BUY

Equity | India | Electric Utilities 30 October 2006

Merrill Lynch

Bharat Parekh >> +91 22 6632 8656

Research Analyst DSP Merrill Lynch (India) bharat_parekh@ml.com

Joseph Jacobelli >> +852 2161 7381

Research Analyst Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) joseph_jacobelli@ml.com

Amish Shah >> +91 22 6632 8672

Research Analyst DSP Merrill Lynch (India)

DSP Mer

Stock Data

Price	Rs129.90
Price Objective	Rs152.00
Date Established	1-Jun-2006
Investment Opinion	C-1-7
Volatility Risk	HIGH
52-Week Range	Rs90.90-Rs144.90
Mrkt Val / Shares Out (mn)	US\$23,815 / 8,245.5
Average Daily Volume	567,748
ML Symbol / Exchange	NTHPF / BSE
Bloomberg / Reuters	NATP IN / NTPC.BO
ROE (2007E)	14.4%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Mar-2006A)	27.1%
Est. 5-Yr EPS / DPS Growth	13.0% / 13.0%
Free Float	10.5%



Efficiency Gains Drive 24%YoY PAT Growth

2QFY07 - Ahead of Expectations; PAT +24%YoY

NTPC's 2QFY07 results were ahead of expectations, with sales +14%YoY at Rs67.4bn (MLe Rs65.9bn) and recurring PAT +24%YoY to Rs14.3bn (MLe Rs13.8bn). After one-time items, NTPC reported PAT of Rs14.7bn, +27%YoY. 2Q reinforces our view on its ability to generate superior growth/RoE led by efficiency linked incentives. We reiterate our Buy on the stock with PO of Rs152.

Key drivers of the strong 2QFY07 growth were:

- Higher spot market sales (UI charges).
- Better heat rates/thermal efficiency plus higher fuel prices increased the value of these incentives,
- Generation was 42.7bu, +9%YoY, mainly led by better plant load factor (PLF) at older coal plants driving up PLF-linked profits.

Value Accretive Capex Boosted: XI Plan Capacity Adds +26%

We expect NTPC to commission 3.2GW in FY07E v/s just 0.5GW last year. Further, it had recently upped its capacity add guidance by 26% for XI plan to 21.9GW. We reiterate that incremental power capex would be value accretive as it helps convert low yielding (5%) cash into higher yield power assets (RoE 19%) through capital base. NTPC has also improved fuel mix in-favour of coal based plants to 71% v/s 51% earlier, which lends a lot of certainty to its implementation.

Reiterate Buy rating with price target of Rs152

Our PO is based on a 12% discount to our DCF estimate of Rs172. We believe a mix of earnings visibility, growth (14% over FY06-12E), positive regulatory regime and improving RoE justify our Buy. **Risks:** Gas supply to existing/new plants till 2008, Upstream Oil Investments & power reforms.

Estimates (Mar)

(Rs)	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
Net Income (Adjusted - mn)	49,834	56,671	67,250	77,078	82,463
EPS	6.21	6.87	8.16	9.35	10.00
EPS Change (YoY)	21.6%	10.7%	18.7%	14.6%	7.0%
Dividend / Share	1.20	2.80	3.44	3.93	4.20
Free Cash Flow / Share	0.299	(1.14)	(4.57)	(7.08)	(14.72)

Valuation (Mar)

	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
P/E	20.93x	18.90x	15.93x	13.90x	12.99x
Dividend Yield	0.924%	2.16%	2.65%	3.03%	3.23%
EV / EBITDA*	20.34x	18.38x	14.23x	11.66x	9.23x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	0.224%	-0.881%	-3.52%	-5.45%	-11.33%
Price/Book Value	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9

 $^{^{\}star}$ For full definitions of $iQmethod^{\mathit{SM}}$ measures, see page 8

>> Employed by a non-US affiliate of MLPF&S and is not registered/qualified as a research analyst under the NYSE/NASD rules.

Merrill Lynch does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

iQprofile[™] NTPC Ltd.

