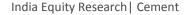
ACC Eye on profitable growth



Our recent interaction with ACC indicates potential cost benefits would accrue to the company in the wake of declining pet coke prices and increased availability of linkage coal (refer our note - Potential flare-up in fuel savings). Management's focus on completing the 5.9mtpa cement (3mtpa clinker) expansion by Q3CY21 offers much-needed volume growth visibility (albeit CY22 onwards). The company's continued drive towards premium products - 19% of total volumes in CY18 and targeted to reach 30% over the next few years – as well as expected savings (3% of PBT) from the master supply agreement (MSA) with parent Ambuja Cement from CY20 bode well for margins. With ACC likely to be one of the prime beneficiaries of our positive sector hypothesis (of stable demand over medium term, rising industry clinker utilisation and benign fuel cost), we maintain 'BUY' with a TP of INR1,846 (at 12x CY20E EV/EBITDA).

Cost relief on the cards

Due to lack of domestic coal availability, ACC's fuel cost/t remained elevated despite global fuel prices (e.g. pet coke and imported coal) spiralling down. However, with increased availability of linkage coal and a further dip in global fuel rates, energy cost is expected to trend down over the ensuing quarters. Besides, the MSA with parent Ambuja Cement would yield synergies CY20 onwards.

Capex: Timely completion holds key

The 5.9mtpa cement and 3mtpa clinker expansion is a key focus area for ACC. The company's endeavour is to commission the project by Q3CY21, which will drive robust volume growth in CY22. The bulk of its new cement capacity coming up in the lucrative central region (4.8mtpa) is promising. The capacity expansion also provides muchneeded volume growth visibility, which would be a key trigger for the stock in our view.

Outlook and valuation: Sector tailwinds intact; maintain 'BUY'

We expect pan-India player ACC to be a prime beneficiary of the positive industry fundamentals - high industry clinker utilisation, bright demand outlook over medium term and benign fuel cost. We continue to value the stock at 12x CY20E EV/EBITDA and maintain 'BUY/SP' with a TP of INR1,846/share. The stock is trading at 9.4x CY20E EV/EBITDA.

Financials

Financials				(INR mn)
Year to March	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Revenues	132,846	148,014	160,144	169,803
EBITDA	19,091	20,446	24,392	26,147
Adjusted Profit	9,155	15,066	14,445	14,865
Diluted EPS (INR)	48.7	80.2	76.9	79.1
Diluted P/E (x)	30.5	18.5	19.3	18.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.3	12.3	10.1	9.4
ROAE (%)	10.2	15.1	13.1	12.4



EDELWEISS 4D RATINGS	
Absolute Rating	BUY
Rating Relative to Sector	Performer
Risk Rating Relative to Sector	Medium
Sector Relative to Market	Equalweight
MARKET DATA (R: ACC.BO, B	: ACC IN)
CMP	: INR 1,483
Target Price	: INR 1,846
52-week range (INR)	: 1,769 / 1,322
Share in issue (mn)	: 187.8
M cap (INR bn/USD mn)	: 279 / 3,847
Avg. Daily Vol.BSE/NSE('000)	: 805.7

SHARE HOLDING PATTERN (%)

Current	045V10	0.051/4.0
	Q4FY19	Q3FY19
54.5	54.5	54.5
22.3	21.6	23.6
8.7	8.9	7.2
14.5	14.9	14.7
shares)	:	NIL
	22.3 8.7 14.5 shares	54.5 54.5 22.3 21.6 8.7 8.9 14.5 14.9 shares :

PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

	Stock	Nifty	EW Construction Material Index
1 month	(1.4)	(0.6)	(3.8)
3 months	(11.0)	(7.7)	(11.4)
12 months	(6.4)	(5.6)	(16.1)

Navin R. Sahadeo +91 22 4088 6242 navinr.sahadeo@edelweissfin.com

Manish Agarwall +91 22 4063 5497 manish.agarwall@edelweissfin.com

September 11, 2019

Company Description

ACC is one of the largest cement manufacturers in India, with current installed capacity of ~33.5mtpa. The company is a pan-India player with its plants spread across the country. Holcim Group, through direct and indirect investments (through its subsidiary Ambuja Cements), holds ~54.5% stake in the company.

