# Sona BLW Precision Forgings | BUY

Healthy operating performance; robust order book to drive growth

Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) consol. revenue was broadly in-line. EBTIDA margin at 28.2% was 50bps above our estimate. Margin improvement (+40bps QoQ) was led by favourable mix and higher operating leverage. Management indicated that US / EU / India light vehicle market remains healthy. EV revenue grew 12.5% QoQ led by ramp-up of new programs. Share of EV revenue stood healthy at 27% during 1H and the company continues to win new EV orders (c.78% of net order book). Strong net order book (INR 221bn as on Sept'23) and expansion in product portfolio (added 7 new products during 2Q) is expected to aid growth. Higher operating leverage is expected to support margins (LT guidance remains in the range of 25-27%). Diversified revenue, increasing share of EVs and strong order book makes Sona Comstar one of the best plays in the EV space. We expect Sona Comstar to post a c.28% / 36% revenue / EPS CAGR over FY23-26E. We maintain our BUY rating with Sept'24 TP of INR 700 (based on DCF). Key risks are delayed adoption of EVs and inability to win order for new products.

- 2QFY24 margin beats estimates: Sona Comstar reported consolidated revenue of INR 7.9bn (+20% YoY, +8%QoQ), broadly in-line with JMFe led by new order execution. Total revenue growth was ahead of the light vehicle sales growth in key markets (NA, India and Europe) owing to scale-up of revenue from new programs. EBITDA margin stood at 28.2% (+300bps YoY, +40bps QoQ), 50bps higher than JMFe. QoQ improvement in margin was led by favourable product mix and higher operating leverage. EBITDA came-in at INR 2.2bn (+35% YoY, +10% QoQ), 3% ahead of JMFe. Adjusted PAT stood at INR 1.3bn (+40%YoY, +13%QoQ), 6% ahead of JMFe.
- EV business: EV revenue during 2Q increased +58% YoY (+12.5% QoQ) to INR 2.07bn. Sequential improvement in EV business was due to ramp-up of new program related to E2W traction motor. Share of EV revenue stood at 27% during 1H (26% in 1QFY24). The company added two new EV programs 1) To supply rotor embedded differential subassemblies for high-performance electric PV worth INR 1.7bn (SOP in 2QFY25) to a newage NA EV OEM, 2) To supply mid-drive traction motors for E3Ws worth INR 3.7bn (SOP 3QFY25) to an Indian OEM of PVs, CVs, OHVs and EVs; totalling to 48 BEV programs with 28 different customers. Of these, 15 programs are in ramp-up phase and production is yet to commence for 23 programs.
- Demand outlook: Management highlighted UAW strike had some impact on revenue growth for 2Q and expects strike to end in the next few days. Overall, demand remains healthy (LV production grew by 14%) across key geographies like North America, EU and India. Aggregate value of the net order book increased by 1bn QoQ to INR 221bn (added INR 6bn worth new orders); orders for EV/ PHEVs stood at 78% of the net order book as at the end of 2QFY24. The company also indicated that EV Traction Motor programs are in ramp-up phase and expects Sensors' business (consolidated from Sept'23) to be the third pillar of growth going ahead.
- Other highlights: 1) During 2Q, the company added 7 new products, 2 each in Driveline and Motor segment and 3 products in Sensors' business. 2) The company is currently validating and testing design and performance of Equipmake products to check its suitability in Indian conditions and the product launch in India is expected by

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Ronak Mehta ronak.mehta@jmfl.com | Tel: (91 22) 66303125 Vivek Kumar vivek.kumar@jmfl.com | Tel: (91 22) 66303019

Recommendation and Price Target					
Current Reco.	BUY				
Previous Reco.	BUY				
Current Price Target (12M)	700				
Upside/(Downside)	36.5%				
Previous Price Target	700				
Change	0.0%				

Key Data – SONACOMS IN	
Current Market Price	INR513
Market cap (bn)	INR300.2/US\$3.6
Free Float	64%
Shares in issue (mn)	586.4
Diluted share (mn)	586.4
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR772.2/US\$9.3
52-week range	626/397
Sensex/Nifty	64,049/19,122
INR/US\$	83.2

Price Performance			
%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	-9.9	11.6	6.3
Relative*	-7.3	5.0	-1.1

