

SELL

TP: Rs 342 | ▼ 19%

BIRLASOFT

| IT Services

| 30 May 2025

Weakest 4Q performer in our Tier-2 set

- Revenue down 5.3% QoQ CC, lower than our estimate on furloughs, project ramp downs, insourcing, etc. Had 3 QoQ drops in FY25
- Poor exit and weak start to FY26 and weak TCV would mean a possibly flattish FY26 USD revenue. At 70%, discretionary exposure is high
- Cut EPS for FY26/FY27 by 13-15%. Lower rating to SELL from HOLD. Target multiple (retained) is 25% lower than that of TCS - benchmark

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Revenue impacted by broad-based weakness: Revenue declined 5.3% QoQ CC terms (0% our estimate). Performance was impacted by broad based weakness across verticals and service lines. Extended furloughs, ramp downs and insourcing were indicated to be driving this. A larger chunk – 60%- (including Health care and life sciences where the business is largely from Med Tech) was manufacturing related which got impacted by tariff uncertainty

FY26 revenue will likely be flat unless material deal wins happen: FY25 TCV totaled US\$758mn (down 13%). Net new TCV for the year was US\$359mn, down 24%. The start to the year was indicated to be soft with growth likely picking up from 2QFY26. It was indicated that discretionary work (negatively impacted) constituted 70% of revenue with the effort to bring it down to 50%.

EBIT margin was flat as some variable pay was cut/postponed. 4QFY25 EBIT margin was broadly in line with 50bps benefit from currency and 150 bps from cut in variable pay to senior employees. Half of the variable pay cut will reverse in 1QFY26. It was also indicated some of the order wins in recent days have been at tight pricing which could lead to lower than corporate level margins on these orders in the initial few quarters.

Cut estimates: We have reduced both revenue and EBIT margin estimates for FY26 and FY27 leading to EPS reductions of 13-15%. We are now building in flat USD revenue in FY26 and a 5% growth in FY27. Even achieving this in our view will take some effort from the company's side.

Downgrade back to SELL rating: We had upgraded the stock to HOLD in our 12 March 2025 sector note. However, the EPS cuts while keeping Target PE multiple the same prompts us to downgrade back to a SELL. Target PE remains unchanged at a 25% discount to the target PE multiple of TCS- our sector benchmark. In our coverage universe in Tier-2 Birlasoft will likely be among the weakest performers both from a revenue and margin perspective.

Key changes

| Target | Rating |
|--------|--------|
| ▼ | ▼ |

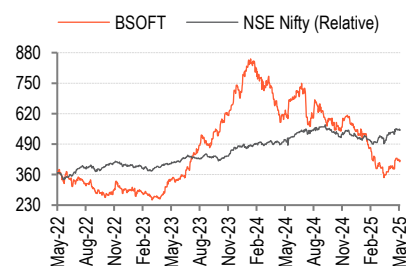
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|------------------|-----------------|
| Ticker/Price | BSOFT IN/Rs 421 |
| Market cap | US\$ 1.4bn |
| Free float | 59% |
| 3M ADV | US\$ 9.5mn |
| 52wk high/low | Rs 760/Rs 331 |
| Promoter/FPI/DII | 41%/12%/25% |

Source: NSE | Price as of 29 May 2025

Key financials

| Y/E 31 Mar | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total revenue (Rs mn) | 53,752 | 55,972 | 60,120 |
| EBITDA (Rs mn) | 6,974 | 7,344 | 8,482 |
| Adj. net profit (Rs mn) | 5,168 | 5,161 | 6,028 |
| Adj. EPS (Rs) | 18.3 | 18.3 | 21.4 |
| Adj. ROAE (%) | 15.8 | 14.2 | 15.2 |
| Adj. P/E (x) | 23.0 | 22.9 | 19.6 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 15.8 | 15.4 | 13.2 |
| Adj. EPS growth (%) | (19.0) | 0.1 | 16.8 |

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance

Source: NSE



Key Points from the quarter and the earnings call

FY25

- FY25 Revenue stood at US\$635.4mn, down 0.1% YoY in CC terms. In USD terms, revenue was down 0.3% YoY. EBIT margin for the year was 11.4% (down 285bps)
 - Structural pressure on project-based business observed due to significantly muted discretionary spend.
 - Significant furloughs occurred in 3Q and continued into 4Q
 - Revenue declined in three out of four quarters in FY25 on a QoQ basis.
 - In 4Q project closures and ramp downs were experienced in a few customer accounts, but no customer losses were reported. Some ramp downs and insourcing seen among large customers, though engagement with them continues
- FY25 TCV deal wins: US\$758mn (down 13%). Net new TCV for the year was US\$359mn which was down 24%

4QFY25

- Revenue stood at US\$152.2mn, down 5.3% QoQ in CC terms (much below our estimate of 0%). In USD terms, revenue was down 5.4% QoQ and down 7.2% YoY
 - 4Q performance impacted by higher-than-usual furloughs extending into January and project closures/ramp downs in certain customer accounts
 - Challenging to mitigate headwinds due to continued soft demand and pullback in discretionary spending
 - The decline was broad-based across verticals and services lines
 - In QoQ, USD terms, while Manufacturing, BFSI and Lifesciences & Services registered a decline of 6.8%, 5.7% and 7.2% respectively, E&U was up 1.8%. The first three verticals constituted 83% of 4QFY25 revenue
 - Among service offerings, while Infrastructure was up 4.1% QoQ, Digital & Data, and ERP showed sequential decline of 5.8% and 7% respectively. The latter two offerings constituted 90% of revenue
- EBIT margin stood at 11.5% (against our estimate of 11%), an increase of 111 bps QoQ and decrease of 318 bps YoY. However, the mix between direct cost and SGA was quite different from what we expected
 - Margin performance improved due to operational efficiency measures and one-off tailwinds
- Reported EBITDA margin tailwinds driven by lower variable pay and leave encashment for senior executives, combined with currency benefits, totaling approximately 200bps

- 50 bps of the 200-bps margin improvement came from currency benefit, part of which may continue into 1Q. Remaining improvement was due to lower variable pay to senior executives, along with one-off benefits from leave encashment. ~50% of the total margin benefit is expected to sustain in 1QFY26, while the rest is one-off
- PAT margin stood at 9.3%
- Total headcount stood at 11,930 at quarter end and attrition was 12.8% during the quarter. There has been a net head count decline QoQ in each of the last three quarters totaling up to 935
- 4QFY25 TCV deal wins: US\$236mn, up 4% QoQ, with new deal wins TCV of US\$112mn and renewals of US\$124mn
 - Sequential increase in total TCV recorded in 4Q, following a significant spike in 3Q
 - Approximately 50% of total TCV in 4Q came from new deals, supporting future growth outlook

