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Analyzing accounting policies. We analyze nuances of various accounting policies as most companies follow different methods. HDIL has the most conservative policy while accounting policies of Sobha/Unitech have elements of ambiguity. We also analyze dividend payment track record, interest capitalization policy and understand how FY2010E BV has built up over FY2006-10E.

Diverse sector, even more diverse accounting policies

Broadly, real estate companies follow three sets of accounting policies—(1) percentage completion based on project cost (land + construction) basis, (2) percentage completion based on construction cost basis and (3) project completion basis. Within each of these broad parameters, companies have different thresholds before they start booking revenues. Exhibit 1 summarizes accounting policies being followed by different companies. We highlight key differences amongst different companies as below.

DLF. DLF books revenues on percentage completion based on project cost, wherein land cost is also included. In such a scenario, if land cost is a large proportion of total cost, revenue booking is quick, thus creating large numbers of debtors. Exhibit 2 explains how revenue booking occurs quicker on a project-completion basis.

Unitech. Unitech recognizes sales from sale of investments/land sale, net of cost. As per the balance sheet, goodwill arising out of consolidation is not being amortized.

Sobha Developers. Sobha changed its revenue recognition policy in FY2009. Sobha now recognizes the full land cost (plus margins) for the sold portion as and when level of collection exceeds 20%. Such an accounting policy leads to faster revenue booking apart from creating ambiguity about the timing of profit booking.

HDIL. HDIL books revenues on a project-completion basis. This accounting policy is most conservative and also results in tax payments becoming back ended. This results in higher NAV vis-à-vis the percentage-completion method on account of the timing of tax payments. Most unlisted companies follow a similar accounting policy.

Annexure I quotes—verbatim—the accounting policies adopted by various firms as extracted from their annual reports.

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Real estate companies use different accounting policies

Company	Accounting policy	Threshold limit (%)
DLF	Percentage of completion- project cost (land cost and construction cost)	30
Unitech	Percentage of completion- construction cost	20
HDIL	Project completion method	
Indiabulls	Percentage of completion- construction cost	25
Sobha	Percentage of completion- construction cost	25
Puravankara	Percentage of completion- construction cost	
Parsvnath	Percentage of completion- project cost (land cost and construction cost)	30
Orbit corporator	Percentage of completion- construction cost	25

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Revenue booking occurs faster on a project-cost accounting basis

Selling price	(Rs/sq. ft)	15,000	
Land Cost	(Rs/sq. ft)	5,000	
Construction cost	(Rs/sq. ft)	2,500	
Customer payments	Linked to construction schedule		
		Project cost basis	Construction cost basis
Construction incurred	(%)	10	10
Customer payments (a)	(Rs/sq. ft)	1,500	1,500
Cost incurred (I)	(Rs/sq. ft)	5,250	250
Relevant total cost (II)	(Rs/sq. ft)	7,500	2,500
Percentage completion ((I)/(II))	(%)	70	10
Revenues booked (b)	(Rs/sq. ft)	10,500	1,500
Receivables ((b)-(a))	(Rs/sq. ft)	9,000	-

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Capitalized interest as proportion of FY2010E BV is 14-15% for DLF, Unitech

Exhibit 3 shows that real estate companies have capitalized large portion of their interest costs over the period FY2007-10E. Indian real estate companies capitalize a large proportion of interest, citing reasons that debt capital is being used either for buying land for future development or for building assets. Over the period of FY2006-10E, DLF has capitalized cumulative interest of Rs37.7 bn, which represents 14% of its FY2010E book value (Exhibit 4). Unitech has capitalized Rs15.9 bn in interest over the same period, representing 15% of FY2010E book value.

High level of interest capitalization will have double impact on future profitability. Interest capitalization pads up book value and thus increase the quantum of equity capital. On the asset side, capitalized interest in most cases is added to work in progress, which needs to be amortized at projects progress. Thus, as interest capitalized as proportion of WIP increases, gross margins are also likely to suffer. Since many companies have adopted the policy of interest capitalization recently, the full impact on return ratios will be seen only in FY2010-11E.

