Research

CMP: ₹ 83

Target: ₹ 100 (20%)

Target Period: 12 months

May 30, 2021

Decent performance; order book remains strong...

NCC reported a decent set of numbers in Q4FY21 with revenue growth of 20% YoY to ₹ 2617.7 crore on a standalone basis. The topline growth was mainly driven by strong order book position and pick-up in execution. However, operating margin declined 179 bps YoY to 11.1% owing to higher sub-contracting expenses. Consequently, operating profit improved merely 3.3% YoY to ₹ 289.7 crore. At the net level, a decent operating performance coupled with benign depreciation and interest cost has translated into 11.4% YoY growth to ₹ 115.5 crore in adjusted PAT.

Order book robust; second wave to impact Q1 execution

Order book as on Q4FY21 was at ₹ 37,911 crore (book to FY21 bill ratio of 5.2x), backed by healthy inflows of ₹ 18,943 crore secured in FY21. Going forward, the management expects healthy momentum in order inflows to continue over medium-to-longer term to be aided by government's strong focus on different infrastructure verticals. On the execution front, NCC is witnessing healthy revenue growth from the past couple of quarters led by elevated order book position, pick-up in construction activities. However, the improved execution pace has been impacted in April-May 2021 owing to unavailability of desired labour on project sites due to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. While it refrained from giving guidance, the management expects decent revenue growth in FY22 to be driven by a) higher executable order book, b) comparatively better labour counts and minimal interruptions in raw material supply chain, and c) no major stoppage of work from client side. We expect topline to witness 25.8% revenue CAGR in FY21-23E, on a benign base. Also, its operating margin is likely to be at $\sim 11.5\%$ (~ 100 bps lower than FY20 levels), given the current order book mix and factoring increased raw material costs.

Debt reduced further; working capital days to improve

NCC's standalone debt has reduced to ₹ 1,789 crore (from ₹ 2,003 crore in Q2) and is likely to remain range bound near current levels with higher profitability, and better cash flow management. Also, its dues from Andhra Pradesh have reduced to ₹ 714 crore (money stuck in legacy capital city project-including retention at ₹ 255 crore). With expected improvement in disbursals from various state governments, its debtor days are likely to get moderated, in-turn, normalising working capital days over medium term.

Valuation & Outlook

Strong order book position and expected pick-up in execution is likely to drive NCC's overall performance. Further, its stable operating margins and improvement in working capital cycle remain key positives. We retain our **BUY** rating with a revised TP of ₹ 100/share (vs. ₹ 110/share, earlier).

Key Financial Summary FY20 FY21 FY22E FY23E CAGR FY21-23E ₹ crore **FY19** 12,079.8 8,218.8 7,255.7 9,852.1 11,481.5 25.8% Net Sales EBITDA 1,423.0 1,030.2 854.5 1,136.9 1,325.0 24.5% EBITDA Margin (%) 11.8 12.5 11.8 11.5 11.5 PAT 563.9 382.0 261.1 481.6 599.0 51.5% 7.9 9.4 9.8 EPS (₹) 6.3 4.3 10.6 8.5 8.9 13.3 19.5 P/E (x) EV/EBITDA(x) 4.8 6.5 7.5 5.8 5.2 RoNW (%) 11.9 7.5 4.9 8.4 9.6 RoCE (%) 21.2 14.7 11.2 14.2 15.7



BUY

Particulars	
Particular	Amount
Market Capitalization	5,086.1
Total Debt (₹ crore)	1,789.0
Cash (₹ crore)	438.5
EV (₹ crore)	6,436.6
52 week H/L (₹)	100 / 21
Equity capital	122.0
Face value	2.0

Key Highlights

- Strong order book of ₹ 37,911 crore provides revenues visibility
- Retain BUY rating with revised target price of ₹ 100/share

Key risk to our call

- Weaker than expected execution
- Stretched working capital and payment delays, if any

Result Update

Research Analyst

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Year	Q4FY21	Q4FY21E	Q4FY20	YoY (%)	Q3FY21	QoQ(%)	Comments
Net Sales	2,617.7	2,748.3	2,182.0	20.0	1,918.4	36.5	Topline miss owing to slower than expected execution
Other Income	21.2	26.6	24.1	-12.1	24.5	-13.6	
Total Construction Expenses	1,172.6	1,216.0	1,091.0	7.5	848.8	38.1	
Employee cost	89.9	129.4	97.1	-7.5	90.3	-0.5	
Other expenditure	1,065.6	1,074.6	713.3	49.4	739.9	44.0	
EBITDA	289.7	328.3	280.5	3.3	239.3	21.1	
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.1	11.9	12.9	-179 bps	12.5	-141 bps	Margin moderated with higher sub-contracting expenses
Depreciation	43.3	41.5	43.9	-1.4	43.9	-1.3	
Interest	117.7	110.2	119.5	-1.5	106.5	10.5	
Exceptional items	0.0	0.0	6.7	NA	0.0	NA	
PBT	149.9	203.2	147.9	1.4	113.4	1,184.6	
Taxes	34.4	69.1	37.5	-8.3	43.1	-20.2	
PAT	115.5	134.1	110.4	4.6	70.3	64.3	

