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Updates

Bharti Airtel: Proposed acquisition of Zain's African operations appears expensive

Economy: Does return to double-digit inflation has delta on macro worries?

Industrials: Areva results reflect weak pricing and demand scenario; expect revival in 2H

News Round-up

- ▶ Bharti Airtel's (BHARTI IN) latest African odyssey faced an unwelcome distraction on Monday, after a minority shareholder in a key Nigerian asset questioned one of the main planks of its USD 10.7 bn offer to buy a string of mobile assets from Kuwait's Zain. (ET)
- ▶ Ashok Leyland (AL IN) will increase prices of its products by up to 15% once the new emission norms come into effect from April, across the country. The company is also expecting sales to grow 18% during this financial year on the back of a renewed demand. (BS)
- ▶ Ashok Leyland Ltd (AL IN) on Monday announced entry into the armoured vehicles space with the unveiling of three products- Armoured Stallion, Armoured Bus and Mine Protected Vehicle - at DEFEXPO 2010. Ashok Leyland announced the signing of a principles of co-operation with Paramount group of South Africa for the development and manufacture of mine protected vehicles in India. (FE)
- ▶ BP Plc, the British Energy company, has joined the race to acquire a majority stake in Canadian oil-sand major, Value Creation with an offer of USD 1.2 bn. Though the offer is less than Reliance Industries' (RIL IN) USD 2 bn acquisition proposal, given on February 5, agencies reported that BP might set up a joint venture with the Canadian group, and increase its oil-sand holdings by as much as 50%. (BS)
- ▶ REC (RECL IN) plans to raise USD 700 mn through External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) and Export Credit Assistance (ECA). REC is in advanced stages of talks with North Delhi Power Ltd (NDPL) for power systems management. (BS)
- ▶ Mahindra & Mahindra-BAE systems defence JV, Defense Land Systems India (DLSI), unveiled on Monday a mine protected vehicle India (MPVI) and a new artillery gun -- the FH77 B05 Advanced Howitzer. (BL)
- ▶ Mphasis (MPHL IN) aims for buys in sub-USD 100 mn range. To strengthen business support, package implementation & BPO. (FE)
- ▶ Theatre chain PVR Cinemas informed the stock exchanges on Monday that it has decided to end its agreement to buy realtor DLF's exhibition hall business, DT Cinemas. (BS)
- ▶ Castrol India (CSTR IN) on Monday it would discuss the issue of bonus shares during a meeting of its board on February 18. (FE)
- ▶ The Cabinet may this week approve ONGC (ONGC IN) stake in USD 2 bn pipeline that China is laying from Myanmar to transport natural gas from the Myanmar coast. (FE)

Source: ET= Economic Times, BS = Business Standard, FE = Financial Express, BL = Business Line.

EQUITY MARKETS

India	Change %		
	15-Feb	1-day	1-mo 3-mo
Sensex	16,038	(0.7)	(7.9) (3.9)
Nifty	4,802	(0.5)	(7.8) (3.0)
Global/Regional indices			
Dow Jones	10,099	(0.4)	(4.8) (1.7)
Nasdaq Composite	2,184	0.3	(4.6) 0.7
FTSE	5,167	0.5	(5.3) (2.4)
Nikkie	10,056	0.4	(8.4) 2.7
Hang Seng	20,269	(0.1)	(6.4) (10.1)
KOSPI	1,601	0.4	(5.9) 1.8
Value traded - India			
Cash (NSE+BSE)	133.5	209.7	96.0
Derivatives (NSE)	594.2	488.8	723
Deri. open interest	1,198.0	1,112	1,085

Forex/money market

	Change, basis points			
	15-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
Rs/US\$	46.3	(9)	76	10
10yr govt bond, %	7.9	3	24	55
Net investment (US\$m)				
	11-Feb	MTD	CYTD	
FIs	76	(519)	(230)	
MFs	0	(47)	(282)	

Top movers -3mo basis

Best performers	Change, %			
	15-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
ACEM IN Equity	104.8	(1.8)	(7.5)	20.4
ADE IN Equity	489.3	0.7	1.4	19.4
BJAUT IN Equity	1792.7	0.2	3.8	18.8
ICEM IN Equity	122.9	0.4	(6.4)	18.0
ACC IN Equity	875.8	(1.1)	(10.7)	17.6
Worst performers				
IBREL IN Equity	179.7	1.0	(17.5)	(24.5)
IVRC IN Equity	310.8	(2.2)	(19.3)	(22.5)
DLFU IN Equity	303.4	(1.2)	(21.5)	(21.3)
GMRI IN Equity	55.6	(0.7)	(17.7)	(19.8)
PUNJ IN Equity	173.8	(0.5)	(20.8)	(19.8)

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UPDATE

 Coverage view: **Cautious**

 Price (Rs): **315**

 Target price (Rs): **300**

 BSE-30: **16,153**

Proposed acquisition of Zain's African operations appears expensive. Bharti has entered into exclusive discussions until March 25, 2010 for the acquisition of Zain's African business at an enterprise value of US\$10.7 bn. Zain's African unit operations reported revenues of US\$2.7 bn, EBITDA of US\$900 mn and net loss of US\$37 mn in 9MCY09. The proposed acquisition at 10.7X CY2009E and 9X CY2010E EBITDA appears expensive. We retain our REDUCE rating.

Company data and valuation summary

Bharti Airtel

Stock data		Forecasts/Valuations			
		2010	2011E	2012E	
52-week range (Rs) (high,low)	518-230	EPS (Rs)	23.8	20.6	23.5
Market Cap. (Rs bn)	1,194.2	EPS growth (%)	6.6	(13.5)	13.8
Shareholding pattern (%)		P/E (X)	13.2	15.3	13.4
Promoters	67.7	Sales (Rs bn)	393.6	404.1	465.9
FIs	18.4	Net profits (Rs bn)	90.3	78.3	89.1
MFs	3.5	EBITDA (Rs bn)	160.4	151.7	173.1
Price performance (%)		EV/EBITDA (X)	7.7	7.9	6.7
Absolute	1M 3M 12M	ROE (%)	25.3	18.0	17.4
	(0.9) 4.1 (3.5)	Div. Yield (%)	1.0	1.3	1.6
Rel. to BSE-30	5.9 7.1 (43.4)				

Proposed acquisition price builds in significant synergy value

Bharti has entered into exclusive discussion to acquire Zain's African operations for an enterprise of value of US\$10.7 bn in an all-cash deal. Assuming full-year EBITDA of US\$1 bn for CY2009 – valuations work out to 10.7X EV/EBITDA on a CY2009E basis and 9X CY2010E (assuming 20% EBITDA growth in CY2010E) – expensive, in our view. We believe Bharti is already paying for potential synergy value from capex savings and cost takeouts; the transaction value works out to a stiff 7X CY2010E EV/EBITDA even after assuming 10 percentage points increase in Zain's African unit OPM.

