Nat Resources & Energy Independent Power Producers Equity - China



China Resources Power (836 HK)

N: Lack of growth, high exposure to tariff cuts and weak utilisation

- FY14 normalised attributable net profit grew 25.9% to HKD13bn, stripping out HKD4.4bn in total impairments, 18.7% and 7.8% above HSBCe and consensus, respectively
- Upcoming tariffs cut and ongoing weak utilisation to fully offset benefits from low coal price
- Reiterate Neutral, with TP of HKD22.40 (was HKD23.70) based on average of DCF and RoE implied PB valuations

Investment thesis: Upcoming tariffs cut and ongoing weak utilisation are particularly impacting eastern coastal markets. For CR Power, which has the highest exposure among IPPs to these markets (c37-39% of total generation), we expect this will fully offset the benefit of lower coal prices and lower interest rates. While wind utilisation should improve in FY15, wind accounts for only 10% of CR Power's installed capacity. As a result, we revise down our FY15e/16e earnings forecasts by 1.4%/12.6%, bringing them 6.8%/13.1% below consensus.

FY14 results: CR Power reported normalised attributable net profit of HKD13,018m after stripping out a total of HKD4,366 in impairments on its coal mines and certain obsolete power assets (HKD3,273m related to subsidiaries Shanxi Liangsheng and CR Shanxi coal mines, and HKD1,293m related to the associate CR Taiyuan coal mines) and one-off gains of HKD913m; up 25.9% y-o-y, 18.7%/7.8% above HSBCe/consensus.

Key takeaways from results briefing: the company expects FY15 unit fuel cost to decline by 1% y-o-y; targets FY15 utilisation hours of 5,050 (down 3.5% y-o-y from 5,235 hours in 2014) for coal power; targets flat coal production in FY15 at 11mt; does not expect further coal mine impairment in FY15 given that coal mines account for a small proportion of its total net assets.

Reiterate Neutral with TP of HKD22.40 (from HKD23.70) based on a 10% discount (to reflect long-term carbon cost) to the average of our DCF and RoE implied PB valuation. We revise down our DCF valuation to HKD20.12 (from HKD21.59) based on an unchanged WACC of 6.0%. Our revised RoE implied PB valuation of HKD29.72 (was HKD31.15) is based on a 2015e PB of 1.8x. Downside/upside risks: include lower/higher-than-expected generation; and coal prices rising/falling faster than expected.

Source: HSBC

HSCEI
12,122
0836.HK
836 HK

Enterprise value (HKDm) 184,733 Free float (%) 35 Market cap (USDm) 12,181 Market cap (HKDm) 94,515

Neutral

Target price (HKD) 22.40 Share price 19.70 (HKD) Potential return (%) 13.7

Note: Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price

Dec	2014 a	2015 e	2016 e
HSBC EPS	2.73	2.42	2.37
HSBC PE	7.2	8.1	8.3
Performance	1M	3M	12M
Performance Absolute (%)	1M -2.0	3M -2.2	12M 1.7

20 March 2015

Summer Huang*

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

+852 2996 6976

summeryyhuang@hsbc.co.hk

Jenny Cosgrove*

Head of Utilities & Alternative Energy Research, Asia Pacific The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking **Corporation Limited** +852 2996 6619 jennycosgrove@hsbc.com.hk

Associate

View HSBC Global Research at: http://www.research.hsbc.com

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Disclaimer & **Disclosures**

This report must be read with the disclosures and the analyst certifications in the Disclosure appendix, and with the Disclaimer, which forms part of it

