Rating Hold

Geely Auto

Asia China

Automobiles & Components

Reuters 0175.HK Bloomberg 175 HK Exchange Ticker HSI 0175

Positive profit warning not a surprise

1H18E earnings to increase by about 50% YoY on strong sales

After market close today, Geely announced that the company expects to record about 50% YoY jump in its 1H18 net profit (i.e. to about RMB6.5bn). Geely attributes the significant earnings improvement to a sales revenue increase driven by 1) an 44.5% YoY jump in sales volume to 767k units and 2) product mix enhancement. Yet since the extent of earnings growth is just slightly higher than that of the volume growth, it appears that the margin improvement magnitude is small alongside the mix enhancement.

Deutsche Bank view - strong earnings growth should have been anticipated

In our FY18 forecast, we think that Geely can achieve 18.2% YoY net profit growth to RMB12.6bn on 27.5% sales volume growth to 1.6m units. In other words, Geely's 1H18 earnings guidance accounts for about 52% of our full year forecast. Since 1) auto OEMs usually obtain higher margins in 1H given lots of lump-sum costs to be occurred in 2H, and 2) Geely has achieved 48% of our FY18 sales volume estimate in 1H18, we, and probably the market as well, should not be surprised by the announcement.

We have a Hold rating on Geely as we think that its strong earnings growth projection is well factored into its above-sector-average forward P/E. Key upside risks are stronger-than-expected Lynk & Co debut and significant margin expansion, while key downside risk to our forecast is unexpected sales momentum slowdown amid competition.

Forecasts and ratios					
Year End Dec 31	2016A	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E
Sales (CNYm)	53,721.6	92,760.7	107,488.7	114,679.4	121,650.1
EBITDA (CNYm)	7,278.8	14,052.3	17,093.9	18,598.2	19,862.8
Reported NPAT (CNYm)	5,111.1	10,071.2	12,572.4	14,867.6	16,918.4
DB EPS FD (CNY)	0.50	1.09	1.37	1.62	1.85
DB EPS growth (%)	62.5	116.3	26.0	18.3	13.8
PER (x)	8.9	13.7	12.4	10.5	9.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.7	8.6	8.2	7.3	6.6
Yield (net) (%)	2.4	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.2
Source: Deutsche Bank estimates, company data					

Date 11 July 2018 Results

Price at 10 Jul 2018 (HKD)	20.25
Price target - 12mth (HKD)	28.40
52-week range (HKD)	29.15 - 17.58
HANG SENG INDEX	28,682

Valuation & Risks

Vincent Ha, CFA

Research Analyst +852-2203 6247

Yan Lin

Research Analyst +852-2203 5929

Price/price relative



- Geely Auto - HANG SENG INDEX (Rebased

Derfermence (0/)	1	3m	10
Performance (%)	Im	311	12m
Absolute	-14.2	-16.1	17.5
HANG SENG INDEX	-7.4	-6.7	12.5
Source: Deutsche Bank			
Key indicators (FY1)			
ROE (%)			31.8
Net debt/equity (%)			-31.4
Book value/share (CNY)			4.96
Price/book (x)			3.4
Net interest cover (x)			_
Operating profit margin (%)			13.8
Source: Deutsche Bank			

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Appendix 1

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*Other information available upon request

Disclosure checklist			
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
Geely Auto	0175.HK	20.25 (HKD) 10 Jul 2018	1, 7, 8, 14, 15

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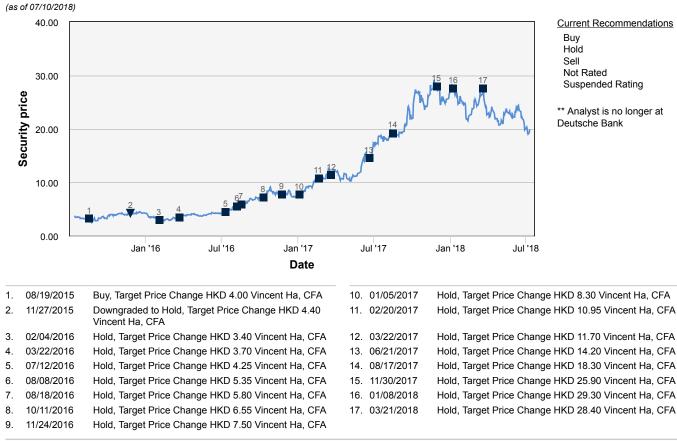
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Historical recommendations and target price. Geely Auto (0175.HK)



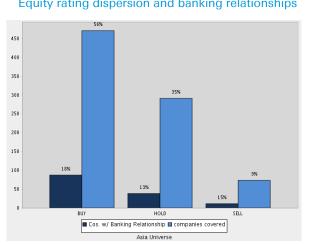
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Group Chief Economist and Global Head of Research

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Steve Pollard Head of Americas Research Global Head of Equity Research

> Pam Finelli Global Head of Equity Derivatives Research

International Production Locations

Deutsche Bank AG

Deutsche Bank Place Level 16 Corner of Hunter & Phillip Streets Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia Tel: (61) 2 8258 1234

Deutsche Bank AG London

1 Great Winchester Street London EC2N 2EQ United Kingdom Tel: (44) 20 7545 8000 Deutsche Bank AG Mainzer Landstrasse 11-17

60329 Frankfurt am Main Germany Tel: (49) 69 910 00

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.

60 Wall Street

New York, NY 10005

Tel: (1) 212 250 2500

United States of America

Deutsche Bank AG

Filiale Hongkong International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West,Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2203 8888

Deutsche Securities Inc.

2-11-1 Nagatacho Sanno Park Tower Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6171 Japan Tel: (81) 3 5156 6770