

# How to Make KT&G a Global Player

October 2022

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## **SUMMARY**

**KT&G (the "Company") is one of KOSPI's top 50 companies with a 140-year history.** Its products command unrivalled brand loyalty in Korea, as seen by its 65% market share for tobacco and 70+% market share for ginseng. It is the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest tobacco producer and No. 1 ginseng brand. Given its exceptional brand power, market position, and track record, we believe the Company should trade at a premium to its peers.

**Unfortunately, KT&G** is trading at a severe discount, and at the same price as 15 years ago, despite its huge cash accumulation in recent years. The combined value of its cash, real estate, and subsidiaries is more than its current market cap, and its core business, tobacco, is not even factored in the stock price. If KT&G's tobacco business is valued in-line with global peers, the stock price would at least double.

We believe KT&G's 50% trading price discount is due to the Company's poor governance. Often called an "ownerless company," KT&G is run like a state-owned enterprise with no aligned incentives between management and shareholders. KT&G gets little coverage from research analysts, and its stock price continued to decline. We believe the main culprit is the current incentive system. KT&G management gets compensated regardless of stock price. They have no incentive to take care of stock price, or even grow the Company.

Flashlight Capital Partners ("Flashlight" or "we") plans to bring real governance to the Company. We plan to nominate director candidates who will help the Company implement a set of value-enhancing initiatives, including the business strategy review, realignment of executive compensation to shareholder value creation, spin-off of a subsidiary for maximum potential, and environmental, social and governance ("ESG") improvements.

We believe our suggestions, if executed well, will lead to at least 2x returns for the KT&G shareholders. More importantly, we are confident we can help the Company become a global player that will make all shareholders, management, employees, and Koreans proud.

## ABOUT FLASHLIGHT CAPITAL PARTNERS

Flashlight is a value investment firm with significant experience in Korea.

#### **Firm Overview**

- Founded in 2020, based in Singapore
- Focused on improving the governance of public companies
- Currently holds significant minority stake in KT&G

#### **Relevant Experience**

- Managing Partner Sanghyun Lee possesses 20 years of active investment management experience in Korea
  - o Former Head of Korea at The Carlyle Group
  - o Former management consultant at McKinsey & Company in Seoul
  - o BA, Seoul National University and MBA, Harvard Business School
- Mr. Lee has significant board advisory experience in Korea, including the recruitment of CEOs and directors and designing stock incentive programs for management teams

## FLASHLIGHT'S CORE PRINCIPLES

Flashlight's investment activities are driven by three core principles.

#### ESG Starts with G

We believe the current ESG discussion is too light on "G."

We believe G is a cornerstone of ESG; only with proper governance can there can be real progress made on environmental or social issues.

#### Change Through Inclusion

The biggest improvement in ESG lies in the most neglected industries and companies.

We aim to achieve outstanding returns through bold "engagement" rather than "exclusion" strategies that avoid investing in certain industries and companies.

#### Management Friendly

We always look to engage and collaborate with management to improve companies' governance, strategy and performance, by aligning interest.

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### **ABOUT KT&G**

#### **Business Overview**

- KT&G is the 33<sup>rd</sup> largest KOSPI-listed conglomerate whose two major businesses are tobacco and ginseng products (as of 31/08/2022)
- Tobacco business is #1 cigarette manufacturer in Korea, #5 in the world
- Ginseng business (KGC) is #1 producer in the world
- Formerly a state-run monopoly until privatization in 2002
- Limited insider ownership (<0.01%) and foreign ownership of more than 40%

#### **Industry Tailwinds**

- Global tobacco market worth \$818 billion growing at 1.4%<sup>4</sup> p.a.
- Emergence of popular cigarette alternatives such as heat-not-burn ("HNB")
- Global HNB market will quadruple between 2021 and 2025<sup>4</sup>
- In line with the growing health food industry in Korea, ginseng consumption will continue growth

#### **Financial Summary**

- Share Price / Market Cap<sup>1</sup>: KRW81,709 / KRW9.8 trillion
- 2021 Revenue / Net Income: KRW5.5 / 1.0 trillion
- EV/EBITDA: negative 0.3x<sup>2</sup> (vs. 12.2x industry avg)
- Dividend Yield: 5.7% (dividend in 2022)
- Consolidated Net Cash: KRW4 trillion
- Top Shareholders<sup>3</sup>: NPS (9%) and First Eagle (8%)

#### **Investment Opportunity**

- Ideal candidate for a break-up with two sizeable, disparate businesses, together trading at a large discount to intrinsic value
- Negative shareholder returns over various long-term horizons despite excellent asset quality and industry prospects
- Attractive dividend yield (6%), with potential for improvement
- ESG Opportunity: shift focus of tobacco business to HNB, globalize ginseng business, improve corporate governance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Share price and mkt cap as of avg August, 2022. Shares outstanding excludes Treasury Shares, which have no voting rights.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Reflecting value of cash, RE investment, and ginseng business. Assumptions on page 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>% based on total shares excluding treasury shares

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bloomberg, Research and Markets

## **UNIQUE ALIAS: "OWNERLESS"**

KT&G is widely known as "Ownerless" for its lack of oversight and accountability.

#### **Ownerless Companies**

In Korea, where effectively all companies are controlled by founder families and their descendants, only less than 10 are called "ownerless companies," a term which indicates a lack of controlling shareholders.

Despite its position as one of the top 50 KOSPI companies, KT&G has been publicly criticized for its lack of governance.

KT&G shareholder base is fragmented and there is no specific "control shareholder"; this is extremely rare in Korea, although common elsewhere.

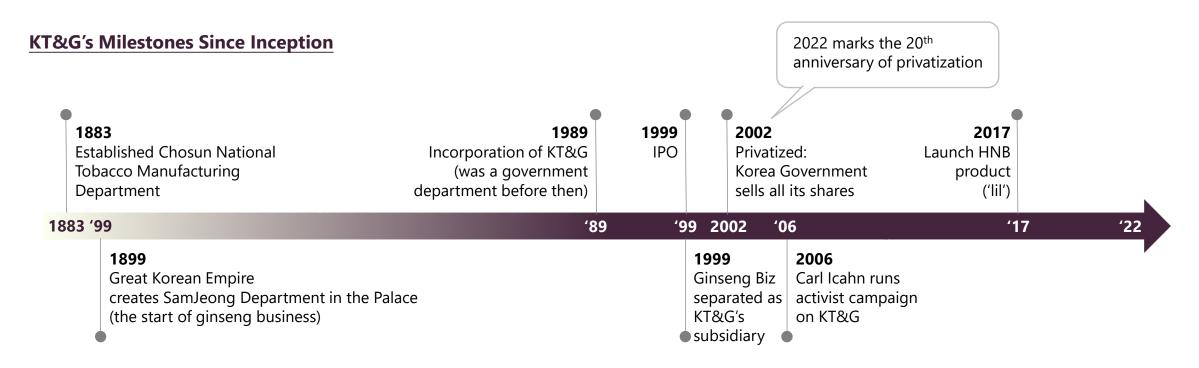
#### **Keyword Search Results: Korea Websites**



- A Google "주인 없는 회사" (ownerless company): 11 million results including KT&G
- Maeil Biz Daily: "KT&G with No Supervision Moral Hazard for Both CEO and Employees (2016)"
- C Naver "케이티앤지 비리" (KT&G wrongdoing): Mostly on the lack of management oversight post privatization, including articles with headlines "the curse of incomplete privatization", "KT&G corruption scandal", etc.
  - → Please see more related articles at our website (www.flashlightcap.com), "Resources" section.

