

# Coalbed methane in China

## Lying in wait

- **We believe coalbed methane (CBM) extraction in China is currently commercially viable**
- However technological and infrastructure constraints will limit the expansion the CBM industry, in our view.
- We believe the CBM industry will be dominated by owners of CBM reserves with access to distribution infrastructure.
- At the same time smaller players could co-exist profitably targeting smaller upstream projects and niche distribution channels.
- The Chinese government is encouraging CBM exploitation through subsidies and tax-holidays.
- We show that a typical China CBM project with government incentives will be able to generate an attractive IRR of 17%.
- Green Dragon Gas (GDG LN; NR), Enviro Energy (8182 HK; NR) and Sino Gas& Energy (SEH AU; NR) have direct exposure to CBM in China.

### **Abundant coalbed methane (CBM) reserves**

China has the world's third-largest ready reserves of CBM, estimated at 36.8 trillion cubic metres (tcm), of which 10 tcm can be exploited, according to an *Oil & Gas Journal* report. Preliminary industry data suggests that China's reserves compare well to foreign blocks in terms of recovery factors. With ready reserves, the success of CBM development in China will depend on the cost of extracting resources and the eventual market prices.

### **Commercial viability**

While we believe that CBM extraction in China is economically viable, technological and infrastructure constraints will likely limit the expansion of CBM as an industry. We believe the CBM industry will be dominated by owners of reserves with access to distribution infrastructure in the foreseeable future, while smaller players could co-exist profitably, targeting smaller upstream projects and niche distribution channels, like compressed CBM.

### **Favourable government policies, yet not totally transparent**

The Chinese government is encouraging CBM exploitation through subsidies and tax holidays. There are, however, conflicts of interests between coal miners and pure-play CBM gas producers, due to unclear licensing policy governing the exploration areas, which can overlap with existing coal mining areas. Our DCF model shows that subsidies, currently at RMB0.2/m<sup>3</sup>, and tax holidays are crucial to boost returns on CBM, especially given the technical risks of such projects.

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**Han Pin Hsi**

Hanpin.Hsi@sc.com  
+65 6596 8501

**Evan Li**

Evan.Li@sc.com  
+852 3983 8524



### **At the right price**

In our model, we show that a typical CBM project in China, given government-granted incentives, should be able to generate an attractive IRR of 17%, which we believe is higher than the associated cost of capital of c.10-12%. In our assumptions, we use a finding and development (F&D) cost of US\$1.27/mcf and a selling price of US\$6.55/mcf, which is equivalent to a wellhead gas price of RMB1.5/m<sup>3</sup>. In our view, new gas projects (e.g. Sinopec's Sichuan Gas project) will be able to achieve a wellhead price of approximately RMB1.5/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **Technology duplication is not straightforward**

Due to geological differences, vertical wells utilised for deep drilling in the US are unsuitable for use in China. While US coalbed gas is concentrated in smaller areas at greater depth, China's coalbed contains shallower gas spread over a large surface area. Hence, development and exploitation of CBM reserves has only accelerated over the last few years, despite the success achieved in other countries in previous decades. In this report, we highlight three non-rated companies that have direct exposure in China's CBM industry: Green Dragon Gas (GDG LN; NR), Enviro Energy (8182 HK; NR) and Sino Gas & Energy (SEH AU; NR).



## CBM economics in China

### China CBM economics

China's coalbed is more compressed and dense than the deposits in the US, making it less permeable. High permeability is required for gas to flow to the surface (refer to Appendix 3: Extracting coalbed methane). The low permeability in the China coalbed results in higher extraction costs. Due to geological differences, current economically viable vertical well technology used in the US is unsuitable for deployment in China. Past results indicated that multi-lateral horizontal wells are more efficient than vertical wells in extracting CBM in China.

### Horizontal wells are costlier

In China, the cost of a horizontal well is approximately US\$2.26m or RMB15m (including drilling and surface engineering), according to recent well cost data published by PetroChina. Vertical wells are about one-third the cost of horizontal wells. For our model, we assume a horizontal well cost of US\$2m and US\$0.7m for a vertical well. Using the assumptions listed in the figure 1, our model shows profitable exploration and production of CBM, with a project IRR of 17%.

### Assumptions based on a typical CBM acreage

For acreage of 400 km<sup>2</sup>, with industry standard well spacing for vertical wells and horizontal wells at 400 acres/well and 200 acres/well, respectively, an initial capital expenditure of US\$824m is required for the first two years of exploration. We assume an ongoing capital expenditure and abandonment cost of 2% and 10%, respectively, on the initial capital expenditure.

In our model we use a gas reserve assumption of 1,200 bcf, of which 54% is recoverable, and an operating cost of US\$1/mcf (estimated from a production cost derived in a 2008 report by Harry Chernoff) for variable gas production volume. Based on the estimated recoverable reserves and capital expenditure, our calculated finding and development cost is US\$1.27/mcf or US\$1.34/mmbtu (1 mcf= 950 mmbtu for CBM).

**Fig 1: Summary of CBM project cost**

Capital Expenditure			Fiscal terms		
	\$mil/unit	\$mil			
Wells cost ( vertical well)	0.67	329	Wellhead gas price	\$/mcf	6.55
Wells cost ( horizontal well)	2.00	494	Opex	\$/mcf	1.0
Ongoing capex		313	Inflation - gas price	%	3%
Abandonment cost		82	inflation- opex	%	3%
Opex		22	Corporate tax rate	%	25%
<b>Capital expenditure</b>		<b>1,241</b>	Discount rate	%	10%
			Government subsidy	\$/mmbcf	847
			Tax free period	years	3

Field description			Finding & development cost		
Area	km2	400	CBM production	total bcf	648
Recoverable reserves	bcf	648	Capital expenditure	\$mil	823.7
Recovery ratio	%	54%	<b>Finding and development cost</b>	\$/mcf	<b>1.27</b>
Well spacing ( vertical)	acres	200			
Well spacing ( horizontal)	acres	400			

Source: Standard Chartered Research

### Chinese government wants to encourage CBM exploitation

To encourage CBM exploration in China, the government grants a subsidy of RMB0.2/m<sup>3</sup> of CBM gas produced and provides a tax holiday period of 3 -5 years during the production phase. In our model, we assume a tax-free period of three years.



