### November 1, 2016

# Sector Rating: **OVERWEIGHT**

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#### **Key Data**

Avg.16E P/E (x)	16.84
Avg.16E P/B (x)	2.40
Avg.16E Dividend Yield (%)	1.78
Source(s): Company, Bloomberg, ABCI	Securities

Sector performance (%)

	<u>Absolute</u>	Relative*
1-mth	4.38%	4.71%
3-mth	18.37%	11.56%
6-mth	16.77%	4.47%

\*Relative to HSI

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

### 1-Year Sector performance



Source(s):Bloomberg

### China Environmental Protection Sector Huge demand for China's waste treatment industry

### **Investment themes**

- Increasing urbanization and rising hygienic standard in urban areas should spur demand for solid waste and wastewater treatment services.
- China's expansion in urban incineration and wastewater treatment capacities suggest solid waste and wastewater treated may see 12%/9% CAGR growth during 2015-20E.
- We are optimistic on incineration and wastewater operators, with China Everbright Int'I (257 HK) and Beijing Enterprises Water (371 HK) as our preferred choices.

Increased urbanization is pressuring urban wastewater and solid waste treatment systems. Urbanization rate in China will continue to rise as people pursues higher living standard. According to estimates by The National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC), urbanization in China would reach 60% by end-2020, up from the current 56% at end-2015, suggesting an extra 99mn people will move into urban areas. Increasing population and improving hygienic standard would spur demand for wastewater and solid waste treatment services in major cities.

**Urban solid waste treated via incineration to expand by 12% CAGR during 2015-20E**. According to the "the draft of 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan on urban residential waste treatment" issued by NDRC in Sep 2016, China targets to raise the proportion of waste incinerated in urban areas from 34% at end-2015 to 50% by end-2020E. Assuming residential waste per capita to remain unchanged in 2015-20, with the increasing urbanization, residential solid waste produced in urban areas would reach 217mt by end-2020E (2015: 180mt), and solid waste to be treated via incineration would reach 108mt (2015: 61mt), indicating a 78% increase or a 12% CAGR in 2015-20E. This should bring great opportunities to solid waste treatment operators.

A 9% CAGR growth in urban wastewater treatment volume in 2014-20E will create enormous business opportunities. Wastewater would be another key issue. Assuming China's urbanization would reach 60% and wastewater treatment rate in urban areas would reach 95% by end-2020E, total wastewater treatment volume would be 71bn tons, which represents a 65% increase from end-2014 (~43bn tons), or a 9% CAGR during 2014-2020E. This rapid growth should benefit urban wastewater treatment operators.

Overweight sector outlook; recommend BUY for China Everbright Int'I (257 HK) and Beijing Enterprises Water (371 HK). We are positive on the outlook for wastewater and solid waste treatment sectors as increasing urbanization and rising living standard would spur demand for waste treatment. Our top pick is China Everbright Int'I (257 HK, BUY) due to its solid growth in incineration capacity and projects in prime regions; we also like Beijing Enterprises Water (371 HK, BUY) due to its leading position in wastewater treatment industry and its strong capacity growth in water distribution should boost earnings growth.

**Risk factors:** (1) Slower-than-expected capacity growth; (2) High gearing of operators; (3) Default risk; (4) Policy risks; (5) Economic slowdown in China.

### Sector Valuation Summary (data as of Oct 31, 2016)

Company	Ticker	Rating	Price (HK\$)	TP (HK\$)	FY16E P/E(x)	FY17E P/E (x)	FY16E P/B (x)	FY17E P/B (x)	FY16E Yield (%)	FY17E Yield (%)
China Everbright Int'l	257 HK	Buy	9.30	13.00	16.67	13.66	2.11	1.88	1.80	2.20
Beijing Enterprises Water	371 HK	Buy	5.63	7.00	17.01	13.81	2.68	2.31	1.76	2.17

Source(s): Companies, ABCI Securities estimates



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### Key positives and future outlook

Increasing urbanization and rising hygienic standard in urban areas should spur demand for both wastewater treatment and incineration services in China over the next few years. Operators of wastewater and incineration treatment should develop swiftly in the 13<sup>rd</sup> Five-year plan period (13<sup>th</sup> FYP, 2016-2020).

## Increased urbanization is pressuring urban wastewater and solid waste treatment systems

Urbanization rate in China will continue to rise. According to the estimates by the National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC), urbanization rate in China would reach 60% by end-2020, up from the 56% at end-2015, suggesting an additional 99mn people would move to the urban areas. Increasing population and rising hygienic standard should spur demand for wastewater and solid waste treatment services in major cities.

#### Incineration

# China targets to expand urban incineration capacity by 19% CAGR during 2015-20E

Historically, around 70% of residential waste has been disposed of via landfills in China. The government is reducing its use because of limited land resources and the resultant underground water pollution. According to "the draft of 13<sup>th</sup> FYP on urban residential waste treatment" issued by the NDRC on Sep 22, 2016, China targets to raise the proportion of waste incinerated in urban areas from the 34% at end-2015 to 50% by end-2020E, making incineration the key solid waste treatment in urban areas. NDRC also targets to raise incineration capacity in urban areas from 216kt/day by end-2015 to 520kt/day by end-2020, indicating a 141% jump or 5-year CAGR of 19% during the period. Incineration will be a major waste treatment method, presenting enormous opportunities to operators in urban areas.

# Increasing urbanization and the government's promotion for incineration would increase waste incinerated by 12% CAGR during 2015-20E

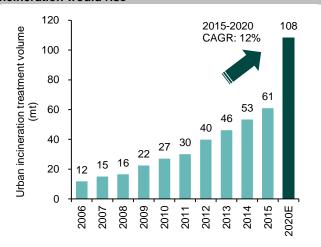
According to the "the draft of 13<sup>th</sup> FYP on urban residential waste treatment" issued by the NDRC in Sep 2016, China would raise the proportion of waste incinerated in urban areas from 34% at end-2015 to 50% by end-2020E. If we assume residential waste per capita to remain unchanged in 2015-20, residential waste produced would reach 217mt by end-2020E (2015: 180mt), of which 108mt (2015: 61mt) of solid waste would be treated via incineration, indicating a 78% increase or a 12% CAGR during 2015-20E. Hence, waste treatment operators would benefit for the rising demand.

