

#### Materials | Company Research

Bringing China to the World

6 December 2017

### BUY **Unchanged**

Market Data: 5 Dec	
Closing Price (HK\$)	1.14
Price Target (HK\$)	1.65
HSCEI	11484
HSCCI	4304
52-week High/Low (HK\$)	1.16/0.70
Market Cap (US\$m)	797
Market Cap (HK\$m)	6180
Shares Outstanding (m)	4,517
Exchange Rate (Rmb-HK\$)	1.26
Price Performance Chart:	

Source: Bloombera

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#### **Related Reports**

"West China Cement (2233 HK) - Get by with a little help" 15 March 2016

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# 延伸新业务

### 西部水泥 (2233:HK)

Financial summary and valuation							
	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E		
Revenue (Rmbm)	3,501	4,361	4,649	4,860	4,899		
YoY (%)	(9.8)	24.6	6.6	4.5	0.8		
Net income (Rmbm)	(309)	10	522	656	775		
YoY (%)	(961.2)	(103.3)	4,954.7	25.7	18.1		
EPS (Rmb)	(0.06)	0.00	0.09	0.12	0.14		
Diluted EPS (Rmb)	(0.06)	0.00	0.09	0.12	0.14		
ROE (%)	(5.2)	0.2	4.0	4.4	5.1		
Debt/asset (%)	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04		
Dividend yield (%)	(1.35)	0.04	2.14	2.69	3.18		
PE (x)	(14.7)	455.1	9.8	7.7	6.5		
PB (x)	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4		
EV/Ebitda (x)	11.9	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.9		

Note: Diluted EPS is calculated as if all outstanding convertible securities, such as convertible preferred shares, convertible debentures, stock options and warrants, were exercised.

**陕西省水泥供需关系明显好转** 受益于错峰生产计划的实施,从 16 年下半年,基建行业 的水泥需求开始大幅上升。陕西省作为西部水泥的核心市场,水泥价格从人民币 230 元 /吨上升至现价人民币 355 元/吨, 这是继 2014 年以来最大幅度的价格上涨。 现在的市场 竞争格局保持稳定,并在未来三年内都利好西部水泥。不同于其他地区的是,陕西省的 水泥需求很大程度上依赖于基础建设,尤其是铁路和公路建设。由于陕西和新疆都是国 家"一带一路"战略和"2020年脱贫计划"关注的重点地区,因此我们对这两个省份未 来三年内的水泥需求都十分有信心。为了达到国家的战略目标,政府批复了非常多的在 未来三年内实施的基建项目而不是以往的五年时长。2016年下半年的实际需求由于当地 高速公路和铁路基建项目的释放也在不断增长。

**骨料业务和尧柏环保获额外收益** 从 2017 年下半年开始,像海螺水泥、华润水泥和中国 建材的大型企业更专注于拓展上游供应链业务: 骨料业务。与此同时,西部水泥也大力 发展骨料业务并计划于 2018 增加 1600 万吨的产能。在 17 年第三季度,陕西省骨料的 每吨毛利率甚至高于水泥已达到人民币 70-75 元/吨,我们预计骨料将在未来的两年持 续为西部水泥带来额外 10%的收入。在 2015 年,西部水泥和海螺创业联合创立了尧柏 环保, 重点发展工业危废处理业务。海螺创业和西部水泥分别拥有尧柏环保 60%和 20% 的股份。在今年下半年,尧柏环保已有 37.5 万吨的产能并都归在海螺创业的运营产能 里。根据海螺创业的管理层透露,2017年的产量将达到11-12万吨,每吨价格在人民币 1000 元/吨左右,而每吨净利润已达到人民币 700 元/吨。公司的目标产能利用率在 19 年将提高至90%,届时毛利率将稳定在55%。

**与海螺水泥在运营上深度合作** 虽然安徽海螺水泥(914 HK - 买入)曾尝试收购西部水 泥,但现在并没有新的动态,这增加了投资者的担忧和并导致对西部水泥的股价压制, 陕西市场因其利好的战略位置仍十分具有吸引力。据海螺的管理层透露,海螺水泥与西 部水泥的合作非常有效,实现了削减成本,提高效率以及其他运营事项的有效促进,因 此我们认为,海螺有很大的可能性将再次增持西部水泥的股份。另外,我们发现西部水 泥的单位成本和单位利润在海螺参股后都出现了很大程度的提升,因此我们认为公司的 运营效率将持续提高。