Fig 2: Sensitivity analysis

		% IRR									
		Wellhead gas price ( \$/mcf)									
		2.60	3.00	5.00	6.55	7.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	14.00	16.00
Finding & Development cost (\$/mcf)	0.57	13%	16%	31%	41%	43%	49%	58%	67%	75%	83%
	0.67	9%	13%	27%	35%	38%	43%	52%	60%	67%	74%
	0.76	7%	10%	23%	31%	33%	38%	46%	54%	61%	68%
	0.86	4%	7%	19%	27%	29%	34%	42%	49%	56%	62%
	0.95	3%	5%	17%	24%	26%	30%	38%	45%	51%	57%
	1.05	1%	4%	14%	22%	23%	27%	35%	41%	47%	53%
	1.14	-1%	2%	12%	19%	21%	25%	32%	38%	44%	49%
	1.27	-2%	0%	10%	17%	18%	22%	28%	34%	40%	45%
	1.43	-4%	-2%	8%	14%	15%	19%	25%	30%	36%	40%
	1.53	-5%	-3%	6%	12%	14%	17%	23%	28%	33%	38%
	1.62	-6%	-4%	5%	11%	12%	16%	21%	27%	31%	36%
	1.67	-6%	-4%	5%	10%	12%	15%	21%	26%	31%	35%

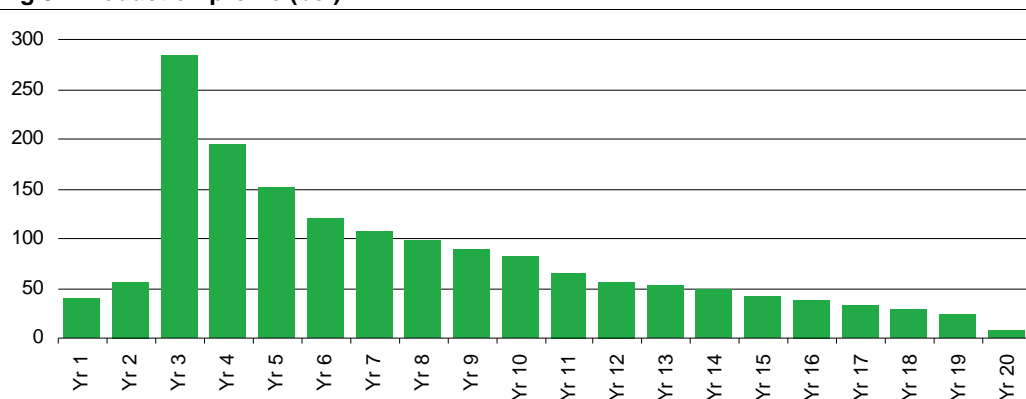
Source: Standard Chartered Research

### Wellhead prices of gas projects could be c.RMB1.5/m<sup>3</sup> (c.US\$6.55/mcf)

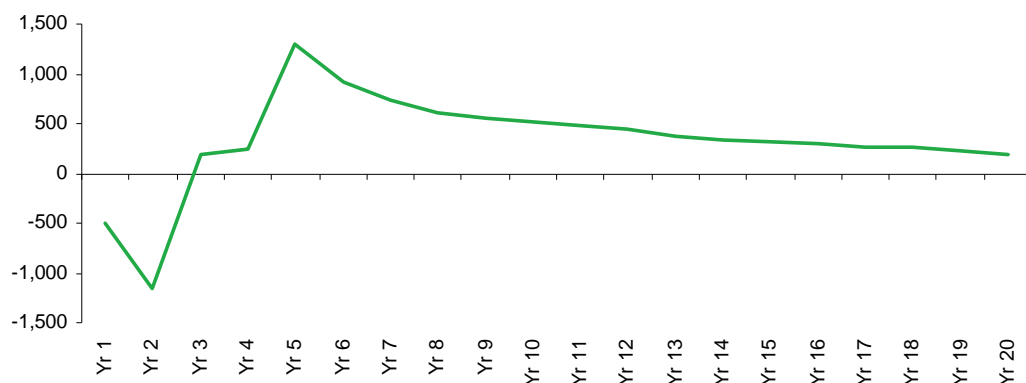
We show that a well head gas price at US\$3/mcf results in a negative IRR for CBM projects. Wellhead prices of some older gas fields in China are presently set at c.US\$3/mcf. In figure 2 we show the project IRR based on gas prices ranging from US\$2.6-16.0/mcf. Retail compressed natural gas (CNG) sells at US\$13-16/mcf in China. This provides a ceiling for wellhead prices that CBM is likely to achieve.

We believe the F&D cost will remain relatively stable in the near term. New technology and changes in policy/subsidies could change the effective F&D cost. We provide a sensitivity analysis on the IRR to changes in F&D cost in figure 2.

Fig 3: Production profile (bcf)



Source: Standard Chartered Research

**Fig 4: Project cash flow (US\$ m)**

Source: Standard Chartered Research

**CBM production profile differs to that of conventional gas**

Production of CBM typically peaks in the third year of production, declining rapidly thereafter. In contrast, conventional gas peaks gradually. As with conventional gas projects, CBM projects are likely to produce negative cash flows for the first two years, given either low or zero production. In the final year of production, low gas volume production coupled with decommissioning and abandonment costs will reduce cash flow.

Fig 5: Project cash flow Analysis

1 Project cashflow																						
	Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Production	mmcf			16,200	22,680	113,400	77,760	60,588	48,276	42,768	39,528	35,640	32,400	25,920	22,680	21,384	19,440	16,524	15,552	12,960	11,340	
Price per unit	\$/mmcf			\$ 6,747	\$ 6,949	\$ 7,157	\$ 7,372	\$ 7,593	\$ 7,821	\$ 8,056	\$ 8,297	\$ 8,546	\$ 8,803	\$ 9,067	\$ 9,339	\$ 9,619	\$ 9,907	\$10,205	\$10,511	\$10,826	\$11,151	
Gas revenue	\$mil			109	158	812	573	460	378	345	328	305	285	235	212	206	193	169	163	140	126	
Opex	\$mil	1	4	18	26	131	93	75	61	56	53	49	46	38	34	33	31	27	26	23	20	
EBITDA	\$mil	(1)	(4)	92	132	680	480	386	316	289	275	255	239	197	177	172	161	141	137	118	106	
Profit margin	%			84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	
Depreciation	\$mil			56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	
Govt subsidy	\$mil			14	19	96	66	51	41	36	33	30	27	22	19	18	16	14	13	11	10	
Corporate tax	25%			-	18.81	155.84	105.89	82.18	64.89	57.97	54.50	49.60	45.54	35.03	30.17	28.88	26.14	21.12	20.04	15.19	12.28	
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$mil</b>	<b>(0.71)</b>	<b>(3.54)</b>	<b>48.48</b>	<b>75.65</b>	<b>563.59</b>	<b>383.56</b>	<b>297.87</b>	<b>235.59</b>	<b>210.15</b>	<b>197.01</b>	<b>179.01</b>	<b>164.08</b>	<b>127.04</b>	<b>109.71</b>	<b>104.77</b>	<b>94.90</b>	<b>77.36</b>	<b>73.29</b>	<b>56.54</b>	<b>46.46</b>	
Capex	\$mil	247.11	576.59	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	
<b>Free Cash flow to project</b>																						
+ Net income		(0.71)	(3.54)	48.48	75.65	563.59	383.56	297.87	235.59	210.15	197.01	179.01	164.08	127.04	109.71	104.77	94.90	77.36	73.29	56.54	46.46	
- Capex		247.11	576.59	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	16.47	
+ Depreciation		-	-	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	56.84	
Operating free cash flow to project		(247.82)	(580.13)	88.84	116.01	603.95	423.92	338.23	275.95	250.51	237.37	219.37	204.45	167.41	150.07	145.13	135.26	117.72	113.65	96.90	86.82	
FCF		(247.82)	(580.13)	88.84	116.01	603.95	423.92	338.23	275.95	250.51	237.37	219.37	204.45	167.41	150.07	145.13	135.26	117.72	113.65	96.90	86.82	
Present value FCF		(225.29)	(479.45)	66.75	79.23	375.01	239.29	173.56	128.73	106.24	91.52	76.89	65.14	48.49	39.52	34.74	29.44	23.29	20.44	15.84	12.91	
<b>2 Projects returns</b>																						
Cost of capital																					10%	
Project IRR																						17%
<b>3 Production profile</b>																						
		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 19	Yr 20	
Production	bcf	16	23	113	78	61	48	43	40	36	32	26	23	21	19	17	16	13	11	10	3	
Cumulative production	bcf	16	39	152	230	291	339	382	421	457	489	515	538	559	579	595	611	624	635	645	648	

