PDS Ltd. | BUY

Beat in margins; cost optimisation remains on track

PDS reported consol. EBITDA of INR1.4bn, higher than JMfe of INR1bn driven by better sourcing performance. Revenue for the guarter registered a 10% growth YoY to INR35bn driven by a) ~10% YoY growth in sourcing segment revenues b) ~16% YoY growth in manufacturing segment revenue. Key takeaways from the call are 1) FY26 revenue growth guidance at mid-teens 2) Company has guided for total cost savings to the tune of ~INR500mn driven by a) losses from new verticals (INR1.62bn in FY25) expected to come down by 25-30% with improving sales growth b) plan to save INR150-200mn from optimising the tail (merge or shut down option for non-preforming companies) 3) North America orderbook is expected to witness uptick over the next few months with multiple customer accounts ramping up 4) margins were subdued in FY25 given subdued Agency business (Ted Baker). PDS completed the acquisition of 55% stake in Knit Gallery India Pvt Ltd. (KGIPL) in 1QFY26. With India-UK FTA in place, PDS remains well-positioned to gain from its UK customers (USD1bn of GMV) by establishing their sourcing base in India. The company remains committed to its 5-5-5 vision targeting USD5bn GMV over 5 years, delivering a 5% PAT. We revise our earnings downwards by 15% / 19% for FY26E / FY27E driven by subdued performance in brand management business and lower overall margins - leading to a revised target price of INR690/sh (-13%) at 30x P/E FY28E. Maintain BUY.

- Margins expand given better sourcing/manufacturing performance: Revenue for the quarter registered a 10% growth YoY to INR35bn driven by a) ~10% YoY growth in sourcing segment revenues b) ~16% YoY growth in manufacturing segment revenue. Consol EBITDA for the quarter came in at INR1.4bn, up 22% YoY driven by higher sales. The company delivered PBT margins of sourcing / manufacturing segments at 2% / 4% respectively. GMV during the quarter increased 11% YoY to INR50bn. Net debt as at end of the quarter stood at INR3.7bn increased YoY given acquisition of 55% stake in Knit Gallery. Order book for the company in early April stands strong at over USD600mn.
- Enhancing manufacturing footprint through acquisitions: PDS completed the acquisition of 55% stake in Knit Gallery India Pvt Ltd. (KGIPL) for an equity consideration of INR400mn, to be paid in three tranches over the next 12 months. Out of this, INR240mn has been paid by the company in 1QFY26. Part of Knit Gallery business will be transferred from its existing firm to KGIPL for a Business Transfer Consideration of INR340mn, which will be payable from KGIPL cash flows over 3 years, subject to achievement of pre-defined targets. With India-UK FTA in place, PDS remains well-positioned to gain from its UK customers (USD1bn of GMV) by establishing their sourcing base in India. With tariff situation settling, North America orderbook is expected to witness uptick over the next few months with multiple customer accounts ramping up like Walmart, TJX etc.

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,03,727	1,25,780	1,49,468	1,66,925	1,85,761
Sales Growth (%)	-1.9	21.3	18.8	11.7	11.3
EBITDA	4,131	4,571	5,760	6,498	7,206
EBITDA Margin (%)	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.9
Adjusted Net Profit	1,442	1,569	2,361	2,812	3,229
Diluted EPS (INR)	10.9	11.1	16.7	19.9	22.9
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	-46.0	1.6	50.5	19.1	14.8
ROIC (%)	20.5	16.3	16.6	17.5	17.7
ROE (%)	12.4	9.5	13.0	13.9	0.0
P/E (x)	40.2	39.6	26.3	22.1	19.2
P/B (x)	5.0	3.8	3.4	3.1	2.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.1	14.8	11.7	10.4	9.5
Dividend Yield (%)	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.4

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 15/May/



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Recommendation and Price Target	
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	690
Upside/(Downside)	56.6%
Previous Price Target	790
Change	-12.7%

Key Data – PDSL IN	
Current Market Price	INR440
Market cap (bn)	INR62.2/US\$0.7
Free Float	38%
Shares in issue (mn)	141.1
Diluted share (mn)	141.1
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR48.3/US\$0.6
52-week range	659/336
Sensex/Nifty	82,531/25,062
INR/US\$	85.6

Price Performance			
%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	6.8	-12.7	-0.5
Relative*	-0.3	-17.9	-11.2

* To the BSE Sensex

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.

PDS Ltd.

