#### EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT

# INOUE RUBBER (THAILAND)

# **Expect delayed recovery in 2QFY23**

- Thailand's domestic motorcycle sales are expected to fall 2% y-y in 2023 as consumers remain cautious about big-ticket purchases.
- We cut our core profit forecasts for FY23-FY25 by 16%/15%/7% to reflect 48%/23%/26% projected growth, respectively.
- Maintain HOLD with a slightly lower TP of THB14.00.

#### Export markets drove car and motorcycle sales in 2M23

In 2M23, Thailand's car production amounted to 328K units (+7% y-y), driven by exports which rose 17% y-y to 175k units as the shortage of chips and auto parts eased. Domestic sales, however, dipped 5% y-y to 137K units as consumers were cautious about spending on durable goods. Domestic motorcycle sales recovered 9% y-y while exports rose 13% y-y in 2M23. The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) expects a total of 1.95m cars to be produced in 2023, a 4% y-y increase, with 1.05m units for export (+5% y-y) and 900K units for domestic sales (+6% y-y).

#### Thailand's motorcycle market faces challenges in 2023

The FTI estimates domestic motorcycle sales at 1.75m units (-2% y-y), and motorcycle exports at 350K units (-18% y-y). Thai Honda, the top ranked company in Thailand's motorcycle market for 34 years with a market share of 77% in 2022, also expects domestic motorcycle sales to drop 2% y-y in 2023 vs 12% growth in 2022 due to high household debt, rising interest rates, and inflation. With around 80% of IRC's total revenue coming from the domestic market and 45% coming from motorcycle tires and tubes, we expect a delayed recovery for IRC's revenue in FY23.

#### Earnings revisions on more cautious view of sales outlook

We project IRC's 2QFY23 revenue to climb only 3.5% q-q but fall 3% y-y. Its net profit, nevertheless, should be helped by lower energy-related costs, its well-controlled SG&A, and dividend income from subsidiaries. We expect its 2QFY23 net profit at THB34m, +114% q-q from the low base in 1QFY23 but -48% y-y, with 1HFY23 net profit falling by 46% y-y. Therefore, we cut our core profit forecasts for FY23-FY25 by 16%/15%/7% to reflect our more cautious view of its sales outlook. IRC's core profit should grow at a slower rate of 48% in FY23, down from 75% in our previous forecast, but its growth rate should accelerate to 23% and 26% in FY24-FY25, up from our earlier projection of 22% and 16%.

### Maintain HOLD with a slightly lower TP of THB14.00

We trim our TP to THB14.00 from THB15.50, based on 17x FY23E P/E, equal to its five-year historical average. Despite the delayed recovery, IRC's strength is its financial structure with a debt-free position and an intact long-term industry outlook. We maintain our HOLD rating for IRC.



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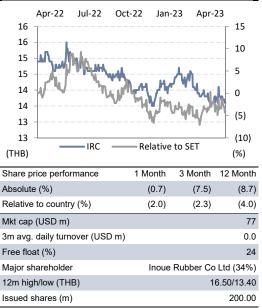
# **IRC TB**

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TARGET PRICE	THB14.00
CLOSE	THB13.60
UP/DOWNSIDE	+2.9%
PRIOR TP	THB15.50
CHANGE IN TP	-9.7%
TP vs CONSENSUS	-7.3%

## **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Sep (THB m)	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue	5,883	6,208	6,653	7,104
Net profit	110	162	199	252
EPS (THB)	0.55	0.81	1.00	1.26
vs Consensus (%)	-	(15.6)	(14.5)	(7.4)
EBITDA	483	562	606	669
Core net profit	110	162	199	252
Core EPS (THB)	0.55	0.81	1.00	1.26
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	-	(15.7)	(14.8)	(7.3)
EPS growth (%)	(67.7)	47.7	22.8	26.1
Core P/E (x)	24.7	16.8	13.6	10.8
Dividend yield (%)	2.1	3.0	3.7	4.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.8	3.2	3.0	2.7
Price/book (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Net debt/Equity (%)	(23.4)	(22.4)	(21.5)	(21.4)
ROE (%)	2.8	4.1	4.8	5.9



Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates

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#### **Investment thesis**

We maintain our HOLD rating on IRC with a slight cut in our TP to THB14.00 from THB15.50, following the cuts in our projections to reflect our more cautious view of its sales revenue. The overall market for the motorcycle industry in Thailand in 2023 may see challenges as household debt is still high and interest rates keep rising. This could lead to consumers holding off on major purchases until the economy is fully recovered.

