**EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT** 

# CP AXTRA CPAXT TB

THAILAND / COMMERCE

# An impressive core profit

- 4Q23 core profit was THB3.28b (+91% q-q, +22% y-y), beating our estimate by 6% and BBG's consensus by 15%.
- We have a positive outlook from its business restructuring plan.
- We retain our BUY call and TP of THB36.

#### CPAXT reported an impressive 4Q23 core profit

CPAXT reported a 4Q23 core profit of THB3.28b, growing by 91% q-q from seasonal factors and increasing 22% y-y due mainly to sales growth and reduced interest expenses. Retail sales grew by 4% y-y, driven by SSSG from both the wholesale and retail businesses, increasing by 1.7%, 5.8% and 3.6% (Lotus's Malaysia), respectively. The GPM from sales of 14.0% (+20 bps q-q) was driven by the fresh food product mix in the retail business, but dipped 30 bps y-y from sales promotion activities. Interest expenses dropped by 34% y-y in 4Q23 due to debt restructuring.

#### Positive outlook for restructuring plan

CPAXT announced a business restructuring plan involving the entire business transfer of Lotus's Stores (Thailand) Co., Ltd. and an amalgamation between CP Axtra PCL. and Ek-Chai Distribution System Co., Ltd. The benefits of these transactions are as follows: 1) to boost competitiveness in both the national and regional level by increasing the ability to serve customer needs; 2) to enhance efficiency and agility in the operations of CPAXT group; 3) to create additional value from synergies; 4) to increase efficiency in financial management; and 5) to extend support to local farmers, small producers, and SMEs.

## SSSG for 1QTD should continue to grow, driven by Chinese NY

Regarding the SSSG trend for 1QTD, the wholesale business could increase by 4-5%, driven by dry food and fresh food. The retail business will likely grow by 5-6% across all formats, in our estimation. We anticipate 2024 core profit to grow by 21% and 2025 core profit to grow by 17%, driven by SSSG from the two businesses along with a tourist and consumption recovery. Additionally, we expect the GPM to expand from focusing on fresh food in the retail business.

#### We retain our BUY call and our TP of THB36

We retain our BUY call and our TP of THB36, as we anticipate continued growth following a format change to focus on fresh products and private labels. We also expect a jump in the omnichannel, with cost controls and synergies between the two units.









**UNCHANGI** 

TARGET PRICE THB36.00
CLOSE THB30.00
UP/DOWNSIDE +20.0%
PRIOR TP THB36.00
CHANGE IN TP UNCHANGED
TP vs CONSENSUS +6.6%

## **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Dec (THB m)	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue	486,472	511,022	537,998	565,731
Net profit	8,640	10,623	12,461	14,025
EPS (THB)	0.82	1.00	1.18	1.33
EBITDA	34,456	35,324	37,799	40,907
Recurring net profit	8,777	10,623	12,461	14,025
Core EPS (THB)	0.83	1.00	1.18	1.33
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	nm	(0.1)	(0.1)	nm
EPS growth (%)	10.8	21.0	17.3	12.6
Core P/E (x)	36.2	29.9	25.5	22.6
Dividend yield (%)	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.2	11.1	10.5	9.8
Price/book (x)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Net debt/Equity (%)	23.4	24.9	26.8	27.7
ROE (%)	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.6



Share price performance	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month
Absolute (%)	0.0	8.1	(24.5)
Relative to country (%)	2.1	8.2	(9.9)
Mkt cap (USD m)			8,777
3m avg. daily turnover (USD m)			5.9
Free float (%)			15
Major shareholder		CP	ALL (60%)
12m high/low (THB)		4	1.75/25.25
Issued shares (m)			10,580.32

Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates



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#### Investment thesis

CPAXT is a leading wholesaler (under Makro). After its retail and space rental units merged under Lotus's, CPAXT achieved synergies from Makro's expertise in the wholesale business, especially in the food segment, and Lotus's proficiency in the retail and space rental unit. In 2024-26, we expect revenue growth of 5.2% CAGR to THB565b and normalized earnings growth of 17% CAGR to THB14b, supported by 1) a recovery in tourism and domestic consumption, which would boost domestic purchasing power; 2) synergies between Makro and Lotus's; 3) the O2O strategy; and 4) the government's economic stimulus.

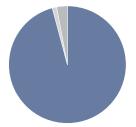
## Company profile

Siam Makro Public Company Limited was established in 1988 to operate wholesale businesses throughout Thailand and overseas under the name Makro, selling food and non-food products to registered members, predominantly small and medium-sized businesses, retailers, caterers, professional sectors, and institutions. It also operates a food service that imports and trades frozen and chilled foods, and restaurants and minimarts. In addition, its subsidiaries operate retail businesses and provide mall rental services.

www.cpaxtra.com

## Principal activities (revenue, 2023)

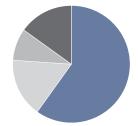
- Sales 95.8 %
- Service income 1.2 %
- Rental and rendering retail services - 2.9 %



Source: CP Axtra

## **Major shareholders**

- CP ALL 59.9 %
- Charoen Pokphand Holdings -16.2 %
- CP Merchandising 8.9 %
- Others 15.1 %



Source: CP Axtra

# **Catalysts**

Potential catalysts for CPAXT include: 1) a faster-thanexpected domestic consumption and tourism recovery; and 2) a speedy turnaround for Lotus's.

