

Leads Biolabs (9887 HK)

Eyes on LBL-024 readouts at WCLC/ESMO

LeadsBio is a clinical-stage biotech with a proven track record in business development. The Company out-licensed LBL-051 (CD19/BCMA/CD3) and LBL-047 (BDCA2/TACI) to global partners in 2024 and 2025, respectively. In 1H26, LeadsBio reported revenue of RMB36mn, mainly from the US\$5mn milestone payment from Dianthus related to LBL-047. Management expects 2H26 revenue to exceed US\$35mn, mainly supported by the partnership with Oblenio on LBL-051. On the cost side, 1H26 R&D expenses rose to RMB191mn, up 45% YoY. Financially, the Company remains well capitalized, ending 1H26 with RMB1.24bn in cash, which is sufficient to fund operations through 2029 without additional financing as indicated, per mgmt. Against this backdrop, we continue to see LBL-024 (PD-L1/4-1BB) as the Company's key value driver and a potentially differentiated next-generation IO asset with broad pan-tumor potential. We look forward to the multiple data readouts at WCLC and ESMO. We reiterate our BUY rating with an unchanged target price of HK\$100.50.

■ **LBL-024: a registrational-stage 4-1BB asset with broad IO backbone potential.** LBL-024 is well positioned to emerge as a next-generation IO backbone with broad applicability. It is the first globally developed 4-1BB-targeted candidate to advance to the registrational stage. Its dual targeting of PD-L1 and 4-1BB may support stronger and more durable immune activation versus conventional checkpoint approaches, potentially translating into more meaningful OS benefit across multiple tumor settings. The asset has now entered NDA stage, with NMPA accepting the NDA for 3L+ EP-NEC in Aug 2026 based on a pivotal Ph2 study and approval expected in 1H27. In parallel, LeadsBio plans to start a Ph3 study in first-line EP-NEC shortly, while additional PFS and OS updates from the Ph1b/2 study in 1L EP-NEC are expected at the upcoming ESMO conference.

■ **NSCLC and BTC readouts to anchor near-term catalyst flow.** Beyond EP-NEC, LBL-024 is being evaluated in more than a dozen ongoing studies across both cold tumors and front-line hot tumor settings, including NSCLC, BTC, ESCC, and HCC, with NSCLC and BTC emerging as the next key registrational opportunities. In first-line NSCLC, management disclosed ORR of 77.4% in sq-NSCLC and 51.7% in nsq-NSCLC at 3.6 months of follow-up (mFU), while ORR reached 78.3% in PD-L1 ≥1% patients, which we view as competitive in the current treatment landscape. Mgmt. has indicated that response improved with longer follow-up. Updated data (mFU of 7.1 months), including ORR and 6-month PFS, are expected at WCLC in September. Mgmt also noted that discussions with the China CDE are in the final stage for initiating a Ph3 study in 1L sq-NSCLC. In 1L BTC, a Ph3 study is also under planning, with IND submission targeted for 1H27 and Ph1b data to be presented at ESMO in October. Separately, the Company will also update the data of LBL-034 (GPRC5D/CD3) at the ESMO. Meanwhile, BD activities for LBL-024 and LBL-034 remain ongoing.

■ **Maintain BUY.** We continue to view upcoming WCLC/ESMO readouts as key catalysts for re-rating. We maintain our DCF-based TP unchanged at HK\$100.50 (WACC: 9.06%, terminal growth: 4.0%).

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue (RMB mn)	0	177	322	157	389
YoY growth (%)	na	na	81.8	(51.3)	147.6
Adjusted net profit (RMB mn)	(301.2)	(211.4)	(150.8)	(378.7)	(269.0)
EPS (Reported) (RMB)	na	(1.21)	(0.76)	(1.90)	(1.35)
R&D expenses (RMB)	(186)	(289)	(382)	(420)	(389)
Admin expenses (RMB mn)	(88)	(83)	(100)	(100)	(78)

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

BUY (Maintain)

Target Price	HK\$100.50
(Previous TP)	HK\$100.50)
Up/Downside	50.1%
Current Price	HK\$66.95

