

Equities

14 November 2011 | 11 pages

Reliance Communications (RLCM.BO)

2Q - Weak Overall

- 2Q below EBITDA at Rs16bn (flat qoq; -3.3%yoy) came in 8% below estimates with sub-par performance across all three segments 1) wireless rev was slightly ahead on mins growth but margins declined on higher ad spend, 2) Global EBITDA remained flat despite benefit of Rupee and 3) "others" losses widened. PAT at Rs3.2bn (+45%qoq) was ahead on lower-than-expected net interest exp. FY12-14E EBITDA is cut by 4-5%. Core business is benchmarked off Bharti at 15% disc to Sep-12E EV/EBITDA (6.6x vs 6.3 earlier). As a result, TP remains unchanged.
- Wireless topline benefits from mins growth; margins hit by ad spend Overall traffic grew 1.6%qoq despite seasonality. Rev/min at 45p too increased marginally with the 0.2p increase coming from tariff hike. Mgmt expects an incremental 1p rise over the next 2-3 qtrs. Wireless revs as a result grew 2%qoq, net revenue meanwhile grew 6%qoq (4% in 1Q) highlighting focus on on-net traffic. Margins declined 50bps primarily on higher ad spend even as network opex remained broadly unchanged and employee cost declined. The company disclosed 2.1m active 3G subs.
- Other businesses were lackluster NLD volume growth at 4% qoq was healthy while ILD volumes remained flat. Global and enterprise EBITDA (linked to global macro) was up only 1% despite some benefit of Rupee movement. This segment could get hit from the deteriorating global macro. Meanwhile losses in "Other" (primarily relates to DTH) continue to remain high.
- B/S details Net debt (ex-equip payables) at Rs319bn has fallen Rs5.4bn from the peak. Equipment supplies payable is a further Rs10bn. Capex came in at Rs3.5bn (1H at Rs7bn) with the full-year guidance maintained at Rs15bn. The company has US\$925m of FCCBs coming up for redemption in Feb 12.
- Attractive assets available below replacement cost RCOM's asset basket consisting of CDMA/GSM/3G spectrum, fiber backhaul and tower portfolio is geared toward mobile data growth. We estimate RCOM's replacement cost at Rs118/share. The stock provides decent risk adjusted returns at current levels. Maintain Buy.

- Company Update
- Estimate Change

Buy/High Risk	1H
Price (14 Nov 11)	Rs81.85
Target price	Rs117.00
Expected share price return	42.9%
Expected dividend yield	0.6%
Expected total return	43.6%
Market Cap	Rs168,941M
	US\$3,378M

Price Performance (RIC: RLCM.BO, BB: RCOM IN)



Statistical Abstract

Source: Powered by dataCentral

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2010A	48,450	23.47	-21.2	3.5	0.4	11.3	1.8
2011A	14,937	7.24	-69.2	11.3	0.4	3.4	0.6
2012E	14,214	6.89	-4.8	11.9	0.4	3.1	0.6
2013E	20,258	9.81	42.5	8.3	0.4	4.3	0.6
2014E	25,498	12.35	25.9	6.6	0.3	5.2	0.6

