

Company

1 June 2010 | 9 pages

Tulip Telecom Ltd (TULP.BO)

 Equity
 Target price change
 Estimate change

Business Mix Geared to Improving Macro

- Cutting earnings, target price due to higher tax** — We reduce FY11-12E EPS by 7-11%, primarily on higher tax rate with only 30% of data profits now tax exempt (sec 80IA). Lower capitalization charge (9.5% v/s 12% earlier) on asset reclassification helps cushion the impact, however. Operationally, business continues to sustain momentum reflected in FY11-12E EBITDA remaining broadly unchanged. Rs1120/share TP is based on 10x Sep-11E PER (Mar-11E earlier).
- Improving business mix though margin upside constrained by competition** — Fiber uptake has been strong and currently contributes ~20% to overall revenues. Management expects it to rise to 40% in FY11E and 70% in FY12E. While Tulip will benefit from 1) reduced focus on network integration (<10% of overall revenues); 2) scale economies; and 3) bulk bandwidth purchase, EBITDA margins are not likely to improve significantly from current levels given pricing pressure.
- FY10 was peak capex** — Capex intensity is likely to slow in FY11E as the fiber roll-out is completed and any additional roll-out is contingent on pre-contract sign-ups. FY11E capex guidance is at Rs4bn. As a result leverage should improve with FY11E Net Debt/EBITDA at 1.1x (1.4x in FY10).
- 4Q EBITDA benefitted from strong sales and inventory improvements** — 4Q EBITDA at Rs1.5bn was ahead with 15% yoy rev growth and one-off benefit from inventory optimization (5% in 4Q). PAT at Rs795m includes full year impact of lower depreciation. Net debt reduced by Rs2.6bn during 4Q as Tulip transferred some of the SWAN assets (Rs2.3bn BV) at par to a SPV (1.4bn recd. till date).
- Maintain Buy** — Benefits of fiber from 1) scale economies and 2) higher profitability began to get visible esp with rising corporate IT spend. In addition, the stock is trading at 9.0x FY11E PER, relatively cheap given medium-term growth potential. High pricing pressure from competition is the key downside risk.

Buy/Medium Risk	1M
Price (01 Jun 10)	Rs926.00
Target price	Rs1,120.00
	<i>from Rs1,150.00</i>
Expected share price return	21.0%
Expected dividend yield	0.9%
Expected total return	21.8%
Market Cap	Rs26,854M
	US\$579M

Price Performance (RIC: TULP.BO, BB: TTSL IN)



Statistical Abstract

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2009A	2,505	86.39	33.9	10.7	3.9	44.4	0.4
2010A	2,432	83.86	-2.9	11.0	2.9	30.5	0.4
2011E	2,974	102.56	22.3	9.0	2.3	28.4	0.9
2012E	3,565	122.94	19.9	7.5	1.8	26.5	0.9
2013E	3,916	135.05	9.9	6.9	1.4	23.1	0.9

