Company Note



Singapore

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 3	Hold 0	Sell 0
Current price:			S\$0.38
Target price:			S\$0.47
Previous target:			S\$0.47
Up/downside:			23.7%
CGSI / Consensus:			2.2%
Reuters:		C	CHSN.SI
Bloomberg:		С	SSC SP
Market cap:		USS	270.5m
		S	364.3m
Average daily turnover	r:	US	\$\$0.02m
		5	\$0.03m
Current shares o/s:			963.2m
Free float:			35.0%
*Source: Bloomberg			

Key changes in this note

- ➤ FY24-25F core EPS lowered by 1-7% on lower GPM assumptions.
- FY26F core EPS introduced.



		Source: I	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	-2.6	-3.8	-19.2
Relative (%)	-1.7	-4.8	-15.3
Major shareholders			% held

Major shareholders% heldSuccess More Group Limited63.3

China Sunsine Chemical Holdings

Spreads holding up well for now

- 2H23 net profit (-17% yoy) was a beat, as GPM (-4.1% pts yoy) held up better than we expected. 1.0 Sct special DPS proposed, FY23 DPS 2.5 Scts.
- GPM should remain under pressure on intense domestic competition. We still expect FY24F to be underpinned by healthy sales volumes (+c.5% yoy).
- Reiterate Add with an unchanged TP of S\$0.47, still based on 0.6x CY24F P/BV (1 s.d. below 5-year historical mean).

2H23: better-than-expected spread, 1 Sct special DPS proposed

China Sunsine Chemical Holdings' 2H23 net profit of Rmb178m (-9% hoh, -17% yoy) was a beat, with FY23 net profit of Rmb372m (-42% yoy) at 13% above our forecast. The beat was driven by resilient GPM of 22% (-4.1% pts yoy), as we had expected a steeper decline in gross profit per tonne in view of intense domestic competition. Rubber chemical sales volumes hit a record high in 2H23 (+8% hoh, +12% yoy) on recovering tyre demand and ramp-up of newer production lines (commenced in 1H22). Sunsine proposed a final DPS of 1.5 Scts and special DPS of 1.0 Sct, above our expectation of 1.2 Scts.

Profit spread could see some qoq softness in 1Q24F

Recall that Sunsine typically locks in rubber accelerator prices with major customers at the start of the quarter, while taking spot prices for raw materials (aniline). According to data provider sci99.com, rubber accelerator ASPs at the start of Jan 24 were c.19% lower vs. end-Sep 23 prices, while average aniline prices in Jan-Feb 24 were c.7% lower vs. average 4Q23 prices. In comparison, rubber accelerator ASPs started off high in Oct 23 (+37% vs. end-Jun 23), while average 4Q23 aniline prices were c.2% higher vs. 3Q23 average. We believe pricing trends could indicate qoq softness in Sunsine's 1Q24F GPM.

Competition still intense, but volumes should remain healthy

We think competition should stay elevated in FY24F on the back of capacity expansion projects by peers; we hence expect FY24-25F GPM to remain dampened at c.22% on continued pricing pressure. Nevertheless, we believe FY24F volume growth should remain healthy (+c.5% yoy), premised on: 1) rising tyre manufacturer utilisation rates, and 2) further ramp-up in newer lines. Despite the tough operating environment, we believe Sunsine could maintain its DPS at 2.5 Scts in FY24F (6.5% yield) given its elevated net cash position and strong operating cash flow generation.

Reiterate Add at an unchanged TP of S\$0.47

Reiterate Add as we like Sunsine for its increasing focus on improving shareholder returns (via share buybacks and healthy dividends) and undemanding valuation of 1.0x CY24F excash P/E. Re-rating catalysts: favourable government stimulus in China, improved domestic competitive dynamics. Downside risks: prolonged competition pressuring ASPs, spike in input costs that Sunsine is unable to successfully pass on.

