CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update

AAC Technologies (2018 HK)

1Q22 miss; Margin pressure to continue into 2H

AAC's 1Q22 earnings decline of 61% YoY is 36%/15% below our/consensus expectations, mainly due to weaker product mix, optics destocking and gross margin pressure across the board. Revenue grew 14% YoY, above expectations, but blended GPM reached a historical low at 19.5% (vs 20.5% in 1Q21), given ASP pressure in acoustics/haptics/casings and higher mix of lower-margin CCM. Mgmt. guided 2Q22 revenue to decline QoQ on seasonality and GPM to improve gradually in 2H22E due to improving yield and better cost control, but we remain cautious on macro weakness and Covid-19 impact on smartphone demand. We cut FY22-24 EPS by 14-29% to factor in margin pressure and shipment downside. We estimate 2Q22E net profit will decline 62% YoY, and our FY22-24E EPS are 25-34% below consensus. Maintain HOLD and cut our SOTP-based TP to HK\$14.0, implying 15.3x FY22E P/E.

- IQ22 GPM pressure across the board; optics destocking and CCM GPM drag. By segment, 1Q22 acoustics grew 6.4% YoY on expansion into non-smartphone products, and haptics & casings grew 22% YoY given strong metal casing shipment (+39% YoY) and x-axis haptics motors (+21% YoY). However, we believe expansion into lower-margin business and optics destocking resulted in record-low gross margin in 1Q22. Acoustic GPM dropped to 26.6% (vs 37.4% in 1Q21) and ED&PM GPM declined to 19.6% (vs 25.5% in 1Q21). Blended optics GPM recovered QoQ to 3.5% in 1Q22 (vs -2.1% in 4Q21), mainly due to higher mix of lower-margin CCM revenue (75% of optics), but plastic lens shipment dropped 36% YoY to 93kk/m in 1Q (-36% YoY) and lower-margin HCM revenue grew three times YoY. Looking ahead, we remain conservative on optics ASP, continued destocking, WLG demand and overall profitability.
- More updates on diversification strategy in automotive and AR/VR. AAC guided non-smartphone acoustics will account for 5% of Android acoustics in 2022, and automotive acoustics will start mass production in 2022. In addition, AAC's x-axis haptics motors achieved positive progress and entered AR/VR supply chain for a leading market player.
- Our FY22-24E EPS are 25-34% below consensus; too early to bottomfish. We believe optics competition will continue to intensify given ongoing weak smartphone demand and lack of upgrade. We trimmed FY22-24E EPS by 14-29% mainly for lower margin. Our FY22-24E EPS remain 25-34% below consensus. Our new SOTP-based TP is HK\$14.0, implying 15.3x FY22E P/E. Trading at 17.5x FY22E P/E, the stock is fairly valued in our view.

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue (RMB mn)	17,140	17,667	18,915	20,601	21,435
YoY growth (%)	(4.2)	3.1	7.1	8.9	4.0
Net income (RMB mn)	1,507	1,316	923	1,312	1,415
EPS (RMB)	1.25	1.09	0.76	1.09	1.17
YoY growth (%)	(32.1)	(12.6)	(29.9)	42.1	7.9
Consensus EPS (RMB)	1.27	1.09	1.11	1.46	0.00
P/E (x)	10.7	12.3	17.5	12.3	11.4
P/B (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Yield (%)	4.7	4.1	2.9	4.1	4.4
ROE (%)	6.9	5.8	4.0	5.6	5.9

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



HOLD (Maintain)

Target Price	HK\$14.0
(Previous TP	HK\$18.8)
Up/Downside	+12%
Current Price	HK\$18.46

China Technology Sector

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Stock Data

Mkt. Cap. (HK\$mn)	19,433
Avg. 3mths t/o (HK\$mn)	171.08
52W High/Low (HK\$)	60.00/ 15.44
Total Issued Shares (mn)	1,209
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

Chunyuan Wu	21.80%
Zhengmin Pan	19.40%
JPMorgan Chase	11.87%
Source: HKEx	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	0.0%	7.0%
3-mth	-28.9%	-10.6%
6-mth	-50.4%	-36.8%
Source: Bloomberg		

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Related Reports:

- Not out of the woods yet; more downside to 2022 earnings – 24 Mar 2022
- 2. 3Q21 in-line; Remain cautious on 4Q21 recovery 12 Nov 2021
- 1Q21 in-line with better acoustics; Maintain HOLD on fair valuation – 17 May 2021