Source: HSBC



Financials & valuation

Financial statements				
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
Profit & loss summary (HKI	Dm)			
Revenue	70,681	69,710	72,544	80,931
EBITDA	20,849	26,483	26,790	28,763
Depreciation & amortisation	-8,600	-9,486	-10,396	-11,163
Operating profit/EBIT	12,249	16,997	16,394	17,601
Net interest	-1,268	-1,661	-1,512	-1,218
PBT	11,184	16,663	16,279	17,937
HSBC PBT	11,184	16,663	16,279	17,937
Taxation	-4,291	-3,499	-3,419	-3,767
Net profit	9,215	11,601	11,343	12,546
HSBC net profit	13,018	11,601	11,343	12,546
Cash flow summary (HKDm	1)			
Cash flow from operations	26,500	18,728	24,528	25,870
Capex	-23,894	-21,442	-17,698	-15,322
Cash flow from investment	-22,018	-18,970	-14,845	-12,049
Dividends	-5,537	-3,737	-4,671	-4,567
Change in net debt	10,429	7,877	-919	-5,113
FCF equity	-10,626	-8,444	1,327	4,988
Balance sheet summary (F	łKDm)			
Intangible fixed assets	21,434	21,135	20,832	20,524
Tangible fixed assets	146,908	158,664	165,767	169,726
Current assets	32,835	31,220	37,406	42,419
Cash & others	8,290	7,567	12,854	16,435
Total assets	225,648	236,084	249,698	259,071
Operating liabilities	35,858	30,141	31,624	33,354
Gross debt	100,433	107,587	111,955	110,423
Net debt	92,143	100,019	99,101	93,988
Shareholders funds	70,794	79,101	86,325	94,828
Invested capital	157,029	173,312	179,527	182,880

Invested capital	70,794 157,029	79,101 173,312	86,325 179,527	94,828 182,880
·	•	•	•	
Ratio, growth and per share	e analysis			
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
Y-o-y % change				
Revenue	1.6	-1.4	4.1	11.6
EBITDA	-5.9	27.0	1.2	7.4
Operating profit	-17.2	38.8	-3.6	7.4
PBT	-30.7	49.0	-2.3	10.2
HSBC EPS	25.7	-11.3	-2.2	10.6
Ratios (%)				
Revenue/IC (x)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
ROIC	5.0	8.1	7.3	7.7
ROE	19.2	15.5	13.7	13.9
ROA	4.1	6.9	6.5	6.7
EBITDA margin	29.5	38.0	36.9	35.5
Operating profit margin	17.3	24.4	22.6	21.7
EBITDA/net interest (x)	16.4	15.9	17.7	23.6
Net debt/equity	130.2	126.4	114.8	99.1
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	4.4	3.8	3.7	3.3
CF from operations/net debt	28.8	18.7	24.8	27.5
Per share data (HKD)				
EPS reported (fully diluted)	1.93	2.42	2.37	2.62
HSBC EPS (fully diluted)	2.73	2.42	2.37	2.62
DPS	0.78	0.97	0.95	1.05
Book value	14.78	16.51	18.02	19.79

Valuation data							
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e			
EV/sales	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.2			
EV/EBITDA	8.5	7.0	6.9	6.2			
EV/IC	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0			
PE*	7.2	8.1	8.3	7.5			
P/Book value	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0			
FCF yield (%)	-12.5	-10.0	1.6	5.9			
Dividend yield (%)	4.0	4.9	4.8	5.4			

Note: * = Based on HSBC EPS (fully diluted)



Note: price at close of 19 Mar 2015



China Resources Power

- ► The company expects FY15e unit fuel costs to fall 1% and FY15e utilisation hours of 5,050; it does not expect further impairments on coal mines
- ▶ We revised down FY15e/16e earnings by 1.4%/12.6%, as upcoming tariffs cut and ongoing weak utilisation are set to fully offset benefit from low coal prices and lower interest rates
- Remain Neutral, with TP of HKD22.40 (was HKD23.70) based on the average of our DCF and RoE implied PB valuations

FY14 results

CR Power reported normalised attributable net profit of HKD13,018m – after stripping out a total of HKD4,366 in impairments on its coal mines and certain obsolete power assets (HKD3,273m related to subsidiaries Shanxi Liangsheng and CR Shanxi coal mines, and HKD1,293m related to the associate CR Taiyuan coal mines) and one-off gains of HKD913m – up 25.9% y-o-y, 18.7%/7.8% above HSBCe/consensus.

