

June 2023

AIRPORTS CORPORATION OF VIETNAM (UpCOM: ACV)
Sweet Spot of Earnings Growth Is Insight

(VND bn)	Q1-FY23	Q4-FY22	+/- (qoq)	Q1-FY22	+/- (yoy)
Net revenue	4,728	4,109	15%	2,109	124%
PAT-MI	1,634	1,283	27%	875	87%
EBIT	2,353	901	161%	426	452%
EBIT margin	49.8%	21.9%	27.8 pps	20.2%	29.5 pps

Source: ACV, Rong Viet Securities

Q1-2023 –EBIT thrived on stronger international air pax flow, but FX losses softened net profit growth.

- Revenue jumped by 124% YoY, which was higher than the growth of total passenger volume (72% YoY) due to a sharp increase in international arrivals volume of 1471% YoY from the low base of the same period in 2022.
- NPAT grew at a slower rate of 87% YoY as (1) ACV recorded an exchange rate loss of VND 775 billion in the period due to the appreciation of JPY while Q1-2022 recorded an exchange rate gain of VND 268 billion and (2) SG&A expenses increased by 156% YoY.

2023F Outlook – Sweet spot of earnings growth is insight.

We anticipate that total passenger volume will increase by 20% YoY and reach 118 million pax this year, largely driven by the stronger recovery of international passenger volume (31.7 mn pax, +165% YoY) on the coming back of the Chinese air travelers. Meanwhile, domestic pax volume will be flat at 87 million pax mostly due to record high base in 2022.

On the back of robust international pax volume growth, we project that revenue will amount to VND 19.1 trillion (USD 0.8 Bn, +20%YoY), while PBT will reach VND 10.0 trillion (USD 420 mn, +13% YoY) in 2023F. Excluding profit from airfield assets (VND 1,329 billion) and financial gains (VND 1,264 bn or USD 53 mn), projected core PBT is poised to double in 2023 to VND 7.0 trillion or USD 300 mn). Adjusted 2023F NPAT/EPs (excluding profit from airfield assets) are VND 6.9 trillion (or USD 300 mn, +12% YoY)/VND 3.200.

Valuation and recommendation

ACV, among other aviation stocks, has been off investors' radar since the pandemic outbreak mostly due to its unjustified valuation. However, the international market is on its trajectory to get back to the pre-covid level over the next two years, driving stronger core earnings growth and bringing ACV's valuation to the level that makes more sense for investment. Current 2023F/24F EV/EBITDA of 14.4x/12.8x respectively presents a 19%/28% discount to the pre-covid (2017-2019) mean level of 17.7x while we project that ACV's core NPAT will recover to 2019 level in this year, before surpassing 2019 figure by 13% in 2024. Furthermore, we believe ACV is the best way to get exposed to not only the continued recovery of the aviation industry in the next two years, but also its attractive long-term development, since ACV is the sole airport operator of Vietnam. As such, we reiterate **BUY** recommendation on ACV with a **TP of VND 96,900** based on DCF approach, offering **24% of expected return as of June 16th, 2023**.

BUY
+24%

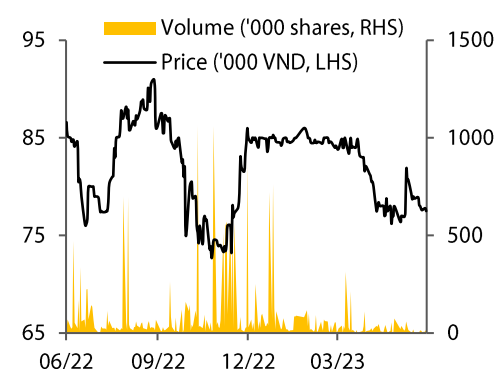
Current market price (VND)	78,000
Target price (VND)	96,900

Cash dividend	0
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Stock Info

Sector	Transport Infrastructure
Market Cap (VND billion)	169,584.4
Current Shares O/S	2,177,0
Avg. Daily Volume (in 20 sessions)	14,600
Free float (%)	4.6
52 weeks High	91,000
52 weeks Low	72,700
Beta	0.20