Key Income Statement Data (Mar)	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
(Rs Millions)					
Sales	225,317	261,429	305,449	368,564	434,191
Gross Profit	65,726	72,314	95,388	116,309	145,974
Sell General & Admin Expense	(5,463)	(5,641)	(9,286)	(11,223)	(13,223)
Operating Profit	40,679	46,196	58,750	73,395	86,945
Net Interest & Other Income	11,867	12,497	11,561	6,898	(1,586)
Associates	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pretax Income	52,546	58,693	70,311	80,293	85,359
Tax (expense) / Benefit	(2,712)	(2,022)	(3,061)	(3,214)	(2,896)
Net Income (Adjusted)	49,834	56,671	67,250	77,078	82,463
Average Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	8,029	8,246	8,246	8,246	8,246
Key Cash Flow Statement Data					
Net Income (Reported)	49,834	56,671	67,250	77,078	82,463
Depreciation & Amortization	19,584	20,477	27,352	31,691	45,806
Change in Working Capital	(12,510)	6,241	3,520	6,760	6,950
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Flow from Operations	56,908	83,389	98,122	115,530	135,218
Capital Expenditure	(54,508)	(92,820)	(135,820)	(173,874)	(256,554)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of Investments	(7,518)	(5,000)	8,205	13,411	16,411
Other Cash Inflow / (Outflow)	(2,001)	0	0	0	0
Cash Flow from Investing	(64,027)	(97,820)	(127,615)	(160,464)	(240,143)
Shares Issue / (Repurchase)	15,464	0	(00.011)	0	0 (20, 407)
Cost of Dividends Paid	(11,283)	(26,273)	(32,311)	(36,906)	(39,427)
Cash Flow from Financing	20,531	12,108	33,322	40,907	79,927
Free Cash Flow Net Debt	2,400	(9,431)	(37,699)	(58,345)	(121,336)
Change in Net Debt	82,879 (5,298)	122,052 39,173	181,856 59,804	261,676 79,820	403,988 142,312
· ·	(3,270)	37,173	37,004	17,020	142,312
Key Balance Sheet Data					
Property, Plant & Equipment	322,433	394,776	503,244	645,428	856,176
Other Non-Current Assets	180,898	185,898	177,693	164,282	147,871
Trade Receivables	13,747	16,980	19,876	24,023	28,303
Cash & Equivalents	87,999	87,207	93,036	91,028	68,070
Other Current Assets Total Assets	54,406	62,364	70,429	80,257	90,428
	659,483	747,224	864,277	1,005,017	1,190,848
Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities	170,878 3,375	209,259 3,375	274,892 3,375	352,704 3,375	472,058 3,375
Short-Term Debt	3,373 NA	3,375 NA	3,375 NA	3,375 NA	3,375 NA
Other Current Liabilities	67,467	84,899	99,379	120,114	141,516
Total Liabilities	241,720	297,533	377,646	476,194	616,949
Total Equity	417,763	449,692	486,631	528,823	573,899
Total Equity & Liabilities	659,483	747,224	864,277	1,005,017	1,190,848
<i>iQmethod</i> ^{sм} - Bus Performance*	,	,==.		.,,	.,,
	0.00/	10.00/	10.70/	10.00/	10.00/
Return On Capital Employed	9.9%	10.2%	10.7%	10.8%	10.2%
Return On Equity	12.9%	13.1%	14.4%	15.2%	15.0%
Operating Margin	18.1%	17.7% 25.5%	19.2%	19.9%	20.0%
EBITDA Margin *Omethod** Quality of Farnings*	26.7%	25.5%	28.2%	28.5%	30.6%
iQmethod SM - Quality of Earnings*					
Cash Realization Ratio	1.1x	1.5x	1.5x	1.5x	1.6x
Asset Replacement Ratio	2.8x	4.5x	5.0x	5.5x	5.6x
Tax Rate (Reported)	5.2%	3.4%	4.4%	4.0%	3.4%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	19.8%	27.1%	37.4%	49.5%	70.4%
Interest Cover	4.7x	3.8x	4.1x	4.0x	3.6x
Key Metrics					

^{*} For full definitions of *iQmethod* SM measures, see page 8.

