

(Maintain)			Buy
Target Price (12)	M, W)	72	2,500
Share Price (04/23	3/19, W)	57	7,100
Expected Return			27%
OP (19F, Wbn)			112
Consensus OP (1	9F, Wbn)		133
EPS Growth (19F,	%)		-9.7
Market EPS Grow	/th (19F, %)		-16.1
P/E (19F, x)			28.3
Market P/E (19F,	x)		12.0
KOSDAQ			761.42
Market Cap (Wbr	1)		3,482
Shares Outstandi	ing (mn)		61
Free Float (%)			34.6
Foreign Ownersh	nip (%)		10.7
Beta (12M)			0.85
52-Week Low			35,100
52-Week High			78,100
(%)	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	-12.3	-15.9	49.7
Relative	-14.3	-20.6	72.8



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POSCO CHEMICAL

(003670 KQ)

Earnings to meaningfully grow from 2020

1Q19 review: Lower oil prices and weaker needle coke volume drag down profits QoQ

For 1Q19, POSCO Chemical reported consolidated revenue of W355bn (+5.5% YoY, -2.9% QoQ), operating profit of W22bn (-5% YoY, -25.1% QoQ), and pretax profit of W33bn (-19% YoY, -24.1% QoQ). Pretax profit fell by around W10bn, which we attribute to: 1) a W4bn decline in chemicals profit as a result of lower oil prices; and 2) a W4.5bn fall in equity-method profits, due to weaker needle coke sales.

Anode materials growth continues; new cathode materials facility to come online in 2H19

Anode materials revenue continued to grow in 1Q19, rising to W32bn (+91.7% YoY, +21.9% QoQ). We believe this was largely driven by sales volume growth following capacity expansion. Management said that anode materials sales volume jumped 83% YoY in 1Q19. For anode materials, POSCO Chemical has an annual production capacity of 24,000 tonnes, as of end-2018, and is currently adding 20,000 tonnes of new capacity, which is expected to come online later this year. The company plans to expand its anode materials capacity to 74,000 tonnes by 2022.

Because POSCO Chemical's merger with cathode materials supplier POSCO ESM was finalized on April 3rd, cathode materials earnings were not reflected in the 1Q19 results. We estimate POSCO ESM's 1Q19 revenue was around W27bn. For cathode materials, POSCO Chemical has an annual production capacity of 9,000 tonnes as of end-2018. Currently, the company has two capacity expansions underway, a 6,000-tonne facility that will come online in 3Q19, and a 24,000-tonne facility that will come online in 2Q20. POSCO Chemical plans to expand its cathode materials capacity to 57,000 tonnes by 2022

Needle coke prices come under pressure

As we had previously feared (see our January 29th report, *Near-term share price to hinge on needle coke prices after Chinese New Year*), China's needle coke prices have tumbled roughly 25% since the Chinese New Year, mainly due to weak electrode prices. PMC Tech is also believed to have lowered its selling prices by 25% in April. We think additional downside to electrode prices is limited and thus do not expect further declines in needle coke prices. On the contrary, prices of needle coke for anode materials have reportedly been moving higher.

Focus on medium/long-term growth; maintain Buy and TP of W72,500

Given the rechargeable battery materials (anode and cathode materials) capacity ramp-up plans presented by management, we believe POSCO Chemical is poised for medium/long-term growth. The vertical integration of lithium and cobalt (key raw materials) within the group should also give the company a competitive advantage over other suppliers. That said, we believe such growth prospects have largely been reflected in the stock's appreciation. We thus advise approaching the stock from a medium/long-term growth perspective, rather than counting on a continuation of the strong rally seen over the past couple of years.

FY (Dec.)	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19F	12/20F	12/21F
Revenue (Wbn)	1,118	1,197	1,384	1,556	2,266	2,828
OP (Wbn)	85	104	106	112	167	220
OP margin (%)	7.6	8.7	7.7	7.2	7.4	7.8
NP (Wbn)	44	104	132	122	154	193
EPS (W)	740	1,753	2,237	2,019	2,522	3,171
ROE (%)	8.0	17.2	19.0	15.3	16.9	18.2
P/E (x)	16.2	22.7	28.5	28.3	22.6	18.0
P/B (x)	1.3	3.6	5.0	4.1	3.6	3.0
Dividend yield (%)	2.5	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7

Note: All figures are based on consolidated K-IFRS; NP refers to net profit attributable to controlling interests Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research estimates

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Table 1. Quarterly and annual earnings

(Wbn, %)

