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S. Korea Battery Materials | Asia Pacific

Feedback on Our Assumption

Investor feedback echoed the key debates highlighted in our coverage assumption, with industry sentiment still cautious but improving from August lows. Despite a 32% rally in L&F since early August (vs. KOSPI +7%), it remains our preferred pick on near-term earnings visibility and valuation support.

Key Takeaways

- LFP drew the most interest given its clearer near-term commercialization visibility relative to other strategic initiatives.
- Concerns remain around persistently low utilization rates across existing high-nickel cathode lines, despite multiple growth initiatives.
- L&F's near-term volume/earnings momentum was noted, balanced against questions over the sustainability of high-nickel growth and LFP margin potential.
- PFM's LFP deal was welcomed, but POSCO's stake-sale overhang remains a concern; EBM stayed sidelined on its rights offering and upstream investment.
- Valuation was not a major point of debate, although L&F trading near the low end of its historical EV/EBITDA valuation range was noted.

Industry: Among multiple growth initiatives, LFP drew the most interest given its clearer path to near-term commercialization, while concerns remain over under-utilization of existing high-nickel lines and the pace of recovery. Given constrained balance sheets, we believe re-rating will increasingly hinge on tangible earnings delivery and improving utilization rather than further capacity announcements.

L&F: Near-term volume visibility was relatively well accepted, supported by L&F's constructive 2H volume/ASP outlook and resilient demand from key customers. The debate centered more on growth beyond 2026, particularly potential wallet-share downside as dual sourcing likely comes into play. Even assuming an 8% YoY decline in NCM volumes next year, we expect the LFP ramp-up to support volume growth of 27% YoY. That said, execution and LFP margins will become the key proof points.

PFM/EBM: POSCO Future M (PFM)'s [US ESS LFP agreement](#) provided further evidence of non-PFE cathode demand. That said, with material capacity additions skewed toward 2028, investors await further details in 3Q to gauge the magnitude and timing of volume upside. Meanwhile, [POSCO's potential stake sell-down](#) remains an overhang, while elevated capex raises funding concerns. For EcoPro BM (EBM), solid NCA demand from ESS and power tools should only partly offset weaker end-customer EV demand, limiting utilization recovery through 2H26. The Hungary plant ramp-up has also raised overall utilization concerns given the recent decline in Korea-to-Hungary cathode exports. Its nickel investment could provide a more stable earnings stream, though investors will likely seek clarity on capital deployment and returns following the rights offering.

MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INTERNATIONAL PLC, SEOUL BRANCH+

Chan Park

Equity Analyst

Chan.Park1@morganstanley.com

+82 2 399-9920

Young Suk Shin

Equity Analyst

Young.Shin@morganstanley.com

+82 2 399-4994



S. KOREA ENERGY & MATERIALS

Asia Pacific

Industry View

In-Line

Please find our recent reports:

[S. Korea Battery Materials: Diverging Strategies \(4 Aug 2026\)](#)

[L&F Co Ltd: 2Q26 Results: Miss on One-off \(6 Aug 2026\)](#)

[POSCO FUTURE M: LFP Supply Agreement Announced \(6 Aug 2026\)](#)

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Valuation Methodology and Risks

POSCO FUTURE M (003670.KS)

Base case, target EV/EBITDA of 30x, applied to our EBITDA estimate for 2027e, which is a mid-cycle multiple between its historical trading range of 20-50x. Given our view that PFM is entering a gradual earnings recovery phase, we believe a mid-cycle multiple appears justifiable.

Risks to Upside

- Faster customer qualification and commercialization of LFP cathodes.
- Aggressive inventory stocking from OEM and battery makers.
- Additional order wins from global EV battery cell makers and OEMs.
- Earlier earnings contribution from stronger-than-expected anode demand recovery.

Risks to Downside

- Significant R&D and capex investments keep ROE relatively low.
- New projects that are delayed.
- EV penetration slows down

L&F Co Ltd (066970.KS)

Base case, target EV/EBITDA of 20x, applied to our EBITDA estimate for 2027e, which is the mid-point of its historical trading range of 10-40x. Given improving earnings and FCF outlooks, we believe the stock warrants at least a mid-cycle valuation.

Risks to Upside

- Unexpectedly higher utilization and volume delivery in 2027.
- Additional long-term contracts from battery makers and OEMs.
- Continued rise of NCMA in the revenue mix.

