

# AAC Tech (2018 HK)

# 1H25 preview: structural upgrade cycle across multiple segments

We estimate AAC to deliver strong revenue/net profit growth of 24%/66% YoY in 1H25E, driven by 1) Acoustics/automotive PSS: Android master-SLS/combo speaker upgrade, AI glasses orders and domestic client wins in auto acoustics; 2) Electromagnetic drive: haptics spec upgrade and new product ramp-up; 3) Precision mechanics: Android foldable phone casing, VC in AI phones and hinge order wins; 4) Optics: share gain and spec upgrade in handset lens (7P/WLG) and HCM (OIS/periscope). Overall, we raise FY25-27E EPS forecast by 8-12% mainly to reflect stronger optics/PM business and better profitability in optics, and our new SOTP-based TP of HK\$63.54 implies 25.3x FY25E P/E. Maintain BUY.

- 1H25 preview: expect 24%/66% revenue/net profit YoY growth. We expect AAC to report in-line revenue/net profit in 1H25 (+24%/66% YoY), backed by acoustics/haptics spec upgrade from major US clients, order ramp-up for thermal products, client wins in automotive acoustics and improving profitability of optics business. By segment, we estimate 1) acoustics/auto PSS to grow 10%/8% YoY on spec upgrade and client wins, 2) ED segment to grow 49% YoY thanks to upgrade of side-button modules, 3) PM segment to grow 36% YoY on Android foldable casing/hinges and new thermal VC products, 4) optics segment to grow 22% YoY thanks to share gains in high-end lens (7P/WLG) and HCM (OIS/periscope).
- Structural growth opportunities in Al/foldable/ultra-thin phones, Al glasses, auto acoustics/optics and robotics. Looking into 2H25/2026, leveraging technology leadership across multiple product lines, we believe AAC is well-positioned to capture new opportunities and spec upgrade trends in Al/foldable/ultrathin phones (optics/VC/MEMS/hinges), Al glasses (MEMS/optics/haptics), automotive acoustics/optics and robotics (sensors/acoustics/optics/actuators).
- Valuation/Key risks. We lift our FY25-27E EPS forecast by 8-12% to factor in stronger optics/PM segments and better margins in optics. Our new SOTP-based TP of HK\$63.54 implies 25.3x FY25E P/E. Trading at 16.1x/13.4x FY25/26E P/E, the stock is attractive, vs 49%/20% FY25/26E EPS growth. Reiterate BUY. Upcoming catalysts include product launches (Al/foldable/ultra-thin phones/Al glasses), robotics orders and optics margin expansion.

# **Earnings Summary**

(YE 31 Dec)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue (RMB mn)	20,419	27,328	32,645	36,599	39,638
YoY growth (%)	(1.0)	33.8	19.5	12.1	8.3
Net profit (RMB mn)	740.4	1,797.2	2,683.1	3,217.6	3,611.2
YoY growth (%)	(9.9)	142.7	49.3	19.9	12.2
EPS (Reported) (RMB)	0.63	1.53	2.29	2.74	3.08
YoY growth (%)	(8.3)	143.8	49.2	19.9	12.2
Consensus EPS (RMB)	na	na	2.23	2.65	3.07
P/E (x)	58.4	24.0	16.1	13.4	11.9
P/B (x)	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4
Yield (%)	27.2	65.4	118.4	142.0	159.3
ROE (%)	3.3	7.9	11.1	12.2	12.4

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

# **BUY (Maintain)**

 Target Price
 HK\$63.54

 (Previous TP
 HK\$58.78)

 Up/Downside
 58.1%

 Current Price
 HK\$40.20

# **China Technology**

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#### Stock Data

Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	48,159.6
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	234.3
52w High/Low (HK\$)	53.85/24.60
Total Issued Shares (mn)	1198.0
Source: FactSet	

Shareholding Structure

Wu Chunyuan	21.9%
Pan Zhengmin	19.5%
r an Zhengillin	10

Source: HKEx

# Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	-2.2%	-5.7%
3-mth	10.0%	-4.8%
6-mth	0.6%	-20.5%

Source: FactSet

### 12-mth Price Performance



Source: FactSet

Related reports:

1. AAC Tech (2018 HK) —Takeaways from mgmt. visit: Multiple growth drivers from optics, automotive and robotics (link)

- 2. AAC Tech (2018 HK) Beneficiary of edge AI upgrade cycle; Raise TP to HK\$58.78 (link)
- AAC Tech (2018 HK) Multiple growth drivers and improving margin to continue into 2025; Raise TP to HK\$53.48 (link)
- 4. AAC Tech (2018 HK) Product upgrades and margin expansion to continue; Reiterate BUY (link)
- 5. AAC Tech (2018 HK) Riding on new upgrade cycle; Upgrade to BUY (link)



# 1H25 results preview

Figure 1: 1H25 results preview

						Consensus	
RMB mn	1H24	2H24	1H25E	НоН	YoY	1H25E	Diff %
Revenue	11,247	16,081	13,889	-14%	24%	14,551	-5%
Gross profit	2,418	3,624	3,164	-13%	31%	3,313	-4%
Operating profit	605	1,474	997	-32%	65%	1,120	-11%
Adj. net profit	537	1,260	892	-29%	66%	933	-4%
Adj. EPS (RMB)	0.46	1.07	0.76	-29%	66%	0.78	-2%
Gross margin	21.5%	22.5%	22.8%	0.2 ppt	1.3 ppt	22.8%	0 ppt
Operating margin	5.4%	9.2%	7.2%	-2 ppt	1.8 ppt	7.7%	-0.5 ppt
Adj. net margin	4.8%	7.8%	6.4%	-1.4 ppt	1.7 ppt	6.4%	0 ppt

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

# **Earnings revision**

Figure 2: CMBIGM earnings revisions

	New			Old			Change (%)		
RMB mn	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	32,645	36,599	39,638	32,566	35,113	37,561	0%	4%	6%
Gross Profit	7,636	8,876	9,750	7,532	8,384	9,022	1%	6%	8%
Net profit	2,683	3,218	3,611	2,489	2,943	3,230	8%	9%	12%
EPS (RMB)	2.29	2.74	3.08	2.12	2.51	2.75	8%	9%	12%
Gross Margin	23.4%	24.2%	24.6%	23.1%	23.9%	24.0%	0.3 ppt	0.4 ppt	0.6 ppt
Net Margin	9.1%	9.7%	10.0%	8.5%	9.3%	9.5%	0.6 ppt	0.4 ppt	0.5 ppt

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 3: CMBIGM estimates vs consensus

<u> </u>	CMBIGM			Consensus			Diff (%)		
RMB mn	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	32,645	36,599	39,638	34,027	37,890	42,419	-4%	-3%	-7%
Gross Profit	7,636	8,876	9,750	7,969	9,055	10,246	-4%	-2%	-5%
Net profit	2,683	3,218	3,611	2,628	3,127	3,620	2%	3%	0%
EPS (RMB)	2.29	2.74	3.08	2.23	2.65	3.07	3%	4%	0%
Gross Margin	23.4%	24.2%	24.6%	23.4%	23.9%	24.2%	-0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	0.4 ppt
Net Margin	9.1%	9.7%	10.0%	9.3%	9.8%	10.1%	-0.2 ppt	-0.2 ppt	-0.1 ppt

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 4: P&L forecast

RMB mn	FY24	1H25E	2H25E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	27,328	13,889	18,756	32,645	36,599	39,638
YoY	33.8%	23.5%	16.6%	19.5%	12.1%	8.3%
Cost of sales	(21,286)	(10,725)	(14,292)	(25,017)	(27,732)	(29,898)
Gross profit	6,042	3,164	4,464	7,628	8,867	9,740
GPM (%)	22.1%	22.8%	23.8%	23.4%	24.2%	24.6%
YoY	75.0%	30.9%	23.2%	26.2%	16.2%	9.8%
SG&A	(1,940)	(1,028)	(1,257)	(2,284)	(2,580)	(2,814)
% of rev	-7.1%	-7.4%	-6.7%	-7.0%	-7.1%	-7.1%
R&D	(2,022)	(1,139)	(1,238)	(2,377)	(2,745)	(2,973)
% of rev	-7.4%	-8.2%	-6.6%	-7.3%	-7.5%	-7.5%
Operating profit	2,080	997	1,970	2,967	3,542	3,953
OPM (%)	7.6%	7.2%	10.5%	9.1%	9.7%	10.0%
YoY	354.9%	64.7%	33.6%	42.7%	19.4%	11.6%
Income Tax	(227)	(190)	(421)	(611)	(733)	(822)
Effective Tax Rate	11.4%	18.0%	19.5%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%
Net profit	1,797	892	1,791	2,683	3,218	3,611
NPM (%)	6.6%	6.4%	9.5%	8.2%	8.8%	9.1%
YoY	142.7%	66.2%	42.1%	49.3%	19.9%	12.2%

