

Date 20/10/2022

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Date 20/10/2022

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#### **Company Initiation**

Recommendation	BUY
	HOSE: REE
	Utility
Current price (VND)	80,100
Target price (VND)	93,209
Expected share price return	16.4%
Expected dividend yield	1.9%
Expected total return	18.3%

#### Stock performance (%)

	YTD	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	24.9	-10.4	-1.0	25.6
Relative	57.2	6.1	9.7	48.6



34.99%
12.17%
5.46%
5.27%
5.02%

Stock Statistics Bloomberg code	19-Oct-22 REE VN
52-week range (VND)	56,230 - 99,600
Mkt cap (VND bn)	27,224
Mkt cap (USD bn)	1.11
Foreign room left (%)	0.0
Est. free float (mil)	114
30 aver daily vol (shrs)	868,655
VND/USD	24,530
Index: VNIndex / HNX	1052.15/225.68

#### **REE CORPORATION (HSX: REE)**

REE has transitioned itself to a leading energy company with a focus going forward on renewable energies. We issue a BUY recommendation with a target price of VND93,209 per share, representing 18.3% expected total return thanks to their dominant investment portfolio in utilities.

REE owns an attractive diversified energy portfolio including hydro, coal-fired thermal, wind and solar energy, which has supplanted the M&E segment to be the focus of the company's long term orientation. Going forward, REE will be placing a higher priority on renewable energies and reducing its dependence on fossil fuels (coal fired thermal plant particularly), following Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2050 commitment at 2021 United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26) and the Politburo's Resolution 55-NQ/TW on the Orientation of the Viet Nam's National Energy Development Strategy. In 2022, REE targets to add an additional 100 MW in wind power plant capacity.

The company's net profit margin has improved and the EAT has been more stable since the energy segment has overtaken M&E as the main business line. In 2022, we expect an impressive growth of REE's EAT thanks to new Thuong Kon Tum hydro plant – VSH (220 MW) has been operated since 4Q2021, which increased the capacity of VSH almost three times, and the longer than expected effects of La Nina. This sector is anticipated as an main contributed catalyst for REE's growth in 2022.

In addition, REE owns 145,000 sqm lease-office building, which provides a more steady source of earnings and cash flow compared to the more variable business lines. In 2021, the Real Estate segment generated VND896 bn in revenue and VND461 bn in profit after tax. Furthermore, the company is currently expanding this segment with the Etown 6 project, which will add 40,000 sqm and is expected to be finalized in Q4/2023.

The M&E segment is expected to post a better performance in 2022 as the 2021 results were impacted strongly by slowdowns in real estate development from impacts of the COVID-19 prevention measures.

		2019	2020	2021	2022F	2023F
•	Net Sales (VNDbn)	4,900	5,640	5,809	7,229	7,198
	Growth (%)	-3.9%	15.1%	3.0%	24.4%	-0.4%
	EBITDA ( VNDbn )	1,358	1,562	3,077	5,201	4,887
	Growth (%)	0.8%	15.0%	53.0%	69.0%	-6.0%
)	Net Profit (VNDbn)	1,625	1,628	1,855	2,875	2,664
	Growth (%)	-8.9%	0.2%	13.9%	54.9%	-7.3%
	EPS (VND)	5,242	5,252	5,984	8,053	7,463
	Growth (%)	-8.9%	0.2%	13.9%	60.8%	-7.3%
	ROE (%)	14.8%	13.3%	11.3%	17.8%	16.5%
	ROA (%)	5.2%	5.0%	5.6%	9.0%	8.4%
•	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	4.1	2.1	3.0	2.0	2.1
	EV/EBITDA (x)	10.29	5.95	6.47	5.6	6.8
	PER (x)	15.7	15.8	13.4	8.9	9.6
	PBR (x)	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.3	1.2
	Dividend Yield (%)	2.8	2.8	3.0	1.9	1.9

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF BUSINESS RESULTS:**

#### 2Q2022

In Q2 2022, REE's revenue reached VND2,023 bn, **+24%** YoY, and net profit reached 594 bn VND, **+55%** YoY. The strong reported performance in Q2 is partially due to the consolidation of Vinh Son - Song Hinh Hydropower JSC as a subsidiary as of Thuong Kon Tum hydropower plan was put into stably operation and others 3 wind power projects: Tra Vinh 3 V1-3, Phu Lac 2, Loi Hai 2. As a result, energy segment becomes the key contribution in REE's profit structure (62%).

