



November, 2018

Century Synthetic Fiber JSC (HSX: STK)

Growth prospects for recycled yarn

Particulars (VND bn)	Q3-FY18	Q2-FY18	+/-qoq	Q3-FY17	+/-yoy
Net revenue	589	603	-2.3%	513	+14.7%
PAT	47	44	+5.6%	18	+162.7%
EBIT	72	64	+12.5%	25	+192.3%
EBIT margin	12.2%	10.6%	+160bps	4.8%	+740bps

Source: STK, Rong Viet Securities

Q3/2018 result: Increasing NPAT by improving gross margins and decreasing SG&A

Benefiting from the growth in the textile & garment industry, STK continued to positive business results in Q3 2018 with revenue of VND 589 bn (+14.7% YoY) and NPAT of VND 47 bn (+162.7% YoY). Improving gross margins, cutting SG&A are the factors contributing to the outstanding growth of NPAT. Specially, the gross margin increased 670 bps from 8.9% in Q3 2017 to 15.6% in Q3 2018. The selling price rose by 28%, higher than the increase of raw material price (price gap of 20%). The company has changed its product mix, moving to develop high quality products. Besides, SG&A expenses were VND 20 bn, down 6.5% YoY compared to the same period and SG&A expenses to revenue dropped 80bps, from 4.2% (Q3 2017) to 3.4% (Q3 2018).

Positive outlook for 2018

In Q4 2018, the downtrend of crude oil prices may reduce its gross margin. However, we still maintain a positive outlook due to the growth of demand for recycled yarn. This will be the time for fashion brands to prepare their purchases of raw materials for the spring-summer collection of 2019. As a result, the contribution of recycled yarn to revenue will continue to offset the decline of the selling price of its traditional products such as DTY and FDY yarn. The decline of its gross margin will not be too large. For 2018, we forecast revenue growth of 22% at VND 2,433 bn, NPAT is VND 163 bn (+65% YoY), corresponding to a forward EPS of VND 2,443 per share.

Valuation and recommendation

The positive impact of FTA free trade agreements such as CPTPP, EVFTA and the increasing of orders shifting from China to Vietnam will be a prerequisite for the increasing demand of raw materials. On the domestic side, STK is aiming to upgrade the quality of its existing products, producing lower spinning with higher fineness to increase its production efficiency. In addition, the increase in the proportion of recycled yarn to revenue can meet the demand for sustainable development from high fashion brand names. In turn this will be a springboard for the company in order to increase its competitiveness and improve its profitability.

We combine two valuation methods, FCF and P/E to evaluate STK's fair value. The conclusion is that the stock is worth **VND 24,300 per share**. We anticipate a cash dividend of VND 800 per share in the next 12 months, which results in a **30%** total return from the closing price on November 23rd, 2018. Therefore, we have a **BUY** on this stock.

BUY +30%

CMP (VND)	19,300
Target price (VND)	24,300

Cash dividend (VND)* 800

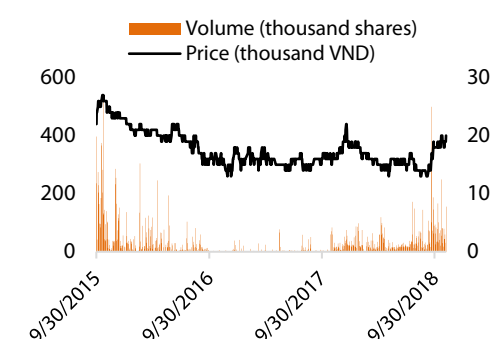
* Expected in the next 12 months

Stock info

Sector	Textile
Market Cap (VND billion)	1,157
Current Shares O/S	59,94
Avg. Daily Volume (in 20 sessions)	72,585
Free float (%)	37.6
52 weeks High	22,350
52 weeks Low	13,150
Beta	0.60

	FY2017	Current
EPS	1,662.0	2,734.0
EPS growth (%)	248.6	64.5
Adjusted EPS	1,662.0	2,734.0
P/E	11.1	7.2
P/B	1.4	1.5
EV/EBITDA	6.6	5.2
Cash dividend	800	800
ROE (%)	13.5	17.5

Price performance



Major Shareholders (%)

Huong Viet Investment Consultant	20.2
Dang Trieu Hoa	13.9
Foreign ownership room (%)	40.8

