CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update

Biocytogen (2315 HK)

Reducing burn rate with strong income growth and better operating efficiency

Biocytogen reported inline earnings with 1H23 revenue grew 43% YoY to RMB327mn, accounting for 45% of our previous full-year estimate. The Company recorded net loss of RMB190mn in 1H23 (vs RMB272mn net loss in 1H22), representing 67% of our full-year forecast. In 1H23, the <u>pre-clinical CRO service business</u> realized 42% YoY revenue growth to RMB238mn, driven by the strong growth of animal model selling (+58% YoY) and pre-clinical pharmacology & efficacy evaluation business (+37% YoY). The GP margin of the CRO business was 66% in 1H23 (stable vs 67% in 1H22). The <u>antibody development business</u> grew strongly by 44% YoY to RMB88mn in 1H23. With expanding footprint in Europe and the US, the Company's overseas revenue increased 97% YoY to RMB173mn in 1H23 (53% of total 1H23 revenue) on R&D, -24% YoY vs RMB328mn (or 143% of total revenue) in 1H22. The SG&A ratio decreased from 58% in 1H22 to 45% in 1H23, showing Biocytogen's improved cost efficiency. We expect the Company to break even in 2025. In Jun 2023, Biocytogen had a cash balance of RMB551mn.

- Advanced fully human antibody discovery platforms to drive long-term revenue growth. As of Jul 2023, the Project Integrum (RenMice) has completed the knock-out of around 1,000 gene targets, and formed 400-500k antibody sequences. In 3Q23, the Company will complete the three-year Project Integrum (千鼠万抗). Additionally, the Company is also developing BsAb and nano-antibodies based on its RenLite and RenNano platforms. These fully human antibody discovery platforms will be an engine to continuously drive the Company's BD deals and revenue growth. As of end-1H23, the Company had reached 50 codevelopment/ out-licensing/ transfer development deals with around 30 domestic and global biopharma companies, including Merck, ADC Therapeutics, Hansoh Pharma, etc. The Company signed 16 new deals in 1H23, representing a 45% YoY increase in the number of projects signed. We expect five licensed-out molecules will progress to clinical stage in 2024. Besides the collaboration deals of molecules, Biocytogen has also out-licensed its RenMice platforms to 20 MNC or leading domestic biopharmas, including Merck, Janssen, BeiGene, Innovent, etc. As of Jun 2023, these licensees have initiated 42 projects in total. We expect the molecule co-development collaborations and platform out-licensing deals continue to drive the Company's long-term revenue growth with growing income from upfront fees, milestone fees and royalties.
- To unlock the value of in-house pipelines via out-licensing. As of Jun 2023, the Company had built an internal pipeline of 10 drug candidates, including 5 clinical and 5 pre-clinical stage assets. Biocytogen's strategy is to self-direct the early discovery of drug molecules and then transfer/co-develop the molecules to/with its partners to accelerate the later Ph2/3 clinical development. Of the 10 in-house assets, 5 have achieved out-licensing agreements with partners. We expect Biocytogen to further license out its differentiated pipeline assets, including YH003 (CD40), YH001 (CTLA-4), YH012 (HER2/TROP2 ADC), YH013 (EGFR/MET ADC), etc.
- Maintain BUY. We revised our DCF-based TP to HK\$22.36 from HK\$37.96 (WACC: 12.5%, terminal growth rate: 2.0%).

Earnings Summary					
(YE 31 Dec)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue (RMB mn)	355	534	728	927	1,199
YoY growth (%)	39.8	50.6	36.5	27.2	29.4
Net profit (RMB mn)	(546)	(602)	(354)	(109)	130
EPS (Reported) (RMB)	(1.51)	(1.58)	(0.89)	(0.27)	0.32
ROE (%)	(40.3)	(50.1)	(36.4)	(14.7)	17.2
R&D expenses (RMB)	(558)	(699)	(474)	(296)	(264)

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price HK\$22.36 (Previous TP HK\$37.96) Up/Downside 47.3% Current Price HK\$15.18

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	5,783.6
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	2.9
52w High/Low (HK\$)	NA/NA
Total Issued Shares (mn)	381.0
Source: FactSet	

