ANANDRATHI

India | Equities

Building Materials Company Update

Change in Estimates Ø Target Ø Reco Ø

22 July 2022

Century Plyboards (India)

Excellent quarter, demand buoyancy continues; upgrading to a Buy

Beating our revenue/PAT estimates, Century Plyboards' Q1 FY23 result was outstanding, though margins belied our expectation. Revenue/ EBITDA/PAT rose 94.3%/137.7%/194.3% y/y to Rs8,888m/Rs1,431m/ Rs923m. Strong traction was seen in all divisions (despite continuing input cost pressure), leading to greater offtake and better realisation y/y. Sequentially, laminate and medium-density fibreboard sales volumes and container-freight-station services were lower, while plywood realisations were down.

Diversified products with strong brand pull; healthy balance sheet. The company is a one-stop solutions provider in wood panels due to its operations across segments and brand recall across product categories. This has helped to better growth, profitability and cash generation. The balance sheet is healthy and the vigorous capex would largely be funded from internal accruals.

Key expansion projects on track, commissioning as scheduled. The Rs2.2bn brownfield MDF expansion at Hoshiarpur in Punjab is likely to be commissioned by end-Q2 FY23, while the Rs2bn greenfield laminate and Rs6bn MDF projects at Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh are likely to be commissioned in Q2 FY24 and H2 FY24 (through Century Panels).

CFS business to be transferred to Century Infra. The company will receive 327.1m shares in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Century Infra, against transfer of the container freight station services business as a going concern on a slump sale basis w.e.f. 1st Apr'22

Encouraging demand outlook, input cost tailwind; upgrading to a Buy. The bright outlook, backed by continued healthy real-estate bookings and strong demand from end-users, keep us positive on the wood-panel segment. Input cost tailwinds are expected to lift margins. The vigorous capex provides medium-term growth assurance. The healthy balance sheet is comforting. The stock looks attractively priced. We have a Buy on it, with a higher price target of Rs740 (earlier Rs721), based on 35x FY24e earnings (unchanged).

Key financials (YE Mar)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23e	FY24e
Sales (Rs m)	23,170	21,304	30,270	36,287	41,372
Net profit (Rs m)	1,506	1,915	3,131	4,008	4,703
EPS (Rs)	6.8	8.6	14.1	18.0	21.1
P/E (x)	85.8	67.5	41.3	32.2	27.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	40.0	38.6	24.4	20.2	17.6
P/BV (x)	11.8	10.2	8.3	6.8	5.5
RoE (%)	14.6	16.2	22.2	23.1	22.2
RoCE (%) after tax	10.0	14.1	18.7	19.4	18.5
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Net debt / equity (x)	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2

Rating: **Buy** Target Price: Rs.740 Share Price: Rs.580

Key data	CPBI IN / CNTP.BO
52-week high / low	Rs.749 / 342
Sensex / Nifty	55682 / 16605
3-m average volume	\$1.2m
Market cap	Rs.129bn / \$1612.1m
Shares outstanding	222m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Jun'22	Mar'22	Jun'20
Promoters	73.0	73.0	73.0
- of which, Pledged	-	-	-
Free float	27.0	27.0	27.0
- Foreign institutions	7.0	6.9	5.5
- Domestic institutions	12.0	11.2	13.2
- Public	8.0	8.9	8.3

Estimates revision (%)	FY23e	FY24e
Sales	10.8	6.4
EBITDA	8.9	7.3
PAT	3.5	2.7



Source: Bloomberg

Rishab Bothra Research Analyst

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Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations (Consol.)