Source: Powered by dataCentral

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Fiscal year end 31-Mar	2009	2010	2011E	2012E	2013E
Valuation Ratios					
P/E adjusted (x)	10.7	11.0	9.0	7.5	6.9
EV/EBITDA adjusted (x)	9.7	6.6	5.3	4.4	3.8
P/BV (x)	3.9	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.4
Dividend yield (%)	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9
Per Share Data (Rs)					
EPS adjusted	86.39	83.86	102.56	122.94	135.05
EPS reported	86.39	83.86	102.56	122.94	135.05
BVPS	235.15	314.33	407.53	521.11	646.80
DPS	4.00	4.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Profit & Loss (RsM)					
Net sales	16,144	19,654	24,147	28,671	31,663
Operating expenses	-13,191	-15,755	-19,576	-23,310	-25,930
EBIT	2,953	3,899	4,571	5,361	5,733
Net interest expense	-118	-625	-657	-670	-579
Non-operating/exceptionals	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	2,835	3,273	3,914	4,691	5,153
Tax	-330	-841	-939	-1,126	-1,237
Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net income	2,505	2,432	2,974	3,565	3,916
Adjusted earnings	2,505	2,432	2,974	3,565	3,916
Adjusted EBITDA	3,367	5,252	6,461	7,737	8,563
Growth Rates (%)					
Sales	32.4	21.7	22.9	18.7	10.4
EBIT adjusted	44.9	32.1	17.2	17.3	6.9
EBITDA adjusted	37.1	56.0	23.0	19.8	10.7
EPS adjusted	33.9	-2.9	22.3	19.9	9.9
Cash Flow (RsM)					
Operating cash flow	2,900	3,542	5,520	5,946	6,888
Depreciation/amortization	414	1,353	1,890	2,376	2,830
Net working capital	-166	-868	-2	-665	-438
Investing cash flow	-5,611	-3,730	-4,130	-3,561	-3,324
Capital expenditure	-6,383	-3,820	-4,487	-4,081	-3,934
Acquisitions/disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	1,601	1,148	714	-1,461	-1,461
Borrowings	2,199	2,000	2,000	0	0
Dividends paid	-136	-136	-271	-271	-271
Change in cash	-1,110	961	2,104	924	2,103
Balance Sheet (RsM)					
Total assets	20,874	25,256	30,484	34,207	38,163
Cash & cash equivalent	3,470	6,090	8,194	9,118	11,221
Accounts receivable	3,242	3,822	4,025	4,779	5,277
Net fixed assets	12,148	12,956	15,553	17,258	18,361
Total liabilities	14,055	16,140	18,666	19,095	19,406
Accounts payable	1,663	1,696	2,051	2,422	2,674
Total Debt	11,224	13,224	15,224	15,224	15,224
Shareholders' funds	6,819	9,116	11,818	15,112	18,757
Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin adjusted	20.9	26.7	26.8	27.0	27.0
ROE adjusted	44.4	30.5	28.4	26.5	23.1
ROIC adjusted	23.1	19.2	20.1	20.5	19.9
Net debt to equity	113.7	78.3	59.5	40.4	21.3
Total debt to capital	62.2	59.2	56.3	50.2	44.8

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Quarterly Summary

Figure 1. Quarterly summary

Rs m	3QFY09	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10	4QFY10	QoQ	YoY
Net sales	4,357	4,616	4,429	4,910	5,008	5,307	6.0%	15.0%
VPN	3,350	3,486	3,687	4,177	4,422	4,807	8.7%	37.9%
Network Integration	1,007	1,130	742	734	586	500	-14.7%	-55.8%
Total opex	(3,445)	(3,626)	(3,343)	(3,639)	(3,659)	(3,762)	2.8%	3.8%
EBITDA	912	990	1,086	1,271	1,350	1,545	14.5%	56.0%
EBITDA margin	20.9%	21.5%	24.5%	25.9%	26.9%	29.1%	2.2%	7.7%
Net profit	487	520	505	447	686	795	16.0%	52.8%

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 2. Segmental breakup

Rs m	3QFY09	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10	4QFY10
Network integration	1,007	1,130	742	734	586	500
Managed data services	3,350	3,486	3,687	4,177	4,422	4,807
Revenue contribution from NI	23.1%	24.5%	16.8%	14.9%	11.7%	9.4%

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Business momentum remain strong

Tulip has gained traction in its fiber business with 20% of VPN revenues coming from it within 9-12 months of launch and management expects it to ramp up to 70% in the next 2 years. The bulk of the sign-ups have been new contracts rather than replacement demand (from wireless). Some of the new contract signups include DLF, ICICI Bank and Tata AIG. Tulip is leveraged to corporate IT spend, which given the improving macro, will help sustain growth.

Meanwhile, it plans to start supplying bandwidth to state electricity boards as part of the APDRP scheme, though competition in this segment is likely to be high. We estimate consol revenues to grow at a CAGR of 16% over FY10-13E

While Tulip will get benefit of increasing economies of scale and access to high bandwidth customers, we believe that upside in EBITDA margins from the current levels (26.7% in FY09) will be constrained by pricing pressure. As a result we assume EBITDA margins to remain broadly flat.

While our EBITDA estimates have remained broadly unchanged, we cut EPS 7-11% over FY11-12E primarily on higher tax rate with only 30% of data profits now tax exempt (sec 80IA). Lower capitalization charge (9.5% v/s 12% blended earlier) on asset reclassification helps cushion the impact. In addition the declining profit contribution from network integration (fully taxed) will also help to an extent.

