

APL Apollo Tubes

Estimate change	↓
TP change	↓
Rating change	↔

Bloomberg	APAT IN
Equity Shares (m)	278
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	419.2 / 5
52-Week Range (INR)	1774 / 1253
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	5/-11/-35
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1290

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	216.1	267.1	311.5
EBITDA	11.7	17.5	22.2
PAT	7.1	11.9	15.5
EBITDA (%)	5.4	6.5	7.1
EPS (INR)	25.6	43.0	55.8
EPS Gr. (%)	-3.2	68.2	29.7
BV/Sh. (INR)	149.5	186.5	236.3
Ratios			
Net D/E	-0.0	-0.2	-0.4
RoE (%)	18.3	25.6	26.4
RoCE (%)	16.7	24.0	26.4
Payout (%)	23.5	14.0	10.8
Valuations			
P/E (x)	59.3	35.3	27.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.7	23.4	17.9
Div Yield (%)	0.4	0.4	0.4
FCF Yield (%)	2.8	2.4	3.3

Shareholding Pattern (%)

As on	Sep-24	Jun-24	Sep-23
Promoter	28.3	28.3	29.7
DII	15.9	14.9	12.7
FII	31.9	31.6	28.7
Others	23.8	25.2	29.0

Note: FII includes depository receipts

CMP: INR1,510

TP: INR1,750 (+16%)

Buy

Inventory losses; higher discounting hurts margins

Earnings below our estimates

- APL Apollo Tubes (APAT) reported the fourth consecutive quarter of weak operating performance (EBITDA/MT down 62% YoY in 2Q) on account of inventory loss of ~INR1.5b (led by a fall in steel prices) and higher discounting during the quarter. Revenues grew marginally at 3% YoY led by volume growth (up 12% YoY), which was partially offset by a decline in realizations (down 8% YoY).
- With higher inventory loss being booked in 2Q, we see a lower possibility of any major inventory loss in 2H. Additionally, the company will benefit from the improving VAP mix and favorable operating leverage, resulting in a sequential recovery in margins.
- We cut our FY25E/FY26E earnings by 10%/6%, primarily due to lower EBITDA/MT (reduced by 9%/5% for FY25E/26E). We value the stock at 35x Sep'26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,750. **Reiterate BUY**.

Muted revenue growth on account of declining realizations

- Consolidated revenue grew 3% YoY while declined 4% QoQ to INR47.7b (est. INR52.6b) as volume growth (up 12%/5% YoY/QoQ to ~758KMT) was offset by a decline in realization (down 8%/9% YoY/QoQ to INR62,958). VAP mix stood at 55% in 2QFY25 vs. 55%/60% in 2QFY24/1QFY25.
- Gross profit/MT declined 27%/28% YoY/QoQ to INR7,016, while EBITDA/MT fell 62%/56% YoY/QoQ to INR1,821 (est. INR2,299) on account of higher discounting (INR493/MT), inventory losses (INR1,981/MT), and unfavorable product mix during the quarter. EBITDA declined 58%/54% YoY/QoQ to INR1.4b (est. INR1.7b).
- Adjusted PAT declined 73% YoY and 72% QoQ to INR538m (est. INR890m).
- In 1HFY25, APAT's revenue grew 6% YoY to INR97.5b, while EBITDA/Adj. PAT declined 30%/38% YoY to INR4.4b/INR2.5b; implied revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT growth in 2HFY25 is expected to be 33%/31%/37%, led by strong volume growth coupled with expansion of margins. CFO for 1HFY25 stood at INR1.3b vs. INR5.2b in 1HFY24.

Highlights from the management commentary

- **Demand scenario:** The company expects a better volume offtake in 2HFY25 as the inventory with channel partners is very low. It has already rolled back the additional discounting and expects ~10% QoQ volume growth for the next few quarters going ahead.
- **Guidance:** APAT maintains its volume guidance of clocking ~4MMT/5MMT sales volume in FY26/FY27. EBITDA per ton is expected to reach ~INR5,000 over the next couple of quarters (touching ~INR5,000 by 4QFY25), and is likely to maintain it over FY26 on a conservative basis.
- **Capex:** The company has proposed to build three new Greenfield plants, which will add ~610KMT of manufacturing capacity. It expects to incur a capex of INR3-3.5b over the next 6-7 months to reach a manufacturing capacity of ~5MMT.

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

Motilal Oswal research is available on www.motilaloswal.com/Institutional-Equities, Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, Factset and S&P Capital.

Valuation and view

- With lower channel inventory and higher demand for primary steel products (led by the narrowing gap in primary and secondary steel prices), APAT is likely to witness continued strong volume growth. We expect margins (EBITDA/MT) to improve sequentially, led by the operating leverage and higher mix of VAP in 2HFY25.
- We expect APAT to clock a CAGR of 20%/22%/28% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-27. We value the stock at 35x Sep'26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,750.

Reiterate BUY.

