

**RESEARCH****DIXON TECHNOLOGIES | TARGET: Rs 15,225 | +1% | HOLD**

Strong performance; elevated valuations prompt HOLD

**PETRONET LNG | TARGET: Rs 340 | +0% | HOLD**

Visibility on Dahej utilisation is key; upgrade to HOLD

**ITC | TARGET: Rs 556 | +18% | BUY**

Managing inflation

**GODREJ CONSUMER PRODUCTS | TARGET: Rs 1,299 | +3% | HOLD**

Partial pass-through impacting margins near term

**LAURUS LABS | TARGET: Rs 305 | -32% | SELL**

Another weak quarter

**SUMMARY****DIXON TECHNOLOGIES**

- Q2 revenue jumped 133% YoY, driven by Mobile and EMS growth; EBITDA margin slid 30bps on change in business mix
- Management upbeat on growth, especially in the Mobile segment comprising about ~80% of the topline
- Raise our FY25E-FY27E by 8%-9% to bake in strong Q2, and value stock at P/E of 70x on strong return ratios. Raise TP to Rs 15,225. HOLD

[Click here](#) for the full report.

**PETRONET LNG**

- Q2 underlying EBITDA broadly in line factoring in UOP adjustments; Dahej utilisation can hold up in Q3 if LNG prices remain range bound
- We bake in 11% EBITDA CAGR over FY24-27E assuming Dahej utilisation at 20mmtpa in FY27, still below capacity of 22.5mmtpa
- Upgrade to HOLD with a revised TP of Rs 340 (Rs 325); improvement in visibility on utilisation of Dahej expansion is a key catalyst

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**ITC**

- Sales were 12% higher vs consensus likely due to the volatile, pass-through-based Agri Business segment. EBITDA was in line
- Excessive rains impacted 2QFY25 out-of-home category sales while inflation impacted margins across segments including Cigarettes
- While FY25 is inflationary, the prospects from Cigarette volume gains from illicit trade and FMCG scale up remain intact. Retain BUY

[Click here for the full report.](#)

**GODREJ CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

- Compared to Bloomberg consensus, sales were 1% higher but EBITDA beat was 4% as margins came in 60bps above expectations
- Margin expansion was strong across the International businesses despite upfront media spend in GAUM which limited margin expansion
- Inflation is mainly from palm oil. Pricing is being put through. Domestic margins will remain subdued in 3Q but largely recover in 4Q

[Click here for the full report.](#)

**LAURUS LABS**

- Earnings miss for 2Q on our and street estimates on all fronts. Revenue/PAT came short of consensus estimates by -5%/39%
- EBITDA margin for H1FY25 is 14.5%. We believe management shall not achieve guided 20% margin in FY25
- We cut our EPS estimates for FY25/FY26/FY27 and roll over valuations to Sep'26, valuing LAURUS at 45x due to its CDMO arm. Maintain SELL

[Click here for the full report.](#)

**HOLD**

TP: Rs 15,225 | ▲ 1%

**DIXON TECHNOLOGIES**

Consumer Durables

25 October 2024

**Strong performance; elevated valuations prompt HOLD**

- Q2 revenue jumped 133% YoY, driven by Mobile and EMS growth; EBITDA margin slid 30bps on change in business mix
- Management upbeat on growth, especially in the Mobile segment comprising about ~80% of the topline
- Raise our FY25E-FY27E by 8%-9% to bake in strong Q2, and value stock at P/E of 70x on strong return ratios. Raise TP to Rs 15,225. HOLD

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**Revenue surges; Mobile leads:** In Q2FY25, DIXON's revenue jumped by 133% YoY to Rs 115bn, primarily fueled by 235% growth in the Mobiles and EMS segment, which contributed Rs 94.4bn. Despite this remarkable growth, EBITDA margin contracted slightly by 30bps, settling at 3.7%, due to a shift in the product mix. Management remains optimistic about future growth, particularly in the Mobile segment, which now accounts for 80% of the company's total revenue.

**Enhanced financial metrics:** In H1FY25, DIXON's financial performance demonstrated substantial improvement, with ROE rising by 580bps YoY to 31%, and ROCE increasing by 90bps to 38.9%. Looking forward, management is dedicated to maintaining these positive performance metrics. The focus will be on enhancing profitability, optimising working capital, and increasing asset turnover. With a strategic approach, particularly in the mobile and IT hardware sectors, DIXON aims to drive growth while ensuring continued financial strength and operational efficiency.

