CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update

SenseTime (20 HK)

Unveiled large model SenseNova with live demo

SenseTime hosted a Tech Day event on 10 Apr unveiling self-developed large model set SenseNova. SenseNova consists of NLP, content generation, automated data annotation and custom model training capabilities. In the event, SenseTime showed live demo of ChatGPT-like chatbot SenseChat that can write invitation, tell story, comprehend legal documents and Midjourney-like text-to-image generator. Sensenova API interfaces and services will be provided to enterprise customers. We continue to like SenseTime for its leading position in large AI model.

- Unveiled foundation model set SenseNova. SenseTime hosted a Tech Day event unveiling "SenseNova" with live demo on 10 Apr. SenseNova is a foundation model set with variety of capabilities in NLP (natural language processing), content generation, automated data annotation and custom model training. SenseNova offers API interfaces and services targeting enterprise customers. SenseTime's current AI infrastructure supports up to 20 large models with over 100-billions parameters to train simultaneously.
- Generative AI models: Text to image and digital human. Besides LLM, SenseTime also showcased various generative AI models and applications that support 1) text-to-image creation (SenseMirage 秒画), 2) 2D/3D digital human (SenseAvatar 如影) and 3) 3D scenario/ object generation (SenseSpace 琼宇 and SenseThings 格物). SenseTime demonstrated application scenarios in education, advertising and short video creation.
- Other Al-as-a-services (AlaaS): CV inference & annotation. SenseTime also provides CV model inference and automated data annotation services. SenseTime's Chief Scientist Prof. Wang Xiaogang demonstrated the SenseAnnotation 明眸 (mingmou.sensetime.com) that provides annotation services based on image classification and detection models.
- Leading in large AI model race. We think SenseTime is in a leading position in terms of large AI model capabilities and that AlaaS could provide recurring revenue in the long term. SenseTime has over 27,000 GPUs that can support up to 20 large models with over 100-bn parameters to train simultaneously. Maintain BUY.

Earnings Summary

| (YE 31 Dec) | FY21A | FY22A | FY23E | FY24E | FY25E |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Revenue (RMB mn) | 4,700 | 3,809 | 4,980 | 6,355 | 8,267 |
| YoY growth (%) | 36.4 | (19.0) | 30.8 | 27.6 | 30.1 |
| Operating profit (RMB mn) | (3,316) | (3,941) | (4,298) | (3,776) | (3,003) |
| Net profit (RMB mn) | (17,140.1) | (6,044.8) | (4,295.8) | (3,824.3) | (3,101.5) |
| Adjusted net profit (RMB mn) | (1,381.4) | (4,688.0) | (3,795.9) | (3,314.5) | (2,570.3) |
| EPS (Reported) (RMB cents) | (173.64) | (18.93) | (12.84) | (11.43) | (9.27) |
| Consensus EPS (RMB cents) | (173.64) | (18.93) | (9.10) | (6.80) | na |
| EV/Sales (x) | 11.3 | 16.4 | 13.2 | 10.6 | 8.3 |
| ROE (%) | (316.7) | (19.9) | (15.6) | (15.8) | (15.0) |
| Net gearing (%) | (46.2) | (10.5) | (5.4) | 2.3 | 9.9 |

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price HK\$3.45 (Previous TP HK\$3.45) Up/Downside 3.7% Current Price HK\$3.33

China Software & IT Services

Marley NGAN (852) 3916 3719 marleyngan@cmbi.com.hk

Bowen LI (852) 3761 8957 libowen@cmbi.com.hk

Stock Data

| Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn) | 111451.5 |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn) | 996.1 |
| 52w High/Low (HK\$) | 6.30/1.11 |
| Total Issued Shares (mn) | 25948.8 |
| Source: FactSet | |

14.9%

14.8%

Shareholding Structure

| SOP | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Softbank | | |

Source: HKEx

| Share Performance | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| | Absolute | Relative | | | |
| 1-mth | 32.7% | 30.0% | | | |
| 3-mth | 52.1% | 60.0% | | | |
| 6-mth | 109.4% | 82.7% | | | |
| | | | | | |

Source: FactSet



Related Reports:

- SenseTime (20 HK) "Leading in the China large AI model race" – 29 Mar 2023 (<u>link</u>)
- 商汤科技 (20 HK) "投资者交流日纪 要 - 持续发展人工智能即服务模式" -5 Dec 2022 (link)



SenseTime Tech Day

Figure 1: SenseNova is a foundation model set with variety of capabilities in NLP (natural language processing), content generation, automated data annotation and custom model training.



