HCL Technologies HCLT IN

TECHNOLOGY/IT SERVICES & SOFTWARE | INDIA

Harmendra Gandhi Pinku Pappan +91 22 4037 4181 <u>harmendra.gandhi@nomura.com</u> +91 22 4037 4360 <u>pinku.pappan@nomura.com</u>

Maintained

NOMURA FINANCIAL ADVISORY AND SECURITIES (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

BUY

NUX

O Action

HCL Tech reported q-q revenue growth of 5.1% in 3Q FY10, which matched that of Infosys, despite higher exposure to Europe. We believe the company's focus on total IT outsourcing deals and strength in ERP implementation should help it match the revenue growth rates of its tier-1 peers. We increase our price target to INR435 and maintain our BUY rating.

🖊 Catalysts

Large deal wins would be positive for the stock; sharp appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar would be a negative for margins.

🖧 Anchor themes

Strong top-line growth and reduced forex losses should significantly improve EPS in FY11F. We believe that the current discount of approximately 40% to Infosys in terms of EV/EBITDA (FY11F) will narrow.

Strong top-line growth

① Better-than-expected revenue growth

HCL Tech's q-q revenue growth of 5.1% (6.9% in constant currency) was higher than our expectation of 2.1%, primarily reflecting the 15% growth in infrastructure services. On a CQGR basis over the past four quarters, HCL Tech has outperformed tier-1 peers such as Infosys and TCS in revenue growth. This, in our view, has been due to the HCL Tech's focus on total IT outsourcing deals — also reflected in the 15.5% CQGR growth in infrastructure services over the same period.

② Margin decline in line with expectations

The EBITDA margin decline of 140bps was in line with our expectations and was primarily due to the cross currency movement and decrease in the BPO business. The BPO division will remain EBITDA negative for two more quarters as per management, given investments being made to revamp the business entirely.

Infra and core software should continue to do well

The company continues to win deals in the total IT outsourcing space, and management sees huge latent demand among customers for data centre transformation and virtualisation. Discretionary spending by customers also has increased, with four of 13 deals won during 3Q FY10 in the enterprise application space.

Better EPS growth than tier-1; maintain BUY

We maintain our BUY on HCL Tech, since we believe the company should be able to match the revenue growth rates of tier-1 peers while delivering better EPS growth over FY10-12F. Our price target increases to INR435 (from INR425), which implies 15x the one-year forward P/E or a 25% discount to our target multiple for Infosys.

Closing price on 21 Apr	Rs373.9
Price target	Rs435.0
	(from Rs425.0)
Upside/downside	16.3%
Difference from consensus	9.6%
FY11F net profit (Rsmn)	17,321
Difference from consensus	1.4%
Source: Nomura	

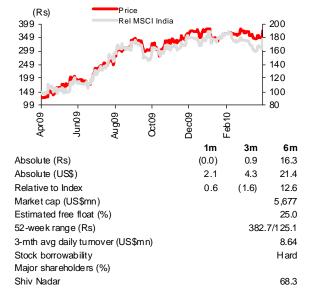
Nomura vs consensus

Our earnings estimates are only slightly above consensus.

Key financials & valuations								
30 Jun (Rsmn)	FY09	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F				
Revenue	105,910	123,988	146,691	179,238				
Reported net profit	12,777	13,031	17,321	20,183				
Normalised net profit	12,777	13,031	17,321	20,183				
Normalised EPS (Rs)	19.10	19.36	25.67	29.68				
Norm. EPS growth (%)	12.8	1.4	32.6	15.6				
Norm. P/E (x)	19.7	19.6	14.8	12.7				
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.1	10.8	9.9	8.0				
Price/book (x)	4.4	3.7	3.1	2.6				
Dividend yield (%)	2.2	1.3	1.3	2.5				
ROE (%)	23.4	20.8	23.0	22.6				
Net debt/equity (%)	45.0	34.6	21.2	14.0				
Earnings revisions								
Previous norm. net profit		12,466	18,263	21,057				
Change from previous (%)		4.5	(5.2)	(4.1)				
Previous norm. EPS (Rs)		18.55	27.10	31.15				
Source: Company, Nomura estimates								

Source: Company, Nomura estimates

Share price relative to MSCI India



Source: Company, Nomura estimates

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Any authors named on this report are research analysts unless otherwise indicated. See the important disclosures and analyst certifications on pages 10 to 13.

