# Coforge

Estimate change	1
TP change	1
Rating change	

Motilal Oswal

Bloomberg	COFORGE IN
Equity Shares (m)	61
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	250.4 / 3.1
52-Week Range (INR)	5403 / 3210
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	7/7/-24
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1566

#### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	80.3	92.8	104.5
EBIT Margin (%)	17.8	18.3	18.3
PAT	8.6	10.9	12.1
EPS (INR)	138.1	175.8	194.8
EPS Gr. (%)	24.5	27.3	10.8
BV/Sh. (INR)	532.4	640.0	759.1
Ratios			
RoE (%)	28.3	30.6	28.4
RoCE (%)	23.8	25.6	25.2
Valuations			
P/E (x)	29.7	23.3	21.0
P/BV (x)	7.7	6.4	5.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.4	14.4	12.5
Div Yield (%)	1.3	1.7	1.9

#### Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Dec-22	Sep-22	Dec-21
Promoter	40.0	40.1	50.0
DII	26.7	5.4	20.3
FII	21.3	21.0	19.1
Others	12.0	12.5	10.6

FII Includes depository receipts

#### CMP: INR4,101

## TP: INR4,040 (-1%) Neutral

## Strong growth outlook factored into the valuation Robust order intake despite seasonal weakness

- Coforge Ltd (COFORGE) reported 3QFY23 revenue growth of 3.7% QoQ in constant currency (CC) terms, below our estimates of 4.4%. Reported revenue stood at USD251.7m (up 1.9% QoQ/13.6% YoY). Growth was led by the TTH segment, up 1.9% QoQ, while BFSI remained flat and Insurance declined 2.9% QoQ.
- The company reported order intake of USD345m (the highest ever), up 13.4% QoQ with a 12-month executable order rising 5.0% QoQ to USD841m. EBITDA margin (pre-RSU) of 18.5% (up 10bp QoQ) significantly missed our estimated improvement of 110 bp QoQ.
- Q3 performance was adversely affected by seasonality and higher furloughs impact in the Insurance and mortgage (BFS) segments. However, the demand environment remained strong, evidenced by robust order booking, which is expected to support the growth momentum in FY24. The building optimism around strong demand and revenue visibility instill confidence and the management raises the earlier guidance of 20%+ YoY CC to 22% YoY CC growth. The raise implies ~3.5% QoQ CC growth in Q4, which we believe is achievable.
- However, on the margin front, it was a little disappointing with muted
  improvement of 10 bp QoQ, primarily on account of rigorous investments in
  building sale & marketing team, technology, and functional capabilities.
  However, the management indicated that offshoring and fresher onboarding
  are giving impetus to optimize costs, while it expects the utilization to
  improve (80-81%) further and boost productivity in Q4.
- The stock currently trades at 23xFY24E EPS. We broadly maintain our FY23 estimates, while raising our FY24E and FY25E EPS by ~3% and ~5%, respectively, on better revenue visibility. We believe the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here on. Our TP of INR4,040 implies 23xFY24E EPS. We reiterate our Neutral rating on fair valuations.

#### Moderate performance

- COFORGE posted USD revenue / Adj. EBITDA / Adj. PAT growth of 14%/18%/ 24% YoY, respectively.
- In 9MFY23, USD Revenue/ Adj. INR EBITDA/ INR Adj. PAT grew 16%/24%/22%, respectively.
- The company reported EBITDA margin (pre-RSU) of 18.5%, up 10bp QoQ, but below our estimates
- It posted Adj PAT of Rs2.3b (up 13.2% QoQ), which was slightly below our estimates.
- The company reported new TCV of USD 345m (up 13.4% QoQ), 12m executable order rose 5.0% QoQ to \$841mn
- It declared a dividend of INR 19

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### Key highlights from the management commentary

- It won a large deal of \$50m under insurance and a \$24m deal under BPO segment both these deals were on the vendor consolidation side
- BFS and Insurance growth was muted in Q3 on account of furloughs, while the major impact was on the mortgage part of the business, where it has witnessed a substantial ramp down in volume
- Insurance is expected to see a strong recovery in Q4 on the back of large deal win in Q3 with the deal pipeline also seems to be constructive and shaping up quite well
- The momentum around TTH is quite strong, the air traffic recovery and holiday season are complementing the overall growth for the segment
- The structural shift in the employee pyramid would lead to the margin improvement. Although, the employee hiring activities remains muted in Q3 due to enough capacity already built into the system.
- The decline in headcount is largely accounted for the Mortgage BPO part of the business
- Gross margin is expected to be at 33.4% in Q4E
- It expects the utilization to be in the range of 80-81% in Q4

