# NewStreet Research

# South Korean Telcos

Q2 24 review: Softer but capex moderation remains encouraging

26<sup>th</sup> August 2024



### **South Korean Telcos**

Q2 24 review: Softer but capex moderation remains encouraging

26<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**What's new**: Group service revenue and EBITDA trends were softer in Q2, beset by slower Enterprise growth and a one-off labour cost hike by KT. By contrast, mobile improved to 2.1% YoY, led by SKT and KT. Given the benign mobile landscape and the removal of Stage X's mobile license, we expect trends to sustain at current levels. Capex spend is under control while quarterly dividends were unchanged. Separately, we have trimmed our target prices for SKT and LG Uplus; KT remains our preferred pick.

**Thesis**: As 5G penetration matures (71% in Q2), it is inevitable that mobile will start to slow as seen from 2%+ in 2022 to 1%+ in 2023. The removal of Stage X's mobile license due to capital constraints is supportive of the overall mobile dynamic where competition has been rather benign. Therefore, we expect mobile trends to continue to hover in the 1-2% range. As such, it is no surprise that KT (which is least exposed to mobile, 30% of service revenue) had been outperforming on topline growth. Recently however this has been impacted by KT's profitability focus. Medium term, we continue to expect KT to witness higher growth from its "beyond telco" assets such as DCs, Fintech and content business. Enterprise remains one of the fastest growing segment (though it can be lumpy) as businesses undergo DX and higher traffic and migration necessitate Cloud and Data Centres; operators have planned significant capacity expansion for their data centres; SKT aiming to double to >200MW by 2030. Another encouraging sign is the easing capex intensity where even with aggressive investments in peripherals like Al/Content, capex/sales is likely falling which bodes well for ROIC improvements, although less so for SKT due to its focus on Al investments and the uncertainty in monetising them. Alongside better growth and capital intensity, shareholder remuneration is another metric to look out for as dividend policies are becoming more favourable (gradually).

**Valuation**: <u>KT remains our preferred pick</u> with a KRW 70k price target as we believe it has a higher structural growth profile and potential for margin upside. Foreign stock ownership (49% cap) is currently at 42%, 47% and 35% for SKT, KT and LG respectively. With Korean telcos more broad-based than in the past, we are Buyers of all three but trimmed our price targets for SKT (KRW100k from KRW 116k) and LG Uplus (KRW19k from KRW 21k).

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# Section 1: Consolidated

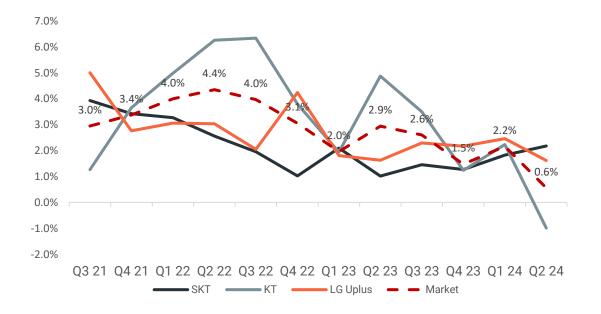
#### Consolidated service revenue: Softer



Trends were softer despite better mobile and Enterprise growth from SKT. KT declined due to a shift away from less profitable Enterprise projects and poor subsidiaries' performance (Skylife, BC Card and Contents). Meanwhile, LG saw slower mobile and enterprise trends.

