

Industrials Airlines

Equity - India

Underweight (V)

| Target price (INR) | 15.00 |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Share price (INR) | 24.60 |
| Forecast dividend yield (%) | 0.0 |
| Potential return (%) | -39 |

Note: Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, plus the forecast dividend yield

| Performance | 1M | 3M | 12M |
|-------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Absolute (%) | 50.0 | 0.0 | -49.4 |
| Relative^ (%) | 35.2 | -0.2 | -48.3 |
| Index^ | | BOMBAY | SE IDX |
| RIC | | _ | PJT.BO |
| Bloomberg | | 5 | SJET IN |
| Market cap (USDm) | | | 222 |
| Market cap (INRm) | | | 10,860 |
| Enterprise value (INRm) | | | 61,925 |
| Free float (%) | | | 56 |

Note: (V) = volatile (please see disclosure appendix)

7 February 2012

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SpiceJet Ltd (SJET)

UW(V): No surprises in 3Q12 results, key concerns remain

- ▶ 3Q12 loss driven by higher costs and lower loads, in line with expectations at the operational level
- Outlook upbeat on demand, but concerns on capacity, costs and rising debt remain; book value fast eroding
- ▶ Reiterate UW(V) and maintain TP at INR15, based on 9x EV/EBITDAR; policy risks key

3Q12 results as expected at the operational level: SpiceJet reported a net loss of INR393m in 3Q12 (October-December 2011) vs. a profit of INR944m in 3Q11, 21% below our forecast loss of INR498m and significantly below consensus of INR1.1bn. On a y-o-y basis, the significantly weaker performance was caused by a 7ppt decline in the load factor and a 28% increase in unit costs, only partially offset by a 16% rise in unit revenue. The result was in line with our forecast at the EBIT level. However, a rise in other income above our forecast and slightly lower-than-expected net interest costs helped to narrow losses for SpiceJet and rendered losses 21% below our forecast at the reported level.

Lacks earnings and asset support: The better-than-expected yield performance drives the slight increase in our revenue and EBITDAR forecasts, but we increase our FY12-13 net loss forecasts for SpiceJet mainly to account of higher depreciation, lease and staff costs. Further, SpiceJet's fleet is largely leased, so it does not have any assets to support its rapidly eroding book value.

Reiterate UW(V), maintain target at INR15: We continue to value SpiceJet on its average one-year forward EV/EBITDAR multiple of 9x (the average that it traded at in September 2008-March 2010). Applying this to our new estimates gives us an unchanged target price of INR15 (rounded). The slight increases in our EBIDTAR forecasts are offset by increased net debt level forecasts (including capitalised leases). We maintain our UW(V) rating on the stock.

Upside risks: Policy risk is key. The proposal to allow foreign airlines to own up to a 49% stake in Indian airlines was agreed upon by key ministers in January 2012 and is now waiting for cabinet approval. If and when this approval is granted, we believe it will likely be a potential positive catalyst for the stock. The other upside risks are a fall in fuel prices, appreciation of the INR versus the USD, and pricing and capacity discipline in the market.

| Key financi | al data | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| YE March | EBITDAR INRm | EBIT INRm | HSBC NP INRm | EPS INR | HSBC EPS* INR | PE x | PB x | EV/EBITDAR x | EV/IC |
| FY11 | 5,050 | 676 | 989 | 2.80 | 2.73 | 9.0 | 3.1 | 11.7 | 1.6 |
| FY12e | 1,562 | -4,605 | -4,266 | -10.08 | -10.08 | -2.4 | 45.1 | 39.7 | 1.2 |
| FY13e | 6,299 | -1,113 | -1,119 | -2.53 | -2.53 | -9.7 | NA | 11.7 | 1.2 |
| FY14e | 9,392 | 811 | 615 | 1.39 | 1.39 | 17.7 | NA | 8.8 | 1.2 |

