Sonata Software

Weak quarter; hopes on FY26 recovery

CMP (Rs): 397 | TP (Rs): 475

Information Technology >

Result Update >

May 08, 2025

Sonata posted a weak operating performance in International IT Services (IITS) in Q4. IITS revenue declined 7.2% QoQ CC, below our expectations. The decline was majorly attributed to higher-than-expected ramp down at a large TMT client, along with Quant seasonality. IITS EBITDAM rebounded by 190bps QoQ to 16.5%, albeit coming below our estimate. Sonata secured two large IITS deals in Q4 with order booking of ~USD100mn and book-to-bill of ~1.25x. The mgmt anticipates some stability returning in its large TMT client in Q1FY26. It expects a recently signed large deal with the TMT client (TCV: USD73mn) to start ramping up gradually in Q1, with major contribution expected from Q2. Also, it believes the Quant business would fully recover in Q2, and drive normalcy in growth in H2. We cut FY26-27E EPS by 6-7%, factoring in the Q4 miss. Weak performance in IITS and uncertainties around domestic business growth prospects with change in Microsoft strategy (prioritizing direct sales to large enterprise clients) would weigh on stock performance in the near term, in our view, particularly after the recent up move. Given the undemanding valuation and expectation of a gradual recovery in FY26, we retain BUY while trimming our TP by 5% to Rs475 at 22x Mar-27E earnings.

Results Summary

IITS revenue fell 6.6% QoQ (7.2% CC) to USD81.3mn, missing our estimate of USD83.9mn. Among verticals, RMD, Emerging, and HLS grew 13%, 12.5%, and 10.9% QoQ, whereas TMT and BFSI declined 13% and 26.3%. Among geographies, Europe grew 44.4% QoQ, while USA and RoW declined 11.3% and 23.5%. IITS EBITDAM expanded by 190bps QoQ to 16.5% on the back of reversal of one-off costs. Overall EBITM expanded by 110bps QoQ due to margin recovery in IITS and lower D&A. IITS headcount declined 4.1% QoQ to 6,369. LTM attrition was flat QoQ at 14%. Gross contribution grew 21% YoY in the domestic business. SSOF declared final dividend of Rs4.4/sh. **What we liked**: Order intake, healthy cash conversion (OCF/EBITDA 93%), HLS momentum. **What we did not like**: Revenue/margin miss, TMT client weakness, decline in BFSI.

Earnings Call KTAs

1) Large TMT deal ramp-up and HLS/BFSI momentum to drive revenue tailwinds, while weakness in RMD and elongated deal closure cycle remain headwinds. 2) HLS and BFSI are estimated to reach USD250mn revenue run rate in 3-5 years. 3) BFSI is expected to recover in Q1, with full recovery in Q2. 4) Retail and Manufacturing face uncertainty, with degrowth expected in Q1 and Q2. 5) SSOF has withdrawn its aspirational goal of achieving revenue run-rate of USD1.5bn by FY27. However, it continues to aspire delivering top quartile revenue growth in IITS and remain within the top-5 publicly listed mid-size peers. 6) It is pursuing a USD34mn AI pipeline and expects AI-enabled services to contribute 20% of revenue over 3Y. 7) 97% of the workforce is trained in GenAI. 8) Deal pipeline remains healthy with several USD5-10mn TCV deals in the pipeline. Large deals constitute 35%, and cloud and data make up 60% of the deal pipeline.

Sonata Software: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)							
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E		
Revenue	74,491	86,131	101,573	103,984	114,995		
EBITDA	6,041	7,274	6,892	7,725	9,082		
Adj. PAT	4,519	4,832	4,243	4,922	6,155		
Adj. EPS (Rs)	16.1	17.2	15.1	17.6	21.9		
EBITDA margin (%)	8.1	8.4	6.8	7.4	7.9		
EBITDA growth (%)	24.1	20.4	(5.2)	12.1	17.6		
Adj. EPS growth (%)	21.2	6.9	(12.2)	16.0	25.0		
RoE (%)	37.7	35.7	27.3	26.2	27.1		
RoIC (%)	73.2	46.5	33.7	29.2	31.0		
P/E (x)	24.6	23.1	26.3	22.6	18.1		
EV/EBITDA (x)	18.6	15.5	16.4	14.6	12.4		
P/B (x)	8.6	7.9	6.5	5.4	4.5		
FCFF yield (%)	2.0	2.5	5.1	4.7	4.9		

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Target Price – 12M	Mar-26
Change in TP (%)	(5.0)
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Upside/(Downside) (%)	19.6

mkay

Stock Data	SSOF IN					
52-week High (Rs)	764					
52-week Low (Rs)	286					
Shares outstanding (mn)	280.4					
Market-cap (Rs bn)	111					
Market-cap (USD mn)	1,313					
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	4,514.9					
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	3					
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,895.4					
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	22.3					
Free float (%)	69.2					
Nifty-50	24,414.4					
INR/USD	84.8					
Shareholding, Mar-25						
Promoters (%)	28.2					
FPIs/MFs (%)	10.8/25.9					

