ACC Ltd (ACCLIM)

CMP: ₹ 2,220 Target: ₹ 2,700 (22%)

Target Period: 12 months

nesearc

October 18, 2022

Margins erode sharply; worst now behind...

About the stock: ACC (now Adani group company) is a large cement player with capacity of over 34.5MT in India and one of the **oldest cement players** in the Industry. The company also manufactures ready-mix concrete and has 50 plants across India.

- ACC has a strong balance-sheet with debt free status. However, it remains
 a laggard in terms of efficiency vs. peer companies as of now
- The ongoing capex of ₹ 3500 crore to increase its capacity to 39.3 MT. GU
 in Sindri & Tikaria has already been commissioned. Balance 3.2 MT new
 capacities are progressing and will be commissioned by March 2023

Q3CY22 Results: ACC reported weak results for Q3CY22, impacted by a high cost environment.

- Net revenues were up 6.4%YoY to ₹ 3,987.3crore. It was lower than our estimated revenue of ₹ 4012.5 crore
- Absolute EBITDA declined 98% YoY, 96% QoQ to ₹ 16.4 crore. It was far lower than I-direct estimated EBITDA of ₹ 280.7 crore. EBITDA margin came in at mere 0.4% (vs. I-direct estimate: 7%)
- With negligible EBITDA, exceptional loss of ₹ 16.25 crore, net loss was at ₹ 87.3 crore vs. net profit of ₹ 450 crore last year and ₹ 227 crore last quarter

What should investors do? While we believe that the structural change in the ownership as well as aggressive expansion strategy through organic/inorganic route could pave the way for growth as well as margin expansion led by cost synergies and operating leverage opportunities, we await more clarity and would want to see how this plays out.

Target Price and Valuation: Given its comfortable valuations, we retain **BUY** rating on the stock with revised target price of ₹ 2,700 i.e.11.5x CY23E EV/EBITDA.

Key triggers for future price performance:

- While new promoter (Adani) is envisaging doubling of the group's current capacity over the next five years, the ongoing expansion (₹ 3,500 crore capex) would increase ACC's capacity to 39.3 MT by CY23 from 34.5 MT
- Cost efficiency measures like higher share of renewable power, strong logistics support of Adani group would drive margin expansion in the long run
- Immediate cost benefits to come from royalty cost savings (~1% of revenue), raw material sourcing like flyash, coal on better terms

Alternate Stock Idea: Apart from ACC, in our cement sector coverage we also like UltraTech Cement.

- It is a market leader with strong brand in the retail segment. It has a robust balance sheet and aims to become debt free by FY23E
- BUY with a target price of ₹ 7600/share.

ACC

CICI direc

Particulars	
Particular	Amount
Мсар	₹ 41714 crore
Debt (CY21)	₹ 101 crore
Cash & Invest (CY21)	₹ 7732 crore
EV	₹ 34084 crore
52 week H/L	₹ 2800 / 1901
Equity cap	₹ 187.8 crore
Face value	₹ 10

Shareholding pattern											
(in %)	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22							
Promoter	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5							
FII	13.7	13.9	12.9	12.2							
DII	19.4	19.3	20.0	20.7							
Others	12.4	12.3	12.6	12.6							

Price	Cha	art						
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1500	-	most less	N.				+	10000
1000	+		V				1	5000
500	+							0000
0	+		_		-	-	+	0
	Mar-19	Sep-19	Mar-20	Sep-20	Mar-21	Sep-21	Mar-22	
_		ACC	(LHS	s) <u> </u>		NIFTY	/ (RI	HS)

Key risks

Any delay in commissioning of new capacity

Volatility in prices of imported coal/petcoke

Research Analyst

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Key Financial Summary								
₹ crore	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21	3 Year CAGR (%)	CY22E	CY23E	2 Year CAGR (%)
Net Sales	14478	15407	13786	16152	3.7	17640	19092	8.7
EBITDA	1724	2162	2355	2998	20.3	1663	3546	8.8
EBITDA Margins (%)	11.9	14.0	17.1	18.6		9.4	18.6	
Adjusted Net Profit	1020	1378	1606	1918	23.4	904	2310	9.8
EPS (₹)	54	73	85	102		48	123	
EV/EBITDA	22.4	17.1	14.8	11.1		19.9	8.9	
EV/tonne (\$)	165	159	149	137		128	115	
RoNW	9.7	11.9	12.6	13.4		6.1	14.0	
RoCE	14.2	17.4	14.7	17.6		8.3	18.6	



