

Company

23 July 2009 | 11 pages

United Phosphorus (UNPO.BO)

 Equity

Buy: Handsome Beat in 1Q; Maintain as Top Pick

- Strengths shining through** — Trends in 1Q reflect the resilience in UPL's business model, as it absorbed the impact of high cost RM inventory & postponement of sales in key markets to materially beat estimates (rec. PAT by 16%). Concerns over the impact of poor/delayed monsoon in India & pricing pressure in global markets appear overdone to us. Maintain as Top Pick.
- 1Q: Strong beat** — Rec. PAT beat our estimate by 16%. Reported figures up to EBIDTA (sales up 26% YoY; margins down 56bps) are skewed by seeds sales on behalf of Advanta. Excluding this, sales grew 20% YoY despite postponement of sales in India (+2% YoY) & US (+24% YoY) and EBIDTA margins expanded 36bps, despite use of high cost RM in stock. Rec. PAT grew 6% YoY (lower other income & higher interest), which was impressive, given the high base last year.
- Exploring synergies with Advanta** — UPL is exploring front-end synergies with Advanta by integrating the sales & distribution teams in India. It has started using its distribution network to sell seeds on Advanta's behalf (Rs770m sales in 1Q). This will likely remain on a no-profit-no-loss basis (source & sell at the same price) for a year as they figure out the extent of synergies – which would then be shared between the two companies.
- Other key takeaways** — a) Benefit of lower RM cost to reflect in future quarters as high cost inventory has been used up; b) India: Some pushing out of sales but off-take has picked up over last 15 days; c) Debt higher by cRs3.6bn to fund higher working capital – likely to ease over the year; d) Pricing: EU is still strong, US is better for UPL due to low base last year, and India is competitive.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Buy/High Risk | 1H |
| Price (23 Jul 09) | Rs149.90 |
| Target price | Rs223.00 |
| Expected share price return | 48.8% |
| Expected dividend yield | 1.0% |
| Expected total return | 49.8% |
| Market Cap | Rs65,891M |
| | US\$1,361M |

Price Performance (RIC: UNPO.BO, BB: UNTP IN)



Statistical Abstract

| Year to | Net Profit | Diluted EPS | EPS growth | P/E | P/B | ROE | Yield |
|---------|------------|-------------|------------|------|-----|------|-------|
| 31 Mar | (RsM) | (Rs) | (%) | (x) | (x) | (%) | (%) |
| 2007A | 2,897 | 7.20 | 27.1 | 20.8 | 4.0 | 20.9 | 0.4 |
| 2008A | 4,183 | 9.04 | 25.6 | 16.6 | 2.9 | 22.4 | 0.7 |
| 2009E | 6,179 | 13.36 | 47.7 | 11.2 | 2.4 | 24.7 | 1.0 |
| 2010E | 7,069 | 15.28 | 14.4 | 9.8 | 1.9 | 23.0 | 1.0 |
| 2011E | 8,289 | 17.92 | 17.3 | 8.4 | 1.6 | 21.1 | 1.0 |