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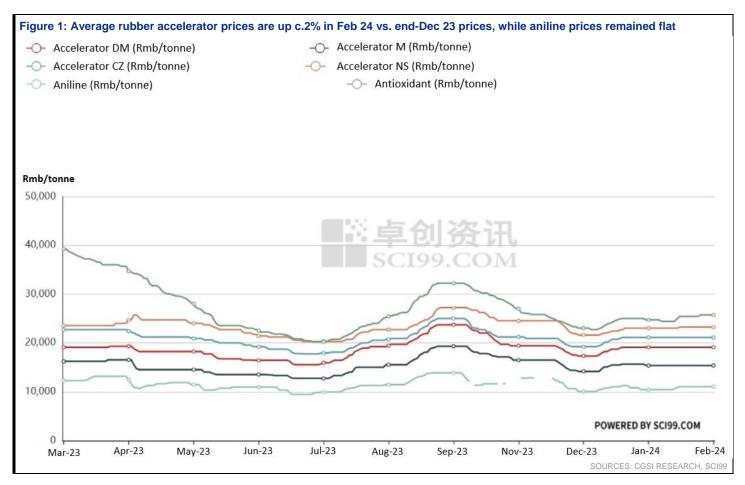
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Financial Summary	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue (Rmbm)	3,825	3,490	3,682	3,822	3,946
Operating EBITDA (Rmbm)	816.1	520.2	521.3	552.6	580.2
Net Profit (Rmbm)	642.4	372.4	376.2	397.9	417.3
Core EPS (Rmb)	0.63	0.40	0.39	0.41	0.43
Core EPS Growth	19.9%	(36.5%)	(1.6%)	5.8%	4.9%
FD Core P/E (x)	3.25	5.13	5.20	4.92	4.69
DPS (Rmb)	0.15	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
Dividend Yield	7.38%	6.48%	6.48%	6.48%	6.48%
EV/EBITDA (x)	0.74	0.52	0.11	(0.56)	(1.09)
P/FCFE (x)	29.63	4.31	5.80	3.95	4.34
Net Gearing	(37.0%)	(43.0%)	(45.5%)	(51.0%)	(54.7%)
P/BV (x)	0.53	0.50	0.47	0.44	0.41
ROE	17.7%	10.0%	9.3%	9.2%	9.1%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(0.77%)	(7.15%)	
EPS/Consensus EPS (x)			1.02	0.97	

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Spreads holding up well for now



Abbreviation list

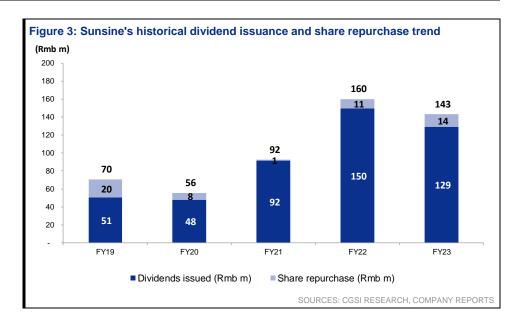
Accelerator CZ: N-cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulphenamide

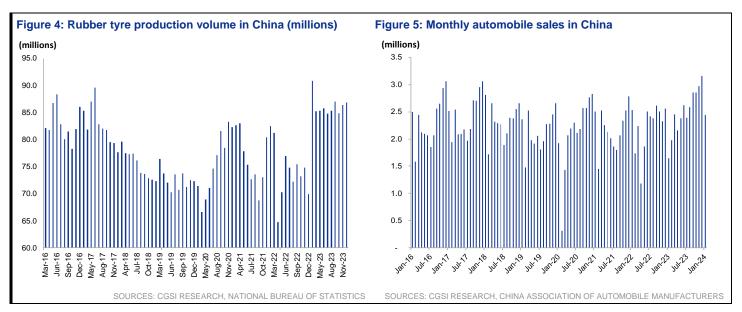
Accelerator DM: Dibenzothiazole disulfide **Accelerator M:** 2-Mercaptobenzothiazole

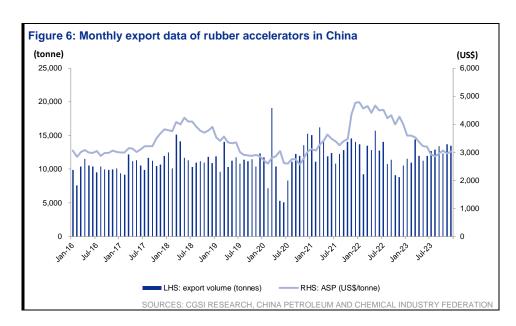
Accelerator NS: N-tert-butylbenzothiazole-2-sulphenamide

