CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update

JOYY Inc. (YY US)

Looking beyond 1Q23E soft seasonality

We expect JOYY to deliver in-line 4Q22E, with rev -9% YoY (unchanged) and bottom line at US\$2mn (margin diluted by Shopline loss). As a typical soft season, we expect 1Q23E rev declined 6% QoQ, dragged by CNY & Ramadan disruptions and competition pressure. With rising paying users and Middle East stabilization, Bigo would resume growth in 2H23E, in our view. Shopline's loss (US\$10mn per month in FY23E) might dilute short-term margin, but long-term trend remains intact. We expect FY23/24E adj. NPM at 6.1%/6.8%, backed by narrowing loss of Hago & Likee (expecting breakeven in FY23E). To factor in soft 1Q23E, we cut FY22-24E earnings by 0.0-2.6%, with new SOTP-based TP at US\$49 (by assigning 6x FY23E P/E to Bigo Live).

- Expecting 4Q22E largely in line. User metrics in 4Q22E trended well, with MAU at sequential growth, in our estimates. We expect 4Q22 rev -9% YoY, in which full-quarter Shopline's rev contribution to partially offset Bigo's rev decline. Bigo Live's rev would decline 3% QoQ in 4Q22E (-18% YoY), for soft momentum in the Middle East (FIFA World Cup disruption), while some developed regions resumed positive growth (e.g. Australia & New Zealand, UK). Given annual gala and Shopline loss, we expect 4Q22E adj. NPM to be diluted at 0.4%, in which BIGO Live's adj.OPM was estimated at 13%.
- Looking beyond 1Q23E soft seasonality. 1Q should be a typically soft quarter for Huya, given CNY and Ramadan disruptions. As such, we expect 1Q23E rev -6% QoQ, in which Feb recovered from Jan level while Jan declined from Dec level. By regions, US and European mkt might see the highest growth, followed by SEA mkt. For the Middle East (~25% rev mix), we expect the competition from Tiktok and Kuaishou to be gradually digested by the market. With rising paying user and Middle East stabilization, we expect Bigo Live to resume growth in 2H23E. We expect 1Q23E adj. NP at US\$20mn, with Bigo improving OP offset by Shopline loss (estimating US\$10mn per month) and FX loss. Likee and Hago might achieve a breakeven in FY23E, in our view. Looking ahead, we expect adj. NPM of Group at 6.1%/6.8% in FY23/24E, with continuous cost discipline, ROI-driven S&M and narrowing loss of Shopline.
- Maintain BUY. We slightly trimmed FY22E-24E rev by 0.0-2.6% to reflect 1Q23E softness and livestreaming headwinds (amid macro challenges and competition). JOYY might invest more in Bigo Live to boost its momentum in FY23E, but expenses could be manageable. Our SOTP-based TP was correspondingly adjusted from US\$50 to US\$49, by assigning 6x FY23E P/E to Bigo Live.

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY20A	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue (US\$ mn)	1,918	2,619	2,409	2,461	2,527
YoY growth (%)	(48.2)	36.5	(8.0)	2.1	2.7
Net income (US\$ mn)	(162)	96	134	151	172
Adj. EPS (US\$)	(2.0)	1.2	1.9	2.1	2.4
YoY growth (%)	NA	NA	39.4	12.5	14.5
Consensus EPS	NA	(0.4)	2.2	2.2	2.6
P/E (x)	19.7	NA	19.4	17.2	15.1
P/S (x)	1.3	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0
Yield (%)	3.9	7.5	7.6	8.3	9.1

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price	US\$49.0
(Previous TP	US\$50.0)
Up/Downside	+36.5%
Current Price	US\$35.9

China Internet Sector

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (US\$ mn)	2,471
Avg 3 mths t/o (US\$ mn)	22.78
52w High/Low (US\$)	53.55/21.38
Total Issued Shares (mn)	55
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

T Rowe Price Group	9.60%
Capital Group	4.67%
BlackRock	4.65%
Source: Bloomberg	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-3.1%	-9.1%
3-mth	17.6%	13.7%
6-mth	25.4%	39.6%
Source: Bloomberg	1	

