# **REDUCE** Firstsource Solutions

# Revenue beat; profit misses expectations

Information Technology → Result Update → February 7, 2025



**TARGET PRICE (Rs): 350** 

Firstsource (FSOL) delivered yet another quarter of strong topline growth in Q3FY25; revenue grew 7.6% QoQ CC, compared to our growth estimate of 6.9%. Growth was led by Ascensos (incremental 2 months of contribution), but remained broad based across verticals. Growth remained broad based across 3 core verticals in North America, while companies continue to face significant cost pressures in the UK. EBITM of 11.1% was a tad lower than our estimate. Deal wins remained steady, with the pipeline close to an all-time high. The management has upped its FY25 revenue guidance again to 21.8%-22.3% (from 19.5%-20.5% previously), implying sequential growth of -0.4% to +1.2% in Q4, which seems a reasonable ask given the ramp up of recently won deals and healthy pipeline. The company retained EBITM guidance of 11%-11.5% for FY25. We trim FY25-27E EPS by 0-2% factoring in the Q3 performance and revised guidance. We maintain REDUCE, given the rich valuations, with an unchanged TP of Rs350 at 25x Dec-26E EPS.

Firstsource Solutions: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)									
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E				
Revenue	60,223	63,362	79,984	95,068	107,756				
EBITDA	8,265	9,562	12,150	15,043	17,767				
Adj. PAT	5,137	5,192	6,056	8,081	10,219				
Adj. EPS (Rs)	7.4	7.4	8.7	11.6	14.7				
EBITDA margin (%)	13.7	15.1	15.2	15.8	16.5				
EBITDA growth (%)	(13.9)	15.7	27.1	23.8	18.1				
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(4.4)	1.1	16.6	33.4	26.5				
RoE (%)	16.1	14.7	15.7	18.8	20.7				
RoIC (%)	12.1	13.9	14.9	16.8	20.0				
P/E (x)	48.1	47.6	40.8	30.6	24.2				
EV/EBITDA (x)	30.4	26.3	21.3	16.9	14.0				
P/B (x)	7.3	6.7	6.1	5.4	4.7				
FCFF yield (%)	3.0	2.3	2.6	3.9	4.9				

Source: Company, Emkay Research

### **Results Summary**

Revenue grew 8.3% QoQ to USD249mn (7.6% CC; includes 2 months of incremental contribution from Ascensos), higher than our estimate of USD244mn. Revenue growth was broad based, led by Diverse Industries (80% CC QoQ, includes acquisition impact), CMT (3.4%), and BFS (1.6%), while Healthcare remained flattish. Among geographies, North America grew 1.3% CC QoQ and EMEA grew 22%. The company added 13 new logos and won 3 large deals during Q3FY25. EBITM expanded by 30bps QoQ to 11.1%, a tad lower than our estimate. BFS and Healthcare margin expanded by 200bps and 300bps QoQ, respectively, while Diverse Industries and CMT margin contracted by 140bps and 120bps, respectively. Despite an exceptional gain to the tune of Rs88mn, net profit of Rs1.6bn was lower than our estimate of Rs1.7bn. Headcount grew 3.8% QoQ to 34,144. The company has announced an interim dividend of Rs4/ share. What we liked: Broad-based revenue growth, upward revision in revenue guidance. What we did not like: Profit miss, weak cash conversion (56% OCF/EBTIDA for 9MFY25).

### **Earnings Call KTAs**

1) BFS grew 1.6% QoQ CC and maintained growth momentum driven by enhanced sales and solutions capabilities, particularly in North America. It added seven new logos. 2) Healthcare stood flat on account of temporary softness in payer segment due to slowdown in decision-making ahead of the open enrollment period and US elections. The deal conversations have now resumed actively over the last few weeks and are expected to conclude in Q4. It added five new logos (three in Provider). 3) CMT grew 3.4% driven by expansion in marquee consumer tech logos, with both traditional and non-traditional service propositions. It added one of the largest consumer tech companies as a client for its AI services through a large deal. 4) Diverse industries was up 80% on the back of full quarter impact of the Ascensos acquisition. Mgmt expects broad-based growth to continue in Ascensos with a healthy deal pipeline in both retail and utilities. 5) It signed 3 large deals (ACV of over USD5mn) and added 13 new logos including 5 strategic logos (potential of at least USD5mn of annual revenue) in Q3. 6) Exceptional gain of Rs88.09mn includes fair value adjustment on contingent consideration payable on account of an earlier business combination (credit of Rs651.44mn), impairment charge of Rs283.7mn of intangible assets on earlier business combinations, and one-time costs owing to expected credit loss of Rs129.65mn with respect to certain customer contracts, which have been terminated and special bonus of Rs150mn given to employees.