Drilling down

Infrastructure services drives growth

HCL Tech's 3Q FY10 revenues grew by 5.1% on a sequential basis to US\$685mn. This is higher than that reported by TCS (3.1%) and slightly lower than Infosys' 5.2% for the same quarter. In constant currency terms, revenue growth was 6.9%.

On a compound quarterly growth rate (CQGR) basis, over the past four quarters, HCL Tech has outperformed Infosys (INFO IN, Rs2,712.45, NEUTRAL) and TCS (TCS IN, Rs785, NEUTRAL) with 5% growth, compared with 3.7% and 4.1%, respectively. This, in our view, has been due to HCL Tech's focus on total IT outsourcing deals — also reflected in the 15.5% CQGR growth in infrastructure services over the past four quarters.

3Q revenue growth for HCL Tech was better than TCS and marginally lower than Infosys

Exhibit 1. Comparison of four-month CQGR and re	venue				
HCL Tech.	3QFY09	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenues (US\$ mn)	565	607	630	652	685
q-q growth (%)		7.6	3.8	3.4	5.1
CQGR, past 4 quarters (%)					5.0
Incremental q-q revenue (US\$ mn)		43	23	22	34
Cumulative revenue (US\$ mn) addition, past 4 quarters					121
Infosys	3QFY09	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenues (US\$ mn)	1121	1122	1154	1232	1296
q-q growth (%)		0.1	2.9	6.8	5.2
CQGR, past 4 quarters (%)					3.7
Incremental q-q revenue (US\$ mn)		1	32	78	64
Cumulative revenue (US\$ mn) addition, past 4 quarters					175
TCS	3QFY09	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenues (US\$ mn)	1433	1481	1538	1635	1686
q-q growth (%)		3.3	3.9	6.3	3.1
CQGR, past 4 quarters (%)					4.1
Incremental q-q revenue (US\$ mn)		48	57	98	51
Cumulative revenue (US\$ mn) addition, past 4 quarters					253

Source: Company data, Nomura research

Huge latent demand for infrastructure services

Fullikit 4. Commentions of four month COOD and movement

During 3Q, infrastructure services grew by 15% on a sequential basis. As per management, demand is strong for services like data centre transformation and virtualisation, as customers had stopped investing in data centres during the recession. The company is also seeing opportunities to create and deliver services over the cloud and is currently engaged in such services with 12 customers. The data centre that the company acquired two quarters ago has gone live and provides services to three customers currently, according to management.

Verticals led by MPE, manufacturing and life sciences

The media publishing and entertainment (MPE) and life sciences verticals continue to grow above the company average pace and have been driving a large part of incremental growth in the last four quarters. HCL Tech has been rated as a tier-1 service provider globally in the MPE space by Gartner. Management sees scope for transformational projects as companies move from print to online, and opportunities to provide end-end IT solutions by also managing IT infrastructure.

Exhibit 2. Q-Q growth rate (%) trend for MPE and life sciences					
	4QFY09	1QFY10	2QFY10	3QFY10	
Media Publishing & Entertainment	20.5	26.0	9.5	15.4	
Life Sciences	9.3	3.8	16.4	9.5	

Source: Company data, Nomura research

Manufacturing at a tipping point

Manufacturing has historically been a strong vertical for HCL Tech, and according to management, it is now turning the corner. In FY08 and FY09, manufacturing had a revenue share of about 30%, which declined sharply during the recession (currently at 26.7%).

In 3Q, manufacturing grew by 9.7% sequentially (10.5% in constant currency). Management commented that the company was seeing growth from sub verticals like semiconductor, aerospace and medical devices.

