# 4 AUGUST 2023

# EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT

# **MEGA LIFESCIENCES**

THAILAND / COMMERCE

# Expect margin to recover in 2Q23

- Expect 2Q23 profit to increase 25% q-q due to product mix, but slide 1% y-y as the Covid-related demand fades.
- Our estimated core profit in 1H23 accounts for 42% of our full-year forecast. More challenging quarters ahead, we believe.
- Maintain BUY on cheap valuation.

# Expect 2Q23 profit to increase 25% q-q but slide 1% y-y

We expect MEGA to report a core profit of THB564m in 2Q23, growing by 25% q-q but dipping by 1% y-y. The y-y decrease can be attributed to the fading Covid-related demand. The q-q recovery would largely be due to the company's product mix. Its branded business (Mega We Care), which has a higher gross margin, should continue its moderate growth, compensating for the distribution business (Maxxcare) for which we believe there is no development in Myanmar after the company lost one client since 1Q23.

# Gross margin to recover in 2Q23

Overall, we project 2Q23 revenue of THB3.8b, (+2.8% q-q, -2.5% y-y), with the gross margin climbing to 44.1% from 43.6% in 1Q23 and 42.6% in 2Q22. The expected core profit in 1H23 could plummet 14% y-y. Despite a bright long-term outlook, the end of the panic buying seen during the pandemic and the slow economic growth in Myanmar in 2023 should explain the sluggish growth for MEGA this year.

# More challenging quarters ahead

Our estimated revenue and core profit in 1H23 account for 45% and 42% of our full-year estimates, respectively. It means the company would have to make around THB650m-700m in profit each quarter for the next two quarters, which is even more challenging as compared with the average quarterly profit of THB530m during 2H22.

# Maintain BUY on cheap valuation

We maintain our projections and DCF-based TP of THB65 (8.3% WACC, 3% LTG), implying 23.6x 2023E P/E, +0.5SD of its five-year average. The plunge in its share price by almost 30% since February 2023 reflects the end of the panic buying during Covid, in our view. Its share price is currently trading at 14.0x 2023E P/E – the lowest among local and global peers. We maintain our BUY call.



# **MEGA TB**

# 

| TARGET PRICE    | THB65.00  |
|-----------------|-----------|
| CLOSE           | THB38.25  |
| UP/DOWNSIDE     | +69.9%    |
| PRIOR TP        | THB65.00  |
| CHANGE IN TP    | UNCHANGED |
| TP vs CONSENSUS | +26.3%    |

# **KEY STOCK DATA**

| YE Dec (THB m)       | 2022   | 2023E  | 2024E  | 2025E  |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Revenue              | 15,686 | 16,827 | 17,939 | 19,304 |
| Net profit           | 2,242  | 2,397  | 2,529  | 2,701  |
| EPS (THB)            | 2.57   | 2.75   | 2.90   | 3.10   |
| vs Consensus (%)     | -      | 9.4    | 5.3    | 0.3    |
| EBITDA               | 3,033  | 3,131  | 3,297  | 3,542  |
| Recurring net profit | 2,380  | 2,397  | 2,529  | 2,701  |
| Core EPS (THB)       | 2.73   | 2.75   | 2.90   | 3.10   |
| Chg. In EPS est. (%) | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| EPS growth (%)       | 30.2   | 0.7    | 5.5    | 6.8    |
| Core P/E (x)         | 14.0   | 13.9   | 13.2   | 12.3   |
| Dividend yield (%)   | 2.2    | 2.4    | 2.5    | 2.7    |
| EV/EBITDA (x)        | 10.2   | 9.8    | 9.2    | 8.5    |
| Price/book (x)       | 3.8    | 3.4    | 3.2    | 2.9    |
| Net debt/Equity (%)  | (27.0) | (27.6) | (28.6) | (27.5) |
| ROE (%)              | 28.4   | 25.9   | 24.9   | 24.6   |



Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates



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# **Investment thesis**

Although demand for nutraceutical products in 2023 may be soft as the panic buying during the pandemic fades, we believe its longer-term outlook is promising. The pharmaceutical drug demand should continue to rise due to the need to treat chronic diseases, while MEGA now has more than 170 drugs in the pipeline awaiting registration. The company has scheduled market launches for roughly 23 new pharmaceuticals in 2023. In addition, its manufacturing plant in Indonesia – of which MEGA acquired an 83.3% stake in 2020 – can now register many medicines, including cancer drugs.

