Stellar performance amidst the ongoing challenging environment, upgrade earnings and maintain our BUY rating!

Result Synopsis

Amidst the ongoing slowdown in overall macro spends, APL Apollo Tubes' (APAT) sales volume growth of 37%YoY in Q3FY25 & 19%YoY growth in 9MFY25 displays company's dominant position in structural steel tubes industry. The growth has been on the back of shift in demand from secondary to primary steel as the price difference between the two has narrowed down, and company's discounting policy to push volumes and gain market share. Despite the same, General products share to total volumes declined marginally to 44% Vs 45% in Q2FY25. Post, the severe dent on profitability in Q2FY25, APL's EBITDA/Te came in at Rs4,173/Te for Q3FY25. However, higher discounts and increase in other expenses capped the revival in profitability. Other expenses were higher due to increase in freight cost by Rs150Mn, Rs50Mn incremental power cost, and rise in plant operational cost by Rs100-150Mn.

Management Guidance

Management is on-track to deliver 3.1-3.2MnTe volumes for FY25E and company has maintained their guidance of 4Mn/5MnTe volumes by FY26E/FY27E respectively. Moreover, despite the drag in profitability in Q2FY25, company expects absolute EBITDA for FY25E to be higher Vs FY24 (i.e. ~Rs4,500/Te profitability in Q4FY25E).

Our View

We expect APL to deliver a volume CAGR of ~19% over FY24-FY27E, with improvement in macro environment, shift in demand towards primary steel, and rampup of Dubai & Raipur operations. Hence, we expect company's sales volume to come in at 4.41MnTe (Vs guidance of 5MnTe) by FY27E. Incrementally, growing application of APL products (in solar and other segments) and new up-coming capacities, we reckon volumes to accelerate. Moreover, with stability in HRC prices, expected rampup of Dubai & Raipur plant (higher share of VAP), and rolling-back of on-going discounts should enable APL to register EBITDA/Te of Rs4,500/Rs4,600 for FY26E/FY27E (Vs guidance of Rs5,000/Te by FY27E).

We have revised our EPS estimates upwards by 10%/6%/6% for FY25E/FY26E/FY27E respectively. At CMP, the stock trades at P/E(x) of 32x on FY27E revised EPS of Rs49.6 (nearly doubling from FY24 EPS). We continue to value APL Apollo Tubes at P/E(x) of 40x on FY27E EPS, on the back of higher growth and bottoming-out of profitability. Hence, we retain our BUY rating on the stock with target price of Rs1,984.

Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimates

Rs mn Actual	Astual	Estimate		% Va	Demerika	
	Actual	YES Sec	Consensus	YES Sec	Consensus	Remarks
Sales	54,327	50,056	51,625	8.5%	5.2%	_
EBITDA	3,456	3,396	3,318	1.8%	4.2%	Revenue above
EBITDA Margin (%)	6.4	6.8	6.4	-42 bps	-7 bps	estimates but margin in-line.
Adjusted PAT	2,170	2,033	2,052	6.7%	5.7%	in inc.

Source: Company, YES Sec



Reco	:	BUY
СМР	:	Rs 1,590
Target Price	:	Rs 1,984
Potential Return	:	+24.8%

Stock data (as on Jan 20, 2025)

Nifty	23,345
52 Week h/l (Rs)	1,729 / 1,305
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	429,830 / 4,970
Outstanding Shares (mn)	278
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	903
Div yield (%):	0.4
Bloomberg code:	APAT IN
NSE code:	APLAPOLLO

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Dec'24 end)	
Promoter	28.3%
FII+DII	48.2%
Others	23.5%

Δ in stance		
(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	BUY	BUY
Target Price	1,984	1,877

Δ in earnings estimates							
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E				
EPS (New)	24.8	41.1	49.6				
EPS (Old)	22.5	38.8	46.9				
% change	10.4%	5.9%	5.7%				

Financial Summary

Financial Summary									
(Rs mn)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E						
Net Revenue	210,482	260,244	308,096						
YoY Growth	16.2%	23.6%	18.4%						
EBITDA	11,498	17,247	20,275						
EBITDA (%)	5.5%	6.6%	6.6%						
PAT	6,883	11,401	13,769						
YoY Growth	-6.0%	65.6%	20.8%						
ROE	17.7%	24.5%	23.8%						
EPS	24.8	41.1	49.6						
P/E	64.1	38.7	32.1						
BV/Share	149.7	185.7	230.4						
P/BV	10.6	8.6	6.9						





SHALIN DAMANI, Associate



Result Highlights

- Revenue stood at Rs54.33Bn, a growth of 30%YoY (8% above our est and 5% above consensus est).
- Volumes (as mentioned in quarterly press release), were up by 37%YoY to 828KTe.
- ASP came in at Rs65,597/Te an improvement of 4%QoQ and decline of ~5%YoY.
- EBITDA/Te came in at Rs4,173 Vs our est of Rs4,100 and as compared to Rs4,636/Te in Q3FY24 & Rs1,821/Te in previous quarter which was severely dented by inventory losses.
- PAT stood at Rs2.17Bn, a growth of 31%YoY.

