

#### **Indian Equities**

#### **Company Update**

Change in Estimates ☑ Target ☑ Reco ☑

7 November 2024

### **Amara Raja Energy & Mobility**

Greater potential; upgrading to a Hold

Belieing our Rs5bn estimate, Amara Raja's Q2 standalone EBITDA grew 14% y/y to Rs4.4bn due to the lower-than-expected gross margin. The outlook for automotive and industrial demand is bright and Amara is expected to gain share. It plans to set up a lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant, commencing FY27. Larger customer wins and sustainable profit, though, are key challenges as prices fall and technologies change. The stock is fairly valued and factors in the lithium plant opportunity; however, on the recent stock fall, the potential is greater. We introduce FY27e with 11%/12%/13%revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth, and upgrade our rating to a Hold with a higher, Rs1,490, TP, 12x FY27e parent EPS (earlier Rs1,330), and the ARACT NPV (new lithium energy unit) at Rs542/sh.

**EBITDA** miss. Standalone revenue grew 12% y/y to Rs31.4bn, broadly in line with our Rs31.8bn estimate. **Volumes: 4Ws -** aftermarket up 15%, exports up 20%, OEM down 3%. **2Ws -** OEM up 17%, aftermarket up 17%. **Industrials -** overall down 10%, telecoms down 30%, inverters/UPS up 10%. EBITDA grew 14% to Rs4.4bn, below our Rs5bn estimate due to the lower-than-expected gross margin. The gross margin expanded 80bps y/y, 120bps q/q, to 32.4%, but expansion belied expectations due to the partial pass-through of higher input cost. Interest rocketed 111% y/y to Rs131m. Accordingly, PAT grew 12% y/y to Rs2.4bn, below our estimated Rs3bn due to lower-than-expected margins.

Valuation. We expect 12%/15% parent revenue/EBITDA CAGRs over FY24-27. We mainly lower our FY25e EPS 13% on higher input cost and traded mix. We upgrade the stock to a Hold with a higher TP of Rs1,490, 12x the parent FY27e EPS (earlier Rs1330, 11x parent FY26e), and the ARACT NPV at Rs542/sh (unchanged). We estimate ARACT's revenue/PAT at Rs49.8bn/ 4.98bn by FY29 (earlier FY28) and a valuation of 25x discounted PAT (a 12% discounting factor). We raise our parent multiple on market-share gains. Key upside risks: More-than-estimated growth in lead batteries; good orders for lithium-ion cells; lower commodity prices.

FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
1,03,897	1,12,603	1,25,491	1,41,097	1,56,312
7,784	9,059	9,795	12,736	14,414
45.6	49.5	53.5	69.6	78.8
29.2	26.9	24.9	19.1	16.9
17.0	14.8	14.1	11.2	10.0
4.1	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.5
14.7	14.2	13.6	15.6	15.5
13.8	13.2	12.5	14.1	14.0
0.5	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
-0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1,03,897 7,784 45.6 29.2 17.0 4.1 14.7 13.8 0.5	1,03,897     1,12,603       7,784     9,059       45.6     49.5       29.2     26.9       17.0     14.8       4.1     3.6       14.7     14.2       13.8     13.2       0.5     0.4	1,03,897     1,12,603     1,25,491       7,784     9,059     9,795       45.6     49.5     53.5       29.2     26.9     24.9       17.0     14.8     14.1       4.1     3.6     3.2       14.7     14.2     13.6       13.8     13.2     12.5       0.5     0.4     0.6	1,03,897         1,12,603         1,25,491         1,41,097           7,784         9,059         9,795         12,736           45.6         49.5         53.5         69.6           29.2         26.9         24.9         19.1           17.0         14.8         14.1         11.2           4.1         3.6         3.2         2.8           14.7         14.2         13.6         15.6           13.8         13.2         12.5         14.1           0.5         0.4         0.6         0.8

Rating: **Hold**Target Price: Rs.1,490
Share Price: Rs.1,332

Key data	ARENM IN / AMAR.BO
52-week high / low	Rs.1,776 / 626
Sensex / Nifty	80,378 / 24,484
3-m average volume	\$45.6m
Market cap	Rs243.8bn / \$2937m
Shares outstanding	183m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Sep'24	Jun'24	Jun'24
Promoters	32.9	32.9	32.9
- of which, Pledged	-	-	-
Free float	67.1	67.1	67.1
- Foreign institutions	22.3	23.8	23.8
- Domestic institutions	15.4	14.6	14.6
- Public	29.4	28.8	28.8

Estimates revision (%)	FY25e	FY26e
Sales	-1.1	-1.5
EBITDA	-10.5	-3.5
EPS	-12.8	-2.5