Demand Environment and Future Growth Expectation

- Macroeconomic uncertainty and recent developments around trade and tariffs continue to impact demand environment
- Project closures, ramp downs, and insourcing could affect growth performance in 1QFY26.
- Growth expected to recover starting 2Q
- New deal wins are expected to start contributing to revenue from 2Q FY26
- FY26 is expected to be slightly better than FY25, but even achieving flat revenue for FY26 will require strong QoQ growth starting from 2Q
- Margins to remain flat for next 3–4 quarters with focus on winning deals and market share. Margin expansion expected from FY27 as growth returns
- Focus over the next 4–8 quarters is on strengthening deal pipeline and closing deals
- Closed a large high-tech deal in the US valued at US\$30–40mn in 1QFY26 and close to finalizing a financial services deal in Europe worth US\$25–30mn
 - 1QFY26 TCV expected to be muted and below 4Q's US\$236mn due to lack of renewals
 - Typical 1Q TCV ranges between US\$140–150mn, but this year may be slightly higher due to these deals
 - Confident that FY26 TCV will exceed last year's US\$735mn (FY24 was US\$837mn)

Other Points

- GCC opportunity recognized as a significant growth area
- Discretionary demand remains concentrated in onsite, contributing to the current quarter's onsite increase
- Work redistribution towards offshore is taking longer than expected, delaying the anticipated increase in offshore contribution. Shift back to offshore is expected to begin towards the end of 2Q and may continue for one more quarter
- Reduction in employee benefit expenses in 4QFY25 due to lower headcount and one-time reduction in variable pay. Some structural cost benefits will continue as long as employee base remains stable. Variable pay is expected to normalize in 1QFY26, which may act as a margin headwind
- Investments will be mainly organic. Inorganic acquisitions will be considered only after organic growth is restored
- BFSI business mainly serves cards, payments, and asset management, with limited exposure to banks and insurance companies
 - Growth deceleration in BFSI due to banks increasing spend, benefiting competitors; Birlasoft's BFSI growth was strong for nine quarters prior. Expect a couple of quarters of muted BFSI growth before growth resumes
- Life sciences vertical primarily focuses on Medtech, not payers or providers
 - Medtech customers have been cautious in spending due to trade and tariff issues
 - No loss of accounts in life sciences; growth in healthcare and life sciences expected over the next two quarters
 - New senior leadership hired in MedTech expected to take a couple of quarters to settle before driving growth
- Macroeconomic challenges and client project ramp-downs in manufacturing and healthcare impacted revenue in FY25
- ~70% of overall revenue is from discretionary, project-based business
- Recent and upcoming deal wins are mostly multi-year, annuity-based contracts. Goal is to reduce project-based revenue to about 50% and increase annuity-based business to 50%. Transition to a more balanced revenue mix is expected to take a few quarters
- Consolidation deals were taken with some pricing flexibility, leading to lower margins for the next few quarters compared to corporate averages. Margin improvement is expected gradually as offshore transition progresses and agentic AI is leveraged to improve delivery efficiency
- The company currently serves around 200 to 250 accounts. The plan is to focus on reactivating certain existing accounts and targeting some large new logos, but overall, the total number of accounts will continue to decrease by dropping

unprofitable ones. Regarding margins, any dilution from investing in sales will be temporary and managed within the current margin profile by reducing costs elsewhere, so a significant impact is not expected. While there may be some short-term margin pressure as new deals are executed, the long-term goal is to improve margins

- The decline in ERP revenue is due to both portfolio and client mix factors. The company mainly works with Tier 2 and some smaller manufacturing clients, unlike larger peers who benefit from demand driven by Tier 1 companies upgrading to cloud ERP solutions like SAP S4 HANA and Oracle Fusion. This cloud upgrade trend is expected to start benefiting smaller clients like theirs gradually over the next year.

View on the Indian IT Services sector: We reinitiated coverage on the Indian IT Services with an Underweight stance through a report on 1 January 2025 (**Slow is the (new/old) normal**).and reiterated that view with an update on 12th March 2025 (**FY26 unlikely to be better than FY25**)

While both earnings (less so) and PE multiple (more so) have corrected since 1 Jan 2025, we suspect that there are further cuts possible for both FY26 and FY27 earnings under the current macro conditions which we believe could last longer than companies' sanguine commentary.

We believe the industry's structural USD organic revenue growth from here on will be lower than the ~7% CAGR seen during FY15-FY20, possibly ~5% CAGR over FY25-FY30 in constant currency (CC) terms.

Multiple speed breakers post FY25 drive our Underweight stance

Trump policies raise uncertainty. The tariffs, the conditional tax breaks, the immigration push back, DOGE, etc, all point to uncertainty in the coming days which may delay decision making by customers and lead to lower spending.

Higher for longer interest rate environment: One of the reasons for optimism around the Indian IT Services sector in late 2024 has been the view that the US would achieve a soft landing in 2025 (which we define as 0.5-1.5% real GDP growth) and that Fed Funds rate would be gradually lowered from the peak of 5.25-5.5%, driven by lower inflation. This, the market felt, was the apt environment for a broader pick up in discretionary spending beyond that of North American BFSI sector, especially after two muted years when the constant refrain from vendors for the weak growth was of 'macro uncertainty'.

Lately, based on inflation prints and fears of a higher fiscal deficit (due to economic slowdown concerns, not enough gains from DOGE, etc) US 10-year yields rose. There are fears that sustained high interest rates could reduce IT outsourcing demand, particularly in sectors like BFSI and Telecom, and dampen US demand in areas like housing, autos and retail.

Since Trump 2.0 took office and the fact that it is putting into effect a lot of structural repair, the market seems to believe that while growth would slow there would not be a

commensurate decline in Inflation. This stagflationary set up and the uncertainty induced by the back and forth on tariff pronouncements, we believe, will lead to slower decision making and spending by US/global corporations on IT. The tariff spat with China is particularly concerning. Discretionary spending which was beginning to look up may go back into a shell again.

Covid-induced pull forward of demand requires a multi-year unwind. We think there were excesses during the compressed transformation phase which are yet to be fully unwound.

Gen AI – value compressive in the near term: Gen AI has significantly boosted revenue in semiconductors, data centres, and hyper scalers, but IT services have seen limited benefits. ROI remains a top concern arising from heavy investments in surrounding services.

Massive hyper scaler AI capex should accentuate re-alignment in IT spend: Software players, including hyper scalers, are increasing capex on AI-related data centres. This will drive higher pricing, forcing enterprises to allocate more IT spend to cloud/SaaS.

Higher competition: Indian Tier-1 companies now face higher competition from Accenture (especially as it loses business due to DOGE), Tier-2 players, and Cognizant, likely slowing their growth compared to FY15-FY20. This is besides the fact that by FY25, Tier-1 revenue will reach US\$ 85bn, double that in FY15. Due to the higher base now, growth may not be as rapid.

Weak TCV: The weaker TCV for most players in 9MFY25 (YoY) and lack of any mega deal announcements in recent quarters points to a brewing growth problem for FY26. Many of the large companies like TCS, INFO and HCLT will also grapple with large contributions to incremental revenue by a limited set of large clients in FY25 or the need to set off large pass-through items.

