

SELL TP: Rs 3,000 | ¥ 9%

**ALKEM LABS** 

Pharmaceuticals

20 May 2023

## Margin improvement key for revival

- Q4 EBITDA/PAT of Rs 3.5bn/Rs 710mn well short of consensus by 21%/ 79% primarily due to higher operating costs
- Increased sales and marketing spend, field force addition and US price erosion ate into margins
- Insipid US sales remain a challenge; maintain SELL with an unchanged
   TP of Rs 3,000

Saad Shaikh research@bobcaps.in

Strong India growth on launches: Alkem's Q4FY23 EBITDA/PAT missed consensus estimates by 21%/79% due to higher operating costs, despite revenue being a 6% beat. Revenue/EBITDA/PBT grew 17%/5%/22% YoY to Rs 29bn/Rs 3.5bn/Rs 3.1bn but fell sequentially (-5%/-41%/-42%). India business outperformed the market despite a high base, led by strong growth in anti-infectives (+30% YoY), pain (23%), respiratory (27%), and dermatology (34%) therapies in the acute space, while chronic therapies such as anti-diabetic (+37%) and neuro (+36%) also fared well with market-beating growth. The recent launch of Sitagliptin helped the anti-diabetic portfolio in Q4.

**Steep QoQ decline in US business:** US revenue plunged 22% QoQ to US\$ 72mm due to a high base on account of one-time seasonal benefits in the previous quarter. Revenue grew 9% YoY (-22% QoQ) in rupee terms. Alkem's US business remains under significant pricing pressure with double-digit erosion. Management expects price erosion to stabilise at high single digits. The company has discontinued the St. Louis facility in the US (<2% contribution) as part of cost optimisation.

Cost controls guided to aid margin expansion: Gross/EBITDA margins contracted 170bps/140bps YoY to 56.7%/12.2% (-220bps/-750bps QoQ), with a steeper sequential decline on account of tailwinds from the US flu season in Q3. Overheads costs increased 32% YoY (+20% QoQ) to 22.2% of revenue in Q4 from 17.7%/19.6% in Q3FY23/Q4FY22. Alkem also incurred a one-time loss of Rs 1bn on account of fixed asset impairment at the St. Louis facility. Management has guided for 200bps EBITDA margin improvement to 16% in FY24 on the back of cost optimisation measures.

**Maintain SELL:** Relentless price erosion in the US market, elevated input costs and higher marketing spends have taken a toll on Alkem's margins through FY23. This apart, we expect the US business to remain sluggish as investments are recalibrated amid challenges to growth. We maintain our TP at Rs 3,000 based on an unchanged 15x FY25E EV/EBITDA multiple – a 15% discount to the stock's 5Y average – and retain SELL given 9% downside potential from the current price.

## **Key changes**

Target	Rating	
<b>∢</b> ▶	< ▶	

Ticker/Price	ALKEM IN/Rs 3,302
Market cap	US\$ 4.8bn
Free float	41%
3M ADV	US\$ 6.3mn
52wk high/low	Rs 3,625/Rs 2,855
Promoter/FPI/DII	57%/4%/17%

Source: NSE | Price as of 19 May 2023

#### **Key financials**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	1,15,993	1,31,675	1,45,175
EBITDA (Rs mn)	16,095	20,510	23,506
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	10,872	15,902	18,632
Adj. EPS (Rs)	90.9	133.0	155.9
Consensus EPS (Rs)	90.9	133.4	161.4
Adj. ROAE (%)	14.4	19.1	19.6
Adj. P/E (x)	36.3	24.8	21.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	24.4	18.9	16.0
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(34.5)	46.3	17.2

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P – Provisional

## Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	Q4FY23	Q4FY22	YoY (%)	Q3FY23	QoQ (%)	FY23	FY22	YoY (%)
Net Sales	29,026	24,839	16.9	30,409	(4.5)	1,15,993	1,06,342	9.1
EBITDA	3,533	3,372	4.8	5,991	(41.0)	16,095	20,529	(21.6)
Depreciation	783	831	(5.8)	784	-	3,104	3,040	-
EBIT	2,749	2,541	8.2	5,206	-	12,990	17,490	(25.7)
Interest	290	170	70.7	271	7.1	1,074	524	-
Other Income	687	205	234.6	453	51.5%	2,161	1,627	-
PBT	3,146	2,576	22.1	5,389	(41.6)	14,078	18,592	(24.3)
Less: Taxation	1,440	1,345	-	789	-	2,980	1,640	81.7
Less: Minority Interest	(33)	6	-	53	-	226	347	-
Recurring PAT	1,740	1,225	42.0	4,547	(61.7)	10,872	16,606	(34.5)
Exceptional items	(1,030)	(150)	-	0	-	(1,030)	(150)	-
Reported PAT	710	1,076	(34.0)	4,547	(84.4)	9,842	16,456	(40.2)
Key Ratios (%)			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
Gross Margin	56.7	58.5	(173)	58.9	(218)	57.7	60.7	(299)
EBITDA Margin	12.2	13.6	(141)	19.7	(753)	13.9	19.3	(543)
Tax / PBT	45.8	52.2	-	14.6	-	21.2	8.8	-
NPM	6.0	4.9	106	15.0	(896)	9.4	15.6	(624)
EPS (Rs)	14.6	10.3	-	38.0	-	90.9	138.9	-

