4 DECEMBER 2023

EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT

STARFLEX SFLEX TB

A tailwind from the oil price outlook

- The 2024 global average crude price may be close to this year, but volatility would sharply decrease. It would benefit downstream businesses, such as SFLEX.
- The profit sharing from its Vietnam unit may not come in time for this year.
- The valuation decreased to be close to its IPO period. We retain our BUY call at our TP of THB5.60.

Costs vary, in line with crude prices

The crude price volatility directly affects SFLEX's performance since the price of crucial raw materials used in packaging production (65-68% of total raw materials), led by films (OPA, PET, LLDPE, WLLDPE), followed by ink, glue, and solvent, change in line with crude prices. Given the global crude oil price falls since mid-2022, the upgrade of its machinery, and the negotiation with its customers, SFLEX's profitability improved. In particular, the gross margin increased from 10.8% in 3Q22 to 25.4% in 3Q23. Also, the net profit margin increased by 1.0% in 3Q22 to 11.5% in 3Q23, higher than its pre-covid level due to more modern machinery.

The profit sharing from Starprint may not come in time for 2023

We believe the crude price surges in September do not have much impact in 4Q23 since SFLEX has locked in the price of crucial raw materials until 1Q24. We expect the 4Q23 gross margin to remain high at 23-24%, close to 3Q23 and significantly higher than the 2022 average of 12.6%. Besides, revenue should remain at THB430-450m, close to the 9M23 average, due to its focus on margins rather than volume. Initially, we expect a 4Q23 profit of THB40-42m (-13-17% q-q, +18-24% y-y). Also, we have removed the profit sharing from Starprint since it may not come in time for 2023.

A tailwind from the crude price outlook

We have trimmed our 2023E profit by 3% to THB180m from THB185m to reflect the removal of the profit sharing from Starprint Vietnam. However, we maintain our 2024-25E profit at THB228m (+26.7% y-y) and THB253m (+10.9% y-y), assuming a profit sharing of THB32m and THB35m from Starprint (in which SFLEX owns a 25% stake), respectively. Although it projects a flat 2024 average WTI, volatility should sharply decrease. Therefore, we anticipate a gross margin of 21% for both 2024-25.

Maintain BUY call at our TP of THB5.60

We have rolled over to our 2024 TP of THB5.60, assuming a P/E of 20x (-0.7SD of its four-year historical average after the IPO). SFLEX is trading at a 2024 P/E of 12.5x (-1.1SD of its four-year historical average) and EV/EBITDA of 10.4x (-1.3SD of its four-year historical average). The valuation decreased to be close to its IPO period while SFLEX is in its growth phase. Hence, we retain our BUY rating.



BUY

UNCHANGED

TARGET PRICE	THB5.60
CLOSE	THB3.48
UP/DOWNSIDE	+60.9%
PRIOR TP	THB5.50
CHANGE IN TP	+1.8%
TP vs CONSENSUS	+7.2%

KEY STOCK DATA

YE Dec (THB m)	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue	1,669	1,812	2,080	2,234
Net profit	55	180	228	253
EPS (THB)	0.07	0.22	0.28	0.31
vs Consensus (%)	-	(1.8)	2.9	3.3
EBITDA	124	289	313	340
Recurring net profit	55	180	228	253
Core EPS (THB)	0.07	0.22	0.28	0.31
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	-	(2.8)	(0.4)	(0.6)
EPS growth (%)	(63.1)	227.3	26.7	10.9
Core P/E (x)	51.8	15.8	12.5	11.3
Dividend yield (%)	0.9	1.9	2.4	2.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	24.3	10.5	10.4	9.4
Price/book (x)	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4
Net debt/Equity (%)	16.3	18.3	36.3	29.0
ROE (%)	5.7	17.7	20.9	21.8



820.01

Issued shares (m)

Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates

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Investment thesis

The issues over high and volatile raw material costs have passed. The crude price outlook is stable, benefiting downstream businesses such as SFLEX. We anticipate stabilized growth to resume due to market expansion and product innovation. Also, SFLEX would recognize the profit sharing from Starprint Vietnam, which should account for 13-14% of its profit. Hence, we expect the 2024 normalized earnings to increase by 26.7%. Valuation-wise, SFLEX is trading lower than its average and close to its IPO period. However, the profit is 50% higher than four years ago. We, therefore, reaffirm our BUY recommendation.

