KEC International | BUY

Weak quarter; on a strong growth trajectory

KEC International (KEC) reported weak earnings in 2Q26 as PAT at INR 1.6bn was below JMFe/consensus of INR 1.8bn due to higher interest and depreciation. While execution was strong in 2Q led by T&D, debt rose to record highs of INR 65bn amid rise in NWC levels. NWC rose QoQ to 138 days in Sept-25 due to delay in JJM payments, back ended payments in metro projects and payment spillover in Afghanistan projects. KEC expects NWC to normalize by Mar-26. Factoring in 1H26, we have lowered other income and increased interest cost estimates leading to EPS cuts of 8%/2% in FY26/27E. Backed by recovery in margins from a cyclical bottom, we expect robust 42% EPS CAGR over FY25-28E. Further, after the recent correction in stock, KEC is currently trading attractively at 15x/12x FY27/28E EPS. Hence, we upgrade the stock from HOLD to BUY with a revised price target of INR 915 (17x Sept-27 EPS).

- Earnings below JMFe due to higher interest and depreciation expenses: Consolidated revenue grew by 19% YoY to INR 61bn (JMFe: INR 59bn) led by 44% growth in T&D revenue to INR 40.8bn while non-T&D revenue declined by 12% YoY. EBITDA grew by INR 34% YoY to INR 4.3bn (in-line) while EBITDA margin expanded by 80bps YoY to 7.1% (JMFe: 7.3%). Standalone EBITDA margin at 6.2% (+110bps YoY) was below consolidated margins of 7.1% due to margin erosion in legacy ME projects and profit capture in Dubai/ME fabrication business in subsidiary. Other income declined sharply by 30% YoY to INR 46mn (JMFe: INR 100mn). Interest costs grew by 2% YoY/14% QoQ to INR 1.72bn (2.8% of sales) due to higher debt levels. PAT at INR 1.6bn was below JMFe of INR 1.8bn due to higher interest and depreciation expenses.
- NWC and debt levels rise in 2Q: KEC's NWC increased QoQ from 128 days in Jun-25 to 138 days in Sept-25 due to delay in JJM payments, spillover in Afghanistan projects and back ended payments in the metro projects. KEC expects NWC to normalize by Mar-26 led by improved recoveries from JJM projects, Afghanistan payments (c.INR 2.7bn) and release of payments from completed metro projects. Net debt + acceptances rose sharply by INR 11bn QoQ/INR 12bn YoY to record highs of INR 64.8bn due to increased execution and rise in NWC. KEC's JJM order backlog stood at INR 16bn as of Sept-25 dominated by Orissa (INR 10bn) and MP (INR 6bn). Outstanding debtors in the water vertical stand at c.INR 8.75bn.
- Maintains FY26 revenue and order inflow guidance; bid pipeline robust at INR 1.8tn: With strong order inflows of INR 161bn in YTD, KEC's order backlog stood at INR 393bn (1.7x TTM revenues) as of Sept-25. Additionally, KEC is also L1 in orders of INR 50bn+ (largely T&D). With a robust bid pipeline of INR 1.8tn dominated by T&D (c.INR 650bn) & Civil (c.INR 600bn), KEC is confident of achieving inflows of INR 300bn for FY26E. KEC has maintained its FY26 revenue growth guidance of 15% with EBITDA margins of 8% (earlier: 8-8.5%).
- Upgrade to BUY: We like KEC given its diversified capabilities, huge opportunity potential, industry leading return ratios and strong parentage. EBITDA margins have been impacted due to few legacy projects and losses in Railways vertical. Factoring in 1H26 performance, we have lowered other income and increased interest cost estimates leading to EPS cuts of 8%/2% in FY26/27E. Backed by recovery in margins from a cyclical bottom, we expect robust 42% EPS CAGR over FY25-28E. Further, after the recent correction in the stock, KEC is currently trading attractively at 15x/12x FY27/28E EPS. Hence, we upgrade the stock from HOLD to BUY with a revised price target of INR 915 (17x Sept-27 EPS).



