

Company Flash

1 October 2007 | 7 pages

Mahindra & Mahindra (MAHM.BO)

Buy: Sep Sales – UV Growth Moderates; Tractor Sales Still Weak

- Sep sales +11% Y/Y UV sales rose 12% Y/Y offsetting the weak tractor sales (-11% Y/Y). Scorpio sales rose a modest 6% Y/Y; excluding Scorpio, UV sales grew by 14% Y/Y.
- Tractor sales declined 11% Y/Y Domestic sales declined significantly by 10% Y/Y primarily due to poor sales in the western region (forms ~30% of MM's total sales). Management stated industry degrew 20% over the month due to tightening of credit by banks and high interest rates (~10-10.5%). Management expects flat tractor sales growth in FY08 and forecasts sales will revive in 3QFY08, driven by good monsoons and easing of credit to farmers.
- Initiatives at Punjab Tractors Management stated that Rs1.4bn has been recovered from the >Rs5bn outstanding amount from debtors. The entire amount is expected to be recovered from debtors over the next 2 years.
- Margins to improve at Systech Press reports suggest that (source: ET) Systech is looking at acquisitions in the US and Europe to reach its \$1 billion target by FY09. Management expects margins to improve by 200 bps in the next 3 years driven by cost reduction initiatives.
- Maintain Buy (1L) Key downside risks: hardening interest rates, input cost pressures, and decline in the market value of principal subsidiaries (on which our sum-of-parts target price is derived).

Buy/Low Risk	1L
Price (01 Oct 07)	Rs759.20
Target price	Rs945.00
Expected share price return	24.5%
Expected dividend yield	1.4%
Expected total return	25.9%
Market Cap	Rs186,406M
	US\$4,700M



Figure 1	M Q.M_	Sentember	2007 C	عماد

	Sep-07	% change	% change	FY08 YTD	% chg
	Nos	yoy	over Aug	Nos	yoy
UVs	12,246	11.7	6.5	66,478	21.6
LCVs	930	25.3	11.8	5,473	39.6
3-wheelers	3,208	1.5	12.2	16,453	6.4
Exports (Auto sector)	1,302	23.4	56.7	5,196	27.0
Logan	2,185			12,494	
Auto division	19,871	24.8	8.8	106,094	35.8
Tractors (Dom + Exp)	8,668	(10.9)	31.9	49,518	(2.8)
Total	28,539	11.3	14.9	155,612	20.6
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See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification and important disclosures.

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Mahindra & Mahindra

Company description

Mahindra and Mahindra manufactures utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles and tractors. It has recently entered the three-wheeler segment. M&M is the market leader in both the utility vehicle and tractor segments.

Investment strategy

We rate M&M shares Buy / Low Risk (1L) with a target price of Rs945. Tractor sales are benefiting from relatively low penetration levels and the government's emphasis on increasing credit to the agriculture sector. Apart from dominance of the lower end of the market, where competition has been limited, M&M's utility vehicle business is also benefiting from product initiatives, particularly the launch of the Scorpio and Bolero models and variants of these, which have enabled M&M to tap into the urban markets for passenger vehicles. Moreover, we also recognize management's efforts to retain market share within segments like three-wheelers, given the stiff competition in this segment. We remain positive on management's efforts to de-risk from the local market by pursuing sales in select international markets. The target is to raise international sales from around 10% at present to 20% over the next three years. Their efforts have met with substantial success particularly in the tractor segment, wherein they are currently ranked No. 4 (in terms of unit sales) globally. The substantial value of the company's real estate and investment holdings (particularly in the information technology business through Tech Mahindra and in the financial services business through M&M Financial Services) should provide downside support (especially with increasing dividends from key subsidiaries). Given recent initiatives to unlock value in subsidiaries - MMFSL and Tech Mahindra being the primary examples - we incorporate the value of key subsidiaries within our sum-of-parts valuation.

Valuation

Our target price of Rs945 is based on a sum-of-parts methodology. We value M&M's core business at Rs468 (9x FY09E core CEPS). We also incorporate value for M&M's listed subsidiaries (Rs378/share), its auto component business (Rs57/share) and M&M's investments in other subsidiaries (including Mahindra Holidays at Rs41/share). Our core multiple of 9x, is supported by an 11% CAGR in core cash earnings (excluding dividends from group companies) for M&M over FY07E-09E. We value the key subsidiaries / associates / auto component initiatives at Rs477/share. At our core target price (of Rs468) the stock would trade at around 10.2x FY08E core EPS (excluding dividends from subsidiaries) and should be supported by 11% CAGR in earnings over FY07E-09E. We have chosen to use P/CEPS as our primary valuation metric to ensure proper comparison with historical trading bands — the company is undertaking a significant product development and capital expenditure program, and also undertook a restructuring of the balance sheet in FY02. We believe valuations will also be supported by: a) management's continued efforts to unleash value from investments in group concerns (we believe that the listing of the group's hotel / resorts venture is next on the anvil); and b) new initiatives announced in the passenger cars, commercial vehicles and auto components segments, which should fructify over the next 2-3 years.

Risks

We rate M&M shares Low Risk, in-line with our quantitative model which tracks 260-day historical share price volatility. Key Risk factors to our investment thesis which could prevent the shares from reaching our target price include: Any substantial rise in interest rates that could curb demand for farm equipment and utility vehicles. Given M&M's strong dependence on the rural economy (a substantial part of the demand for their products emanates herein), any weak trend in the prices of agricultural commodities could also impact demand and sales. Escalating competition within the UV segment, which might lead to an increase in discounts and result in margin pressure.

Appendix A-1

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