Consolidated - Quarterly Earning Model

(INRm)

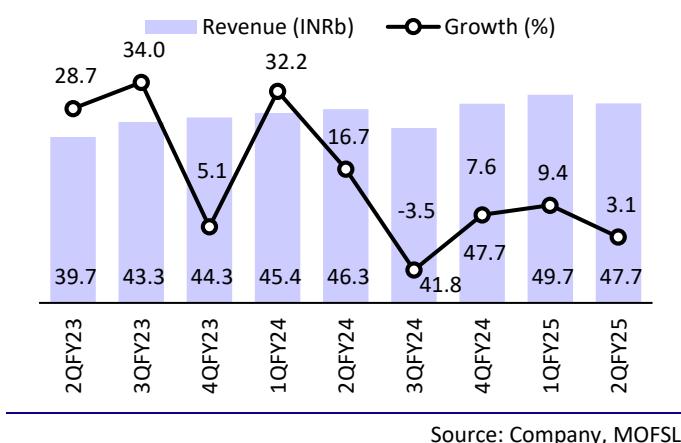
Y/E March	FY24				FY25E				FY24	FY25E	FY24E	Var
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE				
Gross Sales	45,449	46,304	41,778	47,657	49,743	47,739	56,758	61,883	1,81,188	2,16,123	52,555	-9
YoY Change (%)	32.2	16.7	-3.5	7.6	9.4	3.1	35.9	29.9	12.1	19.3	13.5	
Total Expenditure	42,377	43,054	38,982	44,854	46,727	46,359	53,319	57,994	1,69,266	2,04,398	50,811	
EBITDA	3,072	3,250	2,795	2,804	3,016	1,381	3,439	3,889	11,922	11,725	1,744	-21
Margins (%)	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.9	6.1	2.9	6.1	6.3	6.6	5.4	3.3	
Depreciation	409	413	471	466	465	469	560	603	1,759	2,097	535	
Interest	271	266	285	311	278	364	250	200	1,134	1,092	255	
Other Income	217	196	150	186	247	148	210	246	749	851	235	
PBT before EO expense	2,608	2,767	2,190	2,212	2,520	696	2,839	3,332	9,777	9,387	1,189	
Extra-Ord expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PBT	2,608	2,767	2,190	2,212	2,520	696	2,839	3,332	9,777	9,387	1,189	
Tax	672	738	535	508	589	158	715	839	2,453	2,300	299	
Rate (%)	25.8	26.7	24.4	23.0	23.4	22.7	25.2	25.2	25.1	24.5	25.2	
Minority Interest & Profit/Loss of Asso. Cos.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Reported PAT	1,936	2,029	1,655	1,704	1,932	538	2,124	2,494	7,324	7,088	890	
Adj PAT	1,936	2,029	1,655	1,704	1,932	538	2,124	2,494	7,324	7,088	890	-40
YoY Change (%)	60.5	35.1	-2.2	-15.5	-0.2	-73.5	28.4	46.3	14.1	-3.2	-56.1	
Margins (%)	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.9	1.1	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.3	1.7	

Key performance indicators

Y/E March	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	YOY	QOQ
Segment Volumes ('000 MT)							
Apollo Structural							
Big Section	51	62	64	58	52	2%	-10%
Super Heavy Section	5	7	8	11	11	122%	-2%
Light Structures	113	95	102	110	127	13%	16%
General Structures	301	249	272	288	338	12%	17%
Apollo Z - Rust-proof structures	144	124	156	168	150	4%	-11%
Apollo Z- Coated Products	29	36	40	52	51	78%	-1%
Apollo Galv - Agri/Industrial	32	30	37	34	29	-11%	-16%
TOTAL	675	604	679	721	758	12%	5%
Value Added Products	374	355	407	433	420	12%	-3%
Segment EBITDA/MT (INR/MT)							
Apollo Structural							
Big Section	8,481	8,177	7,845	7,901	5,541	-35%	-30%
Super Heavy Section	10,014	9,551	9,210	9,425	7,069	-29%	-25%
Light Structures	6,258	5,771	5,187	5,169	2,899	-54%	-44%
General Structures	2,152	1,771	1,802	1,944	-24	NA	NA
Apollo Z - Rust-proof structures	6,721	6,144	4,865	4,958	2,567	-62%	-48%
Apollo Z- Coated Products	7,472	7,516	6,023	5,757	3,395	-55%	-41%
Apollo Galv - Agri/Industrial	7,196	6,452	5,725	5,698	3,340	-54%	-41%
Cost Break-up							
RM Cost (% of sales)	86%	86%	87%	86%	89%	294bps	302bps
Employee Cost (% of sales)	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	47bps	22bps
Other Cost (% of sales)	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	72bps	-6bps
Gross Margins (%)	14%	14%	13%	14%	11%	-294bps	-302bps
EBITDA Margins (%)	7.0%	6.7%	5.9%	6.1%	2.9%	-413bps	-317bps

