

Malaysia

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 10	Hold 5	Sell 2
Current price:			RM4.12
Target price:			RM5.70
Previous target:			RM6.00
Up/downside:			38.3%
CGSI / Consensus:			24.9%
Reuters:		S	COG.KL
Bloomberg:		S	CGB MK
Market cap:		US	\$1,196m
		RN	/15,312m
Average daily turnove	er:	US	S\$4.19m
		RN	/18.66m
Current shares o/s:			1,293m
Free float:			28.9%
*Source: Bloomberg			

Key changes in this note

- Lower FY25F/FY26F EPS by 5%/1% to account for deferment in project awards in FY24 and higher minority interest.
- Introduce FY27F EPS.
- Lower TP to RM5.70.



Price performance Absolute (%) Relative (%)	<i>1M</i> 17.7 17.4	3M -8.5 -7.2	<i>12M</i> 57.9 56.5
Major shareholders Sunway Berhad			% held 54.4
EPF			9.4
Amanah Saham			7.3



Sunway Construction Group Bhd

Strong 4Q; expect DC upsizing in 1Q25F

- 4Q24 results were strong, boosted by DC revenue recognition from its Sedenak contract, but FY24 core net profit still missed our expectations.
- Suncon's RM4bn-6bn new order target for FY25F looks realistic, in our view, especially given the likely upsizing of DCs in 1Q25F.
- Reiterate Add, with a lower GGM-derived TP of RM5.70.

4Q24 results strong but still missed our expectations

Sunway Construction (Suncon) announced a 4Q24 core net profit of RM73m (+32% yoy, +112% qoq). FY24 core net profit of RM171m (+13% yoy) was in line at 101% of Bloomberg consensus' estimate, but falling short of ours at 90%, largely due to our underestimation of minority interest. The key 4Q24 highlight was a 72% yoy increase in construction revenue to RM1.4bn due to faster progress of its data centre (DC) projects. 4Q24 construction pretax margin rose to 7.9% (from 6.7% in 4Q23). Its upsized RM3.8bn Sedenak DC project has reached 34% financial recognition since its award at end-2022, and we expect it to anchor earnings growth in FY25F given its scheduled completion in 1Q26F. 4Q24 precast revenue was RM46m (-46% yoy) due to completion of some projects in 4Q23. 4Q24 precast margin was 7.3% (vs. 4Q23's 9%), but improved from 6% in 3Q23.

RM4bn-6bn new order wins guidance for FY25F

Suncon's FY24 new wins amounted to RM4.2bn (lower end of its RM4bn-5bn target); its total orderbook stood at RM5.8bn as at Dec 24, with DC projects contributing 55% of the total. It currently has five DC projects from four clients, with potential upsizing opportunities, in our view. Suncon has articulated its FY25F new order win target of RM4bn-6bn (vs. our forecast of RM5bn). In our view, this is a realistic target range with the potential upsizing of existing DC projects, where if all come to fruition should enable Suncon to hit this target without any projects from government infrastructure, internal projects from its parent company, and other industrial warehouses/semiconductor factories/building jobs. We expect the upsizing of its K2 DC and the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) DC for a US MNC conversion to a full-sized project to be awarded by 1QCY25F and be worth RM1.5bn-2bn. While we acknowledge there is still some uncertainty over the future DC project pipeline with the AI Diffusion Framework, we think there could be some urgency to accelerate the upsizing of its existing DC projects.

Reiterate Add, with a lower GGM-derived TP of RM5.70

We reiterate our Add rating but lower our GGM-basedTP to RM5.70 (LTG 4.5%, COE 8.4%, ROE 32%) due to our earnings cuts to factor in the deferment in projects in FY24 and higher minority interest. We like Suncon for its strong execution track record, first-mover advantage in DCs, and 3-year EPS CAGR of 27% (FY24-27F). Key downside risks: slower recognition of existing DC projects and higher cost environment. Re-rating catalysts: award of government infrastructure and more DC projects.

