

# Alibaba (BABA US)

# Strong cloud revenue growth; still eyeing on synergy generated from guick commerce

Alibaba 2QFY26 (March year-end) revenue was RMB247.8bn, up 4.8% YoY, 2.7/1.1% better than our forecast/Bloomberg consensus. Adj. EBITA in 2QFY26 was RMB9.1bn, down 78% YoY and was 36% lower than consensus, due to investment in quick commerce business, user experience, and technology, but was better than our forecast at RMB6.1bn. The cloud revenue growth of 34% YoY accelerated faster than our expectation/consensus at 30/28%, and management highlighted strong customer demand which in our view could support strong cloud revenue growth in the coming quarters. However, management is expecting some fluctuations in customer management revenue (CMR) growth in 3QFY26 due to a high base. The message to significantly reduce loss of quick commerce (QC) business QoQ in 3Q was in line with our expectation, while investors are still eyeing on more concrete updates on synergies generated from QC, in our view. We fine-tune our SOTP-based target price to US\$206.4 (was US\$209.4). We remain positive that Alibaba is one of the key beneficiaries under the Al theme. Maintain BUY.

- Strong cloud revenue growth ahead of market expectation. Cloud Intelligence Group (CIG) achieved revenue growth of 34.5% YoY in 2QFY26 (2QFY25: 7.1%; 1QFY26:25.8%), driven by public cloud revenue growth, including the increasing adoption of Al-related products. Capital expenditure was RMB31.5bn in 2QFY26 (1QFY26: RMB38.7bn), and management stressed that it has deployed c. RMB120bn in capital expenditure toward Al and cloud infrastructure over the past four quarters. Management remains committed to its three-year Capex plan of RMB380bn, while noting that there is upside potential to this figure given strong customer demand.
- Synergies generated from QC remains key to watch. Within Alibaba China E-commerce Group (ACEG), CMR delivered growth of 10.1% YoY in 2QFY26, inline with our estimate, driven by GMV growth and improvement of take rate. Management is expecting a short-term fluctuation in YoY growth of CMR in 3QFY26 due to high base effect. Revenue from QC was RMB22.9bn, up 60% YoY. Regarding synergies between QC and conventional e-commerce, management stressed: 1) incremental CMR contribution due to expansion in user base and improvement in user activeness: and 2) increase in cross-selling to categories such as groceries. healthcare, and supermarket categories. For example, Freshippo and Tmall Supermarkets daily orders on QC channel has grown 30% in Nov MTD 2025 compared to that in Aug 2025. Management expects the loss of QC to significantly decrease QoQ in 3QFY26 driven by the reduction in UE loss, which is inline with our expectation, and we believe more concrete updates regarding synergy generation between QC and conventional e-commerce business remains vital in the coming quarters.

Earning	s Summary

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Earmings Summary					
(YE 31 Mar)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue (RMB mn)	941,168	996,347	1,036,665	1,162,388	1,287,557
YoY growth (%)	8.3	5.9	4.0	12.1	10.8
Net profit (RMB mn)	79,741.0	129,470.0	116,479.2	132,854.8	174,144.2
Adjusted net profit (RMB mn)	158,359.0	158,095.0	106,432.1	150,523.1	192,427.5
YoY growth (%)	10.0	(0.2)	(32.7)	41.4	27.8
EPS (Adjusted) (RMB)	62.77	67.31	45.89	65.55	84.65
Consensus EPS (RMB)	na	65.41	49.17	67.29	82.28
P/E (x)	35.2	20.2	22.2	19.3	14.5

# **BUY (Maintain)**

 Target Price
 U\$\$206.40

 (Previous TP
 U\$\$209.40)

 Up/Downside
 31.5%

 Current Price
 U\$\$157.01

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#### Stock Data

Mkt Cap (US\$ mn)	375,253.9
Avg 3 mths t/o (US\$ mn)	1,398.5
52w High/Low (US\$)	189.34/80.53
Total Issued Shares (mn)	2390.0
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Source: FactSet