The real estate segment also recorded a positive result with VND150 bn profit after tax, increasing by VND15 bn, **+20%** YoY. The growth rate was supported by a lower base in 2021 as REE discounted rents to support tenants during social distancing periods in 2021.

The M&E business recorded mediocre results, earning just VND35 bn net profit after tax, **+6%** YoY.



#### 1H2022

By the end of 1H2022, REE's revenue reached 4,068 bn VND, **+44%** YoY, completing 44% of the company's 2022 plan; and EAT achieved 1,289 bn VND, **+58%** YoY, completing 62% of 2022 plan.

The energy segment was the standout, recording 2,612 bn VND of revenue, **+111%** YoY; and 806 bn VND of EAT, +117% YoY, completing 63% and 79% of 2022 plan respectively.

In contrast, the M&E segment had disappointing first half with 894 bn VND of revenue, **-16%** YoY, completing only 23% 2022 plan; and 48 bn VND of EAT, -29% YoY, completing only 22% 2022 plan.

Thanks to the normalization post Covid-19, 2Q2022 real estate EAT reached 150 bn VND, **+20%** YoY and Water Segment EAT achieved 80 bn VND, **+16%** YoY.



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#### **RISKS:**

A company is currently having **11,468** bn VND of Net Debt, equivalent to 66.3% of Equity. This is concerned as a main risk to REE as we are in the midst of a period of rising interest rates which will increase the cost of debt to the company.

#### **Recommendation With Target Price: 93,209 VND/Share**

Applying the Sum of The Parts (SOTP) method, combined with Price Earning ratio (P/E) method, and EV/EBITDA, we proposes **BUY** with target price: **93,209 VND** per share.

#### **CORPORATION STRUCTURE**

2022 is the second full year REE's restructuring as a sector holding company. In 2020, REE has established subsidiaries and associates complied with strategic sectors to improve the management apparatus, took over REE's allocated portfolio and continue to develop in four chief categories including: Refrigeration Mechanical & Electrical Engineering (REE M&E), Electricity (REE Energy), Water (REE Water) and real estate (REE Land).

- Selling Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) industrial products, providing installation, consultancy, deployment, operation and maintenance services to industrial M&E and solar photovoltaic power projects.
- **Developing real estate activities** with 6 office buildings branded Etown with almost 145,000 sqm of NLA.
- **Developing and operating energy production** including hydro, thermal, solar and wind energy, providing 12 billion kWh 2021 (almost 4%) total electricity consumption of a whole country.
- Distribution and processing clean water: capacity 700,000 and 1.1 mil cbm/day.



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#### **REE CORPORATION**





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#### **ENERGY**

REE has a diversified investment portfolio in energy with various types of energy generation throughout Vietnam. The energy segment has been at the forefront of REE's development plans since 2018 and is expected to be the key catalyst for REE going forward. The REE's Board of Management (BOM) has taken the path to gradually increase investment and resources into wind and solar energy and reduce proportion in coal-fired plant.

	Company	Capacity: MW	<b>REE's ownership</b>	Output: mil kWh	Revenue: bn	Profit: bn			
Hydro		1,288.3		5,277	5,182	2,096			
1	TBC	120	60.4%	337	294	143			
2	TMP	220	42.6%	658	505	334			
3	ISH	51	34.3%	230	238	95			
4	SBH	220	25.8%	723	870	471			
5	MHP	34.8	79.8%	160	203	83			
6	BDH	44	25.5%	193	187	86			
7	VSH	356	50.5%	1,771	1,611	387			
8	CHP	220	22.7%	558	616	232			
9	SHP	122.5	11.9%	647	658	265			
Thermal		1,140		3,072	4,729	313			
1	QTP		1%						
2	NBP	100	29.1%	391	844	26			
3	PPC	1,040	24.1%	2,681	3,885	287			
Solar		102	100%	113	213	71			
Wind		126		97	201	125			
1	Tra Vinh V1-3	48	100%	37.6					
2	Loi Hai 2	28.9	50%	28.9					
3	Phu Lac 2	26	50%	7.7					
4	Phu Lac 1	24	50%	64.8					
Retail	DTV	0	100%	317	596	28			
Total		2,647		8,876	10,921	2,723			
	Sources: ACBS, REE								