#### Risks to our call

The key downside risks to our DCF-based TP include: 1) lower-than-expected SSSG; 2) a lower-than-expected GPM improvement; and 3) operational losses from its overseas business.

#### **Event calendar**

Date	Event
22 Feb 2024	4Q23/2023 analyst meeting
May 2024	1Q24 results announcement

## **Key assumptions**

MAKRO	2024E	2025E	2026E
SSSG MAKRO (%)	3.0	3.0	3.0
SSSG Lotus-TH (%)	3.0	3.0	3.0
SSSG Lotus-ML (%)	3.0	3.0	3.0
New stores growth (%)	4.5	4.3	4.0
GPM (%)	16.3	16.4	16.4
SG&A to revenue (%)	13.2	13.1	13.0

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### Earnings sensitivity

- For every 1% increase in SSSG, we estimate 2024 EPS to rise by 0.9% and vice versa, all else being equal.
- For every 0.1% increase in GPM, we estimate 2024 EPS to rise by 3.8% and vice versa, all else being equal.
- For every 0.1% increase in SG&A to revenue, we estimate 2024 EPS to fall by 3.9% and vice versa, all else being equal.

Source: FSSIA estimates

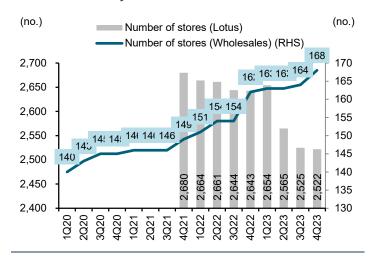
Exhibit 1: 4Q23 results summary

	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	Cha	nge	2022	2023	Change
Year to Dec 31	(THB m)	(q-q%)	(y-y%)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y %)				
Total revenue	121,995	119,089	120,909	118,837	127,637	7	5	466,082	486,472	4
- Retail sales	117,389	114,044	115,980	113,838	122,371	7	4	447,182	466,234	4
- Service income	1,165	1,487	1,445	1,405	1,599	14	37	5,422	5,935	9
- Rental and rendering	3,952	3,558	3,484	3,594	3,667	2	(7)	13,477	14,303	6
Gross profit	20,332	19,473	19,001	18,930	20,793	10	2	76,494	78,198	2
Operating costs	(16,419)	(16,106)	(16,306)	(16,263)	(16,292)	0	(1)	(62,842)	(64,968)	3
Operating profit	3,913	3,367	2,695	2,667	4,501	69	15	13,651	13,230	(3)
Other income	1,386	1,133	703	665	976	47	(30)	3,050	3,477	14
EBIT	5,299	4,500	3,398	3,332	5,477	64	3	16,701	16,707	0
Interest expense	(2,204)	(1,895)	(1,570)	(1,403)	(1,451)	3	(34)	(7,122)	(6,319)	(11)
Profit before tax	3,095	2,605	1,828	1,929	4,025	109	30	9,579	10,388	8
Tax	(810)	(647)	(527)	(448)	(912)	104	13	(2,729)	(2,535)	(7)
Associates	175	193	201	185	168	(9)	(4)	831	746	(10)
Minority interests	11	15	14	11	1	(92)	(91)	15	41	172
Non-recurring items	(225)	87	(185)	(39)	0	(100)	(100)	(225)	(137)	(39)
Reported net profit	2,471	2,166	1,516	1,677	3,282	96	33	7,697	8,640	12
Recurring net profit	2,696	2,079	1,701	1,716	3,282	91	22	7,922	8,777	11
EPS (THB)	0.23	0.20	0.14	0.16	0.31	96	33	0.73	0.82	12
Recurring EPS (THB)	0.25	0.20	0.16	0.16	0.31	91	22	0.75	0.83	11
Key ratios (%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)
GPM from sales	14.2	14.0	13.5	13.7	14.0	0.2	(0.3)	14.2	14.0	(0.2)
Gross profit margin	16.6	16.4	15.7	15.9	16.3	0.4	(0.3)	16.4	16.1	(0.3)
Operating margin	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.2	3.5	1.3	0.3	2.9	2.7	(0.2)
Recurring net margin	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.4	2.6	1.1	0.4	1.7	1.8	0.1
SG&A / Revenue	13.3	13.4	13.4	13.6	12.7	(0.9)	(0.6)	13.4	13.3	(0.1)
Operating statistics	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)
SSSG (%) - MAKRO	9.6	10.9	6.0	3.2	1.7	(1.5)	(7.9)	6.8	5.3	(1.5)
SSSG (%) - Lotus's TH	2.4	0.8	(0.9)	2.5	5.8	3.3	3.4	0.2	2.1	1.9
SSSG (%) - Lotus's ML	(2.4)	(0.9)	(12.2)	0.6	3.6	3.0	6.0	(1.8)	(2.5)	(0.7)
No. of stores (Wholesales) (no.)	162	163	163	164	168			162	168	
Number of stores (Lotus) (no.)	2,643	2,654	2,565	2,525	2,522			2,643	2,522	

