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India | Equity Research | Q1FY25 results review

Sudarshan Chemical Industries

Speciality Chemicals

Acceleration in Pigment revenue is key

Sudarshan Chemical Industries' (SCIL) Q1FY25 print was slightly weaker than expected with pigment revenue growing only 10% YoY (down 8.4% QoQ on seasonality) while RIECO revenue dipped 38% YoY, and slipped to EBIT loss. Gross profit margin normalised completely, and rise in revenue may drive operating leverage with improvement in EBITDA margin for pigment business. SCIL remains excited on rising enquires and engagement from international customers with industry consolidation tailwind; it expects acceleration in revenue in ensuing quarters. We retain our estimates and TP at INR 780 (FY26E P/E multiple to 20x). However, we downgrade the stock to **REDUCE** (from Hold) on recent run-up in stock price already factoring in the optimism.

Pigment revenue rose 10% YoY / down 8.4% QoQ

Revenue from pigment business stood at INR 6bn, and it appears destocking cycle is behind as the company has grown volumes; however, QoQ revenue decline is seasonal in nature as Q4 generally has higher sales.

Domestic market continues to be steady – where pigment revenue has grown 8.3% YoY/ down 17% QoQ to INR 2.9bn. Exports revenue continues to ramp-up with revenue growing 11% YoY / 1% QoQ to INR 3bn. SCIL anticipates gradual ramp-up in Japan market, and new European distributor is yet to ramp up the sale of its products. However, SCIL has been encouraged with rising enquires for its high-performance products, and new product portfolio from international customers. It believes the ramp-up in capacity utilisation from new facility can be accelerated, but conservatively maintains guidance of four years. Non-specialty segment revenue has grown at 7.5% YoY / down 9% QoQ to INR 1.9bn where the company still sees issues from lower demand and higher competition. Specialty had grown at 10.7% YoY / down 8.4% QoQ to INR 4bn on normalisation in demand for existing products.

Industry consolidation tailwind is strong with Heubach, Germany filing for bankruptcy which has increased the company's confidence in expanding exports. It has seen faster approval for its products, and increased engagement in enquires from international customers. SCIL believes as ramp-up in new products accelerates, revenue growth momentum is likely to improve with slightly better margins.

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Revenue	23,017	25,388	28,600	31,555
EBITDA	2,106	3,164	4,281	5,262
EBITDA Margin (%)	9.2	12.5	15.0	16.7
Net Profit	448	1,054	1,997	2,707
EPS (INR)	6.5	15.2	28.9	39.1
EPS % Chg YoY	(65.6)	135.4	89.6	35.5
P/E (x)	141.4	60.1	31.7	23.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	31.2	19.5	14.0	11.0
RoCE (%)	4.4	3.0	12.7	15.5
RoE (%)	5.4	36.2	16.2	18.9

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Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	63bn
Market Cap (USD)	754mn
Bloomberg Code	SCHI IN
Reuters Code	SDCH.BO
52-week Range (INR)	1,010 /437
Free Float (%)	66.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	4.5

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	24.2	71.6	73.3
Relative to Sensex	17.6	61.8	53.5

Previous Reports

10-06-2024: [Company Update](#)

05-02-2024: [Q3FY24 results review](#)

EBITDA margin at 12.7%; EBITDA rose 15.3% YoY

SCIL's gross profit margin rose 340bp QoQ to 46.3% led by softening raw material prices and better product mix. It anticipates gross profit margin to stabilise at current levels. Gross profit grew 7.2% YoY / down 10.6% QoQ to INR 3bn. EBITDA rose 15.3% YoY to INR 806mn (down 32.3% QoQ) due to lower revenue and losses in RIECO business. EBITDA margin dropped 290bp QoQ to 12.7%. Net profit stood at INR 294mn in Q1FY25 (vs INR 2.7bn in Q1FY24 which had an exceptional item of INR 3.2bn from surplus land sales). Effective tax rate stood at 28.4% in Q1FY25.

Pigment business EBIT margin dipped only 70bp QoQ to 10% with EBIT growing 70% YoY to INR 588mn. RIECO has incurred a loss of INR 107mn vs profit of INR 48mn in Q1FY24.

