



# Lee & Man Paper [2314.HK]

## In-line 2017 Results. Tissue paper remains a growth driver.

Lee and Man Paper's (LMP) 2017 results were in line with previous guidance. During the results presentation, LMP management reiterated its positive view on the outlook for both containerboard and tissue paper operations. Even though management didn't release any concrete guidance on average selling prices or margin movement, it expects sales volume to pick up after the low season during Chinese New Year and pricing to hold up. LMP management believes that new capacity in the industry will be lower than the expectations of some investors, given environmental protection issues and import quotas for waste paper. New capacity in the industry will be absorbed by 2-3% YoY increase in annual demand. LMP will add 0.5m tonnes of new packaging paper capacity in Vietnam, so the Company's total annual packaging paper capacity will reach 6.53m tonnes by the end of 2019, up 8.3%. The capacity expansion in Vietnam is intended for capturing opportunities from the re-location of manufacturing activity from China to Southeast Asia. LMP didn't announce any expansion plan for containerboard machines in China. LMP had annual tissue paper capacity of 685,000 tonnes at the end of 2017. Total annual tissue paper capacity will reach 795,000 tonnes in mid-2018. At this stage, LMP's tissue paper products are a growth driver. LMP is selling the tissue paper on both an OEM basis and through its own brand, Hanky. The mix of tissue paper is 90%/10% OEM/Hanky in 2018. We maintain the view that LMP's basic investment theme remains on track. We still believe that the market has underappreciated LMP's growth potential in the China tissue paper market and that concerns about new capacity in the industry are somewhat overdone. LMP is now trading at 7.3x 2018E PER. We maintain our BUY rating on LMP, with a new target price of HK\$12.52 (based on 10x 2018E PER, in line with its historical average and lower than the average of its listed peers).

#### **Investment Highlights**

- 2017 net profit jumped 76%. LMP's turnover was HK\$25,836.9m in 2017, up 40.8% YoY, from HK\$18,347.1m in 2016. The turnover growth was driven mainly by a 44% YoY increase in the average selling price to about HK\$4,678 per tonne, as sales volume was down 1.9% YoY to 5.5m tonnes in 2017. LMP's gross profit margin was 29.1% in 2017, up from 22.2% in 2016. LMP's SG&A rose 35.2% YoY, because of higher selling expenses due to an increase in logistics costs. Interest expenses were up 11% YoY, from HK\$167.2m in 2016 to HK\$185.3m in 2017. Net profit was up 76% YoY, from HK\$2,862.7m in 2016 to HK\$5,040.3m in 2017. Net profit per tonne for containerboard was HK\$910 and that for tissue paper was HK\$953 per tonne. LMP declared a final dividend of HK\$0.20 for 2017, up from HK\$0.11 for 2016, implying a payout ratio of 34% in 2017. The Company's tissue paper business reported an operating profit margin of 18.9% in 2017, up from 8.6% in 2016. Tissue business accounted for 10.5% of LMP's total turnover in 2017. LMP had total annual tissue paper capacity of 685,000 tonnes at the end of 2017.
- Tissue paper remains a growth driver. LMP's tissue paper capacity will increase to 795,000 tonnes per year by mid-2018. Despite high pulp costs, the profitability of LMP's tissue paper business remains stable, given its economies of scale. LMP will continue to adopt effective marketing strategies to grow its tissue paper business: a) selling its own-brand products, and b) promotion via online channels. LMP has three years' operating history in tissue paper manufacturing, which in our view, offers the Company the option of spinning off its tissue paper business. We still maintain the view that the tissue paper business is a medium- to long-term growth driver for LMP.
- Concerns about the containerboard paper segment overdone. Despite concerns about an increase in new capacity in the industry, LMP management believes that the increase will be lower than what some investors expect. We believe that containerboard prices will be supported by ongoing pollution controls in China and the paper mills' strategy of maintaining prices by selling less volume. LMP management said that paper prices are unlikely to see a major correction. We still maintain the view that market concerns about the supply/demand situation seem overdone. The import quotas for waste paper released by Chinese government will also help constrain an increase in new capacity.

