Mirae Asset Securities Co., Ltd.
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096530 KQ · Medtech

Seegene

Impact of falling COVID-19-related revenue is easing

(Mainta Trading		Target prio W25,000		Upside 18.2%		Current price (8/17/23) W21,150		
KOSDAQ	886.04	Market cap (Wbn)	1,105	Shares outstanding (mn)	52	Foreign ownership (%)	9.8	

Report summary

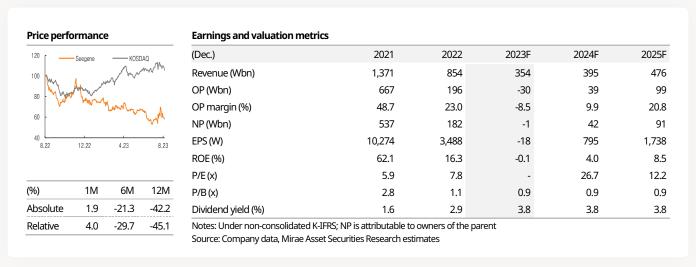
Revenue comes in line; operating losses continue, but SG&A expenses fall to lowest level in 11 quarters

In 2Q23, Seegene's COVID-19-related revenue (test kits and reagents) slumped 75% YoY to W16.8bn. Instruments/other revenue also declined 20% YoY to W18.2bn. However, non-COVID-19 test kit revenue grew 31% YoY to W49.9bn, bringing overall revenue in line with the consensus. Operating losses continued, but SG&A expenses fell 24% YoY to the lowest level in 11 quarters.

Trading at a 12-month forward EV/EBITDA of 8x, a discount to global peers (14x) and the three-year average (9x)

Non-COVID-19 test kit revenue per PCR detection machine, which fell to W6.3mn during the pandemic, has recovered to W8.9mn. In 4Q23, we forecast that figure to surpass the pre-pandemic level (W11.7mn). The number of PCR detection machines installed has also increased to 5,600 units from 1,800 units pre-pandemic. Given non-COVID-19 test kit revenue trends and cost-saving efforts, we expect quarterly revenue to continue to grow sequentially from 3Q23 through 4Q24. We expect Seegene to swing to an operating profit in 4Q23, with full-year OP margin recovering to double-digit levels from 2024.

Key data



2Q23 review

Revenue meets consensus, but operating loss is worse than expected

For 2Q23, Seegene reported revenue of W84.9bn (-34% YoY), in line with the consensus. By region, revenue was W11bn (+34% YoY) in Korea, W6.5bn (-46% YoY) in North America, W45.3bn (-36% YoY) in Europe, and W22.1bn (-41% YoY) in Asia/the Middle East.

COVID-19-related revenue (kits and reagents) slumped 75% YoY to W16.8bn, but revenue from non-COVID-19 test kits (respiratory, women's health, gastrointestinal, etc.) grew 31% YoY to W49.9bn. Respiratory revenue grew 7% YoY to W12.2bn, driven by respiratory bacterial testing (+88% YoY). Women's health revenue grew 11% YoY to W12.2bn, while HPV revenue increased 43% YoY to W7.3bn. Gastrointestinal revenue expanded 67% YoY to W11bn, spurred by the accelerating transition from traditional testing (cell culture) to PCR testing. Other revenue jumped 80% YoY to W7.2bn.

Instruments/other revenue declined 20% YoY to W18.2bn. The company sold 161 units in the quarter: 73 extraction machines (2,953 units cumulatively) and 88 detection machines (5,679 units cumulatively). Asia accounted for 40% of installations, Europe 56%, and other regions 4%.

At the operating level, the company remained in the red (loss of W9.7bn). However, SG&A expenses shrank 24% YoY to W57.1bn, the lowest level in 11 quarters. In particular, R&D spending, which skyrocketed to W34.7bn in 2Q22, dropped to W17.5bn (the lowest level since 1Q21), suggesting cost-saving efforts are continuing.

