

# **Persistent Systems**

## Performance highlights

Y/E March (₹ cr)	2QFY12	1QFY12	% chg (qoq)	2QFY11	% chg (yoy)
Net revenue	238	224	6.4	187	27.4
EBITDA	45	40	13.1	43	5.4
EBITDA margin (%)	19.0	17.9	112bp	23.0	(397)bp
PAT	32	28	17.6	36	(9.5)

Source: Company, Angel Research

For 2QFY2012, Persistent Systems (Persistent) reported numbers that were almost in-line with our as well as street expectations on the revenue front; however, it outperformed the street as well as our expectations on the operating and profitability front. Though management has maintained its PAT guidance for FY2012 of having it at least flat yoy despite the surge in tax rates to 31% from 7% in FY2011, but its commentary has turned highly cautious. Persistent is into pure-play offshore product development (OPD), which is highly discretionary in nature and, thus, poses a huge risk for the company if any slowdown kicks in the economies. We recommend Neutral on the stock.

Quarterly highlights: For 2QFY2012, Persistent reported revenue of US\$51.5mn, up 3.1% qoq, majorly led by volume growth. In INR terms, revenue came in at ₹238.2cr, up by whopping 6.4% qoq. Despite giving wage hikes, EBITDA margin grew by 112bp qoq to 19.0%, aided by higher INR revenue growth due to qoq depreciating INR, lower SG&A expenses and wage hikes not applicable for the full employee base. PAT came in at ₹32.4cr, aided by higher other income due to tax-free dividend of ₹1.2cr, which led to lower tax outgo as well.

Outlook and valuation: Persistent, due to its niche focus on OPD, is exposed to a high amount of risk if any slowdown kicks in the developed economies. This, along with the cautious commentary by management, poses a downside risk to management's guidance of 29% yoy revenue growth in FY2012. Thus, we have trimmed our USD revenue growth estimates for FY2012 to 24.1% from 30.0% earlier. Over FY2011-13E, the company is expected to record USD and INR revenue CAGR of 18.9% and 19.4%, respectively. On the EBITDA margin front, we expect margin to dip to 19.9% for FY2012 and remain at 20.0% in FY2013 from 20.4% in FY2011, as we do not expect higher growth in high-margin IP-led revenue (due to its lumpy nature). Thus, over FY2011-13E, we expect the company to record EBITDA and PAT CAGR of 18.2% and 2.5%, respectively. We value the stock at 9x FY2013 EPS, which gives us a target price of ₹330, and recommend Neutral on the stock.

Y/E March (₹ cr)	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012E	FY2013E
Net sales	601	776	983	1,107
% chg	1.2	29.1	26.7	12.6
Net profit	115	140	125	147
% chg	74.0	21.5	(10.4)	17.2
EBITDA margin (%)	24.3	20.4	19.9	20.0
EPS (₹)	32.1	34.9	31.3	36.7
P/E (x)	10.1	9.3	10.3	8.8
P/BV (x)	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3
RoE (%)	18.0	18.7	14.6	14.8
RoCE (%)	17.5	15.5	16.1	15.8
EV/Sales (x)	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.5	6.0	5.0	4.2

Source: Company, Angel Research

Please refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

#### 2QFY2012 Result Update | IT

October 17, 2011

NEUTRAL	
CMP	₹324
Target Price	-
Investment Period	12 Months
Stock Info	
Sector	IT
Market Cap (₹ cr)	1,295
Beta	0.7
52 Week High / Low	504/337
Avg. Daily Volume	35,272
Face Value (₹)	10
BSE Sensex	17,025
Nifty	5,118
Reuters Code	PERS.BO
Bloomberg Code	PSYS@IN

Shareholding Pattern (%)	
Promoters	39.0
MF / Banks / Indian Fls	26.5
FII / NRIs / OCBs	5.7
Indian Public / Others	28.9

Abs. (%)	3m	1yr	Зуr
Sensex	(8.3)	(15.4)	70.7
Persistent	(14.9)	(24.1)	-
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Note: Listed on April 6,2010

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#### Exhibit 1: 2QFY2012 performance (Indian GAAP, Consolidated)

