

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

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#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Update

**Bangkok Expressway And Metro (BEM TB/BUY/Bt7.65/Target: Bt10.60)** Page 2 Defensive play with steady growth.

KCE Electronics (KCE TB/HOLD/Bt28.00/Target: Bt28.00)

Cloudy outlook expected to persist into 4Q24.

#### **KEY INDICES**

Symbol	Close	Chg	%Chg
SET	1,452.78	10.15	0.70
SET50	938.91	7.35	0.79
Value (Btm) - SET	35,443		
Top 5 Sector			
BANK	393.75	3.15	0.81
PETRO	597.53	8.11	1.38
PROP	206.03	2.38	1.17
ENERG	18,493.67	138.58	0.75
ICT	201.76	0.02	0.01

Source: Bloomberg

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#### **TOP VOLUME**

	Close	+/-(%	5-day ADT
Symbol	(Baht)	Chg)	(BTm)
CCET	9.75	5.98	2,035.0
DELTA	164.50	0.61	2,504.9
KBANK	149.00	1.02	1,108.8
GULF	62.25	2.05	1,814.5
BH	206.00	(0.48)	2,198.7

#### **TOP GAINERS**

Symbol	Close (Baht)	+/-(% Chg)	5-day ADT (BTm)
MORE	0.04	33.33	1.6
TWZ	0.04	33.33	0.2
CHO	0.05	25.00	0.3
MCOT	6.35	18.69	44.0
TSTE	15.60	17.29	0.0

#### **TOP LOSERS**

	Close	+/-(%	5-day ADT
Symbol	(Baht)	Chg)	(BTm)
UMS	0.61	(30.68)	0.0
MILL	0.09	(18.18)	0.2
HYDRO	0.11	(16.67)	0.1
SSPF	4.16	(15.10)	0.1
SST	4.24	(11.67)	0.0

<sup>\*</sup>ADT: Average daily turnover

#### **KEY STATISTICS**

			%Chg	
Commodity	Current Price	1m	3M	YTD
Brent crude*	73.3	0.9	(5.8)	(1.9)
Dubai crude*	71.1	(3.7)	(11.3)	(7.0)
Baltic Dry Index	1,785.0	13.3	4.5	(14.8)
Gold Spot***	2,613.8	(4.0)	4.4	26.7

<sup>\*(</sup>US\$/bbI), \*\*\* (US\$/toz)

## FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT IN EQUITIES (THAILAND)

Day	MTD Net	YTD Net	YTD Net	
(Mil US\$)	(Mil US\$)	(Mil US\$)	YoY%	
48.8	(251.7)	(3.677.6)	516.0	_

Source: Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange Rate - THB/US\$ (onshore) = 34.59

Interest Rate (%) - TH 1-day RP = 2.50 Thai Lending Rate (%)\* - MLR = 7.10

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#### **COMPANY UPDATE**

## **Bangkok Expressway And Metro (BEM TB)**

Defensive Play With Steady Growth

BEM reported a continuous yoy earnings growth in 3Q24 on the back of stronger Blue Line railway ridership. Looking forward to 2025, we expect the Blue Line to continue to be a key driver of BEM's earnings momentum. For the Double Deck project, management guided that it should be finalised by 1Q25, following a delay from 2H24. Maintain BUY. Target price: Bt10.60.

#### WHAT'S NEW

- These are the takeaways from Bangkok Expressway And Metro's (BEM) analyst meeting yesterday.
- Stable business development. Overall, management is still positive on the core business development including expressway, railway and commercial development. Management expects the Double Deck project to be approved by 1Q25 following a delay due to a government process in 2H24. Currently, the Orange Line (West) Project has already begun civil work construction and is expected to be operational by 2029 while the Orange Line (East) Project is expected to be operational by 2028.

#### STOCK IMPACT

- Blue Line railway to be key driver of BEM's earnings. Looking forward, we are still positive on BEM's Blue Line railway operation. The key catalysts for Blue Line ridership in 2025 will be from: a) a continuous improvement in ridership from the opening of mega projects such as One Bangkok and Dusit Central Park, b) a gradual improvement in Yellow Line which is the feeder line to Blue Line, and c) organic growth following higher fare adjustment, more economic activities and tourists. Management expects the One Bangkok Project to increase ridership to 25,000 per day, equivalent to 5.6% of our 2025 ridership assumption. Additionally, the company procured 21 three-car rolling stocks and invested in developing the Blue Line railway system's efficiency which is expected to be completed before the commencement of the Orange Line (West) Project.
- Expect gradual improvement in expressway and commercial developments. We expect to see a slightly better expressway revenue growth in 2025 following the completion of road construction near its Bang Pa-in toll station by mid-25, and a recovery in traffic volume of some expressways following an increase in toll prices.

