

Weekly Wrap of STI

The STI ended 0.61% or 19.38 points higher on Friday to end at 3,214.05 as news of a trade deal ahead of the key 15 December tariff deadline lifted Asian markets.

The Straits Times Index opened lower at the start of the week as investors treaded cautiously ahead of announcements by the central banks of Europe and the United States, and awaited clarity on developments in trade negotiations. The risk-off sentiment continued on Tuesday, owing to a lack of catalysts and signals. The index, along with other Asian markets rose on Thursday with the US Federal Reserve indicating that interest rates would likely remain unchanged through the following year, reaffirming its dovish stance. A decisive UK election result and news that a last-minute trade deal had been reached helped the STI register gains on the last trading session of the week.

Year to date, the STI index is up by 4.7%.

Week Ahead: 16 December – 20 December 2019

Economic Calendar: JP PMI Manufacturing Index Flash (16 Dec), CN Industrial Production (16 Dec), CN Retail Sales (16 Dec), Euro PMI Composite Flash (16 Dec), US PMI Composite Flash (16 Dec), SG Merchandise Trade (17 Dec), Euro Merchandise Trade (17 Dec), US Industrial Production (17 Dec), JP Merchandise Trade (18 Dec), UK PPI (18 Dec), UK CPI (18 Dec), US Jobless Claims (19 Dec), US Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook Survey (19 Dec), UK GDP (20 Dec), US GDP (20 Dec), US Corporate Profits (20 Dec), Euro EC Consumer Confidence Flash (20 Dec), US Consumer Sentiment (20 Dec)

Company Results: Top Glove (17 Dec)

