

China Everbright Water Limited

Major turnaround this year

SINGAPORE | UTILITIES | 1Q17 RESULTS

- Revenue was in line with our expectations.
- Net profit marginally exceeded our expectations due to lower FX losses
- As of Mar-17, CEWL operates 61 water projects with another 12 in the pipeline.
- Due to recent price recovery, we downgraded our rating to "Accumulate" recommendation with a higher TP of \$\$0.57 (previous \$G\$0.56), based on lower average forward PER of 16.7x (previous 17.4x), together with forecast 3.24 SG cents dividend, implying a potential return of 19.5% from closing price.

Results at a glance

| resures at a giant | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|
| (HK\$ mn) | 1Q17 | 1Q16 | y-y (%) | Comments |
| Revenue | 774.1 | 657.2 | 17.8 | HK\$109.1mn increase in construction revenue, attributing to sponge city project and river-basin ecological restoration project in addition to the expansion and upgrading of WWT plants |
| Gross profit | 259.8 | 236.4 | 9.9 | Increase in construction services where margin is lower than the operation segment |
| Operating profit | 241.6 | 198.9 | 21.5 | FX losses in 1Q16 due to borrowings pegged to USD, and the borrowings were fully paid by Jul-16 |
| Net profit | 130.0 | 106.1 | 22.5 | In line with the above |

Source: Company, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore)

Merits of Zhangqiu integration project

End Apr-17, CEWL had secured the Zhangqiu urban-rural integration water supply concession project. The concession contract has three components:

- 1) Management contact, including maintenance and operation of the water supply assets and restructuring of water supply entities;
- **2) Build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects,** including reservoirs, water plants, and water supply facilities;
- **3) Transfer-operate-transfer (TOT) projects,** including infrastructure and supporting facilities of water supply and water supply services to the general public.

The integrated project authorised CEWL as the sole private partner to operate the whole water system in Zhangqiu district, including facilities construction, plant operation, and water asset management with a concession period of 30 years.

Approximate Rmb2bn out of total RMB3bn investment will be put into BOT sub-projects in 5 years (Rmb400mn to Rmb500mn per annum). According to the management, the return of these projects is estimated to average 5.1% without leverage. Since the funding structure of the whole project will be 2:1 of external financing to internal capital, the rate of return of the BOT sub-projects is expected to be raised to 6%. We think the mid-single digit rate of return is fair given the severe competition in water utilities sector.

Upside from higher water tariffs: Currently, the average water tariff in Zhangqiu district is Rmb2.4/tonne, while Ji'nan City is conducting progressive water tariff scheme with three ladders: Rmb4.2/tonne, Rmb5.6/tonne, and Rmb9.8/tonne. The management aims to adjust upward the water tariff in Zhangqiu, benchmarking Ji'nan city, when TOT sub-projects are commenced operation. Moreover, there is a clawback provision that CEWL will be granted fiscal subsidies if tariff rises fail to reach the scheduled level.

15 May 2017

Accumulate (Downgrade)

| TOTAL RETURN | 18.2% |
|---------------|-----------|
| TARGET PRICE | SGD 0.570 |
| FORECAST DIV | SGD 0.003 |
| CLOSING PRICE | SGD 0.485 |

COMPANY DATA

| O/S SHARES (MN): | 2,610 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| MARKET CAP (USD mn / SGD mn): | 903 / 1266 |
| 52 - WK HI/LO (SGD) : | 0.73 / 0.41 |
| 3M Average Daily T/O (mn): | 1.66 |

MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS (%)

| CHINA EVERBRIGHT WATER HLDS LTD | 74.7% |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| GAM HOLDING AG | 0.4% |
| VANGAURD GROUP | 0.4% |
| NORGESBANK | 0.3% |

PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

| | 1M T H | 3 M T H | 1Y R |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| COMPANY | (5.1) | 2.9 | (27.8) |
| STIRETURN | 3.0 | 6.1 | 22.6 |

PRICE VS. STI



Source: Bloomberg, PSR

KEY FINANCIALS

| Y/E Dec, HK\$ mn | FY 15 | FY 16 | FY 17e | FY 18 e |
|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Revenue | 1,815 | 2,494 | 3,174 | 3,969 |
| Gross profit | 824 | 906 | 1,061 | 1,281 |
| Net profit | 406 | 349 | 490 | 599 |
| P/E (x) | 21.3 | 20.0 | 16.8 | 14.1 |
| P/B (x) | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| EV/EBITDA | 15.0 | 12.3 | 10.6 | 9.0 |
| Dividend (SG Cents) | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Dividend Yield, % | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% |

Source: Company Data, PSR est.