Financial Summary	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Revenue (RMm)	2,671	3,522	5,172	5,365	5,596
Operating EBITDA (RMm)	245.3	279.5	453.7	467.3	497.7
Net Profit (RMm)	170.2	171.3	307.5	322.1	348.0
Core EPS (RM)	0.12	0.14	0.24	0.25	0.27
Core EPS Growth	4.8%	21.4%	68.6%	4.8%	8.0%
FD Core P/E (x)	35.48	29.22	17.32	16.54	15.31
DPS (RM)	0.06	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.13
Dividend Yield	1.46%	2.06%	2.89%	3.02%	3.27%
EV/EBITDA (x)	23.87	18.26	11.12	10.50	9.56
P/FCFE (x)	74.71	8.07	22.11	16.60	15.87
Net Gearing	51.1%	(30.4%)	(32.1%)	(39.3%)	(44.9%)
P/BV (x)	6.49	6.07	5.16	4.47	3.90
ROE	19.3%	21.5%	32.2%	29.0%	27.2%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(4.68%)	(1.44%)	
EPS/Consensus EPS (x)			1.19	1.15	1.42

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS



CHONG Tjen-San, CFA T (60) 3 2635 9298 E tjen-san.chong@cgsi.com



Strong 4Q; expect DC upsizing in 1Q25

Figure 1: Revisions to our FY25F-26F forecasts for Suncon

	Previous FY25F	Previous FY26F	Revised FY25F	Revised % FY26F	change % FY25F	% change FY26F
Revenue (RMm)	5,523.2	5,581.1	5,172.0	5,364.8	-6.4%	-3.9%
EBITDA (RMm)	497.8	505.9	453.7	467.3	-8.9%	-7.6%
Net profit (RMm)	322.6	326.8	307.5	322.1	-4.7%	-1.4%
EPS (Sen)	25.0	25.3	23.8	24.9	-4.7%	-1.4%
		SOU	RCES: CGSI RESI	EARCH ESTIMATE	ES, COMPANY	REPORTS

	4QFY24	4QFY23	% change yoy	3QFY24	% change qoq
	RMm	RMm		RMm	
Revenue	1400.3	871.5	61%	865.3	62%
Other operating income	10.6	40.7	-74%	24.7	-57%
Other operating expense	-1319.3	-830.4	59%	-825.3	60%
EBIT	91.6	81.8	12%	64.8	41%
Finance income	33.2	8.6	286%	22.4	49%
Finance cost	-14.6	-15.2	-4%	-16.6	-13%
Share of JV profits	0.3	-14.5	-102%	0.0	n.m
Profit before taxation	110.6	60.8	82%	70.5	57%
Taxation	-32.7	-12.3	165%	-21.9	49%
Net income	77.9	48.4	61%	48.6	60%
Minority interest	-8.7	0.8	-1132%	-2.2	301%
Atributed to shareholders	69.2	49.3	40%	46.5	49%
Less: Exceptional Items	-3.4	-5.7	-40%	12.3	-128%
Core net profit	72.6	55.0	32%	34.2	112%
	4QFY24	4QFY23	% change yoy	3QFY24	% change qoq
	RMm	RMm		RMm	
Construction	1353.9	785.8	72%	831.8	63%
Precast Concrete	46.4	85.7	-46%	33.5	38%
Revenue	1400.3	871.5	61%	865.3	62%
Construction	107.2	53.0	102%	68.5	56%
Precast Concrete	3.4	7.7	-56%	2.0	70%
Profit before taxation	110.6	60.8	82%	70.5	57%
Construction pretax margins	8%	7%	17%	8.2%	-4%
Precast concrete pretax margins	7%	9%	-18%	6.0%	3%

Figure 3: GGM-derived TP for	r Suncon
GGM TP (RM/share)	5.70
Implied P/E FY25F (x)	24
Beta (x)	0.8
Required return (%)	8.4%
LT growth rate (%)	4.5%
2025 BV/share	0.80
2025 ROE (%)	32.2%
	SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS



Construction | Malaysia Sunway Construction Group Bhd | February 20, 2025



Figure 4: Peer comparisons (as at 20 Feb 2025)															
Company	Bloomberg Ticker	Rec.	Price (Icl curr)	TP (lcl curr)	Mkt Cap (US\$ m)	P/E (x) CY24F	CY25F	2-year EPS CAGR	PEG (x)	P/BV (x) CY24F		Recurring ROE (%) CY24F		Dividend Yield (%) CY24F	CY25F
Gamuda	GAM MK	Add	4.60	6.45	5,905	24.5	18.7	24.3%	1.0	2.20	2.02	9.0%	11.2%	1.9%	2.2%
IJM Corp Bhd	IJM MK	Add	2.13	3.80	1,681	14.8	12.4	18.6%	0.8	0.71	0.68	4.8%	5.6%	1.4%	1.4%
Sunway Construction Group Bhd	SCGB MK	Add	4.12	5.70	1,196	29.1	17.3	44.8%	0.7	6.05	5.15	21.0%	32.1%	2.1%	2.9%
Muhibbah Engineering	MUHI MK	Add	0.65	1.34	107	8.8	7.0	-50.0%	-0.2	0.35	0.34	3.9%	4.9%	4.5%	7.1%
HSS Engineers	HSS MK	Add	0.90	1.48	103	17.5	9.0	59.2%	0.3	1.76	1.55	9.8%	18.2%	1.8%	3.6%
YTL Corporation	YTL MK	Add	2.03	3.00	5,048	10.7	10.7	14.8%	0.7	1.29	1.18	12.5%	11.3%	2.3%	2.5%
Malayan Cement Bhd	LMC MK	Add	4.65	7.00	1,404	12.4	11.2	33.4%	0.4	0.95	0.89	7.8%	8.1%	2.3%	2.6%
Sunway Bhd	SWB MK	Add	4.66	5.70	6,480	28.6	25.6	24.7%	1.2	1.85	1.92	6.5%	7.7%	1.9%	2.3%
Econpile Holdings Bhd	ECON MK	Add	0.35	0.56	112	na	20.7	na	na	1.37	1.35	-1.3%	6.5%	1.4%	3.6%
Kumpulan Kitacon Bhd	(ITACON MK	Add	0.75	1.28	84	8.4	7.4	16.9%	0.5	1.13	1.04	14.1%	14.6%	3.0%	3.3%
Construction sector						17.2	14.0	20.7%	0.6	1.8	1.6	8.8%	12.0%	2.3%	3.1%
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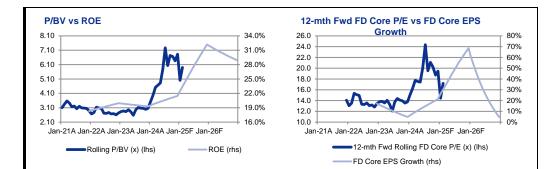
ESG in a nutshell

We deem Suncon's ESG practices as some of the most progressive in the local construction industry. In 2022, SunCon reviewed its Sustainability Framework to better align its strategic approach to ESG with industry best practices as well as to adopt more stringent reporting disclosures. Suncon is bidding for more ESG-based projects such as renewable energy and green building projects; this is positive for its ESG journey, in our view. Two large-scale solar (LSS) projects it bagged in FY21-22 marked the beginning of this foray.

