

Mining | India | July 07, 2022

InCred Equities

India

ADD (previously REDUCE)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 7	Hold 1 Sell 2
Current price:	Rs70
Target price:	Rs103
Previous target:	Rs60
Up/downside:	47.1%
InCred Research / Consensus	s: -5.0%
Reuters:	
Bloomberg:	NACL IN
Market cap:	US\$1,759m
	Rs127,738m
Average daily turnover:	US\$35.5m
	Rs2579.5m
Current shares o/s:	0.0m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg	48.7%



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Analyst(s)



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National Aluminium Co Ltd

Excessive pessimism - upgrade to Add

- Like steel, aluminium is also witnessing a destocking-led price collapse. We believe aluminium prices are unlikely to sustain their levels below US\$2,400/t.
- We are bullish on the energy sector and thus don't see a big collapse in natural gas or coal prices soon. Hence, Indian integrated smelters stand to benefit.
- We have valued Nalco at 10x FY24F EPS to arrive at our new TP of Rs103.

Like all commodities, aluminium also faces supply chain destocking

As per the International Aluminium Institute or IAI, global aluminium consumption in CY21 was at 69mt (primary aluminium) and production stood at 67.5mt. In CY21, global consumers bought 7% higher aluminum yoy (highest growth since CY10). The user industry of aluminium (for example, automobile and aerospace) grew nowhere near 7%, which means there was hoarding of aluminium because of supply chain uncertainty. Naturally, 2022 is witnessing channel destocking as global demand is reeling under high energy cost which shows no signs of coming down (LNG, diesel, and coal).

The good part is production is declining in response to destocking

As per IAI data, in the five months of this calendar year, production already declined by 3.5% and so, in effect, the destocking is being managed. However, as it always happens, destocking happens fast (say within two-to-three months) while production response can happen only over a period (closure and restarting an aluminium smelter in a short interval is a nightmare) and hence, prices are collapsing. As of now, barring hydro powered smelters, hardly any aluminium smelter will be viable. However, as we have seen across commodities, equilibrium and cost curves don't matter in the short term.

Given current energy prices, aluminium price should be ~ US\$3,000/t

Assuming current energy prices will sustain for two-to-three years (which is our base case), the fair value of aluminium is around US\$3,000/t. Indian aluminium makers like National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) and Hindalco are backward integrated to a large extent and hence, rising aluminium prices are good for their P&L and balance sheet. Current equity value of Nalco is building in extreme pessimism. In effect, they build in a scenario of US\$2,400/t aluminium price with energy price remaining at current levels. Both cannot happen together in the long term. Buy companies which are long on aluminium.

Upgrade our rating on Nalco to Add from Reduce

Nalco has the benefit of lower coal cost as it gets linkage coal from Mahanadi coalfield, and it is also likely to start captive coal block mining from FY24F. The company has been allocated two coal mines – Utkal D and E, with total capacity of 4mt, at its peak. Nalco plans to start mining coal from them in FY24F. Hence, cost will remain in control. We build in US\$2,400/t aluminium price for our earnings calculation. Upgrade our rating on Nalco to Add from Reduce. We have valued the stock at 10x FY24F EPS to arrive at our new target price of Rs103 (Rs60 earlier). Further fall in aluminium prices is a downside risk.

Financial Summary	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue (Rsm)	89,558	141,808	128,852	128,920	129,019
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	17,828	45,172	32,129	30,412	28,696
Net Profit (Rsm)	12,995	29,520	21,698	19,097	17,888
Core EPS (Rs)	7.0	15.8	11.6	10.2	9.6
Core EPS Growth	840.3%	127.2%	(26.5%)	(12.0%)	(6.3%)
FD Core P/E (x)	9.98	4.39	5.98	6.79	7.25
DPS (Rs)	2.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Dividend Yield	3.59%	8.91%	8.91%	8.91%	8.91%
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.18	2.04	3.91	4.01	4.16
P/FCFE (x)	15.71	9.91	11.64	8.49	9.16
Net Gearing	(18.3%)	(29.9%)	(4.0%)	(7.1%)	(8.9%)
P/BV (x)	1.21	1.03	1.26	1.18	1.11
ROE	12.6%	25.4%	19.0%	17.9%	15.8%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			69.31%	3.79%	
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

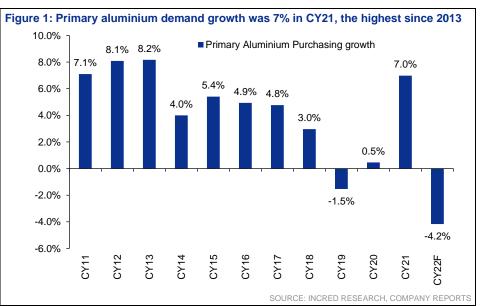
SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Excessive pessimism- upgrade to Add

Aluminium prices will bounce back to US\$3,000/t

As per the International Aluminium Institute or IAI, global aluminium consumption in CY21 was at 69mt (primary aluminium) and production stood at 67.5mt. In CY21, global consumers bought 7% higher aluminum yoy (highest growth since CY10). The user industry of aluminium (for example, automobile and aerospace) grew nowhere near 7%, which means there was hoarding of aluminium because of supply chain uncertainty. Naturally, 2022 is witnessing channel destocking as global demand is reeling under high energy cost which shows no signs of coming down (liquefied natural gas or LNG, diesel, and coal). The current situation cannot continue in the medium-to-long term and aluminium prices must bounce back to US\$3,000/t.



