

Growth visibility imperative; downgrade to ADD

Information Technology ▶ Result Update ▶ August 07, 2026

CMP (Rs): 318 | TP (Rs): 340

Sonata posted a mixed operating performance in 1Q. IITS revenue was flat qoq at \$82mn (0.1% CC), in line with our estimates. However, IITS EBITDAM declined by a sharp 480bps qoq to 15.4%, significantly below our expectations, owing to absence of one-time compensation expense benefit in 4Q, unanticipated delay in large deal ramp-up affecting utilization, investments in AI talent transformation and advisory, and higher CSP bundled deal costs. It recorded order bookings worth \$97mn (~18% AI-led) with book-to-bill of 1.18x, while 16 large deals were in the pipeline as of end-1Q. The company is strengthening its leadership team – it is hiring a Chief AI officer, senior client partner at the top TMT client, and leader for SEA and ANZ, along with internal hiring to lead alliances and partnership alliances (especially MSFT). Management expects sequential margin expansion through FY27 as one-offs normalize, with domestic gross contribution supporting stronger performance through the year. We cut FY27-29E EPS by ~3-8%, factoring in the 1Q show and the slower earnings recovery. Considering limited upside after a 14%/18% up-move in 1M/3M, along with continued growth challenges and margin pressure in IITS, we downgrade the stock to ADD from Buy while retaining our TP of Rs340 at 14x Jun-28E EPS.

Results summary

IITS revenue was flat qoq at \$82mn (0.1% CC), meeting our estimate. IITS EBITDAM contracted by 480bps qoq to 15.4%. IITS revenue was led by BFSI (up 22.5% qoq in USD terms), while all other verticals declined—TMT (-6.0%), RMD (-3.5%), Healthcare (-0.5%), and Emerging (-0.5%). Across geographies, US, Europe, and RoW each saw 0.5% sequential decline. Overall EBITDAM declined by 300bps qoq to 5.2%, below our estimate of 7.3%. Net profit stood at Rs1.1bn, below our estimate of Rs1.3bn. IITS headcount was flat qoq at 5,795. Gross contribution was up 4.2% qoq at Rs785mn. Utilization was down by 330bps qoq to 88.5%, mainly due to unexpected delay in ramp-up of a large deal. Sonata declared interim dividend of Rs1.25/sh. What we like: Domestic gross contribution growth. What we do not like: Margin miss, Softness in TMT and RMD.

Earnings call KTAs

1) Despite mixed demand environment conditions, the strengthening AI pipeline, growing AI order bookings, expanding partner ecosystem, and sharper micro verticals focus grant Management confidence on the medium-term growth trajectory. 2) Sonata continues to execute its 3-pillar strategy in the domestic business: i) driving growth in the Microsoft SMC segment, ii) expanding AI-led partnerships with other ISVs, given multiple GTM motions for each, iii) securing large SI deals. 3) The company does not expect any further customer losses from OEM direct billing, with the headwind from the large OEM partner is now largely behind. Management expects the domestic business to maintain its growth momentum. 4) AI momentum continues to build, with AI-led deal pipeline of \$340mn and AI order book of \$21.7mn in 1Q. 5) Cloud accounts for 62% of the IITS business (vs 39% in 1QFY26); primarily driven by cloud migration and cloud-led legacy modernization. 6) Output-based contracts constitute 21% of engagements. 7) Around 21% of engagements are output-based. 8) Steady-state ETR is expected to be ~25%.

Sonata Software: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E
Revenue	101,573	107,013	115,455	127,984	143,080
EBITDA	6,892	7,413	7,600	9,060	10,223
Adj. PAT	4,247	5,192	4,846	6,224	7,454
Adj. EPS (Rs)	15.1	18.5	17.3	22.2	26.6
EBITDA margin (%)	6.8	6.9	6.6	7.1	7.1
EBITDA growth (%)	(5.2)	7.5	2.5	19.2	12.8
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(12.1)	22.3	(6.7)	28.4	19.8
RoE (%)	27.3	28.8	23.4	25.4	25.5
RoIC (%)	33.8	28.7	26.2	32.1	37.3
P/E (x)	21.0	19.2	18.4	14.3	12.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.1	12.3	11.6	9.3	7.7
P/B (x)	5.2	4.7	4.0	3.3	2.8
FCFF yield (%)	6.4	4.7	5.1	7.4	9.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Target Price – 12M	Jun-27
Change in TP (%)	-
Current Reco.	ADD
Previous Reco.	BUY
Upside/(Downside) (%)	6.9

