J.P.Morgan

Reliance Communications Limited

Q1'FY12 Wrap: Tariff increases welcome but watching Global Enterprise and high-leverage

- **RCOM confirms tariff increases:** Management has confirmed increasing GSM and CDMA tariffs by 20% across several circles. The impact from on financials is expected to take ~2 quarters. We have increased our FY12/FY13 ARPM estimates by 1.2/0.9paisa respectively which drives a 3.6%/1.8% increase in our revenue estimates.
- **Global Enterprise lags:** RCOM's new Global Enterprise Business Unit [GEBU = Global + Broadband; 33% of gross revenue] saw revenue decline 12.6% Q/Q and EBITDA down 7.2%, despite network opex declining meaningfully in the quarter. Visibility of order wins implies growth going forward but the miss vs. our estimates drives a downward revision to our revenue estimates of 10% each for FY12/13 and 7%/4% on EBITDA.
- **Capex spends remain low.** Q1 capex of INR 3.6bn (7.3% of sales, 24% of FY12 guidance of INR 15bn) declined another 45% from the low levels seen in Q4. We remain concerned that capex levels are rather low at ~7% of sales (wireless: ~5%) vs. the rest of the industry.
- Leverage remains high: Debt at end Q1FY12 was INR332bn (~US\$7.4bn) and net debt/EBITDA ratio was 5.0x vs. 4.9x in FY11. We estimate this can fall to ~3.6x by end-FY12 however this would still be higher than peers.
- Forecast changes. We reduce our FY12/FY13 revenue estimates by 4.6%/5.1% driven by lower estimates for GEBU but raise our margin estimates by 40/50bp given the lower than expected expenses in Q1. These changes drive a 8%/15% decline in EPS estimates to INR 6.1/10.3. RCOM has not started amortization of 3G license/spectrum and we expect the full impact on D&A to be seen in Q3FY12.
- Our Mar-12 price target is INR 90 (vs. INR 95 earlier). Our PT is adjusted downward for INR38/share for the regulatory risk. De-leveraging of the balance sheet would make us more positive. Downside risks include sharper decline in minutes and also in ARPM; longer-than-expected regulatory uncertainty.

Reliance Communications Limited (Reuters: RLCM.BO, Bloomberg: RCOM IN)

Rs in mn, year-end Mar	FY10A	FY11A	FY12E	FY13E	FY14E	Company Data	
Revenue (Rs mn)	221,323	205,627	210,635	232,574	255,461	52-wk range (Rs)	188.50 - 74.65
EBITDA (Rs mn)	77,689	65,365	70,695	82,086	94,407	Mkt cap (Rs mn)	160,065
EBITDA margin	35.1%	31.8%	33.6%	35.3%	37.0%	Mkt cap (\$ mn)	3,531
Net Profit (Rs mn)	45,861	13,307	12,547	21,204	33,918	Shares O/S (mn)	2,064
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	22.2	6.4	6.1	10.3	16.4	Free float (%)	32.1%
Adjusted EPS growth (%)	(22.4%)	(71.3%)	(4.8%)	69.0%	60.0%	3-mth avg trading volume	8
EV/EBITDA (x)	4 .8	` 7.6	6.4	5.1	3.5	3m Average daily value (\$	17.45
Adjusted P/E	3.49	12.14	12.76	7.55	4.72	mn)	
FCF to mkt cap (%)	27.9%	(14.8%)	34.3%	31.1%	66.5%	NIÉTY	5,073
ROE	12.1%	` 3.6%	3.5%	5.7%	8.5%	Exchange Rate	45.34
Net debt/EBITDA	2.6	4.9	4.0	3.0	-	*	

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan estimates.

See page 9 for analyst certification and important disclosures, including non-US analyst disclosures.

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Neutral

RLCM.BO, RCOM IN Price: Rs77.55

Price Target: Rs90.00 Previous: Rs95.00

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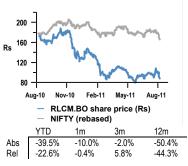
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Price Performance



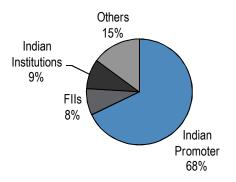
Asia Pacific Equity Research 16 August 2011

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Company Description

Reliance Communications Limited (RCOM), a group company of Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, is an integrated telecommunications service provider which has established a pan-India integrated (wireless and wireline), convergent (voice, data and video) digital network covering over 24,000 towns and 600,000 villages. RCOM's subscriber share is 18% while its revenue share is 15%. Non-wireless businesses (Global, Broadband) account for 38% of gross revenue and 37% of EBITDA.

