

**SELL**TP: Rs 1,435 | ¥ 26%

**ASTRAL POLY TECHNIK** 

Plastic Products

03 February 2021

# Good quarter but valuations rich - downgrade to SELL

Astral Poly Technik's (ASTRA) consolidated revenue grew 35% YoY in Q3FY21, backed by 42% growth in the adhesives segment and a 33% uptick in pipes. EBITDA margins expanded 360bps YoY to 21.4% led by gains across segments, supporting EBITDA/PBT growth of 62%/89% YoY. We raise FY21-FY23 EBITDA by 6-15% and roll over to a higher Mar'22 TP of Rs 1,435 (vs. Rs 1,180) set at 45x P/E (vs. 42x). At the same time, we downgrade the stock to SELL from REDUCE as valuations at 61.1x FY23E P/E look rich post the recent rally.

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**Strong revenue growth across businesses:** ASTRA's Q3 consolidated revenue grew 35% YoY to ~Rs 9bn, aided by growth in both pipes and adhesives. PVC pipe standalone revenue increased 33% YoY (volumes up 15%) and the adhesives business grew 42% as benefits from a change in distribution model kicked in. Management expects pipe volumes to grow sustainably at 15% and adhesives business revenue to grow 20-25% over the next few years.

**Significant margin gains:** EBITDA margins swelled 360bps YoY to 21.4% in Q3, aided by a superior showing in both segments, which fuelled EBITDA/PBT growth of 62%/89% YoY. Pipe margins increased 366bps YoY to 22.9% due to inventory gains and a better product mix. Adhesive margins increased 430bps to 16.3% on operating leverage. Management expects further improvement in the adhesives segment due to operating leverage and the launch of value-added products. The piping business is guided to have long-term margins of 15-16% but may see stronger levels in Q4 from higher PVC prices.

**Valuations expensive; cut to SELL:** We raise our FY21 EBITDA estimate by 15% to factor in inventory gains and also increase FY22/FY23 forecasts by ~6% each. Though we like ASTRA for its strong brand name, wide reach and robust balance sheet, valuations at 61.1x FY23E P/E appear rich. SELL.

## **KEY FINANCIALS**

Y/E 31 Mar	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	25,073	25,779	30,220	34,263	40,616
EBITDA (Rs mn)	3,853	4,441	5,471	6,168	7,412
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	1,992	2,498	3,297	3,862	4,792
Adj. EPS (Rs)	13.2	16.6	21.9	25.6	31.8
Adj. EPS growth (%)	17.4	25.4	32.0	17.1	24.1
Adj. ROAE (%)	17.4	18.0	20.8	21.8	24.0
Adj. P/E (x)	147.1	117.3	88.9	75.9	61.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	76.5	66.3	53.8	47.5	39.4

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Ticker/Price	ASTRA IN/Rs 1,945
Market cap	US\$ 4.0bn
Shares o/s	151mn
3M ADV	US\$ 5.9mn
52wk high/low	Rs 2,100/Rs 746
Promoter/FPI/DII	56%/20%/24%