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HKDm	2014	2013	YoY	HSBC 2014e	vs HSBC	2H 2014	HSBC 2H 2014e	vs HSBC
Operating revenues, net	70,681	69,582	1.6%	66,467	6.3%	34,855	30,641	13.8%
Fuel	(31,044)	(33,067)	-6.1%	(30,784)	0.8%	(14,637)	(14,377)	1.8%
Repairs and maintenance	(1,762)	(1,580)	11.5%	(1,726)	2.1%	(932)	(896)	4.0%
Depreciation and amortisation	(8,600)	(7,371)	16.7%	(8,164)	5.3%	(4,520)	(4,085)	10.7%
Others	(17,025)	(12,768)	33.3%	(8,955)	90.1%	(10,161)	(2,091)	385.9%
Operating expenses	(58,431)	(54,787)	6.7%	(49,629)	17.7%	(30,251)	(21,449)	41.0%
Profit from operations	12,249	14,795	-17.2%	16,838	-27.2%	4,604	9,192	-49.9%
Operating margin	17.3%	21.3%	-3.9%-pt	25.3%	-8.0%-pt	13.2%	30.0%	-16.8%-pt
Non operating income (expenses)								
Other income	2.058	1.849	11.3%	1,699	21.1%	1.387	1.028	34.9%
Other gains and losses	913	861	6.0%	(1)		313	(601)	-152.0%
Finance costs	(3,325)	(3,328)	-0.1%	(4.038)	-17.6%	(1,777)	(2,489)	-28.6%
Share of results of	(710)	1,961	-136.2%	1,340	-153.0%	(1,295)	755	-271.4%
associates/JVs	(- /	,		,		(, ,		
Pretax profit	11,184	16,137	-30.7%	14,413	-22.4%	3,231	7,884	-59.0%
Income tax	(4,291)	(3,552)	20.8%	(3,027)	41.8%	(2,269)	(1,005)	125.8%
Tax rate	38.4%	22.0%	16.4%-pt	21.0%	17.4%-pt	70.2%	12.7%	57.5%-pt
Net Profit before minority interest	6,894	12,585	-45.2%	11,386	-39.5%	962	6,879	-86.0%
Minority interest/perpetual	2,321	(1,570)	-247.9%	(1,117)	-307.8%	2,189	(1,249)	-275.2%
Net Profit	9,215	11,016	-16.3%	9,842	-6.4%	3,151	5,630	-44.0%
NPM	13.0%	15.8%	-2.8%-pt	14.8%	-1.8%-pt	9.0%	18.4%	-9.3%-pt
Normalised attributable Profit	13,018	10,344	25.9%	10,968	18.7%	5,891	3,841	53.4%
Basic EPS	1.94	2.32	-16.4%	2.05	-5.4%	0.66	0.77	-14.3%
Diluted EPS	1.93	2.31	-16.5%	2.05	-5.9%	0.66	0.78	-15.4%
Proposed DPS	0.78	0.75	4.0%	0.66	18.8%	0.70	0.58	21.5%

Source: Company data, HSBC estimates

Key takeaways from briefing

The company expects **FY15e unit fuel cost** to decline by 1% y-o-y.

The company targets **FY15e utilisation hours of 5,050** (down 3.5% y-o-y from 5,235 hours in FY14) for coal power; target flat growth for coal production in FY15 at 11mt.

The company does not expect any further **coal mine related impairments** in FY15, as coal mines account for only a small proportion of its total net assets.

The company guides FY15e capex at HKD22.4bn, with the majority being spent on thermal power projects.

Around 4.7% of FY14 power generation participates in **direct power purchases** and the company expects this figure to increase to 5.8% in FY15e. CR Power accounted for 70% of direct power purchase generation in Henan province in 2014.

The company targets to add total attributable capacity of $3.4 \, \text{GW}/1.3 \, \text{GW}/2.46 \, \text{GW}$ new coal power capacity in FY15e/16e/17e and 800-1,000MW new wind capacity pa.



Earnings revisions

We revised down our FY15e/16e earnings by 1.4%/12.6%. This is mainly due to: 1) the updating of our model to reflect actual 2014 numbers; and 2) upcoming tariffs cut and weak utilisation, which should completely offset the benefit of low coal prices and lower interest rates. The full-year impact of tariff cuts will be felt in from 2016.

Our FY15/16 earnings estimates are 6.8%/13.1% below consensus.