Investment Theme

Factors that drive our investment thesis for ACC include: (a) being a pan-India player, ACC will be beneficiary of the improved demand supply dynamics and rising industry clinker utilisations; (b) volume growth visibility due to the recently announced capex may lead to valuation multiple re-rating; and (c) expectation of costs to remain benign. We therefore, recommend a BUY with a target price of INR1,846.

Key Risks

Lower than estimated demand and price hikes will impact estimates.

Significant deviation in operating costs will impact estimates.

Financial Statements

Key Assumptions

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Macro				
GDP(Y-o-Y %)	7.2	6.8	6.8	7.1
Inflation (Avg)	3.6	3.4	4.0	4.5
Repo rate (exit rate)	6.0	6.3	5.3	5.0
USD/INR (Avg)	64.5	70.0	72.0	72.0
Company				
EBITDA/ Tonne (INR)	728	720	836	868
Inst capacity (mtpa)	33	33	33	33
Capacity Utilisation (%)	79	85	87	90
Cement realiztn (INR/t)	5,067	5,212	5,488	5,635
RM cost per tonne	751	822	925	931
P&F cost per tonne	1,035	1,056	1,103	1,137
Freight cost per tonne	1,316	1,412	1,447	1,495
Other expenses per tonne	924	891	895	919
Total expenses per tonne	4,338	4,492	4,652	4,768
Effective tax rate (%)	29.5	(0.8)	30.0	30.0
Debtor days	16	19	20	21
Inventory days	59	60	62	63
Payable days	173	171	163	156

Income statement				(INR mn)
Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Income from operations	132,846	148,014	160,144	169,803
Materials costs	19,685	23,345	27,000	28,049
Employee costs	8,190	8,811	8,223	8,634
Other Expenses	85,881	95,412	100,529	106,973
EBITDA	19,091	20,446	24,392	26,147
Depreciation	6,401	5,996	5,888	6,063
EBIT	12,690	14,450	18,504	20,084
Less: Interest Expense	1,023	892	861	867
Add: Other income	1,316.5	1,385.00	2,992.99	2,017.83
Profit Before Tax	12,984	14,943	20,636	21,235
Less: Provision for Tax	3,829	(123)	6,191	6,371
Reported Profit	9,155	15,066	14,445	14,865
Adjusted Profit	9,155	15,066	14,445	14,865
Shares o /s (mn)	188	188	188	188
Adjusted Basic EPS	48.7	80.2	76.9	79.1
Diluted shares o/s (mn)	188	188	188	188
Adj. Diluted EPS (INR)	48.7	80.2	76.9	79.1
Adjusted Cash EPS	82.8	112.1	108.2	111.3
Dividend per share (DPS)	26.0	14.0	20.0	25.0
Dividend Payout Ratio(%)	64.2	21.0	31.3	36.7

Common size metrics

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Operating expenses	85.6	86.2	84.8	84.6
EBITDA margins	14.4	13.8	15.2	15.4
Net Profit margins	6.9	10.2	9.0	8.8

Growth ratios (%) Year to December

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Revenues	19.1	11.4	8.2	6.0
EBITDA	34.7	7.1	19.3	7.2
Adjusted Profit	44.8	64.6	(4.1)	2.9
EPS	44.8	64.6	(4.1)	2.9

