Starhub Ltd Positive Earnings Surprise!

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Phillip Securities Research Pte Ltd

3 February 2012

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Feb-12

Report type: Full Year Results

Company Overview

Starhub (STH) is the 2nd largest Telecommunications company in Singapore. The company also has a very strong PayTV franchise with subscriber base of more than 500k that is 60% larger than its closest competitor.

- · Positive earnings surprise for the year
- Strong postpaid ARPU for 4Q
- · One off gains lifted margins for the quarter
- Revised estimates higher by 6-8% for next 2 years
- Maintain Neutral with revised TP of S\$2.90

What is the news?

Starhub's FY11 results were significantly above our estimates of S\$301mn. Sales were higher on very strong postpaid ARPU of S\$76 for the 4th quarter, which was 4% higher as compared to the same period last year. However, margins were flattered by several one off items that were booked in the quarter. Excluding these one off items, EBITDA margin on service revenue would have been lower than the headline 33.1%, but still above recent trend levels at 31.3%. Management guided for their intention to maintain the dividend levels of 20cents for FY12E.

Fig.1. Results Summary

Income Statement					
(Extract)	FY10	FY11	y-y (%)	Comments	
(S\$'mn)					
Revenue	2,237.7	2,312.0	3.3%	Above. ARPU uplift	
EBITDA	595.8	654.6	9.9%		
EBIT	336.3	376.8	12.0%	Gained from one off items	
Net Income	263.2	315.5	19.9%	Above expectations	

Source: Company, PSR

How do we view this?

The results were positive mainly due to the strong postpaid ARPU figures. We estimate that the one off items would have resulted in a one off gain of c.S\$10mn from the EBITDA margin differential disclosed by the company. Even after stripping out the one off gains, net income would still be above our original estimates.

Investment Actions?

We revised our estimates up by 6-8% for the next two years and lifted our target price to S\$2.90. Starhub's current market price would translate to a strong yield of 7%. Maintain Neutral.



Major Shareholders	(%)
1. Asia Mobile Holdings Pte Ltd	56.7
2. Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Co.	10.0

STH SP EQUITY

Key Financial Summary

Volume, mn

2 20

2.00

1.80

FYE	12/10	12/11	12/12F	12/13F
Revenue (SGD mn)	2,238	2,312	2,403	2,452
Net Profit, adj. (SGD mn)	263	316	322	336
EPS, adj. (SGD)	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.19
P/E (X),adj.	18.5	15.5	15.2	14.5
BVPS (SGD)	0.03	0.01	0.00	(0.00)
P/B (X)	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
DPS (SGD)	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.21
Div. Yield (%)	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.6%

Source: Bloomberg, PSR est.

*All multiples & yields based on current market price

Valuation Method

DCF (WACC: 6.6%; terminal g: 0%)

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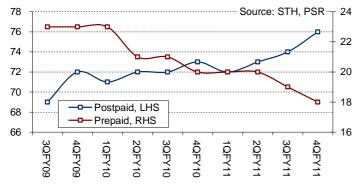




4Q Postpaid ARPU a surprise

Starhub's Postpaid ARPU improved sequentially over the year to a high of \$\$76/mth. However, it is important to note that there is an element of seasonality in this figure due to higher roaming revenue from travelers towards the end of the year. Nonetheless, we expect postpaid ARPU to remain stable in the near term and could see upside from industry efforts to review product pricing to better monetize data usage by customers. Prepaid ARPU declined sequentially to \$\$18/mth.

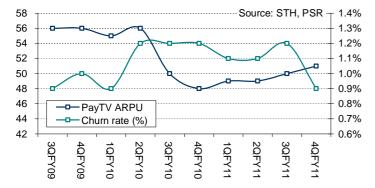
Fig.2. Mobile ARPU trends



PayTV ARPU improved

PayTV ARPU benefitted from the higher subscription fees implemented in August. Churn rate also dipped for the quarter to a low of 0.9%, reflecting stability in its customer base. Starhub also expressed its desire to promote higher quality HD content to subscribers that could increase subscription rates in the future.