Discretionary spending improving

Transformational deals have come back, although they are being broken down and awarded in phases, as per management. HCL Tech has been able to cross-sell Axon services to its existing clients, and two of the four deals won in enterprise solutions are from existing clients.

Management commented that the company was focussing on developing specific solutions by addressing white spaces in SAP applications. This should help the company sustain the leadership position in the SAP space, in our view.

BPO recovery two quarters away

The BPO division saw revenue decline by 9.7% during 3Q FY10, as the company looks to revamp the business by building a new platform. EBITDA slipped into negative territory (loss of US\$2.3mn) as costs did not see a proportional reduction compared with revenues. Management expects that the recovery will take two more quarters, during which time EBITDA would likely remain at a loss, albeit at current levels.

Exhibit 3. HCL Tech perfo	ormance across divi	sions	
Core Software	3QFY09	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenue (US\$ mn)	423	462	481
EBITDA margin (%)	22.0	23.7	22.8
Q-q growth (%)			
Revenue	16.3	3.0	4.2
EBITDA	3.8	(1.1)	0.4
Infrastructure Services	3QFY09	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenue (US\$ mn)	85	132	152
EBITDA margin (%)	21.9	17.7	18.3
Q-q growth (%)			
Revenue	1.1	7.8	15.0
EBITDA	13.3	(3.7)	19.3
BPO	3QFY09	2QFY10	3QFY10
Revenue (US\$ mn)	56	58	52
EBITDA margin (%)	15.4	8.0	(4.4)
Q-q growth (%)			
Revenue	(11.3)	(2.0)	(9.7)
EBITDA	(2.2)	(45.2)	(150.0)

Source: Company data, Nomura research

Manufacturing grew by 9.7% in 3Q

EBITDA margin decline in line with expectations

The EBITDA margin decline of 140bps was in line with our expectations and was primarily due to the cross currency movement and decrease in the BPO business. In infrastructure services, the EBITDA margin improved by 60bps, while in core software it declined by 90bps.

As per management, margin pressure due to currency movement was partly offset by lower SG&A spend (as a percentage of revenue), as the company was able to leverage on investments made earlier.

Net profit boosted by lower forex loss

HCL Tech's net profit grew by 16% sequentially, which was higher than our expectation partly due to lower-than-expected forex losses. As compared to a loss of US\$20mn that company management was guiding, the actual loss in 3Q was lower, at US\$14mn due to rupee appreciation against the dollar.

Strong hiring trend continues

The net adds continued to rise in the IT services (core software + Infrastructure services) division, with the majority of the newly added employees at the lateral level.

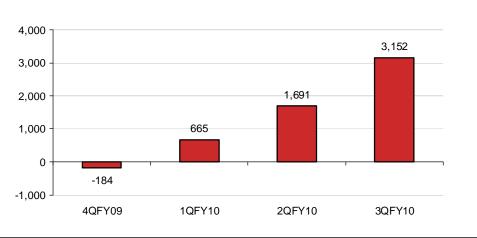


Exhibit 4. Net adds trend in IT services

Source: Company data, Nomura research

Other highlights

- Debt increased by US\$87mn q-q to US\$621mn due to additional working capital loans taken
- Cash increased to US\$517mn
- OCI loss at US\$36.4mn, of which US\$18.8 mn will flow in next quarter and the remainder over the first three quarters of FY11
- DSO days increased by 2 days to 84

Changes to our estimates

We increase our revenue growth estimate to about 24% and 23% in FY11F and FY12F (from 17% and 19% earlier), respectively, on the back of the following expectations: 1) continued strong performance in the infrastructure services division; 2) a pick-up in the manufacturing vertical in which the company has a good presence, and; 3) improvement in discretionary spend, which the company should be able to exploit given its strength in ERP.

We increase our revenue growth estimate

EBITDA margin decline due to cross currency movement and BPO business decrease Our margin assumptions, however, are lower primarily due to a change in the US\$/INR rate, which is in line with the Nomura FX team forecast. We also incorporated forex guidance provided by the company. Our EPS estimates, as a result, are lower by 5.3% and 4.7% for FY11F and FY12F, respectively.