	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	Cha	nge
Operations by business	(THB m)	(q-q%)	(y-y%)				
Sales	117,389	114,044	115,980	113,838	122,371	7	4
Wholesale business	66,095	63,993	63,795	63,486	68,537	8	4
Retail business	51,294	50,051	52,185	50,352	53,835	7	5
Revenue from rental and rendering	3,952	3,558	3,484	3,594	3,667	2	(7)
Total revenue	123,892	120,222	121,612	119,502	128,613	8	4
Gross profit from sales	16,718	16,017	15,629	15,620	17,075	9	2
GPM from sales (%)	14.2	14.0	13.5	13.7	14.0	2	(2)
EBITDA	9,937	9,038	8,003	7,961	10,063	26	1
Finance cost	2,204	1,895	1,570	1,403	1,451	3	(34)
Net profit	2,471	2,166	1,516	1,677	3,282	96	33
Wholesale business	2,404	1,897	1,089	1,247	1,742	40	(28)
Retail business	67	269	427	430	1,540	258	2,183

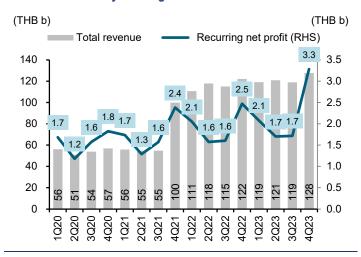
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 2: Stores by business unit



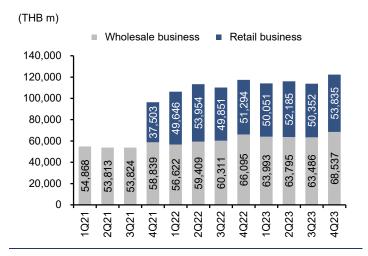
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

## **Exhibit 4: Quarterly earnings**



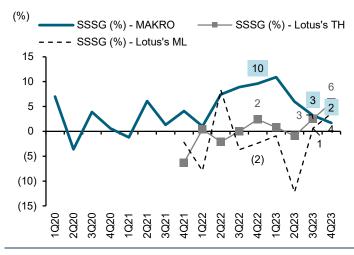
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

#### Exhibit 6: Revenue from sales by business unit



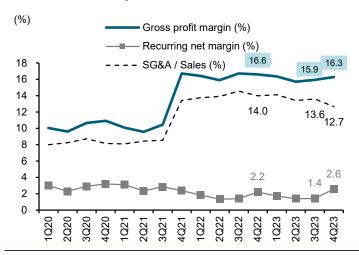
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

**Exhibit 3: SSSG continues to grow** 



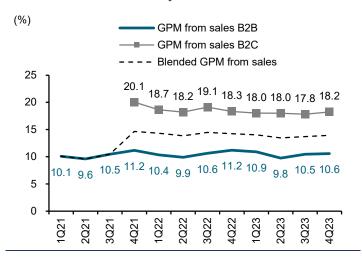
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

## **Exhibit 5: Profitability**



Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 7: GPM from sales by business unit



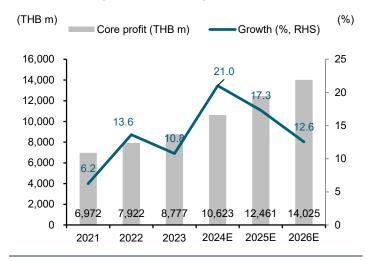
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA's compilation

## **Exhibit 8: Yearly SSSG**



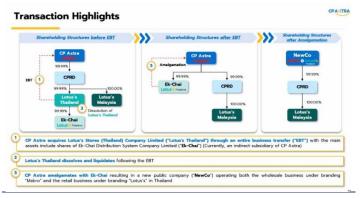
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA estimates

## Exhibit 10: Yearly core profit and growth



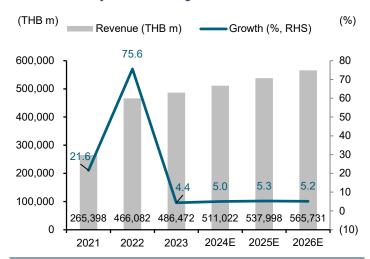
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA estimates

#### **Exhibit 12: Transaction highlights**



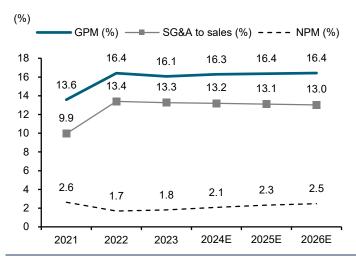
Source: CPAXT

## Exhibit 9: Yearly revenue and growth



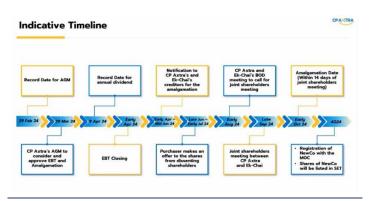
Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA estimates

