

29 October 2020

Carborundum Universal

Ceramics and EMD saw better traction; retaining a Buy

Rating: **Buy**

Target Price: Rs337

Share Price: Rs269

Carborundum Universal (CU) performance was better even with consolidated revenue coming flat at Rs6.9bn. This reflects the pick-up in industrial activity, domestically and internationally. The EBITDA margin was a robust 19.4%, led by prudent cost control, a favourable product mix and better subsidiary performances. With greater utilisation, focus on operational efficiency, product launches and quitting the loss-making Foskor, management is confident of steady margins ahead. Led by the better Q2 performance, both in revenue and margins, we raise our estimates. CU is our top Buy with a revised TP of Rs337 (20x FY23e).

Gradual pick-up in industrial activity: Q2 FY21 performance was better than expected, driven by strong traction in all segments, led by a pick-up in demand from end-users. Revenue was slightly up, 1.1%, to Rs6.9bn (AR: Rs6bn). The margin too was better, expanding 410bps to 19.4% led by operational efficiencies owing to lower employee, power & fuel and other expenses (as percent of sales). Aided by higher other income and lower depreciation/interest cost, PAT jumped 34% to Rs864m.

Better subsidiary performances: International subsidiaries' ceramics and electro-minerals revenues were up 51% and 5.5%, respectively, while abrasives declined marginally by 2% y/y. The growth in ceramics and EMD was led by higher volumes and better realisation on favourable forex movements. The demand outlook has significantly improved in many regions/sectors internationally and is expected to be better ahead.

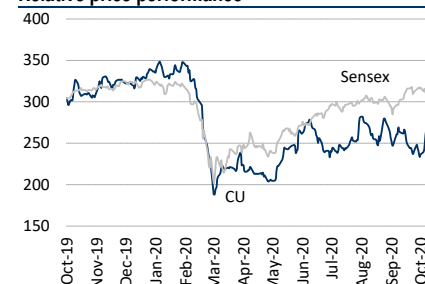
Valuation: Management reiterated its positive stance on ceramics and EMD, and a gradual recovery in abrasives. We have raised our margin estimates, expecting better operational performance in H2. The stock trades at 21x/18x/16.2x FY21e/FY22e/FY23e. We maintain a Buy rating with a revised TP of Rs337 (earlier Rs321). **Risks:** Drag in industrial production for long; delay in the sale of Foskor Zirconia.

Key data	CU IN / CRBR.BO
52-week high / low	Rs361 / 175
Sensex / Nifty	39750 / 11671
3-m average volume	\$1.1m
Market cap	Rs 51bn / \$685.4m
Shares outstanding	189m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Sep-20	June' 20	Mar' 20
Promoters	42.0	42.1	42.1
- of which, Pledged	0.2	0.2	0.2
Free float	58.0	58.0	58.0
- Foreign institutions	5.4	6.6	6.5
- Domestic institutions	29.0	28.0	28.2
- Public	23.6	23.4	23.2

Estimates revision (%)	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
Sales	3.7	3.6	2.7
EBITDA	9.9	3.4	2.5
EPS	17.5	7.4	5.1

Relative price performance



Source: Bloomberg

Key financials (YE Mar)	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
Sales (Rs m)	26,889	25,990	24,678	28,005	30,800
Net profit (Rs m)	2,476	2,724	2,436	2,784	3,191
EPS (Rs)	13.1	14.4	12.9	14.7	16.8
PE (x)	20.5	18.6	20.8	18.2	15.9
EV / EBITDA (x)	11.3	11.9	11.7	10.1	8.6
PBV (x)	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.0
RoE (%)	15.1	15.2	12.5	12.9	13.3
RoCE (%)	19.3	17.4	15.0	15.6	16.1
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

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Quick Glance – Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m)

