

Amara Raja

Estimate changes	
TP change	←→
Rating change	

ARENM IN
183
175.3 / 2
1610 / 805
-2/-7/-40
764

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E March	2025	2026E	2027E
Sales	124.0	135.3	148.4
EBITDA	16.3	16.1	19.0
Adj. PAT	8.8	8.3	10.2
EPS (INR)	48.2	45.5	55.8
EPS Gr. (%)	-2.7	-5.6	22.8
BV/Sh. (INR)	403	440	484
Ratios			
RoE (%)	12.5	10.8	12.1
RoCE (%)	12.4	10.7	12.0
Payout (%)	19.9	19.8	19.7
Valuations	_		
P/E (x)	19.9	21.1	17.2
P/BV (x)	2.4	2.2	2.0
Div. Yield (%)	1.2	1.0	1.2
FCF yield (%)	3.9	4.8	7.0

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Jun-25	Mar-25	Jun-24
Promoter	32.9	32.9	32.9
DII	14.0	14.6	14.6
FII	19.4	20.7	23.8
Others	33.8	31.9	28.8

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR958 TP: INR1,030 (+8%) Neutral

Lower other income leads to PAT miss

Margins to revive in 2H

- Amara Raja's (ARENM) 1QFY26 PAT at INR1.9b was below our estimate of INR2.1b due to lower-than-expected other income. Margins remained under pressure at 11.5% due to higher non-lead alloy costs and higher power costs.
- We cut our FY26/FY27 EPS estimates by 8%/2% to factor in a weaker-than-expected performance in 1Q. While the market is optimistic about ARENM's li-ion initiative, we are cautious about its potential returns. We believe the stock, trading at around 21.1x FY26E/17.2x FY27E EPS, appears fairly valued. Therefore, we maintain a Neutral rating with a TP of INR1,030, based on 18x FY27E EPS.

Lower other income leads to PAT miss

- 1QFY26 standalone revenue grew ~7% YoY to INR33.5b (marginally ahead). Domestic revenue increased by 10%+, led by robust demand from OEMs in the 4W and 2W segments and healthy volumes in the aftermarket segment. In addition, its HUPS and tubular batteries business delivered a strong seasonal performance, while its allied business gained market momentum and penetration. In the industrial segment, ARENM saw strong traction in UPS/data centers, with 15% growth. The new energy business was driven by healthy volumes in the stationary business. The lead-acid business contributed 96% of revenues (INR32.8b). Export volumes remained subdued on account of muted demand conditions.
- Gross margins came in below our expectations at 29.5%, primarily due to rising prices of non-lead alloy. EBITDA margins at 11.5% (down ~220bp YoY and flat QoQ) were below our estimates of 12%. EBITDA fell 10.2% YoY to INR 3.9b (in-line).
- Other income of INR139m came in much lower than our estimate of INR245m. This resulted in an Adj. PAT miss, which fell 20.7% YoY to INR1.9b (vs. estimate of INR2.1b).

Highlights from the management commentary

- Demand outlook: 2W replacement is likely to grow at 10-11% and 4W replacement at 6-7%. Similarly, UPS segment is likely to post 5-6% growth. However, exports may remain subdued at least in the near term.
- Management expects margins to improve from 2Q onward as tubular battery production ramps up and recycling plant scales up. ARENM expects power costs to normalize by 3Q.
- Gigafactory update: The construction of a customer qualification plant (CQP) and a research lab is on track and expected to be completed by the end of FY26. The phase 1 for the 1 GWh cylindrical NMC cells is set to commence production by FY27. Deliberations are ongoing on whether to expand to 2 GWh or diversify into LFP cylindrical cells. The long-term capacity target of 16 GWh by FY30 has been stated.

Research analyst - Aniket Mhatre (Aniket.Mhatre@MotilalOswal.com)



- ARENM has invested around INR12b in its EV subsidiary so far, with an additional INR12b required for CQP, R&D and other working capital requirements.
- FY26 capex is estimated at INR12-13b, with INR8-9b for new energy projects and the balance for the lead-acid business.

