

TASECO AIR SERVICE JSC (AST) - UPDATE

Market Price	Target Price	Dividend Yield	Rating	Sector
VND47,900	VND85,700	0.00%	Add	CONSUMER SERVICES
11 November 2022	F	all an all an all an		

Positive **Outlook – Short term:** Outlook - Long term: Positive Valuation: Positive

Consensus*: Add:5 Hold:1 Reduce:0 Target price / Consensus: 23.7%

Key changes in the report

- Raise FY22F EPS by 4.7%
- Reduce FY23-24F EPS by 3.2%-2.7%

Price performance



Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Key statistics

52w high (VND)	68,000
52w low (VND)	46,500
3m Avg daily value (VNDmn)	1,498
Market cap (VND bn)	2,250
Free float (%)	11
TTM P/E (x)	N/a
Current P/B (x)	5.61

Ownership

Thang Long Air Services	51.0%
PENM IV Germany GmbH & Co.KG	17.6%
Stic Pan-Asia 4th Industry Growth Private Equity Fund	10.0%
Others	21.4%
Source: VNDIRECT RE	SEARCH

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Further strengthen in 4Q22F

- In 3Q22, AST posted VND13bn in NP vs. VND40bn net loss in 3Q21. 9M22 NP turned positive to VND5bn, fulfilling 18.3% of our FY22F forecast.
- We expect AST's net profit to increase to VND30bn in FY22F from the net loss of VND118bn in FY21, and may grow 7.9 times to VND266bn in FY23F.
- Reiterate Add with DCF-based target price of VND85,700.

3Q22 results: earnings turned positive on brilliant domestic air traffic

3Q22 revenue hiked 96 times yoy, bringing 9M22 revenue to surge 207.1% yoy as (1) total pax through Vietnam airports hiked 73 times yoy in which domestic pax throughput hiked 87 times yoy while international pax hiked 35 times yoy, and (2) total stores increased 9.3% yoy from 108 stores to 118 stores. 3Q22 gross margin has returned to the pre-pandemic level of 53.1%, bringing 3Q22 gross profit to increase to VND98bn (vs. VND3bn gross loss in 3Q21). However, 3Q22 selling expenses surged 172.0% yoy mainly due to increasing labor cost and renting cost for the business recovery. As a result, 3Q22 NP reached VND13bn (vs. VND40bn net loss in 3Q21). In 9M22, AST recorded VND5bn in NP (vs. VND102bn net loss in 9M21), in-line and fulfilling 18.3% of our FY22F forecast.

Gathering strength from 4Q22

With strong financial health, AST will raise total number of retail stores to 120 in FY22F from 108 in FY21. Combined with the untied international travel as most countries have removed restrictions for tourists, we expect AST's 4Q22F NP to follow the recovery momentum and may reach VND25bn, bringing AST's 2022F NP to turn positive (VND30bn) in FY22F. In the coming years, we expect AST's number of stores to increase at 5.3% CAGR in FY22-25F. With the strong recovery of Vietnam total pax in medium-term, we expect AST to strongly benefit from this with the same store sales to increase at a CAGR of 45.1% in FY22-25F. Thereby, we expect AST's retail revenue to increase at 50.1% CAGR in FY22-25F. As a result, AST's NP may surge 7.9 times yoy to VND266bn in FY23F when int'l air traffic recovers strongly, then grow at 5.8% CAGR in FY24-25F.

Reiterate ADD with a target price of VND85,700

We reiterate our Add rating on AST with unchanged DCF-based TP of VND85,700 on the mix of (1) we roll our DCF valuation to end-2022F, and (2) we revise up FY22F EPS by 4.7% but reduce FY23-24F EPS by 3.2%-2.7%. Rerating catalysts include (1) international air traffic recovers strongly, (2) new stores opening and same-store sales grows strongly. Upside risk includes expanding business into new airports. Downside risks include (1) risk of delisting if FY22F net profit continues to be negative, (2) uncertainties from China's zero-Covid policy, and (3) growing competition from the downtown duty-free retailing.