Table 1. 2Q23 review

(Wbn, %, %p)

				2Q23	Growth		
	2Q22	1Q23	Actual	Mirae Asset Securities	Consensus	YoY	QoQ
Revenue	128.4	90.0	84.9	86.5	86.5	-33.9	-5.7
OP	13.0	-13.8	-9.7	-0.5	-0.5	TTR	RR
OP margin (%)	10.1	-15.3	-11.4	-0.6	-0.6	-21.5	3.9
NP	25.2	2.1	-2.5	1.1	1.1	TTR	TTR

Note: Under K-IFRS

Source: Company data, FnGuide, Mirae Asset Securities Research estimates

Table 2. Earnings forecast revisions

(Wbn, %)

	Previous		Revised		% chg.		Natas
	23F	24F	23F	24F	23F 24F		Notes
Revenue	356.2	401.9	354.3	395.1	-0.5	-1.7	Reflected 2Q23 results
OP	1.2	51.2	-29.6	39.1	-2,669.8	-23.6	
Pretax profit	23.9	60.0	-1.4	51.6	-105.7	-14.0	
NP	17.2	42.7	-1.0	41.5	-105.6	-2.7	
EPS (W)	329	817	-18	795	-105.6	-2.7	

Note: Under K-IFRS

Source: Mirae Asset Securities Research estimates

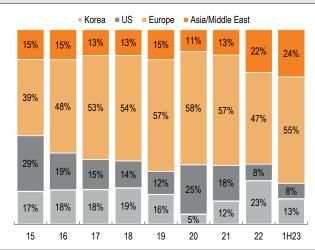
Table 3. Quarterly and annual earnings

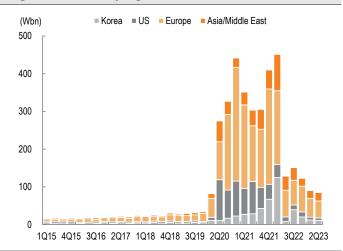
(Wbn)

g											
	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23F	4Q23F	2022	2023F	2024F
Revenue	451.5	128.4	150.8	122.8	90.0	84.9	85.4	93.9	853.6	354.3	395.1
Products	372.9	105.6	115.5	108.2	67.7	66.7	66.1	76.8	702.2	277.3	296.6
COVID-19	321.2	59.3	64.2	47.3	13.3	10.3	7.3	5.2	492.0	36.1	10.6
Respiratory	4.9	11.4	11.1	16.2	10.8	12.2	13.2	20.6	43.6	56.8	69.3
Women's health	11.7	11.0	11.9	11.6	11.8	12.2	13.2	13.9	46.2	51.1	62.3
HPV	4.7	5.1	5.5	6.6	6.3	7.3	7.8	8.3	21.9	29.7	36.2
GI	6.0	6.6	8.7	10.4	9.8	11.0	11.7	13.2	31.7	45.8	55.8
Extraction reagents	20.3	8.2	8.8	8.7	8.1	6.5	5.3	6.1	46.0	26.0	23.4
Other	4.1	4.0	5.3	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.7	9.4	20.8	31.9	38.9
Instruments	78.6	22.8	35.3	14.6	22.4	18.2	19.3	17.2	151.4	77.0	98.5
ОР	199.7	13.0	-32.2	16.1	-13.8	-9.7	-6.1	-0.1	196.5	-29.6	39.1
NP (owners of the parent)	165.5	25.2	-11.1	2.6	2.1	-2.5	-2.3	1.8	182.1	-1.0	41.5
Revenue growth (%)	28.3	-57.7	-50.6	-70.0	-80.1	-33.9	-43.4	-23.5	-37.7	-58.5	11.5
Products	32.0	-57.2	-55.1	-69.7	-81.8	-36.8	-42.8	-29.0	-38.6	-60.5	7.0
COVID -19	42.9	-70.2	-67.2	-83.7	-95.9	-82.6	-88.6	-89.0	-45.9	-92.7	-70.7
Respiratory	-31.9	123.5	42.3	82.0	120.4	7.0	18.5	27.3	50.3	30.2	22.1
Women's health	55.3	29.4	16.7	2.7	0.9	10.9	10.5	19.9	23.1	10.5	22.0
HPV	34.3	27.5	31.0	29.4	34.0	43.1	41.4	25.4	30.4	35.4	22.0
GI	39.5	17.9	27.9	65.1	63.3	66.7	34.7	27.3	37.8	44.3	22.0
Extraction reagents	-36.2	-60.0	-66.9	-71.3	-60.1	-20.7	-39.6	-29.6	-57.9	-43.4	-10.0
Other	21.9	-2.4	-10.2	29.8	85.4	80.0	44.8	27.3	9.1	53.3	22.0
Instruments	13.4	-60.0	-26.7	-72.3	-71.5	-20.3	-45.4	17.3	-33.4	-49.1	27.9
OP margin (%)	44.2	10.1	-21.4	13.1	-15.3	-11.4	-7.1	-0.1	23.0	-8.4	9.9
Net margin (owners of the parent, %)	36.7	19.5	-7.5	2.4	2.3	-3.0	-2.7	1.9	21.3	-0.3	10.5