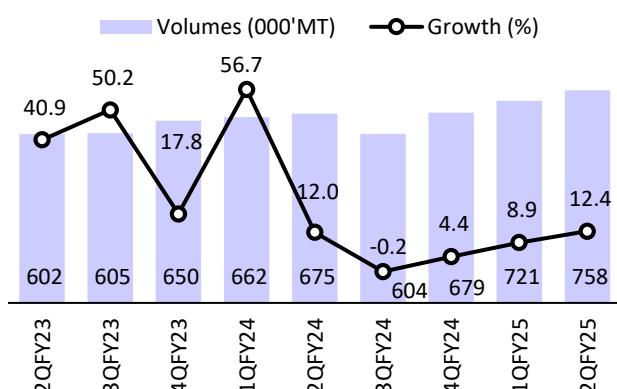
Key Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Consolidated revenue trend



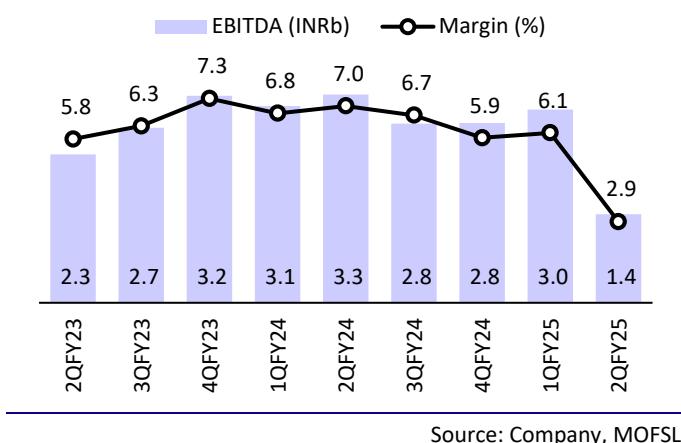
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Volume trend



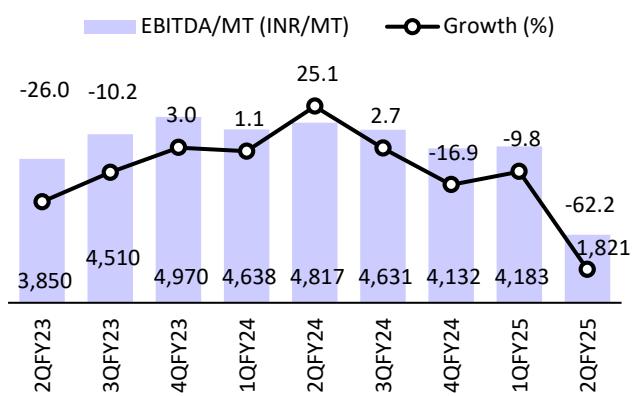
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Consolidated EBITDA trend



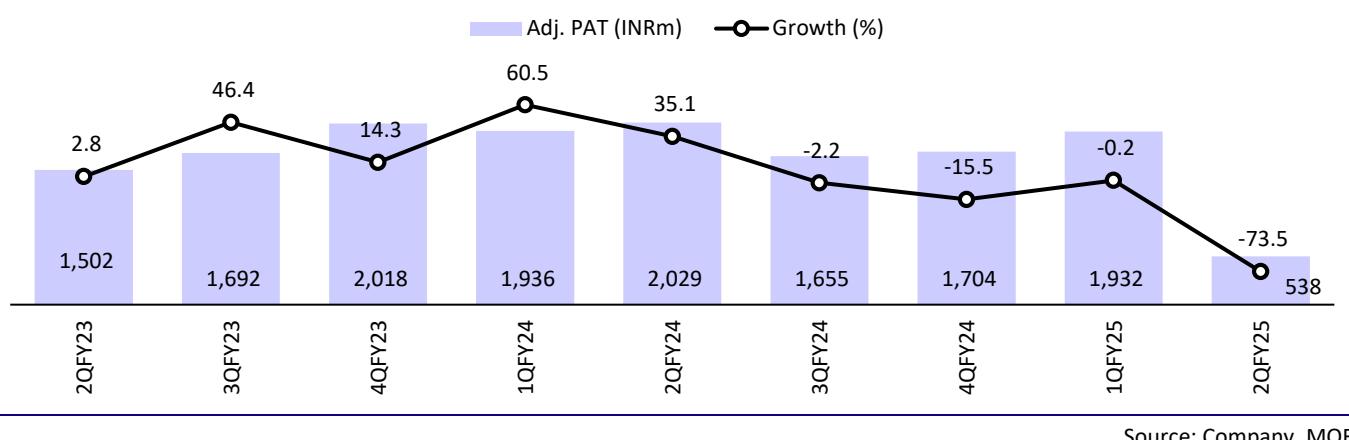
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: EBITDA/MT trend