Year-end: Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
Abrasives (% of sales)	42.3	38.7	37.7	38.7	38.2
Net revenues	26,889	25,990	24,678	28,005	30,800
Growth (%)	14.0	-3.2	-5.2	13.6	10.0
Material cost	9,550	8,869	8,422	9,557	10,511
Employee & other exps.	12,957	13,134	12,359	13,992	15,207
EBITDA	4,383	3,986	3,898	4,456	5,082
EBITDA margins (%)	16.3	15.3	15.8	15.9	16.5
- Depreciation	1,083	1,045	1,068	1,197	1,321
Other income	273	450	319	342	366
Interest expenses	85	63	55	57	59
PBT	3,488	3,328	3,094	3,543	4,067
Effective tax rate (%)	34.7	22.7	25.5	25.5	25.5
+ Associates / (Minorities)	199	152	130	145	161
Net income	2,476	2,724	2,436	2,784	3,191
Adjusted income	2,476	2,724	2,436	2,784	3,191
WANS	189	189	189	189	189
FDEPS (Rs / sh)	13.1	14.4	12.9	14.7	16.8
EPS growth (%)	12.6	10.0	-10.6	14.2	14.6

Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)

Year-end: Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
PBT	3,488	3,328	3,094	3,543	4,067
+ Non-cash items	895	658	803	913	1,015
Oper. prof. before WC	4,383	3,986	3,898	4,456	5,082
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	1,183	-1,085	-500	1,360	1,196
Others incl. taxes	1,353	969	819	913	1,047
Operating cash-flow	1,847	4,102	3,579	2,182	2,838
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	-766	-1,179	-1,186	-1,286	-1,286
Free cash-flow	1,081	2,923	2,392	896	1,552
Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-
- Div. (incl. buyback & taxes)	520	572	512	585	671
+ Equity raised	0	0	-	-	-
+ Debt raised	-329	-323	101	100	100
- Fin investments	462	-378	-660	-	-
- Misc. (CFI + CFF)	83	441	-294	-329	-367
Net cash-flow	-314	1,965	2,936	740	1,348

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Fig 5 – Price movement



Source: Bloomberg

Fig 2 – Balance sheet (Rs m)

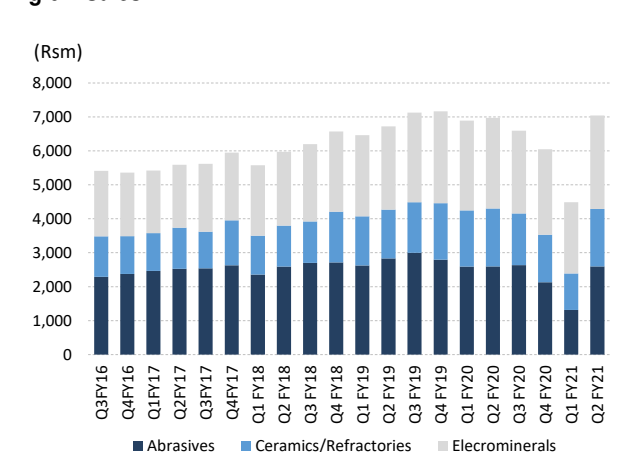
Year-end: Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
Share capital	189	189	189	189	189
Net worth	17,241	18,584	20,507	22,707	25,227
Debt	919	595	696	796	896
Minority interest	523	455	455	455	455
DTL / (Assets)	254	41	11	1	-9
Capital employed	18,937	19,675	21,670	23,959	26,570
Net tangible assets	5,687	5,907	6,026	6,115	6,081
Net intangible assets	40	31	31	31	31
Goodwill	1,223	1,330	1,330	1,330	1,330
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	464	387	387	387	387
Investments (strategic)	1,304	1,212	1,227	1,227	1,227
Investments (financial)	961	675	-	-	-
Current assets (ex cash)	11,565	10,343	9,980	11,739	13,195
Cash	975	2,940	5,876	6,616	7,965
Current liabilities	3,282	3,150	3,187	3,486	3,646
Working capital	8,283	7,193	6,793	8,253	9,549
Capital deployed	18,937	19,675	21,670	23,959	26,570
Contingent liabilities	886	-	-	-	-