# **Exhibit 11: Profitability**



Sources: CPAXT; FSSIA estimates

#### **Exhibit 13: Indicative timeline**

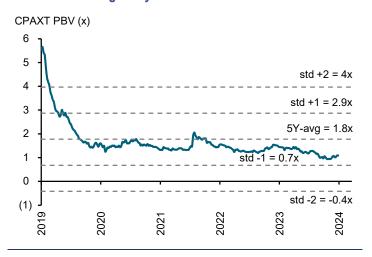


Source: CPAXT

# Exhibit 14: Rolling one-year forward P/E band

#### CPAXT PER (x) 90 80 std +2 = 67.6x70 std +1 = 54.7x60 50 Y-avg = 41.9x 40 = 29x 30 std -2 = 16.1x20 10 0 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024 2021

Exhibit 15: Rolling one-year forward P/BV band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 16: Commerce peers as of 14 February 2024

Company	BBG	Rec	S	hare price	·	Market	P	E	R0	DE	PE	3V	EV/ EB	ITDA
			Current	Target	Upside	Сар	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E
			(LCY)	(LCY)	(%)	(USD m)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)
Consumer Staple														
CP All	CPALL TB	BUY	53.50	77.00	44	13,290	27.8	23.9	16.4	17.5	4.8	4.4	20.0	17.7
CP Axtra	CPAXT TB	BUY	30.00	36.00	20	8,777	36.2	29.9	3.0	3.6	1.1	1.1	11.2	11.1
Berli Jucker*	BJC TB	n/a	24.60	n/a	n/a	2,729	20.3	17.9	4.0	4.5	8.0	8.0	12.8	12.0
Consumer Staple average						24,796	28.1	23.9	7.8	8.5	2.2	2.1	14.7	13.6
Consumer Discretionary		•												
Com7	COM7 TB	BUY	22.30	30.00	35	1,471	17.0	15.3	41.6	41.7	6.8	6.0	12.1	10.9
Central Retail Corp	CRC TB	BUY	34.75	48.00	38	5,796	25.6	21.9	12.6	13.4	3.1	2.8	13.4	12.0
Home Improvement														
Index Living Mall	ILM TB	BUY	21.60	26.70	24	302	15.7	14.1	12.0	12.7	1.8	1.8	7.6	6.9
Home Product Center	HMPRO TB	BUY	10.90	13.60	25	3,964	22.6	21.1	25.5	26.0	5.6	5.3	13.1	12.3
Siam Global House	GLOBAL TB	BUY	16.40	17.70	8	2,268	30.7	27.7	11.9	12.3	3.5	3.3	23.6	21.4
Dohome	DOHOME TB	BUY	11.10	12.30	11	948	67.2	35.3	4.3	7.7	2.8	2.6	25.7	19.1
Home Improvement avg.						7,482	34.1	24.6	13.4	14.7	3.5	3.3	17.5	14.9
Consumer Discretionary avg.						14,749	29.8	22.6	18.0	19.0	3.9	3.6	15.9	13.8
Total average						39,545	29.2	23.0	14.6	15.5	3.4	3.1	15.5	13.7

