

India I Equities

Infrastructure Company Update

Change in Estimates ☑ Target ☑ Reco □

19 November 2018

Ahluwalia Contracts (India)

Impressive ytd inflows, ample assurance; retaining a Buy

With its best ever single-year order accretion already and a healthy bid pipeline, Ahluwalia has mostly insulated itself from any lull owing to the ensuing various state and the general elections. With a significant order backlog and a balance sheet in place to meet any working capital / capex needs, the future looks bright. We are positive on the appealing return ratios, a healthy balance sheet and fine revenue assurance, which drive us to maintain our Buy on the stock.

Strongest single-year inflows already. In FY19 till now, the company has attained its inflows of ~₹31bn, a figure not only greater than the original ~₹20bn guidance but even its revised ~₹24bn guidance. With L1 status of ~₹4bn, and a healthy ~₹30bn bid pipeline, even H2 is expected to see healthy accretion. Excl. L1, management is aiming at a further ~₹4bn-5bn in H2.

Revenue assurance healthy; doesn't rule out election-period slowdown. At ~₹53bn (incl. orders of ~₹11bn received in Q3 but excl. L1 of ~₹4bn), the OB seems good to deliver more-than-the-guided-to 15-20% but management does not intend to over-commit as it sees the coming elections to contain growth for a brief while.

Guidance maintained. The fine Q2 revenue growth largely made up for an ordinary Q1, thus helping management maintain its 15-20% revenue growth guidance. Margin and capex guidance too have been retained.

WC increases, partly funded by debt. The working-capital cycle lengthened to 95 days, from 75-80 in Q1 FY19. The increase was partly funded by debt (up ~₹0.2bn q/q) and partly through internal accruals.

Valuation. Factoring in the longer-than-expected time to get the Alipore and Mohammadpur projects going, and some provisioning for the real-estate inventory held, we lower our FY19e earnings slightly (~6%, and ~1% for FY20). At the ruling price, the stock trades at PER (excl. the Kota asset) at 14x FY19e and 11x FY20e. **Risk:** Any slower-than-expected project execution.

FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19e	FY20e
12,496	14,266	16,466	19,082	22,732
844	863	1,154	1,434	1,806
12.6	12.9	17.2	21.4	27.0
28.6	2.3	33.8	24.2	26.0
23.5	24.2	20.1	14.6	11.6
12.6	11.8	10.2	7.6	6.2
4.7	4.1	3.7	2.7	2.2
22.2	18.6	20.5	20.7	21.2
26.2	24.7	30.6	32.3	32.6
0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
	12,496 844 12.6 28.6 23.5 12.6 4.7 22.2 26.2	12,496 14,266 844 863 12.6 12.9 28.6 2.3 23.5 24.2 12.6 11.8 4.7 4.1 22.2 18.6 26.2 24.7	12,496 14,266 16,466 844 863 1,154 12.6 12.9 17.2 28.6 2.3 33.8 23.5 24.2 20.1 12.6 11.8 10.2 4.7 4.1 3.7 22.2 18.6 20.5 26.2 24.7 30.6	12,496 14,266 16,466 19,082 844 863 1,154 1,434 12.6 12.9 17.2 21.4 28.6 2.3 33.8 24.2 23.5 24.2 20.1 14.6 12.6 11.8 10.2 7.6 4.7 4.1 3.7 2.7 22.2 18.6 20.5 20.7 26.2 24.7 30.6 32.3

Rating: **Buy**Target Price: ₹417
Share Price: ₹313

Key data	AHLU IN / AHLU.BO
52-week high / low	₹445 / 256
Sensex / Nifty	35457 / 10682
3-m average volume	\$0.1m
Market cap	₹21bn / \$290m
Shares outstanding	67m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Sep'18	Jun'18	Mar'18
Promoters	58.0	58.0	58.0
- of which, Pledged	23.7	23.7	23.7
Free float	42.0	42.0	42.0
- Foreign institutions	18.3	18.3	20.3
- Domestic institutions	19.2	18.8	15.8
- Public	4.6	5.0	6.0