Key performance highlights

- Sales volume grew 4.3% YoY to 6.85 MT (lower than I-direct estimate: 7.04 MT). Realisations were up 2% YoY while it declined 1.5% QoQ despite high cost pressure
- Capacity utilisation was at ~76% vs. 76.2% last year. RMC revenues came in at ₹ 353 crore, up 15.8% YoY, due to a pick-up in the urban economy
- Production cost increased further by 8.4% QoQ to ₹ 5,797/t while it was up 25.4% YoY. Power & fuel cost was up 60.3% YoY. On a QoQ basis, it increased 10.8%. Freight costs were also up 9.6% YoY, flat QoQ on a per tonne basis
- Absolute EBITDA declined 98% YoY, 96% QoQ to ₹ 16.4 crore. It was far lower than I-direct estimated EBITDA of ₹ 280.7 crore. EBITDA margin came in at mere 0.4% (vs. I-direct estimate: 7%) vs. EBITDA margin of 19% and 9.5% YoY, QoQ, respectively
- The company reported net loss of ₹ 87.3 crore vs. net profit of ₹ 450 crore last year and ₹ 227 crore last quarter
- Commissioned its 1.6 MT GU at Tikaria, UP in February 2022. The 2.7 MT clinker and 1 MT GU in Ametha may get commissioned by March 2023. Balance 2.2 MT GU at Salai Banwa UP to come on stream in CY23. All this capex are funded via internal accruals. The company has partially commissioned WHRS units at Jamul (10 MW) and Kymore (12.4 MW) plants in Q3CY22 while the recently approved WHRS units in Wadi and Chanda are on track for commissioning. The company aims to achieve a WHRS capacity of 75MW in the near term

Exhibit 1: Variance	Analysi	s					
	Q3CY220	13CY22E	Q3CY21	YoY(%)	Q2CY22	QoQ(%)	Comments
Net Sales	3,987.3	4,012.5	3,749.0	6.4	4,468.4	-10.8	Sales volume grew 4.3% YoY, realisations were up 2% YoY
Other Incomes	69.7	70.3	63.3	10.2	53.9	29.5	
Raw Material Expense	849.1	745.6	624.1	36.0	838.5	1.3	
Employee Expenses	211.3	201.9	217.0	-2.6	216.8	-2.6	
Power and fuel	1,317.5	1,306.1	788.3	67.1	1,311.9	0.4	While P&F cost remained flat QoQ at absolute level, it increased by \sim 11% YoY on per tonne basis
Freight	982.7	950.3	860.2	14.2	1,077.9	-8.8	
Others	610.4	528.0	547.1	11.6	597.1	2.2	
EBITDA	16.4	280.7	712.3	-97.7	426.2	-96.1	
EBITDA Margin (%)	0.4	7.0	19.0	1859 bps	9.5	-913 bps	
Interest	17.7	15.2	17.1	3.4	14.9	19.1	
Depreciation	173.5	166.0	150.5	15.2	164.7	5.3	
PBT	-105.0	169.8	607.9	-117.3	300.5	-134.9	
Total Tax	-31.1	43.8	159.7	-119.4	77.5	-140.0	
PAT	-87.3	128.3	450.2	-119.4	227.3	-138.4	
Key Metrics							
Volume (MT)	6.85	7.04	6.57	4.3	7.56	-9.4	
Blended Realisation (₹)	5,821	5,700	5,706	2.0	5,911	-1.5	
EBITDA per Tonne (₹)	24	399	1,084	-97.8	564	-95.7	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 2: Change	e in estimate	es CY22E			CY23E		Comments
(₹ Crore)	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	
Revenue	17,850.0	17,640.3	-1.2	19,253.3	19,092.0	-0.8	
EBITDA	2,012.3	1,663.3	-17.3	3,878.5	3,545.7	-8.6	
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.3	9.4	-184 bps	20.1	18.6	-157 bps	
PAT	1,457.0	888.1	-39.0	2,558.2	2,310.4	-9.7	
EPS (₹)	79.0	48.1	-39.0	136.1	123.0	-9.7	