Shareholding Structure

Management	27.5%
SDIC Shanghai	18.3%
Source: HKEx	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-24.0%	-16.5%
3-mth	-37.3%	-35.8%
6-mth	-41.3%	-35.9%
Source: FactSet		

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Figure 1: Risk-adjusted DCF valuation

DCF Valuation (RMB mn)		2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E
EBIT		-288	-41	235	508	732	1,061	1,419	1,801	2,074	2,243	2,422	2,585	2,762
Tax rate		0.0%	0.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
EBIT*(1-tax rate)		-288	-41	200	432	622	902	1,206	1,531	1,763	1,907	2,059	2,197	2,348
+ D&A		80	86	92	97	102	107	112	116	120	124	128	132	135
 Change in working capital 		-98	-17	-30	-63	-53	-77	-72	-77	-60	-39	-42	-34	-36
- Capex		-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200
FCFF		-506	-172	62	265	471	731	1,046	1,370	1,623	1,792	1,945	2,095	2,247
Terminal value														21,807
Terminal value (RMB mn)	4,711													
Total PV (RMB mn)	8,589													
Net debt (RMB mn)	547													
Minority interest (RMB mn)	5													
Equity value (RMB mn)	8,037													
# of shares (mn)	399													
Price per share (RMB per share)	20.12													
Price per share (HK\$ per share)	22.36													
Terminal growth rate	2.0%													
WACC	12.5%													
Cost of Equity	16.1%													
Cost of Debt	5.0%													
Equity Beta	1.10													
Risk Free Rate	4.50%													
Market Risk Premium	10.50%													
Target Debt to Asset ratio	30.0%													
Effective Corporate Tax Rate	15.0%													

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 2: Sensitivity analysis (HK\$)

				WACC		
		11.5%	12.0%	12.5%	13.0%	13.5%
	4.0%	28.65	26.12	23.88	21.89	20.11
	3.5%	27.54	25.18	23.08	21.20	19.52
Terminal growth rate	3.0%	26.56	24.34	22.36	20.58	18.98
U U	2.5%	25.67	23.58	21.70	20.01	18.49
	2.0%	24.86	22.88	21.10	19.49	18.03

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 3: CMBIGM estimates revision

		New			Old			Diff (%)	
RMB mn	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	728	927	1,199	733	972	1,334	-1%	-5%	-10%
Gross Profit	518	663	870	547	731	1,014	-5%	-9%	-14%
Operating Profit	(286)	(39)	238	(216)	(51)	218	NA	NA	9%
Net profit	(354)	(109)	130	(284)	(121)	113	NA	NA	15%
EPS (RMB)	(0.89)	(0.27)	0.32	(0.71)	(0.30)	0.28	NA	NA	15%
Gross Margin	71.15%	71.54%	72.55%	74.73%	75.22%	76.01%	-3.58 ppt	-3.68 ppt	-3.46 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

	CMBIGM			C	onsensus			Diff (%)		
RMB mn	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	
Revenue	728	927	1,199	735	996	1,323	-1%	-7%	-9%	
Gross Profit	518	663	870	539	736	984	-4%	-10%	-12%	
Operating Profit	(286)	(39)	238	(298)	(149)	50	NA	NA	380%	
Net profit	(354)	(109)	130	(312)	(132)	65	NA	NA	101%	
EPS (RMB)	(0.89)	(0.27)	0.32	(0.87)	(0.34)	0.16	NA	NA	99%	
Gross Margin	71.15%	71.54%	72.55%	73.38%	73.90%	74.39%	-2.23 ppt	-2.36 ppt	-1.84 ppt	