Estimates revision (%)	FY19e	FY20e
Sales	-3.3	-1.4
EBITDA	-3.9	-1.0
EPS	-5.7	-1.1



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Anand Rathi Research India Equities

Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations

Fig 1 – Income statem	Fig 1 – Income statement (₹ m) – standalone								
Year-end: Mar	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19e	FY20e				
Order inflow	14,864	13,723	11,663	40,822	25,000				
Order backlog	36,073	35,530	30,740	52,528	54,868				
Net revenues	12,496	14,266	16,466	19,082	22,732				
Growth (%)	17.9	14.2	15.4	15.9	19.1				
Direct costs	10,688	12,234	13,947	16,158	19,198				
SG&A	200	295	326	382	455				
EBITDA	1,608	1,737	2,193	2,542	3,080				
EBITDA margins (%)	12.9	12.2	13.3	13.3	13.5				
Depreciation	201	239	256	265	278				
Other income	136	84	63	83	102				
Interest expenses	352	271	251	188	168				
PBT	1,192	1,311	1,749	2,172	2,736				
Effective tax rate (%)	29.2	34.1	34.0	34.0	34.0				
+ Associates / (Minorities)	-	-	-	-	-				
Net income	844	863	1,154	1,434	1,806				
Adjusted income	844	863	1,154	1,434	1,806				
WANS	67	67	67	67	67				
FDEPS (₹ / sh)	12.6	12.9	17.2	21.4	27.0				

Fig 2 – Balance sheet (₹ m) – standalone								
Year-end: Mar	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19e	FY20e			
Share capital	134	134	134	134	134			
Net worth	4,221	5,058	6,224	7,633	9,397			
Debt	1,419	901	298	272	269			
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	-			
DTL / (Assets)	-149	-147	-217	-217	-217			
Capital employed	5,491	5,813	6,305	7,688	9,449			
Net tangible assets	285	1,920	1,836	1,773	2,020			
Net intangible assets	843	5	8	5	3			
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	-			
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	838	3	3	3	3			
Investments (strategic)	63	67	63	63	63			
Investments (financial)	-	-	-	-	-			
Current assets (ex cash)	8,508	8,966	9,080	11,069	13,345			
Cash	882	1,225	1,247	1,804	2,080			
Current liabilities	5,928	6,373	5,932	7,030	8,065			
Working capital	2,580	2,593	3,148	4,039	5,280			
Capital deployed	5,491	5,813	6,305	7,688	9,449			
Contingent liabilities	10,464	9,035	3,652	-	-			

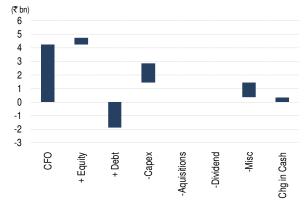
Year-end: Mar	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19e	FY20e
PBT + Net interest expense	1,408	1,498	1,936	2,277	2,801
+ Non-cash items	201	239	256	265	278
Oper. prof. before WC	1,608	1,737	2,193	2,542	3,080
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	401	13	556	890	1,241
Others incl. taxes	343	445	665	739	930
Operating cash-flow	864	1,279	972	913	908
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	218	201	176	200	523
Free cash-flow	646	1,078	797	713	385
Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-
- Div. (incl. buyback & taxes)	-	-	-	25	42
+ Equity raised	-	-	-	-	-
+ Debt raised	-308	-515	-674	-26	-3
- Fin investments	-	4	-5	-	-
-Net interest expense + Misc.	220	216	106	105	66
Net cash-flow	117	343	22	558	275