Company Description

NTPC is Asia's largest IPP with a capacity of 23GW (19% of India's capacity) and generates 159bu (27% of India's generation) of power. Its has 13 coal-based plants, 7 gas-based plants and 3 JV projects. It uses two main fuels, coal and gas, and is expected to start hydro generation by FY09. It plans to start coal mining in Nov 2007. Its efficienct operations makes NTPC one of the most profitable IPP in India, which earns excess RoE.

Chart 1: NTPC's Capacity Growth



Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research

Stock Data

Price to Book Value 2.20x

Revenues up 14% YoY; PAT up 24% YoY

NTPC reported 2QFY07 (ex-prior period items) sales of Rs67.4bn, +14% YoY, and EBITDA of Rs17.7bn, +16% YoY, led by 8.8% YoY increase in generation to 42.7bu. Led by lower depreciation (-8% YoY) and an effective tax rate at 5.1% (vs 6.7% for 2QFY06), NTPC registered 2QFY07 recurring PAT at Rs14.3bn, +24% YoY, ~3.5% ahead of our estimates of Rs13.8bn. However, after adjusting for prior period sales, one-time items and the impact of foreign exchange movements, the company reported PAT of Rs14.7bn up 27% YoY.

Table 1: NTPC's 2QFY07 Results Review

Year end March (Rsmn)	2QFY06	2QFY07	% YoY
Net Sales	59259	67418	14%
Fuel Cost	(36857)	(43328)	18%
% of net sales	62.2%	64.3%	
Employee Cost	(2287)	(2679)	17%
% of net sales	3.9%	4.0%	
Others	(3192)	(3723)	17%
% of net sales	5.4%	5.5%	
Rebate under one time settlement	(1737)	0	
EBITDA	15186	17688	16%
% Margin	26%	26%	
Depreciation	(5202)	(4780)	-8%
EBIT	9984	12908	29%
% Margin	17%	19%	
Interest	(3912)	(4378)	12%
Other Income: Recurring	6300	6505	3%
PBT	12372	15035	22%
Current Tax	2721	(9915)	
Deferred Tax	1008	808	
FBT	(47)	(46)	
Less: Recoverable	(4514)	8389	
Provision for tax	(832)	(764)	-8%
Recurring PAT	11540	14271	24%
Prior Period income/ (expense)	776	720	
Exchange rate gains / (losses)	1269	(252)	
Other Exceptional income/ (losses)	(1950)		
Reported PAT	11635	14739	27%

Source: Company

Table 2: NTPC's capacity expansion plan during XI plan (FY07-FY12E)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	XI Plan
	Coal Based Projects		
1	Sipat – I, Chattisgarh	1,980	1,980
2	Barh, Bihar	1,980	1,980
3	Korba-III	500	500
4	North Karanpura, Jharkhand	1,980	1,980
8	Farakka-III, West Bengal	500	500
9	NCTPP-II,Dadri	980	980
10	Integrated Power Project-Darlipalli, Orissa	3,200	800
11	Bongaigaon, Assam	500	500
12	Mauda, Maharashtra	1,000	1,000
13	Simhadri-II, AP	1,000	1,000
14	Barh-II, Bihar	1,320	660
15	Ultra Mega Power Project	4,000	800
	Total	18,940	12,680
	Gas Based Projects		
16	Kawas – II,Gujrat	1,300	1,300
17	Gandhar II,Gujrat	1,300	1,300
18	Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project-II, Kerala	1,950	1,950
	Total	4,550	4,550
	Hydro Projects		
19	Koldam, HP	800	800
20	Loharinagpala, Uttaranchal	600	600
21	Tapovan Vishnugad, Uttaranchal	520	520
	Total	1,920	1,920
	Sub-Total NTPC	25410	19,150
	JV and Subsidiaries		
1	Bhilai JV , Chattisgarh	500	500
2	Nabinagar JV, Bihar	1,000	1,000
3	Ennore JV, Tamilnaidu	1,000	1,000
4	Rammam III, Uttaranchal	120	120
5	Lata Tapovan, Uttaranchal	171	171
	Sub-Total JV & Subsidiaries	2791	2,791
	Grand Total	28201	21,941

Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research

Table 3: Profit & Loss Statement

Total Operating Income	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
	225,317	261,429	305,449	368,564	434,191
Fuel Employee Remuneration & Benefits Repair & Maintainance Administration, Other overhead Expenses & Provisions (Net) Rebate under one time settlement	137,235	163,947	185,685	224,897	255,985
	8,835	9,684	11,607	13,328	15,703
	6,708	7,437	8,706	10,522	12,397
	5,463	5,641	9,286	11,223	13,223
	6,813	8,047	0	0	0
Discount on sales (@1% of Electricity sales) EBITDA Margin%	0	0	4,063	3,507	4,132
	60,263	66,673	86,102	105,086	132,751
	<i>26.7%</i>	<i>25.5%</i>	<i>28.2%</i>	<i>28.5%</i>	<i>30.6%</i>
Depreciation & Amortization EBIT Margin%	19,584	20,477	27,352	31,691	45,806
	40,679	46,196	58,750	73,395	86,945
	<i>18.1%</i>	<i>17.7%</i>	<i>19.2%</i>	<i>19.9%</i>	<i>20.0%</i>
Interest & Finance Cost Other income Interest on Bonds Prior Period & Extra Ordinary Items PBT	8,663	12,054	14,282	18,514	24,330
	6,479	10,436	12,243	12,858	11,585
	13,949	14,115	13,600	12,554	11,159
	102	0	0	0	0
	52,546	58,693	70,311	80,293	85,359
Total Tax	2,712	2,022	3,061	3,214	2,896
Recurring PAT	49,834	56,671	67,250	77,078	82,463
Other Extraordinary Adjustments Reported PAT	8,236	1,531	2,000	2,020	2,040
	58,070	58,202	69,250	79,098	84,503
Dividend Dividend Tax Dividend Tax Rate % Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research	9,895	23,087	28,393	32,430	34,646
	1,388	3,186	3,918	4,475	4,781
	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>

Table 4: Balance Sheet

Year End Mar31(Rsmn)	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
Cash and Bank Balances	87,999	87,207	93,036	91,028	68,070
Sundry Debtors	13,747	16,980	19,876	24,023	28,303
Inventories	17,777	20,376	23,851	28,827	33,964
Loans and Advances	27,052	28,405	30,677	32,211	33,821
Other Current Assets	9,577	13,584	15,901	19,218	22,643
Total Current Assets	156,152	166,551	183,340	195,308	186,801
Other Investments	16,791	21,791	21,791	24,791	24,791
Bonds	164,107	164,107	155,902	139,491	123,080
Gross Block	431,062	509,766	631,444	708,248	958,062
Accumulated Depreciatiom	(207,914)	(228,391)	(255,743)	(287,434)	(333,240)
Net Block	223,148	281,375	375,701	420,814	624,822
CWIP	67,063	79,568	92,018	187,313	192,188
Construction Stores in Progress	32,222	33,833	35,525	37,301	39,166
TOTAL ASSETS	659,483	747,224	864,277	1,005,017	1,190,848
Current Liabilities & Provisions	67,467	84,899	99,379	120,114	141,516
Secured Loans	44,407	102,597	181,563	271,041	400,603
Unsecured Loans	126,471	106,662	93,329	81,663	71,455
Total Loans	170,878	209,259	274,892	352,704	472,058
Deferred Tax Liability	1	1	1	1	1
Advance against depreciation	3,374	3,374	3,374	3,374	3,374
Development Surcharge Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	241,720	297,533	377,646	476,194	616,949
Share Capital	82,455	82,455	82,455	82,455	82,455
Reserves & Surplus	335,308	367,237	404,176	446,368	491,444
Net Worth	417,763	449,692	486,631	528,823	573,899
TOTAL LIABILITIES + NETWORTH	659,483	747,224	864,277	1,005,017	1,190,848

Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research

Table	5.	Cach	FI	OW	Cta	tomo	nt
Table	: 0:	Casn	ГΙ	OW	Sta	ценне	ш

Year End Mar31(Rsmn)	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
PAT	58,070	58,202	69,250	79,098	84,503
D&A	19,584	20,477	27,352	31,691	45,806
Change in Debtors	(9,048)	(3,233)	(2,896)	(4,147)	(4,280)
Change in Inventories	(397)	(2,599)	(3,475)	(4,976)	(5,136)
Change in Loans and Advances	223	(1,353)	(2,272)	(1,534)	(1,611)
Change in Other CA	10,186	(4,007)	(2,317)	(3,318)	(3,424)
Change in CL & Provisions	(13,474)	17,432	14,480	20,735	21,402
Change in Working Capital	(12,510)	6,241	3,520	6,760	6,950
Cash Flow from Operations	65,144	84,920	100,122	117,550	137,259
Capex	(54,508)	(92,820)	(135,820)	(173,874)	(256,554)
Change in Investment	(7,518)	(5,000)	8,205	13,411	16,411
Others	(2,001)	0	0	0	0
Cash Flow from Investing	(64,027)	(97,820)	(127,615)	(160,464)	(240,143)
Change in Equity	4,330	0	0	0	0
Change in Reserves	11,134	0	(0)	0	0
Change in Debt	16,350	38,381	65,633	77,812	119,354
Dividend & Dividend Tax	(11,283)	(26,273)	(32,311)	(36,906)	(39,427)
Cash Flow from Financing	20,531	12,108	33,322	40,907	79,927
Inc/Dec in Cash	21,648	(792)	5,829	(2,007)	(22,958)
Opening Cash	66,351	87,999	87,207	93,036	91,028
Closing Cash	87,999	87,207	93,036	91,028	68,070
Source: Company Marrill Lynch Pasaarch					

Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research

Table 6: Key Ratios & Valuations

	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
EPS	6.21	6.87	8.16	9.35	10.00
EPS Growth	21.6%	10.7%	18.7%	14.6%	7.0%
CEPS	8.65	9.36	11.47	13.19	15.56
DPS	1.20	2.80	3.44	3.93	4.20
BV of Share	50.67	54.54	59.02	64.13	69.60
P/E	20.9	18.9	15.9	13.9	13.0
P/CEPS	15.0	13.9	11.3	9.8	8.4
Yield %	0.9%	2.2%	2.7%	3.0%	3.2%
P/BV	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9
EV/EBITDA	14.2	13.1	10.9	9.9	9.2
Net Debt	(98,019)	(63,846)	4,164	97,394	256,117
RoE	12.89%	13.07%	14.36%	15.18%	14.96%
PAT/EBIT	123%	123%	114%	105%	95%
EBIT/Sales	18%	18%	19%	20%	20%
Sales/Assets	40.7%	41.7%	42.8%	44.7%	44.9%
Assets/Networth	143%	145%	152%	162%	175%
ROCE	8.52%	9.03%	9.95%	10.46%	10.19%
D/E	0.41	0.47	0.56	0.67	0.82
Net D/E	0.20	0.27	0.37	0.49	0.70
Receivable Days	23	25	25	25	25
Inventory Day	30	30	30	30	30
Other Current Asset Days	16	20	20	20	20
CL & Provisions Days	115	125	125	125	125
EV/MW	41.5	42.1	38.9	40.3	37.6

Source: Company, Merrill Lynch Research



Price Objective Basis & Risk

Our PO is based on a 12% discount to our DCF estimate of Rs172. We think a mix of earnings visibility, growth (14% over FY06-12E), positive regulatory regime and improving RoE justify our Buy rating.

Risks: Gas supply to existing/new plants till 2008, Upstream Oil Investments & power reforms.