**维持买入** 我们对于陕西市场的结构变化带来的市场潜力和定价能力十分乐观. 我们认为 2017 年的每股净收益将维持在人民币 0.09 元(同比增长 4954%);另外,2018 年每 股净收益区间为人民币 0.10 元至人民币 0.12 元(同比增长 25.7%)。从吨企业价值的 角度分析, 我们认为目前公司的股价下行潜力有限, 其现价为人民币 256/吨, 仍大大低 于市场均价人民币 400 元/吨。鉴于 17 年下半年的市场供求明显好转,我们认为,每吨 企业价值在人民币 360 元/吨是合理的。我们的目标价上调至至 1.65 港元。 仍具有 43.5% 的空间,维持买入。



Cement prices in Shaanxi Province, West China Cement's (WCC) core market, have increased 54.4% since mid-2016 to a current Rmb355/t as government-mandated production cuts tighten supply and an accelerated pace of infrastructure build-out drives up demand. Furthermore, we note improving profitability stemming operating efficiencies achieved thanks to the firm's tie-up with investor Anhui Conch Cement (914:HK – Outperform) and as the firm records a greater contribution from the highermargin aggregates business. We maintain our EPS forecast at Rmb0.09 in 17E (+327% YoY) but raise our forecasts from Rmb0.10 to Rmb0.12 in 18E (+27% YoY) and from Rmb0.12 to Rmb0.14 in 19E (+16.7% YoY) to reflect the higher profitability outlook, and lift our target price to HK\$1.65 to reflect a valuation more in line with the sector. We transfer coverage of WCC with our BUY recommendation unchanged.

**Wading upstream.** Starting 2H17, major cement producers in China – among them WCC – have increased focus on developing integrated upstream businesses. WCC plans to add 16mt of aggregates capacity in 2018 and we expect aggregates sales to contribute an additional 10% of revenue to WCC in 2018-19E. We note that, as of 3Q17, aggregates unit gross margin topped that of cement in Shaanxi at Rmb70-75/t. Meanwhile, WCC and Anhui Conch, through its subsidiary China Conch Venture Holdings (586:HK – N-R), formed an industrial hazardous waste treatment joint venture, Yaobai Environmental, in 2015. As of 2H17, Yaobai owned 375kt of treatment capacity, operated entirely by Conch Venture. According to Conch Venture management, the firm will process 110-120kt in 2017 at an average selling price (ASP) of Rmb1,000/t, resulting in unit net profit of Rmb700/t. The firm targets a 90% utilisation rate by 19E with gross margin at c.55%.

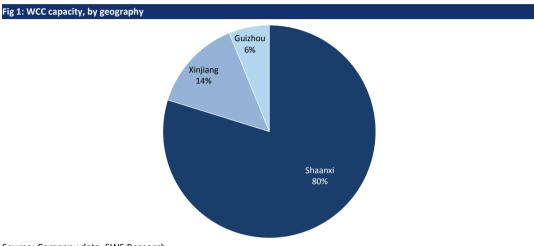
Cooperation with Conch. While we note rising concerns among investors over the lack of progress in the proposed merger of WCC into Conch may be weighing on WCC's stock performance, the fundamental market outlook in Shaanxi Province remain positive given strong fixed-asset investment (FAI) in the region. Conch management has stressed progress in its efforts to improve operating efficiency in its partnership with WCC, and we thus believe that there is a significant possibility that Conch will seek to increase its holdings in WCC further. We found WCC unit cost and margin have improved substantially since Conch joined its board and we see room for fresh operating efficiency gains in future.

Maintain BUY. We remain upbeat on market conditions in Shaanxi. We maintain our EPS forecast at Rmb0.09 in 17E (+4954% YoY) and raise our forecasts from Rmb0.10 to Rmb0.12 in 18E (+25.7% YoY) and from Rmb0.12 to Rmb0.14 in 19E (+18.1% YoY). We see little downside to the stock's current price – on an EV/capacity basis, it is trading at Rmb256/t, vs a market average of Rmb400/t. Given the improving market supply-demand outlook from 2H17 onwards, we believe that an EV/capacity multiple of Rmb360/t is reasonable and thus we raise our target price from HK\$1.50 to HK\$1.65. With 43.5% upside, we transfer coverage with a maintained BUY recommendation.