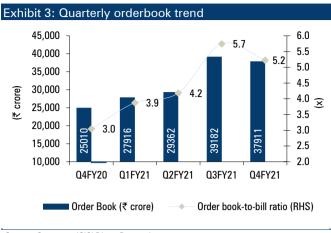
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

	FY20	FY21		FY22E			FY23E		
(₹ Crore)			Old	New 9	% Change	Old	New	% Change	
Revenue	8,218.8	7,255.7	10,057.2	9,852.1	-2.0	11,632.6	11,481.5	-1.3	Realign post Q4 performance
EBITDA	1,030.2	854.5	1,210.9	1,136.9	-6.1	1,400.6	1,325.0	-5.4	
EBITDA Margin (%)	12.5	11.8	12.0	11.5	-50 bps	12.0	11.5	-50 bps	Bake in muted margins on higher commodity prices
PAT	382.0	261.1	504.7	481.6	-4.6	622.1	599.0	-3.7	
EPS (₹)	6.3	4.3	8.3	7.9	-4.6	9.9	9.8	-3.7	

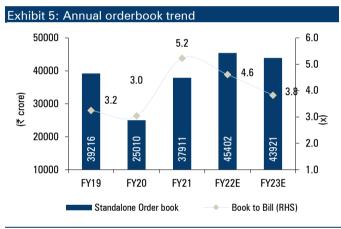
Conference call Highlights

- Order book update: NCC's order book as on March 31, 2021 was at an elevated level of ₹ 37,911 crore (book to TTM bill ratio of 5.2x), mainly driven by robust inflows of ₹ 18,943 crore secured in FY21. Among major business segment, building division contributed ₹ 21,157 crore to the order book, followed by water and railways (₹ 7,078 crore), mining (₹ 2,592 crore), irrigation (₹ 2,442 crore), electrical (₹ 2,438 crore), and roads (₹ 1,954 crore) segments. State wise, Uttar Pradesh contribution to the overall order book stood at 25%, followed by Andhra Pradesh (11%), Karnataka (10%), Maharashtra (10%), Telangana (7%), Jharkhand (6%), and Bihar (6%). Going forward, the management expects strong momentum in order inflows to continue over medium-to-longer term to be aided by government's strong focus on different infrastructure verticals. The company is majorly focusing on a) building: affordable housing, b) water: higher traction being witnessed in Jal Jeevan mission, and c) roads and expressways segments
- Guidance: With the gradual recovery in construction activities post lockdown period, NCC has managed to report decent topline growth on QoQ basis over past few quarters. However, the execution pace during April-May 2021 got impacted with unavailability of desired level of labours on project sites owing to second-wave of Covid-19 pandemic. For FY22, the management has currently refrained from providing any concrete guidance with the Covid-19 related uncertainties. However, the management expects decent revenue growth in FY22 on YoY basis mainly to be driven by a) higher executable order book, b) comparatively better labour counts and minimal interruptions in raw material supply chain (vs minimal execution witnessed during April-May 2020 due to national-wide lockdown), and c) no major stoppage of projects from client side. Additionally, given the current order book mix and factoring increased raw material costs, the management expects operating margin to be at ~11.5% under normalised scenario
- Debt and Interest rate: NCC's finance cost has remained muted to
 ₹ 117.7 crore during Q4FY21 (vs. ₹ 119.5 crore, ₹ 106.5 crore reported
 in Q4FY20, Q3FY21, respectively). This is mainly backed by a) reduction
 in standalone debt by ₹ 120 crore (to ₹ 1,789 crore), b) drop in average
 cost of capital from 9.84% in FY20 to 9.22% in FY21, and c) decline in
 bank guarantee costs. Going forward, the company expects its debt to
 further come down by another ₹ 100-200 crore during FY22 backed by
 higher profitability and better cash flows management and funds
 expected from the monetisation of land parcels
- Working capital: Delays in payment from various state government such as Andhra Pradesh (AP) in the recent past has kept its debtors at an elevated level. However, the management has indicated towards MoM improvement in debtor days mainly backed by improving disbursals (total outstanding from AP reduced from ₹ 991 crore in Q2 FY21-end to ₹ 714 crore by FY21-end). Going forward, the management expects receipt of payment from AP government (stuck towards older projects), which is likely to improve its working capital days.
- Monetisation of real estate: NCC has completed the various stages of discussions with a potential buyer for NCC Vizag Urban project and the draft agreement has been prepared. However, the final approval from government side is currently pending and getting delayed due to Covid-19 related issues. Despite this, the management expects signing of agreements and conclusion of transaction over next couple of months
- Capex and tax rate: The management has guided for ₹ 200 crore of capex during FY22. Additionally, NCC has opted for new regime for taxes due to which its tax rate likely to reduce to 25.2% from here on