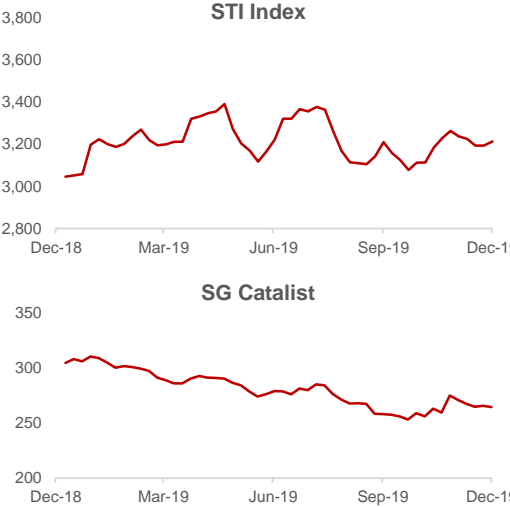
Companies News

- 1. Interra Resources reported positive results for exploration well in Kalimantan**
Petroleum exploration and production company Interra Resources Limited (“**Interra Resources**”) announced the drilling and testing results of the Company’s first well in the Kuala Pambuang block (the “**block**” or “**KP**”) in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Interra has a 67.5% working interest in the block through the block’s operator, PT Mentari Pambuang Internasional. The KP-1 exploration well reached a depth of 3,771 feet, and electric wireline logging (“**EWL**”) was accomplished. The EWL analyses have shown signs of oil. Interra Resources determined that the drilling and testing results were positive, and will perform further testing.
- 2. LifeBrandz reported 1Q2020 results**
Lifestyle services company LifeBrandz Ltd. (“**LifeBrandz**”) reported a 34% increase in revenue to S\$1.5 million for the three months ended 31 October 2019, compared to the corresponding period the year before. This was due to an increase in food and beverage (“**F&B**”) revenue of S\$0.7 million, and partially offset by the decrease in travel booking service revenue of S\$0.3 million. For the F&B segment, the higher revenue was from its restaurants in Singapore and San Francisco, while revenue from its restaurant in Thailand was lower due to a more competitive environment. The fall in travel booking service revenue was due to the slowdown in the travel business industry and a more competitive environment in Japan. Overall, loss attributable to owners of the company narrowed, falling to S\$0.6 million in 1Q2020 compared to S\$1.1 million in 1Q2019. Separately, LifeBrandz also announced the opening of its high-end Japanese restaurant, *Sushi Nagai San Francisco*. The restaurant is located on 125 Ellis Street, the heart of San Francisco’s shopping and dining precinct, and helmed by a sushi chef with over 20 years of experience.
- 3. Synagie announced partnership with Singapore Institute of Retail Studies to provide e-commerce training for users of its platform**
E-commerce solutions provider Synagie Corporation Ltd. (“**Synagie**”) announced that it entered into a partnership with Nanyang Polytechnic’s Singapore Institute of Retail Studies (“**NYP-SIRS**”), to provide certified e-commerce training for employees of small and medium-sized enterprises (“**SMEs**”) who adopt its cross-border solutions. Qualifying Singapore SMEs that adopt Synagie’s Multi-channel Cross-Border e-Commerce Solution (“**MICES**”) from 1 November 2019 will receive 70% subsidy off Synagie’s first year fees of S\$20,000 through Enterprise Singapore’s support. To be eligible for this, employees of qualifying SMEs need to attend e-commerce training courses run by NYP-SIRS. Ms Megan Ong, Director of NYP-SIRS, noted that Synagie’s platform, coupled with NYP-SIRS’ training programmes would make cross-border e-commerce more accessible for local SMEs.
- 4. iX Biopharma to enter phase 3 clinical trial programme for Wafermine**
Catalist-listed pharmaceutical company iX Biopharma Ltd (“**iX Biopharma**”) announced that it successfully concluded an end-of-Phase 2 meeting with the United States Food and Drug Administration (“**FDA**”) for Wafermine. Wafermine is a product that uses the company’s patented WaferiX sublingual delivery system to administer pain relief drugs. During the meeting, the Company and the FDA reached agreements on key aspects of the Phase 3 clinical trial program to support the approval of Wafermine. The Phase 3 program will consist of two randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled studies using the same post-operative pain models which were successfully evaluated in the recent Phase 2b clinical study. As a result, the company highlighted that it is confident that the Phase 2b results can be replicated in the final pivotal studies.

Market Snapshot

Symbol	Price	Change	1D % Change	5D % Change	YTD % Change
STI	3214.1	▲19.4	▲0.6%	▲0.6%	▲4.7%
SG Mid Cap	743.9	▲0.1	▲0.0%	▼1.0%	▲8.7%
SG Catalist	264.5	▲1.8	▲0.7%	▼0.4%	▼14.5%
SG Small Cap	351.6	▼2.4	▼0.7%	▼1.3%	▲7.2%

Price Chart



Capital Market News

- AWAK Technologies raised US\$40 Million**
Singapore-based medical technology (“**medtech**”) company AWAK Technologies (“**AWAK**”) announced that it raised US\$40 million in an oversubscribed funding round, closing the largest medtech fundraise in Singapore, and one of the largest in Southeast Asia. The funding round was led by Vickers Venture Partners and Enterprise Singapore’s investment arm SEEDS Capital. The company focuses on developing technology used in dialysis treatment. AWAK’s patented sorbent technology regenerates and reconstitutes used dialysis fluid into fresh fluid, eliminating the current dependence on large volumes of dialysate and continuous water supply. This has enabled the development of wearable peritoneal dialysis (“**PD**”) devices. Proceeds from the funding round will be used to complete the pivotal clinical trial of the AWAK PD device, strengthen the company’s R&D, and prepare for manufacturing and commercialisation of the device.
- Electric scooter sharing startup raised US\$18.5 million in Series A funding**
Electric scooter (“**e-scooter**”) startup Neuron Mobility raised US\$18.5 million in Series A funding led by Square Peg Capital and GSR Ventures. GSR Ventures previously invested in notable transport related startups such as China’s DiDi Chuxing and ele.me. Square Peg Ventures is one of Australia’s largest venture capital firms. Neuron Mobility was founded in 2016, and is a fast growing e-scooter sharing service operator in the Asia Pacific region. Funds raised will be used to accelerate the company’s expansion in Australia and New Zealand, branch into other Asia Pacific markets, and develop its technology further. Neuron Mobility has secured licences to operate in Darwin City and Auckland, and is on track to commence operations in these cities in early 2020. Neuron’s overseas push comes amid the recent crackdown on e-scooters and other personal mobility devices in Singapore.