CRP - Summary of changes in our earnings forecasts (HKDm)				
Revenues	2015e	2016e	2017e	
Old	72,751	77,099		
New	69,710	72,544	77,060	
% Change	-4.2%	-5.9%		
EBIT				
Old	17,977	19,064		
New	16,997	16,394	19,584	
% Change	-5.4%	-14.0%	.,	
Net Profit				
Old	11,769	12,980		
New	11,601	11,343	12,546	
% Change	-1.4%	-12.6%	,	
EPS (HKD)				
Old	2.46	2.71		
New	2.42	2.37	2.62	
% Change	-1.4%	-12.6%	2.02	

Source: HSBC estimates



Key assumptions

Our key assumptions are shown in the table below.

		New		Old		% change	•
Power business	2015e	2016e	2017e	2015e	2016e	2015e	2016e
Total attributable capacity (MW)	35,812	37,632	40,592	36,727	36,727	-2.5%	2.5%
% change	13.1%	5.1%	7.9%	14.2%	0.0%		
Average tariff (HKD/MWh)	625	612	612	647	665	-3.4%	-8.0%
% change	-3.7%	-3.3%	-2.1%	-2.8%	-1.6%		
Unit Fuel cost (HKD/MWh)	217	217	217	227	227	-5.0%	-5.0%
% change	-5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Average utilisation hours	5,235	5,235	5,235	5,392	5,554	-3.0%	-6.1%
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Coal mines business							
Production (mt)	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	0.0%	0.0%
% change	-25.8%	0.0%	0.0%	-25.8%	0.0%		
Others							
Effective Interest rate	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	4.3%	4.3%	1.0%	1.0%
% change	-0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%		

Source: HSBC estimates

Tariffs cuts: We assume RMB0.025/KWh (or 5.8%) tariff cuts at the coal power plants from June 2015. Our assumptions for tariffs also take into account a change in the HSBC 2015e forecast of the HKD/RMB exchange rate (from HKD/RMB1.26 to HKD/RMB 1.23).

This cut would follow previous cuts, which averaged RMB0.015 (or 3.5%) per KWh in September 2013 and RMB0.093 (or 2.2%) per KWh in September 2014. The purpose of the proposed tariff cut would differ from the 2013/2014 cuts, which were mainly to supplement the renewables energy fund. Instead, this time the main purpose would be to: 1) lower commercial tariffs to the same level as industrial tariffs; 2) supplement the subsidy for gas power; and 3) supplement the subsidy for de-NOx and de-SOx. Lowering commercial tariffs reflects the government's mandate to stimulate domestic economy growth.

Unit fuel cost: HSBC's commodities team expects the China thermal coal price (5,500 kcal) to fall 12%/6.4% in FY14e/FY15e to RMB518/RMB485 per ton. For more details, see *China Coal Sector: Searching for the bottom*, 18 March 2015.

We assume CR Power's unit fuel costs will fall 5% in FY15e, based on the company's coal purchase pattern.

Utilisation hours: We assume flat utilisation hours in FY15e/16e in line with company guidance. Structural changes – reduced energy intensity and new supply through UHV/hydro/nuclear – are particularly impacting eastern costal markets (Jiangsu, Zhejiang) in which CR Power has the highest exposure among IPPs. CR Power derives 39%/37% of total power generation from these region in FY14a/15e.

Interest rate cut: We assume a 50bp interest rate cut in FY15.



Sensitivity analysis

CRP - Sensitivity analysis against FY15/16 earnings					
	2015e		2016e		
	1% increase	1% decrease	1% increase	1% decrease	
Coal prices	-2.2%	2.2%	-2.2%	2.2%	
On-grid tariffs	-3.8%	3.8%	-4.1%	4.1%	
Utilization Rates	1.7%	-1.7%	1.9%	-1.9%	
	25bp increase	25bp decrease	25bp increase	25bp decrease	
Interest rates	-1.7%	1.7%	-1.9%	1.9%	

Source: HSBC estimates

The table above summarises our sensitivity analysis against FY15/16 earnings.

Valuation and risks

Our TP of HKD22.40 (from 23.70) is based on a 10% discount (to reflect long-term carbon cost) to the average of our DCF and RoE implied PB valuations.

