CMB International Securities | Equity Research | Company Update

AAC Technologies (2018 HK)

3Q21 in-line; Remain cautious on 4Q21 recovery

AAC's 3Q21 revenue/net profit declined 6.1%/58% YoY, in-line with its profit warning earlier (down 51-61% YoY), mainly due to weak demand of domestic smartphones, chip shortage, supply chain disruption, and higher operating cost in China. Blended GPM of 22.7% (-0.9ppt YoY/-2.7ppt QoQ) suggested continued margin pressure due to lower utilization, lack of upgrade and intense competition. While mgmt. expects optics shipment/GPM to recover in 4Q21E, we think semi shortage, COVID-19 and smartphone demand weakness will continue to drag smartphone demand in 4Q21E, and plastic lens ASP pressure and HCM ramp will dilute AAC's margin into FY22/23E. Our new FY21-23E EPS are 19-25% below consensus. Maintain Hold with new SOTP-based TP HK\$37.4 implies 18.5x FY22E P/E.

- 3Q21 in-line; demand weakness across all segments. By segment, acoustics grew 1.9% YoY on US client's peak season while MEMS/ haptics & casings was down 31%/7.9% YoY given Android weakness and competition. We are also disappointed by weak optics revenue (-18% YoY), and 3Q plastic lens shipment decline of 50% YoY and weak optics margin of 15% (vs 22% in 2Q) suggested intensified competition in handset lens industry. Looking ahead, we remain cautious that plastic lens pricing, expansion in lower-margin HCM and WLG's initial lower yield will continue to impact optics GPM into FY22-23E.
- Expansion into automotive market: lens for LiDAR/cam and audio for smart cockpit. AAC also announced to accelerate expansion into automotive market by promoting comprehensive solution for smart cars across products including optics, acoustics, haptics and MEMs microphones. In particular, mgmt. expected to offer auto lens products for LiDAR and video camera and audio solution for smart cockpit. AAC also announced in Oct to invest into a next-gen image sensor company, SWIR Vision Systems, and aims to leverage its WLG technology to enhance overall competitiveness.
- Headwinds on semi shortage, de-spec and weak demand; Maintain HOLD. We think 2H21E will remain a slow year for smartphone spec upgrade given semi shortage and sluggish consumer demand. We trimmed FY21-23E EPS by 19-24% for lower GPM and weaker optics revenue. Our FY21-23E EPS remain 19-25% below consensus for more conservative upgrade and margin in FY22/23E. Our new SOTP-based TP is HK\$37.4, implying 18.5x FY22E P/E. Trading at 16.7x FY22E P/E, the stock is fairly valued in our view.

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue (RMB mn)	17,884	17,140	17,938	20,485	21,978
YoY growth (%)	(1.4)	(4.2)	4.7	14.2	7.3
Net income (RMB mn)	2,222	1,507	1,582	2,026	2,217
EPS (RMB)	1.84	1.25	1.31	1.68	1.83
YoY growth (%)	(41.1)	(32.1)	5.0	28.0	9.4
Consensus EPS (RMB)	1.84	1.27	1.61	2.06	2.45
P/E (x)	15.2	22.4	21.4	16.7	15.2
P/B (x)	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Yield (%)	4.5	2.2	2.3	3.0	3.3
ROE (%)	11.5	6.9	7.0	8.6	9.0

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



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HOLD (Maintain)

Target Price	HK\$37.4
(Previous TP	HK\$48.3)
Up/Downside	+11%
Current Price	HK\$33.7

China Technology Sector

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Stock Data

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Mkt. Cap. (HK\$mn)	40,726
Avg. 3mths t/o (HK\$mn)	272.50
52W High/Low (HK\$)	60.00/ 31.15
Total Issued Shares (mn)	1,209
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

Chunyuan Wu	21.75%
Zhengmin Pan	19.24%
JPMorgan Chase	10.59%
Source: HKEx	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	4.8%	5.1%
3-mth	-28.5%	-24.5%
6-mth	-18.2%	-9.2%
Source: Bloomberg		

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Related Reports:

- 1Q21 in-line with better acoustics; Maintain HOLD on fair valuation – 17 May 2021
- 1Q profit alert on normalised demand; Maintain HOLD on fair valuation – 13 Apr 2021
- 4Q20 beat on one-off gain; Optics ASP/GPM weaker than expected – 26 Mar 2021