Source: Standard Chartered Research





## Production sharing contracts

### PSC for foreign companies

It is mandatory for foreign companies to enter into production sharing contracts (PSC) with either China United Coalbed Methane (CUCBM), Sinopec or PetroChina, to explore, develop and produce CBM resources in China.

A typical PSC consist of three phases: exploration, development and production. Capital expenditure during the exploration phase is borne by the foreign company. The contractor (foreign company) commits to an exploration work programme and expenditure schedule, typically over a five-year period, to earn an interest in a given block. The working interest of each party is determined in the PSC.

During the development and production phase, costs are borne according to the ownership of each party. The contractors, which subsequently become the operators, can recover up to 70% of the capital funding upon production. The role of the Chinese enterprises in the joint venture is to facilitate local approvals and to liaise with government bodies. Other stipulations of PSCs dictate engaging only Chinese goods and services, with the contractor bearing any training or technology transfer costs related to the project.

### Contractor economics

CBM exploration policies governing PSCs awarded to foreign-owned exploration companies operating as joint developers with predominately Chinese local companies, are similar to the practices for oil exploration in China.

PSC terms in China:

- Gas sales: Solely for the domestic market.
- Royalties paid to the government: Capped at 3% of production.
- Cost recovery: 70% of gas production is set aside for cost recovery. The remainder is classified as profit gas. The contractor bears 100% of the initial capital expenditure in the exploration phase and only the working interest percentage of the operating cost in the production phase.
- The contractor's operating cost during the production phase is capitalised for cost recovery purposes.
- Profit gas: A contractor with a working interest of 50% is entitled to 50% of profit gas, which is the gas revenue available for split, post royalties and cost-recovery deductions.
- Tax regime for CBM: Corporate tax at 25% with a RMB0.2/m<sup>3</sup> subsidy. Tax free period generally for the first three years of production.

Based on the same project assumptions and with foreign contractors granted a 50% working interest, we arrive at an internal rate of return IRR at 13% using a 10% discount rate for the contractor.

**Fig 6: Production Sharing Contract terms**

<b>PSC terms</b>		
Royalties	%	3%
Cost recovery	%	70%
Tax free period	yrs	3
Corporate tax rate	%	25%
Government subsidy	RMB/m <sup>3</sup>	0.2
<b>Participation</b>		<b>Working Interest</b>
Contractor's allocated CBM	%	50%
Local government entity	%	50%

Source: Standard Chartered Research





## CBM regulatory framework

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Exploration and production is governed by the state Mineral and Resources Law, with licences approved at several levels by the Ministry of Land and Resources and by central and provincial governments.

### **Incremental royalties**

Government royalties are incremental according to production, but capped at 3% of production.

- If annual CBM production is no more than  $1 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>, the mining royalties are exempted
- If annual CBM production is between  $1 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> and  $2.5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>, the mining royalty rate is 1%
- If annual CBM production is between  $2.5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> and  $5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>, the mining royalty rate is 2%

### **Tax policy**

The most significant tax policy is the exemption corporate tax for the first two years of production and a reduction of 50% over the following three years. This applies only to joint ventures between Chinese enterprises and foreign entities. Independent Chinese CBM E&P companies pay a flat corporate tax rate of 25%. Imported items for CBM exploration and extraction are exempt from import tariffs and regulatory taxes.



## Constraints and risks

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### Constraints of CBM market development

#### **Lack of pipelines**

Relatively slow development in planned pipeline projects is a hurdle for foreign companies with no access to the national pipelines. This is in sharp contrast to China United Coalbed Methane or PetroChina, whose status as state-owned enterprises allows them full access. In China, Sinopec and PetroChina dominate the pipeline infrastructure. Without a ready distribution network, independent CBM producers sell only to localised regions.

#### **Cost of drilling/technology/foreign participation**

Substantial capital is required for investment in large-scale exploration and production programmes across China to develop its vast reserves. Foreign participation is, therefore, necessary to bring CBM technology and overseas capital into China.

The technology typically applied overseas is not, however, commercially viable in China due to geological differences. A higher number of more expensive wells (horizontal wells) are required for a given area, resulting in high extraction costs. We believe technological advancement must be made to increase CBM yield per well, or horizontal well production costs must decline to make large-scale commercialisation feasible.

From a technical perspective, another challenge is the difficulty of maintaining a steady supply of gas, which is mandatory for certain buyers, i.e. for combined cycle gas power plants or heavy industrial users. While high permeability is especially important for gas to flow easily into pipelines, China's coalbed permeability is low.

#### **Excessive CBM supply may affect domestic gas price**

In Canada, due to rising gas prices and shortage of supply, it has become economically attractive to exploit CBM resources, given a reduction in the drilling cost (lower capital investment) due to technological advancement. In China, however, competition from conventional energy sources, such as coal, which is abundant in China, has dampened coalbed methane's attraction as a fuel source to date.

Even with the NDRC increasing onshore wellhead prices by 25% in mid-2010, China's natural gas and retail oil prices remain regulated, with prices fixed based on the regional pipeline network and categories of industrial/residential users. Prices fixed at certain wellheads are still unattractively low and will form an economic barrier to CBM development in surrounding areas.

An excessive increase in CBM supply could pressure natural gas selling prices. China is presently a net importer of gas, so this risk is not a factor for the country. In the US, for instance, an increase in domestic gas supply from an additional energy source – unconventional gas – has led to a surplus of supply in its market. If China's reserves, estimated at a third of the world's total, are successfully exploited, the pricing dynamics of natural gas could change domestically, or even internationally.

#### **Uncertain government policy**

Conflicting interests of the coal miners and pure play CBM gas producers exist due to unclear licensing policy governing the definition of exploration areas, which may overlap with existing coal mining areas. Foreign entities operating in China are also subject to local regulatory and policy uncertainties. They have to navigate the acquisition of permits and licensing, obtain government approvals and consents in a developing country striving to establish a framework for its CBM market.



**Reserves risk**

As with general E&P projects, CBM E&P companies have to undertake the risks associated with exploration and with the potential that reserves prove unyielding.