Figure 1. Revenue breakdown by region

Figure 2. Revenue by region



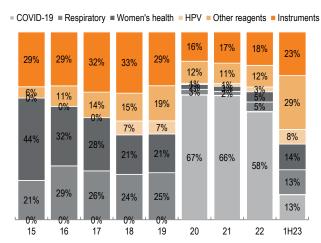


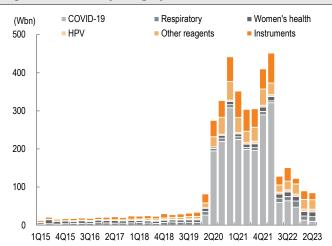
Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Figure 3. Revenue breakdown by category

Figure 4. Revenue by category



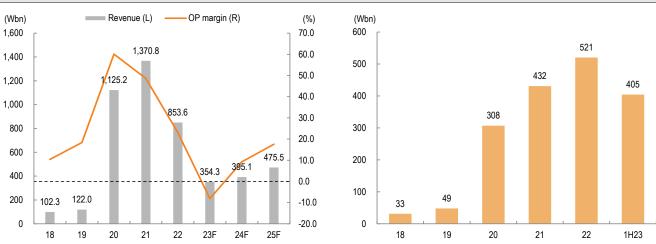


Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Figure 5. Revenue and OP margin

Figure 6. Cash and cash equivalents



Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Earnings forecasts and valuation

Earnings forecasts

After peaking at W321.2bn in 1Q22, COVID-19 test kit revenue has been rapidly shrinking since 2Q22, amounting to just W10.3bn in 2Q23 (the lowest level since sales began). As a percentage of overall revenue, COVID-19-related revenue declined from 86% in 1Q22 to 15% in 2Q23. On a positive note, the YoY decrease in COVID-19-related revenue eased to W49bn in 2Q23 from around W307.9bn in 1Q23. As the impact of falling COVID-19-related revenue on earnings has waned, visibility on future earnings has improved.

In the post-pandemic age, non-COVID-19 test kits will be key to Seegene's earnings outlook. Sales activities for non-COVID-19 test kits were severely limited during the pandemic due to the disproportionate share of COVID-19 revenue. Non-COVID-19 test kit revenue per machine fell to W6.3mn in 1Q22 from a quarterly average of W11.7mn prior to the pandemic, which means that machine utilization was roughly halved.

In 2Q23, non-COVID-19 test kit revenue per machine recovered to W8.9mn. HPV test kit revenue is already back above the pre-pandemic level. Revenue from gastrointestinal test kits (for which sales activities started during the pandemic) is also steadily growing, spurred by the transition from the traditional cell culture method to PCR testing. Women's health and respiratory test kit revenues have yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels, but are gradually picking up. Given current trends, we expect average revenue per machine to return to the pre-pandemic level by 2024.

Even more encouraging than the pickup in revenue per machine is the steady growth in the number of machines installed. Indeed, 5,600 PCR detection machines are now installed, up from 1,800 at end-2019. This means that if revenue per machine returns to the pre-pandemic level, the company would generate more than three times the revenue it made during the pandemic.