How we are valuing companies: We are using PE methodology and using TCS as our industry benchmark. The target PE used for TCS now is 21.3x, which is the average PE multiple of TCS over the last 10 years less 0.5SD. We have changed this from 24.6x (which is the average PE multiple of TCS over the last five years less 1SD). The changed methodology reflects the changed outlook on growth in FY26. Through our choice of the benchmark Target PE multiple, we seek to capture the probability of downside risks to consensus growth expectations for FY26/FY27, especially due to Trump 2.0 proposals.

Tier- 2 valuation reflects growth gap with Tier-1

The Tier-2 set have been taking away market share from the Tier-1 set due to better execution and due to their smaller size. And unlike in the past cycles, they have performed better than the Tier-1 largely due to better management teams.

However, the current PE premium to Tier-1s is excessive as we believe that to deliver on the high consensus revenue growth expectations, they may be taking on more cost take-out projects which are likely to impact their margins adversely.

Fig 1 – Quarterly results: Comparison of actuals with estimates

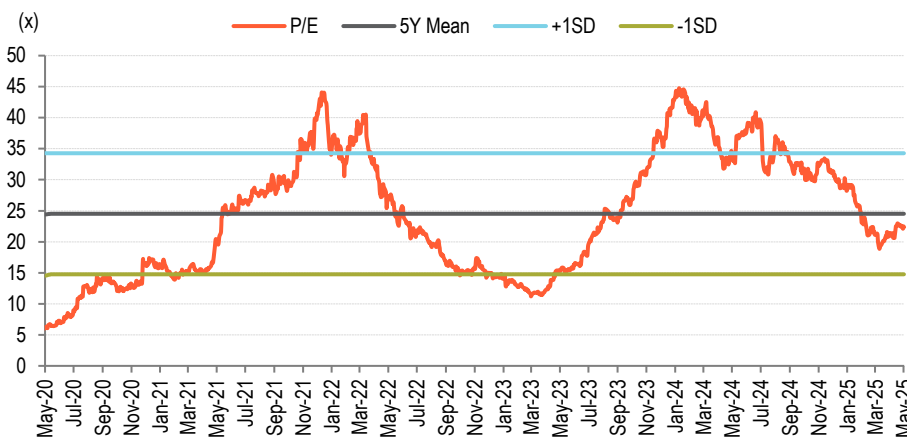
| Y/E Mar (Rsmn) | 4QFY24 | 3QFY25 | 4QFY25 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | 4QFY25E | Deviation (%) |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Net Sales (USD mn) | 164 | 161 | 152 | (7.1) | (5.3) | 160 | (5.1) |
| Net Sales | 13,625 | 13,627 | 13,169 | (3.4) | (3.4) | 13,874 | (5.1) |
| Employee Cost | 7,679 | 8,329 | 7,781 | 1.3 | (6.6) | 7,998 | (2.7) |
| % of Sales | 56.4 | 61.1 | 59.1 | | | 57.6 | |
| Gross Margin | 5,946 | 5,298 | 5,388 | (9.4) | 1.7 | 5,876 | (8.3) |
| % of Sales | 43.6 | 38.9 | 40.9 | | | 42.4 | |
| Operating Expenses | 3,729 | 3,664 | 3,652 | (2.1) | (0.3) | 4,130 | (11.6) |
| % of Sales | 27.4 | 26.9 | 27.7 | | | 29.8 | |
| EBIT | 2,006 | 1,422 | 1,519 | (24.2) | 6.9 | 1,530 | (0.7) |
| EBIT Margin (%) | 14.7 | 10.4 | 11.5 | | | 11.0 | |
| Other Income | 457 | 208 | 199 | (56.5) | (4.4) | 239 | (16.9) |
| PBT | 2,422 | 1,560 | 1,663 | (31.3) | 6.6 | 1,687 | (1.4) |
| Provision for Tax | 621 | 390 | 442 | (28.9) | 13.2 | 422 | 4.7 |
| Effective Tax Rate | 25.7 | 25.0 | 26.6 | | | 25.0 | |
| Minority share in Profit / Loss | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | |
| PAT (Reported) | 1,801 | 1,169 | 1,221 | (32.2) | 4.4 | 1,265 | (3.5) |
| NPM (%) | 13.2 | 8.6 | 9.3 | | | 9.1 | |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

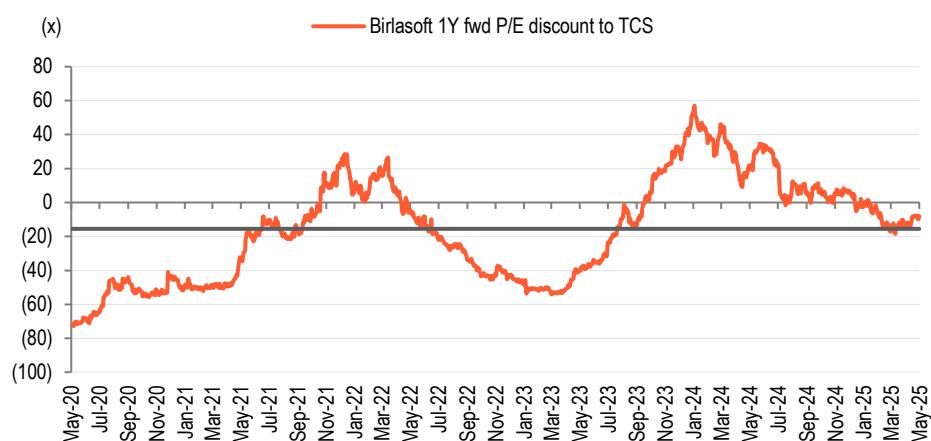
Fig 2 – Revised Estimates

| Birlasoft | New | | Old | | Change (%) | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| Change in estimates | FY26E | FY27E | FY26E | FY27E | FY26E | FY27E |
| INR/USD | 87.3 | 89.3 | 87.3 | 89.3 | - | - |
| USD Revenue (USD mn) | 642 | 673 | 650 | 717 | (1.3) | (6.1) |
| Growth (%) | 1.0 | 5.0 | 1.0 | 10.3 | | |
| Revenue (Rs mn) | 55,972 | 60,120 | 56,713 | 63,995 | (1.3) | (6.1) |
| EBIT (Rs mn) | 6,444 | 7,527 | 7,223 | 8,656 | (10.8) | (13.0) |
| EBIT Margin (%) | 11.5 | 12.5 | 12.7 | 13.5 | | |
| PAT (Rs mn) | 5,161 | 6,028 | 5,926 | 7,097 | (12.9) | (15.1) |
| FDEPS (Rs) | 18.3 | 21.4 | 21.0 | 25.2 | (12.8) | (14.9) |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 – 5 Year PE trend

