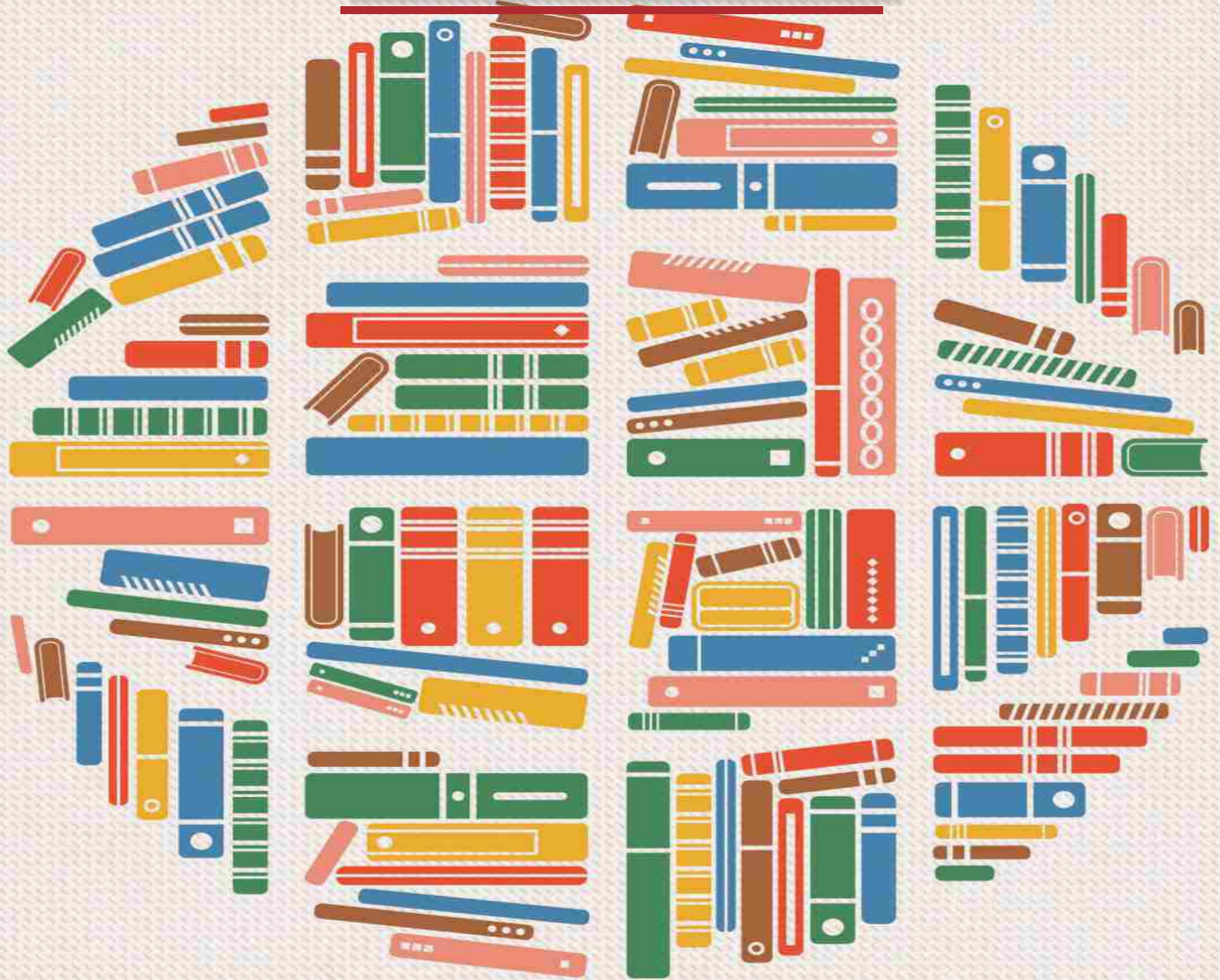


Stock **TALES**



Stock Tales are concise, holistic stock reports across wider spectrum of sectors. Updates will not be periodical but based on significant events or change in price.

