

Central Hydropower JSC (CHP – HSX)

Beyond the Expectation

Particulars (VND bn)	Q1-FY17	Q4-FY16	+/- qoq	Q1-FY16	+/- yoy
Net revenue	244.5	359.0	-32%	94.8	158%
PAT	139.1	233.0	-40%	8.8	1,485%
EBIT	166.7	260.4	-36%	31.8	425%
EBIT margin	68.2%	72.5%	-435bps	33.5%	3467bps

Sources: CHP, RongViet Research

Business Result Grew Strongly. In the first quarter of this year, thanks to favorable hydrological condition, CHP achieved strong electricity output growth at 203% YoY while average selling price declined moderately by 15%. As a result, the revenue in Q1 2017 increased by 158% YoY and GPM spread from 40% in Q1 2016 to 71% in Q1 2017. The NPAT in the first quarter also increased by 15x, corresponding to 63% of 2017 guidance.

Given the positive hydrological and market movements in Q2 2017, we estimate that the output and revenue of CHP in the quarter would continue the momentum and reach 148 million kWh and VND162 billion respectively, corresponding to a growth of 117% YoY and 85% YoY. Though the growth is lower than that of Q1 2017, we believe that it is still enough to drive the performance boom in 1H2017 with NPAT being at VND191 billion (increased by 107x compared to 1H2016).

1H2017 Business Result Enhances FY2017 Outlook. We estimate that in the first half of this year, the company may have achieved 60% of its targeted electricity output and revenue in 2017 while its business results in the second half (the rainy season) are usually much higher than that of the first half. Therefore, we forecast the total output and revenue of CHP this year to grow at 24% YoY and 29% YoY respectively (23% and 28% higher than CHP's planned output and revenue). The NPAT, as a result, would reach approximately VND397 billion (+54% YoY), corresponding to EPS of VND3,008.

The Cu Jut Solar Project Would Drive Long-term Growth Prospect. With total capacity of 50 MW, the company expects this project to bring additional production output of about 78 million kWh each year when it comes into operation in 2019. As the selling price of solar power is double CHP's hydropower selling price, the revenue from the project would play an important role in the long-term growth prospect of CHP.

Valuation and Recommendation: We highly appreciate the business of CHP for its (1) ability to maintain stable result even in adverse hydrological condition thanks to the special location A Luoi plant and (2) strong growth prospect in the long-term with production capacity expansion.

Compared to our most recent recommendation on CHP in the **Strategic Report** published on **March 15, 2017**, CHP's business result in the first half of this year is beyond our expectation. Moreover, the newly announced solar power project also helps to enhance the long-term prospect of the company. Therefore, we revise up our target price for CHP to **VND31,900/share**, which is 12% higher than the closing price on July 10, 2017 and recommend **ACCUMULATE** on the stock in the **INTERMEDIATE-TERM**.

ACCUMULATE

CMP (VND)	28,700
Target Price (VND)	31,900

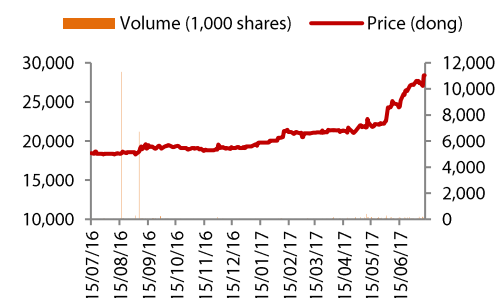
Investment Period **Intermediate-term**

Stock Info

Sector	Electricity
Market Cap (VND B)	2,608
Current Shares O/S	126
Beta	0.38
Free float (%)	25
52 week High	27,800
52 week Low	18,277
Avg. Daily Volume (20 sessions)	77,564

	FY2016	Current
EPS	1,950	2,984
EPS Growth	-22%	53%
Diluted EPS	1,950	2,984
P/E	10.6	9.1
P/B	1.6	1.9
EV/EBITDA	5.7	7.2
Cash dividend	7.7%	5.9%
ROE	15%	21%

Price performance



Major Shareholders (%)

EVN SPC	23.0
EVN CPC	23.0
REE Corporation	19.0
EVN Finance	4.9
Foreign ownership room (%)	49.0