Analyst Certification

I, Bharat Parekh, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

Special Disclosures

In accordance with the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations and with guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), foreign investors (individuals as well as institutional) that wish to transact the common stock of Indian companies must have applied to, and have been approved by SEBI and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Each investor who transacts common stock of Indian companies will be required to certify approval as a foreign institutional investor or as a sub-account of a foreign institutional investor by SEBI and RBI. Certain other entities are also entitled to transact common stock of Indian companies under the Indian laws relating to investment by foreigners. Merrill Lynch reserves the right to refuse copy of research on common stock of Indian companies to a person not resident in India. American Depositary Receipts (ADR) representing such common stock are not subject to these Indian law restrictions and may be transacted by investors in accordance with the applicable laws of the relevant jurisdiction. Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and the Global Depository Shares of Indian companies, Indian limited liability corporations, have not been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may only be transacted by persons in the United States who are Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act. Accordingly, no copy of any research report on Indian companies' GDRs will be made available to persons who are not QIBs.

iQmethod[™] Measures Definitions

~		
Business Performance	Numerator	Denominator
Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) * (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill	Total Assets - Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
	Amortization	Amortization
Return On Equity	Net Income	Shareholders' Equity
Operating Margin	Operating Profit	Sales
Earnings Growth	Expected 5-Year CAGR From Latest Actual	N/A
Free Cash Flow	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	N/A
0 10 65 1		

Quality of Earnings

 Cash Realization Ratio
 Cash Flow From Operations
 Net Income

 Asset Replacement Ratio
 Capex
 Depreciation

 Tax Rate
 Tax Charge
 Pre-Tax Income

 Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio
 Net Debt = Total Debt, Less Cash & Equivalents
 Total Equity

 Interest Cover
 EBIT
 Interest Expense

Valuation Toolkit

Price / Earnings RatioCurrent Share PriceDiluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)Price / Book ValueCurrent Share PriceShareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares

Dividend Yield Annualised Declared Cash Dividend Current Share Price

Free Cash Flow Yield Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex Market Cap. = Current Share Price * Current Basic Shares

Enterprise Value / Sales EV = Current Share Price * Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt + Sales

Other LT Liabilities

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

iQmethod solis the set of Merrill Lynch standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

iQdatabase® is our real-time global research database that is sourced directly from our equity analysts' earnings models and includes forecasted as well as historical data for income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements for companies covered by Merrill Lynch.

iQprofile SM, iQmethod SM are service marks of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.iQdatabase ®is a registered service mark of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

Important Disclosures

Investment Rating Distribution: Utilities Group (as of 30 Sep 2006)

		/			
Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships*	Count	Percent
Buy	53	43.80%	Buy	27	50.94%
Neutral	56	46.28%	Neutral	27	48.21%
Sell	12	9.92%	Sell	5	41.67%
Investment Rating Distribution: G	Global Group (as of 30	Sep 2006)			
Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships*	Count	Percent
Buy	1325	44.76%	Buy	434	32.75%
Neutral	1420	47.97%	Neutral	412	29.01%
Sell	215	7.26%	Sell	48	22.33%

^{*} Companies in respect of which MLPF&S or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services within the past 12 months.

FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium, and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS, indicators of expected total return (price appreciation plus yield) within the 12-month period from the date of the initial rating, are: 1 - Buy (10% or more for Low and Medium Volatility Risk Securities - 20% or more for High Volatility Risk securities); 2 - Neutral (0-10% for Low and Medium Volatility Risk securities - 0-20% for High Volatility Risk securities); 3 - Sell (negative return); and 6 - No Rating. INCOME RATINGS, indicators of potential cash dividends, are: 7 - same/higher (dividend considered to be secure); 8 - same/lower (dividend not considered to be secure); and 9 - pays no cash dividend.

The company is or was, within the last 12 months, an investment banking client of MLPF&S and/or one or more of its affiliates: NTPC Ltd. MLPF&S or an affiliate has received compensation from the company for non-investment banking services or products within the past 12 months: NTPC Ltd. The company is or was, within the last 12 months, a non-securities business client of MLPF&S and/or one or more of its affiliates: NTPC Ltd. In the US, refail sales and/or distribution of this report may be made only in states where these securities are exempt from registration or have been qualified for

sale: NTPC Ltd.

MLPF&S or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services from this company within the past 12 months: NTPC Ltd.