Exhibit 2: Quarterly Snapshot:

Rs mn	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	Q3 FY25	% уоу	% qoq	9M FY24	9M FY25	% уоу
Revenue	46,304	41,778	47,657	49,743	47,739	54,327	30.0	13.8	133,531	151,809	13.7
Expenditure	43,054	38,982	44,854	46,727	46,359	50,872	30.5	9.7	124,413	143,957	15.7
- RM	39,784	35,854	41,326	42,697	42,419	46,623	30.0	9.9	114,846	131,739	14.7
- Staff Cost	627	644	701	801	872	899	39.6	3.2	1,876	2,571	37.1
- Other Cost	2,642	2,484	2,827	3,229	3,068	3,350	34.9	9.2	7,691	9,646	25.4
Operating Profit	3,250	2,796	2,804	3,016	1,381	3,456	23.6	150.3	9,118	7,853	(13.9)
OPM(%)	7.0	6.7	5.9	6.1	2.9	6.4	-33 bps	347 bps	6.8	5.2	-166 bps
Other Income	196	150	186	247	148	217	44.1	46.5	563	611	8.6
Depreciation	413	471	466	465	469	503	6.9	7.4	1,293	1,437	11.1
Interest	266	285	311	278	364	368	29.1	1.2	823	1,010	22.8
PBT	2,767	2,190	2,212	2,520	696	2,801	27.9	302.5	7,565	6,017	(20.5)
Tax	738	535	508	589	158	631	18.0	300.1	1,945	1,378	(29.2)
PAT	2,029	1,655	1,704	1,932	538	2,170	31.1	303.2	5,620	4,639	(17.4)

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 3: Operational Numbers:

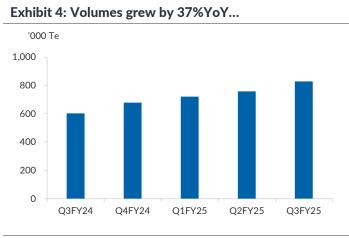
	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	Q3 FY25	% уоу	% qoq	9M FY24	9M FY25	% уоу
Volume ('000Te)	675	603	679	721	758	828	37.3	9.2	1,939	2,308	19.0
ASP (Rs/Te)	68,599	69,283	70,235	68,985	62,958	65,597	(5.3)	4.2	68,866	65,788	(4.5)
EBITDA (Rs/Te)	4,815	4,636	4,132	4,183	1,821	4,173	(10.0)	129.2	4,702	3,403	(27.6)



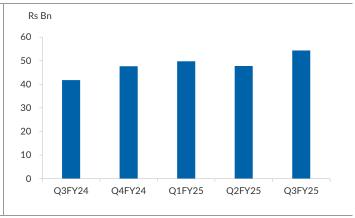
KEY CON-CALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Macro situation continues to remain challenging due to lower spends by Government and weak retail demand.
- Guidance: Sales volume of 4Mn/5MnTe by FY26E/FY27E respectively. For FY25E, company is on-track to achieve sales volume of 3.1-3.2MnTe with absolute EBITDA higher than FY24.
- Company continued its focus on growing volumes and gaining market share.
- Management stated that demand reviving from this quarter, company has received new orders in international markets as well. For January'25, company expects to achieve volumes of 280-285Kte.
- Management expect sales vols to increase on QoQ basis as demand in domestic market is shifting from sponge iron (scrap steel) to HRC based and the international sales should accelerate with ramp-up of Dubai plant.
- Currently Dubai plant is operating at 58% utilization level.
- Management is focused on enhancing the mix of VAP. Raipur plant operated at 55% utilization level during the quarter however, the volume-off take could have been better but company faced issues in terms of sourcing RM.
- Management aims to expand their presence in eastern markets, via their Gorakhpur and Siliguri facilities.
- On capex, company is on track to have a cumulative capacity of 5Mn Te by FY26E. Residual capex for new plant will be Rs6Bn in coming 3-4 quarters.
- Margins will improve with better operating leverage (benefit of Rs400-500/Te), rolling back of discounts (~Rs100-200/Te benefit) with improving macro scenario, and higher contribution of VAP with ramp-up of Raipur and Dubai plant (could improve profitability by Rs400-500/Te).
- Other cost was higher due to Rs150Mn incremental freight cost, Rs50Mn power cost, and plant operational cost of Rs100-150Mn.
- Of total capacity of 5MnTe, 1.5MnTe is general products, other 3.5MnTe is VAP.
- Currently Shankara is doing ~35kTe/month business for APL Tubes.





