



Robust quarter – beat on margins

- Q3 revenue grew 4.2% QoQ USD, roughly in line with estimate. Growth was driven by the BFS vertical with a modest uptick in travel
- Despite supply pressure, EBIT margin climbed 120bps QoQ to 16%, above our 14.8% estimate
- We tweak FY22-FY24 EPS and revise our TP slightly to Rs 7,080 (vs. Rs 7,040); maintain BUY

Growth in-line: Coforge reported revenue growth of 4.2% QoQ USD in Q3FY22, inlie with our estimate of 4.3%. Growth was primarily led by the BFS vertical which was up 24.5% QoQ in rupee terms. SLK Global revenue stood at US\$ 22.4mn aided by strong cross-sales. The travel vertical grew by a modest 3.9% while insurance was flat QoQ. The top-5 and top-10 clients grew ~16% QoQ.

Margin expansion despite headwinds: Coforge reported its highest-ever EBITDA margin of 19.5% in Q3, up 85bps QoQ despite multiple headwinds such as furloughs, a sequential decline in the AdvantageGo business and increased hiring. Offshore business expanded steadily with an 8ppt YoY rise in revenue contribution, in line with the company's strategy of shifting the revenue mix towards offshore.

Order intake robust: As of Q3, the executable order book for the next 12 months was at US\$ 701mn, with 90% coming from repeat business. Order intake for the quarter was US\$ 247mn, with US\$ 91mn from America, US\$ 110mn from Europe and US\$ 47mn from RoW. Coforge signed a large, multi-year deal worth US\$ 45mn in Europe.

Attrition remains low vs. peers: The company posted its highest-ever net addition of ~1,300 employees in Q3. Utilisation stood at 77.1%, down 140bps QoQ. Attrition at 16.3% increased marginally by 100bps QoQ – still one of the lowest in the sector.

Upbeat outlook: Coforge has raised its FY22 organic revenue growth guidance to 24% CC from 22% earlier and expects overall revenue to grow 37% YoY CC. This is its third upward guidance revision in FY22. EBITDA margin is guided at 18.9-19%. As per management, the demand environment remains positive and there has been no slackening.

Maintain BUY: Overall, the Q3 results were a mixed bag with revenue growth meeting estimates but a stellar margin performance with further expansion likely in Q4. We retain BUY and tweak FY22-FY24 EPS estimates, leading to a slightly higher TP of Rs 7,080 (vs. Rs 7,040) – our target Dec'23E P/E multiple remains at 35x, which is three standard deviations above the stock's five-year mean.

Technology & Internet

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Key changes

	Target	Rating		
Ticke	er/Price	COFORGE IN/Rs 4,401		
Mark	et cap	US\$ 3.6bn		
Free	float	43%		
3M A	DV	US\$ 25.8mn		
52wk	high/low	Rs 6,135/Rs 2,300		
Prom	Promoter/FPI/DII 70%/13%/17%			

Source: NSE | Price as of 27 Jan 2022

Key financials

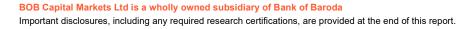
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Y/E 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	46,628	64,109	77,885
EBITDA (Rs mn)	8,035	12,038	15,108
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	4,556	7,600	10,580
Adj. EPS (Rs)	75.0	125.1	174.2
Consensus EPS (Rs)	75.0	112.9	143.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	18.6	28.3	33.2
Adj. P/E (x)	58.7	35.2	25.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	33.3	22.1	17.4
Adj. EPS growth (%)	2.9	66.8	39.2

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE







Other highlights

- Coforge expects to expand its operating margin by 130bps QoQ in Q4FY22 by way of: (1) ramping up large deals, (2) increasing the offshore revenue mix, (3) tapping into tailwinds from AdvantageGo, (4) recording a higher number of billing days outside of furloughs, (5) flattening the delivery pyramid by hiring more freshers, and (6) increasing utilisation levels, helped by lack of furloughs in Q4.
- Insurance vertical growth remains robust sans AdvantageGo. Going forward, management expects AdvantageGo to bounce back.
- AdvantageGo and Wishworks have fully merged into Coforge. AdvantageGo now forms 2.5% of overall revenue.
- Coforge has rolled out various IT transformation projects for multiple airports in the Middle East.
- The company has been able to grow wallet share in the travel sector within the existing client set.

