as 20%.

Revenue jumped after Phase 2B started operations In 1H09, LMC contributed around 38%, or HK\$212m, to LMH's revenue of HK\$554m. (Fig. 9-12). Management believes that contribution of the chemical business could go up to 70% in the long term. In fact, after the completion of Phase 2B in June 2009, revenue in July, August and September was HK\$60m, HK\$70m and HK\$70m respectively, much higher than the monthly average (~HK\$35m) in 1H09 (Fig.13).

Product	Phase 1	Phase 2A	Phase 2B	Phase 3	Total
Chloromethanes (CMS)					
- Methylene Chloride	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	60,000
- Chloroform	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	60,000
Total CMS	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	120,000
Hydrogen peroxide (concentration of 24.5%)	-	-	60,000	60,000	120,000

Feb 2009

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Production

Commencement

Figure 8: LMC production capacity (in tons/year)

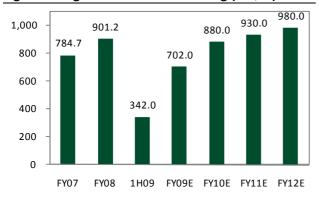
Jun 2008

Feb 2010

Jun 2009

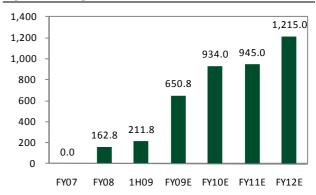
Lee &Man Holding Ltd 13 January 2010

Figure 9: Segment revenue: Handbag (HK\$m)



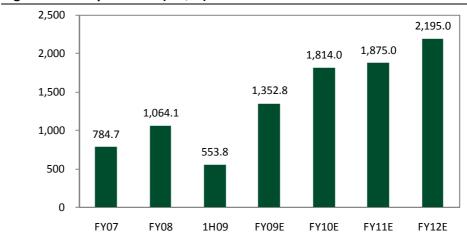
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 10: Segment revenue: Chemical (HK\$m)



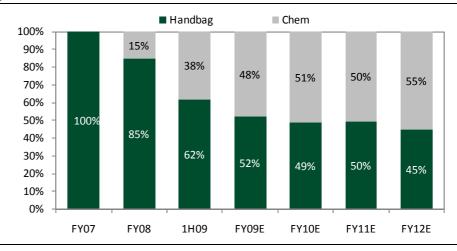
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 11: Group revenue (HK\$m)



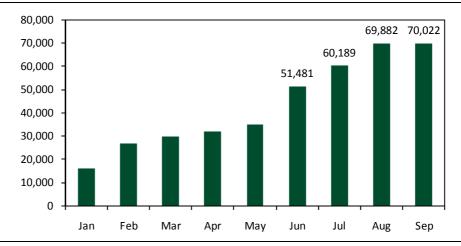
Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Figure 12: Revenue breakdown



Lee &Man Holding Ltd 13 January 2010

Figure 13: LMC Sales revenue 2009 (HK\$ 000)



Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities

Opportunities: Shortage of CMS supply

China imports more than 50% of chemicals Currently, China imports more than 50% of chemicals. Shortage of CMS supply brings about opportunities for LMC, with the company being the second-largest CMS producer in the country.

There is shortage of CMS supply, especially in the Eastern part of China For Methylene chloride, total domestic demand is around 520,000 tons/year, while supply is only 470,000 tons/year (Fig.14). The shortage is most pronounced in Eastern China with demand of 250,000 tons/year and supply of only 190,000 tons/year (of this, LMC supplies 60,000 tons/year).

For chloroform, total domestic demand is 460,000 tons/year versus supply of 220,000 tons/year. Total demand in Eastern China is 310,000 tons/year while supply is only 60,000 tons/year (completely by LMC).

CMS demand is likely to grow due to subsidies on electrical appliances Furthermore, CMS demand is likely to grow with the Chinese government providing subsidies on purchase of household electrical appliances in rural areas.