Valuation and view

- ARENM's venture into the lithium-ion business is strategically sound given the opportunities in the segment and risks facing its core business. However, there are notable challenges: 1) market opportunities are limited by existing OEM partnerships; 2) low-margin nature of lithium-ion business is likely to dilute returns; and 3) long-term viability of technology remains uncertain despite the large capital investment.
- While the market is optimistic about ARENM's li-ion initiative, we are cautious about its potential returns. We believe the stock, trading at around 21.1x FY26E /17.2x FY27E EPS, appears fairly valued. Therefore, we maintain a Neutral rating with a TP of INR1,030, based on 18x Jun'27E EPS.

Quarterly Performance- SA									(INR M)			
Y/E March (INR m)		FY2	25			FY2	6E		FY25	FY26E		VAR
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q			1QE	(%)
Net Sales	31,312	31,358	31,640	29,739	33,499	33,240	34,488	34,047	124,049	135,274	32,564	2.9
YoY Change (%)	13.0	11.6	9.8	6.3	7.0	6.0	9.0	14.5	10.2	9.0	4.0	
RM Cost (% of sales)	68.9	67.6	66.9	67.7	70.5	69.5	69.0	67.8	67.8	69.2	68.6	190bp
Staff Cost (% of sales)	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	0bp
Other Exp (% of sales)	11.5	12.2	13.9	14.7	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.0	13.1	13.0	13.5	-150bp
EBITDA	4,304	4,407	4,158	3,422	3,867	3,823	4,208	4,201	16,291	16,098	3,908	-1.1
Margins (%)	13.7	14.1	13.1	11.5	11.5	11.5	12.2	12.3	13.1	11.9	12.0	-50bp
Depreciation	1,183	1,220	1,233	1,284	1,292	1,289	1,294	1,301	4,921	5,176	1,250	3.4
Interest	90	131	107	95	104	110	115	122	422	450	120	-13.8
Other Income	256	185	293	200	139	155	180	179	933	653	245	-43.1
PBT before EO expense	3,287	3,240	3,111	2,244	2,610	2,579	2,979	2,957	11,881	11,125	2,783	-6.2
Extra-Ord expense	0	0	-1,111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PBT after EO	3,287	3,240	4,222	2,244	2,610	2,579	2,979	2,957	11,881	11,125	2,783	-6.2
Tax	841	833	1,103	576	670	645	760	729	3,353	2,803	696	
Tax Rate (%)	25.6	25.7	26.1	25.7	25.7	25.0	25.5	24.7	28.2	25.2	25.0	
Adj PAT	2,446	2,407	2,298	1,668	1,940	1,934	2,219	2,228	8,528	8,321	2,087	-7.0
YoY Change (%)	23.1	6.3	-9.1	-26.8	-20.7	-19.7	-3.4	33.6	-5.9	-2.4	-14.7	

E: MOFSL Estimates





Key takeaways from the management commentary

Result highlights

- Lead-acid battery business grew 4.5% YoY to INR32.7b, contributing to 96% of ARENM's revenue mix.
- 4W domestic aftermarket sales grew 5% YoY, whereas OEM sales grew 12-13% YoY. 2W OEM and aftermarket both grew by 5-6% YoY.
- Overall, industrial volumes declined 3-4% YoY. Within the industrial segment,
 UPS volumes grew 15% YoY, while telecom declined ~30% YoY. However, lithium pack volumes crossed 100 MWh sales to telecom for the first time.
- New energy business revenue stood at INR1.22b, driven by stationary/telecom demand, while EV slowed down due to weak OEM offtake.
- Trading revenue mix rose to 23% in Q1 (vs. 19% last year). This impacted EBITDA margin in 1Q.
- Exports have remained weak. APAC and Middle East markets are seeing tariffled competitive intensity, impacting exports.

Auto demand outlook

- **Demand outlook**: 2W replacement is likely to grow 10-11% and 4W replacement 6-7%. Similarly, UPS segment is likely to post 5-6% growth.
- Export volumes declined 7-8% YoY due to tariff challenges and weaker demands in some of the markets. Management expects recovery in 1-2 quarters from the new markets that it has recently penetrated.