#### SKT and LG were up by 2.2% and 1.6%YoY respectively; KT declined by 1%

Consolidated revenue\* - YoY growth, %



#### Sequentially, LG gained share from SKT

Sequential service revenue share changes, %

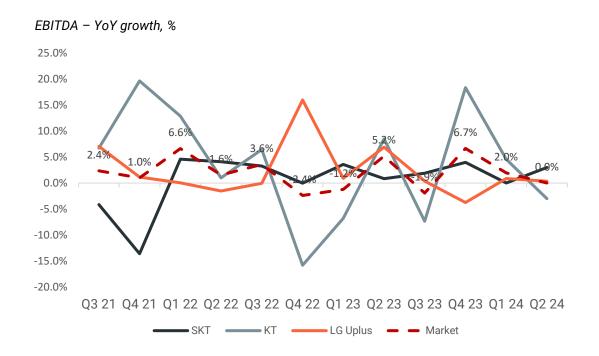


SKT KT LG Uplus

#### Consolidated EBITDA: Flat due to KT's one-off rise in labour cost

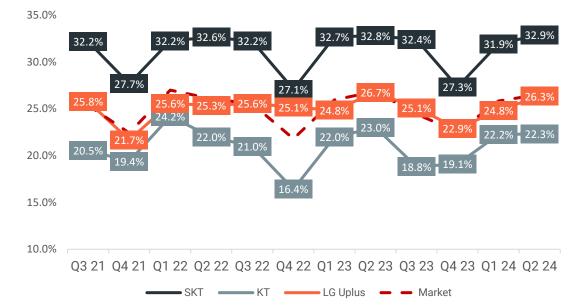


Overall EBITDA came in flat from 2% prior, impacted by KT's one-off labour cost rise. As a result, KT was down by 3% YoY. SKT outperformed this quarter, up 3% (1.9% if exclude one-off related to patent license contract) from flat while LG slowed to 0.4% YoY from 0.9%.



## Margins were up 0.1% YoY for SKT while KT and LG declined by 0.7% and 0.4% YoY

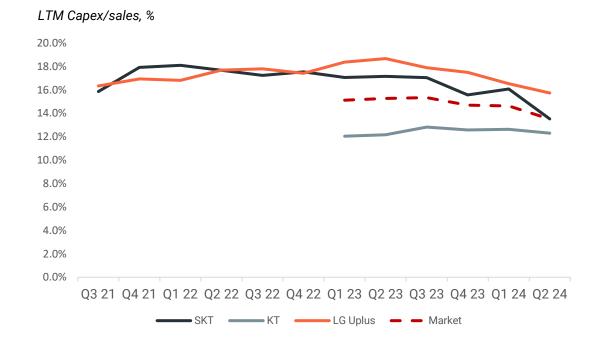
EBITDA margin, %

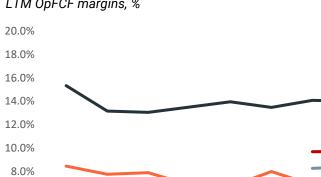


#### Group Capex and OpFCF: More cautious capex spend across the board



#### Overall LTM capex intensity improved further to 13.5% with lower capex spend across the board.





#### LTM OpFCF margins, %

6.0% 4.0% 2.0% 0.0% Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23 Q2 23 Q3 23 Q4 23 Q1 24 Q2 24 KT LG Uplus – Market



# Section 2: Mobile

#### Mobile service revenue: Sustained growth

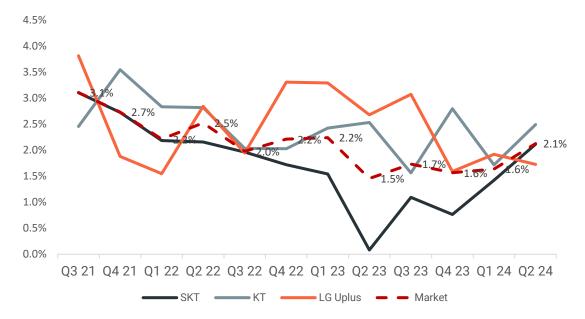


Mobile industry improved to 2.1% from 1.6% prior; both SKT and KT improved while LG was slower. With Stage X's license being revoked by the regulator, we anticipate the mobile dynamic to remain benign thus 1-2% growth is reasonable in our view. Of the three, SKT is most exposed to mobile (70% of service revenue), followed by LG (52%) and KT at 30%.

#### SKT and KT improved to 2.1% and 2.5% YoY respectively while LG slowed

#### to 1.7% YoY from 1.9%

Mobile service revenue - YoY growth, %



#### Sequential mobile service revenue share changes, %



■SKT ■KT ■LG Uplus

#### Mobile ARPU: Dragged by LG again



Mobile ARPU trend was weaker and declined by 5% YoY again. The dilution was largely driven by IoT customers and discounts, in a bid to drive net additions.

### Reported mobile ARPU, KRW/month/sub 36,000 32,000 30,000 28,000 26,000 22,000 20,000 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23 Q2 23 Q3 23 Q4 23 Q1 24 Q2 24 SKT KT LG Uplus Market

Divergent ARPU trends as KT excludes IoT ARPU in its reporting

#### SKT and LG were down by 2.1% and 15% YoY while KT was up by 1.6%

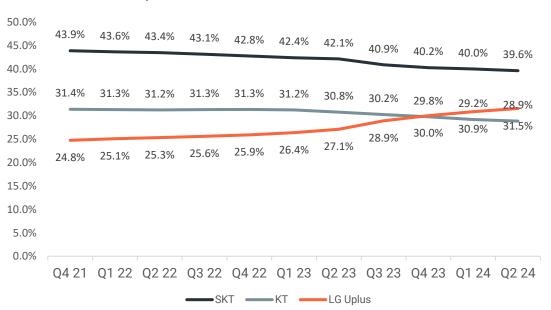


Source: New Street Research analysis \*Mobile ARPU ex MVNO Note: KT's reported ARPU excludes IoT/MTM subscribers in its calculation whereas both SKT and LG include them. Generally, IoT ARPU is lower

