CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update



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iQIYI (IQ US)

Mild recovery with better margin ahead

Despite macro uncertainty, we keep positive on iQIYI's long-term substrend and margin improvement, backed by its unique original content and valuable IP. 4Q22E would be a solid quarter, with rising subs and gradual ads recovery (supported by hit dramas New Life Begins < 卿 卵 日常 > and several wellanticipated titles). We expect positive profit to continue ahead, with disciplined ROI-driven investment. Stock should react positive if CB financial pressure (in Apr 2023) to relieve. We forecast iQIYI to deliver 6%/91 topline/bottom line CAGR during FY22-24E. Resume with BUY with DCF-based TP at US\$4.1.

- Strong content pipeline to support subs momentum. iQIYI exceled itself with exclusive original content in both popular dramas and variety shows. It bore fruits from recent dramas (e.g. the popularity of Love between fairy and devil <苍兰诀>), which boosted its subs up to 101mn (net adds of 10.6mn) in 3Q22. We expect subs sequential growth to continue in 4Q22E, backed by rich pipeline (e.g. Wild Bloom <风吹半夏>、Unchained Love <浮图缘>). Its costume drama New Life Begins < 卿卿日常> (launched on 10 Nov) outperformed with 35% share in terms of aggregate views (Top 1, based on Enlightent data), further supporting 4Q22E recovery. We expect its subs rev +10%/+8% YoY in 4Q22/FY23E, with ramp-up of both subs and ARM. ARM should see upside from: 1) rising TV members (with higher price); and 2) diverse & premium content to drive stronger monetization.
- Expect ads recovery in 4Q22E & 1Q23E, while consistent rebound needs more time. Given challenging macro and competition, ads would still bear short-term pressure. However, we expect ads sequential growth ahead in 4Q22E (forecasting +6% QoQ, -21% YoY), with richer content to release and enriched ads formats. Looking ahead, we expect its ads rev to deliver low single digit YoY growth in FY23/24E.
- Continuous margin improvement with cost discipline. We see high visibility for iQIYI to improve its profitability in the long run, for aggressive cost control, price hike and operating leverage. Mgmt. has upgraded its priority on margin expansion with "calm growth", focusing on core biz and higher-ROI projects. We expect iQIYI to achieve non-GAAP OPM at 9% in FY24E (non-GAAP OP at RMB2.9bn), with GPM up to 25%.
- Maintain BUY. We set our DCF-based TP at US\$4.1 (implying 0.8x FY23E P/S, 21.6x FY23E P/E), below industry average of 2.3x FY23E P/S. Waiting for more catalysts from: 1) hit dramas to be launched; and 2) CB deal to close.

Farnings Summary

| -arrings Garrinary | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|
| (YE 31 Dec) | FY20A | FY21A | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | | | |
| Revenue (RMB mn) | 29,707 | 30,554 | 28,729 | 30,492 | 32,075 | | | |
| YoY growth (%) | 2.5 | 2.9 | (6.0) | 6.1 | 5.2 | | | |
| Adj. net income (RMB mn) | (5,476) | (4,549) | 480 | 1,198 | 1,824 | | | |
| Adj. EPS (RMB) | (7.4) | (5.6) | 0.6 | 1.4 | 2.1 | | | |
| YoY growth (%) | NA | NA | NA | 1.3 | 0.5 | | | |
| Consensus EPS (RMB) | NA | NA | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.7 | | | |
| P/E (x) | NA | NA | 34.2 | 14.6 | 9.7 | | | |
| P/S (x) | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | | | |
| Yield (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | |
| Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates | | | | | | | | |

BUY (Maintain)

Target Price US\$4.1 Up/Downside +36.7% **Current Price** US\$3.0

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|--|

| Mkt Cap (US\$ mn) | 2,558 |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Avg 3 mths t/o (US\$ mn) | 31.56 |
| 52w High/Low (US\$) | 6.42/ 1.65 |
| Total Issued Shares (mn) | 427 |
| Source: Bloomberg | |

Shareholding Structure

| Oasis Management | 5.51% |
|-------------------|-------|
| Bank of America | 5.20% |
| Goldman Sachs | 4.74% |
| Source: Bloomberg | |

Share Performance

| | Absolute | Relative |
|-------|----------|----------|
| 1-mth | 44.9% | 40.3% |
| 3-mth | -16.3% | -13.3% |
| 6-mth | -25 4% | -21 1% |

Source: Bloomberg

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: PwC



Strong content to boost membership rebound

Subs momentum to continue for strong pipeline in 4Q22E and FY23E.

Subs delivered eye-catching growth in 3Q22 (up to 101mn, +10.6mn QoQ), for its blockbuster drama series *Love between fairy and devil* < 苍兰诀> to offset 2Q22 soft deferred rev. *Love between fairy and devil* < 苍兰诀> *Esther Yu x Dylan Wang* delivered eye-catching performance in 3Q22, ranked TOP1 in terms of viewership and topic popularity in highly-competitive summer (surpassed Tencent video's *Love Like The Galaxy* < 星汉灿烂> and YouKu's *Immortal Samsara* < 沉香如盾>).