1Q22 Results Review

Figure 1: 1Q22 results review

RMB mn						CM	BI	Conse	ensus
	1Q21	4Q21	1Q22	QoQ	YoY	1Q22E	Diff %	1Q22E	Diff %
Revenue	4,292	4,812	4,896	2%	14%	4,228	16%	4,261	15%
Gross profit	1,337	986	957	-3%	-28%	1,022	-6%	943	1%
Operating profit	640	261	239	-8%	-63%	363	-34%	271	-12%
Net profit	532	212	205	-3%	-61%	320	-36%	241	-15%
EPS (RMB)	0.44	0.18	0.17	-3%	-61%	0.26	-35%	0.19	-9%
<u>Margin (%)</u>									
Gross margin	31.1%	20.5%	19.5%	-0.9 ppt	-11.6 ppt	24.2%	-4.6 ppt	22.1%	-2.6 ppt
Operating margin	14.9%	5.4%	4.9%	-0.5 ppt	-10 ppt	8.6%	-3.7 ppt	6.4%	-1.5 ppt
Net margin	12.4%	4.4%	4.2%	-0.2 ppt	-8.2 ppt	7.6%	-3.4 ppt	5.7%	-1.5 ppt
Growth (%)									
Revenue (YoY)	21%	1%	14%			-1%		-1%	
Revenue (QoQ)	-10%	11%	0%			-12%		-11%	
Operating profit (YoY)	574%	-58%	-63%			-43%		-58%	
Net profit (YoY)	911%	-72%	-61%			-40%		-55%	

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM

Figure 2: Revenue breakdown

RMB mn	FY21	1Q22	2Q22E	3Q22E	4Q22E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue		1922	ZQZZE	JQZZE	49225		TIZJE	T I Z4C
Dynamic components	8,582	2,230	2,052	2,228	2,202	8,712	8,878	9,348
MEMS components	1,013	2,230	2,052	2,220	262	1,041	1,145	1,259
Haptics & RF	5,639	1,501	1,153	1,209	1,952	5,815	7,241	7,321
Others (incl. optics)	2,433	928	822	741	856	3,347	3,337	3,507
Optics	2,389	924	812	739	837	3,311	3,301	3,471
Others	43	4	10	3	19	36	36	36
Total	17,667	4,896	4,289	4,457	5,272	18,915	20,601	21,435
Revenue mix								
Dynamic components	49%	46%	48%	50%	42%	46%	43%	44%
MEMS components	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Haptics & RF	32%	31%	27%	27%	37%	31%	35%	34%
Others (incl. optics)	14%	19%	19%	17%	16%	18%	16%	16%
YoY Growth (%)								
Dynamic components	14%	6%	1%	1%	-2%	2%	2%	5%
MEMS components	-6%	-16%	10%	10%	10%	3%	10%	10%
Haptics & RF	-18%	22%	-5%	-13%	9%	3%	25%	1%
Others (incl. optics)	47%	35%	0%	87%	61%	38%	0%	5%
Optics	46%	36%	0%	87%	63%	39%	0%	5%
Total	3%	14%	-1%	5%	10%	7%	9%	4%
Gross profit margin								
Dynamic components	29.7%	26.6%	27.0%	28.0%	28.0%	27.4%	28.0%	28.0%
MEMS components	15.1%	14.1%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	14.8%	15.0%	15.5%
Haptics & RF	21.6%	19.6%	19.7%	19.8%	20.6%	20.0%	21.0%	21.1%
Others (incl. optics)	18.3%	3.9%	4.7%	6.5%	9.4%	6.1%	13.6%	14.2%
Optics	17.2%	3.5%	4.5%	6.5%	9.2%	22.0%	15.0%	14.2%
Total	24.7%	19.5%	20.0%	21.4%	21.6%	20.7%	22.5%	22.7%

Source: Company data, CMBIGM



Key takeaways from analyst call:

1Q22 review:

- Revenue came in at RMB 4.9bn, up 14% YoY. GPM was 19.5%, down 11.6pct YoY.
- Net profit was RMB 205mn, down 61.4% YoY.
- Business strategy shift to gain market share and diversify growth impacted ASP.
- Product mix and higher material & labor costs contributed to lower gross profit margin.