Stock Data	SSOF IN
52-week High (Rs)	422
52-week Low (Rs)	207
Shares outstanding (mn)	280.4
Market-cap (Rs bn)	89
Market-cap (USD mn)	937
Net-debt, FY27E (Rs mn)	(743.2)
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	2.7
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,152.6
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	12.1
Free float (%)	69.2
Nifty-50	24,570.7
INR/USD	95.2

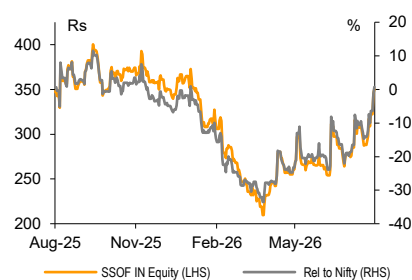
Shareholding, Jun-26

Promoters (%)	28.2
FPIs/MFs (%)	9.2/24.7

Price Performance

(%)	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	13.6	17.5	(9.0)
Rel. to Nifty	12.8	16.3	(8.9)

1-Year share price trend (Rs)



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Exhibit 1: Sonata – Quarterly snapshot

Particulars (Rs mn)	1QFY27	4QFY26	qoq (%)	1QFY26	yoy (%)
IITS revenue (\$ mn)	82.0	82.4	(0.5)	81.8	0.2
Net sales	32,791	25,362	29.3	29,652	10.6
Operating expenses	31,083	23,275		28,055	
EBITDA	1,708	2,087	(18.2)	1,597	7.0
- Margin (%)	5.2	8.2	-300bps	5.4	-20bps
Depreciation	284	254		261	
EBIT	1,423	1,833	(22.4)	1,336	6.6
- Margin (%)	4.3	7.2	-290bps	4.5	-20bps
Other income (net)	(52)	184		191	
Exceptional items	-	(316)		-	
Share of profit / (loss) of an associate	-	-		-	
PBT	1,371	1,702	(19.4)	1,527	
Tax provided	290	397		434	
PAT	1,081	1,305		1,093	
Non-controlling interest	-	-		-	
Reported net profit	1,081	1,305	(17.2)	1,093	(1.1)
Emkay net profit	1,081	1,621	(33.3)	1,093	(1.1)
Reported EPS (Rs)	3.9	4.7	(17.2)	3.9	(1.1)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Actuals vs estimates

(Rs mn)	Actual	Estimate		Variation		Comment
		Emkay	Consensus	Emkay	Consensus	
Revenue (\$ mn)	82	82		-0.3%		
Revenue (Rs mn)	32,791	28,212	27,143	16.2%	20.8%	Revenue beat expectations due to growth in domestic business. IITS revenue came largely in line with expectations.
EBIT	1,423	1,767	1,821	-19.5%	-21.8%	Margin missed estimates across the IITS and domestic business segments.
EBIT margin	4.3%	6.3%	6.7%	-190 bps	-240 bps	
PAT	1,081	1,340	1,385	-19.3%	-21.9%	Profit missed estimates largely due to the margin miss.

Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

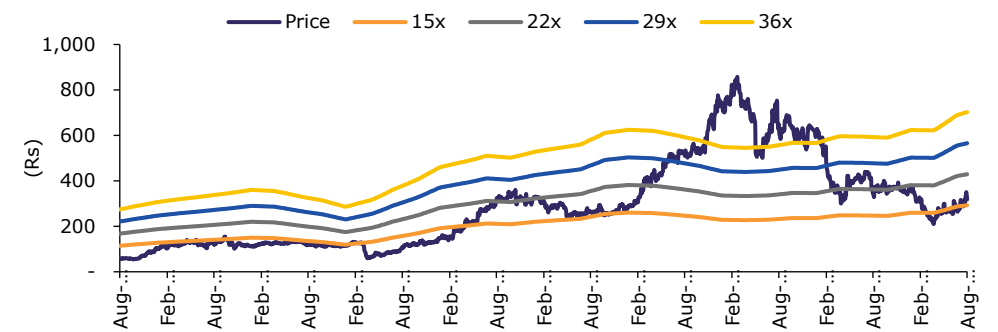
Exhibit 3: Changes in estimates

(Rs mn)	FY26E			FY27E			FY28E		
	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg
IITS - Revenue (\$ mn)	331.4	330.5	-0.3%	360.0	355.1	-1.4%	399.2	390.8	-2.1%
Revenue	110,026	115,455	4.9%	123,968	127,984	3.2%	138,866	143,080	3.0%
EBIT	6,911	6,436	-6.9%	8,010	7,902	-1.4%	9,143	9,044	-1.1%
EBIT margin	6.3%	5.6%		6.5%	6.2%		6.6%	6.3%	
Net profit	5,252	4,846	-7.7%	6,407	6,224	-2.9%	7,659	7,454	-2.7%
EPS (Rs)	18.7	17.3	-7.7%	22.8	22.2	-2.9%	27.3	26.6	-2.7%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

This report is intended for Team White Marque Solutions (team.emkay@whitemarquesolutions)

Exhibit 4: SSOF – One-year forward PER



Source: Company, Emkay Research

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Sonata Software: Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E
Revenue	101,573	107,013	115,455	127,984	143,080
Revenue growth (%)	17.9	5.4	7.9	10.9	11.8
EBITDA	6,892	7,413	7,600	9,060	10,223
EBITDA growth (%)	(5.2)	7.5	2.5	19.2	12.8
Depreciation & Amortization	1,215	1,043	1,164	1,159	1,179
EBIT	5,678	6,370	6,436	7,902	9,044
EBIT growth (%)	(4.7)	12.2	1.0	22.8	14.5
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	712	1,046	438	726	1,130
Financial expense	653	514	484	329	235
PBT	5,737	6,901	6,390	8,299	9,939
Extraordinary items	0	(548)	0	0	0
Taxes	1,490	1,710	1,545	2,075	2,485
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	-	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	4,247	4,644	4,846	6,224	7,454
PAT growth (%)	37.7	9.4	4.3	28.4	19.8
Adjusted PAT	4,247	5,192	4,846	6,224	7,454
Diluted EPS (Rs)	15.1	18.5	17.3	22.2	26.6
Diluted EPS growth (%)	(12.1)	22.3	(6.7)	28.4	19.8
DPS (Rs)	4.4	8.0	5.5	6.7	8.1
Dividend payout (%)	28.9	48.1	31.7	30.2	30.4
EBITDA margin (%)	6.8	6.9	6.6	7.1	7.1
EBIT margin (%)	5.6	6.0	5.6	6.2	6.3
Effective tax rate (%)	26.0	24.8	24.2	25.0	25.0
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	4,203	4,792	4,880	5,926	6,783
Shares outstanding (mn)	280	280	280	280	280

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E
PBT (ex-other income)	5,737	6,273	6,390	8,299	9,939
Others (non-cash items)	1,312	926	1,164	1,159	1,179
Taxes paid	(1,636)	(1,660)	(2,496)	(2,405)	(2,523)
Change in NWC	1,030	(159)	(226)	(436)	(145)
Operating cash flow	6,443	5,380	4,832	6,616	8,450
Capital expenditure	(678)	(1,127)	(336)	(420)	(650)
Acquisition of business	(5,919)	(2,993)	(248)	0	0
Interest & dividend income	213	82	0	0	0
Investing cash flow	(4,356)	(2,173)	(596)	(420)	(650)
Equity raised/(repaid)	35	(311)	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(2,465)	647	(1,842)	(2,000)	(500)
Payment of lease liabilities	(293)	(390)	0	0	0
Interest paid	(384)	(379)	0	0	0
Dividend paid (incl tax)	(1,226)	(2,232)	(1,536)	(1,882)	(2,270)
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	(4,333)	(2,665)	(3,378)	(3,882)	(2,770)
Net chg in Cash	(2,246)	542	858	2,314	5,031
OCF	6,443	5,380	4,832	6,616	8,450
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	5,413	5,539	5,058	7,053	8,595
FCFF	5,766	4,253	4,496	6,196	7,800
FCFE	5,326	3,821	4,012	5,867	7,565
OCF/EBITDA (%)	93.5	72.6	63.6	73.0	82.7
FCFE/PAT (%)	125.4	82.3	82.8	94.3	101.5
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	137.2	88.8	92.1	104.6	115.0