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

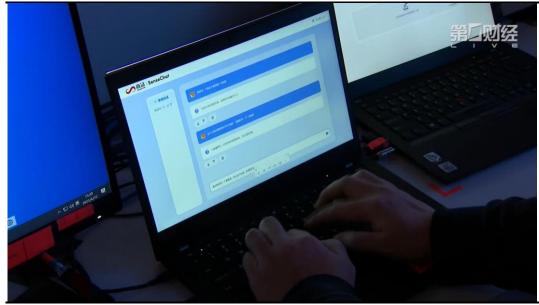
Figure 2: SenseTime has developed large-scale language model (LLM) with 180bn parameters.

| | | | 日日新 sense tovo |
|---|---------------|---|-------------------|
| 自研中文 | 逻辑推演 | 兼具理解 | 知识自动 |
| 语言大模型 | 与智能 | 广度与深度 | 及时更新 |
| _ | | _ | - |
| · 1800亿参数中文大语言模型 | · 互动式引导过程中精进判 | ・在多轮对话、问诊与编程等 | · 生成更可信, 更准确和更 |
| 支持问答、理解与生成等全 面的中文语言能力 | 断力与创作智能 | 垂域表现突出,并全方位覆 盖各种应用 | 安全的文本和对话 |
| ・支持超长文本知识理解 | | 支持企业服务、城市管理、 汽车出行等垂类 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Figure 3: SenseTime showed live demo on its Chatbot SenseChat



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

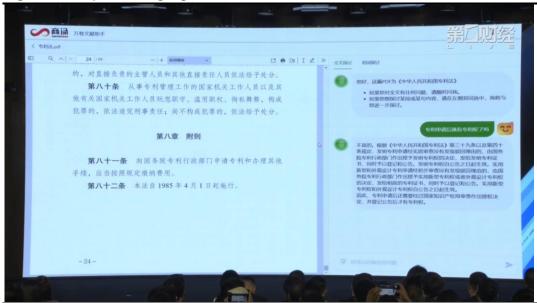
Figure 4: SenseChat can help write advertising slogan...

| + 新增对话 带现写一个 0 | ● #805-148.5.489359*5645 |
|-------------------|--|
| | 当语言成为约约优势,世界将为约翰开大门。 |
| | |
| | |
| | Jeanwardteleanar I |

Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Figure 5: comprehending legal documents...



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

Figure 6: writing story...

| M 商词 SenseChat | 言に見ていた。 |
|---------------------------------|--|
| + 新聞対話 用印を合作…と D 教化写一个语言… | • - AZH 7 2 HILLIN |
| | 他从在中的公司的规则、低下了法、不平衡的口的的问题。中的时、1882了,1822月的不过从了了,中却有新的小花以及了对的说,他感到的现在 想、于我他们跟你已经打开出力,到下心来的肉、2022年之、小花高的公司了一个大击,他用心地用了起来。小花一起已绝儿们回了家,做了 用来是野肉、从那么饭、小花冲的公时三心二带了,他也加以来的时间一个事。因为他知道,只能可是于他都已得起来之。 |
| | |
| | 1979、1943年1970年8月1日、1979年9、小田中,小花田5三0二年、197971938、8月13111日三日18日、月以泉244年8一年年,年,長年2月17日25、1274年18月11日、日本11日日日和400,11日日二十年四、千年三〇二年。 |
| | |
| | |
| - | |

Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

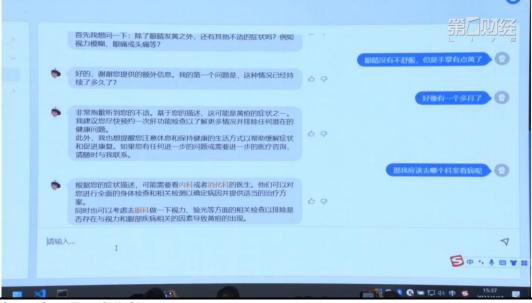


Figure 7: coding...



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

Figure 8: even medical consultation...