REE 's Energy Portfolio and performance in 2021

By ownership, REE's energy capacity reached almost 1.000 MW, in which Hydro accounts for nearly half, reaches 49.4%, next is coal-fired thermal 28.7% and lastly 21.9% is wind and solar energy.



	Capacity - MW <sup>1</sup>
Hydro	483
Coal thermal	281
Wind energy	87
Solar energy	127
Total	978

Sources: ACBS, REE

Sources: ACBS, REE

<sup>1</sup> Calculated based on a project's total capacity and REE's ownership stake



In 2021, energy segment contributed VND2,963 bn (accounting for 51% of the total company's revenue) and VND873 bn in profit (47.1% of total profit), in which hydro accounted for the largest profit proportion: 68% for a total of VND594 bn, coal thermal: VND77 bn (9%), wind energy: VND105 bn (12%), solar energy: VND71 bn (8%) and retail: VND28 bn (3%).



#### **HYDRO**

This is the largest profit contributor of REE's energy segment with nine hydropower plants in portfolio, 483 MW capacity adjusted to ownership proportion and we forecast it would continue to post an impressive result in 2022 thanks to:

REE increased its ownership in Vinh Son – Song Hinh Hydropower JSC (VSH) to 50.5% from 49.5% which then allowed for the financial consolidation of VSH by the Group from 2021. In addition, Thuong Kon Tum hydropower plant belongs to Vinh Son – Song Hinh Hydropower JSC (VSH) coming on stream in April 2021, as a result, its output and profit would be fully reflected in 2022.

In 1H2022, hydropower including TBC and VSH record an impressive result thanks to favorable conditions (La Nina was lasting longer than expected). We expect the power segment will continue to post good results in 2H2022, especially 3Q2022, as Vietnam is entering the rainy season, which creates higher levels of precipitation which is beneficial to hydro power facilities.

A Luoi hydropower plant belongs to Mien Trung Hydropower JSC (CHP) generated commercial output of only 558 million kWh, down by 6.5% on the grounds that tunnel issues caused power generation disruption in the first four months of 2021. As a result, CHP is expected to have better performance in 2022 as A Luoi hydropower return to work normally.

We expect by the end of 2022, REE's hydropower group can earn 1,718 bn VND EAT.



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#### **COAL-FIRED THERMAL**

In 2021, commercial power output of PPC reduced by 49.1% to 2,966 mil kWh owing to the breakdown of the generating unit S6 (Capacity: 300 MW) at Pha Lai 2 Plant. PPC's BOM expects the generating unit S6 would resume its operations before Sep 2022. However, in Sep 2022, S6 have not been done fixing completely. EVNGENCO2 which is PPC's mother company had a meeting with PPC in Sep to advance the process. The maintenance might be delay until the beginning of 2023.

Coal-fired thermal, despite of less positive 2Q2022 result compared to hydropower group, still posted profit growth. Coal-fired plants have been somewhat insulated from rising global coal prices as there are sufficient supply from domestic coal mines and the Government has ensured price stability given the national energy security implications with the importance of coal fired plants.

In long term, we expect this segment's prospects and profit to wane due to the National Power Development Plan VIII, which commits to not continue processing coal thermal plant after 2030. We forecast this segment could bring to **66** bn VND for REE in **2022**.

#### **SOLAR ENERGY**

REE has a capacity of 86 MWp of rooftop solar projects that were finalized before 2021 and operated fully all the year round, along with extra 6.5 MWp has been completed also in 2021.

