CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Company Update

Microsoft (MSFT US)

Al related monetization key to watch

Microsoft reported (31 Oct HKT) inline1QFY25 (June vear-end) results: revenue was US\$65.6bn, up 16% YoY (4QFY24: +15% YoY: 1QFY24: +13% YoY), 2% better than consensus, driven by better-than-expected revenue generation from more personal computing (MPC) segment aided by the beat in revenue growth of gaming and search business; quarterly net income was up 11% YoY to US\$24.7bn, 6% better than consensus, which in our view was aided by better than feared margin impact from AI related investments, and operating efficiency gains of productivity and business process (PBP) business. Al related monetization, including pace of increase of copilot services revenue contribution, and the potential reacceleration in Azure's revenue growth in 2HFY25, remain key stock price drivers for Microsoft in a 6-12-month horizon, in our view. Our FY25/26E forecast was largely unchanged, while our DCFbased target price was lifted by 2% to US\$501.9 (was US\$491.3) due to the roll forward of valuation window, translating into 38/32x FY25/26E PE. Maintain BUY as we remain positive that Microsoft is one of the key beneficiaries in the Gen-Al era.

- Management remains upbeat on cloud revenue growth recovery in **2HFY25.** Intelligent Cloud (IC) segment recorded quarterly revenue growth of 20% YoY to US\$24.1bn (37% of total revenue), at the upper limit of the previous guidance range. Within the segment, Azure and other cloud services revenue grew 33% YoY (1QFY24: 31%; 4QFY24: 34%), and AI services contributed to 12pp of the growth (3QFY24: 10pp; 4QFY24: 11pp). Management guided for 19-20%/31-32% YoY revenue growth for IC/Azure in 2QFY25, and cited supply constraints as the main reason for sequential deceleration in revenue growth. However, management highlighted that they expect consumption growth of Azure in 2Q to be stable compared to 1Q, and expect Azure's growth to accelerate in 2HFY25 compared to that in 1HFY25 as its capital investments could create an increase in available Al capacity to serve more growing demand. Capex (including finance leases) came in at US\$20bn for 1QFY25 (4QFY24: US\$19bn; 1QFY24: US\$11.2bn), up 79% YoY, to fulfil the unmet demand.
- PBP business saw steady trend of operating efficiency gains. PBP revenue was US\$28.3bn in 1QFY25, up 12% YoY (1QFY24:14%), and was 43% of total revenue. Within the segment, M365 commercial cloud revenue (contributed to c.90% of total M365 commercial products and cloud services revenue) increased by 15% YoY, driven by 8% YoY growth in paid M365 commercial seats aided by small and medium business and frontline worker offerings, and the remaining ARPU growth was driven by E5 and M365 Copilot. PBP segment's operating profit came in at US\$16.5bn in 1QFY25, up 16% YoY, and its OPM expanded to 58.3%, up 1.6pp YoY, which in our view was driven by operating efficiency improvement. More personal computing (MPC) segment recorded quarterly revenue of US\$13.2bn (20% of total revenue), up 17% YoY, 4pp ahead of the high-end of guidance, driven by better-than-expected gaming and search revenue growth. Search & news ads revenue was up 18% YoY in 1QFY25 due to continued execution improvement, which management believes could sustain in 2QFY25.
- Al related investments weighed on margin but better than feared. Overall operating profit was US\$30.6bn in 1QFY25, up 13.6% YoY, translating into 46.6% OPM (consensus: 45.3%), dropping from 47.6% in 1QFY24, mainly owing to the 0.8pp drop in GPM due to impact of scaling Al infrastructure. Management expects capital expenditure to further increase on a sequential basis as it has seen signals on unmet demand.



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price US\$501.90 (Previous TP US\$491.30) Up/Downside 16.0% Current Price US\$432.53

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Stock Data

Mkt Cap (US\$ mn)	3,230,566.6
Avg 3 mths t/o (US\$ mn)	2,879.5
52w High/Low (US\$)	467.56/346.07
Total Issued Shares (mn)	7469.0
Source: FactSet	

8.7%

7.2%

Shareholding Structure

Vanguard Group	
Blackrock	
Source: Bloomberg	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	0.5%	-1.7%
3-mth	3.4%	-2.2%
6-mth	11.1%	-6.5%
Source: FactSet		

12-mth Price Performance





Earnings Summary

24A FY25 5,122 283, 15.7	,148 321,17	,
- / /		,
15.7	16.6 10	
-	15.5 13.4	4 12.4
136.0 101,94	47.2 118,470.	1 135,248.1
21.8	15.7 16.	2 14.2
11.86 13	3.75 16.0	1 18.31
na 1:	3.22 15.3	4 18.15
	21.5 27	0 23.6
	11.86 1 na 1	11.86 13.75 16.0