Figure 1: Eye-catching performance of Love between fairy and devil <苍兰诀> in 3Q22



Source: Endata, CMBIGM

Figure 2: Top dramas ranked by viewership index/V30 per drama/ viewership in 3Q22

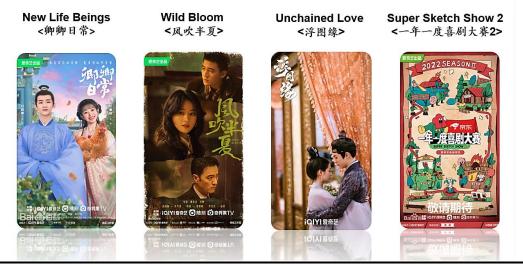
| Ranking | Title | Viewership inc | dex | Platform(s) | Ranking | Title | V30 per drama (mn) | Launched Date | Platfor |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Love Between Fairy and Devil (苍兰诀) | | 701 | iQIYI | 1 | Love Between Fairy and Devil (苍兰诀) | 53.8 | 8/7/2022 | iQIY |
| 2 | Crime and Punishment (罪罚) | | 686 | IQIYI | 2 | Love like the galaxy (星汉灿烂·月生沧海) | 43.4 | 7/5/2022 | |
| 3 | Love like the galaxy (星汉灿烂·月生沧海) | | 647 | | 3 | Immortal Samsara (沉香如肩·沉香重华) | 30.6 | 7/20/2022 | > |
| | 5 7 (| | 599 | iQIYI | 4 | Being a Hero (冰雨火) | 28.4 | 8/11/2022 | (> |
| 4 | Thousand years for you (请君) | | | _ | 5 | Rose War (玫瑰之战) | 28.1 | 8/8/2022 | iQIYI |
| 5 | Immortal Samsara (沉香如肩·沉香重华) | | 589 | () | Ranking | Title | Effective viewership (bn) | Launched Date | Platfor |
| 6 | Being a Hero (冰雨火) | | 581 | > | Kaliking | | | 7/5/2022 | |
| 7 | The Heart of Genius (天才基本法) | | 567 | iQIYI | ' | Love like the galaxy (星汉灿烂·月生沧 | | | |
| 8 | Ode to Joy 3 (欢乐颂3) | | 466 | | 2 | Love Between Fairy and Devil (苍兰诀) | 2.22 | 8/7/2022 | |
| 9 | Rose War (玫瑰之战) | | 426 | ialyi | 3 | Immortal Samsara (沉香如肩·沉香重华) | 2.02 | 7/20/2022 | • |
| | , , , | | | | 4 | Crime and Punishment (罪罚) | 1.88 | 8/25/2022 | |
| 10 | Twenty Your Life on 2 (二十不惑2) | | 391 | iQIYI 🕪 | 5 | Rose War (玫瑰之战) | 1.20 | 8/8/2022 | iQIYI |

Source: Endata, Enlightent data, CMBIGM

We expect 4Q22E subs sequential growth to continue, with highly anticipated drama series (e.g. Wild Bloom <风吹半夏> | Zhao Liying 赵丽颖、Unchained Love <浮图缘>|Dylan Wang) and variety show (e.g. Super Sketch Show 2 < - =



Figure 3: Key content title in 4Q22E



Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Backed by its high-quality in-house studio and fully-fledged ecosystem, we expect iQIYI's richer content pipeline in 2022-2023E (200+) to provide high visibility to its user expansion and subscription growth. Looking ahead, iQIYI would diversify its content category into romance and comedy, in order to cater to tightening regulation and different user preferences.

Figure 4: iQIYI's key drama series pipeline in 4Q22E and FY23E

| Title | Producer | Genre |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|
| Rock it, Mon <摇滚狂花> launched on 11 Oct | iQIYI, Perfect World Pictures | Life |
| Helloe my love < 芳心荡漾 > launched on 26 Oct | iQIYI, Five Pictures | Romance |
| New Life Beings <卿卿日常> launched on 10 Nov | iQIYI, New Classics Media (新丽) | Historical |
| Lesson in Love <第九节课> to be launched on 11 Dec | iQIYI, SEG | Romance |
| A Cat and a Fish <骑着鱼的猫> | iQiYi | Romance |
| Wild Bloom <风吹半夏> | iQIYI, SEG | Life |
| Arrogant Lady <千金莫嚣张> | iQiYi | Romance |
| The Knockout < 在飙> | iQIYI. Liubai Entertainment | Crime |
| Fligh to you <向风而行> | iQIYI, HuaCe Film&TV | Life |
| Take us home <龙城> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Rock it, Mon <摇滚狂花> | iQIYI, Perfect World Pictures | Life |
| The magical women <灿烂的转身> | iQIYI, Lian Rui Pictures | Romance |
| Bionic <仿生人间> | iQIYI | Sci-Fi |
| Road Back Home <回来的女儿> | iQIYI, MingRun Entertainment | Crime |
| Under the miccroscope <显微镜下的大明> | iQIYI. Liubai Entertainment | Historical |
| Special Lady <陌上人如玉> | iQIYI, Chinese Miracle | Romance |
| My wife is a thief <柳叶摘星辰> | iQIYI, Rising Star | Romance |
| Grandma's New World <外婆的新世界> | iQIYI. Radiant Pictures, Ten Space | Life |
| The Gate of Renewal <云裏传> | iQIYI, Youth Hello | Wuxia |
| Mo Bai <墨白> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Hua Xi Ji <花溪记> | iQIYI | Romance |
| The Lotues Casebook <莲花楼> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Back for you <漫影寻踪> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Rising with the wind <我要逆风去> | iQIYI, Stellar | Romance |
| First love you <初次爱你> | iQIYI | Romance |