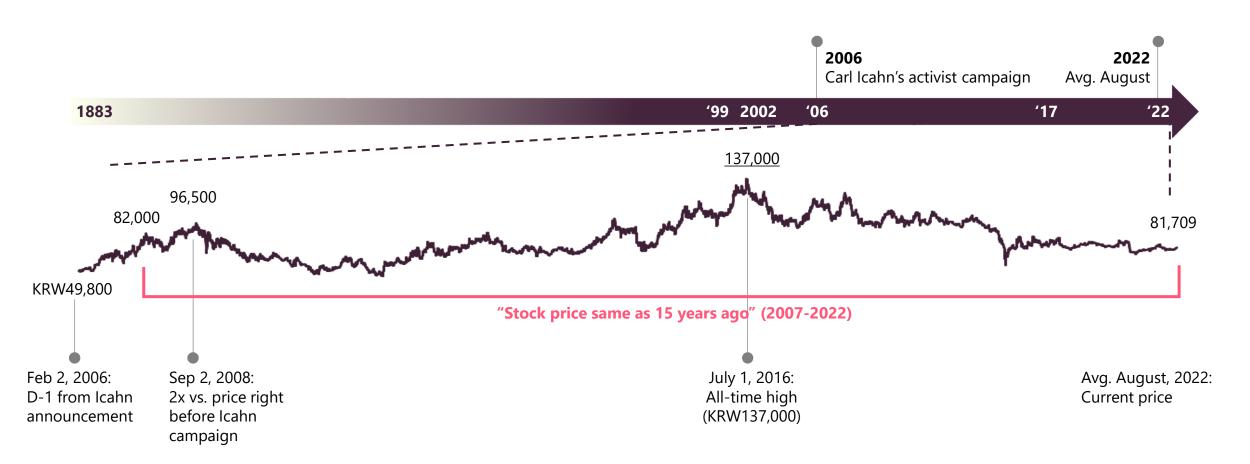
## KT&G: A HISTORIC COMPANY

KT&G has a 140-year history in Korea; 120 years as a state-owned enterprise and 20 years as a private company.



## LOST 15 YEARS

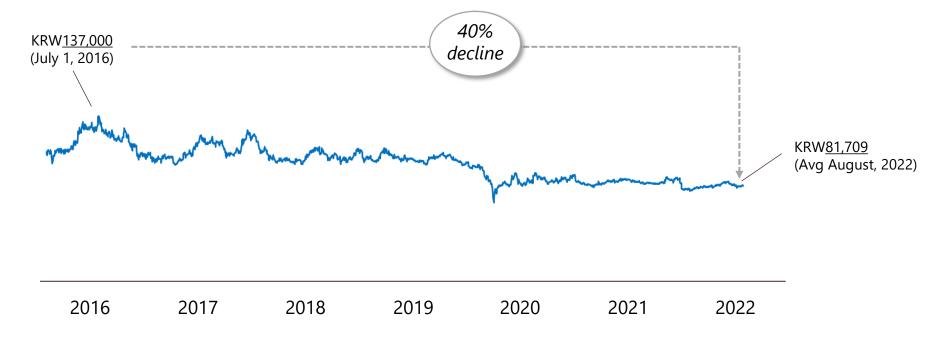
Current stock price is at the level of 2007.



## KT&G'S STOCK PRICE DECLINED SINCE 2016

Since 2016, the stock price has been on a declining trend.<sup>1</sup>

#### **KT&G Stock Price**



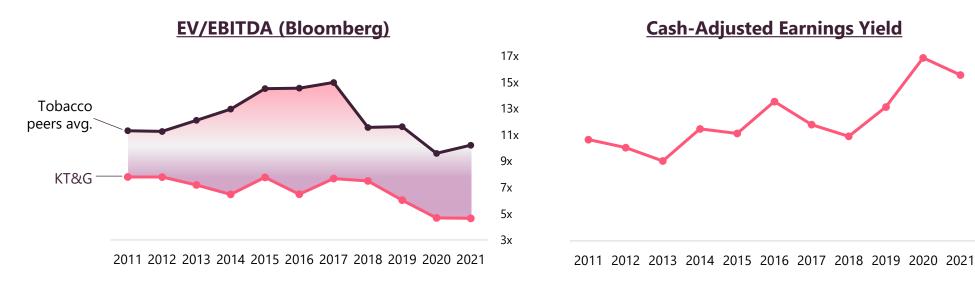
 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  The current CEO, Mr. Baek, took office in October, 2015 Source: Annual Report, KRX

## A SEVERE DISCOUNT VS PEERS

The Bloomberg data shows KT&G valuation declining, at its 10-year low.

#### **Total Shareholder Return**

1-Yr TSR	3-Yr-TSR	5-Yr TSR	10-Yr KOSPI
-2.3%	-13.1%	-4.8%	63.1%



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TSR runs through Dec. 2021, TSR=(Accumulated dividends + grown stock price) / purchase stock price, Cash-Adjusted Earnings Yield = NI / EV

16%

14%

12%

10%

8%

6%

4%

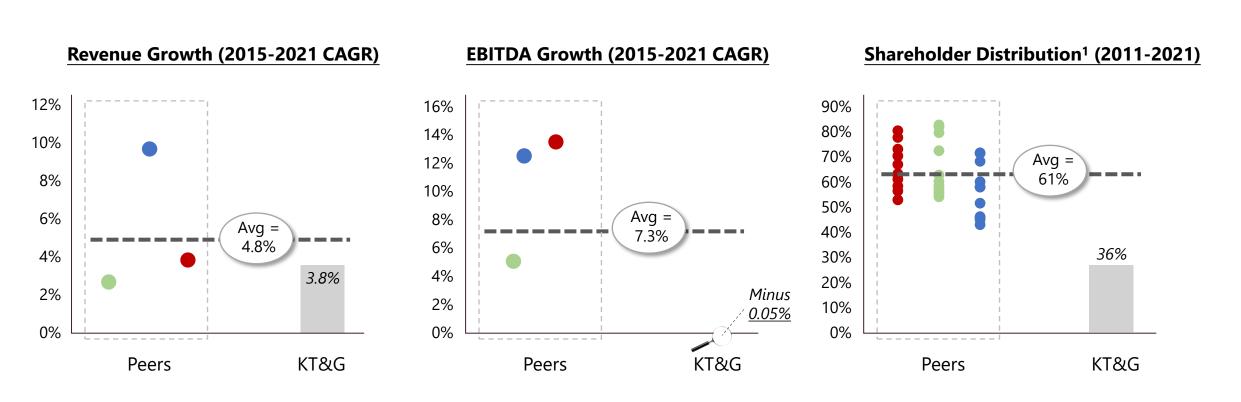
2%

0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Tobacco peers are: PMI, Altria, BAT, JT, Imperial Brands, ITC, and Swedish Match Source: Bloomberg