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: PwC



Figure 1: 4Q22E financial preview

US\$ mn	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22E	QoQ	YoY	Consensus	Diff %
Revenue	643	662	651	664	624	596	587	602	2.7%	-9.2%	605	0%
Gross profit	200	203	211	224	201	218	220	210	-4.7%	-6.1%	220	-5%
Operating profit	(73)	(101)	7	61	6	39	20	(73)	NA	-220.1%	25	-396%
Adj. net profit	(26)	(4)	33	98	17	48	71	2	NA	-97.6%	30	-92%
Adj. EPS (US\$)	(0.30)	(0.04)	0.36	1.19	0.24	0.67	0.83	0.12	NA	-89.6%	0.35	-65%
Margin (%)												
Gross margin	31.1%	30.7%	32.4%	33.7%	32.2%	36.6%	37.5%	34.8%			36.5%	
Operating margin	-11.4%	-15.3%	1.1%	9.1%	1.0%	6.5%	3.4%	-12.1%			4.1%	
Adj. net margin	-4.0%	-0.5%	5.1%	14.7%	2.8%	8.1%	12.0%	0.4%			5.0%	
Growth (%)												
Revenue (YoY)	88.1%	39.7%	21.7%	16.8%	-3.0%	-9.9%	-9.8%	-9.2%			-8.9%	
Revenue (QoQ)	13.1%	2.9%	-1.7%	2.0%	-6.0%	-4.4%	-1.6%	2.7%			3.0%	
Operating profit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			NA	
Adj. net profit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			NA	

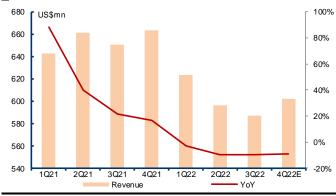
Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 2: Revenue breakdown

US\$ mn	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22E	QoQ	YoY
Total revenue	643	662	651	664	624	596	587	602	2.7%	-9.2%
by segment										
Live broadcasting	614	630	612	621	590	565	543	525	-3.3%	-15.4%
Others	29	32	38	43	34	31	44	77	75.7%	80.4%
by platform										
Bigo	581	598	569	576	535	503	483	470	-2.8%	-18.4%
All other	62	64	82	88	89	93	103	132	28.0%	51.1%

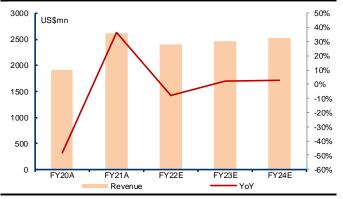
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 3: Quarterly rev estimates



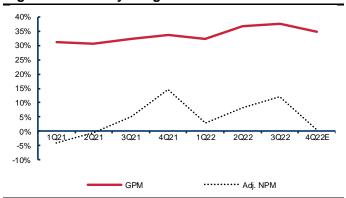
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 5: Yearly rev estimates



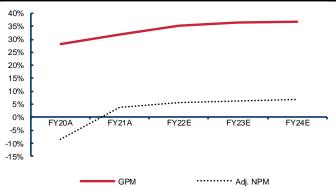
Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: Quarterly margin estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 6: Yearly margin estimates



Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



We slightly trimmed FY22E-24E rev by 0.0-2.6% to reflect 1Q23E softness and livestreaming headwinds (amid macro challenges and competition). We suggest to look beyond 1Q23E soft seasonality, and expect Bigo Live to resume growth in 2H23E with Middle East stabilization. JOYY might invest more in Bigo Live to boost its momentum in FY23E, but expenses could be manageable. In the long run, we are positive on its better margin outlook, backed by narrowing loss of other biz.

Our SOTP-based TP was correspondingly adjusted from US\$50 to US\$49, implying 23.3x FY23E P/E. The new TP was derived from: 1) YY Live: US\$1.9bn, based on proceeds from Baidu (for conservative estimates); 2) Huya: based on market cap; and 3) Bigo Live: US\$1.7bn, by assigning 6x FY23E P/E (multiple below industrial average for its slower growth and competition pressure).