Cement

Balance sheet				(INR mn)
As on 31st December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Share capital	1,880	1,880	1,880	1,880
Reserves & Surplus	91,775	103,397	113,318	122,732
Shareholders' funds	93,655	105,277	115,198	124,612
Long term borrowings	1,420	1,395	1,395	1,395
Short term borrowings	592	-	-	-
Total Borrowings	2,012	1,395	1,395	1,395
Deferred tax (net)	5,414	6,631	6,631	6,631
Sources of funds	101,080	113,303	123,224	132,638
Gross Block	144,494	148,600	152,600	161,600
Net Block	72,013	70,122	68,234	71,171
Capital work in progress	4,767	5,728	13,236	18,376
Intangible Assets	398	372	372	372
Total Fixed Assets	77,177	76,222	81,842	89,920
Non current investments	13,374	16,596	16,596	16,596
Cash and Equivalents	26,954	30,003	33,263	33,788
Inventories	14,040	16,786	17,912	18,878
Sundry Debtors	6,682	8,683	9,289	9,861
Loans & Advances	2,658	4,661	4,661	4,661
Other Current Assets	8,004	7,299	7,299	7,299
Current Assets (ex cash)	31,384	37,429	39,162	40,700
Trade payable	42,620	44,854	45,546	46,272
Other Current Liab	5,189	2,093	2,093	2,093
Total Current Liab	47,808	46,948	47,640	48,365
Net current assets	(16,425)	(9,519)	(8,478)	(7,666)
Uses of funds	101,080	113,303	123,224	132,638
BVPS (INR)	498.3	560.1	612.9	663.0
Free cash flow				(INR mn)
Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Reported Profit	9,155	15,066	14,445	14,865
Add: Depreciation	6,401	5,996	5,888	6,063
Interest (Net of Tax)	721	899	603	607
Others	(15,880)	(6,925)	(3,862)	(1,132)
Less: Changes in WC	(15,880)	3,856	(2,218)	287
Operating cash flow	15,548	11,181	(2,218)	20,116
Less: Capex	5,042	5,067	19,292	14,140
Less. Caper	5,042	5,007	11,508	14,140

10,506

6,114

7,784

5,976

Cash flow metrics				
Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Operating cash flow	15,548	11,181	19,292	20,116
Financing cash flow	(4,221)	(4,411)	(4,524)	(5,451)
Investing cash flow	(3,846)	(3,678)	(11,508)	(14,140)
Net cash Flow	7,481	3,092	3,259	525
Capex	(5,194)	(4,951)	(11,508)	(14,140)
Dividend paid	(3,842)	(3,396)	(4,524)	(5,451)

Profitability and efficiency ratios

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
ROAE (%)	10.2	15.1	13.1	12.4
ROACE (%)	15.2	15.7	19.3	18.2
Inventory Days	59	60	62	63
Debtors Days	16	19	20	21
Payable Days	173	171	163	156
Cash Conversion Cycle	(98)	(92)	(80)	(73)
Current Ratio	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
Gross Debt/EBITDA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Adjusted Debt/Equity	-	-	-	-
Interest Coverage Ratio	12.4	16.2	21.5	23.2

Operating ratios

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Total Asset Turnover	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Fixed Asset Turnover	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.4
Equity Turnover	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4

Valuation parameters

Year to December	CY17	CY18	CY19E	CY20E
Adj. Diluted EPS (INR)	48.7	80.2	76.9	79.1
Y-o-Y growth (%)	44.8	64.6	(4.1)	2.9
Adjusted Cash EPS (INR)	82.8	112.1	108.2	111.3
Diluted P/E (x)	30.5	18.5	19.3	18.8
P/B (x)	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.2
EV/tonne (USD/tonne)	118	107	103	102
EV / Sales (x)	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	13.3	12.3	10.1	9.4
EV/EBITDA (x)+1 yr fwd.	12.9	10.7	9.8	-
Dividend Yield (%)	1.8	0.9	1.3	1.7

Peer comparison valuation

Free Cash Flow

	Market cap	Diluted I	P/E (X)	EV / EBIT	DA (X)	EV / Sa	ales (X)
Name	(USD mn)	CY19E	CY20E	CY19E	CY20E	CY19E	CY20E
ACC	3,847	19.3	18.8	10.1	9.4	1.6	1.5
Ambuja Cement Ltd	5,400	26.7	23.3	16.7	15.0	2.4	2.2
India Cements	323	11.3	7.6	6.5	5.4	1.0	0.9
JK Cement	1,073	14.4	13.6	8.6	8.1	1.7	1.5
Shree Cements	8,755	34.9	26.6	16.8	14.0	5.5	4.7
UltraTech Cement	14,921	24.6	18.6	12.6	10.2	3.2	2.7
Median	-	22.0	18.7	11.3	9.8	2.0	1.9
AVERAGE	-	21.9	18.1	11.9	10.3	2.6	2.3

