**RESULT REPORT Q4 FY24** | Sector: Automobile

# **Escorts Kubota Ltd**

## In-line; Valuations fully reflect merger synergies

### Valuation and View - Growth challenges in tractors led by high base

Escorts Kubota (ESCORTS) 4QFY24 results were steady with no major surprises across parameters. Better ASP, operating leverage and cost passthrough led construction equipment (CE) EBIT margins highest at 10.7% (+260bp YoY/ +240bp QoQ). However, the contraction in agri segment EBIT margins to 11.2% (+120bp YoY/ -270bp QoQ) is sharper than expected. The sustenance of margins to be influenced by weak operating leverage as tractor volumes are expected to be muted in 1HFY25E. The co guidance of low to mid-single digit volume growth for the domestic industry hinges primarily on normal monsoons as demand sentiments are weak. However, we remain constructive on growth opportunities for merged entity in tractor, implements, components sourcing and exports over mid-term.

We believe, EKL is more vulnerable v/s peers as 1) it derives ~70% of its revenues from agri segment and 2) aggressive expansion by Sonalika, TAFE, John Deere, etc. to necessitating tight balance between market share and margins. The valuations at 32.6x/28.8x FY25/26 EPS, do reflect positive synergies from merged entity. We believe, benefits arising out of Kubota JV to start reflecting meaningfully from 2HFY25E led by exports ramp-up and localization. Our FY25/26 EPS are largely unchanged as we maintain Neutral with revised TP of Rs3,232 (earlier Rs2,827). We value co at 27x Mar-26 EPS and build in revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 15.2%/21.3%/18.3% over FY24-26E.

#### Result Highlights - Contraction in agri EBIT sharper than expected

- Revenues declined 4.6% YoY (-10.3% QoQ) at Rs20.8b (est Rs20.7b, cons Rs20.7b) as Agri/Railways/CE revenues declined -10.7%/-10.1%/ +23.8% YoY. Agri ASP grew ~4% YoY (+2.6% QoQ) at Rs654.3k/unit (est Rs642.3k/unit).
- Gross margins came in better at 31.9% (+340bp YoY/+130bp QoQ, est 30.6%). However, this was offset by higher other exp at Rs2.4b (+2.5% QoQ, est ~Rs2.1b) led to EBITDA in-line at Rs2.65b (+12.8% YoY/-15% QoQ) with margins at 12.8% (+200bp YoY/ -70bp QoQ, in-line).
- Segmental EBITM Agri at 11.2% (+120 YoY/ -260bp QoQ), Railway at 16.9% (+290bp YoY/ -150bp QoQ), CE highest at 10.7% (+260bp YoY/ +240bp QoQ).
- Adj.PAT grew 18.8% YoY (+12.7% QoQ) at Rs2.42b (in-line).
- FY24 performance Revenue/EBITDA/Adj.PAT grew 5%/50%/55%.

#### **Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimates**

Rs mn		Estimate		% va		
	Actual	Yes Sec	Consensus	Yes Sec	Consensus	Remarks
Sales	20,825	20,698	20,748	0.6	0.4	
EBITDA	2,659	2,715	2,655	-2.1	0.2	In-line
EBITDA margins %	12.8	13.1	12.8	-30bp	Obp	performance
Adjusted 2,421	2,446	2,362	-1.0	2.5		

Source: Company, YES Sec



Reco	:	NEUTRAL
СМР	:	Rs 3,443
Target Price	:	Rs 3,232
Return	:	-6.1%

#### Stock data (as on May 09, 2024)

Nifty	21,958
52 Week h/I (Rs)	3,570 / 2,027
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	3,82,710 / 4,598
Outstanding Shares (mn)	108
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	1,101
Div yield (%):	0.2
Bloomberg code:	ESCORTS IN
NSE code:	ESCORTS

#### Stock performance



#### Shareholding pattern (As of Mar'24)

Promoter	67.7%
FII+DII	15.6%
Others	14.9%

#### $\Delta$ in stance

(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	NEUTRAL	NEUTRAL
Target Price	3,232	2,827

### $\Delta$ in earnings estimates

	FY25E	FY26E
EPS (New)	105.7	119.7
EPS (Old)	105.0	120.1
% change	+0.7%	(0.3%)