Our revised DCF valuation is HKD20.12 (was HKD21.59) based on an unchanged WACC of 6.0%. The decline in DCF valuation is due to the downward revision in our forecasts as a result of the upcoming tariff cut and weak utilisation, which we expect to completely offset the benefit of low coal prices and lower interest rates.

Our RoE-implied PB valuation of HKD29.72 (from HKD31.15), based on a 2015e PB of 1.8x (from 1.9x). The decline in PB multiples is due to lower RoE (average FY15-17e). Our PB multiples are based on an RoE of 14.3% (was 15.1%), divided by an unchanged cost of equity of 8.2%.

Under our research model, for stocks without a volatility indicator, the Neutral band is 5ppt above and below the hurdle rate for Hong Kong stocks of 8.5%. Our target price of HKD22.50 implies a potential return of 13.7%, within the Neutral band of our model; therefore, we are reiterating our Neutral rating. Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated

CRP - Valuation summary					
	Old	New	% change		
DCF					
Equity value	103,433	96,405	-6.8%		
WACC	6.26%	6.26%	0.0%		
DCF per share	21.59	20.12	-6.8%		
RoE implied PB					
FY15 Book Value	80,688	79,101	-2.0%		
FY15 BVPS	16.84	16.51	-2.0%		
RoE (average FY15-17e)	15.1%	14.3%	-5.0%		
Cost of Equity	8.2%	8.2%	-0.3%		
RoE/Cost of Equity	1.9x	1.8x	-2.7%		
RoE implied PB per share	31.15	29.72	-4.6%		
Average of DCF and RoE implied PB per share	26.37	24.92	-5.5%		
Carbon discount	10%	10%			
Target price	23.70	22.40	-5.5%		

Source: HSBC estimates



Disclosure appendix

Analyst Certification

The following analyst(s), economist(s), and/or strategist(s) who is(are) primarily responsible for this report, certifies(y) that the opinion(s) on the subject security(ies) or issuer(s) and/or any other views or forecasts expressed herein accurately reflect their personal view(s) and that no part of their compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or views contained in this research report: Summer Huang and Jenny Cosgrove

Important disclosures

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HSBC believes that investors utilise various disciplines and investment horizons when making investment decisions, which depend largely on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings, risk tolerance and other considerations. Given these differences, HSBC has two principal aims in its equity research: 1) to identify long-term investment opportunities based on particular themes or ideas that may affect the future earnings or cash flows of companies on a 12 month time horizon; and 2) from time to time to identify short-term investment opportunities that are derived from fundamental, quantitative, technical or event-driven techniques on a 0-3 month time horizon and which may differ from our long-term investment rating. HSBC has assigned ratings for its long-term investment opportunities as described below.

This report addresses only the long-term investment opportunities of the companies referred to in the report. As and when HSBC publishes a short-term trading idea the stocks to which these relate are identified on the website at www.hsbcnet.com/research. Details of these short-term investment opportunities can be found under the Reports section of this website.

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Rating definitions for long-term investment opportunities

Stock ratings

HSBC assigns ratings to its stocks in this sector on the following basis:

For each stock we set a required rate of return calculated from the cost of equity for that stock's domestic or, as appropriate, regional market established by our strategy team. The price target for a stock represents the value the analyst expects the stock to reach over our performance horizon. The performance horizon is 12 months. For a stock to be classified as Overweight, the potential return, which equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated, must exceed the required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile*). For a stock to be classified as Underweight, the stock must be expected to underperform its required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile*). Stocks between these bands are classified as Neutral.

Our ratings are re-calibrated against these bands at the time of any 'material change' (initiation of coverage, change of volatility status or change in price target). Notwithstanding this, and although ratings are subject to ongoing management review, expected returns will be permitted to move outside the bands as a result of normal share price fluctuations without necessarily triggering a rating change.



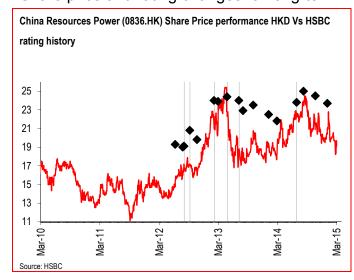
*A stock will be classified as volatile if its historical volatility has exceeded 40%, if the stock has been listed for less than 12 months (unless it is in an industry or sector where volatility is low) or if the analyst expects significant volatility. However, stocks which we do not consider volatile may in fact also behave in such a way. Historical volatility is defined as the past month's average of the daily 365-day moving average volatilities. In order to avoid misleadingly frequent changes in rating, however, volatility has to move 2.5 percentage points past the 40% benchmark in either direction for a stock's status to change.