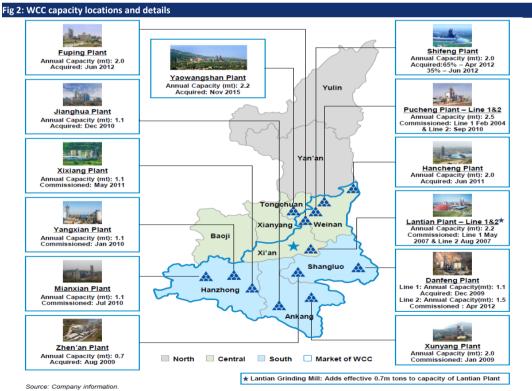


## Into the limelight

West China Cement is the one of leading cement producers in Shaanxi Province, with total capacity of 29.2mt, of which 23.3mt is located in Shaanxi, 4.1mt in Xinjiang and 1.8mt in Guizhou. In Southern Shaanxi, the firm dominates the local market, accounting for c.90% of cement sales.



Source: Company data, SWS Research

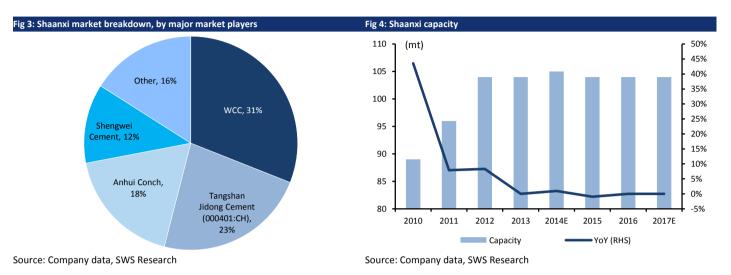


Source: Company website, SWS Research

Cement prices in Shaanxi Province, West China Cement's (WCC) core market, have increased from Rmb230/t in mid-2016 to a current Rmb355/t as government-mandated production cuts (its peak-shifting programme under which it orders producers to halt operations for a given number of days, varying by province and manufacturer depending on factors such as local air quality conditions and age/extent of capacity in region) tighten supply and an accelerated pace of infrastructure build-out drives up demand.



The Shaanxi market is well-known for intensive price competition among major players since 2013, which has impacted WCC's earnings. Following consolidation of WCC and Anhui Conch in 2016, the top four players now account for 80%-plus of the local market. Although the central Shaanxi market remains oversupplied, we note that no new capacity addition are scheduled for the next three years.





Source: Wind, SWS Research

Unlike other regions, Shaanxi's cement demand is much more heavily predicated upon infrastructure construction, particularly rail and road building. However, due to a drying up of funding from the regional government, infrastructure project construction has slowed since 2H15, leading to a decline in regional cement prices. Investors are concerned over the impact of cement demand on earnings in 2018.

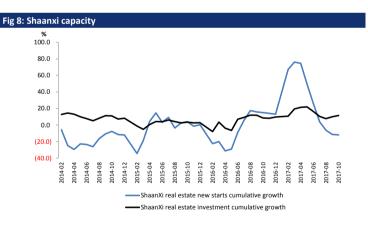
However, we remain confident on the medium-term infrastructure demand outlook in Shaanxi and nearby Xinjiang due to the government's *One Belt, One Road* trade links initiative and the its drive to eradicate poverty in China by 2020. As part of these goals, the government has released a number of key infrastructure projects for the next three years, accelerating the project planning timeframe from the more typical five-year horizon. We note that actual demand picked up in 2H16 as local high-speed rail and highway construction picked up. We expect WCC to become one of the largest beneficiaries of increased cement demand for local projects and note that it has already signed to be the supplier for 10 expressway and eight railway projects, in addition to four power station projects for 2017-20. Meanwhile, property investment growth in the Shaanxi capital, Xi'an, reached 22% YoY in 1H17, and we expect new starts to rise 5-8% in 2H17E and 2018E.