Transformation planned for RIECO

Despite tailwinds in capital goods industry, RIECO's performance has been underwhelming with revenue dip of 37.7% YoY to INR 447mn and loss at EBIT level. SCIL is planning for complete transformation of RIECO business with focus on driving operations leaner, thereby, making business sustainably profitable, and driving quality orderbook and revenue. The transformation programme will begin from Sep'24, and may take 2-3 years.

Other highlights

- SCIL's balance sheet continues to be strong with net debt at INR 3.75bn in Q1FY25 vs INR 3.95bn in FY24. However, cash conversion days increased to 73days from 63days in Mar'24 due to rise in raw material inventory (stable on YoY basis).
- SCIL has been receiving several indirect/ inorganic opportunities in pigment business but nothing has firmed up yet.
- Current RIECO orderbook is healthy with good contribution margin. This should help the company in reporting positive EBIT for FY25.
- Company is receiving good interest for existing and new products where it has set-up fresh capacities.
- FY25 capex will be limited and SCIL does not anticipate any large investment immediately.

Risks

Downside risks: Major softness in demand, and volatility in margins.

Upside risks: Acceleration in revenue from new products, and faster-than-expected margin improvement.

Exhibit 1: Sudarshan Chemical (consolidated) financials

INR mn	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	6,081	6,007	5,658	7,642	6,336	(17.1)	4.2
COGS	3,345	3,323	3,124	4,362	3,403	(22.0)	1.7
Gross profit	2,736	2,684	2,534	3,281	2,933	(10.6)	7.2
GPM (%)	45.0	44.7	44.8	42.9	46.3		
Employee cost	513	526	536	525	544	3.6	6.0
% of revenue	8.4	8.8	9.5	6.9	8.6		
Other expenses	1,524	1,502	1,379	1,565	1,584	1.2	3.9
% of revenue	25.1	25.0	24.4	20.5	25.0		
Total expenses	2,037	2,028	1,915	2,090	2,128	1.8	4.4
EBITDA	699	656	619	1,191	806	(32.3)	15.3
EBITDA (%)	11.5	10.9	10.9	15.6	12.7		
Depreciation	346	354	355	357	359	0.7	3.9
EBIT	353	302	264	834	446	(46.5)	26.6
Other income	41	57	43	30	35	17.3	(15.4)
Finance cost	103	96	86	84	70	(16.1)	(31.8)
PBT	291	262	221	780	411	(47.3)	41.2
Tax	772	84	75	200	117	(41.6)	(84.9)
ETR (%)	265.4	31.9	33.9	25.6	28.4		
Exceptional item	3,151	-	-	-	-		
Net profit	2,670	179	146	580	294	(49.3)	(89.0)
Net profit (%)	43.9	3.0	2.6	7.6	4.6		
EPS (INR)	38.6	2.6	2.1	8.4	4.3	(49.3)	(89.0)

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 2: Sudarshan Chemical segmental

INR mn	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Segment revenue							
Pigments	5,364	5,216	5,215	6,437	5,894	(8.4)	9.9
Others	719	794	443	1,206	447	(62.9)	(37.7)
Intersegment elimination	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	6,083	6,010	5,658	7,643	6,342	(17.0)	4.3
Mix (%)							
Pigments	88.2	86.8	92.2	84.2	92.9		
Others	11.8	13.2	7.8	15.8	7.1		
EBIT							
Pigments	346	380	392	689	588	(14.7)	69.9
Others	48	(22)	(85)	175	(107)		
Total	394	358	307	864	481	(44.3)	22.1
EBIT margin (%)							
Pigments	6.5	7.3	7.5	10.7	10.0		
Others	6.7	(2.7)	(19.2)	14.5	(23.8)		
Total	6.5	6.0	5.4	11.3	7.6		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 3: Sudarshan Chemical (consolidated) revenue breakup

