

3Q20 results miss; weak gas margin dragged earnings

Suntien posted 3Q20 results with a net loss (deducted perp. distribution) of RMB25mn. 9M20 earnings was RMB884mn, down 12.0% YoY. 3Q20 results miss was mainly dragged by gas dollar margin squeeze due to fierce competition with LNG market supply, while the commencement of operation of several new wind farms in slow wind season also boosted overall depreciation costs. Suntien's share price suffered a sharp decline after posting 3Q20 results. With reference to the Company's historical performance, 3Q is traditional low season for both wind power and gas sales business. We think the market had overreacted to the quarter results. Suntien now trades at only 4.4/3.7x FY20/21E PER, but offers attractive yield at 7.9% for FY20E. **We cut Suntien's TP to HK\$2.50. Maintain BUY.**

- 9M20 earnings declined 12.0% YoY. 3Q20 revenue growth was 1.2% only, unmatched with power/gas sales growth of 13.93%/6.36% respectively. Total operating costs surged 9.4% YoY during the quarter, which led to an operating loss of RMB65mn during the quarter. Other operating expenses were largely in line with our expectation. Aggregating 9M20 financial, Suntien recorded net profit (deducted perp. interests) of RMB884mn, down 12.0% YoY. The results came a bit surprising and missed our earnings projection.
- Gas dollar margin was squeezed due to fierce competition. Suntien's wholesale gas price was cut by 5% (RMB1.10 cents) based on Hebei DRC's requirement to mitigate COVID-19's impacts. For retail gas sales, in view of fierce competition from extremely low costs LNG supply, the Company offers significant discount to retain industrial users. We estimate retail gas dollar margin discount could reach up to 15%, leading to significant decline of blended dollar margin from RMB0.332 to ~RMB0.28. Looking ahead to 4Q20, as LNG price jumped back to normal level, we expect Suntien to see some gas dollar margin recovery.
- New wind farm contribution to boost 4Q20 power generation. Mgmt. maintained 10TWh power generation guidance unchanged, with target utilization hours range 2,300-2,350. The Company also confirmed that wind capacity installation will exceed 500MW in view of smooth capacity installation progress. In 3Q20, new capacity commenced operation in slow wind season, leading to a surge in depreciation costs. In 4Q20, as the new capacity ramps up output, we expect wind power sector to resume normal and to contribute earnings growth.
- Valuation turned extremely attractive. After recent corrections, Suntien is trading at FY20/21E 4.4x/3.7x PER, while offering attractive yield at 7.9%/9.6% respectively. We think market overreaction on Suntien creates a good opportunity for accumulation. Our SOTP TP is cut to HK\$2.50. Maintain BUY.

Earnings Summary

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(YE 31 Dec)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue (RMB mn)	9,975	11,943	12,781	15,034	17,134
Net income (RMB mn)	1,240	1,344	1,391	1,689	1,845
EPS (RMB)	0.33	0.36	0.37	0.44	0.48
YoY growth (%)	32.0	8.4	1.7	19.2	9.3
Consensus EPS (RMB)	N/A	N/A	0.39	0.42	0.45
P/E (x)	4.8	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.4
P/B (x)	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Yield (%)	7.8	7.8	7.9	9.6	10.4
ROE (%)	12.4	11.4	10.3	11.3	11.4
Net gearing (%)	203	199	201	219	239
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Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



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BUY (Maintain)

Target Price HK\$2.50 (Previous TP HK\$2.84) Up/Downside +36.6% Current Price HK\$1.83

China Wind Sector

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	23,229
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	21.71
52w High/Low (HK\$)	2.76/1.16
Issued shares - H (mn)	1,839
Issued shares - A(mn)	2,011
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure-H

HECIC	48.7%
Freefloat	51.3%
Source: HKEx	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-3.9%	-6.5%
3-mth	-14.6%	-12.9%
6-mth	7.4%	9.8%
12-mth	-13.4%	-2.7%

Source: Bloomberg

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Wind

Auditor: Ernst & Young

Related Reports

- "Suntien Green Energy (956 HK) 1H20 results beat; earnings to pick up in 2H" – 28 Aug 2020
- "Suntien Green Energy (956 HK) Stable operating performance in 1H20" – 30 Jul 2020
- "Suntien Green Energy (956 HK) –Ashare listing is coming close" – 12 Jun 2020