Zain present in 15 African countries and is the #1 operator in 10

Zain is present in 15 countries in Africa (plus another eight in the Middle East, which are not part of the deal, as per reports). Zain had a total of 42 mn subs in Africa as at end-Sep 2009. Subs addition growth was a modest 13% yoy in 3QCY09. Zain is the largest operator on the basis of subscribers in 10 countries, #2 in four countries and #4 in one country. Wireless teledensity is in the range of 30-50% in most of Zain's African markets. Zain has been losing subscriber market share to competitors, especially in large markets such as Nigeria.

Zain's African operations reported revenues of US\$2.7 bn and EBITDA of US\$900 mn in 9MCY09. On a proportionate basis, EBITDA was US\$715 mn for the first nine months. Net loss before minority interest was US\$37 mn in 9MCY09, presumably on account of high debt burden.

Acquisition may stretch Bharti's balance sheet; may be earnings dilutive in the near term

Additional debt of US\$10.7 bn for Zain's African unit acquisition would take Bharti's end-FY2011E net debt/ EBITDA to 2.5X, aggressive, in our view. The balance sheet can get stretched further in case of 3G auctions. We believe that Bharti may opt for a conservative mix of debt and equity funding if the proposed deal is approved. Few financial details are available, but the deal appears to be FY2011E earnings dilutive on rough back-of-the-envelope calculations (see Exhibit 1).

Acquisition may dilute focus on the competitive domestic market

Bharti has consistently recruited the best talent in the industry. Its depth of management talent is unparalleled; however, a large multi-country acquisition in the middle of an all-out war in the domestic wireless market will be a tough test for Bharti's management, in our view. We are surprised with the timing and would have expected the company to use all its resources to accelerate the consolidation process to establish a dominant presence in the large domestic market.

Reiterate REDUCE rating; proposed acquisition another catalyst to trigger downside

We believe the following catalysts may trigger downside to the stock (1) the possibility of another round of tariff war; traffic has shifted back partly to incumbents' networks after they matched the tariffs of new entrants. New entrants may be forced to reduce tariffs to increase network utilization and (2) cost efficiencies may be front-loaded, in our view – incremental RPM reduction may have a bigger impact on margins. We add the proposed acquisition of Zain's African unit as another catalyst to the list. Reiterate REDUCE rating.

Zain deal likely to be EPS dilutive

	FY2011E	FY2012E
Bharti - current estimates		
Revenues (Rs mn)	404,084	465,885
EBITDA (Rs mn)	151,686	173,119
EBIT (Rs mn)	90,758	105,733
PBT (Rs mn)	92,893	109,586
PAT (Rs mn)	78,270	89,079
EPS (Rs/share)	20.6	23.5
Zain Africa assets - estimates (base case)		
Revenues (US\$ mn)	3,636	4,118
EBITDA (US\$ mn)	1,200	1,400
EBITDA margin (%)	33.0	34.0
Depreciation (%)	500	566
EBIT (US\$ mn)	700	834
Deal impact on Bharti financials - base case		
Incremental EBIT (US\$ mn)	700	834
Incremental interest expense (US\$ mn) (a)	(856)	(856)
Total impact (US\$ mn)	(156)	(22)
Total PBT/PAT impact (Rs mn) (b)	(7,176)	(1,020)
EPS impact (Rs/share)	(1.9)	(0.3)
Post-deal EPS (Rs/share)	18.7	23.2
EPS accretion/dilution (%)	(9.2)	(1.1)

Note:

(a) Assuming post-tax interest cost of 8% on US\$10.7 bn debt.

(b) Assuming no tax benefit or expenses.

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

A lowdown on Zain's Africa operations

Country	Zain's ownership (%)	# of subs (end-Sep 2009, '000)	Market share (%)	Rank (#)	Market penetration (%)	Market total subs (#)	ARPU (US\$)
Burkina Faso	100.0	1,444	51	1	23	6,278	7.0
Chad	100.0	1,194	70	1	19	6,284	10.0
Congo B.	90.0	1,415	53	1	75	1,887	12.0
DRC	98.5	3,569	45	1	14	25,493	8.0
Gabon	90.0	870	62	1	123	707	25.0
Ghana	75.0	1,208	9	4	61	1,980	3.0
Kenya	95.0	2,191	17	2	48	4,565	4.0
Madagascar	100.0	1,425	38	2	23	6,196	5.0
Malawi	100.0	1,711	72	1	17	10,065	8.0
Niger	90.0	1,432	67	1	16	8,950	10.0
Nigeria	65.7	14,936	25	2	45	33,191	7.0
Sierra Leone	100.0	555	46	1	39	1,423	7.0
Tanzania	60.0	4,764	39	1	33	14,436	5.0
Uganda	100.0	2,243	37	2	35	6,409	4.0
Zambia	78.9	2,940	70	1	33	8,909	8.0
Total/ weighted average		41,897	44.1		31	136,773	7.2

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

A lowdown on Zain's Africa financials

Country	Zain's ownership (%)	9M CY09 Revenues (US\$ mn)	9M CY08 Revenues (US\$ mn)	Growth (%)	9M CY09 EBITDA (US\$ mn)	9M CY08 EBITDA (US\$ mn)	Growth (%)	9M CY09 PAT (US\$ mn)	9M CY08 PAT (US\$ mn)	Growth (%)
Burkina Faso	100.0	91	99	(8)	38	42	(10)	13	18	(28)
Chad	100.0	101	92	10	44	37	19	11	9	22
Congo B.	90.0	154	175	(12)	43	68	(37)	9	40	(78)
DRC	98.5	244	280	(13)	51	59	(14)	(20)	(30)	(33)
Gabon	90.0	192	207	(7)	80	97	(18)	2	37	(95)
Ghana	75.0									
Kenya	95.0	118	121	(2)	14	(10)	(240)	(28)	(57)	(51)
Madagascar	100.0	57	61	(7)	12	10	20	(18)	(4)	350
Malawi	100.0	112	93	20	47	38	24	22	19	16
Niger	90.0	113	95	19	53	42	26	27	25	8
Nigeria	65.7	986	1,194	(17)	331	399	(17)	(88)	20	(540)
Sierra Leone	100.0	33	37	(11)	2	10	(80)	(16)	2	(900)
Tanzania	60.0	207	242	(14)	79	95	(17)	11	41	(73)
Uganda	100.0	76	105	(28)	9	19	(53)	(4)	(8)	(50)
Zambia	78.9	213	266	(20)	97	129	(25)	42	58	(28)
Total		2,697	3,067	(12)	900	1,035	(13)	(37)	170	(122)
Zain's proportionate share		2,176	2,447	(11)	715	812	(12)	(37)	170	(122)

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Consolidated profit and loss for Bharti Airtel, March fiscal year-ends, 2008-2017E (Rs mn)