Key Financials (in HKDm)	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E
Revenue	17,615.6	18,341.7	25,836.9	28,024.6	29,828.7
Change (YoY %)	3.0	4.1	40.9	8.5	6.4
Gross Profit	3,578.3	4,080.5	7,512.9	7,873.4	8,111.0
Gross Margin %	20.3	22.2	29.1	28.1	27.2
Net Profit	2,331.8	2,862.7	5,040.5	5,638.7	5,717.9
Net Margin %	13.2	15.6	19.5	20.1	19.2
EPS (Basic)	0.50	0.63	1.10	1.23	1.25
Change (YoY %)	23.9	24.2	75.7	11.9	1.4
OPS	\$0.180	\$0.220	\$0.370	\$0.426	\$0.489
ROE (%)	13.4	16.8	26.0	24.1	21.9
Dividend Yield (%)	2.01	2.46	4.13	4.75	5.47
PER (x)	17.7	14.3	8.1	7.3	7.2
PBR (x)	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.5
FCF Yield (%)	3.02%	2.94%	3.15%	12.94%	14.98%
Capex (m)	(2,849.5)	(3,800.0)	(3,600.0)	(2,600.0)	(1,500.0)
Free cash flow per share	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.3
Net Gearing (%)	65.6	73.0	58.5	45.8	34.6

#### China Materials -

**Paper** 

# BUY

Close: HK\$8.95 (FEB 28, 2018)

Target Price: HK\$12.52

#### Share Price Performance



Sources: Bloomberg, CGIS Research

Market Cap	US\$5,146m
Shares Outstanding	4,505.4m

Auditor	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Free Float	30%

52W range HK\$5.9-10.52

3M average daily T/O US\$14.4m

Major Shareholding Lee Wan Keung (56.0%)

#### Mark Po, CFA — Senior Analyst

(852) 3698-6318

markpo@chinastock.com.hk

Wong Chi Man, CFA —Head of Research

(852) 3698-6317

cmwong@chinastock.com.hk



Figure 1: LMP's 2016 Interim Results highlights

2016 Interim Results Highlights (HKD m)	1H 2015	2H 2015	1H 2016	2H 2016	1H 2017	2H 2017
Revenue	8,695	8,920	8,369	9,973	11,440	14,397
Cost of sales and services	-6,902	-7,136	-6,424	-7,837	-8,361	-9,963
Gross profit	1,794	1,785	1,944	2,136	3,079	4,434
Other income and other gains and losses	148	293	310	258	344	379
Distribution and selling expenses	-166	-152	-114	-138	-205	-230
Administrative expenses	-417	-380	-408	-467	-515	-776
Finance costs	-71	-84	-87	-80	-81	-104
JV & Associates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit before tax	1,288	1,462	1,645	1,709	2,621	3,703
Income tax expense	-168	-251	-215	-276	-427	-856
MI	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit for the period	1,120	1,212	1,430	1,432	2,194	2,847
Owners of the Company	1,120	1,212	1,430	1,432	2,194	2,847
Gross margin (%)	20.6	20.0	23.2	21.4	26.9	30.8
Operating margin (%)	15.6	17.3	20.7	17.9	23.6	26.4
Net Margin (%)	12.9	13.6	17.1	14.4	19.2	19.8

