

Geely Automobile (175 HK)

Most businesses are trending up

Maintain BUY. We are of the view that Geely's FY23 earnings quality was better than FY21-22. We believe most of its businesses are poised to enjoy higher profits in FY24E. Some investors may overlook Geely's recent assets disposal to ease its lingering D&A burden by leveraging its parent's resources.

- 2H23 OP in-line, NP beat. Geely's 2H23 revenue was largely in line while GPM was about 0.8ppt higher than our forecast, underscoring our prior argument that Geely brand's margins could be more resilient than expected. SG&A expenses were higher than expected, which led to an in-line operating profit in 2H23 (2% lower than our estimates). Net profit in 2H23 beat our estimates by 18% on lower share-based payment, tax expenses and higher interest income. Zeekr's net loss of RMB1.1bn in FY23 was also better than our prior forecast of RMB2bn. Although we estimate the IP licensing and R&D support service still accounted for about 1/3 of Geely's FY23 net profit, we believe its earnings quality has improved compared with FY21-22, especially as Geely expensed R&D of RMB3.3bn in FY23, 71% higher than that in FY22.
- Profitability of Zeekr and equity-method entities to improve in FY24E. We are of the view that management's guidance of Zeekr's breakeven under HKFRS in FY24E is feasible. We slightly revise up our FY24E sales volume by 10,000 units to 0.22mn units, given its current order backlog. We project equity income in FY24E to surge 156% YoY to RMB1.5bn, amid Lynk & Co's loss cut, Livan's disposal and Proton's full-year contribution. Although we project lower GPM for the Geely brand (incl. Geometry and Galaxy) in FY24E, we believe the fall could be limited, given higher portion of exports.
- Assets disposal to cut D&A and focus on core brands. Apart from Livan's disposal to cut loss, Geely has also planned to sell its stakes in Aurobay in exchange for shares in the JV with its parent and Renault. Such disposal could reduce Geely's depreciation and amortization by more than RMB1bn every year, on our estimates. We revise up our FY24E net profit by 7%.
- Valuation/Key risks. We value Zeekr at 1.3x (unchanged) our revised FY24E core revenue (excluding Viridi's battery pack sales and R&D services), which implies HK\$80bn for Zeekr's valuation. We value Geely's all other businesses excluding Zeekr at 13x (unchanged) FY24E P/E (details in Figure 4). We maintain our BUY rating and target price of HK\$14.00. Key risks to our rating and target price include lower sales volume and GPM, especially for NEVs, than we expect and sector de-rating.

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E					
Revenue (RMB mn)	101,611	147,965	179,204	210,799	226,560					
YoY growth (%)	10.3	45.6	21.1	17.6	7.5					
Net profit (RMB mn)	4,847.4	5,260.4	5,308.4	6,692.8	7,319.0					
YoY growth (%)	(12.4)	8.5	0.9	26.1	9.4					
EPS (Reported) (RMB)	0.49	0.52	0.53	0.66	0.72					
P/E (x)	41.3	22.7	15.4	12.3	11.3					
P/B (x)	2.9	1.6	1.0	1.0	0.9					
Yield (%)	0.9	1.6	2.3	2.9	3.1					
ROE (%)	7.3	7.3	6.8	8.0	8.2					
Net gearing (%)	(38.1)	(32.7)	(37.6)	(45.0)	(45.4)					
Source: Company data, Bloom	Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates									

BUY (Maintain)

 Target Price
 HK\$14.00

 (Previous TP
 HK\$14.00)

 Up/Downside
 58.6%

 Current Price
 HK\$8.83

China Auto

Ji SHI, CFA (852) 3761 8728 shiji@cmbi.com.hk

Wenjing DOU, CFA (852) 6939 4751 douwenjing@cmbi.com.hk

Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	88,859.7
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	282.9
52w High/Low (HK\$)	11.26/7.34
Total Issued Shares (mn)	10063.4

Source: FactSet

Shareholding Structure

Mr. Li Shufu	42.1%
Others	57.9%
Source: HKEx	

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Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	9.1%	7.2%
3-mth	11.2%	11.7%
6-mth	-6.9%	0.7%