\* To the BSE Sensex

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	20,525	25,875	33,348	42,100	53,831
Sales Growth (%)	37.9	26.1	28.9	26.2	27.9
EBITDA	5,589	6,958	9,703	12,812	16,422
EBITDA Margin (%)	26.2	26.0	28.0	29.0	29.2
Adjusted Net Profit	3,236	3,953	5,421	7,440	9,980
Diluted EPS (INR)	5.5	6.8	9.2	12.7	17.0
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	38.5	21.9	36.9	37.2	34.1
ROIC (%)	17.5	18.4	21.9	25.7	30.6
ROE (%)	19.6	18.4	21.7	25.0	27.5
P/E (x)	92.6	76.0	55.5	40.4	30.1
P/B (x)	15.0	13.1	11.1	9.2	7.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	53.9	43.2	31.0	23.4	18.0
Dividend Yield (%)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, Thomson Publisher & Reuters, S&P Capital IQ, FactSet and Visible Alpha

Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research Analyst Certification.

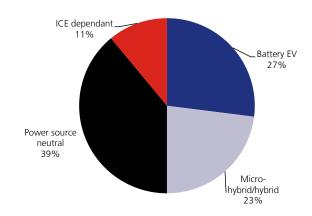
Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 2

4QCY25/1QCY26. 3) No customer is >20% of overall revenue. 4) The management indicated PLI benefit is linked with product approval and the company's product approval is in pipeline.

Exhibit 1. Quarterly financial performance - consolidated									
(INR mn)	Q2FY24	Q2FY23	% YoY	Q1FY24	% QoQ	Q2FY24E	Var (%)		
Sales	7,908	6,574	20.3	7,322	8.0	7,798	1.4		
RM	3,553	3,089	15.0	3,153	12.7	3,431	3.6		
as a % of sales	44.9	47.0	-210bps	43.1	190bps	44.0	90bps		
Employee Exp	550	442	24.6	491	12.0	522	5.3		
as a % of sales	7.0	6.7	20bps	6.7	20bps	6.7	30bps		
Other Costs	1,572	1,386	13.4	1,644	(4.4)	1,684	(6.7)		
as a % of sales	19.9	21.1	-120bps	22.4	-260bps	21.6	-170bps		
Expenditure	5,675	4,917	15.4	5,288	7.3	5,638	0.7		
EBITDA	2,233	1,657	34.8	2,034	9.8	2,160	3.4		
EBITDA Margin (%)	28.2	25.2	300bps	27.8	40bps	27.7	50bps		
Other Income	61	28	115.7	54	14	60	1.9		
Interest	60	43	39.0	53	12	65	(7.6)		
Depreciation	534	429	24.5	511	5	526	1.6		
PBT	1,700	1,213	40.1	1,523	12	1,629	4.3		
Tax	401	287	39.4	375	7	407	(1.6)		
Exceptional item	(59)	(0)	nmf	(28)	nmf	-	nmf		
PAT (Adjusted)	1,299	926	40.4	1,149	13.1	1,222	6.3		
EPS (INR)	2.2	1.6	37.4	2.0	13.1	2.1	6.3		

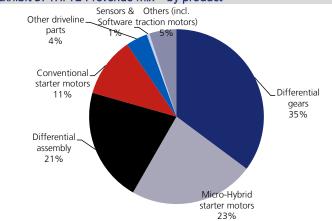
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 2. 1HFY24 revenue mix - by powertrain



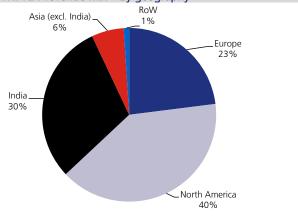
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. 1HFY24 revenue mix – by product



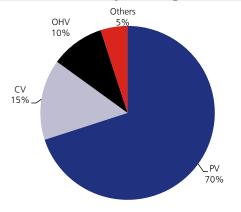
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. 1HFY24 revenue mix - by geography

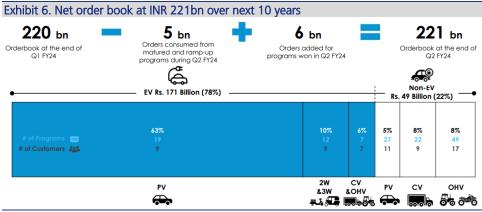


Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 5. 1HFY24 revenue mix by vehicle segment