Cost optimisation to aid margins; outlook optimistic: Company has guided for total cost savings to the tune of ~INR500mn driven by a) losses from new verticals (INR1.62bn in FY25) expected to come down by 25-30% with improving sales growth b) plan to save INR150-200mn from optimising the tail (merge or shut down option for non-preforming companies). Overall structural positives in terms of increased outsourcing from global retailers, entry into newer markets (i.e. US), improved capacity utilisation at manufacturing segment, increasing contribution from SAAS is likely to act as triggers for growth implying a revenue CAGR of ~14% over FY25-28E.

Key Conference Call takeaways:

- FY26 revenue growth guidance at mid-teens. With India-UK FTA in place, PDS remains well-positioned to gain from its UK customers (USD1bn of GMV) by establishing their sourcing base in India.
- Cost optimisation program with BCG remains on track; company expects majority of benefits to flow in 2HFY26.
- Margins were subdued in FY25 due to subdued Agency business especially Ted Baker retail business.
- Company has guided for total cost savings of ~INR500mn driven by:
 - Losses from new verticals (INR1.62bn in FY25) expected to come down by 25-30% with improving sales growth.
 - Plan to save INR150-200mn from optimising the tail (merge or shut down option for non-preforming companies)
- Company remains cautious of new investments and remains focused on reducing working capital in the next few years.
- Out of the INR4.3bn fundraise during QIP, company used INR2.78bn for debt repayment and INR240mn for KGIPL acquisition.
- UK business witnessed slow growth of 6% given over-reliance on one customer (Matalan)
 plans to scale down business from this customer.
- With tariff situation settling, North America orderbook is expected to witness uptick over the next few months with multiple customer accounts ramping up like Walmart, TJX etc.

Exhibit 1. Operational analysis										
	4QFY25A	4QFY25E	bps Var	4QFY24	YoY %/bps	3QFY25	QoQ %/bps			
Gross Margin (%)	19.9	19.2	66	19.9	(1)	20.4	(51)			
Staff Cost as % of rev (%)	9.2	9.1	15	8.8	48	10.3	(103)			
Other exp. As % of rev (%)	6.7	7.0	(37)	7.6	(90)	7.0	(37)			

Source: Company, JM Financial

PDS Ltd.

Exhibit 2. Consolidated	financial	performan	се				(INR mn)
(INR mn)	4QFY25A	4QFY25E	% Var	4QFY24	YoY (%)	3QFY25	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	35,258	34,081	3.5	32,152	9.7	31,249	12.8
Raw material consumed	27,910	27,530	1.4	25,314	10.3	26,300	6.1
Change in inventory	340	0		445	-23.6	-1,421	-123.9
Gross profit	7,008	6,550	7.0	6,392	9.6	6,370	10.0
Gross margin (%)	19.9	19.2	3.4	19.9	(0.0)	20.4	-2.5
Staff costs	3,259	3,100	5.1	2,817	15.7	3,212	1.5
Staff costs (% of sales)	9.2	9.1	5.1	8.8	15.7	10.3	1.5
Other costs	2,356	2,401	-1.9	0.0 2,439	-3.4	2,202	7.0
Other costs (% of sales)	6.7	7.0	-1.9	7.6	-5.4	7.0	7.0
			2 5		0.2		11.0
Total expenditure	33,864	33,032	2.5	31,015	9.2	30,293	11.8
EBITDA	1,393	1,049	32.8	1,136	22.6	956	45.8
EBITDA margin (%)	4.0	3.1		3.5		3.1	
Other income	95	90		58		90	
Depreciation	355	260	36.6	264	34.5	266	33.8
EBIT	1,133	879		930		780	
Interest	295	300	-1.8	278	5.8	301	-2.1
РВТ	838	579		651		479	
Тах	95	87		43		47	
Eff. Tax rate (%)	11.4	15.0		6.7		9.8	
XO items	-	-		-		-	
Minority Interest	343	201		196		176	
Reported PAT	403	285		458		249	
Adjusted PAT	403	285	41.6	458	-12.0	249	62.1
EPS (INR)	3.1	2.2		3.5		1.9	
GMV (INR mn)	50,070	0		45,260	10.6	44,020	13.7
Net Debt	3,740	0		2,590		3,530	

