

Company

26 May 2010 | 8 pages

# DB Corp (DBCL.BO)

## Takeaways from India Investor Conference, May 26-28

- Takeaways from Mumbai DB Corp spoke at our India Investor Conference on May 26-28. Here are key takeaways.
- Newsprint headwinds?- Mgmt noted that it has booked newsprint till December 2010 at ~U\$\$540 (spot prices of ~U\$\$550). Indigenous newsprint (~82% of mix) is ~10-15% lower than international newsprint. Our current estimates factor newsprint costs to increase to ~U\$\$600 (~17% YoY increase) in FY11E; despite which EBITDA margins are likely to remain firm at ~32-33%. The increase in newsprint prices from the bottom has been offset by the appreciation in the rupee over the same period.
- Advertising environment remains healthy- The 10-12% ad rate hike in April 2010 should ensure good ad revenue growth. Mgmt indicated that ~60% of the growth in FY11E will be driven by yield increases and the balance 40% would be on the back of addition in volumes/space and increase in color ads.
- Bihar & Jharkhand launch- Management has earmarked a negative EBITDA contribution of Rs1bn over the course of the next 3-4 years while investing behind the expansion into Bihar and Jharkhand markets and reiterated its operating profit break even within 3-4 years. Despite these investments, the company aims to maintain EBITDA margins near the current levels. Capex for the same would be around Rs750m over the course of expansion.

#### See below for more bullets

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15 02

**Statistical Abstract** 

Source: Powered by dataCentral

Year to

31 Mar

2008A

2009A

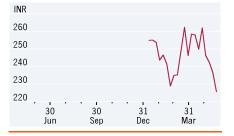
2010E

2011E

2012F

| Buy/Low Risk                | 1L        |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Price (26 May 10)           | Rs235.55  |
| Target price                | Rs280.00  |
| Expected share price return | 18.9%     |
| Expected dividend yield     | 0.4%      |
| Expected total return       | 19.3%     |
| Market Cap                  | Rs42,757M |
|                             | US\$900M  |

#### Price Performance (RIC: DBCL.BO, BB: DBCL IN)



| Net Profit | Diluted EPS | EPS growth | P/E  | P/B  | ROE  | Yield |
|------------|-------------|------------|------|------|------|-------|
| (RsM)      | (Rs)        | (%)        | (x)  | (x)  | (%)  | (%)   |
| 759        | 4.50        | 37.2       | 52.4 | 18.1 | 39.3 | 0.2   |
| 477        | 2.83        | -37.1      | 83.4 | 15.4 | 20.0 | 0.0   |
| 1,906      | 10.50       | 271.5      | 22.4 | 6.1  | 39.9 | 0.4   |
| 2,411      | 13.28       | 26.5       | 17.7 | 4.7  | 30.0 | 0.6   |