In the short run, we project the solar sector to be stagnant due to the overdevelopment of the sector in 2018-2020 period as expiring preferential tariffs lead to a surge in solar capacity installation. The surge in solar generation lead to some instability on the national grid (increases of generation during the day and a lack of storage energy technology and capability), resulting in the preferential policies not being extended for the time being, solar energy sector would contribute **VND74** bn net profit after tax for REE in **2022**.

Capacity MW	FIT cents/kWh	Working hours	USD/VND	Rev: bn	EAT: bn
93	8.38	1,217	23,370	222	74
				Sour	ces: ACBS, REE





#### WIND ENERGY

In 2021, three wind power projects with a total installed capacity of 102 MW – Tra Vinh V1-3 (48 MW – in Tra Vinh), Loi Hai 2 (28.9 MW – in Ninh Thuan) and Phu Lac 2 (26 MW – in Binh Thuan) – started their commercial operations in October 2021. Applicable feed-in tariffs are US 9.8 Cents/kWh (for Tra Vinh V1-3) and US 8.5 Cents/kWh (for Loi Hai 2 and Phu Lac 2). Therefore, net profit from these projects has not been fully reflected, only VND125 bn. We expect these wind projects will bring in **383 bn VND** EBITDA for REE in **2022**.

Projects	Year output (mil kWh)	FIT (US cent/kWh)	Revenue: bn VND	EBITDA: bn VND	EBITDA adjusted for Ownership: bn VND
Phu Lac 1	66,7	8.5	125	96	48
Phu Lac 2	70	8.5	135	105	52
Loi Hai 2	100	8.8	156	120	60
Tra Vinh V1-3	158	9.8	288	222	222
Total	394,7		704	544	383
					Sources: ACBS, REE

	2021	2022F	2022F	
Unit: bn dong		EAT	EBITDA	
Hydro	594	1,718		
Coal thermal	77	65		
Wind	105		383	
Solar	71	74		
Retail	28	28		
Total	873	1,885	383	
		Sources: ACBS, REE		

	Area: sqm
IDC building	4,000
Manson Pasteur	1,290
Etown central	34,000
Etown 1	29,480
Etown 2	26,633
Etown 3	12,097
Etown EW	4,236
REE tower	17,000
REE corp	4,250
Etown 5	17,000
Total	144,851
Etown 6	40,000
Total	184,851
	Sources: ACBS, REE

#### **REAL ESTATE**

In the real estate sector, REE's primary focus is on the office segment and a secondary priority on residential real estate development. The office segment is thought to be a sustainable and profitable business with low management expenses compared to REE's other business segments.

**Office Leasing**: REE owns six Grade B rated office buildings with occupancy rates over 98%, and are developing one more project: Etown 6, which is expected to be finalized at the end of 2023. When completed, total leasing area would increase by 40,000 sqm to 190,000 sqm; and is expected to earn extra VND140 bn profit after tax for corporation when it operates stably since 2024.

According to CBRE and Knight Frank, rent prices are forecasted to increase slightly between 3% and 5% in 2022 due to steady macro environments after COVID-19. We expect net profit from leasing office segment to reach **VND500** bn and **VND550** bn in **2022**.







**Residential real estate**: REE, and many residential developers, faced a difficult environment in 2021 with COVID-19 prevention measures leading to delays and postponements of many projects. As a consequence, REE was unable to launch construction and sales, had difficulty in acquiring new lands and SaigonRes's projects have yet to report initial earnings as these still in various early stages. REE's aim to implement the infrastructure sector of Phu Hoi, Nhon Trach – Dong Nai commercial housing project by 2022, total area is 7.9 ha, will bring in **VND50** bn net profit in **2022** for the company. We expect since 2023, modest net profit in this segment would be in range between **VND25 – 35** bn from SaigonRes.

#### WATER

Presently, REE owns 4 water treatment plants, 3 water distribution plants, 1 water treatment and distribution; and 1 enterprise providing technical consultancy and renovation - construction services to various water plants in Vietnam with total capacity of 1.1 million cpm water treatment and distributed more than 700,000 cpm per day.

