

Zensar Technologies

HOLD

Sustained growth key to re-rating

Summary

Zensar's Q3 revenue growth was impacted by furloughs in Hi-tech. Going forward, we expect the company's revenues to improve led by reversal of furloughs and improving deal wins trajectory (up 28% YoY, book to bill of 1.2x). This coupled with company's intention to invest in capability building, sales and large deals, we expect 12% YoY growth each for FY25E and FY26E. In addition, considering 9MFY24E performance we have revised margin estimates for FY25E upwards by 52 bps leading to EPS upgrade of 2.2%. However, considering recent run up in price we maintain HOLD rating on the stock with a revised target price of Rs 605 (18x FY26E EPS, introduced FY26 estimates, previous target price Rs 530). We believe key trigger for further re-rating will be sustaining growth for next few quarters.

Key Highlights and Investment Rationale

- Revenue growth to lag in near term but improve in longer term: The company is taking right steps to improve revenues in long run like 1) incentivizing sales for large deals & cross sell 2) restructuring of organization from Geo focus to Vertical focus and 3) hired COO and CBO to drive growth. Further, Zensar's plan to focus on client mining via cross sell will further boost revenue growth. However in near term we are cautious in terms of revenue growth due to uncertain macro & client specific challenges. Hence, we have built in revenue CAGR of 7.2% over FY23-FY26E.
- Margin to taper in FY25E & stabilize: The company saw a lot of one offs in margins & cost efficiency levers in 9MFY24 which will lead to EBITDA margin improvement of 676 bps to 18.2% in FY24E. Further with absence of one offs and investments we expect margins to taper by 85 bps to 17.3% in FY25E and maintain same margins at 17.3% for FY26E.

| TP I | Rs605 |
|---------------------------|-------|
| CMP I | Rs561 |
| Potential upside/downside | 8% |
| Previous Rating | HOLD |

| Price Performance (%) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|--|--|--|
| | -1m | -3m | -12m | | | |
| Absolute | (9.4) | 9.8 | 157.1 | | | |
| Rel to Sensex | (9.9) | 0.5 | 139.2 | | | |

| V/s Consensus | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| EPS (Rs) | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E | | | | |
| IDBI Capital | 29 | 29 | 33 | | | | |
| Consensus | 27 | 28 | 31 | | | | |
| % difference | 6.7 | 5.0 | 5.1 | | | | |

Key Stock DataBloomberg/ReutersZENT IN/ZENT.BOSectorIT ServicesShares o/s (mn)227Market cap. (Rs mn)127,1703-m daily average value (Rs mn)68.652-week high / lowRs644 / 216

Sensex / Nifty

| Shareholding Pattern (%) | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Promoters | 49.2 |
| FII | 17.1 |
| DII | 16.2 |
| Public | 17.5 |

Financial snapshot

(Rs mn)

71,424 / 21,572

| Year | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Revenue | 42,437 | 48,483 | 49,151 | 55,215 | 61,841 |
| Change (yoy, %) | 12 | 14 | 1 | 12 | 12 |
| EBITDA | 6,565 | 5,523 | 8,922 | 9,552 | 10,698 |
| Change (yoy, %) | (4) | (16) | 62 | 7 | 12 |
| EBITDA Margin(%) | 15.5 | 11.4 | 18.2 | 17.3 | 17.3 |
| Adj.PAT | 4,162 | 3,275 | 6,470 | 6,668 | 7,572 |
| EPS (Rs) | 18 | 14 | 29 | 29 | 33 |
| Change (yoy, %) | 19.5 | (21.1) | 97.6 | 3 | 14 |
| PE(x) | 31 | 39 | 20 | 19 | 17 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2 | 2 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 18 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 10 |
| RoE (%) | 17 | 12 | 21 | 18 | 17 |
| RoCE (%) | 16 | 12 | 21 | 20 | 19 |

Source: IDBI Capital Research:

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Concall Highlights

- Total revenue for the quarter stood at \$144.7mn -3.2%QoQ in CC terms. Services revenue stood at US\$ 144.5mn -3.0% QoQ in CC terms. Sequential revenue degrowth in CC terms was led by hitech which decline by 7.7%/9.6% QoQ/YoY and Healthcare & lifescience decline by 5.2%/14.3% QoQ/YoY. Decline in revenue mainly led by higher furloughs in the quarter.
- In terms of verticals, Manufacturing & consumer services degrew by 1.8% QoQ, BFSI was flat QoQ. In terms of region wise, degrowth was led by USA which decline by 3.6%QoQ, Europe decline by 2.6% QoQ and Africa decline by 0.5% QoQ.
- Gross margin stood at 31.1%, 70bps QoQ decline mainly due to exchange loss(10bps) and furloughs & utilisation (200bps). The decline was partially offset due to operational efficiency, higher utilisation rate and reduced in discretionary spends (140bps). SG&A increased by 70bps (reversal of 160bps of lower management bonus payout) & exchange impact of 10bps. PDD reversal impacted the margin positively by 110bps.
- Order book stood at USD 167.5 mn. Management was confident that the order book shall convert into deals. Net new logo addition for the quarter - 9. Large deals to ramp in the next few quarters.
- **Demand environment** Management stated that macro environment remains uncertain, cuts in discretionary cost would prevail in Q4 & initial quarter of FY25. Furloughs to continue in Hitech vertical. Focusing on new added services (AI & GenAI in particularly). Expects green shoots in new verticals(Healthcare). Company indicated that growth would be broad based across verticals except Hitech in the next few quarters.
- **Total Headcount for the quarter** 10,225 employees with the utilization rate of 80.7%. Decline in utilization rate was led by higher furloughs. Attrition stood at 12 %.
- Long term growth prospects remain strong with technologies like data, cloud and gen AI expected to drive growth. In terms of margin, Zensar aims to maintain EBITDA margin in the same range of mid-teens(14%-16%) despite softness in demand. The company plans to focus on levers like utilization, pyramid optimization, control in attrition and reduction in subcontracting cost to drive margins.



Exhibit 1: Financial snapshot

(Rs mn)

| Year-end: March | Q3FY24 | Q2FY24 | QoQ (%) | Q3FY23 | YoY (%) |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Revenues (US\$ mn) | 144.7 | 150.2 | (3.7) | 145.9 | (0.8) |
| Revenues | 12,041 | 12,408 | (3.0) | 11,976 | 0.5 |
| COGS | 8,296 | 8,463 | (2.0) | 8,699 | (4.6) |
| Gross profit | 3,745 | 3,945 | (5.1) | 3,277 | 14.3 |
| SG&A | 1,669 | 1,637 | 2.0 | 1,927 | (13.4) |
| EBITDA | 2,076 | 2,308 | (10.1) | 1,350 | 53.8 |
| Depreciation & amortization | 312 | 366 | (14.8) | 497 | (37.2) |
| EBIT | 1,764 | 1,942 | (9.2) | 853 | 106.8 |
| Other income | 357 | 306 | 16.7 | 183 | 95.1 |
| РВТ | 2,121 | 2,248 | (5.6) | 1,036 | 104.7 |
| Tax | 504 | 510 | (1.2) | 270 | 86.7 |
| Minority interest | 0 | 0 | n.m. | 0 | n.m. |
| Adjusted net profit | 1,617 | 1,738 | (7.0) | 766 | 111.1 |
| Exceptional item | 0 | 0 | n.m. | 0 | n.m. |
| Reported net profit | 1,617 | 1,738 | (7.0) | 766 | 111.1 |
| Diluted EPS (Rs) | 7.1 | 7.7 | (7.0) | 3.4 | 111.2 |
| As % of net revenue | | | | | |
| Gross profit | 31.1 | 31.8 | | 27.4 | |
| SG&A | 13.9 | 13.2 | | 16.1 | |
| EBITDA | 17.2 | 18.6 | | 11.3 | |
| EBIT | 14.6 | 15.7 | | 7.1 | |
| Reported net profit | 13.4 | 14.0 | | 6.4 | |
| Tax rate | 23.8 | 22.7 | | 26.1 | |