Interest capitalization trends for real estate companies

Interest cost paid and booked (in Rs mn), March fiscal year-ends, 2006-09E

	Interest paid	Interest cost booked in P&L	Interest capitalized (%)	Debt
2006				
DLF	1,759	1,685	4.2	41,320
HDIL	331	106	68.1	1,965
Puravankara	122	122	0.0	1,622
Sobha	219	219	0.0	4,231
Unitech	465	465	0.0	10,449
2007				
DLF	8,907	3,076	65.5	99,328
HDIL	430	430	0.0	3,757
Puravankara	575	46	92.0	6,761
Sobha	571	481	15.8	5,837
Unitech	3,409	3,020	11.4	39,805
2008				
DLF	11,890	3,100	73.9	122,771
HDIL	1,680	1,408	16.2	31,127
Puravankara	699	36	94.8	6,524
Sobha	1,780	615	65.5	17,831
Unitech	8,891	2,804	68.5	85,524
2009E				
DLF	17,919	3,570	80.1	149,328
HDIL	4,935	580	88.3	37,965
Puravankara	1,059	38	96.4	8,146
Sobha	2,512	1,074	57.2	19,322
Unitech	11,773	5,546	52.9	90,558

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Book value of real estate companies padded up by interest capitalization

Impact of interest capitalization on book value of real estate companies, March fiscal year-ends

	Networth (Rs mn)	Interest capitalization (Rs mn)					Cumulative interest capitalized (2006-10E)		% of FY2010E NW	FY2010E BV (Rs/share)
		FY2010E	2006	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	(Rs mn)		
DLF	265,008	74	5,831	8,790	14,349	8,672	37,716	22.1	14.2	155
HDIL	68,105	226	0	272	4,356	2,781	7,634	22.1	11.2	197
Puravankara	14,657	0	529	663	1,021	865	3,078	14.5	21.0	69
Sobha	17,343	0	90	1,165	1,438	975	3,668	37.5	21.1	177
Unitech	104,996	0	389	6,087	6,227	3,175	15,878	6.7	15.1	44

Source: estimates, Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Cumulative dividend payment by Unitech over FY2006-09 is Rs0.7

Exhibit 5 shows dividend history of various real estate companies. Since the real estate business requires a continuous deployment of capital, dividend payments can be a key indicator of excess cash flow generation. We find that that Unitech has paid the least cumulative dividend over FY2006-09 of Rs0.7 or 0.8% of current market price. Similarly, for HDIL it is 1.4% and DLF 2%. We highlight that Unitech and Mahindra Lifespaces are the only real estate company which has a listed history of more than three years.

Exhibit 6 gives details of book value accretion for various real estate companies. We note that most of the book value accretion has taken place through issuance of fresh equity. We summarize key details:

Unitech. Book value at the end of FY2006 was Rs1.1. 50% of FY2010E BV of Rs44 is getting added in FY2010E. Adjusted for capitalized interest, 55% of FY2010E BV of Rs37.3 is getting added in FY2010.

DLF. Of FY2010E BV of Rs155, accretion of Rs92 took place in FY2008, primarily on account of its IPO.

Unitech's dividend payout over the last 4 years has been less than 1% of the current share price
Dividend (Rs/share) over the period FY2006-09

	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Cumulative (FY06-09)	Current share price	Cumulative as % of share price
DLF	0	2.0	4.0	2	8.0	393	2.0
Unitech	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.10	0.70	91	0.8
HDIL	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	4.1	306	1.3
Sobha	2.3	5.5	6.5	1.0	15.3	239	6.4
IBREL		0	13.5	0.0	13.5	284	4.8
Puravankara	0.6	0.9	2.0	0.0	3.6	129	2.8
Mahindra Lifespaces	1.0	1.5	2.5	2.5	7.5	377	2.0

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Maximum addition to book value in FY2008 for most companies; for Unitech it is in FY2010E
Incremental book/year, March fiscal year ends, FY2007-10E