Project Name	Planned construction period
Railway	
Xi'an-Chengdu Railway (Central and Shannan Region)	2012-17
Yangpingguan-Ankang Railway Line II (Shannan Region)	2016-18
Yinchuan-Xi'an Railway (Central Region)	2016-21
Xi'an-Yan'an Railway (Central Region)	2017-21
Xi'an-Wuhan Railway (Shannan Region)	2017-21
Xi'an-Chongqing Railway (Shannan Region)	2017-21
Xi'an-Famen Temple Inter-City Railway (Central Region)	2017-21
Xi'an-Hancheng Inter-City Railway (Central Region)	2017-21
Yanliang-Xianyang International Airport Inter-City Railway (Central Region)	2017-21
Expressway	
Shanyang-Zhashui (Shannan Region)	2017-18
Taoba Expressway (Shannan Region)	2016-20
Taibai-Fengxian Expressway (Shannan Region)	2017-18
Baoji-Hanzhong Expressway (Shannan Region)	2013-17
Xixiang-Zhenba Expressway (Shannan Region)	2017-20
Heyang-Tongchuan Expressway (Central Region)	2017-20
Reconstruction and extension of Pucheng-Laoyukou Expressway of Beijing–Kunming line (Central Region)	2018-21
Shiquan-Ningshan Expressway (Shannan Region)	2017-21
Xi'an-Xianyang South Ring Expressway (Central Region)	2018-21
Airport	
Ankang Airport (Shannan Region)	2017-21
Yan'an Airport (Central Region)	2017-21
Xi'an Xianyang International Airport Phase III (Central Region)	2017-20
Hydropower Station	
Zhen'an Hydropower Station (Shannan Region)	2017-21
Other	
Dongzhuang Reservoir (Central Region)	2017-21
Xi'an Metro Line 9 (Central Region)	2017-20
Xunyang Hydropower Station (Shannan Region)	2017-22
Xi'an Metro Line 5&6 (Central Region)	2016-20
Xi'an Railway Station Reconstruction and Expansion (Central Region)	2016-18
Nangoumen Reservoir (Central Region)	2016-20
HanjiangNo.4 Bridge (Shannan Region)	2016-18
Donghe Reservoir (Shannan Region)	2016-18

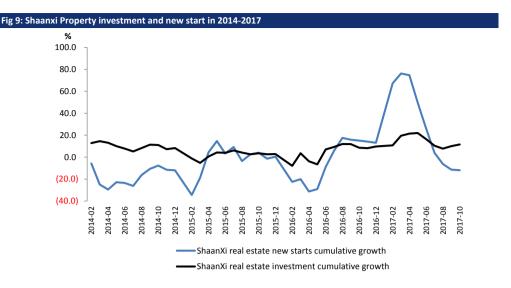
Source: Company data, SWS Research





Source: Wind, SWS Research Source: Wind, SWS Research





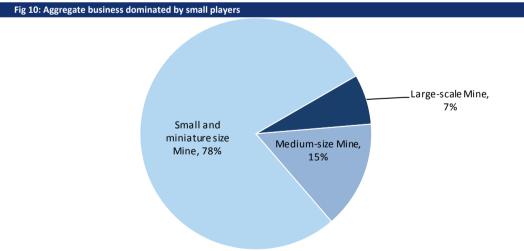
Source: Wind, SWS Research

#### Extra boost from upstream services

Starting 2H17, major cement producers in China – among them WCC – have increased focus on developing integrated upstream businesses.

Small clinker lines, previously the dominant power in the aggregates business, have been forced out of the market by increasingly stringent environmental regulations. According to China Aggregate Digital, around 3,000 small operators were forced out of the market in 1H17, equivalent to almost 50% of producers in the market.

WCC plans to add 16mt of aggregates capacity in 2018 and we expect aggregates sales to contribute an additional 10% of revenue to WCC in 2018-19E. We note that, as of 3Q17, aggregates unit gross margin topped that of cement in Shaanxi at Rmb70-75/t.



Source: China aggregates, SWS Research





Source: China aggregates, SWS Research

Fig 12: Aggregate business margin							
Company	Revenue (Rmbm)	Cost	GP	1H17 GP(%)	1H16 GP(%)		
Anhui Conch 914 HK	292	134	158	53.9	42.3		
Huaxin Cement 600801 CH	220	122	98	44.6	32.5		

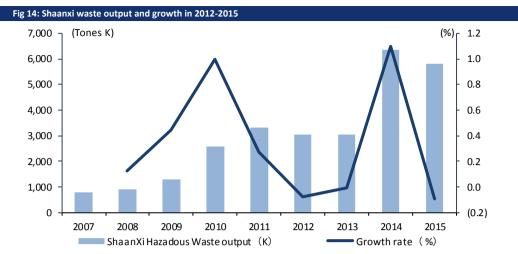
Source: China aggregates, SWS Research

Fig 13: WCC aggregate business breakdown in 2017E-2019E						
Rmb/t	2017E	2018E	2019E			
Capacity (mt)	4	16	16			
Volume (mt)	1	6.5	10			
ASP	80	75	72			
ACP	20	20	22			
GP	60	55	50			