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Exhibit 1: Q3 2018 results

Particulars (VND bn)	Q3-FY18	Q2-FY18	+/- (QoQ)	Q3-FY17	+/- (YoY)	3Q-FY18	+/- (YoY)
Net revenue	589	603	-2.3%	513	14.7%	1,781	24.4%
Gross profit	92	85	7.5%	46	99.7%	254	70.4%
SG&A	20	22	-7.4%	21	-6.5%	65	8.0%
Operating income	72	64	12.5%	25	192.3%	190	104.4%
EBITDA	107	100	7.2%	61	74.6%	298	48.8%
EBIT	72	64	12.5%	25	192.3%	190	112.1%
Financial expenses	26	15	66.7%	9	186.5%	51	112.2%
- Interest Expenses	7	7	7.7%	8	-3.8%	20	-2.0%
Dep. and amortization	36	36	0.0%	37	-3.7%	108	-2.4%
Non-recurring items (*)							
Extraordinary items (*)							
PBT	51	51	0.7%	18	188.7%	148	96.1%
PAT	47	44	5.6%	18	162.7%	131	104.8%
(*) Adjusted PAT	47	44	5.6%	18	162.7%	131	

Source: STK, Rong Viet Securities

Exhibit 2: Q3 2018 performance analysis

Particulars	Q3-FY18	Q2-FY18	+/- (QoQ)	Q3-FY17	+/- (YoY)
Profitability ratios (%)					
Gross margin	15.6	14.2	140bps	8.9	660bps
EBITDA margin	18.2	16.6	160bps	12.0	630bps
EBIT margin	12.2	10.6	160bps	4.8	740bps
Net margin	7.9	7.3	60bps	3.5	450bps
Adjusted net margin	7.9	7.3	60bps	3.5	450bps
Turnover *(x)					
-Inventories	4.1	5.1	-1.0	4.5	-0.4
-Receivables	19.4	19.8	-0.4	13.5	5.9
-Payables	4.0	4.8	-0.8	5.4	-1.4
Leverage (%)					
Total debt/ equity	115.2	110.3	483bps	110.6	460bps

Source: STK, (*) Annualized turnover

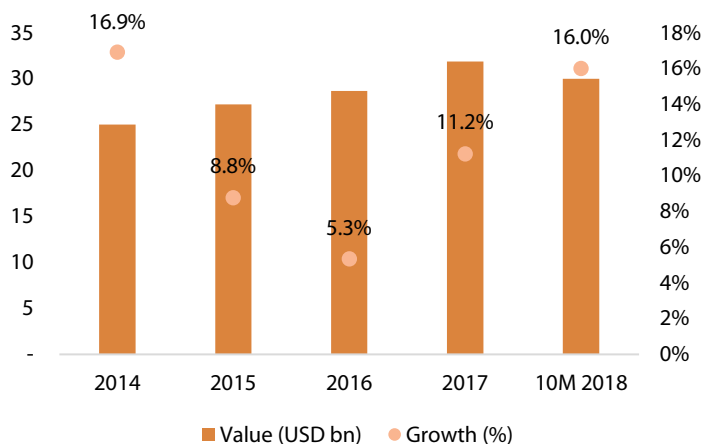
Exhibit 3: Q4 2018 performance forecast

Particulars (VND B)	Q4-FY18	+/- (QoQ)	+/- (YoY)
Revenue	652	11%	16%
Gross profit	86	-6%	27%
EBIT	39	-46%	4%
NPAT	32	-33%	2%

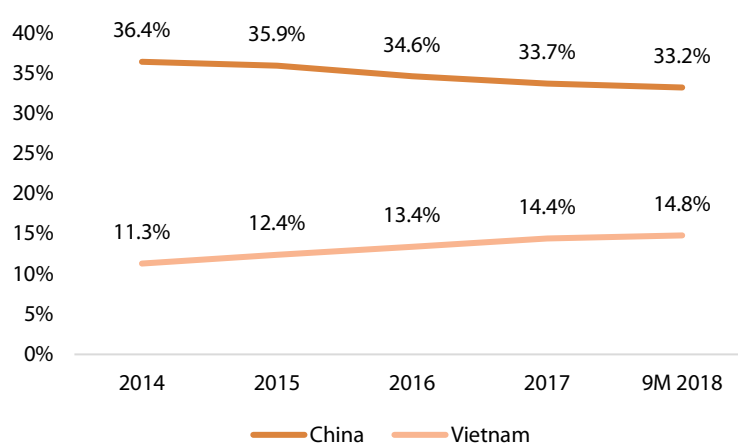
Source: STK, Rong Viet Securities

Update:
Vietnam textile & apparel export turnover had a positive growth, supporting STK's business performance

