

Coforge (COFORGE)

HOLD

Strong revenue growth to continue in medium term

Summary

Coforge Ltd's Q3 USD revenue growth was better than peers but lower than guidance of the company. However, the company has maintained its growth guidance of 13-16%. Considering macro uncertainty, slowdown in deal conversion, soft Q3 & robust expectation from Q4 we have assumed that the company would be at the lower end of the guidance for FY24E. The company's ability to win large deals in this environment (15.8% YoY increase in executable order) we have assumed ~15% YoY & 17% YoY growth in FY25E & FY26E and 223 bps increase in EBIT margins over FY24E-FY26E. However, considering recent run up in price we maintain HOLD rating on the stock with revised target price of Rs 6,130 (26x FY26E EPS, introducing FY26E estimates, previous TP Rs 4,913).

Key Highlights and Investment Rationale

- Company to report industry leading revenue growth: Despite uncertain environment the company is expected to register higher than 13% YoY growth in CC terms FY24E. This is better than mid cap and large cap peers. In addition the company sees strong growth in low code, no code, system integration, cloud and product engineering. Further the company expects strong growth across its key verticals of BFS, Travel and Insurance. In addition, the company has come out with new organisation structure to focus on US\$50-US\$100 mn clients and identified 6 services line to drive long term growth.
- Margins to improve: Coforge expects 150 bps expansion in Q4 led by revenue growth and absence of furloughs. We expect 223 bps increase in margins over FY24E-FY26E led by higher offshoring, stabilization of SG&A (as a % of revenues at 15%) and cost efficiency. Hence, we expect EBIT margins to improve from 13.5% in FY24E to 15.6% in FY26E.

TP R	s6,130
CMP R	s6,277
Potential upside/downside	e -2%
Previous Rating	HOLD

Price Performance (%)							
	-1m	-3m	-12m				
Absolute	(0.2)	25.6	53.1				
Ral to Sansay	(0.6)	16.4	35.3				

V/s Consensus							
EPS (Rs)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E				
IDBI Capital	141	195	234				
Consensus	145	191	230				
% differen3ce	(2.6)	2.1	1.9				

Key Stock Data

Bloomberg/Reuters	COFORGE IN / NITT.BO
Sector	IT Services
Shares o/s (mn)	62
Market cap. (Rs mn) 387,666
3-m daily avg Trd va	alue (Rs mn) 48.5
52-week high / low	6,788 / 3,565
Sensex / Nifty	71,424 / 21,572

Shareholding Pattern (%)	
Promoters	
FII	34.4
DII	53.3
Public	12.3

Financial snapshot

(Rs mn)

Year	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	64,320	80,146	92,519	1,07,288	1,25,498
Change (yoy, %)	38	25	15	16	17
EBITDA	11,154	14,053	15,520	19,875	23,071
Change (yoy, %)	42	26	10	28	16
EBITDA Margin(%)	17.3	17.5	16.8	18.5	18.4
Adj.PAT	6,618	6,938	8,780	12,154	14,636
EPS (Rs)	107	112	141	195	234
Change (yoy, %)	34.7	4.7	26.1	38	20
PE(x)	59	56	45	32	27
Dividend Yield (%)	0.8	1.0	1.3	2	2
EV/EBITDA (x)	35	28	25	19	16
RoE (%)	25	24	27	33	32
RoCE (%)	28	30	28	31	32

Source: IDBI Capital Research

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Other Key Concall Highlights

