

APL Apollo Tubes

BUY

Margin beat; Focus on value added products continues

Summary

APL Apollo Tubes (APL) reported strong improvement in profitability for Q1FY22; its EBITDA was a strong beat to our forecast. APL's EBITDA/tonne jumped to Rs6,825 (+129% YoY, +44% QoQ) driven by 1) strong demand, 2) better product mix and 3) higher contribution from high-margin Apollo Tricoat Products. Despite 14% QoQ fall in volumes, APL's EBITDA jumped 23% QoQ to Rs2.5 bn and net profit was higher by 24% QoQ to Rs1.5 bn.

We raise our margin estimates for FY22/FY23 given strong margin improvement in Q1FY22 and anticipated higher demand. Overall our FY22/FY23 EBITDA estimates are higher by 10%/12%, respectively. We value the stock at a PER of 36x FY23E EPS (earlier 32x FY23E) and raise our target price to Rs2,014 (earlier Rs1,606). Maintain BUY.

Key Highlights and Investment Rationale

- Strong improvement in margins:** Despite the second wave of Covid-19 affecting Q1FY22 volumes (-14% QoQ to 373 kt), APL's margin witnessed significant improvement. Overall, its EBITDA at Rs6,835/tonne was at all time-high (its last five years average has been Rs3,400/tonne).
- APL working to replace conventional products:** APL continues to innovate new products. It aims to replace application of some conventional products such as steel angles, steel channels, wood, aluminum profiles, fabricated metals sheets with structural steel. Currently, it offers 1500 SKUs which is far higher than its competitors.
- Management targets 4 mn tonnes of volumes by 2025:** Management targets volumes of 4 mn tonnes by FY25 (current run-rate of ~2 mn tonnes) with focus on value added products for the rest of 2 mn tonnes. We applaud APL's management for its execution – strong improvement in product mix, lower working capital days alongside sharp reduction in leverage in past one year. Management continues to focus on innovating newer products as it aims to increase valued added products mix to 70% from 57% in coming years. We expect APL's EBITDA/net profit to grow at a CAGR of 27%/39% over FY21-23E.

TP	Rs2,014	
CMP	Rs1,751	
Potential upside / downside	+15%	

V/s Consensus

EPS (Rs)	FY22E	FY23E
IDBI Capital	43.9	56.4
Consensus	38.7	49.8
% difference	13.6	13.3

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoters	36.9
FII	25.7
DII	8.7
Public	28.7

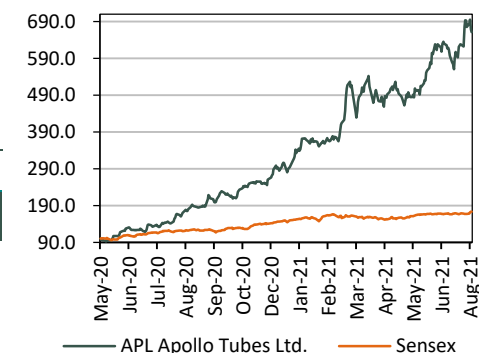
Price Performance (%)

	-1m	-3m	-12m
Absolute	9.7	33.8	308.9
Rel to Sensex	7.1	22.9	266.1

Key Stock Data

Bloomberg / Reuters	APAT IN / APLA.BO
Sector	Iron & Steel Products
Shares o/s (mn)	125
Market cap. (Rs mn)	218,730
Market cap. (US\$ mn)	2,940
3-m daily average value (Rs mn)	747.3
52-week high / low	Rs1,850 / 407
Sensex / Nifty	54,278 / 16,238

Relative to Sensex (%)



Financial snapshot

Year	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	68,946	74,265	82,149	90,360	1,05,961
EBITDA	3,928	4,773	6,787	8,846	10,957
EBITDA (%)	5.7	6.4	8.3	9.8	10.3
Adj. PAT	1,482	2,380	3,602	5,483	7,048
EPS (Rs)	12.4	19.1	28.8	43.9	56.4
EPS Growth (%)	(6.7)	53.9	50.7	52.2	28.6
PE (x)	130.4	84.7	56.2	36.9	28.7
Dividend Yield (%)	1.0	0.2	-	0.4	0.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	50.9	43.7	30.0	23.0	17.9
RoE (%)	16.5	20.5	23.6	31.3	32.7
RoCE (%)	18.9	18.2	23.9	32.3	36.4

Source: IDBI Capital Research;

Exhibit 1: Quarterly Snapshot

(Rs mn)	Q1FY22	Q4FY21	QoQ (%)	Q1FY21	YoY (%)
Net sales	24,433	25,051	(2.5)	10,792	126.4
EBITDA	2,547	2,065	23.4	711	258.3
<i>EBITDA /tonne</i>	<i>6,825</i>	<i>4,742</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>2,986</i>	<i>128.6</i>
Other income	102	126	(19.1)	49	110.1
Interest	128	144	(10.8)	212	(39.5)
Depreciation	265	275	(3.7)	239	10.9
PBT	2,256	1,772	27.3	309	630.9
Tax	572	428	33.5	90	537.1
PAT	1,474	1,192	23.6	168	778.1
Diluted EPS (Rs)	11.8	10.8	9.6	1.8	573.1