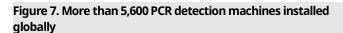
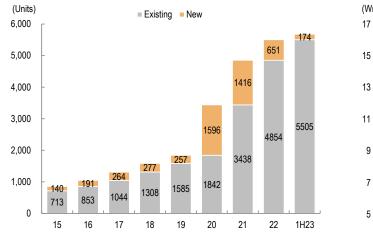
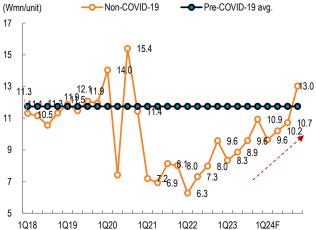


Figure 8. Non-COVID-19 kit revenue per machine

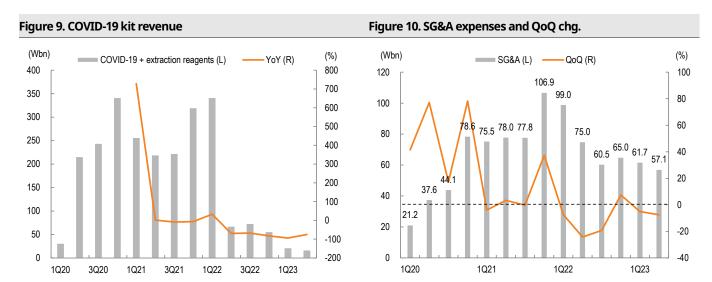




Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

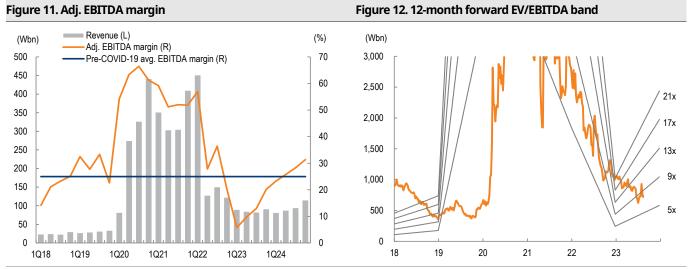
On a negative note, the share of licensed products has increased amid the sharp drop in overall revenue, pushing up the COGS ratio. That said, SG&A expenses remain under tight control. After rising to W65bn in 4Q22, quarterly SG&A expenses sequentially declined throughout 1H23. In 2Q23, labor expenses fell to W13.9bn, the lowest level in 13 quarters, thanks to a drop in head count (head office) to 880 (from 1,187 in 1Q22). R&D spending also dropped to W17.5bn, the lowest level in nine quarters.

Given non-COVID-19 test kit revenue trends and cost-saving efforts, we expect quarterly revenue to continue to grow sequentially from 3Q23 through 4Q24. We also expect Seegene to swing to an operating profit in 4Q23. OP margin will likely recover at an accelerating rate in 2024 and normalize to pre-pandemic levels over time.



Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

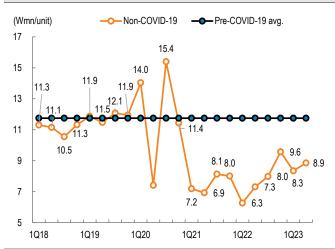
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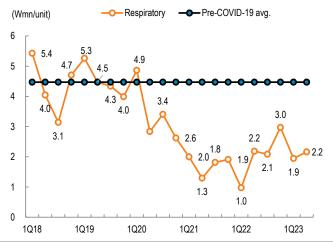


Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Figure 13. Non-COVID-19 kit revenue per machine

Figure 14. Respiratory kit revenue per machine



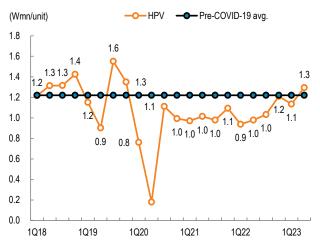


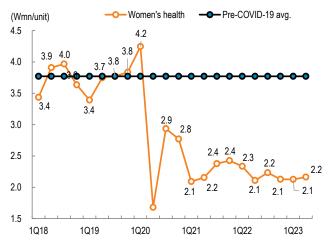
Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Figure 15. HPV kit revenue per machine