Source: Edelweiss research

Additional Data

Directors Data

N S Sekhsaria	Chairman	Mr Jan Jensich	Deputy Chairman
Mr Farrokh K. Kavarana	Non-Executive and Independent Director	Mr Vijay Kumar Sharma	Non-Executive and Independent Director
Mr Arunkumar Ramanlal Gandhi	Non-Executive and Independent Director	Mrs Falguni Nayar	Non-Executive and Independent Director
Shailesh Haribhakti	Non-Executive and Independent Director	Mr. Neeraj Akhoury	Managing Director & CEO
Mr Christof Hässig	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director	Sushil Kumar Roongta	Non-Executive and Independent Director
Ashwin Dani	Non-Executive and Independent Director	Mr Martin Kriegner	Additional Director

Auditors - Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP

*as per last annual report

Holding - Top 10

	Perc. Holding		Perc. Holding
Life Insurance Corp of India	6.50	Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC	2.17
Franklin Resources Inc	1.46	Capital Group Cos Inc	1.43
JPMorgan Chase & Co	1.42	Reliance Capital Trustee Co Ltd	1.20
SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd	1.13	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co	1.06
DSP Investment Managers Pvt Ltd	0.94	ICICI Prudential Asset Management	0.91

*as per last available data

Bulk Deals

Data	Acquired / Seller	B/S	Qty Traded	Price	
No Data Available					

*in last one year

Insider Trades

Reporting Data	Acquired / Seller	B/S	Qty Traded	
No Data Available				

*in last one year



S**TOCK** Rating

Company	Absolute	Relative	Relative	Company	Absolute	Relative	Relative
	reco	reco	risk		reco	reco	Risk
ACC	BUY	SP	Μ	Ambuja Cement Ltd	HOLD	SU	М
Grasim Industries	BUY	SP	Μ	India Cements	HOLD	SU	Н
JK Cement	BUY	SO	Μ	Shree Cements	HOLD	SP	М
UltraTech Cement	BUY	SO	Μ				

ABSOLUTE RATING		
Ratings	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	
Buy	More than 15%	
Hold	Between 15% and - 5%	
Reduce	Less than -5%	

RELATIVE RETURNS RATING			
Ratings	Criteria		
Sector Outperformer (SO)	Stock return > 1.25 x Sector return		
Sector Performer (SP)	Stock return > $0.75 \times \text{Sector return}$		
	Stock return < 1.25 x Sector return		
Sector Underperformer (SU)	Stock return < 0.75 x Sector return		

Sector return is market cap weighted average return for the coverage universe within the sector

RELATIVE RISK RATING		
Ratings	Criteria	
Low (L)	Bottom 1/3rd percentile in the sector	
Medium (M)	Middle 1/3rd percentile in the sector	
High (H)	Top 1/3rd percentile in the sector	

Risk ratings are based on Edelweiss risk model

SECTOR RATING				
Ratings	Criteria			
Overweight (OW)	Sector return > 1.25 x Nifty return			
Equalweight (EW)	Sector return > 0.75 x Nifty return			
	Sector return < 1.25 x Nifty return			
Underweight (UW)	Sector return < 0.75 x Nifty return			





Edelweiss Securities Limited, Edelweiss House, off C.S.T. Road, Kalina, Mumbai – 400 098. Board: (91-22) 4009 4400, Email: research@edelweissfin.com

Aditya Narain

Head of Research

aditya.narain@edelweissfin.com

Coverage group(s) of stocks by primary analyst(s): Cement

ACC, Ambuja Cement Ltd, Grasim Industries, India Cements, JK Cement, Shree Cements, UltraTech Cement

Date	Company	Title	Price (INR)	Recos
29-Aug-19	Ambuja Cements	Sharpening focus on mediu term goals; <i>Visit Note</i>	ım- 205	Hold
23-Aug-19	Star Cement	Pitching for growth; <i>Visit Note</i>	94	Not Rated
14-Aug-19	Grasim Industries	Sanguine outlook; capital commitment key; <i>Result Update</i>	734	Buy

Distribution of Rat	ings / Ma	rket Cap					
Edelweiss Research Coverage Universe					Rating Interpretation		
		Buy	Hold	Reduce	Total	Rating	Expected to
Rating Distribution * 1stocks under rev		161	67	11	240	Buy	appreciate more than 15% over a 12-month period
	> 50bn	Bet	Between 10bn and 50 bn < 10		< 10bn	Hold	appreciate up to 15% over a 12-month period
Market Cap (INR)	156		62		11	Reduce	depreciate more than 5% over a 12-month period

One year price chart



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