Rating distribution for long-term investment opportunities

As of 20 March 2015, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

Overweight (Buy)	41%	(30% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Neutral (Hold)	39%	(28% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Underweight (Sell)	20%	(20% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)

Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



Recommendation & price target history					
From	То	Date			
Overweight	Neutral	20 August 2012			
Neutral	Overweight	25 September 2012			
Overweight	Neutral	22 February 2013			
Neutral	Restricted	15 May 2013			
Restricted	Overweight	25 July 2013			
Overweight	Neutral	16 July 2014			
Target Price	Value	Date			
Price 1	19.30	27 June 2012			
Price 2	19.00	12 August 2012			
Price 3	19.10	20 August 2012			
Price 4	20.80	25 September 2012			
Price 5	19.80	08 November 2012			
Price 6	24.00	22 February 2013			
Price 7	23.90	18 March 2013			
Price 8	24.40	13 May 2013			
Price 9	Restricted	15 May 2013			
Price 10	24.00	25 July 2013			
Price 11	22.90	19 August 2013			
Price 12	23.50	22 October 2013			
Price 13	22.50	24 January 2014			
Price 14	21.80	17 March 2014			
Price 15	23.80	16 July 2014			
Price 16	25.00	28 August 2014			
Price 17	24.50	09 November 2014			
Price 18	23.70	22 January 2015			
Course: HCDC					

Source: HSBC

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HSBC & Analyst disclosures

Disclosure checklist				
Company	Ticker	Recent price	Price Date	Disclosure
CHINA RESOURCES POWER	0836.HK	19.14	20-Mar-2015	2, 6, 7

Source: HSBC

- 1 HSBC has managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for this company within the past 12 months.
- 2 HSBC expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this company in the next 3 months.
- 3 At the time of publication of this report, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is a Market Maker in securities issued by this company.
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- As of 31 January 2015, this company was a client of HSBC or had during the preceding 12 month period been a client of and/or paid compensation to HSBC in respect of investment banking services.
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- 8 A covering analyst/s has received compensation from this company in the past 12 months.
- 9 A covering analyst/s or a member of his/her household has a financial interest in the securities of this company, as detailed below.
- 10 A covering analyst/s or a member of his/her household is an officer, director or supervisory board member of this company, as detailed below.
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Issuer of report

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Level 19, 1 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong SAR

Telephone: +852 2843 9111 Fax: +852 2596 0200

Website: www.research.hsbc.com

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Global Natural Resources & Energy Research Team

