

Aventis Pharma

STOCK INFO. BSE Sensex: 19,724	BLOOMBERG HOEC IN	1 Nov	ember 200)7								Buy
S&P CNX: 5,866	REUTERS CODE AVPH.BO	Previo	us Recomm	endatio	n: Buy							Rs1,023
Equity Shares (m)	23.0	YEAR	NET SALES	PAT	EPS	EPS	P/E	P/BV	ROE	ROCE	EV/	EV/
52-Week Range	1,600/992	END	(RS M)	(RSM)	(RS)	GROWTH (%)	(X)	(X)	(%)	(%)	SALES	EBITDA
1,6,12 Rel. Perf. (%)	-28/-63/-86	12/06A	8,821	1,693	73.5	3.2	13.9	4.0	28.6	42.0	2.2	8.9
M.Cap. (Rs b)	23.6	12/07E	8,653	1,382	60.0	-18.3	17.0	3.5	20.8	31.5	2.2	11.1
M.Cap. (US\$ b)	0.6	12/08E	8,995	1,464	63.6	5.9	16.1	3.2	19.8	30.0	2.0	9.8

Aventis Pharma's 3QCY07 results are lower than our estimates. Key highlights:

- Net sales de-grew by 7% to Rs2.26b, due to export de-growth of 24% YoY to Rs481m and domestic sales de-growth of 0.7% to Rs1.8b. Company has indicated that an appreciating currency and preference to locally manufactured products has impacted export growth. Domestic sales growth was impacted significantly due to lower supplies of Rabipur (~Rs780m annualized sales) from Chiron due to production related issues.
- EBITDA margins declined by 856bp to 19.7% due to lower Rabipur sales (a high margin product) and higher staff cost (up 22% YoY, partly due to new recruitments). PAT de-grew by 31.6% to Rs368m.
- We are revising our estimates for CY07E and CY08E downward by 17% to Rs60 and 28% to Rs63.6 respectively, to factor in for lower exports and Rabipur supply issues.

We believe that APL will be one of the key beneficiaries of the patent regime in the long-term. The parent has a strong R&D pipeline with a total of 123 products under development, of which 23 are in Phase-III. It plans to file 40 NDAs by CY10E. While, we continue to remain positive on APL's long-term prospects, we believe that the stock performance is likely to remain muted till clarity emerges on the Rabipur issue. We believe that, at 16.1x CY08E earnings, valuations are not demanding. Maintain **Buy** with a revised target price of Rs1,200 (~19x CY08E EPS).

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE									(1	Rs Million)
Y/E DECEMBER		CYO	6				CY07		CY06	CY07E
	1Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1Q	2 Q	3 Q	4QE		
Net Sales	2,005	2,228	2,431	2,176	2,129	2,302	2,264	1,958	8,840	8,653
YoY Change (%)	16.2	4.4	8.8	11.2	6.2	3.3	-6.9	-10.0	9.4	-2.1
Total Expenditure	1,513	1,609	1,744	1,749	1,635	1,857	1,818	1,644	6,633	6,954
EBITDA	492	619	687	427	494	445	446	314	2,207	1,699
Margins (%)	24.5	27.8	28.3	19.6	23.2	19.3	19.7	16.1	25.0	19.6
Depreciation	43	42	43	51	45	47	47	51	179	190
Interest	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0
Other Income	96	90	156	111	200	182	176	30	471	588
PBT before EO Items	545	666	800	486	649	580	573	294	2,497	2,098
Extra-Ord Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Items	545	666	800	486	649	580	573	294	2,497	2,098
Tax	176	227	262	139	216	207	205	88	804	716
Effective tax Rate (%)	32.3	34.1	32.8	28.6	33.3	35.7	35.8	29.8	32.2	34.1
Reported PAT	369	439	538	347	433	373	368	206	1,693	1,382
Adj PAT	369	439	538	347	433	373	368	206	1,693	1,382
YoY Change (%)	56.4	28.4	8.2	-7.7	17.3	-15.0	-31.6	-40.5	16.7	-18.3
Margins (%)	18.4	19.7	22.1	15.9	20.3	16.2	16.3	10.5	19.2	16.0
E: MOSt Estimates										

Decline in exports and Rabipur supply issues restricts sales growth

Net sales de-grew by 7% to Rs2.26b, due to export degrowth of 24% YoY to Rs481m and domestic sales degrowth of 0.7% to Rs1.8b. Supplies to Russia and sourcing by the parent are the two main components of exports for the company. Company has indicated that an appreciating currency and preference to locally manufactured products has impacted export growth. The company has recorded export de-growth in 6 out of the last 7 quarters. Domestic sales growth was impacted significantly due to lower supplies of Rabipur (~Rs780m annualized sales) from Chiron due to production related issues. We are awaiting further clarity from the company on Rabipur's status.