Mumuksh Mandlesha Research Analyst

> Shagun Beria Research Associate

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Anand Rathi Research India Equities

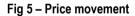
## **Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations (standalone)**

Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m)									
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e				
Net revenues	1,03,897	1,12,603	1,25,491	1,41,097	1,56,312				
Growth (%)	19.5	8.4	11.4	12.4	10.8				
Raw material	69,981	75,341	85,083	93,124	1,03,166				
Employee & other expenses	19,566	21,048	22,917	25,908	28,390				
EBITDA	14,350	16,214	17,491	22,065	24,757				
EBITDA margins (%)	13.8	14.4	13.9	15.6	15.8				
- Depreciation	4,504	4,787	4,923	5,349	5,813				
Other income	897	1,015	1,007	1,054	1,105				
Interest expenses	296	332	480	742	779				
PBT	9,970	12,110	13,095	17,027	19,269				
Effective tax rates (%)	26%	26%	25%	25%	25%				
Adj. income	7,784	9,059	9,795	12,736	14,414				
Extraordinary items	-477	-	-	-	-				
Net income	7,307	9,059	9,795	12,736	14,414				
WANS	171	183	183	183	183				
FDEPS (Rs)	45.6	49.5	53.5	69.6	78.8				
Growth (%)	52.3	8.6	8.1	30.0	13.2				

Fig 2 – Balance sheet (Rs m)									
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e				
Share capital	171	183	183	183	183				
Net worth	60,056	67,687	76,012	86,838	99,090				
Debt (incl. Pref)	1,111	533	6,033	8,033	8,033				
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	-				
Deferred tax liability / (Asset)	1,036	885	885	885	885				
Capital employed	62,203	69,105	82,931	95,756	1,08,008				
Net tangible assets	36,882	35,503	35,580	34,231	32,418				
Net Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-				
CWIP (tang and intangible)	2,343	3,217	3,217	3,217	3,217				
Investments (strategic)	4,622	12,142	24,142	36,142	48,142				
Investments (financial)	238	2,650	2,650	2,650	2,650				
Current assets (excl. cash)	34,290	33,788	37,299	41,507	45,630				
Cash	998	1,045	1,296	1,678	1,984				
Current liabilities	17,170	19,238	21,252	23,667	26,032				
Working capital	17,120	14,549	16,047	17,840	19,598				
Capital deployed	62,203	69,105	82,931	95,757	1,08,008				

Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)										
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e					
PBT	7,307	9,059	9,795	12,736	14,414					
+ Non-cash items	4,504	4,787	4,923	5,349	5,813					
Operating profit before WC chg	11,811	13,846	14,718	18,085	20,226					
- Incr./ (decr.) in WC	2,866	271	1,498	1,793	1,758					
Others incl. taxes	-467	571	-	-	-					
Operating cash-flow	9,412	13,004	13,220	16,292	18,468					
- Capex (tangible + intangible)	4,647	4,401	5,000	4,000	4,000					
Free cash-flow	4,766	8,603	8,220	12,292	14,468					
- Dividend (incl. buyback & taxes)	581	1,367	1,469	1,910	2,162					
+ Equity raised	-	12	-	-	-					
+ Debt raised	-111	-577	5,500	2,000	-0					
- Financial investments	2,543	5,317	12,000	12,000	12,000					
- Misc. items (CFI + CFF)	1,068	1,307	-	-	-					
Net cash-flow	463	46	251	382	306					

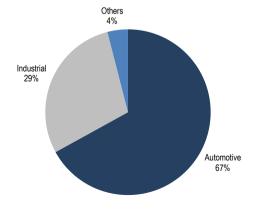
Fig 4 – Ratio analysis					
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
P/E (x)	29.2	26.9	24.9	19.1	16.9
EV / EBITDA (x)	17.0	14.8	14.1	11.2	10.0
EV / Sales (x)	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.6
P/B (x)	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.5
RoE (%)	14.7	14.2	13.6	15.6	15.5
RoCE (%) - after tax	13.8	13.2	12.5	14.1	14.0
RoIC (%) - after tax	13.8	15.1	16.7	21.8	24.6
DPS (Rs)	6.1	5.1	8.0	10.4	11.8
Dividend yield (%)	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
Dividend payout (%)	14%	10%	15%	15%	15%
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Receivables (days)	27	33	33	33	33
Inventory (days)	59	59	59	59	59
Payables (days)	51	53	53	53	53
CFO: PAT (%)	121	144	135	128	128
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Rese	arch				