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

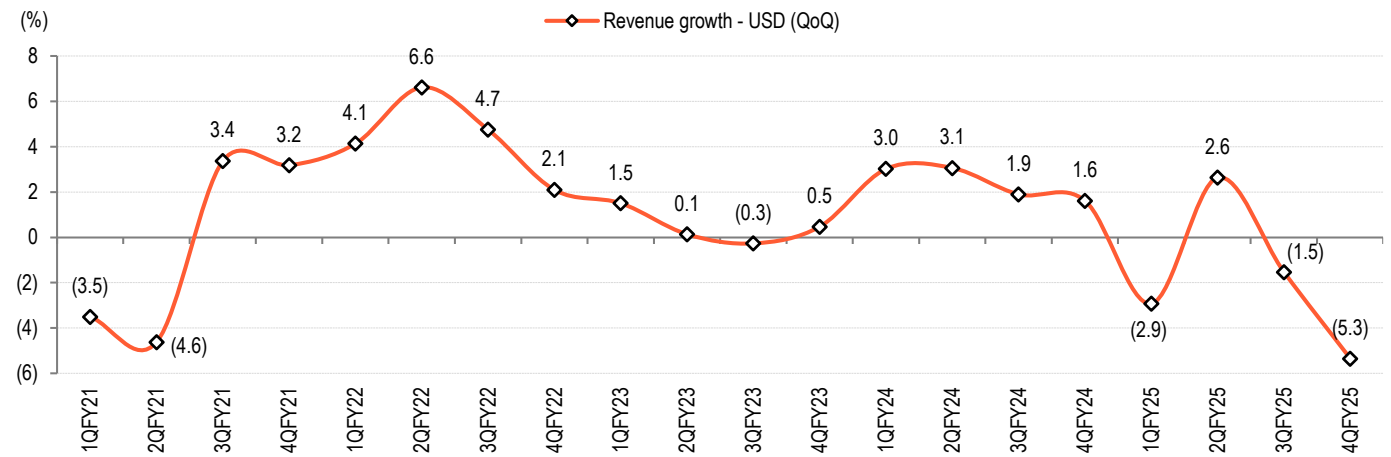
Fig 4 – Premium/ Discount to TCS

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

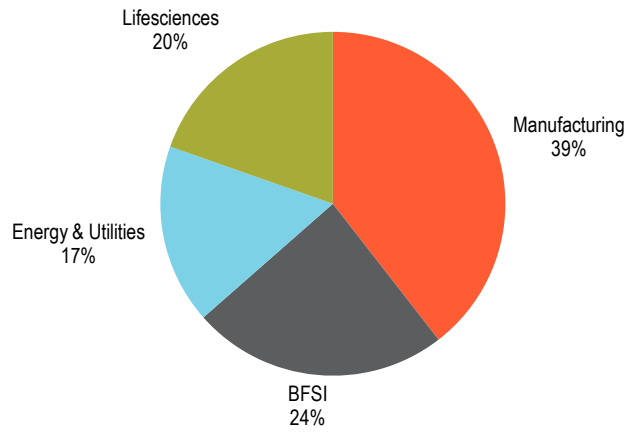
Fig 5 – P&L at a glance

| (YE March) Rs mn | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26E | FY27E |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Average INR/USD | 64.5 | 70.0 | 70.9 | 74.1 | 74.4 | 80.6 | 82.8 | 84.6 | 87.3 | 89.3 |
| Net Sales (USD mn) | 452 | 364 | 464 | 480 | 555 | 595 | 637 | 635 | 642 | 673 |
| YoY Growth (%) | | (19.4) | 27.4 | 3.4 | 15.7 | 7.2 | 7.1 | (0.3) | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| Revenues | 29,142 | 25,507 | 32,910 | 35,557 | 41,303 | 47,948 | 52,781 | 53,752 | 55,972 | 60,120 |
| YoY Growth | (12.3) | (12.5) | 29.0 | 8.0 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 10.1 | 1.8 | 4.1 | 7.4 |
| Employee Cost | 17,874 | 15,352 | 19,975 | 21,158 | 23,688 | 28,131 | 30,483 | 32,008 | 33,371 | 35,405 |
| Gross Profit | 11,268 | 10,155 | 12,934 | 14,399 | 17,615 | 19,817 | 22,298 | 21,744 | 22,602 | 24,715 |
| % of sales | 38.7 | 39.8 | 39.3 | 40.5 | 42.6 | 41.3 | 42.2 | 40.5 | 40.4 | 41.1 |
| Operating Expenses | 7,533 | 7,091 | 9,065 | 9,107 | 11,213 | 14,612 | 13,936 | 14,770 | 15,257 | 16,233 |
| % of sales | 25.8 | 27.8 | 27.5 | 25.6 | 27.1 | 30.5 | 26.4 | 27.5 | 27.3 | 27.0 |
| EBITDA | 3,735 | 3,064 | 3,869 | 5,292 | 6,402 | 5,205 | 8,362 | 6,974 | 7,344 | 8,482 |
| EBITDA Margin | 12.8 | 12.0 | 11.8 | 14.9 | 15.5 | 10.9 | 15.8 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 14.1 |
| Depreciation | 589 | 499 | 826 | 804 | 766 | 823 | 850 | 857 | 900 | 956 |
| % of sales | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| EBIT | 3,147 | 2,565 | 3,043 | 4,489 | 5,636 | 4,382 | 7,512 | 6,117 | 6,444 | 7,527 |
| EBIT Margin | 10.8 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 12.6 | 13.6 | 9.1 | 14.2 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 12.5 |
| Other Income | 357 | 261 | 480 | 190 | 662 | 228 | 1,035 | 1,085 | 863 | 981 |
| Interest | 91 | 108 | 161 | 130 | 131 | 186 | 200 | 234 | 278 | 298 |
| Profit Before Tax | 3,412 | 2,717 | 3,362 | 4,548 | 6,167 | 4,424 | 8,348 | 6,968 | 7,029 | 8,210 |
| PBT Margin | 11.7 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 12.8 | 14.9 | 9.2 | 15.8 | 13.0 | 12.6 | 13.7 |
| Tax | 704 | 539 | 1,119 | 1,340 | 1,531 | 1,108 | 2,110 | 1,801 | 1,868 | 2,182 |
| Profit After Tax | 2,412 | 2,354 | 2,243 | 3,208 | 4,637 | 3,316 | 6,238 | 5,168 | 5,161 | 6,028 |
| YoY Growth (%) | | (2.4) | (4.7) | 43.0 | 44.5 | (28.5) | 88.1 | (17.2) | (0.1) | 16.8 |
| -Net profit margin (%) | 8.3 | 9.2 | 6.8 | 9.0 | 11.2 | 6.9 | 11.8 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 10.0 |

