



Millennium Services Group Ltd

Dividends to resume, forecast 10% yield at current price

Millennium Services Group Ltd (ASX:MIL) has reported its FY23 result and provided guidance for FY24 which is above current RaaS estimates and includes the likely resumption of dividend payments. As already reported, revenue growth was 2.0% over FY23 but contracted revenue exited Q4 FY23 at 12.0% and is expected to remain around this rate in FY24 on the back of new contract wins and wage inflation, driving revenue to \$300m-\$305m. Adjusted FY23 EBITDA declined 29% to \$7.9m on the back of labour pressures impacting the GP% line manly in H1 (-58%). H2 FY23 EBITDA increased 15%, supporting the much-improved EBITDA guidance for FY24 of \$12.2m-\$13.2m which implies material growth on FY23 and, together with notional balance sheet debt, supports the resumption of dividend payments. We estimate a 10% yield at a ~30% payout ratio in FY24 based on the guidance range. On FY24 estimates MIL is on an EV/EBITDA multiple of 1.4x against an estimated peer average for FY23 of 4.8x.

Business model

MIL is a human services business with a focus on the essential services of cleaning and security, bidding for predominantly long-term contracts that have annual contract adjustments to protect MIL from movements in labour resource costs. Additional volumes over and above those contracted can be gained from ad-hoc services, which represent ~10% of group revenue at a higher average margin. Satisfying contractual obligations utilising a vast workforce and procuring consumables for the jobs within the contracted price is key to profitability. Historically focusing on cleaning and security services within major shopping centres, MIL is looking to de-risk the retail exposure by moving into new sectors including aviation, aged care, education, and government. An increased focus on compliance (Fair Work, Modern Slavery Act and Labour Hire regulations), and utilising the ASX-listed nature of the business to demonstrate transparency in these important areas (which most large private companies can't achieve), will be keys in this push.

Higher revenue/EBITDA guidance and the return of dividends

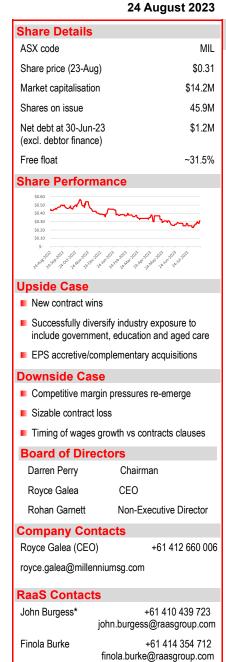
The 12.2% increase in contracted revenue for Q4 FY23 is expected to continue into FY24 on the back of new contract wins, material contract extensions and the impacts of wage inflation. Leverage from this revenue growth off a relatively fixed cost base is forecast to see EBITDA in a range of \$12.2m-\$13.2m, at least 55% ahead of FY23. Supporting this guidance is growth in EBITDA over H2 FY23 on the pcp (+15%) and the cycling of a poor H1 FY23 where EBITDA declined 58%. Management has signalled an intention to resume dividend payments at a 30%-40% payout ratio, implying a yield of 10%-13% using RaaS estimates. Supporting the medium-term is a \$900m contracted order book, 3x FY24 revenue.

Relative EV/EBITDA implies a \$1.25/share valuation

Our assessed peer group average FY23f EV/EBITDA multiple of 4.8x implies a \$0.75/share valuation using MIL's FY23 actuals and \$1.25 using RaaS FY24 estimates. We see no reason why this business does not deserve multiples closer to the peer average given average contract length (three-five years), relatively low working capital, low capex intensity and market consolidation opportunities. To sense check, our DCF valuation is \$1.15/share.

Historical e	Historical earnings and RaaS' estimates (in A\$m unless otherwise stated)											
Year end	Revenue	Adj. EBITDA	NPAT adj.	P/E adj. (x)	EV/adj EBITDA (x)	Yield (%)						
06/22a	260.6	11.1	3.9	3.6	1.6	0						
06/23a	265.8	7.9	1.4	10.1	2.2	0						
06/24f	301.0	12.6	4.3	3.3	1.3	9.7						
06/25f	313.0	13.7	5.4	2.7	0.9	12.9						
Source: Comp	any data, RaaS e	estimates for FY24t	and FY25f									