Keep your eye on	Implications
The group is looking to expand further in the solar energy space; it is currently an engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) contractor for two LSS projects. Besides this, there is growing demand for more sustainable or ESG-based projects in Malaysia, such as thermal energy storage (TES), district cooling systems (DCS), energy efficient or "smart" buildings, solar farms and solar panels. It was one of 22 most recent winners of the Corporate Green Power Programme (CGPP) announced by the Energy Commission (EC) on 7 Aug 2023.	There was a delay in the rollout of renewable (RE) projects in Malaysia, especially LSS farms, due to the high prices of solar panels but prices have since abated. Suncon may look to bid for more RE projects in the future where it was present in some LSS projects in the past. On 20 Jul 2022, SunCon commenced construction of a district cooling system (DCS) at the mixed development in South Quay Square, Sunway City Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with ENGIE South East Asia.
ESG highlights	Implications
There was a delay in the rollout of renewable RE projects in Malaysia, especially LSS farms, due to the high prices of solar panels but prices have since abated. The Energy Commission (EC) announced new measures to maintain the viability of projects identified under the fourth round of LSS awards (LSS4), such as the extension of the duration of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) by four years from 21 years to 25 years. While Suncon is just an EPCC contractor, this is still positive for the company, in our view. On 20 Jul 2022, SunCon commenced construction of a DCS at the mixed development in South Quay Square, Sunway City Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with ENGIE South East Asia.	We consider Suncon's ESG efforts to be progressive and among the best among the local contractors. SunCon is working towards achieving 30% women representation on its board, according to its FY23 annual report.
Trends	Implications
SunCon may be looking to participate in Malaysia's voluntary carbon market (VCM) as a buyer of carbon credits to offset emissions. It may also potentially generate carbon credits through its carbon negative projects, according to its	While it is early days, we think Suncon will continue to tick more boxes for ESG where it can also leverage on its parent company Sunway Berhad to achieve this.
FY22/FY23 annual report. The construction industry's increased focus on climate change and sustainability provides more opportunities for green building design and construction. SunCon's continued progress in and focus on green and sustainable infrastructure development could boost its access to green bonds and sustainable financing, in our view. Suncon is rated AA for ESG by MSCI and was recently included in the FBM 70 Index.	All Sunway Berhad's ESG initiatives are aligned with five global megatrends i.e. rapid urbanisation, social change, technological breakthroughs, resource scarcity, and shifting economic power. These trends will become more central in 2025F.Sunway Berhad also targets that, by 2030F, it would have achieved green building certification for all Sunway- owned and/or managed townships and buildings completed from 2025F onwards. This will bode well for Suncon, in our view.
	SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, LSEG



BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss

(RMm)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Total Net Revenues	2,698	3,573	5,186	5,379	5,610
Gross Profit	588	791	971	990	1,025
Operating EBITDA	245	279	454	467	498
Depreciation And Amortisation	(21)	(17)	(18)	(25)	(30)
Operating EBIT	224	262	436	443	468
Financial Income/(Expense)	(21)	11	(4)	(2)	1
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(14)	0	2	2	2
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	189	273	433	442	470
Exceptional Items	25	(16)	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	214	257	433	442	470
Taxation	(43)	(76)	(113)	(115)	(122)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	171	181	320	327	348
Minority Interests	(1)	(10)	(13)	(5)	0
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Preference Dividends (Australia)					
Net Profit	170	171	307	322	348
Recurring Net Profit	150	182	307	322	348
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	150	182	307	322	348
Normalised Net Profit	146	197	320	327	348
Fully Diluted Normalised Profit	145	187	307	322	348

Cash Flow

/= \					
(RMm)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
EBITDA	245.3	279.5	453.7	467.3	497.7
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(274.1)	425.8	(64.5)	4.0	(4.9)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	(62.1)	(64.9)	(31.2)	(33.4)	(35.7)
Other Operating Cashflow	(130.6)	141.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(21.5)	10.5	(4.5)	(1.9)	0.9
Tax Paid	(42.8)	(75.9)	(112.6)	(115.0)	(122.3)
Cashflow From Operations	(285.8)	716.7	240.9	320.9	335.7
Capex	(17.7)	(9.2)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(70.4)	147.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow From Investing	(88.1)	138.6	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	445.2	(195.3)	50.0	50.0	50.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(70.9)	(116.0)	(153.7)	(161.1)	(174.0)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(21.6)	1.4	32.9	35.1	37.4
Cash Flow From Financing	352.7	(310.0)	(70.9)	(75.9)	(86.6)
Total Cash Generated	(21.2)	545.3	120.0	195.0	199.1
Free Cashflow To Equity	71.3	660.0	240.9	320.9	335.7
Free Cashflow To Firm	(326.0)	920.5	223.8	306.1	323.0