3Q21 Results Review

Figure 1: 3Q21 results review

RMB mn	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	QoQ	YoY
Revenue	3,560	4,277	4,520	4,783	4,292	4,317	4,246	1%	-6%
Gross Profit	823	995	1,067	1,342	1,337	1,078	964	-19%	-10%
Operating Profit	95	262	376	617	640	342	239	-46%	-36%
Net profit	53	268	430	756	536	385	188	-28%	-56%
EPS (RMB)	0.04	0.22	0.36	0.63	0.44	0.32	0.15	-28%	-57%
<u>Margin (%)</u>									
Gross Margin	23.1%	23.3%	23.6%	28.1%	31.1%	25.0%	22.7%	-2.3 ppt	-0.9 ppt
Operating Margin	2.7%	6.1%	8.3%	12.9%	14.9%	7.9%	5.6%	-2.3 ppt	-2.7 ppt
Net Margin	1.5%	6.3%	9.5%	15.8%	12.5%	8.9%	4.3%	-4.6 ppt	-5.2 ppt
Growth (%)									
Revenue (YoY)	-5%	12%	-10%	-10%	21%	1%	-6%		
Revenue (QoQ)	-33%	-76%	27%	12%	-10%	-75%	-1%		
Operating profit (YoY)	-81%	-26%	-55%	-23%	574%	31%	-36%		
Net profit (YoY)	-88%	-21%	-38%	0%	918%	44%	-57%		

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS

Figure 2: Revenue br	eakdown							
RMB mn	FY20	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue								
Dynamic components	7,560	2,096	1,953	2,200	1,819	8,068	8,039	8,496
MEMS components	1,083	283	310	254	295	1,191	1,310	1,441
Haptics & RF	6,847	1,228	1,310	1,395	1,702	5,635	6,937	7,303
Others (incl. optics)	1,650	685	689	397	1,145	3,045	4,199	4,738
Optics	1,634	674	683	390	1,142	3,014	4,168	4,707
Others	16	11	6	7	3	31	31	31
Total	17,140	4,292	4,262	4,246	4,960	17,938	20,485	21,978
Revenue mix								
Dynamic components	44%	49%	46%	52%	37%	45%	39%	39%
MEMS components	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%
Haptics & RF	40%	29%	31%	33%	34%	31%	34%	33%
Others (incl. optics)	10%	16%	16%	9%	23%	17%	20%	22%
YoY Growth (%)								
Dynamic components	-7%	48%	2%	2%	-12%	7%	-0.4%	6%
MEMS components	17%	42%	20%	-31%	15%	10%	10%	10%
Haptics & RF	-11%	-27%	-24%	-8%	-11%	-18%	23%	5%
Others (incl. optics)	51%	175%	79%	-17%	113%	85%	38%	13%
Optics	53%	176%	80%	-18%	113%	84%	38%	13%
Total	-4%	21%	0%	-6%	4%	5%	14%	7%
Gross profit margin								
Dynamic components	27.9%	37.4%	33.0%	26.3%	28.5%	30.5%	32.0%	31.5%
MEMS components	17.5%	16.7%	17.0%	15.3%	16.0%	14.4%	17.0%	20.0%
Haptics & RF	23.8%	25.5%	23.2%	20.3%	23.3%	22.9%	23.3%	22.9%
Others (incl. optics)	18.2%	28.1%	27.7%	14.5%	15.3%	19.6%	24.4%	25.1%
Total	24.7%	31.1%	28.0%	22.7%	22.9%	25.2%	26.5%	26.5%

Source: Company data, CMBIS



Earnings Revision

Figure 3: CMBIS earnings revisions

9	New			Old			Change (%)		
RMB mn	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Revenue	17,938	20,485	21,978	18,790	20,799	22,324	-5%	-2%	-2%
Gross Profit	4,520	5,439	5,830	4,982	5,625	6,120	-9%	-3%	-5%
Operating Profit	1,643	2,289	2,483	2,102	2,531	2,832	-22%	-10%	-12%
Net profit	1,582	2,026	2,217	2,088	2,321	2,606	-24%	-13%	-15%
EPS (RMB)	1.31	1.68	1.83	1.73	1.92	2.16	-24%	-13%	-15%
Gross Margin	25.2%	26.5%	26.5%	26.5%	27.0%	27.4%	-1.3 ppt	-0.5 ppt	-0.9 ppt
Operating Margin	9.2%	11.2%	11.3%	11.2%	12.2%	12.7%	-2 ppt	-1 ppt	-1.4 ppt
Net Margin	8.8%	9.9%	10.1%	11.1%	11.2%	11.7%	-2.3 ppt	-1.3 ppt	-1.6 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 4: CMBIS estimates vs consensus