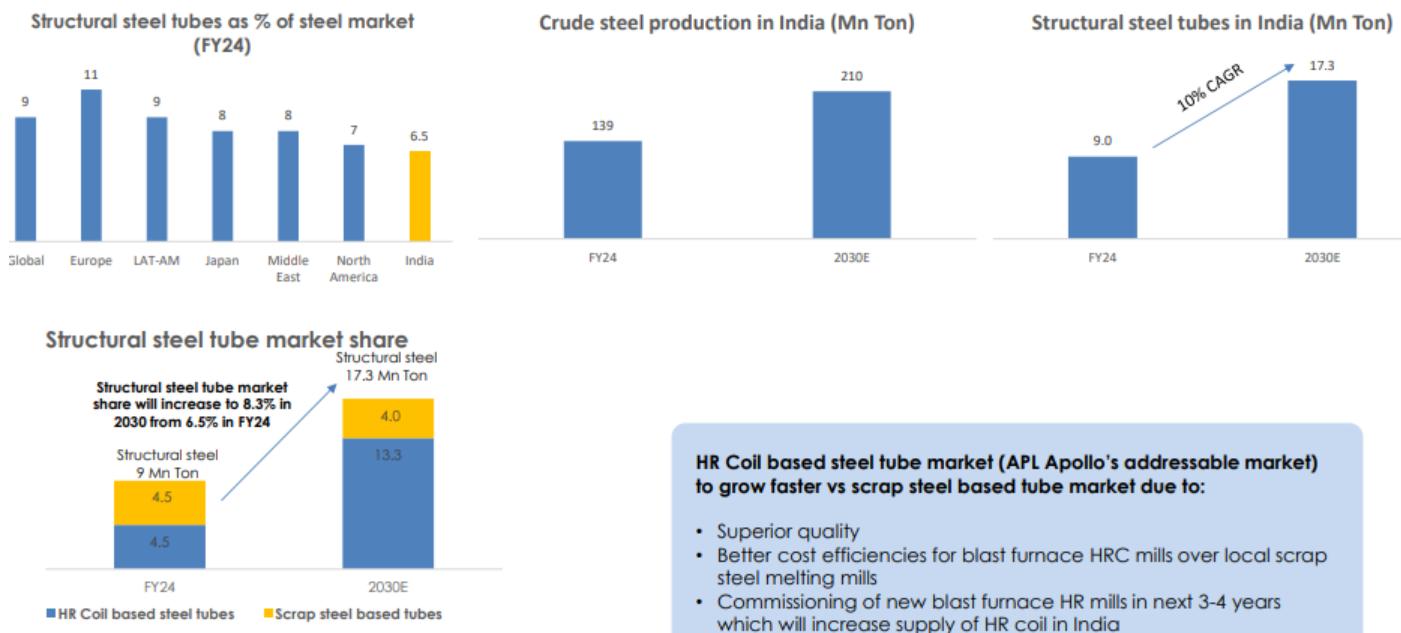
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Consolidated Adj. PAT trend



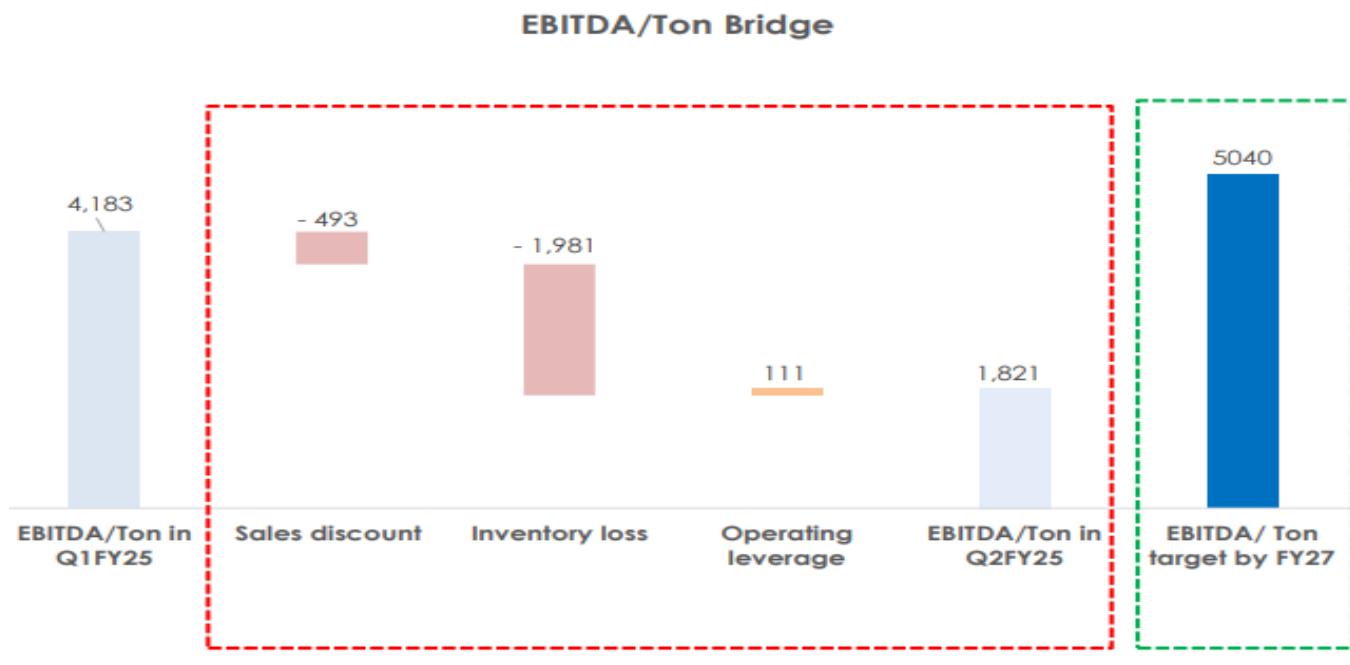
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: India structural tubes market



