

Systematix

Institutional Equities

NMDC Steel

27 February 2023

COMPANY UPDATE

Industry

Metals & Mining

Favorable risk-reward

We look at possible scenarios emerging for NMDC Steel. NMDC Steel was recently demerged from NMDC (BUY) at a ratio of 1:1 and trades at Rs 33/share currently. Valuation for NMDC Steel (NR) is interesting as a) the Government of India (GoI) is divesting its 50.79% stake in NMDC Steel (NR) through competitive bidding, b) GoI will transfer its 10% stake to NMDC (BUY), and c) this will trigger an open offer for 26% minority stake.

Background: NMDC Steel is a 3mt steel plant set up by NMDC and has been in the works for more than a decade. It is spread over 1930 acres and has the optionality to increase capacity to 6mt. According to the management a) major construction work is complete and Rs 210bn has already been spent with about Rs 20-25bn remaining to be spent b) the plant is expected to commission by April 2023 and production of 1mt is envisaged in the first year of operations.

We believe any potential acquirer would weigh the likely positives such as a) Long-term iron ore supply arrangement with NMDC at 135km b) port proximity of 300km and negatives such as a) lack of adequate captive power b) limited steel eco-system in the catchment area, and c) limited scalability optionality to 6mt based on the current configuration.

News reports indicate that JSW Steel (BUY), AMNS (NR), Jindal Steel & Power (NR) (JSP), Essar Steel (NR), and Adani Enterprises (NR) are the shortlisted bidders.

Analysis of key bidders:

JSW Steel: Has aggressive growth plans and has several projects under execution to raise its steelmaking capacity from 27mt to 37mt. However, its current net debt levels at Rs 70bn constrain its ability to bid beyond reasonable levels.

AMNS: Made an entry into India through its very aggressive bidding for erstwhile Essar Steel's plant at Hazira, Gujarat. Has outlined plans to increase its India steelmaking capacity by 75% to 15mt by 1HCY26. Marginal net debt of USD 2.2bn gives it significant leeway to go for aggressive bidding.

Jindal Steel and Power: Has reduced its net debt from Rs 455bn to Rs 72bn over the last 6 years through strong cash generation and divestment of non-core assets. It is currently expanding its steelmaking capacities at Angul, Odisha to raise its overall capacity to 15mt from 9mt by FY25 end. Low leverage makes JSP a serious bidder.

Essar Steel was forced to exit its India steelmaking business through the bankruptcy code proceedings and would make a fresh start. Adani Enterprises would likely be reassessing its overall business strategy in the wake of concerns over corporate governance and the cancellation of FPO at Adani Enterprises.

Valuations: We have made several assumptions with respect to currency rates, raw material prices, and steel prices and arrived at various scenarios (refer to exhibit 2). We believe, the plant would be profitable due to its proximity to raw materials and low manpower costs. Also, there is a historic benchmark of USD 1.1bn per 1mt of steelmaking capacity, which is the average for the 15mt of steelmaking capacities that changed hands during the NCLT auctions during FY17-19. The fact that NMDC would be retaining a 10% stake is no hindrance in our view. Vedanta (BUY) acquired Hindustan Zinc (BUY) in FY2002 and has been able to ramp up capacities by 5x, and Gol continued to retain its 29% stake. Hindustan Zinc (BUY) has since delivered 178x (incl. dividend) returns at a CAGR of 28% over the last 21 years.

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Exhibit 1: NMDC Steel

No of shares (Bn) 2.9 Shares offered for sale (%) 50.8 No of shares offered (Bn) 1.5 Open offer required (Bn) 0.8 Total shares to be acquired 2.25 Shareholding post acquisition 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10% Public 0.39 13%	EXHIBIT 1. INVIDE STEEL			
No of shares offered (Bn) 1.5 Open offer required (Bn) 0.8 Total shares to be acquired 2.25 Shareholding post acquisition 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10%	No of shares	(Bn)	2.9	
Open offer required (Bn) 0.8 Total shares to be acquired 2.25 Shareholding post acquisition 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10%	Shares offered for sale	(%)	50.8	
Total shares to be acquired Shareholding post acquisition Acquirer 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10%	No of shares offered	(Bn)	1.5	
Shareholding post acquisition Acquirer 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10%	Open offer required	(Bn)	0.8	
Acquirer 2.25 77% NMDC 0.29 10%	Total shares to be acquired		2.25	
NMDC 0.29 10%	Shareholding post acquisition			
	Acquirer		2.25	77%
Public 0.39 13%	NMDC		0.29	10%
	Public		0.39	13%