Figure 1: 3Q20/9M20 results summary

							3Q20			9M20
(RMB, mn)	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	YoY	9M19	9M20	YoY
Total operating income	4,280	2,103	1,711	4,395	2,191	1,732	1.2%	8,095	8,318	2.8%
Total operating costs	(3,363)	(1,719)	(1,643)	(3,522)	(1,818)	(1,797)	9.4%	(6,725)	(7,137)	6.1%
Operating cost	(3,059)	(1,375)	(1,331)	(3,227)	(1,460)	(1,420)	6.7%	(5,765)	(6,107)	5.9%
Business tax & surcharge	(12)	(9)	(6)	(11)	(8)	(6)	-4.3%	(27)	(25)	5.9%
Selling expenses	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	554.5%	(0)	(1)	5.9%
Administration expenses	(84)	(117)	(87)	(75)	(104)	(134)	53.5%	(288)	(313)	5.9%
R&D expenses	-	(5)	0	-	(7)	(11)	N/A	(5)	(18)	5.9%
Finance costs	(212)	(208)	(219)	(223)	(225)	(225)	3.0%	(639)	(674)	5.9%
Operating profit	917	852	69	873	901	(65)	N/A	1,370	1,181	-13.8%
Profit before tax	1,022	435	146	963	465	26	-82.0%	1,603	1,454	-9.3%
Income tax expenses	(162)	(83)	(21)	(157)	(74)	(12)	-39.2%	(266)	(244)	-8.5%
effective tax rate	15.9%	19.2%	14.0%	16.3%	16.0%	47.4%	33.3ppt	16.6%	16.8%	0.2ppt
Profit for the period	860	351	126	806	390	14	-89.0%	1,337	1,211	-9.4%
Less: Minorities	191	53	38	187	63	20	-48.6%	282	269	-4.6%
Perpetual bond distribution	12	20	19	20	19	19	0.0%	51	58	13.8%
Net profit for the period	657	279	68	600	309	(25)	n/a	1,004	884	-12.0%

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 2: 3Q20/9M20 operating summary

	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	9M19 F	9M19 Run rate	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	9M20	9M20 YoY	9M 20 Run rate
Wind Power Generation (GWh)	2,628	2,151	1,373	6,152.6	69.6%	2,671	2,319	1,604	6,594	7.2%	67.8%
Hebei	2,162	1,639	1,054	4,854.6	68.7%	2,093	1,726	1,189	5,008	3.2%	
Shanxi	97	65	42	205.0	63.6%	110	108	52	270	31.7%	
Xinjiang	30	74	63	167.6	83.1%	38	75	81	194	15.7%	
Yunnan	229	189	80	497.8	79.8%	212	173	92	477	-4.2%	
Shandong	20	23	14	56.3	73.6%	21	23	9	53	-6.4%	
Inner Mongolia	90	87	54	231.1	71.8%	90	106	98	294	27.2%	
Guangxi	-	57	25	82.0	71.1%	45	37	31	113	37.8%	
Jiangsu	-	10	30	40.2	56.6%	47	44	27	118	193.1%	
Henan	-	7	11	18.0	53.5%	16	27	19	62	241.9%	
Heilongjiang	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	6,730	6,730	N/A	
Solar Power Generation	39	35	39	112.8	75.4%	41	51	38	131	77.4%	71.9%
Quarterly distribution	25.8%	23.4%	26.1%			22.8%	28.1%	20.9%	71.9%		
Total gas sales (mn cbm)	1,173	478	494	2,144.9	66.3%	1,326	547	525	2,398	45.2%	65.1%
Wholesale	847	237	225	1,308	65.3%	928	240	241	1,410	30.1%	62.8%
Retail	301	216	249	766	67.5%	380	290	261	931	80.4%	68.4%

Source: Company data, CMBIS

Figure 3: Earnings revision

	Old			New			Change(%)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Revenue (RMB mn)	13,281	15,445	17,633	12,781	15,034	17,134	-3.8%	-2.7%	-2.8%
Net Income (RMB mn)	1,444	1,618	1,769	1,391	1,689	1,845	-3.6%	4.4%	4.3%
EPS (RMB)	0.38	0.42	0.46	0.37	0.44	0.48	-3.6%	4.4%	4.3%

