

## **Grasim Industries**

STOCK INFO. BSE Sensex: 14,041	BLOOMBERG GRASIM IN	23 Janu	ary 2007									Buy
S&P CNX: 4,066	GRAS.BO	Previou	s Recomme	ndation:	Виу							Rs2,805
Equity Shares (m)	91.7	YEAR	NET SALES	PAT	EPS	EPS	P/E	P/BV	ROE	ROCE	EV/	EV/
52-Week Range	2,908/1,392	END	(RS M)	(RSM)	(RS)	GROWTH (%)	(X)	(X)	(%)	(%)	SALES	EBITDA
1,6,12 Rel. Perf. (%)	•	03/06A	101,919	10,376	113.2	7.5	24.8	5.3	21.4	20.7	3.3	15.9
M.Cap. (Rs b)	257.2	03/07E	133,108	19,135	208.7	84.4	13.4	3.9	29.2	36.7	2.5	8.5
M.Cap. (US\$ b)	5.8	03/08E	147,410	21,501	234.5	12.4	12.0	3.0	25.3	32.7	2.3	7.5

- Grasim's 3QFY07 results (standalone) are in line with our estimates. The company reported a PAT of Rs4.1b (v/s our estimate of Rs4b), driven primarily by strong performance in its core businesses (cement & VSF), coupled with higher other income. Consolidated PAT grew 184% YoY to Rs5.6b.
- Revenues grew 38% YoY to Rs22.8b (v/s our estimate of Rs22b), driven by 52% growth in cement revenues (5% volume and 49% realization growth) and 26% growth in VSF revenues (24% realization growth). Sponge iron business witnessed improvement in performance, with revenue growth of 47% (50% volume and 6% realization growth).
- EBITDA grew 109% YoY to Rs6.7b (v/s our estimate of Rs6.5b) leading to a 980bp margin expansion to 29.2%, driven by higher realizations in cement & VSF, and improvement in sponge iron business (PBIDT margins of 12.8% v/s 2.5% in 3QFY06). Margin expansion was restricted by cost push in cement business (higher fuel & freight cost) and chemicals business (impacted by captive power plant shutdown). Margin expansion coupled with higher other income (up 191% YoY to Rs444m) boosted standalone PAT growth to 154%.
- We are upgrading our EPS estimate for FY08 by 1.6% to Rs234.5, to factor in higher VSF realizations. We have lowered our assumption of cement price hike from Rs7.5/bag QoQ in 4QFY07 to Rs5/bag, as we believe that the recent customs duty cut would delay the price hikes by a month. However, the impact of lower hike in cement prices would be diluted by increase in VSF prices.
- ✓ With both the core businesses (cement and VSF) in cyclical upturn, Grasim should report impressive earnings growth in FY07. At 12x FY08E EPS and 7.5x EV/EBITDA, we maintain **Buy**.

Y/E MARCH		FY0	6			FY0	FY07			FY07E
	1Q	2Q	3 Q	4 Q	1Q	2 Q	3 Q	4QE		
Net Sales	15,533	16,492	16,482	18,151	18,770	20,108	22,794	23,668	66,557	85,340
YoY Change (%)	2.4	7.5	5.7	10.5	20.8	21.9	38.3	30.4	6.4	28.2
EBITDA	3,744	3,218	3,191	4,065	5,133	5,322	6,661	7,438	14,218	24,553
Margins (%)	24.1	19.5	19.4	22.4	27.3	26.5	29.2	31.4	21.4	28.8
Depreciation	705	720	733	759	741	756	807	839	2,916	3,142
Interest	265	237	235	236	235	241	240	222	973	938
Other Income	201	308	152	575	375	502	444	351	1,691	1,672
PBT before EO Items	2,975	2,570	2,376	3,645	4,532	4,827	6,058	6,728	12,019	22,145
Extraordinary Inc/(Exp)	454	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0
PBT after EO Items	3,429	2,570	2,376	3,645	4,532	4,827	6,058	6,728	12,060	22,145
Tax	919	693	757	1,019	1,413	1,467	1,942	2,166	3,428	6,987
Rate (%)	26.8	27.0	31.9	28.0	31.2	30.4	32.1	32.2	28.4	31.6
Reported PAT	2,510	1,877	1,619	2,627	3,119	3,360	4,116	4,563	8,632	15,158
Adj. PAT	2,056	1,877	1,619	2,627	3,119	3,360	4,116	4,563	8,591	15,158
YoY Change (%)	-6.2	-14.7	-21.5	-3.3	51.7	79.1	154.3	73.7	-8.7	76.4