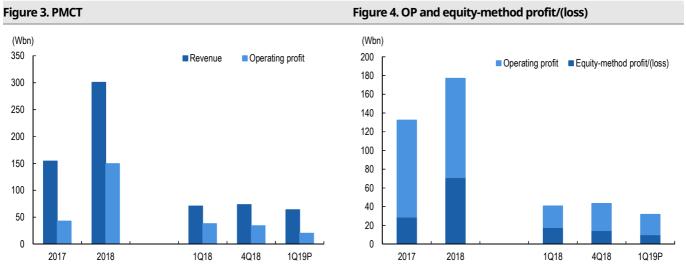
	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19P	2Q19F	3Q19F	4Q19F	2018	2019F	2020F
Revenue	337	335	346	366	355	382	382	438	1,384	1,556	2,266
POSCO Chemical (parent)	328	324	335	354	343	372	372	428	1,341	1,513	2,226
Subsidiaries	8	10	11	12	12	10	10	10	43	42	40
Operating profit	23	21	33	29	22	29	29	32	106	112	167
POSCO Chemical (parent)	22	20	32	28	21	28	28	31	102	108	163
Subsidiaries	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
OP margin	6.8	6.3	9.6	8.0	6.2	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.7	7.2	7.4
POSCO Chemical (parent)	6.8	6.1	9.5	7.8	6.2	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.3
Subsidiaries	9.6	9.6	10.2	12.1	4.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.5	8.4	10.0
Pretax profit	41	42	50	44	33	38	38	41	177	150	202
Net profit (controlling interests)	31	32	37	32	33	29	29	31	132	122	154

Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research estimates

Figure 1. Revenue by division Figure 2. OP by division (Wtn) (Wbn) 120 1,600 ■ Subsidiaries ☐ Anode materials □Subsidiaries Formation Quicklime Formation+Anode materials 1,400 ■ Refractories 100 Quicklime 1,200 ■ Refractories 80 1,000 60 800 600 40 400 20 200 0 0 2017 2018 1Q18 4Q18 1Q19P 2017 2018 1Q18 4Q18 1Q19P

Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

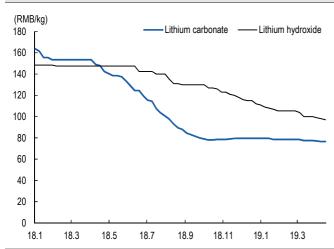


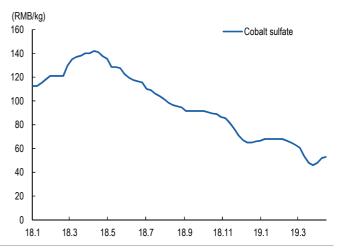
Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research



Figure 6. Chinese cobalt sulfate price



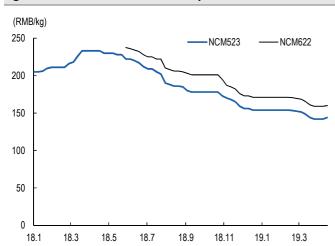


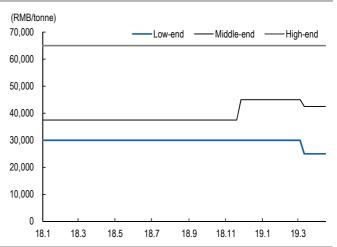
Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Figure 7. Chinese cathode materials price

Figure 8. Chinese natural graphite anode materials



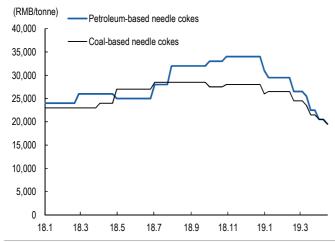


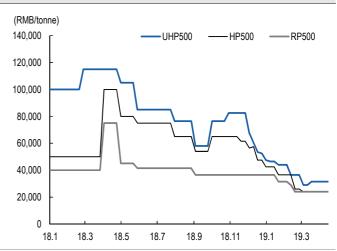
Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Figure 9. Chinese needle cokes price

Figure 10. Chinese graphite electrode price





Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Industry data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Table 2. Global peer group performance and valuation

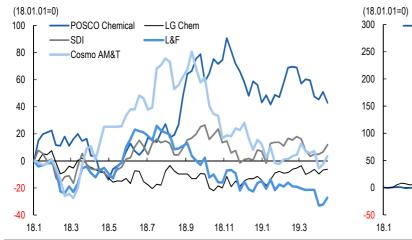
(Wbn, x, %)