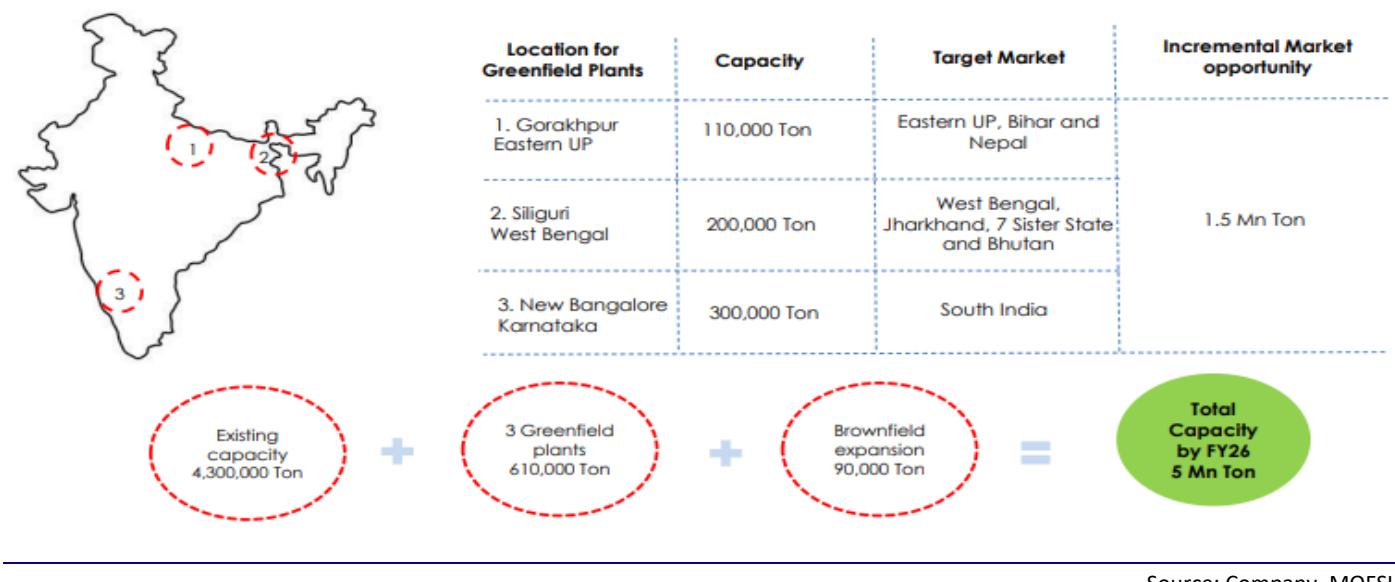
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 7: Heavy inventory losses led to lower EBITDA/MT during 2QFY25