- Revenue for the quarter was up 1.8% QoQ in CC terms to \$282 mn. The quarter was impacted by higher than expected furloughs especially in Banking and Insurance. Insurance was flat QoQ in CC terms, Travel grew 1% QoQ in CC terms, Emerging vertical grew 2.5% QoQ in CC terms.
- EBIT margins increased by 190 bps QoQ maily led by lower ESOP cost (60 bps impact) and higher gross margins partially offset by furloughs (40-50 bps impact). The company stated that it will continue to invest in SG&A to build sales capability, which led to 20 bps increase in SG&A this quarter. However, going forward the company expects SG&A to stabilise at 15% as a % of revenues. This quarter ETR was lower at 17.5% due to higher profit in low tax region. The company expects ETR to reverse in next quarter to 21%.
- Fresh order intake during the quarter stood at US\$354 mn (13%/+3% QoQ/YoY). 12 months executable order book grew 15.8% YoY to US\$974 mn. Company won 3 large deals in one in banking vertical, one in Travel vertical and one in insurance vertical during the quarter. Most of the large deal won was net new 7 new clients were added during the quarter.
- **Guidance** Company maintained revenue growth guidance in the range of 13%-16% in constant currency for FY24E. The company expects full year guidance towards to lower end of the guidance or slightly higher. In terms of Q4 the company expects CC QoQ growth similar to Q3. The company expects margins to be in the range of 19.6% to 20.4% in Q4 due to reversal of furloughs and operating leverage. For FY25E the company expects improvement in margins led by lower ESOP Cost and gross margin expansion. This gross margin expansion will be led by offshoring (the company targets 55% from current 52%).
- Demand environment and Outlook Management expects overall demand environment continues to be challenging. However, the company is seeing healthy traction within its space of regulatory, agile software and innovation. The company saw travel vertical impacted in US due to client specific challenges, however believes that it has bottomed out and could see improvement going forward. The company believes that higher order booking and market share gains will help drive growth in FY25E and expects margins to improve in FY25E.
- In terms of Gen AI the company is not seeing any deflationary impact and is seeing positive growth due to higher investment in downstream IT.



Exhibit 1: Financial snapshot

(Rs mn)

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Year-end: March	Q3FY24	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)	Q3FY23	YoY (%)
Revenues (US\$ mn)	282	278	1.4	252	12.0
Revenues	23,233	22,762	2.1	20,558	13.0
COGS	15,713	15,374	2.2	13,698	14.7
Gross profit	7,520	7,388	1.8	6,860	9.6
SG&A	3,508	3,915	(10.4)	3,245	8.1
EBITDA	4,012	3,473	15.5	3,615	11.0
Depreciation & amortization	811	772	5.1	624	30.0
EBIT	3,201	2,701	18.5	2,991	7.0
Other income	-257	-295	(12.9)	83	(409.6)
PBT	2,944	2,406	22.4	3,074	(4.2)
Тах	516	528	(2.3)	715	(27.8)
Minority interest	48	69	(30.4)	77	(37.7)
Reported net profit	2,380	1,809	32	2,282	4
Exceptional items	0	0	n.m	0	n.m.
Adjusted net profit	2,380	1,809	32	2,282	4
Diluted EPS (Rs)	38.1	28.98	32	36.68	4
As % of net revenue					
Gross profit	32.4	32.5		33.4	
SG&A	15.1	17.2		15.8	
EBITDA	17.3	15.3		17.6	
EBIT	13.8	11.9		14.5	
Adjusted net profit	10.2	7.9		11.1	
Tax rate	17.5	21.9		23.3	



Exhibit 2: Actual vs. estimates

Year to March	Q3FY24	Q3FY24E	Variance (%)
Revenue (US\$ mn)	282	282	(0.2)
Revenue (Rs mn)	23,233	23,529	(1.3)
EBIT (Rs mn)	3,201	3,220	(0.6)
EBIT margin (%)	13.8%	13.7%	9 bps
PAT (Rs mn)	2,380	2,353	1.1
PAT margin (%)	10.2%	10.0%	24 bps
EPS (Rs)	38.1	37.7	1.1

Exhibit 3: Earnings Revision

		FY24E			FY25E		FY26E
Year-end: March	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)	(Introduced)
Revenue (US\$ mn)	1,124	1133	(0.8)	1,289	1,311	(1.7)	1,507
Revenue (Rs bn)	92,519	93384	(0.9)	1,07,288	1,08,815	(1.4)	1,25,498
EBIT margin (%)	13.4%	13.5%	(14.0)	15.4%	15.3%	13.0	15.6%
EPS (Rs/sh)	140.7	144.9	(2.9)	194.7	194.1	0.3	234.5

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 4: Large clients trend

No. of large clients	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
USD1m – USD5m	94	100	98	97	98	101	102	104	109
USD5m – USD10m	21	19	24	26	23	23	24	23	23
USD10m+	18	18	19	19	21	21	21	23	24