**Current players**

Small independent foreign E&P companies have done relatively well in China compared with the larger E&P companies, as they entered the country at a later stage, with better developed technology under more a favourable business operating environment. In some instances, they took over blocks that major E&P companies had exited (e.g. Sino Gas & Energy acquiring Chevron's share on its exit). We highlight the following non-rated CBM companies operating in China later in this note: Green Dragon Gas (GDG LN), Enviro Energy (8182 HK) and Sino Gas & Energy (SEH AU)

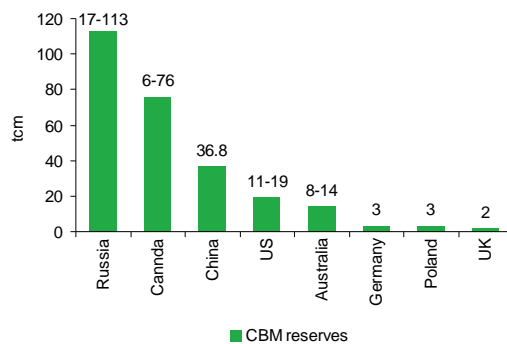


## CBM reserves in China

### China CBM reserves

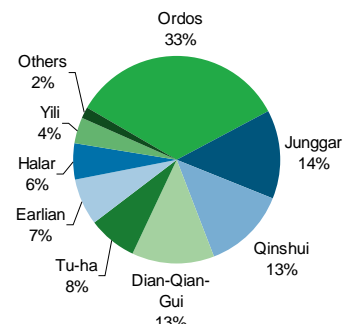
According to China United CBM and an *Oil & Gas Journal* report, China ranks third in the world, with CBM reserves of 36.8 tcm, after Russia and Canada. China methane bearing coal in 42 major CBM basins is located over an area in excess of 415,000km<sup>2</sup>. Out of this 36.8 tcm of methane (proven and yet to be proven) contained at depths of 2,000m, only 10.9 tcm is recoverable at depths of less than 1,500m.

**Fig 7: Worldwide CBM reserves**



Source: CUCBM

**Fig 8: China CBM reserves by basins**



Source: Facts Global Energy

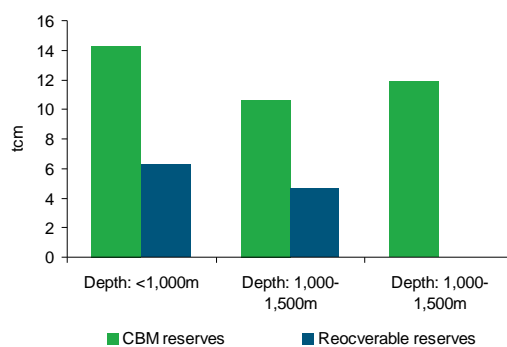
### Reserves locations

Of the methane contained in the nine large basins, namely, Ordos, Qinshui, Junggar, Diandongqianxi, Erlian, Tuha. Tarim, Tianshan and Hailaer, 84% is estimated to be 30.9 tcm. The three major basins of Qinshui in Shanxi, Ordos in Inner Mongolia and Junggar in Xinjiang hold estimated CBM resources of 18.7 tcm, of which 7.4 tcm (40%) is recoverable. A total of 30% of China's oil and gas production is in the Ordos Basin. Due to the fact that the majority of CBM reserves sits in these basins, distribution infrastructure and pipeline networks within these basins needs to be well developed to enhance the downstream prospects of CBM in China.

### Coal quality in China

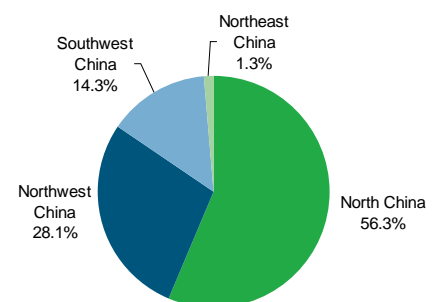
Coal grades are linked to CBM content. Higher grade coal generally corresponds to higher CBM content. China's coal is classified as low to medium, with a high water content (increasing dewatering cost). Still coalbed gas content in China is considered to be favourable for exploitation if exploration is focused on high gas content areas. However, China's coalbed permeability is low at 0.002-16.17 millidarcies (mD), which will restrict gas flow to the surface. US coal permeability typically ranges from 50µm<sup>2</sup> to 1µm<sup>2</sup> (1d = 1µm<sup>2</sup>),

**Fig 9: China CBM reserves by depth**



Source: Oil & Gas Journal

**Fig 10: China CBM reserves by region**



Source: Facts Global Energy



## CBM Projections for leading CBM producers in China

PetroChina and Sinopec control the majority of the gas transmission pipelines in China. Using this duopoly as a competitive advantage, both companies have announced aggressive growth strategies for CBM development. PetroChina plans to invest US\$1.5bn in coal bed methane this year, with a production goal of 4.5bn m<sup>3</sup>/year by 2015. Sinopec targets an unconventional gas production volume of 2.5bn m<sup>3</sup> by 2015, after discovery of 2.5bn m<sup>3</sup> of CBM resources in Shanxi.

China United Coalbed Methane, another major Chinese CBM producer, aims to produce 10bn m<sup>3</sup> by 2020. With the commitment of substantial capital outlays from major Chinese companies to achieve their target CBM production, we think that the industry in China is set for unprecedented growth over the next few years.



## CBM and natural gas: A comparison

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### **Well size and well Spacing**

CBM wells are shallower than conventional gas well, due to the physical characteristics of CBM gas, which is spread over a larger area at shallower depths. Hence, higher numbers of small CBM wells, with closer spacing, are developed together to reduce area pressure and enhance optimum production and gas recovery. CBM well spacing differs according to local laws and regulations relating to drilling of conventional gas wells. CBM wells tend to be closer than conventional wells, due to the need for greater density within an area. In the US, typical spacing is one well per 320, 160 or 80 acres.

### **Production profile**

CBM wells initially produce large volumes of water, with small amounts of gas. During the dewatering phase, gas production peaks within 2-3 years with water reduction. Thereafter, CBM mirrors the production profile of conventional gas. Conventional gas reserves tend to peak initially and decrease over time gradually. CBM wells typically produce less gas at lower rates than conventional wells. Therefore, the cost of CBM wells is a major consideration influencing the economics of successful reserves exploitation.

### **Composition of gas**

CBM gas is cleaner with a higher content of methane (more than 95%) than conventional gas (80-90%). CBM at the wellhead generally meets the quality for pipeline transmission and only small traces of carbon dioxide or nitrogen need to be removed. To meet the quality required for pipeline transmission, conventional gas requires purification from hydrocarbons, sour gas or other forms of gas. The heat content of CBM is 0.95 mmbtu/mcf, while for natural gas it is 1 mmbtu/mcf.



## Replicating CBM success in China

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### **CBM in US, Canada and Australia**

CBM exploitation was highly successful in the US through the early 1990s, with full commercialisation of resources. Other countries with substantial CBM resources are now seeking to replicate the US example. Notable developments are progressing in Canada and Australia, with initial commercial production of CBM resources.