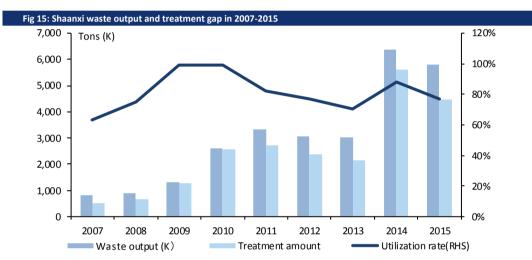
Source: China aggregates, SWS Research

Meanwhile, WCC and investor Anhui Conch Cement (914:HK –Outperform), through subsidiary China Conch Venture Holdings (586:HK – N-R), formed a 40-60 industrial hazardous waste treatment joint venture, Yaobai Environmental, in 2015, in which WCC holds 20%. As of 2H17, Yaobai owned 375kt of treatment capacity, operated entirely by Conch Venture. According to Conch Venture management, the firm will process 110-120kt in 2017 at an average selling price (ASP) of Rmb1,000/t, resulting in unit net profit of Rmb700/t. The firm targets a 90% utilisation rate by 19E with gross margin at c.55%. From Shaanxi Environmental Bureau data, we found there is an ongoing gap between regional waste output and treatment, and we believe Yaobai Environment will continue to benefit as the government focuses on environmental issues.

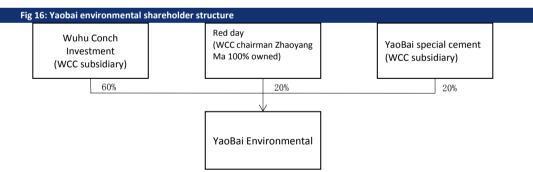




Source: Shaanxi environment breau, , SWS Research



Source: Shaanxi environment breau, , SWS Research



Source: Company,, SWS Research

Fig 1	Fig 17: Yaobai environmental capacity breakdown									
	Number	Status	Location	<b>Business Mode</b>	Size (T)					
	1	Completed	Lantian, Shaanxi	Joint Venture	90,000					
	2		Fuping, Shaanxi		100,000					
	3		Qian, Shaanxi		70,000					
	4		MianXian, Shaanxi	Joint Venture	45,000					
	5		Huangning, Shaanxi	<b>Equity Fund Investment</b>	70,000					
	Subtotal				375,000					

Source: Company, SWS Research



Rmb k	2017E	2018E	2019E	2020E			
Annual Capacity(tons)	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000			
Output	110,000	187,500	262,500	337,500			
Utilization rate(%)	29%	50%	70%	90%			
ASP	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000			
revenue (k)	110,000	187,500	262,500	337,500			
net dollar margin	70%	70%	65%	60%			
net profit (k)	77,000	131,250	170,625	202,500			
WCC profit (20% owned)	15400	26250	36562.5	40500			
Source: Company, SWS Research							

#### **Cooperation with Conch**

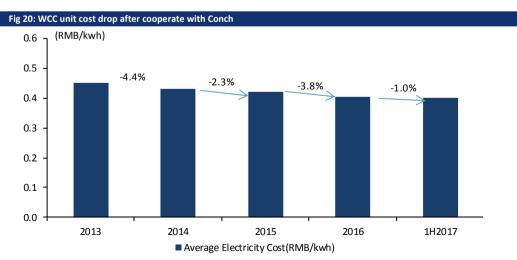
While we note rising concerns among investors over the lack of progress in the proposed merger of WCC into Conch may be weighing on WCC's stock performance, the fundamental market outlook in Shaanxi Province remain positive thanks to strong FAI in the region.

Conch management has stressed progress in its efforts to improve operating efficiency in its partnership with WCC, and we thus believe that there is a significant possibility that Conch will seek to increase its holdings in WCC further.

The firm currently holds 21.5% of WCC shares, acquired at an average price of HK\$1.59, which, at equivalent to an enterprise value of Rmb330 per tonne of WCC capacity, is substantially below the valuation appropriate to a firm during the ongoing upcycle. Current average replacement cost is around Rmb400-450/t and we believe both companies need more time to reach a deal.