Figure 16. Women's health kit revenue per machine



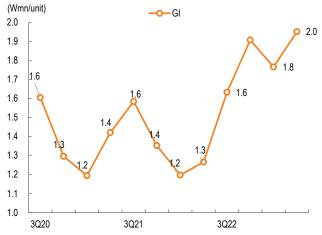


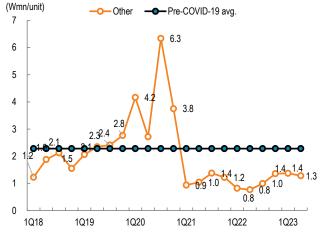
Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Figure 17. Gastrointestinal kit revenue per machine

Figure 18. Other revenue per machine





Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research

August 17, 2023 Seegene

OneSystem project update

This year, as part of its post-pandemic business strategy, Seegene has begun to forge global partnership agreements under a technology-sharing initiative known as OneSystem. By sharing its syndromic PCR technologies with exclusive partners in countries around the world, the company aims to rapidly expand its sales network and product portfolio. Seegene allows partnering companies (through newly created subsidiaries or joint ventures) to use its technology to develop/sell PCR reagents in their respective countries.

Seegene signed its first technology-sharing agreement with Hy Laboratories (Israel) in March. And in June, Seegene announced an extended partnership with Werfen (Spain), with which it already collaborates in the Spanish and Portuguese markets; Seegene plans to expand its Spain/Portugal sales force to 12 by 2025 and double its non-COVID-19 revenue in these markets (from the 2023F level).

In June, the firm announced a partnership with Springer Nature, securing access to the publishing company's global network of top-tier scientists and professionals. Starting in 2H23, Seegene plans to recruit researchers to jointly conduct verification/clinical trials in relation to over 15 new product development projects. To this end, the firm will create its own space within Springer Nature's website. Going forward, the company plans to expand its technology-sharing partnerships in key export markets, including Europe and Asia.

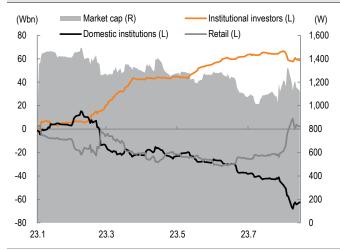
Maintain Trading Buy and lower TP to W25,000 (from W25,800)

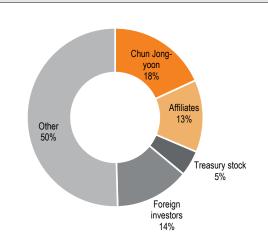
We lower our target price on Seegene to W25,000 (from W25,800) to reflect our earnings forecast revisions. With our new target price implying 18.2% upside to the current price, we maintain our Trading Buy recommendation.

Shares of Seegene are trading at a 12-month forward P/E of 43x—much higher than the global peer average of 21x. Based on 12-month forward EV/EBITDA, however, the stock is trading at 8x, a discount to global peers (14x) and its three-year average (9x).

Figure 19. Net buying by investor type vs. market cap

Figure 20. Ownership breakdown





Source: QuantiWise, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Source: QuantiWise, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Table 4. Global peer valuation table

(Wbn)

