

India

ADD (previously HOLD)

Buy 6 Hold 6 Sell 10 Consensus ratings*: Current price: Rs3.367 Rs3.870 Target price: Previous target: Rs5,175 Up/downside: 14.9% InCred Research / Consensus: -13.8% THMX.NS Reuters: Bloombera: TMX IN US\$4,588m Market cap: Rs401,199m US\$6.2m Average daily turnover: Rs543.7m Current shares o/s: 112.6m Free float: 38.0% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

We cut revenue by 3-6% & PAT by 11-16% for FY25F-27F. Upgrade to ADD rating (from HOLD) with a lower target price of Rs3,870 (Rs5,175 earlier),



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance Absolute (%) Relative (%)	1M (17.8) (17.7)	3M (34.0) (32.7)	12M 2.5
Relative (%)	(17.7)	(32.7)	(5.3)

Major shareholders	% held
Promoters	62.0
SBI Mutual Fund	9.9
Nalanda India Equity	5.2

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Thermax Ltd

Revival from 4QFY25F; upgrade to ADD

- 3Q EBITDA came in at Rs1.9bn, flat YoY, 22% below our estimate and 26% below Bloomberg consensus. The EBITDA margin was down 53bp at 7.5%.
- Thermax's focus is on improving project execution, stabilizing the BioCNG segment & capitalizing on growth in industrial product & heat pump segments.
- For FY25F-27F, we cut PAT by 11-16%. The stock fell 35% in the last three months. Upgrade to ADD (from HOLD), but with a lower TP of Rs3,870.

Subdued 3QFY25 performance

Thermax reported a subdued 3QFY25 performance, with a revenue growth of 8% YoY at Rs25.1bn, 11% below our estimate and 8% below Bloomberg or BB consensus estimate. Revenue growth was seen across sectors, with the green solutions business witnessing the highest growth of 53% YoY. The chemical business revenue was up 19% YoY while core industrial products and industrial infrastructure segments saw modest growth of 6% and 3%, respectively. EBITDA came in at Rs1.9bn, flat YoY, 22% below our estimate and 26% below BB consensus estimate. The EBITDA margin was down by 53bp at 7.5%. Adjusted PAT stood at Rs1.1bn, down 20% YoY, 42% below our estimate and 38% below BB consensus estimate. The order inflow declined by 8% YoY to Rs22.96bn, while the order book stood at Rs113.8bn, up 6% YoY.

Cost overrun in industrial infrastructure business

The industrial infrastructure segment's EBIT witnessed a massive decline of 97% while the chemical segment's EBIT was down 20% YoY. The industrial infrastructure segment's profitability has been impacted due to lower margin in certain projects due to cost overrun. The chemical segment's profitability is lower due to product mix changes. During 3Q, revenue was impacted by ~Rs5bn and profitability by ~Rs600m. Thermax faced challenges in project execution, particularly in the flue gas desulfurization (FGD) and BioCNG segments. The FGD project incurred higher-than-expected costs

Large projects to revive in the coming quarters

Management gave guidance of a revival from 4QFY25F as change orders start getting released. BioCNG, despite being a growth area, has seen significant investments and losses, but there is now some optimism as the project stabilizes. The company is focused on improving project execution, stabilizing the BioCNG segment, and capitalizing on growth opportunities in industrial product and heat pump segments.