Our est. vs. Consensus				Diff with consensus		
Consensus Earnings (RMB mn)	1,513	1,639	1,822	-8.0%	3.0%	1.2%
Consensus EPS (RMB)	0.39	0.43	0.47	-6.6%	3.0%	2.6%

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates



Figure 4: DCF valuation for wind power segment

DCF Valuation	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E
Grid Connected Capacity(MW)	6,116	6,616	7,145	7,717	8,334	9,001	9,721	10,498	11,338
Capacity growth	8.9%	8.2%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Additional capacity of that year(MW)	500	500	529	572	617	667	720	778	840
Turnover (Rmb mn)	5,801	6,257	6,068	6,488	6,936	7,417	7,930	8,478	9,065
Turnover growth	11.0%	7.9%	-3.0%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%
EBIT (Rmb mn)	3,177	3,428	3,295	3,491	3,698	3,917	4,149	4,394	4,653
EBIT margin (%)	54.8%	54.8%	54.3%	53.8%	53.3%	52.8%	52.3%	51.8%	51.3%
Tax rate (%)	12.8%	13.3%	14%	15%	16%	16%	17%	18%	19%
Depreciation (Rmb mn)	1,882	2,020	2,238	2,393	2,558	2,735	2,924	3,127	3,343
CAPEX (Rmb mn)	-3,250	-3,250	-3,406	-3,641	-3,893	-4,163	-4,451	-4,759	-5,088
Change in working capital (Rmb mn)	-384	-658	57	-42	-45	-48	-51	-55	-59
Free cash flow	1,019	1,086	1,722	1,685	1,744	1,805	1,866	1,927	1,989
Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Discount factor	0.93	0.87	0.81	0.76	0.71	0.66	0.62	0.57	0.54
Discount free cash flow	951	945	1,398	1,277	1,233	1,190	1,148	1,106	1,065
Terminal value	48,951								
Terminal perpetual growth	3.00%								
Terminal EV/EBITDA	6.12								

Valuations (RMB mn)	
Terminal value	48,951
Terminal perpetual growth	3.0%
Terminal EV/EBITDA	6.12
Total discount FCF	10,314
Discount terminal value	26,217
Segment value	36,531
Discount FCF(% of total)	28%
Terminal value (% of total)	72%
Share fair value (Rmb)	9.49
Share fair value (HKD)	10.81

WACC Calculations	
Cost of debt	4.80%
Tax rate	20%
After tax cost of debt	3.8%
Adjusted beta	1.05
Market risk premium	11.08%
Risk free rate	1.8%
Cost of equity	13.4%
% of debt financing	65%
WACC	7.2%

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 5: SOTP valuation for wind and gas segement

	Measure by				
	The Company	Per share			
SOTP Valuation summary	(RMB mn)	(RMB)			
Wind & Solar segment -DCF	36,531	9.49			
Piped gas supply segment - PER	8,067	2.10			
Total value	44,598	11.58			
Less: Net debt	32,799	8.52			
Minority Interest	3,187	0.83			
Renewable corp bond	1,500	0.04			
Equity Value of the firm	8,612	2.20			
Per share value (HKD)		2.50			

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Note: Gas segment valuation based on RMB896mn FY21 earnings and 9x P/E multiple.