Y/E March (₹ cr)	2QFY12	1QFY12	% chg (qoq)	2QFY11	% chg (yoy)	1HFY12	1HFY11	% chg (yoy)
Net revenue	238	224	6.4	187	27.4	462	368	25.5
Cost of revenue	150	140	6.5	108	38.4	290	220	31.6
Gross profit	89	83	6.4	79	12.3	172	148	16.5
S&M expenses	17	18	(5.7)	17	(1.7)	34	31	9.9
G&A expenses	27	26	4.2	19	40.5	52	39	33.8
EBITDA	45	40	13.1	43	5.4	85	77	10.4
Depreciation	14	13	10.3	10	38.6	27	20	34.2
EBIT	31	27	14.4	33	(4.7)	59	58	2.2
Other income	7	6		4		14	7	
Forex gain/(loss)	6	6		2		13	11	
PBT	45	40	12.7	39	16.0	85	76	12.0
Income tax	13	12	1.9	3	313.4	25	6	345.0
PAT	32	28	17.6	36	(9.5)	60	70	(14.7)
EPS	8.1	6.9	17.6	9.0	(9.6)	15.0	17.6	(14.6)
Gross margin (%)	37.2	37.3	(3)bp	42.2	(500)bp	37.2	40.1	(289)bp
EBITDA margin (%)	19.0	17.9	112bp	23.0	(397)bp	18.5	21.0	(254)bp
EBIT margin (%)	13.2	12.3	91bp	17.6	(444)bp	12.7	15.7	(291)bp
PAT margin (%)	12.9	11.7	121bp	18.6	(570)bp	12.3	18.2	(592)bp

Source: Company, Angel Research

#### Exhibit 2: Actual vs. Angel estimates

(₹ cr)	Actual	Estimate	% Var
Net revenue	238	241	(1.2)
EBITDA margin (%)	19.0	15.4	364bp
PAT	32	26	24.1

Source: Company, Angel Research

#### **Revenue momentum continues**

For 2QFY2012, Persistent reported revenue of US\$51.5mn, up 3.1% qoq, primarily led by volume growth of ~2.4% qoq. The company's offshore billing rate was flat qoq at US\$3,771 per person per month (ppm); however, there was a slight decrease in onsite billing rates to US\$12,665 ppm from US\$13,033 ppm due to higher fixed price contracts. As such, management indicated that pricing will be stable going ahead.

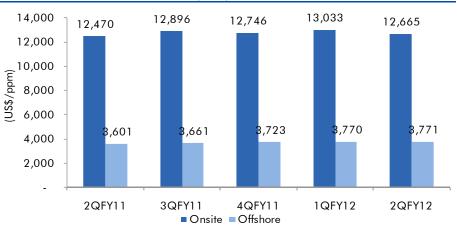
In INR terms, revenue growth was robust at 6.4% qoq to ₹238.2cr – higher growth as against USD revenue due to qoq INR depreciation against USD in 2QFY2012.





Exhibit 3: Trend in revenue growth (qoq)

Source: Company, Angel Research



#### Exhibit 4: Trend in billing rates (qoq)

Source: Company, Angel Research

Industry wise, the company's growth was led by the lifesciences and healthcare segment (contributing 10.6% to revenue), revenue of which grew by 10.4% qoq. Revenue from the telecom and wireless segment (contributing 22.0% to revenue) grew by 2.1% qoq, majorly led by European clients. The anchor industry segment – infrastructure and systems (contributed 67.4% to revenue) continued its revenue traction and grew by 2.3% qoq.

#### Exhibit 5: Growth trend in industry segments

	% to revenue	% chg (qoq)	% chg (yoy)
Infrastructure and systems	67.4	2.3	23.5
Telecom and wireless	22.0	2.1	39.9
Lifesciences and healthcare	10.6	10.4	27.2

Source: Company, Angel Research

Geography wise, the company's growth was again led by Europe, revenue from which grew by 8.9% qoq as ramp-ups happened in revenue from few European clients. North America continued to grow during this quarter as well at 2.1% qoq.



	% to revenue	% chg (qoq)	% chg (yoy)
North America	82.0	2.1	22.0
Europe	7.8	8.9	65.8
Asia-Pacific	10.2	6.9	52.0

#### **Exhibit 6: Growth trend in geographies**

Source: Company, Angel Research

Revenue contribution from IP-led services increased in 2QFY2012 to 7.6% from 6.1% in 1QFY2012. Management indicated that it foresees IP-led revenue to be substantially higher in 2HFY2012 as compared to 1HFY2012 and expects IP-led revenue to touch US\$25mn by the end of FY2012 i.e., whopping 68% yoy growth.