## UNDERPERFORMANCE VS PEERS

KT&G significantly underperformed its peers, especially in shareholder distribution.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (Dividend + Share Buyback) / EBITDA; between 2011 and 2021 Source: Bloomberg, Annual Report

## "NEGATIVE EV"

Ginseng Biz

KT&G EV

Sum of the Parts Valuation (KRW trillion)<sup>1</sup>

Revenue

1.4

**EBITDA** 

0.2

Value

(0.3)

KT&G's assets and the value of subsidiaries are worth more than the current market cap.

# Mkt Cap (exc T/S) 9.8 Net Cash 3.8 Real Estate 2.2 Non-core Subs 0.3 Cash & etc. 6.4 KT&G has "Negative" EV, when its peers trade at 12.2x EBITDA 3.7

KT&G's Negative EV (KRW trillion)

Cash & etc.

Mkt Cap

(0.3)

ΕV

Korea

Ginseng Co

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consolidated net cash of KT&G minus net cash of KGC / Yungjin Pharmaceuticals / Cosmocos, to reflect the plan of KGC spin-off. Appraisal value used for Real Estate value. Non-Core subsidiaries include market value of only one company, Yungjin Pharmaceuticals. Assumed zero value for all other non-core subsidiaries. Korea Ginseng Company valued on 20x EBITDA, a 30% discount to a comparable premium brand food transaction precedent. Tobacco Business valued on 12.2x 2021 EBITDA, median of global peers. Mkt Cap based on stock price as of Avg August, 2022 (excl. T/S).

Source: Annual Report, Bloomberg

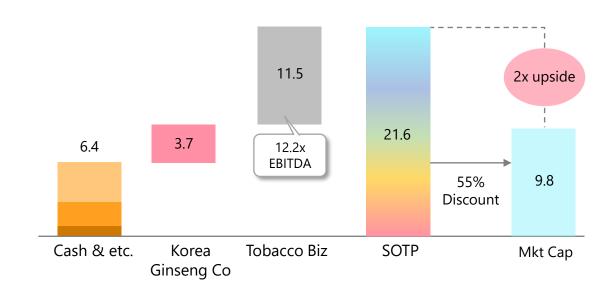
## MKT CAP VS INHERENT VALUE

The sum of the parts valuation is 2x the current market cap.

#### Sum of the Parts Valuation (KRW trillion)<sup>1</sup>

Net Cash			3.8	
Real Estate			2.2	
Non-core Subs			0.3	
Cash & etc.			6.4	_
	Revenue	EBITDA	Value	
Ginseng Biz	1.4	0.2	3.7	
Tobacco Biz	3.1	0.9	11.5	
Total			15.2	_
SOTP			21.6	

#### **SOTP vs. Mkt Cap (KRW trillion)**



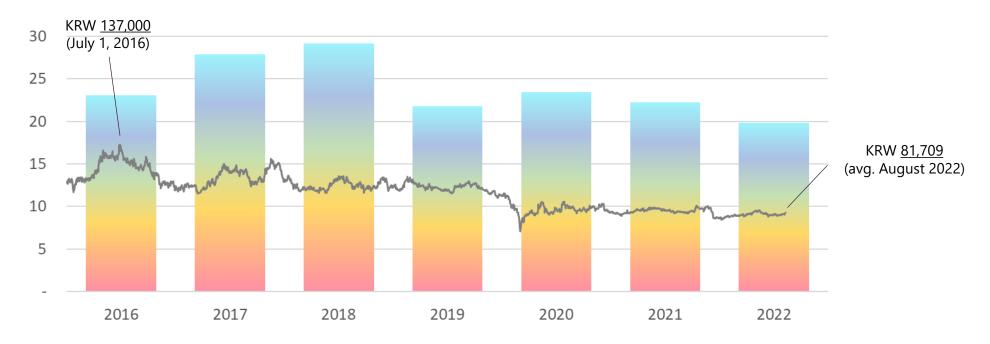
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consolidated net cash of KT&G minus net cash of KGC / Yungjin Pharmaceuticals / Cosmocos, to reflect the plan of KGC spin-off. Appraisal value used for Real Estate value. Non-Core subsidiaries include market value of only one company, Yungjin Pharmaceuticals. Assumed zero value for all other non-core subsidiaries. Korea Ginseng Company valued on 20x EBITDA, a 30% discount to a comparable premium brand food transaction precedent. Tobacco Business valued on 12.2x 2021 EBITDA, median of global peers. Mkt Cap based on stock price as of Avg August, 2022 (excl. T/S).

Source: Annual Report, Bloomberg

## KT&G'S VALUATION GAP HAS ONLY WIDENED SINCE 2016

The gap has widened ever since 2016.

#### SOTP and Mkt Cap (KRW trillion)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consolidated net cash of KT&G minus net cash of KGC / Yungjin Pharmaceuticals / Cosmocos, to reflect the plan of KGC spin-off. Appraisal value used for Real Estate value. Non-Core subsidiaries include market value of only one company, Yungjin Pharmaceuticals. Assumed zero value for all other non-core subsidiaries. Korea Ginseng Company valued on 20x EBITDA, a 30% discount to a comparable premium brand food transaction precedent. Tobacco Business valued on 12.2x 2021 EBITDA, median of global peers. Mkt Cap based on stock price as of Avg August, 2022 (excl. T/S).

Source: Annual Report, Bloomberg

## SOLID INDUSTRY & COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS

KT&G has excellent industry prospects and market position. Its low valuation is due to the lack of governance.

#### **Industry Prospects**



Both tobacco and ginseng industries are expected to grow steadily in \$ terms; tobacco is going through dynamic global consumption shift towards Heat-Not-Burn ("HNB"), and ginseng is poised for continuing growth from aging demographics.

#### **KT&G's Competitiveness**





#### **Valuation**



KT&G commands near-monopolistic market share in both its tobacco and ginseng businesses, as shown in the past 10-year track record.