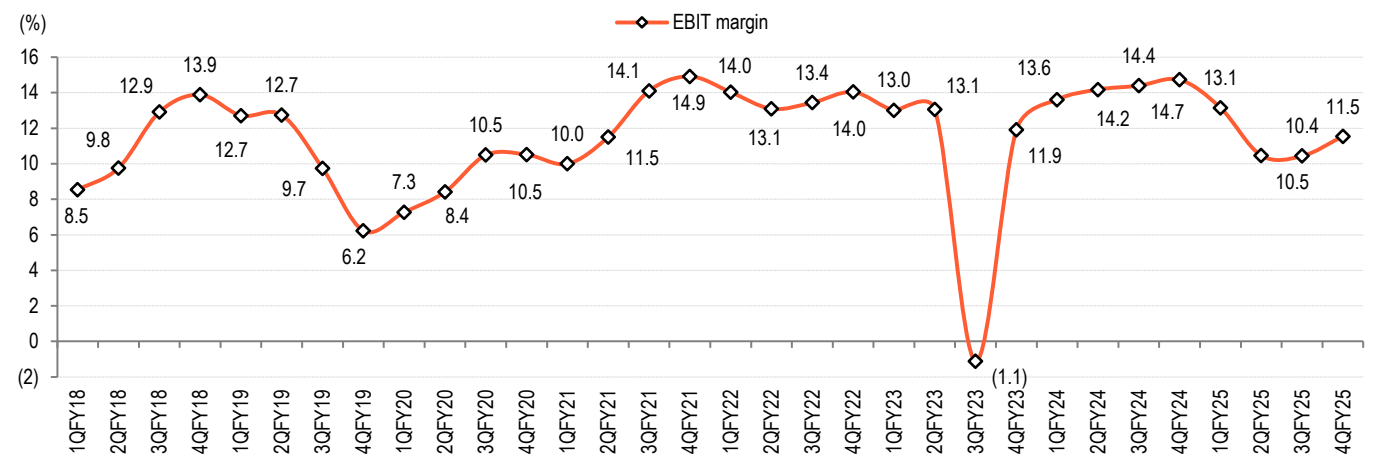
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – USD Revenue Growth QoQ

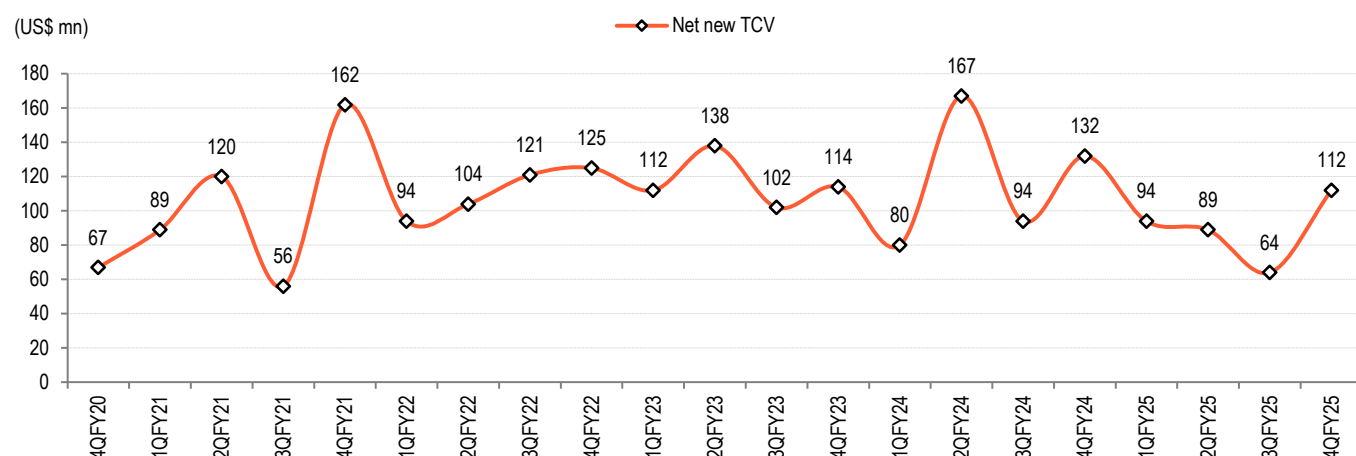
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – Vertical Mix – 4QFY25

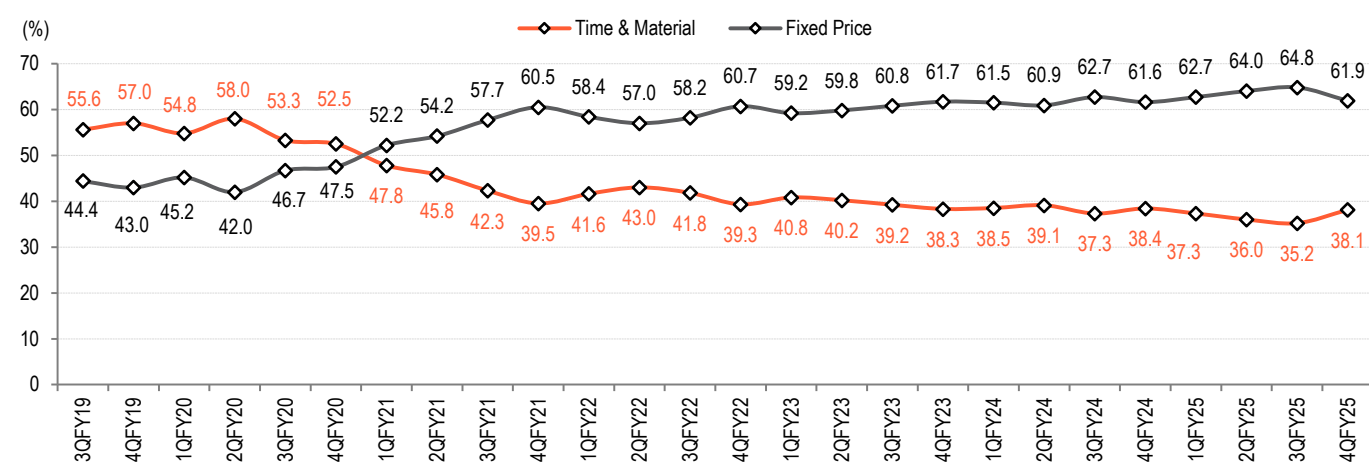
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – EBIT Margin trend

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – Net New TCV

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 – Time and Material vs Fixed Price mix