Source: Company, CGIS Research



Figure 2: Key Assumptions for LMP

Figure 2: Key Assumptions to	OI LIVIP							
	2012	2013	2014	2015*	2016	2017	2018F	2019F
Turnover (HKD m)								
Linerboard	9,418.0	13,166.0	13,237.0	13,576.0	14,334.0	20,120.0	19,114.0	18,158.3
Medium	1,073.0	1,356.0	1,547.0	1,547.0	1,240.0	1,407.0	1,804.3	2,528.3
Whiteboard	601.9	1,800.9	1,531.0	1,394.0	1,463.0	1,575.0	2,093.2	2,510.2
Pulp	331.1	647.4	710.0	674.9	303.0	16.0	8.0	0
Tissue Paper	0	0	74.1	423.8	1,001.7	2,718.9	5,005.2	6,631.9
Total	11,424.0	16,970.4	17,099.1	17,615.6	18,341.7	25,836.9	28,024.6	29,828.7
YoY Change (%)								
Linerboard		39.8	0.5	2.6	5.6	40.4	(5.0)	(5.0)
Medium		26.4	14.1	0	(19.8)	13.5	28.Ź	40.1
Whiteboard		199.2	(15.0)	(8.9)	` 4.9	7.7	32.9	19.9
Pulp		95.5	` 9.7	(4.9)	(55.1)	(94.7)	(50.0)	(100.0)
Tissue Paper				,	136.4	171.4	`84.1	` 32.Ś
Total .		48.6	0.8	3.0	4.1	40.9	8.5	6.4
Gross margin (%)	17.1	17.0	18.0	20.3	22.2	29.1	28.1	27.2
Linerboard	17.5	17.5	18.6	20.8	22.3	29.5	28.5	27.5
Medium	13.0	13.0	13.0	15.0	17.3	24.5	23.5	22.5
Whiteboard	17.0	17.0	17.0	20.0	22.3	29.4	28.4	27.4
Pulp	18.0	15.4	17.4	19.4	19.4	22.4	21.4	20.4
Tissue Paper	0	0	25.0	25.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0
Net margin (%)	11.6	11.5	11.1	13.2	15.6	19.5	20.1	19.2
5 ( )								
Cost (HKD m)								
Cost of Sales	(9,473)	(14,084)	(14,028)	(14,037)	(14,261)	(18,324)	(20,151)	(21,718)
S,G&A	(660.2)	(934.0)	(1,038.9)	(1,114.2)	(1,127.3)	(1,726.6)	(1,872.8)	(1,993.4)
Financial Expenses	(70.1)	(148.9)	(214.6)	(154.9)	(167.2)	(185.3)	(199.1)	(203.0)
YoY Change (%)								
Cost of Sales		48.7	(0.4)	0.1	1.6	28.5	10.0	7.8
R&D		41.5	11.2	7.2	1.2	53.2	8.5	6.4
Financial Expenses		112.4	44.2	(27.9)	8.0	10.8	7.4	2.0
CAPEX (HKD m)	1,600.0	2,242.5	2,093.3	2,849.5	3,800.0	3,600.0	2,600.0	1,500.0
Net Gearing (%)	57.7	62.7	62.0	65.6	73.0	58.5	45.6	34.2
Shipment (000 tonnes)								
Linerboard	2,658	3,861	3,945	4,316	4,565	4,460	4,460	4,460
Medium	326	431	508	509	397	271	421	621
Whiteboard	176	519	437	425	454	376	526	664
Tissue Paper	0	0	10	48	141	352	600	795
Shipment YoY Change (%)								
Linerboard		45	2	9	6	(2)	0	0
Medium		32	18	0	(22)	(32)	55	48
Whiteboard		195	(16)	(3)	` 7	(17)	40	26
Tissue Paper			( - /	(-)	194	15Ó	70	33
ASP (HK\$)								
Linerboard	3,543.3	3,410.0	3,355.4	3,145.5	3,140.0	4,511.2	4,285.7	4,071.4
Medium	3,291.4	3,146.2	3,045.3	3,039.3	3,123.4	5,191.9	4,932.3	4,685.7
Whiteboard	3,419.8	3,470.0	3,503.4	3,280.0	3,222.5	4,188.8	3,979.4	3,780.4
Tissue Paper	0	0 0	7,413.4	8,828.7	7,104.1	7,724.1	8,342.0	8,342.0
ASP YoY Change (%)								
Linerboard		(3.8)	(1.6)	(6.3)	(0.2)	43.7	(5.0)	(5.0)
Medium		(4.4)	(3.2)	(0.2)	2.8	66.2	(5.0)	(5.0)
Whiteboard		1.5	1.0	(6.4)	(1.8)	30.0	(5.0)	(5.0)
Tissue Paper		1.5	1.0	(0.4)	(1.6)	8.7	8.0	(5.0)
Sources: Company, CGIS Rese	aarch				(10.0)	0.7	0.0	