**Client signups continue in Mobile business:** The acquisition of Ismartu on 13 August 2024 enhanced the company's capabilities and bolstered its order book for brands like Tecno, Infinix, Airtel, and Nothing. The company maintained steady production volumes for Motorola, consistently achieving a rate of 1mn units per month, with a positive outlook ahead. It has secured promising export orders for the North American market. Notably, volumes for key clients Xiaomi and Oppo experienced significant QoQ growth in Q2, positioning the company for continued success.

**Downgrade to HOLD post rally:** Following DIXON's strong Q2FY25 performance and promising guidance, we have raised our EPS estimates by 8% for FY25 and about 9% each for FY26/FY27, now valuing the stock at 70x – 15% premium to its five-year average (previously 60x). While DIXON remains a leader in the EMS space, the stock's price tripled over the past year, prompting us to downgrade it from BUY to HOLD. With the valuations rollover, our new TP is Rs 15,225 (previously Rs 13,800).

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▲	▼

Ticker/Price	DIXON IN/Rs 15,055
Market cap	US\$ 10.7bn
Free float	66%
3M ADV	US\$ 90.3mn
52wk high/low	Rs 15,600/Rs 5,076
Promoter/FPI/DII	34%/12%/24%

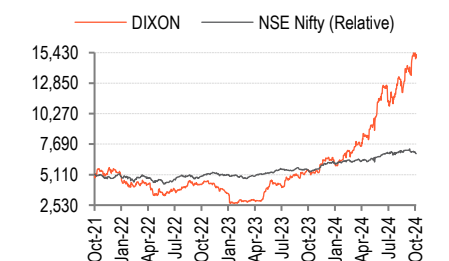
Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Oct 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	176,909	338,444	479,639
EBITDA (Rs mn)	6,976	12,731	17,543
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	3,678	7,334	10,930
Adj. EPS (Rs)	61.8	123.1	183.5
Consensus EPS (Rs)	61.8	125.0	186.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	24.7	33.9	34.5
Adj. P/E (x)	243.8	122.3	82.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	128.5	70.4	51.1
Adj. EPS growth (%)	43.9	99.4	49.0

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



**HOLD**

TP: Rs 340 | ▲ 0%

**PETRONET LNG**

| Oil & Gas

| 25 October 2024

## Visibility on Dahej utilisation is key; upgrade to HOLD

- Q2 underlying EBITDA broadly in line factoring in UOP adjustments; Dahej utilisation can hold up in Q3 if LNG prices remain range bound
- We bake in 11% EBITDA CAGR over FY24-27E assuming Dahej utilisation at 20mmtpa in FY27, still below capacity of 22.5mmtpa
- Upgrade to HOLD with a revised TP of Rs 340 (Rs 325); improvement in visibility on utilisation of Dahej expansion is a key catalyst

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**Q2 underlying EBITDA in line:** Underlying or Adj. EBITDA at Rs 13.9bn was only 2% below our forecast after excluding UOP (Use-or-Pay) revenue-related adjustments and inventory gains. While volume was up 7% on higher LNG consumption in India, margin was healthy at Rs 57.9/MMBtu.

**Volume could hold up in Q3:** Even after the restart of Dabhol terminal post monsoon, Dahej utilisation has remained high at 98% in October-till-date – despite spot RLNG prices staying elevated at US\$ 13/MMBtu. With most marketers using blended RLNG pricing (blend of spot and long-term prices), average prices remain moderate and could help sustain LNG consumption if winter surge remains modest.

**Settlement of CY21 UOP charges could lift headline EBITDA:** With Dec'24 as the deadline for resolving UOP outstandings or settling through bank guarantees, there is a possibility that headline EBITDA could see an increase in Q3 should PLNG reverses 75% of provisions booked against Rs 3.8bn UOP charges in CY21.

**Make-up cargoes could lower underlying EBITDA margin:** If offtakers choose to bring in cargoes against their outstanding make-up cargo entitlement of 1mmtpa in Q3, this would earn Rs 10.7/MMBtu of differential regas charge against current regas charge of Rs 66/MMBtu, thereby lowering underlying EBITDA margin in Q3.