Campania			P/S (x)		F	ROE (%)		ı	Revenue							
Company	сар	22	23F	24F	22	23F	24F	22	23F	24F	22	23F	24F	22	23F	24F
Roche	326,854	26.6	32.8	33.7	19.0	14.1	12.9	3.4	3.6	3.5	42.7	46.1	42.5	89,019	89,730	93,383
Thermo Fisher	276,463	18.7	23.3	23.7	34.0	23.6	21.5	4.8	4.7	4.4	13.3	18.3	19.2	58,046	57,439	61,138
Abbott	244,082	19.2	22.1	21.9	31.9	23.9	22.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	14.0	19.0	19.7	56,415	52,459	55,055
Danaher	252,583	27.6	28.4	27.7	28.9	28.8	26.3	6.1	6.6	6.3	13.0	12.1	12.0	40,671	37,661	39,611
Labcorp	25,670	11.9	13.9	14.6	13.5	15.8	14.6	1.4	1.6	1.5	8.7	12.6	13.5	19,226	16,393	16,576
Hologic	24,563	33.7	30.0	29.7	25.5	19.1	18.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	9.5	18.8	17.1	6,049	5,354	5,424
Quest	20,087	14.4	16.1	16.3	18.1	15.3	14.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	12.5	16.0	15.6	12,772	12,074	12,295
Sysmex	15,201	17.9	18.2	18.6	35.5	30.6	27.6	3.9	3.6	3.3	12.1	13.2	13.4	3,969	4,184	4,536
Revvity	19,483	22.4	29.0	30.0	48.3	24.6	21.2	5.2	5.1	4.7	12.8	7.7	8.5	4,280	3,774	4,092
bioMerieux	16,235	16.4	16.4	17.0	24.5	23.3	21.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	13.4	12.2	12.2	4,873	5,401	5,749
Bio-Rad	15,334	17.2	16.0	17.6	34.0	30.7	27.1	4.2	4.1	3.8	-4.9	4.1	4.7	3,621	3,664	3,901
Qiagen	13,563	24.8	26.6	27.4	26.4	21.1	19.8	5.1	5.1	4.7	9.8	12.2	12.0	2,768	2,664	2,855
DiaSorin	7,462	25.8	23.9	25.6	28.7	24.6	21.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	12.3	12.6	13.3	1,848	1,706	1,804
Quidel	6,687	25.8	19.4	20.6	34.3	15.0	13.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	0.9	6.5	6.9	4,221	3,979	3,979
SD Biosensor	1,486	39.1	-35.0	-6.3	1.3	-	-	0.4	2.1	2.2	35.3	-12.2	-1.7	2,932	700	667
Seegene	1,110	23.0	0.3	12.7	-	-	-	2.3	3.1	2.8	-0.8	1.5	4.0	854	356	402
Avg.		22.8	17.6	20.7	26.9	22.2	20.3	3.5	3.7	3.5	12.8	12.5	13.3	19,473	18,596	19,467

Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Securities Research

Seegene (096530 KQ)

Income statement (summarized)

2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
854	354	395	476
357	156	146	156
497	198	249	320
300	228	210	221
196	-30	39	99
196	-30	39	99
30	29	13	14
2	13	12	14
9	2	0	0
226	-1	52	113
43	0	10	23
182	-1	41	90
0	0	0	0
182	-1	41	90
182	-1	42	91
0	0	0	-1
188	4	41	90
188	4	41	89
0	0	0	1
254	30	91	144
256	65	15	65
29.7	8.5	23.0	30.3
23.0	-8.5	9.9	20.8
21.3	-0.3	10.6	19.1
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Balance sheet (summarized)

Dalarice Street (Sarriniarizea)				
(Wbn)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Current assets	903	799	867	1,015
Cash & equivalents	521	425	408	480
AR & other receivables	110	95	122	147
Inventory	158	153	204	249
Other current assets	114	126	133	139
Non-current assets	488	456	425	362
Investments in associates	37	38	38	0
PP&E	258	230	202	179
Intangible assets	24	23	20	17
Total assets	1,391	1,255	1,292	1,377
Current liabilities	170	186	217	246
AP & other payables	41	44	57	69
Short-term financial liabilities	101	100	107	113
Other current liabilities	28	42	53	64
Non-current liabilities	70	32	34	36
Long-term financial liabilities	58	24	24	24
Other non-current liabilities	12	8	10	12
Total liabilities	240	218	250	282
Equity attributable to owners	1,147	1,035	1,040	1,093
Capital stock	26	26	26	26
Capital surplus	66	63	63	63
Retained earnings	1,163	1,123	1,127	1,181
Minority interests	3	3	2	2
Shareholders' equity	1,150	1,038	1,042	1,095

Cash flow statement (summarized)