IRC, however, has a strong base as a leading manufacturer of industrial elastomer products and motorcycle tires and tubes for over 50 years. IRC, as a debt-free company, is also cash rich at THB4 per share at end-December 2023, or 30% of its current share price.

#### **Company profile**

Inoue Rubber (Thailand) (IRC) was established by Inoue Rubber Co Ltd Japan and the Leeissaranukul family in 1969. IRC manufactures elastomer products for automotive and other industries, along with motorcycle tires and tubes. The company has two plants at Rangsit, Pathumtani province, producing tires and tubes, and Ayutthaya province producing automotive and industrial elastomer.

www.ircthailand.com

#### Catalysts

Key catalysts include 1) stronger demand for cars and motorcycles in the region; 2) China's reopening, which should boost the global economy; and 3) lower costs for raw materials.

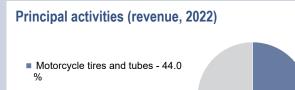
#### **Risks to our call**

Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) weaker demand from the automotive industry; 2) a sharp rise in the price of crude oil; and 3) chip supply shortages. Upside risks are lower costs for raw materials.

#### **Event calendar**

 Date
 Event

 May 2023
 2QFY23 (Jan-Mar 2023) results announcement



Industrial elastomer parts - 56.0 %

Source: Inoue Rubber (Thailand)

#### **Major shareholders**

- Inoue Rubber Co Ltd 34.3 %
- KK International Co Ltd 25.3 %

Others - 40.4 %

Source: Inoue Rubber (Thailand)

#### **Key assumptions**

YE Sep	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)
Industrial ealastomer parts	3,477	3,726	3,978
Growth (%)	5.5	7.2	6.8
Motorcycle tires & tubes	2,732	2,927	3,126
Growth (%)	5.6	7.2	6.8
Gross margin (%)	8.7	9.2	9.9
SG&A to sales (%)	6.5	6.5	6.4

Source: FSSIA estimates

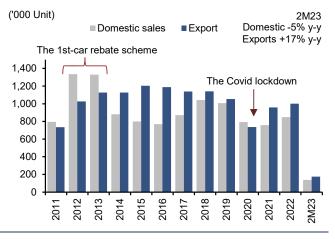
#### Earnings sensitivity

- For every 0.5% change in its gross margin, we project IRC's FY23 net profit to change by 13%, all else being equal.
- For every 1% change in its SG&A to sales, we forecast IRC's FY23 net profit to change by 2%, all else being equal.

Source: FSSIA estimates

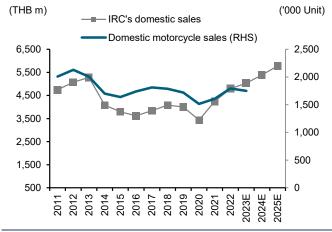


#### Exhibit 1: Thailand's domestic car sales and exports



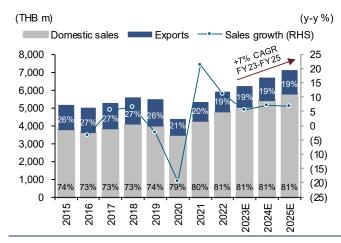
Sources: The Federation of Thai Industries

# Exhibit 3: IRC's local sales vs Thai domestic car & motorcycle sales



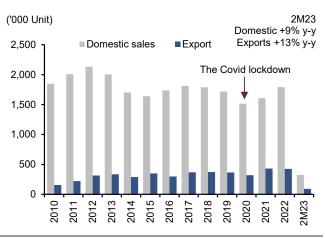
Sources: The Federation of Thai Industries, IRC, FSSIA estimates

#### Exhibit 5: IRC's revenue and growth projections



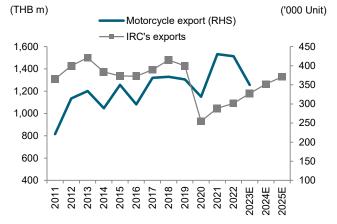
Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates

#### Exhibit 2: Thailand's domestic motorcycle sales and exports



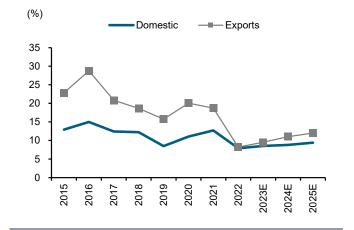
Sources: The Federation of Thai Industries





Sources: Federation of Thai Industries, IRC, FSSIA estimates

#### Exhibit 6: IRC's gross margins by geography



Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates

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#### Exhibit 7: IRC's gross and net margins vs oil price

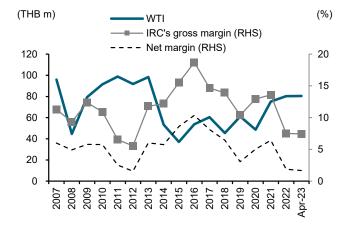
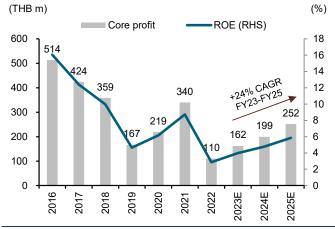


Exhibit 8: IRC's core profit and ROE



Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates

Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates

#### Exhibit 9: 2QFY23 results preview

Year to Sep 30	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23E	Char	ige	1HFY22	1HFY23E	Change
	(THB m)	(q-q %)	(y-y %)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y %)				
Sales	1,568	1,387	1,525	1,464	1,515	3.5	(3.4)	2,971	2,978	0.2
Cost of sales	1,424	1,316	1,421	1,361	1,395	2.5	(2.0)	2,706	2,756	1.9
Gross profit	145	71	104	102	120	16.8	(17.3)	265	222	(16.3)
Operating costs	103	101	94	88	97	10.4	(6.3)	204	184	(9.7)
Operating profit	41	(30)	10	15	23	54.7	(44.5)	61	38	(38.2)
Operating EBITDA	155	81	124	105	129	23.0	(17.2)	279	233	(16.3)
Other income	27	10	17	11	20	75.2	(25.4)	41	31	(24.0)
Interest expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	(7.7)
Profit before tax	486	306	459	382	422	10.7	(13.0)	102	58	(43.2)
Tax	6	1	1	1	7	466.5	20.4	11	9	(19.7)
Associates	0	0	0	0	0	nm	nm	0	0	nm
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0	nm	nm	0	0	nm
Reported net profit	64	(13)	32	16	34	114.1	(47.6)	91	49	(46.0)
Core profit	64	(13)	32	16	34	114.1	(47.6)	91	49	(46.0)
Reported EPS (THB)	0.33	(0.07)	0.16	0.08	0.17	110.2	(49.6)	0.46	0.25	(46.0)
Core EPS (THB)	0.32	(0.07)	0.16	0.08	0.17	114.1	(47.6)	0.46	0.25	(46.0)
Key ratios (%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)
Gross margin	9.2	5.1	6.8	7.0	7.9	0.9	(1.3)	8.9	7.5	(1.5)
Operating margin	4.5	(0.9)	2.2	1.2	2.7	1.5	(1.8)	3.4	1.9	(1.5)
EBITDA margin	9.9	5.8	8.1	7.1	8.5	1.3	(1.4)	9.4	7.8	(1.6)
Recurring net margin	4.1	(1.0)	2.1	1.1	2.2	1.1	(1.9)	3.1	1.7	(1.4)
SG&A / Sales	6.4	6.8	5.7	6.6	6.5	(0.1)	0.1	6.9	6.6	(0.3)
Revenue breakdown	(THB m)	(q-q %)	(y-y %)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y %)				
Domestic sales	1,264	1,130	1,241	1,150	1,197	4.1	(5.3)	2,421	2,347	(3.1)
Export sales	305	257	284	314	318	1.4	4.5	550	632	14.8
Gross margin	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(q-q %)	(y-y %)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y %)
Domestic sales	7.6	3.7	5.1	5.2	6.0	0.8	(1.6)	7.2	5.6	(1.6)
Export sales	15.9	11.4	14.3	13.6	14.1	0.5	(1.8)	16.5	13.8	(2.7)

Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates

# **FINANSIA**

#### Exhibit 10: Changes in key assumptions

		Current			Previous		Change			
	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(%)	(%)	(%)					
Total revenue	6,208	6,653	7,104	6,316	6,724	7,158	(1.7)	(1.0)	(0.7)	
Industrial elastomer parts	3,454	3,679	3,922	3445	3652	3871	0.3	0.7	1.3	
Motorcycle tire & tube	2,754	2,974	3,183	2,871	3,072	3,287	(4.1)	(3.2)	(3.2)	
Cost of goods sold	5,669	6,040	6,402	5,731	6,057	6,427	(1.1)	(0.3)	(0.4)	
Gross profit	540	613	702	585	666	731	(7.8)	(8.0)	(3.9)	
SG&A	402	430	458	412	446	468	(2.5)	(3.4)	(2.3)	
EBITDA	562	606	669	599	649	694	(6.3)	(6.7)	(3.6)	
EBIT	203	249	314	241	293	339	(15.7)	(14.8)	(7.3)	
Core profit	162	199	252	193	234	271	(15.7)	(14.8)	(7.3)	
Margins	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(ppt)	
Gross margin	8.7	9.2	9.9	9.3	9.9	10.2	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.3)	
EBITDA margin	9.0	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.7	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.3)	
EBIT margin	3.3	3.7	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.7	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.3)	
Core profit margin	2.6	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.5	3.8	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.3)	
Growth	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(ppt)	
Revenue	5.5	7.2	6.8	7.4	6.5	6.5	(1.8)	0.7	0.3	
Core profit	47.7	22.8	26.1	75.2	21.5	16.0	(27.5)	1.3	10.2	

Sources: IRC, FSSIA estimates





Exhibit 12: Rolling one-year forward P/BV band



Sources: Bloomberg, FSSIA estimates

#### Exhibit 13: Peers comparison as of 12 April 2023

Company	BBG	Rec	S	hare price	)	Market	3Y EPS	P	E	Div	Yld	RC	DE	PE	3V
			Current	Target	Upside	Сар	CAGR	22E	23E	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E
			(LCY)	(LCY)	(%)	(USD m)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)
Aapico Hitech	AH TB	BUY	31.75	42.00	32	330	(100)	6.8	6.5	5.9	6.2	16.3	15.6	1.1	1.0
Somboon Advance Tech.	SAT TB	HOLD	19.30	22.00	14	240	(100)	7.9	7.2	8.3	9.1	12.7	13.1	1.0	0.9
Thai Stanley Electric	STANLY TB	BUY	179.50	220.00	23	403	13	8.6	7.3	4.7	5.4	7.8	8.8	0.7	0.6
Inoue Rubber(Thailand)	IRC TB	HOLD	13.60	14.00	3	77	32	16.8	13.6	3.0	3.7	4.1	4.8	0.7	0.7
Average						1,050	4	10.0	8.6	5.5	6.1	10.2	10.6	0.8	0.8

Sources: Bloomberg, FSSIA estimates

### **Financial Statements**

Inoue Rubber (Thailand)

Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Sep	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	20255
Revenue	5,297	5,883	6,208	6,653	7,104
Cost of goods sold	(4,577)	(5,443)	(5,669)	(6,040)	(6,402
Gross profit	720	440	540	613	702
Other operating income	435	429	424	423	424
Operating costs	(373)	(386)	(402)	(430)	(458
Operating EBITDA	782	483	562	606	669
Depreciation	(361)	(361)	(359)	(357)	(354
Goodwill amortisation	0	0	0	0	(
Operating EBIT	421	122	203	249	314
Net financing costs	0	0	0	0	(
Associates	0	0	0	0	(
Recurring non-operating income	0	0	0	0	(
Non-recurring items	0	0	0	0	(
Profit before tax	421	122	203	249	314
Гах	(81)	(12)	(41)	(50)	(63
Profit after tax	340	110	162	199	252
/inority interests		-	-	-	
Preferred dividends	-	-	-	-	
Other items	-	-	-	-	
Reported net profit	340	110	162	199	252
Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)	0	0	0	0	
Recurring net profit	340	110	162	199	252
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	1.70	0.55	0.81	1.00	1.26
Reported EPS	1.70	0.55	0.81	1.00	1.26
DPS	0.88	0.29	0.41	0.50	0.63
Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data)	200	200	200	200	200
Growth					
Revenue (%)	21.4	11.1	5.5	7.2	6.8
Operating EBITDA (%)	27.1	(38.2)	16.3	7.9	10.4
Dperating EBIT (%)	59.3	(70.9)	65.9	22.8	26.1
Recurring EPS (%)	55.2	(67.7)	47.7	22.8	26.1
Reported EPS (%)	55.2	(67.7)	47.7	22.8	26.1
Derating performance		(- )			
Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)	6.8	1.4	2.9	3.9	4.9
Gross margin of key business (%)	13.6	7.5	8.7	9.2	9.9
Dperating EBITDA margin (%)	14.8	8.2	9.0	9.1	9.4
Operating EBIT margin (%)	7.9	2.1	3.3	3.7	9 4.4
Vet margin (%)	6.4	1.9	2.6	3.0	3.5
Effective tax rate (%)	19.2	1.9	2.0	20.0	20.0
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	52.0	52.9	20.0 50.0	20.0 50.0	20.0
nterest cover (X)	6,965.7	52.9 2,461.9	4,084.0	5,016.4	6,325.7
	49.8	2,461.9	4,084.0	5,016.4	6,325.7 55.9
nventory days	49.8 58.6	59.9	56.5 64.3	64.3	55.s 63.4
Debtor days	56.6 68.9	59.9 72.9	64.3 72.4	67.3	65. <sup>2</sup>
Creditor days					
Derating ROIC (%)	14.3	4.2	6.5	7.6	9.2
	11.1	3.0	4.9	5.7	7.0
ROE (%)	9.1	2.8	4.1	4.8	5.9
ROA (%) Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted	6.9	2.1	3.0	3.6	4.4
	2024	2022	20225	20245	20055
Revenue by Division (THB m)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Notorcycle tires and tubes	2,369	2,586	2,754	2,974	3,183
ndustrial elastomer parts	2,929	3,297	3,454	3,679	3,922

Sources: Inoue Rubber (Thailand); FSSIA estimates

## **Financial Statements**

Incure	Dubbor	(Theiland)
moue	Rupper	(Thailand)

