

# **Exide**

Estimate changes
TP change
Rating change

Bloomberg	EXID IN
Equity Shares (m)	850
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	268/3.2
52-Week Range (INR)	342 / 171
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	7/16/53
12M Avg Val (INR M)	752

### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E MARCH	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Net Sales	145.9	161.6	182.9
EBITDA	15.7	18.6	22.8
Adj. PAT	9.0	10.6	13.5
Adj. EPS (INR)	10.6	12.5	15.9
EPS Gr. (%)	7.5	17.4	27.6
BV/Sh. (INR)	131.9	141.2	153.9
Ratio			
RoE (%)	8.1	8.8	10.3
RoCE (%)	8.5	9.3	10.6
Payout (%)	18.8	25.6	20.1
Valuations			
P/E (x)	29.7	25.3	19.8
P/BV (x)	2.4	2.2	2.1
Div Yield (%)	0.6	1.0	1.0
FCF Yield (%)	1.9	5.0	4.5

### Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Dec-23	Sep-23	Dec-22
Promoter	46.0	46.0	46.0
DII	19.2	19.1	19.6
FII	12.9	12.8	11.0
Others	21.8	21.4	23.5

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR316 TP: INR340 (+8% ) Downgrade to Neutral

## Lower revenue growth dents overall performance

# Current valuations factor in the anticipated demand recovery and development in li-ion business

- Exide (EXID)'s 3QFY24 result was weak due to lower-than-expected revenue growth. Moreover, higher lead prices and lower volumes led to an EBITDA margin decline of 30bp YoY/ QoQ each. We expect the EBITDA margin to improve sequentially in 4QFY24 led by sequentially lower RM prices and better product mix.
- We tweak our FY24E EPS by ~4% to factor in the weak operating performance, while we maintain our FY25E EPS. The current valuations of ~25x/20x FY24/25E EPS largely reflect the anticipated recoveries in both replacement and industrials demand, and development in its li-ion business. We, hence, downgrade the stock to Neutral with a TP of INR340 (based on 16x FY26E EPS + INR48/share for HDFC Life stake).

## Higher RM prices lead to a 30bp YoY decline in EBITDA margin

- EXID's 3QFY24 revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT grew 13%/10%/8% YoY to INR38.4b/INR4.4b/INR2.4b (vs. est. INR40.9b/INR4.7b/INR2.7b). Its 9MFY24 revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT grew 9%/13%/11% YoY.
- Revenue growth during the quarter was entirely driven by volume growth, while realizations remained the same. 3Q is a seasonally weak quarter as the UPS contribution (part of the industrial division) declines during the quarter. Gross margin contracted 80bp YoY to 31.5% (vs. est.30.6%) as lead prices grew 2% YoY.
- This was partially offset by lower other expenses that resulted in a 30bp YoY decline in EBITDA margin to 11.5% (in line). EBITDA improved 10% YoY to INR4.4b (vs. est. INR4.7b).
- Further, adj PAT grew 8% YoY to ~INR2.4b (vs. est. INR2.7b; similar to the BBG estimates).

### Highlights from the press release

- In the Automotive division, the past few months have seen an uptrend in demand in both OEM and Replacement markets. The uptick has been broadbased, with most of the end-user markets showing signs of demand recovery. In terms of end markets, the replacement demand is picking up on a low base of CY23. PVs look better placed while 2Ws would see a catch-up.
- The Industrial division is benefiting from the large investments, which are driving the sectors such as BFSI, Renewables, Telecom, Infrastructure (Power, Railways, etc.) et al. This segment has been growing faster than the automotive division.
- Exports growth has been decent in 3QFY24 over the last year's low base.
- The company is optimistic about margin improvement as the lead prices remain stable and operational efficiencies play out.
- During the current quarter, EXID invested INR7.3b as equity in the wholly owned subsidiary, Exide Energy Solutions Limited (EESL). EXID's investment in EESL through the equity route stood at INR18.2b.

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Investors are advised to refer through important disclosures made at the last page of the Research Report.

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### **Valuation and view**

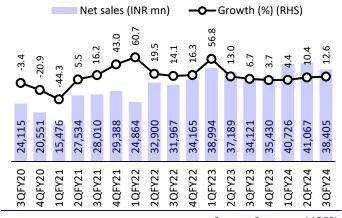
Considering its market leadership, technological alliances, backward integration, favorable product mix, and strong balance sheet following the sale of the Insurance business, we find EXID to be a preferable choice due to its superior risk-reward potential. However, lithium chemistry poses a risk to the 2W/3W segments (~15% of revenue) and the Industrial segment (~26% of revenue).

