

31 October 2023

India | Equity Research | Q2FY24 Result Review

Carborundum Universal

Capital Goods

Chinese dumping and overseas demand headwinds impact revenue growth

Carborundum Universal (CUMI) witnessed weak revenue growth due to increased Chinese competition in the domestic market and weakness in select overseas markets. Consolidated revenue/EBITDA/PAT grew 2%/3%/14% YoY to INR 11.5bn/1.7bn/1.1bn in Q2FY24. EBITDA margin was flat on a YoY-basis, primarily on account of increased profitability in abrasives and ceramics. We believe the abrasives business will likely continue to grow on the back of industrial recovery – primarily in auto, agro processing, housing demand in tier 2&3 cities, and SME industrial clusters. CUMI is strengthening its retail distribution network and product portfolio to counter rising competition. With Q2's weak performance, we lower our FY24E/25E earnings by 14%/12%. Retain HOLD; TP revised to INR 1,130 (from INR 1,300).

Muted revenue growth at 2% YoY to INR 11.5bn

This was due to Abrasives (+5.5% YoY), Ceramics (+4.2% YoY) and Electromineral (-7.8% YoY). As per management, Abrasive and Electro-mineral performance was impacted due to Chinese dumping in the retail segment, increased competition in the domestic market and weakness in Europe, which management believes is temporary. Ceramics performed well on account of favourable product mix, better demand and price realisation. However, Engineering Ceramics was impacted due to delays in offtake by the customers which would be addressed in the H2FY24.

Resilient performance by overseas subsidiaries

VAW (Russia) operated at normal capacity utilisation in Q2FY24 and reported revenue of RUB 2.5bn versus RUB 2.1bn in Q2FY23. Share of sales to local market increased to 60%. As per management, none of the subsidiary's products are under any sanctions, and collection efficiency continues to be stable. The company will consider increasing its capacity once the geopolitical situation improves. Rhodius and Awuko's performance was lower to flat on account of weak demand in Europe, which remains a key concern. Subsidiaries in America and Australia performed well.

Maintain 'HOLD'; TP revised to INR 1,130 (35x FY25E EPS)

With a well-diversified and large product basket, CUMI is a key beneficiary of increased focus on the hi-tech manufacturing in the domestic market. The geographical expansions and high-value customised solutions are likely to drive growth in both abrasives and ceramics segments in the medium to long term. Keeping in mind the recent headwinds and company's commentary we reduce our earnings estimates for FY24E/FY25E by 14%/12%.

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Net Revenue	32,896	46,010	48,172	54,297
EBITDA	5,366	6,519	7,139	8,631
EBITDA Margin (%)	16.3	14.2	14.8	15.9
Net Profit	3,500	3,919	4,914	6,188
EPS (Rs)	18.5	20.7	26.0	32.7
EPS % Chg YoY	12.8	15.1	18.0	26.7
P/E (x)	61.7	53.6	45.4	35.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	37.4	30.7	27.8	22.6
RoCE (%)	13.7	13.6	13.7	15.3
RoE (%)	15.1	15.4	15.5	17.0

Ashwani Sharma

sharma.ashwani@icicisecurities.com +91 22 6807 7340

Mohit Kumar

kumar.mohit@icicisecurities.com

Bharat Kumar Jain

jain.bharat@icicisecurities.com

Nikhil Abhyankar

nikhil.abhyankar@icicisecurities.com

Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	205bn
Market Cap (USD)	2,456mn
Bloomberg Code	CU IN
Reuters Code	CRBR.BO
52-week Range (INR)	1,305 /788
Free Float (%)	58.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	3.4

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(12.2)	0.1	25.6
Relative to Sensex	(9.4)	(6.0)	17.3

ESG Disclosure	2021	2022	Change
ESG score	35.8	35.8	-
Environment	2.1	2.1	-
Social	21.6	21.6	-
Governance	83.6	83.6	-