Source: Powered by dataCentral

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

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| Fiscal year end 31-Mar | 2007 | 2008 | 2009E | 2010E | 2011E |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Valuation Ratios | | | | | |
| P/E adjusted (x) | 20.8 | 16.6 | 11.2 | 9.8 | 8.4 |
| EV/EBITDA adjusted (x) | 13.1 | 10.4 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 5.1 |
| P/BV (x) | 4.0 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 1.6 |
| Dividend yield (%) | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Per Share Data (Rs) | | | | | |
| EPS adjusted | 7.20 | 9.04 | 13.36 | 15.28 | 17.92 |
| EPS reported | 7.01 | 7.12 | 10.49 | 15.28 | 17.92 |
| BVPS | 37.16 | 50.93 | 62.91 | 77.29 | 96.45 |
| DPS | 0.60 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Profit & Loss (RsM) | | | | | |
| Net sales | 24,498 | 37,306 | 49,317 | 54,742 | 59,866 |
| Operating expenses | -20,483 | -31,773 | -41,484 | -45,688 | -49,433 |
| EBIT | 4,015 | 5,534 | 7,833 | 9,054 | 10,433 |
| Net interest expense | -1,046 | -1,208 | -1,759 | -1,608 | -1,509 |
| Non-operating/exceptionals | 135 | -832 | -1,154 | 642 | 749 |
| Pre-tax profit | 3,104 | 3,493 | 4,920 | 8,088 | 9,674 |
| Tax | -525 | -424 | -269 | -1,294 | -1,741 |
| Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div. | 241 | 222 | 200 | 274 | 356 |
| Reported net income | 2,821 | 3,291 | 4,851 | 7,069 | 8,289 |
| Adjusted earnings | 2,897 | 4,183 | 6,179 | 7,069 | 8,289 |
| Adjusted EBITDA | 5,671 | 7,056 | 9,760 | 11,079 | 12,485 |
| Growth Rates (%) | | | | | |
| Sales | 36.4 | 52.3 | 32.2 | 11.0 | 9.4 |
| EBIT adjusted | 17.1 | 37.8 | 41.6 | 15.6 | 15.2 |
| EBITDA adjusted | 17.4 | 24.4 | 38.3 | 13.5 | 12.7 |
| EPS adjusted | 27.1 | 25.6 | 47.7 | 14.4 | 17.3 |
| Cash Flow (RsM) | | | | | |
| Operating cash flow | 8,820 | 2,136 | -1,458 | 6,942 | 8,097 |
| Depreciation/amortization | 1,656 | 1,522 | 1,927 | 2,025 | 2,052 |
| Net working capital | 4,424 | -2,407 | -7,598 | -1,721 | -1,912 |
| Investing cash flow | -12,394 | -5,735 | -2,239 | -1,278 | -1,388 |
| Capital expenditure | -4,350 | -1,527 | -552 | -720 | -713 |
| Acquisitions/disposals | -6,986 | -2,650 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Financing cash flow | 6,784 | 7,947 | 1,628 | -3,100 | -4,734 |
| Borrowings | 7,247 | -3,279 | 2,378 | -2,350 | -7,100 |
| Dividends paid | -454 | -14 | -750 | -750 | -789 |
| Change in cash | 3,210 | 4,348 | -2,068 | 2,564 | 1,975 |
| Balance Sheet (RsM) | | | | | |
| Total assets | 47,837 | 52,706 | 64,062 | 68,725 | 74,593 |
| Cash & cash equivalent | 4,604 | 4,946 | 4,237 | 7,076 | 9,407 |
| Accounts receivable | 5,697 | 8,541 | 11,410 | 13,467 | 14,726 |
| Net fixed assets | 10,921 | 12,797 | 14,032 | 14,307 | 14,780 |
| Total liabilities | 32,841 | 30,271 | 36,366 | 34,711 | 29,924 |
| Accounts payable | 12,504 | 12,514 | 16,250 | 16,459 | 17,999 |
| Total Debt | 19,593 | 15,683 | 18,060 | 15,710 | 8,610 |
| Shareholders' funds | 14,996 | 22,435 | 27,696 | 34,015 | 44,669 |
| Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%) | | | | | |
| EBITDA margin adjusted | 23.1 | 18.9 | 19.8 | 20.2 | 20.9 |
| ROE adjusted | 20.9 | 22.4 | 24.7 | 23.0 | 21.1 |
| ROIC adjusted | 15.0 | 18.8 | 23.8 | 21.1 | 22.5 |
| Net debt to equity | 99.9 | 47.9 | 49.9 | 25.4 | -1.8 |
| Total debt to capital | 56.6 | 41.1 | 39.5 | 31.6 | 16.2 |

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Handsome Beat in 1Q; Maintain as Top Pick

Trends in 1Q reflect the resilience in UPL's business model, as it absorbed the impact of high cost RM inventory & postponement of sales in key markets to materially beat estimates (rec. PAT by 16%). Concerns over the impact of poor / delayed monsoon in India & pricing pressure in global markets appear overdone to us. Maintain as Top Pick.

