

Aspeed (5274.TWO)

Multiple growth drivers ahead with risk reward incrementally skewed to the upside; reiterate Buy

5274.TWO 12m Price Target: **NT\$22,000.00** Price: **NT\$14,695.00** Upside: **49.7%**

Stronger outlook into 3Q26

Aspeed will report its 2Q26 results on Aug 5. It previously reported June 2026 revenue of NT\$1,310mn, bringing total 2Q26 revenue to NT\$3,871mn (+23% QoQ, +72% YoY), which came in 3% above GSe and also exceeded company's high-end range of guidance by 8%. On the margin front, we estimate 2Q26E GM at 69.6% (vs. 69.2% in 1Q26; vs. guidance of 67-68%), as we believe Aspeed is passing through higher substrate and OSAT costs via pricing adjustments. Looking ahead to 3Q26E, we now expect revenue growth to strengthen further to 22% QoQ (vs. 14% QoQ previously), as substrate bottlenecks begin to ease and customer demand remains resilient, while GM should hold at a similar level of 69.5%.

Multiple drivers underpin a robust growth trajectory

We remain constructive on Aspeed's underlying demand trends, with customer order visibility extending and some orders already placed for 2027. Overall, we continue to see a favorable setup for Aspeed's earnings outlook, driven by **1)** stronger agentic AI demand, where we see potential upside to AI-related general server BMC demand vs. management's prior guidance of around 8.5mn/12.3mn in 2026/2027E, supported by robust in-house CPU and general server CPU demand; **2)** accelerating AI ASIC deployments with new market share gain for US AI ASIC customer; **3)** rising AST2700 adoption, with the AST2700 now expected to account for 5%/22%/38% of traditional BMC shipments in 2026-2028E; and **4)** easing supply chain bottlenecks, as E-glass qualification nears completion and a new OSAT partner is expected to be introduced in 4Q26. Overall, we raise **Aspeed's traditional BMC shipment forecast to 32.6mn/49.1mn/62.4mn in 2026-2028E** (vs. 29.5mn/41.6mn/52.8mn previously), supporting a **stronger revenue growth trajectory of 98%/85%/51% YoY in 2026-2028E** (vs. 81%/77%/58% YoY previously).

BUY

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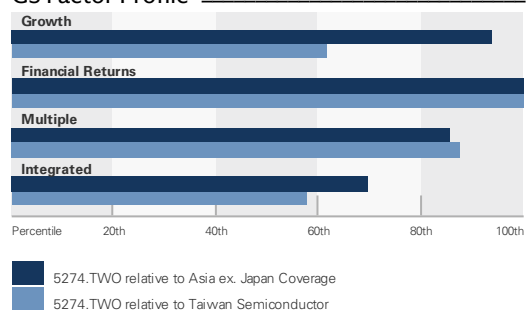
Key Data

Market cap: NT\$613.7bn / \$19.0bn
Enterprise value: NT\$603.7bn / \$18.7bn
3m ADTV: NT\$5.3bn / \$167.9mn
Taiwan
Taiwan Semiconductor
M&A Rank: 3
Leases incl. in net debt & EV?: Yes

GS Forecast

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Revenue (NT\$ mn) New	9,084.9	17,959.9	33,275.3	50,322.0
Revenue (NT\$ mn) Old	9,084.9	16,424.9	29,029.5	45,774.8
EBITDA (NT\$ mn)	4,984.4	10,580.4	21,019.4	32,576.0
EPS (NT\$) New	94.05	203.59	404.06	624.93
EPS (NT\$) Old	94.05	185.55	350.54	568.13
P/E (X)	44.2	72.2	36.4	23.5
P/B (X)	22.9	60.7	29.8	18.0
Dividend yield (%)	1.7	1.0	2.1	3.2
CROCI (%)	114.3	215.7	778.3	1,633.9
	3/26	6/26E	9/26E	12/26E
EPS (NT\$)	34.01	41.82	52.95	74.81

GS Factor Profile



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.
See disclosures for details.

