# <u>Motilal Oswal</u>

# **KNR Construction**

Estimate change	1
TP change	1
Rating change	

Bloomberg	KNRC IN
Equity Shares (m)	281
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	78.9 / 1.1
52-Week Range (INR)	344 / 129
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-8/10/80
12M Avg Val (INR M)	254

#### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2021	2022E	2023E
Sales	27.0	34.2	42.8
EBITDA	5.4	6.8	8.3
PAT	2.5	3.8	5.4
EBITDA (%)	19.8	20.0	19.5
EPS (INR)	9.0	13.5	19.1
EPS Gr. (%)	24.1	49.7	41.6
BV/Sh. (INR)	66.4	79.4	98.0
Ratios			
Net D/E	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
RoE (%)	14.5	18.5	21.5
RoCE (%)	15.1	19.5	22.4
Payout (%)	0.0	3.7	2.6
Valuations			
P/E (x)	31.2	20.9	14.7
P/BV (x)	4.2	3.5	2.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.5	11.3	9.2
Div Yield (%)	0.0	0.1	0.1
FCF Yield (%)	2.6	1.3	3.7

#### Shareholding pattern (%)

Sep-21	Jun-21	Sep-20
51.5	53.3	55.0
33.9	34.4	34.3
4.3	2.3	1.5
10.4	10.1	9.1
	51.5 33.9 4.3	33.9         34.4           4.3         2.3

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR281 TP: INR360 (+28%)

Buy

# Another strong quarter; beat on all fronts

## Margins to remain elevated

- KNR Construction (KNRC) continued its robust performance with revenue growth of 26% YoY, surpassing our expectations by 8%. The order book (OB) was strong at INR116b (including recently won projects), with the OB/revenue ratio at 3.7x.
- Total pending receivables from Irrigation stood at INR7b, which the management expects to recover by end-FY22. The company is debt-free at the standalone level.
- The credit rating for long-term facilities was recently upgraded from IND AAto IND AA, with a stable outlook.
- We raise our FY23/FY24 estimate by 9.1%/6.4% on account of better-thanexpected operating performance. The TP has been increased to INR360 on a) 16x Sep'23E EPS for the EPC business and b) P/Inv of 1x on road assets. Maintain Buy.

#### **Execution momentum continues**

- 2QFY22 snapshot: The topline grew 26% YoY to ~INR7.6b in 2QFY22 and was 8% ahead of our estimate. The topline on a QoQ basis grew 2% despite the impact of the monsoon season.
- The EBITDA margin was robust at 22.2% in 2QFY22 (+155 bps YoY).
   EBITDA/PAT grew 35%/62% YoY to INR1.7b/INR0.95b (v/s our estimate of INR1.3b/INR0.7b).
- The current order book (OB) stands at ~INR116b (incl. recently won projects), with the OB/revenue ratio at 3.7x.

### Key takeaways from management commentary

- The execution momentum continued in 2QFY22 despite the monsoon. The workforce strength has reached pre-COVID levels. Execution was primarily driven by HAM projects during the quarter.
- The 2QFY22 revenue split stood as follows: 46% for HAM, 30% for Irrigation, and 24% for Other EPC.
- One of the HAM projects (KNR Shankarampet) received a provisional commercial operations date (PCOD) on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- The incremental equity requirement is INR6.4b over the next three years (INR2.7b/INR2.3b/INR1.35b for FY22/FY23/FY24).
- The revenue guidance stands at INR30b and EBITDA margin would be 18– 19% for FY22.

#### Valuation and view

- Including recently won projects, KNR has won orders of INR56b in 1HFY22. We expect the company to focus on the faster execution of the current order book. Irrigation receivables are a key monitorable due to the payment delays witnessed.
- On the back of such a strong order book, we expect KNR to post a revenue/EPS CAGR of 24%/36% over FY21–24. We maintain a **Buy** rating, with higher TP of INR360 on **a**) 16x Sep'23E EPS for the EPC business and **b**) P/Inv of 1x on road assets.

