EARNINGS REVIEW ZTE Corp. (0763.HK)

Neutral

Below expectations: Pushing out revenue recognition to 2015

What surprised us

ZTE reported 2014 EPS of Rmb0.77, below GHe and Reuters consensus of RMB0.85 and RMB0.79, respectively. Highlights: (1) 2014 revenue of RMB81.5bn grew 8% yoy, below GHe and consensus of +12% and +14%, respectively, due to a delay in revenue recognition. ZTE guided for 2015 revenue at RMB90-95bn, above prior GHe of RMB90bn. ZTE counts 4G and optical transmission capex in both China and overseas markets as growth drivers in 2015. (2) ZTE shipped 48mn smartphones in 2014 and guided for 60mn unit shipment in 2015, below prior GHe of 53mn and 65mn, respectively. However, the smartphone ASP erosion has decelerated from -33% yoy in 2013 to -8% yoy in 2014, above GHe of -15% yoy, thanks to strong sales of high-end smartphones in Europe and the US. (3) Gross profit margin was 29.1% in 2014, slightly below GHe of 29.5%, but OPM of 6.4% was in-line with GHe. (4) ZTE generated a positive FCF of Rmb95mn in 2014, above our forecast of -Rmb3bn due to its positive operating cash flow of RMB1.1bn.

What to do with the stock

We remain Neutral on the stock. ZTE's 2015 revenue guidance is encouraging, but we attribute the upside to the revenue push-out from 2014 to 2015. Our 2016E revenue estimate is 5% below consensus because we expect China telco capex to increase 7% yoy in 2015E but decrease 5-10% yoy in 2016E. We adjust our EPS forecasts by 3% and -1% in 2015E-2016E to factor in the push out, and introduce 2017E EPS estimate of Rmb1.13. Our 12m TP rises from HK\$15.9 (A share: Rmb12.5) to HK\$17.2 (A share: Rmb13.6), still based on 13X NTM P/E but rolling forward to 1H16 from 4Q15. Key risks: Upside – prolonged 4G capex spending; Downside: FX loss.

ZTE 2014 result was below expectations due to the revenue push out

	•		
		2014	
	Actual	GH e	Diff.
Revenue (Rmb mn)	81,471	84,146	-3.2%
EPS (Rmb)	0.77	0.85	-9.9%

Source: Company data, Gao Hua Securities Research

INVESTMENT LIST MEMBERSHIP Neutral

Coverage View: Neutral

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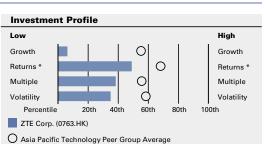
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Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates, FactSet. Pri

Absolute

Rel. to MSCI Hong Kong



disclosure section of this document.

Key data				Current
Price (HK\$)		17.30		
12 month price target (HKS	5)			17.20
000063.SZ Price (Rmb)				21.92
000063.SZ 12 month price	target (Rmb)			13.60
Market cap (HK\$ mn / US\$	mn)		57,490.	6 / 7,413.0
Foreign ownership (%)				
	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E
EPS (Rmb) New	0.77	0.99	1.01	1.13
EPS revision (%)	(9.9)	2.8	(1.0)	
EPS growth (%)	94.0	29.1	1.6	12.6
EPS (dil) (Rmb) New	0.77	0.99	1.00	1.13
P/E (X)	17.1	14.0	13.8	12.2
P/B (X)	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (X)	9.4	8.6	7.9	7.6
Dividend yield (%)	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.1
ROE (%)	11.1	13.0	12.0	12.3
CROCI (%)	16.7	14.0	12.7	11.0



	-	
Low		High
Growth		Growth
Returns *		Returns *
Multiple		Multiple
Volatility		Volatility
Percentile 20t	h 40th 60th 80t	h 100th
ZTE Corp. (0763.HK)		
O Asia Pacific Technolo	gy Peer Group Average	
* Returns = Return on Cap	ital For a complete descri profile measures plea	



(1.3)

(4.7)

ce as of 3/26/2015 close

2.2

(2.2)