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

(RMm)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	470	1,016	1,136	1,331	1,530
Total Debtors	1,596	1,843	2,763	2,866	2,990
Inventories	46	43	65	67	70
Total Other Current Assets	127	20	20	20	20
Total Current Assets	2,239	2,922	3,984	4,285	4,610
Fixed Assets	99	85	117	143	163
Total Investments	253	225	225	225	225
Intangible Assets	483	342	342	342	342
Total Other Non-Current Assets	9	22	22	22	22
Total Non-current Assets	844	674	706	731	751
Short-term Debt	438	731	731	731	731
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	1,243	1,913	2,790	2,899	3,021
Other Current Liabilities	21	13	13	13	13
Total Current Liabilities	1,702	2,657	3,534	3,643	3,765
Total Long-term Debt	488	0	50	100	150
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Non-current Liabilities	488	0	50	100	150
Total Provisions	1	1	1	1	1
Total Liabilities	2,191	2,658	3,585	3,744	3,916
Shareholders' Equity	820	878	1,032	1,193	1,367
Minority Interests	72	61	73	79	79
Total Equity	892	939	1,105	1,272	1,445

Key Ratios

	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Revenue Growth	23.9%	31.8%	46.9%	3.7%	4.3%
Operating EBITDA Growth	11.0%	13.9%	62.3%	3.0%	6.5%
Operating EBITDA Margin	9.18%	7.94%	8.77%	8.71%	8.89%
Net Cash Per Share (RM)	(0.35)	0.22	0.27	0.39	0.50
BVPS (RM)	0.63	0.68	0.80	0.92	1.06
Gross Interest Cover	4.68	4.02	13.25	12.60	12.51
Effective Tax Rate	20.0%	29.5%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	53.3%	58.6%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Accounts Receivables Days	176.6	178.7	162.5	191.5	191.0
Inventory Days	8.64	5.90	4.68	5.50	5.48
Accounts Payables Days	186.8	207.6	203.6	236.6	235.7
ROIC (%)	38%	24%	101%	84%	85%
ROCE (%)	16.0%	19.4%	26.1%	23.9%	22.8%
Return On Average Assets	6.29%	5.59%	7.84%	6.78%	6.69%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
New order wins	2,500.0	4,100.0	5,000.0	5,000.0	5,100.0
Construction revenue	2,381.0	3,326.9	4,865.0	4,977.8	5,165.9
Precast revenue	290.2	194.8	307.0	387.0	430.0
Construction EBIT margins	7.5	7.2	8.2	8.0	8.1
Precast EBIT margins	15.5	11.5	12.0	12.0	12.0

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS



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Description:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	N/A	N/A

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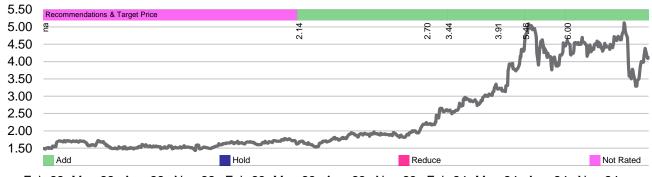


Distribution of stock ratings and investment banking clients for quarter ended on 31 December 2024		
598 companies under coverage for quarter ended on 31 December 2024		
	Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)
Add	67.4%	0.8%
Hold	22.2%	0.8%
Reduce	10.4%	0.3%

Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

Sunway Construction Group Bhd (SCGB MK)





Feb-22 May-22 Aug-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23 Aug-23 Nov-23 Feb-24 May-24 Aug-24 Nov-24

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Stock Ratings	Definition:		
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.		
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.		
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-	n of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net ock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.		
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