Singapore Company Update

APAC Realty

Bloomberg: APAC SP | Reuters: APAC.SI

DBS Group Research . Equity

6 Jan 2025

$BUY \, \hbox{(Upgrade from HOLD)}$

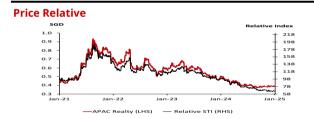
Last Traded Price (3 Jan 2025): SGD0.390 (STI: 3,801.83) Price Target 12-mth: SGD0.50 (28% upside) (Prev SGD0.48)

Analysts

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What's New

- Potential to double earnings over FY24-26F as Singapore property market transaction volumes rebound
- One of the leaders within the new sale and private resale segment, marketing a strong pipeline of projects for 2025
- Valuations attractive at <11x P/E (-0.5SD) with dividend yields close to c.8%-11%
- Upgrade to BUY with higher TP of SGD0.50



Forecasts and Valuation	1			<u>.</u>
FY Dec (SGDmn)	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Revenue	557	540	573	678
EBITDA	20.3	19.0	23.4	31.3
Pre-tax Profit	13.6	12.3	16.6	24.5
Net Profit	11.8	9.56	13.3	19.6
Net Pft (Pre Ex.)	11.8	9.56	13.3	19.6
Net Pft Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(55.7)	(18.8)	39.0	47.7
EPS (S cts)	3.32	2.66	3.66	5.31
EPS Pre Ex. (S cts)	3.32	2.66	3.66	5.31
EPS Gth Pre Ex (%)	(56)	(20)	37	45
Diluted EPS (S cts)	3.32	2.66	3.66	5.31
Net DPS (S cts)	2.50	2.13	2.93	4.25
BV Per Share (S cts)	44.6	44.6	45.5	46.5
PE (X)	11.8	14.7	10.7	7.3
PE Pre Ex. (X)	11.8	14.7	10.7	7.3
P/Cash Flow (X)	8.0	24.3	7.7	5.3
EV/EBITDA (X)	6.8	7.5	5.8	4.0
Net Div Yield (%)	6.4	5.5	7.5	10.9
P/Book Value (X)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
ROAE (%)	7.4	6.0	8.2	11.6
Earnings Rev (%):		(38)	(28)	_
Consensus EPS (S cts):		2.4	3.7	4.1
Other Broker Recs:		B: 2	S: 0	H: 1

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS, Bloomberg

All guns blazing

Investment Thesis:

Leading real estate agency with one of the largest brand footprints in Asia. APAC Realty is one of the leading players in the real estate brokerage industry, with a presence in 17 Asia Pacific countries. Through its ERA franchise network, the group has one of the largest brand footprints in Asia. The franchise model also provides APAC with the ability to build its regional presence and network in a capital-efficient manner.

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

Strong pipeline of new launches in 2025, with sales expected to normalise to historical levels. We anticipate a rebound in overall volumes in 2025, driven by new sales returning to c.8,000-8,500 units annually. This is supported by stable property prices, with fluctuations expected in the range of +1% to +2%. The rebound will be largely driven by i) homeowners, upgraders, and permanent residents purchasing homes for own-stay; ii) a wider array of projects with strong attributes; and iii) lower mortgage rates, which boost affordability.

Rebounding earnings momentum. We project transaction volumes of 8,000-8,500 for 2025-2026, with private resale remaining stable at 13,500-14,000 units. Sell-through rates could average 30%-50% during launch weekends, supporting a gradual turnaround in profitability for the agency, potentially rebounding from a low in FY24.

Upgrade to BUY with higher TP of SGD0.50 (vs. SGD0.48 previously). We raise our multiple to 13x P/E (in line with four-year historical average) on rolled-forward FY25F earnings, with upside if the group captures higher-than-expected market share in upcoming launches.

Key Risks

An economic slowdown and higher-than-expected interest rates could translate to slower-than-projected sales performance.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (mn shrs)	359
Mkt. Cap (SGDmn/USDmn)	140 / 102
Major Shareholders (%)	
Morgan Stanley	64.1
Chua Khee Hak	8.4
Free Float (%)	27.6
3m Avg. Daily Val (USDmn)	0.03
GIC Industry: Real Estate / Real Estate Management &	
Development	





WHAT'S NEW

APAC stands out as a value buy among property agencies

APAC Realty to benefit from improving sales momentum.

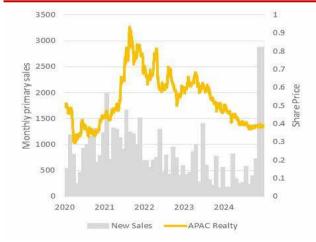
Over the course of 2024, we maintained a largely neutral stance on property agencies, primarily due to the lacklustre volumes of new launch transactions, which typically yield the highest margins. However, an uptick in demand materialised in Nov 24, capping off an incredible end to the year. More than 2,000 units were sold across six new launches over two weekends, with APAC securing 28% of the market share in the sales.