KT&G is trading at an all-time low valuation (negative EV) despite growing EBITDA and strong cash flow.

It's poor governance that is bringing down KT&G's valuation.

## DISCONNECT BETWEEN SHAREHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT

None of the current board members own a meaningful number of KT&G shares.

Int/External	Name	Shares owned
Internal	Mr. Baek (CEO)	293
Internal	Mr. Bang (COO)	NONE
External	Mr. Kim	NONE
External	Mr. Koh	NONE
External	Mr. Baek	NONE
External	Mr. Lim	250
External	Mr. Son	NONE
External	Ms. Lee	NONE

- CEO's total compensation was about \$2 million<sup>1</sup> in 2021.
- As of Dec 2021, CEO owned 293 shares of KT&G, worth less than \$20,000.
- No executive or director has stock option/grants.
- The current compensation system completely decoupled from the stock performance is nudging mgt team to ignore the interests of shareholders. This is the root cause of KT&G's poor performance and needs an urgent fix.

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  \$1 = KRW1,311.70 as of August 16, 2022; CEO's 293 shares represents 0.00021% stake. Source: Annual Report

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# **OUR APPROACH**

Flashlight has a different path forward in mind, compared to the Company's approach so far.

Company's Past Behavior (Flashlight view)	Flashlight's View on Path Forward
Diversify; Seek Growth from Unrelated Businesses	Focus on Core Business; <u>HUGE</u> untapped potential
Defend Local Market	Go Global: <u>HUGE</u> untapped potential
Tobacco (ParentCo) first, then Ginseng	Independent Ginseng can Outgrow Tobacco
"Follow" the practice of Korean companies	"Lead" ESG in the World
Stable, predictable executive compensation	Aligned incentive

## VALUE CREATION INITIATIVES

We propose a multi-pronged change that comprises 5 initiatives.

#### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- **3** Exit 9 non-core biz including Real Estate
- **4** Triple share buyback
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

# **OUR MESSAGES EXPLAINED**

Each of our initiatives will be explained in our videos on our website (<u>www.flashlightcap.com</u>)



## OUR PLAN CAN CREATE LONG-TERM VALUE AT KT&G

We believe our initiatives could bring 2x returns in the near term, and over 5x in the next 5 years.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Assumptions on Case B sum of the parts are the same as on page 16. Future valuation on Case C is based on 5-yr projection developed by Flashlight; applied 12.2x EBITDA and 20.0x EBITDA for tobacco and ginseng business, respectively. Source: Annual Report, Flashlight Analysis

# INITIATIVE #1: DEVELOP HNB INTO A GLOBAL BRAND (1/5)



KT&G should prioritize on HNB in line with the global rise of Reduced Risk Products.

#### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- 3 Exit 9 non-core biz including Real Estate
- 4 Triple share buyback
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

- The emergence of HNB is a new major catalyst of growth for KT&G and global tobacco industry.
- KT&G's lil has great potential overseas to threaten PMI's IQOS, but KT&G is currently relying on its competitor (PMI) for global distribution.
- KT&G needs a solid plan to grow lil into a global brand, through building its own in-house distribution and marketing capabilities.

Estimated Financial Impact

3x

Tobacco EBITDA growth (2021-26)

# INITIATIVE #1: DEVELOP HNB INTO A GLOBAL BRAND (2/5)



#### **Selling Points to Consumers**

- Less toxins vs. cigarettes
- Less smoke and smell
- Absence of fire risk

#### **HNB Penetration % (2021)**

- 15% in Korea, 30% in Japan
- In Mar 2022, the penetration in Korea increased by additional 3%, to 18%.

#### **Benefit to Manufacturers**

- Less criticism on health risk from public
- Higher ASP than cigarettes

#### **Global HNB Growth %**

 Global HNB industry is expected to GROW BY 4x between 2021 and 2025.

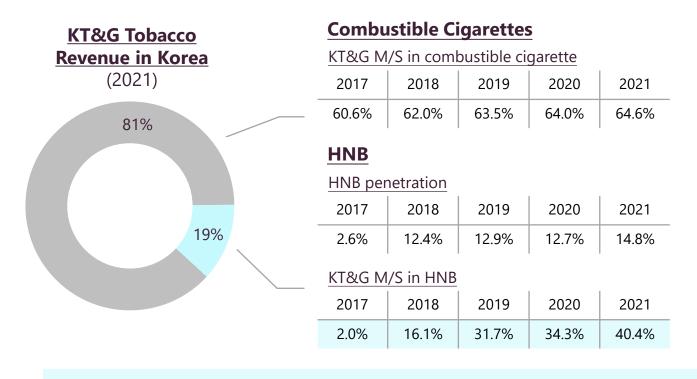


"The group (Phillip Morris) made nearly a quarter of its net revenues last year from its reduced risk portfolio, which includes IQOS... and commands a much higher price per earnings ratio ... Investors are voting with their feet."

- Financial Times, July 17, 2021

## INITIATIVE #1: DEVELOP HNB INTO A GLOBAL BRAND (3/5)





- Despite combustible cigarette's slight volume decline, the industry will continue positive growth in \$ terms due to ASP increase.
- KT&G consistently increased its M/S in Korea.
- HNB will continue to take away the share from combustible cigarette.
- We believe KT&G's HNB M/S will grow to be at least 65% (combustible cigarettes M/S).

KT&G has a great HNB product. It can expand to international market and become a global brand.

Source: Annual Report

## INITIATIVE #1: DEVELOP HNB INTO A GLOBAL BRAND (4/5)

KT&G needs in-house global marketing capabilities instead of relying on its competitor for lil's global distribution.

#### KT&G's Global Partnership w/ PMI



- On Jan 2020, KT&G and PMI announced 3-year partnership on global sale of lil, from which KT&G will rely on its competitor and be paid a modest royalty.
- As of Dec 2021, lil is being sold in 22 countries outside Korea.

#### Flashlight's View

- KT&G's lil poses a threat to PMI's IQOS, as lil has competitive product quality/technology when there is relatively little brand equity difference between IQOS and lil, both starting out in new markets.
- By relying on PMI, lil risks becoming a lower-priced, sub brand of IQOS, hurting its brand in the long term despite its superior product quality.
- KT&G must develop its own global distribution and marketing capabilities, to capture the fast-rising HNB market worldwide.

Source: Annual Report, media search

# INITIATIVE #1: DEVELOP HNB INTO A GLOBAL BRAND (5/5)

With success on HNB, KT&G can triple its EBITDA from tobacco business in the next five years.