Human Services



The author owns shares



FY23 Result Highlights

Revenue

- Total revenue growth was 2.0% but improved through the year as the group cycled lower ad-hoc revenue with new contract wins. H1 FY23 revenue declined 1.6% against H2 growth of 5.7%. Quarterly growth reached 8.0% in Q4 and is forecast to accelerate in FY24.
- Underlying contract revenue growth was ~+9.7% over FY23 on the back of a number of new contract wins including ISPT, Newcastle Airport and JVL Investment Group, together with wage inflation. Growth accelerated through the year with H1 +7.0% and H2 +12.4%.
- Contract/ad-hoc revenue mix was back to 92%/8% in FY23 against the pcp of 85%/15% as COVID-related security work cycled out of the numbers.
- Cleaning revenue increased 8.7% over FY23 while security revenue declined 21.7% due to the decline in ad-hoc work.

	Q4 FY22	Q1 FY23	Q2 FY23	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23
Revenue	62.9	63.3	66.2	68.2	68.0
Contract	55.9	58.2	60.2	62.4	62.7
Ad-hoc	7.0	5.1	6.0	5.8	5.3
% growth					
Contracted	(6.9)	4.1	9.9	12.6	12.2
Total	(9.1)	(3.5)	0.1	3.5	8.0
Mix (%)					
Contracted	89	92	91	91	92
Ad-hoc	11	8	9	9	8

Gross margin

Despite contract clauses allowing labour cost adjustments, the timing and magnitude of recent wage increases proved difficult to manage and resulted in FY23 gross margin below guidance and the pcp. Key observations around gross margin include:

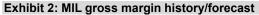
- **14.0% H1 FY23 margin,** which compared to 15.9% in the pcp, which was aided by higher margin ad-hoc revenue;
- 14.4% H2 FY23 margin, which compared to 14.6% in the pcp but below prior guidance.

New contract wins in a tight labour market resulted in higher-than-forecast labour costs. MIL is not alone in this area with (ASX:DOW) and (ASX:ASH) and Mitchell Services (ASX:MSV) experiencing similar issues; and

FY23 margin of 14.2%, 110bps below the FY22 margin of 15.3%;

A history of half-yearly gross margins and forecasts for FY24 is presented below.







Source: Company announcements and RaaS estimates

Operating costs

Operating costs were well managed, increasing just 4.0% on an adjusted basis despite wage pressures and investment into new business development heads.

Adjusted EBITDA

Most of the 29% decline in adjusted FY23 EBITDA (to \$7.9m) was experienced in H1 with adjusted EBITDA down 58% (from \$6.7m to \$2.8m), impacted by the negative operating leverage of lower gross margins in Q1 (timing issues in putting through labour cost increases) and higher operating costs associated with new business development heads.

H2 FY23 EBITDA increased 15% (from \$4.4m to \$5.1m) on the back of operating leverage from new contract wins and wage cost recoupment.

49%-owned Codee Cleaning Services delivered ~56% growth in NPAT to \$0.42m (EBITDA of ~\$560k), resulting in an increase in minorities for MIL and a first-time dividend payment of \$196k.

Variable (A\$000')	FY22	FY23	% CHG	Comments
Sales	260.6	265.8	2	Accelerated through the year
Cleaning	203.2	220.8	9	
Security	57.4	45.0	(22)	
Gross profit	39.8	37.7	(5)	Tight labour market impacting H1
GP%	15.3	14.2	(107)	
Operating costs	28.6	29.8	4	
EBITDA	11.1	7.9	(29)	\$2.8m H1 (-58%) and \$5.1m H2 (+15%)
Depreciation	4.6	4.4	(3)	
EBIT	6.6	3.5	(47)	
Minorities	0.1	0.2		
Adjustments	(1.6)	(8.0)		
Adjusted NPAT	3.8	1.2	(69)	
Reported NPAT	2.3	0.6		
Net debt (inc-invoice facility)	4.0	3.3	(17)	



FY24 Outlook

Management has provided some detailed guidance with a relatively narrow range for FY24 across several line items which we discuss below.