11.8

(0.2)

ZTE Corp.: Summary Financials

Profit model (Rmb mn)	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E	
Total revenue	81,471.3	92,711.6	93,630.8	96,642.1	
Cost of goods sold	(57,759.0)	(65,841.0)	(66,956.8)	(69,397.0)	
SG&A	(12,529.7)	(13,888.2)	(13,760.6)	(13,887.8)	
R&D	(9,008.5)	(9,973.1)	(9,786.8)	(9,818.6)	
Other operating profit/(expense)	2,545.3	2,563.6	2,568.2	2,583.2	
ESO expense					
EBITDA	6,545.1	7,460.5	7,660.7	8,031.7	
Depreciation & amortization	(1,825.8)	(1,887.6)	(1,966.0)	(1,909.8)	
EBIT	4,719.3	5,573.0	5,694.7	6,121.9	
Interest income	433.6	506.6	573.1	630.8	
Interest expense	(1,561.7)	(1,606.6)	(1,705.7)	(1,664.3)	
Income/(loss) from uncons. subs.	(53.0)	(27.1)	(27.1)	(27.1)	
Others Pretax profits	0.0 3,538.2	0.0 4,445.9	0.0 4,535.1	0.0 5,061.2	
Income tax	(810.5)	4,445.9 (937.7)	(972.1)	(1,057.8)	
Minorities	(94.2)	(107.1)	(108.2)	(1,037.0)	
Net income pre-preferred dividends	2,633.6	3,401.0	3,454.8	3,891.7	
Preferred dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net income (pre-exceptionals)	2,633.6	3,401.0	3,454.8	3,891.7	
Post-tax exceptionals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Net income	2,633.6	3,401.0	3,454.8	3,891.7	
EPS (basic, pre-except) (Rmb)	0.77	0.99	1.01	1.13	
EPS (basic, post-except) (Rmb)	0.77	0.99	1.01	1.13	
EPS (diluted, post-except) (Rmb)	0.77	0.99	1.00	1.13	
EPS excl. ESO expense (basic) (Rmb)					
EPS excl. ESO expense (dil.) (Rmb)					
DPS (Rmb)	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.30	
Dividend payout ratio (%)	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	
Free cash flow yield (%)	0.2	4.2	11.1	3.6	_
Growth & margins (%)	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E	-
Sales growth	8.3	13.8	1.0	3.2	
EBITDA growth	35.4	14.0	2.7	4.8	
EBIT growth	52.8	18.1	2.2	7.5	
Net income growth	94.0	29.1	1.6	12.6	
EPS growth	94.0	29.1	1.6	12.6	
Gross margin	29.1	29.0	28.5	28.2	
EBITDA margin	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	
EBIT margin	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	
Cash flow statement (Rmb mn)	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E	
Net income pre-preferred dividends	2,633.6	3,401.0	3,454.8	3,891.7	
D&A add-back	1,825.8	1,887.6	1,966.0	1,909.8	
Minorities interests add-back	94.2	107.1	108.2	111.7	
Net (inc)/dec working capital	(5,165.4)	(2,949.6)	695.1	(2,678.1)	
Other operating cash flow	1,713.8	559.1	93.5 6 217 5	(699.8) 2 525 2	
Cash flow from operations	1,101.9	3,005.3	6,317.5	2,535.3	
Capital expenditures	(1,007.1)	(939.2)	(857.2)	(768.7)	
Acquisitions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Divestitures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Others	(1,015.2)	(1,164.3)	(1,280.3)	(1,260.5)	
Cash flow from investments	(2,022.3)	(2,103.4)	(2,137.5)	(2,029.1)	
Dividends paid (common & pref)	(103.1)	(687.5)	(887.9)	(901.9)	
Inc/(dec) in debt	(447.7)	2,768.6	(742.2)	2,301.1	
Common stock issuance (repurchase)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other financing cash flows	(1,416.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash flow from financing	(1,967.7)	2,081.1	(1,630.0)	1,399.2	
Total cash flow	(2,888.1)	2,983.0	2,549.9	1,905.4	

