

Zoomlion (1157 HK)

Right strategy on product & global expansion; expect structural growth ahead; U/G to BUY

We are convinced by Zoomlion's impressive global expansion strategy. On the product side, the offering of full range of machinery through an effective direct sales model enables Zoomlion to penetrate different key markets in overseas. On regions, the priorities on emerging economies such as the Middle East, Middle Asia and Southeast Asia over Europe and North America make it subject to less geopolitical risks. With overseas revenue mix rising to 48% in 1Q24 (vs only <10% three years ago), and with only 15% of machinery sales related to property investments in China (vs >40% three years ago), Zoomlion is set to ride on a new structural growth trajectory. We revise up our 2024E-26E earnings forecast by 12%-14%, driven by higher assumptions for overseas sales and gross margin. Our TP for Zoomlion A/H is revised up to RMB11.6/HK\$7.5. Upgrade to **BUY** from Hold.

- **Key highlights in 1Q24 results.** Revenue grew 13% YoY to RMB11.7bn, driven by overseas growth (+53% YoY to RMB5.7bn) that offset the weakness in China (-9% YoY to RMB6.1bn). Overseas revenue accounted for 48% in 1Q24 (up from 36% in 1Q23), reaching a record high. Blended gross margin expanded 2.3ppt YoY to 28.7%, as gross margin in overseas (>33%) was higher than that in China. Selling & distribution expense ratio increased 0.9ppt YoY to 7.4%, due to more overseas businesses. R&D expense ratio dropped 0.5ppt YoY to 5.7%. Net profit grew 13% YoY to RMB916mn. Operating cash inflow increased 7% YoY to RMB307mn.
- Emerging business segments saw strong growth in 1Q24. Excavator: +40% YoY, AWP: +35% YoY, agricultural machinery: +150% YoY, mining machinery: +7x YoY on low base. For traditional segments, overseas revenue growth significantly outpaced domestic sales in 1Q24 (Overseas truck crane: +50%, tower crane: +70%, concrete machinery: +1x)
- Excavators outperformed the industry trend. Excavator revenue (+40% YoY) emerged as the second largest segment in 1Q24, which is impressive compared with the weak industry sales (-13% YoY). Management explained that the success comes from the focus on large-size excavators. Besides, the advanced manufacturing capacity enhanced the capability of offering high value added models. The segment gross margin in 1Q24 was ~30% (overseas: 32-33%).

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue (RMB mn)	41,631	47,075	54,419	63,339	72,374
YoY growth (%)	(38.0)	13.1	15.6	16.4	14.3
Adjusted net profit (RMB mn)	2,347.0	3,550.0	4,365.5	4,983.3	5,677.3
EPS (Reported) (RMB)	0.28	0.43	0.53	0.60	0.69
YoY growth (%)	(63.3)	54.9	23.0	14.2	13.9
Consensus EPS (RMB)	na	na	0.54	0.70	0.78
P/E (x)	19.9	12.8	10.4	9.1	8.0
P/B (x)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Yield (%)	5.6	5.8	6.4	7.3	8.3
ROE (%)	4.4	6.9	8.2	9.1	10.0
Net gearing (%)	7.3	12.2	15.0	16.9	17.7

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

BUY (Up)

Target Price HK\$7.50 (Previous TP HK\$5.50) Up/Downside 25.6% **Current Price** HK\$5.97

China Capital Goods

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	51,807.7
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	70.4
52w High/Low (HK\$)	6.27/3.60
Total Issued Shares (mn)	8678.0
Source: FactSet	

Shareholding Structure

SASAC of Hunan Province	14.5%
Management team	7.9%
Source: HKEx, SSE	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	23.1%	14.6%
3-mth	43.5%	25.1%
6-mth	47.0%	41.7%

Source: FactSet

12-mth Price Performance



Source: FactSet

Related Reports

- Construction machinery sector -More policies to support domestic machinery demand; export sector rally to continue - 18 Apr 2024 (link)
- Zoomlion 2023 net profit in line; overseas strategy a successful paypff - 2 Apr 2024 (A: link) (H:
- Capital Goods sector 2M24: Solid growth of forklifts; weakness continued for tower cranes & excavators - 15 Mar 2024 (link)
- Capital Goods sector Strong sales of AWPs & forklifts in Jan; Tower cranes the worst - 29 Feb 2024 (link)
- China Construction Machinery / HDT - 2024 Outlook: Slowdown of overseas demand along with lack of growth in China; be selective - 30 Nov 2023 (link)