Upgrade to ADD rating, but with a lower target price of Rs3,870

The capex momentum, especially in water, power and environmental segments, augurs well for Thermax. For FY25F-27F, we cut revenue estimates by 3-6% and PAT estimates by 11-16%. The stock has corrected 35% in the last three months and is available at its mean P/E. Upgrade to ADD rating (from HOLD), but with a lower target price of Rs3,870 (Rs5,175 earlier), valuing Thermax at 40x FY27F (from 50x Sep 2026F) EPS. Downside risks: Delay in order execution & lower margin.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	80,898	93,235	106,965	130,490	155,427
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	5,976	7,974	9,474	11,811	14,484
Net Profit (Rsm)	4,507	6,430	6,838	8,727	10,896
Core EPS (Rs)	40.0	50.4	60.7	77.5	96.8
Core EPS Growth	44.3%	25.9%	20.5%	27.6%	24.9%
FD Core P/E (x)	84.12	66.80	55.45	43.44	34.79
DPS (Rs)	9.1	10.0	11.5	14.7	18.4
Dividend Yield	0.27%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
EV/EBITDA (x)	62.92	47.90	40.25	32.36	26.37
P/FCFE (x)	166.30	224.74	158.54	160.14	125.98
Net Gearing	(8.3%)	6.3%	4.3%	5.3%	4.3%
P/BV (x)	9.80	8.54	7.59	6.65	5.76
ROE	12.2%	14.1%	14.5%	16.3%	17.7%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates					
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



3QFY25 conference-call highlights

- Overview: Thermax's management outlined the difficulties in 3QFY25, with the revenue impacted by ~Rs5bn and profitability impacted by ~Rs600m, while the order book also contributed to the shortfall. However, management expects an improvement in the order book and additional safeguards have been put in place to prevent a recurrence. It has faced challenges in project execution, particularly in the flue gas desulfurization (FGD) and BioCNG segments. The FGD project incurred higher-than-expected costs, but management expects some relief in 4QFY25F as change orders and claims start getting released. BioCNG, despite being a growth area, has seen significant investments and losses, but there is now some optimism as the project stabilizes.
- Order pipeline: Thermax has seen a soft order pipeline for large projects, particularly in the EPC segment, with no orders above Rs1bn for several quarters. However, a larger pipeline is forming, and management expects a reversal in this trend, starting from 4QFY25F. Meanwhile, the industrial products segment has shown strong growth, with a 40% increase in the order book and a 30% rise in the backlog, indicating a healthy outlook for 4Q and beyond.
- BioCNG update: BioCNG has been a challenging area, with Thermax taking a significant hit. However, the company now sees some stabilization in its plants, with discussions underway to hand over some projects to customers. Management expects to start taking new orders in 2HFY26F, once the technology and risk profile are better understood. The BioCNG segment faces challenges due to a lower-than-expected conversion rate and the need for government support to make the business viable. Management highlighted the importance of subsidies, carbon credits, and policy changes to ensure the sustainability of the BioCNG industry.
- Exports: They have improved, especially in the industrial products segment, with 3Q being one of the top quarters for export revenue. Management expects export revenue to be in the range of Rs2-3.5bn next year, representing 25-30% of total revenue.
- Large projects: After a prolonged period of softness, Thermax is seeing a
 revival in the order pipeline of large projects across sectors like steel, power,
 cement, and petrochemicals. The company closed a significant order in Jan
 2025 and expects more to follow, indicating a potential turnaround in the large
 projects segment.
- Heat pumps and coal gasification: Thermax is optimistic about its heat pump technology, which has shown strong potential and profitability. The company aims to grow this business significantly in the coming years. On the other hand, coal gasification remains dependent on government support, and while there are ongoing discussions, commercial viability is still uncertain.
- Ethanol sector: The ethanol sector, which had been a strong performer for Thermax, has slowed due to financing challenges. However, there are signs of improvement, and management expects the sector to pick up as interest rates stabilize and financing becomes more accessible.
- TBWES: TBWES, the bespoke boiler division, has been performing well, despite some losses on government projects. The division has a healthy order backlog and is expected to contribute positively to profits in the coming quarters.
- Services: Thermax's services segment, which includes O&M (operations and maintenance) services, has been consistent, with a revenue of Rs1.25-1-5bn per quarter and low double-digit profitability. This segment is expected to continue its steady performance.
- Outlook: Despite a challenging 3Q, Thermax remains optimistic about 4Q and the future. The company is focused on improving project execution, stabilizing the BioCNG segment, and capitalizing on growth opportunities in industrial



products and heat pumps. Management expects a strong finish to FY25F and a positive outlook for FY26F, driven by the revival in large projects and continued strength in industrial products and exports.

