CHINA / REAL ESTATE

# CHINA SOUTH CITY 1668 HK



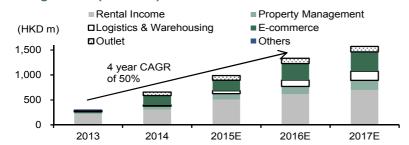
TARGET PRICE	HKD5.47
CLOSE	HKD3.00
UP/DOWNSIDE	+82.3%
PRIOR TP	HKD6.03
CHANGE IN TP	-9.3%

HOW WE DIFFER FROM C	MARKET RECS		
TARGET PRICE (%)	0.4	POSITIVE	13
, ,	(27.4)	NEUTRAL	0
,	` '		
EPS 2015 (%) EPS 2016 (%)	(27.4) (36.7)	NEUTRAL NEGATIVE	C

# Cyclically down; structural story intact

- Weak 9M15 as contracted sales down 29% y-y at HKD8.9b CSC's contracted sales value was just HKD2.06b in 3Q15, down 70% yy, with a sales volume of 235k sqm and ASP of HKD8,767/sqm up 17% y-y. The first three quarters recorded contracted sales of HKD8.899b, down 29% y-y, implying only 49% of its FY target of HKD18b-20b has been achieved.
- Cyclical adjustment; LT structural growth story continues We attribute the weak sales performance to slowing economic growth, leading to longer waits for purchasing decisions by SMEs in China. Also, the recent anticorruption measures have slowed the relocation process and construction of surrounding infrastructure by local governments. While CSC is facing a cyclical adjustment, we believe the structural growth story remains intact, mainly driven by growth in recurring income.
- Recurring income could still reach HKD1.6b by FY16E We remain positive on the growth potential of its non-property recurring income and forecast HKD988m for FY15, rising to HKD1.57b by FY16, driven by growth in multiple segments such as trade center leasing, ecommerce, outlets and logistics development. We expect the logistics segment to grow to 3.9m sqm in operation in three to five years' time (from its current 168k sqm).
- Maintain BUY; revised TP of HKD5.47 Following the weak results, we have lowered our NAV estimate to HKD9.95 and TP to HKD5.47, still offering 82% upside potential. We have also revised down contracted sales by 27-35% and EPS by 29-40% for FY15-17E. Given the structural story still appears intact, with recurring income on the rise, we maintain our BUY rating.

### Recurring income (FY13-17E)



Sources: Company data; BNP Paribas estimates

### **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Mar (HKD m)	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Revenue	13,468	12,877	16,319	20,231
Rec. net profit	2,678	2,434	2,875	3,763
Recurring EPS (HKD)	0.43	0.33	0.36	0.47
Prior rec. EPS (HKD)	0.43	0.47	0.59	0.79
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	0.0	(29.0)	(39.5)	(40.4)
EPS growth (%)	44.8	(21.8)	7.6	30.9
Recurring P/E (x)	7.0	9.0	8.4	6.4
Dividend yield (%)	5.1	3.0	3.6	4.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.8	6.6	6.3	5.0
Price/book (x)	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.0
Net debt/Equity (%)	24.3	60.1	59.1	59.8
ROE (%)	14.9	12.0	13.5	16.5



Relative to country (%)	(10.9)	(15.0)	52.5
Next results			April 2015
Mkt cap (USD m)			3,098
3m avg daily turnover (USD m)			12.2
Free float (%)			31
Major shareholder	Che	ng Chung H	ling (31%)
12m high/low (HKD)			4.73/2.11
3m historic vol. (%)			39.3
ADR ticker			-
ADR closing price (USD)			-
Issued shares (m)			8,007

Sources: Bloomberg consensus: BNP Paribas estimates



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Our research is available on Thomson One, Bloomberg, TheMarkets.com, Factset and on http://eqresearch.bnpparibas.com/index. Please contact your salesperson for authorisation. Please see the important notice on the back page.



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#### Investment thesis

We have a BUY rating on the stock with a revised TP of HKD5.47, based on an unchanged 45% target discount to our NAV estimate of HKD9.95. CSC is currently trading at a 70% discount to our NAV estimate and FY16E P/E of 8.4x, which still seems attractive compared with similar IP players in China such as CR Land, Franshion, Hang Lung and Wharf (>10x 2014E P/E).

