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Metals

Tata Sponge

Company Update

17 September 2018

Resolutions passed; good times ahead, upgrade to Buy

We upgrade Tata Sponge (TSIL) to Buy with a revised TP of Rs1220 as we expect strong operational performance to be maintained led by better pricing, solid volumes and tight control on conversion costs leading to further improvement in spreads. TSIL has received a much needed relief by getting its related party resolutions passed in the re-voting which would help maintain status-quo in running of operations in the most efficient manner. Clarity on capex towards the build-up of new steel complex is still elusive but strong cash rich balance sheet provides comfort. Valuations remain attractive at 2.9x FY20E EV/EBITDA making risk-reward favorable.

- Resolutions on related party transactions approved in re-voting: TSIL had put its three resolutions on related party transactions for re-voting in Aug'18 as the resolutions had earlier failed to get passed in the voting done at the time of AGM in July'18. These resolutions were related to i) sourcing of iron ore from Tata Steel's mines and sales of surplus power to Tata Steel at arm's length basis, ii) purchase of coal through group's global trading and distribution company and iii) sale of sponge iron in exports market through Tata International. While the resolutions failed to get passed in AGM for the first time in the history of the company, the same resolutions passed with 99.8% majority in re-voting now as TSIL gave much more clarity on the benefits for the company through the transactions.
- No disruptions for TSIL in the interim period: TSIL didn't face any operational disruption in the interim period (~ 2 months) when it didn't have the approval for its related party resolutions as the company had enough feedstock in inventory for maintaining normal operations. Management mentioned that TSIL bought few shipments of iron ore from open market in the interim while for coal they had enough material in inventory. Also, TSIL decided to take its annual maintenance shutdowns during Q2 to balance its yearly production. Management reiterated confidence in meeting its full year production guidance of 425kt of sponge iron with strong volumes in H2FY19.
- O Earnings revised upwards led by higher spreads: Sponge iron prices have improved materially in last few weeks in domestic market led by better demand expectation post monsoons, increase in cost of imported scrap due to weak rupee and increase in cost of other alternate semi-finished products like pig iron and pressure from higher RM prices (coal & iron ore). With TSIL's supplies of RM being supported by procurement through Tata Steel's mines and global supply chains, the spreads in sponge iron business for TSIL has improved led by higher sponge iron prices. TSIL management has recently indicated that they have also applied for environment clearance for further production to the tune of 30-40ktpa (vs existing EC of 425ktpa) from existing kilns and expect to receive the clearance before FY19-end but we maintain our volume estimates at 421kt/425kt for FY19E/20E. We increase our realization estimates by 13%/8% for FY19E/20E and also increase our iron ore and coal costs. Our EBITDA estimates are revised upwards by 18%/12% and PAT estimates are revised upwards by 15%/9% for FY19E/20E.
- O Valuation and risks Upgrade to Buy: We remain positive on TSIL due to better visibility of volume growth and sustenance of spread. We continue to value the company at 5x FY20E EV/EBITDA and value the surplus cash at 75% as this cash is expected to be deployed as CWIP for the steel plant over next few years. We revise our TP higher to Rs1220 led by higher earnings and upgrade to buy. Key downside risks are fall in sponge iron prices and higher coal costs.

Target Pr	ice	F	Rs1,220	Key Data	
CMP*			Rs982	Bloomberg Code	TTSP IN
Upside			24.3%	Curr Shares O/S (mn)	15.4
Previous 1	Target		Rs1,135	Diluted Shares O/S(mn)	15.4
Previous F	Rating		Buy	Mkt Cap (Rsbn/USDmn)	15.1/208.5
Price Perf	forman	ce (%)*		52 Wk H / L (Rs)	1249/805
	1M	6M	1Yr	5 Year H / L (Rs)	1249/217.9
TTSP IN	11.5	(0.9)	5.8	Daily Vol. (3M NSE Avg.)	181421
Nifty	(0.8)	11.6	12.8		

*as on 17 September 2018; Source: Bloomberg, Centrum Research

Shareholding pattern (%)*

	Jun-18	Mar-18	Dec-17	Sep-17
Promoter	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5
FIIs	8.5	8.7	8.4	7.0
Dom. Inst.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Public & Others	36.2	35.9	36.2	37.7