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Quarterly Snapshot

| Year to 31 March | 1QFY23 | 2QFY23 | 3QFY23 | 4QFY23 | 1QFY24 | 2QFY24 | 3QFY24 | 4QFY24 | 1QFY25 | 2QFY25 | 3QFY25 | 4QFY25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| INR/USD | 77.7 | 80.1 | 82.3 | 82.3 | 82.2 | 82.7 | 83.3 | 83.1 | 83.4 | 83.8 | 84.7 | 86.5 |
| Revenue (in USDmn) | 149 | 149 | 148 | 149 | 154 | 158 | 161 | 164 | 159 | 163 | 161 | 152 |
| (Rs mn) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 11,544 | 11,921 | 12,219 | 12,264 | 12,628 | 13,099 | 13,430 | 13,625 | 13,274 | 13,682 | 13,627 | 13,169 |
| Gross margin | 4,966 | 4,983 | 4,899 | 4,970 | 5,200 | 5,657 | 5,495 | 5,946 | 5,673 | 5,386 | 5,298 | 5,388 |
| SGA | 3,268 | 3,219 | 4,826 | 3,300 | 3,268 | 3,586 | 3,352 | 3,729 | 3,722 | 3,732 | 3,664 | 3,652 |
| EBITDA | 1,698 | 1,764 | 74 | 1,670 | 1,931 | 2,071 | 2,143 | 2,217 | 1,951 | 1,653 | 1,634 | 1,736 |
| Depreciation | 196 | 207 | 210 | 210 | 214 | 215 | 211 | 211 | 206 | 222 | 213 | 216 |
| EBIT | 1,502 | 1,557 | (136) | 1,460 | 1,717 | 1,856 | 1,932 | 2,006 | 1,745 | 1,431 | 1,422 | 1,519 |
| Other income | 155 | (27) | 124 | (23) | 141 | 156 | 282 | 457 | 345 | 334 | 208 | 199 |
| PBT | 1,624 | 1,472 | (68) | 1,397 | 1,816 | 1,955 | 2,154 | 2,422 | 2,049 | 1,697 | 1,560 | 1,663 |
| Tax | 417 | 321 | 95 | 276 | 440 | 504 | 544 | 621 | 547 | 422 | 390 | 442 |
| PAT | 1,207 | 1,151 | (164) | 1,122 | 1,375 | 1,451 | 1,611 | 1,801 | 1,502 | 1,275 | 1,169 | 1,221 |
| Number of shares | 280 | 272 | 273 | 275 | 275 | 276 | 276 | 276 | 278 | 278 | 278 | 279 |
| EPS | 4.3 | 4.2 | (0.6) | 4.1 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| YoY Growth (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USD Revenue | 15.7 | 8.7 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 3.2 | (0.3) | (7.1) |
| INR Revenues | 22.1 | 17.8 | 14.0 | 11.3 | 9.4 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 11.1 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 1.5 | (3.4) |
| Gross profit | 27.6 | 14.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 13.5 | 12.2 | 19.6 | 9.1 | (4.8) | (3.6) | (9.4) |
| EBIT | 13.2 | 17.6 | (109.5) | (5.5) | 14.4 | 19.2 | (1517.1) | 37.4 | 1.6 | (22.9) | (26.4) | (24.2) |
| Net profit | 6.2 | 11.6 | (114.4) | (15.6) | 13.9 | 26.2 | (1084.4) | 60.5 | 9.2 | (12.2) | (27.4) | (32.2) |
| QoQ Growth (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USD Revenues | 1.5 | 0.1 | (0.3) | 0.47 | 3.02 | 3.06 | 1.9 | 1.6 | (2.9) | 2.6 | (1.53) | (5.3) |
| INR Revenues | 4.8 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 1.5 | (2.6) | 3.1 | (0.4) | (3.4) |
| EBIT | (2.9) | 3.7 | (108.8) | (1,170.8) | 17.6 | 8.1 | 4.1 | 3.8 | (13.0) | (18.0) | (0.7) | 6.9 |
| Net profit | (9.2) | (4.7) | (114.2) | (785.7) | 22.6 | 5.5 | 11.0 | 11.8 | (16.6) | (15.1) | (8.3) | 4.4 |
| Margins (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross margin | 43.0 | 41.8 | 40.1 | 40.5 | 41.2 | 43.2 | 40.9 | 43.6 | 42.7 | 39.4 | 38.9 | 40.9 |
| EBITDA margin | 14.7 | 14.8 | 0.6 | 13.6 | 15.3 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 14.7 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 13.2 |
| EBIT | 13.0 | 13.1 | (1.1) | 11.9 | 13.6 | 14.2 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 13.1 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 11.5 |
| PAT | 10.5 | 9.7 | (1.3) | 9.1 | 10.9 | 11.1 | 12.0 | 13.2 | 11.3 | 9.3 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| SGA | 28.3 | 27.0 | 39.5 | 26.9 | 25.9 | 27.4 | 25.0 | 27.4 | 28.0 | 27.3 | 26.9 | 27.7 |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 – Key Metrics

| | 1QFY23 | 2QFY23 | 3QFY23 | 4QFY23 | 1QFY24 | 2QFY24 | 3QFY24 | 4QFY24 | 1QFY25 | 2QFY25 | 3QFY25 | 4QFY25 |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| P and L (Rs mn) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 11,544 | 11,921 | 12,219 | 12,264 | 12,628 | 13,099 | 13,430 | 13,625 | 13,274 | 13,682 | 13,627 | 13,169 |
| EBIT | 1,502 | 1,557 | (136) | 1,460 | 1,717 | 1,856 | 1,932 | 2,006 | 1,745 | 1,431 | 1,422 | 1,519 |
| PAT | 1,207 | 1,151 | (164) | 1,122 | 1,375 | 1,451 | 1,611 | 1,801 | 1,502 | 1,275 | 1,169 | 1,221 |
| Vertical Mix (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 47 | 47 | 46 | 47 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 42 | 39 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| BFSI | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 24 |
| Energy & Utilities | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 |
| Lifesciences | 21 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| Services - Reclassified (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Digital and Data | | | | | 54 | 56 | 55 | 54 | 53 | 55 | 57 | 57 |
| ERP | | | | | 37 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 35 | 36 | 34 | 33 |
| Infra | | | | | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| Geographic Mix (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | 85 | 84 | 84 | 85 | 84 | 86 | 86 | 87 | 84 | 87 | 88 | 87 |
| Rest of the world | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| Europe | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revenue Mix (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onsite | 51 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 46 | 48 | 44 | 51 | 49 | 50 |
| Offshore | 49 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 54 | 52 | 57 | 50 | 51 | 50 |
| Revenue Contract Type (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Time & Material | 41 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 39 | 37 | 38 | 37 | 36 | 35 | 38 |
| Fixed Price | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 62 | 61 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 62 |
| Utilization (%) | 83 | 82 | 84 | 85 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 86 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 81 |
| Clients Concentration (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Top 5 clients | 31 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| Top 10 Clients | 47 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 52 | 53 | 53 | 52 | 52 |
| Top 20 Clients | 63 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| No of millions \$ clients | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$1mn clients+ | 82 | 76 | 83 | 83 | 86 | 85 | 83 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 85 | 80 |
| US\$5mn clients+ | 25 | 27 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 23 | 24 | 27 | 27 |
| US\$10mn clients+ | 13 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Total Headcount | 12,565 | 12,758 | 12,530 | 12,193 | 12,235 | 12,322 | 12,356 | 12,595 | 12,865 | 12,578 | 12,125 | 11,930 |
| Net Addition | 361 | 193 | (228) | (337) | 42 | 87 | 34 | 239 | 270 | (287) | (453) | (195) |
| Attrition (%) | 27.9 | 27.4 | 25.5 | 22.1 | 18.8 | 15.0 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 12.7 | 12.8 |
| INR/USD | 77.7 | 80.1 | 82.3 | 82.3 | 82.2 | 82.7 | 83.3 | 83.1 | 83.4 | 83.8 | 84.7 | 86.5 |
| Financials (in US\$ mn) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 148.6 | 148.8 | 148.4 | 149.1 | 153.6 | 158.3 | 161.3 | 163.9 | 159.1 | 163.3 | 160.8 | 152.2 |
| EBIT | 19.3 | 19.4 | (1.7) | 17.8 | 20.9 | 22.4 | 23.2 | 24.1 | 20.9 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 17.6 |
| PAT | 15.5 | 14.4 | (2.0) | 13.6 | 16.7 | 17.5 | 19.3 | 21.7 | 18.0 | 15.2 | 13.8 | 14.1 |
| Productivity Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Per Capita (Annualised) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 47,306 | 46,653 | 47,374 | 48,913 | 50,217 | 51,388 | 52,218 | 52,052 | 49,468 | 51,932 | 53,057 | 51,021 |
| EBIT | 6,153 | 6,093 | (529) | 5,823 | 6,830 | 7,283 | 7,513 | 7,663 | 6,504 | 5,432 | 5,535 | 5,887 |
| PAT | 4,947 | 4,503 | (634) | 4,474 | 5,470 | 5,694 | 6,262 | 6,880 | 5,598 | 4,840 | 4,553 | 4,731 |
| Direct and Opex cost per capita | 41,153 | 40,560 | 47,903 | 43,090 | 43,387 | 44,105 | 44,704 | 44,390 | 42,964 | 46,500 | 47,522 | 45,135 |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 – QoQ and YoY growth across various parameters