	FY2022	TTM
EPS	3,687	3,620
EPS Growth (%)	802%	1046%
Diluted EPS	3,687	3,620
P/E	25.9	21.5
P/B	20,098.7	20,706.0
EV/EBITDA	23.4	16.9
Cash dividend yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%
ROE (%)	16.3%	18.3%

Price performance

Major Shareholders (%)

CMSC	95.4%
Foreign ownership room (%)	4.6%

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Exhibit 1: Q1-2023 Results

(VND Bn)	Q1-FY23	Q4-FY22	+/- (qoq)	Q1-FY22	+/- (yoy)
Net revenue	4,728	4,109	15.1%	2,109	124.2%
Gross profit	2,939	1,933	52.1%	655	348.8%
SG&A	585	1,032	-43.2%	228	156.3%
Operating income	2,353	901	161.2%	426	451.9%
EBITDA	2,910	1,490	95.4%	1,002	190.4%
EBIT	2,353	901	161.2%	426	451.9%
Financial expenses	793	28	2703.2%	21	3630.4%
- Interest Expenses	18	17	1.4%	20	-13.3%
Dep. and amortization	557	589	-5.3%	576	-3.2%
Non-recurring items (*)					
Extraordinary items (*)					
PBT	2,031	1,578	28.7%	1,088	86.5%
PAT	1,634	1,283	27.3%	875	86.8%
(*) Adjusted PAT	1,634	1,283	27.3%	875	86.8%

Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Exhibit 2: Q1-2023 Performance Analysis

Particulars	Q1-FY23	Q4-FY22	+/- (qoq)	Q1-FY22	+/- (yoy)
Profitability Ratios (%)					
Gross Margin	62.1%	47.0%	15.1 pps	31.1%	31.1 pps
EBITDA Margin	61.6%	36.3%	25.3 pps	47.5%	14.0 pps
EBIT Margin	49.8%	21.9%	27.8 pps	20.2%	29.5 pps
Net Margin	34.5%	31.2%	3.3 pps	41.5%	-6.9 pps
Adjusted Net Margin	34.5%	31.2%	3.3 pps	41.5%	-6.9 pps
Turnover*(x)					
-Inventories	16.2	21.5	-5.3	19.7	-3.5
-Receivables	2.7	2.6	0.1	2.0	0.8
-Payables	1.9	2.0	-0.1	2.6	-0.7
Leverage (%)					
Total Liabilities/Equity	7.6%	12.1%	-4.6 pps	6.0%	1.6 pps

Source: RongViet Securities, * Annualized

Exhibit 3: Q2-2023 Forecast

Particulars (VND Bn)	Q2-FY23	+/- (qoq)	+/- (yoy)	Commentaries
Revenue	5,431	15%	58%	- We project that total air passenger volume will reach 29.0 mn pax, inching up by 4% YoY, in which international pax volume will be more than 4x YoY, amounting at 8.3 mn pax while domestic pax volume is estimated at 20.8 mn pax, declining -20% YoY from last year's record high. - The robust flow of international pax will drive revenue and EBIT significantly by 58% YoY and 167% YoY, respectively. - Lower unrealized FX gain will again soften net profit annual growth to 19% YoY.
Gross profit	3,751	28%	136%	
EBIT	3,261	39%	167%	
NPAT	3,066	88%	19%	

Source: RongViet Securities

Update
Q1-2023 Results: Gross profit margin widened on continued recovery of int'l passenger volume while exchange rate losses and provision for receivables slowed net profit growth

International air passenger volume continued its recovery, growing 32% QoQ to 7.1 million, while domestic volume grew more slowly at 6% QoQ to 20.6 million. Thereby, the total air passenger volume reached nearly 28 million in Q1-2023, equivalent to the level of Q1-2019 but with a different international/domestic mix (26%/74% compared with 38%/62%). Currently, international passenger volume is at 67% of Q1-2019 level (Figure 1).