Company profile

Starflex is a leading manufacturer and distributor of flexible packaging in roll form, selling mainly to local consumer product suppliers. Its flexible packaging is a multilayer film, splicing 2-5 layers using glue or resin as a binding material which results in a rigid film that is resistant to heat and high pressure, and is lightweight and capable of having graphic patterns printed on the surface.

www.starflex.co.th

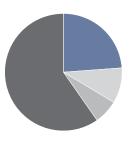
Principal activities (revenue, 2022)

- Non-food packaging 75.4 %
- Food packaging 23.5 %
 Others 1.1 %

Source: Starflex

Major shareholders

- Mr. Printhorn Apithanasriwong -23.8 %
- Mr. Ek Picharnchitra 9.8 %
- BTS Group Holdings 6.7 %
- Others 59.7 %



Source: Starflex

Catalysts

Key potential catalysts include 1) a broad-based economic recovery; 2) a decline in oil prices; 3) baht appreciation; and 4) strong consumption growth in Vietnam.

Risks to our call

Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) a sharp rise in crude oil prices; 2) rising inflation pressuring consumers' purchasing power; and 3) baht depreciation.

Event calendar

Date	Event
7 December 2023	Dividend payment
February 2024	4Q23/2023 earnings announcement

Key assumptions

	2023E	2024E	2025E
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)
Sales revenue	1,812	2,080	2,234
Growth (%)	8.6	14.8	7.4
Non-food packaging	1,366	1,560	1,676
Growth (%)	8.6	14.2	7.4
Food packaging	439	512	550
Growth (%)	11.6	16.7	7.4
Gross margin (%)	23.6	21.0	21.0
SG&A to sales (%)	12.3	10.1	9.8

Source: FSSIA estimates

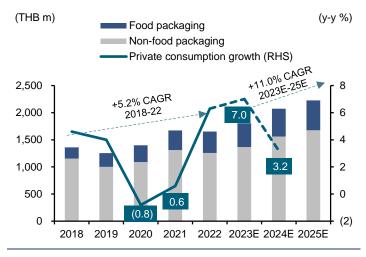
Earnings sensitivity

- For every 0.5% change in gross margin, we project SFLEX's 2024 core profit to change by 3.6%, all else being equal.
- For every 0.5% change in SG&A to sales, we project SFLEX's 2024 core profit to change by 4.0%, all else being equal.

Source: FSSIA estimates

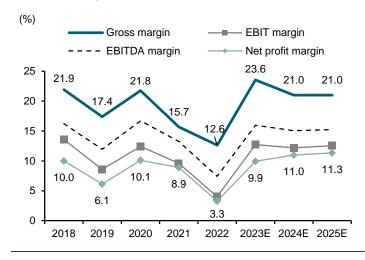






Sources: Bank of Thailand, SFLEX, FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 3: Margins



Sources: SFLEX, FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 5: Historical P/E band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 2: Gross margin vs crude oil price

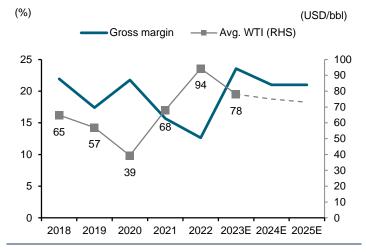
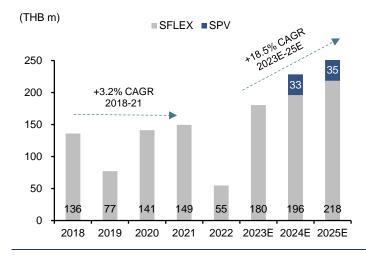




Exhibit 4: Core profit



Sources: SFLEX, FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 6: Historical P/E band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

