CMB International Securities | Equity Research | Company Update

Alibaba (BABA US)

New initiatives net loss to narrow

BABA delivered mixed but acceptable 3QFY22 results, with upbeat bottom line and largely in-line topline. 3QFY22E CMR and cloud decelerated to -1%/+20% YoY (below our estimates of +0.3%/+25% YoY), but was forgivable given low market expectation. New initiatives performed well, with Taobao Deals paying orders >+100% YoY and Taocaicai GMV +30% QoQ in 3QFY22. Mgmt guided new initiatives net loss to narrow in the coming quarters, which is a positive signal for margin trend. We suggest investors to look beyond challenging 4QFY22E, and expect gradual and moderate recovery ahead, with potential travel limitation relaxation. We slightly cut our FY22-24E topline by 1%-2%, but barely changed earnings forecast. Keep our SOTP-based TP at US\$181.6.

- Mixed 3QFY22, but forgivable. 3QFY22E topline/bottom line +10%/-24% YoY (-1%/4% vs. consensus), in which core commerce/ cloud/ DME rev +9%/20%/0% YoY (vs. our estimates of +12%/25%/5% YoY), dragged by soft consumption and new retail biz normalization. However, margin beat on low expectation, mainly on lighter R&D, G&A. By segment, core commerce/ cloud/ DME adj. EBITA margin came in at +23%/+1%/-17% (vs. our estimates of +24%/+3%/-11%).
- New initiatives net loss to narrow ahead. 3QFY22 CMR decelerated to -1% YoY (vs. our estimate of +0.3% YoY), given challenging macro and epidemic resurgence, while GMV grew by single digit. 4QFY22E CMR might still see pressure, but was well anticipated. New initiatives performed well, with Taobao Deals paying orders >+100% YoY and Taocaicai GMV +30% QoQ in 3QFY22. Mgmt guided new initiatives net loss to narrow ahead, with focus shift to quality growth. We view this tone as positive to alleviate market concern on ecommerce margin. Cloud service slowed down to +20% YoY (vs. 33% in 2QFY22, our estimate of +25% YoY), dampened by 1) lower capex and longer decision-making cycle under soft macro; and 2) shrinking contribution from some verticals (e.g. edu, game). Excluding top internet player factor, cloud growth should be +29% YoY, in which non-internet segments account for 52%.
- Maintain BUY. We slightly cut our FY22-24E topline by 1%-2%, but barely changed earnings forecast. Keep our SOTP-based TP at US\$181.6 (23x/20x FY22/23E P/E). Given low market expectation and valuation multiple, we think BABA's price downside risk is limited.

Earnings	Summary
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(YE 31 Mar)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue (RMB mn)	509,711	717,289	850,524	955,218	1,099,737
YoY growth (%)	35.3	40.7	18.6	12.3	15.1
Adj. net profit (RMB mn)	132,479	171,985	142,063	161,567	198,499
Adj. EPS (RMB)	53.9	65.2	51.7	58.2	70.8
YoY growth (%)	41.8	21.0	(20.7)	12.6	21.6
Consensus EPS (RMB)	NA	NA	51.3	57.7	65.8
P/E (x)	13.0	10.7	13.5	12.0	9.9
P/B (x)	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ROE (%)	16.3	16.6	12.5	12.6	13.6
Net gearing (%)	Net cash				

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price	US\$181.6
(Previous TP	US\$181.6)
Up/Downside	+66.6%
Current Price	US\$109.0

China Internet Sector

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (US\$ mn)	297,441
Avg 3 mths t/o (US\$ mn)	2,876.51
52w High/Low (US\$)	252.3/108.7
Total Issued Shares (mn)	2,711
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

Goldman Sachs	1.5%
Norges Bank	1.0%
PrimeCap	0.6%
Source: Bloomberg	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-11.0%	-6.0%
3-mth	-17.9%	-0.7%
6-mth	-31.9%	-21.9%
Source: Bloomberg		

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: PwC

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- China Internet: Embracing a new normal of regulation – 8 Nov 2021