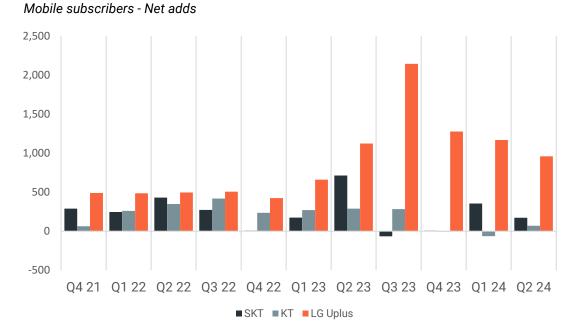
#### Mobile subscribers: Strong net additions for LG at the cost of ARPU dilution again



Net additions were up by 1.2m to reach 86.3m. For LG, we believe a majority of these were IoT subscribers which had a dilutive impact on its ARPU.



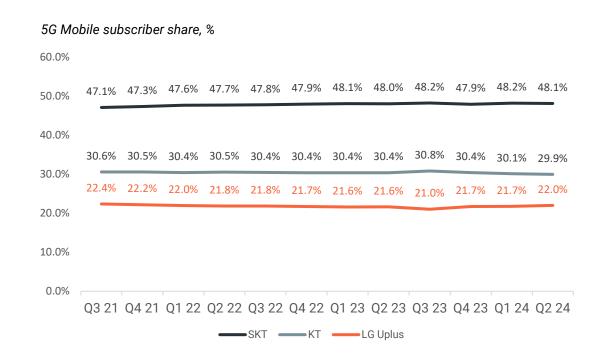
#### Mobile subscriber share, %



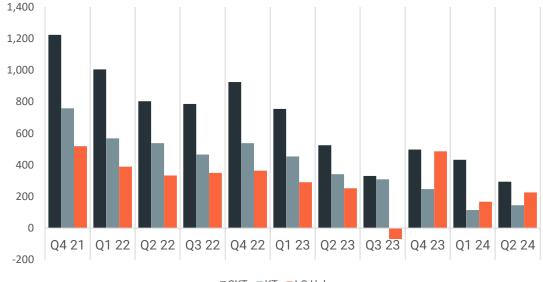
#### 5G Mobile subscribers: 71% penetrated



5G net additions slowed to 665k, totaling 33.7m. Amongst the three, KT remains the most penetrated at 75% of handset customers followed by SKT at 71% and LG at 67%.



#### 5G Mobile subscribers - Net adds



SKT KT LG Uplus



# Section 3: Broadband & Enterprise

#### **Broadband revenue**

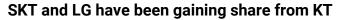


Broadband growth was up 3.3% YoY from 3.7% prior. SKT improved, KT slowed while LG remained the fastest grower. All three has similar contribution from broadband; KT at 10% while both SKT and LG are at mid 9%.

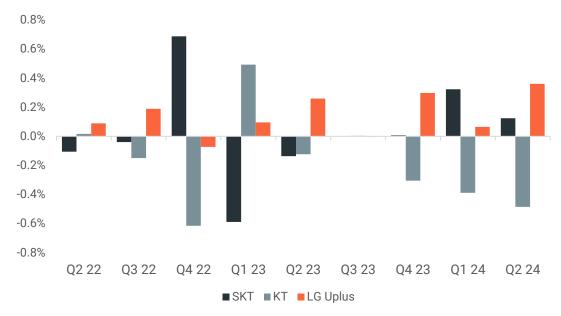
#### 0.1 0.08 0.06 0.02 0 -0.02 -0.04 -0.06 -0.08 -0.1 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23 Q2 23 Q3 23 Q4 23 Q1 24 Q2 24 \_\_\_\_\_\_KT \_\_\_\_LG Uplus \_\_\_\_ Market