Financial Summary

Income statement						Cash flow summary					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue	9,975	11,943	12,781	15,034	17,134	Profit before tax	1,743	2,184	2,261	2,722	3,037
Wind & Solar	3,422	3,949	4,523	5,225	5,801	DD&A	1,308	1,540	1,718	2,045	2,509
Natural Gas	6,551	7,981	8,254	9,804	11,328	Working cap change	(147)	(909)	(2,015)	(334)	(384)
						Taxation	(217)	(325)	(364)	(445)	(503)
Costs of sales	(7,116)	(8,638)	(9,293)	(10,922)	(12,443)	Others	474	1,240	188	2,150	325
						Operating cash flow	3,156	3,732	1,787	6,139	4,983
Other income & gains	100	171	157	166	173						
Selling & distribution	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	Capex & investments	(5,568)	(6,041)	(8,554)	(10,812)	(10,423)
Administrative expenses	(502)	(587)	(603)	(679)	(739)	Others	1,601	(62)	115	-	-
Other expenses	(219)	(44)	(8)	22	(18)	Investment cash flow	(3,967)	(6,103)	(8,439)	(10,812)	(10,423)
Operating profit	2,239	2,845	3,033	3,620	4,105						
						Equity raised	-	-	563	-	-
Finance costs	(785)	(875)	(986)	(1,161)	(1,354)	Perpetual MTN raised	590	910	-	-	-
Joint ventures & associates	290	215	213	263	287	Change of Debts	2,673	3,037	7,193	5,504	6,513
Pre-tax profit	1,743	2,184	2,261	2,722	3,037	Others	(939)	533	-	-	-
						Financing cash flow	945	2,465	7,425	4,682	5,521
Income tax	(168)	(356)	(373)	(455)	(513)						
Minority interests	(307)	(413)	(419)	(501)	(601)	Net change in cash	135	93	774	10	81
Renewable green bond	(29)	(71)	(78)	(78)	(78)	Cash at beginning	2,110	2,240	2,332	3,106	3,116
Net profit	1,240	1,344	1,391	1,689	1,845	Exchange difference	(4)	(2)	-	-	-
						Cash at the end	2,240	2,332	3,106	3,116	3,197
						Restricted cash	-	9	-	-	-
						Cash at balance sheet	2,240	2,341	3,106	3,116	3,197

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	YE 31 Dec	FY18A	FY19A	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Non-current assets	32,743	38,499	45,180	53,157	60,706	Sales mix (%)					
Fixed asset	26,584	28,252	35,011	43,607	51,327	Wind & Solar	43.9	34.3	33.1	35.4	34.8
Intangible assets	1,757	1,672	1,574	1,475	1,376	Natural Gas	56.1	65.7	66.8	64.6	65.2
Associates & JVs	1,918	2,302	2,467	2,729	3,014	Total	100	100	100	100	100
Prepayments	1,648	2,904	2,864	2,073	1,709	P&L ratios (%)					
Others	837	377	262	260	259	Gross profit margin	32.7	28.7	0.28	27.3	0.27
						Operating margin	25.0	22.4	23.8	23.7	24.1
Current assets	6,418	7,455	9,422	8,727	8,525	Pre-tax margin	17.1	17.5	18.3	17.7	18.1
Cash	2,240	2,341	3,106	3,116	3,197	Net margin	13.3	12.4	11.3	10.9	11.2
Receivables	3,296	3,966	4,333	2,786	2,983	Effective tax rate	8.2	9.6	16.3	16.5	16.7
Prepayments	812	1,083	1,909	2,749	2,265	Balance sheet ratios					
Others	70	65	74	77	80	Current ratio (x)	0.58	0.75	0.71	0.82	0.67
						Quick ratio (x)	0.58	0.74	0.70	0.82	0.67
Current liabilities	8,602	10,532	11,456	12,970	13,700	Cash ratio (x)	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.27	0.24
Trade and bill payables	148	137	146	172	196	Debtors turnover days	107.2	111.0	118.5	86.4	61.4
Other payables	3,655	4,870	4,299	4,648	4,012	Total debt/equity ratio (%)	190.0	182.3	175.1	183.6	197.8
Borrowings	4,644	5,316	6,782	7,901	9,224	Net debt/equity ratio (%)	202.7	198.6	201.2	219.0	238.6
Others	70	100	110	120	130	Returns (%)					
						ROE	10.92	12.35	11.37	10.28	11.28
Non-current liabilities	18,162	20,673	26,354	30,753	35,917	ROA	2.74	3.17	2.92	2.55	2.73
Borrowings	16,683	19,093	24,045	28,014	32,703	Per share					
Other payables	184	225	179	194	167	EPS (RMB)	0.33	0.36	0.37	0.44	0.48
Others	25	46	46	46	46	DPS (RMB)	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.15	0.17
						BVPS (RMB)	2.70	3.18	3.58	3.89	4.21
Minority Interest	2,360	2,933	3,021	3,187	3,388						
Renewable green bond	590	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500						
Shareholders' equity	9,446	10,316	12,271	13,472	14,726						
Total Equity	12,397	14,750	16,792	18,160	19,614						

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates



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