Figure 1: Results summary								
Rs m	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (%)	2QFY25	QoQ (%)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (%)
Total Revenue	25,078	23,244	7.9%	26,116	-4.0%	73,038	65,598	11.3%
Raw Material Costs	13,995	12,880	8.7%	14,405	-2.8%	40,687	36,459	11.6%
Employee Costs	3,227	2,920	10.5%	3,229	-0.1%	9,369	8,321	12.6%
Other Expenses	5,966	5,569	7.1%	5,703	4.6%	16,900	15,576	8.5%
Total Expenditure	23,188	21,369	8.5%	23,336	-0.6%	66,957	60,355	10.9%
EBIDTA	1,890	1,874	0.8%	2,780	-32.0%	6,081	5,242	16.0%
Depreciation	351	358	-2.1%	421	-16.6%	1,132	982	15.2%
EBIT	1,539	1,516	1.5%	2,359	-34.8%	4,949	4,260	16.2%
Interest	287	266	7.7%	294	-2.5%	855	598	43.1%
Other Income	315	584	-46.0%	598	-47.3%	1,754	1,773	-1.1%
Extraordinary Income	-	1,261		-		-	1,261	
PBT	1,568	3,095	-49.3%	2,663	-41.1%	5,848	6,191	-5.5%
Total Tax	425	721	-41.0%	683	-37.7%	1,627	1,625	0.1%
Reported PAT	1,137	2,371	-52.0%	1,980	-42.6%	4,212	4,556	-7.6%
Adj. PAT	1,137	1,425	-20.2%	1,980	-42.6%	4,212	4,556	-7.6%
					SOU	IRCE: INCRED RE	SEARCH, COMPA	NY REPORTS

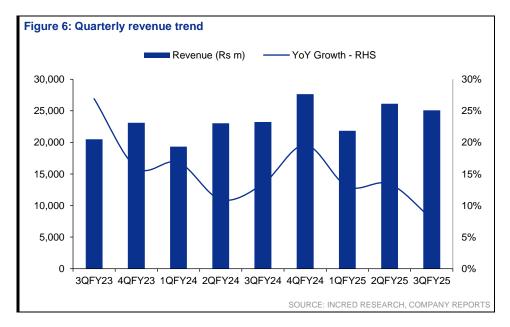
Margin & Cost	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (bp)	2QFY25	QoQ (bp)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (bp)
EBIDTA Margin	7.5%	8.1%	-53	10.6%	-311	8.3%	8.0%	33
EBIT Margin	6.1%	6.5%	-38	9.0%	-290	6.8%	6.5%	28
NPM	4.5%	10.2%	-566	7.6%	-305	5.8%	6.9%	-118
Effective Tax Rate (%)	27.1%	23.3%	384	25.6%	150	27.8%	26.2%	157
Gross Margin	44.2%	44.6%	-39	44.8%	-65	44.3%	44.4%	-13
Cost Analysis (% of Sales)								
Raw Material Costs	55.8%	55.4%	39	55.2%	65	55.7%	55.6%	13
Employee Costs	12.9%	12.6%	30	12.4%	50	12.8%	12.7%	14
Other Expenses	23.8%	24.0%	(17)	21.8%	196	23.1%	23.7%	(60)