	2008	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E	2014E	2015E	2016E	2017E
Revenues										
Wireless	217,861	303,601	322,535	322,583	371,391	415,465	446,858	469,451	486,743	500,657
Fixed line	28,484	33,517	34,039	37,187	40,122	42,231	44,185	46,070	47,920	49,733
DLD	22,103	41,835	42,174	46,774	50,588	53,747	56,279	58,294	59,891	61,150
ILD	21,067	26,102	25,796	27,617	29,603	31,198	32,873	34,641	36,508	38,480
Enterprise services	13,217	16,945	16,437	18,409	20,250	21,870	22,963	24,112	25,317	26,583
Others	2,431	3,611	5,236	6,807	8,168	8,985	9,883	10,872	11,959	13,155
<i>Less: Intersegment eliminations</i>	<i>(40,936)</i>	<i>(98,485)</i>	<i>(88,208)</i>	<i>(94,749)</i>	<i>(100,299)</i>	<i>(104,632)</i>	<i>(108,316)</i>	<i>(111,644)</i>	<i>(114,647)</i>	<i>(117,322)</i>
Consolidated revenues	270,250	369,615	393,605	404,084	465,885	519,481	560,336	592,885	620,711	644,535
Interconnection costs	(41,110)	(52,903)	(44,598)	(43,394)	(49,288)	(56,426)	(61,546)	(65,302)	(68,281)	(70,764)
License fees and spectrum charges	(26,900)	(38,266)	(39,943)	(41,336)	(47,601)	(53,009)	(57,097)	(60,313)	(63,014)	(65,399)
Network operating costs	(33,002)	(59,355)	(76,740)	(90,128)	(106,939)	(119,398)	(128,036)	(134,692)	(140,303)	(144,769)
Sales and marketing expenses	(19,058)	(26,762)	(30,016)	(34,369)	(40,672)	(45,709)	(49,666)	(52,917)	(55,840)	(58,466)
Employee costs	(14,768)	(16,992)	(17,143)	(17,708)	(20,573)	(22,950)	(25,085)	(27,082)	(29,045)	(30,961)
G&A costs	(22,187)	(23,774)	(24,755)	(25,465)	(27,693)	(29,457)	(30,776)	(32,085)	(33,166)	(34,087)
Consolidated EBITDA	113,225	151,563	160,410	151,686	173,119	192,533	208,130	220,495	231,063	240,090
Other income incl. Interest income	4,136	645	7,728	3,925	4,514	4,659	7,862	11,451	15,052	18,470
Interest expense	(4,054)	(11,613)	(1,857)	(1,789)	(661)	—	—	—	—	—
Amortization of entry fee	(1,829)	(2,122)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)	(1,148)
Depreciation	(34,942)	(45,344)	(59,286)	(59,780)	(66,238)	(72,863)	(76,412)	(79,855)	(84,193)	(85,340)
Pretax profits	76,536	93,129	105,847	92,893	109,586	123,180	138,431	150,943	160,774	172,072
Extraordinary income/(charges)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prior period adjustments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Current tax expense	(8,414)	(7,371)	(19,852)	(17,247)	(23,637)	(34,498)	(39,010)	(44,279)	(52,763)	(56,311)
Deferred tax (liability)/asset	36	756	5,761	3,248	2,087	6,338	5,803	6,763	11,028	9,437
Minority interest expense	(1,151)	(1,759)	(1,829)	(2,354)	(3,235)	(3,842)	(4,168)	(4,735)	(5,259)	(5,716)
Equity in earnings of affiliates	—	(56)	392	1,730	4,279	5,998	7,359	8,672	9,816	10,838
Reported net profits	67,007	84,699	90,319	78,270	89,079	97,177	108,415	117,364	123,597	130,319
Adjusted net profits	67,007	84,699	90,319	78,270	89,079	97,177	108,415	117,364	123,597	130,319
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	17.7	22.3	23.8	20.6	23.5	25.6	28.6	30.9	32.6	34.3
Shares outstanding (mn)	3,796	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797	3,797
Current tax rate (%)	11.0	7.9	18.8	18.6	21.6	28.0	28.2	29.3	32.8	32.7
Effective tax rate (%)	10.9	7.1	13.3	15.1	19.7	22.9	24.0	24.9	26.0	27.2
Growth (%)										
EBITDA	52.3	33.9	5.8	(5.4)	14.1	11.2	8.1	5.9	4.8	3.9
Net profits	65.0	26.4	6.6	(13.3)	13.8	9.1	11.6	8.3	5.3	5.4
EPS	65.0	26.4	6.6	(13.5)	13.8	9.1	11.6	8.3	5.3	5.4
Margin (%)										
EBITDA	41.9	41.0	40.8	37.5	37.2	37.1	37.1	37.2	37.2	37.3
Net profits	24.8	22.9	22.9	19.4	19.1	18.7	19.3	19.8	19.9	20.2
EBIT	28.3	28.2	25.4	22.5	22.7	22.8	23.3	23.5	23.5	23.8

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Consolidated balance sheet for Bharti Airtel, March fiscal year-ends, 2008-2017E (Rs mn)

	2008	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E	2014E	2015E	2016E	2017E
Equity										
Share capital	18,979	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985	18,985
Warrants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reserves/surplus	203,606	284,960	368,616	438,001	515,975	590,940	666,038	738,979	807,047	870,732
Total equity	222,585	303,945	387,601	456,986	534,960	609,925	685,023	757,964	826,032	889,717
Minority shareholding	3,013	10,704	12,533	14,887	18,122	21,964	26,132	30,868	36,126	41,843
Deferred tax liability	1,940	7,556	1,795	(1,453)	(3,540)	(9,878)	(15,681)	(22,444)	(33,472)	(42,909)
Liabilities										
Secured loans	90,969	118,801	79,151	50,396	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsecured loans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total borrowings	90,970	118,801	79,151	50,396	—	—	—	—	—	—
Current liabilities	154,135	162,941	156,679	157,156	160,247	160,674	160,323	160,566	162,295	164,531
Total capital	472,643	603,947	637,758	677,971	709,790	782,686	855,798	926,953	990,981	1,053,181
Assets										
Cash	55,006	49,070	42,343	39,267	29,055	76,299	132,569	192,319	248,964	302,819
Current assets	58,776	95,009	99,560	106,716	116,171	123,866	132,020	140,628	149,758	159,417
Gross block	408,404	532,177	628,205	723,537	819,219	905,189	984,078	1,059,207	1,132,984	1,207,320
Less: accumulated depreciation	102,406	147,750	207,035	266,815	333,054	405,917	482,329	562,184	646,377	731,716
Net fixed assets	305,998	384,427	421,170	456,722	486,166	499,272	501,749	497,023	486,608	475,604
Capital work-in-progress	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709	24,709
Total fixed assets	330,707	409,136	445,878	481,431	510,874	523,981	526,458	521,732	511,317	500,313
Entry fees unamortized	11,698	40,364	39,216	38,068	36,920	35,772	34,624	33,476	32,328	31,180
Investments	16,429	10,341	10,733	12,463	16,742	22,741	30,100	38,771	48,588	59,426
Deferred expenditure	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Deferred tax asset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total assets	472,643	603,947	637,758	677,971	709,789	782,686	855,797	926,953	990,981	1,053,181
Leverage ratios (%)										
Debt/equity	40.9	39.1	20.4	11.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Debt/capitalization	29.0	28.1	17.0	9.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net debt/equity	16.2	22.9	9.5	2.4	(5.4)	(12.5)	(19.4)	(25.4)	(30.1)	(34.0)
Net debt/capitalization	13.9	18.7	8.7	2.4	(5.7)	(14.3)	(24.0)	(34.0)	(43.1)	(51.6)
RoAE	39.7	32.2	26.1	18.5	18.0	17.0	16.7	16.3	15.6	15.2
RoAE (excl cash and interest income)	45.5	38.9	27.4	19.6	18.6	18.2	19.3	20.1	20.7	21.5
RoACE	29.2	25.4	19.0	15.4	16.2	15.1	15.1	14.6	13.5	13.5
RoACE (excl cash and interest income)	31.9	29.5	20.9	16.8	17.0	17.2	17.9	18.4	18.7	19.2