Year-end: Mar	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23e	FY24e
Net revenues	23,170	21,304	30,270	36,287	41,372
Growth (%)	1.6	-8.1	42.1	19.9	14.0
Direct costs	11,605	10,405	15,021	17,917	20,169
SG&A	6,042	4,858	9,941	11,907	13,640
EBITDA	3,307	3,355	5,308	6,464	7,563
EBITDA margins (%)	14.3	15.7	17.5	17.8	18.3
- Depreciation	1,274	687	743	1,002	1,337
Other income	128	173	231	272	310
Interest expenses	389	128	114	205	267
PBT	1,772	2,596	4,682	5,529	6,270
Effective tax rates (%)	29.3	26.3	33.1	27.5	25.0
+ Associates / (Minorities)	253	2	-1	-	-
Net income	1,506	1,908	3,146	4,008	4,703
Adjusted income	1,506	1,915	3,131	4,008	4,703
WANS	222.5	222.5	222.5	222.5	222.5
FDEPS (Rs / sh)	6.8	8.6	14.1	18.0	21.1
FDEPS growth (%)	1.4	27.1	63.5	28.0	17.3
Gross margins (%)	49.9	51.2	50.4	50.6	51.3

Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)

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Year-end: Mar	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23e	FY24e
EBIT (excl. other income)	1,772	2,596	4,682	5,529	6,270
+ Non-cash items	1,274	687	743	1,002	1,337
Oper. prof. before WC	3,046	3,282	5,425	6,531	7,607
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	1,086	683	(1,811)	(1,375)	(1,098)
Others incl. taxes	(18)	(322)	(983)	(1,316)	(1,301)
Operating cash-flow	4,115	3,644	2,631	3,841	5,208
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	(587)	(584)	(2,369)	(3,486)	(6,587)
Free cash-flow	3,528	3,060	262	355	(1,379)
Acquisitions					
- Div.(incl. buyback & taxes)	(267)	(223)	(334)	(445)	(556)
+ Equity raised	-	-	-	-	-
+ Debt raised	(2,717)	(1,049)	986	887	1,240
- Fin investments	1	(1,106)	1,105	-	-
- Misc. (CFI + CFF)	(559)	(22)	(317)	(424)	(633)
Net cash-flow	(15)	661	1,702	372	(1,329)
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Re	search				

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Fig 5 – Price movement

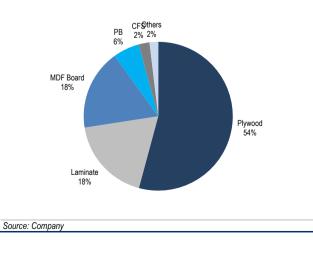


Fig 2 – Balance sheet	(Rs m)				
Year-end: Mar	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23e	FY24e
Share capital	223	223	223	223	223
Net worth	10,684	12,451	15,346	18,909	23,056
Debt	3,268	2,220	3,205	4,092	5,332
Minority interest	-17	-12	-26	-38	-50
DTL / (Assets)	-573	-420	167	167	167
Capital employed	13,583	14,462	18,914	23,354	28,727
Net tangible assets	7,825	7,599	7,745	11,495	16,495
Net intangible assets	8.78	7.63	6.91	6.91	6.91
Goodwill	13	13	13	13	13
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	160	285	1,766	500	750
Investments (strategic)	2	3	3	3	3
Investments (financial)	-	1,105	-	-	-
Current assets (excl. cash)	1,217	1,055	1,372	1,550	1,884
Cash	248	908	2,610	2,983	1,654
Current liabilities	923	1,144	862	1,026	1,146
Working capital	5,033	4,630	6,260	7,829	9,068
Capital deployed	13,583	14,462	18,914	23,354	28,727
Contingent liabilities	716	369	-	-	-