Figure 1: 3QFY22 financial preview

RMB mn, Mar-YE	1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21	1QFY22	2QFY22	3QFY22	QoQ	YoY	Consensus	Diff %	CMBI	Diff %
Revenue	153,751	155,059	221,084	187,395	205,740	200,690	242,580	20.9%	9.7%	244,912	-1%	248,727	-2%
Operating Profit	34,705	13,634	49,002	(7,663)	30,847	15,006	7,068	-52.9%	-85.6%	95,005	-93%	34,830	-80%
Net profit	46,437	26,524	79,427	(5,479)	42,835	3,377	20,429	504.9%	-74.3%	31,976	-36%	29,506	-31%
Adj. net profit	39,494	47,088	60,630	26,216	43,441	28,524	45,803	60.6%	-24.5%	43,874	4%	38,064	20%
Adj. EPS (RMB)	14.82	17.97	22.03	10.32	16.60	11.20	16.87	50.6%	-23.4%	16.12	5%	13.78	22%
Margin (%)													
Gross margin	45.0%	42.0%	45.1%	33.1%	39.7%	35.3%	39.5%			38.8%		36.4%	
Operating margin	22.6%	8.8%	22.2%	-4.1%	15.0%	7.5%	2.9%			38.8%		14.0%	
Adj. net margin	25.7%	30.4%	27.4%	14.0%	21.1%	14.2%	18.9%			17.9%		15.3%	
Growth (%)													
Revenue (YoY)	33.8%	30.3%	36.9%	63.9%	33.8%	29.4%	9.7%			57.9%		12.5%	
Revenue (QoQ)	34.5%	0.9%	42.6%	-15.2%	9.8%	-2.5%	20.9%			19.0%		23.9%	
Operating Profit	42.4%	-33.0%	23.9%	-207.5%	-11.1%	10.1%	-85.6%			596.8%		-28.9%	
Adj. net profit	27.6%	43.8%	30.4%	17.6%	10.0%	-39.4%	-24.5%			-6.8%		-35.7%	

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates, Bloomberg

Figure 2: Revenue breakdown

1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21	1QFY22	2QFY22	3QFY22	QoQ	YoY
153,751	155,059	221,084	187,395	205,740	200,690	242,580	21%	10%
133,318	130,922	196,144	160,762	180,241	171,170	213,894	25%	9%
12,437	14,899	16,227	16,557	16,051	20,007	19,539	-2%	20%
6,994	8,066	8,079	8,047	8,073	8,081	8,113	0%	0%
1,002	1,172	634	2,029	1,375	1,432	1,034	-28%	63%
	153,751 133,318 12,437 6,994	153,751155,059133,318130,92212,43714,8996,9948,066	153,751155,059221,084133,318130,922196,14412,43714,89916,2276,9948,0668,079	153,751155,059221,084187,395133,318130,922196,144160,76212,43714,89916,22716,5576,9948,0668,0798,047	153,751155,059221,084187,395205,740133,318130,922196,144160,762180,24112,43714,89916,22716,55716,0516,9948,0668,0798,0478,073	153,751155,059221,084187,395205,740200,690133,318130,922196,144160,762180,241171,17012,43714,89916,22716,55716,05120,0076,9948,0668,0798,0478,0738,081	153,751155,059221,084187,395205,740200,690242,580133,318130,922196,144160,762180,241171,170213,89412,43714,89916,22716,55716,05120,00719,5396,9948,0668,0798,0478,0738,0818,113	153,751155,059221,084187,395205,740200,690242,58021%133,318130,922196,144160,762180,241171,170213,89425%12,43714,89916,22716,55716,05120,00719,539-2%6,9948,0668,0798,0478,0738,0818,1130%