Price Performance							
(%)	1M	3M	12M				
Absolute	31.9	(18.8)	(37.8)				
Rel. to Nifty	19.7	(21.7)	(43.1)				



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Exhibit 1: Quarterly snapshot

(Rs mn)	Q4FY25	Q3FY25	QoQ (%)	Q4FY24	YoY (%)
IITS Revenue (USD mn)	81.3	87.0	(6.6)	81.7	(0.5)
Net sales	26,172	28,428	(7.9)	21,916	19.4
Operating expenses	24,445	26,792		20,475	
EBITDA	1,727	1,636	5.6	1,441	19.8
Margins (%)	6.6	5.8	80.0	6.6	-
Depreciation	230	323		337	
EBIT	1,496	1,313	14.0	1,105	35.5
Margins (%)	5.7	4.6	110.0	5.0	70.0
Interest paid	101	160		216	
Other income	112	215		547	
Pre-tax profit	1,508	1,368	10.2	1,436	
Tax provided	432	318		332	
Profit after tax	1,075	1,050		1,104	
Emkay Net profit	1,075	1,050	2.4	1,104	(2.6)
EPS (Rs)	3.8	3.7	2.4	3.9	(2.6)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Actuals vs estimates

(D)	A	Estimate		Variation		G
(Rs mn)	Actual	Emkay	Consensus	Emkay	Consensus	Comment
Sales	26,172	23,883	24,415	9.6%	7.2%	Revenue came ahead of expectations due to beat in domestic business; however, IITS revenue missed estimates.
EBIT	1,496	1,387	1,344	7.9%	11.3%	Margin beat estimates due to lower D&A.
EBIT margin	5.7%	5.8%	5.5%	-10 bps	20 bps	
PAT	1,075	994	925	8.2%	16.2%	Profit beat estimates due to margin beat.

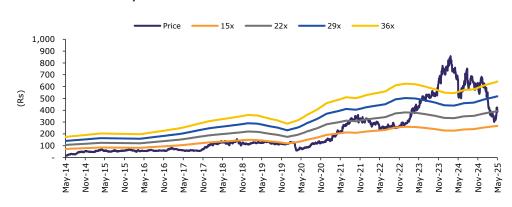
Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Changes in estimates

(Dame)		FY26E		FY27E		
(Rs mn)	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
IITS - Revenue (USD mn)	361.3	344.3	-4.7%	408.3	388.9	-4.7%
Revenue	111,130	103,984	-6.4%	125,985	114,995	-8.7%
EBIT	7,151	6,575	-8.1%	8,802	7,882	-10.5%
EBIT margin	6.4%	6.3%		7.0%	6.9%	
Net profit	5,303	4,922	-7.2%	6,556	6,155	-6.1%
EPS (Rs)	18.9	17.6	-7.2%	23.4	21.9	-6.1%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: SSOF - One-year forward PER



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Sonata Software: Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	74,491	86,131	101,573	103,984	114,995
Revenue growth (%)	34.1	15.6	17.9	2.4	10.6
EBITDA	6,041	7,274	6,892	7,725	9,082
EBITDA growth (%)	24.1	20.4	(5.2)	12.1	17.6
Depreciation & Amortization	591	1,319	1,215	1,150	1,200
EBIT	5,450	5,955	5,678	6,575	7,882
EBIT growth (%)	24.0	9.3	(4.7)	15.8	19.9
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	708	1,256	708	441	605
Financial expense	185	850	653	453	281
PBT	5,973	6,360	5,733	6,563	8,207
Extraordinary items	0	(1,747)	0	0	0
Taxes	1,454	1,529	1,490	1,641	2,052
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	-	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	4,519	3,085	4,243	4,922	6,155
PAT growth (%)	20.0	(31.7)	37.5	16.0	25.0
Adjusted PAT	4,519	4,832	4,243	4,922	6,155
Diluted EPS (Rs)	16.1	17.2	15.1	17.6	21.9
Diluted EPS growth (%)	21.2	6.9	(12.2)	16.0	25.0
DPS (Rs)	8.3	7.8	4.4	5.1	6.4
Dividend payout (%)	51.4	71.0	28.9	29.3	29.3
EBITDA margin (%)	8.1	8.4	6.8	7.4	7.9
EBIT margin (%)	7.3	6.9	5.6	6.3	6.9
Effective tax rate (%)	24.3	24.0	26.0	25.0	25.0
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	4,123	4,524	4,202	4,931	5,912
Shares outstanding (mn)	280	280	280	280	280