Source: BSE, *as on 17 September 2018

Earnings Revision

Particulars		FY19E		FY20E			
(Rs mn)	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)	
Sales	9,764	8,712	12.1	9,013	8,376	7.6	
EBITDA	2,276	1,931	17.8	2,144	1,923	11.5	
EBITDA Margin (%)	23.3	22.2	114 bps	23.8	23.0	83 bps	
PAT	1,820	1,589	14.5	1,804	1,656	8.9	

Source: Centrum Research Estimates

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Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	Revenue	YoY (%)	EBITDA	EBITDA (%)	Adj. PAT	YoY (%)	EPS	RoE (%)	RoCE (%)	PE (x)	EV/EBITDA(x)
FY16	5,735	(27.4)	240	4.2	319	(65.3)	20.7	3.9	4.2	22.7	4.3
FY17	5,573	(2.8)	616	11.1	588	84.1	38.2	7.0	6.8	15.7	5.4
FY18	8,002	43.6	1,827	22.8	1,409	139.7	91.5	15.2	14.2	10.0	4.7
FY19E	9,764	22.0	2,276	23.3	1,820	29.2	118.2	17.0	15.7	8.3	3.6
FY20E	9,013	(7.7)	2,144	23.8	1,804	(0.9)	117.1	14.6	13.7	8.4	2.9

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates; All ratios based on average mcap for year



Resolutions passed with strong majority

TSIL had put its three resolutions on related party transactions for re-voting on 7th August 2018 as the resolutions had earlier failed to get passed in the voting done at the time of AGM. These resolutions were related to i) sourcing of iron ore from Tata Steel's mines and sales of surplus power to Tata Steel at arm's length basis, ii) purchase of coal through group's global trading and distribution company and iii) sale of sponge iron in exports market through Tata International. While the resolutions failed to get passed in AGM for the first time in the history of the company, the same resolutions passed with 99.8% majority in re-voting now as TSIL gave much more clarity on the benefits for the company through the transactions. According to the results declared on 17th September, all the three resolutions got passed with powerful majority.

Following are the details of the resolutions and their voting results:-

Exhibit 1: Details of resolutions and voting results

	Resolution 1	Resolution 2	Resolution 3
Type of Resolution	Ordinary	Ordinary	Ordinary
Description of Resolution	Approval of Material Related party transaction with Tata Steel Ltd.	Approval of Material Related party transaction with Tata International Singapore PTE Ltd.	Approval of Material Related party transaction with Tata International Ltd.
Details	Purchase of Iron ore from Tata Steel Ltd. and sale of excess power to Tata Steel Ltd.	Purchase of Coal from Tata International Singapore PTE Ltd.	Exporting Sponge Iron through Tata International Ltd.
Value of the transaction declared	Purchase of Iron ore : Rs 3.5 bn Sale of power: Rs 0.7 bn	Purchase of coal: Rs 4.5 bn	Sale of Sponge Iron: Rs 3 bn
Period for which approval sought	FY2019 & FY2020	FY2019 & FY2020	FY2019 & FY2020
Period for which this transaction took place historically	Purchase of Iron ore from Tata Steel Ltd: 30 years	6 years	> 15 years
Total number of votes casted through postal ballot and e-voting	11,96,700	11,95,896	11,96,297
Votes casted in favor of the resolution (%)	99.9%	99.8%	99.8%

Source: Company, Centrum Research



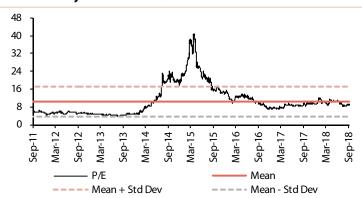
Exhibit 2: Sensitivity Analysis (FY19E)

Sensitivity to key variables	% change	% impact on EBITDA	% impact on EPS
Sales volume	1	3.6	2.8
Realization	1	4.0	3.2
Iron ore cost increase	1	(1.0)	(0.8)

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 3: 1 year forward EV/EBITDA chart

Exhibit 4: 1 year forward P/E chart



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Source: Bloomberg, Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 5: Valuations

(Rsmn)	Mar'20E
EBITDA	2,144
Justified EV/EBITDA (x)	5.0
EV	10,720
Net Cash	9,509
Add: Net Cash (@75%)	7,132
Add: Coal block investment (@50%)	900
Fain Value Mile Can	40 ===
Fair Value Mkt Cap	18,752
No. of Shares (mn)	15.4
Fair value/share (Rs)	1220
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 $Source: Company, Centrum\ Research\ Estimates$