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Fiscal year end 31-Mar	2010	2011	2012E	2013E	2014E
Valuation Ratios					
P/E adjusted (x)	3.5	11.3	11.9	8.3	6.6
EV/EBITDA adjusted (x)	6.5	5.4	7.1	6.1	5.1
P/BV (x)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Dividend yield (%)	1.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Per Share Data (Rs)					
EPS adjusted	23.47	7.24	6.89	9.81	12.35
EPS reported	23.47	7.24	6.89	9.81	12.35
BVPS	210.08	216.04	222.36	231.61	243.40
DPS	1.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Profit & Loss (RsM)					
Net sales	222,502	231,077	217,916	240,824	258,716
Operating expenses	-181,461	-205,300	-189,693	-205,167	-215,855
EBIT	41,041	25,777	28,223	35,657	42,861
Net interest expense	11,863	-10,723	-13,262	-13,148	-11,766
Non-operating/exceptionals	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	52,904	15,054	14,961	22,509	31,095
Tax	-4,454	-117	-748	-2,251	-5,597
Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net income	48,450	14,937	14,214	20,258	25,498
Adjusted earnings	48,450	14,937	14,214	20,258	25,498
Adjusted EBITDA	78,868	90,816	70,636	82,745	91,886
Growth Rates (%)	,	•	,	,	,
Sales	-3.0	3.9	-5.7	10.5	7.4
EBIT adjusted	-23.3	-37.2	9.5	26.3	20.2
EBITDA adjusted	-15.1	15.1	-22.2	17.1	11.0
EPS adjusted	-21.2	-69.2	-4.8	42.5	25.9
Cash Flow (RsM)					
Operating cash flow	97,977	162,067	1,558	58,347	57,170
Depreciation/amortization	37,827	65,039	42,412	47,088	49,025
Net working capital	23,563	71,368	-68,330	-22,147	-29,119
Investing cash flow	-42,191	-128,840	-13,514	-13,781	-14,407
Capital expenditure	-42,191	-128,840	-13,514	-13,781	-14,407
Acquisitions/disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	-106,186	8,116	-14,423	-14,309	-12,927
Borrowings	-114,566	20,000	0	. 0	. 0
Dividends paid	-3,483	-1,161	-1,161	-1,161	-1,161
Change in cash	-50,400	41,343	-26,379	30,256	29,836
Balance Sheet (RsM)	·				
Total assets	925,686	1,043,820	965,794	958,461	960,098
Cash & cash equivalent	48,637	63,117	37,801	68,057	97,893
Accounts receivable	33,117	35,303	33,293	36,793	39,526
Net fixed assets	712,539	717,476	691,797	662,783	632,457
Total liabilities	485,496	589,731	498,663	472,233	449,532
Accounts payable	125,476	209,711	118,643	92,213	69,513
Total Debt	318,763	338,763	338,763	338,763	338,763
Shareholders' funds	440,190	454,089	467,132	486,229	510,565
Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%		10 1,000	,	100,220	0.0,000
EBITDA margin adjusted	, 35.4	39.3	32.4	34.4	35.5
ROE adjusted	11.3	39.3	32.4	4.3	5.2
ROIC adjusted	4.7	3.4 3.4	3.5	4.3	5.2 4.7
Net debt to equity	61.4	60.7	64.4	4.2 55.7	4.7 47.2
Total debt to capital	42.0	42.7	42.0	41.1	39.9
rotal debt to capital	42.0	42.1	42.0	41.1	39.9

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Quarterly Summary

Figure 1. Quarterly Summary

Rs m	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Q/Q%	Y/Y%
Net Revenues	50,927	51,092	51,183	50,041	78,761	49,401	50,402	2.0	(1.5)
Access and IUC	(4,887)	(5,625)	(5,510)	(5,467)	(5,000)	(5,390)	(5,263)	(2.4)	(4.5)
Other operating exp	(25,947)	(25,060)	(24,983)	(23,891)	(28,279)	(24,038)	(25,056)	4.2	0.3
License Fees	(4,074)	(4,087)	(4,095)	(4,003)	(4,261)	(3,952)	(4,032)	2.0	(1.5)
EBITDA	16,019	16,320	16,595	16,680	41,221	16,021	16,051	0.2	(3.3)
PBT	13,306	2,276	4,245	5,046	3,610	2,201	3,234	46.9	(23.8)
PAT	11,383	2,995	4,906	5,260	1,899	2,225	3,220	44.7	(34.4)

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 2. Wireless Summary

Rs m	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Remarks
Wireless Revenue	41,528	41,613	40,644	41,978	43,267	44,170	2% rev growth on both increase in rev/min and mins growth
Net revenue	28,047	28,333	27,474	28,987	30,152	31,963	Higher off-net calls
Wireless EBITDA	11,989	12,101	11,792	11,490	11,727	11,756	•
Wireless EBITDA margin (%)	28.9	29.1	29.0	27.4	27.1	26.6	Margins down on account of higher ad spend, network opex flat and employee costs down
ARPU	130	122	111	107	103	101	
MoU	295	276	251	241	233	227	
Pre-paid as % of net adds	101.6	100.6	101.8	100.7	98.9	95.7	Decline primarily from GSM
Minutes of usage (bn min)	94.4	94.6	91.5	94.4	97.3	98.9	Mins growth despite seasonality
Revenue per min (Rs)	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.2p uptick from tariff hikes, expect additional 1p over next 2-3 qtrs
EBITDA per min (Rs)	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Figure 3. Global and Broadband Summary