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 - Revenue mix

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(Rs mn)	Q4FY23	Q4FY22	YoY (%)	Q3FY23	QoQ (%)	FY23	FY22	YoY (%)
India	20,113	17,187	17.0	19,922	1.0	80,011	74,045	8.1
US	5,916	5,419	9.2	7,612	(22.3)	25,133	23,290	7.9
RoW	2,654	1,991	33.3	2,316	14.6	9,260	7,783	19.0
Net Sales	28,683	24,597	16.6	29,850	(3.9)	1,14,404	1,05,118	8.8
Other Op. Income	343	242	42.0	559	(38.7)	1,589	1,224	29.8
Revenue	29,026	24,839	16.9	30,409	(4.5)	1,15,993	1,06,342	9.1
USDINR	82.2	75.2	9.2	82.4	(0.3)	81	75	9.0
US Revenue (US\$ mn)	72	72	0.0	92	(22.1)	309	313	(1.0)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 3 - Revenue

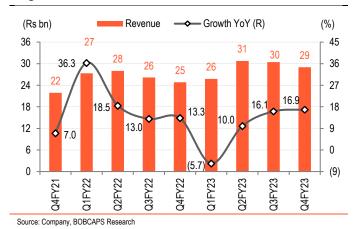
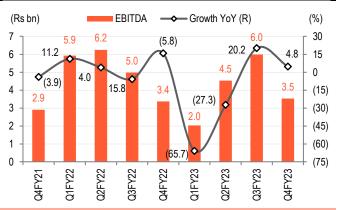
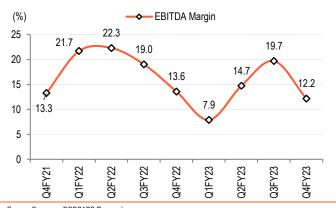


Fig 4 – EBITDA



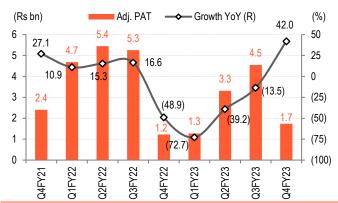
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 - EBITDA margin



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 - Adj. PAT



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



# Earnings call highlights

- India: Alkem launched several successful products in the India market in Q4FY23, including Dapanorm Trio and Sitagliptin. New product contribution during the year was at 3.1%, surpassing the market rate of 2.3%.
  - Trade generics: Trade generics contributed 21% of revenue in FY23 and grew in high single digits for the year. Management expects similar growth in FY24.
  - NLEM: Benefits of price hikes in the NLEM portfolio are likely to flow from June, and Alkem expects to see significant benefits in Q2.
  - **Filed force:** The current field force strength is 17,000 at the group level, including 12,000 MRs and 5,000 managers.
- US: Alkem has filed 4 ANDAs with the USFDA and received 3 tentative approvals in Q4FY23 (12 ANDAs filed in FY23). US sales contributed 20.6% of the Q4 total.
- ROW: A focus on a few key geographies over the past years has yielded fruit and ROW is now sizable. The company expects continued growth but at a lower trajectory owing to a high base. It is focusing on quality business and margins rather than chasing revenue.
- Biosimilars: Total biosimilar sales in FY23 including Alkem, Enzene biosimilars and Enzene CDMO stood at Rs 1.6bn.
- Enzene Bio-sciences: Enzene is still recording EBITDA losses due to higher R&D expense. The business is growing at 2x and expects to double sales in FY24 as well. Enzene has received approval for the launch of three more mAbs in the Indian market (Adalimumab, Cetuximab and Bevacizumab), and Alkem indicated that the company has made significant strides in conducting global trials for the launch of select biosimilars in regulated markets.
- SG&A: Muted sales and marketing in previous years as well as field force addition pushed SG&A expenses up YoY and QoQ in Q4. Other expenses (SG&A plus R&D) are guided to be in the range of 23-24% for FY24.
- Margin guidance: Management has guided for 200bps EBITDA margin improvement in FY24 to 16% on the back of cost optimisation measures. Gross margin is expected to improve on the back of softening API prices, ongoing cost optimisation measures, operating leverage and productivity improvement of the newly added field force.
- St. Louis plant: Alkem has recognised a one-off impairment loss of Rs 1bn on deferred tax assets related to closure of the St. Louis plant in the US. The company expects to save Rs 1bn-1.1bn a year (Rs 800mn-900mn in FY24) in operating expenses on account of this closure.
- Tax rate: The tax rate is guided to be relatively low, in the range of 14-15% for FY24, as the Sikkim facility has a tax benefit till FY26.