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Recommendation and Price Target	
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	HOLD
Current Price Target (12M)	915
Upside/(Downside)	26.7%
Previous Price Target	900
Change	1.7%

Key Data – KECI IN	
Current Market Price	INR722
Market cap (bn)	INR192.3/US\$2.2
Free Float	50%
Shares in issue (mn)	266.2
Diluted share (mn)	266.2
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR836.5/US\$9.4
52-week range	1,313/605
Sensex/Nifty	83,535/25,574
INR/US\$	88.7

Price Performance								
%	1M	6M	12M					
Absolute	-15.4	3.9	-29.2					
Relative*	-16.5	-1.1	-32.7					

^{*} To the BSE Sensex

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,99,142	2,18,467	2,52,209	2,90,303	3,28,471
Sales Growth (%)	15.2	9.7	15.4	15.1	13.1
EBITDA	12,146	15,039	19,879	25,421	29,553
EBITDA Margin (%)	6.1	6.9	7.9	8.8	9.0
Adjusted Net Profit	3,468	5,468	9,281	13,016	15,639
Diluted EPS (INR)	13.5	20.5	34.9	48.9	58.7
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	97.0	52.3	69.7	40.3	20.2
ROIC (%)	8.7	9.9	11.8	13.1	13.9
ROE (%)	8.8	11.6	16.2	19.5	19.8
P/E (x)	45.1	43.6	20.7	14.8	12.3
P/B (x)	3.8	4.5	3.1	2.7	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.8	17.9	11.5	8.9	7.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.2

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 10/Nov/2025

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, FactSet, LSEG and S&P Capital IQ.

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

Exhibit 1. Quarterly consolidated financials											
INR mn	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	FY25	1QFY26	2QFY26	2QFY26E	Variance (%)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	51,133	53,494	68,721	2,18,467	50,229	60,916	58,803	3.6%	2,52,209	2,90,303	3,28,471
EBIDTA	3,202	3,745	5,388	15,039	3,501	4,304	4,316	-0.3%	19,879	25,421	29,553
EBIDTA margin (%)	6.3%	7.0%	7.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%		7.9%	8.8%	9.0%
Other income	66	9	202	469	54	46	100	-53.7%	338	359	362
Depreciation	453	453	465	1,837	459	506	470	7.6%	2,008	2,258	2,508
Interest	1,681	1,702	1,703	6,636	1,511	1,715	1,600	7.2%	6,379	6,618	7,096
PBT	1,135	1,598	3,422	7,035	1,585	2,130	2,346	-9.2%	11,830	16,904	20,311
Tax	281	303	740	1,568	339	522	540		2,549	3,888	4,671
Effective tax rate (%)	24.7%	18.9%	21.6%	22.3%	21.4%	24.5%	23.0%		21.6%	23.0%	23.0%
PAT	854	1,296	2,682	5,468	1,246	1,608	1,806	-11.0%	9,281	13,016	15,639
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-240	-	-	-		-	-	-
Reported PAT	854	1,296	2,682	5,708	1,246	1,608	1,806	-11.0%	9,281	13,016	15,639
YoY Growth (%)											
Net sales	13.7%	6.8%	11.5%	9.7%	11.3%	19.1%			15.4%	15.1%	13.1%
EBITDA	16.7%	21.6%	38.9%	23.8%	29.5%	34.4%			32.2%	27.9%	16.3%
Other income	-58.1%	-96.5%	159.3%	-10.6%	-71.8%	-30.2%			-27.9%	6.2%	0.9%
Depreciation	-2.6%	-7.1%	-3.6%	-0.9%	-1.4%	11.6%			9.3%	12.5%	11.1%
Interest	-5.5%	3.6%	10.4%	1.3%	-2.5%	2.0%			-3.9%	3.7%	7.2%
PBT	72.5%	32.4%	77.0%	65.0%	80.0%	87.7%			68.2%	42.9%	20.2%
Adjusted PAT	53.0%	33.7%	76.7%	57.7%	96.0%	88.2%			69.7%	40.3%	20.2%
Reported PAT	53.0%	33.7%	76.7%	64.6%	42.3%	88.2%			62.6%	40.3%	20.2%

