

# Alltop (3526.TW/3526 TT)

# 1Q24 EPS a beat on strong margins; EV & server drive EPS growth

# Price as of May 7 (NT\$) 228.0 12M target price (NT\$) 290.0 Previous target price (NT\$) 260.0 Revised up (%) 11.5 Upside (%) 27.2

## Key message

- 1. 1Q24 EPS of NT\$3.06 beat on strong gross and operating margins.
- 2. 2Q24F sales to grow 15-20% QoQ and YoY thanks to EV and server product sales growth, which will boost margins.
- Al server trend driving demand for Alltop's high-power connector, benefiting ASP and gross margin; coupled with growing EV demand, we see 2024-25F gross margin and EPS uptrend as intact.

Trading data				
Mkt cap (NT\$bn/US\$	13.52 /	418.4		
Outstanding shares (	59.32			
Foreign ownership (r	11.12			
3M avg. daily trading	0.44			
52-week trading ran	ge (NT\$)	132.0 –237.0		
Performance	3M	6M	12M	
Absolute (%)	19.1	25.3	68.9	
Relative (%)	5	1.5	36.7	

Quart	erry cPS			
NT\$	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
2022	2.64A	2.03A	3.06A	1.69A
2023	1.35A	3.40A	3.55A	3.39A
2024	3.06A	3.67F	4.51F	4.28F



#### **Event**

1Q24 EPS was NT\$3.06, down 10% QoQ but up 127% YoY, beating our forecast on stronger-than-expected gross and operating margins. Server and EV are 2024F growth drivers for sales, margins and EPS.

### **Impact**

**1Q24 EPS beat our forecast on margins.** 1Q24 EPS arrived at NT\$3.06, beating our forecast on stronger-than-expected gross margin of 53.2%, up further from 52.6% in 4Q23 to a record high. Operating margin was 30.4%, also beating our expectation. Alltop attributes the higher gross margin to rising server and auto connector sales contribution, with server accounting for 49-50% of sales in 1Q24, EV 40% and NB 12%, vs. 45-50%, 38-40% and 15% in 4Q23. Coupled with forex gains of NT\$13.6mn, 1Q24 EPS beat our forecast by 9%.

EV & server products to drive 2024F EPS growth. Alltop is positive on 2024F outlook, and guides 2Q24F sales to grow by double digits QoQ and YoY; we estimate 17% QoQ and 16% YoY growth. We believe server and auto product sales will outgrow the company average in 2Q24F, implying a continued uptrend of gross margin QoQ, bolstered also by a strong US dollar. Given stronger-than-expected 1H24F sales and margins, we revise up 2024F sales growth to 21% YoY, and EPS to NT\$15.53, up 33% YoY, with gross and operating margins estimated to rise to 53.7% and 34.4%, vs. 51.3% and 30.7% in 2023. This reflects a better sales mix, with EV and server driving. With 1H24F auto-related sales growth toping 50% YoY, and server-related sales growth of over 20% YoY, we revise up 2024F auto sales growth to 38% YoY on solid BYD (CN) EV sales, and raise server sales growth to 19% as increased AI server demand will push up the shipments weighting of Alltop's high-power connector, in turn boosting ASP and gross margin in 2024F. While NB product sales will decline pending AI NB debuts, we see a limited impact on sales and margins. We are also positive on the 2025F business outlook thanks to AI server and EV demand growth, and expect higher sales and margins for these two segments to boost EPS further. Our 2025F EPS is raised to NT\$18.82 (up 21% YoY), with operating margin to expand to 36.2%.

# Valuation & Action

With EV and server-related sales growth boosting margins and EPS, for a 2023-25F EPS CAGR of 27%, we raise our target price from NT\$260 to NT\$290, on 20x average 2024-25F fully-diluted EPS of NT\$14.51. With decent earnings growth and a cash yield of around 5%, we maintain our Outperform rating.

# Risks

Prolonged copper price increase; weak server and EV demand.