# **Company profile**

MEGA is a leading manufacturer and distributor of pharmaceutical, nutraceutical products and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) in developing countries such as Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia. MEGA also develops, manufactures, and sells its nutraceutical products, generic prescription pharmaceutical products, and OTC products under the Mega We Care brand through its distribution network and third-party distributors in 36 countries across the world.

www.megawecare.com

# Principal activities (revenue, 2022)

Mega We Care - 51.3 %



# **Major shareholders**

- Unistretch Co Ltd 49.8 %
- Mr. Vivek Dhawan 5.3 %





Source: Mega Lifesciences

# Catalysts

Key potential catalysts include 1) expedited medicine registrations and listings; 2) the Covid-19 pandemic; and 3) the success of new products and new markets.

# **Risks to our call**

Downside risks to our DCF-based TP include 1) the delayed registration process in many countries; 2) more intensified competition; 3) failure in introducing new products; and 4) risks associated with doing business in Myanmar.

# **Event calendar**

| Date             | Event                      |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 11 August 2023   | 2Q23 earnings announcement |
| 4 September 2023 | 2Q23 opportunity day       |

# Key assumptions

|                   | 2023E | 2024E | 2025E |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mega We Care      | 8,261 | 8,748 | 9,361 |
| Growth            | 6.0   | 5.9   | 7.0   |
| Gross margin      | 67.6  | 67.5  | 67.5  |
| Maxxcare          | 8,218 | 8,818 | 9,541 |
| Growth            | 11.0  | 7.3   | 8.2   |
| Gross margin      | 18.0  | 17.9  | 17.7  |
| SG&A to sales (%) | 26.3  | 26.1  | 25.8  |

Source: FSSIA estimates

# Earnings sensitivity

- For every 5% change in branded revenue, we project MEGA's 2023 net profit to change by 6%, all else being equal.
- For every 5% change in distribution revenue, we project MEGA's 2023 net profit to change by 1%, all else being equal.
- For every 1% change in overall gross margin, we project MEGA's 2023 net profit to change by 6%, all else being equal.