#### **KEY FINANCIALS**

Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	14,029	16,374	16,923	17,550	18,422
EBITDA	6,012	7,790	8,150	8,697	9,105
Operating profit	4,423	5,822	6,182	6,654	6,976
Net profit (rep./act.)	2,436	3,479	3,767	4,112	4,184
Net profit (adj.)	2,436	3,479	3,767	4,112	4,184
EPS (Bt)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
PE (x)	48.3	33.8	31.2	28.6	28.1
P/B (x)	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	30.2	23.3	22.3	20.9	19.9
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1
Net margin (%)	17.4	21.2	22.3	23.4	22.7
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	181.5	178.4	168.5	156.9	150.0
Interest cover (x)	2.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5
ROE (%)	6.5	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.0
Consensus net profit	-	-	3,830	4,300	4,478
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	0.98	0.96	0.93

Source: Bangkok Expressway and Metro, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

## BUY

## (Maintained)

Share Price	Bt7.65
Target Price	Bt10.60
Upside	+38.6%
(Previous TP	Bt11.60)

#### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION**

BEM is an operator of expressway and train services in Bangkok and suburban areas under the concessions of the Expressway Authority of Thailand and the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand.

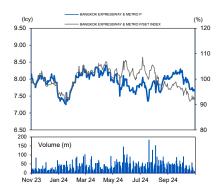
#### STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Industrials
Bloomberg ticker:	ВЕМ ТВ
Shares issued (m):	15,285.0
Market cap (Btm):	116,930.3
Market cap (US\$m):	3,436.1
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	10.5

#### Price Performance (%)

52-week high/low			).10/Bt7.25			
3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD			
(2.5)	(3.8)	(5.5)	(3.1)			
areholder	s		%			
CH Karnchang group						
Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand						
Thai NVDR						
//Share (Bt)			2.57			
FY24 Net Debt/Share (Bt)						
	3mth (2.5) nareholders nang group id Transit Au R	3mth 6mth (2.5) (3.8) nareholders nang group id Transit Authority of The R	3mth 6mth 1yr (2.5) (3.8) (5.5) sareholders hang group d Transit Authority of Thailand			

#### PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

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#### **3Q24 RESULTS**

Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	3Q24	3Q23	2Q24	yoy % chg	qoq % chg
Sales	4,365	4,257	4,023	3%	8%
Gross Profit	1,939	1,792	1,705	8%	14%
EBITDA	2,158	2,145	1,887	1%	14%
Pre-tax Profit	1,281	1,159	1,170	11%	9%
Net Profit	1,067	970	1,003	10%	6%
Core Profit	1,067	970	1,003	10%	6%
EPS (Bt)	0.070	0.063	0.066	10%	6%
Ratio (%)					
Gross Margin	44.4%	42.1%	42.4%	2.3%	2.0%
EBITDA Margin	49.4%	50.4%	46.9%	-0.9%	2.5%
Net Margin	24.4%	22.8%	24.9%	1.6%	-0.5%

Source: BEM, UOB Kay Hian

• 3Q24 earnings in line. BEM reported 3Q24 net profit of Bt1,067m, up 10% yoy and 6.4% qoq, in line with market estimate. It reported 3Q24 revenue of Bt4,365m, up 4% yoy and 8.5% qoq. The revenue improvement was mainly driven by the rail business (Bt1,782m, +8% yoy) arising from higher MRT Blue Line ridership of about 438,000 trips/day (+7% yoy), Meanwhile, revenue of the expressway business was Bt2,275m (+1% yoy) with average traffic volume of 1.12m trips/day. 3Q24 gross margin increased to 44.4%, up from 42.4% and 42.1% in 2Q24 and 3Q23, respectively. The key drivers of margin were from lower electricity cost and higher average fare rate, resulting from fare rate adjustment since 3 Jul 24 and termination of 30-day trip passes since 1 Aug 24.