	CMBIS			Consensus			Diff (%)		
RMB mn	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	17,938	20,485	21,978	18,890	22,197	25,217	-5%	-8%	-13%
Gross Profit	4,520	5,439	5,830	5,136	6,192	7,114	-12%	-12%	-18%
Operating Profit	1,643	2,289	2,483	2,097	2,799	3,298	-22%	-18%	-25%
Net profit	1,582	2,026	2,217	1,931	2,473	2,972	-18%	-18%	-25%
EPS (RMB)	1.31	1.68	1.83	1.61	2.06	2.45	-19%	-19%	-25%
Gross Margin	25.2%	26.5%	26.5%	27.2%	27.9%	28.2%	-2 ppt	-1.4 ppt	-1.7 ppt
Operating Margin	9.2%	11.2%	11.3%	11.1%	12.6%	13.1%	-1.9 ppt	-1.4 ppt	-1.8 ppt
Net Margin	8.8%	9.9%	10.1%	10.2%	11.1%	11.8%	-1.4 ppt	-1.3 ppt	-1.7 ppt

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates

Figure 5: P&L forecast

RMB mn	FY20	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	17,140	4,292	4,317	4,246	4,960	17,938	20,485	21,978
YoY	-4.2%	20.6%	0.9%	-6.1%	3.7%	4.7%	14.2%	7.3%
Cost of sales	(12,913)	(2,955)	(3,239)	(3,282)	(3,824)	(13,300)	(15,051)	(16,154)
Gross profit	4,227	1,337	1,078	964	1,136	4,516	5,434	5,824
GPM (%)	24.7%	31.1%	25.0%	22.7%	22.9%	25.2%	26.5%	26.5%
YoY	-17.2%	62.5%	8.3%	-9.6%	-15.4%	6.8%	20.3%	7.2%
SG&A	(957)	(244)	(295)	(290)	(268)	(1,098)	(1,096)	(1,143)
% of rev	-5.6%	-5.7%	-6.8%	-6.8%	-5.4%	-6.1%	-5.4%	-5.2%
R&D	(1,920)	(453)	(441)	(434)	(446)	(1,775)	(2,049)	(2,198)
% of rev	-11.2%	-10.6%	-10.2%	-10.2%	-9.0%	-9.9%	-10.0%	-10.0%
Operating profit	1,350	640	342	239	422	1,643	2,289	2,483
OPM (%)	7.9%	14.9%	7.9%	5.6%	8.5%	9.2%	11.2%	11.3%
YoY	-45.4%	573.7%	30.7%	-36.3%	-31.6%	21.7%	39.3%	8.5%
Income Tax	(147)	(86)	32	(13)	(65)	(131)	(275)	(301)
Effective Tax Rate	8.9%	13.8%	-9.0%	6.9%	12.0%	7.7%	12.0%	12.0%
Net profit	1,507	536	385	183	477	1,582	2,026	2,217
NPM (%)	8.8%	12.5%	8.9%	4.3%	9.6%	8.8%	9.9%	10.1%
YoY	-32.2%	917.5%	43.8%	-57.4%	-36.8%	5.0%	28.0%	9.4%

Source: Company data, CMBIS



Valuation

Maintain HOLD with new TP HK\$37.4

We derived our new TP of HK\$ 37.4 based on SOTP to reflect business diversification with different growth profiles and visibility. Our new TP is based on weighted-average target P/E multiple of 18.5x FY22E P/E and valuation of optics segment at RMB 17.9bn. We assign 15x P/E to AAC's acoustics, MEMS, and 12x P/E to haptics & mechanical RF, in-line with HK-listed peers.

Figure 6: AAC Tech – SOTP valuation

Business segment	Value per share (RMB)	Valuation Methodology	Target P/E	% of FY22E Profit	FY22E EPS (RMB)
Acoustics	11.9	P/E target multiple	15x	47%	0.79
MEMS	1.4	P/E target multiple	15x	4%	0.07
ED & PM	6.0	P/E target multiple	12x	30%	0.50
Optics	12.1	82% of RMB 17.9bn			0.32
TP (RMB)	31.0		18.5x		1.68
TP (HK\$)	37.4				

Sources: Company data, CMBIS

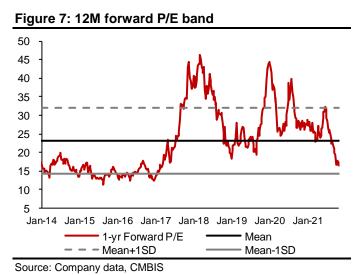
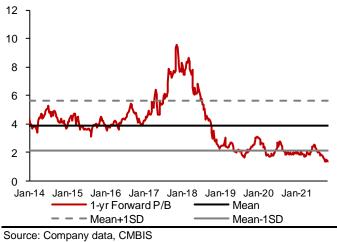


