

Soft Q3; guides for better growth ahead

Auto & Auto Ancillaries ▶ Result Update ▶ January 31, 2025

TARGET PRICE (Rs): 600

Pricol reported a soft Q3 revenue performance (~5% miss), partially impacted by supply issues, which are seen normalizing from Q1FY26. Pricol expects the existing business to grow at 13-15% over coming couple of quarters driven by premiumization and new products; it also plans to double revenues of recently-acquired SAC (refer to our note) to Rs16-17bn over 3 years via cross-selling, higher value-additive content, and inorganic means, accompanied by ~200bps margin uptick vs current high single-digit levels amid focus on operating efficiencies, with consolidated margins seen at ~11-12%. We believe Pricol remains a prime play on premiumization (over 40% market share in 2W instrument clusters, with 75-80% market share in TFT, ie touchscreen clusters). While exports remain weak, new product development efforts are continuing, with potential entry into 4W infotainment screens (infotainment screens and E-cockpits both under testing with key clients; revenue contribution expected from FY27) in addition to ramp up in disc brakes over coming 8-12 months. We cut FY25E EPS by 3.3% on Q3 revenue miss, and give effect to SAC consolidation from FY26E, leading to 2.7% increase in FY27E EPS. We retain BUY and revise TP down by 7.7% to Rs600 at 25x Dec-26E PER (target multiple revised down from 27.5x earlier due to RoCE-dilutive business consolidation).

Pricol: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	19,586	22,718	25,746	38,758	44,271
EBITDA	2,285	2,731	3,146	4,628	5,331
Adj. PAT	1,150	1,406	1,716	2,494	3,038
Adj. EPS (Rs)	9.4	11.5	14.1	20.5	24.9
EBITDA margin (%)	11.7	12.0	12.2	11.9	12.0
EBITDA growth (%)	26.5	19.5	15.2	47.1	15.2
Adj. EPS growth (%)	125.0	22.3	22.0	45.3	21.8
RoE (%)	18.0	18.1	18.4	21.8	21.4
RoIC (%)	20.1	24.1	25.9	30.3	29.2
P/E (x)	52.6	43.0	35.2	24.2	19.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	26.5	21.9	19.5	13.6	11.5
P/B (x)	8.6	7.1	5.9	4.8	3.8
FCFF yield (%)	1.4	2.0	1.2	(2.3)	3.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research; Note – We build in SAC consolidation from FY26E onwards

Soft Q3 impacted by supply chain issues

Pricol reported consolidated revenue of Rs6.3bn, up 11% YoY (down 5% QoQ), compared with ~8% growth in underlying 2W industry production and ~10%/6% revenue growth at key clients TVSL/BJAUT; extent of outperformance vs industry was similar to that seen in Q2. Revenue performance was ~5% below our estimate of ~Rs6.7bn. Per management, revenue growth was impacted by the usual seasonality in Q3 and supply issues. Consolidated EBITDA growth stood at 11% YoY to Rs751mn (~4% below estimate). EBITDA margin improved by ~30bps QoQ to 11.9% led by higher gross margins. Consolidated PAT stood at Rs415mn, up ~22% YoY (~3% miss).