| Song of the moon <月歌行> | iQIYI, Yide Culture | Historical |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| The Emperor's Love <倾城亦清欢> | iQIYI | Historical |
| The Comic Bang <开画! 少女漫> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Good Women <女人万岁> | iQIYI | Life |
| Our Life < 我们的日子> | iQIYI | Life |
| I am criminal police <我是刑警> | iQIYI | Crime |
| Road to home <归路> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Echo <回响> | iQIYI, Force Culture | Romance |
| Forbidden Love <浮图缘> | iQIYI | Romance |
| The disppeared 11th floor <消失的十一层> | iQIYI, Force Culture | Crime |
| Meet me in your sound <月幻森林> | iQIYI | Historical |
| Golden Trio <老家伙> | iQIYI, Shandong Film & TV Production | Life |
| Hello Life <你好生活> | iQIYI, HuangCheng Pictures | Life |
| The seventh generation <七时吉祥> | iQIYI, Stellar | Historical |
| Life <人生路遥> | iQIYI | Life |
| The Mutations <天启异闻录> | iQIYI | Historical |
| New York Mission 2 < 唐人街探案 2> | iQIYI | Crime |
| Tiger Crane <虎鹤妖师录> | iQIYI, Youyaoqi | Historical |
| Hua Jie <花戒> | iQIYI | Historical |
| Jiu Xiao Han Ye Nuan <九霄寒夜暖> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Chinese Paladin 4 <仙剑奇侠传 4> | iQIYI | Historical |
| The Lord of Losers S2 <破事精英 2> | iQIYI | Life |
| Moses on the Plain <平原上的摩西> | iQIYI (Light on Series) | Crime |
| The Demon Hunter's Romance <无忧渡> | iQIYI | Romance |
| Fox Spirit Matchmaker <狐妖小红娘> | iQIYI, Tencent Picutures, Stellar | Historical |
| Changfengdu <长风渡> | iQIYI, Liehuo Film (烈火影业) Shengge Film (盛阁影视) | Historical |
| Story of Kunning Palace <宁安如梦> | iQIYI | Historical |
| Imperfect Victim <不完美受害人> | Haohan (浩瀚影视), iQIYI | Crime |
| A Journey to Love <一念关山> | iQIYI | Romance |

Source: Company data, CMBIGM

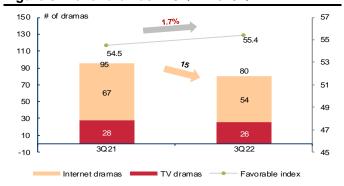
Figure 5: iQIYI's key variety show pipeline in 4Q22E and FY23E

| Title | Producer | Genre |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Super Sketch Show 2 < 一年一度喜剧大赛 2> | iQIYI, MEWE (米未传媒) | Comedy |
| Action.2 <开拍吧 2> | iQIYI | Talent show |
| 5H S3 <哈哈哈哈 3> | iQIYI, Tencent Video | Comedy |
| The Secret X S2 <机智的恋爱 2> | iQIYI, Yunyun Film | Romance |
| Be with you <我的小尾巴 3> | iQIYI | Talent show |
| Glory is back <登场了! 大山西> | iQIYI, Zhiliaoqingnian (知了青年) | Culture |
| Hello Dad <幸会啊,老爸> | iQIYI | Talent show |
| MBIT Social Lab <mbti 社交实验室=""></mbti> | iQIYI | Talent show |
| Love across the Sea <漂洋过海来看你> | iQIYI, The Better Life (沐之时光) | Romance |
| Our folk music <我们的民谣 2022> | iQIYI | Music |
| MeMoon Singer <元宇宙唱将> | iQIYI, iFish | Music |
| Music Camplus <音乐野生活> | iQIYI | Talent show |
| She know all <看穿一切的她> | iQIYI | Romance |