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 2. Standalone of	Exhibit 2. Standalone quarterly results										
INR mn	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	FY25	1QFY26	2QFY26					
Net Sales	44,838	47,576	60,480	1,91,778	40,299	49,485					
EBIDTA	2,302	2,809	3,524	10,372	1,970	3,075					
EBIDTA margin (%)	5.1%	5.9%	5.8%	5.4%	4.9%	6.2%					
Other income	327	38	276	838	85	95					
Depreciation	370	373	338	1,458	323	359					
Interest	1,520	1,541	1,385	5,812	1,234	1,459					
PBT	739	933	2,077	3,940	498	1,352					
Tax	158	204	470	941	129	295					
Effective tax rate (%)	21.3%	21.9%	22.6%	23.9%	26.0%	21.8%					
PAT	581	729	1,607	2,999	368	1,057					
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-240	-	-					
Reported PAT	581	729	1,607	3,239	368	1,057					
YoY Growth (%)											
Net sales	12.6%	8.2%	14.1%	10.3%	3.6%	10.4%					
EBITDA	25.2%	33.4%	24.1%	22.3%	13.4%	33.6%					
Interest	-1.9%	5.4%	1.6%	1.5%	-9.6%	-4.1%					
PBT	689.5%	66.9%	71.8%	105.6%	160.9%	83.0%					
Adjusted PAT	758.9%	65.5%	72.9%	103.3%	351.9%	81.8%					
Reported PAT	758.9%	65.5%	72.9%	119.5%	14.6%	81.8%					

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. Change in estimates										
INR mn		FY26E			FY27E			FY28E		
	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)	
Revenue	2,52,209	2,50,182	0.8%	2,90,303	2,88,185	0.7%	3,28,471	3,25,952	0.8%	
EBITDA	19,879	20,523	-3.1%	25,421	25,494	-0.3%	29,553	29,192	1.2%	
EBITDA Margin (%)	7.9%	8.2%		8.8%	8.8%		9.0%	9.0%		
PAT	9,281	10,081	-7.9%	13,016	13,304	-2.2%	15,639	15,430	1.4%	
Adjusted EPS	34.9	37.9	-7.9%	48.9	50.0	-2.2%	58.7	58.0	1.4%	

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. Key assumptions											
INR mn	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E						
Order inflows	1,81,020	2,46,890	3,01,121	3,46,863	4,01,104						
EBITDA Margins	6.1%	6.9%	7.9%	8.8%	9.0%						
Gross Debt	38,292	37,011	41,261	38,261	37,261						
Net WC days*	105	106	110	105	105						
Capex	2,074	2,108	3,750	4,250	4,500						

Source: Company, JM Financial; *: ex free cash

Exhibit 5. Net debt and acceptances increased by INR 11bn QoQ in 2Q26									
INR mn	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	1QFY26	2QFY26				
Net debt	35,660	40,640	30,510	36,600	46,150				
Acceptances	16,990	15,100	15,070	16,890	18,650				
Total	52,650	55,740	45,580	53,490	64,800				

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. Consolidated order backlog of INR 393bn* as on Sept-25

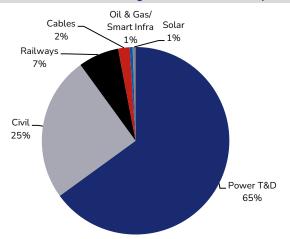
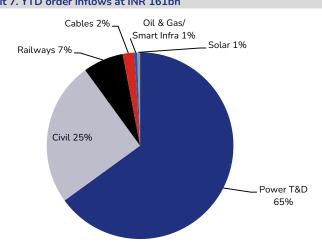




Exhibit 7. YTD order inflows at INR 161bn



Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 8. Price target of INR 915										
Particulars	Rationale	PAT	Multiple (x)	Value (INR mn)	Value per share					
EPC business	PEx Sept-27E PAT	14,328	17	2,43,570	915					
Price target					915					

Source: Company, JM Financial

Key conference call takeaways

■ FY26E Guidance: Revenue: 15% YoY growth; EBITDA margins: 8% (earlier: 8-8.5%); Order inflows: INR 300bn (FY25: INR 247bn); Capex: c.INR 4bn.