| (in US\$) | 1QFY23 | 2QFY23 | 3QFY23 | 4QFY23 | 1QFY24 | 2QFY24 | 3QFY24 | 4QFY24 | 1QFY25 | 2QFY25 | 3QFY25 | 4QFY25 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| QoQ Growth (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Company | 1.5 | 0.1 | (0.3) | 0.5 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.6 | (2.9) | 2.6 | (1.5) | (5.3) |
| Geographical Data | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | 4.8 | (0.8) | (0.7) | 2.4 | 1.4 | 5.3 | 1.8 | 2.6 | (5.7) | 6.7 | (1.0) | (6.3) |
| Europe | (16.6) | 4.5 | 7.0 | (12.2) | 14.5 | (15.5) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rest of the world | (9.3) | 6.9 | (5.0) | (4.6) | 8.4 | 3.1 | 142.9 | (4.1) | 15.0 | (18.5) | (5.4) | 1.6 |
| Verticals | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 2.8 | 1.2 | (2.6) | 2.7 | (11.1) | 4.2 | 1.9 | 3.6 | (9.2) | 4.7 | (1.3) | (6.8) |
| BFSI | 5.0 | 7.4 | 5.0 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.3 | (0.5) | 4.6 | 8.1 | 1.3 | 1.8 | (5.7) |
| Energy & Utilities | (3.9) | (1.3) | (1.7) | 7.7 | (1.1) | (1.3) | 7.8 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.6 | (4.0) | 1.9 |
| Lifesciences | (0.4) | (7.4) | 1.3 | (11.1) | 42.8 | 1.4 | 1.5 | (6.0) | (6.0) | (1.2) | (4.4) | (7.2) |
| Services | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business & Technology Transformation | 7.3 | 3.4 | 5.5 | 1.5 | (15.1) | (1.6) | 3.1 | (1.4) | | | | |
| Enterprise Solutions | (0.2) | (6.2) | (7.0) | 2.5 | (3.9) | (0.3) | 0.6 | 7.3 | | | | |
| Cloud & Base Services | (4.8) | 6.3 | 0.8 | (4.6) | 50.2 | 11.9 | 1.9 | (0.8) | | | | |
| Services - Reclassified | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Digital and Data | | | | | | 5.5 | 1.7 | (1.9) | (4.4) | 6.5 | 2.4 | (5.8) |
| ERP | | | | | | 0.8 | 1.9 | 6.1 | (10.1) | 4.4 | (6.0) | (7.0) |
| Infra | | | | | | (2.7) | 3.1 | 5.2 | 36.8 | (18.9) | (7.8) | 4.1 |
| YoY Growth (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Company | 15.7 | 8.7 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 3.2 | (0.3) | (7.1) |
| Geographical Data | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | 21.8 | 11.2 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 2.3 | 8.5 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 2.1 | (6.7) |
| Europe | (9.8) | (0.6) | (0.4) | (18.2) | 12.4 | (9.1) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rest of the world | (9.0) | (6.2) | (3.0) | (12.0) | 5.1 | 1.3 | 159.1 | 160.4 | 176.2 | 118.4 | (14.9) | (9.9) |
| Verticals | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 22.3 | 18.2 | 5.5 | 4.1 | (10.0) | (7.4) | (3.1) | (2.2) | (0.1) | 0.4 | (2.7) | (12.5) |
| BFSI | 17.7 | 14.7 | 17.5 | 21.4 | 19.9 | 17.5 | 11.4 | 13.7 | 18.4 | 13.9 | 16.6 | 5.1 |
| Energy & Utilities | 11.1 | 7.2 | (2.8) | 0.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 13.4 | 9.2 | 14.4 | 21.2 | 7.9 | 6.0 |
| Lifesciences | 4.9 | (12.0) | (7.7) | (17.0) | 19.0 | 30.3 | 30.5 | 38.0 | (9.2) | (11.5) | (16.6) | (17.6) |
| Services | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business & Technology Transformation | 20.4 | 17.4 | 18.9 | 18.9 | (6.0) | (10.6) | (12.6) | (15.1) | | | | |
| Enterprise Solutions | 7.9 | (0.2) | (12.7) | (10.9) | (14.1) | (8.7) | (1.2) | 3.5 | | | | |
| Cloud & Base Services | 23.9 | 10.7 | 8.5 | (2.7) | 53.6 | 61.7 | 63.4 | 70.0 | | | | |
| Services - Reclassified | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Digital and Data | | | | | | | | | 0.7 | 1.7 | 2.4 | (1.8) |
| ERP | | | | | | | | | (2.0) | 1.4 | (6.4) | (18.0) |
| Infra | | | | | | | | | 44.3 | 20.4 | 7.7 | 6.6 |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Financials

Income Statement

| Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total revenue | 47,948 | 52,781 | 53,752 | 55,972 | 60,120 |
| EBITDA | 5,205 | 8,362 | 6,974 | 7,344 | 8,482 |
| Depreciation | 823 | 850 | 857 | 900 | 956 |
| EBIT | 4,382 | 7,512 | 6,117 | 6,444 | 7,527 |
| Net interest inc./(exp.) | 186 | 200 | 234 | 278 | 298 |
| Other inc./(exp.) | 228 | 1,035 | 1,085 | 863 | 981 |
| Exceptional items | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EBT | 4,424 | 8,348 | 6,968 | 7,029 | 8,210 |
| Income taxes | 1,108 | 2,110 | 1,801 | 1,868 | 2,182 |
| Extraordinary items | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Min. int./Inc. from assoc. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reported net profit | 3,316 | 6,238 | 5,168 | 5,161 | 6,028 |
| Adjustments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adjusted net profit | 3,316 | 6,238 | 5,168 | 5,161 | 6,028 |