Source: Company data, CMBIGM

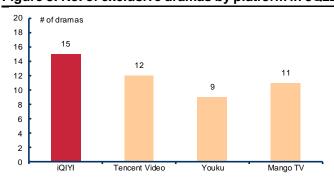


Figure 6: No. of dramas in 3Q22 vs. 3Q21



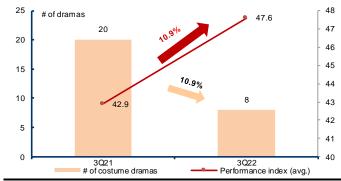
Source: Endata

Figure 8: No. of exclusive dramas by platform in 3Q22



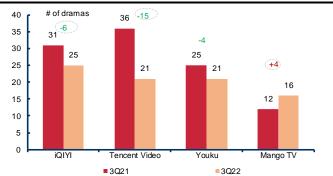
Source: Endata

Figure 10: No. of costume dramas in 3Q22



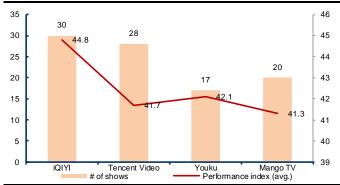
Source: Endata

Figure 12: No. of new variety shows across platforms



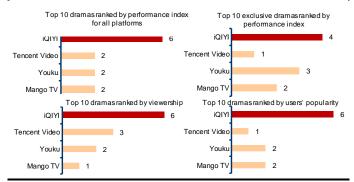
Source: Enlightent data

Figure 7: No. of dramas across platforms in 3Q22



Source: Endata

Figure 9: Rankings by # of dramas in 3Q22



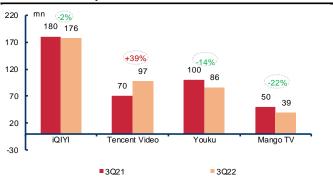
Source: Endata

Figure 11: Top 5 costume dramas in 3Q22

| Ranking | Title | Performance index | Platform(s) |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Love Between Fairy and Devil (苍兰诀) | 80.3 | iQIYI |
| 5 | Love like the galaxy (星汉灿烂·月生沧海) | 72.7 | |
| 7 | Immortal Samsara (沉香如屑·沉香重华) | 67.4 | ③ |
| 12 | Lost Track of Time (覆流年) | 61.8 | |
| 24 | Fei Hu Wai Zhuan (飞狐外传) | 53.7 | • |

Source: Endata

Figure 13: The effective viewership of new variety shows across platforms



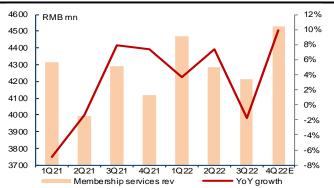
Source: Enlightent data



ARM still in growth trajectory with pricing hike and stronger monetization.

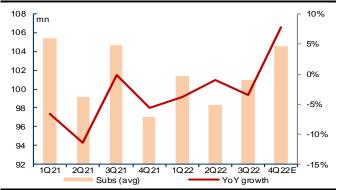
3Q22 ARM grew 2% YoY, backed by previous price hike. We expect further ARM upside, with: 1) rising TV members (with higher price); 2) diverse & premium content to improve member retention; and 3) wider benefits to strengthen monetization. Coupled with subs sequential growth ahead, we expect membership rev to grow 10%/8% YoY in 4Q22E/FY23E.

Figure 14: Quarterly membership services estimates



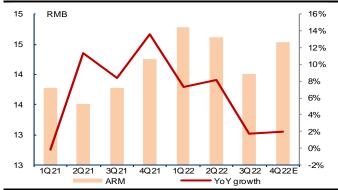
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 16: Quarterly subs estimates



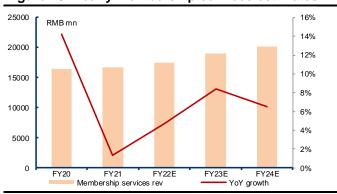
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 18: Quarterly ARM estimates



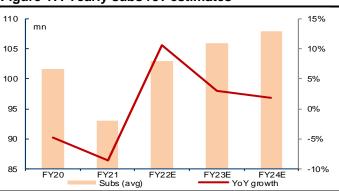
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 15: Yearly membership services estimates



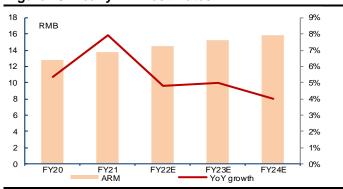
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 17: Yearly subs rev estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 19: Yearly ARM estimates



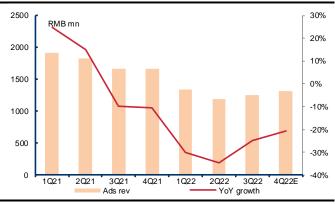
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Ads to recover in 4Q22E & 1Q23E, although consistant recovery takes time

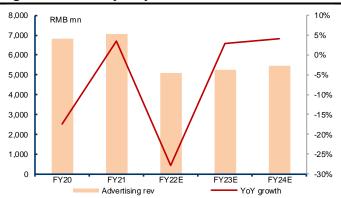
Although iQIYI ads declined 25% YoY in 3Q22, it achieved sequential growth (+4% QoQ) after 2Q22 trough, with ecommerce ads recovery to offset challenging macro. Strong performance of *Love between fairy and devil* should support ads momentum, but ads recovery typically lagged behind subs for brand advertising share lose (to performance ads) and tightening regulations on ads formats. Looking ahead, we expect ads sequential growth to continue in 4Q22E (forecasting +6% QoQ, -21% YoY), with richer content to release. We forecast its ads rev to deliver low single digit YoY growth in FY23/24E.