Target Price – 12M	Feb-25
Change in TP (%)	-
Current Reco.	REDUCE
Previous Reco.	REDUCE
Upside/(Downside) (%)	(1.3)
CMP (07-Feb-25) (Rs)	354.6

Charle Date	The Landson
Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	423
52-week Low (Rs)	176
Shares outstanding (mn)	697.0
Market-cap (Rs bn)	247
Market-cap (USD mn)	2,827
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	12,039
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	4
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,629.2
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	18.6
Free float (%)	44.0
Nifty-50	23,560
INR/USD	87.4
Shareholding, Dec-24	
Promoters (%)	53.7
FPIs/MFs (%)	11.0/20.9

Price Performance							
(%)	1M	3M	12M				
Absolute	(12.8)	(6.9)	71.5				
Rel. to Nifty	(12.3)	(4.4)	59.7				





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**Exhibit 1: Quarterly snapshot** 

(Rs mn)	Q3FY25	Q2FY25	QoQ (%)	Q3FY24	YoY (%)
Revenue (USD mn)	249.0	230.0	8.3	192.0	29.7
Net sales	21,024	19,254	9.2	15,966	31.7
Total Income	21,024	19,254		15,966	
Operating expenses	17,847	16,381	8.9	13,595	31.3
EBITDA	3177	2873	10.6	2371	34.0
Margins (%)	15.1	14.9	20	14.9	30
Depreciation	844	792		663	
EBIT	2333	2081	12.1	1709	36.5
Margins (%)	11.1	10.8	30	10.7	40
Interest Paid	393	343		254	
Other income	-21	-27		154	
Non-recurring items	-88	0		0	
Pre-tax profit	2007	1710	17.3	1608	24.8
Tax provided	403	328		321	
Profit after tax	1603	1382		1287	
Minority	0	0		0	
Emkay Net profit	1,603	1,382	16.0	1,287	24.5
EPS (Rs)	2.3	2.0	16.0	1.8	24.5

Source: Company, Emkay Research

**Exhibit 2: Actuals vs estimates** 

				Variat	ion	
(Rs mn)	Actual	Estimate (Emkay)	Estimate (Consensus)	Emkay	Consensus	Comments
Revenue (USD mn)	249	244	244	2.0%	2.0%	Revenue was better than estimates.
Sales	21,024	20,723	20,659	1.5%	1.8%	
EBIT	2,333	2,323	2,287	0.4%	2.0%	
EBIT margin	11.1%	11.2%	11.1%	-10 bps	0 bps	Margins came a tad lower than our expectations.
PAT	1,603	1,676	1,633	-4.4%	-1.8%	Profit missed estimates due to higher interest costs and lower other income.

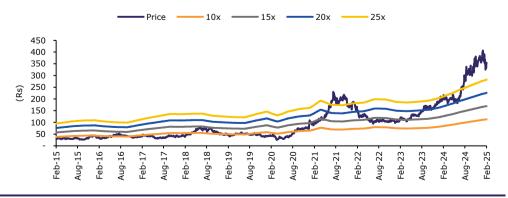
Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