The current valuations of ~25x/20x FY24/25E EPS largely reflect the anticipated recoveries in both replacement and industrials demand, and development in its li-ion business. We, hence, downgrade the stock to Neutral with a TP of INR340 (based on 16x FY26E EPS + INR48/share for HDFC Life stake).

<b>S/A Quarterly Performance</b>				(INR m)				)			
Y/E March		FY2	23			FY2	4E		FY23	FY24E	
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE	_		3QE
Net Sales	38,994	37,189	34,121	35,430	40,726	41,067	38,405	41,419	1,45,919	1,61,617	40,946
Growth YoY (%)	56.8	13.0	6.7	3.7	4.4	10.4	12.6	16.9	17.6	10.8	20.0
<b>Gross operating income</b>	38,994	37,189	34,121	35,430	40,726	41,067	38,405	41,419	1,45,919	1,61,617	40,946
Growth YoY (%)	56.8	13.0	6.7	3.7	4.4	10.4	12.6	16.9	17.6	10.8	20
RM(%)	72.1	69.5	67.7	70.2	71.7	68.9	68.5	68.4	69.9	69.4	69.4
Employee cost (%)	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.3
Other Exp(%)	12.5	13.5	14.3	13.3	11.8	13.1	13.6	13.1	13.4	12.9	12.8
Total Cost	35,127	33,065	30,111	31,758	36,404	36,235	34,006	36,349	1,30,239	1,42,995	36,216
EBITDA	3,866	4,124	4,010	3,672	4,322	4,831	4,399	5,070	15,680	18,622	4,729
EBITDA Margin(%)	9.9	11.1	11.8	10.4	10.6	11.8	11.5	12.2	10.7	11.5	11.6
Change (%)	48.4	-0.2	7.6	4.9	11.8	17.1	9.7	38.1	12.1	18.8	18
Non-Operating Income	322	356	234	412	192	392	227	232	1,324	1,043	250
Interest	64	62	82	83	98	115	145	142	295	500	115
Depreciation	1,091	1,120	1,153	1,193	1,194	1,259	1,274	1,279	4,558	5,005	1,265
PBT after EO Exp	3,034	3,298	3,009	2,808	3,222	3,849	3,208	3,880	12,151	14,160	3,599
Effective Tax Rate (%)	25.4	25.3	25.8	26.0	24.9	25.4	25.1	24.9	25.6	25.1	25.0
Adj. PAT	2,263	2,462	2,232	2,078	2,419	2,870	2,403	2,913	9,036	10,606	2,699
Change (%)	80.5	5.1	9.4	-24.7	6.9	16.6	7.7	40.2	7.5	17.4	20.9
<b>Key performance indicators</b>											
Cost Break-up											
RM(%)	72.1	69.5	67.7	70.2	71.7	68.9	68.5	68.4	69.9	69.4	69.4
Employee cost (%)	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.3
Other Exp(%)	12.5	13.5	14.3	13.3	11.8	13.1	13.6	13.1	13.4	12.9	12.8
Gross Margin (%)	27.9	30.5	32.3	29.8	28.3	31.1	31.5	31.6	30.1	30.6	30.6
EBITDA Margin(%)	9.9	11.1	11.8	10.4	10.6	11.8	11.5	12.2	10.7	11.5	11.6
EBIT Margin(%)	7.1	8.1	8.4	7.0	7.7	8.7	8.1	9.2	7.6	8.4	8.5
Lead Price (INR/Kg)	169.2	157.6	173.4	175.6	174.0	180.1	176.3		169.0		0.0
Change (%)	8.4	-8.8	-0.5	0.4	2.8	14.2	1.7		-0.4	-100.0	-100.0

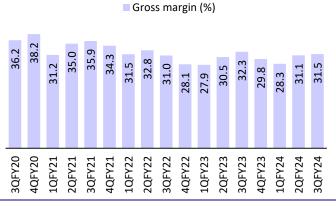
# **Key exhibits**

Exhibit 1: Trends in revenue and growth



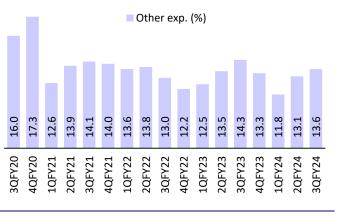
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 2: Trend in gross margin** 



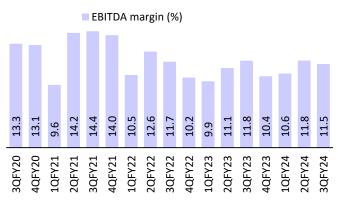
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Trend in other expenses as a percentage of sales