Rs m	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Remarks
NLD mins (m)	15,265	16,383	16,569	16,578	16,264	16,924	4% increase after being flat in the previous4 qtrs
ILD mins (m)	3,123	3,753	4,084	4,538	5,019	5,043	Flat qoq
Global Business Revenue	18,137	18,391	19,233	44,758	22,916	23,353	Includes higher margin broadband segment
Global Business EBITDA	3,317	3,393	3,966	29,122	5,643	5,694	
Margins (%)	18.3	18.4	20.6	65.1	24.6	24.4	
Net retention per LD min (Rs)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	
						0.9%	
Broadband Business							
ARPL (Rs)	1534	1494	1377	1523	NA	NA	
Towns active (wireline only)	42	44	44	44	44	44	
Buildings directly connected (nos)	1,049,914	1,065,243	1,081,221	1,100,683	1,122,697	1,133,924	Sustained pace of rollout

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

Earnings revision

 We have kept our wireless topline assumptions - rev/min, MoU, ARPU and overall traffic growth unchanged. Margins however are down ~1% incorporating the 2Q trends – higher ad spend though network opex remains flat on cost efficiencies.

- Global and broadband segment witnessed lackluster growth possibly on pricing pressure as global macro deteriorates. We downgrade segmental EBITDA by 3-5%.
- 3. In addition, the losses in the "other" segment (primarily relates to DTH) have been quite sticky and not declining as rapidly as was previously expected.

Consol EBITDA is down ~4% for FY12-14E to reflect the above changes. FY12E EPS remains broadly unchanged to incorporate the 2Q trend (lower-than-expected net interest exp). FY13-14E EPS is down 5-6%.

Figure 4. KPI and Earnings revision

	FY12E			FY13E			FY14E		
	New	Old	Change	New	Old	Change	New	Old	Change
ARPU (Rs)	104	103	1.0%	100	100	0.0%	96	96	0.0%
Rev/min (rs)	0.45	0.45	1.1%	0.46	0.46	0.0%	0.46	0.46	0.0%
MoU (Mins)	231	231	-0.1%	216	216	0.0%	209	209	0.0%
Traffic growth (%)	8.0%	8.0%	0.0%	8.0%	8.0%	0.0%	6.0%	6.0%	0.0%
Wireless Margins (%)	27.4%	28.8%	-1.4%	28.7%	29.8%	-1.2%	29.5%	30.6%	-1.2%
Consol EBITDA (Rs m)	70,636	73,723	-4.2%	82,745	86,380	-4.2%	91,886	95,780	-4.1%
EPS (Rs)	6.9	7.0	-1.2%	9.8	10.3	-4.8%	12.4	13.1	-5.6%

Source: Citi Investment Research and Analysis

TP at Rs117; asset value at Rs118

RCOM's core business value remains unchanged at Rs100/share despite the EBITDA and EPS cut. The core business is benchmarked off Bharti – at a 15% discount to its imputed multiple on its DCF (Sep FY12E at 6.6x vs 6.3x earlier as we had adjusted Bharti's estimates post its 2Q results). We believe that discount to Bharti is justified given:

- 1. Inherent risks in dual network and lower capacity utilisation in GSM.
- High leverage (FY12E net debt at Rs300bn) with FY12E net debt/EBITDA at 4.1x leaves RCOM's BS exposed to any adverse regulations (read retrospective 2G spectrum payments)

RCOM's net towerco value remains at Rs25/share. The current 2G controversy surrounding the allotment of spectrum at allegedly below market price to the new entrants in 2008 means that there is a risk of penalties. While the chance of this occurrence is low, assuming a 50% probability of this event, the hit on RCOM would be Rs8/share which we include in our TP (based on Rs41bn for 4.4MHz based on 3G spectrum 3x more efficient versus 2G).

RCOM's stock has taken a big hit since Jan, falling 40% YTD on concerns of being embroiled in the 2G spectrum controversy. We believe the stock at current levels provides decent risk adjusted returns. Besides, it currently trades below its replacement value and given its asset portfolio (CDMA, GSM and 3G spectrum, fiber network, towers), geared towards the upcoming data opportunity, it is an attractive acquisition candidate, in our view.