#### SKT, KT and LG rose by 5.3%, 1% and 6.5% YoY respectively

Broadband revenue - YoY growth, %



Seuqntial Broadband revenue share changes, %



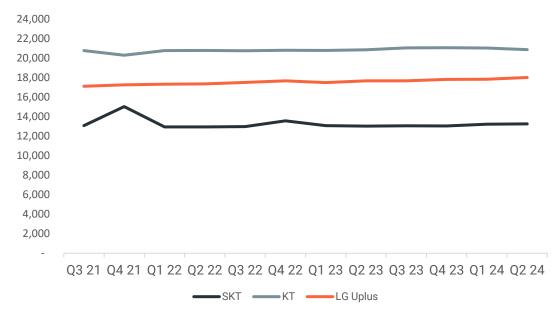
#### **Calculated Broadband ARPU**

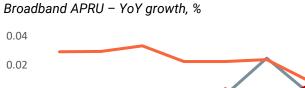


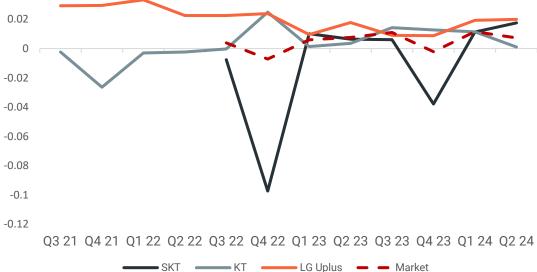
# Broadband ARPU slowed to 0.7% YoY, dragged by KT. SKT improved to 1.8% YoY from 1.1% while LG sustained at 2% growth.

Broadband ARPU

Broadband APRU, KRW/month/subscriber





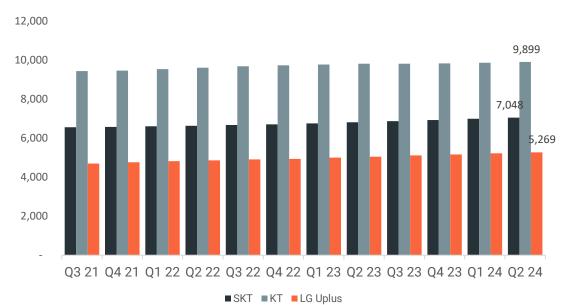


#### Source: New Street Research analysis Note: For SKT, we believe one-offs were present in Q4 21 last year which resulted in the dip in calculated ARPU

#### Broadband subscribers – Sustained 2% growth YoY



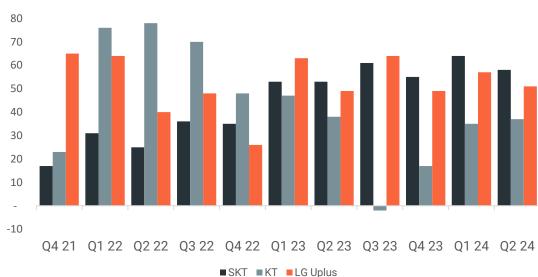
#### Broadband net additions was up by 146k to 22.1m. Both SKT and LG continue to add more than KT.



#### Broadband subscribers\*, '000

Broadband subscribers - Net adds\*, '000 90

SKT added the most again, followed by LG and KT

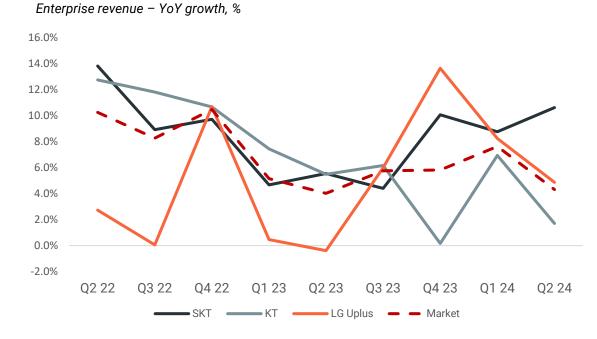


#### **Enterprise revenue**

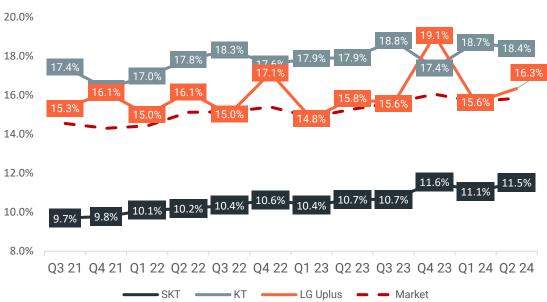


Industry slowed to 4.3% YoY from 7.6% earlier due to shift away from less profitable projects by KT. While Enterprise revenue can be volatile, we have observed a clear uptick in contribution across the years for all three operators. In our view, this highlights the structural digitalization trend which demands for Cloud, Data Centres and digital solutions such as AI contact centers.