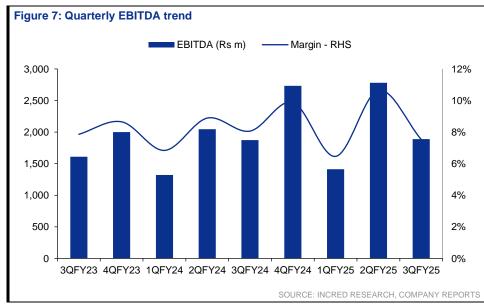
Figure 3: Segment-wise revenu	e and EBIT							
Segmental Revenue	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (%)	2QFY25	QoQ (%)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (%)
Industrial Products	10,801	10,226	5.6%	10,576	2.1%	30,986	28,478	8.8%
Industrial Infrastructure	11,317	10,974	3.1%	12,426	-8.9%	32,994	30,987	6.5%
Green Solutions	1,892	1,235	53.3%	1,751	8.1%	5,380	3,612	48.9%
Chemicals	1,916	1,606	19.3%	1,903	0.7%	5,527	5,092	8.5%
Total	25,926	24,041	7.8%	26,657	-2.7%	74,887	68,170	9.9%
EBIT	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (%)	2QFY25	QoQ (%)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (%)
Industrial Products	1,215	1,015	19.7%	1,145	6.1%	3,228	2,563	25.9%
Industrial Infrastructure	13	389	-96.6%	882	-98.5%	712	1,264	-43.7%
Green Solutions	180	133	35.3%	216	-16.7%	626	313	100.1%
Chemicals	264	331	-20.2%	306	-13.7%	874	942	-7.2%
Total	1,673	1,868	-10.4%	2,243	-25.4%	5,439	5,082	7.0%
EBIT Margin	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (bp)	2QFY25	QoQ (bp)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (bp)
Industrial Products	11.3%	9.9%	133	10.8%	42	10.4%	9.0%	142
Industrial Infrastructure	0.1%	3.5%	-343	7.1%	-698	2.2%	4.1%	-192
Green Solutions	9.5%	10.8%	-126	12.3%	-283	11.6%	8.7%	297
Chemicals	13.8%	20.6%	-683	16.1%	-229	15.8%	18.5%	-269
Total	6.5%	7.8%	-132	8.4%	-196	7.3%	7.5%	-19
					SOL	JRCE: INCRED RE	SEARCH, COMPA	ANY REPORTS

Vs. InCred	3QFY25A	3QFY25F	Diff (%)
Revenue	25,078	28,299	-11.4%
EBITDA	1,890	2,434	-22.4%
Margin (%)	7.5%	8.6%	-106bp
PAT	1,137	1,973	-42.4%
Vs. Consensus	3QFY25A	3QFY25C	Diff (%)
Revenue	25,078	27,206	-7.8%
EBITDA	1,890	2,545	-25.7%
Margin (%)	7.5%	9.4%	-182bp
PAT	1,137	1,839	-38.2%
	SOURCE: IN	ICRED RESEARCH, COMI	PANY REPORTS