Risks to Downside

- Slower-than-expected LFP commercialization or customer qualification
- Weaker-than-expected US ESS deployment and non-PFE demand
- Market share losses at key EV customers,
- Faster-than-expected competitive intensity

Ecopro BM (247540.KQ)

Base case, target EV/EBITDA of 30x, applied to our EBITDA estimate for 2027e, which is a mid-cycle multiple within its historical trading range of 20-50x. Given our view that EBM is entering a gradual earnings recovery phase, we believe a mid-cycle multiple appears justifiable.

Risks to Upside

- Announcement of additional global EV battery cell makers as key customers.
- Enhanced in-house vertical integration.
- Earlier earnings contribution from Indonesian nickel investments.

Risks to Downside

- Rapidly growing of Chinese shares in Europe EV market, which would dilute its market share.
- Market share losses to LFP and other new technologies.
- ESG and governance issues.

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Stock Rating Category	Coverage Universe		Investment Banking Clients (IBC)			Other Material Investment Services Clients (MISC)	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total IBC	% of Rating Category	Count	% of Total Other MISC
Overweight/Buy	1529	42%	442	47%	29%	750	43%
Equal-weight/Hold	1582	43%	396	42%	25%	773	44%
Not-Rated/Hold	3	0%	1	0%	33%	1	0%
Underweight/Sell	560	15%	97	10%	17%	217	12%
Total	3,674		936			1741	

Data include common stock and ADRs currently assigned ratings. Investment Banking Clients are companies from whom Morgan Stanley received investment banking compensation in the last 12 months. Due to rounding off of decimals, the percentages provided in the "% of total" column may not add up to exactly 100 percent.

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Overweight (O). The stock's total return is expected to exceed the average total return of the analyst's industry (or industry team's) coverage universe, on a risk-adjusted basis, over the next 12-18 months.

Equal-weight (E). The stock's total return is expected to be in line with the average total return of the analyst's industry (or industry team's) coverage universe, on a risk-adjusted basis, over the next 12-18 months.

Not-Rated (NR). Currently the analyst does not have adequate conviction about the stock's total return relative to the average total return of the analyst's industry (or industry team's) coverage universe, on a risk-adjusted basis, over the next 12-18 months.

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Unless otherwise specified, the time frame for price targets included in Morgan Stanley Research is 12 to 18 months.

Analyst Industry Views

Attractive (A): The analyst expects the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months to be attractive vs. the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.

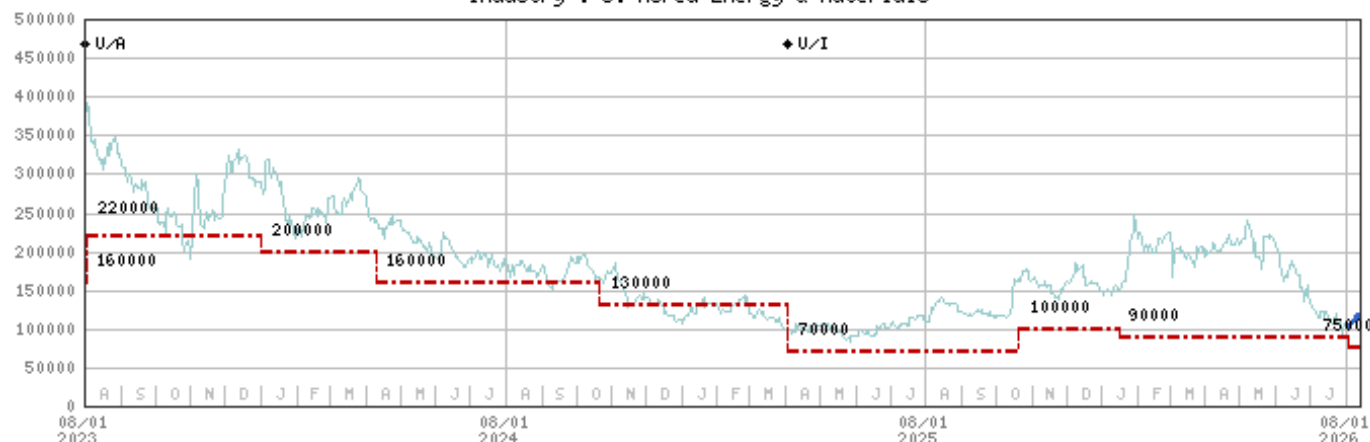
In-Line (I): The analyst expects the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months to be in line with the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.

Cautious (C): The analyst views the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months with caution vs. the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.