Fig 4 – Ratio analysis

Year-end: Mar	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23e	FY24e
P/E (x)	85.8	67.5	41.3	32.2	27.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	40.0	38.6	24.4	20.2	17.6
EV / Sales (x)	5.7	6.1	4.3	3.6	3.2
P/B (x)	11.8	10.2	8.3	6.8	5.5
RoE (%)	14.6	16.2	22.2	23.1	22.2
RoCE (%) - after tax	10.0	14.1	18.7	19.4	18.5
RoIC	10.2	15.3	21.6	22.3	20.3
DPS (Rs / sh)	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	17.7	11.7	10.6	11.1	11.8
Net debt / equity (x)	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Receivables (days)	40.5	51.9	42.5	43.8	45.0
Inventory (days)	62.7	63.3	63.5	65.0	65.0
Payables (days)	23.9	35.8	30.5	30.0	30.0
CFO: PAT %	273.2	190.3	84.0	95.8	110.7
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resear	rch				

Fig 6 – Q1 FY23 revenue mix



Financial highlights

Fig 7 – Financials (consolidated) % Q/Q % Y/Y % Y/Y FY21 FY22 (Rs m) Q1 FY22 Q4 FY22 Q1 FY23 Revenue 4,575 9,011 8,888 94.3 (1.4) 21,304 30,270 42.1 Raw material costs 1,965 4,506 4,607 134.4 2.2 10,405 15,021 44.4 28.2 Employee costs 930 1.163 1.192 2.5 3.316 4.176 25.9 1,078 53.7 (4.4) 36.4 Other expenses 1,734 1,657 4,228 5,765 EBITDA 602 1,607 1,431 137.7 58.2 (10.9) 3,355 5,308 Other income 52 33.2 54 60 14.8 11.8 173 231 191 8.2 Depreciation 181 189 5.6 1.0 687 743 37 37.2 16.9 128 Finance costs 31 43 114 (10.6) Exceptional items 118 PBT 443 1,436 1,258 184.2 (12.4)2,596 4,682 80.4 Тах 132 548 332 151.5 (39.4) 684 1,550 126.8 PAT 314 885 923 194.3 4.2 1,915 3,131 63.5 EPS (Rs) 1.4 4.0 4.1 194.3 8.6 63.5 42 14.1 As % of income bps y/y bps q/q bps y/y 50.0 57.0 51.2 50.4 -78 48.2 (888) -183 Gross margins Employee costs 20.3 12.9 13.4 (691) 51 15.6 13.8 -177 23.6 19.2 18.6 (492) -60 -80 Other expenses 198 190 **EBITDA** margins 17.8 16.1 295 -173 15.7 17.5 179 13.2 0.8 1.1 0.6 0.7 8 0.8 Depreciation (47) -77 Finance costs 3.9 2.1 2.1 (180) 5 3.2 2.5 -22 Other income 0.7 0.4 0.5 (20) 8 0.6 0.4 PBT 9.7 15.9 14.2 -178 12.2 15.5 328 448 38.2 26.4 26.3 678 Effective tax rates 29.8 (342) -1,179 33.1 PAT margins 6.9 9.8 10.4 353 56 9.0 10.3 135 Segment revenues (%) bps y/y bps q/q bps y/y Plywood 50.4 53.5 54.2 376 72 53.4 53.1 (34) -79 Laminates 19.2 19.2 18.4 -86 19.5 19.0 (50) 165 MDF Boards 19.8 18.0 17.5 -237 -55 16.8 18.5 Particle Boards 5.2 5.2 5.7 55 53 4.2 5.0 75 **CFS Services** 4.0 2.4 2.4 -167 -6 3.9 2.6 (128) Others 1.4 1.7 1.9 51 22 2.2 1.9 (28) 100 100 100 100 100 Total EBIT margins (%) bps y/y bps q/q bps y/y Plywood 5.0 15.7 97 469 -601 11.3 13.2 190 Laminates 13.6 12.5 13.4 -20 95 16.8 15.0 (174) MDF Board 33.9 23.3 33.2 1065 76 21.3 819 29.5 Particle Board 20.5 28.9 35.0 1450 603 24.9 950 15.4 1025 **CFS** Services 11.6 15.3 373 16.2 (640) 5.1 9.8 7.6 4.0 8.8 120 483 12.7 12.7 Others 18.7 506 -245 17.1 261 Blended margin (%) 11.1 16.2 14.5