Figure 8: 12M forward P/B band





Financial Summary

Income statement						Cash flow summary					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	17,884	17,140	17,938	20,485	21,978	Profit before taxation	2,552	1,648	1,707	2,293	2,510
COGS	(12,777)	(12,913)	(13,300)	(15,051)	(16,154)	Depreciation	1,529	3,409	3,467	3,834	4,147
Gross profit	5,107	4,227	4,516	5,434	5,824	Change in working capital	(509)	(231)	(442)	(1,550)	799
						Others	(109)	(1,233)	229	102	66
Selling and marketing	(275)	(285)	(309)	(348)	(352)	Net cash from operating	3,464	3,593	4,962	4,680	7,522
Administrative	(643)	(672)	(788)	(748)	(791)						
R&D	(1,717)	(1,920)	(1,775)	(2,049)	(2,198)	Capex	(3,000)	(3,262)	(4,327)	(3,678)	(3,126)
Operating profit	2,472	1,350	1,643	2,289	2,483	Other	68				
						Net cash from investing	(2,932)	(3,262)	(4,327)	(3,678)	(3,126)
Financial cost	(248)	(353)	(353)	(353)	(353)						
Other income/(losses)	329	650	416	357	379	Net borrowings					
Pre-tax profit	2,552	1,648	1,707	2,293	2,510	Interest paid	(248)	(353)	(353)	(353)	(353)
						Dividend paid	(1,531)	(753)	(791)	(1,013)	(1,109)
Тах	(330)	(147)	(131)	(275)	(301)	Other		3,688			
Minority interest	-	(6)	(6)	(8)	(8)	Net cash from financing	(1,779)	2,582	(1,144)	(1,366)	(1,461)
Net profit	2,222	1,507	1,582	2,026	2,217						
						Net change in cash	(1,247)	2,913	(509)	(363)	2,935
						Cash at beg of year	4,059	5,512	7,540	7,032	6,669
						Exchange difference					
						Cash at end of year	5,512	7,540	7,032	6,669	9,603

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	YE 31 Dec	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Current assets	14,808	16,850	16,385	18,342	20,615	Sales mix (%)					
Cash & equivalents	5,512	7,540	7,032	6,669	9,603	Dynamic components	45.7	44.1	45.0	39.2	38.7
Trade and other rev.	5,576	5,176	7,745	6,821	8,950	MEMS (microphone)	5.2	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.6
Inventories	3,664	3,995	1,471	4,715	1,924	Electro. (haptics)	43.0	39.9	31.4	33.9	33.2
Other current assets	55	138	138	138	138	Other	6.1	9.6	17.0	20.5	21.6
Non-current assets	19,400	22,062	22,922	22,765	21,744	Growth (%)					
PPE	16,911	18,592	19,452	19,295		Revenue	(1.4)	(4.2)	4.7	14.2	7.3
Lease prepayments						Gross profit	(24.3)	(17.2)	6.8	20.3	7.2
Intangible assets	434	373	373	373	373	Operating Income	(42.0)	(45.4)	21.7	39.3	8.5
Other non-curr. assets	2,055	3,096	3,096	3,096	3,096	Net profit	(41.5)	(32.2)	5.0	28.0	9.4
Total assets	34,207	38,911	39,307	41,107	42,359						
						Profitability (%)					
Current liabilities	7,711	9,380	8,990	9,785	9,937	Gross Margin	28.6	24.7	25.2	26.5	26.5
Short-term borrowings	1,876	3,349	3,349	3,349	3,349	Operating Margin	13.8	7.9	9.2	11.2	11.3
Trade & other payables	5,474	5,205	4,807	5,577	5,715	Net margin	12.4	8.8	8.8	9.9	10.1
Tax payables	178	167	175	199	214						
Other current liabilities	182	660	660	660	660	Balance sheet ratios					
						Net debt/total equity (x)	0.0	Net cash	Net cash Net cash Net cash		
Non-current liabilities	7,136	7,711	7,711	7,711	7,711	Current ratio (x)	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1
Government grants	209	604	604	604	604	Receivable turnover days	87.8	87.8	90.0	90.0	90.0
Deferred tax liabilities	65	49	49	49	49	Inventory turnover days	88.6	88.6	75.0	75.0	75.0
Other non-current liab.	6,861	7,058	7,058	7,058	7,058	Payable turnover days	84.7	84.7	70.0	70.0	70.0
Total liabilities	14,846	17,090	16,701	17,496	17,648						
						Returns (%)					
Share capital	98	98	98	98		ROE	11.5	6.9	7.0	8.6	9.0
Reserves	19,253	21,061	21,852	22,865	23,973	ROA	6.5	3.9	4.0	4.9	5.2
Minority interest	10	662	656	649	640						
Shareholders' equity	19,361	21,821	22,606	23,611		Per share data (RMB)					
Total equity & liabilities	34,207	38,911	39,307	41,107	42,359		1.84	1.25	1.31	1.68	1.83
0						DPS	1.27	0.62	0.65	0.84	0.92

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates



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