Ramp up in lease portfolio provides significant upside

Nirlon is the owner, developer & manager of Grade-A office assets at Nirlon Knowledge Park (NKP) - a 23 acre Industrial/Information Technology Park located at Goregaon in Mumbai. NKP has 1.9 msf licensable area across four operational phases which are ~99% licensed. We like Nirlon given the quality of operational assets, strong backing by Reco Berry - an affiliate of GIC and the company ramping up licensing area by ~1.16 msf which would give a fillip to licensing income. We expect Nirlon's licensing fee income to grow 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7 crore during FY19-23E. Hence, we recommend **BUY** recommendation on the stock with a NAV-based TP of ₹ 300/share.

Licensing fees expected to grow 17.2% CAGR in FY19-23E

Nirlon has a total operational licensable area of ~1.9 msf across Phase I-IV at Nirlon Knowledge Park (NKP), of which, ~99% area is licensed out. It clocked lease revenues to the tune of ₹255.6 crore in FY19. The company is currently developing Phase-V at NKP with ~1.16 msf licensable area which is expected to become operational in FY21E. Accordingly, Nirlon's licensable area is expected to expand to ~3.0 msf over the next two years. With this, we expect the company's license fee income to grow by 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7 crore in FY19-23E.

Debt expected to peak out in FY20E; debt servicing comfortable

Nirlon's net debt stands at ₹848.3 crore (net D/E: 2.4x) as of FY19. We expect Nirlon's debt to peak out ~₹1,350 crore in FY20E post the completion of Phase-V and then is expected to come down over next 2-3 years. Nonetheless, we remain comfortable as it enjoys DSCR of 3.9x in FY19 on account of i) secure cash flows from existing operational assets ii) moratorium period on debt repayment. HDFC Ltd has granted moratorium on principal payment of existing debt to fund its Phase-V expansion. Even if moratorium period gets over post commencement of Phase-V, we believe Nirlon's DSCR would be comfortable at 1.5x, which would improve further to ~1.8x once Phase-V is 95% licensed. Hence, we remain comfortable on Nirlon debt position despite rise in debt on account of Phase-V expansion.

Valuation & Outlook

We like Nirlon given its quality Grade-A office assets backed by Reco Berry - an affiliate of GIC. It is also on the verge of ramping up licensable area by ~1.16 msf with construction of Phase-V at NKP in FY21E. We thus expect its lease revenues to grow 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7 crore during FY19-23E. Hence, we recommend **BUY** on the stock with a NAV-based target price of ₹ 300/share. In our valuations, we have considered a 9% cap rate and 15% discount rate. We see deep value in the stock as the planned expansion is not factored in CMP and on operational assets also, the implied cap rate works out to be 9% at current valuation.



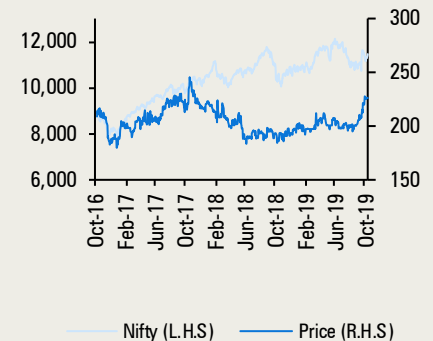
Particulars

Particulars	Amount (₹ crore)
Market Capitalization	2,027.7
Total Debt	853.4
Cash	5.1
EV	2,876.0
52 week H/L (₹)	235/ 165
Equity capital	90.1
Face value (₹)	10.0

Key Highlights

- Nirlon is owner of Grade-A office assets at NKP with licensable area of 1.9 msf.
- With operationalisation of ~1.16 msf in Phase-V, we expect its license fee income to grow at 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7 crore in FY19-23E.
- We recommend BUY on the stock with NAV based price target of ₹300/share

Price Chart



Research Analyst

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Key Financial Summary

(₹ crore)	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E	FY21E	CAGR (FY19-21E)
Net Sales	287.7	290.8	298.7	313.7	422.9	16.1%
EBITDA	221.8	220.2	226.1	238.1	296.0	11.5%
EBITDA Margin(%)	77.1	75.7	75.7	75.9	70.0	
Net Profit	51.1	55.7	63.7	81.0	57.9	-15.5%
EPS (₹)	5.7	6.2	7.1	9.0	6.4	
P/E(x)	39.7	36.4	31.8	25.0	35.0	
EV/EBITDA(x)	11.8	11.8	12.7	14.2	10.8	
RoE(%)	20.5	18.8	18.1	19.1	12.2	
RoCE(%)	15.4	14.4	12.4	9.2	10.0	

Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Investment rationale

Grade A office asset backed by GIC affiliated company

Nirlon is the owner, developer & manager of Grade-A office assets at Nirlon Knowledge Park (NKP) - a 23 acre Industrial/Information Technology Park located at Goregaon in Mumbai. It has presence in the western suburbs of Mumbai and is located adjacent to Western Express highway - one the main arterial roads and enjoys proximity to other key infrastructure like railway station and international airport. NKP consists of operational Grade-A office assets across four phases (Phase I – IV) with total licensable area of ~1.9 msf. The company is currently developing Phase-V having ~1.16 msf licensable area at NKP, which is expected to be completed by October, 2020. Once this asset becomes operational, Nirlon will have total ~3.0 msf licensable area in Q3FY21E.

Nirlon started planning of Nirlon Knowledge Park in 2006 and completed development of Phase-I in October 2009. Progressively, development of all four phases was completed by March 2015. In December 2015, Reco Berry Pvt Ltd (Reco), an affiliate of GIC Singapore acquired 63.9% stake in Nirlon for ₹1,280 crore vide an open offer (28.4% stake at ₹222/share) & agreements with promoters (35.5% stake). Pursuant to this, Reco Berry became one of the promoters and majority shareholder of Nirlon in 2015.

Exhibit 1: Nirlon Knowledge Park portfolio at a glance

NKP	Constructed Area (msf)	Licensable area (msf)	Completed in
Operational Area			
Phase-I	1.29	0.77	October 2009
Phase-II	0.38	0.31	June 2010
Phase-III	0.55	0.40	September 2013
Phase-IV	0.76	0.40	March 2015
Other Areas	0.01	0.02	
Total Operational Area	2.99	1.90	
Phase-V	~1.78	~1.16	Ongoing
Total Area	4.77	3.06	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 2: Nirlon Knowledge Park layout



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Some of the licensees at NKP

