

Company Focus

8 January 2009 | 9 pages

Indian Oil (IOC.BO)

Buy: Safer Choice on Downstream Recovery

- Downstream R&M in a different world Notwithstanding the price cuts on auto fuels in Dec (and another one likely in 1QCY09), Sing GRM of US\$3/bbl and crude at ~US\$50 could have a significant positive impact on profitability of R&M companies going into FY10E through: (i) higher absolute marketing EBITDA, (ii) better quality of and control over earnings, which offsets (iii) impact of weak refining.
- Rs45-100bn EBITDA swing implies US\$4.5-10bn EV upside Based on our analysis, at US\$50 crude, the FY10E R&M industry EBITDA could go up by ~Rs45-100bn YoY depending on the extent of further price cuts. This is even with no oil bonds in FY10E and industry GRMs dropping to US\$2.5/bbl. At 5x EV/EBITDA, this could translate to EV upside of US\$4.5-10bn. Despite price cuts, blended MS and HSD margins are currently ~\$25-30/bbl (on last month's prices, with crude averaging US\$41/bbl).
- Continue to prefer IOC Even though HPCL is most leveraged to the swing in industry EBITDA, we prefer IOC at this stage given the uncertainty surrounding price cuts and also as the oil futures curve is in contango, suggesting the market expects crude to follow an upward trajectory. IOC is therefore a hedged pick on downstream recovery; the diversified revenue mix (refining+pipeline) provides comfort in case crude px and refining margins were to go up again.
- Key risks Government policy and a sharp increase in crude prices remain the key risks to the company. However, there is some cushion if crude were to rise again; at US\$50/bbl crude, blended auto fuel margin would still be ~Rs2/I.

Buy/Medium Risk	1 M
Price (07 Jan 09)	Rs421.15
Target price	Rs528.00
Expected share price return	25.4%
Expected dividend yield	3.7%
Expected total return	29.1%
Market Cap	Rs502,168M
	US\$10,367M

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Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2007A	78,675	65.98	56.2	6.4	1.4	23.5	4.5
2008A	79,127	66.36	0.6	6.3	1.2	19.8	1.3
2009E	94,338	79.11	19.2	5.3	1.0	20.1	4.4
2010E	77,305	64.83	-18.1	6.5	0.9	14.6	3.7
2011E	74,670	62.62	-3.4	6.7	0.8	12.8	3.6

