

Company Flash

1 November 2007 | 7 pages

Punj Lloyd (PUJL.BO)

Buy: Scorching Growth, 2QFY08 PAT up 168% YoY

- PAT up 168% YoY Punj Lloyd did an encore of its 1QFY08 PAT growth of 101% yoy; only this time better with 2QFY08 PAT of Rs895mn up 168% yoy (46% ahead of CIR estimate of Rs613mn, up 84% yoy) on better than expected sales growth and higher EBITDA margins.
- Strong operating performance Sales at Rs18.9bn (up 60% yoy) was ahead of CIR expectations of Rs16.4bn (up 38% yoy) on stronger than expected order execution. Further EBITDA margin expansion of 2.9% was ahead of CIR expectations of 2.3%. We do not yet have the details of whether this expansion was primarily Punj led or Semb led.
- Comfortable order backlog Punj + Semb booked five quality large orders totaling Rs20.7bn ending 2QFY08 with an order backlog of Rs148.5bn (up 33% yoy) comprising Rs43.4bn of Semb orders (up 24% yoy) and Rs105bn of Punj orders (up 37% yoy).
- Enough bandwidth to scale up Last year Punj was working on 35 orders and this year it's working on 38-39 orders. A year back, average order size was US\$35mn, which is US\$135mn this year and will be US\$200 mn next year.
- Valuation gap with L&T should narrow L&T's order backlog is 2.7x that of Punj + Semb but (1) its market cap is 7.0x and (2) is 29% more expensive than Punj. We expect this valuation and market capitalization gap to narrow as Punj Lloyd delivers earnings growth at a pace superior to L&T over the next 3 years.

Figure 1. Punj Lloyd Statistical Abstract

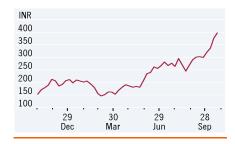
Year to	Net Profit	FD EPS	EPS Growth	P/E E	V / EBITDA	ROE	Div. Yield	Adj P/E	Adj EV/EBITDA
31-Mar	(Rsmn)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
FY05A	272	2.23	na	209.9	30.3	7.8%	0.0%	195.2	28.4
FY06A	545	1.93	-13.6%	242.9	66.7	6.7%	0.0%	225.9	62.2
FY07	1,973	6.98	261.7%	67.2	34.6	16.4%	0.1%	62.4	32.3
FY08E	3,358	10.42	49.3%	45.0	20.7	18.2%	0.1%	41.8	19.3
FY09E	5,153	16.00	53.4%	29.3	15.0	19.3%	0.1%	27.3	14.0
FY10E	6,910	21.45	34.1%	21.9	11.6	21.2%	0.1%	20.3	10.8

Source: Citi Investment Research estimates #Adjusted for real estate and other investments

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

Buy/Low Risk	1L
Price (31 Oct 07)	Rs468.85
Target price	Rs464.00
Expected share price return	-1.0%
Expected dividend yield	0.1%
Expected total return	-1.0%
Market Cap	Rs136,372M
	US\$3,469M

Price Performance (RIC: PUJL.BO, BB: PUNJ IN)



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Figure 2. Punj Lloyd 2QFY08 Results Revie	W		
	2QFY07	2QFY08A	2QFY08E
Net Sales	11,843	18,942	16,357
Growth		59.9%	38.1%
Raw Material + Subcontracting %	62.9%	68.8%	
Consumption of Raw materials	(4,906)	(7,996)	
as a % of sales	41.4%	42.2%	
Contractor Charges	(2,542)	(5,034)	
as a % of sales	21.5%	26.6%	
Staff Costs	(1,450)	(1,998)	
as a % of sales	12.2%	10.5%	
Other expenditure	(2,248)	(2,248)	
as a % of sales	19.0%	11.9%	
Total Expenditure	(11,145)	(17,277)	(15,019)
as a % of sales	94.1%	91.2%	91.8%
EBITDA	697	1,666	1,339
EBITDA Margin	5.9%	8.8%	8.2%
Depreciation	(249)	(334)	(390)
EBIT	449	1,332	949
EBIT Margin	3.8%	7.0%	5.8%
Interest	(168)	(394)	(300)
Other Income	128	305	230
PBT	409	1,243	879
Tax	(73)	(349)	(264)
Tax Rate %	18%	28%	30%
Share of loss transferred to Minority	(2)	0	(2)

Punj Lloyd

PAT after associates/minority

Source: Citi Investment Research

Growth

Company description

Punj Lloyd is an Indian Engineering & Construction (E&C) major catering to the hydrocarbons and civil construction sectors across India, Asia and the Middle East. Its services include laying pipelines, building roads, and the construction of refineries and tankages, power plants, and other infrastructure facilities. In FY07 Punj Lloyd acquired Semb, which helped it scale up its expertise to upstream oil & gas, airports, jetties, MRT/LRT and tunnelling amongst others, in the infrastructure domain. Enabled by the extended capabilities accruing from this acquisition, Punj Lloyd is now also pre-qualified for larger and more complex project bids.

