# Regional Morning Notes

Monday, 19 May 2025

## **COMPANY UPDATE**

# Thai Oil (TOP TB)

CFP Project Is Still An Overhang

TOP is moving forward with the CFP project and expects to appoint a new main contractor by end-3Q25. In the short term, the CFP project remains a potential overhang for the share price, alongside an upcoming credit rating review scheduled for Aug 25. However, management has outlined plans to mitigate the risk of a rating downgrade. Looking ahead, refining margins remain robust but could be tempered by weak spreads in aromatics. Maintain HOLD. Target price: Bt27.00.

WHAT'S NEW

- The tone at Thai Oil's (TOP) analyst meeting was neutral.
- **GRM outlook is strong.** As of 2Q25 to date, Singapore's gross refining margin (GRM) averaged US\$4.55/bbl, up both qoq and yoy. This improvement was driven by the US driving season and a rebound in global tourism, which lifted demand for gasoline and jet fuel. Additionally, an ongoing inventory decrease helped support the GRM recovery. Looking ahead to 2H25, the GRM outlook remains uncertain. While the limited addition of new refining capacity in 2025 is a supportive factor, concerns over demand persist due to heightened risks from potential tariff policies in the US, which have led to downward revisions in demand forecasts across all refined products. Furthermore, global refinery operations are expected to ramp up in 2H25 following widespread maintenance shutdowns in 1H25, adding pressure to the supply side.
- Aromatics business remains weak. Demand for aromatics products remains sluggish, weighed down by a weak global economy and concerns over potential tariff policies in the US. These factors have led to a downward revision in China's polyester fibre consumption growth forecast for 2025 from 5.3% to 2.0%. Additionally, the seasonal rebound in gasoline prices is expected to further pressure aromatics spreads for the rest of the year.
- A main contractor will be assigned to the CFP project in late-3Q25. Based on channel checks on TOP's management regarding the clean fuel project (CFP), TOP is looking to appoint a new main contractor by late 3Q25, following the termination of the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract with the previous contractor. TOP's management believes this change will not impact the project's construction timeline, with the commercial operation date (COD) still targeted for 3Q28. The decision to terminate the EPC contract is seen as a key step in mitigating risks ahead of a scheduled credit rating agency review by Aug 25.

#### **KEY FINANCIALS**

KETTIMANOIALO					
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2023	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Net turnover	469,244	466,777	511,526	511,878	515,242
EBITDA	41,335	21,460	29,672	29,981	30,413
Operating profit	24,257	12,264	12,163	11,465	12,076
Net profit (rep./act.)	19,443	9,959	9,382	8,788	9,258
Net profit (adj.)	22,080	8,412	9,382	8,788	9,258
EPS (Bt)	9.9	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.1
PE (x)	2.7	7.0	6.3	6.7	6.4
P/B (x)	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	5.4	8.3	5.6	5.2	4.7
Dividend yield (%)	12.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
Net margin (%)	4.1	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.8
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	89.9	79.5	62.5	54.2	46.8
Interest cover (x)	9.5	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.5
ROE (%)	14.1	7.3	6.7	6.2	6.4
Consensus net profit	-	-	11,447	12,401	12,098
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	-	-	0.82	0.71	0.77

Source: Thai Oil, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

# HOLD

# (Maintained)

Share Price Bt27.25
Target Price Bt27.00
Upside -0.92%

#### COMPANY DESCRIPTION

TOP is an oil refinery company. It also produces oil-related products including LPG, kerosene, fuel oil and chemicals.

#### STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Energy
Bloomberg ticker:	TOP TB
Shares issued (m):	2,233.8
Market cap (Btm):	111,133.3
Market cap (US\$m):	3,150.5
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	15.6

#### Price Performance (%)

52-week h	igh/low	Bt59.5	0/Bt46.50	
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
(6.6)	(7.0)	(10.4)	(7.9)	(7.4)
Major Sh	areholder	s		%
PTT	49.1			
NVDR	4.5			
HSBC (Sir	ngapore) Nor	ninees Pte. I	Ltd.	2.6