Source: Company data, CMBIGM estimates



Figure 5: Revenue breakdown

Figure 5: Revenue brea	akdown					
RMB mn	FY24	1H25E	2H25E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue						_
Acoustics	8,214	3,818	5,168	8,986	11,069	12,262
PSS	3,516	1,644	2,114	3,758	3,946	4,143
Sensor & semi	773	564	576	1,141	1,426	1,782
ED&PM	9,710	5,167	7,389	12,556	14,063	15,178
Optics	5,000	2,691	3,496	6,187	6,078	6,256
Plastic lens	1,191	468	1,091	1,559	1,779	1,957
HCM/WLG	3,809	2,223	2,405	4,628	4,300	4,300
Others	115	5	12	17	17	17
Total	27,328	13,889	18,756	32,645	36,599	39,638
Revenue mix						
Acoustics	30%	27%	28%	28%	30%	31%
PSS	13%	12%	11%	12%	11%	10%
Sensor & semi	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%
ED&PM	36%	37%	39%	38%	38%	38%
Optics	18%	19%	19%	19%	17%	16%
Plastic lens	4%	3%	6%	5%	5%	5%
HCM/WLG	14%	16%	13%	14%	12%	11%
Others	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
YoY Growth (%)						
Acoustics	10%	10%	9%	9%	23%	11%
PSS		-	-	7%	5%	5%
Sensor & semi	-25%	45%	50%	47%	25%	25%
ED&PM	18%	41%	22%	29%	12%	8%
Optics	38%	22%	25%	24%	-2%	3%
Others	405%	-79%	151%	-85%	0%	0%
Total	34%	24%	17%	19%	12%	8%
Gross profit margin						
Acoustics	30.2%	30.5%	31.5%	31.1%	31.5%	31.5%
PSS	24.8%	25.2%	25.5%	25.4%	25.5%	26.0%
Sensor & semi	15.6%	17.0%	19.0%	18.0%	18.5%	18.5%
ED&PM	23.3%	24.1%	23.3%	23.6%	23.6%	23.6%
Optics	6.5%	9.2%	13.3%	11.5%	13.1%	14.2%
Others	-10.6%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%
Total	22.1%	22.8%	23.8%	23.4%	24.2%	24.6%

Source: Company data, CMBIGM



# **Valuation**

# Maintain BUY with new TP of HK\$63.54

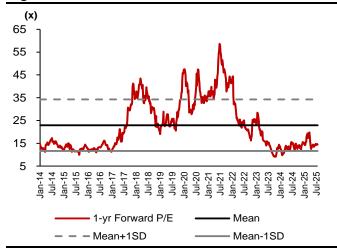
Our new TP of HK\$63.54 is based on SOTP to reflect business diversification with different growth profiles and visibility. Our TP is based on weighted-average target P/E multiple of 25.3x FY25E P/E. We assign 25x/25x P/E to AAC's acoustics/MEMS, 25x P/E to PSS, 25x P/E to ED & PM, and 28x P/E to optics, same as prior target multiples we adopted. Trading at 16.1x/13.4x FY25/26E P/E, the stock is attractive, vs 49%/20% FY25/26E EPS growth. Upcoming catalysts include product launches (Al/foldable/ultra-thin phones/Al glasses), robotics order wins and optics margin expansion.