STRONG PERFORMANC	E IN CORE	BUSINES	SES -CEME	ENT AND	VSF (RSM)
	3QFY07	3QFY06	% YOY	2QFY07	% Q0Q
Revenue Mix					
Fibre	6,470	5,152	25.6	5,596	15.6
Cement	12,748	8,383	52.1	11,412	11.7
Sponge Iron	1,952	1,329	46.9	1,408	38.7
Chemical	767	930	-17.5	765	0.3
Textile	537	509	5.5	848	-36.7
Total	22,794	16,482	38.3	20,108	13.4
PBIT					
Fibre	2,047	1,076	90.2	1,567	30.7
Cement	3,764	1,339	181.1	3,138	20.0
Sponge Iron	162	-52	-411.5	-33	-595.4
Chemical	135	208	-35.1	48	180.7
Textile	-29	-13	123.1	-1	-
Total	6,079	2,558	137.6	4,718	28.8
EBIT Margins (%)	3QFY07	3QFY06	CH. (BP)	2QFY07	CH. (BP)
Fibre	31.6	20.9	1,075	28.0	364
Cement	29.5	16.0	1,355	27.5	203
Sponge Iron	8.3	-3.9	1,221	-2.3	1,062
Chemical	17.6	22.4	-476	6.3	1,131
Textile	-5.4	-2.6	-285	-0.2	-525
Unallocated	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26.7	15.5	1,115	23.5	320

Source: Company/ Motilal Oswal Securities

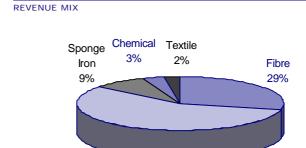
### Operating performance in line with expectation

While Grasim's core businesses – cement and VSF – witnessed robust performance, its sponge iron and chemicals businesses performed better than expected. Operating margins expanded 980bp YoY, driven by higher realizations in cement and VSF, and improvement in sponge iron and chemicals. Margin expansion coupled with higher other income (up 191% YoY to Rs444m) drove 154% growth in PAT to Rs4.1b.

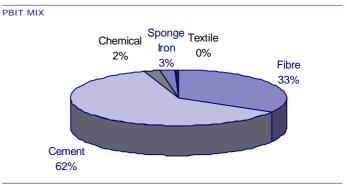
On a consolidated basis, Grasim's revenues grew 46% YoY to Rs36.9b, primarily driven by 53% growth in cement revenues and 39% growth in VSF revenues. Consolidated PAT grew 184% YoY to Rs5.6b.

## Cement and VSF businesses drive revenue growth...

Net sales grew 38% YoY to Rs22.8b, driven by 52% growth in cement revenues (5% volume and 49% realization growth) and 26% growth in VSF revenues (24% realization

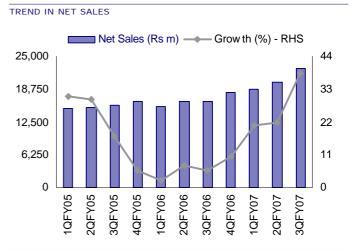


Cement 57%



Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

growth). Sponge iron business witnessed improvement in performance, with revenue growth of 47% (50% volume and 6% realization growth). However, the chemicals business continued to be impacted due to shutdown of captive power plant, resulting in 17.5% YoY decline in sales (~34% decline in volumes and 11.6% increase in realizations).

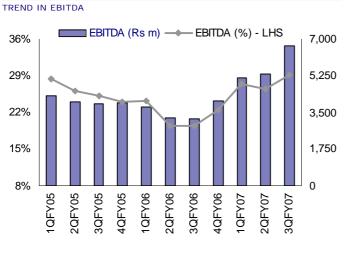


Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

### ...as well as margin expansion

EBITDA grew 109% YoY to Rs6.7b, leading to 980bp margin expansion to 29.2%. Margin expansion was restricted by cost push in cement business (higher fuel & freight cost), VSF business (increase in pulp and caustic soda prices) and chemicals business (impacted by captive power plant shutdown).