1QFY10 Results Snapshot

Figure 1. United Phosphorus 1QFY10 Consolidated Earnings Summary (Rs m, %)

| Year Ended March | 1QFY09 | 1QFY10 | % Ch YoY | 4QFY09 | % Ch QoQ | CIRA Comments |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Revenues | 12,993 | 16,377 | 26.0 | 13,917 | 17.7 | Recurring PAT is c16% above our estimate |
| Cost of Revenues | 8,230 | 10,754 | 30.7 | 8,292 | 29.7 | Numbers include some sales of seeds on behalf of Advanta on a no profit, no loss basis. Numbers excluding these sales are more relevant (see analysis in figure 3) |
| Gross Profit | 4,763 | 5,622 | 18.0 | 5,626 | (0.1) | 1QFY09 revenues includes Rs770m from sales of seeds on behalf of Advanta – like-to-like revenue growth of 20% |
| Gross Margins (%) | 36.7 | 34.3 | -233 bps | 40.4 | -609 bps | EBIDTA & gross margins appear lower due to the seeds sales. Excluding this, gross margins dipped 60bps (use of high cost RM inventory) while EBITDA margins expanded 36bps (control over fixed overheads) |
| Operating Expenses | 2,254 | 2,552 | 13.2 | 2,696 | (5.3) | Sequential decline in depreciation & amortization driven by high amortization in 4Q (UPL provides for full year amortisation even on intangible assets created in 4Q) |
| EBITDA | 2,509 | 3,070 | 22.4 | 2,930 | 4.8 | EO items: Translation loss of Rs117m in 1QFY10 (Rs330m in 1QFY09) net of tax (15%) |
| EBITDA Margins (%) | 19.3 | 18.7 | -56 bps | 21.1 | -230 bps | |
| Depreciation | 378 | 501 | 32.8 | 638 | (21.4) | |
| Interest/Finance Charges | 304 | 461 | 51.5 | 575 | (19.8) | |
| Other Income | 147 | 65 | (55.9) | 85 | (23.3) | |
| PBT | 1,975 | 2,173 | 10.0 | 1,802 | 20.6 | |
| Tax | 148 | 187 | 26.1 | 137 | 36.3 | |
| Deferred Tax | 92 | 98 | 7.1 | (154) | (163.7) | |
| Effective Rate (%) | 12.1 | 13.1 | 97 bps | (1.0) | nm | |
| PAT | 1,735 | 1,888 | 8.8 | 1,819 | 3.8 | |
| Income from Associates | 22 | (26) | (215.2) | 29 | (189.6) | |
| Recurring Net Income | 1,757 | 1,862 | 6.0 | 1,848 | 0.8 | |
| Extraordinary exp / (inc) | 281 | 99 | (64.5) | 341 | (70.8) | |
| Reported Net Income | 1,477 | 1,763 | 19.4 | 1,508 | 16.9 | |

Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 2. United Phosphorus 1QFY10 Consolidated Revenue Breakup (Rs m, %)

| Year Ended March | 1QFY09 | 1QFY10 | % Ch YoY | 4QFY09 | % Ch QoQ | CIRA Comments |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| International Sales | 10,279 | 12,759 | 24.1 | 12,041 | 6.0 | Pricing remains strong – up 4% YoY on average |
| % of Total Sales | 78.2 | 77.6 | | 86.0 | | Currency component of growth at 6-7%; volumes up 15% |
| North America | 3,534 | 4,379 | 23.9 | 3,036 | 44.2 | Better pricing YoY in North America but muted volumes due to delay in planting season |
| Europe | 4,177 | 4,855 | 16.2 | 5,853 | (17.1) | |
| Rest of the World | 2,567 | 3,525 | 37.3 | 3,152 | 11.8 | RoW market sales driven by YoY growth in LatAm, Japan |
| Domestic Sales | 2,862 | 3,683 | 28.7 | 1,961 | 87.8 | India sales affected by delay in planting season and decline in chloralkali sales – c6% YoY growth in sales adjusted for seeds and chloralkali sales |
| % of Total Sales | 21.8 | 22.4 | | 14.0 | | |
| India - UPL | 2,862 | 2,913 | 1.8 | 1,961 | 48.6 | |
| India – Seeds (Advanta) | - | 770 | nm | - | nm | |
| Total sales | 13,141 | 16,442 | 25.1 | 14,002 | 17.4 | |

Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

UPL sources seeds from Advanta & sells the same on a no-profit-no-loss basis.