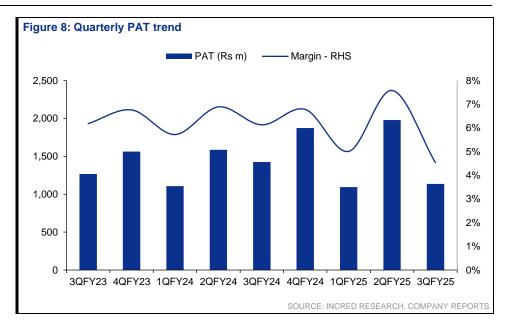


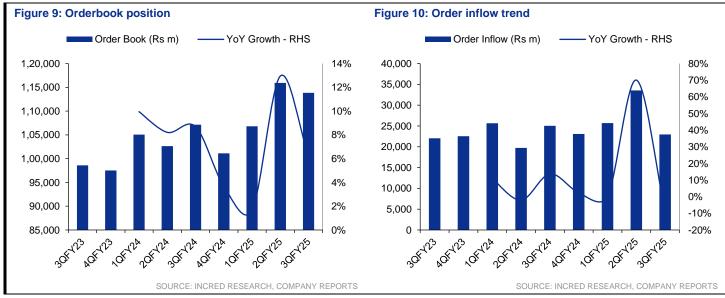
(Rs m)	3QFY25	3QFY24	YoY (%)	2QFY25	QoQ (%)	9MFY25	9MFY24	YoY (%)
Order Inflow (Rs m)	22,960	25,060	-8.4%	33,540	-31.5%	82,190	70,450	16.7%
Industrial Products	13,890	9,900	40.3%	13,500	2.9%	40,040	32,680	22.5%
Industrial Infrastructure	6,690	12,460	-46.3%	17,480	-61.7%	34,080	30,280	12.5%
Green Solutions	470	960	-51.0%	570	-17.5%	2,040	2,380	-14.3%
Chemical	1,910	1,740	9.8%	1,990	-4.0%	6,030	5,110	18.0%
Order Book (Rs m)	1,13,830	1,07,160	6.2%	1,15,930	-1.8%	1,13,830	1,07,160	6.2%
Industrial Products	44,790	35,100	27.6%	42,050	6.5%	44,790	35,100	27.6%
Industrial Infrastructure	57,560	62,430	-7.8%	63,120	-8.8%	57,560	62,430	-7.8%
Green Solutions	8,940	8,350	7.1%	8,940	0.0%	8,940	8,350	7.1%
Chemical	2,540	1,280	98.4%	1,820	39.6%	2,540	1,280	98.4%











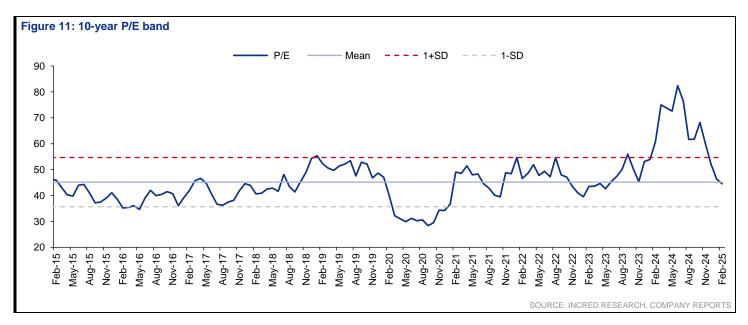


Figure 12: Earnings revision summary		
New Estimates	Old Estimates	Change

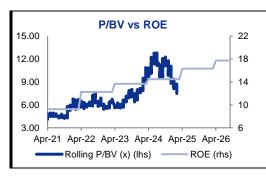


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(Rs m)	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F
Revenue	1,06,965	1,30,490	1,55,427	1,10,186	1,36,557	1,65,488	-2.9%	-4.4%	-6.1%
EBITDA	9,474	11,811	14,484	9,904	13,308	16,167	-4.3%	-11.2%	-10.4%
Core PAT	6,838	8,727	10,896	7,649	10,330	12,805	-10.6%	-15.5%	-14.9%
							SOURCE: INCRED R	ESEARCH, COMP	ANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS





(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	80,898	93,235	106,965	130,490	155,427
Gross Profit	34,651	41,039	47,516	58,150	69,263
Operating EBITDA	5,976	7,974	9,474	11,811	14,484
Depreciation And Amortisation	(1,169)	(1,481)	(1,517)	(1,695)	(1,812)
Operating EBIT	4,807	6,493	7,956	10,116	12,672
Financial Income/(Expense)	(376)	(876)	(1,106)	(1,242)	(1,392)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(2)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(11)
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	1,602	2,326	2,417	2,776	3,264
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	6,031	7,933	9,258	11,640	14,532
Exceptional Items		755			
Pre-tax Profit	6,031	8,688	9,258	11,640	14,532
Taxation	(1,524)	(2,258)	(2,420)	(2,913)	(3,636)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	4,507	6,430	6,838	8,727	10,896
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	4,507	6,430	6,838	8,727	10,896
Recurring Net Profit	4,507	5,872	6,838	8,727	10,896
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	4,507	5,872	6,838	8,727	10,896