(Wbn)	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
Operating cash flow	319	82	35	85
NP	182	-1	41	90
Non-cash income/expenses	215	35	44	49
Depreciation	55	55	48	43
Amortization	3	4	3	3
Other	157	-24	-7	3
Chg. in working capital	79	25	-58	-51
Chg. in AR & other receivables	234	17	-26	-25
Chg. in inventory	-69	9	-52	-44
Chg. in AP & other payables	-24	-2	9	8
Income tax	-162	1	-10	-23
Cash flow from investing activities	-104	-40	-20	-20
Chg. in PP&E	-63	-18	-20	-20
Chg. in intangible assets	-9	-3	0	0
Chg. in financial assets	-1	2	0	0
Other	-31	-21	0	0
Cash flow from financing activities	-145	-148	-30	-31
Chg. in financial liabilities	0	-37	7	6
Chg. in equity	-2	-4	0	0
Dividends	-51	-28	-37	-37
Other	-92	-79	0	0
Chg. in cash	89	-97	-16	72
Beginning balance	432	521	425	408
Ending balance	521	425	408	480

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Securities Research estimates

Key valuation metrics/ratios

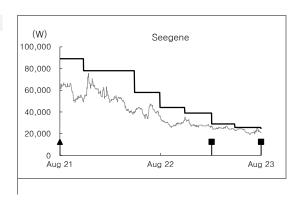
ncy valuation metrics ratios				
	2022	2023F	2024F	2025F
P/E (x)	7.8	-	26.7	12.2
P/CF(x)	3.6	32.2	12.9	8.0
P/B (x)	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.2	23.8	8.0	4.6
EPS (W)	3,488	-18	795	1,738
CFPS (W)	7,618	659	1,639	2,664
BPS (W)	24,104	23,046	23,130	24,156
DPS (W)	800	800	800	800
Dividend payout ratio (%)	22.2	-3,918.8	90.1	41.2
Dividend yield (%)	2.9	3.8	3.8	3.8
Revenue growth (%)	-37.7	-58.5	11.5	20.4
EBITDA growth (%)	-63.8	-88.4	205.7	59.1
OP growth (%)	-70.5	-	-	152.4
EPS growth (%)	-66.1	-	-	118.5
AR turnover (x)	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6
Inventory turnover (x)	4.6	2.3	2.2	2.1
AP turnover (x)	10.2	6.1	4.6	3.9
ROA (%)	12.7	-0.1	3.2	6.8
ROE (%)	16.3	-0.1	4.0	8.5
ROIC (%)	23.4	-3.6	5.4	12.9
Debt-to-equity ratio (%)	20.9	21.0	24.0	25.7
Current ratio (%)	530.3	430.2	400.3	412.4
Net debt-to-equity ratio (%)	-31.6	-38.9	-36.6	-40.8
Interest coverage ratio (x)	39.1	-5.8	8.4	20.3

Appendix 1

Important disclosures and disclaimers

Two-year rating and TP history

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Company	Date	Rating	TP (W)
Seegene (096530)	08/17/23	Trading Buy	25,000
	05/15/23	Trading Buy	25,800
	02/20/23	Trading Buy	29,000
	11/14/22	Buy	39,000
	08/16/22	Buy	44,100
	05/16/22	Buy	58,000
	11/12/21	Buy	78,000
	08/17/21	Buy	89,000



Stock rating	s	Sector ratings				
Buy	Expected 12-month performance: +20% or greater	Overweight	Expected to outperform the market over 12 months			
Trading Buy	Expected 12-month performance: +10% to +20%	Neutral	Expected to perform in line with the market over 12 months			
Hold	Expected 12-month performance: -10% to +10%	Underweight	Expected to underperform the market over 12 months			
Sell	Expected 12-month performance: -10% or worse					

Rating and TP history: Share price (-), TP (-), Not Rated (-), Buy (-), Trading Buy (-), Hold (-), Sell (+)

- * Our investment rating is a guide to the expected return of the stock over the next 12 months.
- * Outside of the official ratings of Mirae Asset Securities Co., Ltd., analysts may call trading opportunities should technical or short-term material developments arise.
- * The TP was determined by the research analyst through valuation methods discussed in this report, in part based on estimates of future earnings.
- *TP achievement may be impeded by risks related to the subject securities and companies, as well as general market and economic conditions.

Ratings distribution and investment banking services

-	Buy	Trading Buy	Hold	Sell
Ratings distribution	89.09%	7.88%	2.42%	0.61%
Investment banking services	100%	0%	0%	0%

^{*} Based on recommendations in the last 12-months (as of June 30, 2023)

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