Sources: \*Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

CP Axtra

Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue	466,082	486,472	511,022	537,998	565,731
Cost of goods sold	(389,588)	(408,274)	(427,815)	(449,984)	(472,817)
Gross profit	76,494	78,198	83,207	88,014	92,914
Other operating income	3,050	3,477	3,336	3,477	3,618
Operating costs	(62,617)	(64,831)	(67,876)	(71,001)	(74,165)
Operating EBITDA	34,477	34,456	35,324	37,799	40,907
Depreciation	(17,551)	(17,612)	(16,657)	(17,308)	(18,539)
Goodwill amortisation	0	0	0	0	0
Operating EBIT	16,926	16,844	18,667	20,490	22,367
Net financing costs	(7,122)	(6,319)	(5,998)	(6,050)	(6,026)
Associates	831	746	826	868	911
Recurring non-operating income	831	746	826	868	911
Non-recurring items	(225)	(137)	0	0	0
Profit before tax	10,411	11,134	13,495	15,308	17,253
Tax	(2,729)	(2,535)	(2,914)	(2,888)	(3,268)
Profit after tax	7,682	8,599	10,582	12,420	13,984
Minority interests	15	41	41	41	41
Preferred dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other items	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	7,697	8,640	10,623	12,461	14,025
Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)	225	137	0	0	0
Recurring net profit	7,922	8,777	10,623	12,461	14,025
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	0.75	0.83	1.00	1.18	1.33
Reported EPS	0.73	0.82	1.00	1.18	1.33
DPS	0.51	0.57	0.70	0.82	0.93
Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data)	10,580	10,580	10,580	10,580	10,580
Growth					
Revenue (%)	75.6	4.4	5.0	5.3	5.2
Operating EBITDA (%)	107.4	(0.1)	2.5	7.0	8.2
Operating EBIT (%)	61.3	(0.5)	10.8	9.8	9.2
Recurring EPS (%)	13.6	10.8	21.0	17.3	12.6
Reported EPS (%)	(43.8)	12.3	22.9	17.3	12.6
Operating performance					
Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)	16.4	16.1	16.3	16.4	16.4
Gross margin exc. depreciation (%)	20.2	19.7	19.5	19.6	19.7
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	7.4	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.2
Operating EBIT margin (%)	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.0
Net margin (%)	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.5
Effective tax rate (%)	28.5	24.4	23.0	20.0	20.0
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	68.1	68.7	70.0	70.0	70.0
Interest cover (X)	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.9
Inventory days	34.2	34.4	32.6	32.5	32.6
Debtor days	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Creditor days	59.9	60.2	61.0	60.9	61.0
Operating ROIC (%)	15.6	16.7	18.8	19.2	19.0
ROIC (%)	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.9	4.2
ROE (%)	2.7	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.6
ROA (%)	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.2
* Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted					
Revenue by Division (THB m)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	447,182	466,234	490,153	515,913	542,558
Service income	5,422	5,935	5,971	6,019	6,051
Rental and rendering retail services	13,477	14,303	14,898	16,066	17,122

Sources: CP Axtra; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

CP Axtra

Cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Recurring net profit	7,922	8,777	10,623	12,461	14,02
Depreciation	17,551	17,612	16,657	17,308	18,53
Associates & minorities	96	13	0	0	
Other non-cash items	(412)	(161)	21	7	1
Change in working capital	(4,400)	7,381	1,380	1,569	1,61
Cash flow from operations	20,757	33,623	28,680	31,345	34,20
Capex - maintenance	(15,872)	- (13,319)	(26,538)	(26,882)	(27,232
Capex - new investment Net acquisitions & disposals	(5,027)	(6,765)			(4,037
Other investments (net)	815	(3,249)	(3,659) 2,975	(3,846) (382)	1,44
Cash flow from investing	(20,085)	(23,333)	(27,222)	(31,110)	(29,826
Dividends paid	(5,396)	(6,031)	(7,436)	(8,723)	(9,818
Equity finance	50	(39)	616	616	61
Debt finance	(23,753)	(12,616)	18,734	(1,825)	50
Other financing cash flows	0	0	0	0	
Cash flow from financing	(29,099)	(18,686)	11,914	(9,932)	(8,695
Non-recurring cash flows	-	-	-	-	
Other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Net other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Movement in cash	(28,426)	(8,396)	13,373	(9,697)	(4,32
Free cash flow to firm (FCFF)	7,794.01	16,609.15	7,456.39	6,284.90	10,399.7
ree cash flow to equity (FCFE)	(23,080.44)	(2,325.68)	20,192.83	(1,589.78)	4,880.7
Per share (THB)					
FCFF per share	0.74	1.57	0.70	0.59	0.9
FCFE per share	(2.18)	(0.22)	1.91	(0.15)	0.4
Recurring cash flow per share	2.38	2.48	2.58	2.81	3.0
Balance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Гangible fixed assets (gross) Less: Accumulated depreciation	148,498 (30,383)	150,596 (35,022)	177,134 (49,770)	204,016 (65,016)	231,24 (81,339
Fangible fixed assets (net)	118,115	115,574	127,364	139,000	149,91
ntangible fixed assets (net)	0	0	0	0	140,0
Long-term financial assets	0	0	0	0	
nvest. in associates & subsidiaries	14,961	14,783	14,783	14,783	14,78
Cash & equivalents	40,103	31,707	45,080	35,383	31,06
A/C receivable	2,431	2,304	2,420	2,548	2,67
nventories	37,820	35,884	37,601	39,550	41,55
Other current assets	7,001	6,844	7,190	7,569	7,95
Current assets	87,355	76,739	92,291	85,049	83,25
Other assets	328,213	333,275	335,246	337,256	339,30
Total assets	548,643	540,371	569,684	576,089	587,25
Common equity	290,348	292,918	296,720	301,074	305,89
Minorities etc.	583	555	514	473	43
Total shareholders' equity	290,931	293,473	297,234	301,547	306,32
Long term debt	110,025	70,180	104,578	83,648	109,55
Other long-term liabilities	56,925	58,569	58,951	60,130	61,33
Long-term liabilities	166,949	128,749	163,529	143,778	170,89
A/C payable	61,818	67,136	70,350	73,995	77,75
Short term debt	4,796	30,253	14,429	32,581	6,20
Other current liabilities	24,148	20,760	24,142	24,188	26,08
Current liabilities	90,763	118,150	108,921	130,764	110,03
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	548,643	540,371	569,684	576,089	587,25
Net working capital	(38,715) 422,573	(42,865)	(47,281) 430,112	(48,516) 442,523	(51,63
nvested capital  Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is be	,	420,767	430,112	442,523	452,36
<u> </u>	oning trouted do doze				
Per share (THB)					
Book value per share	27.44	27.69	28.04	28.46	28.9
Tangible book value per share	27.44	27.69	28.04	28.46	28.9
Financial strength	25.7	02.4	010	02.2	
Net debt/equity (%)	25.7	23.4	24.9	26.8	27
Net debt/total assets (%)	13.6	12.7	13.0	14.0	14
Current ratio (x) CF interest cover (x)	1.0 0.0	0.6 2.7	0.8 8.8	0.7 5.2	0 6
/aluation	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Recurring P/E (x) *	40.1	36.2	29.9	25.5	22
Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *	48.1	43.4	35.9	30.6	27
Reported P/E (x)	41.2	36.7	29.9	25.5	22
Dividend yield (%)	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.7	3
Price/book (x)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1
Price/tangible book (x)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1
EV/EBITDA (x) **	11.4	11.2	11.1	10.5	9
EV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.2	11
EV/invested capital (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0