**Dahej key driver of growth ahead:** We tweak our estimates with Q2 results and continue to build 11% EBITDA CAGR over FY24-27E assuming increase in Dahej utilisation from 16.6mmtpa in FY24 to 20.0mmtpa in FY27E. Improvement of visibility on higher offtake from Dahej expansion is the key upside catalyst.

**Upgrade to HOLD with revised TP of Rs 340:** We raise TP for PLNG to Rs 340 (from Rs 325) factoring in revised forecasts and roll forward to Sep'25. We maintain one-year forward target P/E at 13.5x based on 7Y average and continue to strip away the Rs 47/sh of value at risk for the PDHPP project above capex of US\$ 2,500/t ([Refer note](#)). Upgrade to HOLD given 0% downside to our TP. Delay in projects or downward revision of regas tariff beyond contractual terms are key risks.

### Key changes

	Target	Rating
	▲	▲

Ticker/Price	PLNG IN/Rs 339
Market cap	US\$ 6.0bn
Free float	50%
3M ADV	US\$ 16.1mn
52wk high/low	Rs 384/Rs 192
Promoter/FPI/DII	50%/27%/12%

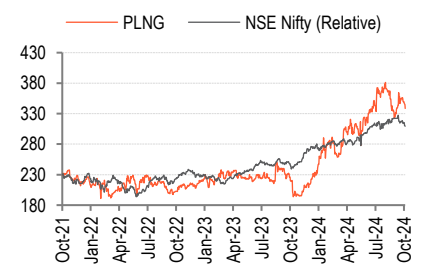
Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Oct 2024

### Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	5,27,284	5,66,979	5,90,787
EBITDA (Rs mn)	52,065	55,338	61,491
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	35,362	37,692	41,062
Adj. EPS (Rs)	23.6	25.1	27.4
Consensus EPS (Rs)	23.6	25.2	27.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	22.2	20.9	20.2
Adj. P/E (x)	14.4	13.5	12.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.0	8.1	7.2
Adj. EPS growth (%)	9.1	6.6	8.9

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

### Stock performance



Source: NSE



**BUY**  
 TP: Rs 556 | ▲ 18%

ITC

Consumer Staples

25 October 2024

**Managing inflation**

- Sales were 12% higher vs consensus likely due to the volatile, pass-through-based Agri Business segment. EBITDA was in line
- Excessive rains impacted 2QFY25 out-of-home category sales while inflation impacted margins across segments including Cigarettes
- While FY25 is inflationary, the prospects from Cigarette volume gains from illicit trade and FMCG scale up remain intact. Retain BUY

**Lokesh Gusain**

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**Sales trends:** FMCG Cigarette segment sales increased 7% with volume share gains from illicit trade, while +5% growth in the Others segment was broad based with all three sub segments, Staples, Personal Care and Homecare, driving sales. Agri Business Segment sales grew 47% on leaf tobacco and value-added portfolio of coffee, fruits/vegetables and spices. Paper revenues rose only 2% with increased competition from lower-priced Chinese supplies as demand conditions remained weak. Hotel segment sales increased 12% despite a high year-ago comp – 2-year CAGR of 16.5%. Sales growth was driven by F&B, Retail and Wedding segments.

**Broad based cost pressures:** Cigarette margins deteriorated 100bps as leaf tobacco inflation was only partially offset by mix, savings & pricing. FMCG margins were down 40bps due to inflation in edible oil, wheat, flour etc. Paperboards, Paper & Packaging segment margins deteriorated 410bps due to further increase in wood costs on inventory shortage due to excessive rains. Hotels segment was the only exception with margins expanding 70bps on higher RevPAR, operating leverage and strategic cost management initiatives.

**Our view:** The current trend is inflationary, but calibrated pricing will largely offset inflation by FY25E end. We lower margin forecasts for FY25 but model a recovery in FY26. Given reasonable earnings visibility in the cigarette and FMCG businesses, we maintain BUY on ITC. Our SOTP-based TP stands revised from Rs 575 to Rs 556 (change in estimates).