Year-end: Mar	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19e	FY20e
P/E (x)	23.5	24.2	20.1	14.6	11.6
EV / EBITDA (x)	12.6	11.8	10.2	7.6	6.2
EV / sales (x)	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.0	0.8
P/B (x)	4.7	4.1	3.7	2.7	2.2
RoE (%)	22.2	18.6	20.5	20.7	21.2
RoCE (%)	26.2	24.7	30.6	32.3	32.6
Sales / FA (x)	6.4	7.4	8.9	10.7	11.2
DPS (₹ / sh)	-	-	-	0.3	0.5
Dividend yield (%)	-	-	-	0.1	0.2
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	-	-	-	1.8	2.3
Net debt / equity (x)	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Receivables (days)	146	116	125	126	126
Inventory (days)	60	63	42	50	54
Payables (days)	86	90	84	84	84
CFO: PAT %	102.3	148.2	84.2	63.7	50.3
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resea	rch				

Fig 5 - Price movement



Fig 6 - Capital allocation - FY13-18 cumulative



Source: Company

Result / Concall highlights

Income statement

- Q2 makes up for subdued Q1 revenues. With ~31% y/y growth in revenue from operations (to ₹4.4bn) in Q2, the company has largely made good the muted revenue in Q1 (when comparable revenue was down ~10% y/y). We believe, the growth is a function of work commencing on some of the recently bagged projects. As the pace of execution stabilises at these orders and as the company commences activity on the orders secured in Q2 and subsequently, we expect revenue growth in coming quarters to be fine.
- Margin within the guided-to range. The EBITDA margin, though at 13.1% declining 181bps y/y, is still within the guided-to 13-14% range. The contraction was largely owing to management's decision to mark to market the value of real-estate inventory (hence, ~₹60m of provisioning) taken from clients in lieu of payments. Sequentially, there was a ~17bps expansion, largely due to operating leverage.
- Strong earnings growth (in a way). Earnings were up ~21% y/y to ~₹312m, owing to healthy growth in operating profits; aided further by a contained rise in finance cost (up ~10% y/y) and depreciation (up ~9% y/y).

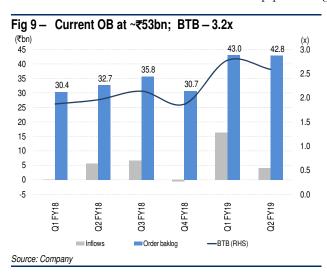
Fig 7 – Financial highlights (₹ m)								
Quarterly results (YE: Mar)	Q2 FY18	Q2 FY19	% Y/Y	Q1 FY19	% Q/Q	H1 FY18	H1 FY19	% Y/Y
Sales	3,345	4,392	31.3	4,070	7.9	8,387	8,462	0.9
EBITDA	498	574	15.3	526	9.3	1,034	1,100	6.4
EBITDA margins (%)	14.9	13.1	-181bps	12.9	17bps	12.3	13.0	67bps
Interest	46	51	9.8	39	30.7	84	90	6.1
Depreciation	64	69	8.9	66	5.1	127	135	6.4
Other income	10	13	36.6	13	3.9	25	26	5.4
PBT	398	468	17.5	434	7.9	848	902	6.3
Tax	141	156	11.2	152	2.9	295	308	4.5
PAT	258	312	20.9	282	10.6	553	593	7.3
Source: Company								

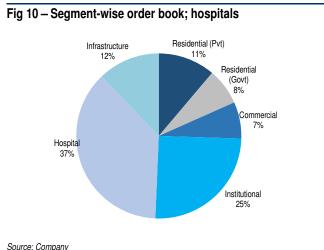
YE: Mar (₹ m)	Q2 FY18	Q2 FY19	% Y/Y	Q1 FY19	% Q/Q	H1 FY18	H1 FY19	% Y/Y
Revenue (₹ m)								
Contract work	3,343	4,330	29.5	4,033	7.4	8,382	8,363	-0.2
Lease rentals	3	12	342.8	6	99.0	5	18	236.7
Others	-	50	-	32	58.4	-	81	-
Total	3,345	4,392	31.3	4,070	7.9	8,387	8,462	0.9
Segment-wise (₹ m)								
Contract work	468	596	27.5	501	19.0	977	1,097	12.2
Lease rentals	-24	-22	-	-23	-	-48	-45	-
Others	-	-57	-	-4	-	-	-61	-
Total	444	518	16.7	473	9.4	929	991	6.7
Segment-wise (%)								
Contract work	14.0	13.8	-	12.4	-	11.7	13.1	-
Lease rentals	-896.0	-183.5	-	-395.7	-	-919.3	-254.5	-
Others	-	-113.8	-	-12.5	-	-	-74.6	-
Total	13.3	11.8	-	11.6	-	11.1	11.7	
Source: Company								