## Valuation and view: Good growth, but valuation remains full

- We see COFORGE's robust growth performance and improvement in deal wins to support growth in FY24
- Strong execution, robust client roasting, and continued investment in S&M have helped the company gain wallet share and deliver industry leading growth
- We believe the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here on. Our TP of INR4,040 implies 23xFY24E EPS. We reiterate our Neutral rating on fair valuations.

Quarterly Performance (Ind-AS)												(INR m)
Y/E March		FY2	22			FY:	23		FY22	FY23E	Est.	Var.
(Consolidated)	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4QE			3QFY23	
Rev. (USD m)	200	213	222	232	239	247	252	264	866	1,002	257	-1.9
QoQ (%)	15.8	6.6	4.1	4.9	2.7	3.4	1.9	5.0	38.0	15.6	4.0	-201bp
Revenue (INR m)	14,616	15,694	16,581	17,429	18,294	19,594	20,558	21,811	64,320	80,257	21,099	-2.6
YoY (%)	38.3	36.0	39.3	38.2	25.2	24.9	24.0	25.1	37.9	24.8	27.2	-326bp
GPM (%)	29.9	32.1	32.4	33.3	30.4	32.0	33.4	34.0	32.0	32.5	33.0	37bp
SGA (%)	13.7	13.5	12.9	13.0	13.9	13.7	14.9	13.5	13.3	14.0	13.5	140bp
EBITDA (INR m)	2,229	2,788	3,068	3,339	2,922	3,449	3,615	4,279	11,424	14,265	3,956	-8.6
EBITDA Margin (%)	15.3	17.8	18.5	19.2	16.0	17.6	17.6	19.6	17.8	17.8	18.7	-116bp
EBIT (INR m)	1,705	2,190	2,502	2,755	2,292	2,835	2,991	3,618	9,152	11,736	3,294	-9.2
EBIT Margin (%)	11.7	14.0	15.1	15.8	12.5	14.5	14.5	16.6	14.2	14.6	15.6	-106bp
Other income	52	-77	-122	-119	-76	-150	83	109	-266	-34	105	-21.3
ETR (%)	18.2	21.1	15.1	13.0	22.2	17.7	23.3	23.0	16.5	21.7	22.5	3.4
Minority Interest	-76.0	-148.0	-135.0	-171.0	-222.0	-195.0	-77.0	-77.6	-530.0	-571.6	-205.5	-62.5
Adj. PAT	1,361	1,519	1,885	2,123	1,501	2,016	2,282	2,792	6,888	8,591	2,429	-6.1
QoQ (%)	-1.1	11.6	24.1	12.6	-29.3	34.3	13.2	22.4			20.5	-730bp
YoY (%)	39.0	25.8	54.5	54.3	10.3	32.7	21.1	31.5	44.0	24.7	28.9	-780bp
Adj. EPS (INR)	21.9	24.5	30.4	34.2	24.2	32.5	36.7	44.9	110.9	138.1	39.1	-6.3

#### Key Performance Indicators

Y/E March		FY2	22		FY23				FY22	FY23E
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		
Revenue (QoQ CC %)	7.0	3.9	5.2	5.0	4.7	6.2				
Margins										
Gross Margin	29.9	32.1	32.4	33.3	30.4	32.0	33.4	34.0	32.0	32.5
EBIT Margin	11.7	14.0	15.1	15.8	12.5	14.5	14.5	16.6	14.2	14.6
Net Margin	9.3	9.7	11.4	12.2	8.2	10.3	11.1	12.8	10.7	10.7
Operating metrics										
Headcount	20,491	20,786	22,130	22,500	22,742	22,991	22,505		22,500	
Attrition (%)	12.6	15.3	16.3	17.7	18.0	16.4	15.8		15.5	
Deal Win TCV (USD b)	318	285	247	301	315	304	345		1,151	
Key Verticals (YoY USD %)										
BFS	76.6	95.2	117.4	119.7	67.2	52.6	24.4		103.7	
Insurance	32.8	18.3	19.7	11.8	(10.3)	(7.8)	(9.7)		20.2	
Travel and Transport	41.6	34.8	26.1	42.6	22.8	20.4	19.8		36.1	
Key Geographies (YoY USD %)										
North America	56.2	49.8	49.9	46.3	18.9	14.0	4.8		50.3	
Europe	39.6	24.3	29.0	34.2	25.0	37.4	35.8		31.7	