#### SKT, KT and LG were up 10.6%, 1.7% and 4.9% YoY respectively



#### KT still the most exposed while LG is catching up



Enterprise as % of service revenue, %

#### Source: New Street Research analysis

Note: Based on SKT's reported Enterprise revenue (which includes leased lines); we defined KT and LG's enterprise revenue based on these reported lines: KT's B2B Services + KT Cloud, LG Uplus (Enterprise line, Enterprise/Intl. call, IDC and Solution) \*KT's uptrend from Q2 22 onwards was a result of the Cloud spin-off in Q2 22.



# **Company slides**

# SKT (Buy), pt KRW 100,000 from KRW 116,000, +77%

	NewStreet
9	Research

CAGP

EV CALCULATION (KRWbn)	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E
Share price, KRW	56,400				
Number of shares	213	213	213	213	
Market cap.	11,996	11,996	11,996	11,996	
Plus: Net debt (Cash)	8,526	7,960	7,086	6,087	
Plus: Other financial liabilities	1,982	1,982	1,982	1,982	
Less: Associates	0	0	0	0	
Plus: Minorities	1,384	1,384	1,384	1,384	
Less: Cumulative dividends	0	1,039	2,179	3,448	
Less: NPV YE tax credit	0	0	0	0	
Enterprise Value	23,888	22,283	20,270	18,002	-9.0%
MULTIPLES & RATIOS	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	CAGR 24E-27E

MULTIPLES & RATIOS	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E
EV/Revenue	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	2.2%
EV/EBITDA	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.0	2.5%
EV/OpFCF	8.0	7.2	6.3	5.3	4.2%
EV/FCF	11.0	9.9	8.6	7.3	4.2%
EV/Invested capital	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	1.8%
EV/NFA	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	-3.8%
P/EFCF	7.7	8.1	6.4	5.7	10.3%
Adjusted P/E	9.4	8.8	8.1	7.3	8.7%
Dividend yield	8.0%	8.7%	9.5%	10.6%	9.9%
EFCF yield	13.0%	12.4%	15.6%	17.4%	10.3%
Net debt/EBITDA	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	-12.8%
OpFCF/Net interest	7.7	8.6	10.1	12.7	17.9%

FINANCIALS (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27
Revenue	17,609	17,985	18,372	18,778	19,198	2.2
EBITDA	5,503	5,580	5,720	5,865	6,013	2.5
Capex	2,742	2,587	2,608	2,629	2,632	0.6
OpFCF (EBITDA - capex)	2,761	2,993	3,112	3,236	3,381	4.2
FCF (OpFCF * (1-tax rate))	2,002	2,170	2,256	2,346	2,451	4.2
EFCF	1,051	1,560	1,487	1,873	2,092	10.3
Adj net Income	936	1,274	1,366	1,489	1,637	8.7
Clean EPS	4,346	5,992	6,422	7,000	7,695	8.7
DPS	3,540	4,490	4,883	5,362	5,964	9.9
Cash flow						
OpFCF	2,761	2,993	3,112	3,236	3,381	
Less: Interest payments	-279	-317	-264	-199	-111	
Less: Tax paid	-240	-427	-464	-510	-567	
Less: Change in WC	-274	166	-2	-2	-2	
Less: Spectrum payments	-370	-370	-370	-91	0	
Less: Lease liabilities	-402	-415	-427	-440	-453	
Sub total	1,195	1,630	1,585	1,994	2,248	
Less: Disposals/acquis.	-627	0	0	0	0	
Less: Dividends paid	-774	-955	-1,039	-1,140	-1,269	
Less: Share buyback/ special d	-285	0	0	0	0	
Others	65	20	20	20	20	
Chg in Net debt/Cash	-427	695	566	873	999	
Net debt (Cash)	9.221	8,526	7.960	7.086	6,087	

CAGR

						CAGR
DIVISIONAL (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E
_						
Revenues						
Cellular	12,589	12,831	13,096	13,370	13,655	2.1%
SK Broadband	4,279	4,400	4,507	4,622	4,740	2.5%
Total	16,868	17,231	17,602	17,992	18,395	2.2%
% change		2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	
EBITDA						
Cellular	4,289	4,360	4,471	4,584	4,699	2.5%
SK Broadband	1,269	1,276	1,307	1,340	1,375	2.5%
Total	5,558	5,636	5,778	5,924	6,074	2.5%
% change		1.4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	
EBITDA margin	33.0%	32.7%	32.8%	32.9%	33.0%	0.3%
Capex						
Cellular	1,942	1,767	1,788	1,809	1,812	0.8%
SK Broaddband	800	820	820	820	820	0.0%
Total	2,742	2,587	2,608	2,629	2,632	0.6%
% change		-5.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.1%	
Capex/sales	16.3%	15.0%	14.8%	14.6%	14.3%	-1.6%
OpFCF						
Cellular	2,347	2,593	2,683	2,775	2,887	3.6%
SK Broadband	469	456	487	520	555	6.8%
Total	2,816	3,049	3,170	3,295	3,442	4.1%
% change		8.3%	4.0%	3.9%	4.5%	
OpFCF margin	16.7%	17.7%	18.0%	18.3%	18.7%	