Shareholding Structure

JPMorgan	2.3%
Parufam Limited	0.8%
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Source: HKEx

#### **Share Performance**

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-10.1%	-8.8%
3-mth	26.4%	19.1%
6-mth	30.1%	6.5%

Source: FactSet

#### 12-mth Price Performance



Source: FactSet



# Key business segment updates

# ACEG (49.1% of 2QFY26 revenue)

In 2QFY26, revenue generated from ACEG was RMB132.6bn, up 15.5% YoY. Within the segment, E-commerce/QC/China Commerce saw revenue growth of 9.0/59.9/12.6% YoY respectively. Within E-commerce sub-segment, CMR/direct sales, logistics & others delivered revenue growth of 10.1%/5.3%, respectively.

CMR revenue growth was primarily driven by the improvement of take rate, which benefited from the increasing penetration of Quanzhantui and the addition of software service fees in Sep 2024. Management is expecting a short-term fluctuation in YoY growth of CMR in 3QFY26 due to high base effect.

Regarding QC, management stressed that: 1) since Nov 2025, per order UE loss for QC has been cut by 50% compared to Jul and Aug 2025, driven by improvement in order mix and economies of scale from growing order volume which has driven reduction in fulfilment cost; 2) QC has maintained stable order share with GMV share trending upwards; and 3) average order value (AOV) of QC has grown by double digits most recently compared to that in Aug 2025. Management highlighted that it has noted synergy between QC and core business in terms of: 1) incremental CMR contribution due to expansion in user base and improvement in user activeness; and 2) increase in cross-selling to categories such as groceries, healthcare, and supermarket categories. For example, Freshippo and Tmall Supermarkets daily orders on QC channel has grown 30% in Nov MTD 2025 compared to that in Aug 2025.

Adjusted EBITA for the segment was RMB10.5bn in 2QFY26, down 76% YoY, primarily due to the investment in quick commerce, user experience, and technology. Management expects the loss of QC to significantly decrease QoQ in 3QFY26, driven by the reduction in UE loss.

# AIDC (12.9% of 2QFY26 revenue)

In 2QFY26, revenue generated from Alibaba International Digital Commerce Group (AIDC) was RMB34.8bn, up 9.9% YoY, among which international commerce retail revenue was up 9.6% YoY, driven by the increase in revenue contributed by AliExpress and other international businesses, and international commerce wholesale revenue was up 11.2% YoY, due to an increase in revenue generated by cross-border related value-added services.

Adjusted EBITA for AIDC was a profit of RMB162mn in 2QFY26, turning around from RMB2.9bn in loss in 2QFY25, thanks to significant improvement in AliExpress' operating efficiency, and enhanced efficiency across various businesses.

# CIG (14.7% of 2QFY26 revenue)

Revenue of CIG came in at RMB39.8bn in 2QFY26, up 34% YoY, ahead of our forecast at 30%, primarily driven by public cloud revenue growth, including the increasing adoption of Al-related products. Overall revenue excluding Alibaba-consolidated subsidiaries increased by 29% YoY.

Management noted that AI related product revenue accounted for over 20% of revenue from external customers with its contribution continuing to increase.

Capital expenditures in 2QFY26 were RMB31.5bn, and management highlighted that it has deployed approximately RMB120bn in capital expenditure toward AI and cloud infrastructure over the past four quarters. Management noted that supply constraints still persist, and noted that the pace that Alibaba is adding new servers is insufficient to keep up with the growth in its customer orders. It remains committed to its three-year Capex plan of RMB380bn, while noting that there is upside potential to this figure given strong customer demand that it has seen today.