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	13,315.8
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	118.5
52w High/Low (HK\$)	93.95/48.40
Total Issued Shares (mn)	198.9
Source: FactSet	

Shareholding Structure

Nanjing Lizhi	6.3%
Kang Xiaoqiang	4.0%

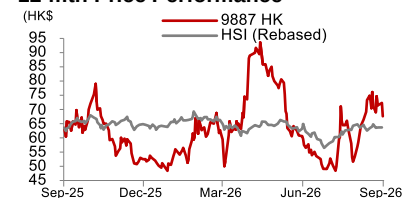
Source: Bloomberg

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	25.4%	28.2%
3-mth	12.4%	15.7%
6-mth	12.6%	15.9%

Source: FactSet

12-mth Price Performance



Source: FactSet

Figure 1: Risk-adjusted DCF valuation

DCF Valuation (RMB mn)	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E	2036E	2037E	2038E	2039E	2040E
EBIT	-144	-361	-229	-162	36	485	995	1,538	2,037	2,171	2,169	2,130	2,224	2,293	2,386
Tax rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
EBIT*(1-tax rate)	-144	-361	-229	-162	36	413	845	1,307	1,732	1,845	1,844	1,811	1,891	1,949	2,028
+ D&A	17	21	37	39	40	41	41	42	43	44	44	45	45	46	46
- Change in working capital	1	-22	-73	-46	-140	-262	-285	-222	-146	-35	29	48	59	67	65
- Capex	-20	-200	-200	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50
FCFF	-146	-561	-464	-220	-114	141	552	1,077	1,578	1,804	1,867	1,854	1,945	2,012	2,088
Terminal value															42,899
PV of enterprise (RMB mn)	16,055														
Net debt (RMB mn)	-1,135														
Equity value (RMB mn)	17,191														
Equity value (HK\$ mn)	19,989														
No. of shares (mn)	199														
DCF per shares (HK\$)	100.50														
Terminal growth rate	4.0%														
WACC	9.06%														
Cost of Equity	12.0%														
Cost of Debt	2.6%														
Equity Beta	0.9														
Risk Free Rate	3.0%														
Market Risk Premium	10.0%														
Target Debt to Asset ratio	30.0%														
Effective Corporate Tax Rate	15.0%														

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 2: Sensitivity analysis (HK\$)

Terminal growth rate	WACC				
	8.06%	8.56%	9.06%	9.56%	10.06%
5.0%	166.38	138.78	118.12	102.11	89.38
4.5%	147.49	125.43	108.35	94.76	83.71
4.0%	133.25	115.01	100.50	88.72	78.99
3.5%	122.13	106.64	94.07	83.68	74.98
3.0%	113.21	99.78	88.70	79.41	71.54

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 3: CMBIGM estimates revision

RMB mn	New			Old			Diff.		
	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	322	157	389	204	184	390	58%	-15%	0%
Gross profit	322	146	339	204	172	341	58%	-16%	0%
Operating profit	-144	-361	-229	-150	-95	-222	NA	NA	NA
Net profit	-151	-379	-269	-158	-113	-261	NA	NA	NA
EPS (RMB)	(0.76)	(1.90)	(1.35)	(0.79)	(0.57)	(1.31)	NA	NA	NA
Gross margin	100.00%	92.69%	87.27%	100.00%	93.76%	87.33%	0.00 ppt	-1.07 ppt	-0.05 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

RMB mn	CMBIGM			Consensus			Diff.		
	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	322	157	389	271	514	1,514	19%	-69%	-74%
Gross profit	322	146	339	271	423	1,145	19%	-66%	-70%
Operating profit	-144	-361	-229	-239	-167	135	NA	NA	NA
Net profit	-151	-379	-269	-227	-144	137	NA	NA	NA
EPS (RMB)	(0.76)	(1.90)	(1.35)	(1.14)	(0.73)	0.69	NA	NA	NA
Gross margin	100.00%	92.69%	87.27%	100.00%	82.29%	75.64%	0.00 ppt	+10.40 ppt	+11.63 ppt

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Risks: 1) Rising competition in the next-generation IO space; 2) Uncertainty on clinical data of LBL-024 for large indications.

Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Revenue	9	0	177	322	157	389
Cost of goods sold	(3)	0	0	0	(11)	(49)
Gross profit	6	0	177	322	146	339
Selling expense	0	0	0	0	(51)	(175)
Admin expense	(38)	(88)	(83)	(100)	(100)	(78)
R&D expense	(231)	(186)	(289)	(382)	(420)	(389)
Gain/loss on financial assets at FVTPL	6	2	1	0	0	0
Interest expense	(1)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(18)	(40)
Other income/expense	0	(0)	(26)	(48)	0	0
Others	(118)	(42)	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	(362)	(301)	(196)	(151)	(379)	(269)
Income tax	0	0	(16)	0	0	0
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	(362)	(301)	(211)	(151)	(379)	(269)

BALANCE SHEET	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Current assets	367	596	1,690	1,479	1,725	2,103
Cash & equivalents	248	373	1,548	1,395	1,616	1,912
Restricted cash	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables	0	0	0	0	14	64
Inventories	0	0	58	0	11	43
Prepayment	19	58	84	84	84	84
Financial assets at FVTPL	100	166	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	80	73	91	94	273	436
PP&E	54	36	29	32	211	374
Right-of-use assets	7	11	20	20	20	20
Intangibles	0	0	2	2	2	2
Other non-current assets	19	26	40	40	40	40
Total assets	447	669	1,781	1,574	1,998	2,539
Current liabilities	1,395	398	502	445	1,249	2,058
Short-term borrowings	61	255	260	260	1,060	1,860
Account payables	26	53	57	0	3	13
Other current liabilities	1,304	0	0	0	0	0
Lease liabilities	4	6	7	7	7	7
Contract liabilities	0	84	178	178	178	178
Non-current liabilities	2	6	13	13	13	13
Other non-current liabilities	2	6	13	13	13	13
Total liabilities	1,396	404	516	459	1,262	2,072
Share capital	17	157	199	199	199	199
Retained earnings	0	0	0	(151)	(530)	(799)
Other reserves	(966)	109	1,067	1,067	1,067	1,067
Total shareholders equity	(949)	266	1,266	1,115	736	467
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity and liabilities	447	669	1,781	1,574	1,998	2,539

CASH FLOW	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	(362)	(301)	(196)	(151)	(379)	(269)
Depreciation & amortization	20	20	15	17	21	37
Tax paid	0	0	(16)	0	0	0
Change in working capital	18	70	(1)	1	(22)	(73)
Others	132	92	43	7	18	40
Net cash from operations	(193)	(119)	(154)	(126)	(361)	(264)
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(12)	(3)	(8)	(20)	(200)	(200)
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term investments	147	(64)	167	0	0	0
Others	0	0	(324)	0	0	0
Net cash from investing	135	(67)	(165)	(20)	(200)	(200)
Financing						
Dividend paid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net borrowings	60	189	(2)	(7)	782	760
Proceeds from share issues	0	131	1,350	0	0	0
Others	(10)	(10)	(158)	0	0	0
Net cash from financing	49	309	1,190	(7)	782	760
Net change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	253	248	373	1,548	1,395	1,616
Exchange difference	3	2	(22)	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	248	373	1,548	1,395	1,616	1,912
GROWTH	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec						
Revenue	na	na	na	81.8%	(51.3%)	147.6%
Gross profit	na	na	na	81.8%	(54.8%)	133.2%
PROFITABILITY	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec						
Gross profit margin	64.1%	na	100.0%	100.0%	92.7%	87.3%
Adj. net profit margin	(4,086.3%)	na	(119.3%)	(46.8%)	(241.2%)	(69.2%)
GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec						
Current ratio (x)	0.3	1.5	3.4	3.3	1.4	1.0
VALUATION	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Dec						
P/E	na	na	ns	ns	ns	ns
P/B	na	na	7.9	10.2	15.5	24.4

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates. Note: The calculation of net cash includes financial assets.

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