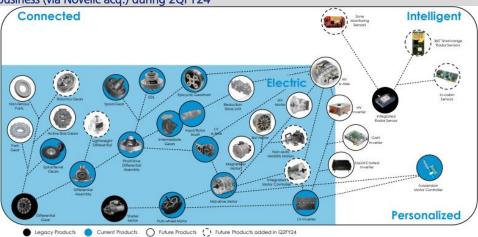


Source: Company, JM Financial



Source: Company, JM Financial; Note: net order book means the aggregate revenue from awarded programs which are either yet to start production or are yet to fully ramp up, in the next 10 years, after adjusting for the negative impact of all programs that are expected to reach end of life or be phased out. The company has also applied a discount to accommodate any unforeseen delays or changes in program launches that may happen in the future.

Exhibit 7. Added 7 new products - 2 each in Driveline and Motor business and 3 in Sensors business (via Novelic acq.) during 2QFY24



Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 8. DCF based valuation						
	Value (INR bn)	Per share value (INR)				
Enterprise value (based on DCF)	411	699				
Less: Net debt (FY23)	-1	-1				
Fair value		700				

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 9. Sona BLW Precision Forgings - Change in estimates									
Sona Comstar	New assumption		Old assumption			% Change			
Sona Constan	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue (INR mn)	34,647	44,163	56,256	35,557	45,180	57,362	-3%	-2%	-2%
EBITDA (INR mn)	9,703	12,812	16,422	9,959	13,083	16,732	-3%	-2%	-2%
EBITDA margin (%)	28.0%	29.0%	29.2%	28.0%	29.0%	29.2%	0bps	0bps	0bps
PAT (INR mn)	5,421	7,440	9,980	5,593	7,627	10,173	-3%	-2%	-2%
EPS (INR)	9.2	12.7	17.0	9.6	13.0	17.4	-3%	-3%	-2%

Source: Company, JM Financial

## Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Income Statement				(	INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	20,525	25,875	33,348	42,100	53,831
Sales Growth	37.9%	26.1%	28.9%	26.2%	27.9%
Other Operating Income	780	881	1,299	2,064	2,425
Total Revenue	21,306	26,756	34,647	44,163	56,256
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	9,456	12,200	15,180	18,895	24,356
Personnel Cost	1,689	1,804	2,268	2,819	3,533
Other Expenses	4,571	5,794	7,495	9,638	11,945
EBITDA	5,589	6,958	9,703	12,812	16,422
EBITDA Margin	26.2%	26.0%	28.0%	29.0%	29.2%
EBITDA Growth	26.7%	24.5%	39.4%	32.0%	28.2%
Depn. & Amort.	1,420	1,780	2,347	2,741	3,113
EBIT	4,169	5,178	7,356	10,071	13,308
Other Income	90	116	137	154	199
Finance Cost	183	169	253	288	288
PBT before Excep. & Forex	4,077	5,125	7,239	9,936	13,219
Excep. & Forex Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	C
PBT	4,077	5,125	7,239	9,936	13,219
Taxes	841	1,171	1,819	2,496	3,239
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	377	0	0	0	C
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	0	0	0	0	C
Reported Net Profit	3,613	3,953	5,421	7,440	9,980
Adjusted Net Profit	3,236	3,953	5,421	7,440	9,980
Net Margin	15.2%	14.8%	15.6%	16.8%	17.7%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	584.4	585.4	586.4	586.4	586.4
Diluted EPS (INR)	5.5	6.8	9.2	12.7	17.0
Diluted EPS Growth	38.5%	21.9%	36.9%	37.2%	34.1%
Total Dividend + Tax	907	1,200	1,355	1,860	2,495
Dividend Per Share (INR)	1.6	2.1	2.3	3.2	4.3