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▼	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	ITC IN/Rs 472
Market cap	US\$ 70.0bn
Free float	71%
3M ADV	US\$ 72.7mn
52wk high/low	Rs 529/Rs 399
Promoter/FPI/DII	0%/43%/57%

Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Oct 2024

**Key financials**

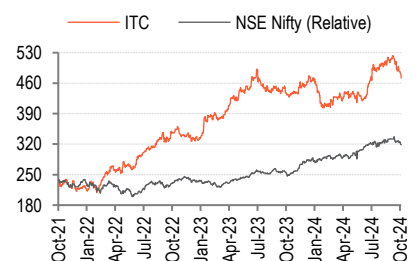
Y/E 31 Mar	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	708,810	777,947	870,792
EBITDA (Rs mn)	262,544	284,374	321,602
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	204,663	211,111	237,556
Adj. EPS (Rs)	16.4	16.9	19.0
Consensus EPS (Rs)	15.8	17.8	18.8
Adj. ROAE (%)	27.7	27.3	29.3
Adj. P/E (x)	28.7	27.9	24.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	22.4	20.7	18.3
Adj. EPS growth (%)	6.5	2.7	12.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P – Provisional

ITC 2QFY25 result summary (Rs mn)	Q2FY24	Q2FY25	YoY (%)	Actual vs (%)	
				BoBCaps	Consensus
Sales	177,745	207,359	17	15	12
EBITDA	64,542	67,618	5	8	0
EBITDA margin (%)	36.3	32.6	(370bps)	(215bps)	(399bps)

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



**HOLD**  
 TP: Rs 1,299 | ▲ 3%

**GODREJ CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

Consumer Staples

25 October 2024

**Partial pass-through impacting margins near term**

- Compared to Bloomberg consensus, sales were 1% higher but EBITDA beat was 4% as margins came in 60bps above expectations
- Margin expansion was strong across the International businesses despite upfront media spend in GAUM which limited margin expansion
- Inflation is mainly from palm oil. Pricing is being put through. Domestic margins will remain subdued in 3Q but largely recover in 4Q

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**Sales and EBITDA miss:** GCPL's 2QFY25 adjusted EBITDA grew 8% YoY on 2% sales growth and 117bps EBITDA margin expansion. Compared to Bloomberg consensus, sales were 1% higher but EBITDA higher by 4% as margins came in 60bps above expectations.

**2QFY25 trends and outlook**

- **Domestic:** Underlying sales increased 7% driven by volumes. GCPL is taking calibrated pricing to offset the palm oil inflation. Aggregate 2HFY25 pricing will be up in close to double digits. Volume growth will be in the 6%-8% range. Margins will be lower in 3QFY25 due to inflation as inflation is being largely passed through. 4Q will see sequentially improving margins.
- **International:** Indonesia constant currency sales increased 11%. EBITDA margin improved 140bps to 19.4% although the aspiration is mid 20s. Timing of media spend impacted margins so 2H will be in the targeted range. In GUAM (Godrej Africa, US, Middle East), constant currency sales were flat but FX was a 12% drag. Margins increased 590bps to 14.4%. This trend of flat to slightly positive sale will continue with margins approaching high teens in two years. Business simplification, for instance, lower SKUs/improved mix/efficiencies are the main drivers. GCPL will shift focus to top line growth once margins become reasonable. There is no plan to divest or shut businesses in Africa.

**Our view & valuation:** Domestic volume growth is in mid-single digits with double-digit pricing required to partially offset inflation. International is on track with stable to slightly growing sales but focus on margin expansion. Margin risk in 2HFY25 with HUVR having a cost advantage from lower palm exposure. We value GCPL at 51x 12M to Sep'26 EPS with a TP increase to Rs 1,299 (from Rs 1,543). HOLD.

2QFY25 result summary (Rs mn)	Q2FY24	Q2FY25	YoY (%)	Reported vs (%)	
				BoBCaps	Consensus
Sales	36,020	36,663	2	(1)	1
EBITDA	7,042	7,596	8	4	4
EBITDA margin	19.5	20.7	117bps	97bps	61bps

Sources: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Key changes**

Target	Rating
▼	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	GCPL IN/Rs 1,255
Market cap	US\$ 15.3bn
Free float	37%
3M ADV	US\$ 21.3mn
52wk high/low	Rs 1,542/Rs 960
Promoter/FPI/DII	63%/23%/14%

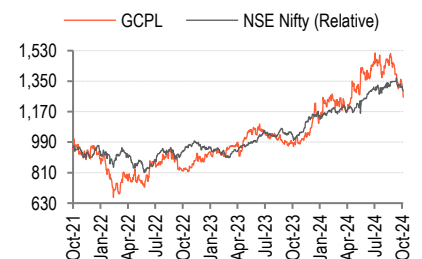
Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Oct 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	140,961	148,495	167,524
EBITDA (Rs mn)	29,435	33,171	41,346
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	19,763	22,214	28,594
Adj. EPS (Rs)	19.3	21.7	28.0
Consensus EPS (Rs)	19.3	23.7	28.4
Adj. ROAE (%)	15.7	16.0	18.9
Adj. P/E (x)	64.9	57.8	44.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	43.6	38.7	31.0
Adj. EPS growth (%)	12.5	12.4	28.7