Optics segment:

- Revenue was RMB 924mn, up 36.4% YoY. GPM was 3.5%, down 24.0 pct YoY.
- Revenue was up 80.1% QoQ due to strong shipment growth of camera module.
- 1Q22 GPM was 3.5%, down 24.0 pct YoY, up 5.6 pct QoQ. Plastic lens GPM was 4.4%, up 10.5 pct QoQ due to low base in 4Q21 with one-time adjustment.
- GPM bottomed out in 1Q22, expect optical GPM improvement from June 2022 with better yield, production cost control and improved production efficiency.
- **DOI:** 5-6 months in 1Q22. Current DOI 3-4 months. Target 2-3 months. Destocking continues; expect further improvements in June 2022.
- **Price:** lens ASP down ~10% QoQ in 1Q22. Current ASP down at single-digit vs 1Q22. Lens ASP to rebound moderately in 3Q22.
- **Capacity**: lens cap at 120-150kk/month, current utilization at 50%-60%. Module capacity 20kk/month, current utilization at 90-100% with no capacity expansion plan.
- Shipments:
 - Plastic lens shipment was up 15.9% QoQ to 135mn, incl. internal sales.
 - Camera module shipment of 42mn, up 129% QoQ, with more high-end products. Product mix to further optimize, leading to higher overall ASP.
- WLG: 1G6P project MP in 2H22. Annual shipment target cut from 10kk to ~5kk due to lower high-end product demand.
- VCM: 50M AF will enter MP in 2022.

Acoustics segment:

- Revenue reached RMB 2.23bn, up 6.4% YoY. GPM was 26.6%, down 10.8 pct YoY due to ASP pressure from overseas customers.
- **Product diversification**: revenue from non-smartphone to account for 5%+ Android acoustics in 2022.
- Automotive acoustics: Several projects to start MP in 2022, and tuning & software algorithm project under development. Car headrest speaker will enter MP in 2023.

ED & PM segment:

- 1Q22 revenue was RMB 1.5bn, up 22.2% YoY with strong precision mechanics.
- GPM stood at 19.6%, down 5.9pct YoY on ASP pressure from overseas customers.
- Android haptics shipment was up 20.5% YoY due to share gain.
- Successful penetration into leading AR/VR players with x-axis haptics motor
- **Metal casing:** shipment was up 38.9% YoY due to share gain from key customers and smooth progress on tablet projects with oversea Android customers.
- **PM:** revenue was up 52% YoY on share gain from overseas customers by leveraging Toyo Precision.

MEMS segment:

- 1Q22 revenue was RMB 238mn, down 16.1% YoY. GPM was 14.1%, down 2.6 pct YoY due to changes in product portfolio and delay in key customer's demand.
- MEMS microphone shipment grew 27.8% YoY with increasing market share.
- Future strategy: further penetration into price-for-value phone segment, TWS and notebook markets to strengthen the market position.

2Q22 Guidance:

- 2Q22 revenue will be lower QoQ due to seasonality.
- GPM bottomed out in 1Q22, expect GPM improvement from June 2022 onwards due to active production cost control and improving production yield.
- FY22 Capex targets at 20-30% lower than FY21.



Earnings Revision

Figure 3: CMBIGM earnings revisions

		New			Old		Change (%)			
RMB mn	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	
Revenue	18,915	20,601	21,435	18,216	20,739	21,532	4%	-1%	0%	
Gross profit	3,914	4,638	4,861	4,289	4,911	5,125	-9%	-6%	-5%	
Operating profit	1,032	1,399	1,491	1,443	1,650	1,740	-28%	-15%	-14%	
Net profit	923	1,312	1,415	1,304	1,545	1,644	-29%	-15%	-14%	
EPS (RMB)	0.76	1.09	1.17	1.08	1.28	1.36	-29%	-15%	-14%	
Gross margin	20.7%	22.5%	22.7%	23.5%	23.7%	23.8%	-2.9 ppt	-1.2 ppt	-1.1 ppt	
Operating margin	5.5%	6.8%	7.0%	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%	-2.5 ppt	-1.2 ppt	-1.1 ppt	
Net margin	4.9%	6.4%	6.6%	7.2%	7.4%	7.6%	-2.3 ppt	-1.1 ppt	-1 ppt	