- The Kota asset. Though the H1 FY19 losses booked of ~₹45m were largely flat y/y, the company had ~₹0.2m in cash profit. For FY19, management expects ~₹47m revenue to result in ~₹80m book losses but expects cash PAT at ~₹5m. For FY20, it expects book losses to decline sharply to ~₹10m-20m and consequently cash PAT to improve.
 - Management expects a monthly rental income run-rate in Q3 of ~₹4m (65% leasing expected, from 53% now), ~₹6m by Q4 (75% leasing expected) and touch the targeted figure of ~₹8m a month by Q1 FY20. There is a potential to this number as it would still some space for leasing and the guided-to-figure excludes any advertisement revenues.
 - The company has not yet decided to take up construction of its hotel asset (60 rooms expected).

Order backlog / Growth opportunities

- For FY19 till now, management has secured orders of ~₹31bn, thereby more than meeting its raised (in Q1) full-year guidance of ~₹24bn. On 30th Sep'18, the order backlog was ~₹43bn (book-to-bill: 2.6x). The total OB till now is ~₹53bn, implying a book-to-bill of 3.2x TTM sales. Besides, the company has L1 status for one project of ~₹4.3bn (hospital project in Bihar).
- The order backlog has slow-moving orders of ~₹1.5bn; otherwise, the OB is moving swiftly.
- Management has specified that ~₹12bn-15bn of its Q2-end order backlog are fixed-price contracts. Primarily design-and-build contracts, management is sanguine of margins for these projects as it believes proper planning, efficient procurement and design capabilities would help protect against any inflationary pressures.





- The bid pipeline also is a sturdy ~₹30bn, spread across its core operational areas.
 - Some of the large contracts are: AIIMs (Bilaspur) ~₹10bn, Ayur Vigan Nagar redevelopment project in Delhi ~₹3bn and Bijwasan Railway Redevelopment ~₹3bn. Besides, the pipeline includes DDA residential developments.
- At present, the proportion of private-sector projects in the order backlog is ~22%, which management intends to gradually take to 50%. However, private-sector residential real-estate is still not on its radar,

- unless it comes from existing clients with proven credentials. The company is more focused on institutional-size (commercial developments and institutional buildings).
- The company realises the need to shore up manpower to take care of the rising scale of operations. Thus, it is regularly inducting 70-80 engineers (from the civil and electro-mechanical streams) in a total addition of 140-150 every year. It currently has a workforce of 2,500.

Scope / Outlook

- Management continues to see a host of opportunities in healthcare, education, auditoriums, commercial real estate and re-development of buildings. Besides these, it is also on the lookout for further airport projects (after its success with the Dehradun airport) and urban infrastructure (metro-rail stations).
- At 37%, the hospital segment constitutes the heaviest chunk in Ahluwalia's OB. This was largely driven by the recent orders of ~₹12bn from HSCC. The segment has potential to see an even greater share as the current bid-pipeline includes more of such projects (incl. already a hospital project L1 of ~₹4bn).
- With the likely acquisition of HSCC by NBCC, a point of concern exists as all HSCC contracts have always provided for escalation clauses, while NBCC prefers fixed-price contracts. Management said that it is too early to comment but feels that there shouldn't be any radical change in the way HSCC operates.
- On competitive intensity, it highlights that this is the highest for orders of ₹2bn-4bn, whereas it is the lowest (only 3-4 bidders) for orders of ₹7bn-10bn. Since the company is pre-qualified to bid for orders of ₹8bn-10bn, management has gradually been increasing the size of the projects, which is the key reason for its recent success. It does not bid for orders below ~₹2bn unless they are strategic (either at a nearby existing site or from existing clients).