Figure 20: iQIYI's quarterly ads rev estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 21: iQIYI's yearly ads rev estimates



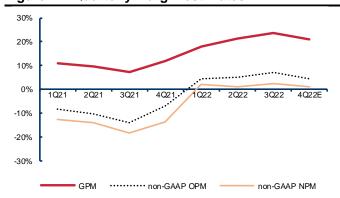
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Better margin outlook with aggressive cost control

IQIYI cost discipline continued, with non-GAAP OPM at 7.1% in 3Q22 (+2ppts QoQ). GPM came in at 24%, +2.4ppts QoQ, on lower-than-expected content cost for drama series delay. We expect 2H22E to achieve non-GAAP OP at RMB843mn (+26% HoH), with ROI-driven content investment and S&M.

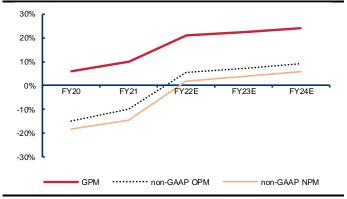
We see high visibility for iQIYI to improve its profitability in the long run, for content cost control, price hike and operating leverage. Mgmt. has upgraded its priority on margin expansion with "calm growth", focusing on investing core biz and higher-ROI projects. We expect iQIYI to achieve non-GAAP OPM at 9% in FY24E (non-GAAP OP at RMB2.9bn), with GPM up to 25%.

Figure 22: Quarterly margin estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 23: Yearly margin estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



WACC

Valuation attractive at historical trough

We resumed coverage with BUY rating, with DCF-based TP of **US\$4.1**, implying **0.8x** FY23E P/S, **21.6x** FY23E P/E. Despite calm growth for subs fluctuation and ads headwinds, we keep confident on iQIYI's long-term sub trend and ads recovery, backed by its vibrant original content pipeline. iQIYI's positive price drivers and catalysts would originate from: 1) hit dramas in 4Q22E to be launched; 2) ads recovery in sight; 3) subs to pick up; and 4) margin improvement. On top of that, we expect iQIYI to benefit from sector re-rating (potential reopening expectation) and regulation easing ahead.

We use DCF valuation as our primary method since it is suitable to apply DCF valuation to internet companies with healthy cash flows in the long run. Assuming a WACC of 13% and a terminal growth rate of 3%, our estimated TP is **US\$4.1**, representing **0.8x** FY23E P/S, **21.6x** FY23E P/E.

Figure 24: DCF Valuation

| DCF valuation (RMB mn) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2021 | 2022E | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E | 2027E | 2028E | 2029E | 2030E |
| EBIT | (3,027) | 1,537 | 2,180 | 2,937 | 3,637 | 4,190 | 4,888 | 5,547 | 6,221 | 6,919 |
| Tax | (97) | (110) | (100) | (200) | (250) | (236) | (387) | (485) | (586) | (684) |
| D&A | 16,766 | 16,411 | 13,301 | 13,828 | 14,357 | 14,992 | 15,504 | 15,963 | 16,435 | 16,918 |
| Working capital | (17,586) | (15,071) | (13,632) | (14,076) | (14,669) | (15,213) | (15,775) | (16,271) | (16,717) | (17,241) |
| CAPEX | (401) | (833) | (854) | (866) | (948) | (975) | (1,002) | (1,009) | (1,007) | (1,017) |
| FCF | (4,344) | 1,934 | 895 | 1,623 | 2,126 | 2,757 | 3,228 | 3,745 | 4,346 | 4,895 |
| FCF Growth | | -145% | -54% | 81% | 31% | 30% | 17% | 16% | 16% | 13% |
| Terminal Value | | | | | | | | | | 52,430 |
| PV (FCF+ Terminal Value) | (4,344) | 1,934 | 795 | 1,280 | 1,489 | 1,714 | 1,782 | 1,836 | 1,892 | 22,159 |

| Assumptions | |
|----------------------|-------|
| WACC | 12.6% |
| Tax rate | 15.0% |
| Risk free rate | 3.6% |
| Beta | 1.10 |
| Market risk return | 11.8% |
| Terminal growth rate | 3.0% |

| | | | | 11% | 12% | 13% | 14% | 15% |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Equity Value | | | 1.5% | 4.7 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.6 |
| PV | 34,880 | | 2.0% | 4.9 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 2.7 |
| minus: Net cash | 9,676 | Growth | 2.5% | 5.1 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 2.7 |
| minus: Minority Interest | 0 | Growth | 3.0% | 5.4 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 2.8 |
| Equity Value | 25,204 | | 3.5% | 5.7 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 3.0 |
| Shares (mn) | 857 | | 4.0% | 6.1 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| Target Price (US\$) based on DCF | 4.1 | | 4.5% | 6.5 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 3.2 |