Shareholding (Mar-11)



Source: Company reports.

J.P. Morgan vs. consensus

Sales		
INR mn	J. P. Morgan	Consensus
FY12E	210,635	228,000
FY13E	232,574	250,282
EBITDA		
INR mn	J. P. Morgan	Consensus
FY12E	70,695	73,457
FY13E	82,086	83,858
EPS		
INR	J. P. Morgan	Consensus
FY12E	6.1	6.5
FY13E	10.3	8.3

Source: J.P. Morgan Estimates and Bloomberg

P&L sensitivity metrics	FY12E EBITDA	FY12E EPS
	impact (%)	impact (%)
Mobile revenue (INR mn)	174,345	
Impact of each 5%	3.5%	18.8%
Global revenue (INR mn)	70,742	
Impact of each 5%	1.1%	5.8%
EBITDA margin (%)	33.6%	
Impact of each 1%	3.0%	15.8%
Capex (INR mn)	15,942	
Impact of each 5%	NA	0.2%

Source: J.P. Morgan estimates.

Price target and valuation analysis

Our Mar-12 price target is INR 90. This is based on a sum-of-the parts fair value of RCOM's core business of INR 128. To this we make a INR 38 adjustment for the risks in the regulatory environment. We run a full DCF model and value the Wireless business at Rs87 /share, the Globalcom and Boradband (GEBU) business at Rs72/share.

Risk free rate:	7.6%
Market risk premium:	7.5%
Beta:	1.0

Debt/capital	25%
Cost of debt:	4.7%
Terminal "g":	3.0%
WACC	12.1%

Upside risks: [1] Sustained ARPMs coupled with MOU growth; [2] Better performance in Globalcom from data revenue; [3] Wireless margin strength; [4] consolidation in the market [5] Deleveraging of balance sheet.

Downside risks: [1] Less success for RCOM in MNP than we expect resulting in continued declines in ARPMs vs. the stabilization we forecast; [2] Delays in or unsuccessful stake sale (cash inflow from which would be used for debt reduction) [3] regulatory uncertainty continuing.

Table 1: Valuation comparison											
			Current	Target	Upside /		<u>P/E (x)</u>		EV/EBITDA (x)		
Company name	Ticker	Rating	Price	price	downside	FY11A	FY12E	FY13E	FY11A	FY12E	FY13E
Bharti Airtel	BHARTI IN	OW	396	480	21%	24.2	21.6	12.7	10.5	8.1	6.1
Reliance Communications	RCOM IN	N	78	90	16%	12.1	12.8	7.5	7.4	6.2	5.0
Idea Cellular	IDEA IN	N	92	90	-3%	34.0	28.7	15.5	10.7	7.3	6.2
Tulip Telecom	TTSL IN	OW	145	230	58%	7.7	6.7	4.9	5.3	4.2	3.1
Tata Communications	TCOM IN	UW	204	175	-14%	3.6	3.3	2.8	11.0	8.4	7.2

Source: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan estimates. Priced as of 16 Aug, 2011.

Asia Pacific Equity Research 16 August 2011

Key takeaways from the results and analyst call

Wireless metrics slightly ahead; ARPMs flat for the 6th consecutive quarter – positive

Total wireless minutes grew 3.1% Q/Q to 97.3bn in-line with JPMe of 3%. Bharti saw +4.6% growth in Q1, 6.5% for Idea, 7.0% for Vodafone. We note that MOU trends remain below peers. Management commented that they are still one quarter away from cleaning their base of unwanted minutes.

Reported ARPM was 44 paisa flat Q/Q vs. JPMe of -0.7%/0.3paisa decline. This is RCOM's 6th quarter of ARPM being stable at 44paisa. RCOM's MOU declined 3.3% Q/Q to 233 (JPMe 232) and ARPU was INR 103 down 3.7% Q/Q (JPMe of INR102).

Management confirms tariff increases - positive

RCOM has raised tariffs by 20% for both GSM and CDMA subs across most circles. "We have increased tariffs in most of the circles over last couple of months in a phased manner, from 1 paisa to 1.2 paise per second," Syed Safawi, the head of RCOM's wireless business, said according to The Business Standard. For GSM subs the increase is for on-net and off-net calls across 18-19 circles while for CDMA it is for off-net only. The total impact can take up to 6 months and management commented that ARPM can be 1 paisa higher by then.

Management attributed the increase to inflationary pressures catching up with the company. Management does not expect to see a major step down in tariffs going forward though stability post increases is possible.

We have raised our ARPM estimates for RCOM by 1 paisa as a result: FY12: +2.8%; FY13 +2.0%.