#### **Financial Summary**

Y/E Mar (Rs b)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	88.5	104.8	117.4
EBITDA	11.7	14.9	17.2
Adj. PAT	10.5	13.0	14.7
EPS (INR)	85.6	105.7	119.7
EPS Gr. (%)	24.1	23.5	13.2
BV/Sh. (INR)	749	848	961
RoE (%)	12.1	13.2	13.2
RoCE (%)	16.1	17.6	17.7
Payout (%)	8.2	6.6	5.8
P/E (x)	40.2	32.6	28.8
P/BV (x)	4.6	4.1	3.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.2	27.2	23.1
EV/Sales (x)	4.6	3.9	3.4

**DEEP SHAH** Lead Analyst







**Exhibit 2: Quarterly snapshot** 

Y/e Mar (Rs. mn)	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	YoY chg (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ chg	FY24	FY23	YoY chg (%)
Net Revenues	20,825	21,830	(4.6)	23,204	(10.3)	87,767	83,450	5.2
Raw Materials	14,181	15,615	(9.2)	16,092	(11.9)	60,371	60,669	(0.5)
% of Net Sales	68.1%	71.5%		69.4%		68.8%	72.7%	
Gross Margins %	31.9%	28.5%		30.6%		31.2%	27.3%	
Personnel	1,577	1,565	0.7	1,635	(3.6)	6,371	5,950	7.1
% of Net Sales	7.6%	7.2%		7.0%		7.3%	7.1%	
Manufacturing & Other Exp	2,408	2,291	5.1	2,349	2.5	9,338	9,026	3.4
% of Net Sales	11.6%	10.5%		10.1%		10.6%	10.8%	
Total Expenditure	18,166	19,471	(6.7)	20,077	(9.5)	76,080	75,645	0.6
EBITDA	2,659	2,358	12.8	3,127	(15.0)	11,688	7,804	49.8
EBITDA Margin (%)	12.8%	10.8%		13.5%		13.3%	9.4%	
Depreciation	441	380	15.9	415	6.2	1,667	1,484	12.3
EBIT	2,218	1,978	12.1	2,712	(18.2)	10,021	6,320	58.6
Interest Expenses	35	28	25.5	24	45.0	108	103	5.7
Non-operating income	1,053	763	38.1	1,035	1.8	3,983	2,806	42.0
Extraordinary Expenses	-	244.00		-		0	971	
PBT	3,237	2,470	31.1	3,723	(13.0)	13,895	8,052	72.6
Tax-Total	817	615	32.8	950	(14.0)	3,527	1,982	78.0
Tax Rate (%) - Total	25.2%	24.9%		25.5%		25.4%	24.6%	
Reported PAT	2,421	1,855	30.5	2,773	(12.7)	10,369	6,071	70.8
Adj. PAT	2,421	2,038	18.8	2,773	(12.7)	10,369	6,791	52.7
PAT Margin	11.6%	9.3%		11.9%		11.8%	8.1%	

Source- Company, Yes Sec

## **KEY CON-CALL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Agriculture (FES) segment -

- Outlook Expect low to mid-single digit growth in FY25E with decline in first few months.
  - Positive monsoon outlook would lead to industry growth pick-up post Sep'24.
  - Channel inventory is well in control at 37-39 days and would be lower than industry levels.
  - o South and West markets would likely be under pressure (while decline would not be as steep vs FY24) whereas central, north markets are expected to do well.
  - Have lost market share in North region over past 2 years. Second focus is West region (20% of volumes), South (15% of volume).
  - New products launches expected in FY25, especially will address white spaces.
- Agri machinery capacity utilization at ~80% in FY24. JV capacity utilization (18-20k for Kubota and Job work for Escorts) at ~50% and expected to inch-up of the overall capacity of ~50k units. Combined tractor capacity is ~180k units.
- New plant in RJ by FY27/28- in discussion with state government for land acquisition (~Rs4b) and fiscal incentives. Yet to close the deal. Expect overall capex at Rs40-45b over 4-5 years.
- Engine capacity existing plant will take care of Powertrac and Farmtrac where engine capacity is ~150-160k units.
  - Greenfield capacity will take care of engine requirements of Farmtrac and Kubota products.
- Channel expansion total dealer counts as of Mar'24 at >1,200 (flat QoQ).
- Exports EKL's exports at 1,341 units which declined YoY by 20.4% and 2.2% QoQ.
  - Exports sales through Kubota channel contributed +37% in 4QFY24 and +39% in FY24 (vs +47% in 3QFY24, ~31% in 2QFY24 and ~32% in 1QFY24 and ~30% in FY23).
  - Escorts exports market share at 5.1% in 4QFY24 and 5.7% in FY24 (vs 6.4% in 3QFY24 and ~10% in 9MFY24).
  - Outlook New product development meeting Kubota standards to complete by 3QFY25 which should drive volumes. Expect FY25E, exports to grow higher vs domestic growth.
- Farm implements opportunity will be sizeable Believe, major part of growth will come from JV as it has high value transplanters and combined harvesters. Combined entity (standalone and JV) would have revenue opportunity at Rs3-4b. Current penetration of tractor OEMs are 5-6% and the balance accounted by non tractor OEMs. Current products are largely traded with some components manufactured in India and outsourced.
- EKL's domestic market share at ~11.6% in 4QFY24 (vs ~10.5% in 3QFY24) and 10.3% in FY24.
- Domestic tractor volume mix
  - o Farmtrac/Powertrac at 47/53 (vs 43/57 QoQ and 44/56 YoY).
  - <40HP/>40HP 36/64 (vs 34/66 QoQ and 37/63 YoY).