INR mn	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Pigment							
Specialty	3,630	3,620	3,580	4,390	4,020	(8.4)	10.7
Non specialty	1,740	1,600	1,630	2,050	1,870	(8.8)	7.5
Total	5,370	5,220	5,210	6,440	5,890	(8.5)	9.7
Mix (%)							
Specialty	67.6	69.3	68.7	68.2	68.3		
Non specialty	32.4	30.7	31.3	31.8	31.7		
Pigment							
Domestic	2,650	2,720	2,780	3,450	2,870		
Export	2,720	2,500	2,440	2,990	3,020	(16.8)	8.3
Total	5,370	5,220	5,220	6,440	5,890	1.0	11.0
Mix (%)							
Domestic	49.3	52.1	53.3	53.6	48.7		
Export	50.7	47.9	46.7	46.4	51.3		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 4: Sudarshan Chemical (standalone) financials

INR mn	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	5,248	4,894	5,097	6,176	5,797	(6.1)	10.5
COGS	3,079	2,791	2,912	3,568	3,128	(12.3)	1.6
Gross profit	2,169	2,103	2,185	2,608	2,670	2.4	23.1
GPM (%)	41.3	43.0	42.9	42.2	46.1		
Employee cost	347	375	369	383	383	0.1	10.3
% of revenue	6.6	7.7	7.2	6.2	6.6		
Other expenses	1,173	1,166	1,169	1,331	1,368	2.8	16.6
% of revenue	22.4	23.8	22.9	21.5	23.6		
Total expenses	1,520	1,541	1,539	1,714	1,751	2.2	15.2
EBITDA	648	561	647	895	919	2.7	41.7
EBITDA (%)	12.4	11.5	12.7	14.5	15.8		
Depreciation	337	344	343	345	349	1.2	3.8
EBIT	312	217	303	550	570	3.6	82.6
Other income	42	58	42	32	35	9.0	(16.1)
Finance cost	83	75	69	60	50	(16.2)	(40.0)
PBT	271	200	276	522	555	6.2	105.0
Tax	769	59	88	119	144	21.0	(81.2)
ETR (%)	284.0	29.3	32.0	22.8	26.0		
Exceptional item	3,151	-	-	(34)	-		
Net profit	(498)	141	188	403	411	1.9	(182.5)
Net profit (%)	(9.5)	2.9	3.7	6.5	7.1		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 5: Sudarshan Chemical (consolidated minus standalone) financials

INR mn	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue	833	1,113	561	1,466	539	(63.3)	(35.3)
COGS	266	532	212	794	275	(65.3)	3.5
Gross profit	567	581	348	673	263	(60.8)	(53.6)
GPM (%)	68.1	52.2	62.1	45.9	48.9		
Employee cost	166	150	166	142	161	13.2	(3.0)
% of revenue	19.9	13.5	29.7	9.7	29.9		
Other expenses	351	336	210	234	216	(7.8)	(38.6)
% of revenue	42.1	30.2	37.4	16.0	40.0		
Total expenses	517	486	376	376	377	0.1	(27.2)
EBITDA	50	94	(28)	296	(113)	(138.2)	(325.4)
EBITDA (%)	6.0	8.5	(5.0)	20.2	(21.0)		
Depreciation	9	10	12	12	10	(14.2)	
EBIT	41	84	(40)	285	(123)	(143.3)	(401.4)
Other income	(1)	(1)	1	(3)	(0)	(86.8)	(52.8)
Finance cost	20	21	17	24	20		
PBT	20	62	(55)	258	(144)	(155.8)	(804.4)
Tax	4	25	(13)	81	(27)	(133.9)	(800.8)
ETR (%)	19.1	40.1	24.2	31.3	19.1		
Minority interest							
Net profit	17	37	(42)	177	(116)	(165.7)	(805.2)
Net profit (%)	2.0	3.3	(7.5)	12.1	(21.6)		

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 6: Shareholding pattern

%	Dec '23	Mar '24	Jun '24
Promoters	35.8	33.2	30.6
Institutional investors	17.8	22.0	22.7
MFs and others	9.1	13.0	20.3
FIs/Banks	-	-	-
Insurance	2.7	2.7	0.7
FIIIs	6.0	6.3	6.7
Others	46.4	44.8	46.7

Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit 7: Price chart

Source: Bloomberg

Financial Summary

Exhibit 8: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	23,017	25,388	28,600	31,555
Operating Expenses	7,228	8,070	8,526	8,949
EBITDA	2,106	3,164	4,281	5,262
EBITDA Margin (%)	9.2	12.5	15.0	16.7
Depreciation & Amortization	1,142	1,412	1,478	1,545
EBIT	964	1,752	2,802	3,717
Interest expenditure	415	369	242	216
Other Non-operating Income	48	171	153	161
Recurring PBT	597	1,554	2,713	3,662
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	-	-	-	-
Less: Taxes	150	1,131	716	955
PAT	448	3,574	1,997	2,707
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	-	3,151	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	448	6,725	1,997	2,707
Net Income (Adjusted)	448	1,054	1,997	2,707

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 9: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total Current Assets	11,649	11,933	13,862	17,468
of which cash & cash eqv.	294	559	1,140	3,505
Total Current Liabilities & Provisions	6,250	6,149	6,900	7,591
Net Current Assets	5,399	5,784	6,963	9,878
Investments	21	24	24	24
Net Fixed Assets	11,297	10,806	10,615	10,070
ROU Assets	-	-	-	-
Capital Work-in-Progress	445	146	146	146
Total Intangible Assets	409	355	68	68
Other assets	337	244	249	255
Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	17,577	17,309	18,037	20,432
Liabilities				
Borrowings	8,175	4,409	3,409	3,409
Deferred Tax Liability	624	819	819	819
Provisions	282	318	365	409
Other Liabilities	214	273	306	336
Equity Share Capital	138	138	138	138
Reserves & Surplus	8,144	11,352	12,999	15,321
Total Net Worth	8,282	11,490	13,137	15,459
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	17,577	17,309	18,037	20,432

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Quarterly trend

(INR mn, year ending March)

	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Net Sales	6,007	5,658	7,642	6,336
% growth (YOY)	13.7	7.1	10.6	4.2
EBITDA	656	619	1,191	806
Margin %	10.9	10.9	15.6	12.7
Other Income	57	43	30	35
Extraordinaries	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Net Profit	179	146	580	294

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 11: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Operating Cashflow	2,066	2,394	3,564	4,307
Working Capital Changes	804	(460)	(545)	(501)
Capital Commitments	(1,924)	(785)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Free Cashflow	946	1,150	2,020	2,806
Other investing cashflow	13	124	153	161
Cashflow from Investing Activities	31	3,578	153	161
Issue of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Interest Cost	(347)	(350)	(242)	(216)
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	(328)	(3,731)	(1,000)	-
Dividend paid	(343)	(333)	(350)	(385)
Others	(10)	(45)	-	-
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(1,027)	(4,459)	(1,593)	(602)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	(49)	268	581	2,366
Closing cash & balance	204	472	1,140	3,505

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	6.5	15.2	28.9	39.1
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	6.5	15.2	28.9	39.1
Cash EPS	23.0	117.5	50.2	61.4
Dividend per share (DPS)	1.5	4.6	5.1	5.6
Book Value per share (BV)	119.6	166.0	189.8	223.3
Dividend Payout (%)	23.2	30.2	17.5	14.2
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	4.6	10.3	12.7	10.3
EBITDA	(23.3)	50.2	35.3	22.9
EPS (INR)	(65.6)	135.4	89.6	35.5
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	141.4	60.1	31.7	23.4
P/CEPS	39.8	7.8	18.2	14.9
P/BV	7.6	5.5	4.8	4.1
EV / EBITDA	31.2	19.5	14.0	11.0
EV/SALES	2.9	2.4	2.1	1.8
Dividend Yield (%)	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	40.6	44.2	44.8	45.0
EBITDA Margins (%)	9.2	12.5	15.0	16.7
Effective Tax Rate (%)	25.1	72.8	26.4	26.1
Net Profit Margins (%)	1.9	4.2	7.0	8.6
NWC / Total Assets (%)	30.7	33.4	38.6	48.3
Net Debt / Equity (x)	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.0
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	3.7	1.2	0.5	0.0
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	4.4	3.0	12.7	15.5
RoE (%)	5.4	36.2	16.2	18.9
RoIC (%)	4.5	3.0	13.4	17.9
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.2
Inventory Turnover Days	78.3	62.9	61.8	61.1
Receivables Days	77.1	84.2	84.7	85.2
Payables Days	80.7	73.6	73.8	73.9

Source Company data, I-Sec research

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