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Revenue	254	355	534	728	927	1,199
Cost of goods sold	(87)	(107)	(142)	(210)	(264)	(329)
Gross profit	167	247	392	518	663	870
Operating expenses	(525)	(753)	(922)	(804)	(701)	(632)
Selling expense	(32)	(42)	(50)	(73)	(93)	(117)
Admin expense	(245)	(188)	(263)	(270)	(324)	(264)
R&D expense	(276)	(558)	(699)	(474)	(296)	(264)
Others	19	10	4	Ó	0	Ó
Operating profit	(358)	(506)	(530)	(286)	(39)	238
Other expense	(118)	(39)	(56)	(69)	(70)	(85)
Other gains/(losses)	9	26	87	12	12	12
Share of (losses)/profits of associates/JV	0	(0)	(15)	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	(477)	(546)	(601)	(354)	(109)	153
Income tax	0	0	(1)	0	0	(23)
After tax profit	(477)	(546)	(602)	(354)	(109)	130
Minority interest	(49)	(0)	(0)	0	0	0
Net profit	(428)	(546)	(602)	(354)	(109)	130
BALANCE SHEET	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Current assets	1,148	874	919	757	1,084	1,166
Cash & equivalents	750	466	627	374	634	626
Account receivables	115	183	148	230	289	371
Inventories	8	15	19	28	35	43
Other current assets	254	168	85	85	85	85
Contract obtaining costs	204	42	41	41	41	41
Non-current assets	1,179	1,429	1,881	2,001	2,115	2,223
PP&E	1,136	1,391	1,599	1,719	1,833	1,942
Intangibles	2	6	31	31	31	31
Other non-current assets	41	32	251	251	251	251
Total assets	2,327	2,303	2,800	2,758	3,199	3,389
Current liabilities	328	447	606	598	648	709
Short-term borrowings	na	na	127	127	127	127
Account payables	88	102	146	173	217	271
Tax payable	14	27	45	45	45	45
Other current liabilities	0	0	1	1	1	1
Lease liabilities	179	256	231	231	231	231
Contract liabilities	48	62	56	22	28	35
Non-current liabilities	540	604	1,043	1,363	1,863	1,863
Long-term borrowings	0	0	52	372	872	872
Deferred income	90	93	90	90	90	90
Other non-current liabilities	450	511	901	901	901	901
Total liabilities	868	1,051	1,649	1,961	2,511	2,572
Share capital	360	375	399	399	399	399
Other reserves	1,098	877	751	397	288	418
Total shareholders equity	1,458	1,252	1,151	797	688	818
Total equity and liabilities	2,327	2,303	2,800	2,758	3,199	3,389



CASH FLOW	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	(477)	(546)	(601)	(354)	(109)	153
Depreciation & amortization	43	128	174	0	86	92
Tax paid	0	0	0	0	0	(23)
Change in working capital	(29)	(10)	0	(98)	(17)	(30)
Others	237	62	124	148	70	85
Net cash from operations	(225)	(366)	(303)	(304)	30	277
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(296)	(199)	(240)	(200)	(200)	(200)
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term	1,393	650	101	0	0	0
investments Others	(1,285)	(535)	(15)	(69)	(70)	(85)
Net cash from investing	(188)	(84)	(154)	(269)	(270)	(285)
-	(111)	(-)	(1-1)	()	(=)	()
Financing	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dividend paid	0	0	0	0 0	0	0
Proceeds from share issues Others	948 (80)	311 (92)	521 66	320	0 500	0 0
Net cash from financing	(80) 868	(92) 219	587	320 320	500 500	0
Net cash nom mancing	000	215	507	520	500	v
Net change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	(4)	697	466	627	374	634
Exchange difference	246	(0)	14	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	697	466	611	374	634	626
GROWTH	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Revenue	49.3%	39.8%	50.6%	36.5%	27.2%	29.4%
Gross profit	71.9%	48.2%	58.3%	32.3%	27.9%	31.3%
PROFITABILITY	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Gross profit margin	65.9%	69.8%	73.4%	71.2%	71.5%	72.6%
Operating margin	(141.4%)	(142.7%)	(99.4%)	(39.2%)	(4.2%)	19.8%
Return on equity (ROE)	(89.8%)	(40.3%)	(50.1%)	(36.4%)	(14.7%)	17.2%
GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Current ratio (x)	3.5	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.6
Receivable turnover days	96.8	106.1	73.6	75.0	74.0	73.0
Inventory turnover days	33.7	51.6	47.8	47.8	47.8	47.8
Payable turnover days	221.7	323.8	319.2	300.0	300.0	300.0
VALUATION	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
P/E	na	na	na	na	na	43.4
P/E (diluted)	na	na	na	na	na	43.4

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



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