FYE Dec (Rmb m)	2H23	2H22	yoy % chg	1H23	hoh % chg	FY23	FY22	yoy % chg	Prev. FY23F	Comments
Revenue	1,761.3	1,802.5	(2.3)	1,729.1	1.9	3,490.4	3,825.0	(8.7)	3,595.3	Below. FY23 formed 97% of our full-year forecast
Cost of sales	(1,374.4)	(1,332.6)	3.1	(1,317.1)	4.4	(2,691.5)	(2,661.1)	1.1	(2,826.4)	
Gross profit	386.9	469.9	(17.7)	412.0	(6.1)	798.9	1,163.9	(31.4)	768.9	Above. Profit spreads were more resilient than expected
Gross margin (%)	22.0%	26.1%	n.m.	23.8%	n.m.	22.9%	30.4%	n.m.	21.4%	
OpEx	(201.9)	(232.4)	(13.1)	(227.5)	(11.3)	(429.4)	(511.2)	(16.0)	(467.4)	
Operating profit	185.0	237.5	(22.1)	184.5	0.3	369.5	652.7	(43.4)	301.5	Above
Operating margin (%)	10.5%	13.2%	n.m.	10.7%	n.m.	10.6%	17.1%	n.m.	8.4%	
Finance income	16.2	5.0	224.0	19.8	(18.2)	36.0	16.2	122.2	40.0	
Exceptionals	0.0	0.0	n.m.	(10.0)	n.m.	(10.0)	36.1	n.m.	0.0	
Pretax profit	217.1	263.6	(17.6)	236.1	(8.0)	453.2	733.7	(38.2)	401.5	
Tax	(39.3)	(48.7)	(19.3)	(41.5)	(5.3)	(80.8)	(91.3)	(11.5)	(72.3)	
Tax rate (%)	18.1%	18.5%	n.m.	17.6%	n.m.	17.8%	12.4%	n.m.	18.0%	
Net profit	177.8	214.9	(17.3)	194.6	(8.6)	372.4	642.4	(42.0)	329.2	Above. FY23 formed 113% of our and 116% of Bloomberg consensus full-year forecast
Core net profit	177.8	214.9	(17.3)	204.6	(13.1)	382.4	606.3	(36.9)	329.2	·

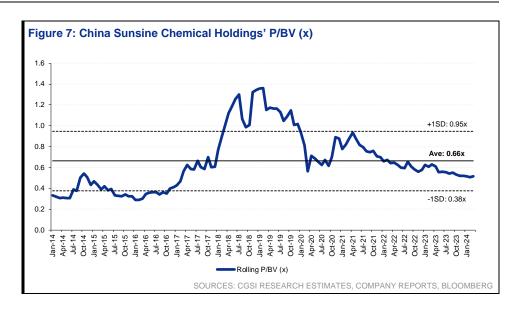












Earnings revision		New			Old			% change	
(RMB m)	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F
Revenue	3,681.9	3,822.3	3,945.6	3,794.7	4,020.4	3,945.6	-3.0%	-4.9%	0.0%
Gross profit	822.1	867.6	907.2	850.3	931.4	907.2	-3.3%	-6.8%	0.0%
EBIT	372.9	401.3	425.9	362.7	420.9	425.9	2.8%	-4.6%	0.0%
Core net profit	376.2	397.9	417.3	381.4	431.2	417.3	-1.4%	-7.7%	0.0%
Core EPS (Rmb cents)	39.1	41.3	43.3	39.4	44.5	43.3	-0.8%	-7.1%	0.0%