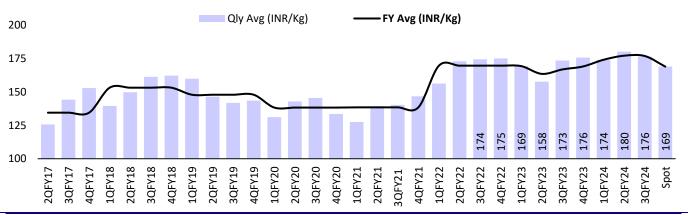
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: Trend in EBITDA margin



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Lead price is expected to remain at elevated levels



Source: Company, MOFSL

### Valuation and view

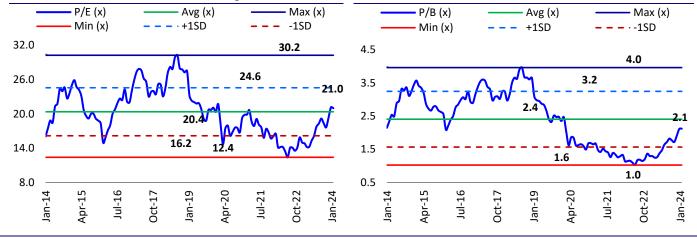
- Industry structure remains duopoly: While the industry structure remains largely duopoly, EXID is the largest lead acid battery manufacturer in India, with leadership among auto OEMs and the Replacement segment. EXID has largely caught up with competitors by investing in technology, being more proactive in customer service, as well as plugging the gaps in its product portfolio.
- EXID to defend its top position: With demand recovery in auto OEMs and the Industrial segment, EXID should improve its market share. PV OEM demand saw strong recovery in FY23, while 2Ws too are now witnessing a gradual recovery. We expect value migration from unorganized to organized players, such as EXID and AMRJ, in the Replacement segment, driven by tax reforms such as GST and lower corporate tax rates. The recovery in replacement demand would lead to better capacity utilization and margins.
- Electrification of 2Ws/3Ws a risk for lead acid battery players: Unlike e-cars, e-2Ws/e-3Ws do not require a lead acid battery as an auxiliary battery. This would impact 15–20% of the revenue of lead-acid battery players. Lithium further poses a risk to industrial batteries (~26% of revenue). However, EXID's venture into li-ion technology is progressing well, and the company plans to initiate battery pack assembly revenue starting this year. The manufacturing of li-ion cells is also anticipated to commence in FY26. However, the evolving competitive landscape for li-ion cell manufacturing due to rising demand for EVs makes it difficult to assess the potential for EXID's success in this domain.
- War chest in the form of HDFC Life stake is available for investments in new technology: With access to over INR45b worth of stake in HDFC Life, EXID is well-positioned for potential investments in new technologies. This timely monetization of the Insurance business provides a perfect opportunity for the company to pursue its plans for investing in lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
- Valuation and view (Downgrade to Neutral): We have cut our FY24E EPS by ~4% to factor in slower-than-estimated recovery, while maintaining our FY25E EPS. Considering its market leadership, technological alliances, backward integration, favorable product mix, and strong balance sheet following the sale of the Insurance business, we find EXID to be a preferable choice due to its superior risk-reward potential. However, the current valuations of ~25x/20x FY24/25E EPS largely reflect the anticipated recoveries in both replacement and industrials demand, and development in its li-ion business. We, hence, downgrade the stock to Neutral with a TP of INR340 (based on 16x FY26E EPS + INR48/share for HDFC Life stake).

**Exhibit 6: Our revised estimates** 

(INR m)		FY24E			FY25E			
	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)		
Net Sales	1,61,617	1,65,166	-2.1	1,82,861	1,85,517	-1.4		
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.5	11.5	0bp	12.5	12.2	30bp		
PAT	10,606	10,995	-3.5	13,529	13,443	0.6		
EPS (INR)	12.5	12.9	-3.5	15.9	15.8	0.6		

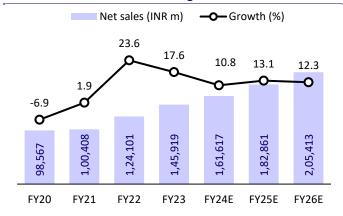
Source: MOFSL

Exhibit 7: Valuations – P/E and P/B trading bands



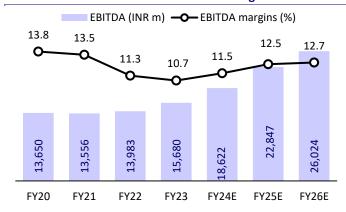
# **Story in charts**

**Exhibit 8: Trends in revenue and growth** 



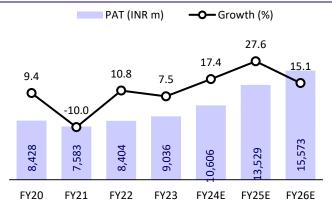
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 9: Trends in EBITDA and EBITDA margin** 