Source: FSSIA estimates



# Exhibit 1: 2Q23 earnings preview

| Year to Dec 31                 | 2Q22    | 3Q22    | 4Q22    | 1Q23    | 2Q23E   | Cha     | nge     | 1H22    | 1H23E   | Change  |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                | (THB m) | (q-q %) | (y-y %) | (THB m) | (THB m) | (y-y %) |
| Sales                          | 3,930   | 4,052   | 3,884   | 3,728   | 3,833   | 2.8     | (2.5)   | 7,750   | 7,982   | 3.0     |
| Cost of sales                  | (2,256) | (2,188) | (2,093) | (2,102) | (2,144) | 2.0     | (4.9)   | (4,365) | (4,246) | (2.7)   |
| Gross profit                   | 1,674   | 1,864   | 1,791   | 1,626   | 1,688   | 3.8     | 0.8     | 3,538   | 3,315   | (6.3)   |
| Operating costs                | (1,084) | (1,094) | (1,192) | (1,028) | (1,056) | 2.7     | (2.6)   | (2,073) | (2,084) | 0.5     |
| Operating profit               | 2,758   | 2,958   | 2,983   | 2,654   | 2,744   | 3.4     | (0.5)   | 1,465   | 1,231   | (16.0)  |
| Operating EBITDA               | 680     | 866     | 685     | 685     | 719     | 5.0     | 5.7     | 1,482   | 1,405   | (5.2)   |
| Other income                   | 22      | 27      | 17      | 18      | 18      | 0.0     | (21.7)  | 36      | 35      | (2.9)   |
| Interest expense               | (6)     | (8)     | (9)     | (9)     | (10)    | 8.3     | 55.3    | (12)    | (19)    | 55.7    |
| Profit before tax              | 606     | 789     | 608     | 607     | 640     | 5.5     | 5.6     | 1,336   | 1,247   | (6.6)   |
| Тах                            | (63)    | (120)   | (68)    | (73)    | (77)    | 5.4     | 22.9    | (166)   | (150)   | (9.9)   |
| Reported net profit            | 570     | 658     | 400     | 453     | 564     | 24.5    | (1.0)   | 1,184   | 1,017   | (14.1)  |
| Core profit                    | 544     | 669     | 540     | 534     | 564     | 5.6     | 3.7     | 1,171   | 1,098   | (6.2)   |
| Reported EPS (THB)             | 0.70    | 0.76    | 0.46    | 0.52    | 0.52    | 0.0     | (25.7)  | 1.40    | 1.04    | (25.7)  |
| Core EPS (THB)                 | 0.62    | 0.77    | 0.62    | 0.61    | 0.65    | 5.6     | 3.7     | 1.34    | 1.26    | (6.2)   |
| Key Ratios (%)                 | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (ppt)   | (ppt)   | (%)     | (%)     | (ppt)   |
| Gross margin                   | 42.6    | 46.0    | 46.1    | 43.6    | 44.1    | 0.4     | 1.4     | 45.7    | 41.5    | (4.1)   |
| Operating margin               | 15.6    | 19.7    | 15.9    | 16.5    | 17.0    | 0.4     | 1.4     | 17.4    | 17.7    | 0.3     |
| EBITDA margin                  | 17.3    | 21.4    | 17.6    | 18.4    | 18.8    | 0.4     | 1.5     | 19.1    | 17.6    | (1.5)   |
| Recurring net margin           | 13.8    | 16.5    | 13.9    | 14.3    | 14.7    | 0.4     | 0.9     | 15.1    | 13.8    | (1.4)   |
| SG&A / Sales                   | 27.6    | 27.0    | 30.7    | 27.6    | 27.6    | (0.0)   | (0.0)   | 26.7    | 26.1    | (0.6)   |
| Operating Statistics           | (THB m) | (q-q %) | (y-y %) |         |         |         |
| Mega We Care branded business  | 2,004   | 2,034   | 2,062   | 1,953   | 2,023   | 3.6     | 0.9     |         |         |         |
| Maxxcare distribution business | 1,852   | 1,928   | 1,752   | 1,717   | 1,740   | 1.4     | (6.1)   |         |         |         |
| OEM business                   | 74      | 90      | 71      | 59      | 70      | 18.4    | (5.3)   |         |         |         |
| Key Ratios (%)                 | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (%)     | (ppt)   | (ppt)   |         |         |         |
| Mega We Care branded business  | 66.9    | 67.0    | 65.2    | 64.6    | 64.8    | 0.2     | (2.1)   |         |         |         |
| Maxxcare distribution business | 16.3    | 24.5    | 23.5    | 20.4    | 18.0    | (2.4)   | 1.7     |         |         |         |
| OEM business                   | 63.1    | 31.9    | 49.2    | 1.6     | 2.0     | 0.4     | (61.1)  |         |         |         |