Son Phan

(084) 028- 6299 2006 – Ext 1519

son.pnt@vdsc.com.vn

Exhibit 1: Q1FY2017 Results

Particulars (VND bn)	Q1-FY17	Q4-FY16	+/- (qoq)	Q1-FY16	+/- (yoy)
Net Revenues	244.5	359.0	-32%	94.8	158%
Gross profits	173.0	274.1	-37%	38.3	352%
SG&AC	-6.3	-13.6	-54%	-18.9	-67%
Operating Income	146.5	233.0	-37%	8.8	1572%
EBITDA	204.9	298.2	-31%	70.0	193%
EBIT	166.7	260.4	-36%	31.8	425%
Financial expenses	-22.6	-29.2	-23%	-26.0	-13%
- Interest Expenses	-22.6	-29.2	-23%	-26.0	-13%
Dep. and amortization	-38.2	-37.8	1%	-38.2	0%
PBT	146.5	260.4	-44%	8.8	1568%
PAT	139.1	260.4	-47%	8.8	1485%

Sources: CHP, RongViet Research

Exhibit 2: 1QFY2017 Performance Analysis

Particulars	Q1-FY17	Q4-FY16	+/- (qoq)	Q1-FY16	+/- (yoy)
Profitability Ratios (%)					
Gross Margin	70.8%	76.3%	-557bps	40.4%	3033bps
EBITDA Margin	83.8%	83.1%	73bps	73.8%	996bps
EBIT Margin	68.2%	72.5%	-435bps	33.5%	3467bps
Net Margin	56.9%	72.5%	-1564bps	9.3%	4763bps
Turnover *(x)					
-Inventories	37.3	45.1	-7.8	4.8	32.5
-Receivables	4.6	7.9	-3.3	2.9	1.7
-Payables	5.6	6.6	-1.0	2.9	2.8
Leverage (%)					
Total Debt/ Equity	74%	85%	-1076bps	121%	-4700bps

Sources: CHP, (*) Annualized turnover

Exhibit 3: Q2FY2017 Performance Forecast

Particulars (VND bn)	Q2-FY17	+/- qoq	+/- yoy
Revenue	148.9	-39%	85%
Gross profit	87.4	-50%	201%
EBIT	78.2	-53%	146%
NPAT	52.1	-63%	493%

Sources: CHP, RongViet Research

Brief Updates:

FY2017 is the first year A Luoi plant bears corporate income tax (CIT)

After the first four years enjoying zero CIT expense (from 2013 to 2016), A Luoi plant has started to pay corporate income tax from Q1 2017. The statutory tax rate applied for the plant is 5% in 2017 – 2025, 10% in 2025 – 2026, and 20% from 2027 onwards. This year, we estimate the CIT expense of CHP at about VND20 billion.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project

Since CHP developed A Luoi plant under Clean Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol and had it registered successfully in 2012, the International Executive Board of CDM (EB) will issue the Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits for CHP according to the amount of electricity that A Luoi plant produces. The company can then trade their CER credits on the international market to earn money.

CHP currently has 757,600 CER for the amount of electricity produced between 01/10/2014 and 31/12/2016. However, from the beginning of 2016, the CER price keeps declining and remains at only 20 – 30 EUR Cent/CER. Therefore, the company still waits until the CER price recovers to sell them.

Figure 1: Certification of Emission Reduction price chart (USD per CER)



Sources: ICE Data

Cu Jut solar power project

The AGM on April 20, 2017 has approved CHP's plan to pursue Cu Jut solar project in Dak Nong province. Currently, the company is finishing their detail plan to earn the official license for the project. Even though the progress is still on track, CHP only expects to start implementation and finish Cu Jut project by the end of 2018. According to the company, Cu Jut plant when coming into operation can contribute 78 million kWh to total electricity output each year, corresponding to about VND162 billion in revenue.

With expected total investment capital of VND1,250 billion, 70 – 80% of capital is financed by debt, we estimate that ROE of this project in the first years would be quite low at about 3 – 5% and would improve in the next years as the amount of debt decreases, leading to the reduction of interest expense. Despite the lack of specific data to evaluate this project, we still believe that it could be a new story that drives the long-term growth of CHP stock.

Besides, from data provided by CHP, we estimate that the average investment capital for Cu Jut project is VND25 billion per MW, which is by far higher than that of the solar project that Southern Hydropower JSC (HSX – SHP) is proceeding (only VND14 – 20 billion per MW). Since the purchase price of solar electricity is almost fixed at 9.35 US Cent/kWh, we believe that the company would have further measures to control its investment cost and enhance profitability of the project. Moreover, as efficiency of photovoltaic cells on a solar panel usually decrease year after year, how long they can maintain high-efficiency mode still depends on the technology being deployed. Therefore, there is possibility that the higher average investment capital is due to higher standards in selecting technology and contractors. In such case, it would imply higher efficiency of the project in the long term as well.