Figure 6: AAC Tech - SOTP valuation

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Business segment	Value per share (RMB)	Valuation Methodology	Target P/E	% of FY25E Profit	FY25E EPS (RMB)
Acoustics-Traditional	20.93	P/E target multiple	25x	37%	0.84
Acoustics-PSS	7.15	P/E target multiple	25x	12%	0.29
MEMS	1.54	P/E target multiple	25x	3%	0.06
ED & PM	22.22	P/E target multiple	25x	39%	0.89
Optics	5.98	P/E target multiple	28x	9%	0.21
TP (RMB)	57.82		25.3x		2.29
TP (HK\$)	63.54				

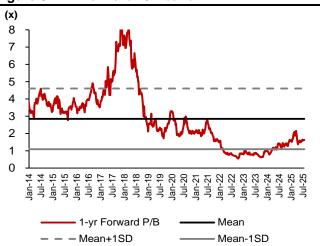
Sources: Company data, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 7: 12M forward P/E band



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates

Figure 8: 12M forward P/B band



Source: Bloomberg, CMBIGM estimates



# **Financial Summary**

INCOME STATEMENT 2022A 2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)				
Revenue 20,625 20,419	27,328	32,645	36,599	39,638
Cost of goods sold (16,850) (16,967)	(21,286)	(25,017)	(27,732)	(29,898)
Gross profit 3,775 3,452	6,042	7,628	8,867	9,740
Selling expense (448) (443)	(670)	(779)	(878)	(951)
Admin expense (1,036) (978)	(1,270)	(1,506)	(1,702)	(1,863)
R&D expense (1,546) (1,573)	(2,022)	(2,377)	(2,745)	(2,973)
Operating profit 745 457	2,080	2,967	3,542	3,953
Other income 525 591	411	667	732	793
Other expense 0 0	0	0	0	0
Gain/loss on financial assets at FVTPL 0 0	0	0	0	0
Investment gain/loss 0 0	0	0	0	0
Share of (losses)/profits of associates/JV (1)	(0)	0	0	0
Net Interest income/(expense) (403) (391)	(417)	(417)	(417)	(417)
Foreign exchange gain/loss (6) 14	22	0	0	0
Other income/expense 0 152	(105)	0	0	0
Others 0 0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit 861 823	1,990	3,216	3,857	4,328
Income tax (231) (252)	(227)	(611)	(733)	(822)
After tax profit 629 571	1,764	2,605	3,124	3,506
Minority interest (192) (170)	(34)	(78)	(94)	(105)
Net profit 821 740	1,797	2,683	3,218	3,611
BALANCE SHEET 2022A 2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)				
Current assets 17,116 16,527	20,902	21,291	34,850	34,630
Cash & equivalents 6,814 6,825	7,538	4,402	17,840	14,914
Account receivables 5,531 6,653	9,371	10,491	11,902	12,428
Inventories 4,401 2,992	3,938	6,343	5,053	7,233
ST bank deposits 341 21	6	6	6	6
Financial assets at FVTPL 0 3	3	3	3	3
Other current assets 28 33	47	47	47	47
Non-current assets 23,227 22,384	25,798	23,418	20,508	17,146
PP&E 19,302 18,070	17,884	15,504	12,594	9,232
Deferred income tax 228 204	414	414	414	414
Investment in JVs & assos 3 286	3	3	3	3
Intangibles 564 589	1,706	1,706	1,706	1,706
Goodwill 275 275	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093
Financial assets at FVTPL 186 413	450	450	450	450
Other non-current assets 2,668 2,546	3,180	3,180	3,180	3,180
Total assets 40,343 38,911	46,700	44,710	55,358	51,776
Current liabilities 9,055 10,129	14,403	10,318	18,453	12,052
Short-term borrowings 1,833 1,464	1,728	1,728	1,728	1,728
Account payables 4,959 5,796	9,558	5,423	13,523	7,093
Tax payable 118 101	252	301	337	365
Other current liabilities 1,823 2,363	479	479	479	479
Lease liabilities 292 389	489	489	489	489
Contract liabilities 30 16	63	63	63	63
Non-current liabilities 9,093 6,410	9,180	9,180	9,180	9,180
Long-term borrowings 1,727 1,726	3,883	3,883	3,883	3,883
Bond payables 6,088 3,662	3,721	3,721	3,721	3,721
Obligations under finance leases 485 381	634	634	634	634
Other non-current liabilities 793 641	932	932	932	932
Total liabilities 18,148 16,540	23,583	19,497	27,633	21,232
Share capital 98 97	97	97	97	97
			٠.	-·
·			27.437	30.362
Other reserves 21,559 21,784	22,657	24,830	27,437 <b>27,725</b>	30,362 <b>30,545</b>
·			27,437 <b>27,725</b> 191	30,362 <b>30,545</b> 85