**RELATIVE VALUATION (2024E)** WACC Calculation Risk free rate 3.3% EV/EBITDA 27.5% Tax rate 3.0 2.5 4.5% Equity premium 3.3% Debt Premium EV/OpFCF Div vie Cost of Equity 7.8% Cost of Debt 4.8% 63.0% Debt/Equity EFCF yield P/E WACC 6.7% -2.0% Terminal growth

-SKT -Emerging Asia Cellular

PRICE PERFORMANCE, -1Y

CAGR

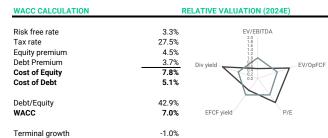




# KT (Buy), pt KRW 70,000, +76%



	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	CAGR 24E-27E		2023A	2024E	2025E	20265	2027E	CAGR 24E-27E		2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	CAGR 24E-27E
EV CALCULATION (KRWbn)	2024E	ZUZJE	20205	2027E	24E-27E	FINANCIALS (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	ZUZJE	2026E	2027E	24E-27E	DIVISIONAL (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	ZUZJE	20205	202/E	24E-27E
Share price	39,850					Revenue	26,387	26,812	28,446	28,429	29,206	2.9%	Revenues						
Number of shares	252	252	252	252		EBITDA	5,460	5,566	5,857	5,922	6,088	3.0%	South Korea	26,387	26,812	28,446	28,429	29,206	2.9%
Market cap.	10,025	10,025	10,025	10,025		Capex	3,319	3,525	3,295	3,230	3,315	-2.0%	Total	26,387	26,812	28,446	28,429	29,206	2.9%
Plus: Net debt (Cash)	6,991	5,928	4,842	3,449		OpFCF (EBITDA - capex)	2,141	2,040	2,563	2,691	2,773	10.8%	% change		1.6%	6.1%	-0.1%	2.7%	
Plus: Other financial liabilities	1,375	1,283	1,183	1,108		FCF (OpFCF * (1-tax rate))	1,552	1,479	1,858	1,951	2,010	10.8%							
Less: Associates	0	0	0	0		EFCF	1,144	828	1,342	1,730	1,920	32.3%	EBITDA						
Plus: Minorities	507	507	507	507		Adj net Income	1,010	1,098	1,308	1,361	1,493	10.8%	South Korea	5,460	5,566	5,857	5,922	6,088	3.0%
Less: Cumulative dividends	0	518	1,071	1,664		Clean EPS	4,048	4,410	5,200	5,410	5,935	10.4%	Total	5,460	5,566	5,857	5,922	6,088	3.0%
Less: NPV YE tax credit	0	0	0	0		DPS	1,960	2,060	2,197	2,359	2,512	6.8%	% change		1.9%	5.2%	1.1%	2.8%	
Enterprise Value	18,898	17,225	15,486	13,424	-10.8%								EBITDA margin	20.7%	20.8%	20.6%	20.8%	20.8%	0.1%
	-																		
						Cash flow							Capex						
					CAGR	OpFCF	2,141	2,040	2,563	2,691	2,773		South Korea	3,319	3,525	3,295	3,230	3,315	-2.0%
MULTIPLES & RATIOS	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E	Less: Interest payments	-101	-112	-33	55	149		Total	3,319	3,525	3,295	3,230	3,315	-2.0%
						Less: Tax paid	-335	-408	-488	-508	-558		% change		6.2%	-6.5%	-1.9%	2.6%	
EV/Revenue	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.9%	Less: Change in WC	678	78	315	-15	143		Capex/sales	12.6%	13.1%	11.6%	11.4%	11.4%	-4.8%
EV/EBITDA	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	3.0%	Less: Restructuring payments	-411	-419	-427	-436	-444								
EV/OpFCF	5.0	4.0	3.8	3.7	10.8%	Less: Other	0	0	0	0	0		OpFCF						
EV/FCF	7.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	10.8%	Sub total	1,972	1,179	1,930	1,788	2,063		South Korea	2,141	2,040	2,563	2,691	2,773	10.8%
EV/Invested capital	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.4%	Less: Disposals/acquis.	-905	0	0	0	0		Total	2,141	2,040	2,563	2,691	2,773	10.8%
EV/NFA	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	3.5%	Less: Dividends paid	-502	-483	-518	-553	-593		% change						
P/EFCF	12.4	7.7	5.9	5.4	32.3%	Less: Share buyback/ special dividend	0	0	0	0	0		OpFCF margin	8.1%	7.6%	9.0%	9.5%	9.5%	
Adjusted P/E	9.0	7.7	7.4	6.7	10.8%	Others	-347	-349	-349	-149	-76								
Dividend yield	5.2%	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%	6.8%	Chg in Net debt/Cash	219	347	1,063	1,086	1,393								
EFCF yield	8.1%	13.1%	16.8%	18.7%	32.3%	Net debt (Cash)	7,339	6,991	5,928	4,842	3,449								
Net debt/EBITDA	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.6	-23.3%														