## Key highlights from the management commentary

### Demand outlook

- Revenue growth in CC stood at +3.7% QoQ, reported USD growth was at 1.9% QoQ/ 13.6% YoY
- The company signed 5 large deals in Q3 with 2 deals under insurance, while the rest of the deals were on the BPO front
- It won a large deal of \$50m under insurance and a \$24m deal under BPO segment both these deals were on the vendor consolidation side
- The company signed 11 new logos during the quarter
- BFS and Insurance growth was muted in Q3 on account of furloughs, while the major impact was on the mortgage part of the business, where it has witnessed a substantial ramp down in volume
- Insurance is expected to see a strong recovery in Q4 on the back of large deal win in Q3 with the deal pipeline also seems to be constructive and shaping up quite well
- The momentum around TTH is quite strong, the air traffic recovery and holiday season are complementing the overall growth for the segment
- Since the mortgage piece remains weak, the company is focusing on crossselling the BPO part of the business to other verticals (TTH and Insurance) to recover the ramp down in volume from the mortgage part of the service (high BPO contribution)
- Given the robust order book (\$345m) signed this quarter (highest ever) and robust growth (20% YoY) in executable order book (\$841m), gives enough optimism to the management for keeping the growth momentum up even if the macro gets deteriorated from here

#### Margin performance and outlook

The structural shift in the employee pyramid would lead to the margin improvement. Although, the employee hiring activities remains muted in Q3 due to enough capacity already built into the system. It expects a sharp recovery in hiring in Q4 while 1000+ campus engineers are already being trained and expected to become billable



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- The decline in headcount is largely accounted for the Mortgage BPO part of the business
- Gross margin is expected to be at 33.4% in Q4E
- It expects the utilization to be in the range of 80-81% in Q4E
- The growing offshoring trend, lowering attrition and fresher onboarding give sort of a margin tailwind for the next quarter/fin. year
- It expects 150-170 bps QoQ improvement in Adjusted EBITDA (Pre-RSU) in Q4 to achieve the margin guidance for the full year FY23E

### **Other highlights**

The company is actively monitoring the current market condition which remains a little volatile and hence deferring the ADR listing by a couple of months

EXHIBIT I. DIGIN	cu the sequential Browth		
Verticals	Contribution to revenue	Growth - QoQ (USD)	Growth - YoY (USD)
BFS	31.1	0.0	24.4
Insurance	22.1	(2.9)	(9.7)
Transportation	19.3	1.9	19.8
Others	27.5	8.7	22.5

#### Exhibit 1: BFS led the sequential growth

Source: Company, MOFSL

#### Exhibit 2: US and Europe strong, APAC muted

Geography	Contribution to revenue	Growth - QoQ (USD)	Growth - YoY (USD)
US	49.2	(2.2)	4.8
EMEA	40.3	6.7	35.8
APAC	10.5	4.9	(8.3)

Source: Company, MOFSL

### Valuation and view – good growth, but valuations remains full

- We see COFORGE's robust growth performance and improvement in deal wins to support growth in FY24
- Strong execution, robust client roasting, and continued investment in S&M have helped the company gain wallet share and deliver industry leading growth
- We believe, the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here on. Our TP of INR4,040 implies 23xFY24E EPS. We reiterate our Neutral rating on fair valuations.

#### **Exhibit 3: Revisions to our estimates**

	Revised				Earlier			Change		
	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	
INR/USD	80.0	82.5	82.5	80.2	82.8	82.8	-0.2%	-0.4%	-0.4%	
USD Revenue – m	1,002	1,125	1,267	1,010	1,131	1,222	-0.9%	-0.5%	3.6%	
Growth (%)	15.6	12.3	12.6	16.6	11.9	8.1	-100bps	40bps	450bps	
EBIT margin (%)	14.6	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.3	15.2	-20bps	0bps	10bps	
PAT (INR M)	8,591	10,934	12,117	8,598	10,602	11,459	-0.1%	3.1%	5.7%	
EPS	138.1	175.8	194.8	138.6	170.9	184.7	-0.3%	2.9%	5.5%	