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

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Quantitative highlights

Fig 8 – Financials (consolidated)								
	Q1 FY22	Q4 FY22	Q1 FY23	% Y/Y	% Q/Q	FY21	FY22	% Y/Y
Volumes (units)								
Plywood (cu.mtr.)	42,754	87,398	88,015	105.9	0.7	222,628	298,063	33.9
Laminate (sheets)	1,151,858	1,964,843	1,848,545	60.5	(5.9)	5,517,779	6,749,237	22.3
MDF Board (cu.mtr.)	31,836	48,137	45,309	42.3	(5.9)	147,251	177,936	20.8
PB (cu.mtr.)	12,496	20,508	21,537	72.4	5.0	54,972	72,933	32.7
CFS Service (TEUs)	12,487	15,848	12,679	1.5	(20.0)	53,356	54,482	2.1
Realisation (Rs / unit)								
Plywood (cu.mtr.)	52,042	54,436	53,802	3.4	(1.2)	50,314	52,986	5.3
Laminate (sheets)	758	859	876	15.6	1.9	739	840	13.6
MDF Board (cu.mtr.)	28,571	33,787	34,296	20.0	1.5	24,396	31,215	27.9
PB (cu.mtr.)	19,030	22,796	23,713	24.6	4.0	16,387	20,642	26.0
CFS Services (TEUs)	14,527	13,510	16,295	12.2	20.6	15,417	14,229	(7.7)
Revenues (Rs m)								
Plywood	2,313	4,825	4,824	108.6	(0.0)	11,401	16,100	41.2
Laminates	879	1,736	1,636	86.1	(5.8)	4,150	5,747	38.5
MDF Board	910	1,628	1,556	70.9	(4.4)	3,594	5,609	56.1
Particle Board	238	470	511	114.8	8.6	901	1,508	67.4
CFS Services	184	217	209	13.6	(3.7)	830	791	(4.7)
Others	63	149	167	167.1	11.9	459	568	23.7
Less: Inter-segment	11	15	14	29.2	(1.9)	31	53	67.0
Overall revenues	4,575	9,011	8,888	93.9	(1.4)	21,304	30,270	42.1
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research								

Q1 FY23 Results highlights, analysis

Robust revenue growth boost profitability

- Strong growth across verticals. Revenue grew at a robust 94% y/y to Rs8.9bn, bolstered by key segments constituting 90% of revenue. These are plywood (54%), laminates (18%) and medium-density fibre-board (MDF, 17%), where revenues were up respectively 109%, 86% and 71% y/y.
- Input cost pressure dents gross margin. Input cost pressures pushed the gross margin down 888 bps y/y, 183bps q/q to 48.2%, partially mitigated by price hikes. Hence, gross profit (Rs4.4bn) growth was restricted to 64% y/y.
- Economies of scale lift EBITDA margin y/y. Higher revenue drove economies of scale, and absorption of fixed overheads improved considerably. Employee costs and other operating costs as percents of sales were 691bps and 492bps lower respectively to 13.4% and 18.6%. EBITDA grew a significant 138% y/y to Rs1.4bn.
- Marked boost in PAT. Strong operating profitability, higher other income (15% y/y) and a lower tax rate (26.4% of PBT, against 29.8% a year ago) rocketed PAT 194% y/y to Rs923m.

Performance, segment-wise

Encouraging demand environment drives volume. Key business segments such as plywood, laminates and MDF saw y/y sales volumes increases of respectively 106%, 61% and 42%. Also, y/y particle-board sales volumes were an encouraging 72%. CFS volume growth, though, was a muted 1.5% y/y. Sequentially, however, laminate, particle board and CFS sales volumes were down.

Higher realisation to offset input cost pressures. Realisations across segments improved by double digits y/y, except for plywood which climbed only 3.4%.