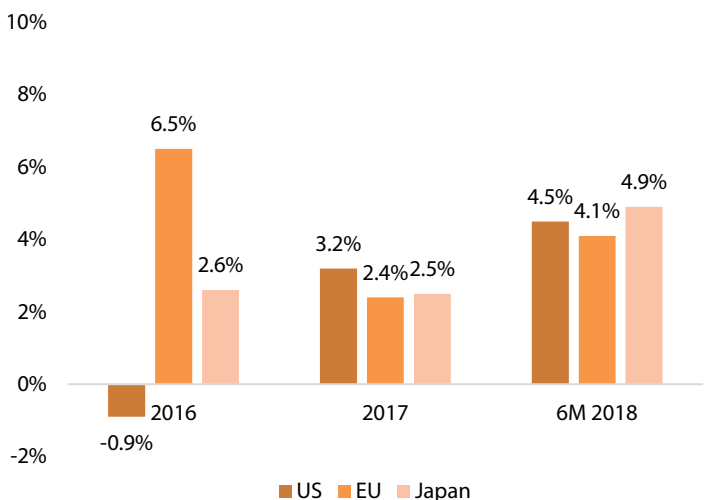
Benefiting from the growth of the textile & apparel industry due to the advantages of FTAs (VKFTA, VJEPA, CPTPP, and EVFTA) and the dramatic shift of orders from China to Vietnam, in the first 10 months of the year, the total export turnover reached nearly USD 30 bn, an increase of 16% over the same period in 2017. In particular, large markets such as the US, EU and Japan recorded a growth rate. The textile and apparel export turnover is expected to reach USD 36 bn (+13% YoY), surpassing US 1.5 bn over the guidance for 2018.

Figure 1. Export turnover of Vietnam's textile & garment


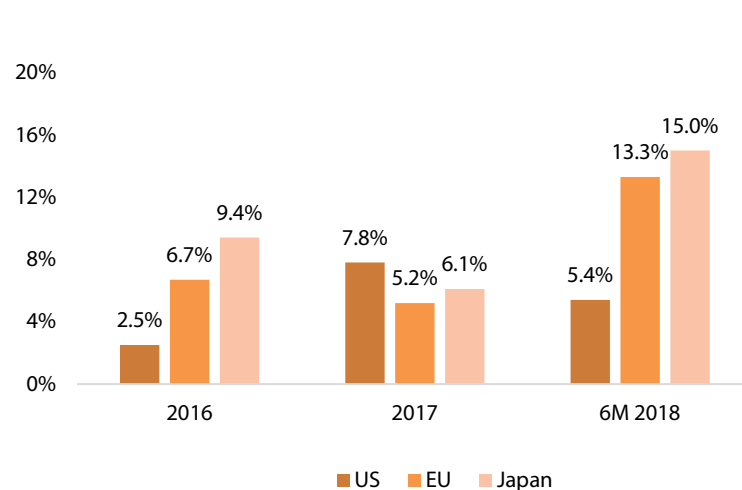
Source: Vietnam Customs

Figure 2. Apparel market share of Vietnam and China in the US market (%)


Source: OTEXA

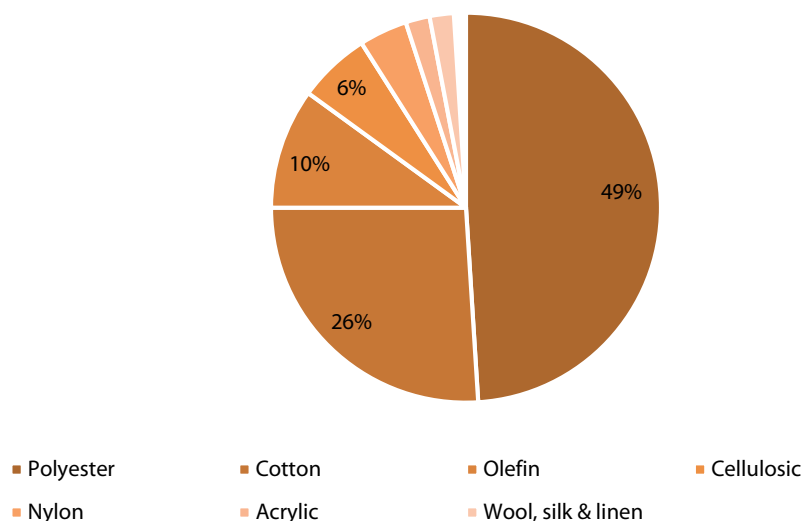
Figure 3. Volume growth rate of world apparel imported by three major markets (%)