Figure 7: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

		CMBIGM		C	Consensus			Diff (%)	
US\$ mn, Dec-YE	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	2,409	2,461	2,527	2,404	2,562	2,765	0.2%	-3.9%	-8.6%
Gross Profit	850	900	929	856	922	1,011	-0.7%	-2.4%	-8.1%
Operating Profit	81	154	176	120	120	188	-32.5%	28.7%	-6.1%
Net profit	134	151	172	180	164	206	-25.6%	-8.0%	-16.2%
Adj. EPS (RMB)	1.86	2.09	2.38	2.16	2.19	2.63	-14.1%	-4.4%	-9.5%
Gross Margin	35.3%	36.6%	36.8%	35.6%	36.0%	36.6%	-0.3ppts	+0.6ppts	+0.2ppts
Operating Margin	3.4%	6.3%	7.0%	5.0%	4.7%	6.8%	-1.6ppts	+1.6ppts	+0.2ppts
Net Margin	5.6%	6.1%	6.8%	7.5%	6.4%	7.4%	-1.9ppts	-0.3ppts	-0.6ppts

Source: CMBIGM estimates, Bloomberg

Figure 8: Earnings revision

		New			Old		Diff (%)			
US\$ mn, Dec-YE	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	
Revenue	2,409	2,461	2,527	2,409	2,531	2,618	0.0%	-2.8%	-3.5%	
Gross Profit	850	900	929	850	927	966	0.0%	-3.0%	-3.8%	
Operating Profit	81	154	176	81	158	181	0.0%	-2.6%	-2.7%	
Net profit	134	151	172	134	154	177	0.0%	-2.5%	-2.6%	
Adj. EPS (RMB)	1.86	2.09	2.38	1.86	2.15	2.45	0.0%	-2.5%	-2.6%	
Gross Margin	35.3%	36.6%	36.8%	35.3%	36.6%	36.9%	0.0ppts	-0.1ppts	-0.1ppts	
Operating Margin	3.4%	6.3%	7.0%	3.4%	6.3%	6.9%	0.0ppts	+0.0ppts	+0.1ppts	
Net Margin	5.6%	6.1%	6.8%	5.6%	6.1%	6.8%	0.0ppts	+0.0ppts	+0.1ppts	

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 9: SOTP valuation

SOTP			Metrics	Multiple		Valuation
(US\$ mn)		Rev	Adj. NP		Shareholding	Valuation
YY Live	Based on US	\$1.9bn from Baidu	(transaction valuatior	n of US\$3.6bn)	100%	1,900
Huya	Based on mkt	cap			18%	216
Bigo Live	FY23E	1,970	286	6x FY23E P/E	100%	1,714
Total						3,830
Net cash (les	s: US\$1.9bn rece	ived from Baidu)				1,190
Holding disco	ount					30%
Equity Value	e (US\$ mn)					3,514
Target Price	e (US\$)					49

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Figure 10: Valuation comps

Company	Ticker	Mkt cap	Currency	Price	CMBI	CMBI		PE			PS		FY22-24 EPS
		(USD mn)			Raiting	TP	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	CAGR
JOYY	YY US	2,471	USD	35	BUY	49	19.4	17.2	15.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	13%
Live Streaming													
Hello Inc	MOMO US	1,965	USD	10	HOLD	14	7.3	6.8	6.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	7%
JOYY	YY US	2,471	USD	35	BUY	50	13.7	15.1	12.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	10%
Inke	3700 HK	326	HKD	1	NA	NA	7.5	8.4	6.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	15%
Douyu	DOYU US	479	USD	2	NA	NA	NA	40.4	21.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	126%
Huya	HUYA US	1,231	USD	5	BUY	8	NA	NA	58.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	NA
Average							9.5	10.1	11.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	11%
Pan-entertainme	ent												
TME	TME US	13,900	USD	8	BUY	11	19.8	18.0	16.5	3.3	3.2	3.0	10%
iQIYI	IQ US	7,061	USD	7	BUY	4	NA	34.5	20.5	1.7	1.5	1.4	166%
China Literature	772 HK	4,999	HKD	39	NA	NA	25.0	21.2	18.6	4.1	3.7	3.4	18%
Bilibili	BILI US	8,863	USD	22	BUY	30	NA	NA	NA	2.8	2.3	1.9	NA
Kuaishou	1024 HK	33,813	HKD	61	BUY	94	NA	NA	24.6	2.5	2.1	1.8	NA
Zhihu	ZH US	1,125	USD	2	BUY	2	NA	NA	NA	2.1	1.6	1.3	NA
Average							22.4	19.6	20.1	2.8	2.4	2.1	14%
Average							14.7	13.9	13.5	1.8	1.7	1.5	12%