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

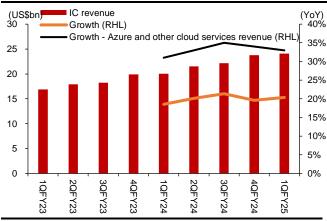


Figure 1: Microsoft: quarterly financial results

(USD bn)	1QFY2 3	2QFY2 3	3QFY2 3	4QFY2 3	1QFY2 4	2QFY2 4	3QFY2 4	4QFY2 4	1QFY2 5	Consen sus	Diff (%)
1. Productivity											. ,
and Business											
Processes											
revenue	22.1	22.6	23.9	25.5	25.2	25.9	27.1	28.6	28.3		
Growth (yoy%)					14.3%	14.4%	13.3%	12.0%	12.3%		
As % of total	44.0%	42.8%	45.3%	45.5%	44.6%	41.7%	43.8%	44.2%	43.2%		
revenue (%)	44.0 %	42.0 /0	40.070	45.570	44.0 /0	41.7 /0	43.070	44.2 /0	43.2 /0		
2. Intelligent											
Cloud revenue	16.9	17.9	18.2	19.9	20.0	21.5	22.1	23.8	24.1		
Growth (yoy%)					18.5%	20.1%	21.4%	19.6%	20.4%		
As % of total	33.7%	34.0%	34.5%	35.4%	35.4%	34.7%	35.8%	36.7%	36.7%		
revenue (%)	00.170	04.070	04.070	00.470	55.470	54.770	55.070	50.770	50.770		
3. More											
Personal											
Computing											
revenue	11.2	12.2	10.7	10.8	11.3	14.6	12.6	12.3	13.2		
Growth (yoy%)					1.0%	19.8%	17.9%	14.5%	16.8%		
As % of total	22.3%	23.2%	20.2%	19.1%	20.0%	23.6%	20.4%	19.0%	20.1%		
revenue (%)				50.0						04.5	4 70/
Total revenue	50.1	52.7	52.9	56.2	56.5	62.0	61.9	64.7	65.6	64.5	1.7%
Growth (yoy%)	10.6%	2.0%	7.1%	8.3%	12.8%	17.6%	17.0%	15.2%	16.0%	44.5	0.00/
Gross profit	34.7	35.3	36.7	39.4	40.2	42.4	43.4	45.0	45.5	44.5	2.2%
Growth (yoy%)	9.5%	1.4%	8.8%	11.2%	16.0%	20.2%	18.0%	14.3%	13.1%		
Operating income	21.5	20.4	22.4	24.3	26.9	27.0	27.6	27.9	30.6	29.2	4.5%
Growth (yoy%)	23.3%	32.0%	19.3%	6.2%	23.6%	15.0%	15.2%	14.2%	13.6%	29.2	4.5%
- PBP	23.3% 11.9	32.0% 11.5	19.3%	13.9	23.0% 14.3	14.5	15.2 %	14.2 %	16.5		
- РБР - IC	6.8	6.7	7.0	7.9	14.3 8.9	14.5 9.6	9.5	15.7 9.8	10.5		
- MPC	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.5	3.7	9.0 3.0	9.5 2.9	9.8 2.4	3.5		
Net income	17.6	16.4	18.3	2 .0	22.3	21.9	21.9	22.0	24.7	23.3	6.1%
Growth (yoy%)	-14.4%	-12.5%	9.4%	20.0%	27.0%	33.2%	19.9%	9.7%	10.7%	23.5	0.170
010wiii (y0y 78)	-14.470	-12.070	3.470	20.078	21.070	55.2 /0	13.370	3.170	10.1 /0		
GPM	69.2%	66.8%	69.5%	70.1%	71.2%	68.4%	70.1%	69.6%	69.4%	69.0%	0.4 ppt
OPM	42.9%	38.7%	42.3%	43.2%	47.6%	43.6%	44.6%	43.1%	46.6%	45.3%	1.2 ppt
- PBP	54.1%	50.8%	53.4%	54.3%	56.7%	56.1%	55.9%	54.9%	58.3%	.0.0 /0	
- IC	40.0%	37.5%	38.5%	39.8%	44.5%	44.4%	43.0%	41.3%	43.6%		
- MPC	25.3%	17.9%	23.9%	22.9%	32.7%	20.2%	23.2%	19.4%	26.8%		
NPM	35.0%	31.1%	34.6%	35.7%	39.4%	35.3%	35.5%	34.0%	37.6%	36.1%	1.6 ppt

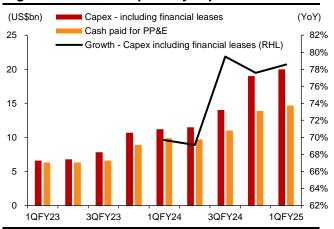
Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM

Figure 2: Microsoft: IC revenue and growth



Source: Company data, CMBIGM

Figure 3: Microsoft: quarterly capex trend



Source: Company data, CMBIGM



Changes in forecast and valuation

Figure 4: Microsoft forecast revision

		I	Previous	Change (%)					
USD bn	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	281.9	320.1	363.4	283.1	321.2	360.9	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.7%
Gross profit	191.7	218.0	247.8	192.5	219.0	246.1	-0.4%	-0.5%	0.7%
Operating profit	125.4	143.5	164.3	125.9	145.0	165.5	-0.3%	-1.0%	-0.7%
Net profit	100.0	116.2	134.5	101.9	118.5	135.2	-1.9%	-1.9%	-0.5%
GPM	68.0%	68.1%	68.2%	68.0%	68.2%	68.2%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt	0.0 ppt
OPM	44.5%	44.8%	45.2%	44.5%	45.1%	45.9%	0.0 ppt	-0.3 ppt	-0.7 ppt
NPM	35.5%	36.3%	37.0%	36.0%	36.9%	37.5%	-0.5 ppt	-0.6 ppt	-0.5 ppt

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 5: Microsoft: CMBI forecast vs consensus

	Current				onsensus	Difference (%)			
USD bn	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	281.9	320.1	363.4	280.7	324.4	375.7	0.5%	-1.3%	-3.3%
Gross profit	191.7	218.0	247.8	191.7	221.9	257.7	0.0%	-1.7%	-3.8%
Operating profit	125.4	143.5	164.3	122.9	141.9	166.0	2.1%	1.1%	-1.0%
Net profit	100.0	116.2	134.5	99.8	116.7	137.0	0.2%	-0.4%	-1.8%
GPM	68.0%	68.1%	68.2%	68.3%	68.4%	68.6%	-0.3 ppt	-0.3 ppt	-0.4 ppt
OPM	44.5%	44.8%	45.2%	43.8%	43.7%	44.2%	0.7 ppt	1.1 ppt	1.0 ppt
NPM	35.5%	36.3%	37.0%	35.6%	36.0%	36.5%	-0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	0.6 ppt

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Figure 6: Microsoft: DCF valuation (WACC of 7.9%; terminal growth of 3%; both unchanged)

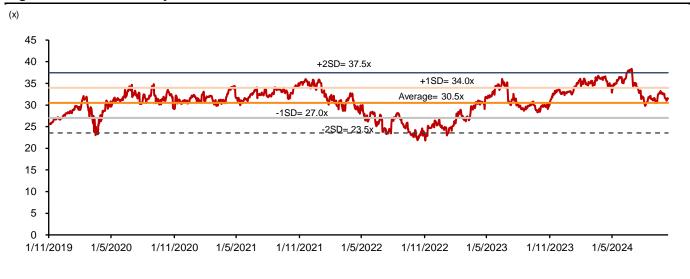
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(USDbn)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E	FY30E	FY31E	FY32E	FY33E	FY34E	FY35E	FY36E
Total revenue	283	321	361	400	438	474	509	545	581	617	653	687
NPV of FCF	1,202	1,230										
Discounted terminal value	2,424	2,616										
Total equity valuation	3,671	3,917										
No. of shares (diluted, mn)	7,476	7,454										
Valuation per share (USD)	491.0	525.5										
TP per share (USD)	501.9											

Source: CMBIGM estimates

Note: our target price is based on weighted average of 8-month TP in FY25E and 4-month TP in FY26E