Sources: MEGA, FSSIA estimates

# Exhibit 2: Revenue structure



# Exhibit 3: Gross margins by business



Sources: MEGA, FSSIA estimates

Sources: MEGA, FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

Mega Lifesciences

| Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Dec           | 2021    | 2022        | 2023E   | 2024E    | 20255                                    |
|---|---------|-------------|---------|----------|--|
| Revenue   | 14,136  | 15,686      | 16,827  | 17,939   | 19,304                                   |
| Cost of goods sold                                | (8,225) | (8,647)     | (9,642) | (10,329) | (11,161                                  |
| Gross profit                                      | 5,911   | 7,040       | 7,185   | 7,610    | 8,143                                    |
| Other operating income                            | 47      | 80          | 76      | 68       | 68                                       |
| Operating costs                                   | (3,769) | (4,359)     | (4,417) | (4,682)  | (4,980                                   |
| Operating EBITDA                                  | 2,463   | 3,033       | 3,131   | 3,297    | 3,54                                     |
| Depreciation                                      | (274)   | (272)       | (287)   | (301)    | (311                                     |
| Goodwill amortisation                             | 0       | 0           | 0       | 0        | (  |
| Operating EBIT                                    | 2,188   | 2,761       | 2,844   | 2,996    | 3,23                                     |
| Net financing costs                               | (28)    | (29)        | (25)    | (19)     | (15                                      |
| Associates  | (2)     | 0           | 0       | 0        | (  |
| Recurring non-operating income                    | 4       | 2           | 0       | (1)      | (  |
| Non-recurring items                               | 119     | (138)       | 0       | 0        | (  |
| Profit before tax                                 | 2,283   | 2,596       | 2,820   | 2,976    | 3,21                                     |
| Тах   | (336)   | (355)       | (423)   | (447)    | (514                                     |
| Profit after tax                                  | 1,947   | 2,242       | 2,397   | 2,529    | 2,70                                     |
| Minority interests                                |         | _, <b>_</b> | _,      | _,•_•    | _,. •                                    |
| Preferred dividends                               | -       | -           | -       | -        |  |
| Other items                                       | -       | -           | -       | -        |  |
| Reported net profit                               | 1,947   | 2,242       | 2,397   | 2,529    | 2,70                                     |
| Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)              | (119)   | 138         | 0       | 0        | , , ,                                    |
| Recurring net profit                              | 1,828   | 2,380       | 2,397   | 2,529    | 2,70                                     |
| Per share (THB)                                   |         |             |         |          |  |
| Recurring EPS *                                   | 2.10    | 2.73        | 2.75    | 2.90     | 3.10                                     |
| Reported EPS                                      | 2.23    | 2.57        | 2.75    | 2.90     | 3.1                                      |
| DPS   | 0.86    | 0.85        | 0.91    | 0.96     | 1.02                                     |
| Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data) | 872     | 872         | 872     | 872      | 87                                       |
| Growth  |         |             |         |          |  |
| Revenue (%)                                       | 12.3    | 11.0        | 7.3     | 6.6      | 7.0                                      |
| Operating EBITDA (%)                              | 24.4    | 23.2        | 3.2     | 5.3      | 7.4                                      |
| Operating EBIT (%)                                | 27.0    | 26.2        | 3.0     | 5.3      | 7.8                                      |
| Recurring EPS (%)                                 | 33.0    | 30.2        | 0.7     | 5.5      | 6.8                                      |
| Reported EPS (%)                                  | 39.8    | 15.1        | 6.9     | 5.5      | 6.8                                      |
| Operating performance                             |         |             |         |          |  |
| Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)                | 41.8    | 44.9        | 42.7    | 42.4     | 42.2                                     |
| Gross margin exc. depreciation (%)                | 43.8    | 46.6        | 44.4    | 44.1     | 43.8                                     |
| Operating EBITDA margin (%)                       | 17.4    | 19.3        | 18.6    | 18.4     | 18.3                                     |
| Operating EBIT margin (%)                         | 15.5    | 17.6        | 16.9    | 16.7     | 16.7                                     |
| Net margin (%)                                    | 12.9    | 15.2        | 14.2    | 14.1     | 14.0                                     |
| Effective tax rate (%)                            | 14.7    | 13.7        | 15.0    | 15.0     | 16.0                                     |
| Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)           | 41.0    | 31.1        | 33.0    | 33.0     | 33.0                                     |
| nterest cover (X)                                 | 77.5    | 96.2        | 113.7   | 158.0    | 212.9                                    |
| nventory days                                     | 167.5   | 172.8       | 162.1   | 153.7    | 148.6                                    |
| Debtor days                                       | 70.9    | 72.0        | 75.2    | 74.1     | 70.8                                     |
| Creditor days                                     | 145.1   | 163.5       | 149.6   | 134.3    | 118.                                     |
| Dperating ROIC (%)                                | 40.7    | 52.3        | 47.2    | 44.5     | (10.8                                    |
| ROIC (%)  | 27.5    | 34.7        | 32.7    | 31.9     | (8.0                                     |
| ROE (%)   | 24.4    | 28.4        | 25.9    | 24.9     | 24.0                                     |
| ROA (%)   | 14.9    | 17.2        | 16.2    | 16.4     | 16.                                      |
| Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted   |         |             |         |          |  |
| Revenue by Division (THB m)                       | 2021    | 2022        | 2023E   | 2024E    | 2025                                     |
| Mega We Care                                      | 6,909   | 8,053       | 8,261   | 8,748    | 9,36 <sup>-</sup>                        |
| Maxxcare  | 6,906   | 7,320       | 8,218   | 8,818    | 9,54 <sup>-</sup>                        |
|   | -,      | ,           | - ,=    | .,       | -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, - |