Sources: CP Axtra; FSSIA estimates

# **CP Axtra PCL (CPAXT TB)**



# Exhibit 17: FSSIA ESG score implication

59.46 /100

Rating	Score	Implication
****	>79-100	Leading its industry peers in managing the most significant ESG risks which not only better cost efficiency but also lead to higher profitability.
****	>59-79	A mixed track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to industry peers.
***	>39-59	Relevant ESG materiality matrix has been constructively addressed, well-managed and incorporated into day-to-day operations, in which targets and achievements are evaluated annually.
**	>19-39	Relevant ESG materiality matrix has been identified with key management in charge for progress to be followed up on and to provide intensive disclosure. Most targets are conventional and achievable.
*	1-19	The company has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), established sustainability management guidelines and fully complies with regulations or ESG suggested guidance from related organizations such as the SET and SEC.

Sources: FSSIA estimates

## Exhibit 18: ESG – peer comparison

	FSSIA		Domestic ratings					Global ratings						Bloomberg		
	ESG score	DJSI	SET THSI	THSI	CG score	AGM level	Thai CAC	Morningstar ESG risk	ESG Book	MSCI	Moody's	Refinitiv	S&P Global	ESG score	Disclosure score	
SET100	69.20	5.34	4.40	4.40	4.76	4.65	3.84	Medium	51.76	BBB	20.87	58.72	63.91	3.72	28.17	
Coverage	67.12	5.11	4.15	4.17	4.83	4.71	3.53	Medium	52.04	BB	16.97	56.85	62.09	3.40	31.94	
BJC	71.33	Υ	Υ	Υ	4.00	4.00		Medium	55.09	Α		65.19	89.00	2.16		
COM7	61.78		Υ	Y	5.00	5.00	Certified	Low	47.75			52.68	21.00	4.40	43.59	
CPALL	78.53	Υ	Υ	Υ	5.00	5.00	Certified	Medium	47.38	Α	34.00	59.95	82.00	3.74		
CPAXT	59.46				5.00	5.00	Certified	Low	52.81			74.64	63.00	3.80		
CRC	64.49		Y	Υ	5.00	5.00	Certified	Medium		BBB		60.98	73.00	2.90	47.27	

Sources: <u>SETTRADE.com</u>; FSSIA's compilation

# Exhibit 19: ESG score by Bloomberg

FY ending Dec 31	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
ESG financial materiality scores - ESG score	_	_	_	_	_	_	3.80	_
BESG environmental pillar score	<u> </u>	_	_	_	_	_	3.80	_
BESG social pillar score	_	_	_	_	_	_	3.77	_
BESG governance pillar score	_	_	_	_	_	_	3.84	_
ESG disclosure score	33.03	42.58	50.91	61.55	61.98	62.50	62.50	_
Environmental disclosure score	7.64	17.85	32.89	45.12	48.51	48.51	48.51	_
Social disclosure score	7.68	28.66	29.84	43.29	41.17	42.74	42.74	_
Governance disclosure score	83.59	81.10	89.86	96.12	96.12	96.12	96.12	_
Environmental								
Emissions reduction initiatives	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate change policy	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Climate change opportunities discussed	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Risks of climate change discussed	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
GHG scope 1	_	_	_	50	43	50	66	147
GHG scope 2 location-based	_	_	_	209	220	184	186	571
GHG Scope 3	_	_	_	_	5	58	59	136
Carbon per unit of production	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Biodiversity policy	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Energy efficiency policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total energy consumption	_	329	347	730	390	395	419	442
Renewable energy use	_	0	0	0	3	18	36	40
Electricity used	_	_	_	360	377	367	371	390
Fuel used - natural gas	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 20: ESG score by Bloomberg (cont.)