Exhibit 2: Earnings Revision

| | | FY24 | F | | FY25F | | FY26E |
|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------------|
| Year-end: March | New | Old | Chg (%) | New | Old | Chg (%) | (Introduced) |
| Revenue (US\$ mn) | 594 | 605 | -1.8% | 665 | 678 | -1.9% | 745 |
| Revenue (Rs bn) | 49,151 | 50,051 | -1.8% | 55,215 | 56,257 | -1.9% | 61,841 |
| EBIT | 7,404 | 7,557 | -2.0% | 7,957 | 7,817 | 1.8% | 9,024 |
| EBIT margin (%) | 15.1% | 15.10% | (16bps) | 14.4% | 13.90% | 52 bps | 14.6% |
| EPS (Rs) | 28.6 | 27.9 | 2.4% | 29.4 | 28.8 | 2.2% | 33.4 |

Exhibit 3: Actual vs. estimates

| Year to March | Q3FY24 | Q3FY24E | Variance (%) |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| Revenue (US\$ mn) | 144.7 | 143.4 | 0.9% |
| Revenue (Rs mn) | 12,041 | 11,949 | 0.8% |
| EBIT (Rs mn) | 1,764 | 1,729 | 2.0% |
| EBIT margin (%) | 14.6% | 14.5% | -4bps |
| Recurring PAT (Rs mn) | 1,617 | 1,574 | 2.8% |
| Recurring PAT margin (%) | 13.4% | 13.2% | 25 bps |
| EPS (Rs) | 7.1 | 6.9 | 2.0% |

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 4: Large clients trend

| Year-end: March | Q4FY22 | Q1FY23 | Q2FY23 | Q3FY23 | Q4FY23 | Q1FY24 | Q2FY24 | Q3FY24 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| US\$1 mn+ | 83 | 86 | 87 | 87 | 84 | 87 | 84 | 84 |
| US\$5 mn+ | 27 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 32 |
| US\$10 mn+ | 11 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| US\$20 mn+ | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |



Exhibit 5: Q3FY24 Revenue growth was marginally above our estimates.

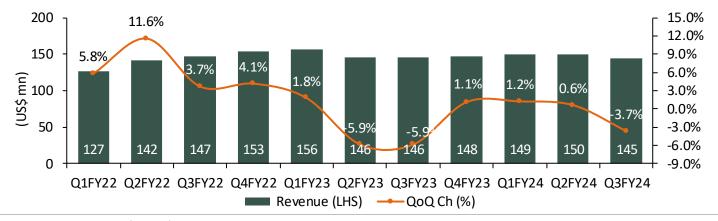


Exhibit 6: Q3FY24 EBIT margin has decline by ~100 bps QoQ

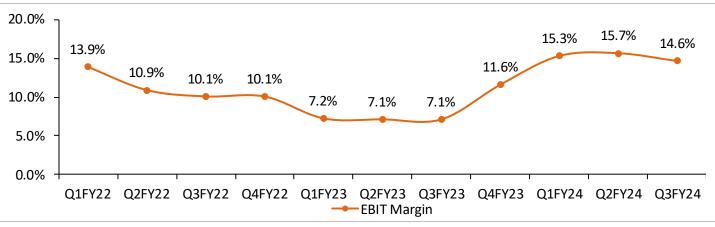




Exhibit 7: Revenue growth across various segments (%)

| Parameters | % of revenue | QoQ growth (in CC) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Total revenue | -3.2% |
| Geography | | QoQ growth (in CC) |
| US | 66.0% | -3.6% |
| Europe | 21.4% | -2.6% |
| Africa | 12.5% | -0.5% |
| Service-Line | | QoQ growth |
| AMS | 81.5% | -4.0% |
| IMS | 18.5% | -2.1% |
| Verticals | | |
| Hi Tech | 25.9% | -7.7% |
| Manufacturing & Consumer services | 26.1% | -1.8% |
| BFSI | 38.6% | 0.1% |
| Healthcare | 9.4% | -5.2% |