Sources: Mega Lifesciences; FSSIA estimates

# **FINANSIA**

# **Financial Statements**

Mega Lifesciences

| Cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Dec                        | 2021        | 2022     | 2023E    | 2024E    | 2025    |
|--|-------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Recurring net profit                                     | 1,828       | 2,380    | 2,397    | 2,529    | 2,70    |
| Depreciation   | 274         | 272      | 287      | 301      | 31      |
| ssociates & minorities                                   | 2           | 0        | 0        | 0        |         |
| ther non-cash items                                      | 461         | 474      | (167)    | (366)    | (437    |
| hange in working capital                                 | 74          | (989)    | (763)    | (958)    | (1,169  |
| ash flow from operations                                 | 2,639       | 2,136    | 1,754    | 1,506    | 1,40    |
| apex - maintenance                                       | -           | -        | -        | -        | , -     |
| apex - new investment                                    | (151)       | (305)    | (623)    | (310)    | (380    |
| let acquisitions & disposals                             | (101)       | (000)    | (020)    | (010)    | (000    |
| ther investments (net)                                   | (113)       | 24       | 0        | 0        |         |
|  | . ,         |          |          |          |         |
| ash flow from investing                                  | (265)       | (281)    | (623)    | (310)    | (380    |
| lividends paid   | (923)       | (1,406)  | (791)    | (835)    | (891    |
| quity finance  | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        |         |
| ebt finance  | (363)       | 2        | (127)    | (46)     | (14     |
| other financing cash flows                               | (28)        | (30)     | (25)     | (19)     | (15     |
| ash flow from financing                                  | (1,314)     | (1,433)  | (943)    | (900)    | (920    |
| lon-recurring cash flows                                 | -           | -        | -        | -        |         |
| ther adjustments   | 253         | 0        | 0        | 0        |         |
| et other adjustments                                     | 253         | (165)    | 0        | 0        |         |
| lovement in cash   | 1,314       | 257      | 188      | 296      | 10      |
| ree cash flow to firm (FCFF)                             | 2,402.87    | 1,884.18 | 1,155.65 | 1,215.05 | 1,040.7 |
| ree cash flow to equity (FCFE)                           | 2,236.65    | 1,662.78 | 978.48   | 1,131.18 | 996.4   |
|  | 2,200.00    | .,002.70 | 575.40   | .,101.10 | 000.4   |
| er share (THB)   | 0.70        | 0.40     | 4.00     | 1.00     |         |
| CFF per share  | 2.76        | 2.16     | 1.33     | 1.39     | 1.1     |
| CFE per share  | 2.57        | 1.91     | 1.12     | 1.30     | 1.1     |
| lecurring cash flow per share                            | 2.94        | 3.58     | 2.89     | 2.83     | 2.9     |
| alance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Dec                     | 2021        | 2022     | 2023E    | 2024E    | 2025    |
| angible fixed assets (gross)                             | 3,845       | 4,062    | 4,685    | 4,995    | 5,37    |
| ess: Accumulated depreciation                            | (2,008)     | (2,161)  | (2,448)  | (2,749)  | (3,060  |
| •  |             |          |          |          | •       |
| angible fixed assets (net)                               | 1,837       | 1,901    | 2,238    | 2,246    | 2,31    |
| tangible fixed assets (net)                              | 1,353       | 1,329    | 1,307    | 1,291    | 1,27    |
| ong-term financial assets                                | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        |         |
| vest. in associates & subsidiaries                       | 215         | 223      | 223      | 223      | 22      |
| ash & equivalents  | 2,531       | 2,789    | 2,976    | 3,273    | 3,37    |
| /C receivable  | 2,808       | 3,382    | 3,550    | 3,735    | 3,75    |
| nventories   | 3,823       | 4,109    | 4,200    | 4,245    | 4,58    |
| Other current assets                                     | 139         | 310      | 192      | 205      | 20      |
| Current assets   | 9,301       | 10,590   | 10,918   | 11,457   | 11,92   |
| Other assets   | 566         | 603      | 595      | 592      | 62      |
| otal assets  | 13,272      | 14,646   | 15,281   | 15,810   | 16,36   |
| Common equity  | 8,003       | 8,777    | 9,732    | 10,572   | 11,42   |
| linorities etc.  | 22          | 0        | 0        | 0        |         |
|  |             |          |          |          | 11,42   |
| otal shareholders' equity                                | 8,025       | 8,777    | 9,733    | 10,572   |         |
| ong term debt  | 132         | 109      | 63       | 19       |         |
| Other long-term liabilities                              | 261         | 223      | 236      | 179      | 17      |
| ong-term liabilities                                     | 393         | 332      | 298      | 198      | 18      |
| /C payable   | 3,533       | 3,972    | 3,698    | 3,679    | 3,36    |
| hort term debt   | 224         | 312      | 231      | 229      | 22      |
| ther current liabilities                                 | 1,096       | 1,254    | 1,321    | 1,132    | 1,16    |
| urrent liabilities                                       | 4,853       | 5,538    | 5,250    | 5,040    | 4,75    |
| otal liabilities and shareholders' equity                | 13,272      | 14,646   | 15,281   | 15,810   | 16,36   |
| et working capital                                       | 2,141       | 2,575    | 2,923    | 3,374    | 4,01    |
| ivested capital  | 6,111       | 6,632    | 7,285    | 7,727    | 8,45    |
| Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is beir  |             | 0,032    | 7,205    | 1,121    | 0,40    |
|  | J 4000      |          |          |          |         |
| er share (THB)   | A 10        | 40.07    | 44.40    | 10.40    | 10.1    |
| ook value per share                                      | 9.18        | 10.07    | 11.16    | 12.13    | 13.1    |
| angible book value per share                             | 7.63        | 8.54     | 9.66     | 10.65    | 11.6    |
| inancial strength  |             |          |          |          |         |
| let debt/equity (%)                                      | (27.1)      | (27.0)   | (27.6)   | (28.6)   | (27.5   |
| et debt/total assets (%)                                 | (16.4)      | (16.2)   | (17.6)   | (19.1)   | (19.2   |
| urrent ratio (x)   | 1.9         | 1.9      | 2.1      | 2.3      | 2.      |
| F interest cover (x)                                     | 85.5        | 69.5     | 65.0     | 77.0     | 91.     |
| aluation   | 2021        | 2022     | 2023E    | 2024E    | 2025    |
|  |             |          |          |          |         |
| ecurring P/E (x) *                                       | 18.2        | 14.0     | 13.9     | 13.2     | 12.     |
| ecurring P/E @ target price (x) *                        | 31.0        | 23.8     | 23.6     | 22.4     | 21.     |
| eported P/E (x)  | 17.1        | 14.9     | 13.9     | 13.2     | 12.     |
| ividend yield (%)  | 2.2         | 2.2      | 2.4      | 2.5      | 2.      |
| rice/book (x)  | 4.2         | 3.8      | 3.4      | 3.2      | 2.      |
| rice/tangible book (x)                                   | 5.0         | 4.5      | 4.0      | 3.6      | 3.      |
| V/EBITDA (x) **  | 12.7        | 10.2     | 9.8      | 9.2      | 8.      |
|  |             | 17.9     | 17.2     | 16.3     | 15.     |
| V/EBITDA @ target price (x) **                           | ZZ. 1       |          |          |          |         |
| V/EBITDA @ target price (x) **<br>V/invested capital (x) | 22.1<br>5.1 | 4.7      | 4.2      | 3.9      | 3.      |