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. Key Assumptions table										
Business Segment	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E			
Consol. Revenue (INR Mn)	88,282	1,05,770	1,03,727	1,25,780	1,49,468	1,66,925	1,85,761			
Consol. EBITDA (INR Mn)	3,334	4,742	4,131	4,571	5,760	6,498	7,206			
Sourcing Revenue (INR Mn)	85,065	1,01,046	1,00,800	1,22,000	1,35,586	1,51,788	1,69,927			
Brand Management Revenue (INR Mn)	-	-	5,230	4,707	5,084	5,541	6,040			
Manufacturing Revenue (INR Mn)	5,471	7,030	5,970	7,880	8,735	9,529	9,724			

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. Segmental break-up

	4QFY25	4QFY24	YoY(%)	3QFY25	QoQ(%)
Revenue (INR mn)					
Sourcing	34,439	31,270	10	30,399	13
Manfg	2,568	2,211	16	1,656	55
Others	14	13	6	15	(5)
Intersegmental	1,764	1,342	31	822	115
Total	35,258	32,152	10	31,249	13
PBT (INR mn)					
Sourcing	787	727	8	471	67
Manfg	96	76	27	104	(8)
Others	(4)	(74)	(95)	(55)	(93)
Intersegmental	(40)	(77)	(48)	(40)	0
Total	838	651	29	479	75
PBT (in %)					
Sourcing	2.3%	2.3%		1.5%	
Manfg	3.7%	3.4%		6.3%	
Others	-26.7%	-551.7%		-368.8%	
Segmental Assets (INR Mn)					
Sourcing	37,399	31,716	18	35,841	4
Manfg	5,347	4,665	15	5,032	6
Others	4,636	4,238	9	4,632	0
Total	47,382	40,619	17	45,505	4
Segment Liabilities (INR Mn)					
Sourcing	28,750	25,982	11	25,521	13
Manfg	1,202	1,505	(20)	1,826	(34)
Others	266	675	(61)	1,107	(76)
Total	30,218	28,162	7	28,453	6

Source: JM Financial, Company

Exhibit 5. Target price						
	FY28E					
EPS (INR)	22.9					
P/E multiple	30					
Fair value (INR/share)	690					
Source: IM Einancial						

Source: JM Financial

Exhibit 6.	Change i	in estimate	es					
	OLD				NEW			nange
	Unit	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	INR mn	1,47,989	1,69,343	1,49,468	1,66,925	1,85,761	1.0%	-1.4%
EBITDA	INR mn	5,748	6,823	5,760	6,498	7,206	0.2%	-4.8%
PAT	INR mn	2,797	3,471	2,361	2,812	3,229	-15.6%	-19.0%
EPS		21.2	26.3	16.7	19.9	22.9	-21.2%	-24.4%
Target Price	INR		790			690		-12.8%
Rating			BUY			BUY		

Source: JM Financial



Source: Bloomberg, JM Financial



Source: Bloomberg, JM Financial

Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Income Statement					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,03,727	1,25,780	1,49,468	1,66,925	1,85,761
Sales Growth	-1.9%	21.3%	18.8%	11.7%	11.3%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	C
Total Revenue	1,03,727	1,25,780	1,49,468	1,66,925	1,85,761
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	82,618	1,00,471	1,22,887	1,37,134	1,52,843
Personnel Cost	9,795	12,108	10,976	12,162	13,328
Other Expenses	7,183	6,630	9,845	11,131	12,384
EBITDA	4,131	4,571	5,760	6,498	7,206
EBITDA Margin	4.0%	3.6%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
EBITDA Growth	-12.9%	10.7%	26.0%	12.8%	10.9%
Depn. & Amort.	934	1,107	1,296	1,374	1,471
EBIT	3,197	3,464	4,464	5,124	5,735
Other Income	409	495	351	330	330
Finance Cost	1,282	1,265	1,207	1,157	1,132
PBT before Excep. & Forex	2,324	2,694	3,608	4,296	4,933
Excep. & Forex Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	C
PBT	2,324	2,694	3,608	4,296	4,933
Taxes	297	271	541	644	740
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	C
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	-585	-854	-705	-840	-964
Reported Net Profit	1,442	1,569	2,361	2,812	3,229
Adjusted Net Profit	1,442	1,569	2,361	2,812	3,229
Net Margin	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	131.8	141.1	141.1	141.1	141.1
Diluted EPS (INR)	10.9	11.1	16.7	19.9	22.9
Diluted EPS Growth	-46.0%	1.6%	50.5%	19.1%	14.8%
Total Dividend + Tax	672	420	636	757	869
Dividend Per Share (INR)	5.1	3.0	4.5	5.4	6.2