Status of projects

- The Mohammadpur colony-redevelopment project. The company was faced with certain setbacks (the tree-felling issue) for its CPWD-Delhi project, the Mohammadpur colony re-development project. The matter has largely been resolved and the company has already submitted a changed design to minimize the impact on the environment. It expects work to commence shortly.
- The Alipore seater-extension. The extensive 2,400-seater Alipore Auditorium project of ~₹3.2bn is still moving slow (for almost the past five months) as the client wants to increase seat capacity by 200, to 2,600. A new design has already been submitted to The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for approval. On this project the company has already executed work worth ~₹0.25bn.

Balance sheet

- On 30th Sep'18, the company had gross debt of ~₹0.52bn (an increase of ~₹0.2bn q/q) and cash & cash equivalents of ~₹1.7bn, thereby retaining its net-cash status.
- Management has guided to lower debt by the year end. It earlier talked of its intent to bring gross debt down to zero in the next two years through a mix of equity from promoters and free-cash-flow generation from business operations.

- Working-capital days stretched to ~95, from 75-80, largely due to the strong growth and as the company is consciously not using its mobilization-advances limits available with the projects (instead preferring to use its own capital, as beneficial).
- During the quarter, the company provided ~₹60m towards impairment in the value of real-estate inventory taken over from clients (in lieu of payments). Subsequent to this mark down, the value of its real-estate inventory on its balance sheet is pegged at ~₹440m.

Guidance

- The company has guided to 15-20% revenue growth for FY19, with a ~13-14% EBITDA margin.
- It has maintained its capex guidance at ~₹0.3bn for FY19; ~₹0.14bn has already been incurred in H1.
- Given that management has already achieved even its raised full-year targeted inflows, it has further raised guidance to ~₹39bn-40bn from ~₹24bn earlier. It has already secured orders of ~₹31bn and holds L1 in a ~₹4bn project. From the bid pipeline of ~₹30bn, it is eyeing orders of another ~₹4bn-5bn.

Litigation / disputes

- With regards to the Talkatora stadium, the matter is on the cusp of closure. Management expects a decision in 3-4 months or at most by Q1 FY20.
- On the Commonwealth Games Village matter, litigation is slow as the judge presiding over the hearing has been unwell.

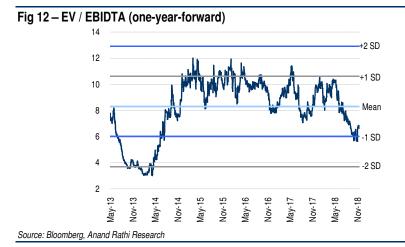
Earnings revision and Valuation

To factor in the longer-than-expected time to get the Alipore and Mohammadpur projects going, we lower our estimates a shade. Besides, FY19e earnings have also been adjusted for the ~₹60m provisioning in the value of the real-estate inventory taken over from clients. Thus, FY19e earnings are down ~6% (and ~1% for FY20).

Fig 11 – Est	Fig 11 – Estimates revision									
(₹ m) —	Original Estimates		Revised Estin	nates	Change (%)					
	FY19e	FY20e	FY19e	FY20e	FY19e	FY20e				
Revenue	19,740	23,066	19,082	22,732	-3.3	-1.4				
EBITDA	2,646	3,110	2,542	3,080	-3.9	-1.0				
EPS (₹)	22.7	27.3	21.4	27.0	-5.7	-1.1				
Source: Anand R	athi Research									

Our sum-of-parts-based target price of ₹417 a share is derived using PE of 15x FY20 for the construction business (₹404) and the Kota asset at book value (₹13).

On our estimates, the stock now trades (excl. the Kota asset) at PEs of 14x FY19e and 11x FY20e. On an EV/EBITDA basis, it quotes at 7.4x FY19e and 6x FY20e, excl. the valuation of the Kota asset.



Risks

- Any slower-than-expected pace of project execution.
- Any major liability arising out of litigation.

Appendix

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-	Buy	Hold	Sell				
Large Caps (>US\$1bn)	>15%	5-15%	<5%				
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