Figure 7: Microsoft: one-year forward PE band



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM



Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun (US\$ mn)						
Revenue	198,270	211,915	245,122	283,148	321,179	360,856
Cost of goods sold	(62,650)	(65,863)	(74,114)	(90,607)	(102,135)	(114,752)
Gross profit	135,620	146,052	171,008	192,541	219,044	246,104
Operating expenses	(52,237)	(57,529)	(61,575)	(66,680)	(74,070)	(80,574)
Selling expense	(21,825)	(22,759)	(24,456)	(26,616)	(29,285)	(31,916)
SG&A expense	(5,900)	(7,575)	(7,609)	(7,785)	(9,268)	(9,952)
R&D expense	(24,512)	(27,195)	(29,510)	(32,279)	(35,516)	(38,706)
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating profit	83,383	88,523	109,433	125,861	144,975	165,530
Interest income	333	788	(1,646)	0	1,285	1,443
Others	(1)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	83,715	89,311	107,787	125,861	146,259	166,973
Income tax	(10,978)	(16,950)	(19,651)	(23,914)	(27,789)	(31,725)
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
After tax profit	72,737	72,361	88,136	101,947	118,470	135,248
Net profit	72,737	72,361	88,136	101,947	118,470	135,248
Adjusted net profit	72,737	72,361	88,136	101,947	118,470	135,248
BALANCE SHEET	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun (US\$ mn)						
Current assets	169,684	184,257	159,734	191,825	236,470	301,950
Cash & equivalents	13,931	34,704	18,315	43,631	76,081	134,316
Account receivables	44,261	48,688	56,924	58,972	65,918	67,384
Inventories	3,742	2,500	1,246	1,246	1,246	1,246
Other current assets	107,750	98,365	83,249	87,976	93,226	99,003
Non-current assets	195,156	227,719	352,429	393,884	434,654	472,480
PP&E	74,398	95,641	135,591	177,046	217,816	255,642
Right-of-use assets	13,148	14,346	18,961	18,961	18,961	18,961
Investment in JVs & assos	6,891	9,879	14,600	14,600	14,600	14,600
Intangibles	11,298	9,366	27,597	27,597	27,597	27,597
Goodwill	67,524	67,886	119,220	119,220	119,220	119,220
Other non-current assets	21,897	30,601	36,460	36,460	36,460	36,460
Total assets	364,840	411,976	512,163	585,709	671,124	774,430
Current liabilities	95,082	104,149	125,286	137,909	147,879	160,962
Short-term borrowings	2,749	5,247	2,249	2,249	2,249	2,249
Account payables	19,000	18,095	21,996	27,017	28,232	33,842
Other current liabilities	73,333	80,807	101,041	108,643	117,399	124,871
Non-current liabilities	103,216	101,604	118,400	118,400	118,400	118,400
Long-term borrowings	47,032	41,990	42,688	42,688	42,688	42,688
Obligations under finance leases	11,489	12,728	15,497	15,497	15,497	15,497
Other non-current liabilities	44,695	46,886	60,215	60,215	60,215	60,215
Total liabilities	198,298	205,753	243,686	256,309	266,279	279,362
Share capital	86,939	93,718	100,923	100,923	100,923	100,923
Retained earnings					309,511	399,734
	84,281	118,848	173,144	234,066	309,511	399,734
Other reserves	84,281 (4,678)	118,848 (6,343)		(5,590)	(5,590)	(5,590)
_			(5,590) 268,477			



					A weatly owned s	instanty of child sterchaits bank
CASH FLOW	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun (US\$ mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	83,715	89,311	107,787	125,861	146,259	166,973
Tax paid	(10,978)	(16,950)	(19,651)	(23,914)	(27,789)	(31,725)
Change in working capital	446	(2,388)	1,824	5,849	(2,226)	5,838
Others	15,852	17,609	28,588	9,512	10.619	12,694
Net cash from operations	89,035	87,582	118,548	117,308	126,863	153,780
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(23,886)	(28,107)	(44,477)	(50,967)	(51,389)	(50,520)
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term investments	18,438	10,213	17,937	0	0	0
Others	(24,863)	(4,786)	(70,430)	0	0	0
Net cash from investing	(30,311)	(22,680)	(96,970)	(50,967)	(51,389)	(50,520)
Financing						
Dividend paid	(18,135)	(19,800)	(21,771)	(23,771)	(25,771)	(27,771)
Net borrowings	0	0	29,645	0	0	0
Share repurchases	(32,696)	(22,245)	(17,254)	(17,254)	(17,254)	(17,254)
Others	(8,045)	(1,890)	(28,377)	0	0	0
Net cash from financing	(58,876)	(43,935)	(37,757)	(41,025)	(43,025)	(45,025)
Net change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	14,224	13,931	34,704	18,315	43,631	76,081
Exchange difference	(141)	(194)	(210)	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	13,931	34,704	18,315	43,631	76,081	134,316
GROWTH	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun						
Revenue	18.0%	6.9%	15.7%	15.5%	13.4%	12.4%
Gross profit	17.1%	7.7%	17.1%	12.6%	13.8%	12.4%
Operating profit	19.3%	6.2%	23.6%	15.0%	15.2%	14.2%
Net profit	18.7%	(0.5%)	21.8%	15.7%	16.2%	14.2%
Adj. net profit	18.7%	(0.5%)	21.8%	15.7%	16.2%	14.2%
PROFITABILITY	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun						
Gross profit margin	68.4%	68.9%	69.8%	68.0%	68.2%	68.2%
Operating margin	42.1%	41.8%	44.6%	44.5%	45.1%	45.9%
Adj. net profit margin	36.7%	34.1%	36.0%	36.0%	36.9%	37.5%
Return on equity (ROE)	47.2%	38.8%	37.1%	34.1%	32.3%	30.1%
GEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun						
Current ratio (x)	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.9
VALUATION	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 30 Jun						
P/E	44.4	44.5	36.5	31.5	27.0	23.6
P/E (diluted)	44.6	44.7	36.7	31.6	27.1	23.7
P/B	19.5	15.7	12.0	9.8	7.9	6.5
P/CFPS	49.8	54.3	43.6	48.6	42.5	31.0

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates. Note: The calculation of net cash includes financial assets.



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