### **Construction equipment**

- Outlook Expect positive volumes in FY25E despite some blip due to ongoing elections.
- Margins expansion was led by operating leverage, subsiding RM cost pressures and better price realizations, emission level inflation have also been fully passed on.
- Not much impact of Chinese imports China imports were more on larger and earth moving cranes. In PnC there is not much of Chinese imports.
- In 4QFY24, BHL Industry up by 16.7% YoY, PnC Industry grew 52.3% YoY, compactors industry grew by 42.2% YoY. EKL's CE volume grew 17.7% YoY (flat QoQ) at 1,798 units.
- Capacity utilization at ~70% in FY24.

#### **Railways**

- Outlook Expect double digit growth in FY25E.
- Order book at ~Rs9.5b (vs >Rs9b as of 3QFY24, Rs8.7b in 2QFY24, Rs9.5b in 1QFY24, Rs10.5b in 4QFY23).

#### **Financials**

- QoQ decline in Agri EBIT margins was led by negative operating leverage. Expect margins
  to recover slightly from current levels and stabilize at 13-14%.
- Price hikes early inflation of overhead costs etc. have been passed on with minor hike effective 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.
- Margins expansion in 4QFY24 YoY was led by better ASP, benign RM, cost control measures and operating leverage in CE and railway division.
- Capex for FY24 at Rs1.75b. FY25E capex expected at ~Rs3b (product side 33%, building green infra 33% and balance for CE and Railways) in addition to green field capex.
- **NBFC** applications made with RBI in Mar'24 and typical approval cycle is 6-8 months for opting license. Working on backend. Don't see financing issues on the retail front ahead.
- Net cash and investment at >Rs60b.
- **PBT contribution from JV is** Rs450m in 4QFY24. Going forward increased localization would help drive margins.
- Expect CE and railway EBIT (plus minus 100bp) margins to sustain at current levels in FY25E.

## **CHARTS**

Exhibit 1: Tractor volume fell ~14% YoY/ ~18% QoQ

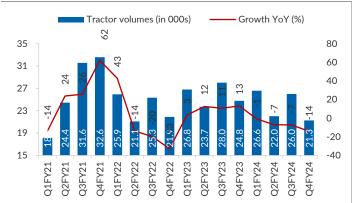
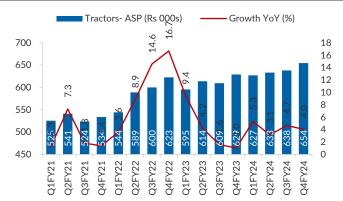


Exhibit 2: ASPs grew 4% YoY led by price hikes and mix



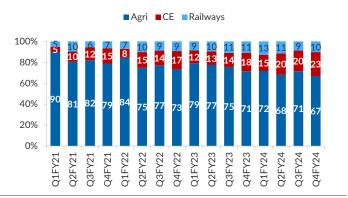
Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 3: CE volumes grew 18% YoY/ flat QoQ

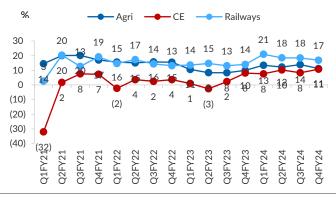


Exhibit 4: Segment wise revenue share trend



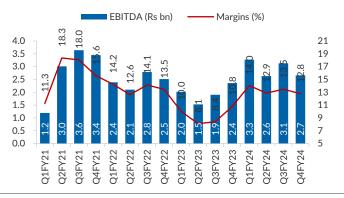
Source: Company, YES Sec

**Exhibit 5: Trend in segmental margins** 



Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: EBITDA margin contracted ~70bp QoQ