-10.9

-23.5

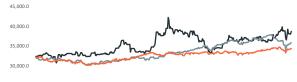
-129.8

**OpFCF/Net interest** 

PRICE PERFORMANCE, -1Y

-251.6%

37.8





-KT -Emerging Asia Incumbents

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----MSCI EM Index (rebased) -----MSCI EM Telecoms Index (rebased) -KT

## LG Uplus (Buy), pt KRW 19,000 from KRW 21,000, +92%



					CAGR							CAGR							CAGR
EV CALCULATION (KRWbn)	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E	FINANCIALS (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E	DIVISIONAL (KRWbn)	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E
Share price. KRW	9,880					Revenue	13.906	14,373	14,592	14.879	15.180	1.8%	Revenues						
Number of shares	437	437	437	437		EBITDA	3,532	3,569	3,610	3,696	3,799	2.1%	South Korea	13,906	14.373	14.592	14.879	15,180	1.8%
Market cap.	4.314	4.314	4.314	4,314		Capex	2,420	2,514	2,266	2,272	2,280	-3.2%	Total	13,906	14,373	14.592	14.879	15,180	1.8%
Plus: Net debt (Cash)	5.612	5.448	5,225	4,657		OpFCF (EBITDA - capex)	1.112	1,055	1,343	1.424	1,519	12.9%	% change		3.4%	1.5%	2.0%	2.0%	
Plus: Other financial liabilities	1,652	1,652	1,652	1,652		FCF (OpFCF * (1-tax rate))	860	862	1,071	1,135	1,211	12.0%							
Less: Associates	0	0	0	0		EFCF	161	95	363	432	516	76.0%	EBITDA						
Plus: Minorities	0	0	0	0		Adj net Income	768	754	606	656	721	-1.5%	South Korea	3,532	3,569	3,610	3,696	3,799	2.1%
Less: Cumulative dividends	0	246	517	817		Clean EPS	1,760	1,727	1,388	1,503	1,651	-1.5%	Total	3,532	3,569	3,610	3,696	3,799	2.1%
Less: NPV YE tax credit	0	0	0	0		DPS	650	650	517	563	622	-1.5%	% change		1.0%	1.1%	2.4%	2.8%	
Enterprise Value	11,577	11,168	10,673	9,805	-5.4%								EBITDA margin	25.4%	24.8%	24.7%	24.8%	25.0%	0.3%
						Cash flow													
						OpFCF	1,112	1,055	1,343	1,424	1,519		Capex						
					CAGR	Less: Interest payments	-224	-227	-243	-234	-222		South Korea	2,420	2,514	2,266	2,272	2,280	-3.2%
MULTIPLES & RATIOS	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	24E-27E	Less: Tax paid	-194	-141	-144	-156	-173		Total	2,420	2,514	2,266	2,272	2,280	-3.2%
						Less: Change in WC	-778	-195	15	19	20		% change		3.9%	-9.9%	0.3%	0.3%	
EV/Revenue	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.8%	Less: Restructuring payments	-340	-346	-353	-360	-368		Capex/sales	17.4%	17.5%	15.5%	15.3%	15.0%	-5.0%
EV/EBITDA	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.1%	Less: Other	0	0	0	0	0								
EV/OpFCF	8.6	7.8	7.0	6.1	12.9%	Sub total	-425	145	618	692	777		OpFCF						
EV/FCF	10.8	9.8	8.8	7.6	12.0%	Less: Disposals/acquis.	-288	-288	-283	-283	-283		South Korea	1,112	1,055	1,343	1,424	1,519	12.9%
EV/Invested capital	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	-6.0%	Less: Dividends paid	-279	-279	-226	-246	-272		Total	1,112	1,055	1,343	1,424	1,519	12.9%
EV/NFA	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	-3.3%	Less: Share buyback/ special dividend	0	0	0	0	0		% change		-5.1%	27.3%	6.0%	6.7%	
P/EFCF	11.9	10.0	8.4	4.8	76.0%	Others	142	-136	0	0	0		OpFCF margin	8.0%	7.3%	9.2%	9.6%	10.0%	
Adjusted P/E	7.1	6.6	6.0	5.4	-1.5%	Chg in Net debt/Cash	-850	-558	110	164	223								
Dividend yield	5.2%	5.7%	6.3%	7.0%	-1.5%	Net debt (Cash)	5,164	5,722	5,612	5,448	5,225								
EFCF yield	8.4%	10.0%	12.0%	20.6%	76.0%														
Net debt/EBITDA	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	-8.5%														