The above volume development bolsters net revenue to jump by 124% YoY. Meanwhile, COGS only increased by 23% YoY, due to its high proportion of fixed costs, in which depreciation expenses (accounting for 1/3 of COGS) stayed unchanged and another main group of expenses, namely labor cost, only increased by 27% YoY, much lower than the pace of revenue growth. As a result, ACV's GPM (excluding landing/take-off) increased to 61% - the company's historic high, and gross profit, thereby, increased by 349% YoY.

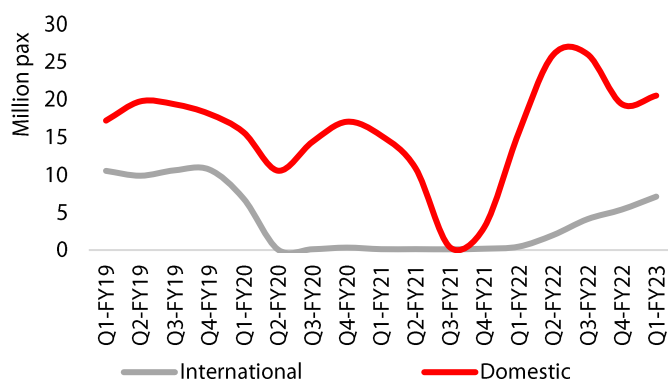
However, ACV's Q1-2023 NPAT growth was dragged down to 87% YoY due to:

- Creating provisions of VND 272 billion for bad debts from local airlines despite the recovery of the industry. Even so, this figure was significantly lower than in the previous quarter (Figure 3). Except for receivables from Vietnam Airlines (HSX: HVN), doubtful receivables from VietJet Air (HSX: VJC), Bamboo Airways and Pacific Airlines continued to be provisioned in the quarter. Currently, VJC accounts for nearly 50% of ACV's total bad receivables, followed by Bamboo Airways (24%), Vietnam Airlines (15%), and Pacific Airlines (13%).
- Incurring a financial loss of VND 377 billion compared to a financial gain of VND 642 billion in Q1-2022 mostly due to an unrealized exchange rate loss of VND 775 billion. JPY appreciation against VND is a notable downside factor to ACV's profit this year as we have mentioned in previous reports.

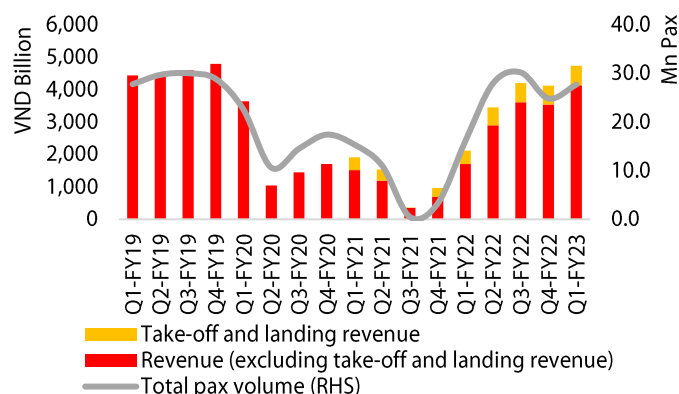
Table 1: ACV's Q1-2023 results

Unit: VND Billion	Q1-2023	YoY %	QoQ %	% 2023 Guidance	% 2023F
Total air passenger volume (million pax)	27.7	72%	11%	23%	25%
International	7.1	1471%	32%	22%	33%
Domestic	20.6	32%	6%	24%	23%
Take-off/Landing	179,666	47%	9%	23%	25%
Net revenue	4,728	124%	15%	24%	27%
1. Aviation service	3,301	157%	16%		22%
2. Non-aviation service	549	61%	11%		29%
3. Retail sales	282	264%	12%		31%
4. Take-off/Landing fee	599	47%	5%		26%
Gross profit	2,939	349%	52%		31%
From the airfield assets	409	90%	55%		
ACV	2,530	476%	52%		
Financial income	416	-37%	-34%		28%
Financial expenses	-793	3630%	2703%		253%
Gain from joint ventures	52	164%	-16%		22%
SG&A expenses	-585	156%	-43%		
EBIT	2,353	452%	161%		
EBIT from the airfield assets	409	90%	55%		
ACV's EBIT	1,944	822%	206%		
PBT	2,031	87%	29%	24%	23%
PBT from the airfield assets	415	91%	57%		
ACV	1,616	85%	23%		
NPAT	1,634	87%	27%		23%
NPAT from the airfield assets	332	91%	57%		
ACV	1,302	86%	21%		