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E
Share capital	278	277	277	277	277
Reserves & Surplus	16,782	18,770	22,079	26,421	31,606
Net worth	17,059	19,046	22,356	26,698	31,882
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Non-current liab. & prov.	137	(60)	(1,012)	(1,342)	(1,380)
Total debt	4,416	5,682	3,840	1,840	1,340
Total liabilities & equity	22,357	26,217	26,733	28,745	33,391
Net tangible fixed assets	1,036	2,049	1,776	1,556	1,362
Net intangible assets	3,862	4,249	3,694	3,175	2,840
Net ROU assets	636	1,435	1,263	1,136	1,040
Capital WIP	0	0	0	0	0
Goodwill	11,397	12,681	12,681	12,681	12,681
Investments [JV/Associates]	3,880	2,351	2,362	2,362	2,362
Cash & equivalents	3,100	3,725	4,584	6,898	11,929
Current assets (ex-cash)	23,421	24,705	26,587	29,145	32,226
Current Liab. & Prov.	24,339	23,542	24,951	27,072	30,008
NWC (ex-cash)	(918)	1,162	1,636	2,073	2,218
Total assets	22,357	26,217	26,733	28,745	33,391
Net debt	1,316	1,957	(743)	(5,057)	(10,588)
Capital employed	22,357	26,217	26,733	28,745	33,391
Invested capital	14,741	18,706	18,524	18,349	18,060
BVPS (Rs)	60.8	67.9	79.7	95.2	113.7
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.1	-	(0.2)	(0.3)
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.2	0.3	(0.1)	(0.6)	(1.0)
Interest coverage (x)	9.8	14.4	14.2	26.2	43.2
RoCE (%)	30.2	32.1	27.0	31.5	32.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios					
Y/E Mar	FY25	FY26	FY27E	FY28E	FY29E
P/E (x)	21.0	19.2	18.4	14.3	12.0
EV/CE(x)	4.2	3.7	3.4	2.9	2.4
P/B (x)	5.2	4.7	4.0	3.3	2.8
EV/Sales (x)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.1	12.3	11.6	9.3	7.7
EV/EBIT(x)	15.9	14.3	13.7	10.6	8.7
EV/IC (x)	6.1	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.4
FCFF yield (%)	6.4	4.7	5.1	7.4	9.9
FCFE yield (%)	6.0	4.3	4.5	6.6	8.5
Dividend yield (%)	1.4	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.5
DuPont-RoE split					
Net profit margin (%)	4.2	4.9	4.2	4.9	5.2
Total asset turnover (x)	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8
Assets/Equity (x)	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
RoE (%)	27.3	28.8	23.4	25.4	25.5
DuPont-RoIC					
NOPLAT margin (%)	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.7
IC turnover (x)	8.2	6.4	6.2	6.9	7.9
RoIC (%)	33.8	28.7	26.2	32.1	37.3
Operating metrics					
Core NWC days	(3.3)	4.0	5.2	5.9	5.7
Total NWC days	(3.3)	4.0	5.2	5.9	5.7
Fixed asset turnover	5.6	5.5	5.6	6.2	6.8
Opex-to-revenue (%)	23.5	19.9	18.0	17.5	17.3

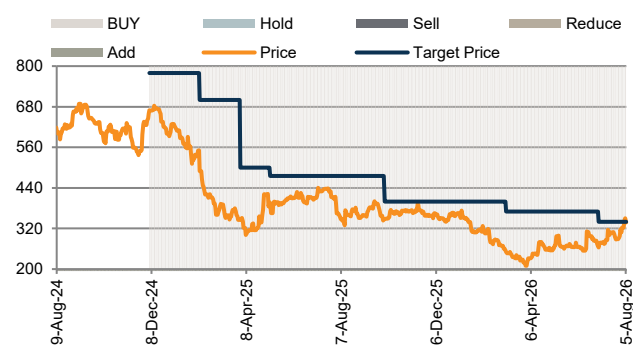
Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (Rs)	TP (Rs)	Rating	Analyst
01-Jul-26	264	340	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
12-May-26	273	370	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
31-Mar-26	210	370	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
05-Mar-26	250	370	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
18-Feb-26	284	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
07-Feb-26	306	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Jan-26	363	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
07-Dec-25	361	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
14-Nov-25	374	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Oct-25	348	400	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
31-Jul-25	392	475	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Jul-25	410	475	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
08-May-25	393	475	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
31-Mar-25	346	500	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
07-Feb-25	489	700	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Jan-25	605	780	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
05-Dec-24	670	780	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

This report is intended for Team White Marque Solutions (team.emkay@whitemarquesolutions)

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