Exhibit 5. Chan	ge in estim	ates							
		New			Old		C	hange (%)	
	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F
Revenue (US\$mn)	2,691	3,334	4,102	2,642	3,096	3,691	1.9	7.7	11.1
USD/INR rate	46.1	44.0	43.7	46.1	45.0	45.0	-0.1	-2.2	-2.9
Revenue (INRbn)	124	147	179	122	139	166	1.8	5.3	7.9
EBITDA margin (%)	20.7	18.7	18.5	21.2	20.9	21.0	-50 bps	-230 bps	-250 bps
Tax Rate (%)	18.2	18.0	26.0	18.2	18.0	26.0	10 bps	0 bps	0 bps
EPS (INR)	19.4	25.7	29.7	18.6	27.1	31.1	4.3	-5.3	-4.7

Source: Nomura estimates

Exhibit 6. Revenue growth rate (%) estimate across divisions (US\$ terms)

	FY10F	FY11F
Core software	19.2	23.6
Infrastructure services	59.7	32.9
BPO	-6.6	2.8
Total	23.0	23.9

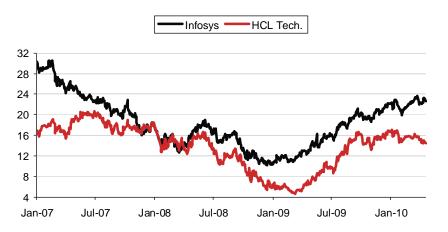
Source: Nomura estimates

Price target increased to INR435; maintain BUY

Our price target increases to INR435 (from INR425) on our higher near-term revenue growth estimates. At our price target, the implied one-year forward P/E is 15x, or a 25% discount to our target multiple for Infosys.

We maintain our BUY on HCL Tech, as we believe the company will be able to match the revenue growth rates of its tier-1 peers while delivering better EPS growth over FY10-12F. On our estimates, HCL Tech's EPS CAGR over FY10-12F is 23.8%, compared with 13.6% for Infosys.





Source: Bloomberg

Valuation methodology and risks

Our DCF-based price target of INR435 is calculated using an 11% discount rate and terminal growth rate assumption of 5%. The key investment risks to our price target are: 1) a lower-than-expected revenue ramp up in the core software and infrastructure services divisions, and; 2) greater-than-expected appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar.

3QFY10 results in detail

Exhibit 8. HCL Tech consolid	lated results (I	NR mn)		
	3QFY09	2QFY10	3QFY10	3QFY10F
Gross Revenue	28,620	30,324	30,759	29,929
Direct Costs	18,009	19,505	20,380	19,533
Gross Profit	10,612	10,818	10,379	10,396
SG&A	4,502	4,430	4,305	4,434
EBITDA	6,109	6,389	6,074	5,962
Depreciation & Amortization	1,415	1,368	1,100	1,337
EBIT	4,695	5,021	4,974	4,625
Foreign Exchange Gains (Loss)	(2,018)	(1,256)	(628)	(900)
Other Income, net	(25)	(135)	(139)	(72)
PBT	2,652	3,629	4,206	3,653
Provision for income taxes	487	679	768	658
Share from equity investment	0	14	0	5
Loss/(Income) of minority share holders	15	0	0	0
Profit after tax	2,180	2,964	3,439	3,000
EPS (INR)	3.3	4.4	5.1	4.5
Q-Q Growth (%)				
Revenues	14.9	0.0	1.4	(1.3)
EBITDA	9.0	(7.3)	(4.9)	(6.7)
PAT	(41.7)	(7.4)	16.0	1.2
Y-Y Growth (%)				
Revenues	48.3	21.7	7.5	4.6
EBITDA	42.1	14.0	(0.6)	(2.4)
PAT	(35.8)	(20.8)	57.7	37.6
Margins (%)				
Gross margin	37.1	35.7	33.7	34.7
EBITDA margin	21.3	21.1	19.7	19.9
Net profit margin	7.6	9.8	11.2	10.0
Tax Rate	18.4	18.7	18.2	18.0