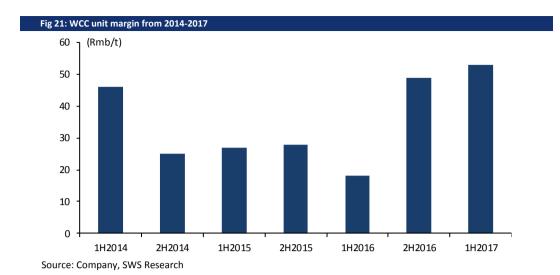
However, we note that WCC unit cost and margin have improved substantially since Conch joined its board and we see room for fresh operating efficiency gains in future.

ig 19: WCC largest shareholders	
The Western Cement Primary Shareholder	
Shareholder	Stake
Jimin Zhang	32.40%
Anhui Conch Cement Company Limited	21.17%
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft	5.39%
AllianceBernstein L.P.	5.01%
Source: Company, SWS Research	



Source: Company, SWS Research





#### **Maintain BUY**

We remain upbeat on market conditions in Shaanxi. We maintain our EPS forecast at Rmb0.09 in 17E (+4954% YoY) and raise our forecasts from Rmb0.10 to Rmb0.12 in 18E (+25.7% YoY) and from Rmb0.12 to Rmb0.14 in 19E (+18.1% YoY) to reflect our more positive profitability outlook on the basis of an improvement in cement margins thanks to the cost savings and operational efficiency gains following the firm's partnership with Anhui Conch Cement, as well as the introduction of the firm's higher-margin aggregates business.

Fig 22: Estimates revisions								
	Ne	New		Old		nge		
	17E	18E	17E	18E	17E	18E		
Volume (mt)	18.9	19.44	18.9	19.44	0.0%	0.0%		
Unit gross profit	60	65	53	60	+13.2%	+8.3%		
Unit net profit	28	34	25	28	+9.1%	+19.0%		
Net profit (Rmbm)	522	656	478	551	+9.1%	+19.0%		
EPS (Rmb)	0.10	0.12	0.09	0.10	+6.9%	+21.0%		

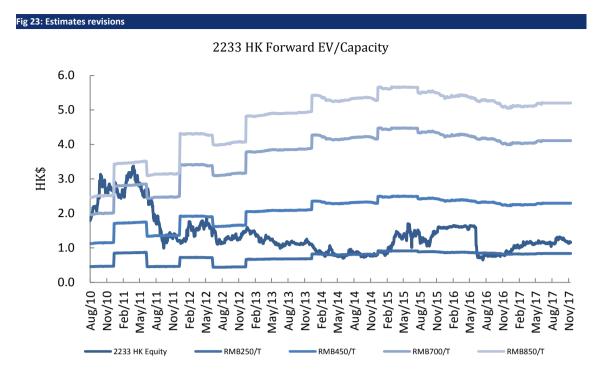
Source: Wind, SWS Research

We see little downside to the stock's current price – on an EV/capacity basis, it is trading at Rmb256/t, vs a market average of Rmb400/t. Given the improving market supply-demand outlook from 2H17 onwards, we believe that an EV/capacity multiple of Rmb360/t is reasonable. We raise our target price from HK\$1.50 to HK\$1.65. With 45% upside, we transfer coverage with a maintained BUY recommendation.

Fig 21: Cement peers comparables											
			Target		EV/capacity		PE (x)			PB (x)	
Company	Price (HK\$)	Rating	price (HK\$)	+/- (%)	17E	16A	17E	18E	16A	17E	18E
Anhui Conch Cement (914:HK)	38.1	Outperform	34.50	2%	573	20.0	11.5	11.2	2.2	2.0	1.8
China National Building Materials ( 3323:HK)	6.94	BUY	6.05	22%	419	30.1	8.2	7.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
China Resources Cement (1313:HK)	5.11	Outperform	4.60	21%	399	25.1	8.9	8.2	1.3	1.1	1.0
WCC	1.14	BUY	1.38	32%	245	509.0	10.1	8.0	0.9	0.9	0.8

Source: Bloomberg, SWS Research





Source: Wind, SWS Research



# **APPENDIX: Financial statements**

**Table 1: Consolidated Income Statement** 

Rmbm	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E				
Revenue	3,501	4,361	4,649	4,860	4,899				
Cost of Sales	(3,037)	(3,397)	(3,515)	(3,596)	(3,558)				
Gross Profit	463	964	1,134	1,264	1,341				
Other Income	(188)	281	151	156	175				
Distribution expenses	(43)	(46)	(48)	(50)	(50)				
Administrative expenses	(271)	(271)	(284)	(292)	(292)				
EBITDA	662	1,692	1,612	1,628	1,658				
EBIT	(38)	927	953	1,078	1,175				
Finance Costs	(218)	(247)	(208)	(156)	(136)				
Profit before tax	(257)	119	679	854	971				
Income tax expense	(51)	(104)	(156)	(196)	(194)				
Minority interests	2	5	1	2	2				
Profit for the year	(309)	10	522	656	775				