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 2: Actual vs. Estimates

(Rs mn)	Q1FY22E	Q1FY22A	Variance (%)
Total Revenues	19,531	24,433	25.1
EBITDA	1,548	2,547	64.5
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	<i>4,150</i>	<i>6,825</i>	<i>64.5</i>
Net profit	861	1,474	71.1
EPS	6.9	11.8	71.1

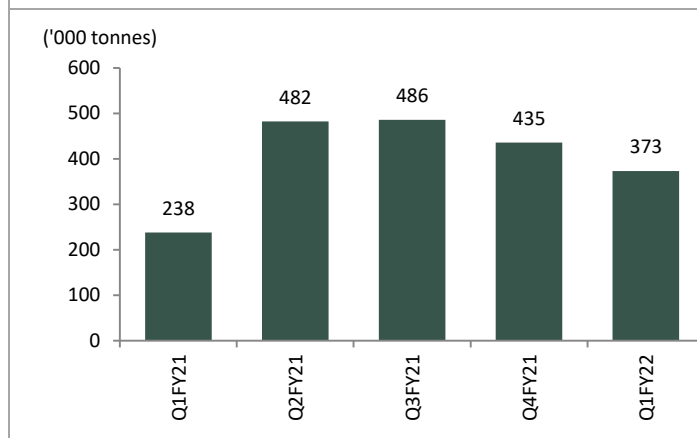
Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 3: Change in estimates

	FY22E			FY23E		
	Old	New	(%) Chg	Old	New	(%) Chg
Revenue (Rs mn)	92,161	90,360	(2.0)	1,07,761	1,05,961	(1.7)
EBITDA (Rs mn)	8,036	8,846	10.1	9,827	10,957	11.5
EBITDA margin (%)	8.7	9.8	109bps	9.1	10.3	124bps
Net profit (Rs mn)	4,943	5,447	10.2	6,269	6,989	11.5
EPS (Rs)	39.6	43.6	10.1	50.2	56.0	11.5

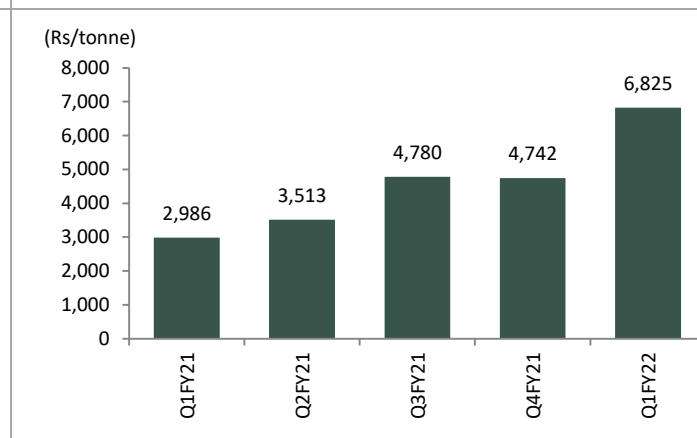
Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 4: Sales volumes increased 57% YoY



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 5: EBIDTA/tonne jumped up sharply



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Concall Highlight

- Q1FY22 volume decline due to Covid-19 2nd wave related lockdown in April-May'21. On other hand, volume for peer companies are down by 22-25% in Q1FY22.
- Company is targeting 4.5 Lakh tonnes volume in Q2FY22 followed by 5 Lakh tonnes in Q3FY22 and 5.5 Lakh tonnes in Q4FY22 therefore total 1.8 – 2.0 mn tonnes in FY22.
- Company has target of 4 mn tonnes volumes in coming three-four years.
- During Q1FY22 product realisation increased by Rs8,500/tonne because of value addition mix.
- Working capital is intact at 7 days.
- EBIDTA/tonne is highest ever at Rs6800/tonne but it stands lower among the global peer in Japan and US which has EBITDA of Rs10,000/tonne.
- Apollo Tricoat Tubes merger is on track and company got NOC letter from both exchanges and expected to complete by end of FY22.
- Company's efforts to create market for heavy structural tubes have started to pay off as company received inquiry for live projects. Company is working on innovative product apart from conventional products.
- Company's long term goal includes value additional, cost control, innovation, new market creation and brand equity enhancement which will bring double digit growth in volume in coming 2-3 years
- Raipur capacity expansion of 2.6 mn tonnes to 3 mn tonnes is on track and expected to commence in FY22, hence colour coated tube and large diameter tubes expected to contribute significantly in volume's in FY23.
- Company is focusing on market share gain and absolute EBIDTA rather than margins in coming time due to impact of lockdown.
- Globally 10% of steel consumption is structural tube. In India it is 3-4% of total steel consumption. However tubular industry is expected to grow at high rate, industry can be 13 mn tonnes in coming years.
- Company is bullish in colour tubing business with 2 Lakh tonnes of market.