Source: Company data

Figure 3: Earnings revision

	New				Old	Diff (%)			
Rmb mn, Mar-YE	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	850,524	955,218	1,099,737	857,196	975,288	1,121,902	-0.8%	-2.1%	-2.0%
Gross profit	310,441	348,655	406,903	312,877	355,980	415,104	-0.8%	-2.1%	-2.0%
Operating profit	99,665	113,408	138,162	98,811	113,091	137,811	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%
Adj. net profit	142,063	161,567	198,499	141,176	161,262	198,161	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%
EPS (RMB)	51.68	58.19	70.79	51.36	58.08	70.67	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%
Gross margin	36.5%	36.5%	37.0%	36.5%	36.5%	37%	0.0ppts	0.0ppts	0.0ppts
Operating margin	11.7%	11.9%	12.6%	11.5%	11.6%	12.3%	+0.2ppts	+0.3ppts	+0.3ppts
Adj. net margin	16.7%	16.9%	18.0%	16.5%	16.5%	18%	+0.2ppts	+0.4ppts	+0.4ppts

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 4: CMBIS estimates vs. consensus

		CMBIS			Consensus	Diff (%)			
Rmb mn, Mar-YE	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	850,524	955,218	1,099,737	861,213	1,000,905	1,150,169	-1.2%	-4.6%	-4.4%
Gross profit	310,441	348,655	406,903	319,572	368,291	435,127	-2.9%	-5.3%	-6.5%
Operating profit	99,665	113,408	138,162	88,087	108,596	137,443	13.1%	4.4%	0.5%
Adj. net profit	142,063	161,567	198,499	140,373	156,550	182,814	1.2%	3.2%	8.6%
EPS (RMB)	51.68	58.19	70.79	51.3	57.7	65.8	0.7%	0.9%	7.6%
Gross margin	36.5%	36.5%	37.0%	38.9%	38.8%	39.1%	-2.4ppts	-2.3ppts	-2.1ppts
Operating margin	11.7%	11.9%	12.6%	12.6%	13.4%	14.5%	-0.9ppts	-1.5ppts	-2.0ppts
Adj. net margin	16.7%	16.9%	18.0%	22.8%	22.7%	22.5%	-6.1ppts	-5.7ppts	-4.5ppts

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



Figure 5: SOTP valuation

US\$bn	Val	uation	Methodology	Multiple Applied	1	Metrics		
	US\$bn	Per share(US\$)		FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E	
Core Commerce	339.6	123.5	EV/EBITA	14.0	12.6	24.3	26.9	
Cloud	71.6	26.0	P/S	6.0	4.8	11.9	14.8	
Others	88.0	32.0						
Digital Entertainment	10.4	3.8	P/S	2.0	1.8	5.2	5.8	
Innovations	3.1	1.1	P/S	3.0	2.5	1.0	1.2	
Strategic Investments	44.2	16.1	SoTP for all inv	vestments				
Net (Debt)/Cash	30.3	11.0	Cash forecaste	d on Balance shee	t			
Equity Value (US\$)	499	181.6						
TP (HK\$)		177.0						