	Book value in		Additions			Book value in FY2010E	Capitalized interest	Adj. book value
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010E			
DLF	5.5	17.6	91.6	28.6	11.1	154.5	22.1	132.3
Unitech	1.1	7.3	6.7	6.6	22.3	44.0	6.6	37.3
HDIL	5.4	15.7	84.4	26.6	65.1	197.1	22.1	175.0
IBREL	18.4	19.1	75.0	24.2	63.6	200.4	0.0	200.4
Sobha	14.9	74.0	21.3	11.0	69.2	190.4	37.5	152.9
Puravankara	5.2	5.2	46.4	7.1	4.7	68.7	14.5	54.2

Adjusted for capitalized interest each year

	Book value in		Additions			Book value in FY2010E
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010E	
DLF	5.5	14.2	86.5	20.2	6.0	132.3
Unitech	1.1	7.1	4.2	4.0	21.0	37.3
HDIL	4.7	15.7	83.6	14.0	57.1	175.0
IBREL	18.4	19.1	75.0	24.2	63.6	200.4
Sobha	14.9	73.0	9.4	(3.6)	59.2	152.9
Puravankara	5.2	2.7	43.3	2.3	0.6	54.2

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

ANNEXURE I

Unitech's revenue recognition policy

10. RECOGNITION OF INCOME

a) Real Estate Projects

Real Estate Projects undertaken up to 31st March' 2004.

(i) Revenue is recognized to estimate the profit @ 20% of actual receipts and installments fallen due during the year towards booking of plots/constructed properties, subject to final adjustment, on the completion of the respective project.

(ii) Real Estate Projects undertaken on and after 1st April, 2004.

- i. Revenue from real estate projects is recognized on the "Percentage of Completion Method" of accounting. Revenue comprises the aggregate amounts of sale price in terms of the agreements entered into and is recognized on the basis of percentage of actual costs incurred thereon, including proportionate land cost and total estimated cost of projects under execution, subject to such actual costs being 20 percent or more of the total estimated cost.
- ii. Where aggregate of the payment received provide insufficient evidence of buyers commitment to make the complete payment, revenue is recognized only to the extent of realization.
- iii. The estimates of the saleable areas and costs are reviewed periodically by the management and any effect of changes in estimates is recognized in the period such changes are determined. However, when the total project cost is estimated to exceed total revenues from the project, the loss is recognized immediately.

(iii) The interest on delayed payment and maintenance charges are accounted for on realization due to uncertainty of recovery of the same.

(iv) The Sale proceeds of the Investments held in the Subsidiaries, Joint Ventures and Associates developing Real Estate Projects are included in real estate revenue, net of cost.

b) Revenue from Sale of Land/Land Rights held by the Company itself and its wholly owned subsidiaries are recognised under the head as "Sales and Others Receipts" net of cost.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Unitech's accounting policy on consolidation

(A) Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of parent company and its subsidiaries and joint ventures (collectively referred to as "Unitech Group") on the following basis:

- The consolidated financial statements have been combined on a line by line basis by adding together the book values of like items of assets, liabilities, income and expenses, after fully eliminating intra-group balances and intra-group transactions resulting in unrealized profits or losses. However, no effect in respect of different method of charging depreciation by various subsidiaries, other than the method adopted by parent company, has been considered.
- Investments in Associate Companies have been accounted as per Accounting Standard (AS) 23 "Accounting for Investments in Associates in Consolidated Financial Statement" notified by the companies (Accounting Standards) rules, 2006.
- Investment in Joint Ventures have been accounted as per Accounting Standard (AS) 27 "Financial Reporting of Interests in Joint Ventures" notified by the companies (Accounting Standards) rules, 2006.
- The excess of cost to the Parent Company of its investment in the Subsidiary over the Company's portion of equity of the Subsidiary is recognized in the financial statement as Goodwill.
- Goodwill arising out of consolidation is not being amortized.
- The excess of company's portion of equity of the subsidiary as at the date of its investment is treated as capital reserve.
- Minority interest in the net assets of consolidated subsidiaries consist of:
 - (a) the amount of equity attributable to minorities at the date on which investment in a subsidiary is made; and
 - (b) the minorities' share of movements in equity since the date the parent subsidiary relationship came into existence.
- Intra group balances and intra group transactions and unrealized profits have been eliminated in full.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Sobha changed its accounting policy in FY2009