Exhibit 1: China's urbanization rate is likely to reach 60% by end-2020E



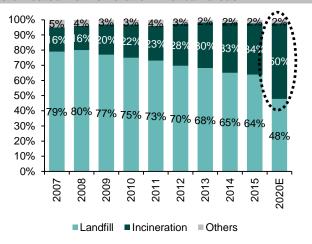
Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities

Exhibit 3: China's urban solid waste to be treated via incineration would rise



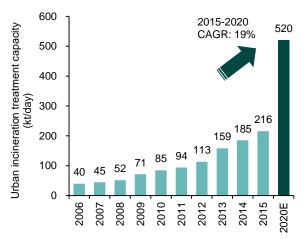
Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities

Exhibit 2: China targets to increase proportion of solid waste treated via incineration in urban areas



Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities

Exhibit 4: China's incineration capacity would record robust growth in the next few years



Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities

### **Wastewater**

# China's rising urban wastewater treatment rate indicates more services are required

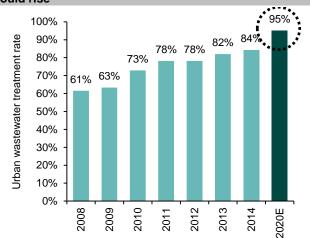
The Chinese government will continue to raise wastewater treatment rate in urban areas to improve hygienic standard. Urban wastewater treatment rate has been maintaining an uptrend, rising from 61% in 2008 to 84% by end-2014, adhering closely to the end-2015 target of 85% set in the "12<sup>th</sup> FYP on wastewater facilities construction" issued in 2012. In the announcement of "Action Plan for Water Pollution" issued by the State Council on Apr 2, 2015, the end-2020E target of urban wastewater is 95%. We believe the current wastewater treatment system would be overloaded and demand for new capacity would increase. The rising wastewater treatment volume should provide great opportunities for operators.



# A 9% CAGR growth in urban wastewater treatment volume in 2014-20E will create enormous business opportunities

With rising urbanization and the government's effort to boost urban wastewater treatment rate, total volume of urban wastewater to be treated would grow strongly in years to come. Assuming an urbanization rate of 60% and a wastewater treatment rate of 95% by end-2020E, total wastewater treatment volume would be 71bn tons, representing a 65% increase on wastewater treatment volume from end-2014 (~43bn tons), or a 9% CAGR during 2014-20E. We believe urban wastewater treatment operators should benefit from the rapid development.

Exhibit 5: China's urban wastewater treatment rate would rise



Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities

Exhibit 6: China's urban wastewater treatment volume would expand by 9% CAGR in 2014-2020E



Source(s): NDRC, ABCI Securities



### Overhangs of environmental protection

### Air pollution concern may hinder construction of incinerators

China's worsening air pollution raises public concerns about incinerator construction. As incineration may produce toxic pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, dioxin, furans, etc., public resistance to incinerator construction can represent a potential challenge for solid waste treatment operators.

### High net gearing may compromise balance sheet

Business model of China's wastewater treatment operators relies heavily on operating income to finance acquisitions. As the operators speed up their M&A activities, operating cash flow is likely to be stretched, driving up the net gearing. We believe the wastewater treatment operators in China are likely to ramp up equity fundraising on the rising M&A activities. Hence, their balance sheets and share prices could be negatively affected.

### Rising debts of local governments

Rising debts of local governments may limit investment in the wastewater treatment sector. According to China's National Audit Office, as of June 2013, total government debts was RMB 20.6tn, equivalent to 40% of China's 2012 GDP. For some local governments, debt levels are equivalent to 3 times the annual income. We believe wastewater treatment investment in heavily indebted regions would reduce. Furthermore, mounting debts of the local governments may increase default risk for wastewater treatment operators if the former are unable to repay the construction costs upon project completion.

### November 1, 2016 Company Report Rating: BUY TP: HK\$ 13.00

Share price (HK\$) 9.30
Est. share price return 39.78%
Est. dividend yield 1.80%
Est. total return 41.58%

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### Key Data

Market share (HK\$ mn)	41,689
3-mth avg. daily turnover (HK\$ mn)	90
52-week high/low (HK\$)	12.90/7.11
Issued shares (mn)	4,484
Major shareholder(s) (%):	
China Everbright Hld	41.4
Source(s): Company, Bloomberg, ABC	I Securities

### 1H16 Revenue breakdown (%)

EPC	61.5
Operation	23.5
Others	15.0
Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities	

Share performance (%)

	Absolute	Relative*
1-mth	0.87%	2.42%
3-mth	12.96%	7.46%
6-mth	11.58%	0.66%

\*Relative to HSI

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

### 1-Year stock performance



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

# China Everbright Int'l (257 HK) Ride on China's strong incineration demand

- Incineration capacity to grow 25%/25%YoY in 2016E/17E
- 55%/42% of CEI's waste-to-energy/wastewater capacities are located in tier1/2 cities where default risk is relatively lower
- Net profit to grow 20%/22% YoY in 2016E/17E
- Our DCF-derived TP is HK\$13.00, which represents 23x/19x 2016E/17E P/E and 3.0x/2.6x 2016E/17E P/B.

Robust growth of 25%/25%YoY in 2016E/17E incineration capacity. We believe CEI would continue to expand its incineration operation capacity. A promising capacity growth is in sight — 26,600t/day of new waste-to-energy capacity is now under construction or in preparation stage, representing a significant increase to its existing operating capacity of 19,700t/day. In addition, management guided that overall capex for 2016 should not be less than RMB 5bn (2015: RMB 5bn). Capex is likely to remain high going forward given the current unit investment cost is at ~RMB 0.5mn/t/day. We believe CEI's waste-to-energy capacity is likely to expand by 25%/25% YoY in 2016E/17E. Strong capacity growth will serve as a solid support to net profit growth.