Source: NSE

### STOCK PERFORMANCE



Source: NSE



# **ASTRAL POLY TECHNIK**



FIG 1 - CONSOLIDATED QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE

(Rs mn)	Q3FY21	Q3FY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)	Q2FY21	Q <sub>0</sub> Q (%)	9MFY21	9MFY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)
Total revenues	8,975	6,641	35.1	7,471	20.1	20,485	19,490	5.1
Total raw material consumed	5,562	4,013	38.6	4,609	20.7	12,820	12,055	6.3
% of sales	62.0	60.4	154bps	61.7	28bps	62.6	61.9	73bps
Employee exps	524	431	21.6	485	8.0	1,435	1,335	7.5
% of sales	5.8	6.5	(65bps)	6.5	(65bps)	7.0	6.8	16bps
Other exp	969	1,015	(4.5)	941	3.0	2,331	2,797	(16.7)
% of sales	10.8	15.3	(449bps)	12.6	(180bps)	11.4	14.4	(297bps)
Total expenditure	7,055	5,459	29.2	6,035	16.9	16,586	16,187	2.5
% of sales	78.6	82.2	(359bps)	80.8	(217bps)	81.0	83.1	(209bps)
EBITDA	1,920	1,182	62.4	1,436	33.7	3,899	3,303	18.0
% of sales	21.4	17.8	359bps	19.2	217bps	19.0	16.9	209bps
Depreciation	300	274	9.5	288	4.2	873	790	10.5
Other income	61	22	177.3	49	24.5	149	120	24.2
Interest cost	27	54	(50.0)	30	(10.0)	105	174	(39.7)
PBT	1,654	876	88.8	1,167	41.7	3,070	2,459	24.8
Taxes	413	194	112.9	283	45.9	721	430	67.7
Effective tax rate (%)	25.0	22.1	282bps	24.3	72bps	23.5	17.5	600bps
RPAT before extraordinaries	1,241	682	82.0	884	40.4	2,349	2,029	15.8
Less: forex loss/(gain)	(10)	(3)	233.3	(39)	(74.4)	(38)	39	(197.4)
Less: minority int	(7)	(3)	133.3	(12)	(41.7)	(23)	(12)	91.7
Less: Loss from JV	12	6	100.0	44	(72.7)	66	10	560.0
RPAT	1,232	676	82.2	867.0	42.1	2,298	1,968	16.8

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

# FIG 2 - SEGMENTAL CONSOLIDATED PERFORMANCE

Particulars	Q3FY21	Q3FY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)	Q2FY21	Q <sub>0</sub> Q (%)	9MFY21	9MFY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)
Plastics	6,727	5,057	33.0	5,503	22.2	15,323	14,905	2.8
Adhesives	2,248	1,584	41.9	1,968	14.2	5,162	4,585	12.6
Net Sales	8,975	6,641	35.1	7,471	20.1	20,485	19,490	5.1
EBIT								
Plastics	1,290	733	76.0	871	48.1	2,392	1,973	21.2
Adhesives	358	176	103.4	293	22.2	692	583	18.7
Total	1,648	909	81.3	1,164	41.6	3,084	2,556	20.7
EBIT Margin (%)								
Plastics	19.2	14.5	468bps	15.8	335bps	15.6	13.2	237bps
Adhesives	15.9	11.1	481bps	14.9	104bps	13.4	12.7	69bps

Source: BOBCAPS Research, Company

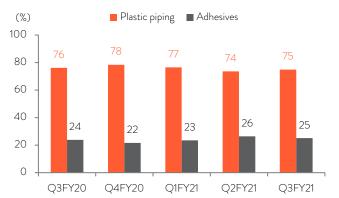


FIG 3 - STANDALONE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE

(Rs mn)	Q3FY21	Q3FY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)	Q2FY21	Q <sub>0</sub> Q (%)	9MFY21	9MFY20	Y <sub>0</sub> Y (%)
Total revenues	6,931	5,200	33.3	5,670	22.2	15,766	15,371	2.6
Total raw material consumed	4,321	3,198	35.1	3,522	22.7	9,987	9,756	2.4
% of sales	62.3	61.5	84bps	62.1	23bps	63.3	63.5	(12bps)
Employee exps	280	232	20.7	272	2.9	799	757	5.5
% of sales	4.0	4.5	(42bps)	4.8	(76bps)	5.1	4.9	14bps
Other exp	745	771	(3.4)	723	3.0	1,772	2,129	(16.8)
% of sales	10.7	14.8	(408bps)	12.8	(200bps)	11.2	13.9	(261bps)
Total expenditure	5,346	4,201	27.3	4,517	18.4	12,558	12,642	(0.7)
% of sales	77.1	80.8	(366bps)	79.7	(253bps)	79.7	82.2	(259bps)
EBIDTA	1,585	999	58.7	1,153	37.5	3,208	2,729	17.6
% of sales	22.9	19.2	366bps	20.3	253bps	20.3	17.8	259bps
Depreciation	242	228	6.1	239	1.3	717	657	9.1
Other income	45	23	95.7	39	15.4	114	109	4.6
Interest cost	15	40	(62.5)	19	(21.1)	70	135	(48.1)
PBT	1,373	754	82.1	934	47.0	2,535	2,046	23.9
Taxes	351	187	87.7	245	43.3	651	399	63.2
Effective tax rate (%)	25.6	24.8	76bps	26.2	(67bps)	25.7	19.5	618bps
APAT	1,022	567	80.2	689	48.3	1,884	1,647	14.4
Extraordinary items	0	0	NM	(70)	NM	(70)	0	NM
Forex	18	10	80.0	42	(57.1)	52	(32)	(262.5)
RPAT	1,040	577	80.2	661	57.3	1,866	1,615	15.5