Source: Company data, Nomura estimates

Exhibit 9. Revenues by vertical

Revenue share (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
Banking, FS & Insurance (BFSI)	26.1	25.5
Manufacturing	25.6	26.7
Telecom	12.5	11.6
Retail	8	7.5
Media Publishing & Entertainment (MPE)	7.2	7.9
Life Sciences	7.2	7.5
Energy-Utilities-Public Sector	7.3	7
q-q growth (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
Banking, FS & Insurance (BFSI)	2.6	2.7
Manufacturing	-3.4	9.7
Telecom	-0.5	-2.4
Retail	18.2	-1.4
Media Publishing & Entertainment (MPE)	9.5	15.4
Life Sciences	16.4	9.5
Energy-Utilities-Public Sector	11.0	0.8

Exhibit 10. Revenues by service line

Revenue share (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
Enterprise Application Services	22.4	21.4
Eng & R&D Services	18.0	19.0
Industry Solutions	30.5	29.9
Infrastructure Services	20.3	22.2
BPO Services	8.8	7.6
q-q growth (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
Enterprise Application Services	5.8	0.4
Eng & R&D Services	-0.4	11.0
Industry Solutions	2.8	3.1
Infrastructure Services	8.2	15.0
BPO Services	-2.1	-9.7

Source: Company data, Nomura research

Exhibit 11. Revenues by geography

Revenue share (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
US	57	59.5
Europe	29.5	26.7
Rest of world	13.5	13.8
q-q growth (%)	2QFY10	3QFY10
US	0.4	9.8
Europe	5.2	-4.8
Rest of world	13.5	7.5

Source: Company data, Nomura research

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Financial statements

ncome statement (Rsmn)		-		-	
rear-end 30 Jun	FY08	FY09	FY10F	FY11F	FY12
Revenue	75,670	105,910	123,988	146,691	179,23
Cost of goods sold	(49,607)	(69,528)	(85,257)	(103,278)	(125,432
Gross profit	26,063	36,382	38,731	43,413	53,80
SG&A	(12,881)	(17,811)	(18,077)	(21,183)	(26,589
mployee share expense					
Operating profit	13,182	18,571	20,654	22,230	27,21
BITDA	16,215	23,065	25,716	27,361	33,21
Depreciation	(3,033)	(4,494)	(5,062)	(5,130)	(5,994
mortisation					
BIT	13,182	18,571	20,654	22,230	27,21
let interest expense	1,698	1,624	(449)	(293)	3
ssociates & JCEs					
Other income	(2,342)	(4,901)	(4,291)	(836)	
arnings before tax	12,538	15,294	15,914	21,102	27,25
ncome tax	(1,271)	(2,544)	(2,901)	(3,798)	(7,08
let profit after tax	11 ,267	12,750	13,013	17,303	20,16
/linority interests	(19)	27	18	18	1
Otheritems					
Preferred dividends		40	40	4=	
lormalised NPAT Extraordinary items	11,248	12,777	13,031	17,321	20,18
eported NPAT	11 ,248	12,777	13,031	17,321	20,18
Dividends	(6,375)	(5,475)	(3,151)	(3,158)	(6,36
ransfer to reserves	4 ,873	7,302	9,881	14,163	13,81
aluation and ratio analysis					
Dnormalised P/E (x)	22.7	19.7	19.6	14.8	12.
D normalised P/E at price target (x)	26.4	22.9	22.8	17.2	14.
Reported P/E (x)	22.1	19.6	19.3	14.6	12.
Dividend yield (%)	2.6	2.2	1.3	1.3	2.
rice/cashflow (x)	13.5	10.7	11.0	9.9	8.
Price/book (x)	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.1	2.0
V/EBITDA (x)	15.4	12.1	10.8	9.9	8.0
V/EBIT (x)	18.9	15.0	13.4	12.2	9.8
Bross margin (%)	34.4	34.4	31.2	29.6	30.0
BITDA margin (%)	21.4	21.8	20.7	18.7	18.
BIT margin (%)	17.4	17.5	16.7	15.2	15.2
let margin (%)	14.9	12.1	10.5	11.8	11.
ffective tax rate (%)	10.1	16.6	18.2	18.0	26.
Dividend payout (%)	56.7	42.9	24.2	18.2	31.
Capex to sales (%) Capex to depreciation (x)	7.4 1.8	5.0 1.2	5.6 1.4	5.5	5.
				1.6	1.0
ROE (%)	22.0	23.4	20.8	23.0	22.0
CA (pretax %)	19.4	18.6	16.3	16.1	17.
irowth (%)					
levenue	25.4	40.0	17.1	18.3	22.2
BITDA	21.3	42.2	11.5	6.4	21.4
BIT	21.6	40.9	11.2	7.6	22.4
lormalised EPS	(18.5)	12.8	1.4	32.6	15.0
lormalised FDEPS	(17.9)	15.1	0.5	32.5	16.2
er share					
er snare eported EPS (Rs)	16.9	19.1	19.4	0E 7	29
lorm EPS (Rs)				25.7 25.7	
ully diluted norm EPS (Rs)	16.9 16.5	19.1 19.0	19.4 19.1	25.7 25.2	29 29
Book value per share (Rs)					
Non value per share (RS)	78.5	85.0	101.5	122.2	141