4 DECEMBER 2023

FINANSIA

Financial Statements

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Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue	1,677	1,669	1,812	2,080	2,234
Cost of goods sold	(1,414)	(1,458)	(1,385)	(1,643)	(1,765)
Gross profit	263	211	427	437	469
Other operating income	50	27	27	27	29
Operating costs	(152)	(170)	(223)	(210)	(218)
Operating EBITDA	223	124	289	313	340
Depreciation	(62)	(57)	(58)	(59)	(60)
Goodwill amortisation	0	0	0	0	0
Operating EBIT	161	67	231	254	280
Net financing costs	(4)	(3)	(6)	(9)	(8)
Associates	-	-	0	33	35
Recurring non-operating income	0	0	0	33	35
Non-recurring items	0	0	0	0	0
Profit before tax	157	65	225	277	308
Tax Bas fits of sectors	(7)	(10)	(45)	(49)	(55)
Profit after tax	149	55	180	228	253
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred dividends Other items	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	- 149	55	- 180	228	- 253
Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)	0	0	0	0	255
Recurring net profit	149	55	180	228	253
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	0.18	0.07	0.22	0.28	0.31
Reported EPS	0.18	0.07	0.22	0.28	0.31
DPS	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.09
Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data)	820	820	820	820	820
Growth					
Revenue (%)	20.0	(0.5)	8.6	14.8	7.4
Operating EBITDA (%)	(4.2)	(44.4)	133.5	8.3	8.7
Operating EBIT (%)	(7.4)	(58.2)	243.1	9.9	10.5
Recurring EPS (%)	4.6	(63.1)	227.3	26.7	10.9
Reported EPS (%)	4.6	(63.1)	227.3	26.7	10.9
Operating performance					
Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)	15.7	12.6	23.6	21.0	21.0
Gross margin exc. depreciation (%)	19.4	16.0	26.8	23.9	23.7
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	13.3	7.4	16.0	15.1	15.2
Operating EBIT margin (%)	9.6	4.0	12.7	12.2	12.6
Net margin (%)	8.9	3.3	9.9	11.0	11.3
Effective tax rate (%)	4.8	14.9	20.0	17.7	17.7
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	24.7	44.7	30.0	30.0	30.0
Interest cover (X)	40.7	26.0	41.7	32.1	41.5
Inventory days	75.9	86.9	93.5	88.4	92.3
Debtor days	66.1	66.6	62.3	65.0	65.9
Creditor days	78.2	74.3	76.1	69.8	70.8
Operating ROIC (%)	18.1	5.4	17.0	15.5	(3.6)
ROIC (%)	15.7	4.8	15.4	16.1	(3.7)
ROE (%)	16.2	5.7	17.7	20.9	21.8
ROA (%) * Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted	11.0	3.7	11.3	12.7	12.3
Revenue by Division (THB m)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
	1,309	1,258	1,366	1,560	1,676
Non-food packaging Food packaging	365	393	439	512	550