FY ending Dec 31	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Fuel used - crude oil/diesel	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Waste reduction policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous waste	_	_	_	_	0	0	0	0
Total waste	40	52	61	62	91	62	68	85
Waste recycled	33	37	43	42	70	40	39	59
Waste sent to landfills	7	15	18	20	21	21	26	23
Environmental supply chain management	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water consumption	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	994
Social								
Human rights policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Policy against child labor	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quality assurance and recall policy	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Consumer data protection policy	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Equal opportunity policy	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gender pay gap breakout	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pct women in workforce	_	55	55	55	55	55	55	52
Pct disabled in workforce	_	_	_	_	_	0	0	0
Business ethics policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-bribery ethics policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health and safety policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lost time incident rate - employees	_	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Total recordable incident rate - employees	_	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Training policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fair remuneration policy	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Number of employees – CSR	_	13,365	13,786	14,560	15,212	16,108	16,920	23,280
Employee turnover pct	_	36	39	35	31	17	16	42
Total hours spent by firm - employee training	_	_	_	130,626	162,366	231,049	249,570	778,018
Social supply chain management	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Governance								
Board size	18	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
No. of independent directors (ID)	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
No. of women on board	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
No. of non-executive directors on board	10	7	7	7	7	13	13	13
Company conducts board evaluations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of board meetings for the year	4	4	5	7	6	9	13	7
Board meeting attendance pct	83	95	92	94	96	99	98	99
Board duration (years)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Director share ownership guidelines	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age of the youngest director	48	51	52	53	54	53	54	_
Age of the oldest director	79	80	81	82	83	78	79	_
No. of executives / company managers	12	12	13	11	11	6	6	7
No. of female executives	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	1
Executive share ownership guidelines	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Size of audit committee	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3
No. of ID on audit committee	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3
Audit committee meetings	5	5	5	5	5	8	11	8
Audit meeting attendance %	96	_	92	96	100	100	100	100
Size of compensation committee	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
No. of ID on compensation committee	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
No. of compensation committee meetings	1	3	2	2	4	2	3	2
Compensation meeting attendance %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Size of nomination committee	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
No. of nomination committee meetings	ა 1	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b> 2	<b>3</b> 2	<b>3</b> 4	<b>3</b> 2	<b>3</b>	2
_	100	100	100	100		100		
Nomination meeting attendance %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sustainability governance								