Balance sheet (Rmb mn)	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E
Cash & equivalents	17,230.1	20.213.1	22,763.1	24,668.5
Accounts receivable	48,316.8	54,891.1	53,128.7	58,592.8
Inventory	19,592.3	22,261.4	21,799.1	23,980.9
Other current assets	1,151.2	1,131.7	1,095.3	1,208.0
Total current assets	86,290.4	98,497.2	98,786.2	108,450.2
Net PP&E	7,664.4	7,621.7	7,507.1	7,323.4
Net intangibles	3,741.5	4,100.1	4,486.2	4,889.3
Total investments	4,205.4	4,205.4	4,205.4	4,205.4
Other long-term assets	8,352.8	7,708.2	7,460.7	8,228.0
Total assets	110,254.6	122,132.7	122,445.6	133,096.3
Accounts payable	49,049.5	55,343.3	53,813.8	58,781.6
Short-term debt	20,347.8	23,116.4	22,374.2	24,675.3
Other current liabilities	567.9	1,894.7	1,833.9	2,022.5
Total current liabilities	69,965.1	80,354.4	78,021.8	85,479.4
Long-term debt	11,745.4	11,745.4	11,745.4	11,745.4
Other long-term liabilities	2,251.6	919.7	890.2	981.8
Total long-term liabilities	13,997.0	12,665.1	12,635.6	12,727.1
Total liabilities	83,962.1	93,019.5	90,657.4	98,206.5
Preferred shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total common equity	24,878.6	27,592.1	30,159.0	33,148.8
Minority interest	1,413.9	1,521.1	1,629.2	1,741.0
Total liabilities & equity	110,254.6	122,132.7	122,445.6	133,096.3
BVPS (Rmb)	7.23	8.03	8.77	9.64
Ratios	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E
CROCI (%)	16.7	14.0	12.7	11.0
ROE (%)	11.1	13.0	12.0	12.3
ROA (%)	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.0
ROACE (%)	9.3	10.3	10.2	10.7
Inventory days	101.2	116.0	120.1	120.4
Receivables days	209.6	203.2	210.5	211.0
Payable days	294.0	289.4	297.5	296.1
Net debt/equity (%)	56.5	50.3	35.7	33.7
Interest cover - EBIT (X)	4.2	5.1	5.0	5.9
Valuation	12/14	12/15E	12/16E	12/17E
P/E (analyst) (X)	17.1	14.0	13.8	12.2
P/B (X)	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (X)	9.4	8.6	7.9	7.6
EV/GCI (X)	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Dividend yield (%)	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.1

Note: Last actual year may include reported and estimated data.

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

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Exhibit 1: We adjust our EPS forecasts by 3% and -1% in 2015E and 2016E ZTE forecasts revisions

	2015E			2016E			2017E		
	New	Old	Diff.	New	Old	Diff.	New	Old	Diff.
Revenue (Rmb mn)	92,712	89,827	3.2%	93,631	91,718	2.1%	96,642		
Gross margin	29.0%	28.7%	30bps	28.5%	28.0%	48bps	28.2%		
Operating margin	6.6%	6.6%	-8bps	6.7%	6.7%	-4bps	7.0%		
Net profit (Rmb mn)	3,401	3,308	2.8%	3,455	3,488	-1.0%	3,892		
Net margin	3.7%	3.7%	-1bps	3.7%	3.8%	-11bps	4.0%		
EPS (Rmb)	0.99	0.96	2.8%	1.01	1.01	-1.0%	1.13		

Source: Gao Hua Securities Research

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

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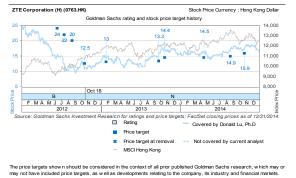
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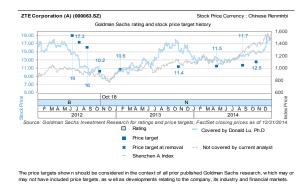
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