Exhibit 8: Utilisation decline QoQ

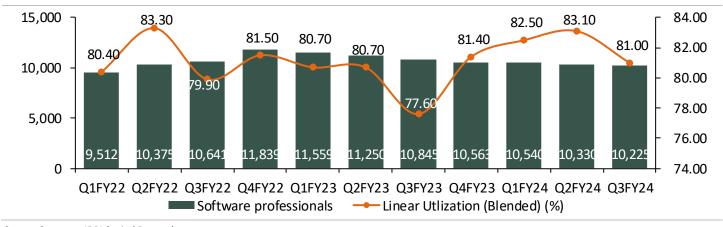
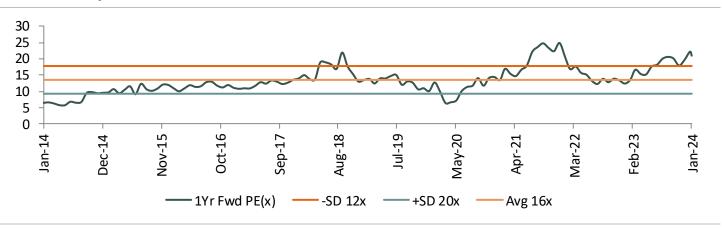


Exhibit 9: One-year forward PER trend





Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account (Rs mn)

| Year-end: March | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net sales | 37,814 | 42,437 | 48,483 | 49,151 | 55,215 | 61,841 |
| Change (yoy, %) | (9.6) | 12 | 14 | 1 | 12 | 12 |
| Operating expenses | (30,966) | (35,872) | (42,960) | (40,229) | (45,663) | (51,142) |
| EBITDA | 6,848 | 6,565 | 5,523 | 8,922 | 9,552 | 10,698 |
| Change (yoy, %) | 35.1 | (4) | (16) | 62 | 7 | 12 |
| Margin (%) | 18.1 | 15.5 | 11.4 | 18.2 | 17.3 | 17.3 |
| Depreciation | (1,747) | (1,848) | (1,830) | (1,519) | (1,595) | (1,675) |
| EBIT | 5,101 | 4,717 | 3,693 | 7,404 | 7,957 | 9,024 |
| Interest paid | (535) | (353) | (280) | (232) | (232) | (232) |
| Other income | 255 | 1,377 | 1,028 | 1,490 | 1,250 | 1,400 |
| Pre-tax profit | 4,820 | 5,741 | 4,441 | 8,661 | 8,975 | 10,191 |
| Tax | (1,260) | (1,525) | (1,166) | (2,191) | (2,307) | (2,619) |
| Effective tax rate (%) | 26.1 | 26.6 | 26.3 | 25.3 | 25.7 | 25.7 |
| Minority Interest | (69.5) | (54.0) | - | - | - | - |
| Net profit | 3,491 | 4,162 | 3,275 | 6,470 | 6,668 | 7,572 |
| Exceptional items | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Adjusted net profit | 3,491 | 4,162 | 3,275 | 6,470 | 6,668 | 7,572 |
| Change (yoy, %) | 32.5 | 19 | (21) | 98 | 3 | 14 |
| EPS | 15.3 | 18.3 | 14.5 | 28.6 | 29.4 | 33.4 |
| Dividend per sh | 1.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 7.1 | 8.8 | 10.0 |
| Dividend Payout % | 7.8 | 27.3 | 34.6 | 25 | 30 | 30 |