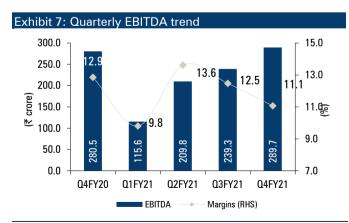
Company Analysis



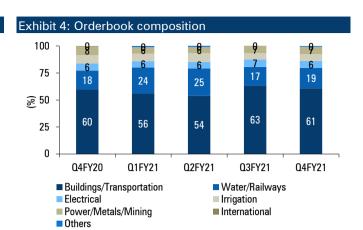
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research



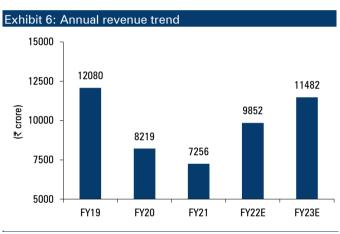
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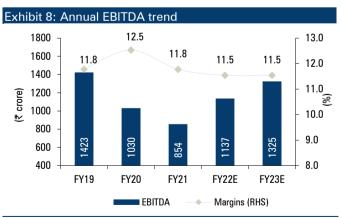
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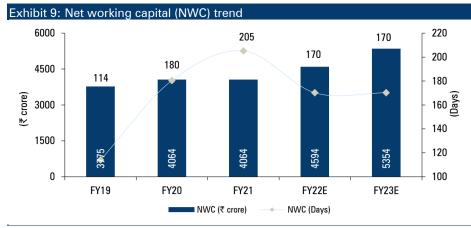


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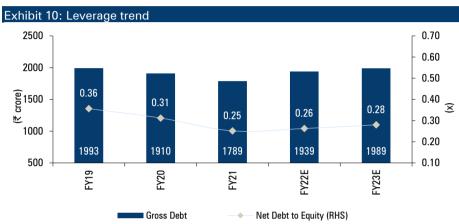


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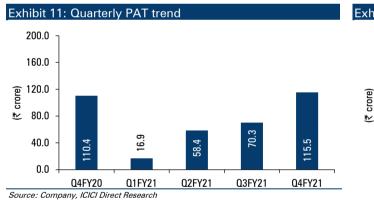


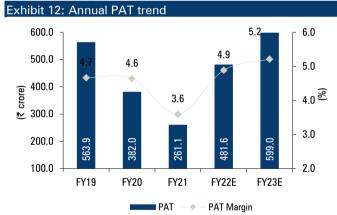


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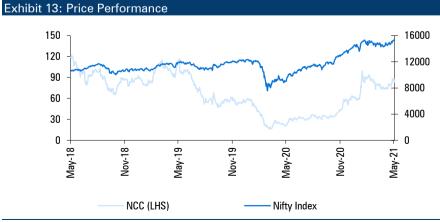


Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research









Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

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Financial summary

xhibit 14: Profit and	loss state	ment		₹ crore
₹ crore	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	8,218.8	7,255.7	9,852.1	11,481.5
Other Income	151.3	115.6	132.9	152.9
Total revenues	8,370.1	7,371.3	9,985.0	11,634.4
Raw Material Expenses	2,944.7	2,377.9	3,493.6	4,071.3
Employee benefit expense	435.2	349.4	443.3	516.7
Construction expenses	3,550.2	3,494.6	4,433.4	5,166.7
Other Expenses	258.6	179.4	344.8	401.9
Total operating expenses	7,188.7	6,401.2	8,715.2	10,156.6
EBITDA	1,030.2	854.5	1,136.9	1,325.0
Interest	517.9	457.8	441.8	481.3
Depreciation	177.5	174.1	184.2	195.7
PBT	453.4	338.2	643.9	800.8
Taxes	71.3	77.1	162.3	201.8
PAT	382.0	261.1	481.6	599.0
EPS	9.4	6.3	4.3	7.9