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

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Fiscal year end 31-Mar	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E
Valuation Ratios					
P/E adjusted (x)	6.4	6.3	5.3	6.5	6.7
EV/EBITDA adjusted (x)	5.8	5.3	4.0	4.8	4.6
P/BV (x)	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8
Dividend yield (%)	4.5	1.3	4.4	3.7	3.6
Per Share Data (Rs)					
EPS adjusted	65.98	66.36	79.11	64.83	62.62
EPS reported	65.98	66.36	79.11	64.83	62.62
BVPS	305.16	364.75	421.01	466.28	510.17
DPS	18.88	5.50	18.52	15.61	15.15
Profit & Loss (RsM)					
Net sales	1,999,308	2,279,454	4,073,402	3,783,630	3,506,830
Operating expenses	-1,912,167	-2,182,261	-3,924,733	-3,667,189	-3,398,740
EBIT	87,142	97,193	148,670	116,441	108,090
Net interest expense	-17,430	-18,039	-35,366	-49,981	-51,393
Non-operating/exceptionals	27,619	46,132	37,742	54,160	59,766
Pre-tax profit	97,330	125,286	151,046	120,620	116,462
Tax	-34,324	-39,381	-51,287	-40,980	-39,569
Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	15,668	-6,778	-5,420	-2,335	-2,223
Reported net income	78,675	79,127	94,338	77,305	74,670
Adjusted earnings	78,675	79,127	94,338	77,305	74,670
Adjusted EBITDA	116,844	127,610	183,266	155,720	149,933
Growth Rates (%)	04.0	140	70.7	7.1	7.0
Sales	24.3	14.0	78.7	-7.1	-7.3
EBIT adjusted	43.1 35.2	11.5 9.2	53.0 43.6	-21.7 -15.0	-7.2 -3.7
EBITDA adjusted EPS adjusted	56.2	9.2 0.6	45.6 19.2	-13.0 -18.1	-3.7 -3.4
Cash Flow (RsM)	30.2	0.0	13.2	10.1	0.4
Operating cash flow	131,861	17,707	49	123,728	143,620
Depreciation/amortization	29,703	30,417	34,596	39,279	41,843
Net working capital	20,365	-98,216	-134,306	4,809	24,884
Investing cash flow	-119,776	-91,536	-410,552	-169,680	-83,382
Capital expenditure	-49,583	-76,967	-26,221	-59,094	-40,733
Acquisitions/disposals	-70,193	-14,569	-384,331	-110,586	-42,648
Financing cash flow	-8,985	86,223	386,723	47,553	-45,865
Borrowings	-5,825	93,398	412,883	69,776	-24,631
Dividends paid	-26,745	-8,276	-27,260	-23,323	-22,333
Change in cash	3,099	12,393	-23,780	1,601	14,373
Balance Sheet (RsM)					
Total assets	1,039,935	1,260,428	1,811,079	1,996,098	1,949,423
Cash & cash equivalent	10,767	10,602	4,892	1,457	13,741
Accounts receivable	51,668	52,565	109,974	108,842	104,668
Net fixed assets	422,681	469,231	460,856	480,671	479,561
Total liabilities	659,098	803,482	1,281,634	1,410,335	1,309,100
Accounts payable	150,636	209,739	254,767	235,948	205,153
Total Debt	294,811	388,209	801,092	870,868	846,237
Shareholders' funds	380,837	456,946	529,445	585,763	640,323
Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin adjusted	5.8	5.6	4.5	4.1	4.3
ROE adjusted	23.5	19.8	20.1	14.6	12.8
ROIC adjusted	9.4	9.1	12.6	8.8	7.9
Net debt to equity	74.6	82.6	150.4	148.4	130.0
Total debt to capital	43.6	45.9	60.2	59.8	56.9

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Figure 1. Build-up of FY10E net revenue loss for the industry assuming US\$50 crude (Rs bn)

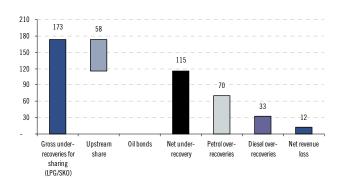
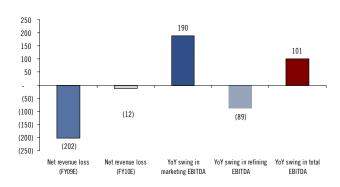


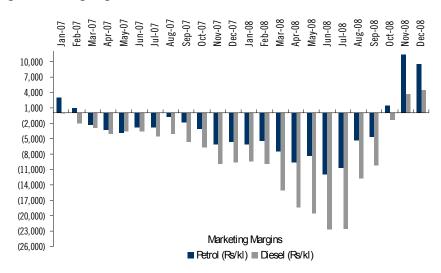
Figure 2. FY10E vs. FY09E aggregate EBITDA swing if crude stays at US\$50 (Rs bn)



Source: Citi Investment Research

Source: Citi Investment Research

Figure 3. Marketing Margins on Auto Fuels



Source: Citi Investment Research estimates, Bloomberg

Indian Oil

Company description

IOC is the largest oil refining and marketing company in India. It has controlling interests in IBP, Chennai Refineries, and Bongaigaon Refineries.

Investment strategy

We rate IOC shares Buy / Medium Risk (1M) with a target price of Rs528. IOC is the dominant downstream refining and marketing company in India, controlling 41% of India's refining capacity and selling 56% of all petroproducts in India. It also owns the largest pipeline network among downstream oil companies in India thus resulting in a well-rounded revenue mix. IOC's fundamentals are driven by parameters such as oil prices and reforms in retail petroleum pricing. We believe IOC's valuation not only captures the benefit of better operations but also commands a premium over HPCL for its advantages and superior earnings profile. Even though it is difficult to predict the subsidy situation FY10E onwards, some comfort can be derived from the fact that the government has stuck to its commitment till date in FY09.

