

Company In-Depth

21 August 2007 | 8 pages

Patni Computer Systems (PTNI.BO)

Upgrading to Buy: Valuations Look Cheap; M&A a Possible Trigger

- What has changed? Patni is down 26% and has underperformed the BSE IT index by 17% over the past two months. We maintain our view that Patni is a potential M&A/private-equity candidate. The stock now trades at around 7x 2007E EV/EBITDA, a level at which we think the risk-reward profile is positive.
- In-line 2Q07, guidance muted 2Q07 results were in line operationally, with top line growing 4.7% qoq, to US\$163m. The surprise net income was primarily due to a large forex gain of Rs350m. The guidance for 3Q is for a flat top line.
- Press reports suggest likelihood of deal Today's *Economic Times* has reported that the likelihood of a private-equity investment in Patni is high and that major hurdles to a stake sale have been addressed. While this news report is difficult to confirm, we maintain our view that Patni is an M&A candidate.
- Cutting target price With the core business still sluggish, we have increased our target discount (from 15% to 20%) relative to Patni's closest peer, Satyam. Our target price is equivalent to 15x 2008E EPS. Operationally, one could argue for a larger discount; however, the possibility of an M&A narrows our discount. Our new target price is Rs525.
- Current valuations indicate limited downside; M&A a possible trigger Patni at 7x 2007E EV/EBITDA is at deep discounts to its large peers (Infosys is at 19x and Satyam at 14x) and lower than its mid-cap peers (8-10x). We see an upside bias from current levels, with M&A a possible trigger.

Rating change	₫
Target price change	₫

Buy/Medium Risk	1M
from Sell/Medium Risk	
Price (20 Aug 07)	Rs391.40
Target price	Rs525.00
from Rs565.00	
Expected share price return	34.1%
Expected dividend yield	0.9%
Expected total return	35.0%
Market Cap	Rs54,293M
	US\$1,325M

Price Performance (RIC: PTNI.BO, BB: PATNI IN)



Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Dec	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2005A	2,678	21.03	10.3	18.6	2.5	16.1	0.6
2006A	2,654	19.05	-9.4	20.5	2.4	12.4	0.8
2007E	4,520	32.29	69.5	12.1	2.1	18.6	0.9
2008E	4,893	34.96	8.3	11.2	1.8	17.3	1.3
2009E	5,310	37.93	8.5	10.3	1.6	16.3	1.3

See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification and important disclosures.

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Fiscal year end 31-Dec	2005	2006	2007E	2008E	2009E
Valuation Ratios					
P/E adjusted (x)	18.6	20.5	12.1	11.2	10.3
EV/EBITDA adjusted (x)	11.7	8.7	7.3	6.4	5.4
P/BV (x)	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.6
Dividend yield (%)	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.3
Per Share Data (Rs)					
EPS adjusted	21.03	19.05	32.29	34.96	37.93
EPS reported	21.03	19.05	32.29	34.96	37.93
BVPS	159.71	162.36	188.85	218.44	251.04
DPS	2.50	3.00	3.50	5.00	5.00
Profit & Loss (RsM)					
Net sales	19,834	26,140	27,007	31,269	36,742
Operating expenses	-16,734	-22,205	-22,499	-26,517	-31,640
EBIT	3,100	3,935	4,508	4,752	5,102
Net interest expense	0	0	0	0	0
Non-operating/exceptionals	186	564	957	1,215	1,556
Pre-tax profit	3,286	4,499	5,465	5,967	6,657
Tax Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	-608	-932 -913	-946	-1,074	-1,348
Reported net income	0 2,678	-913 2,654	0 4,520	0 4,893	0 5,310
Adjusted earnings	2,678	2,654	4,520	4,893	5,310
Adjusted EBITDA	3,770	4,775	4,320 5,492	4,055 5,850	6,422
Growth Rates (%)	5,770	4,775	5,452	5,050	0,422
Sales	40.4	31.8	3.3	15.8	17.5
EBIT adjusted	17.8	26.9	14.6	5.4	7.4
EBITDA adjusted	20.7	26.7	15.0	6.5	9.8
EPS adjusted	10.3	-9.4	69.5	8.3	8.5
Cash Flow (RsM)					
Operating cash flow	3,830	2,717	4,744	4,520	4,746
Depreciation/amortization	670	840	984	1,098	1,320
Net working capital	865	-213	197	-256	-328
Investing cash flow	-2,636	-2,370	-1,164	-1,098	-1,348
Capital expenditure	-2,423	-2,251	-1,867	-2,294	-2,879
Acquisitions/disposals	-128	-456	-281	0	0
Financing cash flow	4,825	-639	-777	-790	-790
Borrowings	2 -317	-1 472	-6	0 -790	0 -790
Dividends paid Change in cash	-317 6,019	-473 -292	-553 2,803	2,632	2,608
	0,015	-LJL	2,000	2,002	2,000
Balance Sheet (RsM)					
Total assets	24,815	28,232	32,541	37,646	43,451
Cash & cash equivalent	13,062 0	12,770	15,573	18,205	20,813
Accounts receivable Net fixed assets	4,136	0 5,547	0 6,430	0 7,627	0 9,186
Total liabilities	4,130 4,397	5,547 5,797	6,430 6,358	7,827 7,360	9,180 8,646
Accounts payable	4,557	3 ,737 0	0,550	7,500 0	0,040
Total Debt	19	17	11	11	11
Shareholders' funds	20,418	22,434	26,183	30,286	34,805
Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin adjusted	19.0	18.3	20.3	18.7	17.5
	15.0				
ROE adjusted	16.1	12.4	18.6	17.3	16.3
ROIC adjusted	16.1 34.2	33.2	33.2	30.4	27.0
	16.1				