Source: Company, Systematix Institutional Research

Exhibit 2: Proforma Financials - NMDC Steel

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
USD:INR		82.0	83.0	84.0	85.0	86.0	87.0	88.0
Sales volumes	(Mt)	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
NSR	(USD/t)	650.0	663.0	676.3	689.8	703.6	717.7	732.0
RM	(USD/t)	394.8	396.7	398.6	400.6	402.6	404.7	406.8
Iron Ore	(USD/t)	94.8	96.7	98.6	100.6	102.6	104.7	106.8
Coking coal	(USD/t)	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
Others	(USD/t)	150.0	100.0	105.0	110.3	115.8	121.6	127.6
EBITDA/t	(USD/t)	105.2	166.3	172.6	178.9	185.2	191.4	197.6
EBITDA	(USD mn)	105.2	498.9	517.8	536.8	1,111.1	1,148.5	1,185.6
EBITDA	(Rs bn)	8.6	41.4	43.5	45.6	95.6	99.9	104.3
Depreciation	(Rs bn)	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Interest	(Rs bn)	5.0	2.5	-	-	9.0	4.5	-
PBT	(Rs bn)	(7.4)	27.9	32.5	34.6	66.5	75.4	84.3
Tax	(Rs bn)	(1.8)	5.1	8.1	8.7	16.6	18.8	21.1
PAT	(Rs bn)	(5.5)	22.8	24.4	26.0	49.9	56.5	63.2
EPS	(Rs)		7.8	8.3	8.9	17.0	19.3	21.6
CEPS	(Rs)	1.9	11.5	12.1	12.6	23.9	26.1	28.4
BV	(Rs)	61.4	72.9	85.0	97.6	121.5	147.6	176.0
NPV	(Rs)	61.76						
Discount rate @ 14%								
NPV after adding terminal v	alue							
Terminal value @ 8X PE		-	-	-	-	-	-	172.6
Terminal value	(Rs)	68.98						
Total Value	(Rs)	130.74						
Implied CAGR at CMP		22%						

Source: Company, Systematix Institutional Research

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Exhibit 3: Cash flow statement

(Rs bn)	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Cash from operations	10.5	36.3	35.4	37.0	78.9	81.1	83.3
Maintenance capex	(1.6)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.1)	(10.3)	(10.4)	(10.6)
WC	-	-	-	-	(30.0)	-	-
Cash from investing	-	-	-	-	(180.6)	-	-
Opening cash	(50.0)	(41.2)	(9.9)	20.5	52.3	(89.7)	(19.0)
Change in cash	8.8	31.3	30.3	31.9	(142.0)	70.6	72.7
closing cash	(41.2)	(9.9)	20.5	52.3	(89.7)	(19.0)	53.7

Source: Company, Systematix Institutional Research

Exhibit 4: Key ratios and financial metrics

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Valuation								
Scenario 1 - EV at Stock price = 30	(Rs bn)	137.9	112.9	87.9	87.9	177.9	132.9	87.9
EV/EBITDA		16.0	2.7	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.3	0.8
P/B		0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
PE		-	3.9	3.6	3.4	1.8	1.6	1.4
Scenario 2 - EV at Stock price = 50	(Rs bn)	196.5	171.5	146.5	146.5	236.5	191.5	146.5
EV/EBITDA		22.8	4.1	3.4	3.2	2.5	1.9	1.4
P/B		0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
PE		-	6.4	6.0	5.6	2.9	2.6	2.3

Source: Company, Systematix Institutional Research

Exhibit 5: NMDC Steel Plant









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Source: Google Maps

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