Key triggers for future price performance

New capacities to help gain lost ground from CY22E onwards

Over the past five years, the company has lost their market share to other large players with no major new capacities came in place during this period either through green field route or M&A route. While industry capacity grew at a CAGR of 7%, the company managed to increase its capacity from 30.5 MT to 33 MT i.e. At 2% CAGR. As a result, the company's production share declined from 14% in FY14 to 11% in FY20. To address this growth concern, the company is increasing its capacity to 39.3 MT with total capex of ~₹ 3500 crore. This would be mainly funded through internal accruals. Thus, we model a volume CAGR of 6.8% in CY21-23E and expect revenues to grow at 8.7% CAGR over the same period.

Cost rationalisation to bring efficiency...

- The company was earlier paying royalties to the Holcim group at ~1% of revenues. With Adani now being the promoter the company will be able save ~₹175-180 crore on an annual basis, which works out to a savings of around ₹ 55-60 on a per basis
- On the raw material front, the company is now better placed to source inputs such as flyash/imported coal/petcoke from the Adani group on better terms. The company is aiming to reach WHRS capacity of 75 MW by 2024. With these, we expect annual cost savings in the range of ₹ 100-150 on per tonne basis. The company can also leverage on the renewable energy potential from Adani group, going ahead, for optimisation of its power & fuel costs. We await more clarity on the same to quantify the benefit
- Further, the company can also leverage Adani's logistic network to bring down the freight cost further, which earlier promoter was doing through master supply agreement with Ambuja. Overall, as per our rough estimates, we expect cost savings of ₹ 300-350/tonne from the current run-rate

Valuation & Outlook

While we believe that the structural change in the ownership as well as aggressive expansion strategy through organic/inorganic route could pave the way for growth as well as margin expansion led by cost synergies and operating leverage opportunities, we await more clarity and would want to see how this plays out. Given the current subdued earnings we cut our EPS estimates for CY23E by 9.3%. Accordingly, we revise target price downwards to ₹ 2,700 vs. ₹ 2,900/share earlier (valuing at 11.5x CY23E EV/EBITDA implying an EV/t of ~\$148).

Exhibit	3: Valuat	ion matri	Х						
	Sales	Growth	EPS	Growth	PE	EV/Tonne	EV/EBITDA	RoNW	RoCE
	(₹ cr)	(%)	(₹)	(%)	(x)	(\$)	(x)	(%)	(%)
CY19	15407.0	6.4	35.0	12.0	63.4	158.5	17.1	12.6	14.0
CY20	13785.7	-10.5	76.1	117.3	26.0	148.9	14.8	12.6	14.7
CY21	16151.6	17.2	99.1	30.3	21.8	137.2	11.1	13.4	17.6
CY22E	17640.3	9.2	47.3	-52.3	46.1	127.5	19.9	6.1	8.3
CY23E	19092.0	8.2	123.0	160.2	18.1	115.2	8.9	14.0	18.6



Financial story in charts

Exhibit 4: Capacity addition plans		
Capacity	МТ со	Expected mmissioning
Existing	36.1	
Planned capacity addition:		
Uttar Pradesh (2 Grinding units)	2.2	Jan-24
Tikaria Unit, UP (Brownfield) - Commissioned in Feb'22	-	
Ametha, MP (Integrated unit with 2.7MT Clinker capacity)	1.0	Dec-22
Sindri (brownfield) - commissioned	-	
Total	3.2	
Total capacity post expansion (MT)	39.3	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

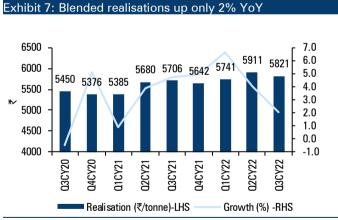
Exhibit 5: Volumes up 4.3% YoY in Q3CY22 50.0 10.0 40.0 8.0 30.0 6.0 20.0 n MT 4.0 10.0 2.0 0.0 0.0 -10.0 02CY22 **Q3CY22** 04CY20 Q1CY22 Q3CY20 Q1CY21 02CY21 03CY21 Q4CY21 ■ Sales volumes -LHS Growth (%) -RHS