| Balance Sheet | | | | | | (Rs mn) |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Year-end: March | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Shareholders' funds | 23,423 | 26,592 | 28,984 | 33,836 | 38,504 | 43,805 |
| Share capital | 451 | 452 | 453 | 453 | 453 | 453 |
| Reserves & surplus | 22,972 | 26,140 | 28,531 | 33,383 | 38,051 | 43,352 |
| Total Debt | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other liabilities | 3,239 | 3,544 | 2,866 | 2,866 | 2,866 | 2,866 |
| Curr Liab & prov | 7,384 | 8,299 | 8,582 | 8,652 | 9,254 | 9,947 |
| Current liabilities | 5,880 | 6,693 | 6,248 | 6,286 | 6,596 | 6,970 |
| Provisions | 1,505 | 1,606 | 2,334 | 2,366 | 2,658 | 2,977 |
| Total liabilities | 10,623 | 11,843 | 11,448 | 11,518 | 12,120 | 12,813 |
| Total equity & liabilities | 34,334 | 38,712 | 41,210 | 46,133 | 51,402 | 57,396 |
| Net fixed assets | 11,330 | 12,858 | 11,735 | 11,552 | 11,395 | 11,272 |
| Investments | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other non-curr assets | 3,076 | 3,226 | 6,291 | 6,354 | 6,524 | 6,705 |
| Current assets | 19,928 | 22,628 | 23,184 | 28,227 | 33,483 | 39,419 |
| Inventories | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sundry Debtors | 5,888 | 7,967 | 7,298 | 7,399 | 8,311 | 9,309 |
| Cash and Bank | 6,986 | 8,559 | 7,280 | 12,155 | 16,293 | 21,013 |
| Loans and advances | 3,633 | 1,636 | 4,509 | 4,509 | 4,509 | 4,509 |
| Total assets | 34,334 | 38,712 | 41,210 | 46,133 | 51,402 | 57,396 |



| Cash Flow Statement | | | | | | (Rs mn) |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year-end: March | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
| Pre-tax profit | 4,820 | 5,741 | 4,441 | 8,661 | 8,975 | 10,191 |
| Depreciation | 1,677 | 1,803 | 1,838 | 1,659 | 1,561 | 1,639 |
| Tax paid | (1,255) | (1,572) | (1,585) | (2,204) | (2,426) | (2,750) |
| Chg in working capital | (30) | 832 | (1,921) | (30) | (311) | (304) |
| Other operating activities | 5,551 | (1,031) | - | 59 | 3 | (269) |
| Cash flow from operations (a) | 10,764 | 5,772 | 2,773 | 8,144 | 7,801 | 8,507 |
| Capital expenditure | 333 | (3,330) | (715) | (1,476) | (1,404) | (1,515) |
| Chg in investments | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other investing activities | (4,605) | 1,121 | (1,920) | - | - | - |
| Cash flow from investing (b) | (4,272) | (2,209) | (2,635) | (1,476) | (1,404) | (1,515) |
| Equity raised/(repaid) | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Debt raised/(repaid) | (2,886) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend (incl. tax) | (271) | (1,135) | (1,132) | (1,617) | (2,001) | (2,272) |
| Chg in minorities | (19) | (64) | 501 | - | - | - |
| Other financing activities | (1,496) | (792) | (787) | (176) | (258) | - |
| Cash flow from financing (c) | (4,671) | (1,991) | (1,417) | (1,793) | (2,259) | (2,272) |
| Net chg in cash (a+b+c) | 1,821 | 1,573 | (1,279) | 4,875 | 4,138 | 4,720 |



Financial Ratios

| Year-end: March | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Book Value (Rs) | 102.9 | 117 | 128 | 149 | 170 | 193 |
| Adj EPS (Rs) | 15.3 | 18.3 | 14.5 | 28.6 | 29.4 | 33.4 |
| Adj EPS growth (%) | 33.0 | 20 | -21 | 98 | 3 | 14 |
| EBITDA margin (%) | 18.1 | 15.5 | 11.4 | 18.2 | 17.3 | 17.3 |
| Pre-tax margin (%) | 12.7 | 13.5 | 9.2 | 17.6 | 16.3 | 16.5 |
| Net Debt/Equity (x) | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| ROCE (%) | 18.6 | 16 | 12 | 21 | 20 | 19 |
| ROE (%) | 15.8 | 17 | 12 | 21 | 18 | 17 |
| DuPont Analysis | | | | | | |
| Asset turnover (x) | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Leverage factor (x) | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Net margin (%) | 9.2 | 9.8 | 6.8 | 13.2 | 12.1 | 12.2 |
| Working Capital & Liquidity ratio | | | | | | |
| Inventory days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Receivable days | 57 | 69 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| Payable days | 26 | 32 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 25 |

Valuations

| Year-end: March | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|----------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| PER (x) | 37 | 31 | 39 | 20 | 19 | 17 |
| Price/Book value (x) | 5.5 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 2.9 |
| EV/Net sales (x) | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 18 | 18 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 10 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.8 |





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Key to Ratings Stocks:

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

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