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# Surendra Goyal, CFA

+91-22-6631-9870 surendra.goyal@citi.com

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26.5

0.6

#### Equity 🗹

| Fiscal year end 31-Mar                     | 2008                   | 2009                 | 2010E               | 2011E               | 2012E               |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Valuation Ratios                           |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| P/E adjusted (x)                           | 52.4                   | 83.4                 | 22.4                | 17.7                | 15.7                |
| EV/EBITDA adjusted (x)                     | 26.9                   | 34.5                 | 13.0                | 11.0                | 9.7                 |
| P/BV (x)                                   | 18.1                   | 15.4                 | 6.1                 | 4.7                 | 3.7                 |
| Dividend yield (%)                         | 0.2                    | 0.0                  | 0.4                 | 0.6                 | 0.6                 |
| Per Share Data (Rs)                        |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| EPS adjusted                               | 4.50                   | 2.83                 | 10.50               | 13.28               | 15.02               |
| EPS reported                               | 4.50                   | 2.83                 | 10.50               | 13.28               | 15.02               |
| BVPS                                       | 13.02                  | 15.27                | 38.42               | 49.99               | 63.30               |
| DPS  | 0.50                   | 0.00                 | 1.00                | 1.50                | 1.50                |
| Profit & Loss (RsM)                        |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| Net sales                                  | 8,506                  | 9,490                | 10,514              | 11,956              | 13,502              |
| Operating expenses                         | -7,018                 | -8,426               | -7,419              | -8,468              | -9,623              |
| EBIT                                       | 1,488                  | 1,063                | 3,095               | 3,489               | 3,879               |
| Net interest expense                       | -281                   | -402                 | -295                | -48                 | 62                  |
| Non-operating/exceptionals                 | 121                    | 120                  | 129                 | 166                 | 196                 |
| Pre-tax profit                             | 1,328                  | 782                  | 2,930               | 3,607               | 4,137               |
| Tax  | -630                   | -423                 | -1,099              | -1,226              | -1,407              |
| Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.               | 61                     | 118                  | 74                  | 31                  | -4                  |
| Reported net income                        | 759                    | 477                  | 1,906               | 2,411               | 2,727               |
| Adjusted earnings                          | 759                    | 477                  | 1,906               | 2,411               | 2,727               |
| Adjusted EBITDA                            | 1,709                  | 1,353                | 3,516               | 3,921               | 4,336               |
| Growth Rates (%)                           |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| Sales                                      | 27.9                   | 11.6                 | 10.8                | 13.7                | 12.9                |
| EBIT adjusted                              | 105.2                  | -28.5                | 191.1               | 12.7                | 11.2                |
| EBITDA adjusted                            | 102.3<br>37.2          | -20.8                | 159.8               | 11.5<br>26.5        | 10.6<br>13.1        |
| EPS adjusted                               | 37.2                   | -37.1                | 271.5               | 20.5                | 15.1                |
| Cash Flow (RsM)                            |                        | 4 407                |                     |                     |                     |
| Operating cash flow                        | <b>2,267</b>           | 1,437                | 2,194               | 2,328               | 2,623               |
| Depreciation/amortization                  | 220                    | 290                  | 421                 | 433                 | 457                 |
| Net working capital<br>Investing cash flow | 1,057<br><b>-1,330</b> | 342<br><b>-3,773</b> | -297<br><b>-769</b> | -398<br><b>-693</b> | -303<br><b>-881</b> |
| Capital expenditure                        | -1,079                 | -3,138               | -604                | -811                | -1,140              |
| Acquisitions/disposals                     | -1,075                 | -5,158               | -004                | -011                | -1,140              |
| Financing cash flow                        | -328                   | 1,980                | -8                  | -1,560              | -1,310              |
| Borrowings                                 | -341                   | 2,195                | -2,500              | -1,250              | -1,000              |
| Dividends paid                             | -99                    | 0                    | -207                | -310                | -310                |
| Change in cash                             | 609                    | -356                 | 1,416               | 75                  | 431                 |
| Balance Sheet (RsM)                        |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| Total assets                               | 7,936                  | 10,914               | 12,794              | 13,836              | 15,519              |
| Cash & cash equivalent                     | 808                    | 452                  | 1,868               | 1,943               | 2,374               |
| Accounts receivable                        | 1,755                  | 1,774                | 1,959               | 2,293               | 2,589               |
| Net fixed assets                           | 3,623                  | 6,471                | 6,655               | 7,033               | 7,715               |
| Total liabilities                          | 5,497                  | 8,213                | 5,696               | 4,637               | 3,904               |
| Accounts payable                           | 0                      | 0                    | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   |
| Total Debt                                 | 3,436                  | 5,631                | 3,131               | 1,881               | 881                 |
| Shareholders' funds                        | 2,439                  | 2,701                | 7,098               | 9,199               | 11,615              |
| Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%)          |                        |                      |                     |                     |                     |
| EBITDA margin adjusted                     | 20.1                   | 14.3                 | 33.4                | 32.8                | 32.1                |
| ROE adjusted                               | 39.3                   | 20.0                 | 39.9                | 30.0                | 26.5                |
| ROIC adjusted                              | 15.8                   | 9.6                  | 24.1                | 25.4                | 25.3                |
| Net debt to equity                         | 107.8                  | 191.8                | 17.8                | -0.7                | -12.9               |
| Total debt to capital                      | 58.5                   | 67.6                 | 30.6                | 17.0                | 7.1                 |