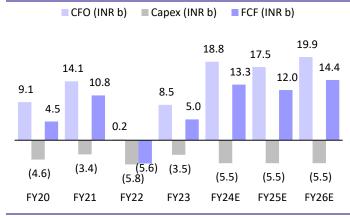
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 10: PAT and PAT growth trends** 



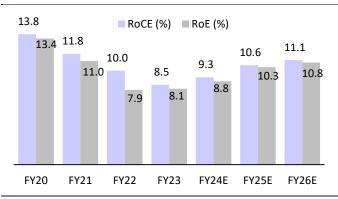
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: Strong FCF driven by healthy CFO



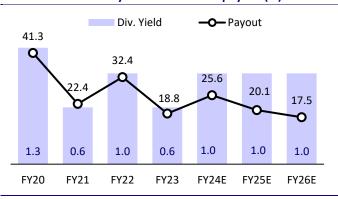
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 12: Trend in return ratios** 



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 13: Dividend yield and dividend payout (%) trend



Source: Company, MOFSL

# **Financials and valuations**

Income Statement	EV20	EV21	EV22	EV22	EV24E	FY25E	(INR m) FY26E
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E		
Net Sales	<b>98,567</b> -6.9	<b>1,00,408</b> 1.9	<b>1,24,101</b> 23.6	<b>1,45,919</b> 17.6	<b>1,61,617</b> 10.8	<b>1,82,861</b> 13.1	<b>2,05,413</b> 12.3
Change (%) EBITDA	13,651						
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	13,557	13,984	15,681	18,623	22,848	26,025
EBITDA Margins (%)	13.8	13.5	11.3	10.7	11.5	12.5	12.7
Change (%)	-3.3	-0.7	3.1	12.1	18.8	22.7	13.9
Depreciation	3,626	3,794	4,131	4,558	5,005	5,383	5,878
EBIT	10,025	9,763	9,852	11,123	13,618	17,465	20,146
Interest Charges	94	238	394	295	500	550	525
Other Income	639	654	805	1,324	1,043	1,149	1,171
EO Exp/(Inc)	217	- 10 170	(46,938)		14.100		20.702
PBT	10,352	10,179	57,199	12,151	14,160	18,063	20,792
Tax	2,097	2,596	10,356	3,115	3,554	4,534	5,219
Effective Rate (%)	20.3	25.5	18.1	25.6	25.1	25.1	25.1
Rep. PAT	8,255	7,583	46,843	9,036	10,606	13,529	15,573
Change (%)	-2.2	-8.1	517.8	-80.7	17.4	27.6	15.1
Adj. PAT	8,428	7,583	8,404	9,036	10,606	13,529	15,573
Change (%)	9.4	-10.0	10.8	7.5	17.4	27.6	15.1
							(1215 \
Balance Sheet	EV.00	E)/04	E1/22	E1/22	5/0.45		(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share Capital	850	850	850	850	850	850	850
Reserves	62,111	68,085	1,05,131	1,11,248	1,19,133	1,29,942	1,42,795
Net Worth	62,961	68,935	1,05,981	1,12,098	1,19,983	1,30,792	1,43,645
Loans	0	0	0	0	5,000	8,500	5,000
Deferred Tax Liability	1,019	771	-654	-1,160	-1,160	-1,160	-1,160
Capital Employed	63,980	69,706	1,05,327	1,10,938	1,23,823	1,38,132	1,47,485
Application of Funds							
Application of Funds Gross Fixed Assets	20.020	42.740	40.220	F2 FF2	F7.0C2	62.562	C0 0C2
	36,039	42,740	48,228	53,553	57,062	62,562	68,062
Less: Depreciation	12,645	16,361	20,493	25,050	30,056	35,439	41,317
Net Fixed Assets	23,394	26,379	27,736	28,503	27,006	27,123	26,745
Capital WIP	2,969	2,008	3,124	1,009	3,000	3,000	3,000
Investments	21,050	30,924	60,695	63,414	78,195	90,695	90,695
Curr.Assets	35,008	36,977	41,430	46,425	49,716	55,890	70,378
Inventory	21,923	23,462	24,647	29,891	30,995	35,069	39,394
Sundry Debtors	8,154	8,874	11,945	12,745	14,169	16,032	18,009
Cash & Bank Balance	1,546	914	1,614	745	1,010	781	8,473
Loans & Advances	322	383	0	0	0	0	0
Other Current Assets	3,064	3,345	3,223	3,045	3,542	4,008	4,502
Current Liab. & Prov.	18,441	26,582	27,657	28,413	34,095	38,576	43,334
Sundry Creditors	10,361	16,483	16,268	15,360	19,925	22,544	25,325
Other Liabilities	4,478	6,856	8,191	9,670	10,627	12,024	13,507
Provisions	3,602	3,244	3,198	3,383	3,542	4,008	4,502
Net Current Assets	16,567	10,395	13,773	18,012	15,622	17,314	27,045
Application of Funds	63,980	69,705	1,05,327	1,10,938	1,23,823	1,38,132	1,47,485