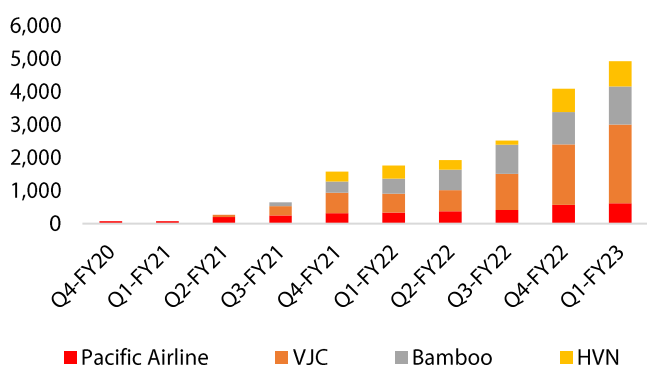
Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Figure 1: Int'l arrivals are now two-thirds of pre-epidemic levels, while domestic pax vol remains high


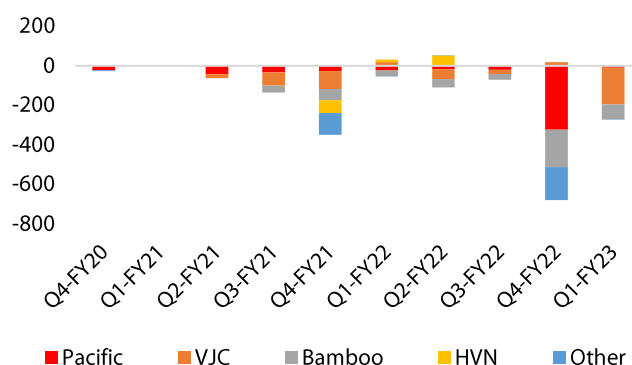
Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Figure 2: Core revenue is approaching the pre-pandemic level at 93% of Q1-2019 level


Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Figure 3: Doubtful receivables accounts (VND Bn)


Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Figure 4: Provision for bad debts by airline (VND billion)


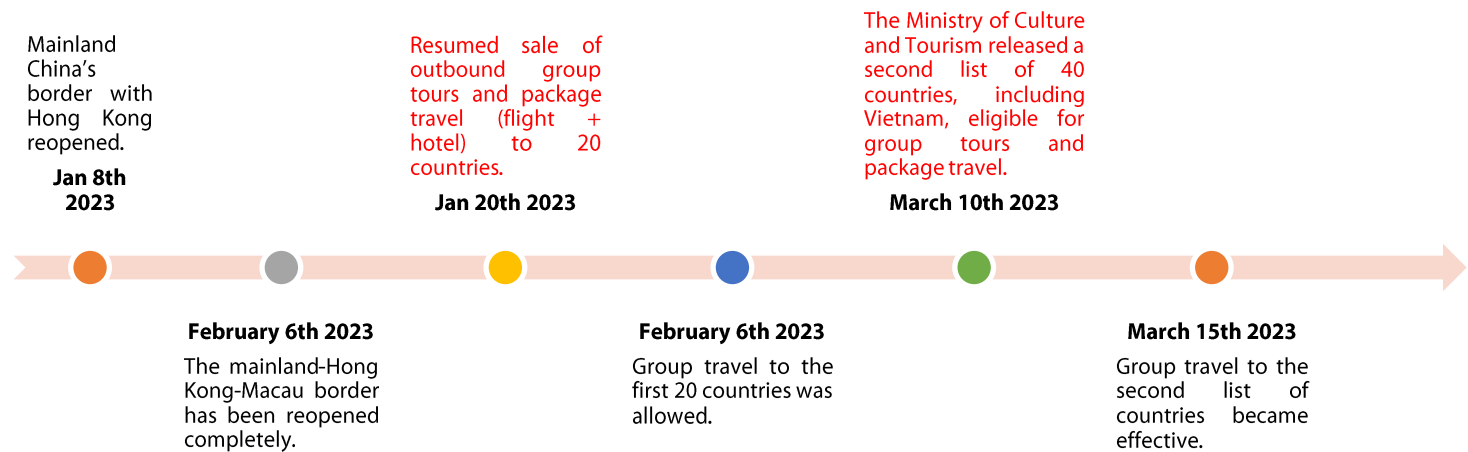
Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