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: Bloomberg, I-sec research

Earnings Revisions (%)	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	(7.1)	(9.0)
EBITDA	(71.5)	(69.7)
EPS	(14.5)	(11.7)

Previous Reports

07-08-2023: <u>Q1FY24 results review</u> 10-05-2023: <u>Q4FY23 results review</u>



Conference call highlights

Abrasives

- Consolidated revenue grew by 5.5% YoY to INR 5.1bn.
- Standalone revenue grew 3.4% YoY to INR 2.8bn. Double-digit volume growth witnessed in the industrial segment.
- Sales from Awuko and Rhodius for the quarter remained flat due to soft demand in Europe.
- The retail segment which forms 30-35% of abrasives revenues is facing challenges due to Chinese dumping and increased competition from new entrant in the domestic market. The industry has approached the government to levy antidumping duty on Chinese imports.
- All abrasives segments, apart from retail, have witnessed double-digit growth.
- The company expects the retail segment to remain flat while achieving double-digit growth in other segments resulting in an overall growth expectation of ~8-10% for the abrasives segment in FY24.
- Better realisation and softening of raw material prices have helped margins improve in the quarter.
- VAW in H1FY24 grew by 24% YoY in Rouble terms, however de-grew 6% in INR terms due to currency depreciation. Rouble conversion rate was INR 0.94 in H1FY24 versus INR 1.24 in H1FY23. Consolidated revenue would have grown by 9-10% had the exchange rate remained same.

Rhodius

- Rhodius achieved sales of EUR 15.2mn in Q2FY24 vs EUR 14.2mn in Q2FY23 vs EUR 15.5mn in Q1FY24. The QoQ decline in sales is a result of soft demand and increased pricing pressure in the market. On YTD basis, sales de-grew by 5% YoY to EUR 30.7mn and loss of EUR 1.4mn as against EUR 2mn.
- Management maintains that the increase in energy cost could be in the range of EUR 2mn-2.5mn in FY24.
- Due to softening demand in Europe and increased energy cost, management has guided for flat sales in FY24.

Awuko

- The subsidiary's sales for Q2FY24 came in at EUR 1.9mn vs EUR 1.95mn for Q4FY23. Losses during the quarter was EUR 0.86mn.
- Management sticks to its previous guidance of Awuko making a loss of EUR 2.5mn in FY24 and breaking even by FY25.

Ceramics

- Consolidated sales grew 4.2% YoY to INR 2.6bn, while standalone grew 3.1% YoY to INR 2.2bn.
- Delay in offtake in engineering ceramics impacted the revenue.
- The de-growth in engineering ceramics is due to customers' focus on clearing their inventories. The management believes that while it is temporary, new orders will take some time.
- Refractory double-digit volumes and stable prices. Metalized Cylinder also did well.



• America, India and Australia businesses are doing well. The management believes that their historical growth of 20% CAGR should continue.

Electromineral

- Consolidated revenue declined by 8% YoY to INR 3.8bn, while standalone revenue increased by 12% YoY to INR 1.9bn.
- Both Alumina and SICs witnessed high teen growth in volume, however dumping by China led to price drop. Margins are under pressure.

Capex

• Company has spent INR 970mn YTD and plans to spend INR 2.6-2.8bn in FY24.

Guidance

- Standalone revenue growth for FY24 in the range of 10-12%
- Consolidated revenue growth of 5%

Exhibit 1: Quarterly financial highlights (consolidated)

INR mn	Q2FY24	Q2FY23	YoY(%)	Q1FY24	QoQ(%)	FY23	FY22	YoY(%)
Net Sales	11,463	11,278	1.6	12,032	(4.7)	46,543	33,248	40.0
EBITDA	1,675	1,630	2.8	1,694	(1.1)	6,519	5,366	21.5
Margin	14.6	14.5	16bps	14.1	53bps	14.0	16.1	-210bps
Depreciation	459	445	3.1	457	0.3	1,873	1,146	63.5
Finance Cost	49	51	(3.6)	52	(5.6)	235	56	317.2
Other Income	196	80	144.3	309	(36.5)	767	398	92.7
PBT	1,364	1,215	12.3	1,494	(8.7)	5,177	4,562	13.5
Tax	437	374	16.9	418	4.7	1,382	1,265	9.2
Tax rate	32.1	30.8	127bps	28.0	409bps	26.7	27.7	-100bps
Reported PAT	1,019	890	14.5	1,132	(10.0)	3,919	3,333	17.6
Margin(%)	9.1	8.3	75bps	9.8	-73bps	9.0	10.5	-160bps
EPS	5.5	5.0		6.2		22.1	18.5	

