COMMENT

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (REDY.BO) Rs377.45



AZN's lawsuit on Prilosec OTC dismissed; reiterate Conviction Buy

News

The US Federal Court on 10 March dismissed AstraZeneca's patent lawsuit against Dr Reddy's Labs over the generic formulation of AZN's Prilosec OTC (CY2008 sales of US\$271mn). The court dismissed the case after agreeing with the defendant that DRL used a different form of Omeprazole Magnesium (the primary ingredient in Prilosec), and hence does not infringe on AZN's patent. An FDA approval of DRL's ANDA would permit DRL to launch generic Prilosec OTC in the US market.

Analysis

DRL had filed a Para IV ANDA for Prilosec OTC in 2008, following which AZN initiated litigation against DRL for patent infringement. In our note of Feb 25, 2009 ("DRL growth prospects underestimated; maintain Conviction Buy"), we had highlighted any positive ruling as a potential catalyst for DRL. Prilosec OTC currently has only one generic competitor product launched by Perrigo.

Depending upon the timing of FDA approval and when DRL launches, we believe that this product could generate between US\$20mn and \$35mn for FY10E. As per DRL, the FDA has requested additional data to support its ANDA and FDA approval could come any time within the next few months.

Implications

We believe that the court's ruling clears a major hurdle for DRL in launching a generic version of Prilosec OTC. This reaffirms our analysis that DRL is on course to post 8% sales growth (on the large base of FY09E) in the US market, and total sales growth of 10% for FY10E.

Our FY10E EPS of Rs47.3 is materially above consensus. DRL is one of the least expensive stocks in our coverage group, trading at a 30% discount to peers on both one-year forward P/E of 8.2X and one-year forward EV/EBITDA of 5.4X. We reiterate our Buy (on Conviction Buy list) on the stock and maintain our target price.

INVESTMENT LIST MEMBERSHIP

Asia Pacific Buy List Asia Pacific Conviction Buy List Coverage View: Neutral

India: Pharmaceuticals

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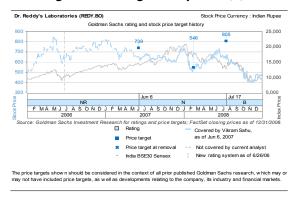
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Price target and rating history chart(s)



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