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BUY

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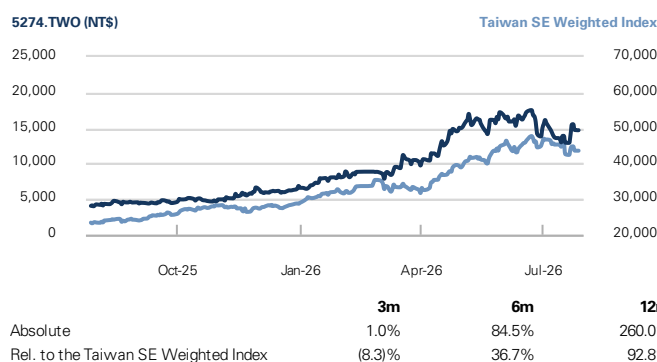
Rating since Mar 17, 2024

Ratios & Valuation

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
P/E (X)	44.2	72.2	36.4	23.5
P/B (X)	22.9	60.7	29.8	18.0
FCF yield (%)	2.4	1.2	2.8	4.5
EV/EBITDAR (X)	33.7	56.8	28.1	17.7
EV/EBITDA (excl. leases) (X)	33.7	56.8	28.1	17.7
CROCI (%)	114.3	215.7	778.3	1,633.9
ROE (%)	59.5	96.0	109.9	95.5
Net debt/equity (%)	(76.5)	(98.6)	(101.2)	(104.8)
Net debt/equity (excl. leases) (%)	(76.5)	(98.6)	(101.2)	(104.8)
Interest cover (X)	693.8	2,159.8	3,601.9	5,765.1
Days inventory outst, sales	12.8	10.1	8.3	7.6
Receivable days	62.9	63.4	54.7	50.9
Days payable outstanding	181.1	261.7	252.3	242.5
DuPont ROE (%)	51.9	84.1	81.9	76.7
Turnover (X)	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Leverage (X)	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.4
Gross cash invested (ex cash) (NT\$)	3,499.1	2,218.2	2,149.4	1,052.2
Average capital employed (NT\$)	1,881.2	959.5	(50.6)	(926.4)
BVPS (NT\$)	182.06	242.07	493.40	815.20

Growth & Margins (%)

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Total revenue growth	40.6	97.7	85.3	51.2
EBITDA growth	57.0	112.3	98.7	55.0
EPS growth	52.0	116.5	98.5	54.7
DPS growth	49.1	116.5	98.5	54.7
EBIT margin	51.3	56.9	62.3	64.2
EBITDA margin	54.9	58.9	63.2	64.7
Net income margin	43.2	47.1	50.5	51.6

Price Performance**Income Statement (NT\$ mn)**

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Total revenue	9,084.9	17,959.9	33,275.3	50,322.0
Cost of goods sold	(2,906.2)	(5,473.9)	(9,645.7)	(14,458.8)
SG&A	(476.4)	(756.9)	(1,083.2)	(1,376.1)
R&D	(1,042.0)	(1,502.1)	(1,832.5)	(2,191.2)
Other operating inc./exp.)	—	—	—	—
EBITDA	4,984.4	10,580.4	21,019.4	32,576.0
Depreciation & amortization	(324.0)	(353.4)	(305.5)	(280.1)
EBIT	4,660.3	10,227.0	20,713.9	32,295.9
Net interest inc./exp.)	146.6	134.5	139.1	138.7
Income/(loss) from associates	—	—	—	—
Pre-tax profit	4,855.4	10,491.7	20,919.8	32,501.4
Provision for taxes	(927.6)	(2,025.7)	(4,117.8)	(6,515.0)
Minority interest	—	—	—	—
Preferred dividends	—	—	—	—
Net inc. (pre-exceptionals)	3,927.8	8,466.1	16,802.0	25,986.4
Post-tax exceptionals	—	—	—	—
Net inc. (post-exceptionals)	3,927.8	8,466.1	16,802.0	25,986.4
EPS (basic, pre-exception) (NT\$)	94.05	203.59	404.06	624.93
EPS (diluted, pre-exception) (NT\$)	94.05	203.59	404.06	624.93
EPS (basic, post-exception) (NT\$)	94.05	203.59	404.06	624.93
EPS (diluted, post-exception) (NT\$)	94.05	203.59	404.06	624.93
DPS (NT\$)	70.56	152.73	303.12	468.81
Div. payout ratio (%)	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0

Balance Sheet (NT\$ mn)