Outlook

No significant headwind in sight for the positive development of international air passenger volume

From the end of November 2022, China's State Council has made several announcements that signal an end to China's Zero COVID policy, with a move towards mitigation rather than containment. On 20 January 2023, China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that sale of outbound group tour and package travel (from a minimum of a flight + hotel package) could resume, for travel on or after 6 February 2023. On Mar 10th, 2023, sales of outbound group tours to Vietnam were allowed, followed by the travel permit on Mar 15th, 2023.

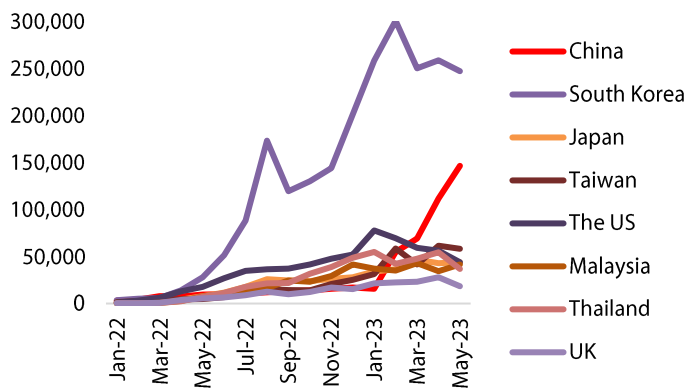
Figure 5: The development of China's outbound group tours policy



Source: Dragon Trail International, RongViet Securities

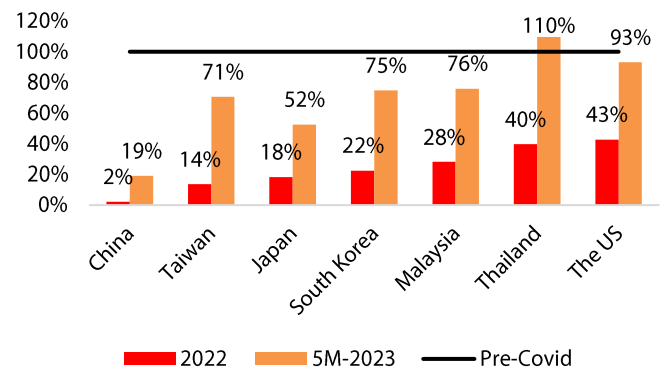
So far, the initial impact of China's travel relaxation on Vietnam's inbound tourist figure have been vibrant. Accordingly, the number of Chinese tourists to Vietnam has witnessed a surge since March, reaching nearly 147,000 arrivals in May and about 400,000 in 5M-2023, quickly becoming the second largest source of Vietnam inbound tourist markets only after two months of group tour sales permit. Meanwhile, other main international tourist markets still consist of Korea, Japan, and ASEAN countries, owing to Vietnam's visa waiver policy for citizens of these countries as well as the early lift of travel restrictions between these countries. Currently, tourists from Korea account for the largest proportion of total inbound arrivals (25% in 2022 and 29% in 5M-2023).