#### **EARNINGS REVISION/RISK**

• We fine-tune our 2024-25 earnings forecasts to reflect 4Q24 outlook and a more conservative assumption on the expressway business in the medium to long term.

#### **EARNINGS REVISION**

	2024F			F 2025F		
(Btm)	New	Previous	Change	New	Previous	Change
Revenue	16,315	16,923	3.7%	17,530	17,550	0.1%
Net Profit	3,719	3,767	1.3%	4,270	4,112	-3.7%

Source: UOB Kay Hian

#### VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

• Maintain BUY with a lower SOTP-based target price of Bt10.60. We still hold our previous view and expectation for BEM's business outlook. We view BEM as a defensive play stock which mainly focuses on domestic consumption.

#### SHARE PRICE CATALYST

• Official announcement of Public-Private Partnerships investment in the Double Deck project, and better mobility of traffic on expressways and the MRT Blue Line.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)**

#### CG Report: 5

#### SET ESG Rating: AA

#### Environmental

Net zero. BEM aims to be a carbon neutral and net zero company by 2050 and 2065 respectively. It is committed to developing the business to be sustainable and grow according to Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Socia

- The company emphasises business operations with social responsibility in every operation by treating every stakeholder with respect for human rights as a basis, emphasises fair and equal treatment of workers, and complies with relevant laws

#### Governance

- Good governance practices. BEM is committed to operating its business in accordance with good corporate governance policy and management excellence. BEM received the "Excellent" rating on good corporate governance from the Thai Institute of Directors (IOD).

#### SOTP-BASED VALUATION

Business(es)	Value (Btm	) Note
BEM's Existing Operation	146,995	Using DCF WACC 5.61%
MRT Orange Line Project	5,724	Using DCF WACC 5.61%
Key investment(s)	9,317	
CKP	3,743	Using consensus TP
TTW	5,575	Using consensus TP
Total Value	162,037	
number of shares (m)	15,285	
Fair Value (Bt)	<u>10.60</u>	