E: MOFSL Estimates

# **Financials and valuations**

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Basic (INR)	1120	1121	1122	1123	11242	11232	11201
EPS EPS	9.9	8.9	9.9	10.6	12.5	15.9	18.3
Cash EPS	14.2	13.4	14.7	16.0	18.4	22.2	25.2
Book Value per Share	74.1	81.1	124.7	131.9	141.2	153.9	169.0
DPS	4.1	2.0	3.2	2.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
Payout (Incl. Div. Tax) %	41.3	22.4	32.4	18.8	25.6	20.1	17.5
Valuation (x)							
P/E	31.8	35.4	31.9	29.7	25.3	19.8	17.2
Cash P/E	22.3	23.6	21.4	19.7	17.2	14.2	12.5
EV/EBITDA	18.0	17.4	14.7	13.0	10.4	8.1	6.7
EV/Sales	2.5	2.4	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.8
Price to Book Value	4.3	3.9	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9
Dividend Yield (%)	1.3	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
Profitability Ratios (%)							
RoE	13.4	11.0	7.9	8.1	8.8	10.3	10.8
RoCE	13.8	11.8	10.0	8.5	9.3	10.6	11.1
RoIC	21.4	19.6	21.3	19.3	23.3	30.7	33.9
Turnover Ratios							
Debtors (Days)	30	32	35	32	32	32	32
Inventory (Days)	81	85	72	75	70	70	70
Creditors (Days)	38	60	48	38	45	45	45
Working Capital (Days)	73	58	60	68	57	57	57
Gross Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Leverage Ratio							
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Cash Flow Statement							(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	10,352	10,179	57,199	12,151	13,617	17,464	20,145
Interest/Dividends Received	-429	-362	-225	-233	1,043	1,149	1,171
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,626	3,794	4,131	4,558	5,005	5,383	5,878
Discret Taxas Daid	3,020	2.724	10.472	2.212	3,003	4.524	5,070

Cash Flow Statement							(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	10,352	10,179	57,199	12,151	13,617	17,464	20,145
Interest/Dividends Received	-429	-362	-225	-233	1,043	1,149	1,171
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,626	3,794	4,131	4,558	5,005	5,383	5,878
Direct Taxes Paid	-2,494	-2,721	-10,472	-3,212	-3,554	-4,534	-5,219
(Inc)/Dec in Working Capital	-2,155	3,044	-3,479	-4,538	2,719	-1,921	-2,039
Other Items	237	200	-46,951	-242	1	0	0
CF from Oper. Activity	9,137	14,134	205	8,484	18,831	17,541	19,937
(Inc)/Dec in FA+CWIP	-4,646	-3,384	-5,783	-3,493	-5,500	-5,500	-5,500
Free Cash Flow	4,491	10,750	-5,579	4,991	13,331	12,041	14,437
(Pur)/Sale of Invest.	1,397	-9,385	8,537	-5,385	-14,782	-12,500	0
CF from Inv. Activity	-3,249	-12,769	2,754	-8,878	-20,282	-18,000	-5,500
Interest Rec./(Paid)	-100	-289	-549	-461	-500	-550	-525
Dividends Paid	-4,986	-1,700	-1,700	0	-2,720	-2,720	-2,720
CF from Fin. Activity	-5,086	-1,989	-2,249	-461	1,780	230	-6,745
Inc/(Dec) in Cash	802	-623	709	-855	329	-229	7,692
Add: Beginning Balance	647	1,449	826	1,534	745	1,010	781
Closing Balance	1,449	826	1,534	679	1,074	781	8,473

E: MOFSL Estimates

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing

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				

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