Source: Company, HSBC estimates * Note: not diluted



Financials & valuation

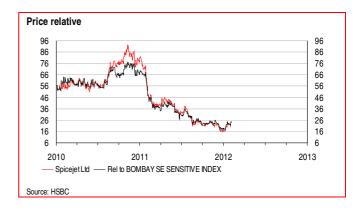
| Financial statements | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Year to | 03/2011a | 03/2012e | 03/2013e | 03/2014e |
| Profit & loss summary (INF | lm) | | | |
| Revenue | 28,795 | 38,946 | 48,888 | 57,077 |
| EBITDA | 765 | -4,306 | -625 | 1,467 |
| Depreciation & amortisation | -89 | -299 | -488 | -656 |
| Operating profit/EBIT | 676 | -4,605 | -1,113 | 811 |
| Net interest | 150 | -233 | -607 | -827 |
| PBT | 1,259 | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 |
| HSBC PBT | 1,236 | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 |
| Taxation | -247 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net profit | 1,012 | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 |
| HSBC net profit | 989 | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 |
| Cash flow summary (INRm |) | | | |
| Cash flow from operations | -570 | -3,126 | 152 | 1,780 |
| Capex | -3,152 | -4,224 | -4,066 | -3,432 |
| Cash flow from investment | -6,677 | 2,418 | -2,366 | -2,632 |
| Dividends | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change in net debt | 1,457 | 18,066 | 11,709 | 8,980 |
| FCF equity | -3,722 | -7,350 | -3,914 | -1,652 |
| Balance sheet summary (I | NRm) | | | |
| Intangible fixed assets | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 6,982 | 10,906 | 14,485 | 17,261 |
| Current assets | 4,114 | 5,407 | 3,924 | 3,810 |
| Cash & others | 1,922 | 3,083 | 1,471 | 1,250 |
| Total assets | 11,096 | 16,314 | 18,409 | 21,071 |
| Operating liabilities | 6,944 | 8,490 | 10,003 | 11,250 |
| Gross debt | 34,922 | 54,148 | 64,245 | 73,004 |
| Net debt | 32,999 | 51,065 | 62,774 | 71,754 |
| Shareholders funds | 3,211 | 241 | -878 | -263 |
| Invested capital | 36,294 | 51,389 | 61,980 | 71,575 |

| Ratio, growth and per share analysis | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Year to | 03/2011a | 03/2012e | 03/2013e | 03/2014e | | | | |
| Y-o-y % change | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 32.0 | 35.3 | 25.5 | 16.8 | | | | |
| EBITDA | 143.7 | -662.7 | | | | | | |
| Operating profit | 184.6 | -781.1 | | | | | | |
| PBT | 85.6 | -438.8 | | | | | | |
| HSBC EPS | 78.0 | -514.0 | | | | | | |
| Ratios (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue/IC (x) | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | | | | |
| ROIC | -4.6 | -18.6 | -9.3 | -5.9 | | | | |
| ROE | -938.7 | -247.2 | 351.1 | -107.9 | | | | |
| ROA | 10.5 | -27.9 | -1.4 | 8.2 | | | | |
| EBITDA margin | 2.7 | -11.1 | -1.3 | 2.6 | | | | |
| Operating profit margin | 2.3 | -11.8 | -2.3 | 1.4 | | | | |
| EBITDA/net interest (x) | | | | 1.8 | | | | |
| Net debt/equity | 1027.7 | 21214.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | |
| Net debt/EBITDA (x) | 43.1 | -11.9 | -100.4 | 48.9 | | | | |
| CF from operations/net debt | | | 0.2 | 2.5 | | | | |
| Per share data (INR) | | | | | | | | |
| EPS reported (fully diluted) | 2.49 | -10.08 | -2.53 | 1.39 | | | | |
| HSBC EPS (fully diluted) | 2.43 | -10.08 | -2.53 | 1.39 | | | | |
| DPS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Book value | 7.92 | 0.55 | -1.99 | -0.60 | | | | |

| Key forecast drivers | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| Year to | 03/2011a | 03/2012e | 03/2013e | 03/2014e | | | |
| Capacity growth (ATK) %, y-o-y | 19 | 32 | 18 | 18 | | | |
| Traffic (RTK) %, y-o-y | 27 | 21 | 18 | 17 | | | |
| Overall load factor | 83 | 76 | 76 | 75 | | | |
| Change in overall yield %, y-o | 4 | 12 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| Change in unit costs per ATK % | 9 | 18 | -3 | -5 | | | |
| Jet fuel price, post hedging (USD/bbl) | 99 | 126 | 120 | 110 | | | |

| Valuation data | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Year to | 03/2011a | 03/2012e | 03/2013e | 03/2014e |
| EV/sales | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| EV/EBITDA | 11.7 | 39.7 | 11.7 | 8.8 |
| EV/IC | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| PE* | 9.0 | -2.4 | -9.7 | 17.7 |
| P/Book value | 3.1 | 45.1 | NA | NA |
| REP** | 2.8 | NA | 11.6 | 2.4 |
| Dividend yield (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Note: * = Based on HSBC EPS (fully diluted) **EV/IC divided by ROIC/WACC



Note: price at close of 06 Feb 2012



3Q12 results as expected at the operational level

SpiceJet reported a net loss of INR393m in 3Q12 (October-December 2011) versus a profit of INR944m in 3Q11 and 21% below our forecast loss of INR498m.