Financial summary (VND)	12-20A	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Net revenue (bn)	359	154	736	1,628
Revenue growth	(68.5%)	(57.1%)	377.8%	121.1%
Gross margin	41.7%	27.9%	45.8%	57.7%
EBITDA margin	(2.2%)	(62.9%)	10.4%	28.1%
Net profit (bn)	(49)	(118)	30	266
Net profit growth	(125.7%)	NA	NA	778.2%
Recurring profit growth				
Basic EPS	(1,089)	(2,623)	672	5,901
Adjusted EPS	(1,089)	(2,623)	672	5,901
BVPS	10,896	8,289	8,961	13,861
ROAE	(9.1%)	(27.3%)	7.8%	51.7%

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH



FURTHER STRENGTHEN IN 4Q22F

Reiterate ADD with a target price of VND85,700

We reiterate our Add rating on AST with unchanged DCF-based TP of VND85,700 on the mix of (1) we roll our DCF valuation to end-2022F, and (2) we revise up FY22F EPS by 4.7% but reduce FY23-24F EPS by 3.2%-2.7%. With potential upside of 78.9%, we believe the risk-reward is quite attractive to accumulate a good stock with great growth potential like AST, underpinned by:

- Owning the largest chain of airport retail stores in Vietnam with a total of 120 stores by end-2022F covering all of Vietnam key airports.
- Airport retail is also a business model with superb profitability thanks to its low price sensitivity in consumer behavior of tourists.
- Riding on Vietnam aviation recovery, especially the international air traffic when almost every country has removed entry requirements related to Covid-19 prevention. We expect AST's net profit to increase to VND30bn in FY22F from the net loss of VND118bn in FY21, and may grow 7.9 times to VND266bn in FY23F.
- AST may benefit from current strong US\$ environment with major revenue source coming from the international market which is anchored in US\$. The company also has no risk with US\$-based debt.

Potential re-rating catalysts:

- International air traffic recovers strongly.
- New stores opening and same-store sales grows strongly.

Upside risk:

• Expanding into new terminal airports including the Terminal 3 at Tan Son Nhat Int'l airport, the expansion of Terminal 2 at Noi Bai Int'l airport and the mega project Long Thanh Int'l airport.

Downside risks:

- AST has been put into the warning status since 2021 as the company recorded a loss in net profit for two consecutive years FY20-21. According to Ho Chi Minh stock exchange's rule, the stock would be removed to UPCOM in case it reported a loss in FY22F earnings. However, 9M22 net profit has turned positive (VND5bn) and 4Q22F results may following the recovery momentum, helping AST record positive net profit in FY22F, thereby maintaining its position on HSX.
- Uncertainties arising from China's zero-Covid policy may hinder international air traffic recovery.
- Growing competition from the downtown duty-free store. Lotte, a large player in duty free space, aims to open three downtown duty-free stores in Hanoi, Danang and HCMC. However, the company has postponed these expansions due to Covid-19. We believe Lotte might resume these stores in the next couple of years to ride on the recovery of overseas tourism.

Figure 1: AST's discounted cashflows (Unit: VNDbn)

	2022F	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2023F
EBIT	42	418	549	649	654	729	850	1,039	1,347	1,395
Less: taxes	0	56	110	130	131	146	170	208	270	280
EBIAT	42	362	439	519	523	583	679	831	1,077	1,116
Plus: Depreciation and amortization	34	39	44	50	56	63	70	79	88	98
Less: CAPEX	43	41	44	48	52	57	63	70	79	88
Less: Increase in net working capital	127	55	18	19	78	30	37	49	68	23
Unlevered free cash flow (FCFF)	-94	305	421	502	448	558	649	790	1,018	1,103
Present value of FCFF	-94	270	331	350	277	306	315	340	388	373
Culmulative present value of FCFF	2,856					-				
							So	urce: VND	IRECT RE	SEARCH

Figure 2: DCF model input

Figure	3:	DCF	valuation
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DCF key input	
Cost of equity	14.6%
Cost of debt	7.1%
Targeted D/(D+E)	20.0%
Effective tax rate	20.0%
WACC	12.8%
Long term growth	2.0%

Unit	VNDbn except for target price
Cumulative Present value of FCFF	2,856
Terminal value	10,410
Present value of terminal value	3,518
Enterprise value	6,375
Less: Market value of Debt	47.1
Less: Noncontrolling interest	2,614
Plus: Cash and Cash Equivalents	142
Implied equity value	3,855
Outstanding shares	45,000,000
Equity value per share	85,678
Rounded TP	85,700
	Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Figure 4: Peer comparison