Canada ranks above China as the second-largest CBM resource rich country. It is exploiting its reserves in the Horseshoe Canyon, Mannville coal zone and Ardley formation. Australia ranks just below the US in terms of CBM resources and is exploiting its resources in the Sydney, Gunnedah, Bowen and Galilee Basins. In the US, over 80% of resources are contained in the west in four major CBM basins, namely the Black Warrior Basin, the San Juan Basin, the Powder River Basin and the Raton Basins.

China's coal structure is more similar to Canada and Australia than the US. Development in Canada's CBM technology on its densely compressed, low gas-content and low-permeability coal bed provides an excellent example for China. The success of Canada's CBM commercialisation at Horseshoe Canyon stems from the right pricing environment for natural gas, which incentivised CBM production. It also achieved a reduction in drilling costs for multi-well horizontal wells on its low permeability coal.

Beside high gas content, Australia's coalbed has similar characteristics as Canada in permeability, pressure and its densely compressed state. Australia's strategy is to focus on high-permeability areas to increase its success in CBM exploitation. For low permeability areas, multi-lateral horizontal wells are used. Australia has successfully developed low-cost technology for its exploitation of coalbed methane gas. Coupled with the commitment to develop cleaner energy through signing the "Kyoto Protocol" to reduce greenhouse emissions, Australia's regulatory framework incentivises CBM producers to accelerate the industry's development.

The conventional deep drilling technology the US utilises to exploit its CBM resources is unsuitable for Canada, Australia and China. The Canadian and Australian CBM exploitation technologies are more suitable for China.

Coalbed quality, coupled with the lack of existing pipeline infrastructure, delays in development and regulatory uncertainty have hampered CBM development in China. These are issues the country must overcome if it is to meet the government's production targets of 10bn m<sup>3</sup> and 20bn m<sup>3</sup> by year 2015 and 2020, respectively. These issues have affected production ramp up in the developing basins, such as Qinshui, Ordos and Junggar.



## Appendix 1: CBM supply in China gas market

### Impact of increasing CBM supply in China

The country's electricity generation costs remain the lowest worldwide across all energy sources. With abundant coal supplies, it remains the most commonly used fuel feedstock for power generation, reaching 74% of total energy consumption in 2008, while natural gas made up only 4% of the total energy consumption. CBM will be sold into this 4% natural gas market.

**Fig 11: Electricity generating cost by fuel source (c/kWh)**

	Nuclear	Coal	Coal with CCS	Gas CCGT	Onshore wind
Belgium	10.9	10	-	9.3-9.9	13.6
Czech R	11.5	11.4-13.3	13.6-14.1	10.4	21.9
France	9.2	-	-		12.2
Germany	8.3	8.7- 9.4	9.5-11.0	9.3	14.3
Hungary	12.2	-	-		
Japan	7.6	10.7		12	
Korea	4.2-4.8	7.1-7.4		9.5	
Netherlands	10.5	10		8.2	12.2
Slovakia	9.8	14.2			
Switzerland	9-13.6	-		10.5	23.4
USA	13.6	8.8-9.3	9.4	8.3	7
China	7.7	5.8	11.8	5.2	7.2-12.6
Russia	4.4-5.5	9			

Source: OECD

Assuming year-on-year increases in energy demand and that the pricing dynamics of both coal and gas remain unchanged, CBM supply could cater to the nation's increasing fuel demand. If CBM supply becomes abundant, however, it could result in a decline in natural gas prices. CBM could displace a portion of coal's market share, assuming electricity generation from gas is cheaper than coal.

The cost of electricity generation from gas is similar to that of coal in China. Coal-fired power stations are at present the preferred mode of energy generation in China, given the abundant supply of that fuel in the country. With an improved national transmission pipeline or any efficient transportation infrastructure in place, however, we could see a rise in the demand for CBM for use in power plants and industry.

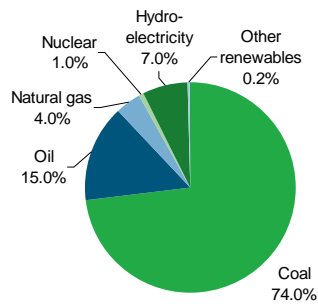
The Chinese government aims increase natural gas usage as part of total energy consumption to 10%, from the current 4% by 2020, to alleviate high pollution from coal fired power stations. With a firm commitment from the government to up natural gas usage and as a net importer of natural gas, CBM supply could likely help to meet the likely shortfall.

New gas power generating capacity, pipeline infrastructure development and the conversion of coal power stations to gas power are all underway to encourage the natural gas power market.