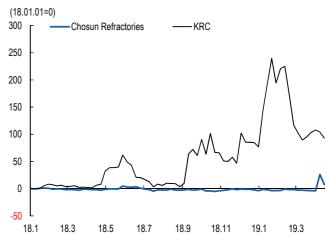
	i peer group periormance and valuation													(, X, 70)
	Market cap	Reve	nue	OP OP margin		P/E P/B			ROE EV/EBITDA			TDA			
	iviai ket cap	18	19E	18	19E	18	19E	18	19E	18	19E	18	19E	18	19E
POSCO Chemical	3,556	1,384	1,570	106	131	7.7	8.4	28.5	21.6	5.0	3.8	19.0	19.2	29.8	21.6
Major domestic se	condary batter	y materials	peer grou	ıp											
LG Chem	25,872	28,183	31,490	2,246	2,159	8.0	6.9	18.1	18.7	1.4	1.5	8.0	8.3	7.2	7.2
Samsung SDI	15,781	9,158	10,834	715	842	7.8	7.8	20.9	19.7	1.2	1.3	5.9	6.5	12.5	10.8
Ecopro BM	1,289	589		50		8.5		-	-	-	-	26.7	-	-	-
L&F	775	506	541	27	31	5.3	5.7	39.3	38.1	5.4	4.8	14.8	13.9	23.9	18.3
Cosmo AM&T	312	534		15		2.8		32.0	-	3.9	-	12.9	-	17.8	-
Average						6.5		27.5	25.5	3.0	2.5	13.7	9.6	15.4	12.1
Major domestic ref	fractories peer	group													
ChosunRefrctr	368	789		39		5.0		5.1	-	0.5	-	9.2	-	4.1	-
KRC	132	240		11		4.8		16.4	-	0.9	-	5.7	-	9.0	-
Average						4.9		10.8		0.7		7.4		6.6	
Major global secon	ndary battery m	naterials pe	er group												
Panasonic	25,680	79,997	83,680	3,713	3,998	4.6	4.8	15.0	9.9	2.1	1.3	14.4	13.7	5.9	4.4
BYD	26,082	20,261	26,202	1,274	855	6.3	3.3	47.2	43.7	2.3	2.8	5.0	6.4	10.8	12.7
CATL	30,955	3,333	4,998	591	770	17.7	15.4	-	49.4	-	5.5	19.3	11.6	-	26.1
Umicore	13,681	19,208		641	728	3.3		26.2	28.6	3.2	3.8	14.4	13.9	13.3	14.4
SMM	10,704	9,356	9,364	1,104	870	11.8	9.3	13.5	14.3	1.2	0.9	9.2	6.9	10.0	10.0
Shanshan	3,015	1,375	1,711	129	258	9.3	15.1	24.3	15.8	2.1	1.5	9.6	12.4	27.0	12.3
Easpring	2,036	359	584	34	59	9.6	10.1	38.5	38.5	6.1	3.9	17.1	11.6	39.6	26.7
Average						9.0	9.7	27.4	28.6	2.8	2.8	12.7	10.9	17.8	15.2
Major global graph	nite electrode p	eer group													
SDK	6,438	9,888	10,970	1,794	2,079	18.1	19.0	4.3	4.7	1.1	1.1	28.1	27.0	3.2	3.4
Tokai Carbon	3,357	2,305	3,228	750	1,035	32.5	32.0	3.6	4.5	1.4	1.3	47.2	34.0	3.2	2.9
Graftech	4,599	2,087	2,267	1,239	1,424	59.4	62.8	3.7	4.7					4.6	4.9
Fangda Carbon	8,462	1,371	1,915	814	1,157	59.4	60.4	13.7	8.8	5.1	4.1	46.6	49.5	9.2	6.6
Graphite India	1,444	563	1,336	243	833	43.2	62.3	13.7	2.5	5.2	1.9	45.0	84.3	9.1	1.6
HEG	1,275	459	1,095	284	696	61.9	63.6	11.6	2.6	6.7	2.0	76.9	89.1	7.6	1.7
Average						45.8	50.0	8.4	4.6	3.9	2.1	48.7	56.8	6.2	3.5

Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Figure 11. Major domestic secondary battery materials players' performance

Figure 12. Major domestic refractories players' performance



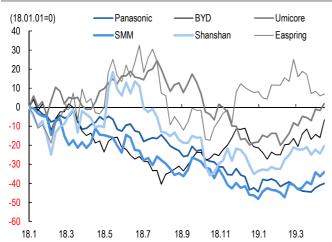


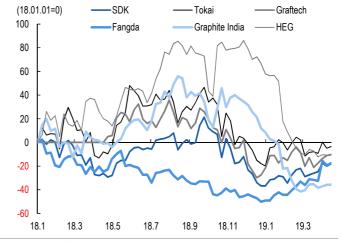
Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Figure 13. Major global secondary battery materials players' performance