While the company is undergoing a cyclical transition because of the slowing overall economy in China, we believe the structural story of CSC is intact (i.e. increased relocation of new style wholesale malls in China).

As the sector's transition becomes more apparent, we expect CSC to be compared more with logistics companies, which are trading between 14 and 41x P/E, based on Bloomberg consensus estimates for 2014.

CSC currently has a land bank of 26m sqm, with key projects throughout eight cities in China.

### Catalyst

- Better than expected growth in contracted sales in calendar 4Q14/2015, driven in part by the potential launch of a brand new Chongqing project, due to be announced in April 2015.
- 2. High dividend payout of more than 30% of core profit.
- Better than expected contribution from co-operation between Tencent and CSC on the B2c and B2B ecommerce platform.
- 4. Earlier than expected contribution from its logistics/warehousing development, which is due to grow to 952k sqm in operation in one to two years' time and 3.9m sqm in three to five years' time (vs the current level of 168k sqm).

#### Risks to our call

A further slowdown in the relocation process could lead to weaker than expected wholesale center demand.

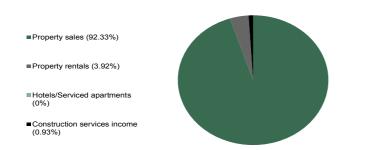
### Company background

China South City ("CSC") is now a leading developer and operator of large scale, integrated logistics and trade centers in China. CSC's centers offer cost-effective trading and logistics platforms for buyers and sellers of raw materials and finished goods.

### Key assumptions

	FY15E	FY16E
PRC trade center pricing (%)	10	10
Discount rate (%)	12	12

### Principal activities, revenue split FY14



### Source: BNP Paribas estimates

#### Earnings sensitivity

	Base case	Worst case
PRC trade centers & residential price change from FY15 (%)	10	(20)
NAV/share (HKD) – end Mar 2015E	9.95	7.48
Fair value (HKD)	5.47	4.11

### Key executives

	Age	Joined	Title
Mr. CHENG Chung Hing	54	2002	Co-chairman & Executive Director
Mr. LEUNG Moon Lam	59	2002	Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director
Mr. FUNG Sing Hong	50	2006	Chief Financial Officer & Executive Director

### Source: BNP Paribas estimates

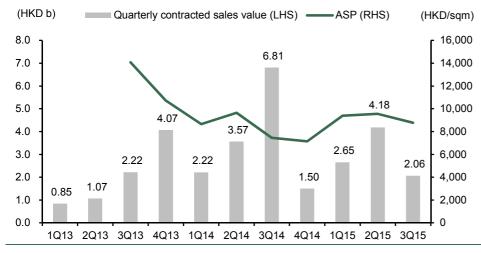
- Key earings drivers: 1) contracted sales volume; 2) contracted sales ASP; and 3) completion volume.
- A 5% y-y drop in ASP would reduce our NAV estimate by about 10%, all else being equal, and core net profit by around 5%.

### http://www.chinasouthcity.com/tc/home.php

### Weak 3Q15 contracted sales, but structural growth story intact

China South City announced weak 3Q15 contracted sales at HKD2.06b, down 70% y-y and 51% q-q, with a sales volume of 235k sqm, implying an ASP of HKD8,767/ sqm, up 18% y-y. We estimate that Zhengzhou accounted for most of the contracted sales value (around 40-50%), with cities such as Hefei, Nanchang, Nanning and others each accounting for c10%.

**EXHIBIT 1: Quarterly contracted sales vs ASP** 



Sources: Company; BNP Paribas

For the first three quarters of FY15, contracted sales reached HKD8.899b, down 29% y-y, implying just c49% of its FY target (HKD18b-20b) has been achieved. While CSC looks likely to miss the full year target, management expects better sales in 4Q15, potentially at around HKD4b, on the launch of more projects in each city (e.g Hefei), thus potentially bringing full year sales to around HKD13b (or flat y-y).

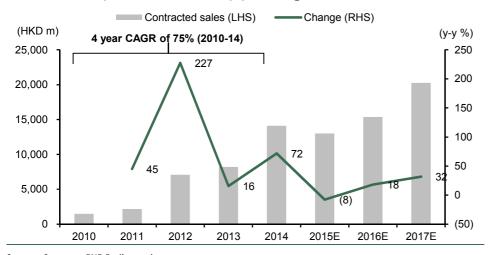
### A cyclical transition stage, but structural growth story continues

We believe the main reasons for the weak sales in 3Q15 were: 1) Weakening of the overall economy, leading to a slowing of SME business so most potential buyers delayed investment; 2) the anticorruption focus by some local governments has led to a slowdown in the relocation process and infrastructure development surrounding CSC's projects; and 3) a temporary human resources bottleneck due to recent expansion of the company's business (e.g. e-commerce business/logistics/outlets).