Margin expansion was driven by higher realizations (up 49%) in cement business, where PBIDT margins improved by 12pp (to 33%); the VSF business saw margin expansion of 10.4pp (to 34.5%), led by 24% improvement in realizations. Also, sponge iron business performance improved (PBIDT margins of 12.8% v/s 2.5% in 3QFY06) due to higher volumes (up 50%) and realizations (up 5.6%).



Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Margin expansion coupled with higher other income driven by treasury (up 191% YoY to Rs444m) enabled 154% PAT growth to Rs4.1b. Consolidated PAT for the quarter grew 184% YoY to Rs5.6b, on account of sharp improvement in operating performance of UltraTech Cement (PAT growth of 574% to Rs2.1b) and Shree Digvijay Cement (PAT growth of 189% to Rs184m).

### Segment-wise performance

# VSF division: price hikes boost realizations and margins

The VSF division's 3QFY07 revenues grew 25.6% YoY to Rs6.5b, primarily driven by a Rs6/Kg (~7.2% QoQ) price

hike at the beginning of the quarter. However, volumes grew by a marginal 1.6% to 67,061 ton, as the company is currently operating at 103% utilization. Strong demand from both domestic and exports segment has enabled the company to increase price during the quarter, for the sixth time in the last six quarters. On account of higher realizations, operating margins improved by 10.4pp YoY to 34.5%, despite 12% increase in pulp prices and 25% increase in caustic soda prices.

#### VSF DIVISION PERFORMANCE

3QFY07	3QFY06	% YOY	2QFY07	% Q0Q
68,784	61,862	11.2	65,083	5.7
67,061	66,025	1.6	63,119	6.2
6,470	5,152	25.6	5,596	15.6
90,389	72,816	24.1	83,279	8.5
2,233	1,242	79.8	1,743	28.1
34.5	24.1		31.1	
	68,784 67,061 6,470 90,389 2,233	68,784 61,862 67,061 66,025 6,470 5,152 90,389 72,816 2,233 1,242	68,784 61,862 11.2 67,061 66,025 1.6 6,470 5,152 25.6 90,389 72,816 24.1 2,233 1,242 79.8	68,784       61,862       11.2       65,083         67,061       66,025       1.6       63,119         6,470       5,152       25.6       5,596         90,389       72,816       24.1       83,279         2,233       1,242       79.8       1,743

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Demand for VSF is expected to grow based on strong demand from the Indian textile industry post quota. Also, the company is taking initiatives to introduce VSF based non-woven products in the domestic market and is focusing on high-value niche fibers, Modal and Excel. Grasim is enhancing its VSF capacity from the current 266,450 ton to 315,725 ton by FY08. Strong VSF demand supported by firm prices (despite fall in competing fiber prices) augurs well for the VSF business. Margins are likely to remain firm, despite rise in pulp prices, based on Rs2/Kg price increase in January 2007.

# Cement division: strong realizations on both YoY and QoQ basis

Cement business revenues grew 52% YoY (to Rs12.7b); PBIDT grew 140% YoY (to Rs4.2b), driven by significant improvement in gray cement realizations (up 49% YoY and 3.4% QoQ). While gray cement volumes grew by 5.4% to 3.7m ton, with realizations of Rs2,918/ton, white cement volumes and realizations were up 3.4% and 5.9%, respectively. To a certain extent, the impact of higher realizations was nullified by cost push (in the form of higher fuel and freight cost), resulting in PBIDT margins of 33% (up 12.1pp).