- **Revenue** guidance is for \$300m-\$305m, implying 12.8%-14.8% growth and 4.5% above prior RaaS estimates, which were only recently upgraded by ~2.0%.
 - New contract wins (including Amazon, Baby Bunting, new security contracts and first-time business in Darwin), material contract extensions (\$310m) and wage inflation/cost put-throughs are all key reasons for this growth. Importantly, 95% of the forecast revenue is contracted for FY24.
- Gross margin. While no explicit guidance was provided, given the 5.75% award wage increase effective July 2023 we expect some pressure in passing this increase through to contracted clients in full, and as a result have assumed a gross margin just 30bps above FY23 at 14.6%.
- Operating costs. In-line with FY23 we have assumed a 4.0% increase in operating costs, with management focused on delivering operational leverage.
- EBITDA guidance as a result is \$12.2m-\$13.2m, again a relatively narrow range and implying underlying growth of 54%-67%, which is above prior RaaS estimates.
- Interest expense remains elevated despite low debt levels due to the invoice financing facility.
- Codee (Minorities). We have assumed Codee contributes at a similar level to FY23.
- **Dividends set to resume in FY24** at 30%-40% of sustainable NPAT. Using RaaS estimates for NPAT of \$4.4m, a 30% payout implies a dividend of 3cps implying a yield of 10% at the current share price.

Variable	FY23a	FY24f	FY25f	FY26f	Comments
Revenue					
Previous	265.9	288.1	299.6	308.6	
Revised	265.8	301.0	313.1	322.5	Further new contracts
% CHG	0.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	
Adj. EBITDA					
Previous	7.9	10.8	11.8	12.2	
Revised	7.9	12.6	13.7	14.1	
% CHG	0.0	16.6	15.9	15.9	Operating leverage
Adj. NPAT					
Previous	1.3	3.0	4.1	4.6	
Revised	1.4	4.4	5.4	5.9	
% CHG	5.2	43.9	30.2	29.7	

Relative Peer Group Valuation

We compare MIL to other listed small-cap players that rely heavily on human resources and to a lesser extent equipment to deliver their services to typically larger clients.

The table below summarises forecast FY23 metrics across a wide range of variables together with a range of FY22 actual variables. We also provide MIL FY24 estimates given the magnitude of forecast EBITDA uplift.

MIL currently trades at a material (55%) discount to the FY23f EV/EBITDA peer average of 4.8x despite generally longer contract terms, similar gross margin, and lower working capital/capex requirements.

This discount increases to 70% if we use forecast MIL FY24 metrics against peer FY23 metrics.



Company name	Ticker	Share price (cps)	Mkt. cap.	Net debt (cash) (Dec-22)	Adj. FY23f EBITDA	FY23f revenue	GP%	FY22 Working capital/sales %	EV/ Sales (x)	EBITD
GR Engineering	GNG	2.24	347	(97.8)	40.0	515	12	(1)	0.48	6.
PeopleIn	PPE	2.30	231	45.7	62.7	1,215	15	8	0.23	4.
Licopodium	LYL	9.28	368	(99.4)	64.9	321	27	10	0.84	4.
Southern Cross Electrical	SXE	0.68	177	(53.1)	35.3	450	16	7	0.27	3.
Ashley Services	ASH	0.67	96	3.6	24.1	530	16	5	0.19	4.
BSA Limited	BSA	0.58	41	2.0	14.8	240	11	(1)	0.18	2.
MCS Services	MCS	0.03	6	0.1	0.7	40	17	3	0.14	8.
AVERAGE							16	5	0.33	4.
Millennium (FY23a)	MIL	0.31	14	3.3	7.9	266	14	1	0.07	2.
Millennium (FY24f)	MIL	0.31	14	3.3	12.6	301	14	1	0.06	1.

Sources: Company financials, Refinitiv, RaaS estimates

Outlook And Investment Case

- The group operates in markets worth an estimated \$11.7b (cleaning) and \$9.8b (investigation and security services), according to IBISWorld. In the cleaning business (~83% of MIL revenue) MIL has less than 2% market share in a market where the top-four largest players have less than 10% of the market, offering significant market-share opportunities.
- The group's growth strategy will look to use the current balance sheet, ASX listing and trading history to increase "value-add" services, participate in industry rationalisation, and use technology such as rostering and traffic-flow systems and robotics to improve operating efficiencies.
- The acquisition of 49% of Codee Cleaning Services in December 2021 overlays industry consolidation with an increasing focus on ESG, with Codee performing exceptionally well in FY23.
- Net debt was just \$1.2m as at June 2023 (excluding trade finance), providing a solid base from which to grow and/or acquire while looking at capital management options. MIL has undrawn banking facilities of \$16m.
- Gross margin has been under pressure from timing issues associated with significant award wage increases in recent years (4.8% in FY22 and 5.75% in FY23) but recent guidance suggests this is being worked through with key clients under contracted cost pass-through clauses.
- A change in debt covenants, strong balance sheet and improved earnings paves the way for the resumption of dividends in FY24. A 30%-40% pay-out ratio at current prices would imply a dividend yield of between 10%-13% using RaaS estimates.
- Recent M&A transactions of similar businesses add valuation support to MIL, namely the 75% purchase of Linc Personnel by Ashley Services for 3.4x EBITDA, and the 100% acquisition of BIC by Bidvest for ~8.8x EBITDA.