Shorter working-capital cycle; net cash status maintained

- Working-capital cycle shortens a bit. The Q1 FY23 working-capital cycle was 58 days, against 63 in FY22, five days fewer owing to prudent working capital management.
- High Liquidity persists. Net cash on the books was unchanged at Rs1.8bn owing to strong profitability and efficient working-capital management

Healthy balance sheet, strong cash-flow generation to fund vigorous capex

- Healthy cash-flow generation supports vigorous capex. In FY22, cash from operations was Rs2.6bn; this is likely to rise to Rs3.8bn in FY23 and to 5.2bn in FY24.
- 25% already incurred, balance split over next 18 months. Ongoing expansion entails Rs12.4bn cash outflow (Rs10.2bn on key projects). Of this, Rs2.5bn has been incurred in FY22 and Rs1bn in Q1 FY23. Rs3.2bn would be spent in the rest of FY23, Rs4.9bn in FY24 and Rs0.8bn beyond FY24.

CFS business to be transferred to Century Infra

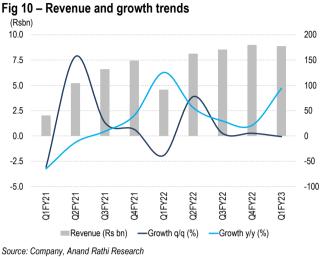
The company will receive 327.1m shares of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Century Infra, against the transfer of its container freight station services as an ongoing concern on a slump-sale basis w.e.f 1st Apr'22.

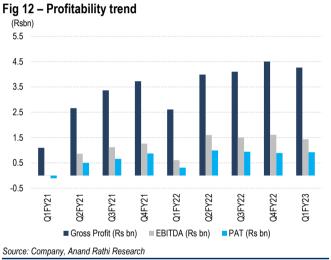
(Rs m)	Revenue	PBT	Net worth
Century Plyboards (India) (A)	30,008	4,802	15,612
Container freight station services (B)	778	62	201
% of B to A	2.59	1.30	1.29

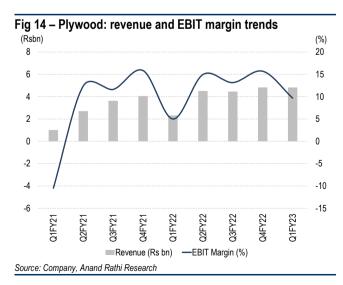
Q1 FY23 concall KTAs

- Q4 is usually a peak quarter, while Q1 is typically a lean quarter. However the company reported a stellar performance: its Q1 FY23 revenue was just 1.5% lower than in the previous quarter.
- The gross margin was lower due to price hikes with a lag effect and to the product-mix. Though input costs (kraft paper and phenol) have begun to soften, timber prices are still high.
- Timber makes up ~50% of the raw material cost, and prices of timber inched up ~5% q/q. The company has passed on the higher prices of timber. Since then, timber prices have been stable.
- Despite continuous input cost pressure in core segments like plywood and laminate, the company has partially mitigated such pressures by corresponding price increases and through operating leverage, aided by a better product mix.
- Price hikes in Q1 FY23: plywood 2–7% (premium 2%, Sainik 3%, Sainik MR 7%), laminates 3-4% (3% in 0.8mm and 4% in 1mm), particle boards 9% (5%+4%). No price hikes in MDF.
- The company is growing its base in tier-2 and -3 cities in mass market product categories, which are now growing fast.
- Management said FY23 plywood margins would be 13-15% due to front-loading A&P spends (IPL) and BCG expenses in Q1, full absorption of these cost in Q1 and expected operating leverage ahead. These expenses trimmed margins 1.5% in Q1 FY23.
- Laminate, MDF and PB EBITDA margins are expected to be firm for a year or so.
- Realisations in Prelam MDF and plain MDF per cu.mtr were respectively Rs44,000 and Rs31,000. Prelam MDF sales constitutes 20% of the division's revenues.
- ~70% of particle board is sold as Prelam. The company is aiming for ~80-85%.
- Plywood capacity is now 300,000 cu.mtr.; post-expansion it will be 330,000 cu.mtr.
- Utilisation levels in plywood/laminates/MDF/PB were 82%/89%/ 98%/120% in Q1 FY23, against 84%/97%/97%/115% the prior quarter. On commissioning of capacity, the company aims at 100% utilisation by the end of the third year
- The company is competing with paper manufactures in sourcing raw materials for MDF; in plywood it is competing only with other plywood manufacturers.
- Plywood is consumed by end-user/consumers, while PB and MDF are consumed by OEMs.
- Healthy double-digit volume and value growth guidance across key business verticals.