Source: Eurostat, OTEXA, MOF-Japan

Figure 4. Volume growth rate of Vietnam apparel imported by three major markets (%)


The increase of demand for textile & apparel will lead to rising demand for yarn materials. Polyester is the most popular due to its superior physically desiccation, low cost, high flexibility and recyclability. In 2017, polyester yarn accounted for 49% of total demand for natural and artificial fibers worldwide, in which polyester filament yarn is a leading of manufactured fibers (~44%). According to Transparency Research, the polyester yarn will lead the yarn's industry growth at a CAGR of 6.1% per year until 2020.

Figure 5. World demand for yarn in 2017



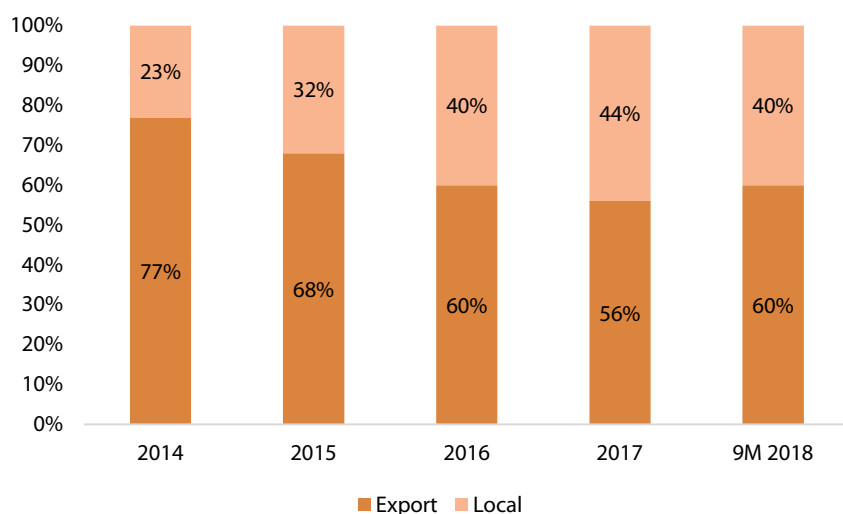
Source: IHS Market

STK is a leading player in the production of filament yarn, used as a raw material for apparel and footwear for international fashion brands. It is quite competitive versus other rivals.

Increase the proportion of revenue in the domestic market to minimize the risk of trade protection from other countries

In the domestic market, the shift of orders from China to Vietnam along with the promoting of FDI companies in building textile & dyeing factories has led to the increase of demand for raw materials. STK revenue structure is moving in the direction of increasing the proportion of domestic orders. Specifically, the proportion of revenue in the domestic market increased from 23% in 2014 to 40% 9M 2018. We think that the positive effects of the CPTPP, EVFTA and the postponement of US-China trade war will boost the demand for domestic yarns. This helps to reduce the reliance on export markets as Vietnam is under intense competition from trade barriers and domestic protection policies (Turkey applied an anti-dumping tax on Vietnam's polyester yarn, partially oriented yarn...).

Figure 6. Breakdown revenue by market (%)



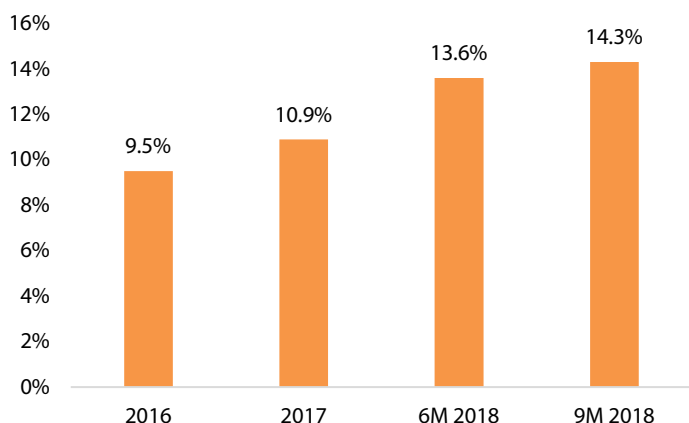
Source: STK

STK continues to increase its contribution of recycled yarn to revenue in order to improve its gross margin