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

FEBRUARY 15, 2010

UPDATE

BSE-30: 16,038

Does return to double-digit inflation has delta on macro worries? India's headline inflation rate climbed to 8.56% in January 2010 from 7.31% a month ago. It now looks that the end-FY10E inflation may touch 10%. Does return to double digit inflation has a delta on macro-worries for FY2011E? Our answer is that standalone, the double digit inflation does not add to worry as it is a small deviation from our expected inflation path. However, the delta may come, if manufacturing prices start rising ahead.

January WPI inflation unlikely to make RBI tighten more before April policy

Reiterate our view that RBI is unlikely to tighten monetary policy any further before the scheduled policy date of April 20, when it is likely to raise policy rates by 50-100 bps (see our Economy note, 'Industry moves into top gear, but RBI unlikely to apply brakes any harder'). We believe the January inflation at 8.6% that was higher than our expectations of 8.3% does not provide a significant delta from a macro point of view. This is not a significant deviation from our expected path of inflation that had projected end-FY10E WPI inflation at 9.5% (see Exhibit 1). We now expect inflation to touch 10% by end-FY10E or higher if government hikes, petrol, diesel and/or LPG prices. Standalone, we do not see new worries from the latest WPI as in absence of new unforeseen shocks, we see inflation falling to 5.5% at end-FY11E, largely on account of favorable base effects. We expect phased withdrawal of fiscal and monetary stimulus to stay on course.

Manufacturing price inflation would be likely back in FY2011E

The delta in macro-worries may, however, come if manufacturing inflation starts rising rapidly. January WPI suggests that inflation is becoming broad-based. Manufacturing side price pressures are rising (see Exhibit 2) with prices of textiles, paper, leather, rubber, chemicals, basic metals and machinery inching up. Inflation internals from January WPI show:

- ▶ Manufacturing prices rose 0.7% mom in January taking its inflation rate to 6.6% yoy.
- ▶ Food inflation fell to 17.4% in January from 19.2% a month ago after vegetable prices dropped 19.1% mom, helped by a fall in potato prices at the rate of 38% mom. In non-food articles, tea prices also declined 14.5% mom. As a result, primary commodity inflation now appears to have started to soften. However, sugar prices still rose 7.3% mom. Similar increases were also seen in soyabean (18%) and sunflower (11%).
- ▶ Energy prices captured by 'fuel, power, light and lubricants' increased 1.8% mom largely due to an increase in coal prices (13%) and naphtha (21%).

High consumer price inflation remains a macro concern

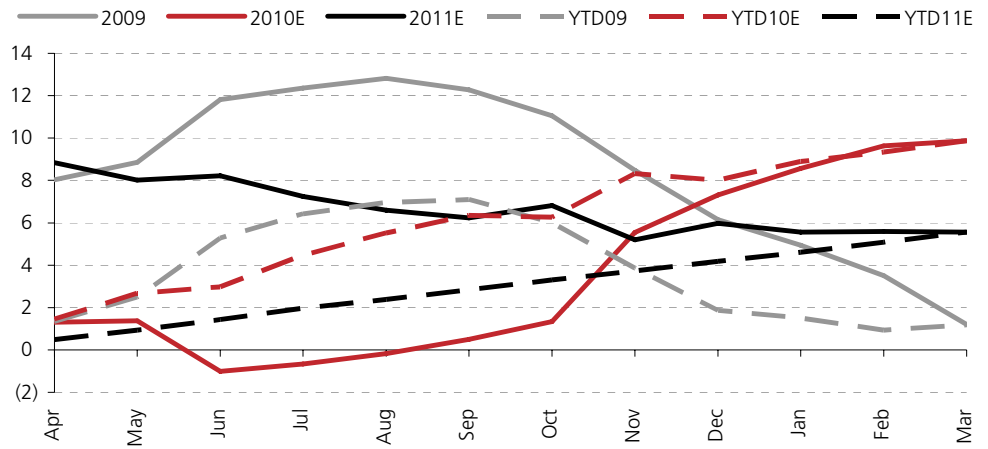
India is currently running the second highest CPI inflation in the world after Venezuela's 27% inflation rate (see Exhibit 3). If this trend sustains, we see the likelihood of markets demanding a higher risk premia on India. It can also impart further pressure on yields and exchange rate may need to depreciate to correct for the large inflation differential.

In our view, India's V-shaped recovery could be at risk if either the monetary policy remains loose or inflation remains high next year, or if the monetary policy is tightened excessively and through its impact on aggregate demand turns the cycle around once more. As such, we look to further monetary tightening in a calibrated manner that is not inimical to growth. This may be necessary over the first half next fiscal year as: (1) Inflation expectations have risen, (2) wage prices have begun to rise both in formal and informal sector and (3) cost-push factors are now in play, putting pressure on manufacturing prices.

QUICK NUMBERS

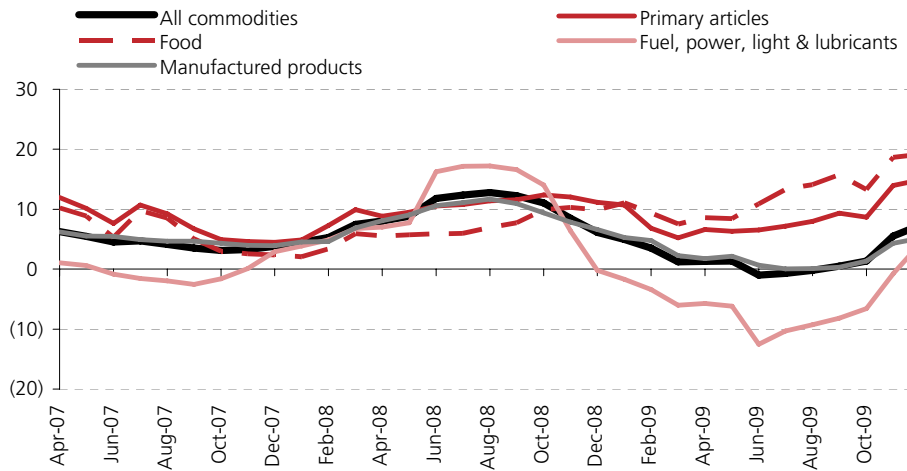
- WPI inflation rises to 8.6% in Jan. 2010 as manufacturing prices rise 0.7% mom
- We expect WPI inflation \cong 10% by end-FY10E; but fall to 5.5% by end-FY11E
- India running second highest CPI inflation in the world at 15%