Fig 4 – Ratio analysis

Year-end: Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
P/E (x)	20.5	18.6	20.8	18.2	15.9
EV / EBITDA (x)	11.3	11.9	11.7	10.1	8.6
EV / Sales (x)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.4
P/B (x)	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.0
RoE (%)	15.1	15.2	12.5	12.9	13.3
RoCE (%) - after tax	19.3	17.4	15.0	15.6	16.1
RoIC (%) - after tax	16.4	18.4	17.2	18.7	19.5
DPS (Rs / sh)	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.1	3.5
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Receivables (days)	71	57	59	62	64
Inventory (days)	73	72	68	70	71
Payables (days)	34	32	36	36	35
CFO : PAT %	74.6	150.6	146.9	78.4	89.0

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Fig 6 – Sales mix



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Result Highlights

Fig 7 – Results (consolidated), by segment

(Rs m)	Q2 FY20	Q2 FY21	%yoy	FY19	FY20	% yoy
Revenue						
Abrasives	2,595	2,595	(0.0)	11,244	9,953	(11.5)
Ceramics	1,711	1,694	(1.0)	6,044	6,290	4.1
Electro-minerals	2,665	2,754	3.3	10,185	10,258	0.7
Others	197	168	(15.0)	639	708	10.9
EBIT margins %						
Abrasives	11.7	14.3	259	12.5	11.3	-112
Ceramics and Plastics	21.3	28.4	717	17.9	20.9	305
Electro-minerals	10.2	14.7	444	12.6	10.2	-240

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

Fig 8 – Results (standalone), by segment

(Rs m)	Q2 FY20	Q2 FY21	%yoy	FY19	FY20	% yoy
Revenue						
Abrasives	2,101	2,110	0.4	9,209	8,147	-11.5
Ceramics	1,467	1,327	(9.6)	4,985	5,120	2.7
Electro-minerals	1,078	1,078	0.1	4,534	4,109	-9.4
Total	4,646	4,515	(2.8)	18,728	17,376	-7.2
EBIT margins (%)						
Abrasives	13.4	15.2	181	14.1	13.3	-79
Ceramics and Plastics	20.6	25.5	496	16.4	19.5	314
Electro-minerals	5.4	9.7	427	9.8	5.3	-452

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

Fig 9 – Cost-structure trend and margins (consolidated)

(Rs m)	Q2 FY18	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Q1 FY20	Q2 FY20	Q3 FY20	Q4 FY20	Q1 FY21	Q2 FY21
Sales	5,872	6,116	6,495	6,343	6,596	6,929	7,021	6,714	6,843	6,494	5,940	4,496	6,920
Material cost	2,060	2,051	2,257	2,197	2,334	2,571	2,448	2,384	2,440	2,253	1,793	1,428	2,463
Employee cost	761	790	801	826	843	791	813	840	917	886	805	824	855
Power and fuel	768	835	896	875	914	1,018	979	955	937	900	925	706	904
Other expenses	1,224	1,403	1,383	1,371	1,421	1,517	1,589	1,583	1,504	1,491	1,392	1,104	1,359
% of sales													
Material cost	35.1	33.5	34.8	34.6	35.4	37.1	34.9	35.5	35.7	34.7	30.2	31.8	35.6
Employee cost	13.0	12.9	12.3	13.0	12.8	11.4	11.6	12.5	13.4	13.6	13.5	18.3	12.3
Power and fuel	13.1	13.7	13.8	13.8	13.9	14.7	13.9	14.2	13.7	13.9	15.6	15.7	13.1
Other expenses	20.8	22.9	21.3	21.6	21.5	21.9	22.6	23.6	22.0	23.0	23.4	24.6	19.6
Margins	18.0	17.0	17.8	16.9	16.4	14.9	17.0	14.2	15.3	14.9	17.3	9.6	19.4

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

Fig 10 – Cost-structure trend and margins (standalone)

