CMB International Securities | Equity Research | Company Update

LONGi – A (601012 CH)

2Q20 results beat; shipment growth to offset pricing and costs impacts in 2H20

LONGi delivered outstanding 1H20 results. 2Q20 net profit was RMB2,252mn, up 61.1% YoY, refreshing quarter earnings new high. Strong earnings was mostly driven by module external shipment growth by 140.2% to 4.7GW during the quarter, while we estimate GPM of mono-wafer sales were above 30% despite continuous price cut in Apr-May. Looking ahead to 2H20, though uncertainties appear to increase with pricing and costs fluctuation, we think LONGi will likely offset those impacts through accelerating shipment growth. We raise FY20-22E EPS forecast by 39.9% - 54.8% to RMB2.08/2.58/3.12. **Our TP is lifted to RMB72.40 based on 28.1x FY21E PER. Upgrade to BUY rating.**

- 2Q20 results beat. 2Q external module shipment surged 106.2% YoY to 4,708MW, while external wafer shipment stay relatively flat at 1,112mn pieces, down 5.0% YoY. The Company recognized RMB406mn impairment losses mainly from RMB427mn for Taizhou and Chuzhou plants, and largely offset by RMB296mn gain from solar farm disposal and RMB153mn financial income from excess cash management. Net interests gain was recorded for the consecutive second quarter, as LONGi maintained in a net cash position. For 1H20, net profit was RMB4,116mn, up 104.8% YoY, significantly higher than ours and market estimates.
- Strong overseas module shipment sustained excellent profitability. LONGi realized wafer/module external shipment of 2.47bn piece/6.58GW in 1H20, up 14.9%/106.2% YoY. Module sales was a highlight as LONGi had 52% module shipped to overseas market, and US module sales offered explicit high margin with significantly higher ASP (+RMB30-50cents vs. domestic spot price.) Wafer sales recorded high GPM at ~40% in 1Q20, and we estimate wafer sales GPM was above 33% though experienced continuous price cut in Apr-May. In a challenging environment came with impacts from COVID-19, LONGi still maintained smooth sales with limited impacts on profitability, in our view.
- Price/costs impacts to be offset by shipment growth. Recent price/costs fluctuate along the PV supply chain had brought impacts to wafer margin and module demand uncertainties. Based on current pricing structure, wafer GPM declined to ~24% by end-Aug, according to our estimate. We are not over concern on the short term turbulence, as LONGi has state of the art PERC cell (efficiency at 23%), leading product costs structure, and strong overseas module sales network. In 2H20, we expect LONGi to meet its sales target, implying 74.8%/156.4%, which we see strong enough to offset price/costs impacts.

Earnings Summary					
(YE 31 Dec)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue (RMB mn)	21,988	32,897	49,847	69,207	91,415
YoY growth (%)	34.4	49.6	51.5	38.8	32.1
Net income (RMB mn)	2,558	5,280	7,846	9,717	11,770
EPS (RMB)	0.93	1.47	2.08	2.58	3.12
YoY growth (%)	(27.9)	58.1	41.5	23.8	21.1
Consensus EPS(RMB)	N/A	N/A	1.76	2.18	2.58
P/E (x)	67.7	42.8	30.3	24.4	20.2
Р/В (х)	10.7	8.6	6.8	5.4	4.4
Yield (%)	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7
ROE (%)	15.8	20.1	22.3	22.2	21.7
Net gearing (%)	0.2	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



BUY (Up)

RMB72.40
RMB31.23)
+15.0%
RMB62.96

China Solar Sector

Robin Xiao (852) 3900 0849 robinxiao@cmbi.com.hk

Stock Data

Mkt Cap (RMB mn)	237,486
Avg 3 mths t/o (RMB mn)	2,625.
52w High/Low (RMB)	63.65/20.97
Total Issued Shares (mn)	3,772
4Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

Li Zhenguo	15.0%
Li Chunan	11.0%
Free float	50.4%
Source: Bloomberg	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	9.8%	5.6%
3-mth	95.5%	56.0%
6-mth	106.4%	67.8%
12-mth	129.1%	79.7%
Source: Bloor	mbera	