On a y-o-y basis, the significantly weaker performance was caused by a 7ppt decline in the load factor and a 28% increase in unit costs, only partially offset by a 16% rise in unit revenue.

The result was in line with our forecast at the EBIT level. However, a rise in other income (the nature of this headline figure is not known and makes it difficult to forecast) above our forecast and slightly lower-than-expected net interest cost helped to narrow losses for SpiceJet and rendered losses 21% below our forecast at the reported level.

| 1. 3Q12 financial results ve | rsus prior year and HSBC | estimates | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| INRm | 3Q12a | 3Q11a | Change % | HSBC 3Q12e | Difference |
| Revenue | 11,531 | 8,200 | 41% | 10,253 | 12% |
| Staff | 1,121 | 608 | 84% | 876 | 28% |
| Depreciation | 122 | 23 | 430% | 30 | 301% |
| Fuel | 5,923 | 3,115 | 90% | 5,363 | 10% |
| Maintenance | 1,190 | 683 | 74% | 968 | 23% |
| Lease | 1,600 | 1,060 | 51% | 1,452 | 10% |
| Others | 2,115 | 1,676 | 26% | 2,085 | 1% |
| Operating costs | 12,070 | 7,165 | 68% | 10,773 | 12% |
| EBIT | -539 | 1,035 | NA | -520 | 4% |
| Margin | -5% | 13% | NA | -5% | 0% |
| Others | 227 | 85 | 166% | 128 | 77% |
| Net finance cost | -81 | 59 | NA | -106 | -24% |
| Profit before tax | -393 | 1,180 | NA | -498 | -21% |
| Taxation | 0 | -235 | -100% | 0 | NA |
| Profit after tax | -393 | 944 | NA | -498 | -21% |
| HSBC PAT | -393 | 929 | NA | -498 | -21% |
| EPS | -0.9 | 2.3 | NA | -1.2 | -21% |
| HSBC EPS | -0.9 | 2.3 | NA | -1.2 | -21% |

Source: Company data, HSBC estimates

| | 3Q12a | 3Q11a | Change % | HSBC 3Q12e | Difference |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Traffic | | | | | |
| Overall (RTK m) | 260 | 215 | 21% | 250 | 4% |
| Passenger (RPK m) | 2,888 | 2,392 | 21% | 2,775 | 4% |
| Capacity | | | | | |
| Overall (ATK m) | 325 | 246 | 32% | 317 | 2% |
| Passenger (ASK m) | 3,606 | 2,731 | 32% | 3,524 | 2% |
| Load factor | | | | | |
| Overall | 80% | 88% | -7% | 79% | 1% |
| Passenger | 80% | 88% | -7% | 79% | 1% |
| Break-even load factor | 84% | 77% | 7% | 83% | 1% |
| Yields and costs (INR) | | | | | |
| Overall (Rev/RTK) | 44 | 38 | 16% | 41 | 8% |
| Unit costs (Costs/ATK) | 37 | 29 | 28% | 34 | 9% |
| Unit costs (fuel) | 18 | 13 | 44% | 17 | 8% |
| Unit costs (ex-fuel) | 19 | 16 | 15% | 17 | 11% |

Source: Company data, HSBC estimates

3



Mixed outlook

Despite the weak performance, the company remained upbeat on the demand outlook, "SpiceJet expects the demand scenario to remain robust and the domestic demand to be stable during Year 2012". We, too, have been relaxed about the demand outlook, but our main concerns have been rising capacity risks, mounting debt and rising costs (jet fuel prices continue to remain high, although a slightly strengthening INR should offer some respite, and staff costs have increased significantly).