Exhibit 5: Q3FY24 revenue growth was in line with our estimates

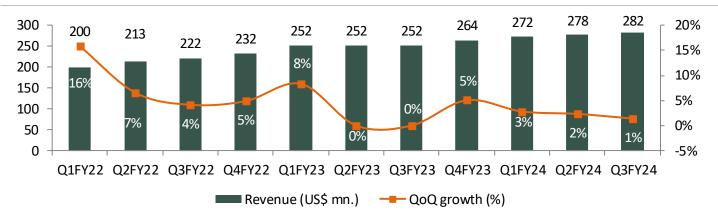


Exhibit 6: EBIT margin improved by ~191 bps QoQ

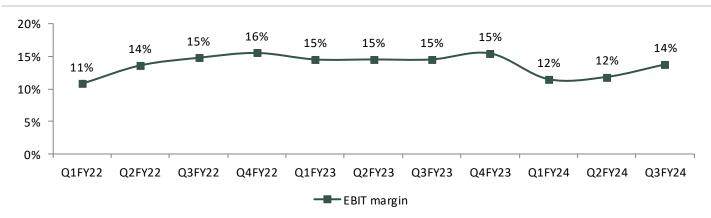




Exhibit 7: 12 month order book continued to be robust

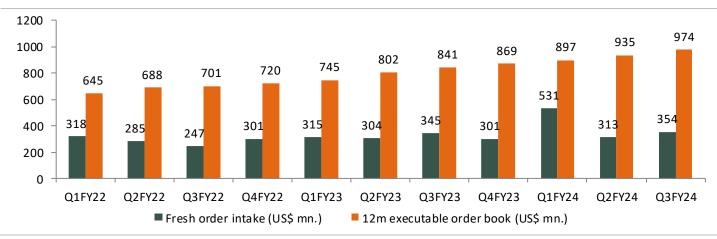


Exhibit 8: Revenue growth across various segments (%)

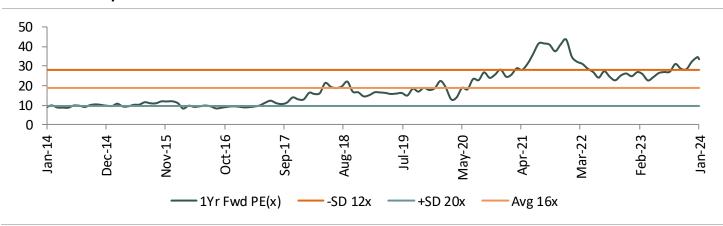
	% of revenue (%)	YoY (%)
Total revenue		12%
by geography		
North America	46.6%	2.3%
Europe	40.0%	7.2%
RoW	13.4%	37.8%
by vertical		
BFS	32.2%	16.0%
Insurance	22.0%	11.5%
Transportation	17.8%	3.3%
Others	28.1%	14.9%



Exhibit 9: Geo wise Adj. EBITDA margin trend

Regions	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
Americas	20%	18%	16%	18%	15%	13%	15%	18%	19%
Europe	21%	23%	21%	21%	24%	19%	19%	17%	21%
APAC	10%	10%	9%	12%	16%	15%	9%	7%	7%
India	-9%	-11%	-17%	-19%	-15%	5%	-22%	-17%	-14%

Exhibit 10: One-year forward PER trend





(Rs mn)

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account

Year-end: March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales	46,628	64,320	80,146	92,519	1,07,288	1,25,498
Change (yoy, %)	11.4	38	25	15	16	17
Operating expenses	(38,763)	(53,166)	(66,093)	(76,999)	(87,413)	(1,02,427)
EBITDA	7,865	11,154	14,053	15,520	19,875	23,071
Change (yoy, %)	9.3	42	26	10	28	16
Margin (%)	16.9	17.3	17.5	16.8	18.5	18.4
Depreciation	(1,836)	(2,272)	(2,585)	(3,168)	(3,317)	(3,522)
EBIT	6,029	8,882	11,468	12,352	16,558	19,549
Interest paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	113	(266)	(630)	(706)	(465)	(170)
Pre-tax profit	6,142	8,616	10,838	11,646	16,093	19,379
Tax	(1,302)	(1,468)	(2,061)	(2,383)	(3,299)	(3,973)
Effective tax rate (%)	21.2	17.0	19.0	20.5	20.5	20.5
Minority Interest	(104.0)	(530.0)	(513.0)	(318.5)	(639.7)	(770.3)
Net profit	4,556	6,618	9,590	9,110	12,154	14,636
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted net profit	4,916	6,618	6,938	8,780	12,154	14,636
Change (yoy, %)	7.3	35	5	27	38	20
EPS	79.1	106.5	111.5	140.7	194.7	234.5
DPS	23.6	50.7	64.1	81.6	112.9	136.0
Dividend Payout (%)	29.8	47.6	57.5	58	58	58