334

895

168%

613

84%

Investment strategy

We rate Punj Lloyd Buy/Low Risk (1L) as: 1) We always believed that Punj could be the only mid-cap Indian construction company to give L&T a run for its money. The first sign that Punj Lloyd could actually deliver on its potential came with a 4QFY07 PAT of Rs889mn that was 59% ahead of our estimates. 2) Punj Lloyd has taken more risks in terms of bidding in more countries and domains to ramp up its skill sets. At the end of FY07 Punj Lloyd had the third largest order backlog of Rs159bn after BHEL and L&T. 3) In FY07 Punj Lloyd acquired Semb, which has helped it scale up its infrastructure expertise to upstream oil & gas, airports, jetties, MRT/LRT and tunnelling amongst others. Also, Punj Lloyd is now pre-qualified for larger and more complex project bids. 4) Punj Lloyd's move up the value chain is reflected in the average size of the projects it has won increasing from US\$30mn to US\$100mn in FY07 (which could move up to US\$200mn).

Valuation

Our target price of Rs464 is based on a target P/E multiple of 23x Sep09 for Semb + Punj, which is well supported by earnings CAGR of 45% over FY07-10E and RoEs expanding from 18% in FY08E to 21% in FY10E. Our target multiple is at a discount to that of L&T. Despite Punj Lloyd's superior earnings CAGR of 45% over FY07-10E vis-à-vis that of 35% for L&T, we believe Punj Lloyd should trade at a discount to L&T given L&T's superior order backlog, RoEs and execution capabilities. Further, we also value Punj Lloyd investments in a shipyard and a real estate JV at a P/BV of 2.0x

Risks

We rate Punj Lloyd Low Risk which differs from the Medium Risk rating suggested by our quantitative risk rating system but in line with other construction companies given the company's FY07E ending Order Book of Rs159bn implying sales coverage of 3.1x FY07 sales, providing visibility over the next 2-3 years, in our view. The key downside risks that could impede the stock from reaching our target price include: 1) Integration risks relating SembCorp E&C; 2) Revenue volatility due to project-driven nature of business; 3) Exports - subject to geopolitical risks; 4) Project implementation risks, bad debts and receivables; 5) Sensitivity to raw material costs and foreign currency fluctuations; and 6) Employee retention could be a key challenge.

Larsen & Toubro (LART.BO - Rs4,244.55; 1L)

Valuation: Using a comps-based P/E of 26x FY09E, we get a core business value of Rs2,326 for L&T's core business. We also believe that the parent numbers do not capture the value inherent in the subsidiaries of L&T. We use a sum-of-the-parts (SOTP) methodology to value the L&T group, resulting in a target price of Rs2,765. We value L&T's subsidiaries at Rs439 with L&T Infotech at Rs222 (16x FY09E EPS, in-line with second-tier peers) and L&T IDPL at Rs79 (a 20% premium to private equity valuations, because a number of projects will be commissioned over the next couple of years).

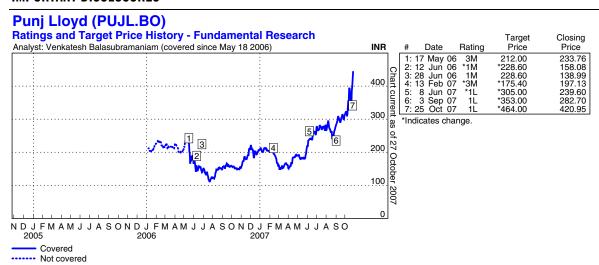
Risks: We rate L&T Low Risk, as opposed to the High Risk suggested by our quantitative risk-rating system, because L&T's order backlog of c.Rs369bn represents two years' sales and provides earnings visibility. Downside risks to our target price include: 1) Attracting and retaining talent; 2) the E&C and electrical equipment businesses are sensitive to economic variables; 3) Competitive pressures, and 4) L&T needs to keep abreast of technology trends to sustain valuations and earnings.

Appendix A-1

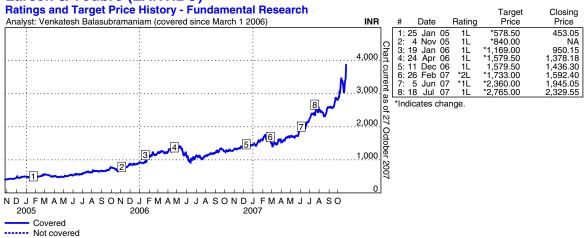
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