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# MOTILAL OSWAL

Var

(%)

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29

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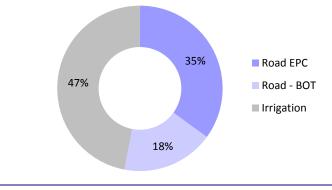
39

#### **Quarterly performance – Standalone** (INR m) Y/E March FY21 **FY22E** FY21 **FY22E** MOSL 2QE 2Q 3Q 4Q 2Q 3QE 4QE 1Q 1Q 7,400 **Net Sales** 4,794 6,012 9,358 7,556 8,000 11,210 27,026 34,166 7,000 6,863 23.0 16.6 19.8 26.4 YoY Change (%) 14.9 38.5 54.4 25.7 21.7 16.4 3.2 4,772 5,967 5,705 **Total Expenditure** 3,850 5,510 7,536 5,880 6,400 9,086 21,668 27,333 1,240 **EBITDA** 943 1,353 1,822 1,433 1,675 1,600 2,125 5,358 6,833 1,295 Margins (%) 19.7 20.6 19.7 19.5 19.4 22.2 20.0 19.0 19.8 20.0 18.5 Depreciation 331 352 373 388 269 320 330 360 1,444 1,279 300 Interest 102 158 184 43 79 72 75 83 487 309 40 94 48 125 132 70 Other Income 61 76 266 105 496 410 Extra-Ord expense 0 -90 0 0 0 0 0 0 -90 0 0 PBT 571 807 1,061 1,485 1,133 1,389 1,320 1,813 3,924 5,655 1.025 173 218 285 715 403 436 591 1,392 1,866 338 Tax 437 30.3 33.0 Rate (%) 27.1 26.9 48.2 35.5 31.4 32.6 35.5 33.0 33.0 **Reported PAT** 398 498 776 770 730 952 884 1,222 2,442 687 3.789 Adj PAT 398 588 776 770 730 952 884 1,222 2,532 3,789 687 YoY Change (%) -16.6 39.7 65.3 14.5 83.5 14.0 58.8 24.1 49.7 61.9 16.7 Margins (%) 8.3 9.8 11.3 8.2 9.9 12.6 11.1 10.9 9.4 11.1 9.8

E: MOSL Estimates

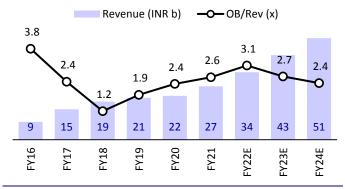
Exhibit 1: Order book breakup (2QFY22: INR65b)

**Exhibit 3: EBITDA and EBITDA margin trend** 



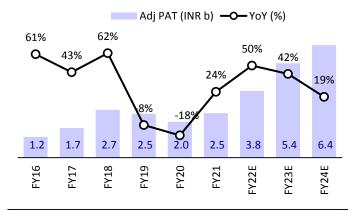
Source: MOFSL, Company



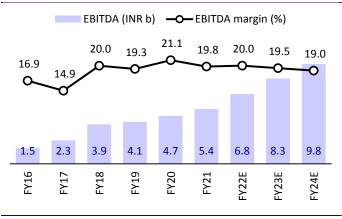


Source: MOFSL, Company

### Exhibit 4: Adjusted PAT to grow at 36% CAGR over FY21–24E

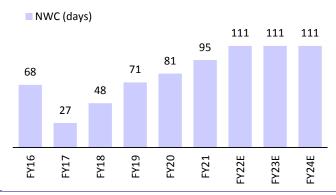






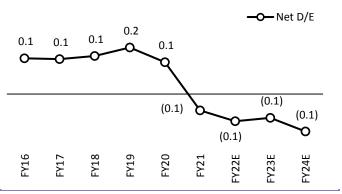
Source: MOFSL, Company

# Exhibit 5: Working capital cycle to extend due to rise in receivables



Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 6: KNRC – one of the best financials in the Roads sector, with net cash on balance sheet from FY21



Source: MOFSL, Company

# Highlights from management commentary

# Business update

- Execution momentum continued during 2QFY22 despite monsoon. The workforce strength has reached pre-covid level. The execution was primarily driven by HAM projects during the quarter.
- The 2QFY22 revenue split stood as follows: 46% for HAM, 30% for Irrigation, and 24% for Other EPC.
- One of the HAM projects (KNR Shankarampet) received a PCOD on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- Total equity invested in KNR Tirumala/KNR Shankarampet/KNR Sriranagm stood at INR1.8b/INR1.3b/INR0.9b and the total consideration to be received stands at INR2.2b/INR1.4b/INR1.1b respectively.
- The promoter holding was diluted recently for repaying of a family settlement and currently stands at 51%. There would be no dilution from hereon.
- The credit rating for long-term facilities was recently upgraded from IND AA- to IND AA, with a stable outlook.
- The consolidated debt as on Sep'21 stood at INR13.8b (Mar'21:INR7.3b).

# **Equity requirement**

- Out of the revised equity requirements of INR5.8b for all the 5 HAM projects, the company has already invested INR4.6b as on Sep'21.
- The Incremental equity of INR 6.4b for new projects is to be infused in coming years (INR2.7b/INR2.3b/INR1.35b for FY22/FY23/FY24 respectively).