# Valuation methodology

Relentless price erosion in the US market, elevated input costs and higher marketing spends have taken a toll on Alkem's margins through FY23. This apart, we expect the US business to remain sluggish as investments are recalibrated amid challenges to growth. We maintain our TP at Rs 3,000 based on an unchanged 15x FY25E EV/EBITDA multiple – a 15% discount to the stock's five-year average – and retain SELL given 9% downside potential from the current price.

Fig 7 - Revised estimates

(Rs bn)	New		Old		Change (%)	
(KS DII)	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	131.7	145.2	132.2	145.7	(0.4)	(0.4)
EBITDA	20.5	23.5	21.2	24.2	(3.2)	(3.0)
EBITDA margin (%)	15.6	16.2	16.0	16.6	(45bps)	(45bps)
EPS (Rs)	133	156	135	160	(1.4)	(2.6)

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 - Key assumptions

Revenue (Rs bn)	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Domestic	80.0	89.4	100.0
US Revenues	25.1	30.3	32.0
Non - US revenues	9.3	10.2	11.2
Other operating income	1.6	1.8	2.0

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

# **Key risks**

Key upside risks to our estimates are:

- Uptick in domestic business: Alkem draws ~70% of its revenue from domestic formulations, primarily from acute therapies, apart from a growing chronic business. An uptick in chronic business and outperformance in the acute segment would pose upside risks to our estimates.
- Policy announcement on trade generics: The government's push towards reducing healthcare costs by promoting trade generics could take Alkem's sales ahead of estimates as it is a leader in the space.
- Above-expected US performance: Easing pricing pressure and more launches than expected in the US market could boost performance beyond estimates.
- Easing margin pressure: Prudent cost management could alleviate margin pressure, taking profitability ahead of estimates.
- Currency movement: Sharp INR depreciation against the USD represents an upside risk to our expectations.



# Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Ajanta Pharma	AJP IN	2.0	1,301	1,520	BUY
Alembic Pharma	ALPM IN	1.3	551	615	HOLD
Alkem Labs	ALKEM IN	4.8	3,302	3,000	SELL
Aurobindo Pharma	ARBP IN	4.2	590	635	BUY
Cipla	CIPLA IN	9.0	916	1,170	BUY
Divi's Labs	DIVI IN	10.0	3,098	3,200	HOLD
Dr Reddy's Labs	DRRD IN	8.9	4,392	4,900	HOLD
Eris Lifesciences	ERIS IN	1.0	621	800	BUY
Glenmark Life Sciences	GLS IN	0.8	526	600	BUY
Laurus Labs	LAURUS IN	2.0	312	340	HOLD
Lupin	LPC IN	4.3	774	700	HOLD
Sun Pharma	SUNP IN	27.0	926	1,100	HOLD

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 19 May 2023

# Glossary

Glossary of Abbreviations						
ANDA	Abbreviated New Drug Application	mABs	Monoclonal Antibodies			
API	Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient	MR	Marketing Representatives			
CDMO	Contract Development and Manufacturing Operations	NLEM	National List of Essential Medicines			