### CEMENT DIVISION PERFORMANCE

	3QFY07	3QFY06	% YOY	2QFY07	% Q0Q
A. Grey Cement					
Production (m ton)	3.7	3.49	5.2	3.31	10.9
Sales volume (m ton)	3.7	3.53	5.4	3.38	10.1
Net Turnover (Rs m)	11,755	7,605	54.6	10,496	12.0
Avg Realiz. (Rs/ton)	2,918	1,959	49.0	2,822	3.4
B. White Cement					
Production (ton)	91,722	97,377	-5.8	92,766	-1.1
Sales Volume (ton)	93,571	90,474	3.4	90,253	3.7
Net Turnover (Rs m)	993	778	27.6	916	8.4
Avg Realiz. (Rs/ton)	6,456	6,097	5.9	6,614	-2.4
PBIDT (Rs m)	4,203	1,748	140.4	3,560	18.1
PBIDT Margin (%)	33.0	20.9		31.2	

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Grasim is likely to have muted volume growth of around 4-5% until its new capacity comes on-stream (in October 2007). Cement prices are likely to remain firm, resulting in strong operating performance for the company. Also, Grasim is taking initiatives to control cost by improving the railroad mix, increasing blending and setting-up captive power plants.

### Sponge iron division: strong volume growth

The sponge iron division witnessed improvement in performance, led by strong volume growth of 50% (to 1,47,339 ton) and 5.6% YoY improvement in realizations (to Rs12,344/ton). Adjusted for low value non-moving stock sold during the quarter, actual realizations were higher by 12%. Higher prices led to higher volumes, driven by higher use of alternate fuels like naphtha and propane. As a result, PBIDT margins for the division improved by 10.3pp to 12.8%.

SPONGE IRON DIVISION PERFORMANCE

	3QFY07	3QFY06	% YoY	2QFY07	% QoQ
Production (ton)	116,996	90,972	28.6	113,567	3.0
Sales Volume (ton)	147,339	98,440	49.7	110,933	32.8
Net Turnover (Rs m)	1,952	1,329	46.9	1,408	38.7
Avg Realiz. (Rs/ton)	12,344	11,694	5.6	12,354	-0.1
PBIDT (Rs m)	250	33	657.6	54	363.0
PBIDT Margin (%)	12.8	2.5		3.8	

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Grasim's sponge iron business is likely to continue performing poorly, as its operating cost per ton is much higher due to poor raw material linkages. Although sponge iron realizations are expected to remain stable, due to inflated cost structure, Grasim's sponge iron division will continue to operate at break-even levels.

## Mega expansion plan in cement, with a capital outlay of Rs63.4b

Grasim has announced a capex of Rs63.6b in cement (Rs36.6b in Grasim and Rs27b in Cemco) to expand its cement capacity by 13.5m ton, set up captive power plant and modernize and de-bottleneck all plants. Post-expansion, Grasim's standalone capacity will increase from 14m ton to 23.5m ton (single largest capacity) by the end-FY08. On a consolidated basis, the AV Birla group will have a direct control of 46m ton of capacity.

### Revising estimates upwards

We are upgrading our consolidated EPS estimate for FY08 by 1.6% to Rs234.5, to factor in higher VSF realizations. We have lowered our cement price hike assumption from Rs7.5/bag QoQ in 4QFY07 to Rs5/bag, as we believe that the recent customs duty cut would delay the price hikes by a month. However, the impact of lower cement price hikes would be diluted by an increase in VSF prices. Therefore, we are keeping our FY07 EPS estimate intact.

### Valuation and view

With outlook on both of its core businesses (cement and VSF) being positive, Grasim should report impressive earnings growth in FY07. Being the largest cement player, Grasim would be biggest beneficiary of any further price increase in cement prices. Valuations at 12x FY08E EPS and 7.5x EV/EBITDA are attractive for the largest cement player in the industry. We are revising our price target to Rs3,050 (~13x FY08E EPS), in line with earnings upgrade. Maintain **Buy**.

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## Grasim Industries: an investment profile

### **Company description**

Grasim is a diversified company, with cement and VSF being its core businesses, accounting for 60.4% and 23.1% of FY06 revenue. Its other businesses include sponge iron, chemicals and textiles. The acquisition of UltraTech Cement, the cement division of L&T, by Grasim catapulted it to number one position in the Indian cement industry, with total capacity under control of 31m ton.

### Key investment argument

- Being the largest player, with total capacity of 31m ton (existing capacity) under control and highest organic growth visibility, Grasim would be the biggest beneficiary of any further increase in cement prices.
- Global leader in VSF business, with backward integration in pulp, experiencing robust demand in both global and domestic markets.