Margin outlook

- 1Q standalone EBITDA margins stood at 11.5% (11.8% excluding trading).
- Margins were subdued primarily due to higher material costs (mainly antimony, which will be normalized subsequently), higher power and employee costs, and higher traded mix.
- Management expects margins to improve from 2Q onwards as tubular battery production ramps up and recycling plant scales up. ARENM expects power costs to normalize by 3Q.
- Based on the recent GST rationalization expectations, lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries would be taxed at the same rate of 18% (lead acid was at 28%).

Update on New Energy business

- Revenue from new energy business was at INR1.22b this quarter, with strong stationary and telecom demand; however, demand for EV packs and chargers was subdued.
- Lithium pack volumes exceeded 100 MWh sales in telecom. 2W and 3W battery packs' commercialization is ongoing, with LFP packs for 3W launched in 1Q.
- Gigafactory update: The construction of CQP and research lab is on track and expected to be completed by FY26 end. The phase 1 for the 1 GWh cylindrical NMC cells is set to commence production by FY27. Deliberations are ongoing on whether to expand to 2 GWh or diversify into LFP cylindrical cells.
- Cumulative investment into the EV subsidiary so far has been around INR12b, with another INR12b required for CQP, R&D and other working capital requirements.



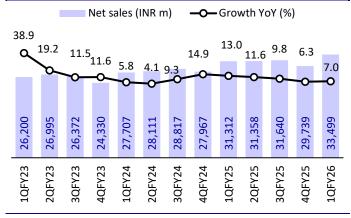
Capex guidance

- FY26 capex is estimated at INR12-13b, with INR8-9b for new energy projects and the balance for the lead-acid business.
- Tubular battery plant at Chittoor with a total capacity of 1.5m units per annum has commenced production in Jul'25, and is expected to ramp up to full capacity in a couple of quarters.
- An advanced recycling plant of 1.5 LTPA had started its refining operations in Dec'2024. Battery breaking operation is expected to commence by 3QFY26.



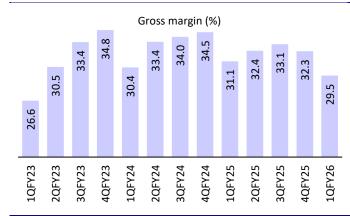
Key exhibits

Exhibit 1: Trend in revenue and growth



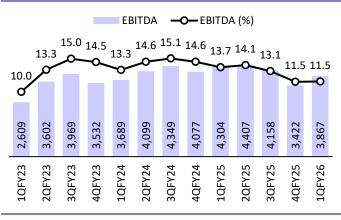
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Gross margin impacted by RM cost inflation



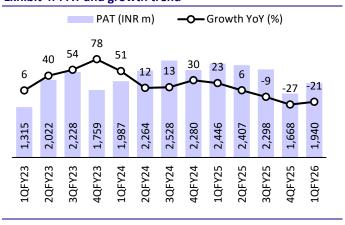
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Trend in EBITDA and EBITDA margin



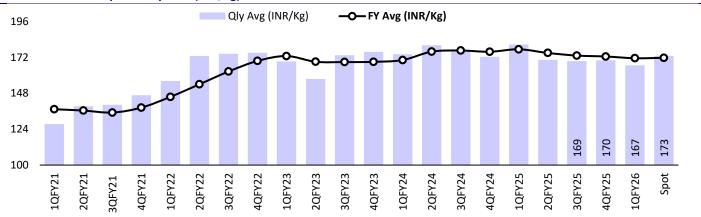
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: PAT and growth trend



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Trend in spot lead prices (INR/kg)