Figure 6: The number of Chinese travelers to Vietnam quickly rose to 2nd place in May, just two months after the group tour travel permit



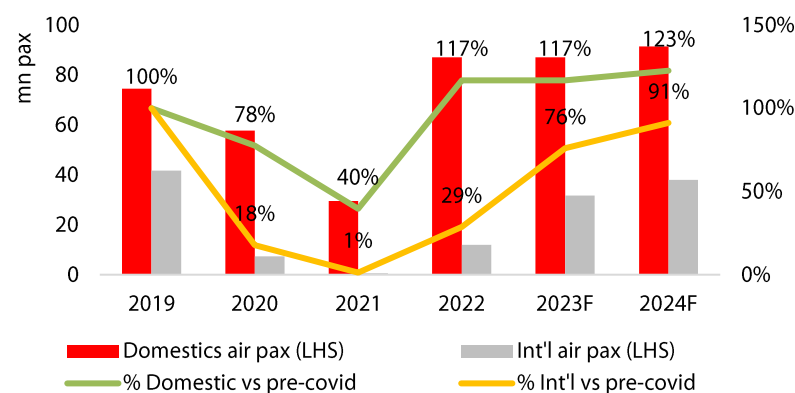
Source: GSO, RongViet Securities

Figure 7: Recovery rate vs pre-covid level of Vietnam's key inbound tourism markets



Source: GSO, RongViet Securities

With the recovery trajectory of international tourist arrivals to Vietnam remaining intact, we project that the total number of international inbound pax this year will return to nearly 11 million travelers or to 61% of the 2019 level from 2022's of 20%. Currently, 5M-2023 international tourists inbound have reached 4.6 mn travelers (12x YoY). We project that the total international volume at ACV's airports is forecasted to reach about 31.7 million in 2023F (+165% YoY) followed by a 20% growth in 2024F. The recovery rate compared to pre-pandemic level from 2023F/24F is or 76%/91%.

Figure 8: Air passenger volume forecasts


Source: ACV, RongViet Securities

The robust growth of international flights will be the key drivers for core earnings over the forecast period given higher fees from international passengers/flights. Coupled with a 0%/5% growth of the domestic passenger volume in 2023F/24F, we project that total passenger volume will total approximately 119 mn (+20% YoY)/129mn (+9% YoY), resulting in net sales of VND 19,141 bn (or USD 0.8 bn, +38% YoY)/ VND 24,432 bn (or USD 1.0 bn, +28% YoY) in 2023F/24F. This high growth in sales will respectively translate into an 85% YoY and +42% YoY growth in EBIT over the next two years, implying an operating leverage of 2.2x and 1.5x respectively. However, net profit growth will be lower as we believe ACV's financial gains is poised to reduce due to:

- Lower interest income.** The CAPEX for the Long Thanh International Airport project will likely put pressure on ACV's current term deposit (VND 30.5 trillion or USD 1.3 bn bn) over the course of the project construction since the projected CAPEX is VND 100 trillion (or USD 4.2 bn) and capital funding structure between equity/debt is 30%/70%.
- Lesser depreciation of JPY against VND in 2023 than in 2022.** BoJ is likely to keep its ultra-easy monetary policy stance for the next two years to achieve its 2% inflation target in stable manner since they see recent inflation overshooting over 2% was driven by imports sources and not by domestic demand and expecting that inflation will slow below 2%. However, as the Fed is not far from its terminal interest rates, the upward pressure on USD/JPY due to yield differentials should be limited, implying a stronger performance of the JPY than in 2022.

Overall, we forecast ACV's NPAT-MI to reach VND 8,027 bn (or USD 340 mn, +13% YoY) and VND 10,373 bn (or USD 440 mn, +29% YoY) in 2023F and 2024F respectively.

Table 3: 2023F-2024F Forecasts

Unit: VND Billion	2023F	YoY %	2024F	YoY %
Net sales	19,141	38%	24,432	28%
1. Aviation services	16,117	71%	20,829	29%
2. Non-aviation services	2,050	22%	2,335	14%
3. Retail sales	975	40%	1,269	30%
Gross profit	10,899	66%	14,899	37%
Financial income	1,454	-65%	1,079	-26%
Financial expenses	-190	+109%	-542	186%
Gain from joint ventures	235	20%	282	20%
SG&A expenses	-2,412	23%	-2,810	17%
EBIT	8,488	85%	12,089	42%
NPAT-MI	8,027	13%	10,373	29%
NPAT-MI (excluding Landing/Take-off)	6,979	12%	9,403	35%
EPS (VND)	3,687	13%	4,765	29%