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Cash & cash equivalents	5,788.3	9,929.3	20,754.6	35,513.6
Accounts receivable	1,642.1	4,596.4	5,386.1	8,659.0
Inventory	279.7	712.0	807.7	1,277.4
Other current assets	698.2	746.8	746.8	746.8
Total current assets	8,408.2	15,984.6	27,695.2	46,196.8
Net PP&E	409.0	395.5	303.0	239.5
Net intangibles	607.7	475.2	342.2	205.5
Total investments	208.9	209.4	209.4	209.4
Other long-term assets	699.8	691.1	691.1	691.1
Total assets	10,333.7	17,755.8	29,240.8	47,542.3
Accounts payable	1,679.7	6,170.3	7,164.5	12,044.3
Short-term debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Short-term lease liabilities	—	—	—	—
Other current liabilities	763.9	1,197.4	1,237.4	1,277.4
Total current liabilities	2,443.6	7,367.7	8,401.8	13,321.7
Long-term debt	—	—	—	—
Long-term lease liabilities	—	—	—	—
Other long-term liabilities	319.3	322.1	322.1	322.1
Total long-term liabilities	319.3	322.1	322.1	322.1
Total liabilities	2,762.9	7,689.8	8,724.0	13,643.8
Preferred shares	—	—	—	—
Total common equity	7,570.8	10,066.0	20,516.9	33,898.6
Minority interest	—	—	—	—
Total liabilities & equity	10,333.7	17,755.8	29,240.8	47,542.3
Net debt, adjusted	(5,788.3)	(9,929.3)	(20,754.6)	(35,513.6)

Cash Flow (NT\$ mn)

	12/25	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E
Net income	3,927.8	8,466.1	16,802.0	25,986.4
D&A add-back	324.0	353.4	305.5	280.1
Minority interest add-back	—	—	—	—
Net (inc)/dec working capital	397.6	1,103.9	108.8	1,137.1
Other operating cash flow	(153.6)	(2,544.9)	—	—
Cash flow from operations	4,495.9	7,378.5	17,216.4	27,403.6
Capital expenditures	(274.1)	(261.2)	(40.0)	(40.0)
Acquisitions	—	—	—	—
Divestitures	—	—	—	—
Others	(120.6)	(36.1)	—	—
Cash flow from investing	(394.7)	(297.3)	(40.0)	(40.0)
Repayment of lease liabilities	—	—	—	—
Dividends paid (common & pref)	(1,966.7)	(2,946.6)	(6,351.1)	(12,604.7)
Inc/(dec) in debt	0.0	—	—	—
Other financing cash flows	(5.5)	6.5	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from financing	(1,972.2)	(2,940.1)	(6,351.1)	(12,604.7)
Total cash flow	2,129.0	4,141.1	10,825.3	14,758.9
Free cash flow	4,221.8	7,117.3	17,176.4	27,363.6

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

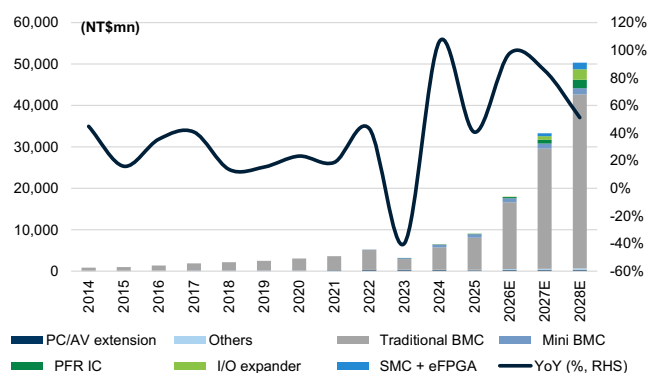
AST1840 unlocks new growth opportunities

Aspeed had previously announced its new AST1840 chip, developed jointly with Lattice, which integrates FPGA functionality directly into Aspeed's chip. Notably, management believes AST1840's long-term shipment opportunity could eventually be comparable to the traditional BMC market, with volume production expected by 2H27. We expect that AST1840 will begin contributing to Aspeed's revenue starting 2H27, with GM being inline with the corporate average. We believe both CSP and enterprise customers are incentivized to adopt AST1840, as it strengthens FPGA cybersecurity, improves spacing efficiency, and simplifies routing designs. Overall, we view AST1840 as a new potential growth driver of Aspeed and a potential catalyst for content expansion across future server designs.