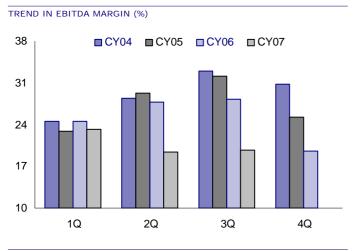
TREND IN MARKET MIX (RS M)

Net Sales	2,264	2,431	-6.9	2,302	-1.7
% of Sales	21.2	26.2		20.4	
Exports	481	636	-24.4	469	2.6
% of Sales	78.8	73.8		79.6	
Net Domestic Sales	1,783	1,795	-0.7	1,833	-2.7
	3QCY07	3QCY06	YOY (%)	2QCY07	QOQ (%)

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

EBITDA margins decline significantly

EBITDA margins declined by 856bp to 19.7% due to lower Rabipur sales (a high margin product) and higher staff cost (up 22% YoY, partly due to AS15 provisioning). PAT degrew by 31.6% to Rs368m.



Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

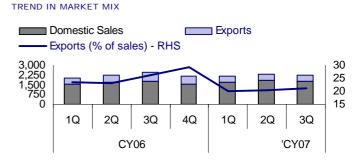
Parent committed to listed entity

APL management (at the Jun-07 AGM) has reiterated the parent's commitment to the listed entity despite the existence of Sanofi's 100% subsidiary. Management clearly mentioned that the interests of the listed entity will not be compromised as far as new launches are concerned. This is also vindicated from the company's past track record wherein most of the new launches have come through the listed entity. In fact, APL has been one of the most aggressive companies in the MNC category as far as launch of new products are concerned.

AVENTIS - PORTFOLIO MAPPING WITH PARENT

PRODUCT	INDIA I	AUNCH	I POSSIBILITY OF
	LAUNCH	YEAR	LAUNCH IN INDIA
Lovenox/Clexane	Υ		N.A.
Plavix/Iscover -	Υ		N.A. (Launched through
Sanofi Product			100% Sanofi subsidiary
			prior to global merger)
Allegra	Υ	1998	N.A.
Taxotere	Υ		N.A.
Stilnox/Ambien/Myslee	N		No - Global launch in 1992.
- Sanofi Product			Old product
Eloxatin - Sanofi Product	N		Yes - Global launch in 1996
Delix/Tritace/Triatec	Υ	1994	N.A.
Lantus	Υ	2003	N.A.
Aprovel/Avapro/Karvea	N		Yes - Global launch in 1997
- Sanofi Product			But Indian companies have
			already launched this
			product
Copaxone	N		No - Product belongs to
			Teva
Amaryl	Υ	1999	N.A.
Actonel	Υ	2003	N.A.
Depakine - Sanofi Produc	ct Y		N.A.
Nasacort - Sanofi	Status		
Product r	not know	n	
Xatral - Sanofi Product	N		Unlikely - It is a 1988
			product
	_	_	

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities



Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Exports to gradually improve going forward

APL indicated that the outsourcing by the parent is likely to increase in the coming years. It has already commenced export of APIs like Articaine, Glibenclamide and Lasamide to the parent. It also commenced exporting Paracetamol in 1QCY07. APL's exports have de-grown in six of the last seven quarters as some of its products were removed from the Federal Reimbursement List in Russia. We believe that export performance is likely to improve in the future due to increased outsourcing by the parent.

Rabipur status remains uncertain

Rabipur (anti-rabies vaccine) is currently manufactured through a JV between APL & Chiron (now Novartis) and marketed by APL. The company has been maintaining that it is facing supply constraints and that it is not able to receive adequate supplies of Rabipur from Chiron. Rabipur recorded sales of Rs780m on annualized basis. While these supply issues seem temporary in nature, we also do not rule out a protracted problem if Chiron wishes to take back the product from APL. As of now, we do not have clarity on this issue. We believe that APL's performance will be significantly impacted if Chiron were to take back the vaccine.