# **Order book**

- The INR65b OB (excluding new projects) split is as follows: 53% EPC & HAM and 47% – Irrigation.
- The company is under the process of submitting 10 bids for various road projects with average ticket size of INR10-12b. Order inflow in 2HFY22 is expected to be INR20-25b.



# Land acquisition

- During the quarter, the company paid an advance of INR500m for acquisition of land at Hyderabad for the collateral purpose, which was later decided to buy in the promoter's own company and the advance was paid back to KNRC.
- The management has assured that the company has no intentions to enter into the real estate business in future with the land acquisitions.
- As 2 new HAM projects in Kerala require approx. 4mT of quarry materials, the company proposed to acquire quarry land of approx. 90 acres in Kerala for captive consumption.
- The aggregate rates have increased from INR 19/cft to INR 23/cft within 3 months, hence the company plans to buy 2 quarry lands costing INR960-970m to keep the project cost under control.

### Guidance

- Capex guidance for FY22 stood at INR2.5b.
- Revenue guidance for the FY22 stood at INR30b and EBITDA margin to be around 18-19% for FY22.
- Depreciation to be at INR350-400m levels for 3Q and 4QFY22.

# **Receivables / Working capital**

- Total pending receivables from irrigation stood at INR7b. The management expects to recover it by the end of FY22.
- The working capital days stood largely stable at 45 days compared to 44 days on a YoY basis.
- The company availed INR1b short term working capital loan due to delay in the realization of receivables from the irrigation project from Govt. of Telangana. The same has been repaid now with the receivable getting cleared post 2Q FY22.

Earnings Change	Old			New			Change (%)		
INR m	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	34,166	42,805	51,394	34,166	42,805	51,394	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EBITDA	6,321	7,705	9,251	6,833	8,347	9,765	8.1%	8.3%	5.6%
EBITDA margin	18.5%	18.0%	18.0%	20.0%	19.5%	19.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%
Adj. PAT	3,514	4,915	6,010	3,789	5,364	6,394	7.8%	9.1%	6.4%

## Exhibit 7: Earnings change summary

Source: Company, MOSL

# Valuation and view

- Strong balance sheet: KNRC has already monetized three of its HAM projects. We expect the balance sheet to strengthen further, with a net cash position of INR2.1b/INR2.3b/INR4.6b by FY22E/FY23E/FY24E (FY21: INR1.2b). The company has the best balance sheet position among the mid-cap road EPC companies. This should support premium valuations for KNRC.
- Strong order book to support revenue growth: Given its strong order book position (OB-to-revenue ratio of 3.7x, including recently won projects) and superior execution capability, we expect a ~24% revenue CAGR over FY21–24E. Owing to its strong balance sheet position, KNRC is well-placed to bid for new projects. The total awarding in the Roads sector stood at ~10,500kms (NHAI and MoRTH combined) in FY21 (~8,500kms in FY20) and is expected to gain momentum in FY22.
- Maintain Buy: We raise our FY22/FY23/FY24 estimate by 7.8%/9.1%/6.4% on account of better than expected operating performance in 2QFY22. KNR's OB stands at ~INR116b (incl. recently won projects), implying an OB/revenue ratio of 3.7x. On the back of such a strong order book, we expect KNR to post a revenue CAGR of 24% over FY21–24E. We expect an EPS CAGR of 36% over FY21–24E. We maintain a Buy rating, with TP of INR360, on a) 16x Sep'23E EPS for the EPC business and b) the book value of road assets.