Sources: Mega Lifesciences; 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 <u>Thai IOD website</u> 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).

#### **Corporate Governance Report Disclaimer**

The disclosure of the survey result of the Thai Institute of Directors Association ("IOD") regarding corporate governance is made pursuant to the policy of the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The survey of the IOD is based on the information of companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Market of Alternative Investment disclosed to the public and able to be accessed by a general public investor at <u>Thai IOD website</u>. The result, therefore, is from the perspective of a third party. It is not an evaluation of operation and is not based on inside information.

The survey result is as of the data appearing in the Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies. As a result, the survey result may be changed after that date. **FSSIA** does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such survey result.

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

The "<u>AGM Checklist</u>" 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 <u>start with</u> 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 (THSI) quantifies responsibility in Environmental, and Social issues, by managing business with transparency in Governance. 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 novation); <u>E</u>nvironmental (environmental management, eco-efficiency, and climate risk); <u>S</u>ocial (human rights, talent attraction, operational health & safety, community development, and stakeholder engagement); and the incorporation of ESG in business operations.

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 (<u>THSI</u>), 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 20-Feb-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

| Company           | Ticker  | Price     | Rating | Valuation & Risks  |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|--------|--|
| MEGA Lifesciences | MEGA TB | THB 38.25 | BUY    | Downside risks to our DCF-based TP include 1) the delayed registration process in many countries; 2) more intensified competition; 3) failure in introducing new products; and 4) risks associated with doing business in Myanmar. |

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 03-Aug-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.