 FY24 NAV/Share (Bt)
 77.98

 FY24 Net Debt/Share (Bt)
 56.63

#### PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

### Tanaporn Visaruthaphong

+662 659 8305

tanaporn@uobkayhian.co.th

# **Benjaphol Suthwanish**

+662 659 8301

Benjaphol@uobkayhian.co.th



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- Deleveraging plan still on schedule. Another factor being considered by credit rating agencies is TOP's deleveraging plan. TOP still intends to pursue asset monetisation and issue perpetual bonds during the remainder of 2025, aiming to raise approximately US\$1.0b-1.5b. Combined with an expected internal cash flow of around US\$2.0b between 2025-27, we do not have concerns about TOP's liquidity.
- Recognising additional performance bonds in 2Q25. TOP recognised performance bonds under the CFP project's EPC contract totalling US\$441m. In 1Q25, TOP received US\$358m and booked a profit of approximately Bt98m. The remaining US\$83m is expected to be received in 2Q25; however, we believe it will have minimal impact on the 2Q25 net profit. The proceeds from the performance bonds will be used to reduce the construction costs of the CFP project. This will help lower the overall project cost by around 6.1%. Currently, the total construction cost of the CFP project stands at US\$8.23b (which includes interest during construction of approximately US\$1.08b).

### STOCK IMPACT

• Core profit expected to decline qoq. We retain a cautious outlook on core profit for 2Q25, despite improvements in market GRM both qoq and yoy, supported by stronger demand from China, the US driving season, and reduced operating costs following the resumption of single buoy mooring #2 (SBM#2) project operations. Nevertheless, these positives are expected to be outweighed by a higher crude premium and a weaker spread in aromatics. Additionally, the decline in crude oil prices during the quarter is likely to result in a notable stock loss for TOP. This will be partly offset by one-time gains from its investment in PT Chandra Asri Petrochemical Tbk (CAP), which will record negative goodwill from acquiring the Energy and Chemicals Park in Singapore, formerly owned by Shell Energy and now renamed Aster Chemicals and Energy.

# **EARNINGS REVISION/RISK**

• Earnings revision: None.

# VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

• Maintain HOLD with a target price of Bt27.00 in 2025, based on TOP's forward PE of 7x. We view the uncertain credit rating review and the CFP project as an overhang that will pressure stock prices. In the oil & gas sector, we prefer PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC TB/BUY/Target: Bt21.00), Bangchak Corporation (BCP TB/BUY/Target: Bt45.00), and Indorama Ventures (IVL TB/BUY/Target: Bt32.00).

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)** 

# CG Report: 5 **SET ESG Rating: AAA**

#### Environmental

Net zero GHG reduction. Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15% in 2035 from the base year of 2026 to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050 and net zero GHG emissions target in 2060 through the implementation of net zero GHG emissions.

# Social

- Creating social value. To develop the quality of life in society in alignment with the company's strategic direction to become a petrochemical and innovative business and contribute to net zero GHG emissions.
- Strengthen community engagement. To maintain community engagement score at 90% or above.
- Nature-based solutions. To support zero GHG emissions target through forest conservation, reforestation and afforestation initiatives.

## Governance

- Zero cases of non-compliance and fraud incidents. No cases of non-compliance with laws, regulations and the company's code of conduct.
- Good governance recognition. Being a recognised organisation for good corporate governance.