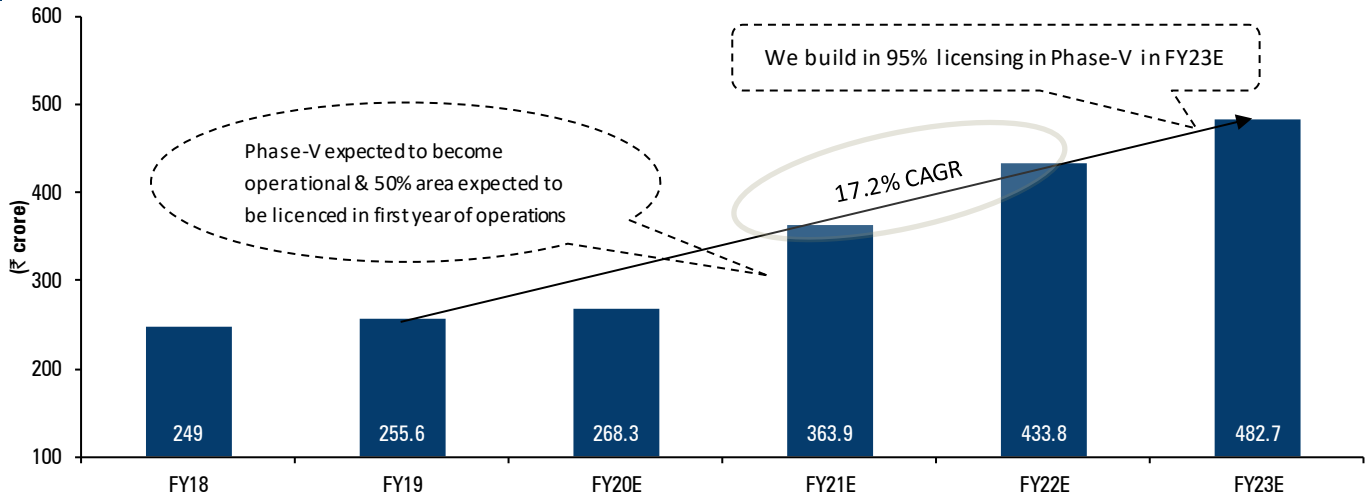


Ramp up in asset portfolio to drive strong license fees growth

At the 23 acre Nirlon Knowledge Park, the company has completed development of first four phases (Phase I-IV) which have a total operational licensable area of ~1.9 msf. Of this, ~99% area is currently licensed out to several leading and reputed international and Indian corporates viz. Citi, Barclays, Tata Consultancy Services, Morgan Stanley, EY, Subway, Barista Coffee etc. The company’s licencing fees grew by 7.5% CAGR to ₹255.6 crore in FY14-19. Average leasing rate for the operational assets (Phase I-IV) stood at ₹113 per sq. ft. per month during FY19.

The company is currently developing Phase-V at NKP with an estimated ~1.16 msf licensable area at an estimated cost of ₹1,198 crore. Construction of Phase-V is expected to be fully completed by Q3FY21E (0.73 msf expected to be completed by April, 2020 and balance area by October, 2020). Once this asset becomes fully operational, Nirlon will have total ~3.0 msf licensable area, which could lead to substantial jump in lease revenues and could provide stable stream of cash flows over long term. We build in 50% licensing at Phase-V in FY21E and expect it to steadily reach ~95% licensing by FY23E. Overall, we anticipate licensing fees to grow 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7 crore in FY19-23E.

Exhibit 3: Licensing fees expected to grow 17.2% CAGR in FY19-23E

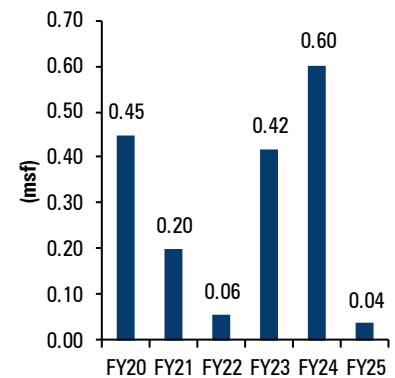


Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Nirlon has an escalation clause which enables it to enjoy 15-20% escalation on licensing fees every three years, which could drive rental growth, going ahead. Secondly, it has total ~0.65 msf area for renewals in FY20E & FY21E, of which, the company has already signed LOI to license 0.13 msf in Phase-I. With strong demand for office space in the Mumbai’s western suburbs, lease renewals at NKP paves way for significant upward revision in rental rates, which could boost rental income for the company.

Furthermore, NKP is eligible for ~3.34 msf FSI (includes fungible FSI), but has presently used ~2.75 msf including Phase-V, leaving a surplus eligible FSI of ~0.6 msf (equivalent to licensable area of ~0.7 msf, subject to payment of premiums). Utilizing this space could further boost licensing fees, going ahead. However, we have not built in the development given the lack of clarity over plans of the development.