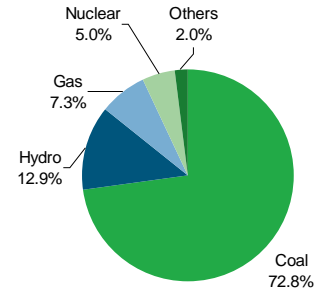




**Fig 12: Total energy consumption in China (2008)**      **Fig 13 : China electricity fuel source by 2030**



Source: EIA



Source: EIA



## Appendix 2: Pipeline infrastructure in China

### Pipeline infrastructure in China: Present and future development

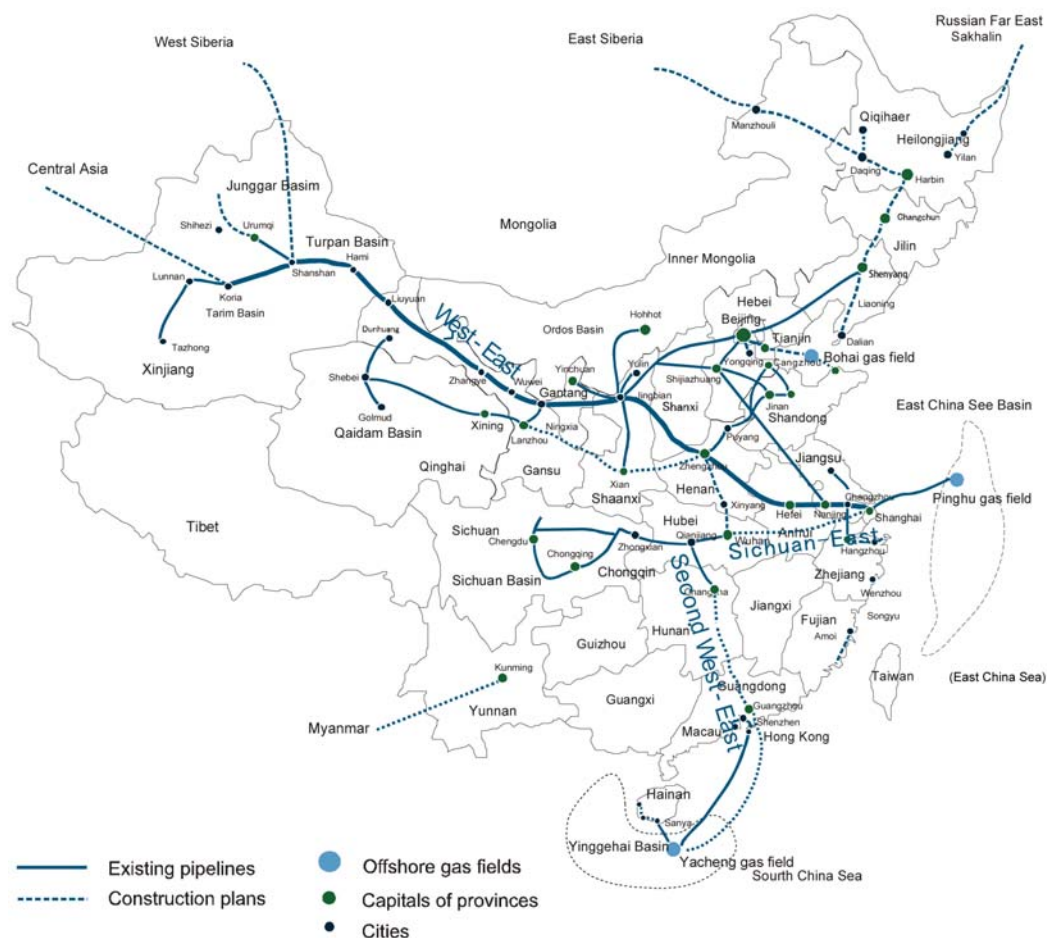
In late 2009, the first long-distance CBM pipeline came into operation, with an operating capacity of 290 mmcfd, connecting the Qinshui Basin to the West-to-to-East (W2E) pipeline. PetroChina delivered its CBM gas produced from the Qinshui Basin to W2E by first blending the gas with conventional gas to achieve the required calorific value, similar to that of natural gas. With the potential scale of CBM reserves in the Qinshui Basin, the PetroChina pipeline is expected to reach full capacity by the end of 2010. CUCBM is constructing a 98 km CBM pipeline, with an operating capacity of 194 mmcf/d from the same basin to Henan province.

### Coal producers build short CBM connections from coal mines to end users

Gas from coalmines and newly developed CBM basins is mainly sold for use in areas within the vicinity of production for local consumers, light industries or the transportation sector. Most CBM is now processed into CNG for sale. CBM gas is used for internal power generation at nearby coalmines, compressed into CNG for the transportation sector or blended with higher calorific gas, such as natural gas, before feeding into the local pipelines.

With the development of the high capacity national CBM pipelines linking reserve-bearing basins to the national natural gas transmission pipelines, we believe this segment will achieve significant growth in a much wider market in future.

Fig 14: Gas Pipeline Infrastructure in China



Source: Standard Chartered Bank



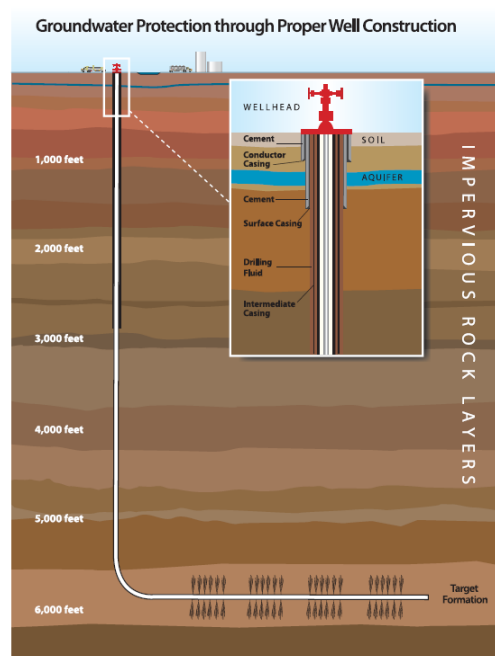
## Appendix 3: Extracting coalbed methane

### Coalbed methane basics

Coal seam gas is natural gas (methane gas) trapped in a near liquid state in the coalbed by ground pressure and water, either in the open fractures between the coal (the cleats) or the within the coal (matrix).

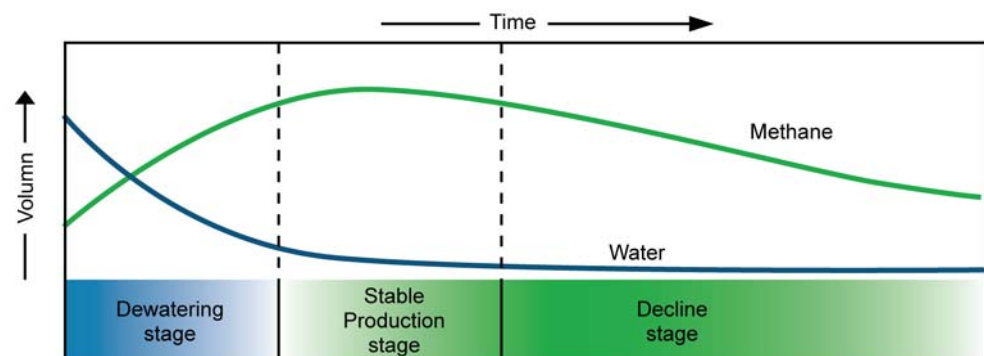
To extract coalbed methane gas, a steel-encased well is drilled 100-1,500m into the coal seam. If the coal permeability is low (as in China), the seams can be fractured (by pumping large amounts of water and sand) or cavitated (by lowering a rotating blade to the bottom section of the well to ream out cavities) to increase the rate of gas flow from the coal. As the gas is released from pores and cleats, the pores and seam cleats decrease in size, making it less permeable; however, pore shrinkage contributes more to the overall matrix shrinkage, thus allowing gas to flow from the cleats more easily.

Fig 15: Horizontal drilling



Source: API

Fig 16: Generalised production profile for CBM



Source: Standard Chartered Research



Water is first pumped out from the coal seams, resulting in reduced pressure in the coal seams, thus allowing trapped gas to be desorbed from coal flowing into the well. Both the water and gas are channelled to different pipes. High in moisture, the gas has to be first de-watered at the wellhead before being piped to a facility for further processing using compression and dehydration, after which the gas can be sold into pipelines.

Compared with the US, China's older geology means its coal seams are more compressed, with a denser coalbed resulting in lower permeability. This translates to lower gas and water flows out of the coal seams, making extraction more costly in China. The economically viable technology used in the US is undergoing a transitional phase, which could lead to successful large-scale deployment in China.

The quantity and quality of the gas extracted from a coalbed is determined by a combination of factors. These include the estimated CBM reserves in place, the size of coal bearing area, the thickness of the coal seam, the buried depth of coal seams, tectonic conditions and hydrological conditions of the coal seams.

The methane content determines the utilisation CBM gas. Gas with low CH<sub>4</sub> content and medium calorific value will be sold to residential and light commercial users, while high CH<sub>4</sub> content and high calorific value will cater to industrial end users, power generation or for automotive fuel. If the calorific value falls short, blending with higher BTU gas is required for pipeline gas.