Source: Company, YES Sec



## **FINANCIALS**

**Exhibit 7: Balance Sheet** 

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Equity Share Capital	1,226	1,348	1,319	1,319	1,226	1,226	1,226
Total Reserves	29,948	48,913	74,680	80,548	90,658	102,747	116,552
Net Worth	31,174	50,261	75,999	81,867	91,884	103,973	117,778
Minority Interest	51	(9)	(38)	(39)	(39)	(39)	(39)
Deferred Liabilities	307	233	373	646	1,149	1,223	1,306
Total Loans	192	25	-	-	42	42	42
Capital Employed	31,724	50,511	76,334	82,475	93,036	105,198	119,088
Gross Block	28,253	28,652	29,973	31,687	33,406	35,245	37,213
Less: Accum. Deprn.	11,026	11,388	12,389	13,573	15,242	16,958	18,770
Net Fixed Assets	17,227	17,264	17,585	18,114	18,164	18,287	18,443
Capital WIP	1,044	647	878	1,137	1,515	1,362	1,527
Total Investments	7,974	20,079	49,184	48,465	52,746	55,383	58,152
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	23,678	30,792	23,431	33,135	40,365	51,009	64,322
Inventory	8,834	7,182	8,466	12,177	12,181	14,318	15,974
Account Receivables	7,319	6,576	7,926	11,797	11,732	14,930	16,731
Cash and Bank Balance	3,249	13,218	2,718	4,719	11,911	16,311	25,077
Loans and Advances	4,277	3,817	4,320	4,442	4,542	5,450	6,540
Curr. Liability & Prov.	18,211	18,271	14,743	18,375	19,754	20,843	23,357
Account Payables	16,648	16,763	13,341	16,912	18,156	18,950	21,235
Provisions	1,563	1,508	1,402	1,463	1,599	1,893	2,121
Net Current Assets	5,467	12,521	8,687	14,760	20,611	30,166	40,965
Deferred Tax assets	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appl. of Funds	31,724	50,511	76,334	82,475	93,036	105,198	119,088

Source: Company, YES Sec



**Exhibit 8: Income statement** 

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Total Income from Operations	58,101	70,144	72,827	84,287	88,496	104,799	117,438
Change (%)	(7.2)	20.7	3.8	15.7	5.0	18.4	12.1
Total Expenditure	51,477	58,877	62,872	76,512	76,829	89,902	100,275
% of Sales	88.6	83.9	86.3	90.8	86.8	85.8	85.4
EBITDA	6,624	11,268	9,954	7,775	11,667	14,897	17,163
Margin (%)	11.4	16.1	13.7	9.2	13.2	14.2	14.6
Depreciation	1,072	1,183	1,321	1,501	1,669	1,716	1,811
EBIT	5,552	10,085	8,634	6,275	9,998	13,181	15,352
Int. and Finance Charges	172	133	150	133	137	130	124
Other Income	976	1,604	1,738	2,809	3,986	4,105	4,229
PBT bef. EO Exp.	6,356	11,555	10,222	8,951	13,847	17,156	19,457
EO Items	(92)	-	-	(531)	-	-	-
PBT after EO Exp.	6,263	11,555	10,222	8,421	13,847	17,156	19,457
Current Tax	1,535	2,832	2,572	1,979	3,519	4,286	4,861
Deferred Tax	-	-	-	-	-	74	84
Tax Rate (%)	24.5	24.5	25.2	23.5	25.4	25.4	25.4
Less: Mionrity Interest	11	7	294	75	(164)	(164)	(164)
Reported PAT	4,717	8,716	7,356	6,367	10,491	12,960	14,676
Adjusted PAT	4,787	8,716	7,356	6,772	10,491	12,960	14,676
Change (%)	1.2	82.1	(15.6)	(7.9)	54.9	23.5	13.2
Margin (%)	8.2	12.4	10.1	8.0	11.9	12.4	12.5