Figure 2: Summary information about Cu Jut solar project

Location: Cu Jut district, Dak Nong province			
Capacity (MW)	50	Investment capital (VND bn)	1,250
Annual output (million kWh)	78	Average investment capital (VND bn/MW)	25
Debt financing ratio	70 - 80%	Project life cycle (year)	25
Expected interest rate	8%	Expected payback period (year)	10

Sources: CHP, RongViet Research

VND billion

INCOME STATEMENT	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017E	FY2018F
Revenue	729.3	649.7	835.5	712.2
COGS	242.5	252.6	290.3	268.5
Gross profit	486.8	397.1	545.2	443.7
Selling Expense	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
G&A Expense	39.0	37.7	43.4	40.1
Finance Income	9.5	9.8	10.1	9.3
Finance Expense	131.5	111.4	93.6	76.2
Other profits	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT	328.3	257.8	418.3	336.8
Prov. of Tax	0.0	0.0	20.9	16.8
Minority's Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PAT to Equity Shareholder	328.3	257.8	397.4	319.9
EBIT	447.8	359.3	501.8	403.6
EBITDA	600.5	512.7	652.2	553.6

%

FINANCIAL RATIO	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017E	FY2018F
Growth (%)				
Revenue	16	-11	29	-15
Operating Income	23	-20	40	-20
EBITDA	16	-15	27	-15
PAT	54	-21	54	-19
Total Assets	-2	-5	0	-4
Equity	14	3	10	7
Internal growth rate	14	3	10	6
Profitability (%)				
Gross profit/Revenue	67	61	65	62
Operating profit/Revenue	61	55	60	57
EBITDA/ Revenue	82	79	78	78
Net margin	45	40	48	45
ROAA	10	8	13	11
ROAE	22	16	23	17
Efficiency (x)				
Receivable Turnover	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.4
Inventory Turnover	4.9	9.1	36.7	32.3
Payable Turnover	1.0	1.6	2.2	2.1
Liquidity (x)				
Current	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.9
Solvency (%)				
Total Debt/Equity	100	85	68	51
Current Debt/Equity	10	10	13	12
Long-term Debt/ Equity	79	67	48	33

VND billion

BALANCE SHEET	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017E	FY2018F
Cash and short-term investment	251	194	434	472
Receivables	215	276	318	271
Inventories	48	8	8	9
Other current assets	0	0	0	0
Total Current Asset	514	478	760	752
Fixed Assets	2,723	2,547	2,317	2,199
Construction in Progress	4	6	5	5
Long-term Investment	0	0	0	0
Other long-term assets	15	52	12	13
Long-term Asset	2,742	2,606	2,335	2,217
Total Asset	3,255	3,084	3,095	2,969
Payables	83	51	59	54
Current Debt	164	164	234	234
Long-term Debt	1,281	1,118	884	651
Other long-term liabilities	0	0	0	0
Total Liability	1,629	1,414	1,255	1,001
Owner's Equity	1,626	1,670	1,839	1,969
Capital	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,260
Retained Earnings	267	298	422	496
Funds & Reverses	99	112	158	213
Others	0	0	0	0
Total Equity	1,626	1,670	1,839	1,969
Minority's Interest	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RESOURCES	3,255	3,084	3,095	2,969

VALUATION RATIO	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017E	FY2018F
EPS (dong)	2,484	1,950	3,008	2,421
P/E (x)	7.9	7.7	10.6	9.3
BV (dong)	12,906	13,255	14,598	15,626
P/B (x)	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.0
DPS (dong/cp)	900	1,600	1,700	1,700
Dividend yield (%)	4.7	7.7	5.4	5.4

VALUATION MODEL	Price	Weight	Average
EV/EBITDA	31,774	70%	22,242
FCFE	32,470	30%	9,741
Target price (dong/share)			31,900

VALUATION HISTORY	Price	Recommendation	Period
15/03/2017	25,000	Accumulate	Intermediate-term

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Ratings \ Return Potential	BUY	ACCUMULATE	NEUTRAL	REDUCE	SELL
Intermediate- term (up to 6 months)	>20%	10% to 20%	-5% to 10%	-15% to -5%	<-15%
Long-term (over 6 months)	>30%	15% to 30%	-10% to 15%	-15% to -10%	<-15%

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Network

Headquarter

Address: Floor 1-2-3-4-5, Viet Dragon Tower, 141 Nguyen Du, Ben Thanh Ward, Dist.1, Tp.HCM

Phone: 84.8 6299 2006 Fax: 84.8 6291 7986

Website: www.vdsc.com.vn

Ha Noi Branch

2C Thai Phien – Hai Ba Trung District – Ha Noi

Nha Trang Branch

50Bis Yersin - Nha Trang

Can Tho Branch

Floor 08, 95-97-99 Vo Van Tan, Ninh Kieu – Can Tho

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