Water treatment	Capacity cbm/day	REE Ownership	Location
B.O.O THU DUC WATER JSC	300,000	42.1%	Thu Duc
SAI GON CLEAN WATER BUSINESS & INVESTMENT JSC	300,000	40.0%	Thu Duc
TAN HIEP CLEAN WATER INVESTMENT JSC	300,000	32.0%	Tan Hiep
SONG DA WATER INVESTMENT JSC	300,000	36.0%	Ha Noi
Water distribution			
THU DUC WATER SUPPLY JSC		44.2%	Thu Đuc
GIA DINH WATER SUPPLY JSC		20.1%	Gia Đinh
NHA BE WATER SUPPLY JSC		20.0%	Nha Be
Water treatment & distribution			
KHANH HOA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE JSC	120,000	43.9%	Khanh Hoa
Technical consultancy and renovation			
TK PLUS COMPANY LIMITED		65.0%	HCMC
			Sources: ACBS, REE

The net profit of water segment in 2022 could reach about VND300 bn. Revenue and output are expected to grow at a steady pace as the price of clean water will increase in HCMC by 6% every year from 2020-2025 in compliance with HCMC's 5-year policy plan. According to Vietnam Water Supply and Sewerage Association (VWSA)

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predicts the demand for water production would rise by 5% every year in period 2021 – 2030.

			2023F
274	81	303	316
	274	274 81	274 81 303

#### M&E

M&E's REE currently focuses in three fields: M&E contractor, air conditioner distributor, and rooftop solar EPC contractor. This segment had encountered fierce competition from many other contractors causing deterioration in sales, profit and net profit margin recent years. 2021 was a tough year for the sector due to COVID – 19 restrictions which lead to many constructions works being stopped during these periods. M&E's revenue dropped nearly half from 3,474 bn dong to 1,816 bn VND. Net profit dropped almost 60% as well, from 226 to 98 bn VND.

The net profit margin, which had fluctuated around 7% in previous years, fell to 5.4% in 2021 and further to 4% in 1Q2022 due to inflation of commodities price. The contract was signed with the firm price. However, increasing input prices, as a result of supply chain disruptions and quantitative easing policies, have put a squeeze on margins in the M&E segment. In 2Q2022, the net profit margin has bounced back to 6.4% showing positive signs of normalized operations post COVID-19. Thus, we expect a better performance of REE's M&E segment in 2H2022.



Given its leading position in the M&E industry (60% of market share in public investment projects), the focal point will be to bid on high value infrastructure projects, such as the Long Thanh international airport (which has a total capital investment of 110,000 bn VND) and Tan Son Nhat T3 Terminal (total capital investment: 10,990 bn VND).



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Previous projects	Duration	Work scope
Noi Bai (NB) international airport	Jun 2000 – Dec 2001	M&E contractor
Lien Khuong airport	Dec 2007 – Dec 2009	M&E contractor
Tan Son Nhat international airport	Nov 2004 – Sep 2007	M&E contractor
T2 Terminal NB international airport	Aug 2012 – Dec 2014	Mechanical, ventilation system & BMS installation
T2 Terminal TSN international airport	Phase 1: May 2015 – Oct 2016 Phase 2: Jul 2017 – Aug 2018	M&E installation and station equipment supply
Da Nang airport international terminal	Apr 2016 – Sep 2017	M&E contractor
Cam Ranh airport international terminal	Feb 2017 – May 2018	M&E contractor
T2 terminal Phu Bai international airport	Feb 2021 – Nov 2022	M&E contractor
		Source: ACBS, REE

We expect M&E's revenue might be higher than the pre-pandemic period, reaching approximately VND2,482 bn (+36.6% YoY). The net profit margin is likely to maintain at a depressed level around 6%, equivalent to VND148 bn profit after tax in 2022 since the macro environment is expected to be more stable as the post COVID-19 recovery is solidified and a not very postive1H2022 performances.