Millennium Services (ASX.	MII)					Share price (23 August 20	123)				A\$	0.310
Profit and Loss (A\$m)	····-/					Interim (A\$m)	H122A	H222A	H123A	H223A	H124F	H224F
Y/E 30 June	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	EV25E	Revenue	131.7	128.9	129.6	136.1	148.0	153.0
		260.6	265.8	301.0		EBIT DA	6.7		2.8	5.1		7.
Revenue	273.7							4.4			5.5	
Gross profit	40.8	39.8	37.7	43.6		EBIT	4.4	2.2	0.6	2.9	3.3	4.8
GP margin %	14.9%	15.3%	14.2%	14.5%		NPAT (adjusted)	2.7	1.0	(0.1)	1.3	1.5	2.6
Underlying EBITDA	11.6	11.1	7.9	12.6		Minorities (AT)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Depn	(4.9)	(4.6)	(4.3)	(4.5)	. ,	NPAT (reported)	1.9	0.2	(0.7)	1.1	1.5	2.6
Minorities (AT)	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2		EPS (normalised)	0.041	0.005	(0.016)	0.024	0.033	0.056
EBIT	6.8	6.7	3.8	8.3		EPS (reported)	0.041	0.005	(0.016)	0.024	0.033	0.056
Interest	(1.8)	(1.2)	(1.9)	(2.2)	. ,	Dividend (cps)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.018
Tax	(1.6)	(1.6)	(0.5)	(1.8)	(2.2)	Imputation						
NPAT (adj)	3.4	3.9	1.4	4.3	5.4	Operating cash flow	na	na	na	na	na	na
Adjustments	(1.2)	(1.6)	(8.0)	0.0	0.0	Free Cash flow	na	na	na	na	na	na
NPAT	2.2	2.3	0.6	4.3	5.4	Divisionals	H122A	H222A	H123A	H223A	H124F	H224F
Abnormals (net)	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Cleaning	99.6	103.5	107.7	113.1	122.4	126.5
NPAT (reported)	17.4	2.3	0.6	4.3	5.4	Security	32.1	25.3	21.9	23.1	25.6	26.5
Cash flow (A\$m)						(Other)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y/E 30 June	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	FY25F	Total Revenue	131.7	128.9	129.6	136.1	148.0	153.0
EBITDA (inc cash rent/JK)	29.3	10.0	6.8	11.5	12.5							
Interest	(1.8)	(1.2)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.0)	Gross profit	21.0	18.8	18.1	19.6	21.4	22.2
Tax	(0.1)	(2.4)	(2.9)	(1.8)	. ,	Underlying GP Margin %	15.9%	14.6%	14.0%	14.4%	14.5%	14.5%
Working capital changes	12.9	(1.6)	3.8	(2.0)	. ,	Operating Costs						
Operating cash flow	40.3	4.8	5.9	5.6	. ,	Employment	8.8	8.9	9.7	9.0	10.1	9.4
Mtce capex	(2.2)	(1.8)	(2.6)	(2.4)		Other	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.8	5.7
Free cash flow	38.1	3.0	3.3	3.2	. ,	Exceptional	3.3	-	5.0	5.5	3.0	
				0.0			443		45.0	44.5	15.9	
Growth capex	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	Total costs	14.3	14.4	15.3	14.5	15.9	15.1
Acquisitions/Disposals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0							
Other	(2.1)	(2.2)	(1.5)	(1.0)	. ,	Underlying EBITDA	6.7	4.4	2.8	5.1	5.5	7.1
Cash flow pre financing	36.0	8.0	1.8	2.2		EBIT DA margin %	5.1%	3.4%	2.2%	3.8%	3.7%	4.6%
Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Margins, Leverage, Returns		FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	FY25F
Debt drawdown/(repay)	(21.4)	(2.0)	(1.2)	(3.0)	. ,	EBIT DA margin %		4.3%	4.3%	3.0%	4.2%	4.4%
Net Dividends paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.7)	(1.6)	EBIT margin %		2.5%	2.6%	1.4%	2.8%	3.1%
Net cash flow for year	14.6	(1.2)	0.5	(1.5)	2.4	NPAT margin (pre significar	nt items)	0.8%	0.9%	0.2%	1.4%	1.7%