Source: MOFSL

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### **Exhibit 4: Operating metrics**

	3QFY21	4QFY21	1QFY22	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23
Revenue Mix Geography-wise (%)	49.0	46.0	51.6	52.2	53.3	49.9	51.3	51.3	49.2
Americas	36.0	40.0	35.3	32.5	33.7	39.8	36.9	38.5	40.3
EMEA	15.0	14.0	13.1	15.3	13.0	10.3	11.9	10.2	10.5
RoW									
Revenue mix Vertical-wise (%)	18.0	17.0	21.1	24.1	28.4	27.7	29.5	31.7	31.1
BFS	32.0	31.0	30.8	29.2	27.8	25.7	23.1	23.2	22.1
Insurance	20.0	19.0	18.9	18.6	18.3	20.1	19.4	19.3	19.3
Transportation	30.0	33.0	29.2	28.1	25.5	26.5	28.0	25.8	27.5
Manufacturing/Media/Others									
Revenue Mix (%)									
Top Clients contribution (%)	24.0	25.0	24.6	22.5	25.2	23.1	22.9	23.1	23.9
Top – 5	34.0	36.0	35.9	33.0	36.1	35.0	35.5	35.8	36.3
Тор -10									
Fresh order Intake - USD m	116	119	46	123	91	158	123	141	208
USA	45	65	227	114	110	104	151	134	113
EMEA	32	17	46	48	47	40	41	29	24
RoW	192	201	318	285	247	301	315	304	345
Deals signed - USD m	501	520	645	688	701	720	745	802	841
Executable Order Book (NTM) - USD m									
Employee Metrics	10538	11469	18739	19579	20938	21294	21494	21692	21153
Billable Personnel	189	188	258	297	281	278	285	291	317
Sales and Marketing	697	734	1494	910	911	928	963	1008	1035
Others	11424	12391	<b>20</b> 491	20786	22130	22500	22742	22991	22505
Total	78.9	81	77	78.5	77.1	76.1	76.2	77.3	80.3
Utilization	10.4	10.5	12.6	15.3	16.3	17.7	18	16.4	15.8
Attrition	49.0	46.0	51.6	52.2	53.3	49.9	51.3	51.3	49.2

Source: Company, MOFSL

# **Financials and valuations**

Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	29,914	36,762	41,809	46,628	64,320	80,257	92,823	1,04,502
Change (%)	7.8	22.9	13.7	11.5	37.9	24.8	15.7	12.6
Cost of revenue	19,179	23,907	27,502	31,692	43,736	54,148	62,381	70,225
SGA expenses	5,723	6,402	6,840	6,545	8,527	11,233	12,672	14,421
RSU costs	0	0	17	480	633	612	820	732
EBITDA	5,012	6,453	7,450	7,911	11,424	14,265	16,950	19,124
% of Net Sales	16.8	17.6	17.8	17.0	17.8	17.8	18.3	18.3
Depreciation	1,273	1,248	1,730	1,836	2,272	2,529	2,811	3,165
Other Income	298	476	461	113	-266	-34	464	314
РВТ	4,037	5,681	6,181	6,188	8,886	<b>11,702</b>	14,603	16,272
Тах	950	1,404	1,229	1,302	1,468	2,539	3,359	3,743
Rate (%)	23.5	24.7	19.9	21.0	16.5	21.7	23.0	23.0
Minority Interest	0	188	238	104	530	572	310	413
Adjusted PAT	3,087	4,089	4,714	4,782	6,888	8,591	10,934	12,117
Change (%)	9.5	32.5	15.3	1.4	44.0	24.7	27.3	10.8
Extraordinary Items	0	56	128	226	269	9	0	0
Reported PAT	3,087	4,033	4,586	4,556	6,619	8,582	10,934	12,117
Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019E	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Share Capital	615	618	625	606	609	609	609	609
Reserves	17,125	20,105	23,340	24,055	26,722	31,868	38,428	45,698
Net Worth	17,740	20,723	23,965	24,661	27,331	32,477	39,037	46,307
Loans	179	100	48	5	3,365	3,365	2,565	1,065
Minority Interest	222	75	0	0	983	0	0	0
Other liabilities	2,710	1,670	2,443	2,043	6,073	3,516	4,067	4,579
Capital Employed	20,851	22,568	26,456	26,709	37,752	39,358	45,669	51,951
Net Block	4,500	4,191	4,013	3,902	4,452	4,429	4,180	4,648
CWIP	7	14	3	2	86	86	86	86
Intangibles	4,293	3,996	5,988	5,690	14,821	14,315	13,753	13,120
Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets	1,719	1,397	2,884	4,245	7,976	7,307	8,451	9,514
Curr. Assets	16,179	17,992	21,510	21,295	22,209	26,562	33,797	40,348
Debtors	5,858	5,877	8,565	8,895	13,894	14,952	17,293	19,469
Cash & Bank Balance	4,102	5,194	8,195	7,999	4,468	5,009	8,880	12,305
Investments	3,733	4,033	976	247	67	67	67	67
Other Current Assets	2,486	2,888	3,774	4,154	3,780	6,534	7,557	8,508
Current Liab. & Prov	5,847	5,833	7,942	8,425	11,792	13,341	14,597	15,765
Trade payables	1,453	1,647	2,634	3,398	6,160	7,638	8,833	9,945
Other liabilities	3,685	3,852	4,979	4,802	5,316	5,316	5,316	5,316
Provisions	709	334	329	225	316	387	448	504
Net Current Assets	10,332	12,159	13,568	12,870	10,417	13,221	19,199	24,583
Application of Funds	20,851	22,568	26,456	26,709	37,752	39,358	45,669	51,951