(Rs mn)	Q3FY22	Q3FY21	YoY (%)	Q2FY22	QoQ (%)	9MFY22	9MFY21	YoY (%)
Revenue (US\$ mn)	221.6	160.8	37.8	212.8	4.2	634	455	39.3
Revenue	16,581	11,906	39.3	15,694	5.7	46,891	34,013	37.9
Operating Expenditure	13,355	9,897	34.9	12,771	4.6	38,383	28,146	36.4
Cost of revenues	11,210	8,096	38.5	10,656	5.2	32,116	23,112	39.0
as % of sales	67.6	68.0	-	67.9	-	68.5	68.0	-
SG&A expenses	2,145	1,801	19.1	2,115	1.4	6,267	5,034	24.5
as % of sales	12.9	15.1	-	13.5	-	13.4	14.8	-
EBITDA	3,226	2,009	60.6	2,923	10.4	8,508	5,867	45.0
Depreciation	566	462	22.5	598	(5.4)	1,688	1,387	21.7
EBIT	2,660	1,547	71.9	2,325	14.4	6,820	4,480	52.2
Other Income	(170)	19	-	(128)	-	(246)	4	-
PBT	2,332	1,566	48.9	2,062	13.1	6,026	4,180	44.2
Total Tax	360	331	8.8	446	(19.3)	1,126	894	26.0
Adjusted PAT	1,972	1,235	59.7	1,616	22.0	4,900	3,286	49.1
(Profit)/loss from JV's/Ass/MI	135.0	15	-	148.0	-	359	60	-
APAT after MI	1,837	1,220	50.6	1,468	25.1	4,541	3,226	40.8
Extra ordinary items	48	0	-	51	-	99	304	-
Reported PAT	1,885	1,220	54.5	1,519	24.1	4,640	3,530	31.5
Reported EPS	30.2	19.6	54.4	24.2	25.1	74.8	51.8	44.4
Margins (%)			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
EBITDA	19.5	16.9	258	18.6	83	18.1	17.2	90
EBIT	16.0	13.0	305	14.8	123	14.5	13.2	137
EBT	14.1	13.2	91	13.1	93	12.9	12.3	56
PAT	11.4	10.2	112	9.7	169	9.7	9.5	20
Effective Tax rate	15.4	21.1	(570)	21.6	(619)	18.7	21.4	(270)

Fig 1 – Quarterly performance

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 2 – Operating metric

(In INR terms)	Q3FY22	Grow	th
(in har terms)	(% Contr. to Revenue)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
Revenue by geography			
North America	53.3	8.3	51.5
Europe	33.7	9.6	30.4
RoW	13.0	(10.2)	20.7
Revenue by vertical			
Banking and Financial Services	28.4	24.5	119.7
Insurance	27.8	0.6	21.0
Transportation	18.3	3.9	27.4
Other	25.4	(4.5)	17.9
Revenue mix onsite/offshore			
Offshore	46.0	10.5	68.6
Onsite	54.0	1.9	21.3
Client concentration			
Тор 5	25.2	15.8	46.2
Non Top 5 client	74.8	2.6	37.1
Тор 10	36.1	15.6	47.9
Revenue mix service lines			
Product Engineering	10.8	(10.2)	(9.4
Intelligent Automation	14.0	3.4	27.4
Data Integration	20.5	5.1	48.7
Cloud and Infrastructure management	18.6	15.6	31.5
Application Development and Maintenance	24.7	9.2	24.2
Business Process Management	11	3.8	958.4
Number of employees	22,092	1344	10668
Attrition (%)	16.3	100bps	590bps
Utilization	77.1	(140bps)	(180bps)
DSO (Days)	70	4Days	(5Days
	Q3FY22	Q2FY22	Q3FY21
Significant New Customers addition			
USA	8	6	4
Europe	3	5	Ę
ROW	2	0	2
Total	13	11	11
Fresh Order Intake (US\$ mn)			
1150	91	103	116

Fresh Order Intake (US\$ mn)			
USA	91	123	116
Europe	110	114	45
ROW	47	48	32
Total	248	285	193
Executable Order over next twelve months (US\$ mn)	701	688	501

Source: BOBCAPS Research, Company



Valuation methodology

Coforge has raised its FY22 organic revenue growth guidance to 'at least' 24% YoY CC (from 22% CC), backed by a 40% YoY increase in executable order book and large deal wins in Q3FY22. Post Q3, we raise FY22-FY24 EPS forecasts marginally by ~1% each as the guidance was already built into our estimates. Our Dec'22 TP now stands at Rs 7,080 (vs. Rs 7,040), based on an unchanged Dec'23E P/E multiple of 35x, which is three standard deviations above the stock's five-year mean. Our valuation factors in the steady earnings upgrades, upbeat growth outlook, record executable order book and timely revenue diversification. Reiterate BUY.