Figure 1: Zoomlion's 1Q24 results

(RMB mn)	1Q23	1Q24	Change YoY	2Q22	2Q23	Change YoY	3Q22	3Q23	Change YoY	4Q22	4Q23	Change YoY
Revenue breakdown	iQZS	1Q24	Grange 101	2022	2423	Change 101	3022	JQ23	Change 101	4022	4423	Grange 101
China	6,695	6,071	-9.3%	9,074	9,008	-0.7%	6,738	6.783	0.7%	7,487	6,541	-12.6%
Overseas	3.731	5,703	-9.3% 52.9%		4.641	109.6%	2,611	4.656	78.3%	3,495	5.020	43.6%
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Total revenue	10,426	11,773	12.9%	11,287	13,650	20.9%	9,350	11,439	22.3%	10,982	11,561	5.3%
Cost of sales	-7,674	-8,400	9.5%	-8,871	-9,685	9.2%	-7,348	-8,298	12.9%	-8,322	-8,452	1.6%
Gross profit	2,752	3,373	22.6%	2,416	3,964	64.1%	2,002	3,141	56.9%	2,660	3,109	16.9%
Other income	-6	-51	696.9%	679	135	-80.1%	-78	276	n/a	388	530	36.6%
S&D expenses	-677	-866	28.0%	-658	-1,018	54.8%	-728	-875	20.2%	-751	-987	31.4%
Administrative expenses	-567	-719	26.8%	-550	-727	32.2%	-578	-617	6.7%	-1,230	-1,157	-5.9%
R&D expenses	-645	-665	3.1%	-688	-940	36.6%	-668	-983	47.0%	-717	-873	21.9%
EBIT	856	1,072	25.2%	1,200	1,415	17.9%	-51	942	n/a	351	622	77.1%
Net finance income/(cost)	-124	-54	-56.6%	219	247	12.6%	322	22	-93.2%	-247	139	n/a
Other gains/(losses)	180	119	-33.8%	-406	-180	-55.6%	244	-97	n/a	-244	97	n/a
Share of profit of JV and associates	32	39	22.1%	20	43	117.0%	15	40	173.7%	47	38	-19.5%
Pretax profit	944	1,177	24.6%	1,033	1,525	47.6%	531	906	70.9%	-93	897	n/a
Income tax	-86	-156	82.2%	-211	-163	-22.4%	-73	-64	-12.9%	303	-144	n/a
After tax profit	859	1,020	18.8%	823	1,361	65.5%	457	843	84.3%	210	752	258.1%
MI	-49	-105	115.0%	-13	-131	886.4%	-4	-28	539.0%	-32	-57	81.2%
Net profit	810	916	13.0%	809	1,230	52.0%	453	815	79.9%	178	695	289.6%
Key ratios			Change (ppt)			Change (ppt)			Change (ppt)			Change (ppt)
Gross margin	26.4%	28.7%	2.3	21.4%	29.0%	7.6	21.4%	27.5%	6.1	24.2%	26.9%	2.7
S&D expenses ratio	6.5%	7.4%	0.9	5.8%	7.5%	1.6	7.8%	7.6%	-0.1	6.8%	8.5%	1.7
Administrative expense ratio	5.4%	6.1%	0.7	4.9%	5.3%	0.5	6.2%	5.4%	-0.8	11.2%	10.0%	-1.2
R&D expense ratio	6.2%	5.7%	-0.5	6.1%	6.9%	0.8	7.1%	8.6%	1.4	6.5%	7.6%	1.0
Net margin	8.2%	8.7%	0.4	7.3%	10.0%	2.7	4.9%	7.4%	2.5	1.9%	6.5%	4.6
Effective tax rate	9.1%	13.3%	4.2	20.4%	10.7%	-9.7	13.8%	7.0%	-6.8	325.6%	16.1%	-309.5
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Source: Company data, CMBIGM

