

22 January 2013 | 9 pages

Publishing (GICS) | Media - General (Citi)

Asia Pacific | India

# DB Corp (DBCL.BO)

## 3QFY13: Healthy All Round Performance

- Strong beat PAT at Rs708m rose 27% YoY, ~12%/14% ahead of our/street expectations. This was driven by revenues of Rs4.4bn (+11% YoY, a 4% beat), which coupled with effective cost controls & lower new editions losses led to solid operating profit growth. EBITDA at Rs1.2bn was up 17% YoY, ~11% ahead of ests.
- Ad revenues pick up Ad revenues (~78% of overall) picked up 12% YoY & 21% QoQ in the festive Q a +5% surprise. Mgmt highlighted that national advertisers have returned, supporting overall growth. If the pick up in sentiment were to sustain, reported growth rates could accelerate given the low base in the coming quarters.
- Circulation revenues also surprise In spite of limited new launches, 16% YoY circulation rev growth is encouraging mgmt attributes this primarily to cover price increases which have had little volume impact. Per copy realizations have improved in parts of Gujarat, MP/CG, Rajasthan, besides the new states. Interestingly, in MP despite ~5% price hike, circulation copies have risen by ~40K YoY, as per mgmt.
- Emerging editions on track— With little incremental investments & strong revenue ramp up, particularly in Maharashtra, operating leverage benefits are visible revenues for the emerging editions rose 32% YoY, while EBITDA losses continued to decline in 3QFY13 to -Rs57m (vs. -Rs144m/-Rs98m in 3QFY12/2QFY13).
- Other highlights a) Gross margins improved QoQ & YoY benefits of stable newsprint, cover price hikes & better ad revenues. Mgmt expects stable/softer newsprint from 4Q which may aid profits. b) Radio/digital are doing well with 22%/100% YoY growth; better ad yields led to a robust 39% EBITDA margin in radio.
- Preferred pick Benefits of its solid positioning in key states & recent investments are likely to boost medium-term earnings. Valuations are attractive (esp. in context of other media stocks) and we see it as a key beneficiary as & when the ad market revives (see our recent note Resuming Coverage; Buy into the Cyclical Weakness). We modestly raise our TP to Rs270 (prev. Rs255) based on 18x FY14E EPS (prev. 17x FY14E) to reflect improving visibility on the revenue & margin outlook.

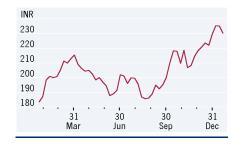
Company l	Ilndata

- Target Price Change
- Operating Results

Buy	1
Price (21 Jan 13)	Rs230.20
Target price	Rs270.00
from Rs255.00	
Expected share price return	17.3%
Expected dividend yield	2.4%
Expected total return	19.7%
Market Cap	Rs42,208M
	US\$785M

#### **Price Performance**

(RIC: DBCL.BO, BB: DBCL IN)



### Statistical Abstract

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2011A	2,315	12.63	25.4	18.2	5.1	31.3	1.7
2012A	2,021	11.03	-12.7	20.9	4.6	23.0	2.2
2013E	2,159	11.78	6.8	19.5	4.1	22.1	2.4
2014E	2,726	14.87	26.3	15.5	3.7	25.1	3.0
2015E	3,277	17.88	20.2	12.9	3.3	26.8	3.7