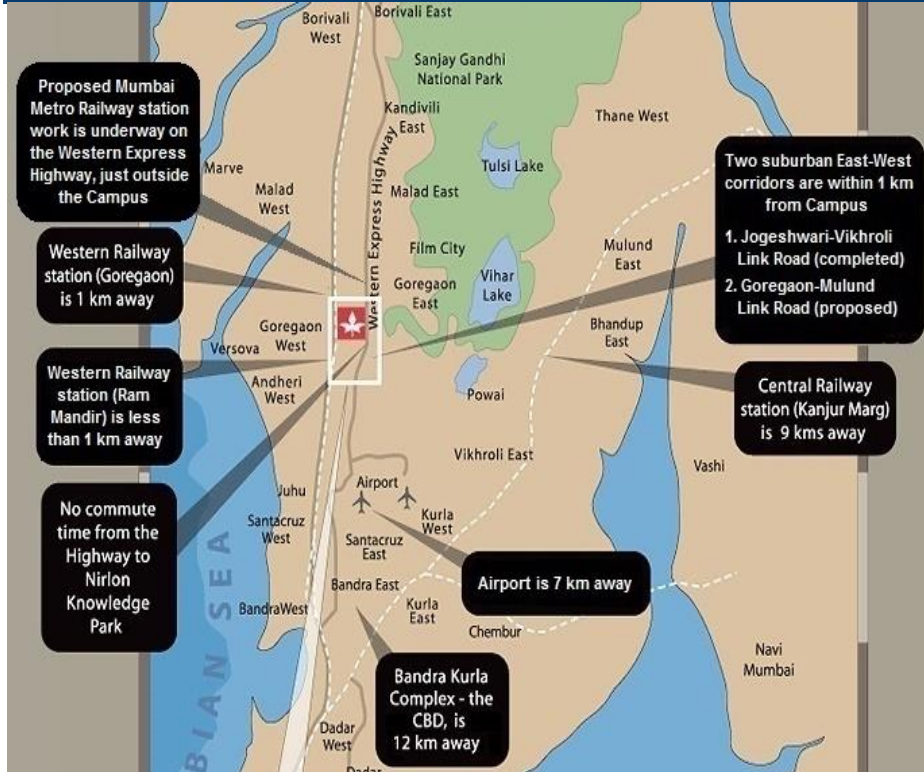
Area coming up for renewals



Well connected with proximity to key public infrastructure

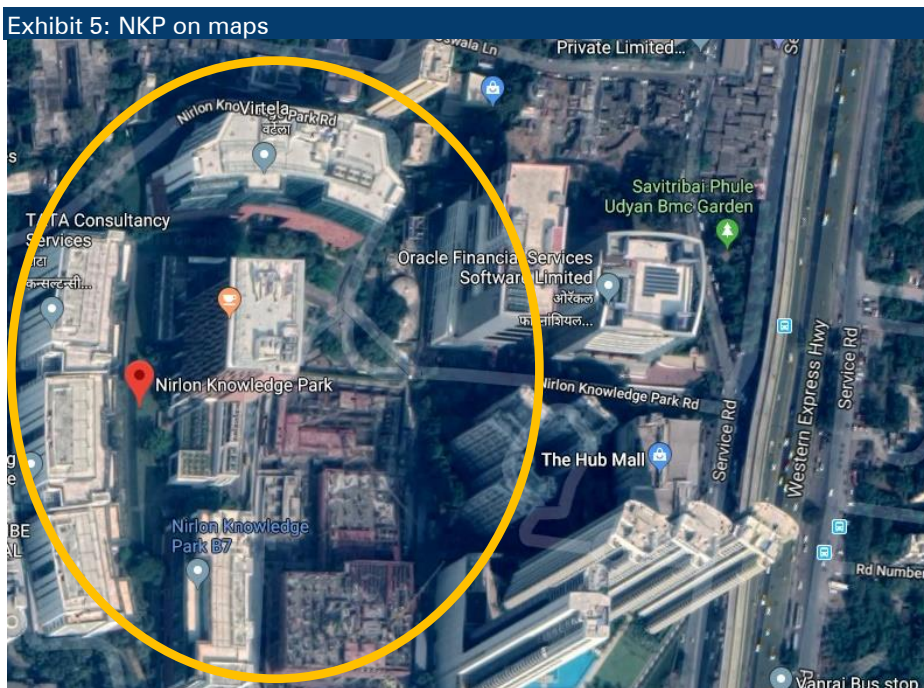
Nirlon Knowledge Park is located adjacent to the Western Express Highway, one of main arterial roads in Mumbai. It is located close to the international airport and also enjoys proximity to railway station. One of the under construction Mumbai Metro railway stations is located just outside the NKP campus. Being so well connected makes NKP a sought-after office property for companies as it makes commute convenient in a crowded metropolitan city like Mumbai. Also, the ongoing key public infrastructure upgradation near NKP could act as a tailwind in further driving value of Nirlon’s office assets in future.