Key financials and valuations					
	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue (NT\$mn)	2,620	2,310	2,395	2,889	3,455
Gross profit (NT\$mn)	1,224	1,072	1,229	1,552	1,847
Operating profit (NT\$mn)	713	577	734	994	1,251
Net profit (NT\$mn)	643	554	690	918	1,113
EPS (NT\$)	11.19	9.41	11.68	15.53	18.82
Cash DPS (NT\$)	11.16	9.40	11.60	15.37	18.63
EPS growth (%)	54.2	(15.9)	24.2	32.9	21.2
PE (x)	20.4	24.2	19.5	14.7	12.1
PB (x)	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.9	10.5	13.3	8.5	6.9
Net debt to equity (%)	22.1	12.4	0.5	Net cash	Net cash
Dividend yield (%)	4.9	4.1	5.1	6.7	8.2
Return on average equity (%)	27.0	22.1	26.9	35.1	42.4

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates



Figure 1: Breakdown of 1Q24 results & 2Q24 forecast revisions

	1Q24					2Q24F				
NT\$mn	Actual	KGI forecast	Diff (%)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Sales	588	584	8.0	(14.3)	36.8	688	671	2.5	17.0	15.5
Gross profits	313	298	5.0	(13.5)	55.1	368	349	5.5	17.8	21.4
Operating income	179	175	2.3	(21.7)	76.1	231	215	7.3	28.8	33.6
Pretax income	216	197	9.7	(7.4)	117.1	259	237	9.2	19.7	12.9
Net income	181	166	9.4	(9.4)	127.3	217	199	9.2	20.0	8.3
EPS (NT\$)	3.06	2.80	9.4	(9.6)	126.8	3.67	3.36	9.2	20.0	8.1
Gross margin (%)	53.2	51.0	2.2 ppts	0.5 ppts	6.3 ppts	53.5	52.0	1.5 ppts	0.3 ppts	2.6 ppts
OP margin (%)	30.4	30.0	0.4 ppts	(2.9)ppts	6.8 ppts	33.5	32.0	1.5 ppts	3.1 ppts	4.5 ppts
Net margin (%)	30.8	28.4	2.4 ppts	1.7 ppts	12.3 ppts	31.6	29.6	1.9 ppts	0.8 ppts	(2.1)ppts

Source: KGI Research, Bloomberg consensus

Figure 2: Breakdown of 2024-25 forecast revisions

		2024F			2025F				
NT\$mn	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	YoY (%)	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	YoY (%)	
Sales	2,889	2,806	2.9	20.6	3,455	3,260	6.0	19.6	
Gross profit	1,552	1,461	6.2	26.3	1,847	1,706	8.2	19.0	
Operating income	994	917	8.4	35.4	1,251	1,098	13.9	25.8	
Pretax income	1,106	1,005	10.1	36.7	1,341	1,181	13.5	21.2	
Net income	918	834	10.1	33.2	1,113	986	12.9	21.2	
EPS (NT\$)	15.53	14.10	10.1	32.9	18.82	16.67	12.9	21.2	
Gross margin (%)	53.7	52.1	1.6 ppts	2.4 ppts	53.5	52.3	1.1 ppts	(0.3)ppts	
OP margin (%)	34.4	32.7	1.7 ppts	3.8 ppts	36.2	33.7	2.5 ppts	1.8 ppts	
Net margin (%)	31.8	29.7	2.1 ppts	3.0 ppts	32.2	30.3	2.0 ppts	0.4 ppts	