Fig 3 – Revised estimates

(Rs mn)		New			Old		C	Change (%)	
(KS IIII)	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenues (US\$ mn)	864	1,025	1182	863	1,019	1,176	0.1	0.5	0.5
YoY growth (%)	37.7	18.7	15.3	37.5	18.2	15.3	-	-	-
Revenues	64,109	77,885	89,815	64,009	77,472	89,339	0.2	0.5	0.5
EBITDA (post RSU)	12,038	15,108	17,686	11,889	15,028	17,592	1.2	0.5	0.5
EBITDA margins (%)	18.8	19.4	19.7	18.6	19.4	19.7	-	-	-
Net Profits	7,600	10,580	12,838	7,495	10,516	12,763	1.4	0.6	0.6
EPS (Rs)	125.1	174.2	211.4	123.4	173.2	210.2	1.4	0.6	0.6

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Key assumptions

Parameter	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenues (US\$ mn) (reported)	627.4	863.7	1,024.8	1,181.8
YoY Growth (%)	5.8	37.7	18.7	15.3
EBITDA Margin (%)	17.2	18.8	19.4	19.7

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Peer comparison

Tieker	Target Price		US\$ revenue CAGR	EPS (Rs)		RoE (%)		P/E (x)	
Ticker R	Rating	(Rs)	FY21-23E (%)	FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E
TCS IN	BUY	4,770	14.1	104.0	120.3	39.6	37.5	35.1	30.3
INFO IN	BUY	2,250	17.1	54.4	62.3	29.8	32.0	30.9	26.9
WPRO IN	BUY	850	18.2	22.6	26.9	20.5	21.6	24.1	20.3
HCLT IN	BUY	1,610	12.6	49.0	56.2	20.3	20.9	22.0	19.2
TECHM IN	BUY	1,970	16.1	65.5	81.1	21.5	23.6	22.1	17.8
LTI IN	BUY	8,490	23.2	131.1	166.8	28.9	30.9	43.8	34.4
MPHL IN	HOLD	3,470	19.1	75.7	90.1	20.9	23.1	38.7	32.6
MTCL IN	BUY	5,610	23.9	97.9	105.3	34.2	31.0	36.6	34.0
PSYS IN	HOLD	4,580	27.9	82.3	98.3	22.0	22.7	49.4	41.4
COFORGE IN	BUY	7,080	27.8	125.1	174.2	28.3	33.2	35.2	25.3
ECLX IN	BUY	3,690	22.9	125.8	143.6	27.0	28.4	19.0	16.7

Source: BOBCAPS Research



Key risks

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

- recovery in the travel vertical taking longer than expected to materialise, and
- increased competition in the BFS vertical.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Coforge	COFORGE IN	3.6	4,401	7,080	BUY
eClerx Services	ECLX IN	1.2	2,374	3,690	BUY
HCL Technologies	HCLT IN	38.9	1,078	1,610	BUY
Infosys	INFO IN	95.1	1,679	2,250	BUY
L&T Infotech	LTI IN	13.4	5,746	8,490	BUY
Mindtree	MTCL IN	7.9	3,585	5,610	BUY
Mphasis	MPHL IN	7.3	2,934	3,470	HOLD
Persistent Systems	PSYS IN	4.3	4,067	4,580	HOLD
Tata Consultancy Services	TCS IN	182.3	3,649	4,770	BUY
Tech Mahindra	TECHM IN	16.8	1,446	1,970	BUY
Wipro	WPRO IN	40.1	545	850	BUY

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 27 Jan 2022



Financials

Income Statement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Total revenue	41,839	46,628	64,109	77,885	89,815
EBITDA	7,431	8,035	12,038	15,108	17,686
Depreciation	1,730	1,836	2,157	2,028	2,180
EBIT	5,701	6,199	9,881	13,080	15,506
Net interest inc./(exp.)	0	0	0	0	0
Other inc./(exp.)	462	113	18	1,108	1,540
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	0
EBT	5,978	5,962	9,899	14,187	17,046
Income taxes	1,203	1,302	1,803	2,979	3,580
Extraordinary items	185	350	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	236	104	495	628	628
Reported net profit	4,539	4,556	7,600	10,580	12,838
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	4,539	4,556	7,600	10,580	12,838