Metals and Mining

Thorsten Zimmermann, CFA

+44 20 7991 6835 thorsten.zimmermann@hsbcib.com

Ash Lazenby

+44 20 7991 2351 ash.lazenby@hsbcib.com

Emma Townshend

+27 21 794 8345 emma.townshend@za.hsbc.com

Derryn Maade

+27 11 676 4519 derryn.maade@za.hsbc.com

North America & Latin America

James Steel

james.steel@us.hsbc.com +1 212 525 3117

Patrick Chidley, CFA

+1 212 525 4915 patrick.t.chidley@us.hsbc.com

Botir Sharipov, CFA

+1 212 525 5150 botir.x.sharipov@us.hsbc.com

Howard Wen

+1 212 525 3726 howard.x.wen@us.hsbc.com

Osmar Camilo

+55 11 3847 9502 osmar.c.camilo@hsbc.com.br

Chris Chen

+852 2822 4277 chrisIchen@hsbc.com.hk

Jeff Yuan

+852 3941 7010 jeffsyuan@hsbc.com.hk

Brian Cho

+822 3706 8750 briancho@kr.hsbc.com

Jigar Mistry, CFA +91 22 2268 1079

iigarmistrv@hsbc.co.in

Jena Han

+822 3706 8772 jenahan@kr.hsbc.com

Kirtan Mehta, CFA

+91 80 3001 3779 kirtanmehta@hsbc.co.in

Energy

Europe Gordon Gray

Global Sector Head, Oil and Gas

+44 20 7991 6787 gordon.gray@hsbcib.com

Christoffer Gundersen

Analyst

+44 20 7992 1728 christoffer.gundersen@hsbcib.com

Phillip Lindsay

+44 207 991 2577 phillip.lindsay@hsbcib.com

CEEMEA

Bülent Yurdagül +90 212 376 46 12 bulentyurdagul@hsbc.com.tr

Ildar Khaziev, CFA

+7 495 645 4549 ildar.khaziev@hsbc.com

Luiz F Carvalho

+55 11 3371 8178 luiz.f.carvalho@hsbc.com.br

Filipe M Gouveia

+55 11 3847 5451 filipe.m.silva@hsbc.com.br

Thomas C. Hilboldt, CFA

Regional Head of Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Research, Asia Pacific

+852 2822 2922 thomaschilboldt@hsbc.com.hk

Dennis Yoo, CFA

dennishcvoo@hsbc.com.hk +852 2996 6917

Kumar Manish

+91 22 2268 1238 kmanish@hsbc.co.in

Alok P Deshpande

+91 22 681245 alokpdeshpande@hsbc.co.in

Tinatina Si

+852 2996 6590 tingtingsi@hsbc.com.hk

Hanyu Zhang

+852 2996 6539 hanyu.zhang@hsbc.com.hk Chemicals

Europe

Dr Geoff Haire

Global Sector Head, Chemicals +44 20 7991 6892 qeoff.haire@hsbcib.com

Sebastian Satz, CFA

+44 20 7991 6894 sebastian.satz@hsbcib.com

Yonah Weisz

+972 3 710 1198 yonahweisz@hsbc.com

Sriharsha Pappu, CFA

sriharsha.pappu@hsbc.com +971 4 423 6924

Nicholas Paton, CFA

+971 4 423 6923

Dennis Yoo, CFA dennishcyoo@hsbc.com.hk +852 2996 6917

Utilities

Europe

Adam Dickens

+44 20 7991 6798 adam.dickens@hsbcib.com

Verity Mitchell

+44 20 7991 6840 verity.mitchell@hsbcib.com

Pablo Cuadrado

+34 91 456 62 40 pablo.cuadrado@hsbc.com

Jenny Cosgrove

Regional Head of Utilities and Alternative Energy, Asia Pacific

nicholas.paton@hsbc.com

+852 2996 6619 jennycosgrove@hsbc.com.hk

Arun Kumar Singh Analyst

+91 22 2268 1778 arun4kumar@hsbc.co.in

Gloria Ho

+852 2996 6941 gloriapyho@hsbc.com.hk

Summer Y Y Huang

summeryyhuang@hsbc.com.hk +852 2996 6976

Yeon Lee

+822 3706 8778 veonlee@kr.hsbc.com

Latin America

Francisco Navarrete

+55 11 2169 4612 francisco.navarrete@hsbc.com.br

Tatiane Shibata

+55 11 2169 4407 tatiane.shibata@hsbc.com.br

CEEMEA

Levent Bayar

+90 212 376 46 17 leventbayar@hsbc.com.tr

Dmytro Konovalov

+7 495 258 3152 dmytro.konovalov@hsbc.com

Alternative Energy Jenny Cosgrove

Regional Head of Utilities and Alternative Energy, Asia Pacific jennycosgrove@hsbc.com.hk

+852 2996 6619

Sean McLoughlin

+44 20 7991 3464 sean.mcloughlin@hsbcib.com

Charaniit Singh

+91 80 3001 3776 charanjit2singh@hsbc.co.in

Gloria Ho

+852 2996 6941 gloriapyho@hsbc.com.hk

Christian Rath

+49 211 910 3049 christian.rath@hsbc.de

Specialist Sales

James Lesser

+44 20 7991 1382 james.lesser@hsbcib.com

Mark Van Lonkhuyzen

+44 20 7991 1329 mark.van.lonkhuyzen@hsbcib.com

Zara Nathan

+44 20 7991 5761 zara.nathan@hsbc.com