Sources: Starflex; FSSIA estimates

Financial Statements Starflex

Starflex					
cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	20255
ecurring net profit	149	55	180	228	253
epreciation	62	57	58	59	60
ssociates & minorities	0	0	0	0	(
ther non-cash items	-	-	-	-	
hange in working capital	(134)	50	(207)	(160)	(85
ash flow from operations apex - maintenance	78	162	31	128	228
apex - mantenance apex - new investment	(196)	(144)	-	(277)	(19
let acquisitions & disposals	(190)	-	14	(211)	(13
other investments (net)	-	-	-	-	
ash flow from investing	(196)	(144)	14	(277)	(19
ividends paid	(70)	(37)	(54)	(69)	(76
quity finance	0	0	0	0	(
bebt finance	128	66	2	227	(96
other financing cash flows	-	-	-	-	
cash flow from financing	58	29	(52)	158	(172
lon-recurring cash flows	-	-	-	-	
Other adjustments	0	7 7	0	0 0	(
let other adjustments Iovement in cash	(34) (94)	7 54	(22) (29)	9	(50 (13
ree cash flow to firm (FCFF)	(114.34)	20.98	50.48	(140.11)	217.28
ree cash flow to equity (FCFE)	(23.95)	91.15	24.98	77.80	62.78
	(20.00)		2		52.70
er share (THB)	<i>/-</i>			(0.17)	
CFF per share	(0.14)	0.03	0.06	(0.17)	0.26
CFE per share tecurring cash flow per share	(0.03) 0.26	0.11 0.14	0.03 0.29	0.09 0.35	0.08 0.38
alance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
angible fixed assets (gross)	859	1,046	1,106	1,406	1,436
ess: Accumulated depreciation	(428)	(307)	(365)	(424)	(484
angible fixed assets (net)	431	739	741	982	952
ntangible fixed assets (net)	47	54	55	56	57
ong-term financial assets	-	-	-	-	
nvest. in associates & subsidiaries	0 75	32 129	32	32 109	32 97
cash & equivalents /C receivable	346	263	100 355	385	422
nventories	334	333	346	421	42
Other current assets	185	22	22	23	24
Current assets	939	747	824	939	984
Other assets	89	29	30	31	32
otal assets	1,507	1,602	1,682	2,040	2,056
Common equity	960	985	1,054	1,127	1,203
/inorities etc.	0	0	0	0	(
otal shareholders' equity	960	985	1,054	1,127	1,203
ong term debt	84	175	177	404	308
Other long-term liabilities	43	43	49	56	65
ong-term liabilities	127	218	226	460	372
/C payable	295	276	277	329	333
hort term debt	121	114	116	114	138
other current liabilities	4 419	8 398	9 401	9 452	10 48 1
otal liabilities and shareholders' equity	1,507	398 1,602	1,682	452 2,040	48 2,056
et working capital	566	334	438	492	2,030
ivested capital	1,133	1,188	1,296	1,592	1,616
Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is being		.,	.,	.,	.,
er share (THB)					
ook value per share	1.17	1.20	1.29	1.37	1.47
angible book value per share	1.11	1.14	1.23	1.31	1.40
inancial strength					
let debt/equity (%)	13.5	16.3	18.3	36.3	29.0
let debt/total assets (%)	8.6	10.0	11.5	20.0	17.0
	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0
urrent ratio (x)		01.0	5.5	40.7	11.
	44.5	91.9			
F interest cover (x)		2022	2023E	2024E	2025
F interest cover (x) aluation	44.5 2021	2022	2023E		
F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) *	44.5 2021 19.1	2022 51.8	2023E 15.8	12.5	11.:
F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) * ecurring P/E @ target price (x) *	44.5 2021 19.1 30.7	2022 51.8 83.4	2023E 15.8 25.5	12.5 20.1	11.: 18. [:]
F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) * ecurring P/E @ target price (x) * eported P/E (x)	44.5 2021 19.1	2022 51.8	2023E 15.8	12.5	11.3 18.1 11.3
<pre>F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) * ecurring P/E @ target price (x) * eported P/E (x) ividend yield (%)</pre>	44.5 2021 19.1 30.7 19.1	2022 51.8 83.4 51.8	2023E 15.8 25.5 15.8	12.5 20.1 12.5	11.3 18. 1 11.3 2.7
F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) * ecurring P/E @ target price (x) * eported P/E (x) ividend yield (%) rice/book (x)	44.5 2021 19.1 30.7 19.1 1.3	2022 51.8 83.4 51.8 0.9	2023E 15.8 25.5 15.8 1.9	12.5 20.1 12.5 2.4	11.3 18. 1 11.3 2.7 2.4
F interest cover (x) aluation ecurring P/E (x) * ecurring P/E @ target price (x) * leported P/E (x) ividend yield (%) ivice/book (x) rice/tangible book (x)	44.5 2021 19.1 30.7 19.1 1.3 3.0	2022 51.8 83.4 51.8 0.9 2.9	2023E 15.8 25.5 15.8 1.9 2.7	12.5 20.1 12.5 2.4 2.5	11. 18. 11. 2.7 2.4 2.5
Current ratio (x) Current ratio (x) Current ratio (x) Curring P/E (x) * Curring P/E @ target price (x) * Currice/P/E (x) Dividend yield (%) Price/book (x) Currice/book (x) CU/EBITDA (x) ** CV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	44.5 2021 19.1 30.7 19.1 1.3 3.0 3.1	2022 51.8 83.4 51.8 0.9 2.9 3.1	2023E 15.8 25.5 15.8 1.9 2.7 2.9	12.5 20.1 12.5 2.4 2.5 2.7	2025E 11.3 18.4 11.5 2.4 2.5 9.4 9.4 14.5