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- Why not Uttar Pradesh?- The company may refrain from entering in UP in the near term, despite the state being India's largest Hindi ad market (size of ~Rs8-8.5bn). Mgmt believes that the ad volume growth is not attractive enough in the state, coupled with the high penetration levels of the incumbents. Further, the high cannibalisation of print ad revenues by the TV medium in the UP market makes it less attractive. Mgmt mentioned that the legal issue with the family of the promoter group is a non issue, as of now.
- Strong cash chest- Management has reduced its term loans from Rs5.4bn in FY09 to ~Rs2.5bn now thorough internal accruals and IPO money. Gross cash (around Rs1.9bn) on books + strong cash generation would lead to a strong net cash position (despite Bihar and Jharkhand launches). Mgmt mentioned the possibility of: a) a good dividend policy going forward; and/or b) building for funding possible inorganic opportunities expect consolidation in the industry over the medium term.

# **DB** Corp

### **Company description**

DB Corp (DBCL) is one of India's leading publishing houses, with newspapers cumulatively commanding the highest readership in the country (average daily readership of 15.5m). The company benefits from a strong position in key nonmetro markets like Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana. In total, it publishes seven newspapers, 48 newspaper editions and around 130 sub-editions in three languages (Hindi, Gujarati and English) in 11 Indian states. The company has interests in radio under the MY FM brand, operating in 17 FM radio stations across mini metros and small towns. Another subsidiary, I Media Corp provides exposure to internet and short messaging service (SMS) portals.

#### Investment strategy

We rate DBCL Buy/Low Risk (1L) with a target price of Rs280. The company is well placed in key regional markets, growing at a faster pace than the industry average. Superior execution skills, localization of content/advertising and scale result in strong competitive positioning. We expect 79% PAT CAGR over FY09E-12E, backed by multiple growth drivers. Strong growth in the Indian advertising market on strong economic growth, sustainable ad rate hikes, and breakeven of maturing editions are significant drivers. With newsprint prices still ~30% off peak levels, margins have rebounded sharply - we expect ~33% EBITDA margin in FY10. In FY11, we expect stable operating margins as we think healthy advertising growth (~15% YoY), better cost controls and positive contribution from newer editions should be able to offset newsprint increase.

#### Valuation

Our Rs280 target price is based on 21x FY11E EPS, at a premium to the Asian peer average. Strong franchise, presence in growth markets and advertising upturn should help DBCL sustain premium valuations. Asian publishing companies trade at a FY11E P/E of ~15x with 3-year earnings CAGR (FY09-12E) of 2%. Our P/E target multiple of 21x FY11E earnings for DBCL seems reasonable given its ~75% EPS CAGR (FY09-12E). The Indian print media companies trade at 11-22x FY11E P/E based on consensus earnings estimates. Given its good visibility on revenues and a good track record of earnings, we believe earnings-based valuations are the best way to value DBCL.

#### Risks

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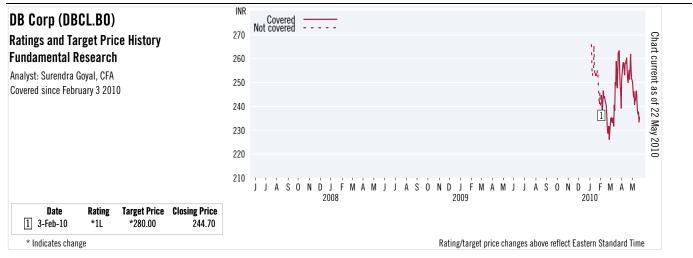
The stock has a limited trading history and thus our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day share price volatility, suggests a Speculative risk rating. However, we assign a Low risk rating given its solid positioning in high growth regional print markets. The company enjoys a relatively stable revenue/ earnings growth profile with a comfortable balance sheet. Key downside risks to our target price are: 1) escalation in newsprint prices could affect gross margins; 2) slowing economic activity in India would lead to a decline in ad industry revenues, hitting DBCL's revenues and profitability; 3) increased competition in any of DBCL's key markets and inability to break into newer markets could lead to more sales promotions/discounts; 4) Rupee depreciation could have an adverse impact as ~20% of the newsprint is imported and USD denominated.

# Appendix A-1

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