



# Singapore

# **ADD** (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 1	Hold 0	Sell 0
Current price:			S\$0.35
Target price:			S\$0.40
Previous target:			S\$0.35
Up/downside:			14.3%
CGSI / Consensus:			14.3%
Reuters:			ISDN.SI
Bloomberg:		l:	SDN SP
Market cap:		USS	\$118.0m
		SS	\$157.0m
Average daily turnove	r:	US	\$\$0.22m
		5	\$\$0.30m
Current shares o/s:			441.5m
Free float:			54.2%
*Source: Bloomberg			

#### Key changes in this note

- FY25F EPS increased by 7.7%.
- FY26F EPS increased by 13.2%.
- FY27F forecasts introduced.



		Source: E	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	14.8	11.1	12.9
Relative (%)	11.6	4.7	-27.6

Major shareholders% heldTeo Cher Koon32.2NTCP SPV VI8.6

# **ISDN Holdings Ltd**

# Recovery on track

- FY24 revenue (S\$372m, +9% yoy) was 6% above our full-year forecast as all business segments saw hoh revenue recovery in 2H24.
- Given the better hoh revenue recovery, FY24 net profit (S\$8.5m, +72% yoy) was also 7% above our full-year forecast.
- Given the better-than-expected FY24 performance, we raise our FY25-26F EPS forecasts. Reiterate Add with a higher S\$0.40 TP.

### 2H24 revenue recovered hoh

ISDN saw a hoh revenue recovery with 2H24 revenue up 13.3% hoh. On a yoy basis, 2H24 revenue grew 15.5%, driven by a recovery in all its business segments. ISDN's key China industrial automation revenue (71% of FY24 revenue) grew 4.0% yoy and 1.5% hoh. ISDN's Southeast Asia industrial automation business (20% of FY24 revenue) grew 3.1% yoy but a stronger 25.5% hoh as the industry staged a cautious recovery from the down cycle. The hydropower business (6% of FY24 revenue) grew 233% yoy to S\$22m in FY24 as all three hydropower plants were fully operational during the year. Gross margin for FY24 declined by 1.2% pts yoy due to the product mix which shifted to slightly lower margin offerings. A full year DPS of 0.47 Scts was declared, in line with ISDN's dividend policy.

# Management cautiously optimistic on FY25F

In its 1H25 results commentary, management was cautiously optimistic on the outlook for FY25F. In management's view, its core industrial automation business should benefit from China's strategic priority to address labour shortages and demographic challenges through automation and advanced manufacturing. In Southeast Asia, ISDN believes its recent expansion into Malaysia and Taiwan should enable it to capture growth opportunities from the "China+1" reorganisation of the global supply chain as more manufacturing activity shifts to these regions. In the hydropower business, ISDN has already commenced the construction of its fourth mini-hydropower plant, Lau Biang 2 in Indonesia, targeting operations in FY26F.

# Reiterate Add

Given the better-than-expected FY24 performance, we think that the gradual revenue recovery will continue in FY25-26F and raise our revenue forecasts by 4.7-5.7%, leading to a 7.7-13.2% increase in our EPS forecasts. As earnings recover, we value ISDN at 12.4 FY26 P/E, 1 s.d. above the average P/E of its previous earnings upcycle (FY16-21). Previously, we valued ISDN at 12.2x FY26F P/E (a 10% discount to ISDN's 10-year (2016-2025) average P/E of 13.6x). Our TP rises to S\$0.40. Reiterate Add given the better earnings outlook. Re-rating catalysts include higher-than-expected net profit contribution from its hydropower business segment and a faster pace of economic growth as China tries to re-stimulate its economy. Downside risks include weak customer demand if the global economy continues to slow, and the possibility of bad debts as economic conditions worsen.

# Analyst(s)



Financial Summary	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Revenue (S\$m)	341.8	372.4	384.1	402.1	421.0
Net Profit (S\$m)	4.95	8.52	12.31	14.49	16.81
Core EPS (S\$)	0.011	0.019	0.027	0.032	0.037
Core EPS Growth	(66.7%)	71.1%	44.5%	17.7%	16.0%
FD Core P/E (x)	31.26	18.37	12.75	10.83	9.34
Price To Sales (x)	0.46	0.42	0.41	0.39	0.37
DPS (S\$)	0.003	0.047	0.007	0.008	0.009
Dividend Yield	0.8%	13.4%	2.0%	2.3%	2.7%
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.43	7.27	4.98	4.34	3.70
P/FCFE (x)	13.91	52.59	3.41	9.12	7.98
Net Gearing	6.5%	5.5%	(11.2%)	(15.4%)	(19.7%)
P/BV (x)	0.79	0.76	0.73	0.69	0.66
ROE	2.50%	4.20%	5.82%	6.55%	7.21%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			7.7%	13.2%	
EPS/Consensus EPS (x)			1.10	1.11	(0.00)