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research



Fig 6 - Consolidated revenue, by segment (FY24), %



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

# Result highlights

(Rs m)	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Y/Y (%)	Q/Q(%)	FY25 YTD	FY24 YTD	Y/Y (%)
Revenue	28,108	28,817	27,967	31,312	31,358	11.6	0.1	62,670	55,807	12.3
Expenditure	24,238	24,468	23,890	27,008	26,952	11.2	(0.2)	53,960	48,403	11.5
as % of sales	86.2	84.9	85.4	86.3	85.9			86.1	86.7	
Consumption of RM	19,230	19,025	18,314	21,563	21,212	10.3	(1.6)	42,775	38,925	9.9
as % of sales	68.4	66.0	65.5	68.9	67.6			68.3	69.7	
Employee cost	1,617	1,812	1,629	1,856	1,899	17.4	2.3	3,755	3,229	16.3
as % of sales	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.9	6.1			6.0	5.8	
Other expenditure	3,390	3,631	3,947	3,590	3,841	13.3	7.0	7,430	6,249	18.9
as % of sales	12.1	12.6	14.1	11.5	12.2			11.9	11.2	
EBITDA	3,870	4,349	4,077	4,304	4,407	13.9	2.4	8,710	7,405	17.6
EBITDA margins (%)	13.8	15.1	14.6	13.7	14.1			13.9	13.3	
Depreciation	1,148	1,202	1,210	1,183	1,220	6.3	3.2	2,403	2,259	6.4
EBIT	2,721	3,147	2,867	3,121	3,186	17.1	2.1	6,307	5,146	22.6
Other income	275	238	283	256	185	(32.9)	(27.7)	440	491	(10.4)
Interest	62	77	97	90	131	111.1	46.4	221	119	86.5
PBT	2,935	3,307	3,053	3,287	3,240	10.4	(1.4)	6,526	5,518	18.3
Total tax	791	779	773	841	833	5.2	(1.0)	1,674	1,450	15.4
Adjusted PAT	2,143	2,528	2,280	2,446	2,407	12.3	(1.6)	4,853	4,068	19.3
Extraordinary items Loss/(Gain)	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	
Reported PAT	2,143	2,528	2,280	2,446	2,407	12.3	(1.6)	4,853	4,068	19.3
Adjusted EPS	12.5	14.8	12.5	13.4	13.2	4.8	(1.6)	26.5	23.8	11.3
Margins (%)						(bps)	(bps)			(bps)
Gross	31.6	34.0	34.5	31.1	32.4	77	122	31.7	30.3	150
EBITDA	13.8	15.1	14.6	13.7	14.1	28	31	13.9	13.3	63
EBIT	9.7	10.9	10.3	10.0	10.2	48	19	10.1	9.2	84
PAT	7.6	8.8	8.2	7.8	7.7	5	(13)	7.7	7.3	45
Effective tax rate	27.0	23.6	25.3	25.6	25.7	(127)	11	25.6	26.3	(63)
Source: Company										

# Earnings call highlights

- Q2 standalone volumes (y/y). 4Ws aftermarket up 15%, exports up 20%, OEM down 3%. 2Ws OEM up 17%, aftermarket up 17%. Industrials overall down 10%, telecoms down 30% (due to shift to lithium batteries), inverters/UPS up 10%.
- Tubular battery traded revenue was Rs8bn (1m units) in H1 FY25. Q2 FY25 trading mix is 300bps higher y/y (or Rs1bn-1.2bn). New manufacturing plant for tubular batteries to start from end-FY25, which would expand tubular batteries' EBITDA margin ~400-500bps, from 10-11% now. Overall standalone EBITDA margin to increase from ~14% currently to ~15.5% with the new tubular battery plant.
- Q2 other expenses included fuel purchase cost adjustment levy of Rs150m imposed by the Andhra Pradesh government for FY23. This levy will continue through FY24 and FY25. The company has made provisions for the levy but expects a further increase of Rs100m–150m in the coming two quarters.
- The Q2 EBITDA margin was impacted by 50bps due to higher input costs, despite a 1.5% price hike (aftermarket). The OEM/export price hike impact would come with a lag.
- Insurance claim. With reference to the tubular battery plant, the company has received an insurance claim of Rs2bn by Sep'24 and expects another Rs1.5bn in Q3 FY25. More claims are expected ahead.
- Standalone capex for FY25 is unchanged at Rs5bn. Capex was Rs3.9bn in H1 FY25. The higher spend in H1 FY25 was due to the advancement of some new line purchases for its 4W capacity.
- New energy business. Q2 battery packs/charger revenues have declined due to lower offtake from OEMs and changes in product specifications/localisation for chargers; however, a rebound is expected in H2 FY25. ARACT FY25 capex expected at Rs12bn in FY25 and >Rs10bn in FY26.

