Equity Research | Information Technology

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Tongda (698 HK)

Earnings growth to accelerate on margin expansion and robust sales growth

What's new? We have revised up our 2015 EPS estimates by 8%, taking into account upbeat management guidance for its smartphone casings business this year. We set a new target price of HK\$1.27 (17% upside), up from HK\$1.22, based on an unchanged 2015 P/E multiple of 10x on our revised EPS estimate. We maintain our Buy rating.

Better-than-expected 2014 results 2014 net profit increased 39% YoY to HK\$502m, 7% ahead of Bloomberg consensus of HK\$467m on better-than-expected margin improvement and opex control. Gross profit margin rose 1.9pp to reach a record high of 23.9% (see figure 2). Opex to sales ratio declined to 9.2%, down from 9.8% in 2013 (see figure 3).

Margin expansion to continue in 2015 Management is upbeat on the outlook for its core smartphone casings business in 2015 (51% of sales in 2014), driven by 1) robust volume growth at its key customers including **Huawei**, **Xiaomi** and **Oppo**, and 2) margin expansion on an increased sales mix for high-margin metal casings this year. Metal casings are expected to account for 20% of division sales in 2015, up from 5% in 2014. The product has a gross profit margin of over 30%, compared to 25% for existing plastic casings.

Premium customer mix Huawei was Tongda's largest customer for smartphone casings, accounting for over 50% of the division's sales in 2014, followed by Xiaomi (around 20%). Lenovo is the largest customer for its notebook casings.

Up to HK\$500m capex for capacity expansion in 2015 To support the increase in demand for metal casings, Tongda will expand its number of CNC (computer numerical control) machines to 1,500 sets by end of the year, up from 500 sets at present. Total capex for 2015 will be around HK\$450m-500m, down from HK\$625m in 2014. (Capex in 2014 was high due to spending on a new factory, which was completed in late 2014.)

Our divisional sales growth forecasts We project a 35% YoY increase in smartphone casing sales in 2015, and a 20% YoY rise in home appliance casing sales. However, we expect sales growth for notebook casings to slow to 5% YoY, down from 17% YoY growth in 2014, on expected lackluster notebook demand (IDC expects a 3.9% YoY decline in notebook shipment in 2015). Overall, we project 25% sales growth for 2015.

Valuation We believe the company's valuation remains undemanding, despite the 26% share price rally YTD. The stock is trading at 8.8x our revised 2015 EPS estimate.

Risks Key risks include a rapid slowdown in China's smartphone market, a poor yield for metal casings, and delays in the installation of CNC machinery.

Buy (maintained) Target price: HK\$1.27



Joseph Ho, CFA SFC CE No. AFP308 josephho@gfgroup.com.hk +852 3719 1030

Ryan Zhu, CPA SFC CE No. BDK820 zhuran@gfgroup.com.hk +86 755 88263160

GF Securities (Hong Kong) Brokerage Limited 29-30/F, Li Po Chun Chambers 189 Des Voeux Road Central Hong Kong

Stock performance (HK\$)



Source: Bloomberg

Key data

Mar 19 close (HK\$)	1.12						
Share in issue (m)	5,469						
Major shareholder	Wang Ya Nan (47.4%)						
Market cap (HK\$bn)	6.1						
3M avg. vol. (m)	15.3						
52W high/low (HK\$)	1.41 /0.77						

Source: Bloomberg

Stock valuation

	Turnover (HK\$ m)	YoY chg (%)	Net profit (HK\$m)	EPS (HK\$)	YoY chg (%)	P/E (x)	P/B (x)	Dividend Yield (%)	ROE (%)	Net gearing (%)
2013	3,627	6	360	0.07	16	15.2	2.2	2.2	15.8	23.9
2014	4,791	32	502	0.09	26	12.0	1.7	2.7	16.9	13.8
2015E	5,974	25	706	0.13	37	8.8	1.6	3.4	18.9	18.1
2016E	7,021	18	876	0.16	24	7.1	1.4	4.2	20.5	12.4
2017E	8,267	18	1084	0.20	24	5.7	1.2	5.2	21.8	6.9

Sources: Company data, GF Securities (HK) Note: Calculated based on diluted shares.



