13 June 2024 | China (Mainland)

Lizhong Sitong Light Alloys Group (300428 CH)



Sales Volume and Prices of Main

Business Increased

Huatai Research Annual Results Review

Other New Materials & Processing

Attributable net profit grew 22.98% yoy in 2023, maintain BUY

Lizhong Group (Lizhong) reported revenue/attributable net profit (NP) of RMB23,365/606mn (+9.33/+22.98% yoy) for 2023, with the attributable NP deducting amortization expense of equity incentives at RMB710mn (+15.48% yoy). We project its 2024/2025/2026 attributable NP at RMB820/1,080/1,250mn. Considering Lizhong's progress of heat treatment-free alloy from the 0-1 to 1-10 phase, we value the stock at 22.63x 2024E PE, at a discount to its PE average of 28.29x for 2021-2024, and expect the 2024 EPS to be RMB1.31. Our target price is RMB29.64. Maintain BUY.

Cast alloys registered profit improvement

In 2023, Lizhong sold 933.2k tonnes of cast aluminum alloys (+11.49% yoy). It achieved steady sales volume growth by leveraging advantages in capacity layout and establishing close ties with high-quality customers. Its GPM of cast aluminum alloys in 2023 was 5.72% (+0.72pp yoy), with an attributable NP of RMB199mn (+39.36% yoy) after deducting the amortization expense of equity incentives. We calculate that its per-tonne net profit of cast aluminum alloy was c. RMB213 (up RMB43 yoy), a notable improvement. The company proactively optimized its product structure, and had its various types and series of heat treatment-free alloy products be certified by some customers.

Sales volume of aluminum alloy wheel grew rapidly

In 2023, the company's sales volume of aluminum alloy wheels reached 21.2mn units (+21.28% yoy). Its products have been widely recognized by global customers, with orders growing rapidly. In 2023, the company's sales volume of aluminum alloy wheels for NEVs reached 4.04mn units (+331.15% yoy), while sales of forged and spun aluminum alloy wheels reached 5.8077mn (+50.27% yoy). The GPM for 2023 was 16.71% (+0.89pp yoy), with an attributable NP of RMB370mn (+16.48% yoy) after deducting the amortization expense of equity incentives.

Functional intermediate alloys maintained stable profit

In 2023, Lizhong sold 86,600 tonnes of functional intermediate alloys (+1.17% yoy), achieving an attributable NP of RMB150mn (-1.12% yoy) after deducting the amortization expense of equity incentives. In terms of lithium-ion battery materials business, part of the first-phase capacity was completed for trial production in December 2023. Currently, the company mainly focuses on market development and customer verification in its lithium hexafluorophosphate products, with by-products such as fluoride salt being used as raw materials of intermediate alloy products, further reducing costs and improving product quality.

Risks: volatile raw material prices; weak demand; intensified industry competition.

Financials

YE 31 Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	
Revenue (RMBmn)	21,371	23,365	31,019	36,703	42,934	
+/-%	14.69	9.33	32.76	18.33	16.98	
Net profit (RMBmn)	492.41	605.55	820.46	1,080	1,252	
+/-%	9.41	22.98	35.49	31.69	15.86	
EPS (diluted, RMB)	0.79	0.97	1.31	1.73	2.00	
ROE (%)	9.12	9.78	11.67	13.65	13.87	
PE (x)	24.26	19.72	14.56	11.06	9.54	
PB (x)	2.08	1.79	1.61	1.42	1.24	
EV EBITDA (x)	15.54	12.63	10.82	9.00	7.90	

Source: Company announcements, Huatai Research estimates

Rating (Maintain):	BUY
Target price (RMB):	29.64

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Key data

Target price (RMB)	29.64
Closing price (RMB as of 30 Apr)	19.73
Potential upside -/+ (%)	50
Mkt cap (RMBmn)	12,351
6m avg daily val (RMBmn)	122.80
52wk price range (RMB)	13.29-26.35
BVPS (RMB)	11.03