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



Financial Summary

Income statement						Cash flow summ	ary				
YE 31 Dec (US\$ mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Dec (US\$ mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	1,918	2,619	2,409	2,461	2,527	Net income	(19)	(130)	411	120	146
Live broadcasting	1,816	2,477	2,223	2,175	2,182	D&A	82	88	105	121	135
Others	102	142	186	285	345	Change in WC	(113)	(90)	27	(7)	(9)
						Others	575	253	226	139	145
COGS	(1,378)	(1,781)	(1,559)	(1,561)	(1,598)	Operating CF	524	122	770	373	418
Gross profit	540	838	850	900	929						
						Capex	(160)	(158)	(163)	(168)	(173)
S&M	(303)	(280)	(322)	(346)	(342)	Associates	-	-	-	-	-
Admin. Exp.	(505)	(468)	(395)	(353)	(347)	Others	990	(116)	(116)	(116)	(116)
R&D	(147)	(222)	(154)	(143)	(144)	Investing CF	830	(274)	(279)	(283)	(288)
Others	-	-	-	-	(0)	-					
Operating profit	(407)	(107)	(8)	70	96	Equity raised	-	-	-	-	-
						Change of debts	1,076	-	-	-	-
Financial income	89	91	96	96	96	Others	(1,356)	(724)	-	-	-
Other income	8	25	13	13	(1)	Financing CF	(279)	(724)	-	-	-
Pre-tax income	14	(78)	569	149	175	-					
						Net change in cash	986	(874)	491	90	129
Income tax	(28)	(26)	(28)	(28)	(29)	Cash (beg of yr)	657	1,756	882	1,373	1,463
MI	(7)	14	15	-	-	FX	-	-	-	-	-
Share of equity inv	(8)	(26)	(130)	-	-	Cash (end of yr)	1,850	882	1,373	1,463	1,592
Net profit	1,363	(90)	426	120	146	,				-	-
Adj. net profit	(162)	9 6	134	151	172						

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Dec (US\$ mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Non-current assets	4,194	4,236	4,164	4,211	4,248	Sales mix (%)					
Fixed asset	402	470	528	575	613	Live broadcasting	94.7	94.6	92.3	88.4	86.3
Long-term investments	1,239	1,213	1,083	1,083	1,083	Others	5.3	5.4	7.7	11.6	13.7
Intangible assets	344	344	344	344	344	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Others	2,208	2,208	2,208	2,208	2,208						
						Growth rate (%)					
Current assets	3,901	3,117	3,581	3,677	3,815	Revenue	(48.2)	36.5	(8.0)	2.1	2.7
Cash	1,756	882	1,373	1,463	1,592	Gross profit	(55.7)	55.2	1.4	5.9	3.3
Deposit over 3 months	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	EBIT	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.2
Account receivable	143	195	180	183	188	Net profit	NA	NA	39.4	12.5	14.5
Others	645	683	672	674	678						
						P&L ratios (%)					
Current liabilities	944	807	747	734	731	Operating margin	(21.2)	(4.1)	(0.3)	2.9	3.8
Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	Pre-tax margin	0.7	(3.0)	23.6	6.0	6.9
Account payable	21	21	19	18	18	Adj. net margin	(8.4)	3.7	5.6	6.1	6.8
Tax payable	61	61	61	61	61	Effective tax rate	NA	33.2	(4.9)	(19.1)	(16.4)
Accrued expenses	484	492	442	427	422						
Other	378	232	225	227	229	Returns (%)					
						ROE	NA	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.4
Non-current liabilities	837	668	668	668	668	ROA	NA	1.2	1.8	1.9	2.2
Convertible debt	779	609	609	609	609						
Other long-term liabilities	58	59	59	59	59	Per share					
						EPS (RMB)	17.0	(1.1)	5.9	1.7	2.0
MI	5	(88)	(88)	(88)	(88)	DPS (RMB)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total net assets	6,314	5,878	6,330	6,486	6,665	BVPS (RMB)	78.8	81.2	94.7	96.8	98.8
Shareholders' equity	6,308	6,346	6,813	6,969	7,147						

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



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