Figure 1: Revenue mix by product (2014)

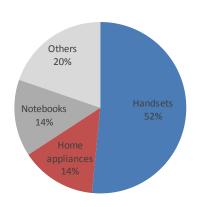


Figure 2: Sales and margin forecasts



Sources: Company data, GF Securities (HK)

Figure 3: Opex to sales ratio

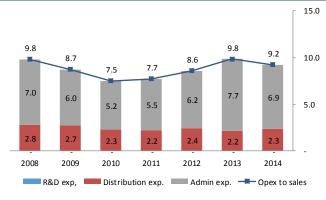


Figure 4: Half-yearly earnings projections (HK\$ m)



Sources: Company data

Figure 5: Earnings projections (HK\$ m)

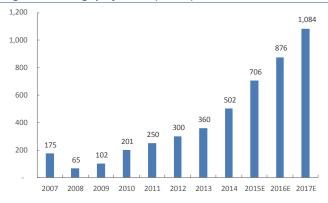
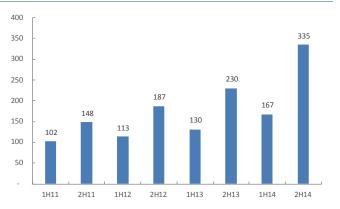


Figure 6: Half-yearly earnings (HK\$ m)



Sources: Company data, GF Securities (HK)



Figure 7: 2014 results summary

(HK\$m)	2013	2014	YoY chg	1H13	2H13	1H14	2H14	YoY chg Remarks
Handsets	1,860	2,415	30%	823	1,037	958	1,457	41% Key customers include Huawei, Xiaomi, Oppo, etc
Home appliances	544	666	22%	270	274	324	342	25% Key customers include Haier, Gree, Midea
Notebooks	580	680	17%	224	357	287	392	10% Strong demand from Lenovo
Others	643	923		373	270	531	392	45%
Turnover	3,627	4,791	32%	1,690	1,937	2,101	2,690	39%
Gross profit	798	1,144	43%	356	442	482	661	49%
Gross margin (%)	22.0	23.9		21.0	22.8	23.0	24.6	
Opex to sales (%)	9.8	9.2		10.0	9.7	10.5	8.3	
Other income/gains	47	27		15	32	-	27	
Opex	(356)	(442)	24%	(168)	(188)	(220)	(222)	18%
Other expenses	(21)	(27)		(5)	(16)	0	(27)	
Operating profit	467	701	50%	197	270	262	439	62%
Op. margin (%)	12.9	14.6		11.6	14.0	12.5	16.3	
Finance costs	(52)	(57)		(21)	(31)	(27)	(30)	
Pre-tax income	415	643	55%	175	240	235	407	70%
Taxation	(46)	(94)		(37)	(9)	(48)	(47)	
Effective tax (%)	11.1	14.7		21.2	3.7	20.2	11.5	
Minority interests	(9)	(47)		(8)	(1)	(21)	(26)	
Net profit	360	502	39%	130	230	167	335	46%
Net margin (%)	9.9	10.5		7.7	11.9	8.0	12.4	
EPS (fully diluted) HK cents	7.36	9.30	26%					EPS dilution due to share placement in March 2014

Sources: Company data, GF Securities (HK)

