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## Research Highlights

### NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Country View more than doubles dividends after 79.4% rise in 4Q net profit
- Greentronics partners with Thai insurer to enter the digital insurance space
- Omesti secures contract to provide network connectivity services at Mara institutions
- Unique Fire to venture into renewable energy with 95MW solar plant in Perak
- Advancecon gets RM82.0m earthworks job in Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone

### MACRO BITS

- EU and India conclude trade talks, seeking Trump alternatives
- Anwar: Positive economic data strengthen ringgit
- Malaysia nets MYR45.4b export sales from PM's 2025 trade missions
- DOSM: National median monthly wage of formal employees rises to MYR2,864 in September 2025
- Miti, agencies conducting cost-benefit analysis on ART — Johari
- Gig workers' minimum income to be determined through structured consultation — ministry
- Japan's services inflation steady, signals broadening wage pressure
- Thai finance ministry cuts 2025 growth estimate to 2.2%
- US consumer confidence plummets to lowest level since 2014
- Spain's high job creation brings unemployment rate to lowest level since 2008

### IDEAS OF THE DAY (SEE SEPARATE REPORTS FOR DETAILS)

- Sector Update: Media

## Corporate News

- **Country View more than doubles dividends after 79.4% rise in 4Q net profit**

Country View Bhd more than doubled its dividend payout for the fourth quarter of the financial year ended November 30, 2025 (4QFY2025) after net profit rose 79.4% year-on-year on higher revenue. The property developer declared a fourth interim single-tier dividend of 13 sen per share, raising its total dividend payout for the full year to 53 sen, compared with 15 sen in FY2024. The latest dividend payout will be paid on March 16. Net profit for the three-month period came in at RM18.8m, from RM10.5m a year ago, said the Johor-based property developer. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **Greentronics partners with Thai insurer to enter the digital insurance space**

Greentronics Technology Bhd has roped in Thai general insurance company Thai Paiboon Insurance Public Company Ltd (TPB) to provide digital insurance services for Malaysian motorists entering Thailand. This partnership was signed between Thai Paiboon and Greentronics's subsidiary Mpire Mobility Sdn Bhd, which focuses on fleet management. Formerly known as Mpire Global Bhd and Sand Nisko Capital Bhd, the company said that the partnership will see Thai Paiboon Insurance's Malaysian customers gain access to Mpire Mobility's one-stop automotive service, repair and maintenance platform, which connects car owners directly to authorised workshops for service and repair needs. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **Omesti secures contract to provide network connectivity services at Mara institutions**

Omesti Bhd has secured a contract worth up to RM43.1m to provide WiFi network facility services at education institutions under Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara). The ICT firm's unit, Ohana Communications Sdn Bhd, was designated the universal service provider for Mara education institutions by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) under the Universal Service Provision initiative. Under the appointment, the unit will instal and upgrade WiFi network facilities at the institutions, coupled with warranty and support for a period of 44 months. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **Unique Fire to venture into renewable energy with 95MW solar plant in Perak**

Fire protection equipment maker Unique Fire Holdings Bhd is formally venturing into renewable energy via a joint development of a 95 megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Perak. The company is bringing the proposed joint venture (JV) via Unique HEB Sdn Bhd, provision of financial assistance to the JV, and diversification into renewable energy to shareholders for approval. Unique HEB is a 60:40 JV between Unique Fire and HSS Engineers Bhd that won the bid from the Energy Commission to build and operate the 95MW capacity plant. It inked a 21-year solar power purchase agreement with Tenaga Nasional Bhd. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **Advancecon gets RM82.1m earthworks job in Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone**

Advancecon Holdings Bhd has secured an RM82.1m contract to undertake earthworks and main drainage works for a development in the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ). The 15-month contract for Phase 1 (Package 1) of the Southern Catalyst Innovation District in Sedenak is slated to commence on Feb 4. It was awarded by Southern Catalyst Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned unit of Minister of Finance Inc. (*The Edge Malaysia*)



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## Macro Bits

### Global

- [EU and India conclude trade talks, seeking Trump alternatives](#) The European Union and India are set to announce an agreement on a long-awaited trade deal on Tuesday, forging closer economic ties to hedge against US President Donald Trump's tariffs. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa are in New Delhi to mark the moment, which caps almost two decades of negotiations. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

### Malaysia

- [Anwar: Positive economic data strengthen ringgit](#) Positive economic data have reinforced the position and strength of the ringgit, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said. He noted that the currency's appreciation also reflects confidence in Malaysia's economic system, in line with the nation's improving economic indicators. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Malaysia nets MYR45.4b export sales from PM's 2025 trade missions](#) Malaysia generated MYR45.4b in export sales in 2025 from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's series of overseas visits and trade missions, Parliament was told on Tuesday. The export gains were driven by expanded trade ties with countries including the United Kingdom, Thailand, Russia, Italy, France, Brazil, China, South Korea and several African nations. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [DOSM: National median monthly wage of formal employees rises to MYR2,864 in September 2025](#) The median monthly wage of Malaysia's 7.06m formal employees increased to MYR2,864 in September 2025, up 4.3% from MYR2,745 a year earlier, according to the Third Quarter 2025 Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector) Report released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) on Tuesday. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Miti, agencies conducting cost-benefit analysis on ART — Johari](#) The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti), together with its agencies such as the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, is conducting a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) on the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) with the US. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Gig workers' minimum income to be determined through structured consultation — ministry](#) The process of determining the minimum income for gig workers will be carried out through structured consultations under the Gig Workers Act 2025 framework, according to the Ministry of Human Resources. It said the framework was created because the nature of gig work differs from conventional work and requires an approach better aligned with the structure and operating model of the platform ecosystem. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

### Asia Pacific

- [Japan's services inflation steady, signals broadening wage pressure](#) A leading indicator of Japan's services sector prices rose 2.6% in December from a year earlier, data showed on Tuesday, backing up the central bank's view that labour shortages will continue to prod companies to pass on rising costs. The data adds to growing signs that steady wage gains, coupled with rising import costs from a weak yen, will keep inflation elevated and justify further interest rate hikes by the central bank. *(Reuters)*
- [Thai finance ministry cuts 2025 growth estimate to 2.2%](#) Thailand's Ministry of Finance revised down its estimate for last year's growth and signaled the economy will expand at its slowest pace in three years in 2026 as exports and domestic demand moderate. Gross domestic product likely expanded 2.2% in 2025, the ministry said Tuesday, cutting its earlier estimate of 2.4%. That would mark a deceleration from 2.5% growth in 2024. *(Bloomberg)*

### Americas

- [US consumer confidence plummets to lowest level since 2014](#) US consumer confidence declined in January to the lowest level in more than a decade on more pessimistic views of the economy and labour market. The Conference Board's gauge decreased to 84.5, from an upwardly revised 94.2 last month, data out on Tuesday showed. The figure was the lowest since May 2014 and fell short of all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

### Europe

- [Spain's high job creation brings unemployment rate to lowest level since 2008](#) Spain's unemployment rate fell to its lowest in 18 years in the fourth quarter of 2025, according to data released on Tuesday, as growth in services jobs and permanent contracts showed early signs of stabilising one of Europe's weakest labour markets. *(Reuters)*

**Stock Ratings are defined as follows:****Stock Recommendations**

OUTPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
MARKET PERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

**Sector Recommendations\*\*\***

OVERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
NEUTRAL	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

***\*\*\*Sector recommendations are defined based on market capitalisation weighted average expected total return for stocks under our coverage.***

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