### **Valuations**

**Lithium cell batteries.** Despite losing out in the PLI-ACC scheme, Amara Raja plans to set up a lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant, to be gradually commissioned from FY27. It has developed NMC technology with Highstar, while LFP technologies are being developed with Gotion Inobat. E positive labs, customer qualification (60MWh/year) and NMC cell (2GWh) plants are being constructed at Rs20bn capex and would be ready by Q1 FY27.

LFP cell plant could be of 4-5 GWh with two cell types and would be ready by CY27. Capex would be Rs20bn-25bn. Average realisation expected is \$80-90/kWh.

Larger customer wins and sustainable profitability are key challenges due to falling prices and changing technologies.

**Battery packs and chargers.** Battery packs are supplied to 3W OEMs (Piaggio, M&M) and telecoms (BSNL). Chargers are supplied to 3W OEMs (M&M, Piaggio) and for stationary applications. The company is preparing for 2W and certain high-voltage applications, having entered a technology agreement. The 1.5GW/h battery pack capacity can be raised to 2GW/h. Larger OEMs prefer in-house facilities to maintain quality/differentiated technologies, and the evolution of cell-to-pack technologies would be challenging for this business.

**Lead batteries.** The outlook for automotive and industrial demand is bright. Volume growth would be in high-single digits. We expect a 12% revenue CAGR over FY24-27. Margins would improve, led by better nett pricing and new tubular plant.

**Valuation**. We expect standalone 12%/15% revenue/EBITDA CAGRs over FY24-27. We raise our recommendation on Amara Raja to a Hold, with a higher TP of Rs1,490, 12x the parent's FY26e EPS and Amara Raja Advance Cell Technologies (new lithium energy unit) at Rs542/sh. We estimate ARACT's FY28 revenue/PAT at Rs49.8bn/Rs4.98bn and a valuation of 25x discounted PAT (a 12% discounting factor).

Fig 8 - Chang	Fig 8 – Change in estimates – standalone										
	Old	ı	Nev	v	Change	e (%)	Introducing				
(Rs m)	FY25e	FY26e	FY25e	FY26e	FY25	FY26	FY27e				
Revenue	1,26,839	1,43,295	1,25,491	1,41,097	-1.1%	-1.5%	1,56,312				
EBITDA	19,543	22,867	17,491	22,065	-10.5%	-3.5%	24,757				
% of revenue	15.4	16.0	13.9	15.6			15.8				
Adj. PAT	11,238	13,058	9,795	12,736	-12.8%	-2.5%	14,414				
EPS (Rs)	61.4	71.4	53.5	69.6	-12.8%	-2.5%	78.8				
Source: Anand Rati	hi Research										

(Rs m)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	CAGR % FY24-27e
Automotive (2Ws, 4Ws)	56,001	67,006	74,498	90,235	1,04,587	1,18,408	17
Growth (%)	24	20	11	21	16	13	
-OEM	9,168	11,398	12,253	13,545	15,072	16,482	10
Growth (%)	28	24	8	11	11	9	
-Aftermarket	46,833	55,608	62,245	76,690	89,516	1,01,926	18
Growth (%)	24	19	12	23	17	14	
Industrial	28,298	31,376	34,700	31,510	32,389	33,455	-1
Growth (%)	17	11	11	(9)	3	3	
Others	2,659	3,021	3,405	3,746	4,120	4,450	9
Growth (%)	13	14	13	10	10	8	
Total Revenue	86,958	1,01,403	1,12,603	1,25,491	1,41,097	1,56,312	12
Growth (%)	22	17	11	11	12	11	

Fig 10 - One-year-forward P/E (median 22x) – Valuations factor in the new energy opportunities



Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

#### **Risks**

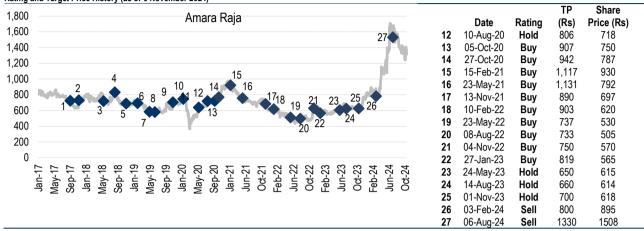
- More-than-estimated growth in lead batteries.
- Good orders for the lithium-ion cell plant.
- Lower commodity prices.

#### **Appendix**

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Compliance officer-Deepak Kedia, email id - deepakkedia@rathi.com, Contact no. +91 22 6281 7000

Grievance officer-Madhu Jain-email id- grievance@rathi.com, Contact no. +91 22 6281 7191

ARSSBL registered address: Express Zone, A Wing, 9th Floor, Western Express Highway, Diagonally Opposite Oberoi Mall, Malad (E), Mumbai – 400097.

Tel No: +91 22 6281 7000 | Fax No: +91 22 4001 3770 | CIN: U67120MH1991PLC064106.