Figure 3. Earnings revision

	2011E	2012E	2013E
EBITDA (Rs m)			
Old	6,525	7,669	NA
New	6,461	7,737	8,563
Changed	-1.0%	0.9%	NM
EPS (Rs)			
Old	115	132	NA
New	103	123	135
Changed	-11.0%	-6.5%	NM

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis estimates

New target price based on 10x Sep-11 PER

We retain the target multiple at 10x but roll forward to Sep-11E (Mar-11 earlier). The target multiple remains at a discount to peers with similar EPS growth.

Figure 4. 1 yr forward P/E band chart



Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Tulip Telecom Ltd

Company description

Tulip Telecom Ltd. (Tulip) is a telecom data service provider that started as a software products vendor in 1992 and entered system integration as a partner of Compaq, IBM etc in the mid-90s. Tulip in its present form began in 2001 when it entered Network Integration followed by its entry in VPN business in FY05. It listed in Jan 2006.

Investment strategy

We rate Tulip Buy/Medium Risk (1M). Fiber uptake has been strong and contributes ~20% to VPN revenues. Management expects the contribution to rise to 40% in FY11E and 70% in FY12E. In addition, the bulk of the sign-ups have been new contracts rather than replacement demand (from wireless). The improving business mix with from fiber benefits from 1) scale economies & 2) access to higher bandwidth customers especially with rising corporate IT spend. Meanwhile its headstart in the semi-urban where it has a wide network will help it compete effectively against larger operators especially if BWA spectrum is fragmented (similar to 3G). We forecast EBITDA CAGR of 18% over FY10-13E.

Valuation

We set our 12-month target price at Rs1,120 based on 10x Sep-11 P/E. We prefer P/E over discounted cash flow (DCF) as: 1) nature of the business (both VPN and NI) results in low revenue visibility beyond 1-2 years; and 2) it plans to expand in new services like Managed services and to start supplying bandwidth to state electricity boards as part of the APDRP scheme; the size of these opportunities is a difficult variable to estimate over a longer time frame. The target P/E is at a discount to P/Es of other capex-leverage companies that are comparable in terms of EPS CAGR and ROE despite medium term growth potential. The target multiple is also at a discount to the broader market.

Risks

Our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day share price volatility, assigns a High Risk rating to Tulip. We, however, believe that a Medium risk rating is more appropriate given Tulip's presence in the high growth segment of data connectivity (IP VPN) with increasing IT budgets of corporates /Government, its strong market position and headstart over larger telcos in the rural areas, notwithstanding risks of adverse regulatory changes, technology obsolescence and growing competitive intensity as it starts to compete with larger operators. Other company-specific risks include management's ability to augment bandwidth and make necessary changes in organization structure to effectively handle rapid growth in scale and scope of operations and any value destructive acquisition. These risk factors could impede the stock from reaching our target price.

Appendix A-1

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Analyst: Gaurav Malhotra, CFA

Covered since May 6 2008

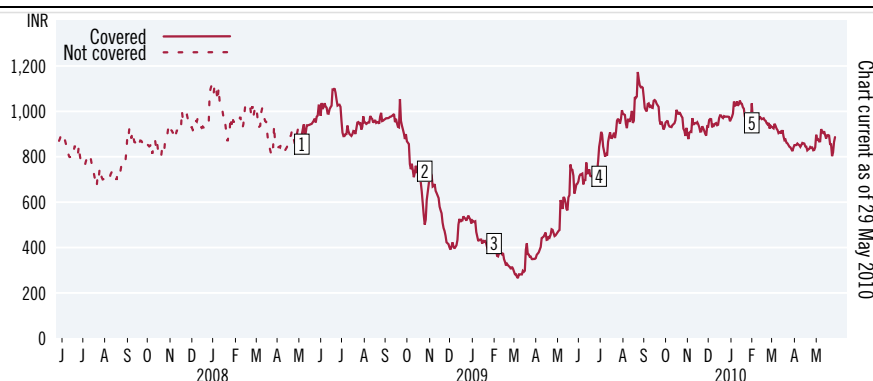


Chart current as of 29 May 2010

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	6-May-08	*1M	*1,220.00	898.85
2	26-Oct-08	1M	*730.00	542.40

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
3	2-Feb-09	1M	*625.00	388.90
4	30-Jun-09	1M	*990.00	843.85

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
5	1-Feb-10	1M	*1,150.00	1,035.15

* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

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