

Company Focus

7 March 2008 | 7 pages

Nicholas Piramal India (NICH.BO)

Buy: Best Play on Innovator CRAMS

- Top Pick We rate NPIL as the best play on innovator CRAMS & reiterate it as a top pick in Indian pharma. Strong traction in innovator CRAMS, a steady Indian formulations business & improving profitability would boost valuations over the next 3-6 months, in our view. We reduce our target price to Rs448/ share, as we take out the value attributed to its R&D business post demerger.
- Strong traction in CRAMS as reflected on multiple fronts: a) started supplies to a Top 5 innovator for 2 contracts from India; b) 19% rise in number of projects over 1HFY08; c) EBIDTA margins have improved to double digit levels likely to improve further in 4Q & FY09; d) Avecia turnaround complete; shifting some contracts to India: EBIDTA margins at c5% & improving.
- Strong earnings visibility NPIL's scale in innovator CRAMS & the stable nature of the business (long-term exclusive contracts with low risk of litigation/ excess competition) ensure good earnings visibility relative to its peers, in our view. Its superior ability to overcome rupee appreciation vis-à-vis generic companies as well as its peers in the innovator CRAMS space reflects the more balanced nature of its business model and calls for premium valuations.
- Domestic formulations NPIL is the 4th largest formulations company in India, with branded formulation sales in India accounting for over 50% of NPIL's consolidated revenues. A robust trend in this business would help smooth any lumpiness of revenues in the outsourcing business.
- Potential catalysts a) Strong earnings growth over the next 3-4 quarters on the back of a scale-up in Indian CRAMS; b) Any further disruption in codeine supplies would be a dampener.

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2006A	1,210	5.79	-31.6	47.3	6.0	16.6	1.1
2007A	2,256	10.80	86.5	25.4	5.5	22.5	1.3
2008E	3,638	17.40	61.2	15.7	5.1	33.4	1.5
2009E	4,675	22.37	28.5	12.2	3.8	35.6	1.6
2010E	5,749	27.50	23.0	10.0	2.9	33.4	1.8

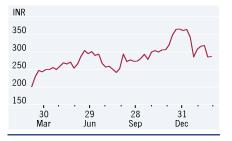
Source: Powered by dataCentral

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

Target price change 🗹

1 M
Rs274.00
Rs448.00
63.5%
1.5%
65.0%
Rs57,270M
US\$1,424M

Price Performance (RIC: NICH.BO, BB: NP IN)