Source: Bloomberg, MOFSL



Valuation and view

- ARENM to emerge as one of the beneficiaries of steady outlook in LAB: The outlook on both auto and industrial segments remains strong. In the auto segment, strong growth posted by the industry over the last three years is expected to translate into healthy replacement demand in the coming years. The industrial segment is expected to benefit from the surge in demand for power backup for data centers. Thermal power generation is seeing a comeback and should see strong incremental demand with growth visibility for the next 5-6 years. Given its strong position in LAB in both auto and industrial segments, we expect the company to emerge as a beneficiary of the healthy demand outlook in the industry.
- electrification globally and in India is emerging as a big risk for LAB players in the long run. The only saving grace for Indian players in the near term is the fact that EV transition is picking up pace currently in 2Ws and 3Ws only and the same in PVs is likely to take a bit longer. However, lithium-ion batteries are now increasingly finding application even in various industrial use cases, including telecom, traction, UPS, etc. This transition is clearly emerging as a significant risk for LAB players like ARENM in the long run.
- Foray into lithium-ion will have its own challenges: Given the significant imminent risk to its core business, the company has forayed into manufacturing of lithium-ion cells in partnership with a Chinese major. The total capex outlay will be INR95b over a 10-year period, which will have an eventual cell manufacturing capacity of 16 GWh. It plans to start with a customer qualification plant having capacity of 2 Gwh initially and get the same approved from key customers. The company is also looking for a partner for cell manufacturing, who could help it set up and stabilize the plant and also help in securing and localizing supply chain. While ARENM can fund the initial couple of years of this project through internal accruals, we expect the company would need to raise funds to finance the remaining project. Further, we think the company's foray into lithium-ion cell manufacturing is likely to see multiple challenges in the coming years, which include: 1) most domestic PV OEMs either having their own lithium-ion manufacturing plans or having existing tie-ups, limiting Amara's potential addressable market in this space; 2) given Amara is setting up a greenfield in this segment without prior experience, we expect its facility to take at least a couple of years to stabilize operations as it goes through its testing and validation phase initially for interested OEMs; 3) since lithium-ion cell manufacturing is a low-margin business, we expect this business to be return-dilutive for Amara in the long run, even if this venture is successful; and 4) given that it is still not certain if the lithium-ion cell technology will emerge as a sustainable technology in the long run, we think the outcome of this venture remains highly uncertain at this stage, despite the significant capital commitment required.



• Valuations fair; reiterate our Neutral rating: We cut our FY26/FY27 EPS estimates by 8%/2% to factor in a weaker-than-expected performance in 1Q. While the market is optimistic about ARENM's li-ion initiative, we are cautious about its potential returns. We believe the stock, trading at around 21.1x FY26E/17.2x FY27E EPS, appears fairly valued. Therefore, we maintain a Neutral rating with a TP of INR1,030, based on 18x FY27E EPS.

Exhibit 6: Revisions to our estimates

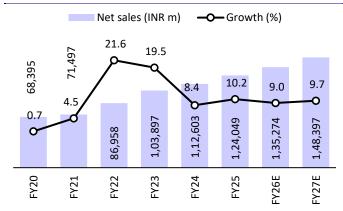
(INR M)		FY26E		FY27E			
	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	
Net Sales	135,274	135,274	0.0	148,397	148,397	0.0	
EBITDA (%)	11.9	12.5	-60bp	12.8	12.8	0bp	
Net Profit	8,321	9,046	-8.0	10,215	10,403	-1.8	
EPS (INR)	45.5	49.4	-8.0	55.8	56.8	-1.8	

Source: MOFSL



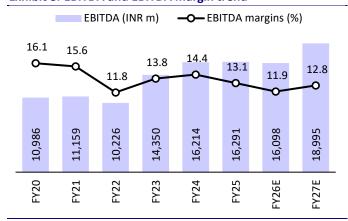
Story in charts

Exhibit 7: Trend in revenue



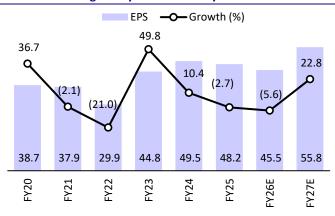
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 8: EBITDA and EBITDA margin trend



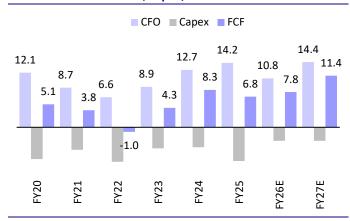
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Earnings likely to see stability from FY25E