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 25: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

| | | CMBIGM | | (| onsensus | | | Diff (%) | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| RMB mn, Dec-YE | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | |
| Revenue | 28,729 | 30,492 | 32,075 | 28,737 | 30,509 | 32,097 | 0.0% | -0.1% | -0.1% | |
| Gross Profit | 6,048 | 6,850 | 7,755 | 5,909 | 6,891 | 7,858 | 2.3% | -0.6% | -1.3% | |
| Operating Profit | 655 | 1,245 | 1,954 | 577 | 1,446 | 2,121 | 13.6% | -13.9% | -7.9% | |
| Adj. net profit | 498 | 1,198 | 1,824 | 130 | 898 | 1,452 | 283.4% | 33.4% | 25.6% | |
| Adj. EPS (RMB) | 0.58 | 1.36 | 2.06 | 0.37 | 1.00 | 1.71 | 58.9% | 35.6% | 20.3% | |
| Gross Margin | 21.1% | 22.5% | 24.2% | 20.6% | 22.6% | 24.5% | +0.5ppts | -0.1ppts | -0.3ppts | |
| Operating Margin | 2.3% | 4.1% | 6.1% | 2.0% | 4.7% | 6.6% | +0.3ppts | -0.7ppts | -0.5ppts | |
| Adj. net margin | 1.7% | 3.9% | 5.7% | 0.5% | 2.9% | 4.5% | +1.3ppts | +1.0ppts | +1.2ppts | |

Source: CMBIGM estimates, Bloomberg



As a crosscheck, we selected 4 entertainment giants, 8 subs peers and 5 ads peers for comparison. The industry multiple is **2.3**x FY23E P/S, largely higher than our DCF-based multiple.

Netflix and Mango could be the most comparable one, for the similar business. Currently, Netflix and Mango's FY23E P/S was 3.3x, FY23E P/E was 21x, both above our TP-based multiple. Since Netflix is a clear leader in global market and 98% rev mix from subs, market might prefer to value iQIYI with a multiple at a discount of Netflix. iQIYI is now trading at 0.6x FY23E P/S (or 14.6x FY23E P/E) with attractive valuation. And we think our TP is not demanding for iQIYI, since: 1) iQIYI exceled itself with high-quality original content creation, data analytics to better target user preference and valuable IP reserve; and 2) it would deliver higher earnings CAGR (91% in FY22-24E, vs. 15% for industrial average). Its potential hit drama, ads recovery and subs pick-up would bring further upside, if executed well.

Figure 26: Valuation comps

| Company | Ticker | Mkt cap C | Mkt cap Currency | | Mkt cap Currency | | Mkt cap Currency | | Mkt cap Currency | | Mkt cap Currency | | Mkt cap Currency | | CMBI | CMBI | | PE | | | PS | | | EV/EBIT | | FY22-24 EF |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|------|--|----|--|--|----|--|--|---------|--|------------|
| | | (USD mn) | | | Raiting | TP | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | CAGR | | | | | | | | | | |
| iQIYI | IQ US | 2,558 | USD | 3 | BUY | 4 | NA | 22.1 | 12.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 42.1 | 23.4 | 15.8 | 210% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Internet giants | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tencent | 700 HK | 366,036 | HKD | 298 | BUY | 402 | 22.4 | 18.5 | 15.8 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 17.3 | 15.5 | 13.5 | 18% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alibaba | BABA US | 231,818 | USD | 88 | BUY | 159 | 11.8 | 10.3 | 9.2 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 12.5 | 10.5 | 8.9 | 13% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disney | DIS US | 178,475 | USD | 98 | NA | NA | 24.3 | 18.7 | 16.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 18.1 | 15.1 | 13.2 | 25% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Netflix | NFLX US | 135,967 | USD | 306 | NA | NA | 26.6 | 25.0 | 19.7 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 26.6 | 23.8 | 19.0 | 12% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | | | 19.5 | 15.9 | 13.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 18.6 | 16.2 | 13.6 | 17% | | | | | | | | | | |
| VAS & Subscrib | ers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | 300413 CH | 7,014 | CNY | 26 | NA | NA | 23.3 | 19.6 | 16.9 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 18.7 | 15.7 | 13.7 | 17% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bilibili | BILI US | 6,943 | USD | 17 | BUY | 21 | NA | NA | NA | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.5 | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | | | | | |
| TME | TME US | 12,030 | USD | 7 | BUY | 7 | 18.5 | 17.2 | 15.9 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 16.6 | 14.6 | 13.2 | 11% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Huya | HUYA US | 654 | USD | 3 | BUY | 4 | NA | NA | 28.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douyu | DOYU US | 416 | USD | 1 | NA | NA | NA | 39.1 | 21.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Momo | MOMO US | 1,137 | USD | 6 | HOLD | 14 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 8% | | | | | | | | | | |
| YY | YY US | 2,159 | USD | 30 | BUY | 50 | 12.9 | 12.1 | 10.5 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | NA | NA | NA | 17% | | | | | | | | | | |
| China Literature | 772 HK | 3,657 | HKD | 28 | NA | NA | 19.6 | 16.3 | 14.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 20.3 | 13.0 | 11.1 | 18% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | | | 15.8 | 13.9 | 13.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 14.0 | 10.9 | 9.6 | 14% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baidu | BIDU US | 37,527 | USD | 109 | BUY | 193 | 13.6 | 12.1 | 10.3 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 11.5 | 10.4 | 8.7 | 13% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weibo | WB US | 3,771 | USD | 16 | BUY | 20 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 9% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Facebook | META US | 313,148 | USD | 118 | NA | NA | 11.7 | 13.6 | 12.1 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 9.5 | 10.9 | 9.1 | 10% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snapchat | SNAP US | 16,631 | USD | 10 | NA | NA | 72.4 | 58.9 | 26.4 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 2.8 | NA | NA | 56.4 | 98% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Twitter | TWTR US | 41,094 | USD | 54 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 7.8 | 7.0 | 6.0 | NA | NA | NA | 10% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | | | 11.0 | 10.9 | 9.6 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 7.7 | 11% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | | | 15.4 | 13.6 | 12.4 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 13.9 | 12.1 | 10.3 | 14% | | | | | | | | | | |