Sources: Starflex; FSSIA estimates



Disclaimer for ESG scoring

ESG score	Methodology				Rating					
The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (<u>DJSI</u>) By S&P Global	process based on th from the annual S&F Only the top-ranked inclusion.	The DJSI World applies a transparent, rules-based component selection ocess based on the companies' Total Sustainability Scores resulting om the annual S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA). The top-ranked companies within each industry are selected for clusion. Be a member and invited to the annual S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA).					nighest ces are			
Sustainability Investment List (<u>THSI</u>) by The Stock Exchange of Thailand (<u>SET</u>)	1) no irregular tradin	with transpare so the preemp g of the board olders, and co disqualifying directors and o CG, social d	ency in Governance btive criteria, with tw I members and exe ombined holding mu criteria include: 1) d free float violatior & environmental im	e, updated annually. wo crucial conditions: acutives; and 2) free ust be >15% of paid- CG score of below r; 3) executives' apacts; 4) equity in	minimum of 50 during the ass nature of the r <u>SETTHSI Inde</u> capitalization = >0.5% of paid Index is a mar	<pre>>> for each in essment yea elevant indus ex is extende >> THB5b (~U up capital for ket capitalisa</pre>	usion, verified ndicator, unles r. The scoring thry and materi d from the TH SD150b); 2) fr r at least 9 out tion-weighted umber of stoc	s the compa will be fairly ality. SI companie ee float >20 ⁶ of 12 month index, cap 5	ny is a part o weighted aga s whose 1) m %; and 3) liqu s. The SETTH	f DJSI ainst the arket iidity HSI
CG Score by Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD)	An indicator of CG s annually by the Thai Thailand (SET). The an evaluation of ope	IOD, with sup results are from	port from the Stoc	k Exchange of	Good (80-89), and not rated equitable treat	3 for Good (for scores be ment of shar 25%); 4) disc	egories: 5 for E 70-79), 2 for F low 50. Weigh eholders (weig closure & trans	air (60-69), 1 tings include ht 25% com	for Pass (60 : 1) the rights bined); 3) the	-69), ; 2) and role of
AGM level By Thai Investors Association (TIA) with support from the SEC	out of five the CG co assessment criteria	prated into bu ciently disclos mponents to cover AGM pr %), and after <i>ifficient informa</i> <i>The second as</i> <i>bility; and 3) op</i>	siness operations sed. All form impor- be evaluated annu ocedures before th the meeting (10%) tion for voting; and 2) sesses 1) the ease of enness for Q&A. The	and information is tant elements of two ally. The ne meeting (45%), at). (The first assesses 1) facilitating how voting 'attending meetings; 2) third involves the			ito four catego air (80-89), and		(//	
Thai CAC By Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)	The core elements of establishment of key policies. The Certific (Companies deciding to Declaration of Intent to of Certification, including r managers and employe communication of polici	d developing of rt by submitting a nit the CAC Checklist for I control, training of	passed Check approvals who	list will move se members	wed by a comi for granting ca are twelve hig achievements	ertification by	the CAC Co	uncil		
Morningstar Sustainalytics	The Sustainalytics' E based on an assess risk is unmanaged. S regulatory filings, news	nent of how r ources to be re and other media	nuch of a company viewed include corpor a, NGO reports/websit	r's exposure to ESG rate publications and res, multi-sector			ng score is the e higher ESG Medium			The
	information, company fe reports, and quality & pe		ontroversies, issuer fe	edback on draft ESG	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40+	
ESG Book	The ESG score iden positioned to outperf the principle of finan helps explain future over-weighting featu weights on a rolling of	orm over the cial materiality isk-adjusted res with highe	long term. The me / including information performance. Mate r materiality and re	thodology considers tion that significantly riality is applied by	scores using r	nateriality-ba	ulated as a we sed weights. T indicating bett	he score is s	caled betwee	
<u>MSCI</u>				nagement of financially neir exposure to ESG ri						logy to
		-10.000 -8.570	Leader:	leading its industry in n	nanaging the most	significant ESG	risks and opport	unities		
		-7.142 -5.713	Average:	a mixed or unexceptior	nal track record of n	nanaging the m	ost significant ES	SG risks and o	oportunities rela	ative to
		-4.285	Avoluge.	industry peers						
		-2.856	Laggard:	lagging its industry bas	ed on its high expo	sure and failure	e to manage sign	ificant ESG ris	ks	
Moody's ESG solutions	Moody's assesses th	any integratir	ig ESG factors into	ake into account ESG o its business model an iedium to long term.	,				071	
			uditable data. The	company's relative ES score ranges from 0 to	100 on relative I	ESG performation	ance and insuf	ficient degre		
Refinitiv ESG rating	reporting material ES		city. (Score ratings are	p = p = p = p = p = 0, p = 0 = 0						
	reporting material ES	G data public Score is a r	elative score meas	uring a company's per ification. The score rar			nt of ESG risks	,	es, and impac	cts
rating	reporting material ES	G data public S Score is a r s within the s Bloom score	elative score meas ame industry class berg score evaluat is based on Bloom	uring a company's per	nges from 0 to 10 pregated Environ ancial materiality	0. mental, Socia . The score is	al and Governa s a weighted g	ance (ESG) peneralized m	performance. nean (power r	The nean)

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"; 2) "AGM Level"; 3) "Thai CAC"; and 4) THSI. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSSIA does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings. Source: FSSIA's compilation



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History of change in investment rating and/or target price



Jitra Amornthum started covering this stock from 10-Mar-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
Starflex	SFLEX TB	THB 3.48	BUY	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) a sharp rise in crude oil prices; 2) rising inflation pressuring consumers' purchasing power; and 3) baht depreciation.

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.

All share prices are as at market close on 01-Dec-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.