Figure 14: Demand of Supply of chemicals in China							
Methylene Chloride	Demand	Supply	Shortage	LMC supply			
China	520,000 t/y	470,000 t/y	50,000 t/y				
of which: in Eastern China	250,000 t/y	190,000 t/y	60,000 t/y	60,000 t/y			
Chloroform	Demand	Supply	Shortage	LMC supply			
China	460,000 t/y	220,000 t/y	240,000 t/y				
of which: in Eastern China	310.000 t/v	60.000 t/v	250.000 t/v	60.000 t/v			

Hydrogen peroxideDemandSupplyShortageLMC supplyYangtze Delta450,000 t/y440,000 t/y10,000 t/y120,000 t/y (the largest one)

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities



(the only supplier in Eastern China)

Advantage: Location

Changshu is one of the largest production bases for refrigerants Changshu is one of the largest production bases for CFC-22 (refrigerant) in the world. Two big producers of refrigerants, 3F and Arkema, demand 90,000 t/y and 60,000 t/y of Chloroform respectively. These companies are located near LMC's plants, which gives it the advantage of lower transportation cost and an opportunity to provide better services.

Plants are located near the harbour, saving transportation costs for LMC

Moreover, LMC is the only company in China with CMS plants located near the harbour, which again lowers transportation cost for the company. Transport by water is much cheaper (~50%) than that by road.

Newcomers will find it difficult to enter this industry Also, it is difficult for new competitors to set up plants near the harbour, as not much land is left in the area for industrial use. At present, the China government strongly discourages establishment of new CMS plants, especially in the Jiangsu province, mainly due to concerns about the ozone pollutant, carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄, CTC). LMC owns proprietary technology to convert carbon tetrachloride into chloroform.

Advantage: Favourable policies

CMS production is restrictive, with new licences unlikely to be granted

The NDRC has imposed restrictions on CMS production in China. New licenses are unlikely to be granted (though existing operators can expand). Moreover, new Chloro-Alkali plants are forbidden in the Jiangsu province, and foreign companies are banned from entering the industry.

LM cenjoys favorable tax rates

LMC will enjoy a favorable tax rate of 12.5% until 2012. It is in the process of applying for a change in status to "innovative technology firm"; if the application is accepted, the company may enjoy a tax rate of 15% (instead of the normal 25%) after 2012. Management is optimistic about this.

Synergy with sister company

Shares ports and power sources with sister company

Lee & Man Paper (2314), a sister company of LMH, has its own ports and electricity power sources in Changshu city. LMC also uses these facilities for stable and efficient production. LMC shares electricity supply with Lee & Man Paper, which reduces the risk of unstable power supply (a common problem in China).

Well-designed manufacturing system

LMC has a well designed manufacturing system... LMC purchases only two raw materials (salt and methanol) from third parties. It produces other raw materials such as chlorine and hydrogen, resulting in lower wastage and production cost.



Chemicals business has high entry barriers; industry know-how is required to step in

and high levels of technical expertise

The chemical engineering business is capital intensive and it requires technical expertise. Professor C.K. Poon, the former vice-chancellor of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, is an advisor of LMC, while Professor Albert Chan Sun-chi, the next vice-chancellor of the Hong Kong Baptist University has designed LMC's chemicals production system. Thus, the company's technical expertise is quite ahead of peers.

LMC has its own technology for treating pollutants The China government mandates proper treatment of pollutants. For example, during the production of CMS, Carbon Tetrachloride (CCl₄, CTC) is released; it is an ozone pollutant and has to be treated properly before being released into the atmosphere. LMC owns proprietary technology to convert CTC into chloroform.

Strong cashflow and working capital

LMH's accounts receivable cycle is as short as 3.5 days, while its inventory level is around 20 days. Cash is obtained on delivery for 90% of the transactions.

At present, we do not expect huge capex in coming years. We estimate capex of ~HK\$200m only over FY10-FY12. As a result, the company can generate more than HK\$350m of free cash flow in each of the next -three years.

Future plans

- 1) The company intends to produce hydrogen peroxide with higher concentration (35% or 50% vs. the current 24.5%), as competition in the high-concentration segment is lower.
- 2) LMH also plans to further expand either its production capacity of CMS to 160,000 tons/year or set up production of Trichlorosilane (HCl₃Si, 60,000 ton/year). The capex would be around Rmb150m.
- 3) LMC also intends to develop high-end downstream consumer chemicals.