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	5,976	7,974	9,474	11,811	14,484
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(2,893)	(4,760)	(5,431)	(1,421)	(2,561)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	3,025	1,122	1,604	1,762	2,021
Net Interest (Paid)/Received					
Tax Paid	(1,512)	(1,863)	(2,420)	(2,913)	(3,636)
Cashflow From Operations	4,596	2,473	3,227	9,240	10,308
Capex	(6,499)	(7,185)	(608)	(2,750)	(2,750)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(297)	2,093	(856)	(4,781)	(5,240)
Cash Flow From Investing	(6,797)	(5,092)	(1,463)	(7,531)	(7,990)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	4,481	4,306	628	659	692
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(1,021)	(1,128)	(1,299)	(1,658)	(2,070)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	235	(171)	(1,054)	(699)	(928)
Cash Flow From Financing	3,695	3,008	(1,725)	(1,698)	(2,306)
Total Cash Generated	1,494	389	39	10	11
Free Cashflow To Equity	2,280	1,687	2,392	2,368	3,010
Free Cashflow To Firm	(2,201)	(2,619)	1,764	1,708	2,318

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	11,316	9,753	11,051	10,819	11,708
Total Debtors	17,621	21,164	24,910	30,388	36,195
Inventories	7,556	7,649	10,257	12,513	14,904
Total Other Current Assets	10,380	12,280	14,360	17,518	20,866
Total Current Assets	46,873	50,846	60,577	71,237	83,673
Fixed Assets	16,789	24,279	23,310	24,365	25,303
Total Investments	16,261	17,651	17,114	20,878	24,868
Intangible Assets	30	30	30	30	30
Total Other Non-Current Assets	8,433	8,724	11,017	13,049	15,543
Total Non-current Assets	41,513	50,684	51,472	58,322	65,744
Short-term Debt	3,880	4,665	4,898	5,143	5,400
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	14,979	15,329	17,583	19,663	23,421
Other Current Liabilities	23,196	24,207	26,375	32,175	38,324
Total Current Liabilities	42,055	44,200	48,856	56,981	67,145
Total Long-term Debt	4,225	7,895	8,290	8,704	9,139
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	1,367	1,984	2,036	2,579	3,043
Total Non-current Liabilities	5,592	9,879	10,325	11,283	12,182
Total Provisions	2,037	3,053	2,931	4,290	4,258
Total Liabilities	49,684	57,132	62,112	72,554	83,585
Shareholders Equity	38,681	44,398	49,937	57,006	65,832
Minority Interests	22				
Total Equity	38,702	44,398	49,937	57,006	65,832

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	32.0%	15.2%	14.7%	22.0%	19.1%
Operating EBITDA Growth	41.8%	33.4%	18.8%	24.7%	22.6%
Operating EBITDA Margin	7.4%	8.6%	8.9%	9.1%	9.3%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	28.51	(24.92)	(18.97)	(26.89)	(25.14)
BVPS (Rs)	343.48	394.25	443.43	506.20	584.57
Gross Interest Cover	12.79	7.41	7.20	8.15	9.10
Effective Tax Rate	25.3%	26.0%	26.1%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	22.7%	19.0%	16.5%	12.9%	10.3%
Accounts Receivables Days	71.87	75.92	78.61	77.34	78.18
Inventory Days	58.51	53.16	54.97	57.44	58.07
Accounts Payables Days	116.71	105.97	101.04	93.97	91.25
ROIC (%)	15.5%	13.7%	14.5%	16.0%	18.1%
ROCE (%)	11.3%	12.5%	13.3%	15.1%	16.8%
Return On Average Assets	5.9%	6.7%	7.2%	8.0%	8.5%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Industrial Machinery | India Thermax Ltd | February 07, 2025



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Recommendation	Framework
Stock Ratings	Definition:
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	eturn of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net e stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
Country Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.