Exhibit 1: Inflation set to rise to 10% by end-FY2010E, but likely to soften in FY2010E
 Headline WPI inflation rate (yoy), YTD price level change, March fiscal year-ends, 2009-2011E (%)



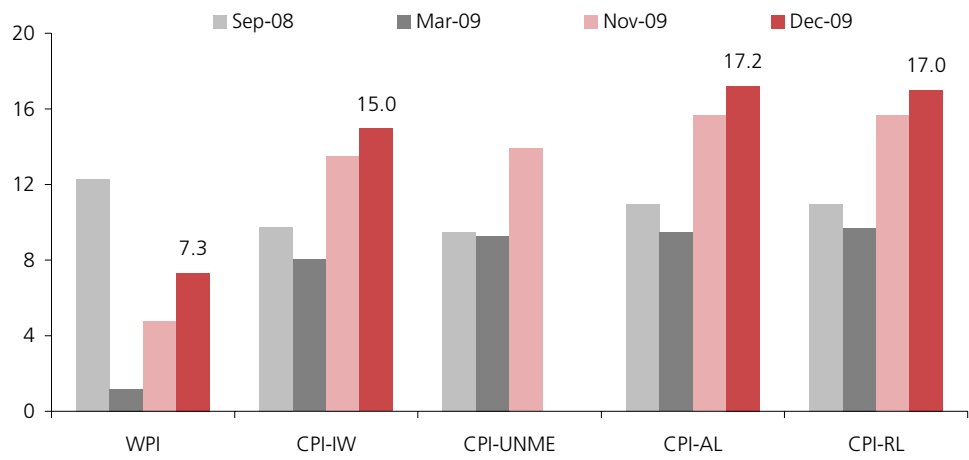
Source: GOI and Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 2: Food prices led inflation upsurge; but manufacturing inflation also on rise
 Inflation rate (yoy change in WPI) for major commodity groups (%)



Source: GOI and Kotak Institutional Equities compilation

Exhibit 3: India runs the second highest CPI inflation in the world after Venezuela
 CPI for industrial workers (IW), urban non-manual employees (UNME), agricultural labor (AL) and rural labor (RL) (%)



Source: GOI and Kotak Institutional Equities compilation

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

UPDATE

BSE-30: 16,038

Areva results reflect weak pricing and demand scenario; expect revival in 2H.

Areva results highlight (1) though stable, 15-20% lower prices likely to remain in the near future, (2) price correction, primarily led by demand-supply mismatch, (3) continued weakness in industrials investment, though some signs of a pick-up emerge, and (4) prices & demand likely to revive in 2HCY10. Despite a correction in premium, ABB and Siemens still seem expensive. Reiterate REDUCE on ABB and Siemens and BUY on Crompton.

Though stable, 15-20% lower prices persist—attributed to demand-supply mismatch

Areva management maintains that although prices in the T&D market have stabilized, the price correction seen in the past few quarters (15-20% in transmission and 25-30% in distribution) is likely to sustain for the next few quarters. This correction was primarily led by unfavorable demand-supply scenario in the market and only a small fraction can be attributed to the commodity price correction. The pricing pressure is likely to abate only post a pick-up in the ordering activity by PGCIL and industries expected in 2HCY10.

Investment scenario remains weak; but there are some signs of a sequential pick up

According to the management, the investment scenario in the industrials segment continues to remain weak. Even results of Siemens Global reflect weakness in international markets. However, there have been some signs of sequential improvement in capex activity. The management expects the ordering activity to gather momentum in 2HCY10. We highlight some signs of pick-up in the industrials investment scenario—also reflected in the recent quarter results of some companies.

ABB's, Siemen's premiums have corrected from historical levels; but remain high

ABB is trading at a one-year forward P/E premium of 63% over the Sensex versus its historical 5-year average of 91%, while Siemens is presently trading at a premium of 55.6% versus its historical average of 58.1%. However, we believe this premium remains high for the current market environment and growth prospects for the companies which are likely to remain under pressure with (1) increasing competition, (2) demand scenario continuing to remain relatively sedate, and (3) pricing pressure likely to impact margins of companies. Hence, we believe that the current P/E premiums are not justified.

HVDC likely to occupy only small portion of PGCIL orders; start of 765 kV orders from state utilities

Areva did not participate in the bidding for Agra to North-East HVDC project as (1) the project involves 800 kV technology which is very new not only in India but globally as well and (2) it is unwilling to take on supplier credit – as the project would involve a higher proportion of import content. The management believes that orders are likely to form a very small portion of the total ordering activity of PGCIL—in line with PGCIL management's statements. We also highlight the start of orders of 765 kV technology from state utilities.

Reiterate REDUCE on ABB and Siemens and BUY rating on Crompton

We retain our REDUCE rating on ABB (TP Rs720) and Siemens (TP Rs635) based on (1) high valuations unjustifiable given present the market environment, and (2) potential of negative surprises in earnings led by execution as well as margins. We have a BUY rating on Crompton and have a (TP Rs450) based on (1) relatively attractive valuations, (2) diversified business in terms of segments as well as geographies, and (3) strong cash flow generation characteristics—the company generated operating cash flow of Rs8.7 bn in FY2009 (versus a PAT of Rs4.7 bn).

Prices stabilize; but 15-20% lower prices likely to sustain in the near term

Areva management cited that although the prices in the T&D market have stabilized the price correction seen in the past few quarters is likely to sustain in the near future. According to the Areva management, prices in the transmission segment have corrected by about 15-20% and distribution segment by about 25-30%. This correction was primarily led by an unfavorable demand-supply scenario in the market and only a small fraction can be attributed to the correction in commodity prices. Hence, the pricing pressure is likely to continue in the near future and would abate only post a pick up in the ordering activity by PGCIL and industries. The company expects prices to start turning around from 2HCY10.

Investment scenario remains weak though we see some signs of sequential pick-up

According to the management, the investment scenario in the industrials segment continues to remain weak. However, there have been some signs of improvement in the capex activity (especially in the metals and mineral segment). The management expects the ordering activity to gather momentum in 2HCY10. Even PGCIL ordering activity is likely to remain relatively sedate in 1QCY10 on account of low order enquiries in 4QCY09. PGCIL ordering activity in FY2011 is also likely to be skewed towards the second half. Nevertheless, we highlight some signs of pick-up in the industrials investment scenario, also reflected in the recent quarter results of some companies.