Source: Company, SWS Research

**Table 2: Consolidated Cash Flow Statement** 

Rmbm	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E
Profit before taxation	(257)	119	679	854	971
Plus: Depr. and amortisation	703	0	715	686	658
Finance cost	237	265	208	156	136
Losses from investments	277	159	0	0	0
Change in working capital	(391)	93	326	(0)	(7)
Others	(81)	(75)	(156)	(196)	(194)
CF from operating activities	474	1,313	1,743	1,396	1,411
CAPEX	(350)	(379)	(325)	(340)	(343)
Other CF from investing activities	154	10	0	0	0
CF from investing activities	(772)	(170)	(325)	(340)	(343)
Equity financing	1,204	0	0	0	0
Net change in liabilities	(287)	(75)	0	0	0
Dividend and interest paid	(272)	(263)	(312)	(287)	(291)
Other CF from financing activities	0	0	(40)	(39)	(41)
CF from financing activities	255	(342)	(352)	(326)	(332)
Net cash flow	(43)	802	1,074	757	774
FCFF	(127)	536	1,484	1,130	1,146
FCFE	(651)	196	1,276	974	1,010

Source: Company, SWS Research



**Table 3: Consolidated Balance Sheet** 

Rmbm	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E
Current Assets	2,042	2,515	3,659	4,443	5,197
Bank balances and cash	455	1,259	2,333	3,090	3,864
Trade and other receivables	685	661	704	736	742
Inventories	576	509	527	539	533
Long-term investment	54	46	50	0	0
PP&E	8,257	7,564	7,127	6,664	6,202
Intangible and other assets	1,157	1,148	1,081	1,009	989
Total Assets	11,382	11,182	11,780	12,029	12,301
Current Liabilities	2,770	2,400	2,787	2,830	2,824
Borrowings	538	465	465	465	465
Trade and other payables	1,411	1,077	1,464	1,508	1,501
Other current liabilities	3,527	3,725	3,725	3,725	3,725
Long-term liabilities	3	2	2	2	2
Total Liabilities	5,479	5,268	5,655	5,699	5,692
Minority Interests	47	51	52	54	54
Shareholder Equity	5,856	5,863	11,984	12,509	12,509
Share Capital	125	125	125	125	125
Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
Equity attributable	5,715	5,721	6,138	6,663	6,663
Total Liabilities and equity	11,382	11,182	11,780	12,029	12,301

Source: Company, SWS Research

**Table 4: Key Financial Ratios** 

	2015	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E
Ratios per share (Rmb)					
Earnings per share	(0.06)	0.0020	0.0932	0.1182	0.1411
Operating CF per share	0.10	0.14	0.32	0.26	0.26
Dividend per share	(0.01)	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03
Net assets per share	1.18	1.08	2.21	2.31	2.31
Key Operating Ratios(%)					
ROIC	(0.44)	10.32	5.65	5.96	6.58
ROE	(5.24)	0.17	3.98	4.43	5.10
Gross profit margin	13.24	22.11	24.39	26.00	27.38
EBITDA Margin	18.92	38.80	34.67	33.50	34.11
EBIT Margin	(1.09)	21.26	20.51	22.18	23.99
Growth rate of Revenue(YoY)	(9.85)	24.57	6.61	4.53	0.80
Growth rate of Profit(YoY)	(961.25)	(103.34)	4,954.69	25.70	18.14
Debt-to-asset ratio	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Turnover rate of net assets	0.60	0.74	0.39	0.39	0.39
Turnover rate of total assets	0.31	0.39	0.39	0.40	0.39
Effective tax rate (%)	(19.81)	87.49	23.00	23.00	20.00
Dividend yield (%)	(1.35)	0.04	2.14	2.69	3.18
Valuation Ratios (X)					
P/E	(14.7)	455.1	9.8	7.7	6.5
P/B	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4
EV/Sales	2.3	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0
EV/EBITDA	11.9	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.9

Source:Company, SWS Research

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