25.1 NA NA	NA NA NA	-12.0 NA	FY21 2.2 0.8	FY22F NA NA	FY21 198.1	FY22F	FY21	FY22F
NA	NA	NA			198.1	NA	0.0	
NA	NA	NA			198.1	NA	0.0	
NA			0.8	ΝΔ			8.6	NA
	NA			11/7	NA	NA	-14.4	NA
		NA	7.3	NA	154.7	NA	-40.3	NA
NA	5.2	NA	NA	0.7	4.1	4.1	19.5	15.8
17.7	17.7	-13.8	1.3	1.3	NA	6.7	6.3	7.4
21.4	11.5		1.8	1.0	154.7	5.4	6.3	11.6
21.4	11.5		2.9	1.0	119.0	5.4	-4.1	11.6
NA	81.0	218.4	5.7	5.4	NA	46.7	-27.2	7.8
								NA 81.0 218.4 5.7 5.4 NA 46.7 -27.2 Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH, BLOOMBERG DATA AS AT 11/

3Q22 results: earnings turned positive on brilliant domestic air traffic

3Q22 results								vs FY22F	
overview	3Q22	3Q21	% yoy	% qoq	9M22	9M21	% yoy	forecast	Comments
Net revenue	185	17	967.6%	37.5%	387	126	207.1%	54.3%	3Q22 revenue hiked 96 times yoy, bringing 9M22 revenue to surge 207.1% yoy as: - Total pax through Vietnam airports hiked 73 times yoy in which domestic pax throughput hiked 87 times yoy while international pax hiked 35 times yoy. - Total stores increased 9.3% yoy from 108 stores to 118 stores as AST has acquired 51% of Ha Linh Services JSC from Jul- 2022, which is operating 6 stores in Noi Bai, Da Nang, Phu Quoc airports, besides AST also obtained 4 more other points of sale.
									3Q22 gross profit has turned positive thanks to higher revenue which offset fixed costs. 3Q22 gross profit increased 36.8% qoo
Gross profit	98	(3)	NA	36.8%	201	24	741.2%	67.3%	showing that AST business is on a strong recovery momentum.
Gross margin	53.1%	-19.2%	+72.3% pts	-0.3% pts	52.0%	19.0%	+33.0% pts		
Financial income	3	2	58.4%	42.4%	6	7	-15.2%	29.2%	
Financial expenses	1	1	-40.7%	-56.4%	3	2	9.4%	49.8%	
									3Q22 selling expenses surged 172.0% yoy mainly due to
Selling expenses	50	18	172.0%	73.0%	110	66	65.8%	58.0%	increasing labor cost and renting cost for the business recovery.
G&A expenses	33	16	109.1%	27.6%	83	58	41.9%	90.5%	
Gain/(loss) from									
joint ventures	1	(7)	NA	NA	(3)	(16)	NA		
Minority interest	3	(4)	NA	-2.6%	3	(8)	NA	47.7%	
Net profit	13	(40)	NA	-7.1%	5	(102)	NA	18 3%	In-line with our expectation.

Figure 5: 3Q22 results summary (Unit: in VNDbn, otherwise noted)

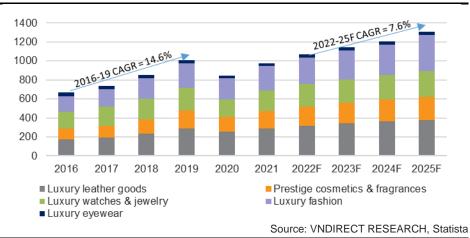
FY22-24F outlook: earnings growth come from the retail chain expansion and same store sale recovery

Keep expanding during difficult times

During difficult times, AST has taken the chance to expand its retail chain by:

- In Jul-2022, AST has acquired 51% of Ha Linh Services JSC from Jul-2022, which is operating 6 souvenir and F&B stores in Noi Bai, Da Nang, Phu Quoc airports.
- AST also obtained 4 more points of sale.