#### **KT&G's Tobacco Business, Past & Next 5 Years**

NICO S TOBUCCO BUSINESS	, i ast at ite	ALD ICO										CAGR	CAGR
(KRW Billions)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	16-21	21-26
Revenue	2,740	2,842	2,641	2,782	2,970	3,132	3,296	3,897	5,006	5,988	7,314	3%	18%
Domestic	1,839	1,794	1,838	1,910	1,882	1,965	1,980	2,035	2,133	2,270	2,453	1.3%	5%
Cigarettes	1,839	1,789	1,723	1,675	1,627	1,612	1,467	1,308	1,143	969	795	-3%	-13%
HNB	-	5	115	235	255	352	513	727	990	1,300	1,658		36%
Export	901	1,048	803	873	1,088	1,168	1,316	1,863	2,873	3,718	4,861	5%	33%
Cigarettes	901	1,048	771	843	986	944	686	686	686	686	686	1%	-6%
HNB	-	-	32	29	102	224	630	1,177	2,188	3,032	4,175		80%
EBIT	1,215	1,193	954	971	1,051	805	1,221	1,417	1,866	2,308	2 987	-8%	30%
EBITDA	1,319	1,299	1,051	1,082	1,173	939	1,351	1,544	2,009	2,475	3,168	-7%	28%
Net Income	1,029	1,023	738	753	865	640	1,076	1,213	1,524	1,631	2,124	-9%	27%
HNB % of Domestic Revenue	0%	0%	6%	12%	14%	18%	26%	36%	46%	57%	68%		
HNB % of Total Revenue	0%	0%	6%	9%	12%	18%	35%	49%	63%	72%	80%		
EBIT margin %	44%	42%	36%	35%	35%	26%	37%	36%	37%	39%	41%		
EBITDA margin %	48%	46%	40%	39%	39%	30%	41%	40%	40%	41%	43%		
Net Income margin %	38%	36%	28%	27%	29%	21%	33%	31%	30%	27%	29%		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is financials we assume from tobacco business only. i.e. excludes RE investment businesses or other non-core subsidiaries. Source: Annual Report, Flashlight Analysis

# INITIATIVE #2: FREE GINSENG (1/5)

In order to maximize its potential, ginseng needs to be unshackled from the tobacco business.

#### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- 3 Exit nine non-core businesses
- 4 Triple share buyback program
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

- It is a strange irony that ginseng company is owned by a tobacco company.
- Revenue of Korea Ginseng Co (KGC) grew steadily and KGC has over 70% M/S in Korea. While Korean ginseng is very popular in Asia, KGC brand is relatively unknown outside Korea, and huge export opportunity remains untapped.
- Separating ginseng from tobacco businesses will allow the market to fairly assess the true potential of KGC, allow more autonomy & accountability, and accelerate growth as a standalone entity.

Estimated Financial Impact

4x KGC EBITDA growth (2021-26)

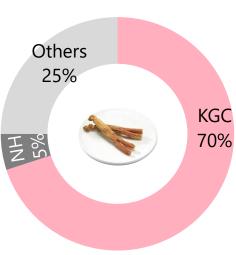
# INITIATIVE #2: FREE GINSENG (2/5)

## Despite its extremely strong position in Korea, KGC is not successful overseas.

- KGC (KT&G's 100% owned subsidiary) is a strong brand.
  - ✓ Ginseng is a premium health food that accounts for 1/3 of all health nutrients consumed in Korea
  - ✓ KGC enjoys unmatched brand loyalty in Korea due to its history as the authentic ginseng provider, its revenue growing at 12.3% CAGR from 2014 to 2019
- Ginseng has huge potential beyond Korea.
  - ✓ Ageing population is a world phenomenon, although Korea is No. 1 in the fastest ageing country.
  - ✓ The global health and wellness food market was \$96 billion in 2020 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.2%, reaching \$162 billion by 2026
- Despite the potential, KGC is not successful overseas.
  - ✓ Despite huge export potential, <u>overseas sales accounted</u> <u>for less than 20% of revenue</u>, mostly in China where only recently escaped a loss.

- #1 World's Fastest Ageing Population (Korea)
- 8.8% Korea Health Nutrient Industry CAGR (2016-2019)
- 9.2% Global health & wellness food industry (2020-2026)
- 6.9% Ginseng Food Volume CAGR in Korea (2009-2020)
- 12.3% KGC Revenue CAGR (2014-2019)

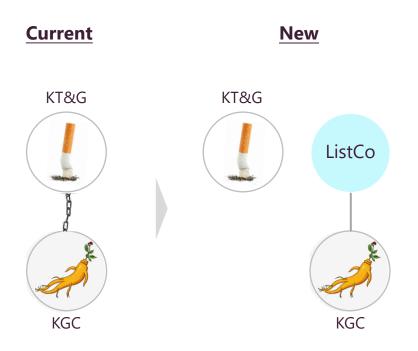
## Ginseng Market Share



KGC is the world's #1 ginseng brand and producer

# INITIATIVE #2: FREE GINSENG (3/5)

Spin-off is a natural outcome and will help KGC gain autonomy.



#### Why KGC should be independent

- Ginseng and tobacco are completely different, in consumer profile, sales channel, and marketing regulation
- Under KT&G, KGC cannot have a profit-oriented high caliber CEO; <u>KT&G repeatedly dispatched its</u> <u>domestic tobacco executive as KGC's</u> CEO.<sup>1</sup>
- Status as a listed company will give KGC more attention on its valuation; currently KGC gets almost no research coverage.

#### **Spin-off Process**

- Spin-off is a shareholder approval agenda (not BOD); requires 2/3 vote of attending shareholders.
- Once approved, spin-off will be complete in a few months, and the new company will be listed in KOSPI.
- Spin-off is a non-taxable event; most KT&G shareholders will receive new ListCo shares for free.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mostly recently, on March 29, 2022, KGC announced KT&G's sales head of South Seoul district has become its new CEO.

# INITIATIVE #2: FREE GINSENG (4/5)

Corporate Spin-off's have many successful precedents in Korea.

#### **Precedents**

- Since 2020, there have been a series of spin-off's by Korean conglomerates that separated different businesses into two listed entities.
- Well-known companies such as SK, LG and Daelim received from 77% to 99% support during shareholder meetings.
- After the board of directors' approval, the spin-off was completed in 4 to 6 months.



#### Why We Believe KGC Spin-off Will Be Approved

- 1. Two businesses significantly differ in nature;
- 2. Spin-off will not hurt either tobacco or ginseng business, as the two operated as separate entities for over 20 years;
- 3. Spin-off can lead to share price appreciation as KGC gets attention in the stock market as a standalone entity;
- 4. Spin-off is a non-taxable event for most shareholders; and
- 5. Multiple precedents with overwhelming shareholder approval and successful completion.

Source: Repository of Korea's Corporate Filings

# INITIATIVE #2: FREE GINSENG (5/5)

With successful globalization, ginseng business can more than quadruple its EBITDA in the next five years.