In fact, we believe CSC is currently undergoing a cyclical transition, rather than an overall change in the structural growth of the wholesale market in China. While sales may slow in the near term, due to slower economic growth, we believe the fundamental demand, driven by rising relocation needs in China, will endure in the long run.

Currently, management is proactively finding ways to improve sales by holding frequent discussions with local governments to resume the speed of relocation in the cities to which it is exposed, and hiring more headcount to resolve this bottleneck.

EXHIBIT 2: Yearly contracted sales vs y-y % change

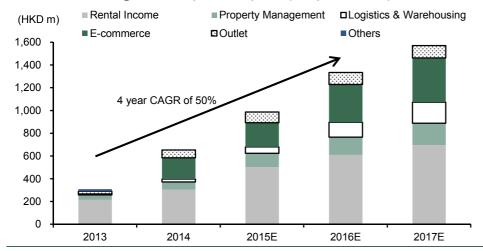


Sources: Company; BNP Paribas estimates

## Growth potential still lies in recurring income - HKD1.6b by FY16E

We remain positive on the growth potential of CSC's non-property recurring income, at HKD988m for FY15E and HKD1.57b by FY16E, driven by growth in multiple segments such as logistics/warehousing, the e-commerce platform, trade center leasing and outlet development.

EXHIBIT 3: Recurring income expected to post a four year CAGR of 50%



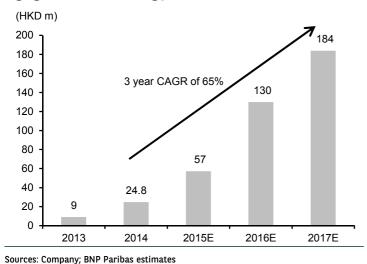
Sources: Company; BNP Paribas estimates

### Logistics is one of the focus areas

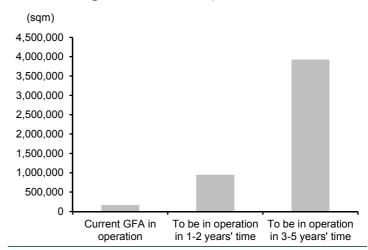
Currently, CSC has 168k sqm of GFA in operation for logistics and expects to expand this 566% to 952k sqm in one to two years' time, reaching c3.9m sqm in three to five years' time, accounting for c15% of its land bank. We believe logistics/warehousing is entering an expansion mode and could post a three-year CAGR of 65% over FY14-17, driven by rising demand from CSC's existing tenants and Tencent's (700 HK; BUY) online users. We expect logistics and warehousing income to more than double to HKD57m for FY15 (from HKD25m in FY14) and to reach HKD184m by FY17.

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EXHIBIT 4: Logistics/warehousing segment expected to post high growth in the coming years



**EXHIBIT 5:** Logistics landbank in operation



Sources: Company; BNP Paribas estimates

### Lower contracted sales and earnings estimates, TP cut to HKD5.47

As a result of slower than expected contracted sales, we have revised down our forecasts on contracted sales by 29-35% to HKD13.0b (down 7% y-y) in FY15, HKD15.4b (up 18% y-y) in FY16 and HKD20.3b (up 32% y-y) in FY17. We have also revised down our revenue, earnings and EPS estimates for FY15-17 (details below).

**EXHIBIT 6: Summary of revisions** 

	· 	New		<u></u>	Old			Change		
	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	
Contracted sales (HKD m)	13,007	15,373	20,258	18,346	23,550	27,586	(29)	(35)	(27)	
Change (y-y %)	(7)	18	32		28	17				
Development sales revenue (HKD m)	11,889	14,985	18,661	16,648	21,997	27,286	(29)	(32)	(32)	
Change (y-y %)	(12)	26	25		32	24				
Core profit (HKD m)	2,434	2,874	3,763	3,430	4,751	6,318	(29)	(39)	(40)	
Change (y-y %)	(9)	18	31		39	33				
EPS (HKD)	0.33	0.36	0.47	0.47	0.59	0.79	(29)	(39)	(40)	
Change (y-y %)	(22)	8	31		26	33				