Will charge for distribution once they figure out the extent of synergy benefits to be shared between the two companies

Figure 3. United Phosphorus 1QFY10 – Adjusted for Seeds Sales on Behalf of Advanta (Rs m, %)

| Year Ended March | 1QFY09 | 1QFY10 | | | 4QFY09 | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | UPL | UPL | % Ch YoY | Seeds | Combined | UPL | % Ch QoQ |
| Revenues | 12,993 | 15,607 | 20.1 | 770 | 16,377 | 13,917 | 12.1 |
| Cost of Revenues | 8,230 | 9,984 | 21.3 | 770 | 10,754 | 8,292 | 20.4 |
| Gross Profit | 4,763 | 5,622 | 18.0 | - | 5,622 | 5,626 | (0.1) |
| Gross Margins (%) | 36.7 | 36.0 | -63 bps | 0.0 | 34.3 | 40.4 | -440 bps |
| Operating Expenses | 2,254 | 2,552 | 13.2 | - | 2,552 | 2,696 | (5.3) |
| EBITDA | 2,509 | 3,070 | 22.4 | - | 3,070 | 2,930 | 4.8 |
| EBITDA Margins (%) | 19.3 | 19.7 | 36 bps | 0.0 | 18.7 | 21.1 | -138 bps |

Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Rate variance is on a YoY basis; may be flat sequentially; pricing better in US & stable in Europe, competitive in India

Volume growth of 15% includes seeds sales. Adjusted for this, it stands at 9% (lower than annual guidance of 15% due to postponement of the seasons in India & North America)

Figure 4. United Phosphorus 1QFY10 – Sales Growth Drivers (Rs m, %)

| | 1QFY10 | 1QFY09 | Increase | % Increase |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Sales | 16,160 | 12,870 | 3,290 | 26% |
| Exchange Impact | | | 840 | 7% |
| Quantity Variance | | | 1,910 | 15% |
| Rate Variance | | | 540 | 4% |

Source: Company Reports

Earnings call takeaways

Guidance update

- Maintains FY10 guidance of c10-15% volume growth & EBITDA margins in the range of 19-20% - does not include the seeds sales on behalf of Advanta.
- This is contingent on currency. Revenue growth could be higher if INR does not appreciate materially vis-à-vis the US\$ & Euro.

Update on Key Markets

- **India:** Muted volume growth (c6% in agchem) due to delay in monsoon. However, the level of optimism has increased in the last 15 days.
 - No inventory write offs are likely even if sales are lower as the buying season typically extends till October & products have 2-3 year shelf life.
 - Topline impacted to the extent of Rs100-110m by lower ECU realizations (chloralkali business) – lower by c30% over 1QFY09.
- **North America:** Pricing is better YoY due to renegotiation of contracts. UPL had not received the benefit of higher prices last year despite the rise in input costs. This is being corrected now.
 - Delay in planting season has led to muted volume growth. UPL expects this to catch up in the rest of the year.
 - Competitive scenario remains more challenging in the US than Europe.
- **Europe:** Pricing remains strong
 - Early indications of a good season ahead.
 - Cerexagri restructuring complete except for some manufacturing related issues which UPL expects will wind up in FY10.
- **RoW markets:**
 - Mexico, Columbia sales remain strong
 - Expect Lat Am sales to pick up going forward
 - Japan is a key market in the Asia-Pacific region

Exploring front end synergies with Advanta in India

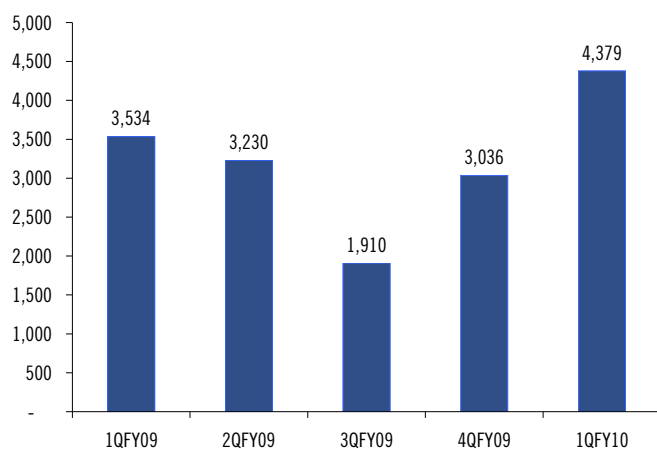
- UPL & Advanta have integrated their sales and marketing efforts in the Indian market into a single team allowing Advanta to leverage UPL's much wider distribution network. This helps UPL target key customers with a composite offering (seeds plus crop chemicals), thus allowing significant benefits to both businesses.
- cRs770m of sales from Advanta's seeds business in 1QFY10
- No margins captured in UPL's books so far. Entire income is passed through to Advanta till the synergy benefits can be identified (likely to take 12 months). Post this, the synergies would be shared between the two companies by way of UPL charging Advanta for distribution.