Exhibit 4: Convenient location in Western suburbs



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 5: NKP on maps

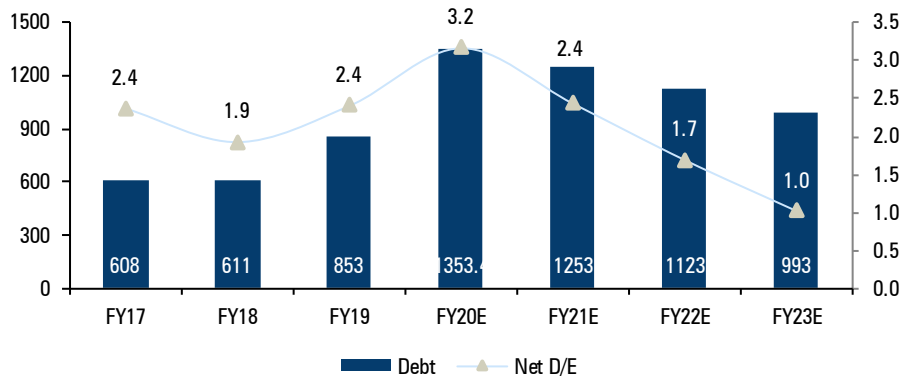


Source: Google Maps, ICICI Direct Research

Debt expected to peak out in FY20E

Nirlon reported net debt worth ₹848.3 crore (net D/E: 2.4x) in FY19. The company is currently developing Phase-V at NKP at an estimated cost of ₹1,198.3 crore, which would be partly funded through internal accruals (₹ 578.3 crore), deposits (₹ 35.0 crore) and debt (₹ 585.0 crore). Out of ₹1198.3 crore, it has already incurred ₹633 crore as on Q1FY20. Since, Phase-V is expected to get completed in FY20E, we believe Nirlon debt is expected to peak out in FY20E. We anticipate Nirlon’s debt to reach at ₹1,353.4 crore in FY20E. This would result in net D/E at 3.2x by FY20E end. Thereafter, it is expected to come down significantly when Phase-V is expected to get operational.

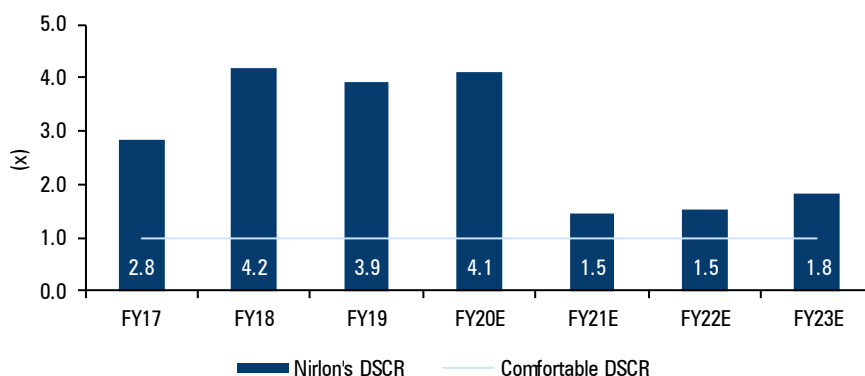
Exhibit 6: Debt expected to peak out at ₹1,353.4 crore in FY20E



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Although debt levels appear to be high, Nirlon’s debt serviceability ratio is currently at very comfortable at 3.9x. About 99% licensing of existing operational assets gives high visibility on cash flows, thus lending us comfort on debt serviceability. Another reason lending us comfort on debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) is the moratorium period on repayment of principal amount of debt. At the request of Nirlon, its lender - HDFC Ltd, has granted a moratorium on principal payment (effective from May 15, 2017), which requires the company to repay only the interest amount on these outstanding loans till FY23E or till Phase-V completion. Even if principal repayment starts post commencement of Phase-V, we believe Nirlon’s DSCR would be comfortable at 1.5x, which is expected to improve further to ~1.8x once Phase-V is 95% licensed in FY23E. Hence, we remain comfortable on Nirlon’s debt position despite rise in the debt on account of Phase-V expansion.

Exhibit 7: Debt service coverage ratio



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Mumbai market leasing on strong footing

Office space supply has been lagging demand since CY13, which has brought down vacancy levels, thus supporting rental growth. As per Knight Frank report, lease transactions in top eight markets in India grew 26% YoY to 27.4 msf, while weighted average rentals grew 10% YoY to ₹ 80 psf per month in H1CY19. IT/ITeS sector accounted for 35% of the lease transactions in H1CY19 compared to 28% YoY.