Source: FactSet

12-mth Price Performance



Source: FactSet

Related Report

"Geely Automobile (175 HK) — Expect 2H23E net profit to double HoH" — 17 Jan 2024



Figure 1: Interim results

RMB mn	1H21	2H21	1H22	2H22	1H23	2H23	YoY	HoH
Sales volume (units)	630,237	697,792	613,842	819,146	694,045	992,471	21.2%	43.0%
ASP (RMB)	75,258	80,514	87,673	91,517	84,331	90,556	-1.1%	7.4%
Total revenue	45,032	56,579	58,184	89,781	73,182	106,022	18.1%	44.9%
Gross profit	7,759	9,653	8,476	12,420	10,540	16,875	35.9%	60.1%
Selling exp.	(2,554)	(3,769)	(3,304)	(4,924)	(4,768)	(7,064)	43.5%	48.2%
Admin exp.	(3,251)	(4,785)	(4,685)	(5,750)	(4,808)	(7,690)	33.7%	59.9%
Operating profit	2,754	1,638	1,384	2,006	1,605	2,848	42.0%	77.4%
Net profit	2,381	2,466	1,552	3,708	1,571	3,738	0.8%	138.0%
Gross margin	17.2%	17.1%	14.6%	13.8%	14.4%	15.9%	2.1 ppt	1.5 ppt
Operating margin	6.1%	2.9%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.7%	0.5 ppt	0.5 ppt
Net margin	5.3%	4.4%	2.7%	4.1%	2.1%	3.5%	-0.6 ppt	1.4 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 2: Earnings revision

		New			Old			Diff (%)	
RMB mn	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	179,204	210,799	226,560	177,077	204,275	219,290	1.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Gross profit	27,415	31,273	33,863	26,230	29,715	32,416	4.5%	5.2%	4.5%
Operating profit	4,453	5,789	6,053	4,516	5,251	5,429	-1.4%	10.2%	11.5%
Net profit	5,308	6,693	7,319	4,738	6,238	6,976	12.0%	7.3%	4.9%
Gross margin	15.3%	14.8%	14.9%	14.0%	13.4%	14.0%	1.3 ppt	1.4 ppt	0.9 ppt
Operating margin	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.1%	2.0%	2.5%	0.4 ppt	0.8 ppt	0.1 ppt
Net margin	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%	2.3%	2.9%	3.4%	0.6 ppt	0.3 ppt	-0.2 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 3: CMBI estimates vs consensus

		CMBIGM			Consensus			Diff (%)		
RMB mn	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	
Revenue	179,204	210,799	226,560	174,098	210,205	239,080	2.9%	0.3%	-5.2%	
Gross profit	27,415	31,273	33,863	25,425	31,777	37,091	7.8%	-1.6%	-8.7%	
Operating profit	4,453	5,789	6,053	3,622	5,499	7,495	23.0%	5.3%	-19.2%	
Net profit	5,308	6,693	7,319	4,903	6,998	8,878	8.3%	-4.4%	-17.6%	
Gross margin	15.3%	14.8%	14.9%	14.6%	15.1%	15.5%	0.7 ppt	-0.3 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
Operating margin	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.1%	2.6%	3.1%	0.4 ppt	0.1 ppt	-0.5 ppt	
Net margin	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%	2.8%	3.3%	3.7%	0.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	-0.5 ppt	

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: Geely's SOTP valuation table

	FY24E (RMB bn)	Target P/E Multiple	Target P/S Multiple	Geely's Stake	Target Market Cap (HK\$ bn)	Target Price (HK\$)
Estimated core revenue of Zeekr	57	-	1.3x	54%	44	4.50
Estimated net profit for Geely's all other businesses	6.7	13.0x	-	-	96	9.50
SOTP					140	14.00