Source: KGI Research, Bloomberg consensus

Figure 3: Server demand fell in 2023F, to resume growth in 2024-25F



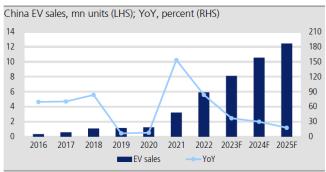
Source: Gartner; KGI Research estimate

Figure 5: BYD's EV shipments growth outpacing industry in 2024F



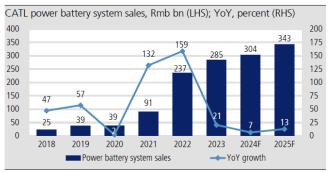
Source: Bloomberg; KGI Research

Figure 4: We project China EV sales will grow 30% YoY in 2024F



Source: EV-Volumes; KGI Research estimate

Figure 6: CATL power battery shows solid sales growth in 2023-25F



Source: Bloomberg; KGI Research

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Figure 7: Sales weigh	Figure 7: Sales weighting of auto segment keeps rising									
Sales weighting (%)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024F	2025F			
Server	49	51	51	51	48	48	45			
NB	41	38	32	24	16	11	10			
Auto	9	9	14	25	36	41	45			
Others	1	2	3	1	0	0	0			
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100			
Sales (NT\$mn)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024F	2025F			
Server	970	1,096	1,334	1,166	1,153	1,376	1,555			
NB	812	822	838	561	378	321	339			
Auto	178	186	376	571	863	1,191	1,561			
Others	20	37	71	12	0	-	-			
Total	1,980	2,142	2,620	2,310	2,395	2,889	3,455			
Sales YoY (%)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024F	2025F			
Server	24	13	22	(13)	(1)	19	13			
NB	(17)	1	2	(33)	(33)	(15)	5			
Auto	14	5	102	52	51	38	31			
Others	(49)	88	91	(84)	(96)	N.M.	N.M.			
Total	1	8	22	(12)	4	21	20			

Total 1
Source: Company data; KGI Research estimates

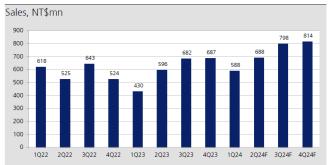


# Figure 8: Company profile

Founded in 1998, Alltop is a leader in the notebook & server connector and cable markets. In 2023, it derived 48% of sales from servers, 16% from notebooks, and 36% from automotive. It aims to expand non-NB connector sales weightings, including server, EV, IPC, and network connectors. It also plans to expand its high-end server sales weighting, such as high-power, high-speed connectors, and F-cable. The company now supplies BMS connectors to CATL and BYD in China.