Source: Powered by dataCentral

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DBCL.BO: Fiscal year end 31-Mar					2,208m; Recomm: Buy						
Profit & Loss (Rsm)	2011	2012	2013E	2014E		Valuation ratios	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E
Sales revenue	12,600	14,515	15,710	17,682	19,873		18.2	20.9	19.5	15.5	12.9
Cost of sales	-3,838	-5,080	-5,533	-5,880		PB (x)	5.1	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.3
Gross profit	8,761	9,435	10,176	11,802		EV/EBITDA (x)	10.7	12.2	11.3	9.1	7.5
Gross Margin (%)	69.5	65.0	64.8	66.7		FCF yield (%)	4.2	3.5	2.8	4.7	5.8
EBITDA (Adj)	3,975	3,364	3,602	4,438		Dividend yield (%)	1.7	2.2	2.4	3.0	3.7
EBITDA Margin (Adj) (%)	31.6	23.2	22.9	25.1		Payout ratio (%)	32	45	47	47	48
Depreciation	-433	-506	-542	-567		ROE (%)	27.7	23.0	22.1	25.1	26.8
Amortisation	0	0	0	0		Cashflow (Rsm)	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E
EBIT (Adj)	3,542	2,858	3,060	3,871		EBITDA	3,975	3,364	3,602	4,438	5,241
EBIT Margin (Adj) (%)	28.1	19.7	19.5	21.9		Working capital	317	377	-276	-188	-172
Net interest	-149	-92	-83	-63		Other	-1,456	-934	-1,066	-1,346	-1,617
Associates	0	0	0	0		Operating cashflow	2,836	2,807	2,259	2,904	3,453
Non-op/Except	194	240	248	264		Capex	-1,049	-1,348	-1,091	-926	-990
Pre-tax profit	3,587	3,006	3,226	4,072		Net acq/disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Tax	-1,270	-983	-1,064	-1,344	-1,615		115	-142	166	201	241
Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	-273	-2	-2	-2		Investing cashflow	-934	-1,489	-926	-725	-749
Reported net profit	2,045	2,021	2,159	2,726		Dividends paid	-849	-1,065	-1,172	-1,491	-1,811
Net Margin (%)	16.2	13.9	13.7	15.4	16.5	Financing cashflow	-2,641	-1,161	-1,540	-2,110	-2,442
Core NPAT	2,315	2,021	2,159	2,726	3,277	Net change in cash	-739	157	-206	70	261
Per share data	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E	Free cashflow to s/holders	1,787	1,459	1,168	1,978	2,462
Reported EPS (Rs)	11.16	11.03	11.78	14.87	17.88						
Core EPS (Rs)	12.63	11.03	11.78	14.87	17.88						
DPS (Rs)	3.98	5.00	5.50	7.00	8.50						
CFPS (Rs)	15.47	15.31	12.32	15.84	18.83						
FCFPS (Rs)	9.75	7.96	6.37	10.79	13.43						
BVPS (Rs)	45.22	50.57	55.96	62.70	70.70						
Wtd avg ord shares (m)	183	183	183	183	183						
Wtd avg diluted shares (m)	183	183	183	183	183						
Growth rates	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E						
Sales revenue (%)	19.1	15.2	8.2	12.6	12.4						
EBIT (Adj) (%)	18.1	-19.3	7.1	26.5	20.2						
Core NPAT (%)	26.6	-12.7	6.8	26.3	20.2						
Core EPS (%)	25.4	-12.7	6.8	26.3	20.2						
Balance Sheet (Rsm)	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E						
Cash & cash equiv.	1,727	1,884	1,678	1,747	2,008						
Accounts receivables	2,401	2,484	2,798	3,149	3,539						
Inventory	728	1,186	1,291	1,453	1,633						
Net fixed & other tangibles	7,189	8,023	8,572	8,931	9,333						
Goodwill & intangibles	0	0	0	0	0						
Financial & other assets	1,505	1,875	1,968	2,156	2,324						
Total assets	13,550	15,452	16,307	17,436	18,838						
Accounts payable	2,039	2,482	2,582	2,907	3,267						
Short-term debt	0	0	0	0	0						
Long-term debt	1,721	1,801	1,500	1,000	500						
Provisions & other liab	1,497	1,883	1,951	2,021	2,097						
Total liabilities	5,257	6,165	6,034	5,928	5,864						
Shareholders' equity	8,289	9,271	10,258	11,493	12,959						
Minority interests	4	15	15	15	15						
Total equity	8,293	9,286	10,274	11,508	12,974						
Net debt	-6	-83	-178	-747	-1,508						
Net debt to equity (%)	-0.1	-0.9	-1.7	-6.5	-11.6						

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-11%

## **Results Summary**

EBITDA margin

Figure 1. DBCL (Consolidated): Results Summary (Rs Mn, %)

	3Q12	2Q13	3Q13	% Change YoY	% Change QoQ
Revenues	3,956	3,784	4,389	11.0%	16.0%
- Advertising revenue	3,059	2,826	3,412	11.5%	20.7%
- Circulation revenue	630	698	729	15.7%	4.4%
Gross Profit	2,605	2,453	2,942	12.9%	19.9%
Gross margin	65.9%	64.8%	67.0%	117bp	219bp
EBITDA	1,018	861	1,192	17.1%	38.5%
EBITDA margin	25.7%	22.7%	27.2%	142bp	441bp
EBIT	883	717	1,041	17.8%	45.1%
EBIT margin	22.3%	19.0%	23.7%	138bp	476bp
PBT	828	736	1,060	28.1%	44.1%
Recurring Profit	556	486	708	27.3%	45.8%
Reported PAT	554	486	706	27.6%	45.3%
Source: Company Reports					

Figure 2. Performance of Mature and Emerging Editions (Rs Mn, %)

