

Friday, 06 June 2025

COMPANY UPDATE

SCGP (SCGP TB)

Reduced Concerns Over Fajar

We have a positive outlook on SCGP as the supply issues in Indonesia's packaging market have eased, and there are also clear signs of a recovery in selling prices. SCGP's target for Fajar to reach EBITDA breakeven is progressing as planned. Price increases in the Indonesian market and a cost-saving plan that has outperformed expectations have led us to revise up our 2025–26 net profit forecasts. Upgrade to BUY. Target price: Bt21.00.

WHAT'S NEW

- Supply pressure in the Indonesia market begins to ease. According to SCG Packaging (SCGP), PT. Pakerin in Indonesia, which has a production capacity of 250,000 tonnes per year and is the fourth-largest player in the market, has halted operations due to financial difficulties partly a result of intense competition over the past 1–2 years. We believe this development will ease supply-side pressure in the market. Previously, PT APP Purinusa Ekapersada (APP Indonesia), the market leader, had increased its capacity by 700,000 tonnes per year. However, 50% of this new capacity was merely to replace older capacity that had been shut down.
- Fajar's EBITDA improvement is on track. SCGP stated that Fajar is on course to achieve breakeven at the EBITDA level in 2Q25. This is partly driven by: a) a recovery in the Indonesian domestic market, which has resulted in increased local sales and reduced reliance on the still-weak Chinese market. Fajar's domestic sales grew 3% yoy and qoq to 261,000 tonnes in 1Q25, in line with SCGP's plan to reduce dependence on exports to China, b) rising ASPs, and c) lower raw material costs, due to improved sourcing by SCGP. Fajar has increased its use of local recycled paper (RCP) to 55%, up significantly from 10–15% in 2024. Local RCP is cheaper than imported RCP, contributing to cost savings.
- Financial restructuring plan for Fajar to be finalised within 1-2 months. SCGP is planning a financial restructuring for Fajar, which is expected to reduce its annual interest expense by Bt500m. SCGP currently has outstanding debt of Bt15b-16b, with an average interest rate of 7% per year. SCGP plans to refinance approximately Bt8.0b of loans at a lower rate of 3%. This refinancing is expected to be completed by early-July, which should help lower interest expenses in 2H25.
- APP Indonesia signals price hikes. APP Indonesia has announced ASP increases for May and June. We expect other Indonesian producers, including Fajar, to follow suit with price hikes, with a lag time of about one month. This development has led us to revise Fajar's 2025–26 forecasts upward. For 2025, we now expect a net loss of Bt1.65b (previously Bt1.78b), down from a Bt2.58b loss in 2024. In 2026, the projected loss is Bt900m (previously Bt1.10b).

KEY FINANCIALS

Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2023	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Net turnover	129,398	132,784	149,671	161,941	174,897
EBITDA	17,937	15,343	17,713	19,454	19,056
Operating profit	8,238	6,085	6,581	8,446	9,270
Net profit (rep./act.)	5,248	3,699	3,903	5,243	5,529
Net profit (adj.)	5,169	3,910	3,903	5,243	5,529
EPS (Bt)	1.35	0.86	0.91	1.22	1.29
PE (x)	12.21	19.15	18.15	13.51	12.81
P/B (x)	0.73	0.92	0.91	0.87	0.83
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.09	10.70	8.72	7.50	7.48
Dividend yield (%)	3.64	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Net margin (%)	3.99	2.94	2.61	3.24	3.16
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	40.80	60.95	47.95	34.31	26.49
Interest cover (x)	4.95	1.60	3.57	3.68	3.26
ROE (%)	4.72	3.88	4.03	5.22	5.34
Consensus net profit (Btm)	n.a.	n.a.	3,521	4,470	6,200
UOBKH/Consensus (x)	n.a.	n.a.	1.11	1.17	0.89

Source: SCGP, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

BUY

(Upgraded)

Share Price	Bt16.50
Target Price	Bt21.00
Upside	+27.3%
(Previously TP	Bt13.20)

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

SCGP is a holding company and an integrated packaging solutions provider which is organised into three main businesses: integrated packaging, fibrous, and recycling.

STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Materials
Bloomberg ticker:	SCGP TB
Shares issued (m):	4,292.9
Market cap (Btm):	126,641.1
Market cap (US\$m):	3,782.6
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	9.8

Price Performance (%)

52-week h	igh/low	Bt39.75/Bt22.30			
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD	
6.3	(7.8)	(8.0)	(19.7)	(18.1)	
Major Sh	areholder		%		
The Siam	Cement		72.1		
Thai NVDF	₹		3.0		
CPB Equit	У		1.5		
FY24 NAV	//Share (Bt)		15.24		
FY24 Net	Debt/Share (3.02		

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

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• Strategic plans to navigate market volatility. Despite continued macroeconomic headwinds particularly from the weak Chinese economy, SCGP has formulated a strategic plan for 2025 to manage volatility, including: a) reducing reliance on the Chinese market, particularly for Fajar, which will cut its export share to China to 20% (from 24–26% in 2024) and shift focus to high-potential markets like Thailand, Vietnam, and domestic demand, b) cutting production costs, with a 2025 cost-saving target of Bt600m (Bt185m achieved in 1Q25), and c) executing merger and partnership (M&P) activities, with a 2025 capex target of Bt13b, of which Bt8.0b-10.0b will be allocated for M&P to support continued growth. We see this as a potential upside for SCGP.

STOCK IMPACT

• 2Q25 core profit expected to hold steady despite low season. Despite 2Q25 being impacted by the Thai baht's appreciation and seasonal weakness – primarily due to projected lower sales in Thailand from the extended Songkran holiday in April and the earlier arrival of the rainy season (with Thailand accounting for 45% of total revenue) – we expect SCGP's net profit to hold steady qoq. This stability is underpinned by: a) a 90-day postponement of Trump's tariff policy, which is expected to trigger short-term restocking activity in the region, similar to the pattern observed over the past six months, b) stronger sales in Indonesia and Vietnam, where 2Q25 is free of major holidays, unlike 1Q25 which was affected by the Hari Raya and Tet festivals; and c) reduced production costs, thanks to lower prices of RCP (recycled paper) and fuel, along with a 5-7% qoq reduction in Fajar's cost of goods sold, in line with SCGP's cost optimisation efforts. In 1Q25, SCGP reported a net profit of Bt900m, marking a turnaround from the net loss in 4Q24.

EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

• We revised up our 2025-26 net profit forecasts. We have upgraded our 2025-26 net profit forecasts by 10%, supported by higher ASPs and Fajar's cost management strategy. This results in an improved gross profit margin for SCGP, now projected at 16.2% in 2025 (previously 16.0%) and 16.7% in 2026 (previously 16.6%). Accordingly, we now anticipate a net profit of Bt3.9b in 2025, up 5.5% yoy, and a net profit of Bt5.2b in 2026, up 34% yoy.

EARNINGS REVISION

	2025F			2026F			
	Previous	New	Change	Previous	New	Change	
Sales and service revenue	146,062	149,671	2.5%	156,286	161,941	3.6%	
Gross profit	23,414	24,201	3.4%	25,880	27,069	4.6%	
Net Profit	3,534	3,903	10.4%	4,766	5,243	10.0%	
			(ppt)			(ppt)	
% Gross profit margin	16.0%	16.2%	14 ppt	16.6%	16.7%	16 ppt	

Source: SCGP, UOB Kay Hian

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

• Upgrade to BUY with a new target price of Bt21.00, based on regional forward PE at -1SD of 23.1x (previously based on regional forward PE at -2SD of 16.0x).

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)

CG Report: 5 SET ESG Rating: AAA

• Environmental

- Sustainable packaging solutions: SCGP focuses on developing eco-friendly packaging solutions to minimise environmental impact. This includes using recyclable materials and reducing packaging waste.
- **Energy efficiency:** SCGP implements energy-efficient practices in its manufacturing processes and facilities to reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption.

Social

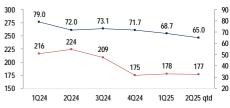
- Employee welfare: SCGP invests in staff wellbeing and development through training programmes, safety initiatives, and fostering of a positive workplace culture.
- Community engagement: SCGP engages with local communities through various social responsibility initiatives, supporting education, healthcare and community development.

