

Industry Flash

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India Natural Gas

City Gas Bidding Commences

- Bids for 6 cities placed The PNGRB has announced that it has received 17 bids from 8 entities for the development of city gas distribution (CGD) networks in 6 cities viz. Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Kota (Rajasthan), Dewas (Madhya Pradesh), Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Sonepat (Haryana), and Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) (see Figure 1). Those who qualify will have to submit a financial bid within 10 days. Bidding for 14 more cities is also expected to commence soon.
- **Significant value potential from CGD** Commencement of bidding is positive for the sector, given est. total value generation opportunity of CGD at US\$1.2-3.1bn (net equity value), as highlighted in our 22 Sep 2008 *Oil Gauge*¹ report.
- Reliance, GAIL place bids as expected As per press reports (Business Standard, Economic Times), Reliance, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance Gas Corporation, has bid for Kakinada, while GAIL, also through its wholly-owned subsidiary GAIL Gas, has submitted bids for the other 5 cities.
- Cairn a surprise entry Cairn, through a JV with BPCL, has placed bids for the cities of Kota and Sonepat. This was a surprise as Cairn has so far not stated any plans of entering the CGD business, and signals its intent to pursue other opportunities given significant cash flow generation from 2010. Capex required to roll out a CGD network in a city is, however, quite reasonable at cRs4bn.
- **IGL** bids for 2 cities, positive for growth IGL has bid for the cities of Sonepat and Meerut. Despite stiff competition, we view this as a positive for geographical growth opportunities, which have so far been limited to the NCR.

Figure 1. Bids placed for the first 6 cities

City Bidders

Kakinada Reliance Gas, Bhagyanagar Gas

Sonepat GAIL Gas, Indraprastha Gas, Cairn-BPCL, IOC-Adani, DCM Infrastructure

Meerut GAIL Gas, IOC-Adani, Indraprastha Gas

Dewas GAIL Gas, GSPC, IOC-Adani Kota GAIL Gas, Cairn-BPCL, IOC-Adani

Mathura GAIL Gas

Source: Business Standard, Citi Investment Research and Analysis

1" Life beyond NPV (KG D6!FY09:FY28)".Click on the link: https://www.citigroupgeo.com/pdf/SAP20407.pdf

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

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Downstream value potential of city gas

We highlight below our Oil Gauge report titled '*Life beyond NPV (KG D6! FY09:FY28)*' dated 22 September 2008 where we had explored the significant downstream value potential of the new gas finds by focusing on two key segments – a) Power generation (incl. merchant) and b) City gas distribution (CNG/PNG), which together can create US\$3-5bn value. The following is an extract from the report, where we focus on the potential of city gas distribution. The detailed report can also be accessed at: https://www.citigroupgeo.com/pdf/SAP20407.pdf

City Gas - stage set for explosive growth

The notification of city gas distribution regulations by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) in April was an important milestone for the sector, which is on the cusp of witnessing significant growth given the imminent commencement of production from D6. Reliance itself has realised the value of this opportunity and has consequently expressed interest to set up city gas distribution networks in 54 cities (regulations give 5 years marketing exclusivity for new players), with the intention of capturing a significant part of the value ex-wellhead i.e. in the downstream part of the gas value chain. We estimate the total (net) value of this opportunity at ~US\$1-3bn over the next 5 years, with RIL potentially being a major beneficiary, but other players like GAIL, Gujarat Gas, GSPL, etc. also likely to benefit.

Net equity value generation of US\$1-3bn

We estimate total value generation opportunity of city gas distribution at US\$1.2-3.1bn (net equity value). This is based on total distribution volumes of 35 mmscmd over the next ~5 years, as estimated by RIL for the 54 cities it has expressed interest for, increasing to ~75 mmscmd by 2020 (see Figure 3). Figure 2 below illustrates how we arrive at the aforementioned range.