In 9M 2018, it increased the contribution of recycled yarn from 6% (2017) to 13%, exceeding the guidance for the year (10%). With the increasing demand for recycled yarn from current customers. Management said Q4 will be a boon for recycled yarn orders as it is the time for international fashion brands to purchase raw materials for the spring-summer collection. STK expects that the contribution of recycled yarn to revenue will be over 14% this year. Current customers such as Nike, Adidas and Puma are planning to increase the use of recycled materials to meet their goal of sustainable development, ensuring the demand for this product. Specifically, Adidas plans to increase its use of recycled materials from 24% (2016) to 100% (2024) for its garment and footwear products. Puma expects to increase its use of recycled materials by 50% by 2020.

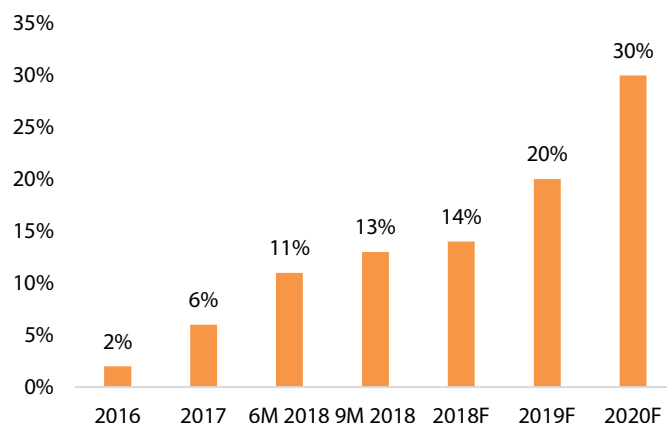
In Vietnam, only two companies, STK and Formosa, are producing recycled yarn, so the supply is quite limited. Whereas, the demand has been increasing steadily showing that its growth momentum is large. The commitment from international fashion brands will be a springboard to increase orders and raises its contribution to revenue. For the period 2019-2020, the company is considering to increase the contribution of recycled yarn to revenue to 20% to 30% in 2020. With the highest gross margin (over 25%), the increase of orders are expected to improve its gross profit margin.

Figure 7. Improving gross margin (%)



Source: STK

Figure 8. Contribution of recycled yarn to revenue (%)



Research and develop new products to meet the demand of the apparel industry

The company continues to research and develop new products to adapt to the fashion industry's trend. In particular, the product sample of elastic fiber is expected to export to the Japanese market, has reached the standard. Quick dry and soft package fiber are being developed to supply to domestic and Thailand markets. Sorbtek fiber is highly absorbent, easy to clean which is expected to supply to the domestic market and exports to Thailand and Indonesia. Besides, STK is also testing the high-purity yarn to maximize its selling price.

Trang Bang 5 project comes into operation in Q1 2019

In Q3 2018, the Trang Bang 5 factory entered the construction phase; it is expected to start testing in Q4 before officially operating in Q1 2019. It will increase total capacity by 5% (included 3,300 tons of DTY yarn and 1,500 tons of recycled yarn), corresponding to a total increase in capacity of 63,300 tons yarn per year.

Although the growth potential of this industry is quite huge due to the positive effects of free trade agreements, we think that STK is carefully exploring the market, looking for an output partner before extending strongly its factory. This helps to minimize the risk of building new factory in case of insufficient resources.

Colored yarn and plied yarn projects cannot be effective in the short run

Joint venture with E.Dye to produce colored yarn: during the implementation of the cooperation, both parties have encountered disagreement on viewpoints and strategy. Therefore, STK has stopped the cooperation with E.Dye and the company will carry out this project itself by equipping the coloring equipment for the current production line. Regarding the plied yarn, STK is negotiating with a major US

partner to supply fabric for a brand name shoe manufacturer. Both sides will need time to negotiate the contract term and prices before embarking on further plans.