Adjusted EBITA for CIG was RMB3.6bn in 2QFY26, up 35% YoY, and the adj. EBITA margin was 9.0%, flat YoY, due to improving operating efficiency, but offset by increasing



investment in customer growth and technology innovation. We are positive that Alibaba could drive robust cloud revenue growth in an efficient way, and could maintain a relatively stable operating margin amid business development, aided by increasing scale effect.

# All others (23.3% of 2QFY26 revenue)

Revenue from All others segment was RMB63.0bn in 2QFY26, down 25% YoY, primarily due to the revenue decrease as a result of the disposal of Sun Art and Intime businesses, as well as the decrease in revenue from Cainiao, partly offset by the increase in revenue from Freshippo, Alibaba Health and Amap.

Adjusted EBITA from All others segment in 2QFY26 was a loss of RMB3.4bn (2QFY25: loss of RMB1.8bn), primarily due to the increased investment in technology businesses, partly offset by the improved operating results of Hujing Digital Media and Entertainment Group and other businesses.

# Update on shareholder return initiatives

For 2QFY26, Alibaba repurchased a total of 17mn ordinary shares (c.2mn ADSs) for a total of US\$253mn, equivalent to 0.07% of total market cap based on market close as of 25 Nov, 2025. The remaining amount of Board authorization for Alibaba's share repurchase program, which is effective through March 2027, was US\$19.1bn as of 30 Sep, 2025.

# Revision of forecast and valuation

Figure 1: Alibaba: forecast revision

Current				Change (%)					
RMB bn	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	1,036.7	1,162.4	1,287.6	1,026.0	1,139.6	1,257.6	1.0%	2.0%	2.4%
Gross profit	433.3	489.4	542.1	461.7	512.8	565.9	-6.1%	-4.6%	-4.2%
Non-GAAP net profit	106.4	150.5	192.4	107.9	146.5	186.8	-1.4%	2.8%	3.0%
Gross margin	41.8%	42.1%	42.1%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%	-3.2 ppt	-2.9 ppt	-2.9 ppt
Non-GAAP net margin	10.3%	12.9%	14.9%	10.5%	12.9%	14.9%	-0.3 ppt	0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 2: Alibaba: CMBI forecast vs Bloomberg consensus

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СМВІ			Consensus			Diff (%)			
RMB bn	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	1,036.7	1,162.4	1,287.6	1038.9	1151.8	1267.5	-0.2%	0.9%	1.6%
Gross profit	433.3	489.4	542.1	434.6	485.1	538.9	-0.3%	0.9%	0.6%
Non-GAAP net profit	106.4	150.5	192.4	114.3	157.5	190.5	-6.9%	-4.4%	1.0%
Gross margin	41.8%	42.1%	42.1%	41.8%	42.1%	42.5%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	-0.4 ppt
Non-GAAP net margin	10.3%	12.9%	14.9%	11.0%	13.7%	15.0%	-0.7 ppt	-0.7 ppt	-0.1 ppt

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

#### Valuation: target price of US\$206.4 per ADS

Our SOTP valuation is trimmed to US\$206.4 per ADS, which comprises:

- US\$86.7 for ACEG, based on a 12.0x FY28E EV/adj. EBITA and discounted back to FY26 at WACC of 11.0% (was US\$88.5 based on 12.0x FY28E EV/adj. EBITA); the change in target valuation per ADS was mainly due to our fine-tuning of assumption for share counts;
- 2) US\$12.9 for AIDC (was US\$13.9), based on an unchanged 1.5x EV/revenue multiple on FY26E revenue forecast; the change in target valuation per ADS was mainly due to our fine-tunING of assumption for share counts and reduction in revenue forecast;
- 3) US\$81.5 for the Cloud Intelligence Group (was US\$81.0), based on an unchanged 7.5x EV/revenue multiple on FY27E revenue and discounted back to FY26E at WACC of



- 11.0%; the increase in target valuation per ADS was mainly due to the increase in revenue forecast;
- 4) US\$14.6 for All Others (was US\$14.9), based on an unchanged 1.0x FY26E EV/revenue multiple; the change in target valuation per ADS was mainly due to our fine-tuning of assumption for share counts;
- 5) US\$10.7 per ADS (was US\$11.1) for strategic investments with a 30% holding discount. Our new SOTP-based target price translates into 23.4/18.1x FY27/28E PE (non-GAAP).