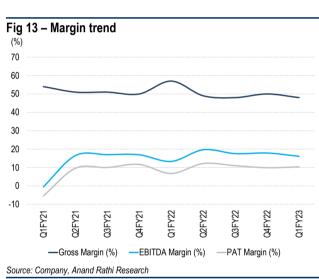
growth trends







100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 Q4FY22 3 Q3FY22 Q1FY21 Q2FY21 Q3FY21 Q4FY21 Q1FY Q1FY Q2FY ■ Material Cost ■ Employee Expense ■ Other Operating Expense ■ EBITDA Margin (%)



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

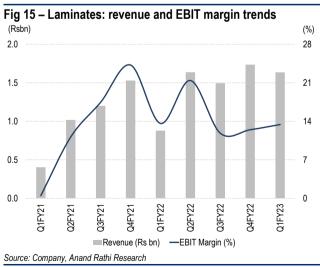
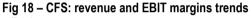
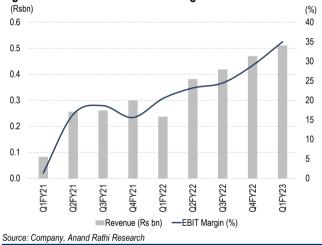


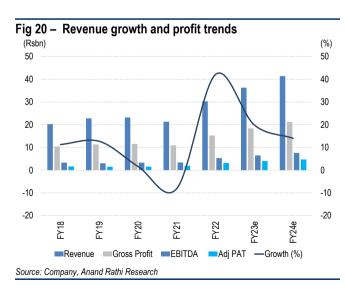
Fig 11 – Revenue split - expenses and margin trends

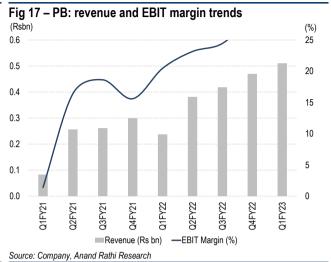
Story in charts continues

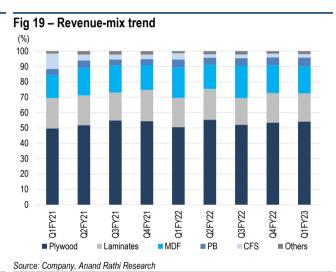
Fig 16 – MDF: revenue and EBIT margin trends (Rsbn) (%) 2.0 42 35 1.6 28 1.2 0.4 21 0.8 14 0.4 7 0.0 ٥ -0.4 -7 -0.8 -14 Q4FY21 Q2FY22 Q3FY22 Q4FY22 Q1FY21 Q3FY21 Q1FY22 Q1FY23 **Q2FY21** -EBIT Margin (%) Revenue (Rs bn) Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