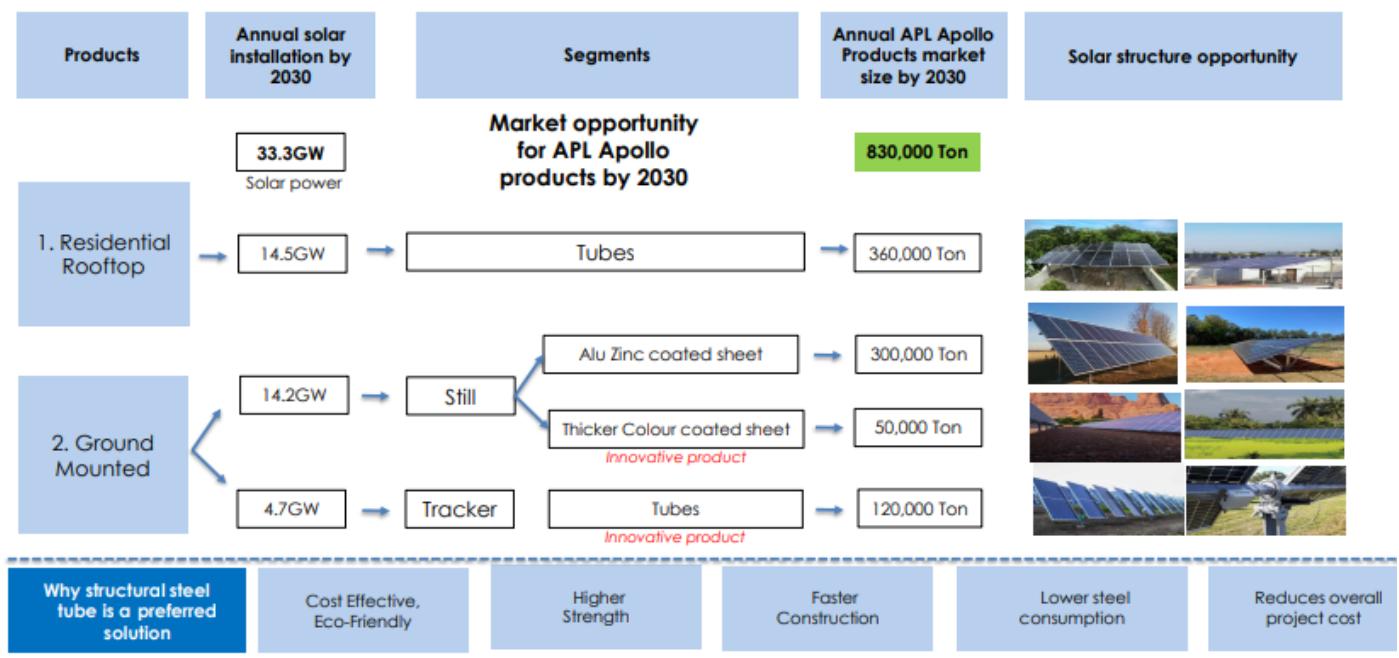
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 8: New proposed plants for higher market penetration



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Solar structure opportunity for structural tubes



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: Steel tube usage in housing/commercial buildings



Source: Company, MOFSL



Highlights from the management commentary

Operating performance

- EBITDA per ton for general steel products was negative due to inventory losses of INR2,000 per ton during the quarter (on account of a sharp reduction in steel prices).
- The company incurred inventory loss of ~INR1.5b in 2QFY25.
- Further, the company offered an additional discount of INR500 per ton to customers during 2QFY25, which further impacted its profitability.

Outlook & guidance

- The company expects volumes in 2HFY25 to increase as the inventory with channel partners is very low.
- It is expecting ~10% QoQ volume growth over the next few quarters, i.e. sales volume of ~825KMT/900KMT/1MMT/1.1MMT in 3QFY25/4QFY25/1QFY26/2QFY26.
- It maintains its volume guidance of clocking ~4MMT/5MMT sales volume in FY26/FY27.
- Steel prices have stabilized in Sep'24 and the company rolled back the additional discount in Oct'24.
- EBITDA per ton is expected to reach ~INR5,000 over the next couple of quarters (touching ~INR5,000 by 4QFY25), and is likely to maintain this over FY26.
- The company is targeting EBITDA/MT of INR4,000-5,000 in the first phase and INR5,000-6,000 in the second phase.

Capacity and capex

- The total manufacturing capacity of APAT as of 2QFY25 stood at ~4.3MMT.
- In 2QFY25, the Raipur capacity utilization stood at ~53% on the expanded capacity (total capacity as of 2QFY25 stood at ~1.2MMT, considering the addition of ~110KMT during the quarter). Sales volumes were unchanged on QoQ basis.
- Going ahead, the company expects to build a Greenfield plant in the northern and eastern markets in order to increase penetration in those areas.
- Overall, the company expects to build three new Greenfield plants, which will add ~610KMT of capacity.
- With improved penetration from these three new green field plants (which will be located in Eastern UP, West Bengal, and Karnataka), APAT is expecting an additional market of ~1.5 MMT on an annual basis.
- The company expects to incur a residual capex of INR3-3.5b over the next 6-7 months, reaching a manufacturing capacity of ~5MMT.

Gap between primary and secondary steel prices

- The gap between primary and secondary steel pipes has narrowed significantly (~5-6% gap). The company can target an additional 500KMT of the market on a monthly basis due to the reduction in the gap.
- The company expects the market share of primary steel products to increase going forward, led by the narrowing gap between primary and secondary steel.

- Steel prices are not expected to rise from current levels due to the upcoming capacity in the steel industry (~0.9MMT of capacity to come in the next 4-5 months).

Others

- The company incurred additional employee expenses of INR70m on account of the notional ESOP cost during the quarter.
- The ramp-up of the Dubai plant will help the company expand margins.
- Employee costs, head office costs, and branding expenses are fixed costs for the company. With the emerging operating leverage and the company's focus on cost optimization, the management expects to save ~INR700-800 per ton (assuming the production of at least ~1MMT per quarter).
- Power cost as a % of sales is expected to come down as the company is shifting toward renewable energy. With new plants being established, the freight cost as a % of sales is also expected to reduce.
- Around 20-25% of the company's sales come from infrastructure projects.