Gross profit  Operating expenses  Operating profit  Exceptionals	197.9 50.6 (38.5) 12.1	172.6 46.8 (38.3) 8.5	14.6% 8.0% 0.4% 42.6%	13.3% 13.9% 10.4%	372.4 94.9 (73.3)	91.1	9.0%	<b>FY24</b> 350.3 89.0	FY24 revenue was 6% above our full-year forecast
Operating expenses Operating profit	(38.5)	(38.3)	0.4%	10.4%			4.1%	89.0	
Operating profit	12.1	8.5			(73.3)	(70.4)			
			42.6%	00.50/		(70.4)	4.1%	(70.0)	
Excentionals	0.0			26.5%	21.6	20.7	4.3%	18.9	
Σχουριιοπαίο		0.0	na	na	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	
Pre-tax profit	11.1	5.5	101.5%	30.8%	19.7	18.9	4.1%	16.1	
Тах	(3.0)	(3.4)	-12.8%	10.0%	(5.7)	(7.7)	-26.1%	(4.1)	
Minority interest	3.4	1.7	96.5%	68.8%	5.4	6.2	-12.5%	4.1	
Net profit	4.7	0.4	1174.5%	25.4%	8.5	5.0	72.1%	7.9	FY24 net profit was 7% above our full-year forecas
Core net profit	4.7	0.4	1174.5%	25.4%	8.5	5.0	72.1%	7.9	
EPS (Scts)	1.06	0.08	1225.0%	24.7%	1.91	1.12	70.5%	1.78	
Core EPS (Scts)	1.06	0.08	1225.0%	24.7%	1.91	1.12	70.5%	1.78	
			chg (%pts	chg (%pts)			chg (%pts)		
Gross profit margin	25.5%	27.1%	(1.6)	0.1	25.5%	26.7%	(1.2)		
Operating profit margin	6.1%	4.9%	1.2	0.6	5.8%	6.1%	(0.3)		
Net profit margin	2.4%	0.2%	2.2	0.2	2.3%	1.4%	0.8		
Tax rate	26.8%	61.8%	(35.1)	(5.1)	28.9%	40.8%	(11.9)		

	Old		Ne	w	Change		
(S\$m)	FY25F	FY26F	FY25F	FY26F	FY25F	FY26F	
Revenue	366.7	380.4	384.1	402.1	4.7%	5.7%	
Gross profit	97.2	100.8	101.8	106.6	4.7%	5.7%	
Operating expenses	(73.8)	(75.6)	(75.3)	(77.2)	2.1%	2.1%	
Net profit	11.4	12.7	12.3	14.5	8.3%	13.8%	
Core EPS (S\$)	0.025	0.029	0.027	0.032	7.7%	13.2%	
Gross profit margin	26.50%	26.50%	26.50%	26.50%	0.00	0.00	
Net profit margin	3.10%	3.35%	3.20%	3.60%	0.00	0.00	



<b>Figure</b>	3: Peer	comparison
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				Target	Market						Recurring	Dividend
	Bloomberg		Price	Price	Сар		P/E (x)	3-year EPS	P/BV	(x)	ROE (%)	Yield (%)
Company	Ticker	Recom.	(Icl curr)	(Icl curr)	(US\$ m)	CY25F	CY26F	CAGR (%)	CY25F	CY26F	CY25F	CY25F
Aztech Global Ltd	AZTECH SP	Hold	0.69	0.67	393	9.9	8.5	-3.6%	1.58	1.59	15.7%	10.5%
Frencken Group Ltd	FRKN SP	Add	1.11	1.40	350	11.0	10.4	8.5%	1.00	0.93	9.3%	2.8%
ISDN Holdings Ltd	ISDN SP	Add	0.30	0.40	99	10.7	9.1	25.5%	0.61	0.58	5.8%	2.0%
Nanofilm Technologies Int'l Ltd	NANO SP	Reduce	0.70	0.63	334	21.3	16.0	58.2%	1.10	1.05	5.2%	1.2%
Venture Corporation	VMS SP	Add	12.80	14.95	2,732	13.5	12.5	7.6%	1.24	1.21	9.2%	6.0%
Simple average						13.3	11.3	19.2%	1.11	1.07	9.0%	4.5%