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Accounts payables	0	0	0	0	0
Other current liabilities	7,526	6,238	11,246	13,624	15,683
Provisions	922	921	6,323	7,682	8,858
Debt funds	0	0	0	0	0
Other liabilities	387	295	295	295	295
Equity capital	625	606	606	606	606
Reserves & surplus	23,340	24,285	28,226	34,341	41,627
Shareholders' fund	23,965	24,891	28,832	34,947	42,233
Total liab. and equities	32,800	32,345	46,697	56,548	67,070
Cash and cash eq.	8,195	7,999	14,027	20,906	29,144
Accounts receivables	5,672	5,911	12,822	15,577	17,963
Inventories	3	3	3	3	3
Other current assets	3,976	4,398	6,968	8,214	9,292
Investments	3,651	3,013	3,013	3,013	3,013
Net fixed assets	10,001	9,592	8,435	7,407	6,226
CWIP	0	0	0	0	0
Intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets, net	1,302	1,429	1,429	1,429	1,429
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	32,800	32,345	46,697	56,548	67,070

Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Cash flow from operations	3,601	9,157	10,669	11,864	13,877
Capital expenditures	(703)	(757)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Change in investments	3,702	21	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	(1,041)	(1,552)	18	1,108	1,540
Cash flow from investing	1,958	(2,288)	(982)	108	540
Equities issued/Others	275	(4,148)	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(1,469)	(686)	(3,659)	(5,093)	(6,180)
Other financing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from financing	(1,194)	(4,834)	(3,659)	(5,093)	(6,180)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	4,365	2,035	6,028	6,879	8,238
Closing cash & cash eq.	8,197	7,999	14,027	20,906	29,144

Per Share Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Reported EPS	72.9	75.0	125.1	174.2	211.4
Adjusted EPS	72.9	75.0	125.1	174.2	211.4
Dividend per share	10.0	24.8	50.1	69.7	84.6
Book value per share	384.8	399.7	463.0	561.2	678.2
	304.0	399.1	403.0	301.2	070.2
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
EV/Sales	6.4	5.7	4.1	3.4	2.9
EV/EBITDA	36.3	33.3	22.1	17.4	14.5
Adjusted P/E	60.4	58.7	35.2	25.3	20.8
P/BV	11.4	11.0	9.5	7.8	6.5
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	75.9	76.4	76.8	74.6	75.3
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	104.9	96.2	100.2	108.5	109.9
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	13.6	13.3	15.4	16.8	17.3
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	138.5	143.2	162.2	150.9	145.3
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
Adjusted ROAE	20.3	18.6	28.3	33.2	33.3
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
YoY growth (%)	-			-	
Revenue	13.8	11.4	37.5	21.5	15.3
EBITDA	15.2	8.1	49.8	25.5	17.1
Adjusted EPS	10.1	2.9	66.8	39.2	21.3
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	17.8	17.2	18.8	19.4	19.
EBIT margin	13.6	13.3	15.4	16.8	17.3
Adjusted profit margin	10.8	9.8	11.9	13.6	14.3
Adjusted ROAE	20.3	18.6	28.3	33.2	33.3
ROCE	17.7	18.5	30.5	44.3	55.8
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	48	45	53	67	68
Inventory	0	0	0	0	(
,	90	83	117	136	133
Payables					
Payables Ratios (x)					
•	4.6	4.8	7.1	9.8	13.2
Ratios (x)	4.6 2.3	4.8 2.6	7.1 1.9	9.8 2.1	13.2
Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover					

 Adjusted debt/equity
 (0.3)
 (0.3)

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

(0.5)

(0.6)

(0.7)



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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY - Expected return >+15%

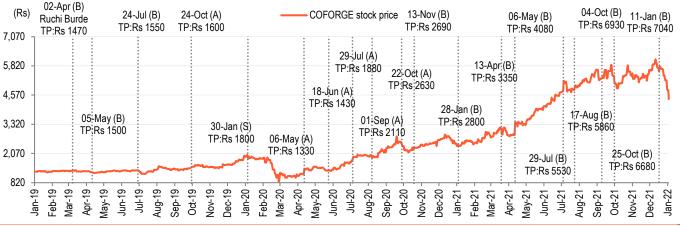
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): COFORGE (COFORGE IN)



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

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