Balance sheet (A\$m)			Net Debt (Cash)		0.3	4.0	3.3	2.0	-1.4			
Y/E 30 June	FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	FY25F	Net debt/EBIT DA (x)	(x)	0.0 x	0.4 x	0.4 x	0.2 x	-0.1
Cash	7.3	1.9	3.3	1.6	4.0	ND/ND+Equity (%)	(%)	11.5%	111.7%	169.6%	(91.5%)	16.1%
Accounts receivable	18.0	17.3	16.0	19.0	19.8	EBIT interest cover (x)	(x)	0.3x	0.2x	0.5x	0.3x	0.23
Inventory	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.9	ROA		11.6%	13.1%	7.8%	15.8%	17.0%
Other current assets	2.3	1.9	2.3	5.3	7.0	ROE		nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Total current assets	28.8	22.3	23.2	27.8	32.7	ROIC		nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
PPE	7.0	6.8	7.7	6.7	5.8	NTA (per share)		-0.21	-0.15	-0.13	-0.07	0.00
Goodwill	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	Working capital		1.9	3.5	-0.3	1.6	1.7
Right of use asset	3.0	1.7	2.7	2.7		WC/Sales (%)		0.7%	1.3%	(0.1%)	0.5%	0.5%
Deferred tax asset	8.5	7.8	8.0	8.0		Revenue growth		(2.9%)	(4.8%)	2.0%	13.3%	4.0%
Equity accounted Investee	0.0	1.3	1.5	1.5		EBIT growth pa		nm	(1.1%)	(42.9%)	117.3%	15.2%
Total non current assets	26.0	25.0	27.4	26.4	25.5	Pricing		FY21A	FY22A	FY23A	FY24F	FY25F
Total Assets	54.9	47.4	50.6	54.2		No of shares (y/e)	(m)	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9
Accounts payable	17.3	15.0	17.9	19.2		Weighted Av Dil Shares	(m)	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9
Short term debt	5.5	4.7	4.4	1.4	0.4	Troightod Av Dil Ollales	(111)	40.0	40.0	40.3	+5.5	43.8
						EPS Reported	000	0.270	0.040	0.042	0.004	0.44
Provisions	22.6	20.0	19.8	22.5		'	cps	0.379	0.049	0.013	0.094	0.117
Lease liabilities/other	5.5	3.4	1.2	1.2		EPS Adjusted	cps	0.074	0.085	0.031	0.094	0.117
Total current liabilities	50.9	43.1	43.4	44.3	44.9	EPS growth (norm/dil)		nm	14%	-64%	208%	24%
Long term debt	2.1	1.2	2.2	2.2		DPS	cps	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.040
Other non current liabs	4.1	2.7	3.7	3.7		DPS Growth		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33%
Total long term liabilities	6.2	3.9	5.9	5.9		Dividend yield		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.7%	12.9%
Total Liabilities	57.1	47.0	49.2	50.1		Dividend imputation		30	30	30	30	30
Net Assets	(2.3)	0.4	1.4	4.0	7.4	PER Adjusted (x)		4.2	3.6	10.1	3.3	2.7
						PE market		15	15	15	15	15
Share capital	19.1	19.1	19.2	19.2	19.2	Premium/(discount)		(72.2%)	(75.7%)	(32.4%)	(78.1%)	(82.3%
Reserves	(8.3)	(7.9)	(7.6)	(7.6)	(7.6)	EV/EBIT DA		1.2	1.6	2.2	1.3	0.0
Retained Earnings	(13.1)	(10.8)	(10.2)	(7.4)	(4.2)	FCF/Share	cps	83.0	4.9	14.2	6.9	13.0
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Price/FCF share		0.4	6.3	2.2	4.5	2.4
			1.4	4.1		Free Cash flow Yield		267.8%				

Source: RaaS estimates



FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

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Professional Indemnity Insurance

BR has in place Professional Indemnity Insurance which satisfies the requirements for compensation under s912B of the Corporations Act and that covers our authorized representatives.



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