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 6: Volumes to grow at 6.8% CAGR during CY21-23E 34.0 - 32.0 - 30.0 - 28.4 28.9 28.9 28.0 - 26.2 25.5

24.0 23.0 22.0 CY16 CY17 CY18 CY19 CY20 CY21 CY22E CY23E

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

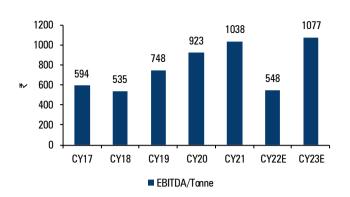


Exhibit 9: Expect revenue CAGR of 8.7% over CY21-23E



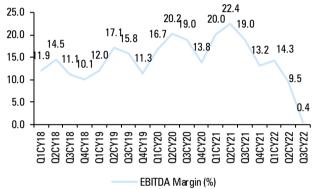
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 10: EBITDA/t to witness gradual recovery from CY23E



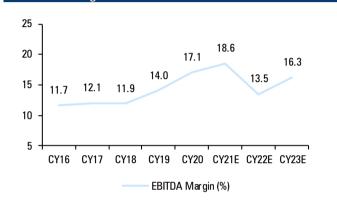
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 11: Margins



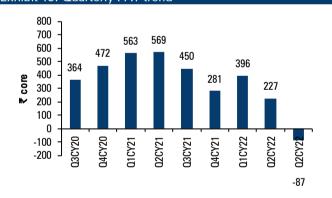
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 12: Margins trend



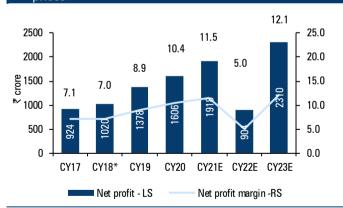
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Quarterly PAT trend



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 14: PAT trajectory to improve post cooling off of fuel prices



Financial summary

Exhibit 15: Profit and loss statement ₹ crore									
(Year-end March)	CY20	CY21	CY22E	CY23E					
Total operating Income	13,785.7	16,151.6	17,640.3	19,092.0					
Growth (%)	-10.5	17.2	9.2	8.2					
Raw material	2512.6	2866.5	3539.3	4114.7					
Power & Fuel	2574.7	3364.8	4922.1	3782.3					
Employees	840.8	836.2	878.7	917.5					
Freight	3416.1	3823.0	4152.1	3950.1					
Others	2086.5	2263.2	2484.8	2781.8					
Total Operating Exp.	11,430.7	13,153.6	15,977.0	15,546.3					
EBITDA	2,355.0	2,998.1	1,663.3	3,545.7					
Growth (%)	8.9	27.3	-44.5	113.2					
Depreciation	638.8	600.7	653.4	723.4					
Interest	57.1	54.6	58.0	65.3					
Other Income	216.7	206.7	241.9	331.6					
Exceptional items	176.0	54.8	16.3	0.0					
PBT	1,699.8	2,494.7	1,177.5	3,088.5					
Total Tax	278.6	643.4	302.7	787.6					
PAT	1,430.2	1,863.0	888.1	2,310.4					
Adjusted PAT	1,606.2	1,917.7	904.3	2,310.4					
Growth (%)	16.6	19.4	-52.8	155.5					
Reported EPS (₹)	76.1	99.1	47.3	123.0					