Peers

There are no direct HK-listed comparable peers; we have compared LMH with some companies in the same industry:

- 1) Kingboard Chem (148) KBC generates around one-third of its revenue from chemicals. Its products include methanol, phenol, and acetone. It also manufactures caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide, but not CMS. KBC is trading at around 11x FY09E earnings.
- 2) Yip's Chemical (408) Yip's is a pure chemical play. It manufactures paints, solvents, lubricants and coatings. It sell products to customers (B to C model), while LMC sell products to other cooperates (B to B model). Yip's is trading at around 7x 1H09 annualized earnings
- 3) Dongyue Group (189) Dongyue is also a pure chemical play. Refrigerants account for 50% of its revenue. The company also manufactures caustic soda and Methylene chloride. Dongyue is trading 24x 1H09 annualized earnings.

Valuation and Recommendation

- We believe that LMH's FY09 results (due Apr-10) would be a short-term share price catalyst. We expect the company's FY09 net profit to be more than three times that of FY08. We believe the stock would then undergo a rerating.
- In the medium term, profit (and the share price) would depend on LMC's upcoming expansion plan.
- Demand growth for LMC's products is expected to be strong, driven by the continued support of the Chinese government on spending on household appliances.
- We have a BUY rating on LMH with a target price of HK\$6.00, equivalent to 13x FY10E earnings.
- Its closest peer (still not a directly comparable), KBC, is trading at around 11x 1H09 annualized earnings, but chemical segment accounted for only 18% of KBC's 1H09 profit. In contrast, chemical segment contributed 31% of LMH's 1H09 profit. We expect the chemical segment to contribute 58% and 74% of LMH's profit in FY09 and FY10, respectively. As a result, we believe that LMH deserve a higher multiple than KBC.
- Further upside to our target price would depend on the pace of the unprojected expansion.
- Earnings growth in FY11 is projected to be relatively static, mainly on the ground of limited capacity growth during the year. We are expecting further earnings growth in FY12 when the potential expansion starts to contribute.

Company background

Nov- Announced the set-up chemical production plant in

05 Jiangsu

2006 Invested Rmb1.2b and founded Lee & Man Chemical

Limited, a 100% subsidiary

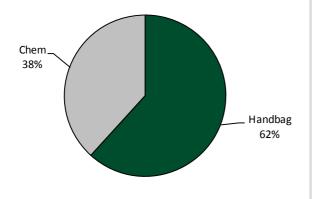
Jun-08 Phase 1 of the chemical plant started production; it

contributed to the group's profit in 1H08.

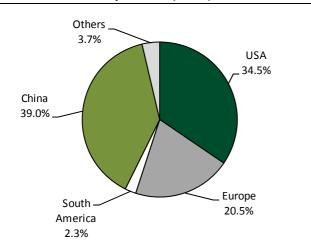
2009 Phase 2A and 2B started production.

Business profile

Sales breakdown by product (1H09)



Sales breakdown by market (1H09)



Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities estimates

Competitive analysis

(For the chemical segment)

Substitutes

There are no simple substitutes for chemical products. Most of them are used as raw materials for producing other sophisticated chemicals.

Suppliers

The company buys salt from local companies and methanol from overseas suppliers. It also purchases coal from different suppliers to generate electricity for chemical processes.

Competitive threats

Currently, chemical products are in shortage in China, while the company has established critical mass.

Customers

Customers are manufacturers and other chemical industry companies.

New entrants

The industry is capital-intensive; a firm would need technical know-how to enter this industry. Foreign players are banned from entering the industry.

Risks

The company is exposed to changes in commodity prices, which may affect its profitability. Another risk is customer concentration.

Profit and loss							
YE Dec (HK\$m)	FY08A	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E	FY12E		
Sales	1,064.1	1,352.8	1,814.0	1,875.0	2,195.0		
Cost of goods sold	(825.9)	(866.0)	(1,078.3)	(1,118.6)	(1,285.1)		
Gross profit	238.2	486.9	735.7	756.4	909.9		
Other income	15.5	(30.0)	(69.0)	(68.0)	(77.0)		
Distribution costs	(45.4)	(60.2)	(90.0)	(95.0)	(105.0)		
Administrative expenses	(107.7)	(93.0)	(132.0)	(140.0)	(165.0)		
Interest expenses	(9.1)	(16.6)	(18.0)	(22.0)	(25.0)		
Profit before tax	91.6	287.1	426.7	431.4	537.9		
Income tax	(10.0)	(29.5)	(50.6)	(51.3)	(64.6)		
Net profit	81.6	257.6	376.1	380.1	473.4		
EPS (HK\$)	0.099	0.312	0.456	0.461	0.574		
EBITDA	85.1	333.6	513.7	521.4	639.9		