Valuation and view

- With lower channel inventory and higher demand for primary steel products (led by the narrowing gap in primary and secondary steel prices), APAT is likely to witness continued strong volume growth. We expect margins (EBITDA/MT) to improve sequentially, led by operating leverage and a higher mix of VAP in 2HFY25.
- We expect APAT to clock a CAGR of 20%/22%/28% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-27. We value the stock at 35x Sep'26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,750.

Reiterate BUY.

Exhibit 11: Revisions to our estimates

Earnings change (INR m)	Old		New		Change	
	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	2,16,344	2,73,599	2,16,123	2,67,116	0%	-2%
EBITDA	12,594	18,468	11,725	17,496	-7%	-5%
Adj. PAT	7,872	12,674	7,088	11,924	-10%	-6%

Financials and valuations

Consolidated - Income Statement										(INRm)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	
Total Income from Operations	71,523	77,232	84,998	1,30,633	1,61,660	1,81,188	2,16,123	2,67,116	3,11,510	
Change (%)	34.1	8.0	10.1	53.7	23.8	12.1	19.3	23.6	16.6	
RM Cost	63,077	65,786	71,648	1,12,231	1,40,178	1,56,172	1,85,761	2,27,315	2,65,095	
Employees Cost	1,079	1,422	1,296	1,530	2,062	2,576	3,297	3,339	3,894	
Other Expenses	3,439	5,252	5,266	7,419	9,204	10,518	15,340	18,965	20,348	
Total Expenditure	67,595	72,459	78,210	1,21,181	1,51,444	1,69,266	2,04,398	2,49,620	2,89,337	
% of Sales	94.5	93.8	92.0	92.8	93.7	93.4	94.6	93.5	92.9	
EBITDA	3,928	4,773	6,787	9,453	10,216	11,922	11,725	17,496	22,173	
Margin (%)	5.5	6.2	8.0	7.2	6.3	6.6	5.4	6.5	7.1	
Depreciation	643	959	1,028	1,090	1,383	1,759	2,097	2,363	2,509	
EBIT	3,286	3,814	5,759	8,363	8,832	10,162	9,628	15,133	19,664	
Int. and Finance Charges	1,134	1,073	661	445	671	1,134	1,092	400	400	
Other Income	117	222	359	405	472	749	851	1,202	1,402	
PBT bef. EO Exp.	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	9,387	15,935	20,666	
EO Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PBT after EO Exp.	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	9,387	15,935	20,666	
Total Tax	787	403	1,381	2,133	2,215	2,453	2,300	4,011	5,202	
Tax Rate (%)	34.7	13.6	25.3	25.6	25.7	25.1	24.5	25.2	25.2	
Minority Interest	0	180	475	617	0	0	0	0	0	
Reported PAT	1,482	2,380	3,602	5,573	6,419	7,324	7,088	11,924	15,464	
Adjusted PAT	1,482	2,380	3,602	5,573	6,419	7,324	7,088	11,924	15,464	
Change (%)	-6.2	60.5	51.3	54.7	15.2	14.1	-3.2	68.2	29.7	
Margin (%)	2.1	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.3	4.5	5.0	

Consolidated - Balance Sheet										(INRm)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	
Equity Share Capital	239	249	250	501	555	555	555	555	555	
Total Reserves	9,402	13,313	16,697	22,139	29,501	35,491	40,915	51,175	64,975	
Net Worth	9,641	13,562	16,947	22,640	30,056	36,046	41,470	51,730	65,530	
Minority Interest	0	954	1,383	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Loans	8,581	8,338	5,203	5,806	8,729	11,246	6,246	2,246	46	
Deferred Tax Liabilities	1,200	1,012	1,112	1,187	1,171	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,258	
Capital Employed	19,422	23,865	24,644	31,633	39,957	48,550	48,973	55,233	66,833	
Gross Block	11,626	17,246	18,568	20,677	29,513	38,099	41,472	44,447	46,792	
Less: Accum. Deprn.	1,548	2,507	3,535	4,625	6,008	7,767	9,864	12,227	14,736	
Net Fixed Assets	10,078	14,738	15,033	16,053	23,505	30,331	31,608	32,220	32,056	
Goodwill on Consolidation	230	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	
Capital WIP	275	101	1,077	5,037	3,740	2,030	2,156	1,681	1,336	
Total Investments	494	15	15	913	960	1,027	4,527	8,027	11,527	
Current Investments	0	0	0	50	0	0	3,500	7,000	10,500	
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	16,663	16,431	16,491	21,147	28,936	37,105	33,644	41,713	55,097	
Inventory	7,835	7,842	7,599	8,472	14,799	16,379	18,480	22,568	26,159	
Account Receivables	5,433	4,764	1,306	3,417	1,374	1,391	1,776	2,195	2,560	
Cash and Bank Balance	478	456	3,579	3,764	3,525	3,476	4,743	6,264	13,917	
Loans and Advances	2,917	3,370	4,006	5,494	9,239	15,859	8,645	10,685	12,460	
Curr. Liability & Prov.	8,317	8,796	9,345	12,891	18,560	23,318	24,337	29,783	34,558	
Account Payables	6,989	7,644	7,859	10,595	15,970	19,816	20,160	24,620	28,537	
Other Current Liabilities	1,220	979	1,310	2,113	2,357	3,229	3,852	4,760	5,552	
Provisions	108	173	177	184	233	273	326	402	469	
Net Current Assets	8,346	7,636	7,145	8,256	10,377	13,787	9,307	11,930	20,539	
Appl. of Funds	19,422	23,865	24,644	31,633	39,957	48,550	48,973	55,233	66,833	