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

	CMBIGM			Consensus			Diff (%)		
RMB mn	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	18,915	20,601	21,435	19,688	22,063	25,216	-4%	-7%	-15%
Gross profit	3,914	4,638	4,861	4,695	5,334	6,141	-17%	-13%	-21%
Operating profit	1,032	1,399	1,491	1,575	1,957	2,410	-34%	-28%	-38%
Net profit	923	1,312	1,415	1,348	1,661	2,119	-31%	-21%	-33%
EPS (RMB)	0.76	1.09	1.17	1.11	1.46	1.79	-31%	-25%	-34%
Gross margin	20.7%	22.5%	22.7%	23.8%	24.2%	24.4%	-3.2 ppt	-1.7 ppt	-1.7 ppt
Operating margin	5.5%	6.8%	7.0%	8.0%	8.9%	9.6%	-2.5 ppt	-2.1 ppt	-2.6 ppt
Net margin	4.9%	6.4%	6.6%	6.8%	7.5%	8.4%	-2 ppt	-1.2 ppt	-1.8 ppt

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 5: P&L forecast

RMB mn	FY21	1Q22	2Q22E	3Q22E	4Q22E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	17,667	4,896	4,289	4,457	5,272	18,915	20,601	21,435
YoY	3.1%	14.1%	-0.6%	5.0%	9.6%	7.1%	8.9%	4.0%
Cost of sales	(13,302)	(3,939)	(3,430)	(3,503)	(4,133)	(15,005)	(15,967)	(16,579)
Gross profit	4,365	957	859	954	1,140	3,910	4,634	4,856
GPM (%)	24.7%	19.5%	20.0%	21.4%	21.6%	20.7%	22.5%	22.7%
ҮоҮ	3.3%	-28.4%	-20.3%	-1.1%	15.6%	-10.4%	18.5%	4.8%
SG&A	(1,156)	(331)	(266)	(267)	(322)	(1,186)	(1,215)	(1,265)
% of rev	-6.5%	-6.8%	-6.2%	-6.0%	-6.1%	-6.3%	-5.9%	-5.9%
R&D	(1,726)	(387)	(407)	(423)	(475)	(1,692)	(2,019)	(2,101)
% of rev	-9.8%	-7.9%	-9.5%	-9.5%	-9.0%	-8.9%	-9.8%	-9.8%
Operating profit	1,483	239	186	263	343	1,032	1,399	1,491
OPM (%)	8.4%	4.9%	4.3%	5.9%	6.5%	5.5%	6.8%	7.0%
YoY	9.8%	-62.6%	-45.7%	9.8%	31.4%	-30.4%	35.7%	6.5%
Income tax	(120)	(54)	(17)	(22)	(36)	(128)	(137)	(148)
Effective tax rate	8.5%	21.6%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	12.9%	10.0%	10.0%
Net profit	1,316	205	150	216	352	923	1,312	1,415
NPM (%)	7.5%	4.2%	3.5%	4.9%	6.7%	4.9%	6.4%	6.6%
ҮоҮ	-12.6%	-61.4%	-61.5%	18.1%	65.9%	-29.9%	42.1%	7.9%

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Valuation

Maintain HOLD with new TP HK\$14.0

We derived our new TP of HK\$ 14.0 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 15.3x FY22E P/E. We assign 15x P/E to AAC's acoustics/MEMS, 15x P/E to haptics & mechanical RF, and 20x P/E to optics, 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	7.0	P/E target multiple	15x	61%	0.47
MEMS	0.5	P/E target multiple	15x	4%	0.03
ED & PM	3.4	P/E target multiple	15x	30%	0.23
Optics	0.80	P/E target multiple	20x	5%	0.04
TP (RMB)	11.6		15.3x		0.76
TP (HK\$)	14.0				

Sources: Company data, CMBIGM

Figure 7: 12M forward P/E band



Figure 8: 12M forward P/B band



Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Source: Company data, CMBIGM