noue Rubber (Thailand)					
Cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Sep	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Recurring net profit	340	110	162	199	252
epreciation	361	361	359	357	354
ssociates & minorities	0	0	0	0	0
ther non-cash items	(1)	12	0	0	0
hange in working capital	(90)	(142)	(187)	(247)	(243)
ash flow from operations	610	340	334	309	363
apex - maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
apex - new investment	(225)	(292)	(240)	(235)	(218)
et acquisitions & disposals	-	-	-	-	-
ther investments (net)	(177)	16	0	0	0
ash flow from investing	(402)	(276)	(240)	(235)	(218)
ividends paid	(110)	(170)	(81)	(100)	(126)
quity finance	0	0	0	0	0
ebt finance	0	0	0	0	0
ther financing cash flows	-	-	-	-	-
ash flow from financing	(110)	(170)	(81)	(100)	(126)
on-recurring cash flows	-	-	-	-	-
ther adjustments	0	0	5	8	4
et other adjustments	(125)	0	5	8	4
ovement in cash	(27)	(106)	18	(17)	23
ree cash flow to firm (FCFF)	208.02	64.17	93.95	74.69	144.97
ee cash flow to equity (FCFE)	82.96	64.12	98.91	82.49	148.96
er share (THB)					
CFF per share	1.04	0.32	0.47	0.37	0.72
CFE per share	0.41	0.32	0.49	0.41	0.74
ecurring cash flow per share	3.50	2.41	2.60	2.78	3.03
alance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Sep	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
angible fixed assets (gross)	6,707	6,928	6,565	6,226	5,890
ess: Accumulated depreciation	(5,014)	(5,294)	(4,935)	(4,579)	(4,225)
angible fixed assets (net)	1,693	1,634	1,629	1,647	1,665
tangible fixed assets (net)	45	49	49	52	52
ong-term financial assets	217	444	444	444	444
vest. in associates & subsidiaries	550	235	235	235	235
ash & equivalents	1,003	897	915	898	921
/C receivable	884	1,047	1,140	1,203	1,265
ventories	790	838	916	960	1,000
ther current assets	12	8	12	13	14
urrent assets	2,689	2,791	2,983	3,074	3,200
ther assets	102	119	122	128	132
otal assets	5,295	5,272	5,463	5,579	5,728
ommon equity	3,894	3,832	4,072	4,172	4,298
linorities etc.	0	0	0	0	0
otal shareholders' equity	3,894	3,832	4,072	4,172	4,298
ong term debt	1	1	1	1	1
ther long-term liabilities	350	287	279	273	263
ong-term liabilities	351	287	280	273	263
/C payable	1,026	1,147	1,103	1,125	1,158
hort term debt	0	0	0	0	0
ther current liabilities	24	6	8	8	9
urrent liabilities	1,050	1,153	1,111	1,134	1,167
otal liabilities and shareholders' equity	5,295	5,272	5,463	5,579	5,728
et working capital	636	741	958	1,043	1,113
vested capital	3,242	3,222	3,438	3,548	3,641
Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is being	y treated as debt				
er share (THB)					
ook value per share	19.47	19.16	20.36	20.86	21.49
angible book value per share	19.25	18.91	20.12	20.60	21.23
nancial strength					
et debt/equity (%)	(25.7)	(23.4)	(22.4)	(21.5)	(21.4)
et debt/total assets (%)	(18.9)	(17.0)	(16.7)	(16.1)	(16.1)
urrent ratio (x)	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.7
F interest cover (x)	5,096.1	7,163.6	6,818.3	6,381.4	7,383.2
aluation	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
ecurring P/E (x) *	8.0	24.7	16.8	13.6	10.8
ecurring P/E @ target price (x) *	8.2	25.5	17.2	14.0	11.1
eported P/E (x)	8.0	24.7	16.8	13.6	10.8
ividend yield (%)	6.5	2.1	3.0	3.7	4.6
rice/book (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
ice/tangible book (x)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
V/EBITDA (x) **	2.2	3.8	3.2	3.0	2.7
			3.4		
V/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	2.3	3.9	3.4	J. I	20
V/EBITDA @ target price (x) ** V/invested capital (x)	2.3 0.5	3.9 0.6	0.5	3.1 0.5	2.8 0.5

\* Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted \*\* EBITDA includes associate income and recurring non-operating income

Sources: Inoue Rubber (Thailand); FSSIA estimates



#### Public disclosures related to sustainable development evaluation of Thai listed companies

Rating regarding the sustainable development of Thai listed companies, both on the SET and MAI, are publicly available on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC). Currently, ratings available are 1) "CG Score" by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD); 2) "AGM Checklist" by the Thai Investors Association (TIA), a "CAC certified member" of the Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC); and 3) Sustainability Investment List (THSI) by the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSS International Investment Advisory Company Limited does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings.

#### CG Score by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD)<sup>1</sup>

The CG Score indicates corporate governance (CG) strength in the sustainable development of Thai listed companies. Annually, the Thai IOD, with support from the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), surveys and assesses the CG practices of companies and publishes the results on the Thai IOD website in a bid to promote and enhance the CG of Thai listed companies in order to promote compliance with international standards for better investment decisions. The results are from the perspective of a third party, not an evaluation of operations, as of the date appearing in the report, and may be changed after that date.

The five underlying categories and weighting used for the CG scoring in 2022 include the rights of shareholders and equitable treatment of shareholders (weight 25% combined), the role of stakeholders (25%), disclosure and transparency (15%), and board responsibilities (35%).

The CGR report rates CG in six categories: 5 for Excellent (score range 90-100), 4 for Very Good (score range 80-89), 3 for Good (Score range 70-79), 2 for Fair (score range 60-69), 1 for Pass (score range 60-69), and not rated (score below 50).

#### AGM Checklist by the Thai Investors Association (TIA)<sup>2</sup>

The "AGM Checklist" quantifies the extent to which shareholders' rights and equitable treatment are incorporated into business operations and the extent to which information is sufficiently disclosed and the level of its transparency. All the considered factors form important elements of two out of five the CG components. Annually, the TIA, with support from the SEC, leads the project to evaluate the quality of Annual General Meetings of Shareholders (AGMs) and to rate quality of the meetings.