Network opex low – positive

Network opex declined by ~INR2bn Q/Q driven by lower costs in the Global Enterprise unit. Network opex for wireless segment increase by ~INR1bn. Q1 tends to be a quarter of lower network opex.

Weak revenue drives bottom-line miss despite healthy margins - mixed

Consolidated revenue of INR 49.4bn, (-7% Q/Q, -3% Y/Y), missed JPMe/cons by 9% each. The miss vs. our estimates was driven by the Global, Broadband (GEBU) and Other segments. EBITDA margin was strong at 32.4% (+2.6pp Q/Q, +0.5pp Y/Y) and beat JPMe/cons of 30.7%/30.8%. We note that network and SG&A costs were lower than expected. EPS was INR 0.76 ahead of JPMe of IN 0.61 (due to lower depreciation & amortization charges) but a miss vs. consensus estimate of INR 1.0.

Global + Broadband = GEBU: Weak performance - negative

RCOM has merged its Global and Broadband segments into "Global Enterprise Business Unit" (GEBU). Revenue in this segment was weak at INR 22.9bn (-12.6% Q/Q, -8.0% Y/Y) missing JPMe by 12%. EBITDA in this segment was ~INR 5.6bn (35% of consolidated EBITDA), lower than JPMe by 9% and down 8% Q/Q, 3% Y/Y. However, the implied margin of 24.6% shows a ~1pp improvement from last quarter.

Net profit: miss vs. consensus – negative

Net income of INR 1.56n (-7.4% Q/Q), beat JPMe of INR 1.26bn due to lower D&A expenses. D&A was INR 9.8bn in Q1 down from INR 10.2bn in Q4. However net profit missed consensus expectation of INR 2.1bn by a large margin. EPS was INR 0.76

RCOM has <u>not</u> started amortizing its 3G license fee in Q1 as acceptance testing on 3G is ongoing. We expect a full impact from amortization to start in Q3FY12 and we have adjusted our estimates accordingly.

3G update – take-up slower than expected – negative

RCOM has launched 3G services across all 13 circles where it has spectrum and covers 333 towns. They had 2 mn subs as of end-June vs. 1.7m in the previous quarter. They have ~11K NodeBs in their network. The company targets a pan-India 3G presence during 2012 via roaming agreements. Management stated that the handset ecosystem needs to develop further to drive 3G take-up and pricing of devices needs to be at INR2000-2500.

Q1 capex low: 24% of FY guidance of INR 15bn - positive

Capex for the quarter was INR 3.6bn (7.3% of sales), including INR 2.0bn in the wireless segment. This came in much lower than our estimate of INR 5.2bn and already accounts for 24% of FY capex guidance of INR 15bn. Management reiterated their view that the peak capex is in the past and future capex will be driven by capacity needs.

Leverage remains high at 5.0x – negative

RCOM's debt balance declined to INR 332bn from INR 374bn in Q1 – RCOM repaid INR50bn of INR loans. However net debt remains flat at INR320bn and leverage (net debt/EBITDA) remained high at 5.0x.

Forecast changes

Table 2: RCOM: New vs. old estim Rs in million, year-end March	FY12E	FY13E
Revenue		
New	210,635	232,574
Old	220,795	244,985
Change (INR million)	(10,160)	(12,411)
% Change	-4.6%	<u>-</u> 5.1%
Y/Y growth (%)	2.4%	10.4%
EBITDA	70.005	
New	70,695	82,086
Old	73,137	85,171
Change (INR million)	(2,442)	(3,085)
% Change	-3.3%	-3.6%
Y/Y growth (%)	8.2%	16.1%
EBITDA Margin (%)		
New	33.6%	35.3%
Old	33.1%	34.8%
% Change	0.4%	0.5%
-		
D&A	((40.040)
New	(41,444) (44,278)	(42,848)
Old		(43,128)
Change (INR million)	2,834 -6.4%	280 -0.6%
% Change	-0.4%	-0.0%
Y/Y growth (%) Interest expense	4.5%	3.4%
New	(14,054)	(13,716)
Old	(12,496)	(12,572)
Change (INR million)	(1,558)	(1,144)
% Change	12.5%	9.1%
Y/Y growth (%)	31.1%	-2.4%
Tax expense	51.170	-2.470
New	(883)	(2,552)
Old	(1,145)	(2,947)
Change (INR million)	263	395
% Change	-22.9%	-13.4%
Y/Y growth (%)	651.8%	189.2%
Reported Profit New	12,547	21,204
Old	13,616	24,923
Change (INR million)	(1,069)	(3,719)
% Change	-7.8%	-14.9%
Y/Y growth (%)	-4.8%	69.0%
EPS (INR)	C 4	40.0
New	6.1	10.3
Old	6.6	12.1
% Change	-7.9% -4.8%	-14.9% 69.0%
Y/Y growth (%)	-4.0 /0	09.0%
Capex		
New	15,942	17,589
Old	16,982	17,818
% Change	-6.1%	-1.3%
Y/Y growth (%)	-62.9%	10.3%
Capex/sales		
New	7.6%	7.6%
Old	7.7%	7.3%
% point change	-0.1%	0.3%

Source: J.P. Morgan estimates.