# Green Dragon Gas

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#### Analyst

**Han Pin Hsi**

Hanpin.Hsi@sc.com  
+ 65 6596 8501

Price as at 29 November 2010

**GBP11.85**

- Green Dragon Gas (GDG), the parent company of GREKA China, is a gas supplier focused on the exploration, development, production, distribution and sales of coalbed methane (CBM).
- GDG's six major projects are located in Shanxi, Jiangxi, Anhui and Guizhou provinces, with the company estimating total proven CBM reserves of 33 bcf.
- GDG's gas production is sold wholesale or processed into compressed natural gas (CNG) for sale in the downstream market.

<b>Bloomberg code:</b>	GDG.LN	<b>PER historical (x)</b>	-56.4
<b>Mkt cap (USDm)</b>	1,428.3	<b>Yield historical (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>12m range (USD)</b>	6.03-11.6	<b>P/B historical (x)</b>	2.56
<b>3m value traded (USDm)</b>	12.5	<b>ROE (%)</b>	-5.67
<b>No. of shares (m)</b>	120.5	<b>Net gearing (%)</b>	-6.02
<b>Est. free float (%)</b>	20	<b>Net debt (cash) (USDm)</b>	25
<b>Established</b>	1997	<b>Historical EPS (USD)</b>	-0.28
<b>Listed</b>	2006	<b>EPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Secondary placement</b>	n.a.	<b>EPS 7-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Auditors</b>	BDO LLP	<b>Historical DPS (USD)</b>	0
<b>Year-end</b>	Dec	<b>DPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	0
<b>Major shareholders</b>	GDG Holdings (73.0%), Blackrock (22%)		

Source: Annual report

#### Upstream business

GDG holds six CBM PSCs in four provinces over an area of 7.556km<sup>2</sup>, with proven gas reserves of 33 bcf. To date, 43% of the 203 wells drilled are on-stream and producing CBM.

#### Midstream/wholesale distribution

GDG sells its gas production directly into the wholesale sector through its gas distribution centres. In October 2010, the company's acquisition of a 33-59.3 % equity stake in Sinoenergy for c.US\$35m gave GDG increased access to midstream and downstream infrastructure.

Sinoenergy's new midstream distribution assets, with a total capacity of 8.8 bcf, increases GDG's wholesale gas locations from two to five. The five distribution centres are located in Hubei, Henan and Anhui provinces.

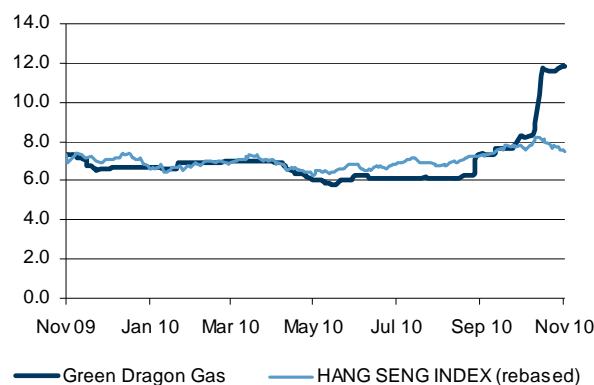
#### Retail sales distribution

GDG processes its gas production into CNG for sale into the retail sector. The acquisition of Sinoenergy's 13 CNG retail locations adds to GDG's existing 27 locations and increases total annual sales capacity to 9.6 bcf.

#### Manufacturing and technology

GDG manufactures its own customised CNG trailers to transport CGG gas and related CNG distribution equipment.

#### Share price performance (GBP)



Source: Bloomberg

#### Production Sharing Contracts in detail

PSC	Gas in place bcf	Area km <sup>2</sup>	GDG share bcf	Working interests %
Shizhuang South	3,422	455	2,053	60%
Shizhuang North	3,609	375	2,165	60%
Fengcheng	3,342	1,541	1,638	49%
Qinyuan	9,470	3,665	5,682	60%
Panxie East	1,123	584	674	60%
Baotian-Qingshan, Guizhou	4,547	947	2,228	49%
	<b>25,513</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>14,440</b>	

Source: Green Dragon Gas



# Enviro Energy

## NON-COVERED COMPANY NOTE

## NOT RATED

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### Analyst

**Han Pin Hsi**

Hanpin.Hsi@sc.com  
+ 65 6596 8501

Price as at 29 November 2010

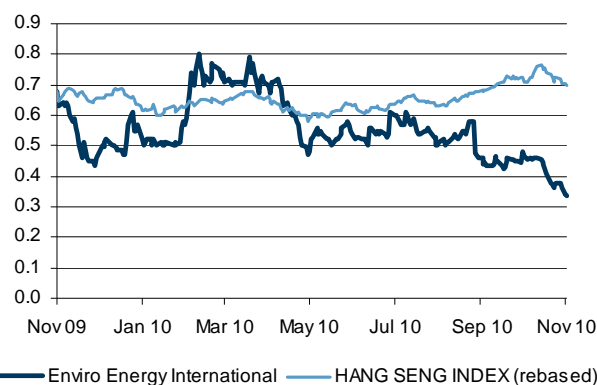
**HKD0.31**

- Enviro Energy (EE) is focused on exploring, developing and producing coalbed methane (CBM) in China.
- The company has developed in-house environmental technologies in oil recovery, coal mine methane (CMM), CBM and enhanced coalbed methane (ECBM). Its major technical partner is Petromin Resources, a Canadian company.
- EE upped its stake in TerraWest Energy (Liuhuanggou) by 10.4% (US\$18.9m) in June 2010, increasing its total shareholding to 71.61%.

<b>Bloomberg code:</b>	8182 HK	<b>PER historical (x)</b>	16.06
<b>Mkt cap (HKDm)</b>	861.0	<b>Yield historical (%)</b>	0
<b>12m range (HKD)</b>	0.34-0.8	<b>P/B historical (x)</b>	1.47
<b>3m value traded HKDm)</b>	5.45	<b>ROE (%)</b>	-15.7
<b>No. of shares (m)</b>	2,777.6	<b>Net gearing (%)</b>	-9.76
<b>Est. free float (%)</b>	52	<b>Net debt (cash) (HKDm)</b>	-83.45
<b>Established</b>	2002	<b>Historical EPS (HKD)</b>	-0.05
<b>Listed</b>	2003	<b>EPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Secondary placement</b>	n.a.	<b>EPS 7-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Auditors</b>	PriceWater	<b>Historical DPS (HKD)</b>	0
<b>Year-end</b>	Dec	<b>DPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Major shareholder</b>	Wing Kim Chan (35.81%), Legg Mason Inc(4.56%), Fidelity (1.14%)		

Source: Annual report

### Share price performance (HKD)



Source: Bloomberg

### Project 1 - Liuhuanggou Project, Xinjiang Province

EE, through TerraWest has a 47% working interest in the production sharing contract (PSC) with CUCBM for a block located in the Junggar Basin in Xinjiang covering an area of 653 sq km with estimated CBM reserves of 69 tcf.