Figure 6: Vietnam's luxury goods market value in FY16-25F (Unit: US\$m)

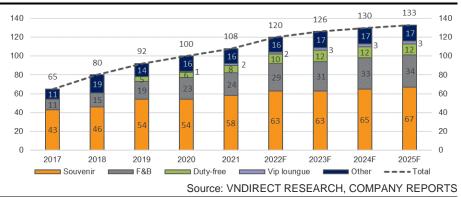


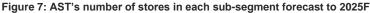
 By Sep-2022, AST has also officially opened 2 new duty-free stores at T2 terminal – Tan Son Nhat International Airport. This is the first appearance of AST's duty stores at TIA – Vietnam's busiest airport, bringing the total number of AST's duty-free stores from 8 to 10. Notably, duty free retailing is the most potential business of airport retail segment



in the coming years, in our view. According to Adroit Market Research, the global duty-free retailing market is expected to be worth US\$112.75bn by 2025F, implying a CAGR of 6.5% in FY22-25F. Increasing foreign tourism in Vietnam is the key aspect driving the growth of the duty-free retailing market. According to Statista, Vietnam's revenue of luxury goods in FY16-19 grew at a CAGR of 14.6% and may grow at a CAGR of 7.6% in FY22-25F from a high base in FY21. This is a strong support for the prospect of Vietnam duty free retailing in the coming years.

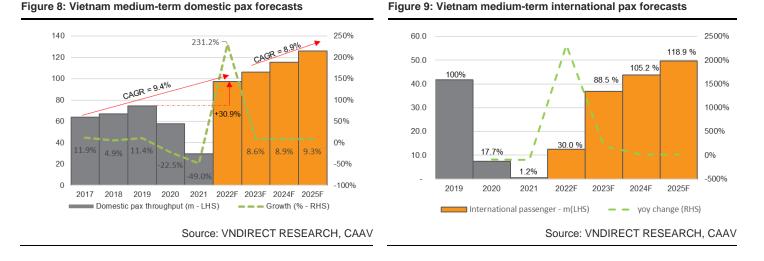
As a result, AST will raise total number of retail stores to 120 in FY22F from 108 in FY21. We expect AST's number of stores to increase at 5.3% CAGR in FY22-25F.





Same store sales to recover following the air traffic recovery

Most of countries have removed the restriction for tourists which will urge both outbound and inbound travel demand. Int'l pax throughput jumped 35 times yoy in 3Q22, recovering to 49.8% of pre-pandemic level. In base case scenario, we expect China will gradually relax the travel restriction since 2Q23F. Thus, the int'l inflow recovery rate might reach 84.0% in 2Q23F and 105.3% in 4Q23F to bring total int'l pax volume to grow 195% yoy in 2023F. Additionally, domestic pax throughput is forecasted to bounce 231% yoy in 2022 (+30.9% higher 2019 level) and grow stably at 8.9% CAGR over 2023-25F.



AST's same store sales growth has a high correlation with the growth of Vietnam total pax, especially international pax. With the strong recovery of Vietnam total pax in medium-term, we expect AST to strongly benefit from this with the same



store sales to increase 303.4% yoy in FY22F and increase at a CAGR of 45.1% in FY22-25F.

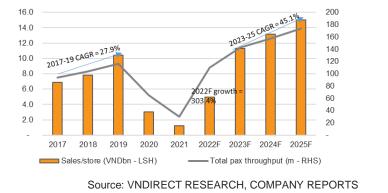


Figure 10: AST's same store sales growth has a high correlation with total pax growth



Figure 11: AST's retail revenue may increase 425.0% yoy in FY22F and increase at 50.1% CAGR in FY23-25F (Unit: VNDbn)

Combined with the persistent retail chain expansion during the hard time, we expect AST can capture the recovery of Vietnam aviation in the coming years. We expect AST's retail revenue to increase 425.0% yoy in FY22F and increase at 50.1% CAGR in FY23-25F.

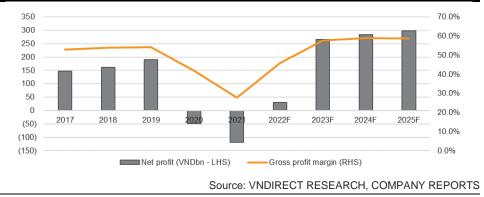


Figure 12: AST's gross profit margin and net profit forecast to FY25F

As a result, gross profit may recover and surpass pre-pandemic level in FY23F, bringing FY22F NP to turn positive (VND30bn) from net loss of VND118bn in 2021. AST's net profit may surge 7.9 times yoy to VND266bn in 2023F when international air traffic recovers strongly, and growth may slow down to 6.8% yoy in FY24F from the high base in FY23F.