Risk-reward incrementally attractive

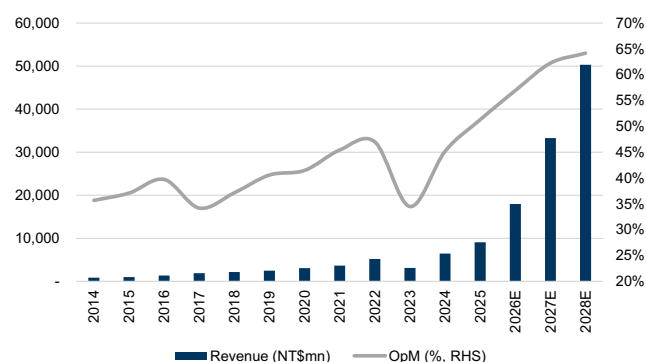
Aspeed's shares have declined -31% from their recent peak in June (vs. TAIEX's -13%). We believe this weakness largely reflects softer AI sentiment, with investors likely taking profit in high-PE names. However, we believe Aspeed's BMC business remains solid, as traditional BMC shipments are expected to come in much stronger than previously anticipated, with customer visibility extending into 2027, underpinned by the proliferation of agentic AI. Aspeed now trades at 33x GSe FY27E EPS, well below its past 5-year average forward P/E of 50x. Overall, we **revise up Aspeed's 2026-2028E earnings by 10-15% and raise our 12m TP to NT\$22,000 from NT\$20,000**. With c.66% implied upside as of Jul 28 close price, we view the risk-reward as incrementally skewed to the upside and reiterate our Buy rating on Aspeed.

Exhibit 1: We expect Aspeed's revenue to accelerate over 2025-2027E



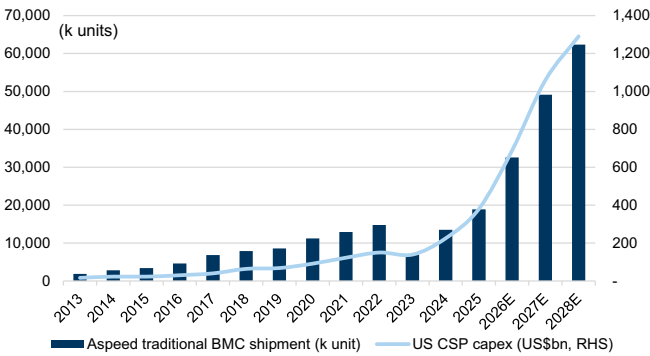
Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 2: Clear OPM expansion trend as revenue accelerates



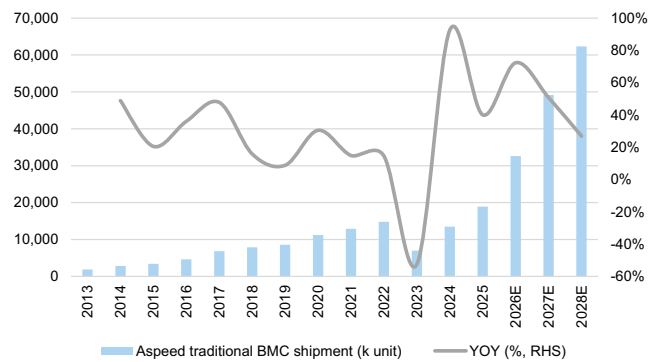
Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 3: Aspeed traditional BMC shipment vs. Top 4 US CSP capex



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 4: Aspeed traditional BMC shipment forecast



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Earnings changes, valuation and risks

Forecast changes

We revise up our 2026–2028E EPS estimates by 10%/15%/10% as we factor in 1) stronger 2Q26 revenue, 2) higher BMC shipment forecast, and 3) new AST1840 opportunities.

Exhibit 5: Earnings revisions

(NT\$mn)	2026E			2027E			2028E		
	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)
Revenue	16,425	17,960	9.3%	29,030	33,275	14.6%	45,775	50,322	9.9%
Gross profit	11,481	12,486	8.8%	20,804	23,630	13.6%	32,953	35,863	8.8%
Op. income	9,219	10,227	10.9%	17,826	20,714	16.2%	29,153	32,296	10.8%
Net income	7,716	8,466	9.7%	14,577	16,802	15.3%	23,625	25,986	10.0%
EPS (NT\$)	185.55	203.59	9.7%	350.54	404.06	15.3%	568.13	624.93	10.0%
GM	69.9%	69.5%	-0.4%	71.7%	71.0%	-0.7%	72.0%	71.3%	-0.7%
OpM	47.6%	56.9%	9.4%	61.4%	62.3%	0.8%	63.7%	64.2%	0.5%
NM	47.0%	47.1%	0.2%	50.2%	50.5%	0.3%	51.6%	51.6%	0.0%