Sources: Company, CGIS Research



Figure	2: Earn	ings pro	iection
--------	---------	----------	---------

Figure 2: Earnings proje											
Income Statement (HKDm)	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018F	FY2019F	Cash Flow Statement (HKDm)	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018F	FY2019F
Revenue	17,616	18,342	25,837	28,025	29,829	Net Income	2,876	3,481	6,566	6,784	6,869
Growth yoy%	3.0%	4.1%	40.9%	8.5%	6.4%	Depreciation & Amort.	858	927	1,096	1,183	1,233
Gross Profit	3,578	4,081	7,513	7,873	8,111	Change in Working Capital	365	593	(2,770)	(65)	(461)
Growth yoy%	16.5%	14.0%	84.1%	4.8%	3.0%	Cash from Ops.	4,098	5,001	4,892	7,902	7,641
Selling General & Admin Exp.	(1,114)	(1,127)	(1,727)	(1,873)	(1,993)	Capital Expenditure	(2,850)	(3,800)	(3,600)	(2,600)	(1,500)
Others Operating Expenses/Items	0	0	0	0	0	Sale of Property, Plant, and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Income	2,464	2,953	5,786	6,001	6,118	Change in Investing Acitivities	(146)	(715)	554	(1,129)	(1,250)
Growth yoy%	n.a.	19.9%	95.9%	3.7%	1.9%	Cash from Investing	(2,996)	(4,515)	(3,046)	(3,729)	(2,750)
Interest Expense	(154.9)	(167.2)	(185.3)	(199.1)	(203.0)	Net increase in bank borrowings	20,439	(716)	1,531	300	300
Interest and Invest. Income	, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	ŭ	,	, ,	,		
Income/(Loss) from Affiliates	0	0	0	0	0	Issuance of Common Stock	0	0	0	0	0
Other Non-Operating Inc. (Exp.)	13.2	22.3	(69.2)	0	0	Common Dividends Paid	(739)	(939)	(1,270)	(1,782)	(2,049)
Impairment of Goodwill	0	0	0	0	0	Special Dividend Paid	( )	()	( -,	( -, /	(=,,
Gain (Loss) On Sale Of Invest.	428	546	792	805	785	Other Financing Activities	(957)	(517)	(1,133)	(901)	(903)
Gain (Loss) On Sale Of Assets	.20	0.0		000		Cash from Financing	18,742	(2,171)	(871)	(2,383)	(2,652)
Income Tax Expense	(418)	(491)	(1,283)	(968)	(981)	Cash from Financing	10,142	(=, ,	(0, 1)	(2,000)	(2,002)
Minority Int. in Earnings	0	0	(1,200)	0	0	Not Change in Cash	19,845	(1,684)	974	1,789	2,238
Net Income	2332	2863	<b>5040</b>	5639	5718	Net Change in Cash	13,043	(1,004)	314	1,703	2,230
Growth yoy%	47.4%	22.8%	76.1%	11.9%	1.4%						
Growin yoy 76	77.770	22.076	70.176	11.976	1.7/0						
Balance Sheet (HKDm)	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018F	FY2019F	Ratios	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018F	FY2019F
ACCETC						Des files billion					
ASSETS	0.050	4.074	0.040	4.000	0.070	Profitability	0.00/	0.40/	40.00/	40.50/	44.00/
Cash And Equivalents	2,959	1,274	2,249	4,038	6,276	Return on Assets %	6.6%	8.1%	12.9%	12.5%	11.8%
Receivables	4,869	4,960	6,776	7,350	7,823	Return on Capital %	6.7%	8.0%	13.2%	13.0%	12.3%
Inventory	3,092	2,914	4,954	4,878	5,192	Return on Equity %	13.4%	16.8%	26.0%	24.1%	21.8%
Other Current Assets	122	40	84	49	52	Marie Arabata					
Total Current Assets	11,042	9,189	14,063	16,315	19,343	Margin Analysis	00.00/	00.00/	00.40/	00.40/	07.00/
Net Property, Plant & Equipment	23,351	24,312	27,459	28,876	29,144	Gross Margin %	20.3%	22.2%	29.1%	28.1%	27.2%