FY22-24F earnings revision

We fine-tuned our FY22-24F forecasts for AST's business as following:

- We raise FY22F international pax by 2.8% to match the current recovery momentum. We lower FY23-24F international pax by 5.9%-4.8% as China's zero covid strategy would hinder the recovery momentum of international visitors from China, which accounted for 34.5% market share of Vietnam international pax in the pre-pandemic.
- We raise FY22-24F domestic pax by 27.2%-20.1% to reflect the spectacular recovery of domestic air traffic.
- We raise FY22-24F number of total stores by 5.3%-4.8% to reflect recent M&A and expansion plan of AST.



• We increase FY22F revenue by 3.2% and lower FY23-24F revenue by 4.3%-3.7% due to (1) increase in total number of stores, and (2) lower revenue per store on lower international pax expectation.

Based on the above adjustment, we raise FY22F EPS by 4.7% but reduce FY23-24F EPS by 3.2%-2.7%.

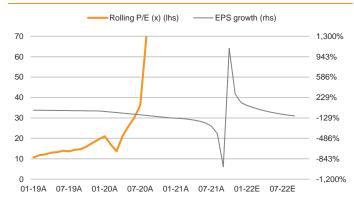
Figure 13: FY22-24F earnings revision

	FY21		FY22F			FY23F			FY24F			
		Old forecast	New forecast	Changes	Old forecast	New forecast	Changes	Old forecast	New forecast	Changes		
Total pax throughput (m)	30.0	89.0	110.1	23.7%	128.2	142.9	11.4%	139.9	157.1	12.3%		
- Int'l (m)	0.5	12.2	12.5	2.8%	39.2	36.9	-5.9%	43.8	41.7	-4.8%		
- Domestic (m)	29.5	76.9	97.6	27.0%	89.0	106.0	19.1%	96.1	115.4	20.1%		
Total stores	108	114	120	5.3%	120	126	5.0%	124	130	4.8%		
- Souvenir shops	58	58	63	8.6%	58	63	8.6%	60	65	8.3%		
- F&B	24	26	29	11.5%	28	31	10.7%	30	33	10.0%		
- Duty free shops	8	10	10	0.0%	12	12	0.0%	12	12	0.0%		
- Vip loungue	2	3	2	-33.3%	4	3	-25.0%	4	3	-25.0%		
- Others	16	17	16	-5.9%	18	17	-5.6%	18	17	-5.6%		
Revenue per store (VNDbn/store)	1.4	5.1	5.1	0.5%	13.4	12.3	-8.3%	15.4	14.3	-7.0%		
- Souvenir shops	0.4	3.1	3.0	-1.6%	10.2	9.6	-6.2%	11.4	10.8	-5.1%		
- F&B	1.6	6.1	6.7	9.4%	8.9	9.3	4.9%	9.9	10.5	6.4%		
- Duty free shops	6.8	11.1	10.3	-7.4%	36.5	31.5	-13.8%	45.0	39.5	-12.2%		
- Vip loungue	7.6	15.2	22.5	48.4%	23.4	24.8	6.1%	26.7	29.8	11.4%		
Net revenue (VNDbn)	154	714	736	3.2%	1,701	1,628	-4.3%	1,995	1,921	-3.7%		
- Souvenir shops	22	180	192	6.9%	591	602	1.9%	685	705	2.8%		
- F&B	37	158	193	22.0%	249	290	16.1%	296	346	17.0%		
- Duty free shops	54	111	103	-7.4%	438	377	-13.8%	540	475	-12.2%		
- Vip loungue	15	45	45	-1.0%	94	74	-20.4%	107	89	-16.4%		
- Others	25	219	203	-7.3%	329	285	-13.6%	367	306	-16.6%		
Gross profit (VNDbn)	43	299	337	12.9%	939	906	-3.6%	1,110	1,133	2.1%		
Gross profit margin	27.9%	41.9%	45.8%	+4.0% pts	55.2%	55.6%	+0.4% pts	55.6%	59.0%	+3.4% pts		
Selling expenses (VNDbn)	74	189	223	17.6%	375	388	3.6%	424	441	4.2%		
G&A expenses (VNDbn)	76	91	94	2.8%	201	193	-4.0%	234	226	-3.5%		
Financial income (VNDbn)	10	22	21	-0.2%	46	46	-0.4%	64	64	-0.4%		
Financial expenses (VNDbn)	3	5	5	1.1%	8	8	-1.8%	11	10	-2.9%		
Income from associates (VNDbn)	(22)	(1)	(0)	-70.1%	19	16	-14.1%	25	23	-5.6%		
Net profit (VNDbn)	(118)	29	30	4.7%	274	266	-3.2%	294	284	-3.3%		
EPS (VND)	(2,623)	642	672	4.7%	6,094	5,901	-3.2%	6,534	6,319	-2.7%		
						Source: V	NDIRECT	RESEARCH	H, COMPANY	REPORTS		