Earnings Call KTAs

1) Expects ~13-15% growth in existing business (ex-SAC) over coming couple of quarters driven by product mix, new products, and underlying industry growth; supply issues faced in Q3 would be fully mitigated by Q4 with normalization seen from Q1FY26. 2) SAC acquisition was done with a view to expand into areas known to the company (plastics), albeit with faster time-to-market like ~12-14 months; SAC is a well-run business; would clock ~Rs8bn revenues this year with ~Rs700mn EBITDA; Pricol, via a combination of organic and inorganic means, plans to grow top line here to ~Rs16-17bn over the coming 3 years; this would be driven by moving up the value chain into engineered products vs mere components, and by expanding into other customers besides TVSL (TVSL currently forms ~50% of SAC revenues); large SAC clients have indicated willingness to help grow the business; SAC to become a subsidiary from 1-Feb-25; post closure of SAC transaction, consolidated debt to stand at Rs800mn. 3) The company also plans to improve margins at SAC by ~200bps in a few quarters vs current high single-digit levels by improving operating efficiencies; post-SAC consolidation, blended consolidated margins are seen in the range of ~11-12% (with existing business margins sustaining at ~13%). 4) Export markets are seen remaining subdued for at least 8 quarters; the company has not lost wallet share with clients but end-market weakness has led to shrinkage of business; expects pick up in disc brakes business to offset the export weakness; disc brake volumes to ramp up materially over coming 8-12 months; fuel pump modules to also see healthy ramp up next year. 5) Pricol has over 40% market share in 2W instrument clusters, and over 80% market share in CV and Off-Highway instrument clusters; TFT clusters now form 5-7% of revenues, with Pricol's market share in TFTs for 2Ws at 75-80%. 6) EVs currently form less than 10% of revenues, Pricol has large incumbents like TVSL, BJAUT and HMCL among its clients and expects volumes to mature further over the coming 8-12 months. 7) Infotainment screen is under testing with key 4W clients; parallel the E-cockpit product is also under client testing; 2W OEMs are also now looking at infotainment screens – here too Pricol's product is under validation process; company expects healthy revenues from infotainment screens and E-cockpits from FY27. 8) Nearing the end of the ~Rs6bn 3-year capex cycle; sees no major capex over the coming 3 years apart from Rs1-1.2bnpa maintenance capex unless there is an inorganic acquisition; SAC capex plans to be firmed up in due course. 9) Not working on M&A in Pricol as of now.

Target Price – 12M	Dec-25
Change in TP (%)	(7.7)
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Upside/(Downside) (%)	21.0
CMP (30-Jan-25) (Rs)	495.7

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	599
52-week Low (Rs)	330
Shares outstanding (mn)	121.9
Market-cap (Rs bn)	60
Market-cap (USD mn)	697
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	970
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	-
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	215.4
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	2.5
Free float (%)	61.5
Nifty-50	23,250
INR/USD	86.6
Shareholding, Dec-24	
Promoters (%)	38.5
FPIs/MFs (%)	15.9/16.4

Price Performance

(%)	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	(10.2)	8.8	29.7
Rel. to Nifty	(8.7)	13.9	20.1

1-Year share price trend (Rs)



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Exhibit 1: Consolidated result snapshot – Revenue growth stood at ~11% YoY, lower than previous quarters'. amid seasonality and supply-side issues

Rs mn	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Revenue	4,741	5,235	5,372	5,778	5,726	5,842	6,199	6,688	6,338	10.7	(5.2)
Expenditure	4,231	4,621	4,726	5,114	5,048	5,100	5,394	5,916	5,587	10.7	(5.6)
as % of sales	89.2	88.3	88.0	88.5	88.2	87.3	87.0	88.5	88.1		
Consumption of RM	3,288	3,715	3,679	3,985	3,893	3,995	4,253	4,679	4,375	12.4	(6.5)
as % of sales	69.3	71.0	68.5	69.0	68.0	68.4	68.6	70.0	69.0		
Employee Cost	621	554	611	659	694	663	694	750	779	12.3	3.9
as % of sales	13.1	10.6	11.4	11.4	12.1	11.4	11.2	11.2	12.3		
Other expenditure	322	352	436	469	461	442	447	487	433	(6.1)	(11.1)
as % of sales	6.8	6.7	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.2	7.3	6.8		
EBITDA	510	614	647	664	678	741	805	772	751	10.8	(2.8)
EBITDA margin (%)	10.8	11.7	12.0	11.5	11.8	12.7	13.0	11.5	11.9		
Depreciation	201	172	198	211	210	201	203	207	224	6.7	8.3
EBIT	308	442	448	453	468	540	602	566	527	12.6	(6.8)
Other Income	8	19	28	40	19	44	22	61	40	106.5	(34.8)
Interest	43	49	47	51	47	38	30	27	23	(52.0)	(16.5)
PBT	273	412	430	442	441	546	593	600	545	23.6	(9.2)
Total Tax	6	114	111	110	100	131	138	149	130	29.4	(12.9)
Adjusted PAT	268	298	319	332	340	415	456	451	415	21.9	(8.0)
Extra ordinary items Loss/(Gain)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Reported PAT	268	298	319	332	340	415	456	451	415	21.9	(8.0)
Adjusted EPS	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.4	21.9	(8.0)
(%)	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps)
EBITDAM	10.8	11.7	12.0	11.5	11.8	12.7	13.0	11.5	11.9	1	30
EBITM	6.5	8.4	8.3	7.8	8.2	9.2	9.7	8.5	8.3	14	(14)
EBTM	5.8	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.7	9.3	9.6	9.0	8.6	90	(38)
PATM	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	7.1	7.3	6.7	6.5	60	(20)
Effective Tax rate	2.0	27.6	25.8	25.0	22.8	24.0	23.2	24.9	23.9	107	(101)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Margin Analysis – EBITDA margin up by 30bps QoQ to 11.9% led by higher gross margins

