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Company Flash

11 March 2008 | 7 pages

JSW Steel (JSTL.BO)

Citi India Conference 2008: Day 1 Takeaways

- Conference takeaways JSW Steel spoke with investors at the Citi India Investor Conference 2008. Here are some of the highlights of that presentation
- Expansion plans JSW Steel plans to expand capacity from 3.8m tpa to 11m tpa (including Siscol's 1m tpa) by 2011. It expects the volumes to grow by ~45% to ~5.2m tonnes in FY09 and 34% in FY10 to ~7m tonnes. Since these expansions are brownfield in nature, the company does not expect project delays and is, in fact, ahead of schedule by 3-6 months. JSW Steel plans to take its capacity to ~31m tpa by 2020 with 10m tonnes each in West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- Increasing captive raw materials JSW Steel has ~25% of captive iron ore, and is fully dependent on external sources for coal. It expects to attain self sufficiency to the extent of ~60% in iron ore, 45% in coking coal (including soft coal) by 2010. This would be achieved through a combination of captive mines and JVs both in India and countries such as Chile and Mozambique.
- Steel prices moving north Indian steel prices have been rising in the last few months but are still lagging international prices. The domestic prices are currently ~US\$750/t vs. international prices of ~US\$850-900/t. Further increases are expected in the coming months to compensate for increasing costs of iron ore and coal. This should help them maintain margins at 3Q FY08 levels of ~US250/t (more takeaways on page 2).

Buy/Medium Risk	1 M
Price (11 Mar 08)	Rs916.90
Target price	Rs1,243.00
Expected share price return	35.6%
Expected dividend yield	2.2%
Expected total return	37.7%
Market Cap	Rs150,398M
	US\$3,723M

Price	Pertorm	ance (RIC	: JSIL.BU, E	SR: J21F IN)
INR				
1,200				\sim
1,000			A	
800			/~	V
600	رر	$\sim \sim$		
400	\mathcal{I}		•	
	30 Mar	29 Jun	28 Sep	31 Dec

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2006A	5,297	33.74	-42.1	27.2	3.5	15.2	0.9
2007A	12,155	74.12	119.7	12.4	2.8	25.9	1.4
2008E	18,006	96.96	30.8	9.5	2.1	26.6	2.2
2009E	21,391	115.19	18.8	8.0	1.7	23.6	2.4
2010E	17,229	92.77	-19.5	9.9	1.5	16.3	2.2

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

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■ West Bengal Steel Project — The company has proposed setting up a 10m tpa steel plant in WB. The project is expected to be commissioned in phases. Although it announced 6m tpa of capacity initially, it is now considering setting up a 3m tpa plant in the first phase and hopes to achieve financial closure in the next 3-6 months. It has acquired land and has tied up ~50% of its coal requirements.

JSW Steel

Company description

JSTL is one of India's largest integrated steel producers with crude steel capacity of 3.8m tpa. Of this capacity, 1.6m tpa uses the Corex process and the rest uses blast furnace technology. JSTL manufactures flat steel products ranging from slabs to high-end colour coated steel products. Its upstream facilities are close to abundant iron ore deposits. JSTL plans to expand capacity to 6.8m tpa by 2H FY09 and 10m tpa by 2010. The expansion will be accompanied by adequate captive power and other inputs such as sinter and coke capacity. JSTL will also be setting up capacity for production of long products by Dec 2008. JSTL recently acquired plate (1m tpa) and pipe (0.5m tpa) capacity in the US, close to the main consumption centres of oil and gas production. In October 2007, JSTL also announced that it will merge an associate company, Southern Iron & Steel Co Ltd (SISCOL) with itself wef 1April 2007. SISCOL is expanding capacity by 0.3m tpa to 1.0m tpa by end-FY08. To enhance its product mix and expand its market presence in the UK and Europe, JSTL has acquired a Service Centre in the UK, whose output is mainly directed towards the construction sector. JSTL has begun preliminary work on setting up two steel plants with an eventual size of 10m tpa over the next 3-12 years at greenfield locations in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Investment strategy

We rate JSTL Buy/Medium Risk (1M). We expect steel prices to be steady over the next 12 months, and forecast an HRC price of US\$620/t (+4% yoy) for 2008. India's steel demand growth should remain buoyant, and Indian companies are likely to gain from any decline in Chinese exports. JSTL should benefit from this scenario given its robust crude steel volume growth (CAGR of 32% through FY10E). JSTL's use of both Corex and blast furnace technologies has helped keep cost of production low (HR cost was US\$294/t in FY07). Going forward, we expect costs to be lower due to increased captive iron ore, coke, power, and a beneficiation plant. The new CR mill and the sale of surplus value-added slabs to its new US subsidiary should also add to consolidated earnings.

Valuation

We use P/E as our preferred valuation metric for JSTL as its stock price is largely expected to be driven by earnings momentum. Our target multiple of 10x on FY09E consolidated EPS is higher than JSTL's previous valuation range but takes into account the upward rerating in Indian steel stocks in the last two months. Consensus PE multiples for the Indian steel majors for FY09 have

risen from 7-10x to 10-13x. Our target PE is in line with the current re-rated PE range, as we expect strong volume growth, higher value addition, and lower average production costs over FY08-10.

Risks

We rate JSTL as Medium Risk based on our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day historical share-price volatility. Risk factors that could prevent the shares from reaching our target price include: (1) weakness in steel prices; (2) trends in exchange rates; (3) delays in access to new iron-ore deposits; and (4) delays in capacity expansion plans.

Appendix A-1

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