VNDIRECT

VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Valuation



Income statement

(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Net revenue	154	736	1,628
Cost of sales	(111)	(399)	(689)
Gen & admin expenses	(76)	(94)	(193)
Selling expenses	(74)	(223)	(388)
Operating profit	(107)	21	358
Operating EBITDA	(78)	55	397
Depreciation and amortisation	(29)	(34)	(39)
Operating EBIT	(107)	21	358
Interest income	10	21	46
Financial expense	(3)	(5)	(8)
Net other income	(6)	2	2
Income from associates & JVs	(22)	(0)	16
Pre-tax profit	(128)	39	415
Tax expense	(0)	0	(56)
Minority interest	10	(9)	(93)
Net profit	(118)	30	266
Adj. net profit to ordinary	(118)	30	266
Ordinary dividends	0	0	(45)
Retained earnings	(118)	30	221

Balance sheet

Balance sheet			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Cash and equivalents	9	142	314
Short term investments	149	179	409
Accounts receivables	84	27	60
Inventories	28	66	146
Other current assets	12	8	17
Total current assets	282	422	946
Fixed assets	117	125	127
Total investments	57	57	73
Other long-term assets	47	40	42
Total assets	503	644	1,188
Short-term debt	45	44	98
Accounts payable	22	36	79
Other current liabilities	20	110	244
Total current liabilities	87	190	421
Total long-term debt	3	3	3
Other liabilities	0	0	0
Share capital	450	450	450
Retained earnings reserve	(77)	(47)	174
Shareholders' equity	373	403	624
Minority interest	39	48	141
Total liabilities & equity	503	644	1,188



Cash flow statement

ouch now statement			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Pretax profit	(128)	39	415
Depreciation & amortisation	29	34	39
Tax paid	(0)	0	(56)
Other adjustments	46	(31)	(230)
Change in working capital	7	127	55
Cash flow from operations	(47)	170	223
Capex	(20)	(43)	(41)
Proceeds from assets sales	0	0	0
Others	22	0	(16)
Other non-current assets changes	10	7	(2)
Cash flow from investing activities	12	(35)	(59)
New share issuance	0	0	0
Shares buyback	0	0	0
Net borrowings	3	(1)	54
Other financing cash flow	0	0	0
Dividends paid	0	0	(45)
Cash flow from financing activities	3	(1)	9
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	40	9	142
Total cash generated	(32)	133	172
Cash and equivalents at the end of period	8	142	314

Key ratios

Rey Tallos			
	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Dupont			
Net profit margin	(76.6%)	4.1%	16.3%
Asset turnover	0.27	1.28	1.78
ROAA	(20.9%)	5.3%	29.0%
Avg assets/avg equity	1.31	1.48	1.78
ROAE	(27.3%)	7.8%	51.7%
Efficiency			
Days account receivable	53.7	5.4	5.4
Days inventory	92.8	60.4	77.4
Days creditor	73.7	32.7	41.8
Fixed asset turnover	1.27	6.08	12.88
ROIC	(25.6%)	6.1%	30.7%
Liquidity			
Current ratio	3.2	2.2	2.2
Quick ratio	2.9	1.9	1.9
Cash ratio	1.8	1.7	1.7
Cash cycle	72.9	33.2	41.0
Growth rate (yoy)			
Revenue growth	(57.1%)	377.8%	121.1%
Operating profit growth	63.9%		1,593.0%
Net profit growth	140.8%		778.2%
EPS growth	140.8%		778.2%

Source: VND RESEARCH



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RECOMMENDATION FRAMEWORK		
Stock Ratings	Definition:	
Add	The stock's total return is expected to reach 15% or higher over the next 12 months.	
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between negative 10% and positive 15% over the next 12 months.	
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below negative 10% over the next 12 months.	
The total expected return of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net dividend yields of the stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.		
Sector Ratings	Definition:	
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.	
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.	
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.	

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