Source: Company, YES Sec



**Exhibit 9: Cash Flow Statement** 

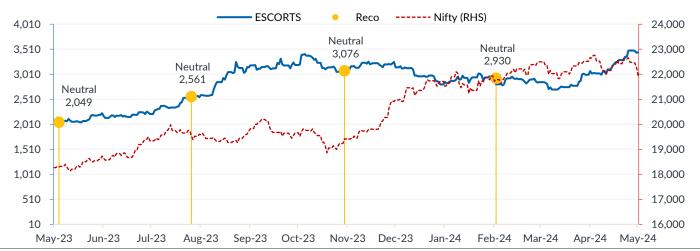
Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	6,253	11,548	9,928	8,346	14,010	17,143	19,445
Depreciation	1,072	1,183	1,321	1,501	1,669	1,716	1,811
Interest & Finance Charges	300	699	790	1,513	2,081	130	124
Direct Taxes Paid	(1,748)	(2,527)	(2,547)	(1,864)	(2,340)	(4,286)	(4,861)
(Inc)/Dec in WC	3,272	2,722	(6,526)	(4,102)	512	(5,155)	(2,033)
CF from Operations	9,148	13,625	2,966	5,393	15,932	9,549	14,486
Others	(1,177)	(2,338)	(2,644)	(3,154)	(5,610)	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	7,971	11,287	323	2,239	10,322	9,549	14,486
(inc)/dec in FA	(1,902)	(1,182)	(1,759)	(2,132)	(1,751)	(1,686)	(2,132)
Free Cash Flow	6,070	10,105	(1,436)	107	8,571	7,863	12,353
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	(2,699)	(10,568)	(28,434)	6,702	(1,363)	0	0
Others	388	(10,160)	11,625	(5,187)	(6,165)	(2,637)	(2,769)
CF from Investments	(4,212)	(21,910)	(18,567)	(618)	(9,279)	(4,324)	(4,902)
Issue of Shares	-	10,576	19,021	206	135	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	(82)	(60)	(78)	(71)	(84)	0	0
Interest Paid	(100)	(76)	(98)	(91)	(101)	(130)	(124)
Dividend Paid	(260)	(245)	(737)	(757)	(758)	(858)	(858)
Others	(2,563)	(161)	(8)	-	42	164	164
CF from Fin. Activity	(3,005)	10,033	18,099	(712)	(767)	(825)	(818)
Inc/Dec of Cash	754	(590)	(145)	909	276	4,400	8,766

Source- Company, Yes Sec

**Exhibit 10: Growth and Ratio matrix** 

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26
Basic (INR)							
EPS (ex treasury)	53.9	86.2	74.9	68.9	85.6	105.7	119.
Cash EPS	65.9	97.9	88.3	84.2	99.2	119.7	134.
BV/Share	350.7	497.0	773.6	833.3	749.5	848.1	960.
DPS	2.5	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Payout (%)	7.5	11.6	12.6	14.5	8.2	6.6	5.
Valuation (x)							
P/E	63.9	39.9	46.0	49.9	40.2	32.6	28.
Cash P/E	52.2	35.2	39.0	40.9	34.7	28.8	25.
P/BV	9.8	6.9	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.1	3.
EV/Sales	5.2	5.8	5.8	5.0	4.6	3.9	3.
EV/EBITDA	45.7	36.3	42.1	53.7	35.2	27.2	23.
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.
FCF per share	49.5	74.9	(10.9)	0.8	69.9	64.1	100.
Return Ratios (%)							
RoE	16.5	21.4	11.7	8.6	12.1	13.2	13.
RoCE	21.5	28.6	16.4	11.5	16.1	17.6	17.
RoIC	20.1	42.3	32.2	18.6	27.1	33.3	34.
Working Capital Ratios							
Asset Turnover (x)	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.
Inventory (Days)	83.9	56.4	62.1	72.6	73.0	73.0	73.
Debtor (Days)	46.0	34.2	39.7	51.1	48.4	52.0	52.
Creditor (Days)	104.6	87.2	66.9	73.2	74.9	66.0	66.
Working Cap. Turnover (Days)	13.9	(3.6)	29.9	43.5	35.9	48.3	49.
Leverage Ratio (x)							
Current Ratio	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.
Interest Cover Ratio	32.2	75.6	57.7	47.3	72.9	101.1	124.
Debt/Equity	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.

#### **Recommendation Tracker**



Source - YES Sec



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Analysts assign ratings to the stocks according to the expected upside/downside relative to the current market price and the estimated target price. Depending on the expected returns, the recommendations are categorized as mentioned below. The performance horizon is 12 to 18 months unless specified and the target price is defined as the analysts' valuation for a stock. No benchmark is applicable to the ratings mentioned in this report.

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