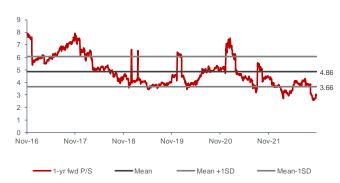
Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



Figure 27: IQ historical P/S



Figure 28: Core Internet historical P/S



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 29: Core Internet historical P/E

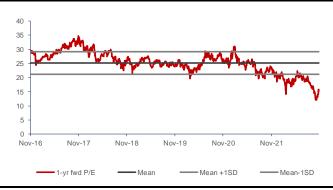
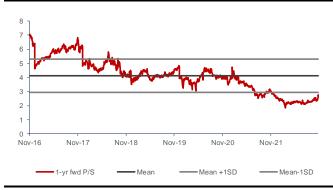


Figure 30: Entertainment historical P/S



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Key Investment Risks

Key investment risks may derive from: 1) key content delay; 2) regulation uncertainty; 3) slower-than-expected ads recovery for macro uncertainty; and 4) external financing need.



Financial Summary

| Income statement | Cash flow summary | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | FY20A | FY21A | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | FY20A | FY21A | FY22E | FY23E | FY24 |
| Revenue | 29,707 | 30,554 | 28,729 | 30,492 | 32,075 | Net income | (7,038) | (6,170) | (571) | 323 | 90 |
| Membership services | 16,491 | 16,714 | 17,497 | 18,970 | 20,203 | D&A | 17,196 | 16,766 | 16,411 | 13,301 | 13,82 |
| Online advertising services | 6,822 | 7,067 | 5,098 | 5,241 | 5,461 | Change in WC | (16,613) | (17,586) | (15,071) | (13,632) | (14,076 |
| Content distribution | 2,660 | 2,856 | 2,713 | 2,767 | 2,822 | Others | 1,014 | 977 | 824 | 874 | 92 |
| Others | 3,734 | 3,918 | 3,422 | 3,514 | 3,588 | Operating CF | (5,442) | (6,013) | 1,592 | 867 | 1,57 |
| COGS | (27,884) | (27,513) | (22,681) | (23,642) | (24,320) | | 4 | | | | |
| Gross profit | 1,823 | 3,041 | 6,048 | 6,850 | 7,755 | Capex Purchase of long-term | (392) (1,051) | (401) (386) | (833) | (854) - | (86) |
| S&M | (5,188) | (4,725) | (3,351) | (3,483) | (3,627) | investments Others | 1,602 | 2,049 | | | |
| | (3, 100) | (4,723) | (3,331) | (3,403) | (3,021) | | | , | (000) | (054) | (0.0 |
| Admin.Exp. | (\) | | | | <i>(</i>) | Investing CF | 159 | 1,262 | (833) | (854) | (86 |
| R&D | (2,675) | (2,795) | (2,042) | (2,121) | (2,174) | | | | | | |
| Operating profit | (6,041) | (4,479) | 655 | 1,245 | 1,954 | Equity raised | 10 | 268 | - | - | |
| | | | | | | Change of Debts | (369) | 259 | - | 1,647 | (57 |
| Other income/(exp), net | (943) | (1,533) | (1,099) | (822) | (849) | Cash from CB raised | 5,151 | 632 | - | - | |
| Pre-tax Income | (6,984) | (6,012) | (444) | 423 | 1,104 | Others | 4,582 | (4,119) | 1,899 | - | |
| | | | | | | Financing CF | 9,374 | (2,959) | 1,899 | 1,647 | (576 |
| Income Tax | (23) | (97) | (110) | (100) | (200) | | -, | (=,) | ., | ., | (|
| | | | , , | | ` , | Not change in each | 4 000 | (7.027) | 2.650 | 1 660 | 10 |
| Net profit | (7,077) | (6,251) | (589) | 323 | 904 | Net change in cash | 4,000 | (7,927) | 2,658 | 1,660 | 13 |
| Adj. net profit | (5,476) | (4,549) | 480 | 1,198 | 1,824 | Cash (beg of yr) FX | 6,910 (91) | 10,941 (217) | 3,075 | 5,733 | 7,39 |
| | | | | | | Cash (end of yr) | 10,941 | 3,075 | 5,733 | 7,393 | 7,52 |
| Dalaman abasi | | | | | | | 10,041 | 0,070 | 0,700 | 7,000 | 7,02 |
| Balance sheet | F)/00 A | F)/0.4.4 | E)/OOE | FVOOF | E) (0.4E | Key ratios | F1/00 A | E)/0.4.4 | E)/00E | E)/00E | E)/0.4 |
| YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | FY20A | FY21A | FY22E | FY23E | FY24E | YE 31 Dec | FY20A | FY21A | FY22E | FY23E | FY24 |
| Non-current assets | 25,895 | 30,948 | 28,803 | 30,286 | 31,851 | Sales mix (%) | | | | | |
| Fixed asset | 1,393 | 1,345 | 1,577 | 1,810 | 2,019 | Membership services | 55.5 | 54.7 | 60.9 | 62.2 | 63 |
| Long-term investments | 3,203 | 3,035 | 3,035 | 3,035 | 3,035 | Online advertising services | 23.0 | 23.1 | 17.7 | 17.2 | 17 |
| Licensed copyrights, net | 6,435 | 7,258 | 6,517 | 6,869 | 7,156 | Content distribution | 9.0 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 8. |
| Others | 14,864 | 19,310 | 17,674 | 18,571 | 19,640 | Others | 12.6 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11 |
| | | | | | | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100 |
| Current assets | 22,290 | 11,524 | 13,885 | 15,664 | 15,909 | | | | | | |
| Cash | 10,915 | 2,997 | 5,655 | 7,315 | 7,449 | Growth rate (%) | | | | | |
| Restricted cash | 25 | 78 | 78 | 7,515 | 78 | Revenue | 2.5 | 2.0 | (6.0) | 6.1 | 5 |
| Short-term investments | 3,358 | 1,348 | 1,348 | 1,348 | 1,348 | Gross profit | (234.6) | 2.9 66.8 | (6.0) 98.9 | 13.3 | 13 |
| Account receivable | 3,344 | 2,748 | 2,741 | 2,867 | 2,972 | EBIT | NA | NA | NA | 90.0 | 56 |
| Others | 4,647 | 4,353 | 4,063 | 4,055 | 4,061 | Adj. net profit | NA | NA | NA | 149.7 | 52 |
| Current liabilities | 24,855 | 22,476 | 20,541 | 22,605 | 22,591 | P&L ratios (%) | | | | | |
| Account payable | 7,562 | 8,896 | 7,458 | 7,709 | 7,930 | Operating margin | (20.3) | (14.7) | 2.3 | 4.1 | 6 |
| Customer advances and deferred revenue | 3,445 | 3,485 | 3,420 | 3,630 | 3,818 | Pre-tax margin | (23.5) | (19.7) | (1.5) | 1.4 | 3 |
| Accrued liabilities | 3,241 | 3,172 | 2,768 | 2,885 | 2,968 | Adj. net margin | (18.4) | (14.9) | 1.7 | 3.9 | 5 |
| Short-term borrowings | 2,966 | 4,118 | 4,118 | 5,765 | 5,188 | Effective tax rate | (0.1) | (0.3) | (0.4) | (0.3) | (0.0 |
| Others | 7,641 | 2,806 | 2,777 | 2,616 | 2,686 | Endouve tax rate | (0.1) | (0.0) | (0.7) | (0.0) | (0.0 |
| Olliers | 7,041 | 2,000 | 2,111 | 2,010 | 2,000 | Detume (0/) | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Returns (%) | | | . | | |
| Non-current liabilities | 13,887 | 14,323 | 14,323 | 14,323 | 14,323 | ROE | (73.9) | (106.0) | (5.7) | 4.7 | 10 |
| Convertible senior notes Others | 11,927 1,960 | 12,652 1,670 | 12,652 1,670 | 12,652 1,670 | 12,652 1,670 | ROA | (11.4) | (10.7) | 1.1 | 2.6 | 3 |
| | .,000 | .,0.0 | .,070 | .,070 | .,0.0 | Per share | | | | | |
| MI | 79 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | EPS (RMB) | (7.36) | (5.64) | 0.58 | 1.36 | 2.0 |
| Total Equity | 9,415 | 5,364 | 7,515 | 8,713 | 10,537 | DPS (RMB) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| Shareholders' equity | 9,336 | 5,276 | 7,427 | 8,625 | 10,449 | BVPS (RMB) | 1.82 | 0.96 | 1.25 | 1.41 | 1.7 |



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Stock with potential loss of over 10% over next 12 months

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OUTPERFORM : Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

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