**GreenTech segment as another income driver.** The GreenTech segment includes renewable energy (biomass, wind and solar), hazardous waste treatment, and sludge treatment. In 1H16, operation revenue in the segment was up 43% YoY. Also, possible spin-off has been indicated by the management although details are yet to be confirmed.

**Projects in prime regions to reduce default risk.** Most of CEI's existing waste-to-energy projects are located in the wealthier regions in China such as Suzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, etc. According to CEI, as of 1H16, 59%/43% of its waste-to-energy/wastewater capacities are located in tier1/2 cities where default risk should be relatively lower, hence minimizing disruption to CEI's cash flow.

**Maintain BUY; TP at HK\$13.00.** Our DCF-derived TP is HK\$13.00 (unchanged), which represents 23x/19x 2016E/17E P/E and 3.0x/2.6x 2016E/17E P/B. CEI is likely to achieve robust EPS CAGR at 20% during 2015-18E. Our TP is equivalent to 0.95x 2017E PEG, which we deem as reasonable. Maintain **BUY**.

**Risks:** (1) Slower-than-expected capacity growth; (2) Default risk; (3) Surge in maintenance costs; (4) Policy risks; (5) Public resistance to incineration construction.

### **Results and Valuation**

FY ended Dec 31	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenue (HK\$ mn)	6,355	8,535	11,389	14,469	17,550
Chg (%, YoY)	19.5	34.3	33.4	27.0	21.3
Net profit (HK\$ mn)	1,703	2,085	2,501	3,053	3,613
Chg (%, YoY)	28.6	22.4	19.9	22.1	18.3
EPS (HK\$)	0.38	0.47	0.56	0.68	0.81
Chg (%, YoY)	16.5	22.4	19.9	22.1	18.3
BVPS (HK\$)	3.63	3.84	4.40	4.95	5.11
Chg (%, YoY)	10.2	5.7	14.8	12.3	3.3
P/E (x)	24.48	20.00	16.67	13.66	11.54
P/B (x)	2.56	2.42	2.11	1.88	1.82
ROE (%)	10.47	12.12	12.66	13.76	15.77
ROA (%)	5.46	5.13	5.22	5.31	5.69
DPS(HK\$)	0.11	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.24
Dvd yield (%)	1.18	1.99	1.80	2.20	2.60
Net gearing* (%)	24.5	53.2	64.2	72.7	83.0
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\*Net gearing=Net debt/Total equity

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



### Key positives and future outlook

### Robust growth of 25%/25%YoY in 2016E/17E waste-to-energy capacity

Strong capacity growth serves as solid support to CEI's future net profit growth. Currently, 26,600t/day of waste-to-energy of new capacity is under construction or in preparation stage, representing a significant addition to its existing operating capacity at 19,700t/day. In addition, management guided that overall capex for 2016 should not be less than RMB 5bn (2015: RMB 5bn). Capex is likely to remain high going forward given the current unit investment cost is as high as ~RMB 0.5mn/t/day. We believe CEI's waste-to-energy capacity is likely to expand by 25%/25% YoY in 2016E/17E.

### Wastewater capacity growth may slow to 4%/5% YoY in 2016E/17E

Thanks to the M&A with Dongda Group (acquired in Aug 2015), CEI's wastewater capacity expanded by 43%YoY to 3.72mn m³/day in 1H16. CEI's wastewater capacity under construction or preparation is 1.03mn m³/day. We project CEI's wastewater capacity would expand by 4%/5% YoY in 2016E/17E, assuming no M&A project takes place.

### GreenTech segment to serve as another income driver

The GreenTech segment includes renewable energy (biomass, wind and solar), hazardous waste treatment, and sludge treatment. In 1H16, operation revenue in the segment was up 43% YoY. Possible spin-off has been mentioned by the management although details are yet to be confirmed.

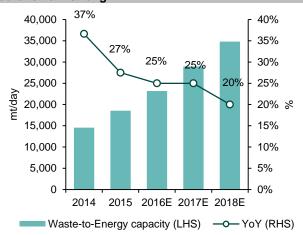
#### Net profit growth of 20%/22% YoY in 2016E/17E is achievable

China's strong push on incineration treatment in urban areas as well as CEI's strong capacity growth will allow the Company to attain substantial net profit growth. We expect CEI's waste-to-energy capacity to expand by 25%/25%YoY and EPC revenue to rise 44%/24% in 2016E/17E. Hence, 2016E/17E net profit would increase 20%/22%YoY during the same period.

#### Projects in prime regions to reduce default risk

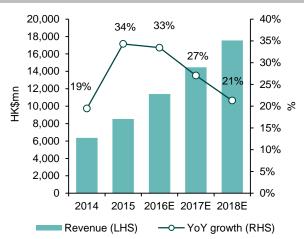
CEI's existing waste-to-energy projects are mostly located in wealthier regions such as Suzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, etc. According to CEI, as of 1H16, 59%/43% of its waste-to-energy/wastewater capacities are located in tier-1/2 cities where default risk should be relatively lower, hence reducing disruption to the Company's cash flow. We view these favorable project locations as one of CEI's competitive advantages.