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG NOTE: FORECASTS FOR NOT RATED COMPANIES ARE BLOOMBERG CONSENSUS ESTIMATES DATA AS AT 10 MAR 2025







### ESG in a nutshell

ISDN focuses on the motion control industry and provides the full spectrum of integrated precision engineering services, from conceptualisation, design and development to prototyping, production, sales and marketing and after-sales engineering support. The group is also involved in mini-hydropower projects in Indonesia. Through its role in industrial automation, ISDN aims to help drive efficiency to save energy and reduce the environmental impact of a multitude of industries.

# Keep your eye on

The group's mini-hydropower plant project in Indonesia helps offset carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. The mini-hydropower plants target the remote and rural areas in Indonesia, generating clean energy and job opportunities.

# **Implications**

As of 16 Jun 2023, ISDN had 3 mini-hydropower plants in operation in Indonesia. The company plans to continue to grow this business in Indonesia.

# **ESG** highlights

At end-FY23, ISDN employed 1,149 employees in over 76 locations throughout Asia-Pacific. ISDN has an established whistle-blowing policy, which allows whistle blowers direct access to their superiors, any of the group's managing director and president, or the chairman of the audit committee.

# **Implications**

Its large number of subsidiaries in various geographies could pose operational risk. In 2018, ISDN's Beijing subsidiary was served a writ of summons alleging that its ex-employee had borrowed monies for which the Beijing subsidiary has acted as a guarantor. Ineffective risk control could pose financial and reputational risks to ISDN.

# **Trends**

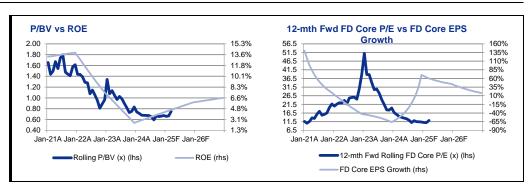
Rising wage costs and increasing competition for talent is a key trend to watch out for. ISDN's employees are its most valuable assets, the company said, as they understand customer requirements and are able to offer value-added solutions.

# **Implications**

ISDN said it provides equal opportunities for employees with respect to recruitment, training and development, job advancement, and remuneration and benefits. According to management, the group does not discriminate on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, colour, age, marital status, family status, pregnancy or any other discrimination prohibited by applicable laws. In addition to the basic wage package, ISDN also provides benefits and welfare such as severance pay, mandatory/central provident fund, employment compensation insurance, medical insurance, unlimited reimbursements for doctor visits, annual leave, sick leave, additional remuneration and benefits to reward and recognise performing employees such as performance-based bonus, commissions and variable annual bonuses. Based on the different job duties of employees, local travel (parking and petrol inclusive) allowance, mobile phone allowance, overseas travel and meals allowance, and overtime taxi claims are included in the total remuneration and benefits package for employees.



# **BY THE NUMBERS**



(S\$m)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Total Net Revenues	341.8	372.4	384.1	402.1	421.0
Gross Profit	96.7	101.5	108.7	113.5	118.8
Operating EBITDA	24.7	28.1	33.4	36.3	39.8
Depreciation And Amortisation	(5.6)	(6.6)	(6.9)	(6.9)	(7.3)
Operating EBIT	19.1	21.5	26.5	29.4	32.5
Financial Income/(Expense)	(4.1)	(5.1)	(5.1)	(5.1)	(5.1)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(0.7)	(0.6)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	4.5	3.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	18.9	19.7	23.9	26.8	29.9
Exceptional Items	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	18.9	19.7	23.9	26.8	29.9
Taxation	(7.7)	(5.7)	(6.1)	(6.9)	(7.7)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	11.2	14.0	17.8	19.9	22.3
Minority Interests	(6.2)	(5.4)	(5.4)	(5.4)	(5.4)
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Preference Dividends (Australia)					
Net Profit	5.0	8.5	12.3	14.5	16.8
Recurring Net Profit	5.0	8.5	12.3	14.5	16.8
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	5.0	8.5	12.3	14.5	16.8
Normalised Net Profit	11.2	14.0	17.8	19.9	22.3
Fully Diluted Normalised Profit	5.0	8.5	12.3	14.5	16.8