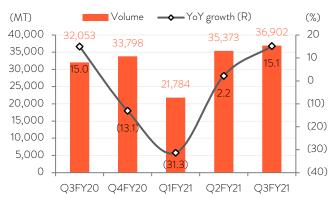
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

# FIG 4 - CONSOLIDATED REVENUE MIX



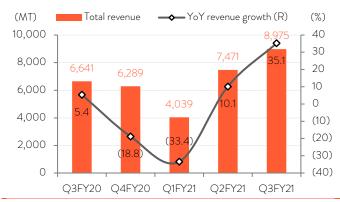
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

FIG 5 - PIPING VOLUME GROWTH





### FIG 6 - CONSOLIDATED REVENUE GROWTH



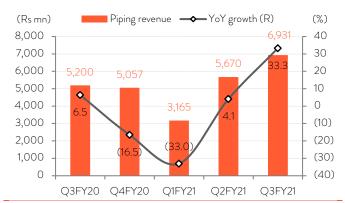
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

### FIG 7 - CONSOLIDATED EBITDA GROWTH



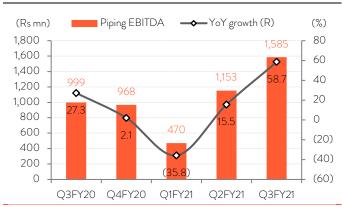
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

### FIG 8 - STANDALONE PIPING REVENUE GROWTH



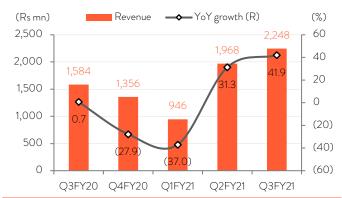
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

# FIG 9 - STANDALONE PIPING EBITDA GROWTH



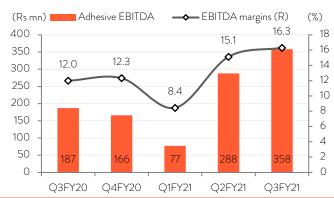
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

#### FIG 10 - STANDALONE ADHESIVES REVENUE GROWTH



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

### FIG 11 - STANDALONE ADHESIVES EBITDA MARGIN





# Earnings call highlights

- ASTRA saw good demand for pipes during the quarter. Q4FY21 is also looking strong with cumulative topline growth of 30-35% YoY in January. Demand from metros started to come in during Q3 and should increase further.
- Management is looking to grow profitability faster than revenues.
- New product launches in both the pipe and adhesive segments are on the anvil for next quarter.
- ASTRA expects the new pipe facility in Odisha to become operational by Q2FY22. With this, the company will save significantly on transportation cost, raising its competitiveness in India's eastern markets.
- The company acquired the water tank business of Shree Prabhu Petrochemicals at a consideration of Rs 510mn in Nov'20, funded via internal accruals.
  Management believes this business is complementary to the pipe segment and expects strong growth ahead.
- The water tank business could have sustainable margins of 14-15% once it reaches scale.
- The company is net-debt free and has surplus cash of Rs 1.17bn as of 31 Dec 2020
- A bonus issue of 1 share for every 3 held has been announced.
- The company plans to change its name from Astral Poly Technik to Astral Ltd.