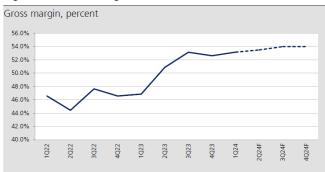
Source: KGI Research





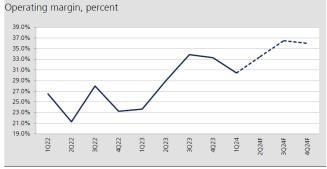
Source: KGI Research

Figure 12: Gross Margin



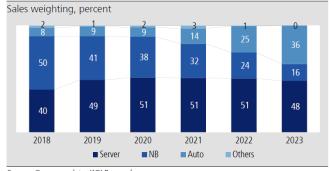
Source: KGI Research

Figure 14: Operating Margin



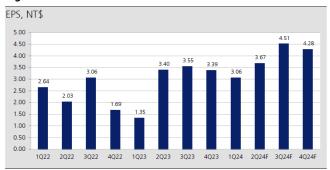
Source: KGI Research

Figure 9: Server & automotive are key sales contributors



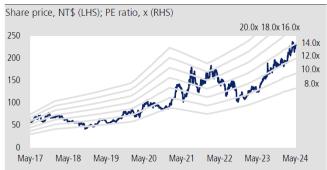
Source: Company data; KGI Research

Figure 11: EPS



Source: KGI Research

Figure 13: 12M forward PE band



Source: TEJ; KGI Research estimates

Figure 15: 12M forward PB band



Source: TEJ; KGI Research estimates



	Quarterly								Annually		
	Mar-23A	Jun-23A	Sep-23A	Dec-23A	Mar-24A	Jun-24F	Sep-24F	Dec-24F	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Income statement (NT\$mn)			•				•				
Revenue	430	596	682	687	588	688	798	814	2,395	2,889	3,455
Cost of goods sold	(228)	(293)	(320)	(325)	(275)	(320)	(367)	(375)	(1,166)	(1,337)	(1,608
Gross profit	202	303	363	361	313	368	431	440	1,229	1,552	1,847
Operating expenses	(100)	(131)	(131)	(133)	(134)	(138)	(140)	(147)	(495)	(557)	(596
Operating profit	102	173	231	229	179	231	291	293	734	994	1,251
Depreciation of fixed assets	(39)	(36)	(37)	(35)	(36)	(85)	(85)	(134)	(146)	(340)	(359
Amortisation of intangible assets	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(5)	(5
EBITDA	141	210	269	265	216	317	377	428	885	1,339	1,615
Interest income	17	19	18	20	24	23	23	22	74	93	74
Investment income	_	_	_	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2
Other non-op income	2	40	5	7	19	12	10	6	55	47	40
Non-operating income	20	59	23	27	43	35	34	29	129	142	116
Interest expense	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(6)	(5)	(5)	(3)	(13)	(19)	(16
Investment loss	(0)	-	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	(0)	-	-
Other non-op expenses	(19)	_	(3)	(19)	0	(3)	(3)	(5)	(41)	(10)	(10)
Non-operating expenses	(22)	(3)	(7)	(22)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(54)	(29)	(26)
Pre-tax profit	100	229	247	233	216	259	318	314	809	1,106	1,341
Current taxation	(20)	(28)	(38)	(33)	(35)	(41)	(51)	(61)	(120)	(188)	(228)
Minorities	(20)	-	(30)	(33)	(33)	(41)	(31)	-	(120)	(100)	(220)
Normalised net profit	80	201	209	200	181	217	267	253	690	918	1,113
Extraordinary items	(0)	0	0	0	0	-	-	(0)		-	1,113
Net profit	80	201	209	200	181	217	267	253	690	918	1.113
EPS (NT\$)	1.35	3.40	3.55	3.39	3.06	3.67	4.51	4.28	11.68	15.53	18.82
Margins (%)	1.33	3.40	3.33	3.33	3.00	3.07	4.31	4.20	11.00	13.33	10.02
Gross profit margin	46.9	50.9	53.2	52.6	53.2	53.5	54.0	54.0	51.3	53.7	53.5
Operating margin	23.7	29.0	33.9	33.3	30.4	33.5	36.5	36.0	30.7	34.4	36.2
EBITDA margin	32.9	35.2	39.4	38.6	36.7	46.0	47.3	52.6	36.9	46.3	46.7
Pretax profit margin	23.2	38.4	36.3	34.0	36.7	37.6	39.8	38.6	33.8	38.3	38.8
Net profit margin	18.5	33.7	30.3	29.1	30.7	31.6	33.4	31.1	28.8	31.8	32.2
<u> </u>	10.3	33.7	30.7	29.1	30.0	31.0	33.4	31.1	20.0	31.0	32.2
Sequential growth (%)	(10.0)	38.6	14.5	0.6	/1.1.2\	17.0	16.0	2.0			
Revenue growth	(18.0)	50.5	19.6		(14.3)	17.0	17.1	2.0			
Gross profit growth	(17.5)			(0.4)	(13.5)			2.0			
Operating profit growth	(16.5)	69.7	33.9	(1.1)	(21.7)	28.8	26.4	0.6			
EBITDA growth	(13.8)	48.4	28.2	(1.5)	(18.4)	46.6	19.2	13.5			
Pretax profit growth	(14.7)	130.1	8.0	(5.6)	(7.4)	19.7	22.8	(1.2)			
Net profit growth	(19.8)	151.9	4.4	(4.6)	(9.4)	20.0	22.8	(5.1)			
YoY growth (%)	(3.0.5)			24.0	200		47.0				
Revenue growth	(30.5)	13.6	6.2	31.0	36.8	15.5	17.0	18.6	3.7	20.6	19.6
Gross profit growth	(30.1)	30.1	18.5	48.0	55.1	21.4	18.8	21.7	14.7	26.3	19.0
Operating profit growth	(38.0)	54.7	28.5	87.7	76.1	33.6	26.0	28.1	27.2	35.4	25.8
EBITDA growth	(31.8)	35.4	21.0	61.6	52.9	51.0	40.4	61.7	18.3	51.3	20.6
Pretax profit growth	(46.9)	62.6	11.4	100.0	117.1	12.9	28.4	34.5	21.3	36.7	21.2
Net profit growth	(48.5)	67.8	16.0	101.4	127.3	8.3	27.4	26.6	24.5	33.2	21.2