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Figure 9: SenseTime also unveiled generative AI models with image-to-text, digital human capabilities

| 理速度快 可自训练 生成模型开源社区 B端 API 服务 | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 世 速 度 快 |
| | |

Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

Figure 10: SenseTime's image-to-text platform



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Figure 11: SenseTime's digital human generation...



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

Figure 12: can generate content in different languages.

| | D* #* | <text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text> |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| | 路 / | Ø |
| 28 | 2 1000 1000 1000 1000 11中之 第四回 | 1 1 1224 1 12242 1 12244 |
| | 142,000 | 1 2234 1 2012 1 2004 1 2014 1 2014 |

Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Figure 13: 3D scenarios and object generation



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM

Figure 14: SenseTime's provides large model training and inference services



Source: SenseTime, CMBIGM



Valuation

Maintain BUY with target price of HK\$3.45

Maintain BUY with unchanged target price of HK\$3.45. Our target price is based on 18x FY23E EV/Sales, in-line with China AI peers. We believe the breakthrough in AI large models and supportive policies will continue to drive sector re-rating. We observed that China AI market-cap weighted EV/sales has re-rated from 4.4x to 12.1x YTD.

We use EV/sales as valuation methodology as AI deployment is still in an early stage that short term earnings are distorted by high R&D, marketing expense and depreciation related to heavy capex for computing infrastructure.

| Figure | 15: | Peers | comparison |
|--------|-----|-------|------------|
| | | | |

| | | | Market Cap | Price | ТР | EV/sa | les (x) | P | /S | Sales CAGR | EPS CAGR | FCF margin |
|--------------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Company | Ticker | Rating | (US\$ mn) | (LC) | (LC) | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY21- 24E | FY21- 24E | FY21 |
| China Al con | npanies | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SenseTime | 20 HK | BUY | 14,198 | 3.33 | 3.45 | 13.2 | 10.6 | 19.3 | 15.1 | 11% | n.a. | -74% |
| Ainnovation | 2121 HK | NR | 1,852 | 26.00 | N/A | 4.8 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 62% | n.a. | -33% |
| Cambricon | 688256 CH | NR | 12,083 | 207.59 | N/A | 67.5 | 48.2 | 69.2 | 49.5 | 33% | n.a. | -179% |
| Arcsoft | 688088 CH | NR | 2,417 | 41.00 | N/A | 20.0 | 15.4 | 22.9 | 17.6 | 18% | 40% | 11% |
| Hikvision | 002415 CH | BUY | 61,261 | 45.05 | 37.44 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 11% | 5% | 11% |
| Dahua | 002236 CH | HOLD | 11,620 | 26.38 | 11.07 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 7% | 6% | 1% |
| | | | | | Mean | 18.7 | 16.4 | 20.6 | 15.2 | 24% | 17% | -43% |
| | | | | | Median | 9.0 | 7.1 | 12.4 | 9.4 | 15% | 6% | -16% |
| Global AI co | mpanies | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Palantir | PLTR US | NR | 16,856 | 8.02 | N/A | 6.6 | 5.5 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 20% | n.a. | 21% |
| UiPath | PATH US | NR | 9,069 | 16.28 | N/A | 7.2 | 5.9 | 8.8 | 7.2 | 27% | n.a. | 4% |
| C3.ai | AI US | NR | 2,443 | 21.76 | N/A | 6.4 | 5.3 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 20% | n.a. | -21% |
| Nvidia | NVDA US | NR | 667,130 | 270.03 | N/A | 24.7 | 22.3 | 24.8 | 22.3 | 21% | 37% | 28% |
| Ambarella | AMBA US | NR | 2,813 | 71.07 | N/A | 7.8 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 9.9 | 8% | n.a. | 13% |
| | | | | | Mean | 10.5 | 9.6 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 19% | 37% | 9% |
| | | | | | Median | 7.2 | 5.9 | 8.8 | 7.7 | 20% | 37% | 13% |

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

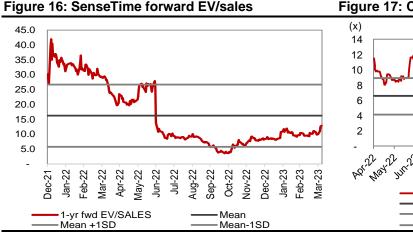
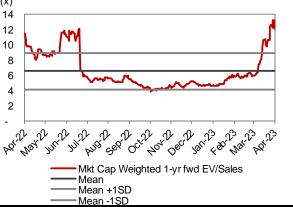