Figure		

	Base case	Comments
Number of towers	50,000	
EV/Tower (Rs)	3,825,000	US\$85k/tower
Value of towers (Rs m)	191,250	
Active equipment	112,500	50% discount to the Rs3m cost per BTS
Under sea cable (Km)	87,000	
Cost per Km (Rs)	900,000	3x the cost of laying out domestic fiber
Under sea cable (Rsm)	78,300	
Domestic fiber business	190,000	
Cost per km (Rs)	300,000	
Domestic fiber business (Rs m)	57,000	
Others	27,615	Book value
Spectrum		
Value of 3G	64,388	75% of price paid
Value of GSM spectrum	48,987	2x the initial price paid, based on 3G being 3x more efficient than 2G
Value of CDMA spectrum	14,850	Valued at 70% of the value of Rs16.5bn paid for GSM spectrum in 2008
Total replacement value	594,889	
Net debt + equipment supplies payable	351,523	
Equity value	243,367	
Per share	118	
Current share price	81.9	
% discount	44.2%	
Source: Citi Investment Research and A	nalysis	

Reliance Communications

Company description

RCOM is an integrated player in the Indian telecoms sector. It was listed on the Indian stock exchanges following the de-merger of Reliance Industries. RCOM is the second-largest player in the mobile segment, has an 80,000km-long India-wide optic-fiber network and owns the FLAG submarine cable network. RCOM has three business units: 1) Wireless, which includes a nationwide wireless network on CDMA and GSM; 2) Global Business comprising wholesale voice and data; and 3) Broadband for both retail and enterprise.

Investment strategy

We rate RCOM Buy/ High Risk (1H) with a target price of Rs117. The company has been hit by a combination of deterioration in its business and high leverage (dual network strategy and 3G). In addition, the stock has been hit by the ongoing 2G controversy which has resulted in a sharp sell-off in the last few months. However it currently trades below its replacement value (Rs118/share), which we believe adequately captures its business and leverage related concerns.

Valuation

Our target price of Rs117 comprises (i) core business value of Rs100, based on 6.6x Sep EV/EBITDA, at a 15% discount to Bharti's implied target multiple; plus (ii) towerco value accretion of Rs25 based on long-term external tenancy of 0.5x. We believe a 15% discount to Bharti on the core business valuation is justified on account of the inherent risks of dual network and higher leverage. Our towerco net value accretion of Rs25 is based on the following assumptions: 1) Long-term tenancy of 2.15x with captive tenancy of 1.65x; 2) Capex recovery of 12%, 3) WACC of 11.3% and terminal growth rate of 3%. Note that the incremental value accretion to RCOM is calculated after netting off the contribution from the captive tenancy. Thus, it only reflects the value of the external revenues. The current 2G controversy surrounding the allotment of spectrum at allegedly below market price to the new entrants in 2008 means that there is a risk of penalties. While the chance of this occurrence is low, assuming a 50% probability of this event, the hit on RCOM would be Rs8/share which we include in our TP (based on Rs41bn for 4.4MHz based on 3G spectrum being 3x more efficient versus 2G).

Risks

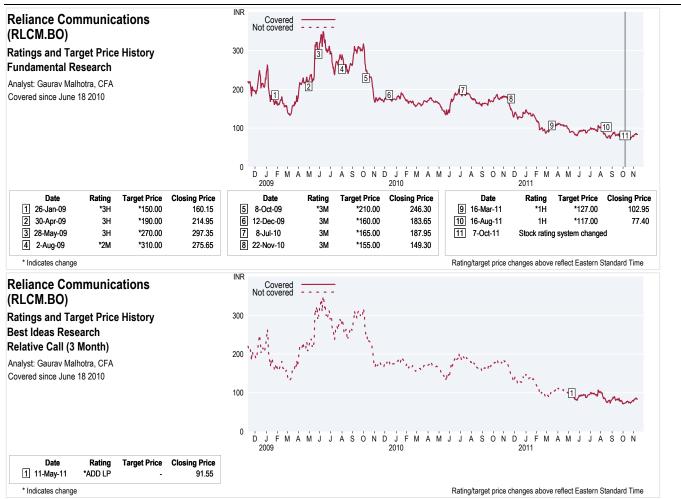
We assign a High Risk rating to RCOM given that the stock is deemed to be relatively volatile by our quantitative risk-rating model (based on stock price movements in the past year) and because of its lackluster business momentum and possible penalties by the Government on 2G spectrum especially in the context of its high leverage. Key downside risks that could prevent the stock from reaching our target price include: 1) further deterioration in core business, 2) higher-than expected penalties related to GSM spectrum allotted in 2008 and 3) inability to deleverage through asset sale.

Appendix A-1

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