Valuation

Our target price for IOC of Rs528 is based on an FY10E EV/EBITDA of 6.0x and 5.0x to contribution from oil bonds. The 6.0x multiple is a moderate discount to the approximately 6.5~7.0x target multiple we use for other Indian refineries, given the lower complexity of IOC's refineries and also the policy indifference of the government. The target price includes material contribution from IOC's holdings in ONGC and GAIL at 50% discount to current market prices -worth Rs60/share to factor in the current market environment. While valuing the Indian oil refining and marketing companies, we prefer to use EV/EBITDA to compare companies across the regions to avoid the differences in accounting policies on depreciation and taxation. Our target price implies a P/BV of 1.4x FY08, at a premium to HPCL given IOC's lower proportion of marketing assets as a proportion of total assets.

Risks

We assign a Medium Risk rating to the stock, because volatility in international oil prices will likely continue to impact earnings, given the linkage to marketing margins. Sentiment towards the sector and IOC is closely linked to crude price fluctuations, sector deregulation, subsidy losses, and auto fuel price hikes/cuts. Downside risks to our target price include: sharp increase in crude prices leading to higher-than-expected increase in marketing losses; retail price cuts by the government; any change in the subsidy-sharing formula leading to an increase in the net losses being borne by downstream R&M companies. The outcome of elections in early FY10 and the shape of the next central government would also have a bearing on the outlook for reforms in the sector.

Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL.BO; Rs264.40; 3M)

Valuation

Our target price for HPCL of Rs213 is based on FY10E EV/EBITDA of 6.0x for core earnings and 5.0x to contribution from oil bonds. The 6.0x multiple is a moderate discount to the approximately 6.5~7.0x target multiple we use for other Indian refineries, given the lower complexity of HPCL's refineries and also the policy indifference of the government. We use FY10E as a base considering a normalized earnings scenario based on 1/3rd subsidy sharing by upstream amid continued policy ambiguity. While valuing the Indian oil refining and marketing companies, we prefer to use EV/EBIDTA to compare companies across the region to avoid differences in accounting policies in depreciation and taxation. Our target price also equates to an FY10E P/BV of 0.6x, at a discount to the target imputed P/BV multiple for IOC. We believe this is justified given the poorer capital efficiency ratios of HPCL as a result of a higher proportion of lower-yielding marketing assets vs. refining assets.

Risks

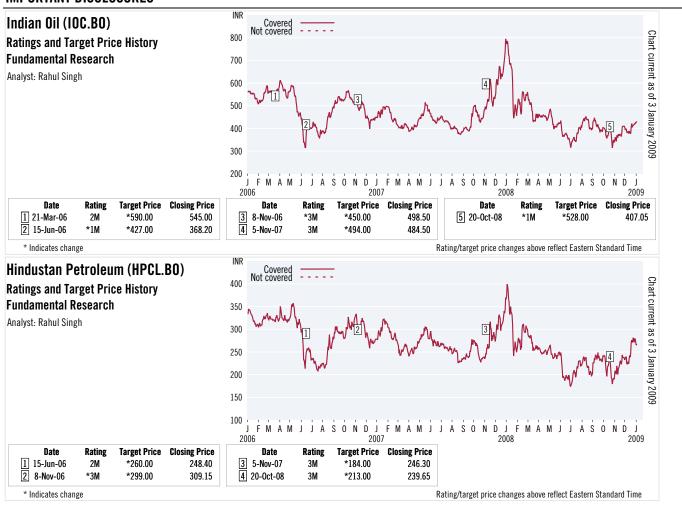
We assign a Medium Risk rating to the stock, as we believe volatility in international oil prices will continue to impact earnings given the linkage to marketing margins. Sentiment toward the sector and HPCL is closely linked to event risks from sector deregulation, subsidy losses and auto fuel price hikes. Removal of the subsidy-sharing mechanism with upstream companies and/or fuel price cuts could significantly impact HPCL's earnings. The advent of private-sector competition in any significant way could exert pressure on marketing margins. Upside risks to our target price include a sharp decline in crude prices and the resultant recovery in the company's marketing profitability could lead to higher-than-estimated returns. If the government took concrete pricing action on retail products to bring them in line with international prices it would put our earnings forecasts at risk.

Appendix A-1

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