Cash Flow					
(S\$m)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
EBITDA	24.75	28.10	33.38	36.31	39.77
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(46.62)	8.03	27.17	(3.83)	(4.04)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	11.75	(6.73)	1.70	1.70	1.70
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(4.05)	(5.14)	(5.10)	(5.10)	(5.10)
Tax Paid	(9.97)	(5.88)	(6.11)	(6.86)	(7.66)
Cashflow From Operations	(24.15)	18.38	51.05	22.22	24.67
Capex	(4.36)	(7.52)	(5.00)	(5.00)	(5.00)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	0.35	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash Flow From Investing	(4.02)	(6.94)	(5.00)	(5.00)	(5.00)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	39.29	(8.46)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shares Repurchased	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dividends Paid	(8.09)	(6.24)	(3.08)	(3.62)	(4.20)
Preferred Dividends	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Financing Cashflow	1.63	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash Flow From Financing	32.83	(14.05)	(3.08)	(3.62)	(4.20)
Total Cash Generated	4.67	(2.61)	42.97	13.60	15.47
Free Cashflow To Equity	11.13	2.98	46.05	17.22	19.67
Free Cashflow To Firm	(23.77)	16.91	51.45	22.62	25.07



# BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(S\$m)	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	60.0	56.5	99.5	113.1	128.6
Total Debtors	110.6	122.4	109.4	114.6	119.9
Inventories	73.0	67.4	70.4	73.7	77.1
Total Other Current Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Current Assets	243.6	246.4	279.3	301.3	325.6
Fixed Assets	63.2	65.8	63.8	61.9	59.7
Total Investments	5.3	6.7	7.2	7.7	8.2
Intangible Assets	12.2	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
Total Other Non-Current Assets	75.9	84.1	84.1	84.1	84.1
Total Non-current Assets	156.5	169.5	168.1	166.7	164.9
Short-term Debt	19.7	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	64.6	74.7	91.6	95.8	100.3
Other Current Liabilities	13.9	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Total Current Liabilities	98.1	113.2	130.0	134.3	138.8
Total Long-term Debt	56.0	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	5.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Total Non-current Liabilities	61.6	55.5	55.5	55.5	55.5
Total Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Liabilities	159.8	168.7	185.5	189.8	194.3
Shareholders' Equity	198.6	206.7	216.0	226.8	239.4
Minority Interests	42.0	40.5	45.9	51.4	56.8
Total Equity	240.7	247.2	261.9	278.2	296.3

Key Ratios					
	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Revenue Growth	(7.82%)	8.98%	3.13%	4.68%	4.69%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(30.8%)	13.5%	18.8%	8.8%	9.5%
Operating EBITDA Margin	7.24%	7.54%	8.69%	9.03%	9.45%
Net Cash Per Share (S\$)	(0.04)	(0.03)	0.07	0.10	0.13
BVPS (S\$)	0.45	0.46	0.48	0.51	0.53
Gross Interest Cover	4.36	3.93	4.90	5.44	6.02
Effective Tax Rate	40.8%	28.9%	25.6%	25.6%	25.6%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	5.7%	55.2%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
Accounts Receivables Days	113.1	114.5	110.2	101.7	101.7
Inventory Days	114.8	94.8	91.3	91.1	91.1
Accounts Payables Days	119.0	94.1	110.2	118.5	118.5
ROIC (%)	8.7%	8.4%	10.2%	12.7%	13.9%
ROCE (%)	6.57%	6.89%	8.24%	8.73%	9.18%
Return On Average Assets	3.80%	4.68%	5.29%	5.47%	5.71%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-23A	Dec-24A	Dec-25F	Dec-26F	Dec-27F
Motion control rev growth (%)	-6.6%	2.1%	3.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Gross profit margin (%)	26.7%	25.5%	26.5%	26.5%	26.5%



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Distribution of stock ratings and investment banking clients for quarter ended on 31 December 2024					
598 companies under cov erage 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)

# ISDN Holdings Ltd (ISDN SP)



Mar-22 Jun-22 Sep-22 Dec-22 Mar-23 Jun-23 Sep-23 Dec-23 Mar-24 Jun-24 Sep-24 Dec-24

Recommendation Framework				
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.			
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.			
	turn 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 stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.			
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Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.			
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.			
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Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.			
Underweight	An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.			

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