(NT\$mn)	2Q26E			3Q26E			4Q26E		
	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)
Revenue	3,763	3,871	2.9%	4,286	4,714	10.0%	5,229	6,228	19.1%
Gross profit	2,614	2,696	3.1%	3,002	3,278	9.2%	3,687	4,336	17.6%
Op. income	2,050	2,130	3.9%	2,415	2,690	11.4%	3,096	3,748	21.1%
Net income	1,697	1,739	2.5%	2,004	2,202	9.9%	2,601	3,111	19.6%
EPS (NT\$)	40.80	41.82	2.5%	48.19	52.95	9.9%	62.55	74.81	19.6%
GM	69.5%	69.6%	0.2%	70.0%	69.5%	-0.5%	70.5%	69.6%	-0.9%
OpM	54.5%	55.0%	0.5%	56.3%	57.1%	0.7%	59.2%	60.2%	1.0%
NM	45.1%	44.9%	-0.2%	46.8%	46.7%	0.0%	49.7%	49.9%	0.2%

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

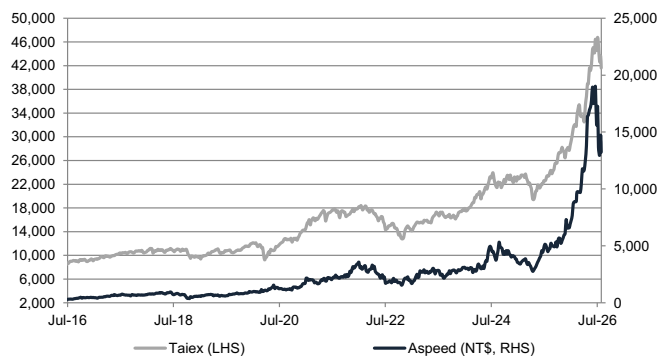
Maintain Buy with TP raised to NT\$22,000 from NT\$20,000

We raise our 12m TP to NT\$22,000 (from NT\$20,000 previously) which is still based on 40x 2028E discounted P/E (unchanged). Our target P/E is inline with the long-term 10-yr avg. fwd P/E. We apply this to our 2028E EPS, and discount it back to 2027E at a 13.6% CoE to arrive at our TP of NT\$22,000. Our key assumptions for CoE include: (1) 1.5x beta (sourcing Bloomberg), (2) a 4.25% risk-free rate (inline with GS house-view), and (3) a market risk premium of 6.25% (in line with GS house view). Our new TP implies c.66% upside from the current share price, and we reiterate our Buy rating on Aspeed.