Share performance



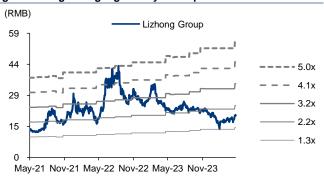
Source: Wind

Fig.1: Lizhong Sitong Light Alloys Group PE-Bands



Source: Wind, Huatai Research

Fig.2: Lizhong Sitong Light Alloys Group PB-Bands



Source: Wind, Huatai Research

Full financials

Current assets 11,800 12,873 13,439 15,242 17,705 Revenue 21,371 23,365 31,	019 36,703 42 837 32,831 38	026E 2,934
	837 32,831 38	2,934
Cash & equivalents 2,311 2,887 1,659 1,835 2,147 Operating costs 19,339 20,915 27,		
	9.00 136.74 16	8,405
Account receivables 3,525 4,032 4,830 5,657 6,610 Business taxes & surcharges 73.31 83.82 129		64.18
Other receivables 256.17 154.52 390.71 254.44 500.23 Operating expenses 238.95 325.11 431	1.62 510.71 59	97.41
Prepayments 133.64 208.24 245.63 291.41 336.80 Admin expenses 481.79 559.03 620	0.38 734.07 85	58.68
Inventories 3,665 3,747 4,206 5,174 5,799 Financial costs 160.36 212.28 258	9.05 275.52 28	89.28
Other current assets 1,910 1,843 2,107 2,030 2,313 Asset impairment losses (12.50) (5.72) (7	.59) (8.98) (10	0.50)
Non-current assets 5,145 5,848 6,288 6,239 6,139 P from fair value changes 10.69 (9.41)	0.00	0.00
Long-term investment 109.71 81.24 72.03 77.01 73.52 Investment income (31.02) 1.87	4.02 4.02	4.02
Fixed investment 3,213 3,657 4,107 4,122 4,089 Operating profit 540.04 712.29 951	1.18 1,253 1	1,451
Intangible assets 612.21 705.66 754.85 805.16 841.05 Non-operating income 3.28 2.13 2	2.89 2.76	2.59
Other non-curr. assets 1,210 1,404 1,354 1,235 1,135 Non-operating expenses 6.32 3.98	4.61 4.97	4.52
Total assets 16,945 18,720 19,727 21,481 23,844 Total profit 537.00 710.44 948	9.46 1,250 1	1,449
Current liabilities 8,657 8,543 9,145 10,355 12,012 Income tax expenses 35.77 93.76 113	3.93 150.04 17	73.84
Short-term borrowings 5,671 5,262 5,262 6,442 7,080 Profit after tax 501.23 616.67 835	5.52 1,100 1	1,275
Account payables 1,116 1,343 1,929 1,930 2,584 Minority interest 8.82 11.12 15	5.07 19.84 2	22.99
	0.46 1,080 1	1,252
Non-current liabilities 2,345 3,302 2,946 2,448 1,940 EBITDA 1,178 1,470 1,	768 2,185 2	2,467
		2.00
Other non-curr. liabilities 285.47 1,006 1,006 1,006 1,006		
Total liabilities 11,002 11,845 12,091 12,802 13,952 Performance		
	24E 2025E 20	026E
Share capital 616.96 626.02 626.02 626.02 Growth (%)		
	2.76 18.33 1	16.98
	3.54 31.68 1	15.81
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		15.86
Equity & liabilities 16,945 18,720 19,727 21,481 23,844 Profitability (%)		
	0.26 10.55 1	10.55
· · · ·		2.97
		13.87
· · · ·		9.76
Net profit 501.23 616.67 835.52 1,100 1,275 Solvency		
•	1.29 59.60 5	58.51
` '		73.77
		1.47
		0.92
Other operating activ's 148.26 206.24 (29.61) (35.78) (41.67) Operating capability		
	1.61 1.78	1.89
		7.00
		17.02
Other investing activ's (44.35) 31.92 (9.07) (11.47) (15.58) Per-share data (RMB)		2
	1.31 1.73	2.00
		1.67
		15.36
Increase in common stock 0.00 0.90 0.00 0.00 Valuation (x)		. 0.00
• •	4.56 11.06	9.54
		1.24
		7.90

Source: Company announcements, Huatai Research estimates

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Lizhong Sitong Light Alloys Group (300428 CH)



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NEUTRAL: Performance of the industry index is expected to be in line with the benchmark **UNDERWEIGHT:** The industry index is expected to significantly underperform the benchmark

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