Finally, in the result release, the auditor drew attention to the fact that SpiceJet's accumulating losses of approximately INR11bn have substantially eroded its net worth, echoing the concerns we highlighted in our recent update, dated 18 January 2012, *SpiceJet: Lower target, remain UW(V): Feeling the pinch*

Changes in our estimates

Set out in Table 3-4 below are the changes we have made to our forecasts. The better-than-expected yield performance drives the slight increases in our revenue and EBITDAR forecasts, but we increase our FY12-13 net loss forecasts and lower our FY14 profit estimate. The significant rise in staff and maintenance costs and depreciation charges primarily drives our estimate cuts. Further, given the yield rise witnessed in 3Q12, we argue further increases in yields will be capped.

3. Changes made to HSBC financial forecasts

| | New | | | | Old | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| INRm | FY12e | FY13e | FY14e | FY12e | FY13e | FY14e |
| Revenues | 38,946 | 48,888 | 57,077 | 36,777 | 46,388 | 53,810 |
| EBITDAR | 1,562 | 6,299 | 9,392 | 1,411 | 5,790 | 8,974 |
| EBIT | -4,605 | -1,113 | 811 | -4,315 | -651 | 1,360 |
| PBT | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 | -4,092 | -796 | 1,062 |
| Reported net profit | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 | -4,092 | -796 | 1,062 |
| Recurring net profit | -4,266 | -1,119 | 615 | -4,092 | -796 | 1,062 |
| HSBC EPS (INR) | -10.1 | -2.5 | 1.4 | -9.7 | -1.8 | 2.4 |

Source: HSBC estimates

4. Changes made to HSBC operating forecasts

| | New | | | Old | | | Change | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | FY12e | FY13e | FY14e | FY12e | FY13e | FY14e | FY12e | FY13e | FY14e |
| Capacity growth (ATK) %, y-o-y | 32% | 18% | 18% | 30% | 18% | 18% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| Traffic (RTK) %, y-o-y | 21% | 18% | 17% | 21% | 18% | 16% | 0% | 0% | 1% |
| Overall load factor | 76% | 76% | 75% | 77% | 77% | 75% | -1% | -1% | 0% |
| Change in overall yield %, y-o-y | 12% | 6% | 0% | 6% | 7% | 0% | 6% | -1% | 0% |
| Change in unit costs per ATK %, y-o-y | 18% | -3% | -5% | 12% | -3% | -6% | 5% | 0% | 1% |
| Jet fuel price, post hedging (USD/bbl) | 126 | 120 | 110 | 126 | 120 | 110 | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Source: HSBC estimates

4



Valuation and risks

Reiterate UW(V), maintain target at INR15

We continue to value SpiceJet on its average one-year forward EV/EBITDAR multiple of 9x (the average that it traded at in September 2008-March 2010). Applying this to our new estimates gives us an unchanged target price of INR15. The slight increases in our EBIDTAR forecasts are offset by increased net debt level forecasts (including capitalised leases).

Under our research model, for stocks with a volatility indicator, the Neutral band is 10ppts above and below the hurdle rate for India stocks of 11%. Our target price of INR15 implies a potential return of -39%, below the Neutral band; therefore, we are reiterating our Underweight (V) rating. Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated.

Upside risks

Policy risks. The proposal to allow foreign airlines to own up to a 49% stake in Indian airlines was agreed upon by key ministers in January 2012 and is now waiting for cabinet approval (refer to our note on 18 January 2012 "*Flying high on FDI but will there be any takers?*" If and when this approval is granted, we believe it will likely be a potential positive catalyst for the stock.

Others. The other upside risks are a fall in fuel prices, appreciation of the INR versus the USD, and pricing and capacity discipline in the market.

5



Disclosure appendix

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Our ratings are re-calibrated against these bands at the time of any 'material change' (initiation of coverage, change of volatility status or change in price target). Notwithstanding this, and although ratings are subject to ongoing management review, expected returns will be permitted to move outside the bands as a result of normal share price fluctuations without necessarily triggering a rating change.



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Rating distribution for long-term investment opportunities

As of 07 February 2012, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

| Overweight (Buy) | 53% | (26% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| Neutral (Hold) | 36% | (21% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |
| Underweight (Sell) | 11% | (13% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |

Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



| Recommendation & price target history | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| From | То | Date |
| N/A | Underweight (V) | 14 October 2011 |
| Target Price | Value | Date |
| Price 1 | 17.00 | 14 October 2011 |
| Price 2 | 15.00 | 17 January 2012 |
| O LIODO | | |

Source: HSBC

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