Financial Summary

Income statement						Cash flow summary					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	17,140	17,667	18,915	20,601	21,435	Profit before taxation	1,648	1,413	997	1,372	1,480
COGS	(12,913)	(13,302)	(15,005)	(15,967)	(16,579)	Depreciation	3,409	2,931	3,834	4,147	4,413
Gross profit	4,227	4,365	3,910	4,634	4,856	Change in working capital	(231)	(1,603)	3,135	(5,366)	4,962
						Others	(1,233)	(544)	303	299	280
Selling and marketing	(285)	(333)	(355)	(391)	(407)	Net cash from operating	3,593	2,196	8,270	452	11,135
Administrative	(672)	(824)	(831)	(824)	(857)						
R&D	(1,920)	(1,726)	(1,692)	(2,019)	(2,101)	Capex	(3,262)	(4,327)	(3,678)	(3,126)	(2,657)
Operating profit	1,350	1,483	1,032	1,399	1,491	Other	-	81	-	-	-
						Net cash from investing	(3,262)	(4,246)	(3,678)	(3,126)	(2,657)
Financial cost	(353)	(415)	(420)	(420)	(420)						
Other income/(losses)	650	346	386	393	410	Net borrowings					
Pre-tax profit	1,648	1,413	997	1,372	1,480	Interest paid	(353)	(415)	(420)	(420)	(420)
						Dividend paid	(753)	(658)	(462)	(656)	(708)
Тах	(147)	(120)	(128)	(137)	(148)	Other	3,688	1,687	-	-	-
Minority interest	(6)	(23)	(54)	(77)	(83)	Net cash from financing	2,582	613	(882)	(1,076)	(1,128)
Net profit	1,507	1,316	923	1,312	1,415						
						Net change in cash	2,913	(1,437)	3,711	(3,751)	7,350
						Cash at beg of year	5,512	7,540	6,051	9,762	6,011
						Exchange difference	-	-	-	-	-
						Cash at end of year	7,540	6,051	9,762	6,011	13,361

Balance sheet						Key ratios					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	YE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Current assets	16,850	17,955	17,782	19,466	22,322	Sales mix (%)					
Cash & equivalents	7,540	6,051	9,762	6,011	13,361	Dynamic components	44.1	48.6	46.1	43.1	43.6
Trade and other rev.	5,176	6,013	7,353	7,168	8,043	MEMS (microphone)	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.9
Inventories	3,995	5,695	471	6,091	723	Electro. (haptics)	39.9	31.9	30.7	35.1	34.2
Other current assets	138	195	195	195	195	Other	9.6	13.8	17.7	16.2	16.4
Non-current assets	22,062	24,067	23,911	22,890	21,134	Growth (%)					
PPE	18,592	19,987	19,831	18,810	17,054	Revenue	(4.2)	3.1	7.1	8.9	4.0
Lease prepayments						Gross profit	(17.2)	3.3	(10.4)	18.5	4.8
Intangible assets	373	384	384	384	384	Operating Income	(45.4)	9.8	(30.4)	35.7	6.5
Other non-curr. assets	3,096	3,696	3,696	3,696	3,696	Net profit	(32.2)	(12.6)	(29.9)	42.1	7.9
Total assets	38,911	42,022	41,692	42,355	43,456						
						Profitability (%)					
Current liabilities	9,380	9,668	8,931	9,015	9,491	Gross Margin	24.7	24.7	20.7	22.5	22.7
Short-term borrowings	3,349	2,902	2,902	2,902	2,902	Operating Margin	7.9	8.4	5.5	6.8	7.0
Trade & other payables	5,205	6,148	5,399	5,467	5,936	Net margin	8.8	7.5	4.9	6.4	6.6
Tax payables	167	165	177	192	200						
Other current liabilities	660	453	453	453	453	Balance sheet ratios					
						Net debt/total equity (x)	Net cash				
Non-current liabilities	7,711	9,852	9,852	9,852	9,852	Current ratio (x)	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4
Government grants	604	700	700	700	700	Receivable turnover days	87.8	87.8	90.0	90.0	90.0
Deferred tax liabilities	49	41	41	41	41	Inventory turnover days	88.6	88.6	75.0	75.0	75.0
Other non-current liab.	7,058	9,111	9,111	9,111	9,111	Payable turnover days	84.7	84.7	70.0	70.0	70.0
Total liabilities	17,090	19,520	18,783	18,867	19,344						
						Returns (%)					
Share capital	98	98	98	98	98	ROE	6.9	5.8	4.0	5.6	5.9
Reserves	21,061	21,713	22,174	22,830	23,538	ROA	3.9	3.1	2.2	3.1	3.3
Minority interest	662	691	637	560	476						
Shareholders' equity	21,821	22,502	22,909	23,488	24,112						
Total equity & liabilities	38,911	42,022	41,692	42,355	43,456		1.25	1.09	0.76	1.09	1.17
Source: Company data C						DPS	0.62	0.54	0.38	0.54	0.59

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Disclosures & Disclaimers

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