The <u>Checklist</u> contains the minimum requirements under law that companies must comply with, or best practices according to international CG guidance. Representatives of the TIA will attend the meetings and perform the evaluation. The assessment criteria cover AGM procedures before the meeting (45%), at the meeting date (45%), and after the meeting (10%). The first assesses 1) advance circulation of sufficient information for voting; and 2) facilitating of how voting rights can be exercised. The second assesses 1) the ease of attending meetings; 2) transparency and verifiability; and 3) openness for Q&A. The third involves the meeting minutes that should contain discussion issues, resolutions and voting results.

The results are classified into four categories: 5 for Excellent (score 100), 4 for Very Good (score 90-99), 3 for Fair (score 80-89), and not rated (score below 79).

#### CAC certified member by the Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)<sup>3</sup>

A <u>CAC certified member</u> is a listed company whose Checklist satisfies the CAC Certification's criteria and is approved by the CAC Council. The core elements of the Checklist include corruption risk assessment, establishment of key controls, and the monitoring and developing of policies. Note that the CAC does not certify the behaviour of the employees nor whether the companies have engaged in bribery, and Certification is good for three years.

Companies deciding to become a CAC certified member start with by submitting a Declaration of Intent signed by the Chairman of the Board to kick off the 18-month deadline for companies to submit the CAC Checklist for Certification. The 18-month provision is for risk assessment, in place of policy and control, training of managers and employees, establishment of whistleblowing channels, and communication of policies to all stakeholders.

The checklist document will be reviewed by the CAC Certification Committee for adequate information and evidence. It is worth noting that the committee consists of nine professionals in business law, corporate governance, internal audit, financial audit and experienced representatives from certified members.

A passed Checklist will move on to the <u>CAC Council</u> for granting certification approvals. The CAC Council consists of twelve prominent individuals who are highly respected in professionalism and ethical achievements. Among them are former ministers, a former central bank governor, the former head of the Thai Listed Companies Association, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Organizations (Thailand), Chairman of Thai Institute of Directors, and reputable academic scholars.

#### Sustainability Investment (THSI)<sup>4</sup> by the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET)

Thailand Sustainability Investment (<u>THSI</u>) quantifies responsibility in <u>Environmental</u>, and <u>S</u>ocial issues, by managing business with transparency in <u>G</u>overnance. The THSI serves as another choice for investors who desire to adopt a responsible investment approach, according to the SET.

Annually, the SET will announce the voluntary participation of the company candidates which pass the preemptive criteria, and whose two key crucial conditions are met, i.e. no irregular trading of the board members and executives and a free float of >150 by the number of shareholders, and combined holding must >15% of paid-up capital. Some key disqualifying criteria include a CG score of below 70%; independent directors and free float violation; executives' wrongdoing related to CG, social and environmental impacts, equity in negative territory, and earnings in the red for more than three years in the last five years. To become eligible for THSI, the candidate must pass three indicators in data declaration: <u>E</u>conomic (CG, risk management, customer relation management, supply chain management, and innovation); <u>E</u>nvironmental (environmental management, eco-efficiency, and climate risk); <u>Social (human rights, talent attraction, operational health & safety, community development, and stakeholder engagement); and the incorporation of ESG in business operations.</u>

To be approved for THSI inclusion, verified data must be scored at a 50% minimum for each indicator, unless the company is a part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices<sup>5</sup> (DJSI) during the assessment year. The scoring will be fairly weighted against the nature of the relevant industry and materiality.

Note that, from the <u>THSI list</u>, the SET further developed a sustainability <u>SETTHSI Index</u> in June 2018 from selected THSI companies whose 1) market capitalisation > THB5b (~USD150b); 2) free float >20%; and 3) liquidity >0.5% of paid-up capital for at least 9 out of 12 months. The SETTHSI Index is a market capitalisation-weighted index, cap 5% quarterly weight at maximum, and no cap for number of stocks.