Source: RongViet Securities

Valuation

We employ a 10-year FCFF method (WACC: 6.7%, terminal growth rate: 1.0%) to capture its long-term growth potential more effectively given huge CAPEX for Long Thanh International Airport will impact the reliability of a 5Y DCF valuation. **We arrive at a one-year target price for ACV of 96,900 VND per share, implying a total expected return of 24% as of June 16th, 2023.**

Our target price implies a 2023F EV/EBITDA ratio of 17.7x, which is equal to its pre-covid mean. We believe this valuation is justified as ACV's operation and business results are heading toward 2019 level in 2023 (2023F EBIT is 101% 2019 EBIT) and will likely further improve in 2024.

Table: FCFF assumptions

WACC Calculation		Implied Equity Value (VND bn) and target price (VND)	
10Y Risk Free Rate	3.0%	Enterprise Value	191,677
Equity risk premium	13.0%	Less: Total Debts	11,815
Adjusted Beta	0.6x	Plus: Cash and Cash Equivalents	31,141
Cost of Equity	10.7%	Less: Minority interest	50
After-tax Cost of Debt	0.6%	Implied Equity Value	210,953
% Equity / Total assets	63%	Number of shares (mn shares)	2,177
% Total Debts / Total assets	37%	Price per Share	96,900
Tax Rate	20%	Implied Forward EV/EBITDA	17.7x
WACC	6.7%	Implied Forward P/E	26.3x

Source: RongViet Securities

Table 4: Regional peers comparison

Companies	Country	Market cap (USD mn)	2022 Sales (USD mn)	2022 PBT (USD mn)	3Y CAGR (%)			2022 ROE (%)	P/E	P/B	EV/EBITDA	
					Sales	EPS	PBT				Current	2023E
ACV	VN	7,221	589.7	375.4	-9.0	-1.9	36.7	17.4	23.9	3.9	23.5	12.3
AIRPORTS OF THAILAND	TH	29,147	483.4	-399.5	-35.9	n.a	113.3	-1.3	n.a	9.8	104.1	40.4
ADP	FR	15,030	4,937.8	712.0	-0.1	n.a	-13.8	12.0	27.2	3.5	12.0	11.5
AUCKLAND INTL AIRPORT	NZ	7,813	204.2	-19.2	-26.0	33.1	3.5	0.9	148.4	1.6	46.8	37.1
FRANKFURT AIRPORT	GE	4,699	3,364.6	116.5	-4.8	32.0	-22.3	0.5	20.1	1.1	17.1	12.4
GUANGZHOU BAIYUN AIRPORT	CH	4,623	590.5	-217.4	-21.6	n.a	-18.8	-5.4	n.a	1.9	n.a	13.2
JAPAN AIRPORT TERMINAL CO	JN	4,436	836.2	-86.8	-23.2	n.a	-64.1	-2.3	n.a	4.1	41.2	17.7
BEIJING CAPITAL INTL AIRPO	CH	3,163	331.8	-575.8	-40.9	n.a	110.1	-18.6	n.a	1.4	n.a	21.9
MALAYSIA AIRPORTS HLDGS	MA	2,489	711.6	38.1	-15.7	n.a	-41.7	4.4	39.0	1.8	11.5	8.0
SHENZHEN AIRPORT CO-A	CH	1,990	397.2	-214.8	-11.1	n.a	-17.5	-8.8	n.a	1.3	n.a	23.9
XIAMEN INTERNATIONAL AIR-A	CH	824	149.6	-0.5	-17.4	62.7	9.5	-0.3	61.2	1.5	n.a	6.6
SYDNEY AIRPORT	AU	n.a	466.3	-365.4	-26.8	n.a	-31.6	-20.9	n.a	n.a	91.3	n.a
Median		29,147	483.4	-399.5	-35.9	n.a	113.3	-1.3	n.a	9.8	104.1	40.4
Average		15,030	4,937.8	712.0	-0.1	n.a	-13.8	12.0	27.2	3.5	12.0	11.5