We estimate revenue to grow by 18.3% in FY11F and 22.2% in FY12F

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Year-end 30 Jun	FY08	FY09	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F
EBITDA	16,215	23,065	25,716	27,361	33,211
Change in working capital	2,227	401	(2,819)	(1,748)	(1,982)
Other operating cashflow					
Cashflow from operations	18,442	23,466	22,897	25,613	31,229
Capitalexpenditure	(5,566)	(5,280)	(7,000)	(8,000)	(9,500)
Free cashflow	12,876	18,186	15,897	17,613	21,729
Reduction in investments	(1,520)	5,718	(4,876)	-	-
Net acquisitions	(1,651)	(34,029)	(391)	-	-
Reduction in other LT assets	(2,714)	(3,542)	(2,386)	(6,605)	(7,655)
Addition in other LT liabilities	4,667	1,675	(537)	1,565	1,775
Adjustments					
Cashflow after investing acts	11 ,658	(1 1,99 2)	7,707	12,573	15,849
Cash dividends	(6,375)	(3,884)	(2,235)	(2,241)	(4,515)
Equity issue	-	-	-	-	-
Debt issue	-	29,745	(1,616)	-	-
Convertible debt issue					
Others	(5,029)	(13,506)	(3,808)	(4,191)	(7,313)
Cashflow from financial acts	(11,405)	12,355	(7,659)	(6,432)	(11,828)
Net cashflow	253	363	48	6,141	4,021
Beginning cash	3,587	3,840	4,203	4,251	10,392
Ending cash	3,840	4,203	4,251	10,392	14,414
Ending n et debt	(3,840)	25,568	23,636	17,495	13,473