Mumbai office market lease transactions grew strongly by 61% YoY to 4.6 msf in H1CY19. These included large transactions from BFSI segment, media, consulting, e-commerce and co-working players. Average rentals grew 7.8% YoY to ₹117 psf per month during this period. Interestingly, office space vacancy was declined by 370 bps YoY to 17.8% in H1CY19. Western suburbs which includes Goregaon (where Nirlon Knowledge Park is located) contributed of 29% of total absorption in H1CY19. With strong leasing seen in the Mumbai office market and current trends showing strong demand for office space, Nirlon which has Grade-A assets that are already leased by leading international and domestic corporates would be the key beneficiary of this trend.

Exhibit 8: Mumbai market office transactions snapshot

	H1CY19	H1CY18	Change YoY	Comments
MMR office market at a glance				
Transactions (msf)	4.6	2.9	61%	
Weighted average rental (₹ psf per month)	117	109	7.8%	
Stock (msf)	142.5	138.4	3%	
Vacancy (%)	17.8%	21.5%	--	
Business District activity (transactions in msf)				
CBD & Off-CBD	0.09	0.08	15%	Nariman Point, Cuffe Parade, Ballard Estate, Mahalaxmi, Worli
BKC & Off-BKC	0.66	0.27	145%	BKC, Bandra (East), Kalina, Kalanagar
Central Mumbai	0.12	0.18	-32%	Parel, Lower Parel, Dadar, Prabhadevi
Western Suburbs	0.90	0.87	4%	Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad
Central Suburbs	1.34	0.55	143%	Kurla, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli, Kanjurmarg, Powai, Bhandup, Chembur
Peripheral Business District	1.45	0.86	69%	Thane, Airoli, Vashi, Ghansoli, Robale, Belapur

Source: Knight Frank, ICICI Direct Research

Key Risks & Concerns

- Low dividend payout ratio
- Lower than expected absorption and leasing in Mumbai office market

Valuations

We like Nirlon given its quality Grade-A office assets backed by Reco Berry – an affiliate of GIC. It is also on the verge of ramping up licensable area by ~1.16 msf with construction of Phase-V at NKP in FY21E. Hence, we expect its lease revenues to grow 17.2% CAGR to ₹482.7crore during FY19-23E. Hence, we recommend **BUY** on the stock with a NAV-based target price of ₹ 300/share. In our valuations, we have considered a 9% cap rate and 15% discount rate. We see deep value in the stock as the planned expansion is not factored in CMP and on operational assets also, the implied cap rate works out to be 9% at current valuation.

Exhibit 9: Valuations

Parameter	NAV (₹ crore)	NAV/share (₹)	Comments
NKP Phase I-IV	2986.1	331.3	We have considered cap rate of 9% and discount rate of 15% on FY20E basis
NKP Phase-V	1074.5	119.2	
Gross Asset Valuation (FY20E)	4060.6	450.6	
Less: FY20E Net Debt	1346.0	149.4	
Target Valuation	2714.5	301.2	
Rounded off target price		300.0	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Sensitivity Analysis

We have considered a cap rate of 9% and discount rate of 15% to value Nirlon’s office assets. Based on our analysis, every 1% change in our cap rate assumption will impact our target price by 5-9% whereas, every 1% change in our discount rate assumption will impact our target price by 7-11%

Exhibit 10: Sensitivity Analysis

Discount rate (%)	Cap rate (%)				
	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%
13%	420	390	360	340	320
14%	390	350	330	310	290
15%	350	320	300	280	270
16%	320	300	280	260	250
17%	300	270	250	240	220

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Financial summary

Exhibit 11: Profit and loss statement				
	₹ crore			
₹ crore	FY18	FY19	FY20E	FY21E
Net Sales	290.8	298.7	313.7	422.9
Other Income	2.8	1.3	1.4	1.4
Total revenues	293.6	300.0	315.1	424.3
Property Management Expense:	31.7	32.6	33.6	63.4
Employee Cost	5.7	4.7	5.0	-
Other Expenditure	33.2	35.3	37.0	63.4
Total Operating Expenditure	70.5	72.6	75.6	126.9
EBITDA	220.2	226.1	238.1	296.0
Interest	65.6	69.7	70.4	115.1
Depreciation	72.2	58.9	60.4	104.7
PBT	85.3	98.8	108.8	77.7
Tax	29.6	35.1	27.7	19.8
Reported PAT	55.7	63.7	81.0	57.9
Minority Interests	-	-	-	-
Profit for the company	55.7	63.7	81.0	57.9
EPS (₹)	6.2	7.1	9.0	6.4