Balance Sheet						(Rs mn
Year-end: March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Shareholders' funds	24,661	27,331	30,825	34,513	39,617	45,765
Share capital	606	609	611	611	611	611
Reserves & surplus	24,055	26,722	30,214	33,902	39,006	45,154
Total Debt	5	3,365	3,382	6,382	4,382	2,382
Other liabilities	1,718	5,709	4,028	8,212	9,523	11,139
Curr Liab & prov	8,750	12,156	17,725	15,870	18,214	21,323
Current liabilities	8,525	11,840	17,365	15,416	17,687	20,707
Provisions	225	316	360	455	527	617
Total liabilities	10,473	21,230	25,135	30,464	32,119	34,844
Total equity & liabilities	35,134	49,544	56,834	66,169	73,568	83,212
Net fixed assets	10,208	20,835	23,165	21,847	20,676	19,664
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-curr assets	3,631	4,809	5,833	6,739	7,215	7,802
Current assets	21,295	23,900	27,836	37,583	45,678	55,746
Inventories	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Debtors	8,895	15,585	17,903	20,667	23,966	28,034
Cash and Bank	8,246	4,535	5,787	11,479	15,407	20,337
Loans and advances	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets	35,134	49,544	56,834	66,169	73,568	83,212



Cash Flow Statement						(Rs mn
Year-end: March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Pre-tax profit	6,142	8,616	10,838	11,646	16,093	19,379
Depreciation	138	724	2,585	3,168	3,317	3,522
Tax paid	(1,548)	(2,656)	(3,082)	(2,383)	(3,299)	(3,973)
Chg in working capital	272	(3,284)	3,251	(4,619)	(955)	(958)
Other operating activities	1,969	4,135	(2,833)	1,822	(33)	(41)
Cash flow from operations (a)	6,973	7,535	10,759	9,635	15,123	17,929
Capital expenditure	450	(11,351)	(4,915)	(1,850)	(2,146)	(2,510)
Chg in investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other investing activities	(2,817)	1,663	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from investing (b)	(2,354)	(9,564)	(4,915)	(1,850)	(2,146)	(2,510)
Equity raised/(repaid)	(19)	3	2	-	-	-
Debt raised/(repaid)	(43)	3,360	17	3,000	(2,000)	(2,000)
Dividend (incl. tax)	(1,467)	(3,150)	(3,989)	(5,093)	(7,049)	(8,489)
Chg in minorities	(104)	453	(622)	-	-	-
Other financing activities	(3,898)	(2,224)	_	_	-	-
Cash flow from financing (c)	(5,531)	(1,558)	(4,592)	(2,093)	(9,049)	(10,489)
Net chg in cash (a+b+c)	(912)	(3,587)	1,252	5,692	3,928	4,930



Financial Ratios

Year-end: March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Book Value (Rs)	396.7	440	495	553	635	733
Adj EPS (Rs)	79.1	106.5	111.5	140.7	194.7	234.5
Adj EPS growth (%)	7.3	35	5	26	38	20
EBITDA margin (%)	16.9	17.3	17.5	16.8	18.5	18.4
Pre-tax margin (%)	13.2	13.4	13.5	12.6	15.0	15.4
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4
ROCE (%)	22.9	28	30	28	31	32
ROE (%)	20.2	25	24	27	33	32
DuPont Analysis						
Asset turnover (x)	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Leverage factor (x)	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8
Net margin (%)	10.5	10.3	8.7	9.5	11.3	11.7
Working Capital & Liquidity ratio						
Inventory days	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivable days	70	88	82	82	82	82
Payable days	35	45	38	37	37	37

Valuations

Year-end: March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
PER (x)	79	59	56	45	32	27
Price/Book value (x)	15.8	14.3	12.7	11.4	9.9	8.6
EV/Net sales (x)	8	6	5	4	4	3
EV/EBITDA (x)	49	35	28	25	19	16
Dividend Yield (%)	0.4	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.2





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Key to Ratings Stocks:

BUY: 15%+; **HOLD:** -5% to 15%; **SELL:** -5% and below.

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