Source: BEM. UOB Kay Hian

## **UOBKayHian**

PROFIT & LOSS         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2024F         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2024F         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2024F         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F         Year to 31 Dec (Birm)         2023         2024F         2026D         2026B         2016B         2018         2	Thailand	Dai	lу				Tuesday, 19 N	ovember	2024	
Page		2023	2024F	2025F	2026F		2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Deprec	Net turnover	16,374	16,923	17,550	18,422	Fixed assets	77,455	75,954	74,117	72,200
Part	EBITDA	7,790	8,150	8,697	9,105	Other LT assets	29,794	32,432	35,290	39,784
Total other non-operating income   764   777   802   831   Total assets   112,496   119,106   119,879   120,830   Associate contributions   0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Deprec. & amort.	1,968	1,968	2,043	2,129	Cash/ST investment	1,246	6,920	7,294	6,576
Net interest income/(expense)   (2,371)   (2,440)   (2,486)   (2,637)   (1) the current liabilities   (2,686)   (2,576)   (2,576)   (2,476)   (2,486)   (2,637)   (1) the current liabilities   (2,686)   (2,576)   (3,676)   (3,676)   (3,767)   (3,776)   (3,777)   (1) the bit   (3,777)	EBIT	5,822	6,182	6,654	6,976	Other current assets	4,001	3,810	3,177	2,280
Per-lax profit	Total other non-operating income	764	777	802	831	Total assets	112,496	119,116	119,879	120,839
Pre-tax profit	Associate contributions	0	0	0	0	ST debt	13,299	13,246	12,156	14,606
Cash FLow   Cash	Net interest income/(expense)	(2,371)	(2,440)	(2,486)	(2,637)	Other current liabilities	2,268	2,540	2,636	2,761
Minorities   0   0   4   4   4   4   4   4   4   4	Pre-tax profit	4,216	4,520	4,970	5,170	LT debt	55,121	59,832	59,649	56,228
Net profit (adj.)   3,479   3,767   4,112   4,184   4,184   10   11   11,496   11,496   11,116   11,197   120,839   120,839   11,246   11,116   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,116   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,116   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,116   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,197   120,839   11,246   11,246   11,247   11,248   11,2	Tax	(737)	(750)	(854)	(982)	Other LT liabilities	4,144	4,227	4,311	4,398
CASH FLOW   Year to 31 Dec (Btm)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   Year to 31 Dec (%)   2023   2024F   2025F   2026F   2026F	Minorities	(0)	(4)	(4)	(4)	Shareholders' equity	37,663	39,265	41,117	42,833
CASH FLOW         Year to 31 Dec (8tm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F         Year to 31 Dec (%)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F           Operating         6,353         6,202         6,888         7,338         Profitability         47.6         48.2         49.0         49.0           Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         23.4         27.7           Associates         0         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         25.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         25.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         25.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         25.7           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (3)         (2)         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0         7.0	Net profit	3,479	3,767	4,112	4,184	Minority interest	2	5	10	14
Vear to 31 Dec (Btm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F         Year to 31 Dec (%)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F           Operating         6,353         6,202         6,888         7,338         Profitability         47.6         48.2         49.6         49.7           Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         28.1           Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash Items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Cowth         10.0         10.0         Cowth         10.0         10.0         Cowth         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0	Net profit (adj.)	3,479	3,767	4,112	4,184	Total liabilities & equity	112,496	119,116	119,879	120,839
Vear to 31 Dec (Btm)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F         Year to 31 Dec (%)         2023         2024F         2025F         2026F           Operating         6,353         6,202         6,888         7,338         Profitability         47.6         48.2         49.6         49.7           Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         28.1           Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash Items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Cowth         10.0         10.0         Cowth         10.0         10.0         Cowth         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0         10.0										
Operating         6.353         6.202         6.888         7.338         Profitability           Pre-tax profit         4.216         4.520         4.970         5.170         EBITDA margin         47.6         48.2         49.6         49.4           Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         28.1           Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         6         6         6         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Investing         (518)         (3,022)         (2,980)         (4,618)         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Investinger (growth)         (1,182)										
Pre-lax profit         4,216         4,520         4,970         5,170         EBITDA margin         47.6         48.2         49.6         49.8           Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         28.1           Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         25.7           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         3         20         FOE         4.0         9.8         10.2         10.0           Investing         518         3,022         2,980         4,619         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Investing         (1,182)         4667         (2,980)         42,11         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investing         <							2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Tax         (737)         (750)         (854)         (982)         Pre-tax margin         25.7         26.7         28.3         28.1           Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Corwth <td< td=""><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>_</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>	-					_				
Deprec. & amort.         1,968         1,968         2,043         2,129         Net margin         21.2         22.3         23.4         22.7           Associates         0         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Copex (900 Mh)         737         0         0         Growth         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Investing         (518)         (3,022)         (2,980)         (4,618)         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>						-				
Associates         0         0         0         ROA         3.1         3.3         3.4         3.5           Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Copex (growth)         737         0         0         Growth         6         6         7         3.4         3.7         5.0         5.0         6         6         7         3.4         3.7         5.0         5.0         6         6         7         3.4         3.7         5.0         5.0         6         6         6         4.6         6.7         4.7         5.0         6         6         7.2         1.0         4.0		, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	_				
Working capital changes         (2,176)         467         731         1,023         ROE         9.3         9.8         10.2         10.0           Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)         Copen (Growth)         Copen (Growth)         737         0         0         Growth         Copen (Growth)         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1						· ·				
Non-cash items         2,346         (3)         (3)         (2)           Other operating cashflows         737         0         0         Growth           Investing         (518)         (3,022)         (2,980)         (4,618)         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>										
Other operating cashflows         737         0         0         Growth           Investing         (518)         (3,022)         (2,980)         (4,618)         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0		* * *				ROE	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.0
Investing         (518)         (3,022)         (2,980)         (4,618)         Turnover         16.7         3.4         3.7         5.0           Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673										
Capex (growth)         (1,182)         (467)         (206)         (211)         EBITDA         29.6         4.6         6.7         4.7           Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4										
Investments         11,802         12,013         12,227         12,445         Pre-tax profit         48.8         7.2         9.9         4.0           Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Dividend payments         (1,834)         (1,987)         (2,260)         (2,467)         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage         5.6         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4	•	, ,		• • •	* . ,					
Others         (11,138)         (14,568)         (15,001)         (16,852)         Net profit         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Dividend payments         (1,834)         (1,987)         (2,260)         (2,467)         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4					, ,					
Financing         (6,377)         2,494         (3,533)         (3,438)         Net profit (adj.)         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Dividend payments         (1,834)         (1,987)         (2,260)         (2,467)         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         0         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage         5.673         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4	Investments					·				
Dividend payments         (1,834)         (1,987)         (2,260)         (2,467)         EPS         42.8         8.3         9.2         1.7           Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0         0         1.7						•				
Issue of shares         0         4,481         0         0           Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4	· ·			• • •						
Proceeds from borrowings         (4,543)         0         (1,273)         (971)         Leverage           Loan repayment         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4						EPS	42.8	8.3	9.2	1.7
Loan repayment         0         0         0         0         Debt to total capital         64.5         65.0         63.6         62.3           Others/interest paid         (542)         5,673         374         (718)         Debt to equity         181.7         186.1         174.6         165.4			4,481							
Others/interest paid (542) 5,673 374 (718) Debt to equity 181.7 186.1 174.6 165.4		(4,543)		(1,273)		· ·				
	Loan repayment	0	0	0		Debt to total capital	64.5	65.0	63.6	62.3
Not apply inflow (autiliary) 1700 1707 (200 7704 Not debt/(apply) to apply 1704 1/05 15/0 1500	•					• •				
	Net cash inflow (outflow)	1,788	1,246	6,920	7,294	Net debt/(cash) to equity	178.4	168.5	156.9	150.0
Beginning cash & cash         0         0         0         0         Interest cover (x)         3.3         3.3         3.5         3.5           equivalent         1.246         6.920         7.294         6.576	equivalent					Interest cover (x)	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5