Source: BNP Paribas estimates

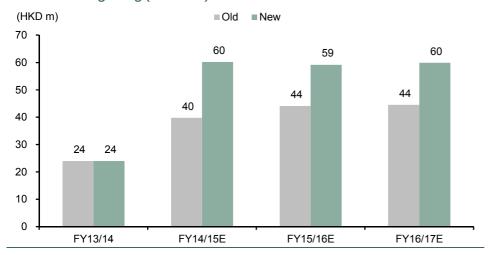
Thus, our TP has also been revised down to HKD5.47, set at a 45% (unchanged) target discount to our RNAV estimate of HKD9.95 (previously HKD10.97), similar to the average NAV discount for IP players in China.

EXHIBIT 7: Summary of NAV and TP changes

	New	Old	Change
	(HKD)	(HKD)	(y-y %)
NAV	9.95	10.97	(9)
Target discount (%)	45	45	
Target price	5.47	6.03	(9)

Source: BNP Paribas estimates

EXHIBIT 8: Net gearing (FY14-17E)



Sources: Company; BNP Paribas estimates

Cash flow

EXHIBIT 9: Key cash inflow/(outflow) items

		After		Befo	re	Revisions		
	FY14	FY15E	FY16E	FY15E	FY16E	FY15E	FY16E	
	(HKD b)	(%)	(%)					
Cash on hand at beg.	6.8	12.8	6.5	12.8	8.7	0	(25)	
Inflows								
Sales proceed	13.1	11.2	16.2	19.1	23.4	(41)	(31)	
Rental income & others	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.5	0.6			
Total Cash inflow	13.8	12.2	17.5	19.6	24.0			
Outflows								
Land premium settled	1.9	4.5	3.2	4.5	4.7			
Construction outflow	8.1	10.7	9.6	11.3	15.8	(5)	(39)	
Taxes & others	2.5	4.3	3.2	6.2	3.4			
SG&A and finance cost	2.5	1.4	2.0	2.9	2.8			
Total Cash outflow	15.0	21.0	18.1	24.9	26.6			
Net cash flow (before financing)	(1.2)	(8.8)	(0.5)	(5.3)	(2.6)			
Net financing	7.2	2.6	2.9	1.2	2.7			
Net change in cash flow (after financing)	6.0	(6.3)	2.3	(4.1)	0.1			
Ending cash	12.8	6.5	8.8	8.7	8.8			

Source: BNP Paribas estimates

### No change in structural story

Despite the downward revisions to our estimates, we believe there is no change in the structural growth story of CSC in the long run, thus the current share price weakness should present a good buying opportunity. CSC is trading at a 70% NAV discount and 8.4x FY16E P/E, which we believe is still attractive as recurring income growth remains on track and comparable IP players in China are trading at more than 10x 2015 P/E on our estimates: Hang Lung (101 HK), Wharf (4 HK) and HK Land (HKL SP).

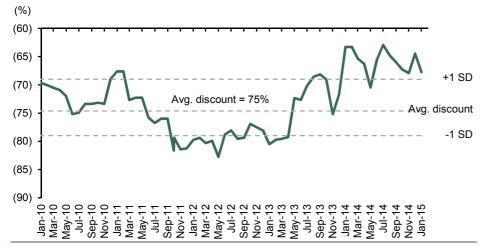
China South City **Ronney Cheung** 1668 HK

EXHIBIT 10: Valuation summary - China developers

Stock	BBG code	Curr.	Reco	Price	Mkt cap	TP	Up/dn side	NAV	Px to NAV		P/E	P	P/B
										2014E	2015E	2014E	2015E
		(LC)		(HKD)	(USD m)	(HKD)	(%)	(HKD)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)
China South City	1668 HK	HKD	BUY	3.00	3,092	5.47	82	9.95	70	9.0	8.4	1.2	1.1
CR Land	1109 HK	HKD	HOLD	21.95	16,465	19.56	(11)	27.94	21	10.2	9.2	1.2	1.1
Franshion	817 HK	HKD	HOLD	2.38	2,776	2.19	(8)	3.98	40	6.7	5.7	0.4	0.4
Shui On Land	272 HK	RMB	BUY	1.87	1,925	2.37	27	5.93	68	11.4	9.1	0.2	0.2
Hang Lung Property	101 HK	HKD	HOLD	21.20	12,232	24.10	14	34.5	39	18.8	17.2	0.7	0.7
Wharf	4 HK	HKD	BUY	61.00	23,776	71.10	17	101.5	40	16.7	14.8	0.7	0.6
Kerry	683 HK	HKD	HOLD	27.70	5,148	27.80	(2)	49.4	44	9.1	11.3	0.5	0.5
									42	12.1	11.2	0.6	0.6