Benchmarks for each region are as follows: North America - S&P 500; Latin America - relevant MSCI country index or MSCI Latin America Index; Europe - MSCI Europe; Japan - TOPIX; Asia - relevant MSCI country index or MSCI sub-regional index or MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index.

Stock Price, Price Target and Rating History (See Rating Definitions)

Ecopro BM (247540.KQ) - As of 08/13/26 GMT in KRW
Industry : S. Korea Energy & Materials



Stock Rating History: 8/3/21 : O/A; 1/12/23 : E/A; 3/20/23 : U/A; 4/3/25 : U/I

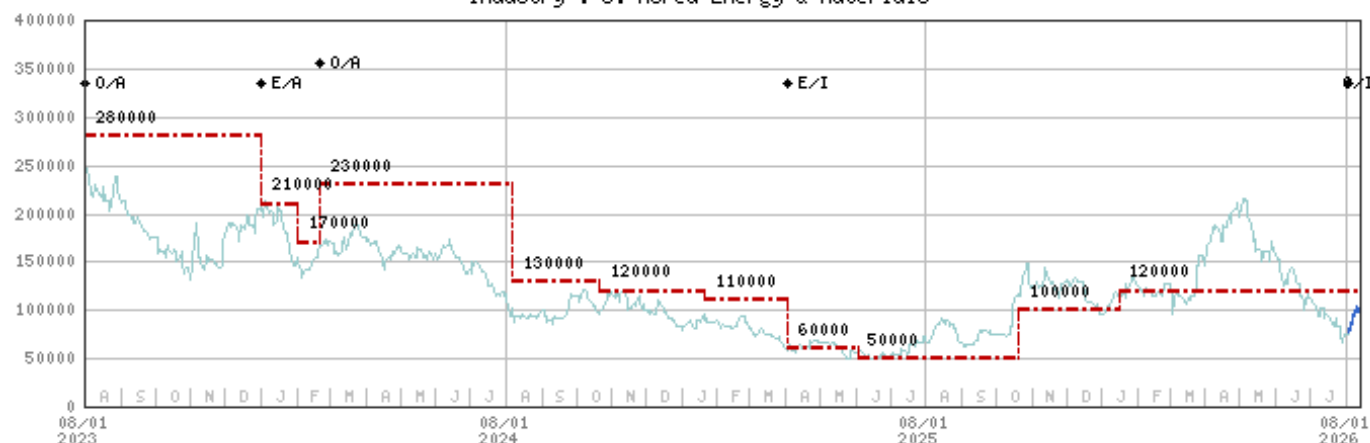
Price Target History: 8/3/21 : 90000; 10/20/21 : 150000; 2/11/22 : 135000; 5/3/22 : 162500; 8/3/22 : 170000; 1/12/23 : 120000; 3/20/23 : 130000; 5/2/23 : 160000; 8/3/23 : 220000; 1/2/24 : 200000; 4/10/24 : 160000; 10/22/24 : 130000; 4/3/25 : 70000; 10/21/25 : 100000; 1/16/26 : 90000; 8/4/26 : 75000

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format : MM/DD/YY Price Target --- No Price Target Assigned (NA)
Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) — Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) —
Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as ♦ Stock Rating/Industry View
Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)
Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

Effective January 13, 2014, the stocks covered by Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific will be rated relative to the analyst's industry (or industry team's) coverage.

Effective January 13, 2014, the industry view benchmarks for Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific are as follows: relevant MSCI country index or MSCI sub-regional index or MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index.

L&F Co Ltd (066970.KS) - As of 08/13/26 GMT in KRW
Industry : S. Korea Energy & Materials