Financials and valuations

Ratios

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)									
EPS	5.3	8.6	13.0	20.1	23.1	26.4	25.6	43.0	55.8
Cash EPS	7.7	12.0	16.7	24.0	28.1	32.8	33.1	51.5	64.8
BV/Share	34.8	48.9	61.1	81.6	108.4	130.0	149.5	186.5	236.3
DPS	1.2	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Payout (%)	27.7	0.0	0.0	17.4	15.1	18.9	23.5	14.0	10.8
Valuation (x)									
P/E	283.6	176.7	116.8	75.5	65.5	57.4	59.3	35.3	27.2
Cash P/E	197.9	125.9	90.8	63.1	53.9	46.3	45.8	29.4	23.4
P/BV	43.6	31.0	24.8	18.6	14.0	11.7	10.1	8.1	6.4
EV/Sales	6.0	5.6	5.0	3.2	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3
EV/EBITDA	109.1	89.9	62.4	44.9	41.7	35.9	35.7	23.4	17.9
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
FCF per share	4.7	-5.4	24.1	1.6	-2.3	15.3	42.1	35.6	50.5
Return Ratios (%)									
RoE	16.5	20.5	23.6	28.2	24.4	22.2	18.3	25.6	26.4
RoCE	12.9	17.4	20.8	25.8	20.6	19.0	16.7	24.0	26.4
RoIC	12.4	15.9	19.9	29.7	24.5	20.6	18.3	29.5	37.1
Working Capital Ratios									
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	6.2	4.5	4.6	6.3	5.5	4.8	5.2	6.0	6.7
Asset Turnover (x)	3.7	3.2	3.4	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.8	4.7
Inventory (Days)	40	37	33	24	33	33	31	31	31
Debtor (Days)	28	23	6	10	3	3	3	3	3
Creditor (Days)	36	36	34	30	36	40	34	34	33
Leverage Ratio (x)									
Current Ratio	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.6
Interest Cover Ratio	2.9	3.6	8.7	18.8	13.2	9.0	8.8	37.8	49.2
Net Debt/Equity	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.4

Consolidated - Cash Flow Statement

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
(INR m)									
OP/(Loss) before Tax	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	9,387	15,935	20,666
Depreciation	0	959	1,028	1,090	1,383	1,759	2,097	2,363	2,509
Interest & Finance Charges	0	851	302	40	199	385	241	-802	-1,002
Direct Taxes Paid	-673	-403	-1,381	-1,993	-2,161	-2,453	-2,300	-4,011	-5,202
(Inc)/Dec in WC	287	725	3,577	-1,154	-1,475	1,646	5,747	-1,102	-956
CF from Operations	1,884	5,096	8,983	6,306	6,580	11,115	15,172	12,383	16,015
Others	1,693	0	0	211	321	0	0	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	3,576	5,096	8,983	6,517	6,901	11,115	15,172	12,383	16,015
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-2,261	-6,591	-2,298	-6,070	-7,539	-6,876	-3,500	-2,500	-2,000
Free Cash Flow	1,316	-1,495	6,685	447	-638	4,239	11,672	9,883	14,015
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-390	479	0	-898	-48	-67	-3,500	-3,500	-3,500
Others	13	1,763	-4,171	1,666	-1,171	-2,214	851	1,202	1,402
CF from Investments	-2,639	-4,349	-6,468	-5,301	-8,757	-9,157	-6,149	-4,798	-4,098
Issue of Shares	56	10	1	251	1,284	0	0	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	830	-244	-3,135	603	2,924	2,516	-5,000	-4,000	-2,200
Interest Paid	-1,014	-1,073	-661	-445	-671	-1,134	-1,092	-400	-400
Dividend Paid	-400	0	0	-971	-971	-1,387	-1,664	-1,664	-1,664
Others	0	538	4,403	-469	-949	-2,004	0	0	0
CF from Fin. Activity	-528	-768	609	-1,031	1,617	-2,008	-7,756	-6,064	-4,264
Inc/Dec of Cash	410	-22	3,123	185	-240	-49	1,267	1,521	7,653
Opening Balance	68	478	456	3,579	3,765	3,525	3,476	4,743	6,264
Closing Balance	478	456	3,579	3,765	3,525	3,476	4,743	6,264	13,917

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