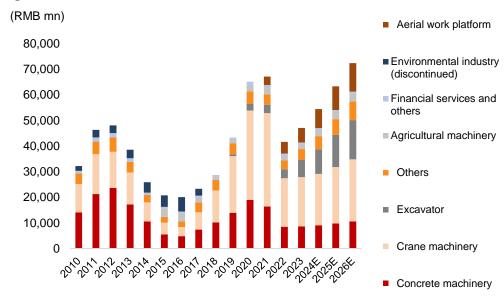
Figure 2: Change in key assumptions

_	Old				New		Change			
	2024E	2025E	2026E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2024E	2025E	2026E	
(RMB mn)										
Revenue										
Construction machinery	50,768	58,174	64,852	51,282	59,784	68,491	1%	3%	6%	
Concrete machinery	8,942	9,658	10,430	9,028	9,750	10,531	1%	1%	1%	
Crane machinery	19,677	20,857	22,109	20,063	22,069	24,276	2%	6%	10%	
Aerial work platform	7,419	9,274	11,128	7,419	9,274	11,128	0%	0%	0%	
Excavator	9,640	12,532	15,038	9,640	12,532	15,289	0%	0%	2%	
Others	5,090	5,854	6,147	5,133	6,159	7,268	1%	5%	18%	
Agricultural machinery	2,406	2,646	2,858	2,615	3,007	3,308	9%	14%	16%	
Financial services and others	522	548	575	522	548	575	0%	0%	0%	
Total revenue	53,695	61,368	68,285	54,419	63,339	72,374	1%	3%	6%	
Gross margin							C	t		
Construction machinery	27.7%	27.8%	28.0%	28.5%	28.8%	29.1%	0.84	0.95	1.17	
Concrete machinery	23.1%	23.5%	23.7%	23.5%	23.8%	24.0%	0.40	0.30	0.30	
Crane machinery	31.2%	31.3%	31.4%	33.0%	33.3%	33.8%	1.80	2.00	2.40	
Aerial work platform	23.2%	23.5%	23.7%	23.5%	23.6%	23.9%	0.30	0.10	0.20	
Excavator	28.5%	28.7%	29.0%	28.5%	29.0%	29.5%	0.00	0.30	0.50	
Others	27.3%	27.8%	28.0%	27.3%	28.0%	28.2%	0.00	0.20	0.20	
Agricultural machinery	12.0%	12.3%	12.7%	17.0%	19.0%	20.0%	5.00	6.70	7.30	
Financial services	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Blended gross margin	27.7%	27.8%	27.9%	28.6%	28.9%	29.2%	0.97	1.13	1.35	
S&D expense ratio	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Administrative expense ratio	6.5%	6.4%	6.4%	6.5%	6.4%	6.4%	0.0	0.0	0.0	
R&D expense ratio	7.4%	7.3%	7.3%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	
Net profit	3,901	4,459	4,959	4,365	4,983	5,677	12%	12%	14%	

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

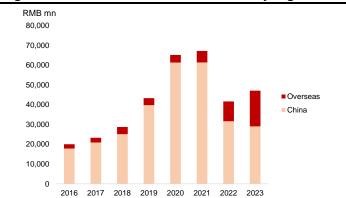


Figure 3: Zoomlion's revenue breakdown



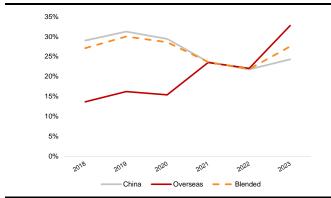
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: Zoomlion revenue breakdown by region



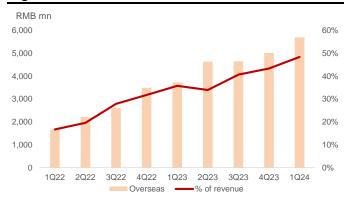
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 6: Gross margin overseas exceeded that in China in 2023



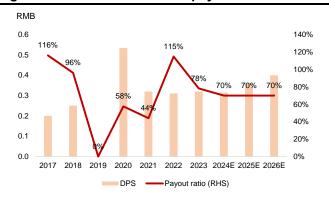
Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Figure 5: Zoomlion overseas revenue on the rise



Source: Company data, CMBIGM

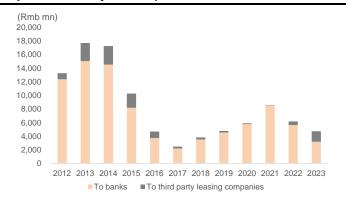
Figure 7: Zoomlion's DPS and payout ratio



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

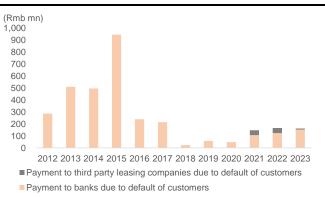


Figure 8: Zoomlion's financial guarantee issued (max. exposure as of year end)



Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Figure 9: Zoomlion's payment due to default of customers