Balance sheet (Rsmn)					
As at 30 Jun	FY08	FY09	FY10F	FY11F	FY12F
Cash & equivalents	3,840	4,203	4,251	10,392	14,414
Marketable securities	20,779	14,792	19,367	19,367	19,367
Accounts receivable	18,940	27,083	29,984	36,596	44,095
In ven torie s					
Other current assets	8,713	10,699	8,801	10,742	12,943
Total current assets	52,272	56,777	62,403	77,097	90,818
LT investments	101	370	671	671	671
Fixed assets	13,317	15,862	18,132	21,001	24,507
Good will					
Other intangible assets	9,585	45,325	41,970	40,316	38,728
Other LT assets	5,063	8,605	10,991	17,596	25,251
Total assets	80,338	126,939	134,167	156,682	179,975
Short-term debt					
Accounts payable	2,319	2,444	2,469	3,013	3,631
Other current liabilities	19,826	30,231	28,391	34,651	41,751
Total current liabilities	22,145	32,675	30,859	37,665	45,382
Long-term debt	-	29,771	27,887	27,887	27,887
Convertible debt					
Other LT liabilities	5,959	7,634	7,097	8,662	10,437
Total liabilities	28,104	70,080	65,843	74,214	83,706
Minority interest	57	16	-	-	-
Preferred stock					
Common stock					
Retain ed earnings	52,177	56,843	68,323	82,468	96,269
Proposed dividends					
Other equity and reserves					
Total shareholders' equity	52,177	56,843	68,323	82,468	96,269
Total equity & liabilities	80,338	126,939	134,167	156,682	179,975
Liquidity (x)					
Current ratio	2.36	1.74	2.02	2.05	2.00
Interest cover	na	na	46.0	76.0	na
Leverage					
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	net cash	1.11	0.92	0.64	0.41
Net debt/equity (%)	net cash	45.0	34.6	21.2	14.0
Activity (days)					
Days receivable	75.5	79.3	84.0	82.8	82.4
Days inventory	-		-	-	- 10
Days payable	12.8	12.5	10.5	9.7	9.7

Cash is increasing

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ISSUER SPECIFIC REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

lssuer	Ticker	Price (as at last close)	Closing Price Date Rating Disc		Disclosures
HCL Technologies	HCLT IN	374 INR	21 Apr 2010	Buy	

Previous Ratings

Issuer	Previous Rating	Date of change
HCL Technologies	Neutral	10 Sep 2009

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As at 31 December 2009.

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• A rating of "1", or **"Buy"**, indicates that the analyst expects the stock to outperform the Benchmark over the next 12 months.

• A rating of "2", or "Neutral", indicates that the analyst expects the stock to perform in line with the Benchmark over the next 12 months.

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Stocks:

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• A "Buy" recommendation indicates that potential upside is 15% or more.

• A "Neutral" recommendation indicates that potential upside is less than 15% or downside is less than 5%.

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• A rating of "3", or "Neutral", indicates that the analyst expects the stock to either outperform or underperform the Benchmark by less than 5% over the next six months.

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A "Bearish" stance, indicates that the analyst expects the sector to underperform the Benchmark during the next six months.

Benchmarks are as follows: Japan: TOPIX; United States: S&P 500, MSCI World

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Explanation of Nomura's equity research rating system for Asian companies under coverage ex Japan published prior to 30 October 2008:

Stocks:

Stock recommendations are based on absolute valuation upside (downside), which is defined as (Fair Value - Current Price)/Current Price, subject to limited management discretion. In most cases, the Fair Value will equal the analyst's assessment of the current intrinsic fair value of the stock using an appropriate valuation methodology such as Discounted Cash Flow or Multiple analysis etc. However, if

the analyst doesn't think the market will revalue the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the fair value may differ from the intrinsic fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the difference between current market price and our estimate of current intrinsic fair value. Recommendations are set with a 6-12 month horizon unless specified otherwise. Accordingly, within this horizon, price volatility may cause the actual upside or downside based on the prevailing market price to differ from the upside or downside implied by the recommendation.

• A "Strong buy" recommendation indicates that upside is more than 20%.

- A "Buy" recommendation indicates that upside is between 10% and 20%.
- A "Neutral" recommendation indicates that upside or downside is less than 10%.
- A "Reduce" recommendation indicates that downside is between 10% and 20%.
- A "Sell" recommendation indicates that downside is more than 20%.

Sectors:

A "**Bullish**" rating means most stocks in the sector have (or the weighted average recommendation of the stocks under coverage is) a positive absolute recommendation.

A "**Neutral**" rating means most stocks in the sector have (or the weighted average recommendation of the stocks under coverage is) a neutral absolute recommendation.

A "**Bearish**" rating means most stocks in the sector have (or the weighted average recommendation of the stocks under coverage is) a negative absolute recommendation.

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Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited	Tel: +91 22 4037 4037		
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Worli, Mumbai- 400 018, India	Fax: +91 22 4037 4111		
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