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios								
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	51.3	66.5	75.5	77.4	110.9	138.1	175.8	194.8
Cash EPS	72.4	85.9	101.2	103.4	143.2	178.6	221.0	245.7
Book Value	294.7	337.0	384.1	407.0	448.7	532.4	640.0	759.1
DPS	15.0	15.0	31.0	20.5	52.0	55.3	70.3	77.9
Payout %	29.2	22.6	41.0	26.5	46.9	40.0	40.0	40.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	79.9	61.7	54.3	53.0	37.0	29.7	23.3	21.0
Cash P/E	56.6	47.7	40.5	39.6	28.6	23.0	18.6	16.7
EV/EBITDA	47.7	37.7	33.1	30.4	21.8	17.4	14.4	12.5
EV/Sales	8.0	6.6	5.9	5.2	3.9	3.1	2.6	2.3
Price/Book Value	13.9	12.2	10.7	10.1	9.1	7.7	6.4	5.4
Dividend Yield (%)	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.9
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	17.6	21.1	21.1	19.7	26.0	28.3	30.6	28.4
RoCE	14.0	17.9	18.6	18.0	23.7	23.8	25.6	25.2
Turnover Ratios								
Debtors (Days)	66	58	63	68	65	66	63	64
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	6.4	8.5	10.2	11.8	15.4	18.1	21.6	23.7
Cash Flow Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
CF from Operations	3,951	5,240	5,633	7,121	9,089	10,128	13,745	15,282
Cash for Working Capital	-128	-713	-2,664	502	-1,433	-4,150	-2,701	-2,510
Net Operating CF	3,823	4,527	2,969	7,623	7,656	5,978	11,044	12,772
Net Purchase of FA	-838	-676	-703	-757	-1,475	-2,000	-2,000	-3,000
Free Cash Flow	2,985	3,851	2,266	6,866	6,181	3,978	9,044	9,772
Net Purchase of Invest.	-1,866	-1,624	1,826	-1,597	-8,089	0	0	0
Net Cash from Invest.	-2,704	-2,300	1,123	-2,354	-9,564	-2,000	-2,000	-3,000
Proceeds from Equity	66	87	275	18	51	0	0	0
Proceeds from LTB/STB	0	-64	-133	-697	2,139	0	-800	-1,500
Dividend Payments	-810	-1,086	-1,469	-4,852	-3,748	-3,437	-4,373	-4,847
Cash Flow from Fin.	-744	-1,063	-1,327	-5,531	-1,558	-3,437	-5,173	-6,347
Net Cash Flow	375	1,164	2,765	-262	-3,466	542	3,870	3,425
Exchange difference	224	-72	236	66	-65	0	0	0
Opening Cash Bal.	3,502	4,101	5,193	8,194	7,998	4,467	5,008	8,879
Add: Net Cash	599	1,092	3,001	-196	-3,531	542	3,870	3,425
Closing Cash Bal.	4,101	5,193	8,194	7,998	4,467	5,008	8,879	12,304

## NOTES

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 be within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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