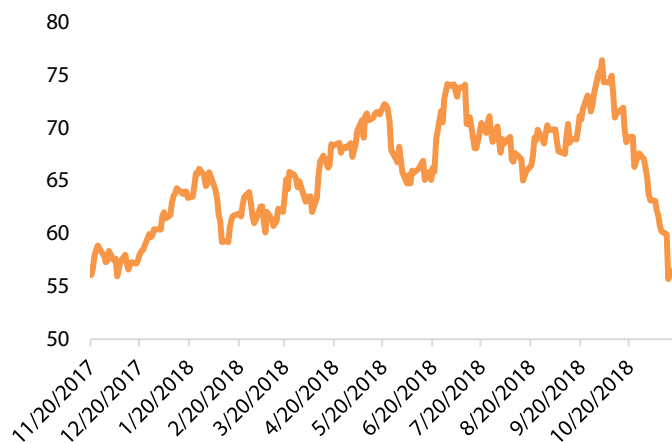
STK plans to raise its chartered capital to VND 707 bn

The company expects to issue a further 10% shares to current shareholders, equivalents to 5.99 million shares to finance the Trang Bang 5 project with a price of VND 10,000 per share. In addition, it will pay a stock dividend of 7%, and issue around 600,000 shares of ESOP to its employees. After that its chartered capital is estimated to reach VND 707 bn, corresponding to 70.7 million shares.

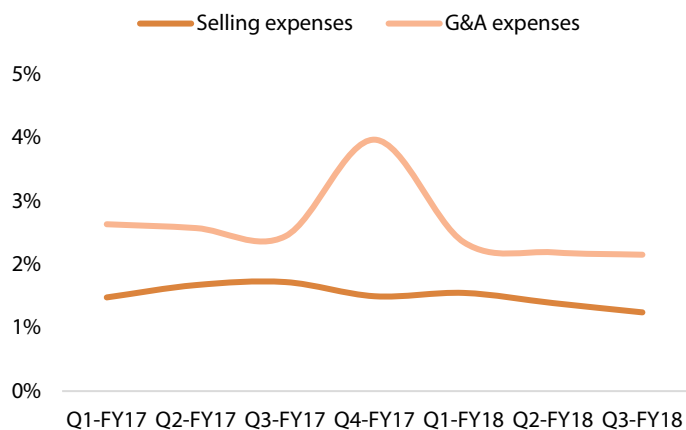
Table 1. Purpose of issuance a further 10% shares to current shareholders

	Amount (VND)	Timeline
Finance the Trang Bang 5 project	59,937,800,000	11/2018 - 06/2019
Investment costs for workshops (land, construction, auxiliaries...)	45,136,472,000	
Purchase machineries	14,801,328,000	

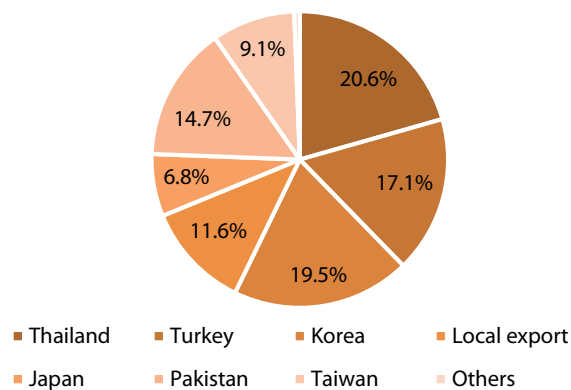
Source: STK

Appendix:
Figure 9: Crude oil price


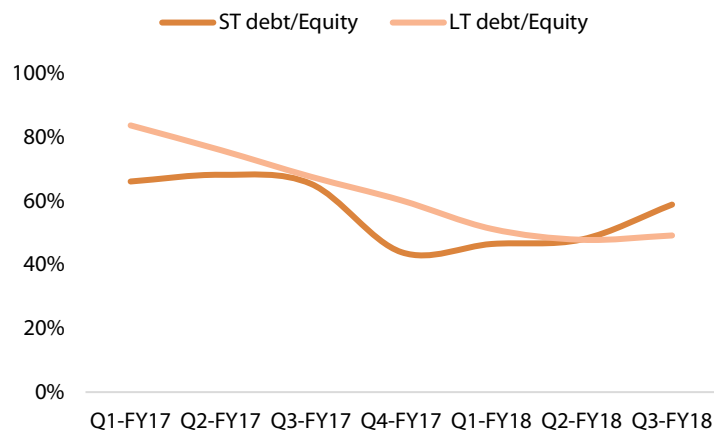
Source: Bloomberg

Figure 11: Selling expenses, G&A expenses to revenue (%)