#### **Ginseng Business, Past & Next 5 Years**

												CAGR	CAGR
(KRW Billions)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	16-21	21-26
Revenue	1,157	1,258	1,382	1,469	1,415	1,378	1,489	1,796	2,244	2,925	3,993	4%	24%
Domestic	1,051	1,112	1,215	1,270	1,186	1,115	1,226	1,349	1,484	1,632	1,795	1%	10%
Export	106	147	167	199	229	263	263	447	760	1,293	2,198	20%	53%
EBIT	165	182	196	205	163	123	152	210	300	440	665	-6%	40%
EBITDA	196	215	231	255	219	177	207	268	359	501	728	-2%	33%
Net Income	109	136	140	148	119		105	147	212	314		-7%	45%
Domestic %	91%	88%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	75%	66%	56%	45%		
Oversease %	9%	12%	12%	14%	16%	19%	18%	25%	34%	44%	55%		
EBIT margin %	14%	14%	14%	14%	12%	9%	10%	12%	13%	15%	17%		
EBITDA margin %	17%	17%	17%	17%	16%	13%	14%	15%	16%	17%	18%		
Net Income margin %	9%	11%	10%	10%	8%	5%	7%	8%	9%	11%	12%		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is financials we assume from tobacco business only. i.e. excludes RE investment businesses or other non-core subsidiaries. Source: Annual Report, Flashlight Analysis

# INITIATIVE #3: EXIT NON-CORE BUSINESSES (1/4)

Management should focus on core business.

#### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- **3** Exit nine non-core businesses
- 4 Triple share buyback program
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

- With its 9 non-core, sub-scale businesses running, KT&G cannot focus on tobacco and ginseng, which demand undivided management attention to become global brands.
- Selling off these non-performing and nonsynergistic assets will streamline the company's financial performance and bring in additional cash of more than KRW2 trillion.

**Estimated Financial Impact** 

**Over KRW2 Tril.** 

Additional Cash

# INITIATIVE #3: EXIT NON-CORE BUSINESSES (2/4)

KT&G's nine unrelated businesses are sub-scale, underperforming, and distracting management.

#### KT&G's 3 Main Areas of Business



#### **Tobacco**

Rev: KRW 3.1 trillion EBITDA = KRW 0.9 trillion #1 M/S (65%) in Korea



#### Ginseng

Rev: KRW 1.4 trillion EBITDA = KRW 0.2 trillion #1 M/S (70%) in Korea



#### **Nine Non-Core Businesses**

Actively managed by KT&G Mostly unprofitable

- 1. Real Estate business (see next page)
- 2. Yungjin Pharma: KT&G owns 52%. Mkt cap of KRW640 billion (Avg Aug, 2022)
- 3. Comocos (cosmetics): 2021 net profit of KRW0.5 billion
- 4. Sang Sang Stay (hotel): 2021 net loss of KRW7 billion

- 5. LSK Global Pharmaceutical: 2021 net profit of KRW2 billion
- 6. Lite Pharm Tech (Bio pharmaceutical): 2021 net profit of KRW0.1 billion<sup>1</sup>
- 7. Innodis (online game, advertisement): 2021 net profit of KRW0.2 billion
- 8. SJ Biomed (pharmaceutical): KT&G owns 14%
- 9. Starfield Suwon (shopping mall): 2021 net loss of KRW0.7 billion

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source of KT&G Annual Report, Lite Pharm Techs' Audit Reports' 2021 net loss is KRW 0.4 billion Source: Annual Report

### INITIATIVE #3: EXIT NON-CORE BUSINESSES (3/4)

KT&G's Real Estate business – unprecedented among global consumer brands – is worth KRW 2 trillion.

#### HISTORY OF KT&G'S RE BUSINESS

- Since 2003, KT&G has been an active real estate developer in Korea, building residentials and shopping centers, and operating hotels.<sup>1</sup>
  - The company owns prime location sites thanks to its 140-year history as a government agency.
  - Utilizing these legacy sites, KT&G owns/leases buildings near high-traffic downtown centers, including KT&G Tower, KT&G Daechi, KT&G Seodaemun, Marriott Namdaemun, and KT&G Suwon.

#### **VALUE OF KT&G's RE BUSINESS**

• As of 2021, the fair market value of Investment Real Estate Asset was noted as KRW2.2 trillion.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Peninsula Times article, March 3, 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: Annual Report

### INITIATIVE #3: EXIT NON-CORE BUSINESSES (4/4)

Two out of 9 can be immediately divested with ease.

### Yungjin Pharmaceutical

- Yungjin Pharmaceutical: a listed biomedical company in Korea of which KT&G owns 52% stake (KRW336 billion as of August 2022).
- KT&G can appoint an investment bank who can arrange a sale process to sell the 52% stake to financial or strategic bidders, potentially at a control premium.
- We have not assumed any control premium to our analysis; any excess will be an upside to KT&G.

#### **Real Estate Business**

- Selling commercial Real Estates assets is significantly easier and more straightforward in Korea compared to corporate M&A.
- There have been innumerable sale & lease back in Korea, done by property developers often backed by large financial institutions.
- KT&G's many RE assets are at super prime location, e.g. core Gangnam area and in front of Namdaemum, Korea's iconic tourist spot.
- The sale will not bring any change to KT&G's operation or P&L as the rent expense has been reflected on an arm's-length basis.<sup>1</sup>
- KT&G's annual report estimates its RE asset is worth KRW2.2 trillion, yet we believe it will be sold at a much higher price.

#### <u>Others</u>

 For the remaining 7 companies, we have conservatively assumed zero value.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In 2021, revenue and EBITDA from RE business accounted for 13% and 22% of KT&G's total revenue and EBITDA, respectively, thanks to one development project that benefited from the recent surge in RE price.

### INITIATIVE #4: RETURN EXCESS CASH TO SHAREHOLDERS (1/4)

With over KRW6 trillion of excess cash, KT&G can triple buyback/dividend.

### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- 3 Exit 9 non-core biz including Real Estate
- 4 Triple share buyback
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

- KT&G has KRW4.2 trillion of cash and cash-like asset.
- This excessive amount of cash withheld cannot be justified; core businesses have strong cash flow, and KT&G is the only one of the global top 5 tobacco players with net cash.
- Total of over KRW6 trillion, including the proceeds from the disposal of Real Estate, KT&G can be used to more than triple distribution to shareholders.

**Estimated Financial Impact** 

**TRIPLE** 

Distribution to shareholders over the next 3 years

### INITIATIVE #4: RETURN EXCESS CASH TO SHAREHOLDERS (2/4)

KT&G has a total of KRW4.2 trillion cash on a consolidated basis.