Exhibit 7: CEI's future waste-to-energy capacity growth would remain strong



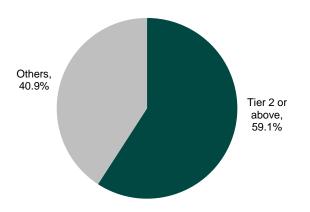
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 9: CEI's revenue outlook



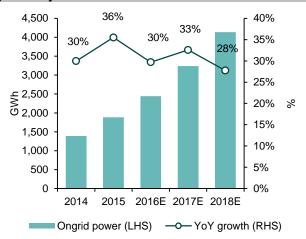
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 10: Distribution of CEI's waste-to-energy capacity by city tier (1H16)



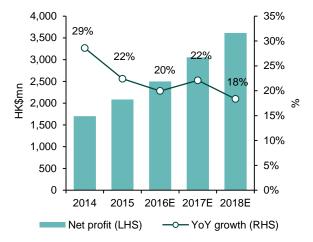
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities

Exhibit 8: CEI's on-grid power generation would rise significantly



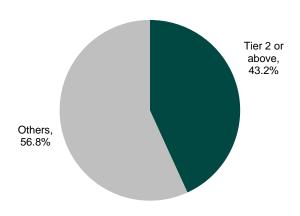
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 10: CEI's net profit outlook



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 10: Distribution of CEI's wastewater capacity by city tier (1H16)



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities



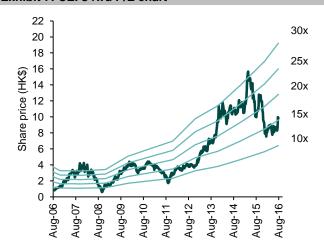
### **Valuation**

### Reiterate BUY; TP at HK\$ 13.00

We believe CEI would continue to be a market leader in China's incineration industry (the Company controls 8.6% of China's nationwide incineration capacity in 2015) and benefit enormously from the government's promoting incineration for waste treatment nationwide. In addition, prime locations of CEI's projects should allow the Group to bear a lower default risk than its peers.

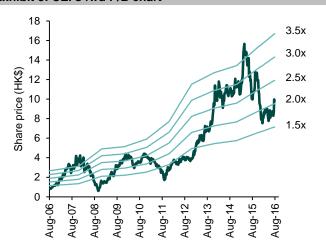
Our DCF-derived TP arrives at HK\$13.00 (unchanged), equivalent to 23x/19x 2016E/17E P/E and 3.0x/2.6x 2016/17E P/B. CEI is likely to achieve a robust EPS CAGR at 20% in 2015-18E. Our TP is equivalent to 0.95x 2017E PEG, which we deem reasonable. Reiterate **BUY** and CEI is our top pick in China's Environmental Protection sector.

### Exhibit 7: CEI's fwd P/E chart



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates

### Exhibit 8: CEI's fwd P/B chart



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



Consolidated income statement (2014A-2018E)

FY Ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenue	6,355	8,535	11,389	14,469	17,550
Operation income	1,765	2,185	2,711	3,480	4,306
EPC	3,627	4,916	7,089	8,825	10,560
Other	963	1,434	1,589	2,163	2,685
COGS	-3,387	-4,626	-6,710	-8,710	-10,631
Gross profit	2,969	3,909	4,679	5,759	6,919
SG&A	-540	-768	-854	-1,085	-1,316
Net financial income (cost)	-318	-400	-645	-813	-1,051
Other income and gains	188	378	444	564	684
Pre-tax profit	2,299	3,119	3,624	4,425	5,236
Income tax	-534	-783	-906	-1,106	-1,309
Net profit	1,765	2,336	2,718	3,318	3,927
Profit attributable to:					
Minority interests	-62	-251	-217	-265	-314
Equity shareholders of the Company	1,703	2,085	2,501	3,053	3,613
Basic EPS (HK\$)	0.380	0.465	0.558	0.681	0.806
DPS (HK\$)	0.110	0.185	0.167	0.204	0.242

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

Consolidated balance sheet (2014A-2018E)

As of Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Current assets	8,487	11,488	12,824	16,794	19,368
Cash and equivalent	4,094	5,953	6,931	9,301	10,276
Pledged and restricted bank deposits	1,056	720	0	0	0
Trade and bill receivables	1,974	3,060	3,744	4,757	5,770
Other receivables and prepayments	1,211	1,547	1,872	2,378	2,885
Inventories	117	202	276	358	437
Other current assets	35	5	0	0	0
Non-current assets	22,713	29,135	35,074	40,715	44,108
Property, plant and equipment	1,511	2,350	2,922	3,556	4,122
Investment properties	36	151	0	0	0
Intangible assets	3,406	4,419	7,147	11,339	15,192
Investment in JV and associates	282	448	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets	4,377	5,697	6,241	7,928	9,617
Other non-current assets	13,102	16,069	18,764	17,893	15,177
Total assets	31,200	40,623	47,897	57,509	63,476
Current liabilities	4,981	6,323	8,578	11,128	13,148
Trade and bill payables	2,302	2,794	3,676	4,773	5,825
Other payables	68	119	0	0	0
Short term borrowings	2,611	3,410	4,902	6,355	7,323
Other current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	8,375	14,879	17,130	21,490	24,394
Deferred tax liabilities	1,834	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425
Long-term borrowings	6,525	12,411	14,705	19,066	21,969
Other non-current liabilities	16	43	0	0	0
Total liabilities	13,357	21,203	25,708	32,618	37,542
Minority interests	1,580	2,224	2,442	2,707	3,021
Shareholders' equities	16,263	17,196	19,747	22,184	22,913

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates



Consolidated cash flow statement (2014A-2018E)

FY ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Profit before tax	2,299	3,119	3,624	4,425	5,236
Change in depreciation and amortization	115	184	363	532	693
Change in working capital	-2,676	-4,839	362	-505	-546
Net financial cost (income)	318	400	-67	-69	-93
Income tax paid	-173	-217	-783	-906	-1,106
Net interest received	62	52	67	69	93
Others	-68	-236	0	0	0
CF Operating	-123	-1,538	3,566	3,546	4,277
Capex	-216	-661	-709	-804	-767
Increase in intangible assets	-870	-421	-4,016	-4,554	-4,346
Others	647	-1,594	0	0	0
CF Investing	-439	-2,676	-4,725	-5,358	-5,113
Net Capital raise	0	660	0	0	0
Net debt financing	1,187	6,793	3,678	5,814	3,871
Dividend payout	-448	-565	-829	-750	-916
Interest paid	-381	-458	-712	-882	-1,144
Others	-75	-226	0	0	0
CF Financing	283	6,204	2,137	4,181	1,811
Net change in cash	-279	1,989	978	2,369	976
Cash at the beginning	4,426	4,094	5,953	6,931	9,301
Adjustment (Time deposit & FX effect)	-53	-130	0	0	0
Cash at the end	4,094	5,953	6,931	9,301	10,276