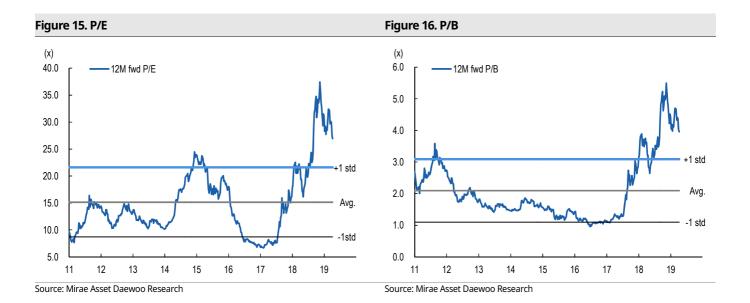
Figure 14. Major global graphite electrode players' performance

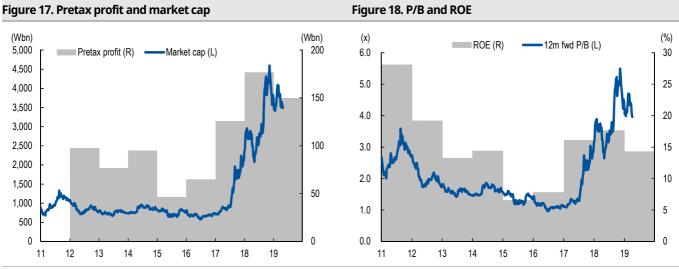




Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Source: Bloomberg, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research





Source: Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

POSCO CHEMICAL (003670 KQ/Buy/TP: W72,500)

Comprehensive Income Statement (Summarized)

(Wbn)	12/18	12/19F	12/20F	12/21F
Revenue	1,384	1,556	2,266	2,828
Cost of Sales	1,218	1,374	1,997	2,481
Gross Profit	166	182	269	347
SG&A Expenses	60	70	102	127
Operating Profit (Adj)	106	112	167	220
Operating Profit	106	112	167	220
Non-Operating Profit	71	38	35	34
Net Financial Income	1	1	1	1
Net Gain from Inv in Associates	71	37	34	34
Pretax Profit	177	150	202	254
Income Tax	44	28	49	61
Profit from Continuing Operations	133	122	154	193
Profit from Discontinued Operations	0	0	0	0
Net Profit	133	122	154	193
Controlling Interests	132	122	154	193
Non-Controlling Interests	1	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Profit	125	122	154	193
Controlling Interests	125	120	151	190
Non-Controlling Interests	1	2	2	3
EBITDA	123	134	195	252
FCF (Free Cash Flow)	-16	-7	-36	20
EBITDA Margin (%)	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.9
Operating Profit Margin (%)	7.7	7.2	7.4	7.8
Net Profit Margin (%)	9.5	7.8	6.8	6.8

Statement of Financial Condition (Summarized)

	•		-	
(Wbn)	12/18	12/19F	12/20F	12/21F
Current Assets	440	492	585	728
Cash and Cash Equivalents	120	125	98	128
AR & Other Receivables	181	217	290	362
Inventories	109	121	167	209
Other Current Assets	30	29	30	29
Non-Current Assets	508	586	659	726
Investments in Associates	187	187	187	187
Property, Plant and Equipment	264	342	415	484
Intangible Assets	7	6	5	5
Total Assets	948	1,078	1,244	1,454
Current Liabilities	153	185	221	262
AP & Other Payables	99	130	167	208
Short-Term Financial Liabilities	4	4	4	4
Other Current Liabilities	50	51	50	50
Non-Current Liabilities	37	37	37	37
Long-Term Financial Liabilities	16	16	16	16
Other Non-Current Liabilities	21	21	21	21
Total Liabilities	189	221	258	299
Controlling Interests	749	848	977	1,146
Capital Stock	30	30	30	30
Capital Surplus	24	24	24	24
Retained Earnings	699	797	927	1,096
Non-Controlling Interests	9	9	9	9
Stockholders' Equity	758	857	986	1,155

Cash Flows (Summarized)