#### Hiring and utilization

Persistent continued its modest hiring trend and added 280 net employees during the quarter. In the technical employee base of the company, 291 net employees were added; however, there was a slight reduction in sales and support employee base. Attrition rate (LTM basis) declined significantly in 2QFY2012 to 17.7% from 18.4% in 1QFY2012. The company added 632 new graduates during the quarter.

#### **Exhibit 7: Employee metrics**

Particulars	2QFY11	3QFY11	4QFY11	1QFY12	2QFY12
Technical	4,907	5,070	5,950	6,178	6,469
Sales	87	94	108	119	113
Rest	287	296	302	323	318
Total	5,281	5,460	6,360	6,620	6,900
Net addition	370	179	900	260	280
Attrition – LTM (%)	18.6	21.5	19.6	18.4	17.7

Source: Company, Angel Research

Net utilization (excluding resources in IP-led work) increased by 110bp qoq to 73.8%. For computing utilization, the company does not account for freshers added till they complete three months in the company. So despite adding freshers in 2QFY2012, the company's utilization level increased on a qoq basis. However, in 3QFY2012, we expect utilization to dip due to intake of freshers in the system. Management expects utilization to inch up and reach 75–77% over the next 3-4 quarters.



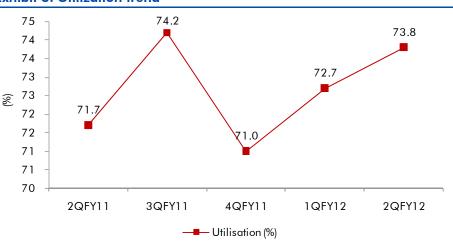
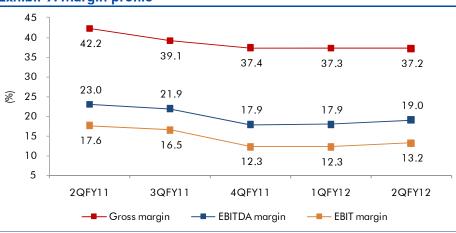


Exhibit 8: Utilization trend

Source: Company, Angel Research

#### **Margin profile**

In 2QFY2012, the company's EBITDA and EBIT margins increased by 112bp and 91bp qoq to 19.0% and 13.2%, respectively, despite giving wage hikes (7-8% for offshore employees and 4% for onsite employees) from July 1, 2011. This was because of higher INR revenue growth due to qoq depreciating INR, lower SG&A expenses and wage hikes not applicable for the full employee base. For the full year, the company expects margins to remain stable at FY2011 levels.





Source: Company, Angel Research

For 2QFY2012, PAT came in at ₹32.4cr, up by whopping 17.6% qoq on the back of higher other income due to tax-free dividend of ₹1.2cr. This along with slight write-backs led to lower tax outgo keeping the effective tax rate for the quarter at 28.2% vs. 31.1% in 1QFY2012. For FY2012, the company expects tax rate to be at 30%.



#### **Client pyramid**

The client metrics of the company saw a qualitative movement with one new client getting added in the <US\$1mn revenue bracket and 13 new clients getting added in the US\$1mn-3mn revenue bracket.

In 2QFY2012, Persistent added 37 new clients. The total active client base of the company increased to 253 from 239 in 1QFY2012.

Particulars	2QFY11	3QFY11	4QFY11	1QFY12	2QFY12
Customers billed	201	207	229	239	253
<us\$1mn< td=""><td>171</td><td>169</td><td>194</td><td>198</td><td>211</td></us\$1mn<>	171	169	194	198	211
US\$1mn-3mn	21	29	26	32	32
>US\$3mn	9	9	9	9	10

#### **Exhibit 10: Client metrics**

Source: Company, Angel Research

#### **Outlook and valuation**

Persistent, due to its niche focus on OPD, is exposed to a high amount of risk as most of its revenue is discretionary in nature and, therefore, it is a threat to the company's revenue profile if any slowdown kicks in the developed economies. This, along with the cautious commentary by management, poses a downside risk to management's guidance of 29% yoy revenue growth in FY2012. Thus, we have trimmed our USD revenue growth for FY2012 to 24.1% from 30.0% earlier. Over, FY2011-13E, the company is expected to record USD and INR revenue CAGR of 18.9% and 19.4%, respectively.