Quarterly financials, operating metrics and key performance indicators

Exhibit 6: Quarterly Financials

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q2FY17	Q3FY17	Q4FY17	Q1FY18	Q2FY18	Q3FY18	Q4FY18	Q1FY19
Net Sales	1,380	1,435	1,672	1,750	1,672	2,145	2,435	2,609
Other operating income	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	1,387	1,435	1,672	1,750	1,672	2,145	2,435	2,609
(Accretion)/Decretion of stock	48	-4	85	-209	62	78	22	-34
Cost of Raw Materials consumed	897	962	1,025	1,263	1,010	1,292	1,441	1,744
Staff Cost	97	150	114	98	106	101	113	102
Other Operational expenses	175	220	189	212	150	193	244	196
Operating Profit (Core EBITDA)	169	108	258	386	344	481	616	603
Depreciation	33	32	32	32	31	31	30	29
EBIT	137	75	226	354	313	450	586	574
Interest	6	9	5	5	1	23	3	3
Other Revenue/Income	93	86	96	103	95	117	117	119
Other Exceptional Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax	224	153	318	452	407	543	700	690
Tax	63	43	106	147	131	183	233	234
Tax rate (%)	28.2	28.1	33.2	32.4	32.1	33.8	33.3	34.0
Profit After Tax	161	110	212	306	276	360	467	456
Growth (%)								
Net Sales	(8.4)	3.4	19.1	62.6	21.1	49.5	45.7	56.1
EBITDA	1,265.3	362.2	75.1	373.6	103.2	346.7	138.8	75.1
Adj. PAT	182.2	109.4	65.4	190.3	71.9	228.2	120.2	65.0
Margin (%)								
EBITDA	12.2	7.5	15.4	22.1	20.6	22.4	25.3	23.1
EBIT	9.9	5.2	13.5	20.2	18.7	21.0	24.1	22.0
PAT (reported bef minority interest)	11.6	7.6	12.7	17.5	16.5	16.8	19.2	17.5
Key Drivers								
Sponge Iron Sales (kt)	108.5	97.9	101.9	98.5	92.0	115.0	108.0	115.0
Net Sales realizations - Sponge Iron (Rs/t)	11,500	13,470	15,152	16,282	16,895	17,330	21,263	21,384
EBITDA/t (Rs)	1,560	1,100	2,530	3,919	3,739	4,183	5,703	5,239

Source: Company, Centrum Research

Exhibit 7: Key Performance Indicators

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Sponge Iron						
Sales Volumes (kt)	363	388	393	414	421	425
YoY%	(3.3)	6.9	1.3	5.3	1.8	1.0
Net Realizations (Rs/t)	19,805	15,046	14,345	18,011	22,000	20,000
YoY%	3.5	(24.0)	(4.7)	25.6	22.1	(9.1)
Power						
Sales Volumes (mn units)	121	113	132	144	137	139
YoY%	(13.8)	(6.7)	16.8	9.1	(4.7)	1.1
Realizations (Rs/unit)	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7
YoY%	19.5	11.2	(10.5)	1.5	(3.9)	0.0

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Financials

Evhibit 9	8. Income	Statement

Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Revenues	5,735	5,573	8,002	9,764	9,013
Materials cost	4,269	3,729	4,958	6,187	5,514
% of revenues	74.4	66.9	62.0	63.4	61.2
Employee cost	340	463	418	460	506
% of revenues	5.9	8.3	5.2	4.7	5.6
Others	887	764	798	842	850
% of revenues	15.5	13.7	10.0	8.6	9.4
EBITDA	240	616	1,827	2,276	2,144
EBITDA margin (%)	4.2	11.1	22.8	23.3	23.8
Depreciation & Amortisation	129	128	123	119	127
EBIT	111	489	1,704	2,157	2,017
Interest expenses	54	24	32	25	25
PBT from operations	57	464	1,671	2,132	1,992
Other income	377	371	431	585	701
PBT	434	835	2,102	2,717	2,693
Taxes	115	247	693	897	889
Effective tax rate (%)	26.4	29.6	33.0	33.0	33.0
Adjusted PAT	319	588	1,409	1,820	1,804