Source: STK, Rong Viet Securities

Figure 10: Export market of Vietnam polyester filament in 9M 2018


Source: Vietnam Customs

Figure 12: Debt to equity ratio (%)


Source: STK, Rong Viet Securities

VND in billions

<i>Income statement</i>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018E	FY2019F
Revenue	1,358	1,989	2,433	2,838
COGS	1,230	1,773	2,092	2,451
Gross profit	129	217	340	387
Selling expense	25	32	39	48
G&A expense	45	59	73	85
Financial income	1	8	9	6
Financial expense	30	30	64	53
Other income/loss	1	1	1	1
Gain/(loss) from JV	0	0	0	0
PBT	31	105	174	208
Tax expense	2	5	11	13
Minority interests	0	0	0	0
PAT	29	100	163	195
EBIT	58	126	228	253
EBITDA	181	274	385	412

%

<i>Financial ratio</i>	FY2016	FY2016	FY2018E	FY2019F
Growth (%)				
Revenue	31.2	46.4	22.3	16.7
Operating income	-13.6	51.2	40.7	6.9
EBITDA	-53.5	117.2	80.9	10.9
PAT	-59.9	248.3	63.4	19.8
Total assets	17.8	-2.3	1.8	4.2
Equity	0.8	12.0	12.7	13.2

Profitability (%)

Gross margin	9.5	10.9	14.0	13.6
EBITDA margin	13.3	13.8	15.8	14.5
EBIT margin	4.3	6.3	9.4	8.9
Net margin	2.1	5.0	6.7	6.9
ROA	1.4	5.0	8.1	9.3
ROE	4.1	12.8	18.6	19.6

Efficiency (x)

Receivable turnover	16.0	31.6	25.0	22.2
Inventory turnover	3.1	4.4	4.5	4.4
Payable turnover	4.3	4.5	5.3	5.3

Liquidity (x)

Current	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
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Solvency (%)

Total debt/equity	149.9	103.8	84.9	64.2
Current debt/equity	56.2	43.8	45.5	39.7
Long-term Debt/equity	93.7	60.0	38.5	24.5

VND in billions

<i>Balance sheet</i>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018E	FY2019F
Cash and cash equivalents	87	117	88	134
Short term investment	0	0	0	50
Accounts receivable	85	63	97	128
Inventories	402	399	460	552
Other current assets	20	34	36	38
Tangible fixed assets	1,350	1,209	1,169	1,027
Intangible fixed assets	1	1	1	1
Long term investment	40	27	27	27
Other non-current assets	37	129	135	142
Total asset	2,025	1,979	2,014	2,097
Account payable	286	390	398	466
Short term borrowings	391	341	399	394
Long term borrowings	652	467	338	243
Other non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Bonus and welfare fund	1	2	2	2
Technology -science dev fund	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	1,329	1,200	1,136	1,105
Common stock and APIC	535	635	635	635
Treasury stock	0	0	0	0
Retained earnings	123	143	241	357
Other comprehensive income / (loss)	0	0	0	0
Investment and development fund	1	1	1	1
Total equity	695	779	877	993
Minority interest	0	0	0	0

<i>Valuation ratio</i>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018E	FY2019E
EPS (VND)	534	1,662	2,443	2,926
P/E (x)	31.2	10.5	7.9	6.6
BV (VND)	12,989	12,991	14,635	16,561
P/B (x)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
DPS (VND/cp)	300	800	800	1,000
Dividend yield	1.8%	4.6%	4.2%	4.2%

<i>Valuation model</i>	Price	Weight	Average
FCFF	26,600	50%	13,300
PE	22,000	50%	11,000

Target price (VND) **24,300**

<i>Valuation history</i>	Price	Recommendation	Period
09/06/2017	24.200	Buy	Long term
07/05/2015	30.800	Buy	Long term

RESULTS UPDATE

This report is created for the purpose of providing investors with an insight into the discussed company that may assist them in the decision-making process. The report comprises analyses and projections that are based on the most up-to-date information with the objective that is to determine the reasonable value of the stock at the time such analyses are performed. Through this report, we strive to convey the complete assessment and opinions of the analyst relevant to the discussed company. To send us feedbacks and/or receive more information, investors may contact the assigned analyst or our client support department.

RATING GUIDANCE

Ratings	BUY	ACCUMULATE	REDUCE	SELL
Total Return including Dividends in 12-month horizon	>20%	5% to 20%	-20% to -5%	<-20%

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