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

### Key Ratio (2014A-2018E)

FY ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Sales mixed (%)					
Operation income	27.77	25.60	23.80	24.06	24.53
EPC	57.08	57.60	62.24	60.99	60.17
Other	15.15	16.80	13.96	14.95	15.30
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Profit & loss ratios (%)					
Gross margin	46.71	45.80	41.09	39.80	39.42
Operating profit margin	41.20	41.30	37.49	36.20	35.82
Pre-tax margin	36.18	36.54	31.82	30.58	29.84
Net profit margin	27.77	27.37	23.87	22.94	22.38
Selling & administrative expenses/revenue	8.49	9.00	7.50	7.50	7.50
Effective tax rate	23.23	25.11	25.00	25.00	25.00
Growth (%)					
Revenue	19.46	34.29	33.45	27.04	21.30
Gross profit	24.97	31.67	19.72	23.06	20.15
Operating profit	24.67	34.62	21.14	22.68	20.04
Net profit	29.38	32.32	16.38	22.08	18.34
Balance sheet ratios					
Current ratio (x)	1.70	1.82	1.49	1.51	1.47
Quick ratio (x)	1.43	1.54	1.24	1.26	1.22
Cash ratio (x)	1.03	1.06	0.81	0.84	0.78
Trade and bill receivables days	113.35	130.89	120.00	120.00	120.00
Trade and bill payables turnover days	248.15	220.50	200.00	200.00	200.00
Inventory turnover days	12.66	15.96	15.00	15.00	15.00
Total debt / equity ratio (%)	56.18	92.00	99.29	114.59	127.84
Net debt / equity ratio (%)	24.51	53.19	64.19	72.67	82.99
Returns (%)					
ROAA	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.0
ROAE	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.6	16.0
Payout ratio	28.96	39.79	30.00	30.00	30.00

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

### November 1, 2016 Company Report Rating: BUY TP: HK\$ 7.00

Share price (HK\$) Est. share price return Est. dividend yield Est. total return 5.63 24.33% 1.76% 26.10%

Analyst: Kelvin Ng Tel: (852) 2147 8869

Email: kelvinng@abci.com.hk

### **Key Data**

Market share (HK\$mn)	49,043
3-mth avg. daily turnover (HK\$ mn)	110
52-week high/low (HK\$)	6.20/3.45
Issued shares (mn)	8,723
Major shareholder(s) (%):	
Beijing Enterprises Hld	43.9
Source(s): Company, Bloomberg, ABCI	Securities

### 1H16 Revenue breakdown (%)

EPC	66.7
Operation	28.4
Others	4.9
Source(s): Company ABCI Securities	

### Share performance (%)

	<u>Absolute</u>	Relative*
1-mth	7.44%	9.00%
3-mth	23.19%	17.70%
6-mth	21 39%	10 47%

\*Relative to HSI

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

### 1-Year stock performance



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

# **Beijing Enterprises Water (371 HK)**

### Solid net profit growth to continue

- BEW's water distribution capacity would expand by 40%/20% YoY in 2016E/17E,
- Wastewater treatment capacity growth would be 8%/11% YoY in 2016E/17E
- Solid net profit growth of 31%/23%YoY for 2016E/17E would support BEW's share price.
- We maintain **BUY** with a DCF-derived TP at HK\$ 7.00, which represents 21x/17x 2016E/17E P/E and 3.2x/2.9x 2016E/17E P/B.

Water distribution capacity growth of 40%/20%YoY in 2016E/17E is the bright spot. BEW's water distribution operation capacity would grow significantly over the next few years. As of 1H16, a capacity of 5.9mt/day was under construction, equivalent to 115% of BEW's existing operating capacity (1H16: 5.1mt/day). We estimate BEW's water distribution operation capacity to expand by 40%/20%YoY in 2016E/17E.

Wastewater capacity growth of 8%/11%YoY in 2016/17E. In 2010-12, BEW recorded robust capacity growth in its wastewater operation, partially attributable to the low base and moderate competition in asset acquisition. However, as rivalry for wastewater operation acquisition increases in China, the Group may slow down its pace of asset purchase. We therefore expect a see a low-teen capacity growth for the wastewater operation going forward.

Solid net profit growth at 31%/23%YoY would support share price. Thanks to the robust growth in the EPC segment, we expect net profit to rise 31%YoY in 2016E and 23%YoY in 2017E on the back of strong demand in urban wastewater and water distribution services. As an industry leader in China, BEW would continue to benefit from the country's increasingly stringent water treatment standard during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan (FYP) period (2016-20). We expect GPM to trend down, but the EPS CAGR at 25% CAGR in 2015-18E should support share price.

**BUY with TP at HK\$7.00.** Our DCF-derived TP was HK\$7.00 based on a WACC of 8%, representing 21x/17x FY16E/17E P/E and 3.2x/2.9x FY16E/17E P/B. Maintain **BUY**.

**Risk factors:** (1) Slower-than-expected capacity growth; (2) Default risk; (3) Policy risks; (4) High net gearing ratio; (5) Negative operating cashflow; (6) Margin decline.