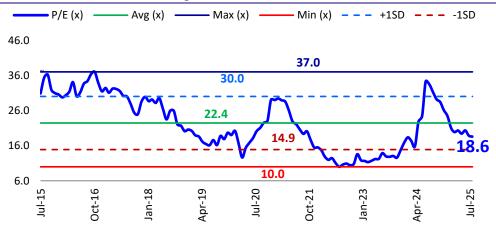
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: Trend in CFO, capex, and FCF



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: Valuations – P/E trading bands



Source: Company, MOFSL



Financials and valuations

Standalone - Income Statement								(INR M)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	68,395	71,497	86,958	103,897	112,603	124,049	135,274	148,397
Change (%)	0.7	4.5	21.6	19.5	8.4	10.2	9.0	9.7
EBITDA	10,986	11,159	10,226	14,350	16,214	16,291	16,098	18,995
Margin (%)	16.1	15.6	11.8	13.8	14.4	13.1	11.9	12.8
Growth	15.4	1.6	-8.4	40.3	13.0	0.5	-1.2	18.0
Depreciation	3,007	3,192	3,957	4,504	4,787	4,921	5,176	5,281
EBIT	7,978	7,967	6,269	9,846	11,427	11,370	10,922	13,714
Int. and Finance Charges	122	105	151	296	332	422	450	580
Other Income - Rec.	551	874	780	897	1,015	933	653	522
PBT bef. EO Exp.	8,407	8,736	6,898	10,447	12,110	11,881	11,125	13,657
EO Expense/(Income)	0	0	0	477	0	-1,111	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	8,407	8,736	6,898	9,970	12,110	12,992	11,125	13,657
Current Tax	1,799	2,265	1,786	2,620	3,191	3,259	2,892	3,551
Deferred Tax	0	0	0	43	-140	93	-89	-109
Tax Rate (%)	21.4	25.9	25.9	26.7	25.2	25.8	25.2	25.2
Reported PAT	6,608	6,470	5,112	7,307	9,059	9,639	8,321	10,215
PAT Adj for EO items	6,608	6,470	5,113	7,656	9,059	8,815	8,321	10,215
Change (%)	36.7	-2.1	-21.0	49.8	18.3	-2.7	-5.6	22.8

Standalone - Balance Sheet								(INR M)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	171	171	171	171	183	183	183	183
Total Reserves	36,385	41,932	45,343	59,886	67,504	73,600	80,274	88,476
Net Worth	36,556	42,103	45,514	60,056	67,687	73,783	80,457	88,659
Deferred Liabilities	441	407	314	1,036	885	732	643	534
Total Loans	343	234	234	2,014	1,527	2,583	3,300	3,400
Capital Employed	37,341	42,744	46,062	63,106	70,098	77,098	84,400	92,593
Gross Block	29,269	38,628	42,498	57,236	59,035	63,199	66,199	69,199
Less: Accum. Deprn.	10,977	14,081	17,575	20,354	23,532	28,452	33,628	38,909
Net Fixed Assets	18,292	24,548	24,923	36,882	35,503	34,747	32,571	30,290
Capital WIP	8,270	3,993	8,297	2,343	3,217	8,441	8,441	8,441
Total Investments	1,562	2,805	778	4,860	14,791	19,979	27,979	35,979
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	21,882	26,625	29,761	35,288	34,833	36,763	37,912	42,844
Inventory	11,427	14,382	18,038	16,752	18,095	20,364	21,496	23,581
Account Receivables	6,363	7,875	7,926	7,797	10,171	11,428	11,860	13,010
Cash and Bank Balance	326	967	343	894	892	1,528	498	1,801
Loans and Advances	3,766	3,401	3,455	9,845	5,674	3,443	4,058	4,452
Curr. Liability & Prov.	12,665	15,227	17,697	16,267	18,245	22,832	22,503	24,961
Account Payables	6,149	7,465	8,065	7,514	8,398	10,465	11,489	12,604
Other Current Liabilities	4,685	5,623	7,177	6,005	6,924	8,863	9,469	10,388
Provisions	1,832	2,140	2,455	2,749	2,923	3,503	1,544	1,970
Net Current Assets	9,217	11,398	12,064	19,021	16,588	13,931	15,409	17,883
Appl. of Funds	37,341	42,744	46,062	63,106	70,098	77,098	84,400	92,593