### Key investment risks

- Cement sector is likely to add huge capacities in coming year, which could result in significant softening in cement prices.
- Softening in prices of competing fibers (cotton & PSF) could put pressure on VSF prices.

### COMPARATIVE VALUATIONS

		GRASIM	ACC	GACL
P/E (x)	FY07E	13.4	17.3	14.4
	FY08E	12.0	13.1	11.2
P/BV (x)	FY07E	3.9	6.2	6.7
	FY08E	3.0	4.5	4.9
EV/Sales (x)	FY07E	2.5	3.3	3.8
	FY08E	2.3	2.7	3.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	FY07E	8.5	12.1	10.1
	FY08E	7.5	8.5	7.3

### SHAREHOLDING PATTERN (%)

OTHER TOP OF THE TEXT	(70)		
	DEC.06	SEP.06	DEC.05
Promoter	25.1	25.1	25.0
Domestic Inst	20.9	22.3	23.6
Foreign	37.8	36.1	34.5
Others	16.2	16.5	16.9

### Recent development

Doubling VSF capacity in Chinese JV from 30,000 tpa to 60,000 tpa by December 2007.

### Valuation and view

- The stock quotes at 12x FY08E EPS and 7.5x EV/EBITDA.
- Grasim will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the current upturn in cement prices. We expect the company to continue posting robust earnings growth. We maintain **Buy** with target price of Rs3,050 (~13x FY08E EPS).

### Sector view

- ✓ Volume expected to grow by 9-10%, driven by continuous momentum in housing and infrastructure projects.
- Improved demand-supply dynamics due to limited capacity addition in previous years. However, greenfield capacity addition could disturb the tight demand-supply scenario.
- Near-term outlook for the sector remains positive but longer-term prospects will be determined by the sector's allocation of cash flow.

EPS: MOST FORECAST VS CONSENSUS (RS)

	MOST	CONSENSUS	VARIATION
	FORECAST	FORECAST	(%)
FY07	208.7	183.4	13.8
FY08	234.5	222.5	5.4

### TARGET PRICE AND RECOMMENDATION

2,805	3,050	8.7	Buy
PRICE (RS)	PRICE (RS)	(%)	
CURRENT	TARGET	UPSIDE	RECO.

STOCK PERFORMANCE (1 YEAR)



CONSOLIDATED INCOME		(Rs	Million)		
Y/E MARCH	2005	2006	2007E	2008E	2009E
Net Sales	92,917	101,919	133,108	147,410	157,277
Change (%)	23.8	9.7	30.6	10.7	6.7
Total Expenditure	72,645	81,138	94,055	101,939	110,730
EBITDA	20,272	20,781	39,054	45,471	46,547
M argin (%)	218	20.4	29.3	30.8	29.6
Depreciation	5,562	5,631	5,372	6,584	7,672
EBIT	14,709	15,150	33,682	38,888	38,875
Int. and Finance Charges	2,846	2,122	1,888	1,831	1,830
Other Income - Rec.	2,452	2,524	2,072	1,777	1,846
PBT & EO items	14,316	15,552	33,866	38,834	38,892
Change (%)	36.4	8.6	117.8	14.7	0.1
Extra Ordinary items	-1,281	41	0	0	0
PBT but after EO items	13,035	15,593	33,866	38,834	38,892
Tax	4,421	4,027	10,925	12,657	12,697
Tax Rate (%)	33.9	25.8	32.3	32.6	32.6
Reported PAT	8,614	11,566	22,941	26,176	26,194
PAT Adj for EO items	9,461	11,536	22,941	26,176	26,194
Change (%)	22.0	21.9	98.9	14.1	0.1
M argin (%)	10.2	11.3	17.2	17.8	16.7
Less: M inority Interest	-190	1,160	3,806	4,676	5,117
Consolidated PAT	9,651	10,376	19,135	21,501	21,077
Change (%)	26.9	7.5	84.4	12.4	-2.0