### **Bloomberg**

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39 ADJ KT&G Corp IFRS 16 ? Acct Co	
1) Key Stats 1) I/S 1) B/S 4) C/F	5) Ratios 6) Seg
11) BBG Adj Highlights 12) BBG GAAP Highligh	hts 13) Earnings
In Billions of KRW	2021 Y
12 Months Ending	12/31/2021
Market Capitalization	9,478
- Cash & Equivalents	2,564
+ Preferred & Other	48
+ Total Debt	167
Enterprise Value	7,131

Total cash (Bloomberg) = KRW 2,564 billion

### **Annual Report (Mar 2022)**

		제 35 기
자산		
유동자산	6	3,255,861,536,474
현금및현금	금성자산	946,570,845,404
기타유동공	금융자산	457,056,795,720
유동 당기	손익-공정가치 의무 측정 금융자산	965,384,441,544
매출채권	및 기타유동채권 1	,012,741,494,275
유동파성	미수담배소비세등	324,920,390,897
재고자신	단기선급금	98,044,889,263
환불자신	단기선급비용	53,262,710,533
	매각예정자산	20,123,696,708
	비유동자산	5,381,409,657,726
	기타비유동금융자산	9,001,281,420
	장기예치금	1,250,467,510,043
	비유동 당기손익-공정가치 의무 측정	금융자산 304,815,651,866
	장기매출채권 및 기타비유동채권	94,759,875,704
	비유동 기타포괄손익-공정가치 측정	금융자산 228,398,434,797
	지분법적용 투자지분	242,991,736,041
	O청TLA	1 7/1 0/1 767 903

	<u>k</u>	(RW billions
1)	Cash and Cash Equivalents	947
2)	Current Other Financial Assets	457
3)	Current fair market value profit or loss	965
4)	Assets held for sale	20
5)	Long-term other financial assets	9
6)	Long-term deposits in MSA Escrow Fund <sup>1</sup>	1,250
7)	Long-term fair value through profit or loss	305
8)	Fair value through other comprehensive income or loss	228
Total cash and cash-like in Annual Report KRW 4,182 billion		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Deposit made under Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) under the Escrow Statue of the US state government. The deposit consists of T-Notes, T-bills and demand deposits.

### INITIATIVE #4: RETURN EXCESS CASH TO SHAREHOLDERS (3/4)

KT&G's shareholder distribution announcement in 2021 is still not addressing its excess cash.

#### **Recent Announcement in November 2021**

- In November 2021, KT&G announced Shareholder Return Plan of KRW0.9 trillion annual dividend/buyback over the next 3 years. This implies 9% of the mkt cap.
- KT&G's EBITDA in 2021 was KRW1.5 trillion; therefore, the recent announcement still assumes total KRW6 trillion of current cash and cash-like assets will be left untouched.

### **Triple Buyback**

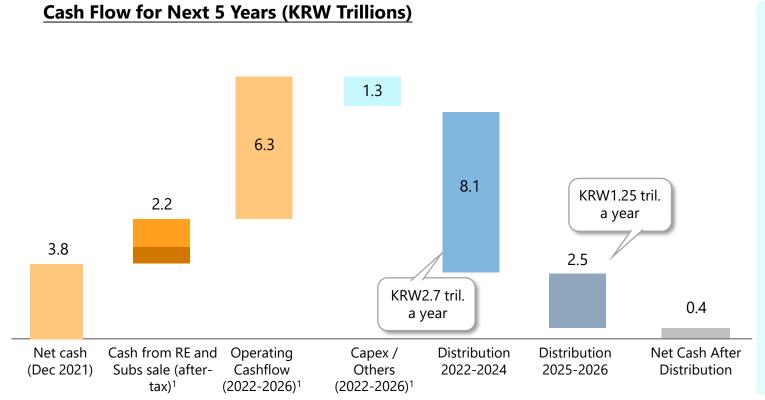
- Including the value of its subsidiaries and RE investment, KT&G has more than KRW6 trillion of net cashable asset.
- If KRW6 trillion is used in dividend/buyback, it could be triple the planned annual distribution of KRW900 billion for the next 3 years.

#### Case Study: 2006

- In 2006, as a response to Icahn's demand, KT&G announced a total KRW2.8 trillion of shareholder distribution for the following 3 years (KRW0.9 trillion a year), a significant increase vs. total dividend in 2005 of KRW0.2 trillion.
- KT&G's Shareholder Return Plan in Nov 2021 (KRW0.9 trillion a year) is the same level as what the company did 16 years ago.

### INITIATIVE #4: RETURN EXCESS CASH TO SHAREHOLDERS (4/4)

After KRW11 trillion of distribution to shareholders, KT&G will still have positive net cash.



- Distribution to shareholders will be funded b the excess cash today, as well as new cashflow strengthened by the growth in HNB.
- Sufficient capex is assumed in the next 5 years (over KRW200 billion a year, vs. KRW180 billion in the past 5 (2016-2021).
- Even after tripling shareholder distribution, KT&G will remain in net cash.
- KT&G is the only company with net cash of global top 5 tobacco companies
  - PMI: net debt of 1.7x EBITDA
  - Altria: net debt of 2.0x EBITDA
  - BAT: net debt of 3.2x EBITDA
  - Imperial Brands: net debt of 2.2x EBITDA
  - JT: net debt of 0.4x EBITDA
  - KT&G NET CASH of KRW4.0 trillion

Source: Annual Report, Flashlight Analysis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We assumed corporate tax of 27.5% for asset sale beyond book value. No premium is assumed vs. the current FMV noted in the annual report and stock price. For cash flow 2022-2026, we used projection noted on page 29 and 34. excl. Capex related to investment real estate.

### INITIATIVE #5: BECOME AN ESG LEADER IN KOREA (1/4)

KT&G can make significant improvements in ESG to become a domestic leader.

### **5 SUGGESTIONS FROM FLASHLIGHT**

- 1 Roadmap to Grow Iil (HNB) into a global brand
- 2 Spin off ginseng business
- 3 Exit 9 non-core biz including Real Estate
- 4 Triple share buyback
- **5** ESG with action, not check-the-box

- ESG is not a nice-to-have catchphrase to screen out certain sectors. KT&G can make a real contribution to better ESG, as a leader in Korea.
- Our initiatives will be possible only if KT&G brings back proper governance, which will ensure the profit-generating ideas are explored without bias.
- As for G, by having BOD directors who can represent the shareholder's view, KT&G can have more balanced view.
- HNB and ginseng will make big contribution on E and S.

**Estimated Impact** 

Set an example of <u>real</u> improvement in ESG

# INITIATIVE #5: BECOME AN ESG LEADER IN KOREA (2/4)

First of all, KT&G needs urgent fix on Governance.

- There are various definitions of governance, but our view is simple: we believe Governance comprises of a) Hire the Best Manager and b) Align Interest between Shareholders and Management.
- Of these two pillars, the more pressing issue for KT&G is the incentive system.