Asia Pacific Equity Research 16 August 2011

Valuation and rating analysis

Our March-12 price target is now INR 90 (vs. INR 95 earlier). This is based on our SOTP-based fair market value of INR 128/share for RCOM's core businesses and an INR 38 reduction for estimated risk of the current regulatory environment.

Table 3: RCOM: Sum of the parts valuation

	Enterprise value (INR million)	Equity value (INR million)	Value per share (INR)
Wireless	431,020	179,166	87
Globalcom and Broadband (GEBU)	192,614	148,559	72
Other / Eliminations	(46,296)	(62,884)	<u>(30)</u>
Total	577,339	264,841	128
Quantified regulatory risk			(38)
Price Target			90

Source: J.P. Morgan estimates.

Risks to our ratings and price target include

Upside risks: [1] Better minute volume performance in wireless; [2] Better performance in Globalcom from data revenue; [3] Wireless margin strength; [4] consolidation in the market; [5] Stake sale confirmation – the RCOM board has approved a 26% stake sale in the company. An equity infusion would be positive and help de-lever the company.

Downside risks: [1] Less success for ROCM in Mobile Number Portability resulting in continued declines in ARPMs vs. the stabilization we forecast; [2] Delays in or unsuccessful stake sale (cash inflow from which would be used for debt reduction) [3] Continued regulatory-related issues.

Reliance Communications Limited: Summary of Financials

Profit and Loss Statement				Balance Sheet statement				
Rs in millions, year end Mar	FY11	FY12E	FY13E	FY14E Rs in millions, year end Mar	FY11	FY12E	FY13E	FY14E
Revenue	205,627	210,635	232,574	255,461 Cash and equivalents	53,272	26,677	49,602	118,213
EBITDA	65,365	70,695	82,086	94,407 Accounts receivable	40,017	47,196	52,112	57,240
D&A	(39,739)	(41,444)	(42,848)	(41,025) Others	67,495	75,286	77,182	79,160
	(· · /			Total Current assets	160,784	149,159	178,895	254,613
EBIT	25,627	29,250	39,238	53,382				
Interest income	0	2,299	1,526	3,356 Total current liabilities	151,761	164,013	158,717	203,312
Interest expense	-	(16,354)	(15,241)	(14,756)				
Net Interest expense	0	(14,054)	(13,716)	(11,400) Net working capital	9,023	(14,854)	20,178	51,301
Profit before tax	14,903	15,196	25,522	41,982 Net fixed assets	547,496	515,058	489,799	467,969
Tax	(117)	(883)	(2,552)	(6,297) Other long term assets	183,001	182,044	182,044	182,044
Net profit - reported	13,307	12,547	21,204	33,918 Total non-current assets	730,497	697,102	671,843	650,013
Net profit - adjusted	13,184	12,547	21,204	33,918				
				Total Assets	891,281	846,261	850,739	904,626
Shares Outstanding	2,064	2,064	2,064	2,064				
EPS (Rs) (Reported)	6.4	6.1	10.3	16.4 Long-term debt	373,757	307,729	296,948	275,385
EPS (Adjusted)	6.4	6.1	10.3	16.4 Other liabilities	151,761	164,013	158,717	203,312
				Total Liabilities	525,518	471,742	455,665	478,697
Revenue growth	(7.1%)	2.4%	10.4%	9.8%				
EBITDA growth	(15.9%)	8.2%	16.1%	15.0% Shareholders' equity	357,518	364,565	383,354	412,442
Net profit growth	(71.0%)	(5.7%)	69.0%	60.0% Minority interests	8,245	9,954	11,720	13,487
EPS growth	(71.0%)	(5.7%)	69.0%	60.0% Total liabilities and equity	891,281	846,261	850,739	904,626
EBITDA margin	31.8%	33.6%	35.3%	37.0% Net debt/(cash)	320,485	281,052	247,346	157,172
EBIT Margin	12.5%	13.9%	16.9%	20.9% Book value per share	173.24	176.63	185.73	199.83
Net margin	6.5%	6.0%	9.1%	13.3%				
Ratio Analysis				Cash flow statement				
%, year end Mar	FY11	FY12E	FY13E	FY14E Rs in millions, year end Mar	FY11	FY12E	FY13E	FY14E
P/E (Adjusted)	12.1	12.8	7.5	4.7 Cash flow from operations	19,273	70,898	67,426	125,599
EV/EBITDA	7.6	6.4	5.1	3.5 Capex	(42,957)	(15,942)	(17,589)	(19,195)
P/B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4 Cash flow from other investing	(10,123)	(14,156)	(13,716)	(11,400)
ROE	3.6%	3.5%	5.7%	8.5% Cash flow from financing	90,550	-70,193	-13,196	-26,392
ROCE	3.8%	4.2%	5.8%	7.8%				
ROA	1.5%	1.4%	2.5%	3.9% Change in cash for year	4,687	(26,595)	22,925	68,612
FCF Yield	(14.8%)	34.3%	31.1%	66.5% Beginning cash	48,586	53,273	26,678	49,602
	. ,			Closing cash	53,273	26,678	49,602	118,214
Capex to sales	(20.9%)	(7.6%)	(7.6%)	(7.5%)				
Debt/Capital	51.1 %	45.8%	43.7%	40.0% FCF	(23,684)	54,956	49,837	106,404
Net debt/EBITDA	4.9	4.0	3.0	-	/			
Source: Company reports and J.P. M	organ estimates							

Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

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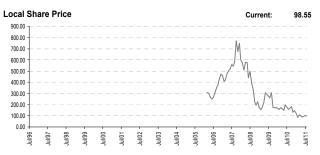
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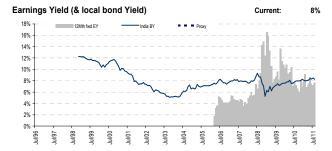
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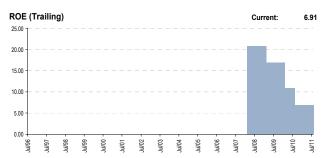
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JPM Q-Profile Reliance Communications Ltd. (INDIA / Telecommunication Services) As Of: 11-Aug-2011







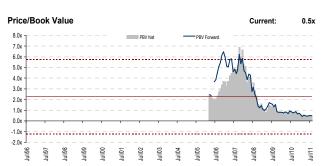


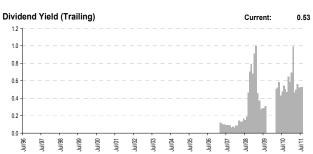












Summary

Reliance Communications Ltd. INDIA	SEDOL	B0WNLY7							As Of: Local Price:		11-Aug-11 98.55
Telecommunication Services								EPS:			7.49
	Latest	Min	Max	Median	Average	2 S.D.+	2 S.D	% to Min	% to Max	% to Med	% to Avg
12mth Forward PE	13.16x	6.06	59.03	14.08	16.36	32.65	0.07	-54%	349%	7%	24%
P/BV (Trailing)	0.47x	0.41	6.88	1.53	2.28	5.79	-1.23	-13%	1356%	224%	383%
Dividend Yield (Trailing)	0.53	0.00	1.00	0.15	0.28	0.85	-0.29	-100%	89%	-72%	-47%
ROE (Trailing)	6.91	6.91	20.79	16.95	14.31	25.64	2.99	0%	201%	145%	107%
Implied Value of Growth	42.5%	-0.47	0.86	0.46	0.41	0.99	-0.17	-210%	104%	9%	-4%

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters Global Fundamentals, IBES CONSENSUS, J.P. Morgan Calcs

* Implied Value Of Growth = (1 - EY/Cost of equity) where cost of equity =Bond Yield + 5.0% (ERP)

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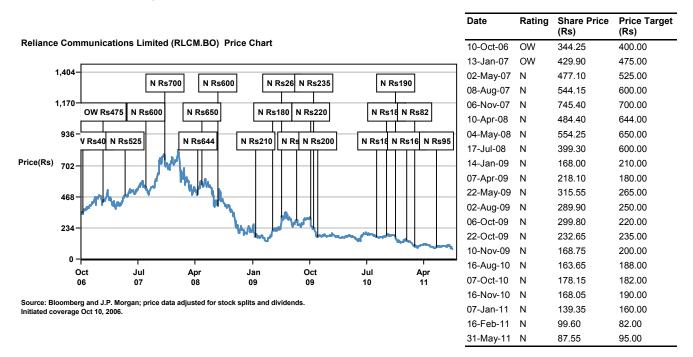
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