Prices as of 12 Jan 2015 Sources: Company data; BNP Paribas estimates

**EXHIBIT 11: Price to NAV discount** 



Sources: Company; BNP Paribas

## Financial statements

China South City

Profit and Loss (HKD m) Year Ending Mar	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Revenue	7,488	13,468	12,877	16,319	20,231
Cost of sales ex depreciation	(3,311)	(6,921)	(7,052)	(8,670)	(10,472)
Gross profit ex depreciation	4,177	6,547	5,825	7,649	9,759
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Operating costs	(801)	(1,381)	(1,263)	(1,832)	(2,299)
Operating EBITDA	3,376	5,166	4,561	5,816	7,460
Depreciation	(27)	(68)	(120)	(132)	(134)
Goodwill amortisation	0	0	0	0	0
Operating EBIT	3,348	5,097	4,441	5,685	7,326
Net financing costs	(131)	(147)	(66)	(76)	(87)
Associates	1	(1)	0	0	0
Recurring non operating income	1,249	1,114	51	41	52
Non recurring items	6	105	0	0	0
Profit before tax	4,473	6,169	4,427	5,650	7,292
Tax	(1,606)	(2,472)	(1,993)	(2,775)	(3,529)
Profit after tax	2,867	3,696	2,434	2,875	3,763
Minority interests	(117)	(202)	0	0	0
Preferred dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other items	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	2,750	3,494	2,434	2,875	3,763
Non recurring items & goodwill (net)	(973)	(817)	0	0	0
Recurring net profit	1,776	2,678	2,434	2,875	3,763
Per share (HKD)					
Recurring EPS *	0.29	0.43	0.33	0.36	0.47
Reported EPS	0.46	0.56	0.33	0.36	0.47
DPS	0.10	0.15	0.09	0.11	0.14
Growth					
Revenue (%)	104.0	79.9	(4.4)	26.7	24.0
Operating EBITDA (%)	96.5	53.0	(11.7)	27.5	28.3
Operating EBIT (%)	97.5	52.2	(12.9)	28.0	28.9
Recurring EPS (%)	35.4	44.8	(21.8)	7.6	30.9
Reported EPS (%)	32.1	22.1	(40.1)	7.6	30.9
	32.1	22.1	(40.1)	7.0	30.9
Operating performance	55.4	40.1	44.2	46.1	47.6
Gross margin inc depreciation (%)		48.1	44.3	46.1	47.6
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	45.1	38.4	35.4	35.6	36.9
Operating EBIT margin (%)	44.7	37.8	34.5	34.8	36.2
Net margin (%)	35.9	19.9 40.1	18.9	17.6	18.6 48.4
Effective tax rate (%)	34.1		45.0 27.3	49.1	30.0
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%) Interest cover (x)		36.1		30.0	
( )	35.2 984.4	42.2	68.4	75.0	85.2
Inventory days		623.7	868.0	817.3	665.1
Debtor days	35.6	50.7	63.0	36.5	41.8
Creditor days	809.9	579.5	784.1	660.1	528.9
Operating ROIC (%)	15.9	19.8	14.1	15.5	18.4
ROIC (%)	21.7	23.9	14.2	15.5	18.4
ROE (%)	12.3	14.9	12.0	13.5	16.5
ROA (%)	5.6	6.0	4.1	4.6	5.5
*Pre exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted					
Revenue By Division (HKD m)	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Property sales	7,179	12,813	11,889	14,985	18,661
Property rentals	214	305	505	610	696
Hotels/Serviced apartments	13	0	0	0	0
Construction services income	44	67	120	157	193
Recurring income	38	95	153	234	291
E-commerce platform	0	189	211	333	389