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Wind

Auditor: PwC



- Raise TP to RMB72.40, upgrade to BUY. We overestimate price and margin impacts to LONGi brought by COVID-19 in our previous estimate. In extremely challenging context in 2018-2020 (such as Chinese government's 5.31 policy in 2018, project approval delay in 2019, and COVID-19 disruption in 2020), solar demand was resilient on the track with continuous improving cost competitiveness comparing with other energy type. We expect global solar demand to restore its booming track from 2H20. Based on 1H20 operating and financial updates, we raise LONGi's FY20-22E EPS estimates by 39.9%/42.9%/54.8% to RMB2.08/2.58/3.12. Our TP, based on FY21E 28.1x, is raised to RMB72.40. We upgrade LONGi from Hold to BUY.
- Risk factors: 1) cell technology upgrade to HJT at faster-than-expected pace; and 2) short of Poly-Si to support capacity expansion in 2021E.

Figure 1: LONGi's wafer and module shipment statistics and our est.

Operating figures	1Q19	2Q19	1H19	1Q20	YoY	2Q20	YoY	1H20	YoY	FY20E
Wafer shipment - mn piece	1,363	1,584	2,943	1,963	44.0%	1,995	25.9%	3,958	106.9%	10,234
Run rate	20.8%	24.2%	44.9%	19.2%	n/a	19.5%	n/a	38.7%	n/a	100.0%
External sales	982	1,170	2,148	1,357	38.2%	1,112	-5.0%	2,469	14.9%	6,933
Run rate	20.9%	24.9%	45.7%	19.6%	n/a	16.0%	n/a	35.6%	n/a	147.4%
Internal use	381	414	795	606	59.1%	883	113.3%	1,489	131.6%	3,300
Run rate	20.6%	22.4%	43.1%	18.4%	n/a	26.8%	n/a	45.1%	n/a	178.8%
Modules Shipment - MW										
External sales	1,240	1,960	3,190	1,870	50.8%	4,708	140.2%	6,578	106.2%	17,359
Run rate	16.8%	26.5%	43.1%	10.8%	n/a	27.1%	n/a	37.9%	n/a	100.0%
Internal use	72	300	260	180	150.0%	42	-86.0%	222	-44.6%	800
Run rate	7.4%	30.9%	26.8%	22.5%	n/a	5.3%	n/a	27.8%	n/a	100.0%

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 2: LONGi's 2Q20 and 1H20 results summary

(RMB mn)	1Q19	2Q19	1H19	1Q20	YoY	2Q20	YoY	1H20	YoY	FY20E
Revenue	5,710	8,401	14,111	8,599	50.6%	11,542	37.4%	20,141	97.4%	49,847
COGS	(4,366)	(6,045)	(10,411)	(5,859)	34.2%	(8,394.1)	38.9%	(14,253.3)	104.6%	(36,563)
Operating proft	1,344	2,356	3,700	2,740	103.9%	3,148	33.6%	5,888.0	81.8%	13,284
Gross profit margin	23.5%	28.0%	26.2%	31.9%	8.3ppt	27.3%	-0.8ppt	29.2%	3.0ppt	26.6%
Operating expenses	(579)	(716)	(1,296)	(657)	13.5%	(1,089)	52.0%	(1,746)	38.4%	(4,919)
Taxes & Surcharges	(27)	(37)	(64)	(40)	50.1%	(39.1)	5.3%	(79.4)	-7.0%	(333)
Selling expenses	(214)	(332)	(546)	(114)	-46.6%	(215.7)	-35.1%	(330.1)	-33.7%	(1,894)
as % to revenue	-3.8%	-4.0%	-3.9%	-1.3%	2.4ppt	-1.9%	2.1ppt	-1.6%	3.2ppt	-3.8%
Admin expenses	(187)	(212)	(399)	(267)	42.8%	(318.5)	50.2%	(585.9)	79.4%	(1,471)
as % to revenue	-3.3%	-2.5%	-2.8%	-3.1%	0.2ppt	-2.8%	-0.2ppt	-2.9%	0.3ppt	-3.0%
R&D expenses	(56)	(61)	(117)	(76)	36.1%	(109.8)	80.5%	(186.3)	74.7%	(498)
Impairment loss	(95)	(74)	(169)	(159)	67.4%	(405.5)	447.6%	(564.4)	129.9%	(723)
Operating profit	765	1,640	2,405	2,083	172.4%	2,059.1	25.5%	4,142	109.6%	8,364
Other income	24	48	72	53	123.7%	88.4	83.6%	141.7	46.7%	299
Investment income	108	37	145	115	6.0%	426.9	1058.8%	541.6	-2428.5%	570
Asset disposal gain/(loss)	(8)	(9)	(17)	(1)		(6.8)		(7.4)		-
Finance expenses, net	(148)	(12)	(160)	18	-112.3%	41.3	-449.2%	59.5	-200.3%	(133)
Others Non-Operating Income, net	- 2	- (35)	- (33)	- (8)	-532.8%	(22.7)	-35.1%	(31.1)	168.3%	(1) (10)
Profit Before Tax	743	1,670	2,412	2,260	204.4%	2,586	54.9%	4,846	139.9%	9,089
Income tax	(72)	(208)	(280)	(295)	308.6%	(305.9)	47.0%	4,040 (601.1)	301.7%	(1,000)
Effective tax rate	9.7%	12.5%	11.6%	13.1%	3.3ppt	11.8%	-0.6ppt	12.4%	5.0ppt	-2.0%
	070			/ .	0.000		0.000		0.044	2.070
Profit for the period	670	1,461	2,132	1,965	193.1%	2,280	56.0%	4,245	126.9%	8,089
Less: Minority Interest	59	63	122	101	70.9%	27.8	-56.0%	128.8	69.7%	243
Net profit	611	1,398	2,010	1,864	205.0%	2,252	61.1%	4,116	104.8%	7,846
Net profit margin	10.7%	16.6%	14.2%	21.7%	11.0ppt	19.5%	2.9ppt	20.4%	2.8ppt	15.7%