Balance Sheet

- Outstanding gross debt of Rs23bn (c70% forex) including US\$67m FCCBs
- Cash & bank balances of Rs4.5bn cash
- Net working capital up to 94 days from 91 days at March '09 end
- Capex of Rs2bn in FY10

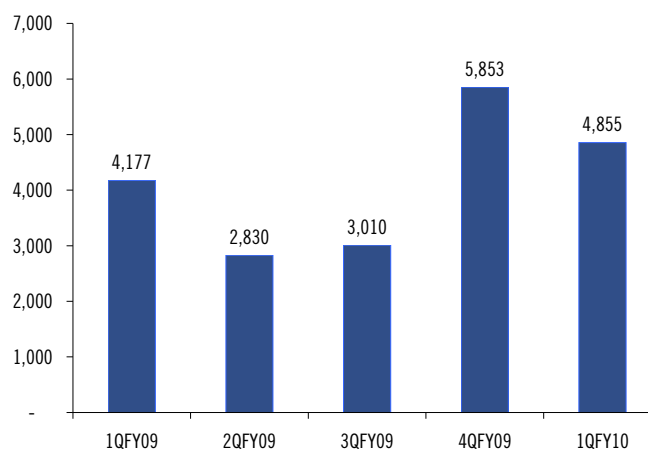
Sales Trend – Key Markets

Figure 5. North America Revenues (Rs m)



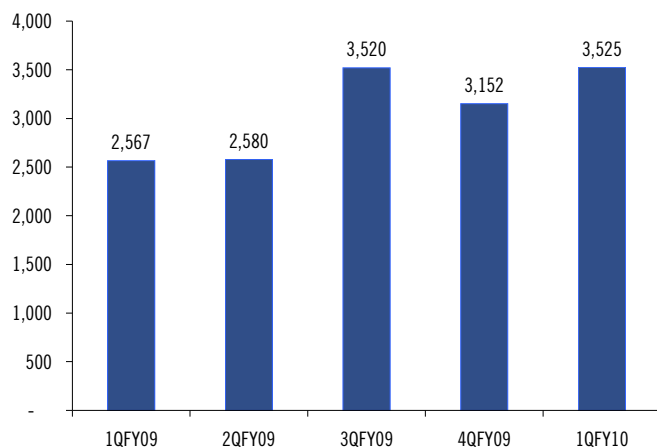
Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 6. EU Revenues (Rs m)



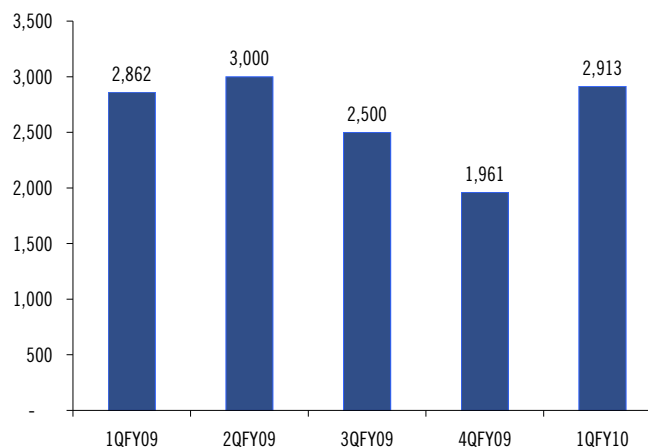
Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 7. RoW Revenues (Rs m)



Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 8. India Revenues (excludes seeds revenues) (Rs m)



Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research and Analysis

United Phosphorus

Company description

UPL is the only Indian play on the global generics opportunity in crop protection products. It has focused on the generics opportunity in the regulated markets of the US and Europe, and has achieved success over the past decade. Apart from fully integrated manufacturing facilities, UPL also has strong distribution infrastructure across its targeted markets. UPL's growth strategy is built around filing its own registrations and acquiring tail-end brands of global majors in regulated markets. With c.80% of its revenue coming from global markets and a strong direct presence in the targeted markets, UPL has emerged as the third-largest generics company in the world.