- KT&G's executive compensation is decoupled from stock price and hence encourages management team to maintain status quo instead of growing the business.
- Flashlight has an in-depth experience of designing & implementing stock option that suits the local culture and practices in Korea and maximizes the accountability.

## INITIATIVE #5: BECOME AN ESG LEADER IN KOREA (3/4)

By adding members with shareholder perspectives, KT&G can start to strengthen its governance.

Int/External	Name	Terms Until	Background	Shares owned
Internal	Mr. Baek (CEO, since Oct 2015)	Mar 24		293
Internal	Mr. Bang (COO)	Mar 24		-
External	Mr. Koh	Mar 23	Professor	-
External	Mr. Kim	Mar 23	SME	-
External	Mr. Baek	Mar 24	Lawyer	-
External	Mr. Lim	Mar 24	Chaebol (SK)	250
External	Mr. Son	Mar 25	Chaebol (CJ)	-
External	Ms. Lee	Mar 25	Advertising	-

- KT&G's Articles of Incorporation allows up to 10 directors, vs. current 8, so there is room for 2 additional seats.
- Stock ownership among BOD members is minimal, and none of the current board members are sufficiently incentivized to improve the stock price.
- We believe the company would benefit from a more aligned and diverse board, with someone who represents a shareholder's perspective.

Source: Annual Report (Mar 2022)

### INITIATIVE #5: BECOME AN ESG LEADER IN KOREA (4/4)

With improvement in Governance, KT&G can make tangible contribution to ESG.



#### Governance

- KT&G needs <u>shareholder representation</u> on the board of directors who will bring more balanced view in the boardroom.
- Management needs aligned incentive (e.g. stock options) to drive value for shareholders. The design of stock option should be done with careful consideration to maximize accountability.



### **Environmental**

- Compared with combustible cigarettes, HNB is reported to reduce harmful toxicants (tar) by 61% and particulate matter by 90%<sup>1</sup>.
- KT&G can commit with a hard deadline to achieving 50% of its sales from HNB; it will establish KT&G as the first tobacco company to demonstrate a real commitment to the environment and health



### **Social**

 By spinning off ginseng business and laying the groundwork for globalization, KT&G can provide significant <u>support to</u> <u>over 4,000 ginseng farmers</u> and their rural community

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Institute of Public Health, Japan, (Jul 2017), Federal Inst. for Risk Assessment, Germany (Oct 2017) Source: Company filings, Flashlight Analysis

### OUR INTERACTION WITH MANAGEMENT TEAM

We have continued dialogues with management team since April 2022.

### **Communication w/ Mgt So Far**

April 22, 2022	Meeting w/ CEO	Initial discussion on our 5 suggestions and request for a presentation to mgt team
May 4, 2022	Meeting w/ COO, CSO	Pre-presentation meetings on the details of 5 suggestions
May 10, 2022	Presentation to CEO, COO, CSO	A 2-hour presentation (the presentation used is available on our web site)
June 6, 2022	Meeting in w/ COO, CSO	Follow-up discussion on 5 suggestions
June 15, 2022	Letter to Company	Asked Company for a meeting with BOD
June 29, 2022	Response from Company	"It is not appropriate time to make suggestions to BOD."

#### **Our View on Mgt Team**

- The Company's performance over the past 7 years has been disappointing. That said, we do not want to point mgt team as the culprit behind the underperformance; the main reason and the bigger problem is the misaligned incentive.
- We believe the current mgt might be highly capable of guiding the Company in the right direction, if aligned through the right incentive.
- We are awaiting the Company's response on our suggestions.

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# RETURNS ANALYSIS BREAKDOWN

3,848

Net Cash (2021)	
KT&G (Consolidated)	
Cash and etc. (8 items)	4,182
Debt (5 items)	167
Net Cash (A)	4,014
<u>KGC</u>	
Cash and etc. (6 items)	265
Debt (4 items)	75
Net Cash (B)	190
<u>Yungjin</u>	
Cash and etc. (3 items)	1
Debt (5 items)	13
Net Cash (C)	(12)
<u>Cosmocos</u>	
Cash and etc. (2 item)	4
Debt (3 items)	15
Net Cash (D)	(11)

Assuming sale of KGC and subsidiaries

KT&G's Net Cash (=A-B-C-D)

	Status Quo		
	Total	Tobacco	KGC
EBITDA (2021)	1,116	939	177
(a) Mkt Cap	9,803	6,066	3,737
(b) Net Cash	4,038	3,848	190
(c) RE Investment	2,199	2,199	-
(d) Non-Core Subsidiary	335	335	-
EV (=a-b-c-d)	3,231	(316)	3,547
		_	
EV/EBITDA		-0.3x	20.0x

Right After Re-rating			
Total	Tobacco	KGC	
1,116	939	177	
21,340	17,603	3,737	
4,038	3,848	190	
2,199	2,199	-	
335	335		
14,768	11,221	3,547	
	12.0x	20.0x	

In 2026				
Total	Tobacco	KGC		
3,902	3,174	728		
52,718	37,973	14,745		
219	31	188		
-	-	-		
-	-	-		
52,499	37,942	14,558		
	12.0x	20.0x		

# PROJECTION: KEY ASSUMPTIONS

#### (KRW Billions unles otherwise noted)

(KITW Billions dries otherwise noted)			
Tobacco Biz Assumptions			
Cigarette ASP increase in Korea?	N		
Cigarette M/S gain in Korea?	N		
Premium on sale of Yungjin Pharm	N		
Premium on RE sale	N		
Price assumed for other subs	Zero		
Cigarette export ASP increase?	N		
Cigarette export volume increase	Zero		
HNB penetration in 2026	50%		
KT&G's HNB M/S in 2026	65%		
Capex (22-26)	1,200		

#### (KRW Billions unles otherwise noted)

Tobacco Financials	16-21	21-26
Revenue growth (p.a.)	2.7%	20.1%
Revenue (21/26)	3,132	7,818
HNB rev in Korea (21/26)	252	1,156
HNB % of dometic revenue	19%	70%
HNB % of total revenue	19%	81%
EBITDA growth (p.a.)	-6.6%	27.6%
EBITDA (21/26)	939	3,174

#### (KRW Billions unles otherwise noted)

Ginseng Biz Assumptions	
Ginseng ASP increase in Korea?	N
Ginseng domestic M/S gain?	N

#### (KRW Billions unles otherwise noted)

Ginseng Financials	16-21	21-26
Revenue growth (p.a.)	3.6%	23.7%
Revenue (21/26)	1,378	3,993
Export revenue (21/26)	263	2,198
Export % of revenue	19%	55%
EBITDA growth (p.a.)	-1.9%	32.6%
EBITDA (21/26)	177	728