(b) Change in accounting policies

With effect from April 1, 2008, the Company has changed its accounting policy for revenue recognition for sale of undivided share of land [group housing] on the basis of certain minimum level of collection of dues from the customer and/ or agreement for sale being executed rather than criteria relating to the project reaching a significant level of completion, to align it with revenue recognition policy for sale of villa plots. As a result revenue and profits before taxes are higher by Rs.59.61 million and Rs.14.84 million respectively for the year ended March 31, 2009.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Sobha's revenue recognition policy

a. Recognition of revenue from property development

Recognition of revenue from construction activity

Revenue from real estate under development/ sale of developed property is recognised upon transfer of all significant risks and rewards of ownership of such real estate/ property, as per the terms of the contracts entered into with buyers, which generally coincides with the firming of the sales contracts/ agreements, except for contracts where the Company still has obligations to perform substantial acts even after the transfer of all significant risks and rewards. In such cases, the revenue is recognised on percentage of completion method, when the stage of completion of each project reaches a significant level which is estimated to be at least 25% of the total estimated construction cost of the project. Revenue is recognised in proportion that the contract costs incurred for work performed up to the reporting date bear to the estimated total contract costs. Land costs are not included for the purpose of computing the percentage of completion.

Recognition of revenue from sale of undivided share of land [group housing]

Revenue from sale of undivided share of land [group housing] is recognised upon transfer of all significant risks and rewards of ownership of such real estate/ property, as per the terms of the contracts entered into with buyers, which generally coincides with the firming of the sales contracts/ agreements and/ or minimum level of collection of dues from the customer.

Recognition of revenue from sale of villa plots

Revenue from sale of villa plots is recognised upon transfer of all significant risks and rewards of ownership of such real estate/ property, as per the terms of the contracts entered into with buyers, which generally coincides with the firming of the sales contracts/ agreements.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

HDIL's revenue recognition policy

5. Revenue recognition

The Company follows completed project method of accounting ("Project Completion Method of Accounting"). Allocable expenses incurred during the year are debited to work-in-progress account. The income is accounted for as and when the projects get completed or substantially completed and then revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Sale:

- a) Unit in Real Estate:
Revenue is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the units in real estate have passed to the buyer.
- b) Rent:
Revenue is recognised on accrual basis
- c) Interest:
Revenue is recognised on a time proportion basis taking into account the amount outstanding and the rate applicable.
- d) Dividends:
Revenue is recognised when the shareholders' right to receive payment is established by the balance sheet date.
- e) Share of profit-Partnership firms:
Share of profit/(loss) from partnership firms is accounted for in respect of the financial year ending on or before the balance sheet date.
- f) Share in revenue of Entertainment Vertical:
Revenue is recognised on accrual basis.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

IBREL's revenue recognition policy

(viii) Revenue Recognition:

Interest income and Income from Real Estate Project Advisory is recognised on an accrual basis.

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive the dividend is unconditionally established at the Balance Sheet date.

Revenue from each Real Estate Development project is recognized.

- a) On the basis of "Percentage Completion Method".
- b) The percentage completion method is applied on a cumulative basis in each accounting year to the current estimate of contract revenue and contract cost.
- c) When the stage of completion of each project reaches a significant level which is estimated to be at least 25% of the total estimated construction cost of the project.

Revenue income and cost / expenditures in case of short term works contracts that are entered and completed during the period are accounted for on accrual basis as they are earned or incurred.

Construction revenue / income and cost / expenditures for contracts are accounted on accrual basis as they are earned or incurred as per Accounting Standard (AS) 7 (Revised) "Construction Contracts" as notified under the Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2006.

Air Transportation Income is recognised when service is rendered.

Profit/ Loss on sale of investment are recognized on the date of the transaction of sale and are computed with reference to the cost of the investment.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

DLF's revenue recognition policy

9. Revenue recognition

(i) Revenue from constructed properties

Revenue from constructed properties other than SEZ projects, is recognised on the 'percentage of completion method'. Total sale consideration as per the agreements to sell constructed properties entered into is recognised as revenue based on the percentage of actual project costs incurred thereon to total estimated project cost, subject to such actual cost incurred being 30 per cent or more of the total estimated project cost. Project cost includes cost of land, cost of development rights, estimated construction and development cost of such properties. The estimates of the saleable area and costs are reviewed periodically and effect of any changes in such estimates is recognised in the period such changes are determined. However, when the total project cost is estimated to exceed total revenues from the project, the loss is recognised immediately.