(Rs m)	Q2 FY18	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Q1 FY20	Q2 FY20	Q3 FY20	Q4 FY20	Q1 FY21	Q2 FY21
Sales	3,895	4,115	4,493	4,154	4,426	4,641	4,600	4,307	4,401	4,150	3,655	2,381	4,303
Material cost	1,704	1,716	1,851	1,707	1,869	2,063	1,881	1,795	1,804	1,696	1,302	1,104	1,824
Employee cost	427	457	443	476	475	431	439	495	527	527	410	462	483
Power and fuel	365	417	465	445	485	534	465	470	454	429	456	210	390
Other expenses	735	884	918	839	867	889	984	937	944	876	795	512	842
% of sales													
Material cost	43.7	41.7	41.2	41.1	42.2	44.5	40.9	41.7	41.0	40.9	35.6	46.4	42.4
Employee cost	11.0	11.1	9.9	11.5	10.7	9.3	9.5	11.5	12.0	12.7	11.2	19.4	11.2
Power and fuel	9.4	10.1	10.3	10.7	11.0	11.5	10.1	10.9	10.3	10.3	12.5	8.8	9.1
Other expenses	18.9	21.5	20.4	20.2	19.6	19.2	21.4	21.8	21.5	21.1	21.7	21.5	19.6
Margins	17.0	15.6	18.2	16.6	16.5	15.6	18.1	14.2	15.2	15.0	18.9	4.0	17.8

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

Concall highlights

Abrasives: Mass market, auto sector, exports saw traction

Abrasives outperformed during the quarter led by increased demand for mass-market products. Precision-abrasives saw growth from the auto segment led by greater demand for two-wheelers. This is expected to be healthy in the festival season ahead. In Russia, growth of bonded abrasives is expected to be robust, while coated abrasives would increase, with a greater response from export markets. CUMI America volumes are lower than last year; however H2 is expected to be better than H1. CUMI Middle East grew ~36% y/y led by execution of large project orders. Sterling Abrasives grew ~5% backed by demand from agro-processing and industrials like bearings, gear grinders, etc., doing well. Segment margins improved 260bps y/y to 14.3% backed by certain fixed-cost savings, which are likely to be permanent.

Electro-mineral division (EMD): Better performance in subsidiaries

The EMD was flat standalone, while revenue from subsidiaries was up 5.5% y/y, driven by healthy growth in Volzhsky Abrasives Works, Russia and Foskor Zirconia, South Africa. Volzhsky volumes and realisations saw healthy growth, with all-time high exports and favourable forex. With demand for abrasives reviving, fused alumina performance improved in the second half of Q2. Demand for specialties from Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) has been better (making up 5% of the segment's revenue); however this can be for a shorter period. The margin improved 450bps y/y led by the better product mix, prudent cost control in the domestic business and Volzhsky's consistent performance.

Ceramics: Drop in standalone revenue offset by strong subsidiary performance

In its standalone business, technical ceramics saw the highest ever volumes in Q2 FY21. Wear ceramics performance continue to do well; however project ordering is muted. To tackle the ongoing weak demand, the company is focusing on repairs and maintenance in various sectors. Refractories had a tepid quarter as steel and the renewables sectors were muted. Healthy sales volumes were seen in metalised cylinders and alternative energy and Q3 is expected to see similar volumes. However, volumes would be lower in Q4 as customer inventory would have already built up. Subsidiary performances were robust with 51% y/y revenue growth. CUMI America ceramics revenue grew 21%. Consolidated segment margin saw an exceptional 710bps y/y expansion to 28.4%, led by cost reduction in wear ceramics and higher volumes in technical ceramics. Management said it is targeting steel and coal mining to expand its scope for wear materials and expects 15% volume growth in technical ceramics.

Demand improving; coming opportunities could bring added business

The overall demand scenario in the home market has improved in certain sectors like auto & auto ancillaries, some areas of real estate (esp. house refurbishing's) and construction. The steel sector too is reviving and greater traction is seen in repairs and maintenance from industries such as coal and power. Project orders were slow; however they expected to revive over H2. Moreover, the shift of demand from China is visible in greater enquiries. The government sops to the electronics sector would be a good opportunity. Currently, the company offers precision abrasives in this sector, which can grow significantly. Also, ceramics, alumina and silicon

carbide (SiC) for chip-making would be the biggest opportunity.