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 16: Cash flow statement									
(Year-end March)	CY20	CY21	CY22E	CY23E					
Profit after Tax	1,430.2	1,863.0	888.1	2,310.4					
Add: Depreciation	638.8	600.7	653.4	723.4					
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	1,876.8	-415.6	-450.2	-257.4					
Inc/(dec) in CL and Prov.	85.9	1,202.4	-123.6	655.9					
CF from operating activit	4,031.7	3,250.4	967.7	3,432.3					
(Inc)/dec in Investments	-788.9	-153.9	0.0	0.0					
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-238.5	-1,330.7	-1,500.0	-1,400.0					
Others	-253.9	-1.1	0.0	0.0					
CF from investing activit	-1,281.3	-1,485.6	-1,500.0	-1,400.0					
CF from investing activit Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	-1,281.3 0.0	-1,485.6 0.0	-1,500.0 0.0	-1,400.0 0.0					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity Inc/(dec) in loan funds	0.0 84.0	0.0 17.4	0.0 -101.4	0.0 0.0					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity Inc/(dec) in loan funds Dividend paid & dividend tax	0.0 84.0 -307.8	0.0 17.4 -307.8	0.0 -101.4 -439.7	0.0 0.0 -549.6					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity Inc/(dec) in loan funds Dividend paid & dividend tax Inc/(dec) in Sec. premium	0.0 84.0 -307.8 0.0	0.0 17.4 -307.8 0.0	0.0 -101.4 -439.7 0.0	0.0 0.0 -549.6 0.0					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity Inc/(dec) in Ioan funds Dividend paid & dividend tax Inc/(dec) in Sec. premium Others	0.0 84.0 -307.8 0.0 33.0	0.0 17.4 -307.8 0.0 54.0	0.0 -101.4 -439.7 0.0 0.0 - 541.1	0.0 0.0 -549.6 0.0 0.0 - 549.6					
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity Inc/(dec) in loan funds Dividend paid & dividend tax Inc/(dec) in Sec. premium Others CF from financing activit	0.0 84.0 -307.8 0.0 33.0 -190.8	0.0 17.4 -307.8 0.0 54.0 -236.4	0.0 -101.4 -439.7 0.0 0.0 - 541.1	0.0 0.0 -549.6 0.0 0.0 - 549.6 1,482.7					

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 17: Balance sh	eet			₹crore
(Year-end March)	CY20	CY21	CY22E	CY23E
Liabilities				
Equity Capital	188.0	188.0	188.0	188.0
Reserve and Surplus	12,511.2	14,120.4	14,568.8	16,329.5
Total Shareholders funds	12,699.1	14,308.3	14,756.7	16,517.5
Total Debt	84.0	101.4	0.0	0.0
Other Liabilities	398.0	407.1	407.1	407.1
Total Liabilities	13,181.2	14,816.8	15,163.8	16,924.5
Assets				
Gross Block	15,436.4	16,070.1	17,015.1	19,615.1
Less: Acc Depreciation	8,928.0	9,528.7	10,182.1	10,905.5
Net Block	6,508.4	6,541.4	6,833.0	8,709.6
Capital WIP	548.1	1,245.0	1,800.0	600.0
Total Fixed Assets	7,056.5	7,786.5	8,633.0	9,309.6
Investments + Goodwill	913.7	1,077.7	1,077.7	1,077.7
Inventory	901.3	1,273.9	1,335.9	1,593.3
Debtors	451.4	489.0	574.2	576.5
Other assets	654.2	595.2	769.3	707.5
Misc assets	1,016.1	1,080.4	1,209.3	1,268.8
Cash	6,192.0	7,731.6	7,662.4	9,145.1
Total Current Assets	9,214.9	11,170.1	11,551.1	13,291.2
Creditors	4,448.8	5,323.9	5,211.9	5,772.5
Provisions	570.4	897.7	886.0	981.3
Total Current Liabilities	5,019.2	6,221.6	6,098.0	6,753.8
Net Current Assets	4,195.7	4,948.5	5,453.1	6,537.3
Application of Funds	13,181.2	14,816.8	15,163.8	16,924.5

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 18: Key ratios				
(Year-end March)	CY20	CY21	CY22E	CY23E
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	76.1	99.1	47.3	123.0
Cash EPS	110.1	131.1	82.0	161.5
BV	675.8	761.5	785.4	879.1
DPS	14.0	14.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Per Share	329.5	411.5	407.8	486.7
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBITDA Margin	17.1	18.6	9.4	18.6
PAT Margin	10.4	11.5	5.0	12.1
Inventory days	27.0	24.6	27.0	28.0
Debtor days	14.3	10.6	11.0	11.0
Creditor days	116.2	110.4	109.0	105.0
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	12.6	13.4	6.1	14.0
RoCE	14.7	17.6	8.3	18.6
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	29.2	22.4	47.0	18.1
EV / EBITDA	14.8	11.1	19.9	8.9
EV / Net Sales	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.7
Market Cap / Sales	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.2
Price to Book Value	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.5
Solvency Ratios				
Debt/EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt / Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0
Quick Ratio	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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