Figure 17: China Al mkt-cap weighted fwd EV/sales



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM *companies include SenseTime (20 HK), Alnnovation (2121 HK), Cambricon (688256 CH), Arcsoft (688088 CH), Hikvision (002415 CH) and Dahua (002236 CH)



Financial Summary

| INCOME STATEMENT | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 3,446 | 4,700 | 3,809 | 4,980 | 6,355 | 8,267 |
| Cost of goods sold | (1,014) | (1,423) | (1,266) | (2,114) | (2,824) | (3,656) |
| Gross profit | 2,432 | 3,278 | 2,542 | 2,867 | 3,531 | 4,611 |
| Operating expenses | (4,580) | (6,594) | (6,483) | (7,165) | (7,307) | (7,614) |
| Selling expense | (537) | (682) | (901) | (1,022) | (1,047) | (1,088) |
| Admin expense | (1,590) | (2,298) | (1,568) | (1,629) | (1,655) | (1,727) |
| R&D expense | (2,454) | (3,614) | (4,014) | (4,514) | (4,606) | (4,799) |
| Operating profit | (2,148) | (3,316) | (3,941) | (4,298) | (3,776) | (3,003) |
| Interest income | 175 | 188 | 261 | 197 | 169 | 169 |
| Interest expense | (113) | (34) | (55) | (90) | (131) | (191) |
| Other income/expense | (10,234) | (13,979) | (2,597) | (309) | (268) | (224) |
| Pre-tax profit | (12,319) | (17,142) | (6,333) | (4,501) | (4,006) | (3,249) |
| Income tax | 161 | (36) | 240 | 170 | 152 | 123 |
| After tax profit | (12,158) | (17,177) | (6,093) | (4,330) | (3,855) | (3,126) |
| Minority interest | (0) | (37) | (48) | (34) | (30) | (25) |
| Net profit | (12,158) | (17,140) | (6,045) | (4,296) | (3,824) | (3,101) |
| Adjusted net profit | (878) | (1,381) | (4,688) | (3,796) | (3,314) | (2,570) |
| BALANCE SHEET | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
| YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | | | | | | |
| Current assets | 31,726 | 28,084 | 21,524 | 20,049 | 20,717 | 21,359 |
| Cash & equivalents | 11,428 | 16,530 | 7,963 | 6,628 | 7,273 | 7,652 |
| Account receivables | 4,584 | 5,776 | 6,072 | 5,622 | 5,294 | 5,132 |
| Inventories | 716 | 496 | 617 | 927 | 1,277 | 1,703 |
| Financial assets at FVTPL | 0 | 273 | 632 | 632 | 632 | 632 |
| Other current assets | 14,977 | 4,991 | 6,213 | 6,213 | 6,213 | 6,213 |
| Contract assets | 22 | 19 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Non-current assets | 6,753 | 8,860 | 15,903 | 16,012 | 15,854 | 15,612 |
| PP&E | 1,906 | 2,909 | 6,999 | 7,073 | 6,885 | 6,616 |
| Right-of-use assets | 336 | 432 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 |
| Intangibles | 108 | 225 | 333 | 368 | 398 | 425 |
| Other non-current assets | 4,402 | 5,294 | 8,256 | 8,256 | 8,256 | 8,256 |
| Total assets | 38,479 | 36,944 | 37,427 | 36,061 | 36,571 | 36,971 |
| Current liabilities | 9,822 | 2,795 | 3,323 | 4,634 | 6,691 | 8,604 |
| Short-term borrowings | 594 | 0 | 321 | 391 | 673 | 867 |
| Account payables | 1,724 | 2,290 | 2,473 | 3,650 | 5,351 | 6,965 |
| Other current liabilities | 7,744 | 177 | 460 | 529 | 811 | 1,006 |
| Contract liabilities | 244 | 172 | 208 | 271 | 346 | 451 |
| Non-current liabilities | 49,589 | 2,162 | 5,090 | 5,347 | 7,655 | 9,268 |
| Long-term borrowings | 423 | 340 | 2,907 | 4,537 | 6,818 | 8,394 |
| Bond payables | 66 | 45 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 49,100 | 1,778 | 2,171 | 798 | 825 | 863 |
| Total liabilities | 59,411 | 4,957 | 8,413 | 9,981 | 14,346 | 17,872 |
| Share capital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Retained earnings | (21,713) | (40,149) | (46,194) | (50,490) | (54,314) | (57,416) |
| Other reserves | 645 | 72,042 | 75,164 | 76,560 | 76,560 | 76,560 |
| Total shareholders equity | (21,068) | 31,893 | 28,970 | 26,070 | 22,246 | 19,144 |
| Minority interest | 136 | 95 | 44 | 9 | (21) | (46) |
| Total equity and liabilities | 38,479 | 36,944 | 37,427 | 36,061 | 36,571 | 36,971 |