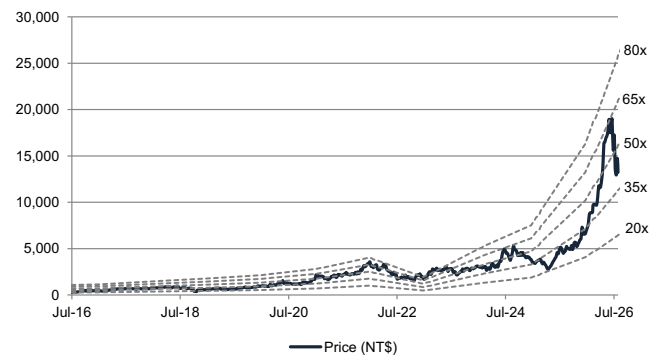
Exhibit 6: Aspeed: P&L overview

	1Q26	2Q26E	3Q26E	4Q26E	1Q27E	2Q27E	3Q27E	4Q27E	2026E	2027E	2028E
P&L											
Revenue	3,147	3,871	4,714	6,228	6,942	7,919	9,403	9,011	17,960	33,275	50,322
Gross profit	2,177	2,696	3,278	4,336	4,930	5,618	6,665	6,416	12,486	23,630	35,863
Operating profit	1,659	2,130	2,690	3,748	4,321	4,922	5,849	5,622	10,227	20,714	32,296
Net income	1,414	1,739	2,202	3,111	3,489	3,952	4,726	4,634	8,466	16,802	25,986
EPS (NT\$)	34.01	41.82	52.95	74.81	83.91	95.04	113.66	111.45	203.59	404.06	624.93
Margins (%)											
GM	69.2%	69.6%	69.5%	69.6%	71.0%	70.9%	70.9%	71.2%	69.5%	71.0%	71.3%
OpM	52.7%	55.0%	57.1%	60.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.2%	62.4%	56.9%	62.3%	64.2%
NM	44.9%	44.9%	46.7%	49.9%	50.3%	49.9%	50.3%	51.4%	47.1%	50.5%	51.6%
YoY (%)											
Revenue	52.4%	72.3%	102.3%	154.9%	120.6%	104.6%	99.5%	44.7%	97.7%	85.3%	51.2%
Gross profit	59.2%	76.8%	103.1%	159.3%	126.5%	108.4%	103.4%	48.0%	102.1%	89.2%	51.8%
Operating profit	61.5%	79.9%	118.4%	207.8%	160.5%	131.1%	117.4%	50.0%	119.4%	102.5%	55.9%
Net income	59.5%	176.4%	81.4%	159.7%	146.7%	127.3%	114.6%	49.0%	115.5%	98.5%	54.7%
EPS	62.7%	176.3%	81.4%	159.7%	146.7%	127.3%	114.6%	49.0%	116.5%	98.5%	54.7%
QoQ (%)											
Revenue	28.8%	23.0%	21.8%	32.1%	11.5%	14.1%	18.7%	-4.2%			
Gross profit	30.2%	23.8%	21.6%	32.3%	13.7%	14.0%	18.6%	-3.7%			
Operating profit	36.2%	28.4%	26.3%	39.3%	15.3%	13.9%	18.8%	-3.9%			
Net income	18.1%	23.0%	26.6%	41.3%	12.2%	13.3%	19.6%	-1.9%			
EPS	18.0%	23.0%	26.6%	41.3%	12.2%	13.3%	19.6%	-1.9%			

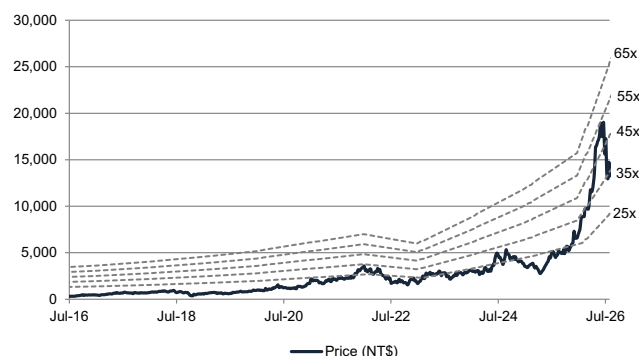
Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 7: Taiex vs. Aspeed

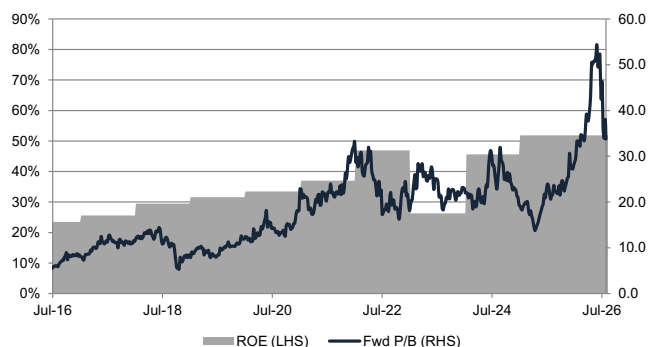
Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit 8: Forward P/E

Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit 9: Forward P/B

Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit 10: P/B vs. ROE

Source: Bloomberg

Investment Thesis, Price Target Risks and Methodology

Investment Thesis - Aspeed (5274.TWO)

Aspeed is a leading Taiwan-based IC (integrated circuit) design company specializing in BMC (baseboard management controller) SoC, which is used to remotely monitor the physical state of servers. The company is the largest BMC supplier, with c.70% of the global BMC market share, and 85% of its total revenue comes from the BMC segment.

We like Aspeed as we expect its revenue/earnings CAGRs to further accelerate to 77%/88% in 2025-2028E (vs. 5.9%/4.9% during 2019-2023), driven mostly by AI server demand, especially started from 2025. Furthermore, we also expect server architecture changes will bring more business opportunities to Aspeed to drive up its TAM expansion within the server market. With more TAM expansion and more dollar content growth within the AI theme, we continue to see upside potential for its revenue and earnings growth. We have a Buy rating on the name.