CASH FLOW	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)						
Operating						
Profit before taxation	861	823	1,990	3,216	3,857	4,328
Depreciation & amortization	2,776	2,843	0	0	0	0
Tax paid	(304)	(246)	(76)	(562)	(696)	(794)
Change in working capital	420	1,247	112	(7,660)	7,978	(9,136)
Others	619	(34)	3,176	5,056	5,248	5,411
Net cash from operations	4,372	4,633	5,203	49	16,386	(191)
Investing						
Capital expenditure	(625)	(1,141)	(2,657)	(2,258)	(1,920)	(1,632)
Acquisition of subsidiaries/ investments	(195)	(305)	0	0	0	0
Net proceeds from disposal of short-term	(131)	(213)	0	0	0	0
nvestments Others	(1,398)	148	(828)	0	0	0
Net cash from investing	(2,349)	(1,512)	(3,485)	(2,258)	(1,92 <b>0</b> )	(1,632)
ver cash from investing	(2,343)	(1,312)	(3,403)	(2,230)	(1,320)	(1,032)
Financing		44.4-1	4	<b>/- )</b>		4
Dividend paid	(144)	(118)	(281)	(510)	(611)	(686)
Net borrowings	222	(376)	0	0 (540)	0	0
Share repurchases	(144)	(118)	(281)	(510)	(611)	(686)
Others	(1,373)	(2,559)	(462)	93	194	269
Net cash from financing	(1,439)	(3,171)	(1,025)	(927)	(1,029)	(1,103)
let change in cash						
Cash at the beginning of the year	6,051	6,814	6,825	7,538	4,402	17,840
Exchange difference	178	61	0	0	0	0
Cash at the end of the year	6,814	6,825	7,538	4,402	17,840	14,914
GROWTH	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
/E 31 Dec	40.70/	(4.00()	22.00/	40.50/	40.40/	0.00/
Revenue	16.7%	(1.0%)	33.8%	19.5%	12.1%	8.3%
Gross profit	(13.5%)	(8.6%)	75.0%	26.2%	16.2%	9.8%
Operating profit	(49.7%)	(38.7%)	354.9% 142.7%	42.7% 49.3%	19.4% 19.9%	11.6% 12.2%
Net profit	(37.6%)	(9.9%)				
PROFITABILITY	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
YE 31 Dec						
Gross profit margin	18.3%	16.9%	22.1%	23.4%	24.2%	24.6%
Operating margin	3.6%	2.2%	7.6%	9.1%	9.7%	10.0%
Return on equity (ROE)	3.7%	3.3%	7.9%	11.1%	12.2%	12.4%
SEARING/LIQUIDITY/ACTIVITIES	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
/E 31 Dec						
Current ratio (x)	1.9	1.6	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.9
Receivable turnover days	87.8	87.8	87.8	90.0	90.0	90.0
nventory turnover days	88.6	88.6	88.6	75.0	75.0	75.0
Payable turnover days	84.7	84.7	84.7	70.0	70.0	70.0
/ALUATION	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
/E 31 Dec						
P/E	53.6	58.4	24.0	16.1	13.4	11.9
P/E (diluted)	na	58.4	24.0	16.1	13.4	11.9
P/B	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4
Div yield (%)	32.7	27.2	65.4	118.4	142.0	159.3

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



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# **CMBIGM Ratings**

BUY
Stock with potential return of over 15% over next 12 months
SELL
Stock with potential return of +15% to -10% over next 12 months
SELL
Stock with potential loss of over 10% over next 12 months

NOT RATED : Stock is not rated by CMBIGM

OUTPERFORM : Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

MARKET-PERFORM : Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

UNDERPERFORM : Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

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