	Bloomberg		Price	Target Price	Market Cap	P/E ((x)	3-year EPS	P/BV (x)	Recurring ROE (%)	EV/EBIT	DA (x)	Dividend Yield (%
	ŭ				(US\$. ,	CAGR	` '	` '		• • •	•
Company	Ticker	Recom.	(Icl curr)	(Icl curr)	m)	CY24F	CY25F	(%)	CY24F	CY24F	CY24F	CY25F	CY24
China Sunsine Chemical Holdings	CSSC SP	Add	0.38	0.47	271	5.2	4.9	2.4%	0.47	9.3%	0.1	-0.6	6.5%
Rubber chemical peers													
Shandong Yanggu Huatai	300121 CH	Not rated	7.83	na	447	6.7	5.4	na	0.90	14.0%	na	na	5.0%
Eastman Chemical Co	EMN US	Not rated	88.21	na	10,244	11.5	9.9	9.4%	1.77	15.6%	8.1	7.5	3.7%
LANXESS AG	LXS GY	Not rated	22.84	na	2,225	35.9	9.7	na	0.42	-0.7%	7.1	5.5	1.8%
Simple average (rubber chemical	l peers)					18.0	8.3	9.4%	1.03	9.6%	7.6	6.5	3.5%
Tyre manufacturers													
Anhui Zhongding	000887 CH	Not rated	10.98	na	2,011	10.6	8.8	na	1.10	10.4%	6.4	5.6	2.3%
Shandong Linglong Tyre Co Ltd	601966 CH	Not rated	22.23	na	4,542	15.6	12.5	22.8%	1.47	9.6%	10.2	8.6	1.5%
Bridgestone Corp	5108 JP	Not rated	6,335	na	30,296	11.5	10.5	10.3%	1.26	11.1%	5.4	5.0	3.4%
Yokohama Rubber	5101 JP	Not rated	3,899	na	4,515	8.7	8.1	5.4%	0.85	9.8%	6.5	6.1	2.2%
Cie Generale des Etab.	ML FP	Not rated	34.39	na	26,736	10.0	9.5	11.6%	1.29	13.0%	5.0	4.8	4.6%
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co/The	GT US	Not rated	11.79	na	3,368	9.2	6.1	na	0.68	7.3%	4.8	4.2	0.1%
Apollo Tyres Ltd	APTY IN	Not rated	542.0	na	4,084	17.5	14.6	-29.9%	2.20	13.6%	8.0	281.9	1.4%
Cheng Shin Rubber Ind	2105 TT	Not rated	46.05	na	4,726	18.5	17.3	na	1.58	9.6%	7.7	7.6	4.2%
Hankook Tire & Technology	161390 KS	Add	54,200	69,000	5,034	6.2	5.4	na	0.65	11.0%	2.6	2.1	1.8%
Kumho Tire Co Inc	073240 KS	Not rated	6,420	na	1,375	11.2	11.6	na	1.27	12.1%	6.1	6.3	0.0%
Nexen Tire Corp	002350 KS	Not rated	8,860	na	648	5.0	4.7	na	0.49	10.0%	5.1	4.8	1.3%
Simple average (tyre manufactur	are)					11.3	9.9	4.0%	1.17	10.7%	6.2	30.6	2.1%

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS, BLOOMBERG Note: All forecasts for Not rated companies are based on Bloomberg consensus estimates Data as of 6 Mar 2024





ESG in a nutshell

We find Sunsine's commitment to environmental protection commendable. The company has been constantly improving its operational efficiencies and environmental protection efforts to stay ahead of government regulations; the company believes this is key to business continuity, given that environmental protection is fast gaining traction in China among policy makers and the public. Its environmental management team comprises more than 123 employees, all well equipped with relevant environmental protection knowledge and experience, including five post-graduate staff specialised in environmental protection. In FY21 alone, the company invested Rmb157m in environmental protection.

Keep your eye on

Over the past 5 years, Sunsine's gaseous emissions and wastewater discharge have met local emission standards. The group has also recorded zero environmental incidents.

Implications

Environmental protection is fast gaining traction in China among policy makers and the public; this has significant implications, especially to the chemicals industry. We believe it is important that Sunsine is fully compliant with national environmental regulations to ensure smooth operations.

ESG highlights

In FY20, Sunsine added a 20,000-tonne p.a. N-tert-butyl-benzothiazole sulphonamide (TBBS) production line in Shanxian. This new TBBS line is the first-ever continuous, fully automated and "green" production line in China's rubber chemicals industry, and touts "zero discharge" of wastewater. To reduce its environmental risks and waste treatment cost, Sunsine also acquired Heze Yongshun Environmental Protection Technology Co Ltd, a hazardous waste disposal enterprise, in Jul 2020.

Implications

We believe this shows constant R&D efforts by Sunsine to further improve its operational efficiencies and environmental protection efforts to stay ahead of government regulations. Improved cost efficiencies should help Sunsine enjoy cost advantages over peers as well, in our view.

Trends

In FY20, Sunsine was able to reduce its energy consumption through usage of energy-saving equipment, and the adoption of a more efficient way of production. In FY21, however, its steam and electricity unit consumption increased by 22% and 16%, respectively, due to increased production volumes. In FY22, its steam and electricity unit consumption fell by 9% and 6%, respectively, due to lower production volumes.

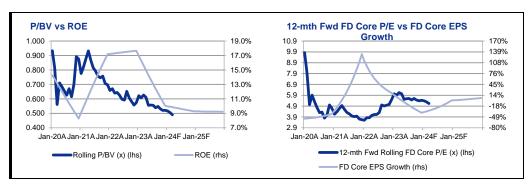
Implications

Energy efficiency is part and parcel of environmental protection management. It is crucial for Sunsine to continually invest in this area so that the company is always ahead of government regulations and can ensure business continuity, in our view.