QUARTERLY TRENDS



Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: ASP declined by 5%YoY...

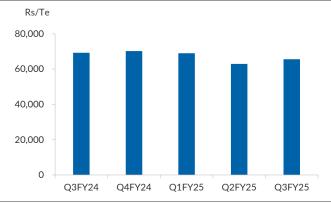
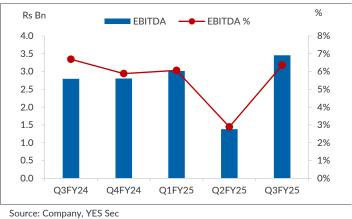


Exhibit 7: EBITDA margin stood at 6.4%...

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 5: Revenue was up by 30%YoY...



Source: Company, YES Sec



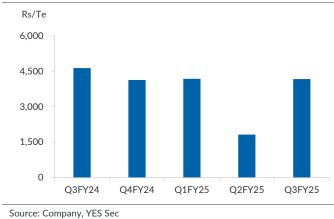
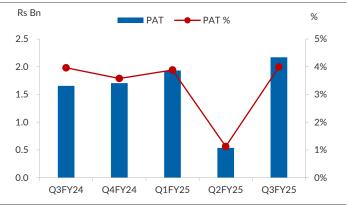


Exhibit 9: Net profit increased to Rs2.17Bn...



Source: Company, YES Sec



FINANCIALS

Exhibit 10: Income Statement

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenues	161,660	181,188	210,482	260,244	308,096
Growth (%)	23.8%	12.1%	16.2%	23.6%	18.4%
EBITDA	10,216	11,922	11,498	17,247	20,275
EBITDA margin (%)	6.3%	6.6%	5.5%	6.6%	6.6%
Growth (%)	8.1%	16.7%	-3.6%	50.0%	17.6%
Depreciation	1,383	1,759	1,946	2,040	2,133
Other income	472	749	799	947	947
EBIT	9,304	10,911	10,351	16,155	19,089
EBIT margin (%)	5.8%	6.0%	4.9%	6.2%	6.2%
Interest	671	1,134	1,163	936	709
PBT	8,633	9,777	9,187	15,218	18,380
Тах	2,215	2,453	2,305	3,818	4,611
Net profit	6,419	7,324	6,883	11,401	13,769
Net profit margin (%)	4.0%	4.0%	3.3%	4.4%	4.5%
EPS	23.1	26.4	24.8	41.1	49.6
Growth (%)	3.7%	14.1%	-6.0%	65.6%	20.8%

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 11: Operational Numbers

Per Te Analysis	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Volumes (Mn Te)	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.4
ASP	69,026	69,209	65,900	67,900	69,900
COGS	59,893	59,653	57,135	58,407	60,334
GP	9,133	9,555	8,765	9,493	9,566
Employee cost	880	984	1,049	1,049	1,021
Other cost	3,891	4,018	4,116	3,945	3,945
EBITDA (Rs/Te)	4,362	4,554	3,600	4,500	4,600



Exhibit 12: Balance sheet

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	555	555	555	555	555
Reserves	29,501	35,491	40,986	50,999	63,380
Total Shareholders' Funds	30,056	36,046	41,541	51,554	63,935
Liabilities					
Borrowings	8,729	11,246	9,246	7,246	5,246
Trade Payables	15,970	19,816	19,999	24,532	29,143
Others	3,761	4,760	4,880	5,068	5,260
Total equity and liabilities	58,516	71,868	75,665	88,400	103,584
Assets					
PPE	23,493	30,306	32,360	32,320	32,187
CWIP	3,740	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030
Inventories	14,799	16,379	19,139	23,478	27,891
Investments	960	1,027	1,027	1,027	1,027
Trade Receivables	1,374	1,391	1,616	1,998	2,365
Cash	3,525	3,476	1,698	8,840	18,500
Other Financial Assets	3,336	9,173	9,173	9,173	9,173
Others	7,290	8,086	8,622	9,534	10,411
Total assets	58,516	71,868	75,665	88,400	103,584