## Piping segment

- Rising PVC prices led to some inventory gains during Q3, albeit limited given that a bulk of revenues come from the CPVC segment.
- A majority of PVC resin procurement is from Reliance Industries.
- Management believes this business can have sustainable volume growth of ~15% over the next few years.
- Operating margins are sustainable at 15-16% but may be higher in the near term due to rising PVC prices.

### Adhesive segment

- Channel correction in FY20 is now reaping results and the company expects adhesives to continue seeing robust growth.
- This busines is guided to grow at least 20-25% for the next few years.
- Margins here should improve as operations scale up.
- The company plans to launch some new products in coming months.



# Valuation methodology

ASTRA is among the leading players in India's CPVC/PVC plumbing pipe market. The company has a wide-ranging product portfolio, robust brand name and large distribution reach that will enable it to benefit from gradual formalisation of the market post GST and e-way bill implementation. Its recent foray into adhesives further boosts growth prospects.

In light of the strong profitability in Q3FY21, we increase FY21-FY23 EBITDA estimates by 6-15% and PAT estimates by 6-18%. We now value the stock at 45x (earlier 42x) one-year forward P/E and roll forward to a revised Mar'22 target price of Rs 1,435 (earlier Rs 1,180). Though we like ASTRA for its strong balance sheet and comprehensive product portfolio, we believe current valuations at 61.1x FY23E P/E are rich post the recent rally and hence downgrade the stock from REDUCE to SELL.

FIG 12 - REVISED ESTIMATES

(Rs mn)		Old			New			Change (%)	)
Particulars	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	27,829	33,729	39,545	30,220	34,263	40,616	8.6	1.6	2.7
EBITDA	4,742	5,842	6,972	5,471	6,168	7,412	15.4	5.6	6.3
PAT	2,793	3,647	4,439	3,297	3,862	4,792	18.0	5.9	7.9

Source: BOBCAPS Research

### FIG 13 - RELATIVE STOCK PERFORMANCE



Source: NSE

# Key risks

Key upside risks to our estimates are:

- above-expected growth in the housing market, and
- lower raw material prices, leading to better profitability.



### **FINANCIALS**

# Income Statement

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Total revenue	25,073	25,779	30,220	34,263	40,616
EBITDA	3,853	4,441	5,471	6,168	7,412
Depreciation	(814)	(1,079)	(1,168)	(1,274)	(1,381)
EBIT	3,039	3,362	4,304	4,894	6,031
Net interest income/(expenses)	(320)	(394)	(130)	(48)	(15)
Other income/(expenses)	97	115	176	215	258
EBT	2,816	3,083	4,349	5,061	6,275
Income taxes	(808)	(568)	(1,022)	(1,164)	(1,443)
Extraordinary items	(34)	(19)	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from associates	(15)	(17)	(30)	(35)	(40)
Reported net profit	1,958	2,479	3,297	3,862	4,792
Adjustments	34	19	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	1,992	2,498	3,297	3,862	4,792

# Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Accounts payables	3,897	4,754	4,802	5,445	6,454
Other current liabilities	758	563	745	845	1,001
Provisions	124	92	91	103	122
Debt funds	2,753	1,856	750	200	100
Equity capital	120	151	151	151	151
Reserves & surplus	12,657	14,878	16,579	18,572	21,045
Shareholders' fund	12,777	15,029	16,730	18,723	21,195
Total liabilities and equities	20,459	22,462	23,316	25,548	29,146
Cash and cash eq.	981	1,301	979	1,723	3,217
Accounts receivables	3,391	2,278	3,560	4,036	4,785
Inventories	3,958	5,404	5,050	5,726	6,788
Other current assets	798	913	828	939	1,113
Investments	2	2	2	2	2
Net fixed assets	10,634	12,194	12,526	12,752	12,872
CWIP	808	444	444	444	444
Intangible assets	421	355	355	355	355
Deferred tax assets, net	(533)	(429)	(429)	(429)	(429)
Total assets	20,459	22,462	23,316	25,548	29,146



### Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net income + Depreciation	2,772	3,558	4,465	5,136	6,172
Interest expenses	320	394	130	48	15
Changes in working capital	(421)	181	(615)	(508)	(799)
Cash flow from operations	2,671	4,133	3,980	4,675	5,388
Capital expenditures	(3,438)	(2,085)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Change in investments	(2)	(1)	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(3,440)	(2,085)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Equities issued/Others	25	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	862	(897)	(1,106)	(550)	(100)
Interest expenses	(320)	(394)	(130)	(48)	(15)
Dividends paid	(188)	(240)	(1,596)	(1,869)	(2,319)
Other financing cash flows	935	(198)	30	35	40
Cash flow from financing	1,314	(1,729)	(2,802)	(2,432)	(2,394)
Changes in cash and cash eq.	545	320	(322)	744	1,494
Closing cash and cash eq.	981	1,301	979	1,723	3,217

# Per Share

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Reported EPS	13.0	16.5	21.9	25.6	31.8
Adjusted EPS	13.2	16.6	21.9	25.6	31.8
Dividend per share	1.0	1.0	8.8	10.3	12.7
Book value per share	84.8	99.8	111.0	124.3	140.7

### Valuations Ratios

Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
EV/Sales	11.8	11.4	9.7	8.6	7.2
EV/EBITDA	76.5	66.3	53.8	47.5	39.4
Adjusted P/E	147.1	117.3	88.9	75.9	61.1
P/BV	22.9	19.5	17.5	15.6	13.8

# **DuPont Analysis**

Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	70.7	81.0	75.8	76.3	76.4
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	92.7	91.7	101.1	103.4	104.0
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	12.1	13.0	14.2	14.3	14.8
Asset turnover (Revenue/Avg TA)	136.0	120.1	132.0	140.2	148.5
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Adjusted ROAE	17.4	18.0	20.8	21.8	24.0

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

# **ASTRAL POLY TECHNIK**



# Ratio Analysis

Y/E 31 Mar	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	19.1	2.8	17.2	13.4	18.5
EBITDA	21.6	15.3	23.2	12.7	20.2
Adjusted EPS	17.4	25.4	32.0	17.1	24.1
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	15.4	17.2	18.1	18.0	18.2
EBIT margin	12.1	13.0	14.2	14.3	14.8
Adjusted profit margin	7.9	9.7	10.9	11.3	11.8
Adjusted ROAE	17.4	18.0	20.8	21.8	24.0
ROCE	15.5	16.8	19.0	20.5	22.8
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	47	40	35	40	40
Inventory	83	107	99	90	88
Payables	64	74	70	67	65
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1
Current ratio	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1
Net interest coverage ratio	9.5	8.5	33.0	103.0	402.1
Adjusted debt/equity	0.1	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)



# Disclaimer

#### Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY - Expected return >+15%

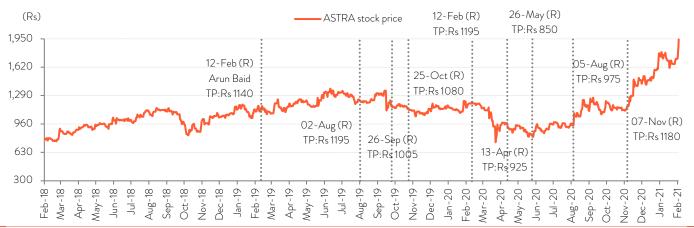
ADD - Expected return from >+5% to +15%

REDUCE - Expected return from -5% to +5%

SELL - Expected return <-5%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 1 January 2018 (Hold rating discontinued and replaced by Add / Reduce)

#### RATINGS AND TARGET PRICE (3-YEAR HISTORY): ASTRAL POLY TECHNIK (ASTRA IN)



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

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#### **ASTRAL POLY TECHNIK**



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