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Shareholders' Fund	11,665	16,505	18,230	20,285	22,644
Share Capital	264	282	282	282	282
Reserves & Surplus	11,402	16,222	17,948	20,003	22,362
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	C
Minority Interest	792	658	1,363	2,203	3,168
Total Loans	10,539	12,321	11,821	11,321	11,321
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	-108	-156	-156	-156	-156
Total - Equity & Liab.	22,888	29,327	31,258	33,653	36,977
Net Fixed Assets	6,189	7,023	6,577	6,078	5,482
Gross Fixed Assets	9,549	12,623	13,396	14,271	15,236
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	C
Less: Depn. & Amort.	4,506	5,614	6,909	8,284	9,755
Capital WIP	1,146	13	90	90	C
Investments	4,571	5,025	5,225	5,425	5,625
Current Assets	29,752	35,332	38,408	42,968	48,700
Inventories	3,286	4,834	7,371	8,232	9,161
Sundry Debtors	16,771	18,599	18,428	20,580	24,429
Cash & Bank Balances	6,841	7,374	7,696	7,753	7,985
Loans & Advances	2,854	4,525	4,914	6,403	7,125
Other Current Assets	0	0	0	0	C
Current Liab. & Prov.	17,623	18,053	18,952	20,817	22,830
Current Liabilities	15,042	15,071	15,971	17,836	19,848
Provisions & Others	2,581	2,982	2,982	2,982	2,982
Net Current Assets	12,129	17,279	19,456	22,150	25,870
Total – Assets	22,888	29,327	31,258	33,653	36,977

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement				(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Profit before Tax	1,739	1,831	2,903	3,456	3,969
Depn. & Amort.	934	1,107	1,296	1,374	1,471
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	0	0	0	0	0
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-2,208	-4,633	-1,855	-2,636	-3,488
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes Paid	-297	-271	-541	-644	-740
Operating Cash Flow	169	-1,966	1,803	1,550	1,212
Capex	-1,665	-1,942	-850	-875	-875
Free Cash Flow	-1,497	-3,907	953	675	337
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	-387	-455	-200	-200	-200
Others	-1,246	3,515	705	840	964
Investing Cash Flow	-3,298	1,118	-345	-235	-111
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	2	19	0	0	0
Dividend + Tax thereon	-672	-420	-636	-757	-869
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	3,349	1,781	-500	-500	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Financing Cash Flow	2,679	1,380	-1,136	-1,257	-869
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	-450	533	322	58	232
Opening Cash Balance	7,291	6,841	7,374	7,696	7,753
Closing Cash Balance	6,841	7,374	7,696	7,753	7,985

Dupont Analysis Y/E March FY24A FY25A FY26E FY27E FY28E 1.2% Net Margin 1.4% 1.6% 1.7% 1.7% Asset Turnover (x) 5.0 4.8 4.9 5.1 5.3 Leverage Factor (x) 1.9 1.7 1.7 1.9 1.6 RoE 13.0% 11.1% 13.6% 14.6% 15.0%

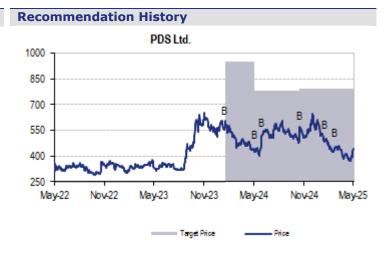
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
BV/Share (INR)	88.5	117.0	129.2	143.8	160.5
ROIC	20.5%	16.3%	16.6%	17.5%	17.7%
ROE	12.4%	9.5%	13.0%	13.9%	0.0%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
P/E (x)	40.2	39.6	26.3	22.1	19.2
P/B (x)	5.0	3.8	3.4	3.1	2.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.1	14.8	11.7	10.4	9.5
EV/Sales (x)	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Debtor days	59	54	45	45	48
Inventory days	12	14	18	18	18
Creditor days	55	45	41	41	41

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

PDS Ltd.

History of Recommendation and Target Price				
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.	
30-Jan-24	Buy	950		
16-May-24	Buy	780	-17.9	
12-Jun-24	Buy	780	0.0	
30-Oct-24	Buy	790	1.2	
29-Jan-25	Buy	790	0.1	
6-Mar-25	Buy	790	0.0	



APPENDIX I

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

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

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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% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.		
Hold	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market 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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