VALUATION METHOD

P/E Multiple (PER: 16.7x)

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Updates on solutions of receivable issues

As of 1Q17, the overall repayment, measured as a percentage of the actual receivables CEWL collects from contracted repayment due from the government, was 74%, similar to 1Q16. The collection was partially subject to seasonality since receivables are only collected semi-annually rather than quarterly for Ji'nan's projects which weight in a significant amount. Therefore, it is expected to see the improvement in the half-year and annual results. Management disclosed that the contingent solutions that repayment by assets for Dongda's projects may not work. At the moment, local government could seek to partially pay back by harnessing the subsidy fund specialising in water treatment granted by central government.

Investment Action

We revised up our FY17 EPS forecast from 3.2 SG cents to 3.4 SG cents, since we expect no substantial FX losses. Due to recent price recovery, we downgraded our rating to "Accumulate" recommendation with a higher TP of \$\$0.57 (previous \$G\$0.56), based on lower average forward PER of 16.7x (previous 17.4x), together with forecast 3.24 SG cents dividend, implying a potential return of 19.5% from closing price.

Peer comparison

| Company | Bloomberg Ticker | Mkt Cap (SGD mn) | EV (SGD mn) | EV/EBITDA TTM | P/E | FRW P/E | P/B | Net D/E (%) | ROA (%) | ROE (%) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-------|---------|------|----------------|------------|------------|
| China Everbright Water Ltd | CEWL SP | 1,252.8 | 1,883.1 | 13.3 | 19.2 | 12.8 | 1.0 | 41.5 | 2.5 | 5.0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singapore | | | | | | | | | | |
| SIIC Environment Holdings Ltd | SIIC SP | 1,433.62 | 3848.16 | 19.90 | 12.54 | 12.4 | 0.99 | 102.22 | 2.67 | 8.20 |
| Hong Kong | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beijing Enterprises Water Group Ltd | 371 HK | 9,275.86 | 15,903.1 | 15.2 | 15.8 | 13.1 | 3.1 | 94.3 | 4.5 | 19.7 |
| CT Environmental Group Ltd | 1363 HK | 1,767.83 | 2,144.5 | 10.8 | 16.3 | 12.3 | 2.7 | 55.6 | 8.4 | 17.0 |
| China Water Affairs Group Ltd | 855 HK | 1,400.83 | 3,051.8 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 9.8 | 1.4 | 63.5 | 3.6 | 14.7 |
| Average | | | | 11.5 | 14.3 | 11.7 | 2.4 | 71.1 | 5.5 | 17.1 |
| China Beijing Originwater Technology Co Ltd | 300070 CH | 12,167.5 | 11.654.6 | 25.7 | 29.6 | 23.0 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 8.0 | 13.7 |
| Chongging Water Group Co Ltd | 601158 CH | 7,211.0 | 6.795.6 | 15.4 | 26.8 | 21.3 | 2.5 | Net Cash | 6.6 | 9.5 |
| Guangxi Nanning Waterworks Co Ltd | 601368 CH | 1,477.4 | 2,014.3 | 18.6 | 25.0 | N/A | 2.6 | 82.5 | 4.0 | 10.8 |
| Tianjin Capital Environmental Protection Group Co Ltd | 600874 CH | 5,314.1 | 5,570.4 | 165.2 | 68.9 | 25.7 | 6.8 | 24.9 | 4.5 | 10.2 |
| Jiangsu Jiangnan Water Co Ltd | 601199 CH | 1,313.5 | 1,170.5 | 177.7 | 21.3 | 24.4 | 2.5 | Net Cash | 8.0 | 13.7 |
| Wuhan Sanzhen Industry Holding Co Ltd | 600168 CH | 1,290.2 | 1,698.5 | 169.9 | 22.0 | 24.6 | 1.4 | 34.7 | 3.4 | 6.5 |
| Heilongjiang Interchina Water Treatment Co Ltd | 600187 CH | 1,729.5 | 1,756.4 | #N/A N/A | 344.9 | N/A | 2.4 | 38.4 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Average | | | | 95.4 | 76.9 | 23.8 | 3.1 | 36.8 | 5.0 | 9.3 |
| Source: Bloomberg, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average (comparable companies, excluding CEWL) | | | | 77.3 | 71.3 | 16.7 | 1.9 | 58.9 | 4.4 | 10.1 |
| Source: Bloomberg, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates | | | | | | | | | | |



Financials

| Income | Statement |
|--------|-----------|
|--------|-----------|

| Y/E Dec, HK\$ mn | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17e | FY18e |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 1,051 | 1,815 | 2,494 | 3,174 | 3,969 |
| Cost of sales | (454) | (991) | (1,588) | (2,113) | (2,688) |
| Gross profit | 596 | 824 | 906 | 1,061 | 1,281 |
| Other income | 13 | 104 | 128 | 167 | 216 |
| Admin & other opt exp | (87) | (214) | (298) | (235) | (303) |
| Operating profit | 523 | 714 | 735 | 993 | 1,194 |
| Finance income | 2 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Finance costs | (92) | (128) | (205) | (220) | (246) |
| Profit before tax | 433 | 596 | 537 | 789 | 965 |
| Income tax | (119) | (172) | (165) | (245) | (299) |
| Non-controlling interests | 21 | 17 | 23 | 54 | 67 |
| Net profit to shareholders | 293 | 406 | 349 | 490 | 599 |

Per share data

| Y/E Dec | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17e | FY18e |
|-----------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| EPS (HK Cents) | 11.8 | 15.8 | 13.4 | 18.8 | 23.0 |
| EPS (SG Cents) | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| DPS (HK Cents) | N/A | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 3.6 |
| DPS (SG Cents) | N/A | 0.35 | 0.37 | 0.53 | 0.63 |
| BVPS (HK\$) | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| BVPS (SG Cents) | 43.4 | 50.2 | 48.4 | 49.7 | 49.9 |

The HKD/SGD rate is based on Bloomberg forward rate as of 12th May 2017

Cash Flow

| Y/E Dec, HK\$ mn | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17e | FY18e |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| CFO | | | | | |
| Profit before tax | 433 | 596 | 537 | 789 | 965 |
| Adjustments | 122 | 166 | 258 | 314 | 351 |
| WC changes | (173) | (635) | (642) | (823) | (966) |
| Cash generated from ops | 382 | 128 | 154 | 280 | 350 |
| Others | (65) | (95) | (134) | (245) | (299) |
| Cashflow from operations | 317 | 33 | 20 | 36 | 51 |
| CFI | | | | | |
| | (2) | (2.4) | (12) | (5) | (5) |
| CAPEX, net | (3) | (24) | (13) | (5) | (5) |
| Acquisition of subsidiaries | 431 | (2,163) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 3 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| Cashflow from investments | 430 | (2,177) | (6) | 3 | 3 |
| CFF | | | | | |
| Share issurance, net | 0 | 659 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loans, net of repayments | (149) | 2,909 | 310 | 631 | 600 |
| Dividends | 0 | 0 | (26) | (14) | (20) |
| Others | (339) | (614) | (141) | (234) | (266) |
| Cashflow from financing | (488) | 2,954 | 142 | 384 | 314 |
| Net change in cash | 259 | 809 | 156 | 423 | 369 |
| Effects of exchange rate | (6) | (20) | (85) | - | - |
| Ending cash | 499 | 1,289 | 1,359 | 1,782 | 2,151 |