Mixed situation in the global market

The US home market is at a 15-year high leading to greater demand for coated abrasives. Europe saw a tepid quarter; however the automobile picked up somewhat in Q2. EMD and ceramics exports picked up from Russia, coupled with the reviving demand scenario in CUMI America. Australian and Russian subsidiaries' revenues grew respectively 13% and 7% y/y.

Other key highlights

- SiC capacity expansion: Equipment is in place; however, there has been delay in commissioning as German engineers are awaiting easing of international travel. CU managed to commission one line through digital means.
- The Foskor Zirconia deal is expected to be closed in Q3 FY21.
- Working capital improved to 88 days in Sep'20 from 103 in Mar'20. Collections were robust across businesses. Abrasives would see some inventory build-up due to greater demand from end-users.
- Capex during Q2 FY21 was Rs530m. The debt-equity came at 0.03x with debt of Rs659m (vs. Rs630m the quarter prior). Cash was Rs5.6bn, vs. Rs3.9bn in Jun'20.

Valuation

We expect CUMI to be an early beneficiary of normal industrial activity. Ceramics would add to healthy growth because of good demand in Australia and in metallised cylinders. With its focus on operating efficiency, cost control, launches of products in ceramics and quitting the loss-suffering Foskor Zirconia this year, management is confident of steady margins ahead. We maintain a Buy on the stock, with a revised TP of Rs337 (20x FY23e).

Fig 11 – Change in estimates

Rs mn	Old Estimates			New Estimates			Change (%)		
	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e	FY21e	FY22e	FY23e
Revenue	23,801	27,032	29,979	24,678	28,005	30,800	3.7	3.6	2.7
EBITDA	3,546	4,308	4,956	3,898	4,456	5,082	9.9	3.4	2.5
EPS (Rs)	11.0	13.7	16.0	12.9	14.7	16.8	17.5	7.4	5.1

Source: Anand Rathi Research

Fig 12 – One-year-forward PER



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Key risks

- **Highly responsive to growth (or the lack of it) in user industries:** Slowdown in user industries could lead to Carborundum Universal's growth contracting.
- **Delay in sale of Foskor Zirconia:** If management cannot find a suitable buyer, margins would keep shrinking.

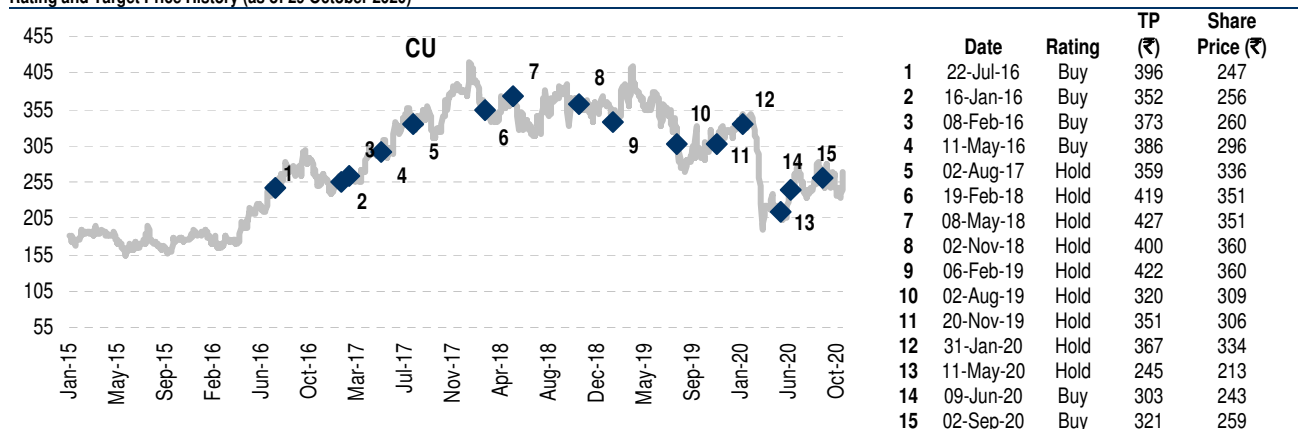
Appendix

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