Recent quarter results of several companies reflect some signs of pick-up in capex activity

Segment-wise quarterly revenue numbers for various industrial companies, quarter-ends June 30, 2009 - Dec 31, 2009 (Rs mn)

	Jun-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	% change (yoy)						
								Dec-08	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09		
Crompton														
Power Systems	13,672	14,624	15,736	17,713	14,838	14,773	15,596	26.1	27.5	8.5	1.0	(0.9)		
Consumer Products	3,631	3,016	2,868	3,703	4,129	3,740	3,647	10.2	8.8	13.7	24.0	27.2		
Industrial systems	2,879	3,029	2,614	2,976	2,794	3,182	3,100	(4.8)	11.0	(2.9)	5.0	18.6		
Siemens (Sept year-ends)														
Industry Automation & Drives	9,172	11,930	9,215	10,230	9,780	14,687	11,106	118.1	90.9	6.6	23.1	20.5		
Oil and Gas	1,151	1,710	930	1,409	1,294	1,997	1,556	(21.1)	31.1	12.4	16.8	67.3		
Power T&D	7,122	9,637	5,848	12,056	7,779	7,877	6,637	(35.5)	15.1	9.2	(18.3)	13.5		
Healthcare	1,504	2,093	1,171	1,223	1,137	1,901	1,319	6.3	(9.8)	(24.4)	(9.2)	12.7		
Areva T&D														
Revenues	6,218	5,865	9,388	8,450	7,883	7,397	11,599	28.0	68.0	26.8	26.1	23.5		
Cummins														
Domestic	4,292	4,451	3,954	3,094	4,132	4,081	5,970	(33.0)	(34.0)	(3.7)	(8.3)	51.0		
International	2,779	3,447	3,551	3,053	937	723	843	108.9	51.9	(66.3)	(79.0)	(76.3)		
L&T														
Engineering and Construction	55,417	59,896	76,326	91,720	65,729	68,541	69,980	56.0	35.6	18.6	14.4	(8.3)		
Electrical and Electronics	5,776	7,605	6,469	6,940	5,759	7,088	7,214	12.3	(3.3)	(0.3)	(6.8)	11.5		
Machinery & Industrial products	6,335	6,846	5,293	6,070	4,370	5,096	5,911	(6.6)	(22.2)	(31.0)	(25.6)	11.7		
Voltas														
Unitary Cooling Products	4,008	1,607	1,177	2,346	4,295	2,019	1,692	(5.0)	9.6	7.2	25.6	43.8		
Engineering agency & services	1,364	1,617	1,099	1,342	1,139	1,170	1,173	(31.3)	(6.9)	(16.5)	(27.7)	6.8		
Electromechanical Projects	4,632	5,874	6,258	8,701	6,272	6,807	6,267	67.5	85.8	35.4	15.9	0.1		
Elecon Engineering														
Material handling equipment	985	1,430	1,437	1,991	1,485	1,659	1,498	35.7	(1.6)	50.8	16.0	4.3		
Transmission equipments	753	1,144	1,071	976	907	943	1,052	34.4	(30.4)	20.4	(17.6)	(1.7)		
Voltamp														
Revenues	1,701	1,700	1,364	1,666	1,042	1,112	1,445	(4.5)	23.2	(38.8)	(34.6)	5.9		
Blue Star														
Electromechanical Projects	3,793	4,751	4,221	5,132	3,230	4,178	4,628	12.0	2.4	(14.9)	(12.1)	9.6		
Unitary Cooling Products	2,160	1,290	950	1,634	1,909	1,116	954	(5.3)	(4.1)	(11.6)	(13.5)	0.4		

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

HVDC unlikely to contribute significantly to order inflows; state utilities started 765 kV orders

HVDC orders (especially 800 kV) are likely to form a very small portion of the total ordering activity of PGCIL, also highlighted recently by PGCIL management. Areva has not bid for the 800kV HVDC corridors in the Chicken Neck area associated with North East - Northern/ Western Interconnector-I Project as (1) they believe that the Indian grid network is not ready to handle this technology – 800 kV HVDC technology is very new not only in India but globally as well, (2) the project involves very steep delivery schedules – 56 very large transformers in a period of 2.5 years and (3) unwillingness to take on supplier credit – as the project would involve higher proportion of import content. Areva management also cited that PGCIL is likely to revisit its plans for the project and scale it down to 600 kV technology versus 800 kV earlier.

Also highlight start of orders of 765 kV technology from state utilities (e.g. Rajasthan and UP state utilities).

ABB's, Siemens premiums have corrected but are still high

The current one-year forward P/E multiple premiums of Siemens and ABB over the Sensex have seen a reduction versus historical average levels. However, we believe that these premiums still remain high for the current market environment and growth prospects for the companies. ABB is trading at a one-year forward P/E premium of 63% over the Sensex versus its historical 5-year average of 91%, while Siemens is trading at a premium of 55.6% versus its historical average of 58.1%. The near-term growth for these companies is likely to remain under pressure with (1) increasing competition from new players and existing players setting up additional capacity, (2) the demand scenario continuing to remain relatively sedate, and (3) pricing pressure likely to impact margins of the companies. Hence, we believe current P/E premiums are not justified.

Despite correction from historical levels, current P/E premium of ABB and Siemens still remains unjustified

Comparison of rolling one year forward P/E for Industrials stocks

	ABB	Siemens	Crompton	BHEL	L&T	Voltas	SENSEX
P/E comparison (X)							
Average 5-year P/E	30.6	25.4	15.3	21.6	21.4	17.0	16.0
Current P/E	25.0	23.9	17.7	20.4	22.7	15.7	15.4
P/E premium over Sensex comparison (%)							
Average 5-year premium over sensex P/E	91.0	58.1	(4.7)	34.6	33.4	6.0	N.A.
Current P/E premium over SENSEX	62.9	55.6	15.5	32.8	47.5	2.2	N.A.
Peak levels							
Peak P/E (X)	61.7	51.3	30.4	43.2	45.7	38.1	23.7
P/E premium at peak (%)	173.4	127.3	34.8	91.4	96.3	69.0	N.A.

Source: Bloomberg, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Retain REDUCE on ABB and Siemens and BUY on Crompton

We retain our REDUCE rating on ABB (TP Rs720/share) and Siemens (TP Rs635/share) based on (1) high valuations unjustifiable given present market environment, and (2) potential of negative surprises in earnings led by execution as well as margins. Key catalysts for the stocks would be (1) higher-than-expected execution and margins and (2) strong order flows from Power Grid and industrial and private sector orders.

We have a BUY rating on Crompton (TP Rs450/share) based on (1) relatively attractive valuations, (2) diversified business in terms of segments (exposed to power, industrials and consumer segments) and geographies (over 50% of revenues expected from international markets in FY2010E), and (3) strong cash flow generation characteristics—the company generated operating cash flow of Rs8.7 bn in FY2009 (versus a PAT of Rs4.7 bn).

Siemens global results also reflects weakness in international markets

Siemens global results had weak takeaways as (1) Siemens reported sharp 15% yoy decline in order inflows in the quarter ended December 2009 even though this quarter has benefit of favorable yoy comparison (December 08 quarter order inflows declined 8% yoy), (2) specifically European order inflows were down 17% yoy, (3) revenues also declined 8% and Siemens AG is guiding for a single-digit drop in revenues for the full year as well. We believe that these results carry incrementally negative takeaways for companies such as Crompton, Cummins etc that have portions of their business aligned to global industrial demand.