Sources: SEC; Thai IOD; Thai CAC; SET; FSSIA's compilation

#### Disclaimer:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dow Jones Sustainability Indices – <u>Wikipedia</u> – Launched in 1999, DJSI evaluates the sustainability performance of companies based on corporate economic, environmental, and social performance.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Thai Institute of Directors Association (<u>Thai IOD</u>) was established in December 1999 and is a membership organisation that strives to promote professionalism in directorship. The Thai IOD offers directors certification and professional development courses, provides a variety of seminars, forums and networking events, and conducts research on board governance issues and practices. Membership comprises board members from companies ranging from large publicly listed companies to small private firms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Thai Investors Association (<u>TIA</u>) was established in 1983 with a mission to promote investment knowledge and to protect the investment rights of Thai investors. In 2002, the association was appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to represent individual shareholders. To obtain information for evaluation, the association recruits volunteer investors to join AGMs and score the meetings. Weightings for each meeting are at a 45:45:10 ratio. They have been applied since 2017 and subject to change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Thai Private Sector Collective Action against Corruption (<u>CAC</u>) was founded in 2010 and is 100% privately funded. It is an initiative by the Thai private sector to take part in tackling corruption problems via collective action. The CAC promotes the implementation of effective anti-corruption policies in order to create a transparent business ecosystem by developing a unique certification program for large/medium/small companies to apply for and to control corruption risk systematically and efficiently. The CAC's operations are sponsored by the US-based Center for Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the UK Prosperity Fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sustainability Investment List (THSI), created by the Stock Exchange of Thailand in 2015, comprises the listed companies that conduct sustainable business operations.

#### **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

#### ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION

#### Jitra Amornthum FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Co., Ltd

The individual(s) identified above certify(ies) that (i) all views expressed in this report accurately reflect the personal view of the analyst(s) with regard to any and all of the subject securities, companies or issuers mentioned in this report; and (ii) no part of the compensation of the analyst(s) was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed herein.

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#### History of change in investment rating and/or target price



Jitra Amornthum started covering this stock from 01-Feb-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### AAPICO Hitech (AH TB)



Naruedom Mujjalinkool started covering this stock from 01-Oct-2020

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

## **FINANSIA**

#### Somboon Advance Technology (SAT TB)



BUY

24.00

Naruedom Mujjalinkool started covering this stock from 01-Oct-2020

20.00

29-Apr-2022

BUY

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

19-Feb-2021

#### Thai Stanley Electric (STANLY TB)



Jitra Amornthum started covering this stock from 19-Jan-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
Inoue Rubber (Thailand)	IRC TB	THB 13.60	HOLD	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) weaker demand from the automotive industry; 2) a sharp rise in the price of crude oil; and 3) chip supply shortages. Upside risks are lower costs for raw materials.
AAPICO Hitech	AH TB	THB 31.75	BUY	Key downside risks to our P/E-derived TP include lower-than-expected car production volumes and lower car sales in both Thailand and Malaysia, higher steel prices, semi- conductor shortages, and exchange rate risk.
Somboon Advance Technology	SAT TB	THB 19.30	HOLD	The key downside and upside risks to our P/E-based TP are the domestic car manufacturing industry recovering slower or faster than expected, a faster-than-expected adoption rate for electric vehicles in Thailand, higher raw material prices, and worse global demand for pickup trucks.
Thai Stanley Electric	STANLY TB	THB 179.50	BUY	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) weak global automotive demand; 2) higher raw material prices and utility costs; 3) global semiconductor shortages; and 4) fluctuations in the THB.

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### Additional Disclosures

Target price history, stock price charts, valuation and risk details, and equity rating histories applicable to each company rated in this report is available in our most recently published reports. You can contact the analyst named on the front of this note or your representative at Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited

FSSIA may incorporate the recommendations and target prices of companies currently covered by FSS Research into equity research reports, denoted by an 'FSS' before the recommendation. FSS Research is part of Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited, which is the parent company of FSSIA.

All share prices are as at market close on 12-Apr-2023 unless otherwise stated.



#### **RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE**

#### Stock ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price\* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

\* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

#### Industry Recommendations

**Overweight.** The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months. **Neutral.** The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months. **Underweight.** The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

#### **Country (Strategy) Recommendations**

**Overweight (O).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Neutral (N).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Underweight (U).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.