Balance Sheet

| Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Accounts payables | 2,313 | 2,805 | 2,353 | 3,448 | 3,958 |
| Other current liabilities | 3,927 | 4,653 | 5,469 | 6,598 | 7,413 |
| Provisions | 487 | 712 | 757 | 757 | 757 |
| Debt funds | 0 | 0 | 114 | 0 | 0 |
| Other liabilities | 662 | 645 | 1,148 | 1,298 | 1,298 |
| Equity capital | 550 | 552 | 556 | 556 | 556 |
| Reserves & surplus | 23,933 | 29,889 | 34,227 | 37,297 | 40,955 |
| Shareholders' fund | 24,483 | 30,441 | 34,782 | 37,852 | 41,511 |
| Total liab. and equities | 31,873 | 39,256 | 44,624 | 49,954 | 54,936 |
| Cash and cash eq. | 9,559 | 4,249 | 4,449 | 6,067 | 8,754 |
| Accounts receivables | 7,316 | 10,365 | 9,802 | 10,267 | 11,783 |
| Inventories | 0 | 0 | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| Other current assets | 4,823 | 13,060 | 17,278 | 19,648 | 20,362 |
| Investments | 741 | 2,860 | 2,972 | 3,172 | 3,172 |
| Net fixed assets | 1,561 | 1,142 | 1,031 | 1,098 | 1,164 |
| CWIP | 65 | 116 | 49 | 59 | 59 |
| Intangible assets | 4,896 | 4,957 | 5,072 | 5,272 | 5,272 |
| Deferred tax assets, net | 1,171 | 1,044 | 1,002 | 1,152 | 1,152 |
| Other assets | 1,741 | 1,463 | 2,866 | 3,116 | 3,116 |
| Total assets | 31,873 | 39,256 | 44,624 | 49,954 | 54,936 |

Cash Flows

| Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash flow from operations | 3,177 | 8,775 | 5,388 | 6,732 | 8,187 |
| Capital expenditures | (811) | (431) | (746) | (966) | (1,022) |
| Change in investments | (79) | (8,581) | (4,234) | (250) | 0 |
| Other investing cash flows | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash flow from investing | (890) | (9,012) | (4,981) | (1,216) | (1,022) |
| Equities issued/Others | (475) | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Debt raised/repaid | 0 | 0 | 114 | (114) | 0 |
| Interest expenses | (186) | (200) | (234) | (278) | (298) |
| Dividends paid | (965) | (1,792) | (1,808) | (2,091) | (2,370) |
| Other financing cash flows | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash flow from financing | (1,626) | (1,989) | (1,924) | (2,483) | (2,668) |
| Chg in cash & cash eq. | (1,208) | (5,309) | 199 | 1,618 | 2,687 |
| Closing cash & cash eq. | 9,559 | 4,249 | 4,449 | 6,067 | 8,754 |

Per Share

| Y/E 31 Mar (Rs) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Reported EPS | 12.0 | 22.6 | 18.6 | 18.5 | 21.6 |
| Adjusted EPS | 12.0 | 22.6 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 21.4 |
| Dividend per share | 3.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 8.5 |
| Book value per share | 88.8 | 110.4 | 125.1 | 135.8 | 148.9 |

Valuations Ratios

| Y/E 31 Mar (x) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| EV/Sales | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| EV/EBITDA | 20.5 | 12.8 | 15.8 | 15.4 | 13.2 |
| Adjusted P/E | 35.0 | 18.6 | 23.0 | 22.9 | 19.6 |
| P/BV | 4.7 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.8 |

DuPont Analysis

| Y/E 31 Mar (%) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tax burden (Net profit/PBT) | 75.2 | 74.9 | 74.7 | 74.2 | 73.4 |
| Interest burden (PBT/EBIT) | 109.4 | 101.0 | 111.1 | 113.9 | 109.1 |
| EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue) | 13.6 | 9.1 | 14.2 | 11.4 | 11.5 |
| Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA) | 129.5 | 145.9 | 148.4 | 128.2 | 118.4 |
| Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Adjusted ROAE | 19.5 | 13.2 | 22.7 | 15.8 | 14.2 |

Ratio Analysis

| Y/E 31 Mar | FY23A | FY24A | FY25A | FY26E | FY27E |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| YoY growth (%) | | | | | |
| Revenue | 16.1 | 10.1 | 1.8 | 4.1 | 7.4 |
| EBITDA | (18.7) | 60.7 | (16.6) | 5.3 | 15.5 |
| Adjusted EPS | (27.8) | 88.3 | (19.0) | 0.1 | 16.8 |

Profitability & Return ratios (%)

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| EBITDA margin | 10.9 | 15.8 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 14.1 |
| EBIT margin | 9.1 | 14.2 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 12.5 |
| Adjusted profit margin | 6.9 | 11.8 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 10.0 |
| Adjusted ROAE | 13.2 | 22.7 | 15.8 | 14.2 | 15.2 |
| ROCE | 13.1 | 20.4 | 13.9 | 13.0 | 13.9 |

Working capital days (days)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Receivables | 56 | 72 | 67 | 67 | 72 |
| Inventory | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Payables | 17 | 19 | 16 | 22 | 24 |

Ratios (x)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gross asset turnover | 30.7 | 46.2 | 52.1 | 51.0 | 51.7 |
| Current ratio | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Net interest coverage ratio | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Adjusted debt/equity | (0.4) | (0.1) | (0.1) | (0.2) | (0.2) |

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

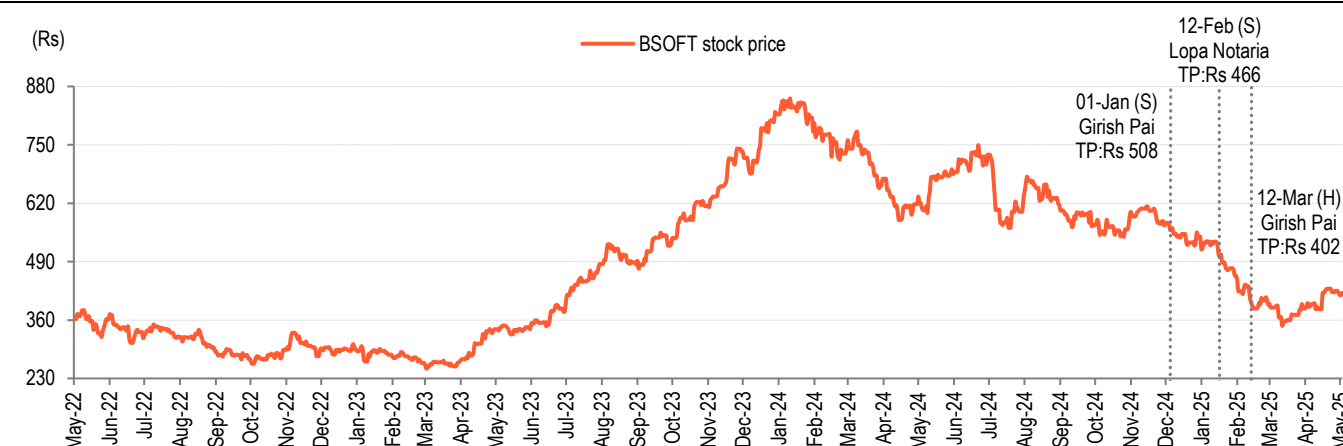
HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): BIRLASOFT (BSOFT IN)



B – Buy, H – Hold, S – Sell, A – Add, R – Reduce

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