1,246

6,920

7,294

6,576

Ending cash & cash equivalent

#### Tuesday, 19 November 2024

#### **COMPANY UPDATE**

## **KCE Electronics (KCE TB)**

Cloudy Outlook Expected To Persist Into 4Q24

KCE's cloudy outlook is expected to persist into 4Q24, with softer revenue on a qoq basis due to weak demand from the auto sector impacting multilayer PCB, limited capacity of HDI, and ongoing machinery replacement that could still pressure sales in 4Q24. Due to the cloudy outlook of the auto industry and the downward revision of management's guidance, we revise KCE's 2024-25 earnings down by 5% and 10% respectively. Maintain HOLD with a lower target price of Bt28.00.

#### WHAT'S NEW

- Cloudy outlook expected to persist into 4Q24. KCE Electronics (KCE) forecasts a 5-7% qoq decline in revenue (in US dollar terms), primarily due to: a) weaker demand from the automotive sector which is affecting multilayer products, b) lower revenue of high-density interconnect (HDI) due to full capacity, and c) the ongoing machinery replacement efforts that continue to strain production capacity. Gross profit margin (GPM) is expected to rise to 24%, driven by anticipated Baht depreciation, ongoing workforce reductions, and improved machine efficiency. With a mix of positive and negative factors, we expect KCE's 4Q24 earnings to drop yoy but increase qoq.
- Lower 2025 revenue forecasts due to cloudy industry outlook. The company has downgraded its revenue growth forecast for 2025 from high single digit revenue growth to 0-5%, primarily due to the expectation of weak demand in the automotive sector in the US and Europe. In Sep 24, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) reported that new car registrations in the EU continued to decline, with three of the region's four major markets experiencing negative growth: France (-11% yoy), Italy (-11% yoy), and Germany (-7% yoy). In 1H25, HDI sales are expected to remain sluggish in the first half of 2025 but recover in the second half of the year.
- Expect better gross margin outlook in 2025. KCE expects significant growth in gross margin to 26% in 2025. This growth will primarily be driven by cost reductions across various areas such as manpower reduction, switching the chemical inputs for its production line and increasing machine efficiency. However, given the expected softer revenue, currency fluctuations, uncertainty surrounding raw material prices and the downward adjustment of average selling prices (ASPs), we remain cautious about KCE's gross margin prospects. Thus, we project KCE's 2025 gross margin at 23.8% (+0.8ppt yoy).