E: MOFSL Estimates



Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	38.7	37.9	29.9	44.8	49.5	48.2	45.5	55.8
Growth	36.7	-2.1	-21.0	49.8	10.4	-2.7	-5.6	22.8
Cash EPS	56.3	56.6	53.1	71.2	75.7	75.1	73.8	84.7
BV/Share	214.0	246.5	266.5	351.6	369.9	403.2	439.7	484.5
DPS	11.0	11.0	4.5	6.1	9.9	11.3	9.6	11.8
Payout (%)	34.1	29.0	15.0	14.3	20.0	19.9	19.8	19.7
Valuation (x)								
P/E	24.8	25.3	32.0	21.4	19.3	19.9	21.1	17.2
Cash P/E	17.0	16.9	18.0	13.5	12.7	12.8	13.0	11.3
P/BV	4.5	3.9	3.6	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0
EV/Sales	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
EV/EBITDA	14.9	14.6	16.0	11.5	10.1	10.1	10.3	8.7
Dividend Yield (%)	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.2
FCF per share	27.9	17.9	-7.4	28.8	47.8	34.5	42.6	62.2
Return Ratios (%)								
RoE	18.9	16.5	11.7	14.5	14.2	12.5	10.8	12.1
RoCE	18.6	16.4	11.8	14.4	14.0	12.4	10.7	12.0
RoIC	21.6	19.0	13.0	15.7	16.1	17.2	17.3	21.9
Working Capital Ratios								
Inventory (Days)	61	73	75	58	58	60	58	58
Debtor (Days)	34	40	33	27	33	34	32	32
Creditor (Days)	33	38	34	26	27	31	31	31
Working Capital Turnover (Days)	47	53	49	64	51	36	40	40
Leverage Ratio (x)								
Current Ratio	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7
Interest Cover Ratio	65	76	42	33	34	27	24	24
Standalone - Cash Flow Statement								(INR M)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net P/L Before Tax and E/O Items	8,407	8,733	6,898	10,447	12,110	12,992	11,125	13,657

Standalone - Cash Flow Statement								(INR M)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net P/L Before Tax and E/O Items	8,407	8,733	6,898	10,447	12,110	12,992	11,125	13,657
Depreciation	3,007	3,192	3,957	4,504	4,787	4,921	5,176	5,281
Interest & Finance Charges	122	105	151	-601	-684	-511	-203	58
Direct Taxes Paid	2,364	1,995	1,993	2,563	3,289	3,283	2,803	3,442
(Inc)/Dec in WC	2,892	-1,301	-2,406	-2,866	-271	85	-2,507	-1,171
CF from Operations	12,065	8,734	6,607	8,921	12,654	14,204	10,787	14,382
Others	-296	-714	-277	641	488	-452	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	11,769	8,020	6,329	9,562	13,142	13,752	10,787	14,382
(inc)/dec in FA	-6,999	-4,964	-7,598	-4,647	-4,401	-7,440	-3,000	-3,000
Free Cash Flow	4,770	3,056	-1,268	4,915	8,741	6,312	7,787	11,382
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-14,803	-14,598	-13,440	-27,976	-35,190	-37,490	0	0
Others	13,305	13,212	16,219	24,731	28,871	33,386	-7,347	-7,478
CF from Investments	-8,497	-6,350	-4,819	-7,892	-10,720	-11,543	-10,347	-10,478
(Inc)/Dec in Debt	-275	-321	-359	-377	-871	583	628	-9
Interest Paid	-52	-40	-67	-161	-188	-253	-450	-580
Dividend Paid	-3,311	-854	-1,708	-581	-1,367	-1,904	-1,647	-2,013
CF from Fin. Activity	-3,638	-1,215	-2,135	-1,119	-2,425	-1,573	-1,469	-2,602
Inc/Dec of Cash	-365	455	-624	551	-2	636	-1,030	1,302
Add: Beginning Balance	2,512	512	967	343	894	892	1,528	498
Closing Balance	2,147	967	343	894	892	1,528	498	1,801

E: MOFSL Estimates

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Explanation of Investment Rating						
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)					
BUY	>=15%					
SELL	<-10%					
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UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change					
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