#### **Results and Valuation**

Mesults and Valuation					
FY ended Dec 31	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenue (HK\$ mn)	8,926	13,503	18,548	25,047	31,334
Chg (%,YoY)	39.3	51.3	37.4	35.0	25.1
Net profit (HK\$ mn)	1,794	2,202	2,885	3,553	4,283
Chg (%, YoY)	65.5	22.7	31.0	23.1	20.5
EPS (HK\$)	0.208	0.253	0.331	0.408	0.491
Chg (%,YoY)	48.5	21.7	31.0	23.1	20.5
BVPS (HK\$)	1.826	1.857	2.104	2.435	2.767
Chg (%,YoY)	6.5	1.7	13.3	15.7	13.7
P/E (x)	27.12	22.29	17.01	13.81	11.46
P/B (x)	3.08	3.03	2.68	2.31	2.03
ROE (%)	11.37	15.17	15.73	16.74	17.75
ROA (%)	3.47	3.81	3.69	3.62	3.61
DPS(HK\$)	0.079	0.095	0.099	0.122	0.147
Dvd yield (%)	1.40	1.69	1.76	2.17	2.62
Net gearing* (%)	92.3	131.0	170.7	180.6	207.3

\*Net gearing=Net debt/Total equity

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates

### 1H16 results highlight

BEW announced 1H16 results in Aug 2016. Net profit was HK\$1.57bn (+36%YoY) and adjusted net profit was HK\$1.37bn (+31%YoY), equivalent to 48% of our 2016E full-year estimate. The result suggests the Group is on track to achieve our full-year net profit target that entailed a 31%YoY growth.

# Robust revenue growth of 58%YoY in EPC business drive up 1H16 net profit growth

Revenue from EPC business was HK\$5.2bn in 1H16, up 58%YoY and accounted for 67% of BEW's overall revenue. The increase shows BEW has gained more shares in the wastewater and water distribution construction markets.

# Revenue of wastewater operation business was down 10% YoY due to decline in wastewater tariff

Revenue from wastewater operation business was HK\$ 1.6bn in 1H16, down 10%YoY, contributing to 21% of total revenue. The decline can be attributed to BEW's increased exposure in low-tier cities where tariffs are usually lower. Hence, BEW's overall wastewater tariff declined 25% YoY despite the 17%YoY increase in treatment volume during the period.

Exhibit 9: Result comparison for 1H15 and 1H16

Results summary		1H15	1H16	YoY
Income Statement				
Revenue	HK\$mn	5,764	7,852	36%
EPC	HK\$mn	3,319	5,237	58%
Operation (BOT)	HK\$mn	2,204	2,234	1%
Others	HK\$mn	241	381	58%
Op. profit	HK\$mn	1,918	2,402	25%
Net profit	HK\$mn	1,160	1,574	36%
Adj. net profit	HK\$mn	1,045	1,370	31%
Basic EPS	HK\$	0.13	0.18	36%
Adj. EPS	HK\$	0.12	0.16	31%
Ratios				
Op. margin	%	33.3%	30.6%	-3ppt
Net margin	%	20.1%	20.0%	0ppt
Net gearing/(Net cash)	%	119%	163%	44ppt
Wastewater				
Installed capacity	mt/day	8.8	9.5	7%
Treatment volume	mt	1,216	1,424	17%
Tariff	HK\$/t, ex VAT	1.54	1.15	-25%
Water distribution				
Installed capacity	mt/day	3.6	5.1	43%
Treatment volume	mt	313.4	475.8	52%
Tariff	HK\$/t, ex VAT	1.26	1.26	0%

Source(s): Company data



### Key positives and future outlook

BEW would continue being as the market leader in wastewater treatment in China. Its robust capacity growth in water distribution and revenue growth in EPC business should drive impressive earnings growth going forward.

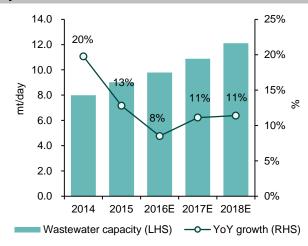
# Water distribution capacity growth of 40%/20%YoY in 2016E/17E is the bright spot

BEW's water distribution operation capacity should maintain robust growth over the next few years. As of 1H16, a capacity of 5.9mt/day was under construction, equivalent to 115% of BEW's existing operating capacity (1H16: 5.1mt/day). We estimate BEW's water distribution operation capacity to expand by 40%/20%YoY in 2016E/17E.

### Wastewater capacity growth of 8%/11%YoY in 2016/17E

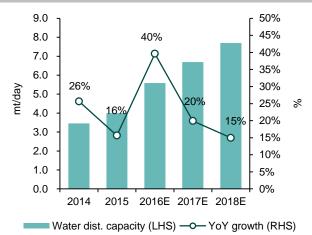
In 2010-12, BEW recorded robust capacity growth in its wastewater operation, partially attributable to the low base and moderate competition in asset acquisition. However, as rivalry for wastewater operation acquisition increases in China, the Group may slow down its pace of asset purchase in the future. We therefore expect a see a low-teen capacity growth in the wastewater operation going forward.

Exhibit 10: BEW's wastewater capacity growth would stay at low-teen levels



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 11: BEW's water distribution capacity growth would be 40%/20%YoY in 2016/17E



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

### EPC business should see robust growth going forward

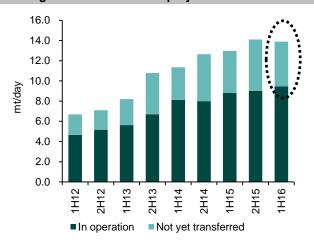
BEW would continue to expand its EPC business whose revenue jumped 58%YoY revenue in 1H16. In order to spur net profit growth, we believe BEW would participate in more EPC projects, and segmental revenue would record 59%/43%YoY revenue growth in 2016E/17E. Despite EPC business has lower GPM than that of operation (23% vs. 50%), the increase in EPC revenue should elevate net profit growth.