Governance

- Board oversight: The Board of Directors provides governance oversight, with committees focusing on audit, risk management and sustainability.
- Compliance and ethics: SCGP adheres to legal and regulatory requirements in all jurisdictions where it operates, promoting a culture of integrity and ethical behaviour.

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PRODUCTION COST



--- AOCC Price: Asia index (US\$/Tonne CIF - from US to Asia) --- Coal Price (ICI3, US\$/Tonne) Source: SCGP, UOB Kay Hian

FAJAR'S ASP AND SALES VOLUME



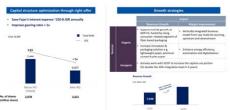
Source: SCGP, UOB Kay Hian

FAJAR'S PERFORMANCE



Source: SCGP, UOB Kay Hian

INDONESIA: FAJAR'S TURNAROUND PLAN IN 2025



Source: SCGP, UOB Kay Hian

FORWARD PE



Source: Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian



PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F	Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Net turnover	132,784	149,671	161,941	174,897	Fixed assets	91,014	81,638	72,387	64,356
EBITDA	15,343	17,713	19,454	19,056	Other LT assets	39,840	44,907	48,589	52,476
Deprec. & amort.	9,259	11,132	11,008	9,787	Cash/ST investment	35,834	30,495	29,849	33,300
EBIT	6,085	6,581	8,446	9,270	Other current assets	443	499	540	584
Total other non-operating income	1,108	1,171	1,263	1,361	Total assets	188,580	180,508	174,769	174,643
Associate contributions	113	50	50	51	ST debt	7,140	2,000	2,000	2,000
Net interest income/(expense)	(2,429)	(2,958)	(3,281)	(3,854)	Other current liabilities	9,292	10,474	11,333	12,239
Pre-tax profit	4,764	4,794	6,428	6,777	LT debt	26,443	24,443	22,443	20,443
Tax	(825)	(863)	(1,157)	(1,220)	Other LT liabilities	36,690	35,993	34,941	33,942
Minorities	28	28	28	28	Shareholders' equity	63,647	65,189	68,070	71,238
Net profit	3,699	3,903	5,243	5,529	Total liabilities & equity	188,580	180,508	174,770	174,645
Net profit (adj.)	3,910	3,903	5,243	5,529					
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Dec (Btm)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F	Year to 31 Dec (%)	2024	2025F	2026F	2027F
Operating	13,754	14,941	17,504	16,780	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	4,552	4,794	6,428	6,777	EBITDA margin	13.67	12.30	12.58	12.76
Tax	(825)	(863)	(1,157)	(1,220)	Pre-tax margin	5.09	3.43	3.20	3.97
Deprec. & amort.	9,259	11,132	11,008	9,787	Net margin	4.06	2.79	2.61	3.24
Working capital changes	(517)	(122)	1,225	1,436	ROA	1.96	2.16	3.00	3.17
Other operating cashflows	1,285	0	0	0	ROE	5.81	5.99	7.70	7.76
Investing	(510)	(5,521)	(4,492)	(4,643)					
Investments	(1,768)	(1,757)	(1,757)	(1,756)	Growth				
Others	1,257	(3,764)	(2,735)	(2,887)	Turnover	2.62	12.72	8.20	8.00
Financing	(13,181)	(13,994)	(14,361)	(9,361)	EBITDA	(7.83)	15.45	9.83	(2.04)
Dividend payments	(2,361)	(2,361)	(2,361)	(2,361)	Pre-tax profit	(26.74)	0.63	34.09	5.44
Proceeds from borrowings	(10,820)	(11,633)	(12,000)	(7,000)	Net profit	(29.52)	5.50	34.33	5.46
Net cash inflow (outflow)	62	(4,573)	(1,349)	2,776	Net profit (adj.)	(24.35)	(0.19)	34.33	5.46
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	9,889	9,849	5,276	3,927	EPS	(29.52)	5.50	34.33	5.46
Changes due to forex impact	(102)	0	0	0					
Ending cash & cash equivalent	9,849	5,276	3,927	6,702	Leverage				
					Debt to total capital	34.54	28.86	26.42	23.96
					Debt to equity	0.98	0.86	0.75	0.70
					Net debt/(cash) to equity	0.61	0.48	0.35	0.27
					Interest cover (x)	2.51	2.22	2.57	2.41

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