#### **KEY FINANCIALS**

Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	18,456.3	16,343.6	15,081	16,020	18,646
EBITDA	3,295.4	2,681.3	2,507	2,751	3,069
Operating profit	2,213.5	1,628.9	1,372	1,618	1,939
Net profit (rep./act.)	2,317.2	1,719.6	1,610	1,852	2,163
Net profit (adj.)	2,317.2	1,719.6	1,610	1,852	2,163
EPS (Bt)	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8
PE (x)	19.6	26.4	20.4	17.7	15.2
P/B (x)	3.4	3.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.7	16.8	12.7	11.6	10.4
Dividend yield (%)	0.6	3.1	4.0	4.6	5.4
Net margin (%)	12.6	10.5	10.7	11.6	11.6
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	20.0	3.6	(9.9)	(16.3)	(23.5)
Interest cover (x)	45.7	25.8	24.5	26.9	30.1
ROE (%)	17.3	12.7	11.6	13.0	14.7
Consensus net profit	-	-	2,002	2,140	2,321
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	0.80	0.87	0.93

Source: KCE Electronics, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

### HOLD

## (Maintained)

Share Price	Bt28.00
Target Price	Bt28.00
Upside	+0.00%
(Previous TP	Bt30.00)

#### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION**

KCE Electronics manufactures and distributes printed circuit boards under the KCE trademark. The company mainly focuses on the automobile PCB segment.

#### STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Information Technology
Bloomberg ticker:	KCE TB
Shares issued (m):	1,182.1
Market cap (Btm):	33,098.5
Market cap (US\$m):	950.2
3-mth avg daily t'over (l	JS\$m): 11.2

#### Price Performance (%)

52-week h	igh/low	Bt57.5	50/Bt27.25	
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
(24.8)	(26.8)	(32.1)	(44.3)	(49.1)
Major Sh	nareholder	s		%
Ongkosit (	Group		33.2	
Thai NVDI	R			4.9
Mr. Panja	Senadisai		4.8	
FY24 NAV	//Share (Bt)		11.92	
FY24 Net	Cash/Share		1 18	

#### PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

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**ASSISTANT ANALYST(S)** 

Thachasorn Jutaganon



#### STOCK IMPACT

- Modest increase in earnings expected in 1H25. Due to ongoing machinery replacement, limited HDI capacity, and a gradual recovery in automotive demand, we anticipate a slight qoq increase in earnings for 1H25. In 2H25, earnings are expected to improve further. For the full year of 2025, we forecast KCE's earnings growing by 15%, primarily driven by higher revenue and an improved gross margin.
- Results a huge miss. KCE posted a net profit of Bt225m (-58% yoy, -66% qoq) for 3Q24. The 3Q24 revenue in US dollar terms was US\$110m (-11% yoy, flat qoq). Revenue in Thai baht dropped 12% yoy and 5% qoq to Bt3.8b, coming in below our estimates. 3Q24 revenue was mainly pressured by: a) the currency effect, and b) lower shipment volume of printed circuit board (PCB) as the implementation of machinery upgrades affected the volume. KCE reported gross margin of 20.2% (-1.8ppt yoy, -4.6ppt qoq), mainly impacted by the baht appreciating by 4% to Bt34.80/US\$1 (3Q23: Bt35.10/US\$1, 2Q24: Bt36.70/US\$1).

#### **EARNINGS REVISION/RISK**

• Cut our 2024-25 net profit forecasts. We lower our 2024-25 net profit projections by 5% and 10% respectively to reflect lower-than-expected revenue and gross margin and higher-than-expected SG&A-to-sales. We expect revenue to be impacted by the ongoing machinery change until mid-25.

#### **EARNINGS REVISION**

		2024F			2025F	
(Bt m)	New	Old	Change	New	Old	Change
Sales	15,081	15,767	-4.3%	16,020	17,613	-9.0%
Net profit	1,610	1,697	-5.1%	1,852	2,066	-10.4%
(%)						
GPM	23.0	23.1	-0.1	23.8	24.1	-0.3

Source: KCE Electronics, UOB Kay Hian

#### VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

• Maintain HOLD with a lower target price of Bt28.00 (previous: Bt30.00). Our valuation is based on 17x 2025F PE, and we peg KCE's target PE to -1.0SD from its five-year mean. We de-rate KCE from mean PE to -1.0SD as we expect its 4Q24 earnings to be impacted by softened revenue caused by machinery issues. We also foresee a decent gross margin as we expect the baht to appreciate from 1H24.

#### SHARE PRICE CATALYST

• a) Strong demand from the automotive industry, b) baht depreciation, c) lower raw material prices, and d) higher capacity and utilisation rate

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)** 

## CG Report: 5 SET ESG Rating: -

#### Environmental

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated from business operations to become a low-carbon organisation.
- Promote sustainable production and consumption practices as well as efficient resources utilisation.