**Exhibit 3: Changes in estimates** 

(Da)	FY25E		FY26E			FY27E			
(Rs mn)	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
Revenue (USD mn)	937	947	1.0%	1,083	1,102	1.8%	1,215	1,235	1.6%
USD revenue, YoY growth	22.5%	23.8%		15.6%	16.4%		12.2%	12.1%	
Revenue	79,128	79,984	1.1%	92,895	95,068	2.3%	105,967	107,756	1.7%
Revenue, YoY growth	24.9%	26.2%		17.4%	18.9%		14.1%	13.3%	
EBIT	8,803	8,912	1.2%	11,080	11,222	1.3%	13,334	13,528	1.5%
EBIT margin	11.1%	11.1%		11.9%	11.8%		12.6%	12.6%	
PAT	6,174	6,056	-1.9%	8,153	8,081	-0.9%	10,294	10,219	-0.7%
EPS (Rs)	8.9	8.7	-1.9%	11.7	11.6	-0.9%	14.8	14.7	-0.7%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: FSOL - One-year forward PER



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Source: Company, Emkay Research

## **Firstsource Solutions: Consolidated Financials and Valuations**

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	60,223	63,362	79,984	95,068	107,756
Revenue growth (%)	1.7	5.2	26.2	18.9	13.3
EBITDA	8,265	9,562	12,150	15,043	17,767
EBITDA growth (%)	(13.9)	15.7	27.1	23.8	18.1
Depreciation & Amortization	2,632	2,602	3,239	3,821	4,239
EBIT	5,633	6,960	8,912	11,222	13,528
EBIT growth (%)	(20.7)	23.6	28.0	25.9	20.5
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	1,309	415	(24)	79	139
Financial expense	790	1,034	1,356	1,325	1,051
PBT	6,152	6,342	7,532	9,976	12,616
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	1,015	1,150	1,476	1,896	2,397
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	5,137	5,192	6,056	8,081	10,219
PAT growth (%)	(4.4)	1.1	16.6	33.4	26.5
Adjusted PAT	5,137	5,192	6,056	8,081	10,219
Diluted EPS (Rs)	7.4	7.4	8.7	11.6	14.7
Diluted EPS growth (%)	(4.4)	1.1	16.6	33.4	26.5
DPS (Rs)	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0
Dividend payout (%)	47.5	47.0	46.0	34.5	27.3
EBITDA margin (%)	13.7	15.1	15.2	15.8	16.5
EBIT margin (%)	9.4	11.0	11.1	11.8	12.6
Effective tax rate (%)	16.5	18.1	19.6	19.0	19.0
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	4,704	5,699	7,166	9,090	10,958
Shares outstanding (mn)	697.0	697.0	697.0	697.0	697.0

ng (mn)	697.0	697.0	697.0	697.0	697.0	Source: Company, Emkay Resea

Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
PBT	6,152	6,342	7,532	9,976	12,616
Others (non-cash items)	1,689	3,273	3,262	3,742	4,100
Taxes paid	(656)	(718)	(1,476)	(1,896)	(2,397)
Change in NWC	765	(2,404)	(671)	(1,060)	(1,064)
Operating cash flow	7,950	6,448	8,648	10,763	13,255
Capital expenditure	(514)	(850)	(2,206)	(1,190)	(1,200)
Acquisition of business	0	0	(6,987)	0	0
Interest & dividend income	10	10	(24)	79	139
Investing cash flow	134	(547)	(9,417)	(1,411)	(2,761)
Equity raised/(repaid)	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(2,351)	(291)	6,706	(3,687)	(4,800)
Payment of lease liabilities	(1,495)	(1,993)	(2,700)	(2,500)	(2,500)
Interest paid	(787)	(1,011)	0	0	0
Dividend paid (incl tax)	(2,384)	(2,406)	(2,788)	(2,788)	(2,788)
Others	(140)	59	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	(7,434)	(5,642)	1,218	(8,975)	(10,088)
Net chg in Cash	650	259	449	376	406
OCF	7,950	6,448	8,648	10,763	13,255
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	7,185	8,852	9,319	11,822	14,319
FCFF	7,436	5,597	6,441	9,573	12,055
FCFE	6,657	4,574	5,062	8,327	11,143
OCF/EBITDA (%)	96.2	67.4	71.2	71.5	74.6
FCFE/PAT (%)	129.6	88.1	83.6	103.0	109.0
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	158.1	98.2	89.9	105.3	110.0