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

PLEASE READ THE ANALYST CERTIFICATION AND IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES ON LAST PAGE



Figure 3: Earnings revision

	Old			New			Change(%)			
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	
Revenue (RMB mn)	46,407	59,390	63,764	49,847	69,207	91,415	7.4%	16.5%	43.4%	
Net Income (RMB mn)	5,610	6,798	7,603	7,846	9,717	11,770	39.9%	42.9%	54.8%	
EPS (RMB)	1.49	1.80	2.02	2.08	2.58	3.12	39.9%	42.9%	54.8%	

Source: CMBIS estimates

Financial Summary

Income statement					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue	21,988	32,897	49,847	69,207	91,415
Mono-module	13,091	14,570	26,732	44,154	67,404
Wafer	6,116	12,913	19,135	20,472	18,825
Others	2,781	5,415	3,980	4,581	5,187
COGS	(4,892)	(9,508)	(13,284)	(17,192)	(21,172)
Gross profit	4,892	9,508	13,284	17,192	21,172
Operating expenses	2,687	3,405	4,919	6,736	8,546
Taxes & surcharges	117	178	333	402	546
Selling expenses	1,017	1,330	1,894	2,630	3,291
Admin expenses	623	971	1,471	2,043	2,698
R&D expenses	202	304	498	692	914
Impairment loss	728	621	723	969	1,097
Operating profit	3,593	2,205	6,104	8,364	12,626
Other income	142	204	299	415	548
Investment income	794	240	570	570	570
Asset disposal gain/(loss)	(4)	-	-	-	-
Finance expenses, net	(267)	(250)	(133)	(165)	(84)
Others	-	-	(1)	-	-
Non-operating income, net	(2)	(51)	(10)	(21)	14
Profit Before Tax	2,867	6,247	9,089	11,256	13,634
Income tax	(301)	(690)	(1,000)	(1,238)	(1,500)
Less: minority interest	(9)	(278)	(243)	(301)	(364)
Net profit	2,558	5,280	7,846	9,717	11,770