Fig.3. PayTV ARPU





FYE Dec	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12F	FY13F
Valuation Ratios					
P/E (X), adj.	15.2	18.5	15.5	15.2	14.5
P/B (X)	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
EV/EBITDA (X), adj.	8.1	8.9	8.1	8.0	7.8
Dividend Yield (%)	6.7%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.6%
Per share data (SGD)					
EPS, reported	0.19	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.20
EPS, adj.	0.19	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.19
DPS	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.21
BVPS	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.00	(0.00)
Growth & Margins (%)					
Growth					
Revenue	1.1%	4.1%	3.3%	3.9%	2.0%
EBITDA	1.4%	-8.8%	9.9%	0.5%	3.3%
EBIT	-0.2%	-17.7%	12.0%	2.0%	4.8%
Net Income, adj.	2.7%	-17.7%	19.9%	2.0%	4.4%
Margins					
EBITDA margin	30.4%	26.6%	28.3%	27.4%	27.7%
EBIT margin	19.0%	15.0%	16.3%	16.0%	16.4%
Net Profit Margin	14.9%	11.8%	13.6%	13.4%	13.7%
Key Ratios					
ROE (%)	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
ROA (%)	18.8%	14.9%	17.9%	18.5%	19.0%
Net Debt/(Cash)	662	568	483	478	496
Net Gearing (X)	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
Income Statement (SGD mn)					
Revenue	2,150	2,238	2,312	2,403	2,452
EBITDA	654	596	655	658	680
Depreciation & Amortisation	(245)	(260)	(278)	(273)	(277)
EBIT	408	336	377	384	403
Net Finance (Expense)/Income	(23)	(25)	(18)	(17)	(18)
Other items	0	6	21	20	20
Associates & JVs	0	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax	385	318	380	388	405
Taxation	(66)	(54)	(64)	(66)	(69)
Profit After Tax	320	263	316	322	336
Non-controlling Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income, reported	320	263	316	322	336
Net Income, adj.	320	263	316	322	336

Source: PSR



FYE Dec	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12F	FY13F
Balance Sheet (SGD mn)					
PPE	785	776	762	769	778
Intangibles	416	452	424	444	463
Associates & JVs	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Others	5	5	3	3	3
Total non-current assets	1,206	1,232	1,188	1,215	1,244
Inventories	28	32	37	37	41
Accounts Receivables	241	276	301	307	310
Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Cash	234	238	179	185	167
Others	23	17	17	17	17
Total current assets	526	561	535	547	535
Total Assets	1,733	1,794	1,723	1,762	1,779
Short term loans	290	330	75	75	75
Accounts Payables	574	675	703	714	721
Others	62	68	125	125	125
Total current liabilities	926	1,073	903	914	921
Long term loans	605	475	588	588	588
Others	76	191	210	259	276
Total non-current liabilities	681	666	797	847	864
Non-controlling interest	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholder Equity	126	54	23	1	(6)
Cashflow Statements (SGD mn)					
CFO					
PBT	385	318	380	388	405
Adjustments	275	289	278	290	295
Cash from ops before WC changes	660	606	658	678	700
WC changes	33	64	0	5	0
Cash generated from ops	692	670	658	683	700
Taxes paid, net	0	0	0	(16)	(52)
Interest paid	(24)	(27)	(22)	(19)	(20)
Cashflow from ops	668	643	636	648	629
CFI					
CAPEX, net	(231)	(270)	(246)	(301)	(306)
Dividends from associates & JVs) o	` ó	` o´	Ò	Ò
Dividends/Interest from Investments	1	2	2	2	2
Purchase/sale of investments	0	0	0	0	0
Investments in subs & associates	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Cashflow from investments CFF	(230)	(268)	(244)	(299)	(304)
Share issuance	2	2	2	0	0
Purchase of treasury shares	0	0	(9)	0	0
Loans, net of repayments	(18)	(90)	(143)	0	0
Dividends to minority interests	0	(90)	(143)	0	0
Dividends to shareholders & capital reduction	(317)	(343)	(343)	(343)	(343)
Others	(333)	60 (271)	5 (480)	(242)	(242)
Cashflow from financing	(332)	(371)	(489)	(343)	(343)
Net change in cash	106	3	(97)	6	(18)
Effects of exchange rates	0	0	0	0	0
CCE, end Source: PSR	234	238	141	185	167







PSR Rating System		
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



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