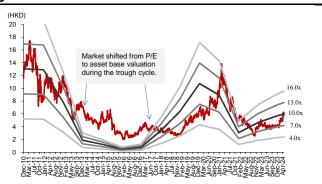


Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Upgrade to BUY

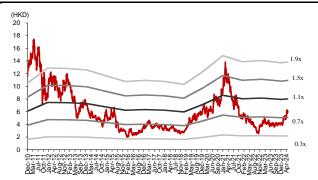
Higher target multiple to be driven by a structural upcycle. Our new TP for A-share (RMB11.6) is based on 22x 2024E P/E, equivalent to the peak valuation in 2021 (previous TP of RMB8.5 was based on 18x). We believe the solid overseas expansion story will serve as the re-rating driver. Our new TP for H-share (HK\$7.5) is based on 40% H/A discount (3-year historical average).

Figure 10: Zoomlion - H 12M forward P/E band



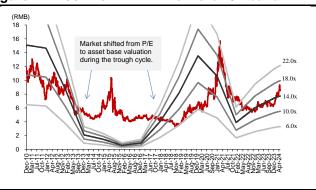
Source: Bloomberg, company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 11: Zoomlion - H 12M forward P/B band



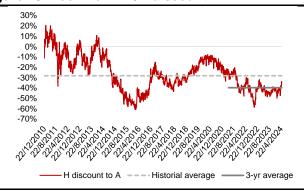
Source: Bloomberg, company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 12: Zoomlion - A 12M forward P/E band



Source: Bloomberg, company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 13: Zoomlion – H/A discount



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Major risk factors: (1) Weaker-than-expected property investment in China; (2) a slowdown of overseas demand; (3) rebounds of steel price and freight rates.



Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Revenue	67,131	41,631	47,075	54,419	63,339	72,374
Cost of goods sold	(51,280)	(32,543)	(34,109)	(38,839)	(45,025)	(51,209)
Gross profit	15,851	9,088	12,966	15,580	18,314	21,166
Selling expense	(3,473)	(2,635)	(3,557)	(4,245)	(4,940)	(5,645)
Admin expense	(2,729)	(2,846)	(3,068)	(3,537)	(4,054)	(4,632)
R&D expense	(3,865)	(2,507)	(3,441)	(3,918)	(4,560)	(5,211)
Other income	1,413	982	935	922	922	922
Other gains/(losses)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share of (losses)/profits of associates/JV	154	130	153	160	166	172
EBITDA	8,096	3,116	5,135	6,175	7,106	8,057
Depreciation	899	1,034	1,300	1,373	1,425	1,458
EBIT	7,197	2,082	3,835	4,801	5,681	6,599
Interest income	970	989	914	1,049	963	905
Interest expense	(964)	(689)	(630)	(670)	(673)	(676)
Net Interest income/(expense)	6	300	284	378	290	228
Pre-tax profit	7,357	2,512	4,272	5,340	6,137	6,999
Income tax	(938)	(86)	(457)	(641)	(767)	(875)
Minority interest	(116)	(79)	(265)	(334)	(387)	(447)
Net profit	6,419	2,426	3,815	4,699	5,370	6,124
Adjusted net profit	6,303	2,347	3,550	4,365	4,983	5,677
Gross dividends	2,777	2,694	2,777	3,056	3,488	3,974
BALANCE SHEET	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Current assets	72,714	73,602	78,006	78,651	88,440	92,074
Cash & equivalents	13,190	13,791	13,606	11,855	10,553	9,759
Account receivables	32,108	33,962	32,033	36,550	41,539	44,913
Inventories	13,501	14,203	22,504	19,634	24,774	25,452
ST bank deposits	1,775	1,708	2,265	2,265	2,265	2,265
Financial assets at FVTPL	6,408	4,011	1,767	1,767	1,767	1,767
Other current assets	5,732	5,927	5,831	6,581	7,542	7,918
Non-current assets	49,268	49,915	52,819	59,361	60,548	64,811
PP&E	9,740	13,903	17,364	18,309	18,709	18,579
Deferred income tax	1,148	1,907	2,303	2,303	2,303	2,303
Investment in JVs & assos	4,190	4,476	4,497	4,657	4,823	4,995
Intangibles	1,850	1,926	1,988	1,820	1,645	1,367
Goodwill	1,908	2,562	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641
Financial assets at FVTPL	2,418	2,263	2,669	2,669	2,669	2,669
Other non-current assets	28,014	22,878	21,357	26,962	27,758	32,257
Total assets	121,982	123,517	130,825	138,012	148,988	156,885
Current liabilities	49,675	48,393	49,996	55,261	63,923	69,184
Short-term borrowings	11,011	11,018	7,377	7,477	7,577	7,677
Account payables	36,600	35,259	40,513	45,678	54,240	59,401
Tax payable	97	107	154	154	154	154
Other current liabilities	1,967	2,009	1,952	1,952	1,952	1,952
Non-current liabilities	14,047	18,185	21,698	21,698	21,698	21,698
Long-term borrowings	7,894	10,962	14,922	14,922	14,922	14,922
Other non-current liabilities	6,153	7,223	6,776	6,776	6,776	6,776
Total liabilities	63,722	66,578	71,694	76,959	85,621	90,882
Total shareholders equity	56,831	54,705	56,371	57,959	59,887	62,076
Minority interest	1,429	2,234	2,760	3,094	3,480	3,927
Total equity and liabilities	121,982	123,517	130,825	138,012	148,988	156,885