Furthermore, with lower mortgage rates and a larger potential launch pipeline of 13,000 units across various projects islandwide, we anticipate stronger sales momentum in 2025.

Rebound in profitability to boost share price. Looking ahead, the normalisation of market volumes in 2025, particularly in the primary sales segment, bodes well for APAC Realty. The property agency's net profit after tax is projected to rebound strongly from FY25F.

Historically, APAC Realty's share price has responded positively to an uptick in (i) overall private property market transactions and (ii) primary sales, although the latter tends to be more volatile and dependent on launch timelines and take-up rates.

APAC Realty's share price responded well to new launches



Source: Refinitiv, DBS

Company Background

APAC Realty Limited (APAC) is one of the leading players in the real estate brokerage industry in Asia. APAC Realty operates three main business segments – real estate brokerage services; franchise agreements; and training, valuation, and other ancillary services.

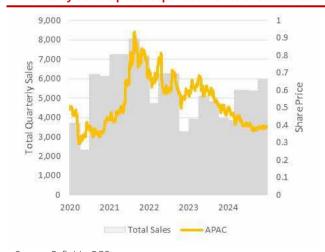
Net profit could potentially double over FY24-26F

EPS turnaround from FY25 onwards (Scts)



Source of all data: Company, DBS

APAC Realty's share price responded well to overall sales



Source: Refinitiv, DBS



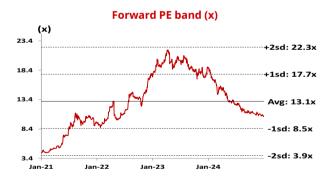


Interim Income Statement (SGDmn)

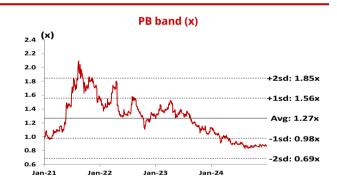
FY Dec	1H2023	2H2023	1H2024	% chg y/y	% chg h/h
Revenue	260	298	265	2.1	(10.9)
Cost of Goods Sold	(233)	(269)	(241)	3.3	(10.6)
Gross Profit	27	28	24	(8.0)	(13.9)
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(20)	(20)	(19)	(5.3)	(4.8)
Operating Profit	7	9	6	(15.8)	(34.1)
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	-	-
Associates & JV Inc	0	0	0	-	-
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(1)	(1)	(1)	4.6	10.0
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	-	-
Pre-tax Profit	6	8	5	(17.8)	(37.5)
Tax	(2)	(1)	(1)	(25.3)	(21.9)
Minority Interest	1	1	0	(41.8)	(24.5)
Net Profit	5	7	4	(18.7)	(39.9)
Net profit bef Except.	5	7	4	(18.7)	(39.9)
EBITDA	9	12	8	(12.5)	(33.4)
Margins (%)					
Gross Margins	10.2	9.5	9.2		
Opg Profit Margins	2.7	3.0	2.2		
Net Profit Margins	1.9	2.3	1.5		

Source of all data: Company, DBS

Historical PE and PB band



Source: Bloomberg, DBS estimates



Source: Bloomberg, DBS estimates





Income Statement (SGDmn)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Revenue	705	557	540	573	678
Cost of Goods Sold	(632)	(502)	(486)	(513)	(607)
Gross Profit	73.4	55.0	53.9	60.0	71.4
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(39.6)	(39.3)	(39.5)	(41.3)	(44.8)
Operating Profit	33.7	15.7	14.4	18.7	26.7
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(1.0)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	32.9	13.6	12.3	16.6	24.5
Tax	(6.4)	(3.0)	(2.7)	(3.3)	(4.9)
Minority Interest	0.12	1.17	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preference Dividend	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	26.6	11.8	9.56	13.3	19.6
Net Profit before Except.	26.6	11.8	9.56	13.3	19.6
EBITDA	38.8	20.3	19.0	23.4	31.3
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(4.7)	(21.0)	(3.1)	6.2	18.2
EBITDA Gth (%)	(19.4)	(47.6)	(6.4)	22.8	33.9
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(22.9)	(53.5)	(8.3)	30.2	42.3
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	(25.0)	(55.7)	(18.8)	39.0	47.7
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	10.4	9.9	10.0	10.5	10.5
Opg Profit Margin (%)	4.8	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.9
Net Profit Margin (%)	3.8	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.9
ROAE (%)	16.5	7.4	6.0	8.2	11.6
ROA (%)	6.9	3.2	2.7	3.6	5.1
ROCE (%)	12.0	4.6	3.6	5.3	8.1
Div Payout Ratio (%)	83.6	75.4	80.0	80.0	80.0
Net Interest Cover (x)	34.4	7.4	6.8	8.8	12.5