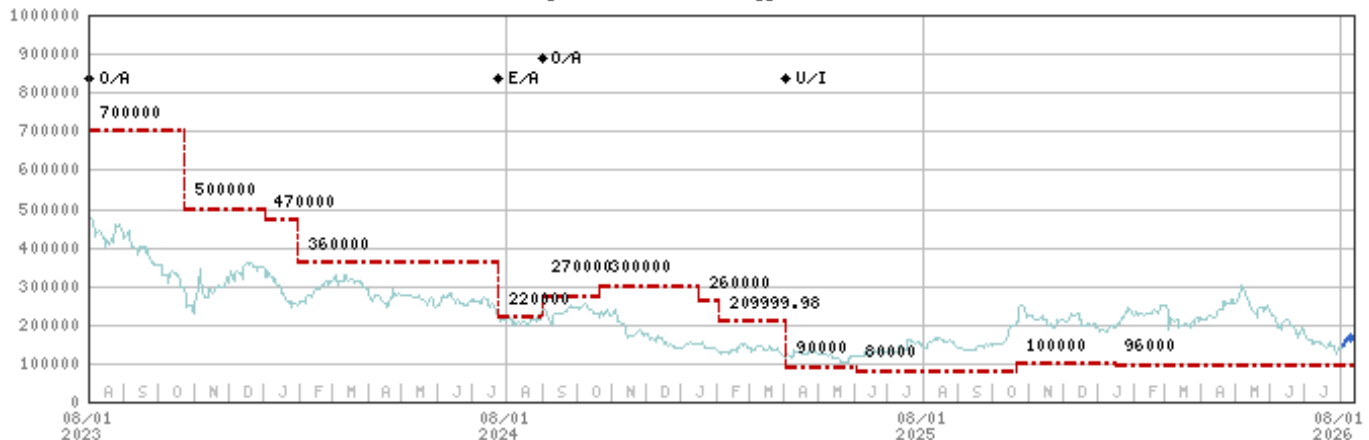
Stock Rating History: 8/1/21 : O/A; 1/2/24 : E/A; 2/22/24 : O/A; 4/3/25 : E/I; 8/4/26 : O/I

Price Target History: 4/22/21 : 120000; 8/17/21 : 170000; 10/20/21 : 280000; 11/24/21 : 310000; 5/16/22 : 390000; 8/17/22 : 400000; 1/12/23 : 320000; 7/5/23 : 280000; 1/2/24 : 210000; 2/2/24 : 170000; 2/22/24 : 230000; 8/7/24 : 130000; 10/22/24 : 120000; 1/21/25 : 110000; 4/3/25 : 60000; 6/3/25 : 50000; 10/21/25 : 100000; 1/16/26 : 120000

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format : MM/DD/YY Price Target --- No Price Target Assigned (NA)
Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) — Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) —
Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as ♦ Stock Rating/Industry View
Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)
Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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POSCO FUTURE M (003670.KS) - As of 08/13/26 GMT in KRW
Industry : S. Korea Energy & Materials

Stock Rating History: 8/1/21 : U/A; 8/10/22 : O/A; 1/12/23 : E/A; 6/12/23 : O/A; 7/25/24 : E/A; 9/1/24 : O/A; 4/3/25 : U/I

Price Target History: 4/27/21 : 120000; 10/20/21 : 125000; 1/26/22 : 100000; 4/25/22 : 108000; 6/15/22 : 104000; 8/10/22 : 200000; 10/24/22 : 240000; 1/12/23 : 200000; 4/27/23 : 290000; 6/12/23 : 500000; 7/25/23 : 700000; 10/24/23 : 500000; 1/2/24 : 470000; 1/31/24 : 360000; 7/25/24 : 220000; 9/1/24 : 270000; 10/22/24 : 300000; 1/16/25 : 260000; 2/3/25 : 209999.98; 4/3/25 : 90000; 6/3/25 : 80000; 10/21/25 : 100000; 1/16/26 : 96000

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format : MM/DD/YY Price Target --- No Price Target Assigned (NA)

Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) — Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) —

Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as ♦ Stock Rating/Industry View

Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)

Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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INDUSTRY COVERAGE: S. Korea Energy & Materials

COMPANY (TICKER)	RATING (AS OF)	PRICE* (08/13/2026)
Chan Park		
Ecopro BM (247540.KQ)	U (03/20/2023)	W114,500
L&F Co Ltd (066970.KS)	O (08/04/2026)	W102,600
POSCO FUTURE M (003670.KS)	U (04/03/2025)	W165,900
Young Suk Shin		
Korea Electric Power (015760.KS)	U (05/19/2026)	W33,100
LG Chem (051910.KS)	E (04/03/2025)	W275,500
LG Energy Solution (373220.KS)	E (04/03/2025)	W365,500
Lotte Chemical Corp (011170.KS)	U (01/08/2025)	W57,400
POSCO (005490.KS)	E (01/29/2026)	W325,500
Samsung SDI (006400.KS)	O (04/28/2026)	W487,000
SK Innovation Co Ltd (096770.KS)	O (07/31/2026)	W121,700
S-Oil (010950.KS)	O (01/26/2026)	W140,900
Sung Kwang Bend Co Ltd (014620.KQ)	O (03/04/2025)	W26,750
TK Corp (023160.KQ)	E (04/23/2026)	W23,450

Stock Ratings are subject to change. Please see latest research for each company.

* Historical prices are not split adjusted.