For SEZ projects, revenue from development charges is recognised on the 'percentage of completion method'. The total development charges as per the Co-Developer agreement entered into is recognised as revenue based on the percentage of actual project cost incurred thereon to total estimated project cost subject to such actual cost incurred being 30% or more of the total estimated project cost. The project cost includes estimated construction and development cost of such project excluding cost of land which is not sold/transferred. Revenue from lease of land pertaining to such projects is recognised in accordance with the terms of the Co-Developer agreements on accrual basis.

(ii) Sale of land and plots

Sale of land and plots (including development rights) is recognised in the financial year in which the agreement to sell is executed. Where the Company has any substantial obligations, revenue is recognised on 'percentage of completion method' as per 9 (i) above.

(iii) Construction contracts

Revenue from cost plus contracts is recognised with respect to the recoverable costs incurred during the period plus the margin in accordance with the agreement.

(iv) Power Supply

- a. Revenue from power supply together with claims made on customers is recognised in terms of power purchase agreements entered into with customers.
- b. Revenue from energy systems development contracts is recognised on percentage of completion method and accounted for inclusive of excise duty recovered, where applicable. Accordingly, revenue is recognised when cost incurred (including appropriate portion of allocable overheads) on the contract is estimated at 30 per cent or more, on the total cost to be incurred (including all foreseeable losses and an appropriate portion of allocable overheads) for the completion of contract, wherever applicable.
- c. Revenue from wind mill power projects is recognised on the basis of actual power sold (net of reactive energy consumed), as per the terms of the relevant power purchase agreements entered into with respective parties.

(v) Hospitality services and Recreational facility income

- a. Subscription and non refundable membership fee is recognised on

proportionate basis over the period of the subscription/membership.

- b. Revenue from food and beverage is recorded net of sales tax/value added tax and discounts.
- c. Sales of merchandise are stated net of goods sold on consignment basis as agents.
- d. Revenue from hotel operations and related services is recognised net of discounts and sales related taxes in the period in which the services are rendered.
- e. Income from golf operations, course capitation, sponsorship etc. is fixed and recognised as per the agreement with the parties, as and when services are rendered.
- f. Sale of cinema tickets is stated net of discounts.

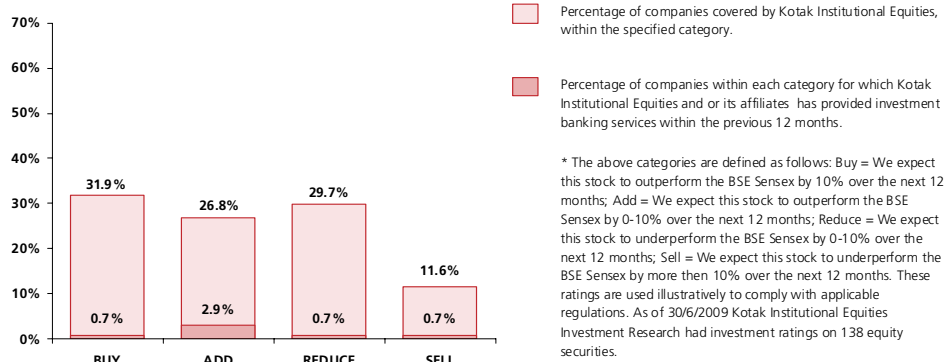
(vi) Others

- a. Revenue from design and consultancy services is recognised on percentage of completion method to the extent it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the group and the revenue can be reliably measured.
- b. Revenue in respect of maintenance services is recognised on an accrual basis, in accordance with the terms of the respective contract.
- c. Dividend income is recorded when the right to receive the dividend is established.
- d. Rent and licence fees, service receipts and interest from customers under agreements to sell is accounted for on an accrual basis except in cases where ultimate collection is considered doubtful.
- e. Income from interest is accounted for on time proportion basis taking into account the amount outstanding and the applicable rate of interest.

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As of June 30, 2009

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