Sources: China South City; BNP Paribas estimates

# Financial statements

China South City

Cash Flow (HKD m) Year Ending Mar	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Recurring net profit	1,776	2,678	2,434	2,875	3,763
Depreciation	27	68	120	132	134
Associates & minorities	23	1,501	0	0	0
Other non-cash items	536	2,582	2,019	2,821	3,574
Recurring cash flow	2,363	6,829	4,573	5,828	7,471
Change in working capital	(1,315)	(3,223)	(4,438)	1,367	(7.666)
Capex - maintenance	(3,021)	(5,408)	(6,814) (132)	(6,814) (134)	(7,666) (135)
Capex - new investment  Free cash flow to equity	(52) <b>(2,026)</b>	(126) <b>(1,928)</b>	(6,811)	247	(291)
Net acquisitions & disposals	(576)	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(454)	(605)	(967)	(730)	(862)
Non recurring cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash flow	(3,055)	(2,534)	(7,778)	(483)	(1,153)
Equity finance	0	0	0	0	0
Debt finance	4,550	7,725	1,490	2,798	3,309
Movement in cash	1,495	5,192	(6,288)	2,315	2,156
Per share (HKD)					
Recurring cash flow per share	0.39	1.09	0.63	0.73	0.93
FCF to equity per share	(0.34)	(0.31)	(0.93)	0.03	(0.04)
Balance Sheet (HKD m) Year Ending Mar	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Working capital assets	12,428	18,321	22,973	22,243	24,377
Working capital liabilities	(10,956)	(18,220)	(19,806)	(18,639)	(20,137)
Net working capital	1,472	100	3,167	3,604	4,240
Tangible fixed assets	22,409	27,626	32,143	34,377	37,465
Operating invested capital	23,881	27,727	35,310	37,981	41,705
Goodwill	0	0	0	0	0
Other intangible assets	105	177	177	177	177
Investments	9	9	9	9	9
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Invested capital	23,995	27,913	35,496	38,167	41,891
Cash & equivalents	(6,807)	(12,795)	(6,528)	(8,865)	(11,044)
Short term debt	4,418	6,023	7,302	8,397	9,657
Long term debt *	7,435	11,677	11,778	13,563	15,705
Net debt	5,046	4,905	12,552	13,095	14,318
Deferred tax	2,906	2,864	2,063	2,909	3,639
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	15,853	19,970	20,706	21,988	23,760
Minority interests	190	175	175	175	175
Invested capital  * includes convertibles and preferred stock which is	23,995	27,913	35,496	38,167	41,891
Per share (HKD)	being treated as debt				
` '	2.62	2.40	2.50	2.75	2.07
Book value per share	2.63 2.61	3.18	2.59	2.75 2.72	2.97 2.95
Tangible book value per share  Financial strength	2.01	3.16	2.56	2.12	2.90
<del>-</del>	24 5	24.2	60.1	<b>50.1</b>	E0.0
Net debt/equity (%)	31.5 12.1	24.3	60.1 20.3	59.1	59.8
Net debt/total assets (%) Current ratio (x)	1.3	8.3 1.3	1.1	19.9 1.2	19.6 1.2
CF interest cover (x)	(14.1)	(11.2)	(100.7)	6.0	(0.8)
Valuation	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Recurring P/E (x) *	10.2	7.0	9.0	8.4	6.4
Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *	18.6	12.8	16.4	15.2	11.6
Reported P/E (x)	6.6	5.4	9.0	8.4	6.4
Dividend yield (%)	3.3	5.1	3.0	3.6	4.7
P/CF (x)	7.7	2.8	4.8	4.1	3.2
P/FCF (x)	(8.9)	(9.8)	(3.2)	97.3	(82.5)
Price/book (x)	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.0
Price/tangible book (x)	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0
EV/EBITDA (x) **	4.8	3.8	6.6	6.3	5.0
EV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	8.0	6.2	10.4	9.7	7.7
EV/invested capital (x)	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
* Pre exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted	** FRITDA include	e associate income a	nd recurring non-ope	rating income	

Sources: China South City; BNP Paribas estimates

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#### **APPENDIX**

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Company Ticker		Disclosure (as applicable)	
China South City	1668 HK	2,3,4,6	

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History of change in investment rating and/or target price



Ronney Cheung started covering this stock from 26-Sep-2013 Price and TP are in local currency

Valuation and risks: Our TP is based on a 45% discount to NAV. Key downside risks are further policy tightening and that sales might remain sluggish in major cities.

Sources: Bloomberg; BNP Paribas

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