

# **India Telecom**

February GSM net adds at 13MM with incumbents gaining share, sector view remains cautious

- 13MM GSM net-adds in February: GSM net adds were 13MM in Feb-10 vs. 13.9MM in Jan-10 (excluding RCOM, Tata DoCoMo), down 6% M/M. Increase in Vodafone and Bharti net adds were offset by net-adds decline for Aircel, BSNL, Idea and new operators Stel and Uninor.
- Incumbents led subscriber growth this month Bharti's net adds in Feb were up 1.9% M/M at 2.9MM (vs. 2.85MM in Jan-10). Bharti's total subscriber base has reached ~124.6MM. Vodafone net-adds further increased 12.6% M/M to 3.1MM (vs. 2.7MM in Jan-10) and it's the highest net-adds ever. BSNL net adds decreased 30% M/M, as the company added 1.55MM in Feb-10 vs. 2.2MM in Jan-10.
- Idea net-adds declined slightly by 1% M/M to 2.25 MM. Aircel net adds at 1.8MM decreased 9%M/M from 2MM in Jan-10. New operators Uninor and Stel net-adds in February were 1.1MM and 0.21MM, down 23.5% and -42%, respectively.
- **J.P. Morgan investment view:** We expect competition to remain high as Uninor expands to 5 new circles over the next 3-4 months and Etisalat DB would launch operations in the similar timeframe. We believe 3G auctions would stretch balance sheets further amid ongoing tariff pressure. Our fundamental view on sector remains cautious.

#### Total subs

Total subs ('000)	Feb-10	Jan-10	M/M change	Feb-09	Y/Y change
Bharti	124,619	121,714	2.4%	91,115	36.8%
VOD-Essar	97,230	94,143	3.3%	65,921	47.5%
BSNL	61,004	59,455	2.6%	44,181	38.1%
Idea [a]	62,126	59,880	3.8%	41,519	49.6%
Aircel	34,861	33,036	5.5%	17,477	99.5%
RCOM - GSM [b]	16,311	16,311	0.0%	11,145	46.4%
MTNL	4,859	4,773	1.8%	4,339	12.0%
Uninor	3,555	2,538	40.1%	NA	NA
Stel	717	506	41.7%	NA	NA
Total GSM	407,915	394,903	3.3%	277,515	47.0%
Net adds [c]	13,012	13,902	-6.4%	9,185	41.7%

Source: COAI. [a] Including Spice circles. [b] RCOM GSM numbers not yet disclosed; assumed to be same as in Jan-10. [c] Net adds excluding RCOM, Tata DoCoMo.

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#### GSM net adds in Feb-10

Subscribers in 000s

Net Adds	Feb-10	Jan-10	M/M
Bharti	2,905	2,850	1.9%
VOD-Essar	3,087	2,741	12.6%
BSNL	1,550	2,231	-30.5%
Idea [a]	2,246	2,272	-1.1%
Aircel	1,825	2,012	-9.3%
MTNL	87	45	92.4%
Uninor	1,107	1,330	-23.5%
Stel	211	365	-42.2%
Total[h]	13 012	13 902	-6 4%

Source: COAI, Company data. [a] Including Spice circles. [b] excluding RCOM, Tata DoCoMo

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