(%)	Q3FY25	Q3FY24	YoY (bps)	Q2FY25	QoQ (bps)
Raw material costs	69.0	68.0	104	70.0	(93)
Staff costs	12.3	12.1	18	11.2	108
Other expenses	6.8	8.1	(122)	7.3	(45)
EBITDA	11.9	11.8	1	11.5	30
Adjusted net profit	6.5	5.9	60	6.7	(20)
Effective Tax rate	23.9	22.8	107	24.9	(101)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Actual vs Estimates

Rs mn	Actual	Emkay Est	Var (%)
Net sales	6,338	6,692	(5.3)
EBITDA	751	784	(4.2)
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.9	11.7	13 bps
Adj net income	415	426	(2.7)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: Q3 product launches included LCD clusters for BJAUT Chetak (below, left) and Pulsar NS 200 (below, right), apart from BJAUT's E-Auto and E-Rick



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: Pricol's product profile – DIS and Actuation, Control and Fuel Management Systems (ACFMS)

A. Driver Information and Connected Vehicle Solutions



B. Actuation, Control and Fluid Management Systems



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 6: TFT penetration in the Indian 2W market currently at ~4%; pricing over 10x/4x of analog/digital clusters

2W instrument cluster	Analog	Digital and semi-digital incl. LCD	TFT (touchscreen)
Product			
Price (Rs/unit)	300-400	1,000-1,500	5,000
Current penetration	~27%	~67%	~5%
Cluster as a % of 2W ASP	~0.5%	1-2%	~4% (EV), up to 6-7% (ICE)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: Revenue model – We build-in 31%/33% revenue/EPS CAGR over FY25E-27E (build-in SAC consolidation from FY26E)

Rs mn	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenues	12,394	14,131	15,447	19,586	22,718	25,746	38,758	44,271
Growth YoY (%)	-31.7	14.0	9.3	26.8	16.0	13.3	50.5	14.2
EBITDA	854	1,779	1,806	2,285	2,731	3,146	4,628	5,331
Growth YoY (%)	254.7	108.4	1.5	26.5	19.5	15.2	47.1	15.2
EBITDA margin (%)	6.9	12.6	11.7	11.7	12.0	12.2	11.9	12.0
EBIT	(106)	837	987	1,506	1,910	2,270	3,459	4,112
EBIT margin (%)	-0.9	5.9	6.4	7.7	8.4	8.8	8.9	9.3
PAT	(259)	158	511	1,150	1,406	1,716	2,494	3,038
PAT margin (%)	-2.1	1.1	3.3	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.9
EPS (Rs)	(2.7)	1.3	4.2	9.4	11.5	14.1	20.5	24.9
Capex	1,631	(624)	420	612	1,502	2,000	4,653	2,000
% of sales	13.2	(4.4)	2.7	3.1	6.6	7.8	12.0	4.5
Net debt	3,842	2,030	1,006	228	(579)	970	2,677	755
Net D/E(x)	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	(0.1)	0.1	0.2	0.0
Post-tax ROCE (%)	0.7	16.1	19.7	28.7	27.1	22.9	26.1	25.0
ROE (%)	-5.8	3.4	9.3	18.0	18.1	18.4	21.8	21.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research; Note – We build in SAC consolidation from FY26E onwards