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#### GLOBAL OIL DEMAND



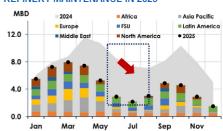
Source: Thai Oil, UOB Kay Hian

# IMPACT ON CRUDE OIL PRICES FROM **RECIPROCAL TARIFFS**



Source: Thai Oil, UOB Kay Hian

#### **REFINERY MAINTENANCE IN 2025**



Source: Thai Oil, UOB Kay Hian

### **KEY STATISTICS**

			2Q25	qoq	yoy
	2Q24	1Q25	qtd	%Chg.	%Chg.
Crude oil and GRM (US\$/bbl)					
Dubai (Avg. quarter)	85.3	76.9	65.4	-15%	-23%
Singapore GRM	3.53	3.16	4.55	44%	29%
Murban Crude Premium	1.65	1.83	2.01	10%	22%
Spread Petroleum (US\$/bbl)					
ULG95-DB	13.1	7.7	10.8	40%	-17%
Jet-DB	13.2	13.2	14.0	6%	6%
GO-DB (10ppm)	14.8	14.3	15.0	5%	1%
Spread Aromatic (US\$/tonne)					
PX DFR Taiwan - ULG95	203	141	109	-23%	-46%
BZ FOB Korea - ULG95	214	155	58	-62%	-73%
LAB - Bz	647	622	800	29%	24%
Lube Base Spreads (US\$/tonne)					
500SN Ex-tank Sing HSFO	502	543	613	13%	22%
Bitumen FOB Sing HSFO	-101	-49	-12	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Thai Oil, UOB Kay Hian

# RECOGNITION OF PERFORMANCE BONDS IN CFP **PROJECTS**

US\$,m	1Q25	Apr-25	May-25
Performance Bonds	358	63	20

Source: Thai Oil, UOB Kay Hian

### REFINERY REGIONAL CORE FORWARD PE



Source: Thai Oil, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian



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PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F	Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Net turnover	466,777	511,526	511,878	515,242	Fixed assets	224,153	223,623	223,136	222,676
EBITDA	21,460	29,672	29,981	30,413	Other LT assets	31,427	31,427	31,427	31,427
Deprec. & amort.	8,106	11,770	12,987	12,960	Cash/ST investment	39,738	58,318	65,934	72,454
EBIT	13,354	17,902	16,994	17,453	Other current assets	45,515	9,719	9,726	9,790
Associate contributions	2,008	2,201	2,202	2,217	Total assets	409,010	397,736	405,005	411,589
Net interest income/(expense)	-4,052	-5,889	-5,709	-5,577	ST debt	6,502	3,777	3,777	3,777
Pre-tax profit	10,717	12,163	11,465	12,076	Other current liabilities	9,582	10,231	10,238	10,305
Tax	-2,283	-2,265	-2,135	-2,248	LT debt	165,008	161,231	157,455	153,678
Minorities	-22	-517	-542	-570	Other LT liabilities	10,154	5,115	5,119	5,152
Net profit	9,959	9,382	8,788	9,258	Shareholders' equity	165,680	170,818	175,853	181,596
Net profit (adj.)	8,412	9,382	8,788	9,258	Total liabilities & equity	409,010	397,736	405,005	411,589
CASH FLOW Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F	KEY METRICS Year to 31 Dec (%)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Operating	39,355	20,207	27,645	26,312	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	12,264	12,163	11,465	12,076	EBITDA margin	4.9	5.8	5.9	5.9
Tax	-2,283	-2,265	-2,135	-2,248	Pre-tax margin	2.4	2.2	2.3	0.0
Deprec. & amort.	8,106	11,770	12,987	12,960	Net margin	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.8
Working capital changes	20,339	-1,461	5,327	3,524	ROA	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.9
Other operating cashflows	929	0	0	0	ROE	7.3	6.7	6.2	6.4
Investing	39,355	20,207	27,645	26,312					
Investments	-8,955	-11,240	-12,500	-12,500	Growth				
Others	-5,053	31,055	0	0	Turnover	-0.5	9.6	0.1	0.7
Financing	-24,267	-10,746	-7,530	-7,292	EBITDA	-48.1	38.3	1.0	1.4
Dividend payments	-8,823	-4,244	-3,753	-3,515	Pre-tax profit	-60.1	13.5	-5.7	5.3
Issue of shares	0	0	0	0	Net profit	-48.8	-5.8	-6.3	5.3
Proceeds from borrowings	-15,444	-6,502	-3,777	-3,777	Net profit (adj.)	-61.9	11.5	-6.3	5.3
Others/interest paid	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	EPS	-61.9	11.5	-6.3	5.3
Net cash inflow (outflow)	1,079	29,276	7,615	6,520					
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	39,127	29,042	58,318	65,934	Leverage				
Changes due to forex impact	-468	0	0	0	Debt to total capital	103.2	96.0	90.9	85.7
Ending cash & cash equivalent	39,738	58,318	65,934	72,454	Debt to equity	103.5	96.6	91.7	86.7
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					Interest cover (x)	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.5



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