Figure 3: Alibaba: SOTP valuation

#	Segment (USDmn)	Valuation method	Rev (USDmn)	Adj. EBITA post tax (USDmn)	P/E (x)	EV/S (x)	Val. Rmb mn	Val. US\$m	\$/ADS	Value split
1	Alibaba China E- commerce Group	12x FY28E EV/EBITA; assume 20% tax rate on adjusted EBITA; discounted back with 11% WACC		21,273	12.0		1,491,753	207,188	86.7	42%
-	International Digital			2.,2.0			.,,	201,100	00	,0
2	Commerce Group	1.5x FY26E EV/S	20,573			1.5	222,192	30,860	12.9	6%
3	Cloud Intelligence Group	7.5x FY27E EV/S on revenue before intersegment elimination; discounted back with 11% WACC	28,819			7.5	1,402,028	194,726	81.5	39%
4	All others	1.0x FY26E EV/S	34,906			1.0	251,323	34,906	14.6	7%
	Total Alibaba business	1.021 1202 2 770	01,000			1.0	3,367,296	467,680	195.7	1 70
ı	NVESTMENTS						0,00.,200	101,000	10011	
1	Ant Group	Last round share buyback valuation; 33% share holding					187,143	25,992	10.9	
2	Others	Market valuation					75,325	10,462	4.4	
	Total investment (with 30% holding discount)	Market valuation					70,020	10,402	10.7	5%
	Total (US\$mn)								206.4	
	#s of diluted ADS (mn)								2,390	

Source: CMBIGM estimates

## **Risks**

- 1) Investments for driving business growth pose a more severe impact on margin than we expect;
- 2) Consumption recovery takes longer than we expect.