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 12: Cash flow statement				
	₹ crore			
₹ crore	FY18	FY19	FY20E	FY21E
Profit before Tax	85.3	98.8	108.8	77.7
Depreciation	72.2	58.9	60.4	104.7
Interest paid	65.6	69.7	70.4	115.1
Cash Flow before wc changes	226.2	233.5	238.1	296.0
Net Increase in Current Assets	8.0	12.4	(3.8)	(24.1)
Net Increase in Current Liabilities	(1.3)	5.1	13.9	58.4
Net cash flow from op. activities	212.3	224.0	220.4	310.5
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(120.7)	(405.4)	(641.0)	0.3
(Purchase)/Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Net cash flow from inv. activities	(118.1)	(404.9)	(639.6)	1.7
Proceeds from Borrowing	96.9	242.5	500.0	(100.0)
Interest Paid	(68.0)	(86.7)	(70.4)	(115.1)
Dividend Paid	(6.8)	(6.8)	(8.1)	(8.1)
Net cash flow from fin. activities	(73.7)	147.7	421.5	(223.3)
Net Cash flow	20.5	(33.2)	2.3	88.9
Opening Cash	16.6	37.1	5.1	7.3
Closing Cash	37.1	5.1	7.3	96.3

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Balance sheet				
	₹ crore			
₹ crore	FY18	FY19	FY20E	FY21E
Equity Capital	90.1	90.1	90.1	90.1
Reserves & Surplus	206.8	262.3	335.2	385.0
Networth	296.9	352.5	425.4	475.1
Total Debt	610.9	853.4	1,353.4	1,253.4
Other non-current liabilities	138.3	157.1	162.5	197.3
Source of Funds	1,046.1	1,363.0	1,941.3	1,925.8
Gross Block	1,321.9	1,342.5	1,342.5	2,542.5
Less: Accumulated Dep	486.8	551.0	611.4	716.1
Net Block	835.2	791.5	731.0	1,826.3
Capital WIP	141.2	559.3	1,200.3	0.0
Total Fixed Assets	976.4	1,350.8	1,931.4	1,826.4
Other non-current assets	83.8	46.2	51.6	69.5
Inventories	-	-	-	-
Trade Receivables	2.6	2.4	2.5	3.4
Loans & Advances	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.1
Cash & Bank Balances	37.8	5.1	7.3	96.3
Other Current Assets	16.8	14.6	12.9	17.4
Total Current Assets	21.6	19.2	17.7	23.8
Trade Payable	8.4	7.7	8.1	10.9
Provisions	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Other Current Liabilities	64.6	51.1	59.1	79.6
Total Current Liabilities	73.5	59.3	67.7	91.3
Net Current Assets	69.7	11.2	8.9	98.4
Application of Funds	1,046.1	1,363.0	1,941.2	1,925.8

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 14: Key ratios				
	FY18	FY19	FY20E	FY21E
Per Share Data				
Reported EPS	6.2	7.1	9.0	6.4
Cash EPS	14.2	13.6	15.7	18.0
BVPS	32.9	39.1	47.2	52.7
Operating Ratios				
EBITDA / Net Sales	75.7	75.7	75.9	70.0
PAT / Net Sales	19.1	21.3	25.8	13.7
Return Ratios				
RoE	18.8	18.1	19.1	12.2
RoCE	14.4	12.4	9.2	10.0
RoIC	17.1	21.0	24.3	10.5
Valuation Ratios				
EV / EBITDA	11.8	12.7	14.2	10.8
P/E	36.4	31.8	25.0	35.0
EV / Net Sales	8.9	9.6	10.8	7.5
Market Cap / Sales	7.0	6.8	6.5	4.8
Price to Book Value	6.8	5.8	4.8	4.3
Turnover Ratios				
Asset turnover	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Gross Block Turnover	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Solvency Ratios				
Net Debt / Equity	1.9	2.4	3.2	2.4
Current Ratio	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Quick Ratio	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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