Figure 2. Potential equity value that can be generated from city gas distribution (over 5 years)

	Units	CNG	PNG	Total	Comments
Sale price	Rs/kg, Rs/scm, Rs/cyl	20.0	12.0		Based on expected realizations assuming normalised crude of ~US\$80/bbl
	US\$/mmbtu	10.2	7.9		
Delivered gas cost	Rs/scm	8.3	8.3		
	US\$/mmbtu	5.5	5.5		Avg delivered price assuming well-head price of US\$4.2/mmbtu
Typical opex	Rs/scm	1.9	1.1		Based on actual operating costs of imcumbents
	US\$/mmbtu	1.3	0.7		
EBITDA	Rs/scm	5.1	2.6		
	US\$/mmbtu	3.4	1.7		
EBITDA margin	%	33%	22%		CNG margins tend to be higher, though at higher capex
Total est. demand	mmscmd	5.0	30.0	35.0	As per RIL estimates for current demand potential (see Fig.7)
Capex	US\$m	623	1,761	2,384	CNG involves higher capex
- ow Debt	US\$m	311	881	1,192	
- ow Equity	US\$m	311	881	1,192	
EBITDA (base case)	US\$m	223	686	910	
EBITDA (regulated case)		156	440	596	
Payback (base case)	years	2.8	2.6	2.6	Paybacks/return ratios for both segments (CNG/PNG) even out
Payback (regulated case)	years	4.0	4.0	4.0	
EBITDA/gross block (base case)	%	36%	39%		Base case yields a post-tax ROCE of ~25%
EBITDA/gross block (regulated case)	%	25%	25%		Base case yields a post-tax ROCE of ~17%
EV/EBITDA	X	6.0	6.0		
EV (base case)	US\$bn	1.3	4.1	5.5	
EV (regulated case)		0.9	2.6	3.6	
Equity value (base case)	US\$bn			4.3	After deducting debt of US\$1.2bn (50% of US\$2.4bn capex)
Equity value (regulated case)	US\$bn			2.4	
Net Equity value (base case)	US\$bn			3.1	After deducting book value of equity investment of US\$1.2bn
Net Equity value (regulated case)	US\$bn			1.2	
Source: Citi Investment Research an	d Analysis				

Our key assumptions are as follows:

- 1. Total distribution volumes of 35 mmscmd, based on estimates of RIL. Interestingly, the more lucrative CNG segment forms a small proportion (just 5 mmscmd) of the total volumes, with the bulk being taken up by industrial consumers. Domestic and commercial customers comprise the balance (see Figure 3 for the detailed break-up).
- Total cumulative capex of US\$2.4bn to be incurred over the next ~5 years, with a disproportionately higher (~1/4th) share of CNG vis-à-vis PNG. These assumptions are based on the capex that IGL (heavily biased towards CNG) and GGas (primarily PNG) have incurred so far. We assume a D/E split of 1:1.
- 3. EBITDA margins of 33% and 22% for CNG and PNG based on an average gas price (delivered) of US\$5.5/mmbtu, sales realisation of Rs20/kg (CNG) and Rs12/scm (PNG), and actual operating costs of incumbents (IGL and GGas). These figures also lie between the 20% and 42% operating margins realised by GGas and IGL in CY07/FY08.
- 4. **Scenario 1 base case:** based on the above margin and realisation estimates (base case), the payback period works out to a very attractive

- ~2.5-3 years and an EBITDA/gross block of 35-40%, imputing a post-tax ROCE of ~25%. This yields a total EBITDA of ~US\$0.9bn.
- 5. **Scenario 2 regulated case:** Given the evolving regulatory environment and the notified post-tax ROCE of 14% for network tariff/CNG compression charge for the city gas distribution business (albeit leaving the end consumer price and consequently the marketing margin unregulated), we have also assumed a more conservative scenario where regulation will not permit a distributor to achieve super-normal returns. This scenario assumes a more reasonable EBITDA/gross block of ~25%, a payback period of ~4 years, and imputes a post-tax ROCE (including mktg) of ~17%, which is more consistent with the regulatory environment. This yields a total EBITDA of ~US\$0.6bn.
- 6. Applying an EV/EBITDA of 6.0x to the above EBITDA range of U\$\$0.6-0.9bn results in an EV of U\$\$3.6-5.5bn, which after deducting U\$\$1.2bn of debt yields a net equity value range of U\$\$1.2-3.1bn. This, as explained in #2 above, is arrived at after deducting the book value of the equity investment of U\$\$1.2bn (50% of U\$\$2.4bn capex).