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 9: Key Ratios

Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Growth Ratio (%)					
Revenue	(27.4)	(2.8)	43.6	22.0	(7.7)
EBITDA	(75.9)	157.3	196.4	24.6	(5.8)
Adjusted PAT	(65.3)	84.1	139.7	29.2	(0.9
Margin Ratios (%)					
EBITDA	4.2	11.1	22.8	23.3	23.8
PBT from operations	1.0	8.3	20.9	21.8	22.
Adjusted PAT	5.6	10.5	17.6	18.6	20.0
Return Ratios (%)					
ROE	3.9	7.0	15.2	17.0	14.6
ROCE	4.2	6.8	14.2	15.7	13.7
ROIC	3.6	11.7	25.1	30.9	29.9
Turnover Ratios (days)					
Gross block turnover ratio (x)	3.6	3.3	4.6	5.3	4.6
Debtors	19	23	27	25	25
Inventory	21	32	38	35	35
Creditors	26	34	31	30	30
Cash conversion cycle	13	21	35	30	30
Solvency Ratio (x)					
Net debt-equity	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.7
Debt-equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Interest coverage ratio	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross debt/EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	4.6	4.5	3.6	3.6	4.6
Per share Ratios (Rs)					
Adjusted EPS	20.7	38.2	91.5	118.2	117.1
BVPS	536.4	561.6	640.6	747.1	852.6
CEPS	29.1	46.5	99.5	125.9	125.3
DPS	10.0	11.0	20.0	10.0	10.0
Dividend payout %	48.2	28.8	21.9	8.5	8.5
Valuation (x)*					
P/E (adjusted)	22.7	15.7	10.0	8.3	8.4
P/BV	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.2
EV/EBITDA	4.3	5.4	4.7	3.6	2.9
Dividend yield %	2.1	1.8	2.2	1.0	1.0
5 Yr Avg AOCF/EV yield %	58.2	15.5	4.5	5.7	12.4

 $Source: Company, Centrum \, Research \, Estimates; *All \, ratios \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, on \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, average \, average \, mcap \, for \, year \, and \, based \, average \, a$

Exhibit 10: Balance Sheet

Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Equity Share Capital	154	154	154	154	154
Reserves & surplus	8,106	8,495	9,711	11,351	12,976
Shareholders' fund	8,260	8,649	9,865	11,505	13,130
Def tax liab. (net)	217	191	180	180	180
Total Liabilities	8,478	8,840	10,045	11,685	13,311
Gross Block	1,686	1,722	1,782	1,902	2,022
Less: Acc. Depreciation	49	175	292	411	537
Net Block	1,637	1,547	1,490	1,491	1,485
Capital WIP	92	56	58	88	118
Net Fixed Assets	1,730	1,603	1,548	1,579	1,603
Investments	2,854	2,634	1,997	1,997	1,997
Inventories	324	491	841	936	864
Sundry debtors	294	358	588	669	617
Cash	2,521	3,068	4,216	5,728	7,512
Loans & Advances	2,113	2,232	2,790	3,371	3,111
Other assets	39	73	163	80	74
Total Current Asset	5,291	6,222	8,598	10,784	12,179
Trade payables	407	525	669	803	741
Other current Liab.	424	488	798	856	790
Provisions	565	606	631	1,017	938
Net Current Assets	3,895	4,603	6,500	8,109	9,710
Total Assets	8,478	8,840	10,045	11,685	13,311

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 11: Cash Flow

Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Operating profit bef WC	257	631	1,852	2,276	2,144
Changes in working capital	638	(252)	(947)	(97)	183
Cash flow from operations	771	195	411	1,282	1,438
Adj. OCF (OCF - Interest)	717	170	378	1,257	1,413
Net Capex	172	38	68	150	150
Adj. FCF	545	132	310	1,107	1,263
Cash flow from investments	(584)	536	(2,131)	435	551
Cash flow from financing	(183)	(185)	(202)	(205)	(205)
Net change in cash	3	546	(1,922)	1,512	1,784

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates



Appendix A

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Tata Sponge price chart



Source: Bloomberg, Centrum Research



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Hold	Upside between -20% to +20%	Upside between -15% to +15%	Upside between -10% to +10%
Sell	Downside > 20%	Downside > 15%	Downside > 10%

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