Mature	1Q12	2Q12	3Q12	4Q12	1Q13	2Q13	3Q13
Revenues	3,183	3.086	3381	3085	3175	3.135	3,698
EBITDA before pre-opex	1.181	1.002	1141	923	961	928	1,227
EBITDA margin	37%	32%	34%	30%	30%	30%	33%
Emerging editions							
Revenues	219	302	376	346	441	453	497
EBITDA before pre-opex	(112)	(194)	(144)	(185)	(109)	(98)	(57)
EBITDA margin	-51%	-64%	-38%	-53%	-25%	-22%	-11%
EBITDA after pre-opex	(173)	(231)	(165)	(198)	(121)	(99)	(57)

Note: Emerging Editions are defined as those editions which are below 4 years of age or profitable since last 4 quarters, whichever is earlier. The figures for emerging editions include new printing centers / spill over editions recently opened in the mature states, which turned EBIDTA positive in 1QFY13. Source: Company Reports

-76%

## **DB** Corp

## Company description

DB Corp (DBCL) is one of India's leading publishing houses, with newspapers cumulatively commanding the highest readership in the country (average daily readership of over 19.5m). The company benefits from a strong position in key non-metro markets in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana. In total, it publishes eight newspapers, 65 newspaper editions and around 200 sub-editions in four languages (Hindi, Gujarati, English and most recently Marathi) in 13 Indian states. The company has interests in radio under the MY FM brand, operating in 17 FM radio stations across mini metros and small towns. Another subsidiary, I Media Corp provides exposure to Internet and short messaging service (SMS) portals.

## Investment strategy

We rate DBCL shares as Buy with a target price of Rs270. The company is well placed in key regional markets, growing at a faster pace than the industry average. Superior execution skills, localization of content/advertising and scale result in strong competitive positioning. We expect a healthy ~18% recurring EPS CAGR over FY12-15E, despite aggressive investments in new markets. Over FY12-15E, we expect a relatively stable core business performance (mature editions' EBITDA margins of 27-32%), as we think relatively stable advertising revenue growth, newsprint tailwinds, better cost controls and contribution from radio & newer editions should offset the incremental investments into new states. Dividend & FCF yields of ~2.5% & 3-5% respectively are healthy.

### Valuation

Our Rs270 target price is based on 18x Mar14E consolidated EPS, at ~50% premium to the Asia-Pac peer group average (prev. 17x Mar-14E based on ~40% premium, raised to reflect improving visibility on the revenue & margin outlook). Strong franchise, presence in growth markets and steady local advertising growth should help DBCL sustain premium valuations. Asian publishing companies trade at ~12x FY14E P/E with flat earnings (3-year earnings CAGR +1-2% over FY12-15E). Our P/E target multiple for DBCL seems reasonable given its superior earnings growth. Further, excluding investments in new markets (which we believe are long term positives), our target multiple on DBCL would be ~16x for the existing business - which we believe is warranted given DBCL's well balanced portfolio, execution track record, strong management team and good medium-term growth trajectory. Given its relatively decent visibility on revenues and a good track record of earnings, we believe earnings-based valuations are the best way to value DBCL.

#### **Risks**

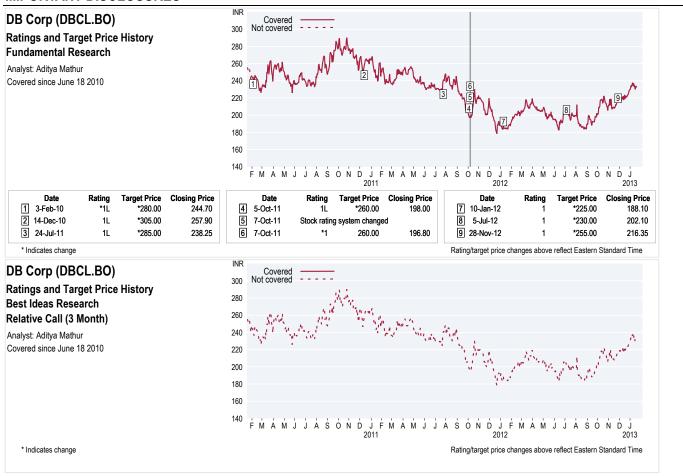
Key downside risks to the shares reaching our target price include: 1) Rupee depreciation could have an adverse impact as ~33% of the newsprint is imported and linked to the USD. 2) Slowing economic activity in India would lead to a decline in ad industry revenues, hitting DBCL's revenues and profitability; 3) Increased competition in any of DBCL's key markets and inability to break into newer markets could lead to more sales promotions/discounts. 4) While the company is taking steps to prepare for the future, the risks around web disintermediation remain.

## **Appendix A-1**

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	12 IVIC	Relative Rating				
Data current as of 31 Dec 2012	Buy	Hold	Sell	Buy	Hold	Sell
Citi Research Global Fundamental Coverage	49%	38%	12%	7%	86%	7%
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