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 2: Quarterly segmental trend (consolidated)

(INR mn)	Q2FY24	Q2FY23	YoY(%)	Q1FY24	QoQ(%)	FY23	FY22	YoY(%)
Revenue								
Abrasives	5,105	4,839	5.5	5,189	-1.6	20,353	12,830	58.6
Ceramics	2,650	2,543	4.2	2,870	-7.6	10,274	7,980	28.7
Electrominerals	3,775	4,096	-7.8	4,182	-9.7	16,338	13,120	24.5
Power and IT Services	360	334	7.6	343	4.8	1,386	698	98.6
Total Segment Revenues	11,889	11,812	0.7	12,584	-5.5	48,350	34,627	39.6
Less: Inter Segment Revenue	655	646	1.4	674	-2.9	2,340	1,922	21.7
Net Sales	11,234	11,166	0.6	11,909	-5.7	46,010	32,705	40.7
Abrasives	371	280	32.6	312	18.8	1,048	1,563	-33.0
Ceramics	737	645	14.3	810	-9.0	2,507	1,593	57.4
Electrominerals	615	692	-11.1	740	-16.9	2,753	1,942	41.8
Total EBIT	1,672	1,576	6.1	1,802	-7.2	6,132	5,085	20.6
EBIT Margin								
Abrasives	7.3	5.8	149bps	6.0	125bps	5.1	12.2	-700bps
Ceramics	27.8	25.4	245bps	28.2	-40bps	24.4	20.0	440bps
Electrominerals	16.3	16.9	-59bps	17.7	-140bps	16.9	14.8	200bps

Source: Company data, I-Sec research



Exhibit 3: Quarterly financial highlights (standalone)

INR mn	Q2FY24	Q2FY23	YoY(%)	Q1FY24	QoQ(%)	FY23	FY22	YoY(%)
Net Sales (Rs mn) - LHS	6,542	6,184	(5.5)	6,675	(7.4)	25,099	22,152	(11.7)
EBITDA	1,204	1,113	(7.5)	1,216	(8.5)	4,644	3,696	(20.4)
Margin	18.4	18.0	-40bps	18.2	-22bps	18.5	16.7	-180bps
Depreciation	180	172	(4.7)	173	(0.4)	745	650	(12.7)
Finance Cost	14	35	159.6	25	43.5	150	10	(93.6)
Other Income	83	54	(35.0)	179	(69.7)	319	420	31.5
PBT	1,093	960	(12.2)	1,197	(19.8)	4,067	3,455	(15.0)
Tax	264	242	(8.5)	266	(8.9)	1,007	911	(9.6)
tax rate	24.2	25.2	102bps	22.2	302bps	24.8	26.4	160bps
Reported PAT	828	718	(13.4)	931	(22.9)	3,310	2,545	(23.1)
Adjusted PAT	828	718	(13.4)	931	(22.9)	3,060	2,545	(16.8)
Margin(%)	12.7	11.6	-106bps	14.0	-235bps	12.2	11.5	-70bps
EPS	4.4	3.8		4.9		16.2	13.5	

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 4: Quarterly segmental trend (standalone)