Price Target Risks and Methodology - Aspeed (5274.TWO)

Valuation: Our 12-month TP of NT\$22,000 is based on a target P/E of 40x (in line with its 10-year historical trading average) applied to our 2028E EPS, and discounted back to 2027E at 13.6% CoE. Our key assumptions for CoE include: (1) 1.5x beta (sourcing Bloomberg), (2) a 4.25% risk-free rate, and (3) a market risk premium at 6.25% (in line with GS house view).

Key downside risks to our view and TP: 1) A softer-than-expected server market demand recovery, 2) slower-than-expected BMC penetration within AI servers, 3) intensifying market competition.

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

We, Evelyn Yu, Allen Chang and Ryan Huang, CFA, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect our personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

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GS Factor Profile

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Growth is based on a stock's forward-looking sales growth, EBITDA growth and EPS growth (for financial stocks, only EPS and sales growth), with a higher percentile indicating a higher growth company. **Financial Returns** is based on a stock's forward-looking ROE, ROCE and CROCI (for financial stocks, only ROE), with a higher percentile indicating a company with higher financial returns. **Multiple** is based on a stock's forward-looking P/E, P/B, price/dividend (P/D), EV/EBITDA, EV/FCF and EV/Debt Adjusted Cash Flow (DACF) (for financial stocks, only P/E, P/B and P/D), with a higher percentile indicating a stock trading at a higher multiple. The **Integrated** percentile is calculated as the average of the Growth percentile, Financial Returns percentile and (100% - Multiple percentile).

Financial Returns and Multiple use the Goldman Sachs analyst forecasts at the fiscal year-end at least three quarters in the future. Growth uses inputs for the fiscal year at least seven quarters in the future compared with the year at least three quarters in the future (on a per-share basis for all metrics).

For a more detailed description of how we calculate the GS Factor Profile, please contact your GS representative.

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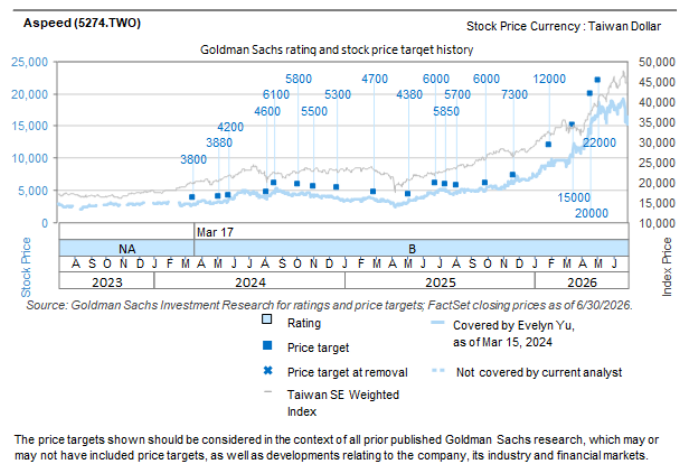
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Goldman Sachs Investment Research global Equity coverage universe

	Rating Distribution				Investment Banking Relationships		
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Price target and rating history chart(s)



Target price history table(s)

Aspeed (5274.TWO)

Date of report Target price (NT\$) Closing price (NT\$)

05-May-26	22,000.00	16,172.73
21-Apr-26	20,000.00	13,859.09
17-Mar-26	15,000.00	10,290.91
30-Jan-26	12,000.00	8,072.73
24-Nov-25	7,300.00	5,822.73
30-Sep-25	6,000.00	4,590.91
05-Aug-25	5,700.00	4,363.64
16-Jul-25	5,850.00	4,418.18
25-Jun-25	6,000.00	4,277.27
05-May-25	4,380.00	2,936.36
27-Feb-25	4,700.00	3,263.64
20-Dec-24	5,300.00	3,477.27
04-Nov-24	5,500.00	3,954.55
04-Oct-24	5,800.00	3,872.73
22-Aug-24	6,100.00	4,454.55
05-Aug-24	4,600.00	3,313.64
26-May-24	4,200.00	3,359.09
06-May-24	3,880.00	2,981.82
17-Mar-24	3,800.00	2,518.18

Price targets shown in table(s) are unadjusted for corporate actions.

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