Disappointing revenues and order inflows led by slowdown in industry and energy segments

Siemens AG reported disappointing revenues and sedate order inflows due to slowdown in industry and energy segments. The company reported 1QFY10 revenues of EUR17.4 bn, down 12% yoy. Order inflows stood at EUR19 bn, down 15% yoy. Margin improvement across all segments boosts sector profits by 11% yoy. Management guides for mid-single-digit yoy decline in revenues in FY2010E and total sector profits of about EUR6-6.5 bn in FY2010E versus EUR7.5 bn in FY2009 and EUR6.6 bn in FY2008.

Siemens AG, 1QFY10 results, Year-ends September 30 (Euro mn)

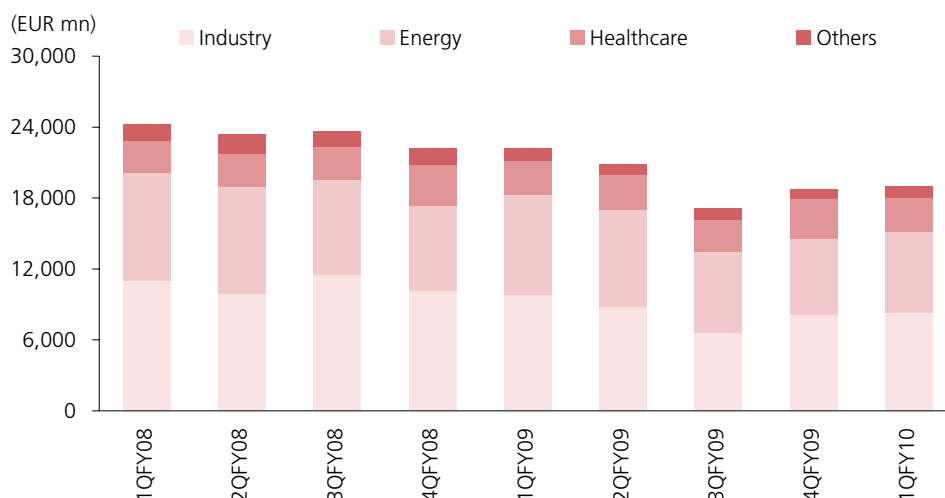
	Dec-09	Dec-08	Sep-09	% change		FY2009	FY2008	% chg.
				yoy	qoq			
Order inflows	18,976	22,220	18,747	(14.6)	1.2	78,991	93,495	(15.5)
Industry	8,249	9,776	8,110	(15.6)	1.7	33,284	42,502	(21.7)
Energy	6,918	8,534	6,487	(18.9)	6.6	30,076	33,428	(10.0)
Healthcare	2,869	2,896	3,331	(0.9)	(13.9)	11,950	11,779	1.5
Revenues	17,352	19,634	19,714	(11.6)	(12.0)	76,651	77,327	(0.9)
Industry	8,070	9,288	8,981	(13.1)	(10.1)	35,043	37,755	(7.2)
Energy	5,616	6,232	6,761	(9.9)	(16.9)	25,793	22,577	14.2
Healthcare	2,831	2,936	3,142	(3.6)	(9.9)	11,927	11,170	6.8
EBIT	2,255	2,032	1,923	11.0	17.3	7,466	6,597	13.2
Industry	911	934	562	(2.5)	62.1	2,701	3,938	(31.4)
Energy	821	756	878	8.6	(6.5)	3,315	1,434	131.2
Healthcare	523	342	483	52.9	8.3	1,450	1,225	18.4
EBIT margin (%)	13.0	10.3	9.8			9.7	8.5	
Industry	11.3	10.1	6.3			7.7	10.4	
Energy	14.6	12.1	13.0			12.9	6.4	
Healthcare	18.5	11.6	15.4			12.2	11.0	
Net profit	1,526	1,260	(982)	21.1	(255.4)	2,457	1,859	32.2

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Sedate order inflow on yoy basis, sequentially flat after about 10% qoq growth in 4QFY09

Siemens reported order inflows of EUR19 bn for 1QFY10, down 15% yoy from EUR22 bn in 1QFY09. Industry and energy segments saw order inflows of EUR8.2 bn and EUR6.9 bn, respectively, decline of 16% and 19% on yoy basis respectively. The healthcare segment showed a yoy flat order inflow to EUR2.9 bn. Order inflows from EMEA region decline by 17% yoy, followed by decline of about 7% from Asia/Australia region. Order inflows from China grew at a modest rate of 5%. Book-to-bill ratio of the company has marginally declined to 1.09X at end-1QFY10 from 1.13X at end-1QFY09. Order inflows are almost flat on a qoq basis. The energy sector has reported a 7% qoq increase in inflow which is offset by about 14% qoq decline in inflows in Healthcare.

Sector-wise quarterly order inflows for Siemens AG, 1QFY08 - 1QFY10, (Euro mn)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

ABB 4QCY09 results expectations: Expect moderate revenue growth

We expect ABB to report a moderate revenue growth of 6.3% in 4QCY09E to Rs23 bn from Rs21.7 bn in 4QCY08. We highlight that high exposure to the industrial segment and withdrawal from RGGVY projects could lead to potential negative surprises. We highlight that the company had reported a yoy decline of 6.6% in revenues in 9MCOY09. We estimate the margins of the company to remain relatively flat on a yoy basis at 12.5% in 4QCY10E. We expect the company to report a net profit after tax of Rs2.1 bn in 4QCY10E, up 9.6% yoy, from Rs1.9 bn in 4QCY09.

We believe order booking would remain the key factor driving the stock performance as it is likely to be an indicator of recovery in the industrial segment. We highlight that order booking for ABB had seen a marginal revival in the previous quarter versus a decline seen in the 1QCY09; however, booking momentum still remains weak.