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates



Balance sheet					
NTSmn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total assets	4,081	4,096	4,391	5,217	5,715
Current assets	2,298	2,054	3,140	4,194	4,936
Cash & ST securities	971	993	1,893	2,725	3,194
Inventory	222	159	162	185	223
Accounts receivable	1,066	837	980	1,179	1,413
Other current assets	40	65	106	106	106
Non-current assets	1,783	2,042	1,251	1,023	779
LT investments	769	1,100	323	325	327
Net fixed assets	928	862	803	572	327
Other assets	87	80	126	126	126
Total liabilities	1,583	1,580	1,781	2,598	3,085
Current liabilities	1,545	777	962	1,477	1,863
Accounts payable	420	314	393	449	541
Interest bearing ST liabilities	798	162	285	387	488
Other current liabilities	326	301	284	641	833
Non-current liabilities	39	802	820	1,121	1,222
Long-term debt	-	764	772	1,074	1,175
Other L-T liabilities	39	38	38	38	38
Total equity	2,498	2,516	2,610	2,619	2,630
Share capital	585	590	591	591	591
Retained earnings reserve	742	699	920	930	941
Minority interests	-	-	-	-	-
Preferred shareholders funds	-	-	-	-	-

Key ratios					
	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Growth					
Revenue growth	22.3%	(11.8%)	3.7%	20.6%	19.6%
Operating profit growth	17.8%	(19.0%)	27.2%	35.4%	25.8%
EBITDA growth	14.3%	(15.2%)	18.3%	51.3%	20.6%
Net profit growth	23.8%	(13.9%)	24.5%	33.2%	21.2%
EPS growth	54.2%	(15.9%)	24.2%	32.9%	21.2%
Profitability					
Gross profit margin	46.7%	46.4%	51.3%	53.7%	53.5%
Operating margin	27.2%	25.0%	30.7%	34.4%	36.2%
EBITDA margin	33.7%	32.4%	36.9%	46.3%	46.7%
Net profit margin	24.6%	24.0%	28.8%	31.8%	32.2%
Return on average assets	16.9%	13.6%	16.3%	19.1%	20.4%
Return on average equity	27.0%	22.1%	26.9%	35.1%	42.4%
Stability					
Gross debt to equity	32.0%	36.8%	40.5%	55.8%	63.2%
Net debt to equity	22.1%	12.4%	0.5%	Net cash	Net cash
Interest coverage (x)	96.9	60.6	65.3	58.7	86.0
Interest & ST debt coverage (x)	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Cash flow interest coverage(x)	72.9	75.5	53.6	57.2	82.1
Cash flow/int. & ST debt (x)	0.7	4.9	2.3	2.7	2.6
Current ratio (x)	1.5	2.6	3.3	2.8	2.7
Quick ratio (x)	1.3	2.4	3.1	2.7	2.5
Net debt (NT\$mn)	553	311	14	(415)	(682)
Per share data					
EPS (NT\$)	11.19	9.41	11.68	15.53	18.82
CFPS (NT\$)	10.18	14.36	11.43	18.52	21.89
BVPS (NT\$)	42.69	42.65	44.13	44.29	44.48
Adj BVPS (NT\$)	43.44	42.73	44.21	44.29	44.48
SPS (NT\$)	45.57	39.23	40.57	48.85	58.42
EBITDA/share (NT\$)	15.34	12.70	14.99	22.63	27.30
Cash DPS (NT\$)	11.16	9.40	11.60	15.37	18.63
Activity					
Sales / avg assets	0.69	0.56	0.56	0.60	0.63
Days receivable	148.5	132.2	149.3	149.3	149.3
Days inventory	58.0	46.8	50.6	50.6	50.6
Days payable	109.8	92.6	122.9	122.9	122.9
Cash cycle	96.7	86.4	77.0	77.0	77.0