Source: Bloomberg, RongViet Securities, data as of June 1st, 2023

VND Billion					VND Billion				
INCOME STATEMENT	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023E	FY2024F	BALANCE SHEET	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023E	FY2024F
Revenue	4,752	13,834	19,140	24,431	Cash and cash equivalents	573	2,497	1,316	453
COGS	5,537	7,276	8,241	9,532	Short-term investments	32,717	30,498	24,000	19,000
Gross profit	-785	6,558	10,899	14,899	Accounts receivable	3,660	6,410	6,817	8,702
Selling Expense	85	220	306	366	Inventories	290	449	412	477
G&A Expense	1,232	1,744	2,105	2,443	Other current assets	328	367	386	405
Finance Income	3,254	4,120	1,454	1,079	Property, plant & equipment	14,194	16,427	39,614	77,251
Finance Expense	204	91	190	542	Acquired intangible assets	1	1	1	1
Gain/(loss) from JVs	33	196	235	282	Long-term investments	2,707	2,816	3,051	3,333
PBT	990	8,833	9,987	12,909	Other non-current assets	509	574	574	574
Prov. of Tax	201	1,706	1,950	2,525	Total assets	54,979	60,037	76,169	110,194
Minority's Interest	0	6	10	10	Accounts payable	2,950	4,761	5,392	6,237
PAT to Equity S/H	790	7,122	8,027	10,373	Short-term borrowings	362	366	449	453
EBIT	-2,102	4,594	8,488	12,089	Long-term borrowings	13,566	10,834	11,355	34,896
EBITDA	428	6,933	10,801	14,453	Other non-current liabilities	73	78	0	0
				%	Bonus and Welfare fund	376	192	822	1,120
FINANCIAL RATIO	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023E	FY2024F	Technology-science, dev. fund	0	0	0	0
Growth (%)					Total liabilities	17,327	16,232	18,018	42,706
Revenue	-67.6	191.1	38.4	27.6	Common stock and APIC	21,786	21,786	21,786	21,786
Operating Income	-94.7	1520.8	55.8	33.8	Treasury stock (enter as -)	-3	-3	-3	-3
EBITDA	-154.7	-318.6	84.7	42.4	Retained earnings	9,793	15,940	23,164	32,500
PAT	-84.5	801.8	12.7	29.2	Other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	24.5	9.2	26.9	44.7	Inv. and Dev. Fund	6,035	6,035	13,156	13,156
Equity	59.6	16.3	32.8	16.1	Total equity	37,611	43,758	58,104	67,440
Profitability (%)					Minority Interest	42	48	48	48
Gross margin	-16.5	47.4	56.9	61.0	VALUATION RATIO (*)	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023E	FY2024F
EBITDA margin	9.0	50.1	56.4	59.2	EPS (VND)	363	3,271	3,687	4,765
EBIT margin	-44.2	33.2	44.3	49.5	P/E (x)	239.8	25.9	21.1	16.3
Net margin	16.6	51.5	41.9	42.5	BV (dong)	17,275	20,099	26,688	30,976
ROA	1.4	11.9	10.5	9.4	P/B (x)	5.0	4.2	2.9	2.5
ROE	2.1	16.3	13.8	15.4	DPS (dong/cp)	0	0	0	0
Efficiency				(times)	Dividend yield (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Receivable Turnover	1.3	2.2	2.8	2.8	VALUATION MODEL	Price	Weight	Average	
Inventory Turnover	19.1	16.2	20.0	20.0	FCFF	96,900	100%	96,900	
Payable Turnover	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	Target price (VND)	96,900	100%	96,900	
Liquidity				(times)	VALUATION HISTORY	Price	Recommendation	Period	
Current	11.3	7.8	5.6	4.3	Feb 2023	96,900	BUY	1 year	
Quick	11.3	7.8	5.6	4.3	Aug 2022	100,400	BUY	1 year	
Finance Structure (%)					Feb 2022	98,000	ACCUMULATE	1 year	
Total Debt/Equity	37.0	25.6	20.3	52.4					
Current Debt/Equity	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7					
Long-term Debt/Equity	36.1	24.8	19.5	51.7					

RESULT 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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