Exhibit 8: We cut FY25E EPS to reflect Q3 revenue miss; build-in SAC consolidation from FY26E onwards

Rs mn	FY25E				FY26E				FY27E			
	Earlier	Revised	% Change	% YoY	Earlier	Revised	% Change	% YoY	Earlier	Revised	% Change	% YoY
Net Sales	26,421	25,746	(2.6)	13.3	32,157	38,758	20.5	50.5	36,978	44,271	19.7	14.2
EBITDA	3,228	3,146	(2.6)	15.2	4,309	4,628	7.4	47.1	5,103	5,331	4.5	15.2
Margin (%)	12.2	12.2	0 bps	20 bps	13.4	11.9	(146) bps	(28) bps	13.8	12.0	(176) bps	10 bps
APAT	1,775	1,716	(3.3)	22.0	2,482	2,494	0.5	45.3	2,959	3,038	2.7	21.8
EPS (Rs)	14.6	14.1	(3.3)	22.0	20.4	20.5	0.5	45.3	24.3	24.9	2.7	21.8

Source: Emkay Research

Pricol : Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	19,586	22,718	25,746	38,758	44,271
Revenue growth (%)	26.8	16.0	13.3	50.5	14.2
EBITDA	2,285	2,731	3,146	4,628	5,331
EBITDA growth (%)	26.5	19.5	15.2	47.1	15.2
Depreciation & Amortization	779	821	876	1,169	1,219
EBIT	1,506	1,910	2,270	3,459	4,112
EBIT growth (%)	52.5	26.8	18.9	52.4	18.9
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	46	132	138	145	152
Financial expense	183	183	140	234	160
PBT	1,369	1,859	2,268	3,370	4,105
Extraordinary items	(98)	0	0	0	0
Taxes	219	453	553	876	1,067
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	1,247	1,406	1,716	2,494	3,038
PAT growth (%)	144.1	12.8	22.0	45.3	21.8
Adjusted PAT	1,150	1,406	1,716	2,494	3,038
Diluted EPS (Rs)	9.4	11.5	14.1	20.5	24.9
Diluted EPS growth (%)	125.0	22.3	22.0	45.3	21.8
DPS (Rs)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend payout (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBITDA margin (%)	11.7	12.0	12.2	11.9	12.0
EBIT margin (%)	7.7	8.4	8.8	8.9	9.3
Effective tax rate (%)	16.0	24.4	24.4	26.0	26.0
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	1,265	1,445	1,717	2,560	3,043
Shares outstanding (mn)	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
PBT	1,369	1,859	2,268	3,370	4,105
Others (non-cash items)	859	1,027	1,016	1,403	1,378
Taxes paid	(368)	(381)	(553)	(876)	(1,067)
Change in NWC	(295)	43	12	(717)	(334)
Operating cash flow	1,663	2,548	2,744	3,180	4,082
Capital expenditure	(842)	(1,376)	(2,000)	(4,653)	(2,000)
Acquisition of business	142	62	(2,153)	0	0
Interest & dividend income	9	0	0	0	0
Investing cash flow	(691)	(1,293)	(4,153)	(4,653)	(2,000)
Equity raised/(repaid)	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(457)	(428)	500	1,920	(1,000)
Payment of lease liabilities	68	211	0	0	0
Interest paid	(181)	(182)	(140)	(234)	(160)
Dividend paid (incl tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	(78)	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	(638)	(689)	360	1,686	(1,160)
Net chg in Cash	334	565	(1,050)	213	923
OCF	1,663	2,548	2,744	3,180	4,082
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	1,958	2,505	2,732	3,897	4,416
FCFF	821	1,172	744	(1,473)	2,082
FCFE	648	989	603	(1,707)	1,923
OCF/EBITDA (%)	72.8	93.3	87.2	68.7	76.6
FCFE/PAT (%)	51.9	70.4	35.2	(68.4)	63.3
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	64.9	81.1	43.3	(57.5)	68.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	122	122	122	122	122
Reserves & Surplus	6,921	8,331	10,047	12,541	15,578
Net worth	7,043	8,453	10,169	12,662	15,700
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax liability (net)	407	348	348	348	348
Total debt	1,103	609	1,109	3,029	2,029
Total liabilities & equity	8,553	9,410	11,626	16,039	18,077
Net tangible fixed assets	2,678	3,122	4,247	7,730	8,512
Net intangible assets	2,032	2,032	2,032	2,032	2,032
Net ROU assets	566	566	566	566	566
Capital WIP	146	383	383	383	383
Goodwill	695	596	596	596	596
Investments [JV/Associates]	12	12	2,165	2,165	2,165
Cash & equivalents	876	1,188	139	351	1,274
Current assets (ex-cash)	6,054	6,457	7,831	11,489	13,068
Current Liab. & Prov.	4,506	4,947	6,332	9,273	10,519
NWC (ex-cash)	1,548	1,511	1,499	2,216	2,549
Total assets	8,553	9,410	11,626	16,039	18,077
Net debt	228	(579)	970	2,677	755
Capital employed	8,553	9,410	11,626	16,039	18,077
Invested capital	7,519	7,827	8,939	13,140	14,255
BVPS (Rs)	57.8	69.3	83.4	103.9	128.8
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.0	(0.1)	0.1	0.2	0.0
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.1	(0.2)	0.3	0.6	0.1
Interest coverage (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
RoCE (%)	28.7	27.1	22.9	26.1	25.0