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 13: Cash Flow

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
РВТ	8,633	9,777	9,187	15,218	18,380
Depreciation & Amortization	1,383	1,759	1,946	2,040	2,133
Finance cost	671	1,134	1,163	936	709
(Incr)/Decr in Working Capital	(1,475)	1,202	(3,219)	(911)	(854)
Taxes	(2,161)	(2,180)	(2,305)	(3,818)	(4,611)
Cash from ops.	6,916	11,116	6,773	13,466	15,757
(Incr)/ Decr in PP&E	(8,621)	(6,948)	(4,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Cash Flow from Investing	(8,757)	(9,156)	(3,976)	(2,000)	(2,000)
(Decr)/Incr in Borrowings	2,902	2,586	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Finance cost	(602)	(941)	(1,163)	(936)	(709)
Dividend	(875)	(1,387)	(1,388)	(1,388)	(1,388)
Cash Flow from Financing	1,446	266	(4,551)	(4,324)	(4,097)
Incr/(Decr) in cash	(395)	2,225	(1,754)	7,142	9,660
Cash at beginning of year	1,637	1,227	3,452	1,698	8,840
Cash at end of year	1,242	3,452	1,698	8,840	18,500

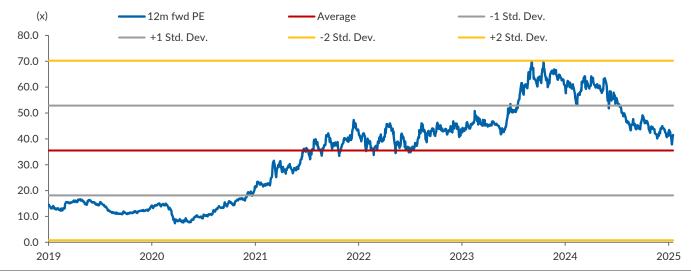


Exhibit 14: Key Ratios

Key Ratios	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Growth Matrix (%)					
Revenue growth	23.8%	12.1%	16.2%	23.6%	18.4%
EBITDA growth	8.1%	16.7%	-3.6%	50.0%	17.6%
EBIT growth	6.1%	17.3%	-5.1%	56.1%	18.2%
PAT growth	3.7%	14.1%	-6.0%	65.6%	20.8%
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	6.3%	6.6%	5.5%	6.6%	6.6%
EBIT margin	5.8%	6.0%	4.9%	6.2%	6.2%
PAT margin	4.0%	4.0%	3.3%	4.4%	4.5%
RoCE	27.8%	26.1%	21.1%	29.2%	29.3%
RoE	23.5%	22.2%	17.7%	24.5%	23.8%
Per share values					
EPS	23.1	26.4	24.8	41.1	49.6
CEPS	28.1	32.7	31.8	48.4	57.3
BVPS	108.4	129.9	149.7	185.7	230.4
Valuation ratios (x)					
P/E	51.8	60.2	64.1	38.7	32.1
P/CEPS	42.6	48.6	50.0	32.8	27.8
P/B	11.1	12.2	10.6	8.6	6.9
EV/EBITDA	33.2	37.6	39.0	25.5	21.1
Leverage ratios (x)					
Debt/ Equity	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Net debt/Equity	0.2	0.2	0.2	(0.0)	(0.2)
Net debt/EBITDA	0.5	0.7	0.7	(0.1)	(0.7)
Int coverage	13.9	9.6	8.9	17.3	26.9
NWC days					
Receivables	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Inventory	38.5	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.3
Payables	41.6	46.3	40.0	40.0	40.0

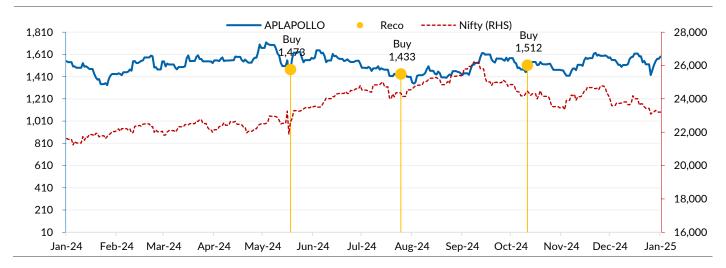


Exhibit 15: 1-year forward P/E (x) chart



Source: Company, YES Sec

Recommendation Tracker





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Analyst signature

Analyst signature

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