Source: CMBIGM estimates



Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Revenue	92,114	101,611	147,965	179,204	210,799	226,560
Cost of goods sold	(77,377)	(84,199)	(127,069)	(151,789)	(179,526)	(192,697)
Gross profit	14,737	17,412	20,896	27,415	31,273	33,863
Operating expenses	(9,768)	(13,020)	(17,506)	(22,962)	(25,484)	(27,810)
Selling expense	(5,053)	(6,323)	(8,228)	(11,832)	(12,573)	(13,231)
Admin expense	(5,754)	(8,036)	(10,435)	(12,497)	(14,311)	(15,879)
Others	1,039	1,339	1,157	1,367	1,400	1,300
Operating profit	4,969	4,393	3,389	4,453	5,789	6,053
Other expense	(4)	(1,213)	(1,489)	(646)	(750)	(450)
Other gains/(losses)	392	0	1,750	, o	, o) O
Share of (losses)/profits of associates/JV	875	1,205	651	599	1,536	1,925
EBITDA	12,099	11,823	13,551	13,570	16,092	18,420
Depreciation	5,491	6,893	8,318	8,203	8,403	9,628
EBIT	6,608	4,930	5,233	5,367	7,689	8,791
Interest income	375	545	931	961	1,114	1,263
Interest expense	(167)	(265)	(551)	(417)	(590)	(620)
Net Interest income/(expense)	208	280	380	544	524	643
Foreign exchange gain/loss	63	(68)	219	231	0	0
Pre-tax profit	6,441	4,665	4,682	4,950	7,099	8,171
Income tax	(866)	(312)	(32)	(15)	(334)	(625)
After tax profit	5,575	4,353	4,650	4,935	6,765	7,546
Minority interest	(41)	494	611	373	(72)	(227)
Net profit	5,534	4,847	5,260	5,308	6,693	7,319
Gross dividends	1,611	1,788	1,867	1,858	2,342	2,562
Gross dividends	1,011	1,700	1,007	1,000	2,542	2,502
BALANCE SHEET	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024L	2023E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Current assets	50,935	65,296	79,064	113,635	132,489	140,313
Cash & equivalents	18,977	28,014	33,341	35,746	48,079	51,090
Restricted cash	174	4	387	943	943	943
Account receivables	27,868	31,549	34,392	42,711	49,899	53,630
Inventories	3,691	5,522	10,822	15,422	14,756	15,838
Prepayment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	225	207	121	18,813	18,813	18,813
Non-current assets	59,881	69,046	78,762	78,963	86,088	92,089
PP&E	26,574	30,859	32,201	27,351	27,339	26,680
Right-of-use assets	3,043	3,436	3,402	3,600	3,551	3,512
Deferred income tax	970	2,435	4,573	6,342	6,342	6,342
Investment in JVs & assos	9,689	10,205	14,235	15,703	17,116	18,705
Intangibles	18,610	20,901	22,548	23,920	29,510	34,463
Goodwill	43	58	61	34	34	34
Financial assets at FVTPL	0	352	0	0	0	0
Other non-current assets	952	801	1,742	2,013	2,197	2,352
Total assets	110,816	134,341	157,826	192,598	218,577	232,402
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Current liabilities	41,887	60,351	68,953	96,824	110,569	118,270
Short-term borrowings	0	1,907	0	0	0	0
Account payables	41,516	57,393	65,481	87,398	104,961	112,662
Tax payable	340	853	773	774	774	774
Other current liabilities	0	0	2,143	7,898	4,080	4,080
Lease liabilities	30	198	557	754	754	754
Non-current liabilities	4,716	3,770	12,677	10,622	14,965	15,203
Long-term borrowings	1,960	0	2,758	2,840	3,258	3,258
Bond payables	1,950	1,901	6,000	2,600	6,000	6,000
Convertible bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other non-current liabilities	806	1,869	3,919	5,182	5,707	5,945
Total liabilities	46,602	64,120	81,631	107,446	125,534	133,473
Share capital	180	183	184	184	185	186
Other reserves	63,451	68,423	74,947	80,325	86,173	91,862
Total shareholders equity	63,631	68,606	75,130	80,509	86,358	92,048
Minority interest	582	1,615	1,065	4,643	6,685	6,882
Total equity and liabilities	110,816	134,341	157,826	192,598	218,577	232,402