### Solid net profit growth at 31%/23%YoY would support share price

Thanks to the robust growth in the EPC segment, we expect net profit to rise by 31%YoY in 2016E, and 23%YoY growth in 2017E on the back of strong demand in urban wastewater and water distribution services. As an industry

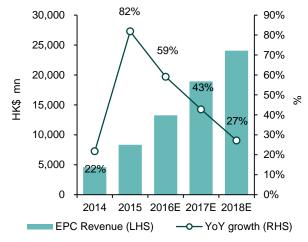
leader in China, BEW would continue to benefit from the country's increasingly stringent water treatment standard during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan (FYP) period (2016-20). We expect GPM to trend down, but the EPS CAGR at 25% CAGR in 2015-18E should support share price.

Exhibit 12: BEW's wastewater capacity still has ample room to grow due to sufficient projects on hand



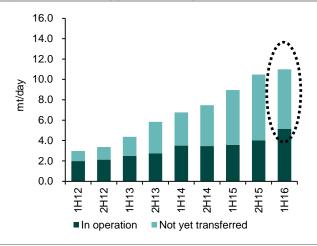
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 14: BEW's future EPC revenue would maintain a double-digit growth



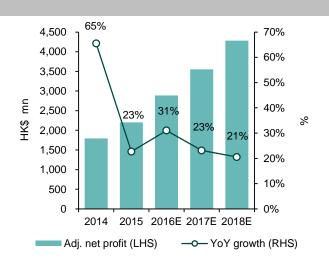
Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 13: BEW's ample water distribution capacity projects on hand suggests robust growth ahead



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 15: BEW's net profit outlook



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates



### **Major concerns**

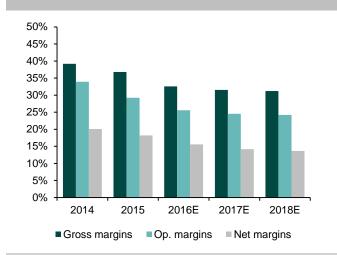
### Margin squeeze may lead to de-rating

Given GPM of EPC business is much lower than that of operation segment (1H16: 23% vs. ~50%), increased contribution of EPC business in the near future would pressure margins. We estimate BEW's 2016E-18E GPM to be 33%/32%/31% and NPM would be 16%/14%/14% for the same period. Despite 2016E-18E net profit would expand by 31%/23%/21%, as declining margins could be interpreted as deterioration in earnings quality and trigger derating.

### Increasing net gearing ratio may prompt equity fundraising

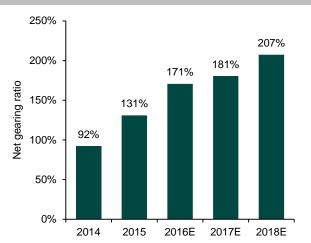
BEW's net gearing ratio would maintain at high levels going forward as the Group has been reducing the contribution from operation segment and this may lower cash inflow. Since BEW's account receivable is unlikely to improve significantly in the short term, we therefore expect BEW's net gearing ratio to stay around 200% going forward. Such high gearing may prompt fundraising activities going forward.

Exhibit 16: BEW's margins would trend down



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates

Exhibit 17: Increasing net gearing ratio would be another concern



Source(s): Company data, ABCI Securities estimates



### **Valuation**

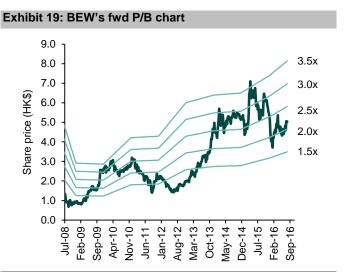
### Maintain BUY, TP at HK\$7.00

BEW's 1H16 results are broadly in line with our estimates. We adjust our EPC business assumptions and fine-tune the estimates for the Operation segment. BEW would deliver 37%/35%YoY revenue growth in 2016/17E, driven by the 59%/43%YoY revenue growth expected for the EPC segment. Net profit would grow by 31%/23%YoY in 2016/17E. We roll over our valuation basis from 2016 to 2017 and our DCF-derived TP is HK\$ 7.00 (previously at HK\$6.70), implying 21x/17x 2016E/17E PE and 3.3x/2.9x 2016E/17E P/B

We believe BEW should deliver a 25% EPS CAGR in 2015-18E. Our TP is equivalent to 2017E PEG of 0.7, which is inexpensive in our view. Despite BEW's long-term GPM would decline, but we are optimistic on its net profit growth outlook. Moreover, as a leader in China's wastewater market, it would benefit more than its peers from policies encouraging environmental protection. Maintain **BUY**.

#### Exhibit 18: BEW's fwd P/E chart 11.0 30x 10.0 25x 9.0 8.0 Share price (HK\$) 20x 7.0 6.0 15x 5.0 4.0 10x 3.0 2.0 1.0 0.0 Sep-09 Jan-12 · Aug-12 · Feb-09 Jun-11

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



Consolidated income statement (2014A-2018E)

FY Ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Revenue	8,926	13,503	18,548	25,047	31,334
EPC	4,583	8,331	13,252	18,912	24,048
Operating income	4,063	4,396	4,404	5,108	6,157
Other	281	776	892	1,026	1,129
COGS	-5,430	-8,536	-12,509	-17,143	-21,559
Gross profit	3,496	4,967	6,040	7,904	9,775
SG&A	-1,066	-1,226	-1,669	-2,254	-2,820
Net financial income (cost)	-639	-831	-947	-1,515	-2,013
Other income and gains	876	635	686	927	1,159
Pre-tax profit	2,667	3,546	4,110	5,061	6,101
Income tax	-594	-778	-904	-1,113	-1,342
Net profit	2,073	2,768	3,206	3,948	4,759
Profit attributable to:					
Minority interests	-279	-312	-321	-395	-476
Equity shareholders of the Company	1,794	2,455	2,885	3,553	4,283
Adj. Equity shareholders of the Company	1,794	2,202	2,885	3,553	4,283
Basic EPS (HK\$)	0.208	0.282	0.331	0.408	0.491
Adj. EPS (HK\$)	0.208	0.253	0.331	0.408	0.491
DPS (HK\$)	0.079	0.095	0.099	0.122	0.147