Source: Company, DBS





Interim	Income	Statement ((SGDmn)	١
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FY Dec	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023	2H2023	1H2024
Devenue	242	262	200	200	265
Revenue	343	362	260	298	265
Cost of Goods Sold	(307)	(324)	(233)	(269)	(241)
Gross Profit	35.3	38.0	26.6	28.4	24.5
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(15.0)	(24.6)	(19.7)	(19.6)	(18.7)
Operating Profit	20.3	13.5	6.89	8.80	5.80
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV Inc	0.26	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(0.4)	(0.6)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.0)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	20.2	12.7	5.86	7.71	4.82
Tax	(3.7)	(2.8)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.1)
Minority Interest	0.14	0.0	0.66	0.51	0.39
Net Profit	16.7	9.87	5.01	6.77	4.07
Net profit bef Except.	16.7	9.87	5.01	6.77	4.07
EBITDA	23.0	15.8	9.25	12.2	8.10
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(10.2)	5.8	(28.4)	14.6	(10.9)
EBITDA Gth (%)	(7.9)	(31.5)	(41.3)	31.5	(33.4)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(10.7)	(33.7)	(48.8)	27.8	(34.1)
Net Profit Gth (%)	(9.0)	(40.9)	(49.3)	35.3	(39.9)
Margins	, ,	, ,	, ,		, ,
Gross Margins (%)	10.3	10.5	10.2	9.5	9.2
Opg Profit Margins (%)	5.9	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.2
Net Profit Margins (%)	4.9	2.7	1.9	2.3	1.5

Balance Sheet (SGDmn)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net Fixed Assets	73.9	72.5	69.9	67.3	64.8
Invts in Associates & IVs	2.18	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other LT Assets	105	112	111	110	109
Cash	49.3	44.1	41.2	50.3	63.4
ST Invtestment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inventory Debtors	151	99.5	121	129	152
Net Intangibles Assets	104	99.3 111	110	109	108
Other Current Assets	7.36	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
Total Assets					
Total Assets	388	342	358	371	404
ST Debt	45.9	3.09	3.09	3.09	3.09
Creditor	156	116	130	138	163
Other Current Liab	21.5	18.8	18.1	18.8	20.4
LT Debt	0.0	40.1	40.1	40.1	40.1
Other LT Liabilities	4.71	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28
Shareholder's Equity	160	158	160	165	172
Minority Interests	0.16	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22
Total Cap. & Liab.	388	342	358	371	404
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(19.0)	(21.6)	(13.2)	(13.6)	(16.7)
Net Cash/(Debt)	3.36	0.83	(2.1)	7.11	20.2
Debtors Turn (avg days)	70.4	82.0	74.6	79.6	75.7
Creditors Turn (avg days)	88.4	99.9	93.6	96.3	91.2
Inventory Turn (avg days)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asset Turnover (x)	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8
Current Ratio (x)	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Quick Ratio (x)	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	0.0	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%)	5.0	(3.1)	2.3	2.3	2.3

Source: Company, DBS



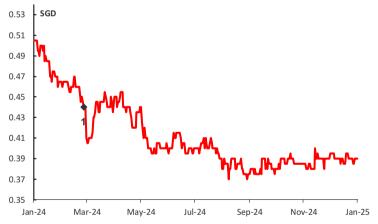


Cash Flow Statement (SGDmn)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
5 T 5 C	22.0	10.6	10.0	46.6	2.1.5
Pre-Tax Profit	32.9	13.6	12.3	16.6	24.5
Dep. & Amort.	4.92	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65
Tax Paid	(7.5)	(6.8)	(3.4)	(2.7)	(3.3)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(1.1)	3.63	(7.8)	(0.2)	1.53
Other Operating CF	6.25	2.28	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Operating CF	35.4	17.3	5.76	18.4	27.4
Capital Exp.(net)	(2.3)	1.35	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)
Other Invts.(net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	(6.7)	(4.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Div from Assoc & JV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing CF	0.54	(2.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Investing CF	(8.5)	(5.5)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)
Div Paid	(26.6)	(13.7)	(7.7)	(10.6)	(15.7)
Chg in Gross Debt	(4.6)	(3.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Issues	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.40	2.40
Other Financing CF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Financing CF	(31.3)	(17.0)	(7.7)	(8.2)	(13.3)
Currency Adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chg in Cash	(4.4)	(5.2)	(2.9)	9.17	13.1
Opg CFPS (S cts)	10.3	3.85	3.76	5.11	7.00
Free CFPS (S cts)	9.31	5.25	1.33	4.79	7.14

Source: Company, DBS

Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



Note: Share price and Target price are adjusted for corporate actions.

Source: DBS

Analysts: Tabitha FOO

Derek TAN

S.No.	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	01 Mar 24	0.44	0.48	HOLD



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STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

Completed Date: 6 Jan 2025 17:15:05 (SGT) Dissemination Date: 6 Jan 2025 17:24:03 (SGT)

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