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Figure 1. Patni's 1-year Forward PER Valuation Chart

Figure 2. Indian IT Services — Valuation Comparison

Company	RIC	Rating	Mkt cap	CMP	TP	P/E	(X)	EV/EBI	FDA (x)	EV/Sa	les(x)	P/B	/ (x)	Div. Yie	ld (%)
	Code	-	(US\$ m)	(Rs)	(Rs)	FY08E	FY09E	FY08E	FY09E	FY08E	FY09E	FY08E	FY09E	FY08E	FY09E
Infosys	INFY.BO	1L	25,491	1,829	2,440	22.8	18.6	18.9	14.6	5.8	4.5	7	5.4	0.9%	1.1%
TCS	TCS.BO	1L	25,180	1,055	1,460	20.5	16.8	16.5	13.3	4.4	3.5	8.2	6	1.3%	1.5%
Wipro	WIPR.BO	1L	16,711	470	650	20.1	16.3	16.1	12.7	3.4	2.7	5.6	4.7	2.1%	2.6%
Satyam	SATY.BO	1M	7,052	433	570	17.4	14.3	13.9	11	3	2.4	4.2	3.5	1.8%	2.3%
HCL Tech	HCLT.BO	1M	4,967	307	400	16.7	14	12.1	10	2.4	2	3.6	3.1	2.6%	2.6%
Tech Mahindra	TEML.BO	1H	3,758	1,270	1,920	20	13.9	16.4	11.5	3.5	2.4	8.9	5.3	0.2%	0.2%
I-Flex	IFLX.B0	3M	3,890	1,905	2,025	38.6	27.8	26.9	19.1	5.6	4.3	7.7	6.1	0.0%	0.0%
Patni*	PTNI.BO	1M	1,325	391	525	12.1	11.2	7.1	6.6	1.4	1.2	2.1	1.8	0.9%	1.3%
Mphasis	MBFL.BO	1M	1,136	288	400	23.6	15.1	10	7	1.9	1.3	5	3.9	1.0%	1.0%
Hexaware*	HEXT.BO	1M	389	120	155	13.3	11.6	8.4	7.2	1.2	1	2.1	1.8	1.5%	2.0%
NIIT	NIIT.BO	3M	471	880	1,150	20.1	12.7	19	11.9	2.1	1.7	4.5	3.4	0.9%	0.9%
Sasken	SKCT.BO	1M	223	320	505	16	9.8	10	5.6	1.2	0.9	1.9	1.7	1.6%	3.1%
KPIT	KPIT.BO	1M	216	116	154	16	11.3	9.9	7.4	1.5	1.1	3.5	2.7	0.4%	0.6%

Source: Company Reports and Citigroup Investment Research estimates

Patni Computer Systems Company description

Patni is the sixth-largest IT solutions provider from India and a pioneer of offshore IT services delivery. Founded in 1978, it operated both software and hardware businesses until 1999, when the hardware business was de-merged. It continues to operate as a global consulting and IT services provider. Patni employs 13,700 professionals, who service more than 260 global corporations. It has a sizeable presence in insurance, financial services, manufacturing and telecoms verticals. GE is Patni's largest customer, contributing close to 11% of 2Q07 revenues.

Investment thesis

Our Buy/Medium Risk rating for Patni is a valuation call. Patni trades at a ~50% discount to Satyam on a one-year forward EV/EBITDA basis, has 25% of its market cap in cash and equivalents, and has underperformed the BSE IT index by ~17% over the past two months. With a high cash position of ~US\$300m, we believe Patni is a decent-sized player with a relatively inexpensive valuation, making it an ideal acquisition candidate. Expect a recurring earnings CAGR of ~14% over the next three years, slower than those of peers. The company has historically offered lower pricing to clients by employing low-cost resources. But with demand for IT professionals growing, Patni is facing increased wage pressure. However, over the past few quarters, cost optimization efforts have resulted in margin expansion.

Valuation

Our target price of Rs525 is based on a 20% target-multiple discount to Patni's closest peer, Satyam. Patni has traded at a 10-40% discount to Satyam over the past year, mainly due to slower growth and lower RoIC/RoE. We ascribe only a 20% discount for Patni to factor in M&A expectations. Our target price equates to 15x 2008E earnings. We believe P/E is a good valuation measure given Patni's profitability and strong earnings visibility.

Risks

We rate Patni as Medium Risk based on our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day historical share-price volatility. Key downside risks to our target price include: 1) significant QoQ volatility in growth rates; 2) any significant appreciation of the rupee against the USD/Euro/GBP; 3) a sharp slowdown in the US economy; 4) a slowdown in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector; 5) H1B visa quotas; and 6) acquisition-related risks.

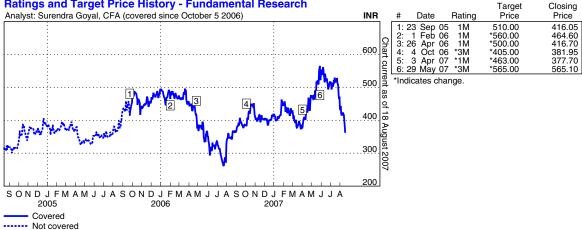
Appendix A-1

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