Withdrawal of Cox-II inhibitors may benefit Aventis India

We believe that the withdrawal of Rofecoxib and Valdecoxib (cox-II inhibitors) from the global and Indian markets due to adverse side effects may have a positive impact on the sales of older (and proven) painkillers like APL's Combiflam. Historically, Combiflam has grown in single digits.

Well placed to benefit from the patent regime

Over the longer term, APL is well placed to benefit from the introduction of product patents, given its strengths in marketing, a supportive parent and a healthy product pipeline (of NCEs) following the formation of Sanofi-Aventis. APL's history of launching patented products in India, a well mapped portfolio vis-à-vis the parent and ability to build them into big brands make it one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of the product patent regime in India.

We believe that the patent regime will bring-in significant benefits for APL, albeit in the long-term. We expect launch of patented products from the parent's portfolio by 2008/09. The company is yet to give visibility on launch of patented products in India.

To benefit from the parent's R&D pipeline

Sanofi-Aventis currently has 123 projects in research and development, including about 31 in pre-clinical development and 60 in late stage (Phase II & III) development. It is planning to file about 31 NDAs and 9 vaccines with the regulatory authorities by CY10E. The table below gives details on the parent's R&D pipeline:

SANOFI-AVENTIS R&D PIPELINE

NO. OF	PRE-				TOTAL	
DRUGS	CLINICAL	1	IIA	IIB	Ш	
Cardiovascular	3	5	0	4	2	14
Thrombosis	3	2	0	3	2	10
Central Nervous Syst	em 5	8	1	4	6	24
Oncology	6	5	1	0	7	19
Metabolic Disorders	3	2	2	4	0	11
Internal Medicine	6	5	5	2	1	19
Vaccines	5	5	3	3	10	26
Total	31	32	12	20	28	123

Source: Sanofi-Aventis (as of September 2007)

Although, clarity on launch of these drugs will emerge only over a period of time, we believe that some of these products could be relevant for the Indian markets and are likely to be launched in India with a time-lag. However, uncertainty still remains on whether these products will be launched through the listed subsidiary or the 100% subsidiary.

New drug policy still remains uncertain

We believe that the biggest risk to our positive stance on APL could be the implementation of the new pharmaceutical policy in the current form. The new policy proposes to significantly increase the span of control by bringing in additional 354 drugs under price control. This could severely impact the profitability of APL's domestic business. Industry has taken strong objection to the proposed policy and we believe that the policy is unlikely to be implemented in the current form. Given the strong opposition from the industry,

the government has formed a Group on Ministers (GoM), which would give final recommendations to the government regarding the new pharmaceutical policy. However, the uncertainty related to this will remain till the government finally notifies the new pharmaceutical policy.

Revising estimates downwards

We are revising our estimates for CY07E and CY08E downward by 13% to Rs62.8 and 24% to Rs67.6 respectively, to factor in for lower exports and Rabipur supply issues.

REVISED FORECAST (RS M)

		CY07E			CY08E	
	REV	OLD	CHG (%)	REV	OLD	CHG (%)
Net Sales	8,653	9,480	-8.7	8,995	10,655	-15.6
Net Profit	1,382	1,664	-16.9	1,464	2,052	-28.6
EPS (Rs)	60.0	72.3	-16.9	63.6	89.1	-28.6

Source: Motilal Oswal Securities

Valuation and outlook

APL has an impeccable track record of brand building in the domestic market with its strategic brands recording double digit growth consistently. In the long-term, focus on growing strategic brands and strong support from the parent will augur well for the company. We believe that it is very well positioned to take advantage of the patent regime in the long-term. It is in the process of integrating Sanofi's domestic operation with itself (post the global merger). We believe that there is very little over-lap between APL and Sanofi's portfolio in India.

We believe that APL will be one of the key beneficiaries of the patent regime in the long-term. The parent has a strong R&D pipeline with a total of 123 products under development, of which 28 are in Phase-III. It plans to file 40 NDAs by CY10E.