**Existing West-East pipelines:** With WEP1 located 60 miles from the block and WEP2 under construction to pass through it, the distribution infrastructure is in place for Enviro to sell and pipe its CBM production.

### Project 2 - Qinshui Basin in Shanxi province

EE and Petromin each have a 20% interest in PSCs with CUCBM for a block located in the Qinshui Basin in Shanxi to develop enhanced coalbed methane (ECBM).

### Project 3 - Qian An Oilfield, Jilin Province

EE has entered into a 50% joint venture with PetroChina to develop a block located in Jilin to recover conventional oil and gas reserves estimated at 5 mmbbl (recovery rate of 28%).

### Conclusion

EE's in house environmental technologies (Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage) and other enhanced recovery techniques in CBM, CMM, ECBM, and oil recovery are key to its partnership with Chinese enterprises as the government seeks to bring in foreign companies with cutting-edge technology to boost CBM development.

### Production Sharing Contracts in detail

PSC	Working interest	Type	Reserves
<b>Liuhuanggou Project, Xinjiang Province</b>	Enviro Energy 47% with CUCBM & Petrochina 53%	CBM and shale gas	653 sq km with an estimated CBM reserves of 69 tcf
<b>Qinshui Basin, Shanxi Province</b>	Enviro Energy 20% and Petromin 20% with Petrochina 60%	Enhanced Coalbed Methane ECBM	n.a.
<b>Qian An Oilfield, Jilin Province</b>	Enviro Energy 50% with Petrochina 50%	Oil recovery	Recoverable reserves of 5mmbbl (recovery rate of 28%)

Source: Enviro Energy



# Sino Gas & Energy

## NON-COVERED COMPANY NOTE

### NOT RATED

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#### Analyst

**Han Pin Hsi**

Hanpin.Hsi@sc.com  
+ 65 6596 8501

Price as at 29 November 2010

**AUD0.066**

- Sino Gas & Energy is an Australian company focused on exploration and development of unconventional gas assets in China.
- In June 2010, the company completed a rights issue of AUD\$29.5m to fund its work programme and retire debt.
- Sino Gas & Energy has signed a production sharing contract (PSC) for the development of assets located in the Ordos Basin in Shanxi.

<b>Bloomberg code:</b>	SEH.AU	<b>PER historical (x)</b>	n.a.
<b>Mkt cap (AUDm)</b>	61.69	<b>Yield historical (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>12m range (AUD)</b>	0.026-0.19	<b>P/B historical (x)</b>	n.a.
<b>3m value traded (AUDm)</b>	0.15	<b>ROE (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>No. of shares (m)</b>	934.7	<b>Net gearing (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Est. free float (%)</b>	80	<b>Net debt (cash) (AUDm)</b>	n.a.
<b>Established</b>	2005	<b>Historical EPS (THB)</b>	n.a.
<b>Listed</b>	2009	<b>EPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Secondary placement</b>	\$29.5m	<b>EPS 7-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Auditors, since</b>	n.a.	<b>Historical DPS (AUD)</b>	n.a.
<b>Year-end</b>	June	<b>DPS 3-yr CAGR (%)</b>	n.a.
<b>Major shareholder</b>			n.a.

Source: Annual report

#### Acquired 100% in PSC from Chevron farm-in

Sino Gas acquired 50% interests in its two PSC exploration phases through a farm-in from Chevron (CVX US; NR). In 2009, with Chevron's exit from the JV, Sino Gas now owns 100% of the PSCs for Linxing and Sanjiaobei blocks in the Ordos Basin, located in Shanxi. The Ordos Basin is the second-largest oil and gas basin in China.

#### Linxing PSC

For this PSC, Sino Gas & Energy is in partnership with China United Coal Bed Methane Company (CUCBM). Sino Gas & Energy has a working interest of 64.75% in the block, which has reached the production phase.

#### Sanjiaobei PSC

For this PSC, Sino Gas & Energy is in partnership with PetroChina Coal Bed Methane (PCBM). Sino Gas & Energy has a working interest of 49% in the block, which is in the production phase.

#### Prime location for gas distribution

Sino Gas & Energy's PSCs are located in Shanxi, a vicinity with relatively well-developed gas pipeline infrastructure.

#### Progress to date

Eleven wells drilled, 414km of seismic processed. Well flows tested for three wells, namely TB-07, TB-05 and TB-02, with 400,000 scf/day flow achieved on well TB-02. Estimated reserves of 2.7 tcf contingent and prospective resources in place.

#### Share price performance (AUD)



Source: Bloomberg

#### Production Sharing Contracts in detail

PSC	Working interest (Exploration)	Net interests (Production)	Current status
Linxing	Sino Gas 100%	Sino Gas 64.75% CUCBM 30.00% CBM Energy 5.25%	2 year extension of Exploration Period to 31 Aug 2011 – formalized
Sanjiaobei	Sino Gas 100%	Sino Gas 49.0% PCBM 51.0%	Exploration Period expired 31 Aug 08 – renewal being negotiated

Source: Sino



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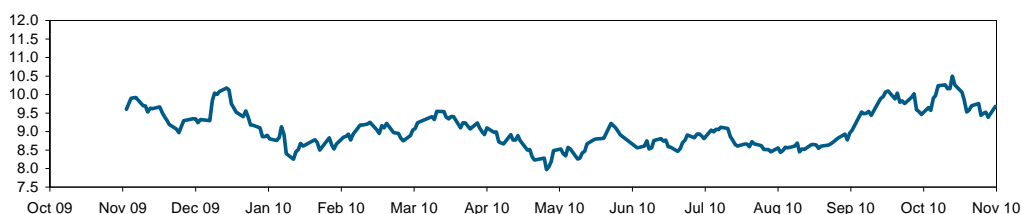
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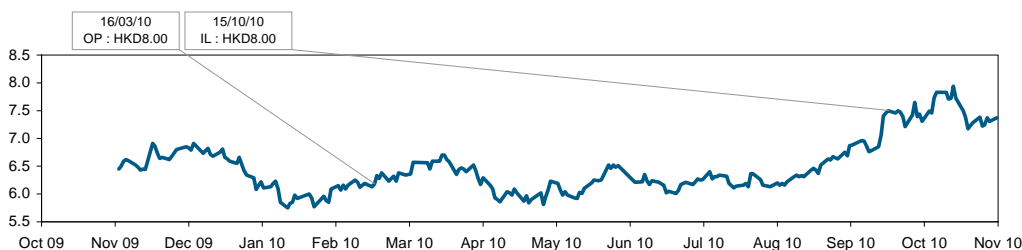
Source: FactSet prices / SCB ratings and price targets

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SCB makes a market in securities issued by this company

Sinopec - current rating is: IN-LINE



Source: FactSet prices / SCB ratings and price targets





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	% of covered companies currently assigned this rating	% of companies assigned this rating with which SCB has provided investment banking services over the past 12 months
OUTPERFORM	61.8%	16.8%
IN-LINE	27.2%	10.7%
UNDERPERFORM	11.0%	5.9%

### Research Recommendation

Terminology	Definitions
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