 $Sources: Bloomberg; \ FSSIA's \ compilation$ 

# **Disclaimer for ESG scoring**

ESG score	Methodology				Rating					
The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) By S&P Global	process based on	the companies' &P Global Corpo	Total Sustainability orate Sustainability	Assessment (CSA).	Be a member and invited to the annual S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) for DJSI. Companies with an S&P Global ESG Score of less than 45% of the S&P Global ESG Score of the highest scoring company are disqualified. The constituents of the DJSI indices are selected from the Eligible Universe.					
Sustainability Investment List (THSI) by The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET)	THSI quantifies res managing business Candidates must p 1) no irregular trad float of >150 share up capital. Some k 70%; 2) independe wrongdoing related	s with transpare pass the preemp ing of the board cholders, and co ey disqualifying ent directors and d to CG, social 8	ncy in Governance tive criteria, with tw members and exe mbined holding mu criteria include: 1) free float violation a environmental im	e, updated annually.  yo crucial conditions: cutives; and 2) free list be >15% of paid- CG score of below ; 3) executives'	To be eligible for <b>THSI</b> inclusion, verified data must be scored at a minimum of 50% for each indicator, unless the company is a part of DJSI during the assessment year. The scoring will be fairly weighted against the nature of the relevant industry and materiality.  SETTHSI Index is extended from the THSI companies whose 1) market capitalization > 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.					
CG Score by Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD)	An indicator of CG annually by the Th Thailand (SET). Th an evaluation of op	ai IOD, with sup ne results are fro	port from the Stock		Scores are rated in six categories: 5 for Excellent (90-100), 4 for Very Good (80-89), 3 for Good (70-79), 2 for Fair (60-69), 1 for Pass (60-69), and not rated for scores below 50. Weightings include: 1) the rights; 2) and equitable treatment of shareholders (weight 25% combined); 3) the role of stakeholders (25%); 4) disclosure & transparency (15%); and 5) board responsibilities (35%).					
AGM level By Thai Investors Association (TIA) with support from the SEC	out of five the CG of criteria cover AGM date (45%), and af circulation of sufficient exercised. The second	rporated into bus ifficiently disclost components to be procedures befiter the meeting to information for void discusses 1) the popenness for Q&	siness operations a led. All form import be evaluated annua ore the meeting (4 (10%). (The first ass ting; and 2) facilitating lease of attending mee A. The third involves to	and information is ant elements of two ally. The assessment 5%), at the meeting esses 1) advance y how voting rights can be stings; 2) transparency the meeting minutes that	е					
Thai CAC By Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)	The core elements establishment of ke policies. The Certifi (Companies deciding Declaration of Intent to Certification, including managers and employ communication of poli	ey controls, and fication is good for to become a CAC to kick off an 18-may risk assessment, yees, establishmer	the monitoring and or three years. certified member stan onth deadline to submin in place of policy and of whistleblowing ch	d developing of  t by submitting a  it the CAC Checklist for  control, training of	The document will be reviewed by a committee of nine professionals. A passed Checklist will move for granting certification by the CAC Council approvals whose members are twelve highly respected individuals in professionalism and ethical achievements.					
Morningstar Sustainalytics	risk is unmanaged. regulatory filings, new	ssment of how m . Sources to be reverse and other media	nuch of a company viewed include corpora , NGO reports/website	's exposure to ESG ate publications and es, multi-sector	A company's ESG risk rating score is the sum of unmanaged risk. The more risk is unmanaged, the higher ESG risk is scored.					
	information, company feedback, ESG controversies, issuer feedback on draft ESG reports, and quality & peer reviews.				<b>NEGL</b> 0-10	<b>Low</b> 10-20	Medium 20-30	<b>High</b> 30-40	Severe 40+	
ESG Book		erform over the I ancial materiality e risk-adjusted p tures with highe	ong term. The met including informat performance. Mater r materiality and re	hodology considers ion that significantly riality is applied by	The total ESG score is calculated as a weighted sum of the features scores using materiality-based weights. The score is scaled between 0 and 100 with higher scores indicating better performance.					
MSCI	MSCI ESG ratings	aim to measure	a company's man	agement of financially eir exposure to ESG ris					nethodology to	
		71-10.000	rus according to th	ell exposure to Loo II.	sks and now wen	they manage	tilose risks relati	ve to peers.		
		43-8.570	Leader:	leading its industry in managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities						
	<b>A</b> 5.7	14-7.142								
	BBB 4.2	A 286-5 713 Average: a mixed or unexc		a mixed or unexceptional industry peers	nal track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to					
	<b>BB</b> 2.8	357-4.285		industry peers						
	<b>B</b> 1.4	129-2.856	Laggard	lagging its industry has	nd on its high over	ire and failure to	manage significa-	t ESC rioko		
	<b>CCC</b> 0.0	000-1.428	Laggard:	lagging its industry base	u on its nign exposi	ne and railure to	manage significan	LEGG HSKS		
Moody's ESG solutions	believes that a con	npany integratin	g ESG factors into	ke into account ESG o its business model and edium to long term.						
Refinitiv ESG rating	based on publicly a	available and au	ditable data. The s	company's relative ES core ranges from 0 to 0 to 25 = poor; >25 to 50	100 on relative E	SG performan	ice and insufficie	nt degree of t		
S&P Global				uring a company's perfication. The score ran			of ESG risks, op	portunities, ar	impacts	
Bloomberg	ESG Score  Bloomberg score evaluating the company's aggregated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance. The score is based on Bloomberg's view of ESG financial materiality. The score is a weighted generalized mean (power mean) of Pillar Scores, where the weights are determined by the pillar priority ranking. Values range from 0 to 10; 10 is the best.									
						iority ranking.	Values range from	om 0 to 10; 10	) is the best.	

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

#### **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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Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
CP Axtra	CPAXT TB	THB 30.00	BUY	The key downside risks to our DCF-based TP include: 1) lower-than-expected SSSG; 2) a lower-than-expected GPM improvement; and 3) operational losses from its overseas business.
CP All	CPALL TB	THB 53.50	BUY	The key downside risks to our DCF-derived TP include 1) lower-than-expected SSSG, 2) lower-than-expected gross margin, and 3) higher-than-expected SG&A to sales ratio.
Com7	COM7 TB	THB 22.30	BUY	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) lower consumption and domestic purchasing power, 2) store cannibalization, and 3) product shortages.
Central Retail Corp	CRC TB	THB 34.75	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based TP include 1) a decline in domestic purchasing power, 2) lower-than-expected tourist arrivals, 3) an absence of the government's stimulus, and 4) a slower-than-expected economic recovery in Vietnam.
Index Living Mall	ILM TB	THB 21.60	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based TP include 1) a lower-than-expected SSSG; 2) a lower-than-expected GPM; and 3) a higher-than-expected SG&A.
Home Product Center	HMPRO TB	THB 10.90	BUY	Key downside risks to our DCF-based TP include: 1) lower-than-expected SSSG; 2) slower-than-expected recovery in domestic consumption and tourist arrivals, and 3) operating losses from overseas units.
Siam Global House	GLOBAL TB	THB 16.40	BUY	Key downside risks to our DCF-based TP are 1) lower farm income, 2) a delay in government disbursement, 3) decreased private brand exposure and its lower gross margin, 4) higher-than-expected expenses, and 5) a larger-than-expected impact of the El Nino.
Dohome PCL	DOHOME TB	THB 11.10	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based TP include 1) lower farm income, 2) a delay in government disbursement, 3) a decreased private brand exposure and its lower margins, 4) higher-than-expected expenses, and 5) a higher-than-expected impact of the El Nino.

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 14-Feb-2024 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.