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios					
Y/E Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
P/E (x)	52.6	43.0	35.2	24.2	19.9
P/CE(x)	31.3	27.1	23.3	16.5	14.2
P/B (x)	8.6	7.1	5.9	4.8	3.8
EV/Sales (x)	3.1	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	26.5	21.9	19.5	13.6	11.5
EV/EBIT(x)	40.3	31.3	27.0	18.2	14.9
EV/IC (x)	8.1	7.6	6.9	4.8	4.3
FCFF yield (%)	1.4	2.0	1.2	(2.3)	3.4
FCFE yield (%)	1.1	1.6	1.0	(2.8)	3.2
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DuPont-RoE split					
Net profit margin (%)	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.9
Total asset turnover (x)	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.6
Assets/Equity (x)	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
RoE (%)	18.0	18.1	18.4	21.8	21.4
DuPont-RoIC					
NOPLAT margin (%)	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.9
IC turnover (x)	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1
RoIC (%)	20.1	24.1	25.9	30.3	29.2
Operating metrics					
Core NWC days	28.9	24.3	21.2	20.9	21.0
Total NWC days	28.9	24.3	21.2	20.9	21.0
Fixed asset turnover	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.2
Opex-to-revenue (%)	18.2	19.5	18.3	18.2	18.1

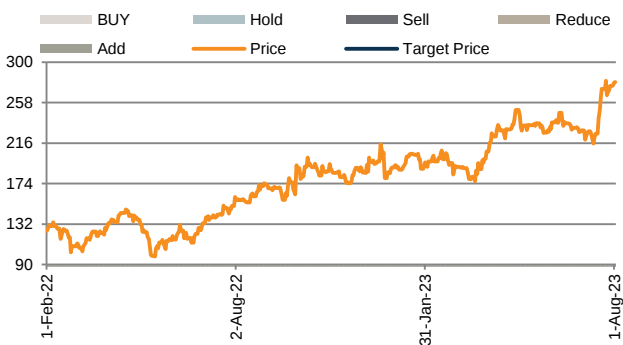
Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
10-Jan-25	559	650	Buy	Chirag Jain
10-Jan-25	559	650	Buy	Chirag Jain
02-Dec-24	495	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
02-Dec-24	495	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
08-Nov-24	466	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
08-Nov-24	466	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
10-Sep-24	482	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
10-Sep-24	482	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
02-Aug-24	517	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
02-Aug-24	517	600	Buy	Chirag Jain
16-May-24	452	525	Buy	Chirag Jain
16-May-24	452	525	Buy	Chirag Jain
06-Feb-24	396	525	Buy	Chirag Jain
06-Feb-24	396	525	Buy	Chirag Jain

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	<15% downside

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