Figure 8: Financial statements

Inco	Balance Sheet										
Year end Dec (HK\$ m)	2013	2014	2015E	2016E	2017E	Year end Dec (HK\$ m)	2013	2014	2015E	2016E	2017E
Handsets	1,860	2,415	3,260	3,912	4,695	Cash/ST Investments	241	478	224	383	594
Home appliances	544	666	800	919	1,057	Account receivables	1,586	2,166	2,619	3,078	3,624
Notebooks	580	680	714	749	787	Inventory	1,088	1,401	1,718	2,006	2,347
Others	643	923	1,200	1,440	1,728	Other Current Assets	134	134	134	134	134
Turnover	3,627	4,791	5,974	7,021	8,267	Total current assets	3,048	4,266	4,695	5,601	6,698
Gross profit	798	1,144	1,493	1,790	2,150	Prop, plant and equipment	1,328	1,757	2,077	2,092	2,107
Other income/gains	47	27	30	30	30	Intangible assets	6	0	0	0	0
Selling & distribution exp.	(79)	(112)	(131)	(154)	(182)	Other LT Assets	275	344	344	344	344
Admin exp.	(278)	(330)	(418)	(492)	(579)	Total Assets	4,657	6,367	7,116	8,037	9,149
Other expenses	(21)	(27)	(25)	(25)	(25)						
Operating profit	467	701	949	1,150	1,394	ST Debt	592	629	629	629	629
Finance costs	(52)	(57)	(60)	(60)	(60)	Trade payables	894	1,329	1,534	1,791	2,095
Share of profits	(0)	(2)	-	-	-	Other Current Liabilities	328	374	374	374	374
Pre-tax income	415	643	889	1,090	1,334	Total current liabilities	1,814	2,332	2,537	2,794	3,098
Taxation	(46)	(94)	(133)	(163)	(200)	LT Debt	258	352	352	352	352
Minority interests	(9)	(47)	(50)	(50)	(50)	Other LT Liab	36	47	47	47	47
Net profit	360	502	706	876	1,084	Minority Interests	94	159	209	259	309
						Shareholders' Equity	2,455	3,477	3,971	4,584	5,343
						Total Equity & liabilities	4,657	6,367	7,116	8,037	9,149

Cash F	Fir	nancial R	atio								
Year end Dec (HK\$ m)	2013	2014	2015E	2016E	2017E		2013	2014	2015E	2016E	2017E
Pretax profit	415	643	889	1,090	1,334	Margins					
Tax Paid	(46)	(94)	(133)	(163)	(200)	Gross margin (%)	22.0	23.9	25.0	25.5	26.0
Depr/Amort	153	175	180	185	185	EBITDA margin (%)	17.1	18.3	18.9	19.0	19.1
Change in working capital	(536)	(459)	(565)	(490)	(583)	Operating profit margin (%)	12.9	14.6	15.9	16.4	16.9
Others	65	-	-	-	-	Net margin (%)	9.9	10.5	11.8	12.5	13.1
Operational cash flow	51	265	371	621	736	Return/Profitability					
Capex	(210)	(625)	(500)	(200)	(200)	ROA (%)	8.1	9.1	10.5	11.6	12.6
Assoc, MI, Invsmt	(23)	-	-	-	-	ROE (%)	15.8	16.9	18.9	20.5	21.8
Investment cash flow	(233)	(625)	(500)	(200)	(200)	Balance sheet					
Net Change in Debt	197	131	-	-	-	Net gearing	23.9	13.8	18.1	12.4	6.9
New Capital	-	672	-	-	-	Current ratio (x)	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2
Dividend	(102)	(162)	(212)	(263)	(325)	Working capital					
Others	23	-	-	-	-	Days receivable (days)	160	165	160	160	160
Financing cash flow	117	641	(212)	(263)	(325)	Days inventory (days)	140	140	140	140	140
FX and others	85	(44)	88	-	-	Days payable (days)	115	133	125	125	125
Chg in Cash	20	237	(253)	158	211	Others					
Beginning cash	221	241	478	224	383	Effective tax (%)	11.1	14.7	15.0	15.0	15.0
Ending cash	241	478	224	383	594	Dividend payout ratio (%)	34	32	30	30	30

Sources: Company data, GF Securities (HK)



Rating definitions

Benchmark: Hong Kong Hang Seng Index

Time horizon: 12 months

Company ratings

Buy Stock expected to outperform benchmark by more than 15%

Accumulate Stock expected to outperform benchmark by more than 5% but not more than 15%

Hold Expected stock relative performance ranges between -5% and 5%Underperform Stock expected to underperform benchmark by more than 5%

Sector ratings

Positive Sector expected to outperform benchmark by more than 10%

Neutral Expected sector relative performance ranges between -10% and 10%

Cautious Sector expected to underperform benchmark by more than 10%

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