### **News Update**

# Gunkul Engineering Pcl (GUNKUL TB) - BUY

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### Reduced stake in wind power project

- GUNKUL transfers 170MW wind projects to a JV with GULF
- GULF injects Bt5bn capital to make 50-50 holdings in JV
- We now see the deal as slightly unfavorable to GUNKUL
- The JV will continue with a target of 1,000MW new projects

GUNKUL announced last week an official setup of the joint-ventured company with Gulf Energy Development PcI (GULF TB, HOLD, Bt47.25), 'Gulf Gunkul Corporation', following the announcement in May that the two companies plan to setup a 50-50 JV together in pursue for a total of 1,000MW renewable projects.

- GUNKUL has transferred its 170MW subsidized (with adders) wind farms in Thailand into the JV. We value those projects at Bt10.2bn.
- GULF injected Bt5.0bn cash into the JV through its capital increase plan, via an issuance of new shares, in which GUNKUL waive its rights to subscribe.
- This makes a holding structure in the JV is now 50% GULF and 50% GUNKUL, with 170MW wind farms and Bt5.0bn cash as its initial assets.

### Our comments

- We see the deal as unfavorable to GUNKUL since it had to inject a twice in value of assets (Bt10.2bn wind farms vs Bt5.0bn cash) into the JV for a 50-50 stake, despite it is arguable that this short-term sacrifice will be compensated by a long-term growth potential from the JV.
- Moreover, these wind power projects are GUNKUL's core operating assets, contributing half of its current earnings base on our estimates. We estimate this lower stake in the projects to post 10% and 20% downsides to our earnings forecasts for GUNKUL in 2022-23F.
- This is thus also a risk to GUNKUL's dividends, due to a lower cash flow from these wind power projects while the proceeds from asset transfer will be kept in the JV for future investments, rather than a cash proceeds to GUNKUL.
- We see one positive from this cash injection into the JV by GULF that it may suggest new projects are soon to come for the JV.
- Since we have factored in value from the JV in our numbers, this additional asset transfer posts a Bt0.5/share downside to our valuation on GUNKUL (current TP at Bt6.2/share).

## **Key Valuations**

Y/E Dec (Bt m)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Revenue	7,945	10,176	12,718	13,666
Net profit	2,229	2,864	3,543	3,803
Norm net profit	2,022	2,864	3,543	3,803
Norm EPS (Bt)	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Norm EPS gr (%)	42.3	41.7	23.7	7.3
Norm PE (x)	23.7	16.7	13.5	12.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	23.4	17.8	13.7	12.1
P/BV (x)	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.4
Div. yield (%)	1.1	2.4	3.0	3.2
ROE (%)	15.9	20.3	21.8	20.5
Net D/E (%)	157.2	121.6	115.2	92.6

Source: Thanachart estimates

#### **Stock Data**

Closing price (Bt)	5.40
Target price (Bt)	6.20
Market cap (US\$ m)	1,303
Avg daily turnover (US\$ m)	13.3
12M H/L price (Bt)	7.20/4.54



Source: Bloomberg

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