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Shareholders' Fund	20,003	22,902	26,968	32,548	40,033
Share Capital	5,844	5,854	5,854	5,854	5,854
Reserves & Surplus	14,159	17,048	21,114	26,694	34,179
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Total Loans	1,511	2,952	3,894	3,843	3,795
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	0	0	0	0	0
Total - Equity & Liab.	21,514	25,854	30,861	36,391	43,828
Net Fixed Assets	13,557	15,029	16,443	18,087	19,228
Gross Fixed Assets	15,438	19,253	23,425	27,810	32,064
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Depn. & Amort.	3,355	5,135	7,482	10,223	13,337
Capital WIP	1,474	911	500	500	500
Investments	130	2,418	652	2,152	4,652
Current Assets	12,271	13,151	19,609	23,025	28,244
Inventories	3,634	3,229	4,691	5,813	7,351
Sundry Debtors	4,452	6,089	7,247	9,225	10,983
Cash & Bank Balances	773	698	2,723	2,967	4,814
Loans & Advances	0	0	0	0	0
Other Current Assets	3,412	3,134	4,947	5,020	5,096
Current Liab. & Prov.	4,443	4,744	5,842	6,873	8,296
Current Liabilities	3,353	3,629	4,671	5,644	7,005
Provisions & Others	1,090	1,115	1,171	1,229	1,291
Net Current Assets	7,827	8,406	13,767	16,152	19,948
Total – Assets	21,514	25,854	30,861	36,391	43,828

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement				(	INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Profit before Tax	4,077	5,125	7,239	9,936	13,219
Depn. & Amort.	1,420	1,780	2,347	2,741	3,113
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	183	169	253	288	288
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-746	-646	-1,635	-2,188	-1,997
Others	377	0	0	0	0
Taxes Paid	-841	-1,171	-1,819	-2,496	-3,239
Operating Cash Flow	4,470	5,257	6,386	8,282	11,384
Capex	-3,737	-3,252	-3,761	-4,385	-4,254
Free Cash Flow	733	2,004	2,625	3,897	7,130
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	-72	-2,288	1,767	-1,500	-2,500
Others	0	0	-1,744	0	0
Investing Cash Flow	-3,809	-5,541	-3,738	-5,885	-6,754
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	114	11	0	0	0
Dividend + Tax thereon	-907	-1,200	-1,355	-1,860	-2,495
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	-3,138	1,271	689	-339	-336
Others	3,767	128	44	46	48
Financing Cash Flow	-164	210	-622	-2,153	-2,783
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	497	-74	2,025	244	1,847
Opening Cash Balance	276	773	698	2,723	2,967
Closing Cash Balance	772	698	2,723	2,967	4,814

Dupont Analysis										
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E					
Net Margin	15.2%	14.8%	15.6%	16.8%	17.7%					
Asset Turnover (x)	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4					
Leverage Factor (x)	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1					
RoE	19.6%	18.4%	21.7%	25.0%	27.5%					

Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
BV/Share (INR)	34.2	39.1	46.1	55.6	68.4
ROIC	17.5%	18.4%	21.9%	25.7%	30.6%
ROE	19.6%	18.4%	21.7%	25.0%	27.5%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1
P/E (x)	92.6	76.0	55.5	40.4	30.1
P/B (x)	15.0	13.1	11.1	9.2	7.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	53.9	43.2	31.0	23.4	18.0
EV/Sales (x)	14.1	11.2	8.7	6.8	5.2
Debtor days	76	83	76	76	71
Inventory days	62	44	49	48	48
Creditor days	78	67	68	66	64

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Recommendation and Target Price								
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.					
19-Aug-21	Buy	570						
28-Oct-21	Buy	700	22.8					
1-Feb-22	Buy	750	7.1					
5-May-22	Buy	750	0.0					
15-Jun-22	Buy	750	0.0					
28-Jul-22	Buy	750	0.0					
30-Oct-22	Buy	700	-6.7					
25-Jan-23	Buy	700	0.0					
10-Apr-23	Buy	665	-5.0					
3-May-23	Buy	665	0.0					
27-Jul-23	Buy	700	5.3					



### APPENDIX I

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Member of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

SEBI Registration Nos.: Stock Broker - INZ000163434, Research Analyst - INH000000610

Registered Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, India.

Board: +91 22 6630 3030 | Fax: +91 22 6630 3488 | Email: jmfinancial.research@jmfl.com | www.jmfl.com

Compliance Officer: Mr. Sahil Salastekar | Tel: +91 22 6224 1073 | Email: instcompliance@jmfl.com

Grievance officer: Mr. Sahil Salastekar | Tel: +91 22 6224 1073 | Email: instcompliance@jmfl.com

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Definition of	Definition of ratings				
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Hold	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with mar capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.				
Sell	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.				

<sup>\*</sup> REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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