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH



BY THE NUMBERS



(Rmbm)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total Net Revenues	3,825	3,490	3,682	3,822	3,946
Gross Profit	1,164	799	822	868	907
Operating EBITDA	816	520	521	553	580
Depreciation And Amortisation	(163)	(151)	(148)	(151)	(154)
Operating EBIT	653	370	373	401	426
Financial Income/(Expense)	16	36	38	36	35
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	65	48	45	45	45
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	734	453	456	482	506
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	734	453	456	482	506
Taxation	(91)	(81)	(80)	(84)	(89)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	642	372	376	398	417
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	642	372	376	398	417
Recurring Net Profit	606	382	376	398	417
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	606	382	376	398	417

Cash Flow					
(Rmbm)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
EBITDA	816.1	520.2	521.3	552.6	580.2
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(574.9)	157.2	(37.3)	95.7	29.0
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	20.6	49.2	45.0	45.0	45.0
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tax Paid	(54.3)	(133.3)	(79.8)	(84.4)	(88.5)
Cashflow From Operations	207.5	593.3	449.2	608.8	565.6
Capex	(157.3)	(173.9)	(150.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing Cashflow	16.3	36.4	38.0	36.0	35.0
Cash Flow From Investing	(141.0)	(137.5)	(112.0)	(114.0)	(115.0)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased	(10.6)	(13.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends Paid	(118.6)	(126.3)	(126.7)	(126.7)	(126.7)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	7.7	(1.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow From Financing	(121.5)	(141.0)	(126.7)	(126.7)	(126.7)
Total Cash Generated	(55.0)	314.8	210.4	368.1	323.9
Free Cashflow To Equity	66.5	455.8	337.2	494.8	450.6
Free Cashflow To Firm	66.5	455.8	337.2	494.8	450.6

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rmbm)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	1,365	1,688	1,898	2,266	2,590
Total Debtors	1,382	1,265	1,311	1,257	1,243
Inventories	403	341	376	372	375
Total Other Current Assets	0	20	20	20	20
Total Current Assets	3,150	3,315	3,606	3,916	4,228
Fixed Assets	862	864	865	864	860
Total Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Intangible Assets	213	207	207	207	207
Total Other Non-Current Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total Non-current Assets	1,075	1,071	1,073	1,071	1,067
Short-term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	386	364	408	445	463
Other Current Liabilities	147	95	95	95	95
Total Current Liabilities	533	459	503	540	558
Total Long-term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Non-current Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Provisions	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	533	459	503	540	558
Shareholders' Equity	3,692	3,927	4,176	4,447	4,738
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	3,692	3,927	4,176	4,447	4,738

Key Ratios					
	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue Growth	2.68%	(8.75%)	5.49%	3.81%	3.23%
Operating EBITDA Growth	10.8%	(36.3%)	0.2%	6.0%	5.0%
Operating EBITDA Margin	21.3%	14.9%	14.2%	14.5%	14.7%
Net Cash Per Share (Rmb)	1.41	1.75	1.97	2.35	2.69
BVPS (Rmb)	3.81	4.08	4.34	4.62	4.92
Gross Interest Cover	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Effective Tax Rate	12.4%	17.8%	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	4.53%	6.47%	6.40%	6.05%	5.77%
Accounts Receivables Days	118.7	138.4	128.1	122.6	115.6
Inventory Days	52.13	50.45	45.91	46.23	44.87
Accounts Payables Days	70.19	50.85	49.42	52.70	54.54
ROIC (%)	31.8%	13.0%	13.7%	14.5%	16.1%
ROCE (%)	19.5%	10.6%	10.1%	10.1%	10.0%
Return On Average Assets	15.4%	8.0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Accelerator sales volume (thousand tonnes)	89.4	99.8	102.5	105.0	107.0
Insoluble sulphur sales volume (thousand tonnes)	37.6	40.7	43.0	46.0	48.0
Antioxidants sales volume (thousand tonnes)	58.1	65.1	68.0	70.0	72.0
Accelerator ASP (rmb/tonne)	22,847.0	19,648.5	20,238.0	20,440.4	20,644.8
Insoluble sulphur ASP (rmb/tonne)	7,917.8	6,535.5	6,568.2	6,601.0	6,634.0
Antioxidants ASP (rmb/tonne)	24,203.4	18,315.0	18,406.6	18,498.6	18,591.1

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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636 companies under coverage for quarter ended on 31 December 2023					
	Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)			
Add	67.5%	1.3%			
Hold	22.5%	0.0%			
Reduce	10.1%	0.2%			



Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

China Sunsine Chemical Holdings (CSSC SP)



Recommendation Framework				
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Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.			
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