While, we continue to remain positive on APL's long-term prospects, we believe that the stock performance is likely to be muted till clarity emerges on the Rabipur issue. We believe that, at 16.1x CY08E earnings, valuations are not demanding. Maintain Buy with a revised target price of Rs1,200 (~19x CY08E EPS).

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Aventis Pharma: an investment profile

Company description

Aventis (50% subsidiary of Aventis SA) is the second largest MNC and among the top 10 formulations players in India. The company has built a very strong franchise in chronic therapy areas like anti-diabetes, oncology and CVS, in the process realigning its domestic portfolio with that of its parent. Aventis is currently undergoing transformation, with the parent being taken over by Sanofi Synthelabo worldwide.

Key investment arguments

- Significant improvement in product mix, with enhanced focus on strategic products and rationalization of older products has put it back on the growth path.
- Aggressive cost cutting and improved efficiencies to add to revenue growth and boost operating performance.
- Strong parental commitment and excellent brand equity among doctors make it the best placed MNC to gain from the IPR regime. Parent plans 40 NDA filings by CY10.

Key investment risks

- Protracted supply issues related to Rabipur could significantly impact performance.
- Exports have been de-growing for the last four quarters
- ∠ The proposed new drug policy could adversely impact APL.

Valuation and view

- ✓ Valuations of 16.1x CY08E earnings do not fully factorin the future prospects, excellent return ratios and free cash on books (around Rs4.6b for CY07E).
- Maintain Buy with a target price of Rs1,200.

Sector view

- Indian Pharma market expected to witness steady growth, on the back of gradual increase in the low penetration levels companies with strong brands and marketing muscle to benefit the most.
- IPR regime unlikely to lead to any major change in the near term; MNCs and large Indian players to benefit over the longer term.
- Among MNCs, we are bullish on companies where risk of conflict with 100% subsidiaries is limited.

COMPARATIVE VALUATIONS

		AVENTIS	GSK	PFIZER
P/E (x)	CY07E	17.0	24.1	15.2
	CY08E	16.1	22.1	17.1
P/BV (x)	CY07E	3.5	5.8	2.8
	CY08E	3.2	5.0	2.6
EV/Sales (x)	CY07E	2.2	4.9	2.2
	CY08E	2.0	4.3	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	CY07E	11.1	16.0	8.5
	CY08E	9.8	14.1	9.7

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN (%)

	SEP-07	JUN-07	SEP-06
Promoter	60.4	60.4	60.4
Domestic Inst	19.1	20.2	18.9
Foreign	9.9	9.1	9.8
Others	10.6	10.3	11.0

EPS: MOST FORECAST VS CONSENSUS (RS)

	MOST	CONSENSUS	VARIATION
	FORECAST	FORECAST	(%)
CY07	60.0	79.9	-24.9
CY08	63.6	90.0	-29.3

TARGET PRICE AND RECOMMENDATION

CURRENT	TARGET	UPSIDE	RECO.
PRICE (RS)	PRICE (RS)	(%)	
1,023	1,200	17.3	Buy

STOCK PERFORMANCE (1 YEAR)



INCOME STATEMENT				(Rs	Million)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006	2007E	2008E
Exports	2,041	2,287	2,258	1,806	1,806
Net Domestic Sales	5,266	5,735	6,563	6,847	7,189
Net Sales	7,307	8,022	8,821	8,653	8,995
Change (%)	2.0	9.8	10.0	-1.9	4.0
Total Expenditure	5,162	5,741	6,615	6,954	7,152
EBITDA	2,145	2,281	2,206	1,699	1,844
Change (%)	53.5	6.3	-3.3	-23.0	8.5
Margin (%)	29.4	28.4	25.0	19.6	20.5
Depreciation	168	172	178	190	205
Int. and Finance Charges	1	0	2	0	0
Other Income - Rec.	218	331	471	588	583
PBT & EO Items	2,194	2,440	2,497	2,098	2,222
Change (%)	58.9	11.2	2.3	-16.0	5.9
Extra Ordinary Income/(Exp)	68	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Items	2,262	2,440	2,497	2,098	2,222
Tax	777	799	804	716	758
Tax Rate (%)	34.4	32.7	32.2	34.1	34.1
Reported PAT	1,485	1,641	1,693	1,382	1,464
PAT Adj for EO Items	1,440	1,641	1,693	1,382	1,464
Change (%)	53.5	13.9	3.2	-18.3	5.9
Margin (%)	19.7	20.5	19.2	16.0	16.3