ource: Company, Emkay Research	Source: Company, Emkay Re

<b>Balance Sheet</b>					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	6,970	6,970	6,970	6,970	6,970
Reserves & Surplus	26,699	30,034	33,302	38,595	46,027
Net worth	33,668	37,004	40,272	45,565	52,997
Minority interests	4	4	4	4	4
Deferred tax liability (net)	1,196	1,470	1,470	1,470	1,470
Total debt	6,665	6,715	14,987	11,300	6,500
Total liabilities & equity	41,533	45,193	56,734	58,339	60,971
Net tangible fixed assets	1,739	1,641	1,811	1,898	1,912
Net intangible assets	1,015	649	2,332	1,772	1,192
Net ROU assets	4,958	6,355	7,854	8,196	8,223
Capital WIP	34	171	170	170	170
Goodwill	29,450	29,885	34,985	34,985	34,985
Investments [JV/Associates]	0	0	0	0	0
Cash & equivalents	2,267	2,300	2,949	3,625	5,731
Current assets (ex-cash)	17,180	19,624	22,469	25,103	27,571
Current Liab. & Prov.	15,111	15,432	15,835	17,410	18,814
NWC (ex-cash)	2,069	4,192	6,634	7,693	8,758
Total assets	41,533	45,193	56,734	58,339	60,971
Net debt	4,398	4,415	12,039	7,675	769
Capital employed	41,533	45,193	56,734	58,339	60,971
Invested capital	39,232	42,722	53,615	54,544	55,070
BVPS (Rs)	48.3	53.1	57.8	65.4	76.0
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
Interest coverage (x)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
RoCE (%)	16.8	17.0	17.4	19.6	22.9

Valuations and key Ratios									
Y/E Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E				
P/E (x)	48.1	47.6	40.8	30.6	24.2				
P/CE(x)	31.8	31.7	26.6	20.8	17.1				
P/B (x)	7.3	6.7	6.1	5.4	4.7				
EV/Sales (x)	4.2	4.0	3.2	2.7	2.3				
EV/EBITDA (x)	30.4	26.3	21.3	16.9	14.0				
EV/EBIT(x)	44.6	36.1	29.1	22.7	18.3				
EV/IC (x)	6.4	5.9	4.8	4.7	4.5				
FCFF yield (%)	3.0	2.3	2.6	3.9	4.9				
FCFE yield (%)	2.7	1.9	2.0	3.4	4.5				
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1				
DuPont-RoE split									
Net profit margin (%)	8.5	8.2	7.6	8.5	9.5				
Total asset turnover (x)	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8				
Assets/Equity (x)	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2				
RoE (%)	16.1	14.7	15.7	18.8	20.7				
DuPont-RoIC									
NOPLAT margin (%)	7.8	9.0	9.0	9.6	10.2				
IC turnover (x)	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.0				
RoIC (%)	12.1	13.9	14.9	16.8	20.0				
Operating metrics									
Core NWC days	12.5	24.1	30.3	29.5	29.7				
Total NWC days	12.5	24.1	30.3	29.5	29.7				
Fixed asset turnover	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6				
Opex-to-revenue (%)	86.3	84.9	84.8	84.2	83.5				

Research

### **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS**

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
01-Jan-25	384	350	Reduce	Dipeshkumar Mehta
28-Oct-24	373	350	Reduce	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Oct-24	312	330	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
24-Sep-24	334	330	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
24-Aug-24	323	330	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
30-Jul-24	271	300	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Jul-24	214	230	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
09-Jun-24	197	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
03-Jun-24	192	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
27-May-24	194	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
03-May-24	208	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
31-Mar-24	198	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Mar-24	205	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
08-Feb-24	217	220	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
31-Dec-23	185	190	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
30-Nov-23	178	190	Add	Dipeshkumar Mehta
16-Nov-23	166	190	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
08-Nov-23	160	190	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
02-Oct-23	168	190	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
04-Aug-23	149	160	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
02-Jul-23	127	135	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
05-May-23	113	130	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Apr-23	106	130	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
03-Feb-23	116	130	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
02-Jan-23	103	125	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
03-Nov-22	104	125	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
04-Oct-22	105	130	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
04-Aug-22	105	130	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
23-Jun-22	100	140	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
06-May-22	112	170	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Apr-22	128	180	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
22-Feb-22	122	180	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta

Source: Company, Emkay Research

### **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND**



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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