On the EBITDA margin front, we expect margin to dip to 19.9% for FY2012 and remain flat yoy to 20.0% in FY2013 from 20.4% in FY2011, as we do not expect higher growth in IP-led revenue (due to its lumpy nature), which is a high-margin business. On the bottom-line front, the company maintained its guidance of flat yoy PAT for FY2012, despite higher tax rates of 30% from 7.1% in FY2011, which we expect is tough to achieve without higher growth in IP-led revenue. Management expects IP-led revenue to touch US\$25mn by the end of FY2012 i.e., whopping 68% yoy growth, which appears very difficult to be achieved given that the company has got only US\$9.7mn revenue from IPs in 1HFY2012, considering management's watchful commentary on deal renewals. Thus, over FY2011-13E, we expect the company to record EBITDA and PAT CAGR of 18.2% and 2.5%, respectively. At the CMP of ₹324, the stock is trading at 8.8x FY2013E EPS of ₹36.7. We value the stock at 9x FY2013 EPS i.e., 50% discount to Infosys, which gives us a target price of ₹330, and recommend Neutral on the stock.



#### Exhibit 11: Key assumptions

	FY2012	FY2013
Revenue growth – USD terms (%)	24.1	13.9
USD-INR rate	46.5	46.0
Revenue growth – INR terms (%)	8.1	8.2
EBITDA margin (%)	19.9	20.0
Tax rate (%)	30.3	31.0
EPS growth (%)	(10.3)	17.2

Source: Company, Angel Research

#### **Exhibit 12: Change in estimates**

	FY2012E			FY2013E		
Parameter	Earlier	Revised	Variation	Earlier	Revised	Variation
(₹ cr)	estimates	estimates	(%)	estimates	estimates	(%)
Net revenue	980	983	0.3	1,117	1,107	(0.9)
EBITDA	180	196	8.7	213	221	4.0
Other income	40	28		36	43	
PBT	186	180	(3.3)	197	213	7.8
Tax	58	55	(5.5)	61	66	7.8
PAT	128	125	(2.3)	136	147	7.8

Source: Company, Angel Research





Source: Company, Angel Research



### Exhibit 14: Recommendation summary

Company	Reco	CMP	Tgt. price	Upside	Target	FY2013E	FY2013E	FY2011-13E	FY2013E	FY2013E
		(₹)	(₹)	(%)	P/E (x)	EBITDA (%)	P/E (x)	EPS CAGR (%)	RoCE (%)	RoE (%)
HCL Tech	Виу	439	558	27.2	15.0	17.2	11.6	24.3	20.3	22.4
Hexaware	Neutral	90	-	-	11.0	15.3	11.4	66.0	16.2	18.0
Infosys	Neutral	2,747	2,837	-	18.0	30.6	17.4	14.8	24.0	22.5
Infotech Enterprises	Neutral	118	-	-	8.0	15.1	7.9	8.8	9.0	8.1
KPIT Cummins	Reduce	169	154	(9.0)	10.0	15.3	11.0	16.5	18.7	16.4
Mahindra Satyam	Accumulate	73	79	7.9	11.0	14.6	10.2	30.4	10.8	13.5
Mindtree	Accumulate	387	414	7.1	10.0	13.9	9.4	28.4	17.1	15.5
Mphasis	Accumulate	340	382	12.3	11.5	15.5	8.6	0.4	13.4	14.5
NIIT	Accumulate	50	57	14.3	8.2	13.8	7.2	11.2	12.4	16.6
Persistent	Neutral	324	-	-	9.0	20.0	8.8	2.5	15.8	14.8
TCS	Accumulate	1,120	1,220	8.9	20.0	28.7	18.4	17.0	29.8	30.9
Tech Mahindra	Buy	586	734	25.4	9.0	16.3	7.2	28.5	13.6	20.2
Wipro	Neutral	357	-	-	15.3	18.3	14.6	6.1	12.9	18.7

Source: Company, Angel Research



Y/E March (₹ cr)	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012E	FY2013E
Net sales	601	776	983	1,107
Direct costs	337	472	611	697
% of net sales	56.1	60.9	62.2	62.9
Gross profit	264	304	372	410
% of net sales	43.9	39.1	37.8	37.1
S&M expenses	46	62	71	81
% of net sales	7.7	8.0	7.2	7.3
G&A expenses	71	83	106	108
% of net sales	11.9	10.8	10.7	9.7
EBITDA	146	158	196	221
% of net sales	24.3	20.4	19.9	20.0
Depreciation	34	42	56	64
EBIT	113	116	139	157
Other income	8	17	28	43
Forex gain/(loss)	3	17	12	13
Profit before tax	124	150	180	213
Provision for tax	9	11	55	66
% of PBT	7.3	7.1	30.3	31.0
PAT	115	140	125	147
Extraordinary expenses	-	-	-	-
Final PAT	115	140	125	147
EPS (₹)	32.1	34.9	31.3	36.7