Long-term Investments	-	-	-	-	-	SG&A Margin %	6.3%	6.1%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%
Other Intangibles	-	-	-	-	-	EBIT Margin %	14.0%	16.1%	22.4%	21.4%	20.5%
Deferred Tax Assets, LT	4 000	4 405	4 700	4.700	4 700	EBITDA Margin %	18.9%	21.2%	26.6%	25.6%	24.6%
Other Long-Term Assets	1,206	1,495	1,768	1,768	1,768	Net Income Margin %	13.2%	15.6%	19.5%	20.1%	19.2%
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	-	A					
Accounts Receivable Long-Term	-	-	-	-	-	Asset Turnover	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Long Term Assets	24,557	25,807	29,227	30,644	30,912	Total Asset Turnover	0.5x	0.5x	0.6x	0.6x	0.6x
Total Assets	35,599	34,996	43,290	46,959	50,254	Fixed Asset Turnover	0.7x	0.7x	0.9x	0.9x	1.0x
						Accounts Receivable Turnover	3.3x	3.7x	4.4x	4.0x	3.9x
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			=.	= 000		Inventory Turnover	5.7x	6.3x	5.2x	5.7x	5.7x
Accounts Payable	3,043	3,549	4,672	5,068	5,394						
Accrued Exp.						Liquidity					
Short-term Borrowings	5,250	4,240	6,026	6,026	6,026	Current Ratio	1.3x	1.2x	1.3x	1.4x	1.6x
Curr. Port. of LT Debt	-	-	-	-	-	Quick Ratio	0.9x	0.8x	0.8x	1.0x	1.2x
Curr. Income Taxes Payable	-	-	-	-	-	Avg. Days Sales Out.	100.9	98.7	95.7	95.7	95.7
Unearned Revenue, Current	-	-	-	-	-	Avg. Days Inventory Out.	64.1	58.0	70.0	63.5	63.5
Other Current Liabilities	156	170	342	360	396	Avg. Days Payable Out.	79.1	90.8	93.1	91.8	90.7
Total Current Liabilities	8,449	7,960	11,040	11,453	11,815	Avg. Cash Conversion Cycle	118.2	102.7	128.4	118.1	117.0
Long-Term Debt	9,012	9,307	9,052	9,352	9,652	Net Debt to Equity	66%	73%	59%	46%	34%
Def. Tax Liability, Non-Curr.	0	0	0	0	0						
Other Non-Current Liabilities	902	907	1,282	1,282	1,282	Growth Over Prior Year					
Total Liabilities	18,363	18,173	21,374	22,087	22,749	Total Revenue	3.0%	4.1%	40.9%	8.5%	6.4%
Common Stock	114	114	113	113	113	Net Income	22.4%	22.8%	76.1%	11.9%	1.4%
Additional Paid In Capital	_	-		-		Payout Ratio %	35.7%	35.1%	33.6%	34.0%	38.6%
Retained Earnings	17,122	16,709	21,803	24,759	27,392						
Treasury Stock											
Comprehensive Inc. and Other	-	-	-	-	-						
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0						
Total Equity	17,236	16,823	21,916	24,872	27,505						
Total Liabilities And Equity	35,599	34,996	43,290	46,959	50,254						



#### Disclaimer

This research report is not directed at, or intended for distribution to or used by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to applicable law or regulation or which would subject China Galaxy International Securities (Hong Kong) Co., Limited ("Galaxy International Securities") and/or its group companies to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This report (including any information attached) is issued by Galaxy International Securities, one of the subsidiaries of the China Galaxy International Financial Holdings Limited, to the institutional clients from the information sources believed to be reliable, but no representation or warranty (expressly or implied) is made as to their accuracy, correctness and/or completeness.