- Strong tender pipeline of INR 1.8tn driven by T&D (c.INR 650bn) and Civil (c.INR 600bn). Rest
 is spread across renewables, Railways, solar etc.
- NWC stretched to 138 days in Sept-25 due to delayed payments in JJM, spill over of Afghanistan receivables and back ended payments in Metro projects. KEC expects improvement in 2H26 led by receipt of money from Afghanistan projects in 4Q, completion of Metro projects and improved JJM receivables.
- Civil execution muted in 1H26 due to heavy monsoon, labour shortage and delayed JJM payments. Low margin legacy projects have been largely completed. KEC recently won high margins contracts where execution will start in 2H26. Hence, KEC expects margins to improve to high double digit over the medium term.
- Water: Outstanding JJM order backlog stands at INR 16bn (Orissa: INR 10bn; MP: INR 6bn).
 Outstanding receivables at c.INR 8.75bn as of Sept-25. KEC expects improved recoveries in 2H26.



Source: Company, JM Financial, Bloomberg

Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Income Statement				(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,99,142	2,18,467	2,52,209	2,90,303	3,28,471
Sales Growth	15.2%	9.7%	15.4%	15.1%	13.1%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	1,99,142	2,18,467	2,52,209	2,90,303	3,28,471
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	1,55,848	1,69,103	1,93,465	2,21,016	2,49,874
Personnel Cost	14,406	15,402	17,019	18,721	20,593
Other Expenses	16,742	18,923	21,846	25,145	28,451
EBITDA	12,146	15,039	19,879	25,421	29,553
EBITDA Margin	6.1%	6.9%	7.9%	8.8%	9.0%
EBITDA Growth	46.4%	23.8%	32.2%	27.9%	16.3%
Depn. & Amort.	1,854	1,837	2,008	2,258	2,508
EBIT	10,292	13,202	17,871	23,163	27,044
Other Income	524	469	338	359	362
Finance Cost	6,551	6,636	6,379	6,618	7,096
PBT before Excep. & Forex	4,265	7,035	11,830	16,904	20,311
Excep. & Forex Inc./Loss(-)	0	240	0	0	0
PBT	4,265	7,275	11,830	16,904	20,311
Taxes	797	1,568	2,549	3,888	4,671
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Reported Net Profit	3,468	5,708	9,281	13,016	15,639
Adjusted Net Profit	3,468	5,468	9,281	13,016	15,639
Net Margin	1.7%	2.5%	3.7%	4.5%	4.8%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	257.1	266.2	266.2	266.2	266.2
Diluted EPS (INR)	13.5	20.5	34.9	48.9	58.7
Diluted EPS Growth	97.0%	52.3%	69.7%	40.3%	20.2%
Total Dividend + Tax	1,028	1,464	1,392	1,952	2,346
Dividend Per Share (INR)	4.0	5.5	5.2	7.3	8.8

Balance Sheet					/IND man)
					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Shareholders' Fund	40,957	53,475	61,363	72,427	85,720
Share Capital	514	532	532	532	532
Reserves & Surplus	40,443	52,942	60,831	71,894	85,188
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Total Loans	38,292	37,011	41,261	38,261	37,261
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	-3,537	-4,372	-4,372	-4,372	-4,372
Total - Equity & Liab.	75,712	86,114	98,252	1,06,316	1,18,609
Net Fixed Assets	16,422	16,851	18,593	19,835	21,077
Gross Fixed Assets	25,120	26,657	30,978	34,478	38,228
Intangible Assets	2,918	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,831
Less: Depn. & Amort.	11,756	13,021	15,600	17,859	20,367
Capital WIP	139	385	385	385	385
Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Current Assets	1,70,356	2,00,421	2,20,235	2,46,983	2,79,025
Inventories	12,133	11,405	14,841	15,138	17,115
Sundry Debtors	44,250	52,660	55,279	63,628	71,994
Cash & Bank Balances	2,733	6,559	4,318	4,374	4,532
Loans & Advances	0	0	0	0	0
Other Current Assets	1,11,241	1,29,797	1,45,798	1,63,842	1,85,384
Current Liab. & Prov.	1,11,066	1,31,158	1,40,576	1,60,502	1,81,492
Current Liabilities	92,070	1,05,035	1,09,719	1,33,820	1,51,294
Provisions & Others	18,996	26,123	30,857	26,681	30,198
Net Current Assets	59,290	69,263	79,659	86,481	97,533
Total – Assets	75,712	86,114	98,252	1,06,316	1,18,609