RATIOS					
Y/E MARCH	2005	2006	2007E	2008E	2009E
Basic (Rs)					
EPS	105.3	113.2	208.7	234.5	229.9
Cash EPS	162.0	172.3	272.8	309.9	282.8
BV/Share	445.7	527.7	713.5	925.3	1,132.4
DPS	16.5	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Payout (%)	18.3	18.4	9.1	8.0	8.0
Valuation (x)					
P/E		24.8	13.4	12.0	12.2
Cash P/E		16.3	10.3	9.1	9.9
P/BV		5.3	3.9	3.0	2.5
EV/Sales		3.3	2.5	2.3	2.0
EV/ EBITDA		15.9	8.5	7.5	7.0
Dividend Yield (%)		0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Return Ratios (%)					
RoE	23.6	21.4	29.2	25.3	20.3
RoCE	21.4	20.7	36.7	32.7	30.8
Working Capital Ratios					
Debtor (Days)	28	21	27	26	26
Asset Turnover (x)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0
Leverage Ratio					
Debt/Equity (x)	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.3

CONSOLIDATED BALANCI	SHEET			(Rs	Million)
Y/E MARCH	2005	2006	2007E	2008E	2009E
Equity Share Capital	917	917	917	917	917
Reserves	39,943	47,459	64,508	83,923	102,914
Net Worth	40,859	48,376	65,425	84,840	103,831
Loans	39,339	36,833	31,882	39,500	28,500
Deferred liabilities	11,793	11,583	11,451	12,092	12,775
M inority Interest	5,002	5,136	8,942	13,617	18,734
Capital Employed	96,993	101,927	117,700	150,049	163,840
Gross Block	111,116	114,836	127,965	159,890	175,760
Less: Accum. Deprn.	50,181	55,160	54,323	60,094	67,766
Net Fixed Assets	60,935	59,676	73,641	99,796	107,994
Capital WIP	2,053	4,480	5,815	7,370	2,500
Investments	7,690	13,521	14,005	18,692	28,469
Goodwill	19,577	17,728	17,728	17,728	17,728
Curr. Assets	23,971	26,185	33,049	36,207	39,784
Inventory	10,567	11,645	13,418	14,878	15,857
Account Receivables	7,232	5,908	9,903	10,406	11,142
Cash and Bank Balance	1,635	2,374	2,528	3,216	4,555
Others	4,537	6,259	7,200	7,706	8,230
Curr. Liability & Prov.	17,233	19,663	26,539	29,744	32,634
Account Payables	8,982	11,382	20,181	22,176	23,563
Other Liabilities	5,209	5,003	2,661	2,740	2,768
Provisions	3,043	3,277	3,698	4,828	6,303
Net Current Assets	6,738	6,523	6,510	6,463	7,150
Appl. of Funds	96,993	101,927	117,700	150,049	163,840

CONSOLIDATED CASH FL	OW STATI	EMENT		(Rs	Million)
Y/E MARCH	2005	2006	2007E	2008E	2009E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	25,274	20,914	42,860	50,147	51,664
Interest/Dividends Recd.	2,452	2,524	2,072	1,777	1,846
Direct Taxes Paid	1,047	-4,237	-11,057	-12,017	-12,014
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-1,881	954	167	735	652
CF from Operations	26,892	20,155	34,042	40,643	42,148
F0.14	1001				•
EO Items	1,281			0	0
CF frm Op. incl EO	25,611	20,197	34,042	40,643	42,148
(inc)/dec in FA	-36,368	-6,798	-20,672	-34,293	-11,000
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-1,861	-3,981	-485	-4,687	-9,777
CF from Investments	-38,229	-10,780	-21,157	-38,980	-20,777
Issue of Shares	-2,128	-1,929	-3,806	-4,676	-5,117
(Inc)/Dec in Debt	18,687	-2,506	-4,951	7,618	-11,000
Interest Paid	-2,846	-2,122	-1,888	-1,831	-1,830
Dividend Paid	-1,735	-2,121	-2,086	-2,086	-2,086
CF from Fin. Activity	11,978	-8,678	-12,730	-975	-20,033
Inc/Dec of Cash	-640	739	154	688	4 2 2 0
					1,338
Add: Beginning Balance	2,275	1,635	2,374	2,528	3,216
Closing Balance	1,635	2,374	2,528	3,216	4,555

E: M OSt Estimates

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### NOTES

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1.	Analyst ownership of the stock	No
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