# **Financial Summary**

INCOME STATEMENT	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)						
Revenue	868,687	941,168	996,347	1,036,665	1,162,388	1,287,557
Cost of goods sold	(549,695)	(586,323)	(598,285)	(603,339)	(673,023)	(745,496)
Gross profit	318,992	354,845	398,062	433,326	489,366	542,062
Operating expenses	(218,641)	(241,495)	(257,157)	(337,863)	(343,137)	(340,173)
SG&A expense	(145,679)	(157,126)	(188,260)	(269,533)	(268,512)	(258,799)
R&D expense	(56,744)	(52,256)	(57,151)	(65,310)	(70,906)	(77,253)
Others	(16,218)	(32,113)	(11,746)	(3,020)	(3,720)	(4,120)
Operating profit	100,351	113,350	140,905	95,463	146,228	201,889
Interest income	(11,071)	(9,964)	20,759	47,687	26,735	29,356
Interest expense	(5,918)	(7,947)	(9,596)	(9,984)	(10,614)	(11,757)
Other income/expense	5,823	6,157	3,387	3,317	3,720	4,120
Pre-tax profit	89,185	101,596	155,455	136,482	166,069	223,609
Income tax	(15,549)	(22,529)	(35,445)	(28,661)	(39,026)	(55,902)
Others	(8,063)	(7,735)	5,966	6,220	5,812	6,438
After tax profit	65,573	71,332	125,976	114,041	132,855	174,144
Minority interest	7,210	8,677	4,133	0	0	0
Others	(274)	(268)	(639)	2,438	0	0
Net profit	72,509	79,741	129,470	116,479	132,855	174,144
Adjusted net profit	143,991	158,359	158,095	106,432	150,523	192,427
BALANCE SHEET	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)						
Current assets	697,966	752,864	674,049	761,483	821,466	912,943
Cash & equivalents	193,086	248,125	145,487	279,596	321,883	395,998
Restricted cash	36,424	38,299	43,781	43,781	43,781	43,781
Prepayment	137,072	143,536	202,175	155,500	173,196	190,558
Financial assets at FVTPL	331,384	322,904	282,606	282,606	282,606	282,606
Non-current assets	1,055,078	1,011,965	1,130,178	1,352,863	1,504,606	1,671,453
PP&E	176,031	185,161	203,348	430,748	561,685	707,642
Investment in JVs & assos	207,380	203,131	210,169	223,427	236,277	249,753
Intangibles	46,913	26,950	20,911	26,243	29,232	32,211
Goodwill	268,091	259,679	255,501	255,501	255,501	255,501
Financial assets at FVTPL	245,737	220,942	356,818	356,818	356,818	356,818
Other non-current assets	110,926	116,102	83,431	60,127	65,094	69,528
Total assets	1,753,044	1,764,829	1,804,227	2,114,346	2,326,072	2,584,396
Current liabilities	385,351	421,507	435,346	400,526	453,048	510,168
Short-term borrowings	7,466	12,749	22,562	22,753	25,380	28,113
Tax payable	12,543	9,068	11,638	23,502	30,831	42,486
Other current liabilities	89,392	101,807	68,609	69,189	77,180	85,491
Accrued expenses	275,950	297,883	332,537	285,083	319,657	354,078
Non-current liabilities	244,772	230,723	278,775	279,674	292,075	304,972
Long-term borrowings	52,023	55,686	49,909	49,909	49,909	49,909
Deferred income	3,560	4,069	4,536	4,574	5,103	5,652
Other non-current liabilities	189,189	170,968	224,330	225,191	237,063	249,411
Total liabilities	630,123	652,230	714,121	680,201	745,123	815,140
Share capital	1	1	1	1	1	1
Capital surplus	416,880	397,999	381,379	397,850	411,799	425,962
Retained earnings	599,028	597,897	645,478	923,187	1,056,042	1,230,186
Other reserves	(16,394)	1,375	(5,287)	2,511	2,511	2,511
Total shareholders equity	999,515	997,272	1,021,571	1,323,550	1,470,353	1,658,660
Minority interest	123,406	115,327	68,535	110,596	110,596	110,596
Total equity and liabilities	1,753,044	1,764,829	1,804,227	2,114,346	2,326,072	2,584,396



CASH FLOW	2023A	2024A	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E
YE 31 Mar (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	89,185	101,596	155,455	136,482	166,069	223,609
Depreciation & amortization	46,938	44,504	42,459	11,867	12,269	12,670
Tax paid	(15,549)	(22,529)	(35,445)	(28,661)	(39,026)	(55,902)
Change in working capital	13,482	(13,749)	(23,988)	93,959	33,402	39,009
Others	65,696	72,771	25,028	13,928	20,177	20,641
Net cash from operations	199,752	182,593	163,509	227,575	192,892	240,027
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(34,330)	(32,087)	(85,972)	(124,400)	(139,487)	(154,507)
Acquisition of subsidiaries/ investments	(22)	(842)	0	(6,000)	(6,708)	(7,100)
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term investments	(61,086)	71,426	23,395	0	0	0
Others	(40,068)	(60,321)	(122,838)	(7,038)	(7,038)	(7,038)
Net cash from investing	(135,506)	(21,824)	(185,415)	(137,438)	(153,233)	(168,645)
Financing						
Net borrowings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from share issues	11	843	10	0	0	0
Share repurchases	(74,746)	(88,745)	(86,662)	0	0	0
Others	9,116	(20,342)	10,437	191	2,628	2,733
Net cash from financing	(65,619)	(108,244)	(76,215)	191	2,628	2,733
Net change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	227,353	229,510	286,424	189,268	279,596	321,883
Exchange difference	3,530	4,389	965	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	229,510	286,424	189,268	279,596	321,883	395,998

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



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