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

### Consolidated balance sheet (2014A-2018E)

As of Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Current assets	15,078	18,153	19,689	26,998	30,688
Cash and equivalent	6,091	6,374	9,691	14,863	15,504
Pledged and restricted bank deposits	304	269	0	0	0
Trade and bill receivables	2,595	2,959	3,557	4,803	6,009
Other receivables and prepayments	5,910	6,746	6,098	6,862	8,585
Inventories	58	99	343	470	591
Other current assets	120	1,705	0	0	0
Non-current assets	36,563	46,339	58,532	71,220	88,062
Property, plant and equipment	1,243	1,380	2,522	3,521	4,481
Investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
Intangible assets	2,553	3,005	3,534	4,031	4,536
Investment in JV and associates	3,109	4,466	4,947	5,490	6,113
Deferred tax assets	20,293	23,253	28,106	37,721	47,880
Other non-current assets	9,364	14,235	19,422	20,458	25,052
Total assets	51,641	64,492	78,220	98,219	118,750
Current liabilities	11,419	17,773	25,863	34,743	43,278
Trade and bill payables	3,564	5,786	8,567	11,742	14,766
Other payables	3,910	5,309	5,140	7,045	8,860
Short term borrowings	3,945	6,615	12,155	15,956	19,652
Other current liabilities	0	63	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	21,133	26,428	29,594	37,431	46,054
Deferred tax liabilities	930	1,321	750	200	200
Long-term borrowings	17,022	21,226	28,844	37,231	45,854
Other non-current liabilities	3,182	3,881	0	0	0
Total liabilities	32,552	44,201	55,457	72,174	89,331
Minority interests	3,304	4,107	4,427	4,822	5,298
Shareholders' equities	15,784	16,184	18,336	21,223	24,121

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

### Consolidated cash flow statement (2014A-2018E)

FY ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Profit before tax	2,667	3,546	4,110	5,061	6,101
Change in depreciation and amortization	209	207	295	376	458
Change in working capital	-2,732	-6,859	-9,169	-7,567	-12,676
Net financial cost (income)	668	893	947	1,515	2,013
Income tax paid	-277	-253	-778	-904	-1,113
Net interest received	0	0	0	0	0
Others	-271	-160	-315	-426	-533
CF Operating	264	-2,627	-4,910	-1,944	-5,749
Capex	-683	-2,475	-1,552	-1,452	-1,479
Increase in intangible assets	-51	-195	-517	-484	-493
Others	-1,000	-1,085	-533	-501	-511
CF Investing	-1,734	-3,755	-2,602	-2,437	-2,483
Net Capital raise	0	0	-1	0	0
Net debt financing	3,677	9,062	13,158	12,188	12,318
Dividend payout	-10	-18	-866	-1,066	-1,285
Interest paid	-1,105	-1,189	-1,147	-1,253	-1,845
Others	-366	-783	0	0	0
CF Financing	2,196	7,073	11,145	9,869	9,189
Net change in cash	726	691	3,633	5,488	956
Cash at the beginning	5,366	6,091	6,374	9,691	14,863
Adjustment (Time deposit & FX effect)	-1	-408	-316	-316	-316
Cash at the end	6,091	6,374	9,691	14,863	15,504

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates

### Key Ratio (2014A-2018E)

FY ended Dec 31 (HK\$ mn)	2014A	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E
Sales mixed (%)					
Wind power	51.34	61.70	71.45	75.51	76.75
Solar power	45.51	32.56	23.74	20.39	19.65
Other	3.15	5.75	4.81	4.10	3.60
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Profit & loss ratios (%)					
Gross margin	39.17	36.78	32.56	31.56	31.20
Operating profit margin	33.92	29.24	25.56	24.56	24.20
Pre-tax margin	29.88	26.26	22.16	20.21	19.47
Net profit margin	23.23	20.50	17.28	15.76	15.19
Selling & administrative expenses/revenue	11.94	9.08	9.00	9.00	9.00
Effective tax rate	22.27	21.94	22.00	22.00	22.00
Growth (%)					
Revenue	39.33	51.28	37.36	35.04	25.10
Gross profit	39.53	42.08	21.60	30.87	23.67
Operating profit	73.68	30.39	20.10	29.72	23.27
Net profit	81.01	33.50	15.82	23.14	20.54
Balance sheet ratios					
Current ratio (x)	1.32	1.02	0.76	0.78	0.71
Quick ratio (x)	0.79	0.54	0.51	0.57	0.50
Cash ratio (x)	0.56	0.37	0.37	0.43	0.36
Trade and bill receivables days	106.12	79.99	70.00	70.00	70.00
Trade and bill payables turnover days	239.56	247.42	250.00	250.00	250.00
Inventory turnover days	3.88	4.24	10.00	10.00	10.00
Total debt / equity ratio (%)	132.83	172.03	223.60	250.61	271.57
Net debt / equity ratio (%)	92.32	130.98	170.75	180.57	207.29
Returns (%)					
ROAA	3.7	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9
ROAE	12.3	15.4	16.7	18.0	18.9
Payout ratio	37.85	33.70	30.00	30.00	30.00

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities estimates



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Rating	Definition
Buy	Stock return ≥ Market return rate
Hold	Market return – 6% ≤ Stock return < Market return rate
Sell	Stock return < Market return – 6%

Stock return is defined as the expected % change of share price plus gross dividend yield over the next 12 months

Market return: 5-year average market return rate Time horizon of share price target: 12-month

### Definition of share price risk

Rating	Definition
Very high	2.6 ≤180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility
High	1.5 ≤ 180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 2.6
Medium	1.0 ≤180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 1.5
Low	180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 1.0

We measure share price risk by its volatility relative to volatility of benchmark index. Benchmark index: Hang Seng Index.

Volatility is calculated from the standard deviation of day to day logarithmic historic price change. The 180-day price volatility equals the annualized standard deviation of the relative price change for the 180 most recent trading days closing price.

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