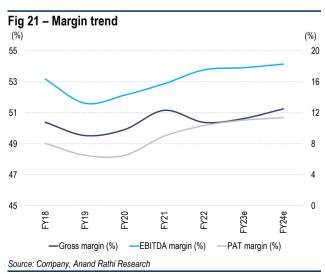












Valuation

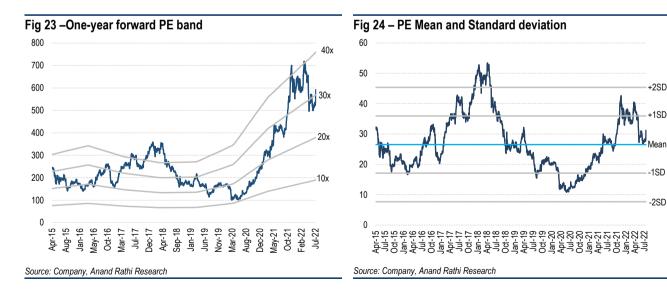
We like Century for its leading position in its key business verticals, strong brand image (the premium-range Century Club and the mid-range Sainik in plywood) and its diversified product range. Also, management has been conservative and prudently allocating capital, which has helped strengthen and maintain a healthy balance sheet.

We believe in Century's long-term structural growth as it is set to gain from demand revival at end-user industries, supported by macro-economic factors (rising disposable incomes, government focus on housing for all).

We expect 17%/23% revenue/earnings CAGRs over FY22-24 after the single-digit revenue growth and muted earnings performance over FY16-20. Return ratios, too, are expected to come at over 20% after a gap of 3-4 years despite relentless capex.

Encouraging demand outlook, input cost tailwind; upgrading to a **Buy.** The bright outlook, backed by continued healthy real-estate bookings and strong demand from end-users, keep us positive on the wood-panel segment. Input cost tailwinds are expected to lift margins. The vigorous capex provides medium-term growth assurance. The healthy balance sheet is comforting. The stock looks attractively priced. We have a Buy on it, with a higher price target of Rs740 (earlier Rs721), based on 35x FY24e earnings (unchanged).

	Old		New		% Var	
(Rs m)	FY23e	FY24e	FY23e	FY24e	FY23	FY24
Income	32,754	38,896	36,287	41,372	10.8	6.4
EBITDA	5,937	7,050	6,464	7,563	8.9	7.3
EBITDA margins %	18.1	18.1	17.8	18.3	(29)	18
PAT	3,873	4,581	4,008	4,703	3.5	2.7
EPS (Rs)	17.4	20.6	18.0	21.1	3.5	2.6



Risks

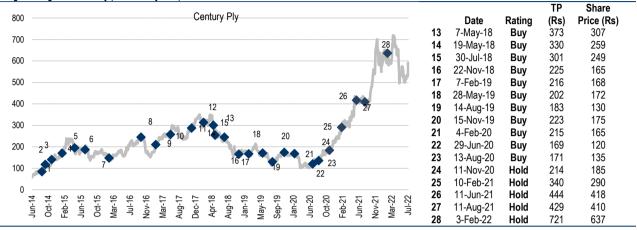
- Slowdown in real-estate activity. Lower demand at end-user industries would curtail offtake and profitability.
- Heightened competition. Considering the strong structural boom in end-user industries, those into furnishings are expanding capacities. Hence, competition seems bound to intensify, which may constrain volume growth if the market does not keep pace, or if the company's markets and those of its peers overlap.
- Key raw material availability, volatile input costs. Sourcing of key raw materials (face veneers, etc.) at reasonable prices is the key challenge due to environmental concerns. Also, a few of the raw materials such as phenol are linked to crude-oil prices, which are volatile. These pose risks to margins.
- **Currency volatility.** Since the company imports most of its raw material, currency fluctuations could dent margins.
- Delay in project commissioning. This may push up project costs and reduce envisaged growth rates and profitability.

Appendix

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Ratings Guide (12 months)			
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Large Caps (>US\$1bn)	>15%	5-15%	<5%
Mid/Small Caps (<us\$1bn)< td=""><td>>25%</td><td>5-25%</td><td><5%</td></us\$1bn)<>	>25%	5-25%	<5%

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