

Hindalco Industries – Reduce Exposure

We expect the price may come down to Rs.42 from the current range of Rs.50

- Our major concern is on Novelis because the demand for aluminium (AI) rolled products is slowing down in the US and the Europe.
- ➤ The industry leader Alcoa had reported a 20% decline in Al rolled products sales in December 2008 and has projected that the demand may decline by 2% in 2009 because of a 9 –12 % demand fall in the US and Europe. Around 70 % of Novelis's deliveries are to these regions.
- ➤ Based on these facts, we expect a minor loss to Novelis in 2009 because of lower volume and profit margin. The volume is expected to fall by 20% in the second half of 2009 and a 7% drop in FY 10. The EBITDA per ton is expected to decline by 25% in 2009 due to weak demand and its negative effects on profit margins.
- ➤ On the other hand, Hindalco's domestic operations would be slightly better than our earlier expectations. This is because of decreasing raw material cost and a moderate improvement in aluminium prices. It has been estimated that the raw material cost would be lower by 10 40% because of the price fall of major inputs. On the other side, aluminium prices are slowly picking up after bottoming out by December 2008. These factors along with a depreciating rupee may help the company to report a better than expected EPS for FY 10. However, the consolidated EPS of the company for FY 10 is expected to fall by 40% and the target price is reduced by 38% to Rs.42.
- ➤ The target price cut has also been affected by production shutdowns in Australia followed by weak copper prices.
- The estimated earnings for FY 09 has been reduced to Rs. 4.46 and it would be Rs.4.39 for FY 10.

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