(Wbn)	12/18	12/19F	12/20F	12/21F
Cash Flows from Op Activities	85	93	64	120
Net Profit	133	122	154	193
Non-Cash Income and Expense	9	13	41	59
Depreciation	16	21	27	32
Amortization	1	1	1	1
Others	-8	-9	13	26
Chg in Working Capital	-37	-16	-83	-72
Chg in AR & Other Receivables	0	-36	-73	-72
Chg in Inventories	-11	-12	-47	-41
Chg in AP & Other Payables	-14	30	33	38
Income Tax Paid	-22	-28	-49	-61
Cash Flows from Inv Activities	-39	-106	-100	-100
Chg in PP&E	-101	-100	-100	-100
Chg in Intangible Assets	-3	0	0	0
Chg in Financial Assets	71	-6	0	0
Others	-6	0	0	0
Cash Flows from Fin Activities	-29	-24	-24	-24
Chg in Financial Liabilities	-8	0	0	0
Chg in Equity	0	0	0	0
Dividends Paid	-21	-24	-24	-24
Others	0	0	0	0
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	16	4	-26	29
Beginning Balance	104	120	125	98
Ending Balance	120	125	98	128

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research estimates

Forecasts/Valuations (Summarized)

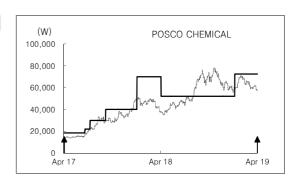
rorecasts/valuations (surminarizeu)								
	12/18	12/19F	12/20F	12/21F				
P/E (x)	28.5	28.3	22.6	18.0				
P/CF(x)	26.5	25.5	17.9	13.8				
P/B (x)	5.0	4.1	3.6	3.0				
EV/EBITDA (x)	29.8	25.1	17.4	13.3				
EPS (W)	2,237	2,019	2,522	3,171				
CFPS (W)	2,406	2,238	3,193	4,136				
BPS (W)	12,690	13,904	16,026	18,797				
DPS (W)	400	400	400	400				
Payout ratio (%)	17.8	20.0	15.9	12.6				
Dividend Yield (%)	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7				
Revenue Growth (%)	15.6	12.4	45.6	24.8				
EBITDA Growth (%)	4.2	8.9	45.5	29.2				
Operating Profit Growth (%)	1.9	5.7	49.1	31.7				
EPS Growth (%)	27.6	-9.7	24.9	25.7				
Accounts Receivable Turnover (x)	7.7	7.8	9.0	8.7				
Inventory Turnover (x)	13.3	13.6	15.8	15.1				
Accounts Payable Turnover (x)	12.4	13.1	14.7	14.5				
ROA (%)	14.9	12.0	13.3	14.3				
ROE (%)	19.0	15.3	16.9	18.2				
ROIC (%)	19.1	17.7	19.9	21.2				
Liability to Equity Ratio (%)	25.0	25.8	26.1	25.9				
Current Ratio (%)	288.1	266.4	264.8	277.5				
Net Debt to Equity Ratio (%)	-15.5	-14.2	-9.7	-10.8				
Interest Coverage Ratio (x)	68.6	50.5	75.5	99.2				

APPFNDIX 1

Important Disclosures & Disclaimers

2-Year Rating and Target Price History

=			
Company (Code)	Date	Rating	Target Price
POSCO CHEMICAL (003670)	01/28/2019	Buy	72,500
	04/25/2018	Buy	52,000
	01/24/2018	Buy	70,000
	09/28/2017	Buy	40,000
	07/31/2017	Buy	30,000
	07/12/2017	Buy	22,000
	04/25/2017	Buv	18.500



 Stock Ratings
 Industry Ratings

 Buy
 : Relative performance of 20% or greater
 Overweight
 : Fundamentals are favorable or improving

Trading Buy : Relative performance of 10% or greater, but with volatility Neutral : Fundamentals are steady without any material changes

Hold : Relative performance of -10% and 10% Underweight : Fundamentals are unfavorable or worsening

Sell : Relative performance of -10%

Ratings and Target Price History (Share price (→), Target price (→), Not covered (■), Buy (▲), Trading Buy (■), Hold (●), Sell (◆))

- * Our investment rating is a guide to the relative return of the stock versus the market over the next 12 months.
- * Although it is not part of the official ratings at Mirae Asset Daewoo Co., Ltd., we may call a trading opportunity in case there is a technical or short-term material development.
- * The target price was determined by the research analyst through valuation methods discussed in this report, in part based on the analyst's estimate of future earnings.
- * The achievement of the target price may be impeded by risks related to the subject securities and companies, as well as general market and economic conditions.

Equity Ratings Distribution & Investment Banking Services

	Buy	Trading Buy	Hold	Sell
Equity Ratings Distribution	83.52%	8.24%	8.24%	0.00%
Investment Banking Services	82.61%	4.35%	13.04%	0.00%

^{*} Based on recommendations in the last 12-months (as of March 31, 2019)

Disclosures

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