	Q2FY24	Q2FY23	YoY(%)	Q1FY24	QoQ(%)	FY23	FY22	YoY(%)
Revenue								
Abrasives	2,853	2,760	-3.3	2,824	-2.3	11,069	10,516	-5.0
Ceramics	2,173	2,108	-3.0	2,308	-8.7	8,342	6,612	-20.7
Electrominerals	1,925	1,721	-10.6	1,971	-12.7	7,020	6,207	-11.6
Total Segment Revenues	6,950	6,589	-5.2	7,103	-7.2	26,431	21,916	-17.1
Less: Inter Segment Revenue	516	485	-5.9	511	-4.9	1,699	1,419	-16.5
Net Sales	6,435	6,103	-5.2	6,593	-7.4	24,732	20,497	-17.1
Abrasives	477	345	-27.6	432	-20.0	1,512	1,627	7.6
Ceramics	570	537	-5.8	621	-13.5	2,048	1,316	-35.8
Electrominerals	145	271	87.8	144	89.1	986	612	-37.9
Total EBIT	1,192	1,154	-3.2	1,196	-3.5	4,546	3,554	-21.8
EBIT Margin								
Abrasives	16.7	12.5	-422bps	15.3	-277bps	13.7	15.5	180bps
Ceramics	26.2	25.5	-78bps	26.9	-142bps	24.6	19.9	-470bps
Electrominerals	7.5	15.8	827bps	7.3	849bps	14.0	9.9	-420bps

Source: Company data, I-Sec research



Outlook and valuation

Due to its well-diversified and large product basket, CUMI is a key beneficiary of the increased focus on hi-tech manufacturing in the domestic market. The geographical expansions and high-value customised solutions are likely to drive growth in both abrasives and ceramics segments in the medium to long term. However, near-term headwinds – such as weakness in Europe and increased dumping from China – could restrict volume growth.

Keeping the near-term headwinds in mind and revised guidance of the company, we cut our earnings estimates and maintain our rating at **HOLD** with a revised target price of **INR 1,130** (35x FY25E EPS).

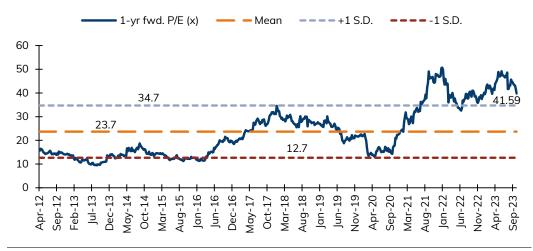
Key risks: i) Escalation in geopolitical tensions, which might impact operations in Russia. ii) Delay in stabilisation and profitability of new acquisitions. iii) Further pressure from increased Chinese competition

Exhibit 5: Earnings revision

INR mn		FY24E		FY25E			
	Earlier	Revised	YoY (%)	Earlier	Revised	YoY (%)	
Revenue	52,469	48,758	-7.1	60,393	54,942	-9.0	
EBITDA	25,050	7,139	-71.5	28,477	8,631	-69.7	
PAT	5,746	4,914	-14.5	7,005	6,188	-11.7	

Source: I-Sec research

Exhibit 6: 1-Year Forward P/E Chart



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

Exhibit 7: Shareholding pattern

%	Mar'23	Jun'23	Sep'23
Promoters	41.5	41.5	41.3
Institutional investors	38.2	39.4	39.9
MFs and others	26.5	27.1	27.8
Fls/Banks	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance	2.1	2.2	1.8
FIIs	9.6	10.1	10.3
Others	20.3	19.1	18.8

Exhibit 8: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg



Financial Summary

Exhibit 9: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Net Sales	32,896	46,010	48,172	54,297
Operating Expenses	16,304	22,883	23,662	26,077
EBITDA	5,366	6,519	7,139	8,631
EBITDA Margin (%)	16.3	14.2	14.8	15.9
Depreciation & Amortization	1,146	1,873	1,900	1,926
EBIT	4,221	4,645	5,239	6,704
Interest expenditure	56	235	189	199
Other Non-operating Income	398	767	921	1,059
Recurring PBT	4,562	5,177	5,971	7,564
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	203	373	436	515
Less: Taxes	1,265	1,382	1,493	1,891
PAT	3,297	3,795	4,478	5,673
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	-	(249)	-	-
Net Income (Reported) Net Income (Adjusted)	3,500 3,500	3,919 4,168	4,914 4,914	6,188 6,188