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
PBT (ex-other income)	5,973	4,614	5,737	6,563	8,207
Others (non-cash items)	233	2,908	1,312	1,150	1,200
Taxes paid	(1,754)	(2,623)	(1,636)	(2,207)	(2,548)
Change in NWC	(1,766)	(2,094)	1,030	537	(618)
Operating cash flow	2,685	2,805	6,443	6,044	6,240
Capital expenditure	(411)	1	(678)	(700)	(710)
Acquisition of business	(5,294)	(726)	(5,919)	(5,143)	0
Interest & dividend income	381	332	213	0	0
Investing cash flow	(8,553)	(543)	(4,356)	(5,498)	(710)
Equity raised/(repaid)	-	36	35	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	4,535	1,726	(2,465)	704	(1,500)
Payment of lease liabilities	(326)	(334)	(293)	0	0
Interest paid	(18)	(324)	(384)	0	0
Dividend paid (incl tax)	(2,324)	(2,189)	(1,226)	(1,444)	(1,804)
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	1,868	(1,085)	(4,333)	(740)	(3,304)
Net chg in Cash	(4,001)	1,177	(2,246)	(194)	2,226
OCF	2,685	2,805	6,443	6,044	6,240
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	4,451	4,900	5,413	5,506	6,858
FCFF	2,274	2,806	5,766	5,344	5,530
FCFE	2,469	2,289	5,326	4,890	5,249
OCF/EBITDA (%)	44.4	38.6	93.5	78.2	68.7
FCFE/PAT (%)	54.6	74.2	125.5	99.4	85.3

55.1

62.0

137.2

108.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research

FCFF/NOPLAT (%)

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	139	278	278	278	278
Reserves & Surplus	12,868	13,785	16,782	20,260	24,611
Net worth	13,007	14,063	17,059	20,538	24,888
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Non-current liab. & prov.	707	355	137	(429)	(925)
Total debt	4,936	6,743	4,416	5,119	3,619
Total liabilities & equity	19,618	22,073	22,357	25,973	28,327
Net tangible fixed assets	1,308	1,327	1,036	934	902
Net intangible assets	5,031	4,248	3,602	3,253	2,796
Net ROU assets	828	810	636	541	514
Capital WIP	8	0	0	0	0
Goodwill	10,984	11,135	11,657	11,657	11,657
Investments [JV/Associates]	5,326	5,740	3,880	3,536	3,536
Cash & equivalents	4,174	5,360	3,100	2,905	5,131
Current assets (ex-cash)	16,738	22,796	23,421	24,416	26,994
Current Liab. & Prov.	23,950	28,534	24,339	20,728	22,688
NWC (ex-cash)	(7,213)	(5,738)	(918)	3,688	4,306
Total assets	19,618	22,073	22,357	25,973	28,327
Net debt	762	1,383	1,316	2,214	(1,511)
Capital employed	19,618	22,073	22,357	25,973	28,327
Invested capital	9,282	10,163	14,741	18,991	19,146
BVPS (Rs)	46.4	50.1	60.8	73.2	88.8
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	(0.1)
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	(0.2)
Interest coverage (x)	33.2	8.5	9.8	15.5	30.2
RoCE (%)	42.0	37.2	30.2	29.8	31.3

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios						
Y/E Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	
P/E (x)	24.6	23.1	26.3	22.6	18.1	
EV/CE(x)	6.3	5.4	5.3	4.4	4.0	
P/B (x)	8.6	7.9	6.5	5.4	4.5	
EV/Sales (x)	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	
EV/EBITDA (x)	18.6	15.5	16.4	14.6	12.4	
EV/EBIT(x)	20.6	18.9	19.9	17.2	14.3	
EV/IC (x)	12.1	11.1	7.6	5.9	5.9	
FCFF yield (%)	2.0	2.5	5.1	4.7	4.9	
FCFE yield (%)	2.2	2.1	4.8	4.4	4.7	
Dividend yield (%)	2.1	2.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	
DuPont-RoE split						
Net profit margin (%)	6.1	5.6	4.2	4.7	5.4	
Total asset turnover (x)	5.0	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.3	
Assets/Equity (x)	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	
RoE (%)	37.7	35.7	27.3	26.2	27.1	
DuPont-RoIC						
NOPLAT margin (%)	5.5	5.3	4.1	4.7	5.1	
IC turnover (x)	13.2	8.9	8.2	6.2	6.0	
RoIC (%)	73.2	46.5	33.7	29.2	31.0	
Operating metrics						
Core NWC days	(35.3)	(24.3)	(3.3)	12.9	13.7	
Total NWC days	(35.3)	(24.3)	(3.3)	12.9	13.7	
Fixed asset turnover	6.9	4.9	5.6	5.5	5.9	
Opex-to-revenue (%)	18.6	24.0	23.5	23.5	23.9	

Source: Company, Emkay Research

93.5

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
31-Mar-25	346	500	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
07-Feb-25	489	700	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
01-Jan-25	605	780	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta
05-Dec-24	670	780	Buy	Dipeshkumar Mehta

Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



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Ratings	Expected Return within the next 12-18 months.
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ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	<15% downside

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