Source: CMBIS estimates

Financial Summary

Income statement



Cash flow summary

YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	509,711	717,289	850,524	955,218	1,099,737	Net income	140,350	143,284	134,545	158,201	184,916
Core commerce	436,104	621,146	734,272	815,037	935,146	D&A	74,169	79,510	80,748	77,059	87,216
Cloud	40,016	60,120	76,352	94,906	114,509	Change in WC	59,388	120,741	52,186	62,623	75,148
DME	26,948	31,186	33,369	37,373	41,185	Others	(93,300)	(111,749)	(74,567)	(76,884)	(79,964)
Others	6,643	4,837	6,530	7,901	8,897	Operating CF	180,607	231,786	192,912	220,999	267,315
COSG	(282,367)	(421,205)	(540,083)	(606,563)	(692,834)						
Gross profit	227,344	296,084	310,441	348,655	406,903	Capex	(180,406)	(192,679)	(204,577)	(217,664)	(232,059)
						Associates	(105,178)	(10,557)	0	0	0
R&D	(43,080)	(57,236)	(68,042)	(76,417)	(87,979)	Others	177,512	(40,958)	0	0	0
S&M	(50,673)	(81,519)	(90,156)	(100,298)	(114,373)	Investing CF	(108,072)	(244,194)	(204,577)	(217,664)	(232,059)
Admin. Expense	(28,197)	(55,224)	(42,526)	(47,761)	(54,987)						
Other income	(13,964)	(12,427)	(10,053)	(10,770)	(11,402)	Equity raised	0	0	0	0	0
Operating profit	91,430	89,678	99,665	113,408	138,162	Change of Debts	(32,422)	(1,548)	3,750	0	0
						Dividend paid	0	0	0	0	0
Interest exp	(5,180)	(4,476)	(4,924)	(5,416)	(5,958)	Others	103,275	31,630	0	0	0
Associates	72,956	72,794	87,353	104,823	115,306	Financing CF	70,853	30,082	3,750	0	0
Others	7,439	7,582	7,000	7,000	7,000						
Pre-tax profit	166,645	165,578	189,094	219,815	254,510	Change in cash	143,388	17,674	(7,915)	3,336	35,256
						Cash (beg of yr)	189,976	345,982	321,262	313,347	316,683
Equity investees	(5,733)	6,984	(11,057)	(11,057)	(11,057)	FX	0	(7,187)	0	0	0
Tax	(20,562)	(29,278)	(43,492)	(50,558)	(58,537)	Cash (end of yr)	333,364	356,469	313,347	316,683	351,939
Net profit	140,180	143,014	134,545	158,201	184,916						
Non-GAAP NI	132,479	171,985	142,063	161,567	198,499						

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Mar	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
NC assets	850,062	1,046,858	1,252,431	1,419,539	1,594,659	Sales mix (%)					
Fixed asset	103,387	147,412	232,964	263,900	291,990	Core commerce	85.6	86.6	86.3	85.3	85.0
Associates	189,632	200,189	200,189	200,189	200,189	Cloud	7.9	8.4	9.0	9.9	10.4
Land use-right	57,985	98,432	0	0	0	DME	5.3	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.7
Intangible assets	337,729	363,604	582,056	718,229	865,260	Others	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Others	161,329	237,221	237,221	237,221	237,221	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Current assets	462,923	643,360	660,387	693,652	764,824	Profitability (%)					
Cash	330,503	321,262	313,347	316,683	351,939	Gross margin	44.6	41.3	36.5	36.5	37.0
Account receivable	99,708	159,915	184,857	214,787	250,702	PreTax margin	32.7	23.1	22.2	23.0	23.1
Other	32,712	162,183	162,183	162,183	162,183	Tax rate	(12.3)	(17.7)	(23.0)	(23.0)	(23.0)
						Adj. net margin	28.2	25.0	17.6	17.8	18.8
Current liabilities	241,872	377,358	423,463	486,086	561,233	, .					
Borrowings	5,154	13,437	7,356	7,356	7,356	Balance sheet					
Trade & payables	164,550	261,140	313,326	375,949	451,096	Current ratio (x)	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4
Income tax	20,190	25,275	25,275	25,275	25,275	Debtors turnover	51.1	53.2	58.9	62.9	65.6
Other	0	0	0	0	0	Creditors turnover	180.5	183.0	194.0	207.3	217.7
	51,978	77,506	77,506	77,506	77,506	Net gearing (%)	Net Cash				
NC liabilities											
Borrowings	191,462	229,226	229,226	229,226	229,226	Returns (%)					
Deferred taxation	39,660	38,335	38,335	38,335	38,335	ROE	16.3	16.6	12.5	12.6	13.6
Other	43,898	59,598	59,598	59,598	59,598	ROA	10.1	10.2	7.4	7.6	8.4
Mezzanine equity	9,103	8,673	8,673	8,673	8,673						
						Per share data					
Total Equity	870,548	1,074,961	1,196,597	1,334,348	1,505,493	Adj. EPS (RMB)	53.9	65.2	51.7	58.2	70.8
MI	115,147	137,491	129,481	121,352	113,542	DPS (RMB)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
S/H equity	755,401	937,470	1,067,116	1,212,996	1,391,951	BVPS (RMB)	329.7	398.1	438.5	483.7	540.0

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates Note: all financials data are recorded in RMB mn



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