BALANCE SHEET				(Rs	Million)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006	2007E	2008E
Equity Share Capital	230	230	230	230	230
Reserves	3,810	4,838	5,690	6,417	7,158
Revaluation Reserves	178	170	161	153	145
Net Worth	4,218	5,238	6,082	6,800	7,533
Loans	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred Tax Liabilities	-5	-57	-131	-131	-131
Capital Employed	4,213	5,181	5,951	6,669	7,402
Gross Block	2,742	2,794	2,841	3,074	3,233
Less: Accum. Deprn.	1,225	1,389	1,517	1,772	1,985
Net Fixed Assets	1,517	1,405	1,324	1,303	1,248
Capital WIP	28	13	132	25	25
Investments	53	53	53	53	53
Curr. Assets	4,111	5,419	6,942	6,747	7,629
Inventory	1,016	1,363	1,588	959	960
Account Receivables	918	510	685	880	915
Cash and Bank Balance	1,673	2,944	3,861	4,686	5,529
Others	504	601	808	222	225
Curr. Liability & Prov.	1,496	1,710	2,500	1,458	1,553
Account Payables	665	846	1,104	802	831
Provisions	831	864	1,396	656	722
Net Current Assets	2,616	3,709	4,442	5,288	6,076
Appl. of Funds	4,213	5,181	5,951	6,669	7,402
E: M OSt Estimates					

RATIOS					
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006	2007E	2008E
Basic (Rs)					
EPS	62.5	71.3	73.5	60.0	63.6
Cash EPS	69.8	78.7	81.3	68.3	72.5
BV/Share	175.4	220.1	257.1	288.6	320.8
DPS	16.0	16.0	32.0	25.0	27.5
Payout (%)	28.1	25.8	49.6	47.5	49.3
Valuation (x)					
P/E		14.4	13.9	17.0	16.1
Cash P/E		13.0	12.6	15.0	14.1
P/BV		4.6	4.0	3.5	3.2
EV/Sales		2.6	2.2	2.2	2.0
EV/EBITDA		9.0	8.9	11.1	9.8
Dividend Yield (%)		1.6	3.1	2.4	2.7
Return Ratios (%)					
RoE	35.6	32.4	28.6	20.8	19.8
RoCE	52.1	47.1	42.0	31.5	30.0
Working Capital Ratios					
Asset Turnover (x)	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	12
Debtor (Days)	46	23	28	37	37
Inventory (Days)	51	62	66	40	39
Working Capital (Days)	47	35	24	25	22
Leverage Ratio					
Current Ratio	2.7	3.2	2.8	4.6	4.9
Debt/Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CASH FLOW STATEMENT				(Rs	Million)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006	2007E	2008E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	2,145	2,281	2,206	1,699	1,844
Interest/Dividends Recd.	218	331	471	588	583
Direct Taxes Paid	-772	-851	-878	-716	-758
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-560	177	185	-22	55
CF from Operations	1,032	1,939	1,984	1,550	1,724
EO Items	68	0	0	0	0
CF from Ope (EO items)	1,100	1,939	1,984	1,550	1,724
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-73	-54	-225	-69	-158
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0	0
CF from Investments	-73	-54	-225	-69	-158
Issue of Shares	-54	-190	0	0	0
(Inc)/Dec in Debt	-152	0	0	0	0
Interest Paid	-1	0	-2	0	0
Dividend Paid	-417	-423	-840	-656	-722
CF from Fin. Activity	-625	-614	-842	-656	-722
Inc/Dec of Cash	402	1,271	917	825	843
Add: Beginning Balance	1,271	1,673	2,944	3,861	4,686
Closing Balance	1,673	2,944	3,861	4,686	5,529

NOTES

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Di	isclosure of Interest Statement	Aventis Pharma
1.	Analyst ownership of the stock	No
2.	Group/Directors ownership of the stock	No
3.	Broking relationship with company covered	No
4.	Investment Banking relationship with company covered	d No
3.	Broking relationship with company covered	No

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