# **Financials**

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Total revenue	88,650	1,06,342	1,15,993	1,31,675	1,45,175
EBITDA	19,423	20,529	16,095	20,510	23,506
Depreciation	2,746	3,040	3,104	3,467	3,747
EBIT	16,678	17,489	12,991	17,043	19,759
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(589)	(524)	(1,074)	(503)	(402)
Other inc./(exp.)	2,332	1,627	2,161	2,267	2,688
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	2,000
EBT	18,421	18,592	14,078	18,807	22,044
Income taxes	2,243	1.640	2,980	2,633	3,086
Extraordinary items	0	(150)	(1,030)	0	0,000
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	328	347	226	272	326
Reported net profit	15,850	16,456	9,842	15,902	18,632
Adjustments	0	(150)	(1,030)	0	0
Adjusted net profit	15,850	16,606	10,872	15,902	18,632
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Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Accounts payables	10,694	11,734	11,650	16,012	17,653
Other current liabilities	7,343	7,739	10,178	10,390	11,455
Provisions	4,874	6,064	7,421	8,424	9,288
Debt funds	16,702	26,682	13,967	11,173	8,939
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0	0,000
Equity capital	239	239	239	239	239
Reserves & surplus	64.262	75,142	81,086	92,353	1,05,554
Shareholders' fund	64,501	75,381	81,325	92,592	1,05,793
Total liab. and equities	1,04,113	1,27,599	1,24,542	1,38,591	1,53,128
Cash and cash eq.	19,905	25,786	26,169	32,178	39,688
Accounts receivables	16,072	18,846	21,322	24,907	27,460
Inventories	23,124	30,055	26,075	30,244	33,345
Other current assets	10,072	16,790	14,696	14,935	16,466
Investments	3,328	3,710	6,218	6,218	6,218
Net fixed assets	27,679	29,017	26,829	27,361	27,614
CWIP	3,933	3,395	3,232	2,748	2,335
Intangible assets	0,000	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	1,04,113	1,27,599	1,24,542	1,38,591	1,53,128
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Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Cash flow from operations	17,070	6,223	21,331	17,456	19,166
Capital expenditures	(4,000)	(5,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Change in investments	(714)	(382)	(2,508)	0	0 (1,000)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(4,714)	(5,382)	(6,508)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Equities issued/Others	0	0	0	0	0 (1,000)
Debt raised/repaid	75	9,980	(12,715)	(2,793)	(2,235)
Interest expenses	(589)	(524)	(1,074)	(503)	(402)
Dividends paid	(4,182)	(4,739)	(3,169)	(4,636)	(5,431)
Other financing cash flows	1,323	324	2,518	485	(3,431)
Sales marioning oddin nows	1,020				
Cash flow from financing	(3 373)	5 040	(1 <u>4</u> 440)	(7 AA7)	(7 656)
Cash flow from financing Chg in cash & cash eq.	(3,373) 8,982	5,040 5,881	(14,440) 383	(7,447) 6,009	(7,656) 7,510

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Reported EPS	132.6	137.6	82.3	133.0	155.9
Adjusted EPS	132.6	138.9	90.9	133.0	155.9
Dividend per share	30.0	34.0	22.7	33.3	39.0
Book value per share	524.4	613.0	647.7	741.9	852.3
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
EV/Sales	4.5	3.7	3.4	2.9	2.6
EV/EBITDA	20.4	19.2	24.4	18.9	16.0
Adjusted P/E	24.9	23.8	36.3	24.8	21.2
P/BV	6.3	5.4	5.1	4.5	3.9
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	86.0	89.3	77.2	84.6	84.
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	110.5	106.3	108.4	110.4	111.
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	18.8	16.4	11.2	12.9	13.
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	29.3	29.0	29.4	33.1	33.
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.
Adjusted ROAE	27.6	24.4	14.4	19.1	19.0
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	6.2	20.0	9.1	13.5	10.3
EBITDA	31.9	5.7	(21.6)	27.4	14.0
Adjusted EPS	40.6	4.8	(34.5)	46.3	17.:
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	21.9	19.3	13.9	15.6	16.
EBIT margin	18.8	16.4	11.2	12.9	13.0
Adjusted profit margin	17.9	15.6	9.4	12.1	12.
Adjusted ROAE	27.6	24.4	14.4	19.1	19.0
ROCE	25.1	20.9	15.4	19.4	20.
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	66	65	67	70	7
Inventory	95	103	82	85	8
Payables	44	40	37	45	4
Ratios (x)					
Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.0

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

3.0

28.3

(0.1)

3.6

33.4

0.0

3.0

12.1

(0.2)

2.9

33.9

(0.3)

3.0

49.1

(0.3)

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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Registered office Address: 1704, B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, G Block, BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051

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BUY - Expected return >+15%

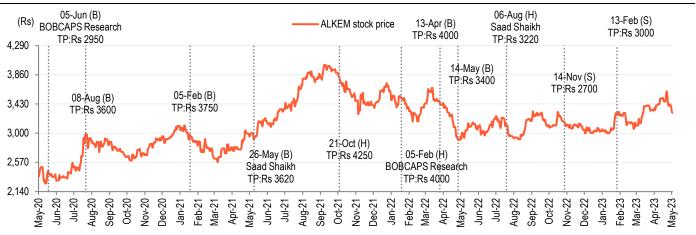
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

## Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): ALKEM LABS (ALKEM IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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