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement				(1	NR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Profit before Tax	4,265	7,275	11,830	16,904	20,311
Depn. & Amort.	1,854	1,837	2,008	2,258	2,508
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	6,551	6,636	6,379	6,618	7,096
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-9,267	-6,146	-12,638	-6,765	-10,894
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes Paid	-1,141	-2,700	-2,549	-3,888	-4,671
Operating Cash Flow	2,262	6,902	5,030	15,127	14,350
Capex	-2,336	-1,695	-4,321	-3,500	-3,750
Free Cash Flow	-74	5,207	708	11,627	10,600
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Others	865	-701	571	0	0
Investing Cash Flow	-1,471	-2,396	-3,750	-3,500	-3,750
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	0	8,702	0	0	0
Dividend + Tax thereon	-1,028	-1,464	-1,392	-1,952	-2,346
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	6,080	-1,281	4,250	-3,000	-1,000
Others	-6,551	-6,636	-6,379	-6,618	-7,096
Financing Cash Flow	-1,500	-679	-3,521	-11,570	-10,442
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	-709	3,827	-2,241	57	158
Opening Cash Balance	3,442	2,733	6,559	4,318	4,374
Closing Cash Balance	2,733	6,559	4,318	4,374	4,532

Dupont Analysis					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Margin	1.7%	2.5%	3.7%	4.5%	4.8%
Asset Turnover (x)	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
Leverage Factor (x)	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4
RoE	8.8%	11.6%	16.2%	19.5%	19.8%
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
BV/Share (INR)	159.3	200.9	230.5	272.1	322.0
ROIC	8.7%	9.9%	11.8%	13.1%	13.9%
ROE	8.8%	11.6%	16.2%	19.5%	19.8%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
P/E (x)	45.1	43.6	20.7	14.8	12.3
P/B (x)	3.8	4.5	3.1	2.7	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.8	17.9	11.5	8.9	7.6
EV/Sales (x)	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.7
Debtor days	81	88	80	80	80
Inventory days	22	19	21	19	19
Creditor days	180	188	172	184	185

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Recor	nmendation and	l Target Price	
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.
20-Jul-23	Hold	650	
4-Aug-23	Hold	650	0.0
3-Nov-23	Hold	650	-0.1
1-Feb-24	Hold	700	7.8
8-May-24	Hold	720	2.8
29-Jul-24	Hold	860	19.4
5-Nov-24	Hold	950	10.4
4-Feb-25	Hold	895	-5.7
27-May-25	Hold	915	2.2
3-Jun-25	Hold	915	0.0
29-Jul-25	Hold	900	-1.7



APPENDIX I

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

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

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

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Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

New Rating System: Definition of ratings		
Rating	Meaning	
BUY	Expected return >= 15% over the next twelve months.	
ADD	Expected return >= 5% and < 15% over the next twelve months.	
REDUCE	Expected return >= -10% and < 5% over the next twelve months.	
SELL	Expected return < -10% over the next twelve months.	

Note: For REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) total expected returns include dividends or DPU (distribution per unit)

Previous Rating System: Definition of ratings				
Rating	Meaning			
BUY	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15%			
501	for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.			
	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market			
HOLD	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.			

^{*} REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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