Cash flow summary					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Net income	2,558	5,280	7,846	9,717	11,770
DD&A	1,129	1,488	2,000	2,162	2,315
Working capital change	(1,558)	8,184	(4,313)	(490)	(1,064)
Tax adjustments	85	150	77	83	88
Others	(1,040)	(6,943)	(1,619)	(3,001)	(3,442)
Net cash from operation	1,173	8,158	3,991	8,471	9,667
Capex & investments	(3,652)	(6,015)	(7,019)	(2,355)	(2,366)
Others	483	3,262	-	-	-
Net cash from investment	(3,169)	(2,753)	(7,019)	(2,355)	(2,366)
Equity raised	_	6,215	438	_	_
Change of debts	769	(1,815)		1,049	1,049
Dividend paid	(359)	(362)	(754)	(1,122)	(1,390)
Others	(143)	(302)	(734)	(1,122)	(1,530) 85
Net cash from financing	(143) 267	4,560	2,389	97	(256)
Net cash non mancing	207	4,500	2,303	51	(230)
Net change in cash	(1,728)	9,965	(638)	6,213	7,044
Cash at the beginning	7,356	5,665	15,560	14,922	21,134
Exchange difference	38	(70)	-	-	-
Cash at the end of the year	5,665	15,560	14,922	21,134	28,179
Less: pledged cash	2,043	3,775	4,985	6,921	9,142
Cash at the balance sheet	7,708	19,336	19,907	28,055	37,320

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	YE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Non-current Assets	16,758	21,937	27,056	27,369	27,564	Sales mix (%)					
Fixed Assets	13,260	15,467	21,816	21,925	21,894	Mono-module	59.5%	44.3%	53.6%	63.8%	73.7%
Construction in Progress	856	2,882	1,468	1,468	1,468	Mono-wafer	27.8%	39.3%	38.4%	29.6%	20.6%
LT Deferred Expenses	959	971	986	998	1,009	Others	12.6%	16.5%	8.0%	6.6%	5.7%
Others	1,683	2,617	2,786	2,977	3,194	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Current Assets	22,901	37,367	46,856	65,466	86,731	P&L ratios (%)					
Cash & Equivalents	7,708	19,336	19,907	28,055	37,320	Gross profit margin	22.2%	28.9%	26.6%	24.8%	13.8%
Account Receivables	8,453	8,379	12,462	17,302	22,854	Operating margin	10.0%	18.6%	16.8%	15.1%	14.9%
Inventories	4,283	6,356	9,720	13,495	17,826	Net margin	11.6%	16.0%	15.7%	14.0%	12.9%
Others	2,457	3,295	4,768	6,614	8,731	Effective tax rate	10.5%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
Current Liabilities	14,878	24,620	27,382	35,204	43,636	Balance sheet ratios					
Account Payables	8,507	13,714	14,954	19,378	24,682	Current ratio (x)	1.54	1.52	1.71	1.86	1.99
Advanced Payment	962	3,680	3,062	3,276	3,012	Inventory turnover days	71.1	83.0	80.2	81.5	81.4
Short-term Borrowings	688	854	848	953	1,058	Creditor's turnover days	131.6	123.3	105.0	90.5	88.0
Current Portion of LT Debt	1,137	1,571	1,272	1,429	1,586	Debtors turnover days	121.1	93.4	76.3	78.5	80.2
Others	3,585	4,801	7,246	10,168	13,298	Liabilities/Assets (%)	57.6	52.3	51.5	51.9	51.8
						Net debt/ equity ratio (%)	0.22	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash
Non-current Liabilities	7,956	6,389	10,671	13,006	15,569						
Long-term Payables	1,306	1,528	2,492	3,460	4,571	Returns (%)					
Long-term Borrowings	2,659	2,509	5,364	6,150	6,937	ROE	15.55	19.11	22.30	22.20	21.73
Bond Payables	3,262	996	996	996	996	ROA	6.45	8.90	10.62	10.47	10.30
Others	729	1,357	1,819	2,400	3,066						
						Per share					
Total net assets	16,825	28,295	35,860	44,625	55,091	EPS (RMB)	0.93	1.47	2.08	2.58	3.12
Minority interests	373	666	679	849	934	DPS (RMB)	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.37	0.45
Shareholders' equity	16,452	27,629	35,181	43,776	54,157	BVPS (RMB)	5.89	7.32	9.33	11.61	14.36

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates





Disclosures & Disclaimers

Analyst Certification

The research analyst who is primary responsible for the content of this research report, in whole or in part, certifies that with respect to the securities or issuer that the analyst 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 that 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 stock(s) 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 stock(s) covered in this research report 3 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.