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Valuation Ratios P/F adjusted (x) 47.3 25.4 15.7 12.2 10.0 PVE/BITDA adjusted (x) 29.3 17.0 11.5 9.5 7.7 PVB (x) 6.0 5.5 5.1 3.8 2.9 Dividend yield (%) 1.1 1.3 1.5 1.6 1.8 Per Share Data (Rs) E E 22.37 27.50 DPS 5.79 10.80 17.40 22.37 27.50 DPS 3.00 3.50 4.00 4.50 5.00 Profit & Loss (RsM) Net sales 15.944 24,541 29,709 33,961 37,080 Operating expenses -14,537 -21,703 -25,116 -28,277 -30,379 EBIT 1.408 2,839 4,582 5.684 6,701 Non-operating expenses -13 -305 -425 -351 -160 Non-operating expenses 1,210 2,256 3,638 4,675 5,749 Adjusted earnings	Fiscal year end 31-Mar	2006	2007	2008E	2009E	2010E
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EV/EBITDA adjusted (x) 29.3 17.0 11.5 9.5 7.7 P/BV (x) 6.0 5.5 5.1 3.8 2.9 Dividend yield (%) 1.1 1.3 1.5 1.6 1.8 Per Share Data (Rs) EPS adjusted 5.79 10.80 17.40 22.37 27.50 BVPS 45.98 50.14 54.14 71.38 93.18 DPS 3.00 3.50 4.00 4.50 5.00 Profit & Loss (RsM) Net sales 15.944 24.541 29.709 33.961 37.080 Operating expenses -14,537 -21,703 -25,116 -28,277 -30,379 ENT to ki interest expense -173 -305 -425 -351 -160 Non-operating/exceptionals 97 -39 14 12 31 Pre-tax profit 1.331 2.494 4.181 5.344 6.571 Tax -238 -389 -523 -668 -821 Extraord/Min.Int./Pref.div. 116 151 -21 -1 -1 Reported net income 1.210 2.256 3.638 4.675 5.749 Adjusted EBITDA 2.096 35.7 5.541 6.557 1.547 Adjusted EBITDA 2.096 35.7 5.541 6.557 1.547 Adjusted EBITDA 2.096 3.553 9 21.1 14.3 9.2 EBIT Adjusted -7.3 74 5 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 74 5 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.2 9.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.2 9.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.2 9.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 744 5 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 747 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 747 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 747 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -7.3 745 51.5 19.7 16.1 EPST Adjusted -	P/E adjusted (x)	47.3	25.4	15.7	12.2	10.0
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EPS reported 5.79 10.80 17.40 22.37 27.50 BVPS 3.00 3.50 4.00 4.50 5.00 Profit & Loss (RsM) Net sales 15.944 24.541 29.709 33.961 37.080 Operating expenses -14.537 -21.703 -25.116 -28.277 -3.03.79 Bell 1.408 2.839 4.592 5.684 6.701 Net interest expense -173 -305 -425 -351 -160 Non-operating/exceptionals 97 -39 14 12 31 Pre-tax profit 1.331 2.494 4.181 5.344 6.571 Tax -238 -369 -523 -668 -821 Extraord/Min.Int/Pref.div. 116 151 -21 -1 -1 Reported net income 1.210 2.256 3.638 4.675 5.749 Adjusted EBITDA 2.096 3.657 5.541 6.635 7.704 FPS adjusted	Per Share Data (Rs)					
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DPS 3.00 3.50 4.00 4.50 5.00 Profit & Loss (RsM) Net sales 15,944 24,541 29,709 33,961 37,080 Operating expenses -14,537 -21,703 -25,116 -28,277 -30,379 BiT 1,408 2,839 4,592 5,664 6,701 Net interest expense -173 -305 -425 -351 -160 Non-operating/exceptionals 97 -39 14 12 31 Pre-tax profit 1,331 2,494 4,181 5,344 6,571 Tax -238 -889 -523 -668 -821 Extraord/Min.Int//Pref.div. 116 151 -21 -1 -1 Reported net income 1,210 2,256 3,638 4,675 5,749 Adjusted earnings 1,210 2,256 3,638 4,675 5,749 Adjusted earnings 1,210 2,256 3,638 4,675 5,749 Growin Rate		5.79	10.80	17.40	22.37	27.50
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Net sales 15,944 24,541 29,709 33,961 37,080 Operating expenses -14,537 -21,703 -25,116 -28,277 -30,379 EBT 1,408 2,839 4,592 5,684 6,701 Non-operating/exceptionals 97 -39 14 12 31 Pre-tax profit 1,331 2,494 4,181 5,344 6,571 Tax -238 -389 -523 -668 -821 Extraord./Min.Int/Pref.div. 116 151 -21 -1 -1 Reported net income 1,210 2,256 3,638 4,675 5,749 Adjusted EBITDA 2,096 3,657 5,541 6,635 7,704 Growth Rates (%) S S 15 19.7 16.1 EPT adjusted -1.5 101.7 61.8 23.8 17.9 Balt adjusted 7.3 7.4 5 15 19.7 16.1 EPT adjusted -3.16	DPS	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00
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	lotal debt to capital	23.4	37.0	37.7	21.6	4.4

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Nicholas Piramal India

Company description

Nicholas Piramal (NPIL), the fourthlargest company in the Indian formulations market, is targeting the regulated pharmaceutical markets through custom manufacturing (CMG). The company has scaled up in the domestic market through both organic and inorganic initiatives, and is looking at doing the same in the overseas markets. Some initial CMG successes have been achieved in the form of six diverse contracts with innovator companies and two acquisitions in overseas markets.

Investment strategy

We rate NPIL Buy/Medium Risk (1M) with a target price of Rs448/share (v/s Rs455/share earlier). We believe NPIL is one of the best plays on custom manufacturing and the branded formulations market in India. Among the Indian mid-tier companies, NPIL has a unique approach to the domestic and export markets. Leveraging its manufacturing capabilities and relationships with global majors, the company has positioned itself as a 'partner of choice' for innovator companies across the product life cycle and value chain. On the domestic front, it has focused on building brands and strengthening its marketing and distribution network, making it less dependent than its peers on new product launches for growth. The move to demerge its NCE R&D unit would also add significant value for shareholders over the next 6-9 months, in our view. We are comfortable with valuations at current levels and expect significant upside potential as earnings momentum should continue in FY08 and beyond.