# **Financials and valuations**

Standalone Income Statement						(INR m)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Total Income from Operations	21,204	22,212	27,026	34,166	42,805	51,394
Change (%)	9.8	4.8	21.7	26.4	25.3	20.1
EBITDA	4,101	4,691	5,358	6,833	8,347	9,765
Margin (%)	19.3	21.1	19.8	20.0	19.5	19.0
Depreciation	1,681	1,918	1,444	1,279	1,392	1,527
EBIT	2,420	2,772	3,915	5,554	6,955	8,238
Int. and Finance Charges	291	474	487	309	301	310
Other Income	634	346	496	410	514	617
PBT bef. EO Exp.	2,763	2,644	3,924	5,655	7,168	8,545
EO Items	138	213	-90	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	2,901	2,857	3,834	5,655	7,168	8,545
Total Tax	268	605	1,392	1,866	1,804	2,151
Tax Rate (%)	9.2	21.2	36.3	33.0	25.2	25.2
Reported PAT	2,633	2,252	2,442	3,789	5,364	6,394
Adjusted PAT	2,495	2,039	2,532	3,789	5,364	6,394
Change (%)	-8.2	-18.3	24.1	49.7	41.6	19.2
Margin (%)	11.8	9.2	9.4	11.1	12.5	12.4
Standalone Balance Sheet Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	(INR m) FY24E
Equity Share Capital	281	281	562	562	562	562
Total Reserves	13,862	15,958	18,116	21,764	26,987	33,241
Net Worth	14,143	16,239	18,678	22,327	27,550	33,803
Total Loans	2,641	2,300	7	7	7	7
Deferred Tax Liabilities	-1,739	-1,610	-1,486	-1,486	-1,486	-1,486
Capital Employed	15,045	16,929	17,199	20,848	26,071	32,325
Gross Block	10,752	12,671	13,713	14,713	16,213	17,713
Less: Accum. Deprn.	6,412	8,233	9,677	10,956	12,347	13,874
Net Fixed Assets	4,340	4,438	4,036	3,757	3,866	3,839
Capital WIP	0	102	24	24	24	24
Total Investments	6,448	7,149	4,898	4,588	6,888	8,238
Current Assets	10,176	13,880	18,764	25,803	31,987	40,267
Inventory	951	1,232	1,480	2,050	2,568	3,084
Account Receivables	2,344	4,761	8,632	11,958	14,982	17,988
Cash and Bank Balance	130	330	1,173	2,096	2,285	4,605
Other current assets	6,751	7,557	7,478	9,700	12,152	14,591
	5,919	8,639	10,522	13,325	16,694	20,043
Current Liability				12,983	16,266	19,530
Current Liability Payables and other current liability	5,754	8,407	10,178	12,985	10,200	15,550
	5,754 164	8,407 232	345	342	428	514
Payables and other current liability	,	,	,	•	•	

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios						
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Basic (INR)						
EPS	8.9	7.3	9.0	13.5	19.1	22.7
Cash EPS	14.8	14.1	14.1	18.0	24.0	28.2
BV/Share	50.3	57.7	66.4	79.4	98.0	120.2
DPS	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
Payout (%)	2.6	6.8	0.0	3.7	2.6	2.2
Valuation (x)						
P/E	31.7	38.7	31.2	20.9	14.7	12.4
P/BV	5.6	4.9	4.2	3.5	2.9	2.3
EV/EBITDA	19.9	17.3	14.5	11.3	9.2	7.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
FCF per share	1.6	6.8	7.3	3.8	10.4	14.7
Return Ratios (%)						
RoE	19.4	13.4	14.5	18.5	21.5	20.8
RoCE	18.2	13.9	15.1	19.5	22.4	21.6
RoIC	29.4	24.5	24.4	29.5	33.6	33.9
Working Capital Ratios						
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.9
Asset Turnover (x)	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Inventory (Days)	16	20	20	22	22	22
Debtor (Days)	40	78	117	128	128	128
Leverage Ratio (x)						
Current Ratio	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Interest Coverage Ratio	8.3	5.8	8.0	18.0	23.1	26.6
Net Debt/Equity	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Standalone Cash Flow Statement	51/4.0	51/20	51/24	EVODE	EVODE	(INR m)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	2,906	2,937	3,811	5,655	7,168	8,545
Depreciation	1,681	1,923	1,444	1,279	1,392	1,527
Interest and Finance Charges	291	473	427	309	301	310
Direct Taxes Paid	-550	-844	-787	-1,866	-1,804	-2,151
(Inc.)/Dec. in WC	-1,506	-310	-2,004	-3,315	-2,625	-2,610
CF from Operations	2,822	4,180	2,891	2,062	4,431	5,621
Others	-347	-239	89	0	0	0
CF from Operating incl. EO	2,474	3,941	2,980	2,062	4,431	5,621
(Inc.)/Dec. in FA	-2,034	-2,036	-939	-1,000	-1,500	-1,500
Free Cash Flow	441	1,905	2,041	1,062	2,931	4,121
(Pur.)/Sale of Investments	-1,083	-1,098	1,424	310	-2,300	-1,350
Others	262	291	127	0	0	0
CF from Investments	-2,855	-2,843	612	-690	-3,800	-2,850
Inc./(Dec.) in Debt	268	-511	-2,290	0	0	0
Interest Paid	-298	-401	-459	-309	-301	-310
Dividend Paid	-68	-153	0	-141	-141	-141
Others	170	168	0	0	0	0
CF from Fin. Activity	73	-897	-2,749	-450	-442	-450
Inc./Dec. in Cash	-308	200	843	922	189	2,320
Opening Balance Closing Balance	438 130	130 <b>331</b>	331	1,173 <b>2,096</b>	2,096	2,285
	170	221	1,173	7 006	2,285	4,605

# ΝΟΤΕS

Explanation of Investment Rating				
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)			
BUY	>=15%			
SELL	< - 10%			
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%			
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change			
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation			

\*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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