CMBIS Ratings BUY HOLD SELL NOT RATED	: Stock with potential return of over 15% over next 12 months : Stock with potential return of +15% to -10% over next 12 months : Stock with potential loss of over 10% over next 12 months : Stock is not rated by CMBIS
OUTPERFORM	: Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months
MARKET-PERFORM	: Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months
UNDERPERFORM	: Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

CMB International Securities Limited

Address: 45/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 3900 0888 Fax: (852) 3900 0800

CMB International Securities Limited ("CMBIS") is a wholly owned subsidiary of CMB International Capital Corporation Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of China Merchants Bank)

Important Disclosures

There are risks involved in transacting in any securities. The information contained in this report may not be suitable for the purposes of all investors. CMBIS does not provide individually tailored investment advice. This report has been prepared without regard to the individual investment objectives, financial position or special requirements. Past performance has no indication of future performance, and actual events may differ materially from that which is contained in the report. The value of, and returns from, any investments are uncertain and are not guaranteed and may fluctuate as a result of their dependence on the performance of underlying assets or other variable market factors. CMBIS recommends that investors should independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to consult with a professional financial advisor in order to make their own investment decisions.

This report or any information contained herein, have been prepared by the CMBIS, solely for the purpose of supplying information to the clients of CMBIS or its affiliate(s) to whom it is distributed. This report is not and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security or any interest in securities or enter into any transaction. Neither CMBIS nor any of its affiliates, shareholders, agents, consultants, directors, officers or employees shall be liable for any loss, damage or expense whatsoever, whether direct or consequential, incurred in relying on the information contained in this report. Anyone making use of the information contained in this report does so entirely at their own risk.

The information and contents contained in this report are based on the analyses and interpretations of information believed to be publicly available and reliable. CMBIS has exerted every effort in its capacity to ensure, but not to guarantee, their accuracy, completeness, timeliness or correctness. CMBIS provides the information, advices and forecasts on an "AS IS" basis. The information and contents are subject to change without notice. CMBIS may issue other publications having information and/ or conclusions different from this report. These publications reflect different assumption, point-of-view and analytical methods when compiling. CMBIS may make investment decisions or take proprietary positions that are inconsistent with the recommendations or views in this report.

CMBIS may have a position, make markets or act as principal or engage in transactions in securities of companies referred to in this report for itself and/or on behalf of its clients from time to time. Investors should assume that CMBIS does or seeks to have investment banking or other business relationships with the companies in this report. As a result, recipients should be aware that CMBIS may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report and CMBIS will not assume any responsibility in respect thereof. This report is for the use of intended recipients only and this publication, may not be reproduced, reprinted, sold, redistributed or published in whole or in part for any purpose without prior written consent of CMBIS.

Additional information on recommended securities is available upon request.

For recipients of this document in the United Kingdom

This report has been provided only to persons (I)falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended from time to time)("The Order") or (II) are persons falling within Article 49(2) (a) to (d) ("High Net Worth Companies, Unincorporated Associations, etc.,) of the Order, and may not be provided to any other person without the prior written consent of CMBIS.

For recipients of this document in the United States

This report is intended for distribution in the United States to "major US institutional investors", as defined in Rule 15a-6 under the US, Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and may not be furnished to any other person in the United States. Each major US institutional investor that receives a copy of this research report by its acceptance hereof represents and agrees that it shall not distribute or provide this research report to any other person.

For recipients of this document in Singapore

This report is distributed in Singapore by CMBI (Singapore) Pte. Limited (CMBISG) (Company Regn. No. 201731928D), an Exempt Financial Adviser as defined in the Financial Advisers Act (Cap. 110) of Singapore and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. CMBISG may distribute reports produced by its respective foreign entities, affiliates or other foreign research houses pursuant to an arrangement under Regulation 32C of the Financial Advisers Regulations. Where the report is distributed in Singapore to a person who is not an Accredited Investor, Expert Investor or an Institutional Investor, as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289) of Singapore, CMBISG accepts legal responsibility for the contents of the report to such persons only to the extent required by law. Singapore recipients should contact CMBISG at +65 6350 4400 for matters arising from, or in connection with the report.