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities estimates

Cash flow					
YE Dec (HK\$m)	FY08A	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E	FY12E
Operating cash flow	145.6	353.8	427.0	424.0	518.5
Operating profit	91.6	287.1	426.7	431.4	537.9
Depreciation & amortization	54.7	73.7	80.2	94.3	97.4
Change in working capital	21.0	39.1	(11.3)	(28.4)	(27.2)
Others	(21.7)	(46.1)	(68.6)	(73.3)	(89.6)
Investment cash flow	(346.4)	(156.3)	(50.1)	(51.2)	(100.9)
Net capex	(351.8)	(155.6)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)
Change in LT investment	0.0	(0.7)	(0.1)	(1.2)	(0.9)
Change in other assets	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow after invt.	(200.8)	197.5	376.9	372.8	417.6
Financing cash flow	218.1	(127.1)	(240.6)	(260.7)	(292.0)
Dividend paid	(41.3)	(37.1)	(140.6)	(160.7)	(192.0)
Net change in debt	259.3	(90.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Change in other LT liab.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	17.3	70.3	136.3	112.1	125.6

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities estimates

Key ratios

Balance sheet					
YE Dec (HK\$m)	FY08A	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E	FY12E
Total assets	1466.5	1705.3	1923.2	2136.3	2421.3
Current assets	328.8	405.5	572.1	733.5	918.0
Cash & ST investment	63.5	133.8	270.1	382.2	507.8
Inventories	126.1	140.4	160.0	200.0	240.0
Accounts receivable	138.1	130.8	141.5	150.8	169.7
Others	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other assets	1137.7	1299.8	1351.1	1402.8	1503.3
LT investments	21.8	24.0	25.0	26.0	26.0
Net fixed assets	1106.8	1263.1	1314.2	1365.6	1466.8
Others	9.1	12.7	11.9	11.2	10.5
Total liabilities	748.2	695.0	614.2	531.3	464.2
Current liabilities	571.6	399.3	387.1	386.2	410.1
Accounts payable	263.2	303.4	320.8	340.9	370.8
ST borrowings	302.3	80.0	50.0	30.0	20.0
Others	6.1	15.9	16.3	15.3	19.3
Long-term liabilities	176.6	295.7	227.1	145.1	54.1
Long-term debts	124.8	257.1	187.1	107.1	17.1
Others	51.8	38.6	40.0	38.0	37.0
Shareholder's equity	718.2	1010.3	1309.0	1604.9	1957.1
Paid-in capital	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5
Reserve	635.7	927.8	1226.5	1522.4	1874.6
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities estimates

YE Dec	FY08A	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E	FY12E
Growth (% YoY)					
Sales	35.6	27.1	34.1	3.4	17.1
Gross profit	7.7	104.4	51.1	2.8	20.3
EBITDA	(20.1)	291.8	54.0	1.5	22.7
Net profit	(23.4)	215.8	46.0	1.1	24.5
EPS	(23.0)	215.8	46.0	1.1	24.5
Profitability (%)					
Gross margin	22.4	36.0	40.6	40.3	41.5
EBITDA margin	8.0	24.7	28.3	27.8	29.2
Net margin	7.7	19.0	20.7	20.3	21.6
ROA	6.6	16.2	20.7	18.7	20.8
ROE	12.0	29.8	32.4	26.1	26.6
Stability					
Gross debt/equity (%)	59.5	33.4	18.1	8.5	1.9
Net debt/equity (%)	50.6	20.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Int. coverage (X)	11.1	18.3	24.7	20.6	22.5
Cash flow int. coverage (X)	18.4	24.1	27.5	22.6	24.3
Current ratio (X)	0.6	1.0	1.5	1.9	2.2
Quick ratio (X)	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.7
Net cash/(debt) (HK\$m)	(363.6)	(203.3)	33.0	245.1	470.7
Per share data (HK\$)					
EPS	0.10	0.31	0.46	0.46	0.57
CFPS	0.02	0.09	0.17	0.14	0.15
BVPS	0.86	1.21	1.58	1.94	2.37
SPS	1.29	1.64	2.20	2.27	2.66
EBITDA/share	0.10	0.40	0.62	0.63	0.78
DPS	0.04	0.11	0.18	0.21	0.26

Source: Company data, Kim Eng Securities estimates

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Our recommendation is based on the following expected price performance within 12 months:

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