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net sales	74,265	82,149	90,360	1,05,961
<i>Growth (%)</i>	7.7	10.6	10.0	17.3
Operating expenses	(72,459)	(78,210)	(84,677)	(98,713)
EBITDA	4,773	6,787	8,846	10,957
<i>Growth (%)</i>	21.5	42.2	30.3	23.9
Depreciation	(959)	(1,028)	(1,048)	(1,069)
EBIT	3,814	5,759	7,798	9,887
Interest paid	(1,073)	(661)	(234)	(105)
Other income	222	359	377	396
Pre-tax profit	2,963	5,458	7,942	10,179
Tax	(403)	(1,381)	(1,999)	(2,562)
<i>Effective tax rate (%)</i>	13.6	25.3	25.2	25.2
Minority interest	(180.3)	(475)	(460)	(569)
Net profit	2,380	3,602	5,483	7,048
Adjusted net profit	2,380	3,602	5,483	7,048
<i>Growth (%)</i>	60.5	51.3	52.2	28.6
<i>Shares o/s (mn)</i>	124.4	124.9	124.9	124.9

Cash Flow Statement

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Pre-tax profit	2,963	5,458	7,942	10,179
Depreciation	959	1,028	1,048	1,069
Tax paid	(592)	(1,281)	(1,988)	(2,551)
Chg in working capital	529	3,892	(598)	(190)
Other operating activities	1,640	(79)	(4,080)	1,357
Cash flow from operations (a)	5,500	9,018	2,324	9,864
Capital expenditure	(6,562)	(2,298)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Chg in investments	479	0	-	-
Other investing activities	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from investing (b)	(6,084)	(2,298)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Equity raised/(repaid)	10	1	-	-
Debt raised/(repaid)	176	(2,861)	(2,581)	(500)
Dividend (incl. tax)	(411)	-	(874)	(1,249)
Chg in minorities	774	(47)	-	-
Other financing activities	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from financing (c)	550	(2,907)	(3,456)	(1,749)
Net chg in cash (a+b+c)	(34)	3,813	(3,132)	6,115

Balance Sheet

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net fixed assets	16,214	17,484	18,436	19,367
Investments	15	15	15	15
Other non-curr assets	1,931	2,499	2,499	2,499
Current assets	14,500	13,991	12,196	19,822
Inventories	7,842	7,599	8,227	9,591
Sundry Debtors	4,764	1,306	1,436	1,684
Cash and Bank	444	3,579	1,125	7,240
Loans and advances	13	13	13	13
Total assets	32,660	33,990	33,146	41,703
Shareholders' funds	13,562	16,947	18,045	25,093
Share capital	249	250	250	250
Reserves & surplus	13,313	16,697	17,795	24,843
Total Debt	7,278	4,416	1,835	1,335
Secured loans	4,043	1,835	835	335
Unsecured loans	3,234	2,582	1,000	1,000
Other liabilities	1,692	1,877	1,896	1,915
Curr Liab & prov	9,175	9,367	9,527	10,949
Current liabilities	9,002	9,190	9,347	10,765
Provisions	173	177	180	184
Total liabilities	18,145	15,660	13,258	14,199
Total equity & liabilities	32,660	33,990	33,146	41,703
Book Value (Rs)	109	136	144	201

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Financial Ratios

Year-end: March	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Adj. EPS (Rs)	19.1	28.8	43.9	56.4
Adj. EPS growth (%)	53.9	50.7	52.2	28.6
EBITDA margin (%)	6.4	8.3	9.8	10.3
Pre-tax margin (%)	4.0	6.6	8.8	9.6
ROE (%)	20.5	23.6	31.3	32.7
ROCE (%)	18.2	23.9	32.3	36.4
Turnover & Leverage ratios (x)				
Asset turnover (x)	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.8
Leverage factor (x)	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.7
Net margin (%)	3.2	4.4	6.1	6.7
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Working Capital & Liquidity ratio				
Inventory days	39	34	33	33
Receivable days	23	6	6	6
Payable days	39	37	37	37

Valuation

Year-end: March	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
P/E (x)	84.7	56.2	36.9	28.7
Price / Book value (x)	14.9	11.9	11.2	8.1
PCE (x)	60.4	43.7	31.0	24.9
EV / Net sales (x)	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.9
EV / EBITDA (x)	43.7	30.0	23.0	17.9
Dividend Yield (%)	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6



Notes

Dealing	(91-22) 6836 1111	dealing@idbicapital.com
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Key to Ratings Stocks:

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

IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Ltd.

Equity Research Desk

6th Floor, IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai – 400 005. Phones: (91-22) 2217 1700; Fax: (91-22) 2215 1787; Email: info@idbicapital.com

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Compliance Officer: Christina D’souza; Email: compliance@idbicapital.com; Telephone: (91-22) 2217 1907

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