#### VALUATION

Energy segment has supplanted M&E since 2018, which is the spearhead of corporation, contributes biggest net profit after tax for REE following by real estate, water and finally M&E.

Selling expenses and net debt have increased on the grounds that financial consolidation of VSH and other loans to support for alternative upcoming renewable projects. As a result, Return on Asset (ROA and Debt/Equity (D/E) ratios would be negatively influenced in the short run.

We expect although REE may not be the fast-moving growth company yet could reach by 15% - 20% accumulated every year, our target price for REE is VND93,209 per share, based on Sum of parts, valuing:

- Energy, water and M&E segments based on earnings multiples derived from the average earnings multiples of other similar companies' valuation in the market.
- Office Leasing based on capitalization rates and other similar enterprise.

	Valuation
M&E	798
Real estate	11,016
Office	10,563
Residential	453
Energy	26,534
Hydro	21,007
Coal-fired	9,28
Wind	3,946
Solar	1,327
Retail	254
Water	4,253
Net debt	10,282
Total	33,760
Share: mil	356
Price per share	93,209



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## **Initiation REE – BUY**

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REE FINANCIALS MODEL	Price: VND	80,000	Target (VND):	93,209	Mkt cap (VND bn):	27,224
(VND bn except where stated)		2019	2020	2021	2022F	2023F
Net Revenue		4,900	5,640	5,809	7,229	7,198
Sales growth (%)		-3.9%	15.1%	3.0%	24.4%	-0.4%
EBITDA		1,358	2,662	3,956	5,201	4,887
Growth (%)		96.3%	24.4%	48.6%	69.0%	-6.0%
Depreciation		183	322	893	1,100	1,100
Operating profit		1,175	1,241	2,184	4,101	3,183
Operating profit margin (%)		24.0%	22.0%	37.6%	56.7%	44.2%
Net interest expense		162	254	663	502	423
as % of avg, net debt		13.0%	9.4%	5.5%	4.9%	4.6%
Tax		227	210	264	785	732
Effective tax rate (%)		22.3%	25.5%	17.4%	21.8%	21.8%
Minorities		81	85	280	182	185
Net profit		1,625	1,628	1,855	2,875	2,664
Net profit margin (%)		33.5%	28.9%	31.9%	39.8%	37.0%
Cash earnings		1,808	1,788	2,657	3,975	3,765
Number of shares (m)		310	310	310	356	356
EPS (VND)		5,226	4,720	5,009	8,053	7,463
Bonus factor (x)		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Adjusted EPS (VND)		5,226	4,720	5,009	8,057	7,463
EPS growth (%)		34.4%	<i>-9.7</i>	6.1%	60.8%	-7.3%

KEY CASHFLOW AND BS ITEMS	2019	2020	2021	2022F	2023F
Increase in Working Capital	(259)	(408)	(845)	(504)	(489)
Сарех	(293)	(1,391)	(3.911)	(300)	(300)
Share issues (m)	-	-	-	-	-
Net debt end of year	5,627	5,599	11,974	10,282	9,150
Shareholders' equity	11,102	12,213	16,358	19,233	21,897
BVPS (VND)	40,845	47,727	46,519	53,964	61,439
Net debt / equity (%)	44.4%	38.0%	73.2%	53.5%	41.8%
Net debt / EBITDA (x)	4,1	3.6	3.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Total assets</i>	19,623	20,531	31,828	33,010	34,542

KEY RETURN AND VALUATION RATIOS	2019	2020	2021	2022F	2023F
ROE (%)	14.1%	10.7%	11.3%	17.6%	16.3%
ROA (%)	8.4%	7.3%	6.7%	9.0%	8.4%
PER (x)	15.7	153	14.4	8.9	9.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.4	15.1	7.7	5.6	6.0
PBR (x)	2.5	2.2	1.5	1.3	1.2
PSR (x)	4.6	4.0	4.4	3.5	3.6
EV/sales (x)	2.9	2.8	6.5	5.0	4.8
Dividend yield (%)	2.8	2.8	3.0	1.9	1.9



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#### Initiation REE – BUY Date 20/10/2022

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