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Total Current Assets	16,478	20,259	23,072	27,820
of which cash & cash eqv.	3,516	4,001	5,133	7,605
Total Current Liabilities &	5,460	5,004	5,216	5,828
Provisions	5,460	5,004	5,210	5,626
Net Current Assets	11,018	15,256	17,857	21,992
Investments	1,378	1,437	1,537	1,637
Net Fixed Assets	8,085	9,876	10,088	10,662
ROU Assets	395	574	574	574
Capital Work-in-Progress	577	875	875	875
Total Intangible Assets	1,581	4,818	4,818	4,818
Other assets	4,307	644	844	1,044
Deferred Tax assests	269	762	838	922
Total Assets	27,767	34,241	37,430	42,523
Liabilities				
Borrowings	2,122	2,301	1,801	1,301
Deferred Tax Liability	409	525	525	525
provisions	370	743	579	646
other Liabilities	370	1,187	787	787
Equity Share Capital	189	190	190	190
Reserves & Surplus	23,448	28,016	32,268	37,795
Total Net Worth	23,637	28,206	32,458	37,985
Minority Interest	859	1,279	1,279	1,279
Total Liabilities	27,767	34,241	37,430	42,523

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 11: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Operating Cashflow	3,005	1,962	4,532	5,778
Working Capital Changes	(1,437)	(3,706)	(1,846)	(1,821)
Capital Commitments	(3,123)	(3,988)	(2,389)	(2,514)
Free Cashflow	6,128	5,951	6,921	8,292
Other investing cashflow	291	708	821	959
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(2,832)	(3,280)	(1,568)	(1,555)
Issue of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Interest Cost	-	-	-	-
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	1,717	179	(500)	(500)
Dividend paid	(662)	(662)	(662)	(662)
Others	(2,537)	2,289	(670)	(589)
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(1,481)	1,807	(1,832)	(1,750)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	(1,308)	489	1,132	2,472
Closing cash & balance	3,475	3,964	5,095	7,568

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	17.4	20.1	23.7	30.0
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	18.5	20.7	26.0	32.7
Cash EPS	24.6	30.6	36.1	42.9
Dividend per share (DPS)	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Book Value per share (BV)	125.1	149.2	171.7	201.0
Dividend Payout (%)	20.1	17.4	14.8	11.7
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	26.3	39.9	4.7	12.7
EBITDA	15.3	21.5	9.5	20.9
EPS (INR)	12.8	15.1	18.0	26.7
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	61.7	53.6	45.4	35.8
P/CEPS	43.8	35.1	29.8	25.1
P/BV	8.6	7.2	6.3	5.4
EV / EBITDA	37.4	30.7	27.8	22.6
P/Sales	6.2	4.4	4.2	3.7
Dividend Yield (%)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	65.9	63.9	63.9	63.9
EBITDA Margins (%)	16.3	14.2	14.8	15.9
Effective Tax Rate (%)	27.7	26.7	25.0	25.0
Net Profit Margins (%)	10.0	8.2	9.3	10.4
NWC / Total Assets (%)	27.0	32.9	34.0	33.8
Net Debt / Equity (x)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.7)	(0.9)
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	13.7	13.6	13.7	15.3
RoE (%)	15.1	15.4	15.5	17.0
RoIC (%)	13.7	13.6	13.7	15.3
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	4.7	5.2	4.9	5.3
Inventory Turnover Days	85	82	72	75
Receivables Days	59	57	50	52
Payables Days	45	31	27	27



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Name of the Compliance officer (Research Analyst): Mr. Atul Agrawal, Contact number: 022-40701000, E-mail Address: complianceofficer@icicisecurities.com

For any queries or grievances: Mr. Prabodh Avadhoot Email address: headservicequality@icicidirect.com Contact Number: 18601231122