Source: Company, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates

Balance Sheet

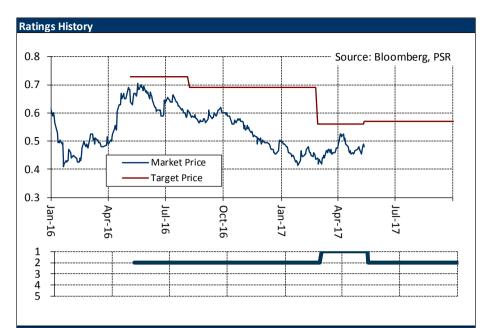
| Y/E Dec, HK\$ mn | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17e | FY18e |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 681 | 1,769 | 1,847 | 2,332 | 2,761 |
| Trade and other receivables | 331 | 642 | 589 | 688 | 779 |
| Financial receivables | 667 | 893 | 792 | 816 | 850 |
| Inventories | 29 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 21 |
| Total current assets | 1,709 | 3,315 | 3,241 | 3,857 | 4,411 |
| PP&E | 174 | 163 | 148 | 137 | 125 |
| Financial receivables | 6,219 | 7,713 | 8,180 | 8,889 | 9,537 |
| Intangible assets | 951 | 1,440 | 1,259 | 1,173 | 1,077 |
| Goodwill | 1,044 | 1,269 | 1,185 | 1,185 | 1,185 |
| Trade and other receivables | 16 | 40 | 10 | 48 | 18 |
| Total non-current assets | 8,403 | 10,624 | 10,784 | 11,436 | 11,947 |
| Total Assets | 10,112 | 13,939 | 14,025 | 15,293 | 16,357 |
| | | | | | |
| Borrowings | 763 | 2,395 | 1,521 | 1,553 | 1,553 |
| Trade and other paybales | 600 | 475 | 937 | 1,101 | 1,289 |
| Other financial liabilities | 23 | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Current tax liabilities | 20 | 52 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,405 | 2,922 | 2,472 | 2,667 | 2,855 |
| Borrowings | 1,062 | 2,424 | 3,366 | 3,966 | 4,566 |
| Other payables | 264 | 241 | - | - | - |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 829 | 1,055 | 1,052 | 1,090 | 1,090 |
| Total non-current liabilities | 2,155 | 3,720 | 4,418 | 5,056 | 5,656 |
| Total liabilities | 3,560 | 6,642 | 6,890 | 7,723 | 8,511 |
| Shareholders equity | 6,325 | 7,061 | 6,758 | 7,168 | 7,430 |
| Non-controlling interests | 226 | 236 | 378 | 401 | 416 |
| | | | | | |
| Valuation Ratios | | | | | |
| Y/E Dec | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | FY17e | FY18e |
| P/E(x) | 49.7 | 21.3 | 20.0 | 16.8 | 14.1 |
| P/B (x) | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 28.7 | 15.0 | 12.3 | 10.6 | 9.0 |
| Growth & Margins (%) | | | | | |
| Growth | | | | | |
| Revenue | -19% | 73% | 37% | 27% | 25% |
| Gross profit | 13% | 38% | 10% | 17% | 21% |
| EBIT | 10% | 37% | 3% | 35% | 20% |
| NIDAT | 00/ | 200/ | 1 / 0 / | 400/ | 220/ |

1.3%

52%

^{*}Forward multiples & yields based on current market price; historical multiples & yields based on historical market price.





| PSR Rating System | i . | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Total Returns | Recommendation | Rating |
| > +20% | Buy | 1 |
| +5% to +20% | Accumulate | 2 |
| -5% to +5% | Neutral | 3 |
| -5% to -20% | Reduce | 4 |
| < -20% | Sell | 5 |

Remarks

We do not base our recommendations entirely on the above quantitative return bands. We consider qualitative factors like (but not limited to) a stock's risk reward profile, market sentiment, recent rate of share price appreciation, presence or absence of stock price catalysts, and speculative undertones surrounding the stock, before making our final recommendation

CHINA EVERBRIGHT WATER LIMITED RESULTS

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CHINA EVERBRIGHT WATER LIMITED RESULTS



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