ABB - 4QCY09E consolidated revenue model (Rs mn)

	4QCY09E	4QCY08	3QCY09	% chg.		CY2009E	CY2008	% chg.
				4QCY08	3QCY09			
Sales	23,024	21,663	14,689	6.3	56.7	66,793	68,510	(2.5)
Expenses	(20,146)	(18,984)	(13,315)	6.1	51.3	(59,890)	(60,713)	(1.4)
EBITDA	2,878	2,680	1,375	7.4	109.4	6,903	7,797	(11.5)
Other income	681	507	7	34.5	9,005	942	1,164	(19.1)
PBDIT	3,560	3,186	1,382	11.7	157.5	7,845	8,961	(12.5)
Interest	(60)	(159)	(44)	(62.4)	35.9	(367)	(262)	40.1
Depreciation	(145)	(103)	(127)	40.6	14.5	(505)	(367)	37.6
PBT	3,275	2,925	1,212	12.0	170.3	6,973	8,332	(16.3)
Tax	(1,158)	(993)	(381)	16.6	203.9	(2,406)	(2,858)	(15.8)
Net profit	2,117	1,931	831	9.6	154.9	4,567	5,474	(16.6)
Key ratios (%)								
EBITDA margin	12.5	12.4	9.4			10.3	11.4	
PBDIT Margin	15.5	14.7	9.4			11.7	13.1	
PBT Margin	14.2	13.5	8.2			10.4	12.2	
Tax rate	35.4	34.0	31.4			34.5	35.5	
PAT Margin	9.2	8.9	5.7			6.8	8.0	

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Areva 4QCY09 results highlights

Areva T&D reported 4QCY09 revenues of Rs11.6 bn, up 23.5% yoy and up 56.8% on a sequential basis. Strong sales growth was credited to (1) productivity improvements and swift execution of orders in hand and (2) increasing contribution from new factories (Areva has set up eight new factories – at three sites). EBITDA margin at 12% was down 260 bps yoy, primarily led by higher raw material and staff expenses as a percentage of sales. The yoy decline in operating margin was attributed to (1) sharp decline in prices, (2) ramp-up costs for new factories and (3) change in mix towards system business. However, on a sequential basis, the margin has expanded by 340 bps due to lower staff costs and other expenses as a percentage of sales. The depreciation cost for 4QCY09 was up 115% yoy to Rs242 mn as all the greenfield factories were capitalized during the quarter. Lower yoy operating margin and higher depreciation costs led to a yoy decline in net profit (before exceptional items) of 20.8% to Rs630 mn versus Rs796 mn in 4QCY08.

For the full year ending December 31, 2009, Areva T&D reported total revenues of Rs35.3 bn, up 33.3% yoy. The company reported EBITDA margins of 11.9% (down 410 bps yoy) and net profit of about Rs2 bn, down 16.9% yoy, from Rs2.4 bn in CY2008.

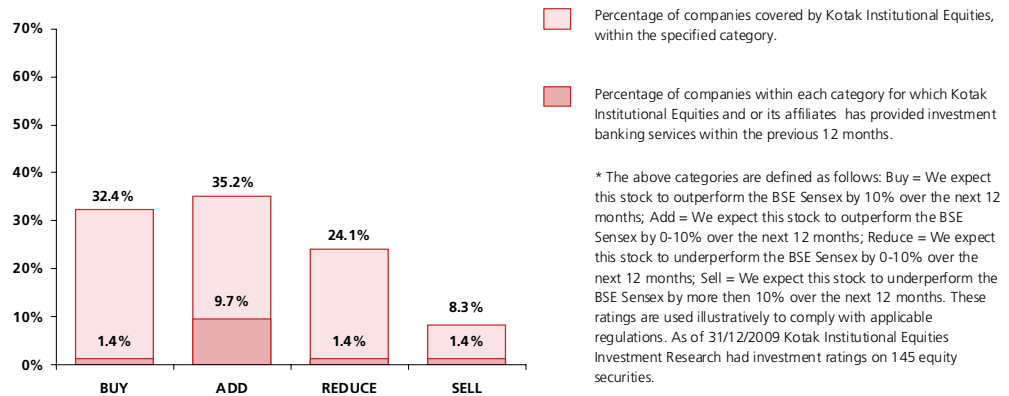
Areva 4QCY09 results - key numbers (Rs mn)

	4QCY09	4QCY08	3QCY09	% change		CY2009	CY2008	% change
				4QCY08	3QCY09			
Net Sales	11,599	9,388	7,397	23.5	56.8	35,328	26,499	33.3
(Inc)/Dec in WIP	(243)	(248)	(45)	(1.8)	440.4	(392)	886	(144.2)
Raw material consumption	(7,986)	(6,180)	(5,127)	29.2	55.8	(24,204)	(17,769)	36.2
Staff cost	(844)	(584)	(730)	44.4	15.7	(2,924)	(2,126)	37.6
Other items	(1,132)	(1,001)	(860)	13.2	31.7	(3,619)	(3,269)	10.7
Total Expenditure	(10,205)	(8,013)	(6,761)	27.4	50.9	(31,140)	(22,278)	39.8
EBITDA	1,394	1,375	636	1.3	119.3	4,188	4,221	(0.8)
Other income	1	0	-	600.0	NA	1	53	(98.7)
PBDIT	1,394	1,375	636	1.4	119.4	4,189	4,275	(2.0)
Interest	(173)	(138)	(121)	25.4	43.4	(579)	(300)	93.0
Depreciation	(242)	(113)	(174)	115.5	39.5	(611)	(375)	63.2
PBT	978	1,125	341	(13.0)	187.1	2,998	3,600	(16.7)
Tax	(348)	(328)	(117)	6.1	198.1	(1,010)	(1,207)	(16.3)
PAT	630	796	224	(20.8)	181.3	1,988	2,393	(16.9)
Exceptional items	51	(244)	-	(120.8)	NA	(68)	(130)	(47.7)
Reported PAT	681	552	224	23.2	203.9	1,920	2,263	(15.2)
Key Ratios								
Raw Material to Sales	70.9	68.5	69.9			69.6	63.7	
Staff Cost to sales	7.3	6.2	9.9			8.3	8.0	
Other exp to sales	9.8	10.7	11.6			10.2	12.3	
EBITDA margin	12.0	14.6	8.6			11.9	15.9	
PBDIT margin	12.0	14.6	8.6			11.9	16.1	
Effective tax rate	35.6	29.2	34.3			33.7	33.5	
PAT Margin	5.4	8.5	3.0			5.6	9.0	
Order details								
Order inflow	14,180	7,834	10,288	81.0	37.8	42,262	40,249	5.0
Order backlog	47,720	40,786	45,139	17.0	5.7	47,720	40,786	17.0

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Kotak Institutional Equities Research coverage universe

Distribution of ratings/investment banking relationships



Source: Kotak Institutional Equities

As of December 31, 2009

Ratings and other definitions/identifiers

Rating system

Definitions of ratings

BUY. We expect this stock to outperform the BSE Sensex by 10% over the next 12 months.

ADD. We expect this stock to outperform the BSE Sensex by 0-10% over the next 12 months.

REDUCE. We expect this stock to underperform the BSE Sensex by 0-10% over the next 12 months.

SELL. We expect this stock to underperform the BSE Sensex by more than 10% over the next 12 months.

Our target price are also on 12-month horizon basis.

Other definitions

Coverage view. The coverage view represents each analyst’s overall fundamental outlook on the Sector. The coverage view will consist of one of the following designations: Attractive (A), Neutral (N), Cautious (C).

Other ratings/identifiers

NR = Not Rated. The investment rating and target price, if any, have been suspended temporarily. Such suspension is in compliance with applicable regulation(s) and/or Kotak Securities policies in circumstances when Kotak Securities or its affiliates is acting in an advisory capacity in a merger or strategic transaction involving this company and in certain other circumstances.

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NA = Not Available or Not Applicable. The information is not available for display or is not applicable.

NM = Not Meaningful. The information is not meaningful and is therefore excluded.

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