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



**SELL**  
 TP: Rs 305 | ▼ 32%

**LAURUS LABS**

| Pharmaceuticals

| 25 October 2024

**Another weak quarter**

- Earnings miss for 2Q on our and street estimates on all fronts. Revenue/PAT came short of consensus estimates by -5%/39%
- EBITDA margin for H1FY25 is 14.5%. We believe management shall not achieve guided 20% margin in FY25
- We cut our EPS estimates for FY25/FY26/FY27 and roll over valuations to Sep'26, valuing LAURUS at 45x due to its CDMO arm. Maintain SELL

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**Weak Q2:** Laurus's Q2FY25 result was below our and street expectations (BoBCap estimates: Revenue -5%, EBITDA -11% and APAT -36%) mainly due to the temporary shutdown of its facility, lack of demand in Oncology therapy, price erosion in the Others API portfolio, and operational deleverage from higher upfront cost towards capex. Overall, 2QFY25 revenue was flat and EBITDA declined by -5% YoY. Increased capacities raised depreciation by 15% YoY and interest costs by 24% YoY, resulting in a 46% decline in PAT.

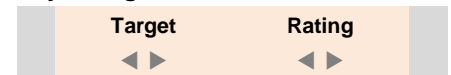
**Lower API sales offset CDMO growth:** During 2QFY25, API sales declined by 13% YoY primarily due to 1) 58% decline in Oncology sales impacted by lack of demand due to increased competition, 2) flat growth in ARV API due to volume dipping on account of temporary plant shutdown for modification and 3) flat growth in the Others API impacted by price erosion. This offset 33% growth in the Synthesis segment driven by increased demand in small molecules.

**Operating deleverage impacted margins:** Gross margin improved 265bps YoY but was flat QoQ primarily due to healthy CDMO sales. However, higher outflow of capex and increased working capital resulted in a 77bps decline YoY in EBITDA margin to 14.6% (25bps increase QoQ).

**Is guidance of 20% EBITDA margin achievable?** Management guided for 20% EBITDA margin on account of a healthy H2 which could witness increase shipment and commercialisation of CDMO molecules. However, LAURUS achieved 14.5% EBITDA margin in H1FY25. Due to operating deleverage we expect the company shall achieve an optimal 18% EBITDA margin in FY25e.

**Maintain SELL with unchanged TP of Rs 305:** As earnings were below our estimates and we believe LAURUS will not achieve its guided EBITDA margin of 20%, we have lowered our EPS estimates (-36.7% for FY25E, -45% for FY26E and -37% for FY27E) but our TP remains at Rs 305 as we roll forward our valuation to Sep'26 ascribing a target P/E of 45x.

**Key changes**



Ticker/Price	LAURUS IN/Rs 447
Market cap	US\$ 2.9bn
Free float	74%
3M ADV	US\$ 13.5mn
52wk high/low	Rs 518/Rs 349
Promoter/FPI/DII	27%/23%/5%

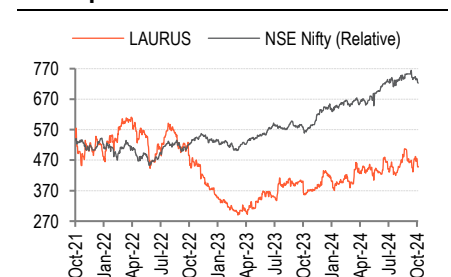
Source: NSE | Price as of 24 Oct 2024

**Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	50,410	53,473	59,195
EBITDA (Rs mn)	7,777	9,625	11,247
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	1,607	2,375	3,119
Adj. EPS (Rs)	3.0	4.4	5.8
Consensus EPS (Rs)	3.8	8.6	13.2
Adj. ROAE (%)	3.9	5.7	7.2
Adj. P/E (x)	149.3	101.1	76.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	33.7	27.5	23.5
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(79.7)	47.8	31.3

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

**Stock performance**



Source: NSE



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**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

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