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Y/E March (₹ cr)	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012E	FY2013E
Liabilities				
Share capital	40	40	40	40
ESOP outstanding	3	3	4	4
Reserves and surplus	580	696	805	935
Hedge reserves	16	8	13	12
Total shareholders' funds	639	747	861	991
Deferred payment liability	5	3	3	3
Total liabilities	644	750	864	994
Assets				
Gross block - fixed assets	371	454	654	804
Accumulated depreciation	188	228	284	348
Net block	183	226	370	456
Capital work-in-progress	48	60	68	68
Total fixed assets	232	287	438	524
Investments	156	250	250	250
Deferred tax assets, net	1	6	6	0
Current assets				
Sundry debtors	136	158	194	212
Cash and bank balance	192	100	65	109
Other current assets	34	23	25	28
Loans and advances	72	87	110	124
Less: - Current liab. and provisions				
Current liabilities	148	121	174	197
Provisions	32	40	50	58
Net current assets	255	207	170	219
Total assets	644	750	864	994

#### Balance sheet (Indian GAAP, Consolidated)



Cash flow statement (Indian GA Y/E March (₹ cr)	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012E	FY2013E
Pre tax profit from operations	112010	112011	139	1120132
· · ·	34	42	56	64
Depreciation				
Pre tax cash from operations	146	158	196	221
Other income/prior period ad	11	34	41	55
Net cash from operations	158	193	236	276
Ταχ	9	11	55	66
Cash profits	149	182	182	210
(Inc)/dec in				
Current assets	(81)	(25)	(61)	(35)
Current liabilities	88	(19)	64	30
Net trade working capital	7	(44)	3	(5)
Cashflow from operating activities	156	138	184	206
(Inc)/dec in fixed assets	(48)	(97)	(207)	(150)
(Inc)/dec in investments	(68)	(94)	0	-
(Inc)/dec in deferred tax assets	1	(5)	(0)	6
Inc/(dec) in deferred payment liab.	5	(2)	(0)	-
Cashflow from investing activities	(110)	(198)	(207)	(145)
Inc/(dec) in debt	-	-	-	-
Inc/(dec) in equity/premium	132	(6)	5	(1)
Dividends	(2)	(26)	(16)	(16)
Cashflow from financing activities	129	(32)	(12)	(17)
Cash generated/(utilised)	175	(92)	(35)	44
Cash at start of the year	17	192	100	65
Cash at end of the year	192	100	65	109

#### Cash flow statement (Indian GAAP, Consolidated)



Key ratios				
Y/E March	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012E	FY2013E
Valuation ratio (x)				
P/E (on FDEPS)	10.1	9.3	10.3	8.8
P/CEPS	7.8	7.1	7.1	6.2
P/BVPS	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	1.7	1.1	1.1
EV/Sales	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.8
EV/EBITDA	6.5	6.0	5.0	4.2
EV/Total assets	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	32.1	34.9	31.3	36.7
Cash EPS	41.4	45.5	45.4	52.6
Dividend	0.6	5.5	3.5	3.5
Book value	178.1	186.8	215.2	247.6
Dupont analysis				
Tax retention ratio (PAT/PBT)	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7
Cost of debt (PBT/EBIT)	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4
EBIT margin (EBIT/Sales)	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asset turnover ratio (Sales/Assets)	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Leverage ratio (Assets/Equity)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Operating ROE	18.0	18.7	14.6	14.8
Return ratios (%)				
RoCE (pre-tax)	17.5	15.5	16.1	15.8
Angel RoIC	45.7	34.1	29.0	27.8
RoE	18.0	18.7	14.6	14.8
Turnover ratios (x)				
Asset turnover (fixed assets)	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.3
Receivables days	73	69	72	70
Payable days	120	104	104	103



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Disclosure of Interest Statement	Persistent
1. Analyst ownership of the stock	No
2. Angel and its Group companies ownership of the stock	No
3. Angel and its Group companies' Directors ownership of the stock	No
4. Broking relationship with company covered	No

Note: We have not considered any Exposure below ₹1 lakh for Angel, its Group companies and Directors

Ratings (Returns):	Buy (> 15%) Reduce (-5% to 15%)	Accumulate (5% to 15%) Sell (< -15%)	Neutral (-5 to 5%)
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