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates

Profit & loss					
NT\$mn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue	2,620	2,310	2,395	2,889	3,455
Cost of goods sold	(1,396)	(1,238)	(1,166)	(1,337)	(1,608)
Gross profit	1,224	1,072	1,229	1,552	1,847
Operating expenses	(511)	(494)	(495)	(557)	(596)
Operating profit	713	577	734	994	1,251
Non-operating income	74	123	129	142	116
Interest income	39	52	74	93	74
Investment income	3	1	0	2	2
Other non-op income	32	70	55	47	40
Non-operating expenses	(17)	(33)	(54)	(29)	(26)
Interest expense	(8)	(11)	(13)	(19)	(16)
Investment loss	-	(0)	(0)	-	-
Other non-op expenses	(9)	(21)	(41)	(10)	(10)
Pre-tax profit	770	667	809	1,106	1,341
Current taxation	(127)	(113)	(120)	(188)	(228)
Minorities	-	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	-	(0)	0	-	-
Net profit	643	554	690	918	1,113
EBITDA	882	748	885	1,339	1,615
EPS (NT\$)	11.19	9.41	11.68	15.53	18.82

Cash flow					-
NT\$mn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Operations cash flow	585	846	675	1,095	1,295
Net profit	643	554	690	918	1,113
Depreciation & amortisation	169	171	150	344	364
Decrease in working capital	(318)	142	(133)	(166)	(180)
Other operating cash flow	92	(21)	(32)	(2)	(2)
Investing cash flow	(1,404)	(45)	197	(114)	(118)
Sale of ST investment	(1,222)	41	285	-	-
New investments	1	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure	(203)	(101)	(118)	(109)	(114)
Others investing cashflow	20	14	29	(5)	(5)
Free cash flow	239	688	521	890	1,103
Financing cash flow	(128)	(451)	(427)	(149)	(707)
Increase in short term debt	580	(600)	130		
Increase in long term loans	_	808	_	404	202
New ordinary shares issued	(182)	-	-		
Ordinary dividends paid	(525)	(653)	(555)	(553)	(909)
Other financing cashflow	(1)	(6)	(3)	-	-
Forex effects	(9)	20	(16)		
Total cash generated	(955)	369	429	832	469

ROIC					
	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
1 - COGS/revenue					
<ul> <li>Operating exp./revenue</li> </ul>	19.5%	21.4%	20.7%	19.3%	17.2%
= Operating margin	27.2%	25.0%	30.7%	34.4%	36.2%
1 / (Working capital/revenue	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
+ Net PPE/revenue	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
+ Other assets/revenue)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
= Capital turnover	1.7	1.8	1.7	3.0	4.8
Operating margin	27.2%	25.0%	30.7%	34.4%	36.2%
x Capital turnover	1.7	1.8	1.7	3.0	4.8
x (1 - tax rate)	83.5%	83.0%	85.2%	83.0%	83.0%
= After-tax ROIC	39.1%	36.4%	44.7%	84.4%	144.3%

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates



# Alltop – Recommendation & target price history



Date	Rating	Target	Price
2024-03-06	Outperform	260.0	216.5
2023-11-06	Outperform	215.0	182.0
2023-08-08	Outperform	220.0	189.0
2023-05-05	Outperform	155.0	135.0
2022-11-16	Outperform	148.0	122.0
2022-10-26	Outperform	148.0	108.0
2022-08-09	Outperform	190.0	147.0
2022-06-28	Outperform	203.0	145.5
2022-05-05	Outperform	220.0	169.0
2022-03-07	Outperform	226.0	184.0

Source: TEJ, KGI Research

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