CASH FLOW	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	7,357	2,512	4,272	5,340	6,137	6,999
Depreciation & amortization	899	1,034	1,300	1,373	1,425	1,458
Tax paid	(1,361)	(436)	(457)	(641)	(767)	(875)
Change in working capital	(4,602)	(2,015)	(2,837)	(2,886)	(3,375)	(3,816)
Others	12,421	3,929	6,266	7,494	8,854	10,232
Net cash from operations	2,189	1,951	2,292	2,647	2,964	3,367
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(1,401)	(1,027)	(803)	(2,000)	(1,500)	(1,000)
Acquisition of subsidiaries/ investments	0	(191)	0	0	0	0
Others	4	2,259	946	949	863	905
Net cash from investing	(1,397)	1,041	143	(1,051)	(637)	(95)
Financing						
Dividend paid	(3,041)	(2,777)	(2,694)	(2,777)	(3,056)	(3,488)
Net borrowings	76	2,751	319	100	100	100
Proceeds from share issues	6,088	(1,556)	(1,085)	0	0	0
Others	(703)	(912)	816	(670)	(673)	(676)
Net cash from financing	2,420	(2,494)	(2,644)	(3,347)	(3,629)	(4,065)
Net change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	10,086	13,190	13,791	13,606	11,855	10,553
Exchange difference	(108)	103	24	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	13,190	13,791	13,606	11,855	10,553	9,759
GROWTH	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec	2.40/	(20.00/)	42.40/	45.60/	46.40/	4.4.20/
Revenue	3.1%	(38.0%)	13.1%	15.6%	16.4%	14.3%
Gross profit EBITDA	(14.9%)	(42.7%)	42.7%	20.2%	17.6% 15.1%	15.6% 13.4%
EBIT	(14.5%)	(61.5%)	64.8%	20.2%		16.2%
	(16.7%)	(71.1%)	84.2%	25.2%	18.3% 14.3%	14.0%
Net profit	(12.9%)	(62.2%)	57.3%	23.2% 23.0%	14.3%	13.9%
Adj. net profit PROFITABILITY	(13.6%) 2021 A	(62.8%) 2022A	51.3% 2023A	23.0% 2024E	2025E	2026E
	ZUZTA	ZUZZA	2023A	2024L	ZUZJL	2020L
YE 31 Dec	00.00/	04.00/	07.50/	00.00/	00.00/	20.00/
Gross profit margin	23.6%	21.8%	27.5%	28.6%	28.9%	29.2%
EBITDA margin	12.1%	7.5%	10.9%	11.3%	11.2%	11.1%
Adj. net profit margin	9.4% 12.4%	5.6% 4.4%	7.5% 6.9%	8.0% 8.2%	7.9% 9.1%	7.8% 10.0%
Return on equity (ROE) GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec	2021A	ZUZZA	2023A	2024L	2023L	Z0Z0L
Net debt to equity (x)	(0.0)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Current ratio (x)	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3
Receivable turnover days	235.3	413.2	343.9	318.0	313.0	305.0
Inventory turnover days	100.2	155.4	196.4	198.0	180.0	179.0
Payable turnover days	274.0	403.0	405.4	405.0	405.0	405.0
VALUATION	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
YE 31 Dec						
P/E	7.3	19.9	12.8	10.4	9.1	8.0
P/B	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Div yield (%)	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.4	7.3	8.3

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



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