This report shall not be construed as an offer, invitation or solicitation to buy or sell any securities of the company(ies) referred to herein. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. The recipient of this report should understand and comprehend the investment objectives and its related risks, and where necessary consult their own independent financial advisers prior to any investment decision.

Where any part of the information, opinions or estimates contained herein reflects the personal views and opinions of the analyst who prepared this report, such views and opinions may not correspond to the published views or investment decisions of China Galaxy International Financial Holdings Limited and any of its subsidiaries ("China Galaxy International"), directors, officers, agents and employees ("the Relevant Parties").

All opinions and estimates reflect the judgment of the analyst on the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. China Galaxy International and/or the Relevant Parties hereby disclaim any of their liabilities arising from the inaccuracy, incorrectness and incompleteness of this report and its attachment/s and/or any action or omission made in reliance thereof. Accordingly, this report must be read in conjunction with this disclaimer.

#### **Disclosure of Interests**

China Galaxy Securities Co., Ltd. (6881.HK; 601881.CH) is the direct and/or indirect holding company of the group of companies under China Galaxy International.

China Galaxy International may have financial interests in relation to the subjected company(ies) the securities in respect of which are reviewed in this report, and such interests aggregate to an amount may equal to or more than 1 % of the subjected company(ies)' market capitalization.

One or more directors, officers and/or employees of China Galaxy International may be a director or officer of the securities of the company(ies) mentioned in this report.

China Galaxy International and the Relevant Parties may, to the extent permitted by law, from time to time participate or invest in financing transactions with the securities of the company(ies) mentioned in this report, perform services for or solicit business from such company(ies), and/or have a position or holding, or other material interest, or effect transactions, in such securities or options thereon, or other investments related thereto.

China Galaxy International may have served as manager or co-manager of a public offering of securities for, or currently may make a primary market in issues of, any or all of the entities mentioned in this report or may be providing, or have provided within the last 12 months, significant advice or investment services in relation to the investment concerned or a related investment or investment banking services to the company(ies) mentioned in this report.

Furthermore, China Galaxy International may have received compensation for investment banking services from the company(ies) mentioned in this report within the preceding 12 months and may currently seeking investment banking mandate from the subject company(ies).

## **Analyst Certification**

The analyst who is primarily responsible for the content of this report, in whole or in part, certifies that with respect to the securities or issuer covered in this report: (1) all of the views expressed accurately reflect his or her personal views about the subject, securities or issuer; and (2) no part of his or her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific views expressed by the analyst in this report.

Besides, the analyst confirms that neither the analyst nor his/her associates (as defined in the code of conduct issued by The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission) (1) have dealt in or traded in the securities covered in this research report within 30 calendar days prior to the date of issue of this report; (2) will deal in or trade in the securities covered in this research report three business days after the date of issue of this report; (3) serve as an officer of any of the Hong Kong-listed companies covered in this report; and (4) have any financial interests in the Hong Kong-listed companies covered in this report.

### **Explanation on Equity Ratings**

BUY: share price will increase by >20% within 12 months in absolute terms

SELL : share price will decrease by >20% within 12 months in absolute terms

HOLD : no clear catalyst, and downgraded from BUY pending clearer signal to reinstate BUY or further downgrade to outright SELL

#### Copyright Reserved

No part of this material may be reproduced or redistributed without the prior written consent of China Galaxy International Securities (Hong Kong) Co., Limited.

China Galaxy International Securities (Hong Kong) Co. Limited, CE No.AXM459

Room 3501-3507, 35/F, Cosco Tower, Grand Millennium Plaza, 183 Queen's Road Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. General line: 3698-6888.