WACC CALCULATION **RELATIVE VALUATION (2024E)** 3.3% Risk free rate EV/EBITDA 27.5% Tax rate Equity premium 4.5% Debt Premium 3.7% Div yield EV/OpFCF 6.9% Cost of Equity 5.1% Cost of Debt 66.7% Debt/Equity EFCF yield P/E 6.7% WACC Terminal growth -2.0% LG Emerging Asia Cellular

6.7

7.4

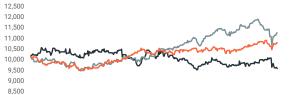
8.5

10.0

14.2%

**OpFCF/Net interest** 







LG —MSCI EM Index (rebased) —MSCI EM Telecoms Index (rebased)

# **Additional Research**



KT (Buy) - Q2 24 Quick Take: Impacted by one-off cost and B2B restructuring

<u>LG Uplus – Q2 24 Quick Take: Decent net additions and capex move but profitability</u> <u>still under pressure</u>

<u>SK Telecom- Q2 24 Quick Take: Encouraging Mobile and Enterprise trend again; push</u> towards AI monetization

Launching SpectrumHub 2.0

MSIT may revoke fourth operator's 28 GHz licence

South Korean Telcos - Q1 24 review: Better service revenue trends, but mixed EBITDA performance; capex stable

EM Telcos - EM Enterprise Revenues Continue to Grow Strongly

KT (Buy) – Q1 24 Quick Take: Better profitability; shares cancellation a positive

LG Uplus - Q1 24 Quick Take: Better top line, but some pressure below EBITDA

SK Telecom- Q1 24 Quick Take: Decent topline, but some margin pressure as Al investments start to impact

SK Telecom - New shareholder return policy, somewhat underwhelming

South Korean Telcos - What could the telcos do to address the "Value-up" programme?

<u>Asia Telco Tour Feedback, Improving growth, ROCE and shareholder remuneration –</u> <u>Global Weekly Review</u>

Takeaways from Meetings with the Korean Telcos in Seoul

KT (Buy) – Q4 23 Quick Take: Beat on EBITDA despite slower topline; Shareholder remuneration in-line with previous expectations; market hoping for more?

LG Uplus - Q4 23 Quick Take: Uptick in Enterprise overshadowed by cost pressure

Korean Telcos - Outlook 2024; Government interference overshadowing improving trends

<u>SK Telecom – Q4 23 Quick Take: Better topline, with sustained margin expansion</u> again; expect new dividend policy to be announced in March

Global Weekly Review: Top Global EM and Developed Asian Telco picks

South Korean Telcos - Q3 23 review: Better trends in core mobile and Enterprise; EBITDA weaker off one-offs.

Feedback from the Asian Telco Tour – Still getting better - Global Weekly Review

Feedback from Meetings with the 3 Korean Telcos in Seoul

South Korean Telcos - Q2 23 review: Lifted by non-mobile; easing capex intensity

South Korean Telcos - Government announced to improve competitive structure and lower mobile fees. Our thoughts.

South Korean Telcos - Q1 23 review: Sustained top-line, slower EBITDA

<u>5G capex has peaked and 6G is years away, capex in decline; final piece of the bull</u> thesis for Asian Mobile Leaders in place

Asian Telcos - 5G capex has peaked in Asian Mobile Leaders

KT Corp (Buy): Snapshot of growth drivers: Media, Content, Financial Services and Enterprise

Global Telcos - Show me the (Mobile) Money! Revenues beyond the Core

When bad businesses inflect they can become (very) good investments; EM Telco outperformance to continue

Korean Telcos: Further thoughts on rumours of Govt-mandated mobile price cuts. Unfounded fears likely create a buying opportunity.

Further pressure on OTT streaming services in Korea

South Korean Election – Implications for Telcos

<u>Global Emerging Market Telcos – EM Data Centres: Data</u> <u>explosion/localization/exposure at cents on the dollar</u>

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