Investment strategy

We rate the stock Buy/High Risk (1H), with a target price of Rs223/share. UPL is the only Indian play on the global crop protection market, with over 80% of revenues coming from global markets. The global crop protection market looks attractive and is highly consolidated, with limited generics penetration, due to the high entry barriers that generate pricing discipline. UPL has reached critical scale in the regulated markets of the EU and US through a series of acquisitions over the past two to three years. We believe that UPL's growing free cash flows give it the ability to step up growth initiatives - both organic and inorganic. We forecast FY09-11E revenue and net profit CAGRs of 10% and 16% respectively, which although relatively modest are impressive given that it comes on the back of a record FY09.

Valuation

The generics crop protection segment is likely to witness healthy growth, with leading companies such as UPL expected to be among the key beneficiaries. We therefore believe that P/E vs. earnings CAGR or EV/EBIDTA vs. EBIDTA CAGR is the correct metric to value companies such as UPL. Our target price is based on 14x 12-month forward earnings, which is the median P/E multiple for UPL over the last five years and is within its trading range of 9-21x since

January 2004, when the stock got re-listed post the reverse merger with its subsidiary (Search Chem). Our target price of Rs223/share is based on 14x June '10E earnings.

Risks

Our risk rating on UPL is High Risk, in line with our quantitative risk-rating system, in order to account for the volatility in current markets. While we see no major concerns on the business front, the high institutional ownership of the stock leaves it vulnerable to redemption led selling pressures in the current environment. The main downside risks to our target price and estimates include: (1) Continued volatility in the availability & pricing of key raw materials; (2) Inability to effectively integrate any of its acquisitions; (3) Cut in farm subsidies in regulated markets, (4) Poor monsoons in India.

Appendix A-1

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United Phosphorus (UNPO.BO)

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Fundamental Research

Analyst: Prashant Nair, CFA

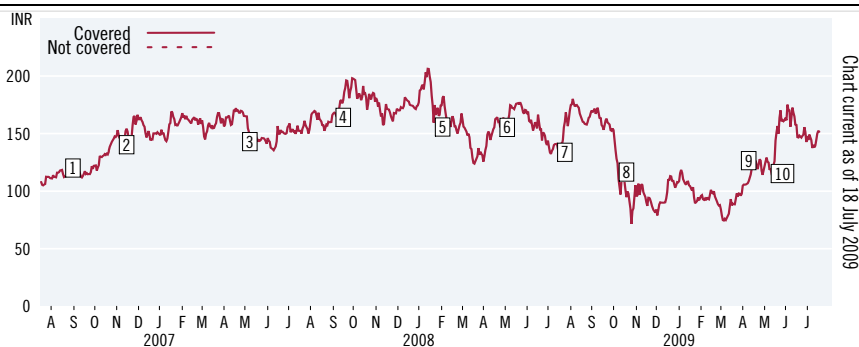


Chart current as of 18 July 2009

| Date | Rating | Target Price | Closing Price |
|-------------|--------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 31-Aug-06 | 1L | *171.50 | 116.98 |
| 2 15-Nov-06 | 1L | *191.50 | 154.28 |
| 3 8-May-07 | 1L | *190.00 | 148.60 |
| 4 17-Sep-07 | 1L | *230.00 | 179.08 |

| Date | Rating | Target Price | Closing Price |
|-------------|--------|--------------|---------------|
| 5 3-Feb-08 | 1L | *222.50 | 174.60 |
| 6 4-May-08 | 1L | *229.00 | 157.63 |
| 7 24-Jul-08 | 1L | *242.50 | 160.13 |
| 8 20-Oct-08 | *1H | *161.00 | 94.75 |

| Date | Rating | Target Price | Closing Price |
|--------------|--------|--------------|---------------|
| 9 9-Apr-09 | 1H | *183.00 | 108.60 |
| 10 27-May-09 | 1H | *223.00 | 161.70 |

* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

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Data current as of 30 Jun 2009

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|--|-----|------|------|
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