Valuation

We used to value NPIL on a sum of parts basis – valuing its core business on a P/E basis and the holding in the demerged NCE R&D entity, based on book value. However, with the demerger of the latter having completed and the stock now trading ex-R&D, we remove the value for the NCE R&D entity from our valuation and switch to the P/E approach that we have been following for the core business.

Our fair value of Rs448/share for the core business is based on 20x March '09E revised earnings. This is at a premium to our target multiple for mid-sized pharma companies and in-line with our target multiple for sector leaders. We believe NPIL deserves a higher multiple given its leadership in innovator CRAMS as well as the nature of its CRAMS business and possible upside from inorganic initiatives. Revenue visibility and sustainability are high in the CRAMS business: these are long-term exclusive contracts with innovators with no risk of litigation-related delays and competitive pressures. Also, given the 18-24 month time lag between doing a deal and commencement of revenues, the full upside is not captured in one-year forward earnings. As such, we believe it deserves a higher valuation multiple.

Risks

We rate Nicholas Medium risk in contrast with our quantitative risk-rating system's Low risk to account for the integration-related issues of the Avecia and Morpeth acquisitions. The main downside risks to our target price are: 1) While custom manufacturing should drive NPIL's revenues and profitability, any slip-up in executing the contracts would be a big negative. 2) A break-up of any major association could have a short-term impact on revenues and

earnings. 3) Any unfavorable trend in growth or pricing could have an adverse impact on the company's financials. The main upside risks to our target price are: 1) If NPIL bags new contracts that have a shorter lead time, it could have a positive impact on our estimates and target price; and 2) NPIL continues to scout for acquisitions, which could add further to its strengths in target businesses and our estimates.

Appendix A-1

Analyst Certification

Each research analyst(s) principally responsible for the preparation and content of all or any identified portion of this research report hereby certifies that, with respect to each issuer or security or any identified portion of the report with respect to an issuer or security that the research analyst covers in this research report, all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect their personal views about those issuer(s) or securities. Each research analyst(s) also certify that no part of their compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) expressed by that research analyst in this research report.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES



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Citigroup Global Markets Inc. currently has, or had within the past 12 months, the following company(ies) as clients, and the services provided were non-investment-banking, non-securities-related: Nicholas Piramal India.

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Citi Investment Research Ratings Distribution			
Data current as of 31 December 2007	Buy	Hold	Sell
Citi Investment Research Global Fundamental Coverage (3421)	50%	37%	12%
% of companies in each rating category that are investment banking clients	52%	53%	40%

Guide to Fundamental Research Investment Ratings:

Citi Investment Research's stock recommendations include a risk rating and an investment rating.

Risk ratings, which take into account both price volatility and fundamental criteria, are: Low (L), Medium (M), High (H), and Speculative (S).

5

Investment ratings are a function of Citi Investment Research's expectation of total return (forecast price appreciation and dividend yield within the next 12 months) and risk rating.

For securities in emerging markets (Asia Pacific, Emerging Europe/Middle East/Africa, and Latin America), investment ratings are: Buy (1) (expected total return of 15% or more for Low-Risk stocks, 20% or more for Medium-Risk stocks, 30% or more for High-Risk stocks, and 40% or more for Speculative stocks); Hold (2) (5%-15% for Low-Risk stocks, 10%-20% for Medium-Risk stocks, 15%-30% for High-Risk stocks, and 20%-40% for Speculative stocks); and Sell (3) (5% or less for Low-Risk stocks, 10% or less for Medium-Risk stocks, 15% or less for High-Risk stocks, and 20% or less for Speculative stocks); and Sell (3) (5% or less for Low-Risk stocks, 10% or less for Medium-Risk stocks, 15% or less for High-Risk stocks, and 20% or less for Speculative stocks).

Investment ratings are determined by the ranges described above at the time of initiation of coverage, a change in investment and/or risk rating, or a change in target price (subject to limited management discretion). At other times, the expected total returns may fall outside of these ranges because of market price movements and/or other short-term volatility or trading patterns. Such interim deviations from specified ranges will be permitted but will become subject to review by Research Management. Your decision to buy or sell a security should be based upon your personal investment objectives and should be made only after evaluating the stock's expected

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OTHER DISCLOSURES

The subject company's share price set out on the front page of this Product is quoted as at 05 March 2008 04:13 PM on the issuer's primary market.

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7