| CASH FLOW | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| YE 31 Dec (RMB mn) | | | | | | |
| Operating | | | | | | |
| Profit before taxation | (12,319) | (17,142) | (6,333) | (4,501) | (4,006) | (3,249) |
| Depreciation & amortization | 570 | 658 | 968 | 1,010 | 1,110 | 1,200 |
| Tax paid | (13) | (38) | (11) | 170 | 152 | 123 |
| Change in working capital | (1,290) | (2,026) | (101) | 1,405 | 1,779 | 1,492 |
| Others | 11,823 | 16,062 | 2,393 | (106) | (38) | 23 |
| Net cash from operations | (1,229) | (2,485) | (3,084) | (2,022) | (1,004) | (412) |
| Investing | | | | | | |
| Capital expenditure | (1,306) | (1,266) | (5,167) | (1,119) | (952) | (957) |
| Others | (5,765) | (283) | (4,131) | 197 | 169 | 169 |
| Net cash from investing | (7,070) | (1,548) | (9,298) | (922) | (783) | (789) |
| Financing | | | | | | |
| Dividend paid | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net borrowings | 13,327 | 4,769 | 3,389 | 1,699 | 2,563 | 1,771 |
| Proceeds from share issues | 0 | 4,643 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others | (141) | (34) | (60) | (90) | (131) | (191) |
| Net cash from financing | 13,186 | 9,378 | 3,329 | 1,609 | 2,432 | 1,579 |
| Net change in cash | | | | | | |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | 6,673 | 11,428 | 16,530 | 7,963 | 6,628 | 7,273 |
| Exchange difference | (131) | (243) | 487 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash at the end of the year | 11,428 | 16,530 | 7,963 | 6,628 | 7,273 | 7,652 |
| GROWTH | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
| YE 31 Dec | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 13.9% | 36.4% | (19.0%) | 30.8% | 27.6% | 30.1% |
| Gross profit | 41.5% | 34.8% | (22.4%) | 12.8% | 23.2% | 30.6% |
| PROFITABILITY | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
| YE 31 Dec | | | | | | |
| Gross profit margin | 70.6% | 69.7% | 66.8% | 57.6% | 55.6% | 55.8% |
| Operating margin | (62.3%) | (70.6%) | (103.5%) | (86.3%) | (59.4%) | (36.3%) |
| Adj. net profit margin | (25.5%) | (29.4%) | (123.1%) | (76.2%) | (52.2%) | (31.1%) |
| Return on equity (ROE) | na | (316.7%) | (19.9%) | (15.6%) | (15.8%) | (15.0%) |
| GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
| YE 31 Dec | | | | | | |
| Net debt to equity (x) | na | (0.5) | (0.1) | (0.1) | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Current ratio (x) | 3.2 | 10.0 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 2.5 |
| Receivable turnover days | 293.5 | 319.3 | 493.6 | 345.5 | 241.9 | 169.3 |
| Inventory turnover days | 206.2 | 155.4 | 160.5 | 160.0 | 165.0 | 170.0 |
| Payable turnover days | 227.8 | 128.9 | 189.9 | 175.3 | 200.9 | 206.9 |
| VALUATION | 2020A | 2021A | 2022A | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
| YE 31 Dec | | | | | | |
| P/B | na | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 5.1 |
| EV | 57,653.4 | 52,995.0 | 62,597.3 | 65,631.4 | 67,548.9 | 68,940.6 |
| EV/Sales | 16.7 | 11.3 | 16.4 | 13.2 | 10.6 | 8.3 |

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



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|--|---|
| OUTPERFORM | : Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months |
| MARKET-PERFORM | : Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months |
| UNDERPERFORM | : Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months |

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