MLPF&S or an affiliate expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this company within the next three months:

The country in which this company is organized has certain laws or regulations that limit or restrict ownership of the company's shares by nationals of other countries: NTPC Ltd.

The company is or was, within the last 12 months, a securities business client (non-investment banking) of MLPF&S and/or one or more of its affiliates: NTPC

The analyst(s) responsible for covering the securities in this report receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Merrill Lynch, including profits derived from investment banking revenues.

Other Important Disclosures

UK readers: MLPF&S or an affiliate is a liquidity provider for the securities discussed in this report.

Information relating to Non-U.S. affiliates of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S):

MLPF&S distributes research reports of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name): Merrill Lynch (France): Merrill Lynch Capital Markets (France) SAS; Merrill Lynch (Frankfurt): Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd, Frankfurt Branch; Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd; Merrill Lynch (Milan): Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited; MLPF&S (UK): Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Limited; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Equities (Australia) Limited; Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited; Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd; Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch Canada Inc; Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch Mexico, SA de CV, Casa de Bolsa; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA; Merrill Lynch (Japan): Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co, Ltd; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International Incorporated (Seoul Branch); Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Global (Taiwan) Limited; DSP Merrill Lynch (India): DSP Merrill Lynch Limited; PT Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch CIS Limited, Mascow Merrill Lynch (KL) Sdn. Bhd.: Merrill Lynch (Malaysia); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch Israel Limited; Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch CIS Limited, Mascow Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch CIS Limited, Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch (CIS Limited): Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch (CIS Limited): Merrill Lynch (Russia): Merrill Lynch

This research report has been prepared and issued by MLPF&S and/or one or more of its non-U.S. affiliates. MLPF&S is the distributor of this research report in the U.S. and accepts full responsibility for research reports of its non-U.S. affiliates distributed in the U.S. Any U.S. person receiving this research report and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed in the report should do so through MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates.

This research report has been approved for publication in the United Kingdom by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Limited, which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority; has been considered and distributed in Japan by Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co, Ltd, a registered securities dealer under the Securities and Exchange Law in Japan; is distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited, which is regulated by the Hong Kong SFC; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch Global (Taiwan) Ltd or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Limited (Taiwan Branch); is issued and distributed in Malaysia by Merrill Lynch (KL) Sdn. Bhd., a licensed investment adviser regulated by the Malaysian Securities Commission; and is issued and distributed in 198602883D respectively). Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited (Merchant Bank) and Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd. are regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore Merrill Lynch Fquities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795). AFS License 235132, provides this report in Australia. No approval is required for of Singapore. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited, (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132, provides this report in Australia. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this report in Brazil. Merrill Lynch (Frankfurt) is regulated by BaFin.

Copyright, User Agreement and other general information related to this report:

Copyright 2006 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. All rights reserved. This research report is prepared for the use of Merrill Lynch clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch research reports are distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites eligible to receive such research prior to any public dissemination by Merrill Lynch of the research report or information or opinion contained therein. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this research report constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained in this report (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) prior to Merrill Lynch's public disclosure of such information. The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to Merrill Lynch and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. Merrill Lynch makes no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the data and information provided in any third party referenced website and shall have no liability or responsibility arising out of or in connection with any such referenced website.

This research report provides general information only. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other investment or any options, futures or derivatives related to such securities or investments. It is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this report. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in any securities, other investment or investment strategies discussed or recommended in this report and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Investors should note that income from such securities or other investments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and investments may rise or fall. Accordingly, investors may receive back less than originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or related investment mentioned in this report. In addition, investors in securities such as ADRs, whose values are influenced by the currency of the underlying security, effectively assume currency risk.

Officers of MLPF&S or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments. Merrill Lynch Research policies relating to conflicts of interest are described at http://www.ml.com/media/43347.pdf.

iQmethod, iQmethod 2.0, iQprofile, iQtoolkit, iQworks are service marks of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. iQanalytics®, iQcustom®, iQdatabase® are registered service marks of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

Fundamental equity reports are produced on a regular basis as necessary to keep the investment recommendation current.