xhibit 15: Cash flow stater	nent			₹ cror
₹ crore	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Profit after Tax	382.0	261.1	481.6	0.1
Depreciation	177.5	174.1	184.2	0.0
Prov for Taxes	317.8	71.3	77.1	162.3
Cash Flow before wc changes	697.5	452.2	812.1	(441.2
Change in WC	(594.5)	(294.0)	(35.5)	(530.4
Taxes Paid	(311.2)	(104.2)	87.3	(162.3
Net CF from op. activities	232.7	564.1	135.4	(759.6)
(Purchase)/Sale of Fixed Assets	(117.8)	(171.8)	(200.0)	45.7
(Purchase)/Sale of Investments	19.3	(152.2)	-	-
Net CF from inv. activities	(98.5)	(324.0)	(200.0)	45.7
Proceeds from Secured Borrowing	(50.1)	(108.2)	150.0	50.0
Proceeds from Unsecured Borrow	(33.1)	(12.9)	-	-
Net CF from fin. activities	(116.4)	(118.4)	53.7	529.1
Net Cash flow	17.9	121.7	(10.9)	(184.8
Opening Cash	299.0	316.9	438.5	427.6
Closing Cash	316.9	438.5	427.6	242.8

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Exhibit 16: Balance sl	neet			₹ cror
₹ crore	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Equity Capital	122.0	122.0	122.0	122.0
Reserve and Surplus	4,983.7	5,247.5	5,632.8	6,112.0
Total Shareholders funds	5,105.6	5,369.4	5,754.7	6,234.0
Total Debt	1,910.1	1,789.0	1,939.0	1,989.0
Other Non-current Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Deferred Tax Liability	(205.5)	(41.1)	(41.1)	(41.1
Source of Funds	6,810.2	7,117.3	7,652.6	8,181.8
Gross Block	2,026.9	2,192.1	2,392.1	2,542.1
Less: Accumulated Dep	979.4	1,153.5	1,337.7	1,533.5
Net Block	1,047.5	1,038.6	1,054.4	1,008.6
Capital WIP	14.8	21.5	21.5	21.5
Total Fixed Assets	1,062.3	1,060.1	1,075.9	1,030.2
Investments	1,100.0	1,252.2	1,252.2	1,252.2
Inventory	514.8	526.8	674.8	786.4
Sundry Debtors	2,618.0	2,660.2	3,104.1	3,617.5
Loans & Advances	594.7	300.1	674.8	786.4
Cash & Bank Balances	316.9	438.5	427.6	242.8
Other Current Assets	6,091.9	6,120.5	6,856.0	7,989.9
Total Current Assets	10,136.3	10,046.1	11,737.3	13,423.0
Trade Payable	3,983.0	3,713.4	4,588.6	5,347.6
Provisions	85.7	102.1	102.7	119.7
Other Current Liabilities	1,685.9	1,728.6	2,024.4	2,359.2
Total Current Liabilities	5,754.7	5,544.1	6,715.8	7,826.5
Net Current Assets	4,381.6	4,502.0	5,021.5	5,596.5
Application of Funds	6,810.2	7,117.3	7,652.6	8,181.8

Exhibit 17: Key ratios

Per Share Data

₹ crore

Per Share Data				
Reported EPS	6.3	4.3	7.9	9.8
Cash EPS	9.2	7.1	10.9	13.0
BVPS	83.7	88.0	94.4	102.2
Operating Ratios				
EBITDA / Net Sales	12.5	11.8	11.5	11.5
PAT / Net Sales	4.6	3.6	4.9	5.2
Return Ratios				
RoE	7.5	4.9	8.4	9.6
RoCE	14.7	11.2	14.2	15.7
RolC	13.2	10.2	13.2	14.3
Valuation Ratios				
ev / Ebitda	6.5	7.5	5.8	5.2
P/E	13.3	19.5	10.6	8.5
EV / Net Sales	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6
Market Cap / Sales	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4
Price to Book Value	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
Turnover Ratios				
Asset turnover	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.4
Debtors Turnover Ratio	1.6	3.8	3.1	2.7
Creditors Turnover Ratio	2.2	2.7	2.1	2.0
Salvanav Patiaa				
Solvency Ratios				
Net Debt / Equity	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Current Ratio	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Quick Ratio	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6

FY20

FY21

FY22E

FY23E

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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