#### Social

- Support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.
- Facilitate the freedom of labour association participation and properly recognise their negotiation rights.

#### Governance

- Conduct business transparently and fairly in accordance with good governance principles and be responsible to all stakeholders.
- Continuously improve the quality of products and services and promote business innovation development with social and environmental responsibility.

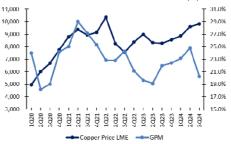
#### Tuesday, 19 November 2024

#### THB/USD VS GROSS MARGIN (%)



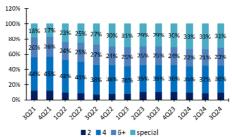
Source: KCE, BOT, UOB Kay Hian

#### COPPER LME PRICE VS GROSS MARGIN (%)



Source: KCE, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

#### PRODUCT MIX



Source: KCE, UOB Kay Hian

#### PE BAND



Source: Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

# **UOBKayHian**

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PROFIT & LOSS					<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	16,344	15,081	16,020	18,646	Fixed assets	8,592	7,290	6,361	5,417
EBITDA	2,681	2,507	2,751	3,069	Other LT assets	522	513	520	539
Deprec. & amort.	1,052	1,372	1,618	1,939	Cash/ST investment	1,767	3,616	4,571	5,734
EBIT	1,629	1,610	1,852	2,163	Other current assets	8,313	6,043	5,746	6,128
Total other non-operating income	340	1,610	1,852	2,163	Total assets	19,193	17,463	17,198	17,819
Associate contributions	14	1.4	1.6	1.8	ST debt	1,748	1,712	1,712	1,712
Net interest income/(expense)	(104)	20.4	17.7	15.2	Other current liabilities	2,813	833	83	97
Pre-tax profit	1,879	2.3	2.3	2.2	LT debt	515	515	515	515
Tax	(131)	12.7	11.6	10.4	Other LT liabilities	367	339	360	419
Minorities	(28)	4.0	4.6	5.4	Shareholders' equity	13,688	13,976	14,411	14,931
Net profit	1,720	10.7	11.6	11.6	Minority interest	61	89	117	144
Net profit (adj.)	1,720	(9.9)	(16.3)	(23.5)	Total liabilities & equity	19,193	17,463	17,198	17,819
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 31 Dec (%)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Operating	3,907	3,061	2,561	2,952	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	1,879	1,770	2,031	2,368	EBITDA margin	16.4	16.6	17.2	16.5
Тах	(131)	(132)	(151)	(176)	Pre-tax margin	11.5	11.7	12.7	12.7
Deprec. & amort.	1,052	1,135	1,133	1,130	Net margin	10.5	10.7	11.6	11.6
Working capital changes	1,116	(15)	(16)	(16)	ROA	8.6	8.8	10.7	12.4
Non-cash items	(9)	284	(448)	(360)	ROE	12.7	11.6	13.0	14.7
Other operating cashflows	0	4	(3)	(9)					
Investing	(280)	15	16	16	Growth				
Capex (growth)	(288)	148	(189)	(147)	Turnover	(11.4)	(7.7)	6.2	16.4
Investments	19	167	(203)	(187)	EBITDA	(18.6)	(6.5)	9.7	11.6
Others	(11)	401	401	401	Pre-tax profit	(24.5)	(5.8)	14.7	16.6
Financing	(3,005)	(420)	(387)	(361)	Net profit	(25.8)	(6.4)	15.0	16.8
Dividend payments	(1,441)	(1,360)	(1,417)	(1,643)	Net profit (adj.)	(25.8)	(6.4)	15.0	16.8
Issue of shares	3	(1,362)	(1,417)	(1,643)	EPS	(25.8)	(6.4)	15.0	16.8
Proceeds from borrowings	(1,561)	(36)	0	0					
Others/interest paid	(5)	0	0	0	Leverage				
Net cash inflow (outflow)	622	39	0	0	Debt to total capital	14.1	13.7	13.3	12.9
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	1,145	1,850	955	1,162	Debt to equity	16.5	15.9	15.5	14.9
Ending cash & cash equivalent	1,767	1,767	3,616	4,571	Net debt/(cash) to equity	3.6	(9.9)	(16.3)	(23.5)
·					Interest cover (x)	25.8	24.5	26.9	30.1



Tuesday, 19 November 2024

#### Disclosures/Disclaimers

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