CASH FLOW	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	6,441	4,665	4,682	4,950	7,099	8,171
Depreciation & amortization	5,491	6,893	8,318	8,203	8,403	9,628
Tax paid	(1,371)	(1,197)	(2,082)	(2,307)	(334)	(625)
Change in working capital	(7,576)	5,161	5,672	11,238	11,383	2,970
Others	(1,389)	(174)	(571)	259	(1,088)	(1,881)
Net cash from operations	1,597	15,348	16,018	22,342	25,463	18,264
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(7,042)	(6,100)	(10,337)	(15,322)	(14,274)	(14,242)
Acquisition of subsidiaries/ investments	(49)	(2,609)	(2,831)	(1,570)	(500)	(500)
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term	0	(323)	0	0	0	0
investments Others	4.660	, ,		740	1.050	2.240
Others	1,662	1,873	1,037	748	1,858	2,219
Net cash from investing	(5,430)	(7,159)	(12,130)	(16,145)	(12,916)	(12,523)
Financing	(2.424)	(4.644)	(4.700)	(4.046)	(4.050)	(2.242)
Dividend paid	(2,121)	(1,611)	(1,788)	(1,916)	(1,858)	(2,342)
Net borrowings	0	0	4,603	(6,306)	0	0
Proceeds from share issues	5,937	0	0	0	0	(207)
Others	(55)	2,527	(1,490)	5,458	1,644	(387)
Net cash from financing	3,761	916	1,325	(2,764)	(214)	(2,729)
Net change in cash	40.004	40.0==				
Cash at the beginning of the year	19,281	18,977	28,014	33,341	35,746	48,079
Exchange difference	(232)	(68)	114	(1,029)	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	18,977	28,014	33,341	35,746	48,079	51,090
GROWTH	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Revenue	(5.4%)	10.3%	45.6%	21.1%	17.6%	7.5%
Gross profit	(12.9%)	18.2%	20.0%	31.2%	14.1%	8.3%
Operating profit	(42.8%)	(11.6%)	(22.8%)	31.4%	30.0%	4.6%
EBITDA	(10.4%)	(2.3%)	14.6%	0.1%	18.6%	14.5%
EBIT	(32.3%)	(25.4%)	6.1%	2.6%	43.3%	14.3%
Net profit	(32.4%)	(12.4%)	8.5%	0.9%	26.1%	9.4%
PROFITABILITY	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Gross profit margin	16.0%	17.1%	14.1%	15.3%	14.8%	14.9%
Operating margin	5.4%	4.3%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%
EBITDA margin	13.1%	11.6%	9.2%	7.6%	7.6%	8.1%
Return on equity (ROE)	9.4%	7.3%	7.3%	6.8%	8.0%	8.2%
GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
Net debt to equity (x)	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.5)
Current ratio (x)	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Receivable turnover days	114.5	116.5	88.7	91.1	90.0	90.0
Inventory turnover days	17.5	24.0	31.2	37.2	30.0	30.0
Payable turnover days	198.2	253.7	193.2	217.3	220.0	220.0
VALUATION	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E
YE 31 Dec						
P/E	23.7	41.3	22.7	15.4	12.3	11.3
P/E (diluted)	23.7	41.6	23.0	15.5	12.5	11.5
P/B	2.1	2.9	1.6	1.0	1.0	0.9
P/CFPS	82.1	13.1	7.5	3.7	3.2	4.5
Div yield (%)	1.2	0.9	1.6	2.3	2.9	3.1



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BUY

Stock with potential return of over 15% over next 12 months

SELL

Stock with potential return of +15% to -10% over next 12 months

SELL

Stock with potential loss of over 10% over next 12 months

NOT RATED : Stock is not rated by CMBIGM

OUTPERFORM : Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

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CMB International Global Markets Limited

Address: 45/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 3900 0888 Fax: (852) 3900 0800

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