Figure 3. RIL's estimated demand for city gas distribution as per the 54 EOIs submitted by it

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mmscmd	Domestic	Commercial	CNG	Industrial	Est. demand (current)	Est. demand (2020)
Agra	0.06	0.03	0.11	0.25	0.45	0.90
Ahmedabad	0.26	0.08	0.22	0.53	1.09	1.95
Allahabad	0.06	0.02	0.07	0.10	0.25	0.55
Amritsar	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.14	0.53
Aurabgabad	0.10	0.03	0.09	0.13	0.35	0.80
Bangalore	0.13	0.75	0.25	0.43	1.57	6.25
Bhiwandi	0.14	0.03	0.42	0.40	0.99	1.50
Bhopal	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.08	0.25	0.60
Chandigarh	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.10	0.29	0.75
Chennai	0.06	0.32	0.06	0.35	0.79	3.15
Coimbatore	0.18	0.03	0.02	0.10	0.33	0.83
Faridabad	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.10	0.28	0.75
Ghaziabad	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.36	0.50	0.94
Gurgaon	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.19	0.30	1.12
Gwalior	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.13	0.16	0.30
Hubli-Dharwad	0.04		0.03		0.16	0.30
		0.02		0.10		
Hyderabad	0.13	0.10	0.45	1.74	2.42	4.50
Indore	0.09	0.02	0.07	0.18	0.36	0.75
Jabalpur	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.20
Jaipur	0.20	0.04	0.00	0.49	0.73	1.30
Jalandhar	0.03	0.05	0.09	0.15	0.32	1.00
Jamnagar	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.13	0.17	0.33
Kakinada	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.10	0.14	0.26
Kanpur	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.86	1.16	2.70
Kochi	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.50	0.60	1.20
Kolkata	0.47	0.14	0.39	0.92	1.92	3.75
Kozikode	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.11	0.20	0.45
Lucknow	0.17	0.04	0.14	0.20	0.55	0.95
Ludhiana	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.24	0.35	1.57
Madurai	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.11	0.42
Mangalore	0.20	0.02	0.02	0.74	0.98	1.75
Meerut	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.36	0.50	1.40
Mysore	0.04	0.02	0.06	0.20	0.32	0.70
Nagpur	0.20	0.06	0.17	0.38	0.81	1.70
Nashik	0.08	0.04	0.10	0.18	0.40	1.00
Navi Mumbai	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.22	0.75
Noida	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.35
Pune	0.17	0.07	0.30	0.65	1.19	3.50
Rajkot	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.32	0.42	1.00
Salem	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.20	0.42	0.60
Shahdol	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.15	0.33	0.45
Sholapur	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.15	0.24	0.50
•	0.02				5.21	
Surat Thane	0.14	0.07 0.03	0.13 0.12	4.87 0.25	0.47	7.10 1.12
Thiruvanathapuram	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.15	0.30
Tiruchirapalli	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.28	0.40	0.60
Tirupati	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.10
Tuticorin	0.02	0.01	0.03	1.00	1.06	2.00
Udaipur	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.13	0.20	0.45
Vadodara	0.14	0.06	0.12	2.46	2.78	4.20
Vapi	0.00	0.01	0.00	2.46	2.48	4.10
Varanasi	0.06	0.02	0.08	0.10	0.26	0.50
Vijayawada	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.11	0.20	0.50
Vizag	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.77	0.94	2.00
RGCL* Total	4.47	2.91	4.74	24.93	37.06	77.41

Source: PNGRB and CIRA estimates. *RGCL (Reliance Gas Corporation Limited), a 100% subsidiary of RIL.

Appendix A-1

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