Global aluminium demand rose 7% yoy in CY21, the highest since 2013 >

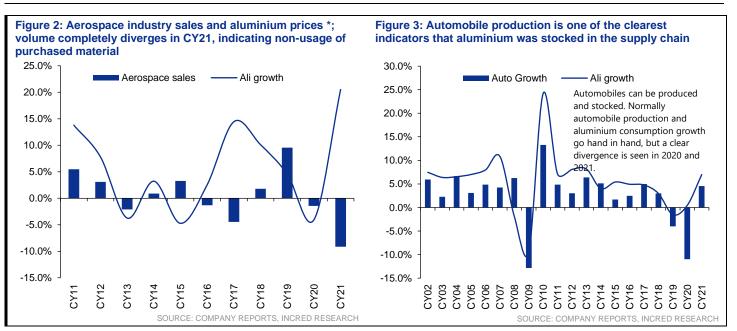
However, global end-product demand was not in line, as shown by auto and global industrial production index**>**

To a large extent, global Index of Industrial Production or IIP was also determined by the propensity to accumulate the inventory and hence, IIP may not be the right metric to look at in order to determine inventory accumulation in the supply chain.



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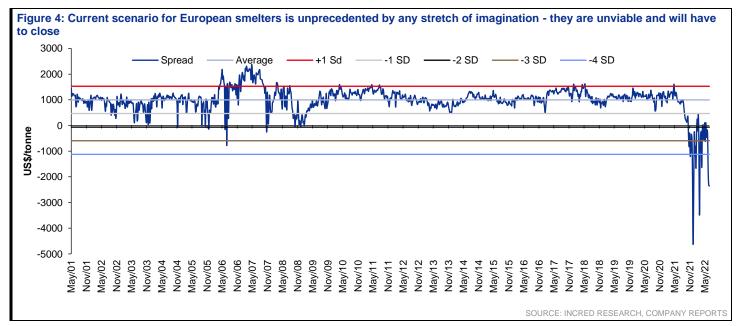
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As of now, everyone is fearing a recession and so all are selling excess inventory **>**

While in early 2021 everyone was worried about raw material security, the situation has reversed and now the fear is regarding demand. Like last year, its being overdone on the other side now, and aluminium spreads over energy are near their all-time low.

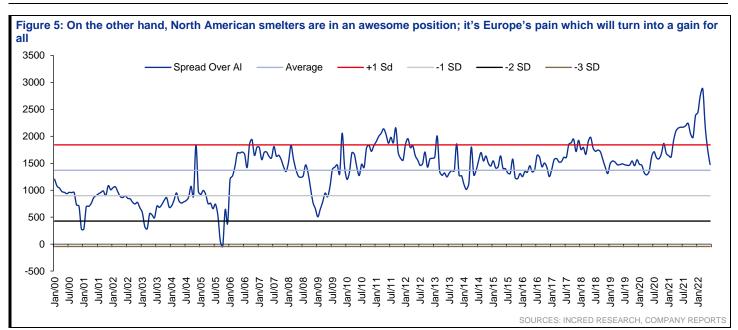
As of now, either aluminium prices have to go up or energy prices have to fall, and the former is most likely \gg





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We believe US\$2,400/t is the bottom price for aluminium>

All signs indicate that US\$2,400/t is the bottom price, and that once destocking is over, aluminium will rally fast. We are long on pure aluminium makers and more so if they are integrated.

Nalco is the best play on aluminium price recovery

Nalco, being long on aluminium and alumina, is the best play on aluminium price recovery, in our view. We have built in US\$2,400/t in our base price calculation and increased coal cost by 15% over FY22. We have built in alumina at 15% of aluminium realization.

Nalco is highly leveraged to aluminium price - US\$100/t rise will increase EPS by 10% ➤

Nalco is highly leveraged to aluminium price and a 5% rise in US\$ terms or US\$100/t from our base assumption will lead to EPS growth by 10%.

We expect alumina to trade at 15% of aluminium price>

Normally, alumina trades at 15-17% of aluminium price and we expect the same in the coming future. Australia's refusal to export alumina to Russia had flooded the RoW market with alumina, but as things stabilize alumina will trade only higher.



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Valuations are undemanding >

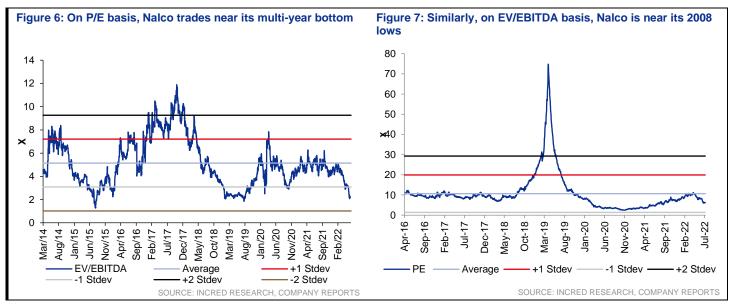


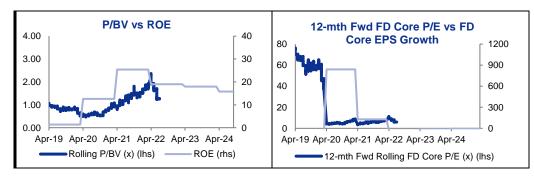
Figure 8: On P/BV basis, Nalco trades at higher than its historical bottom but given our view that US\$2,400/t is the bottom for aluminum price, we believe it's the right time to buy aluminium stocks





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BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss

(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Net Revenues	89,558	141,808	128,852	128,920	129,019
Gross Profit	76,461	123,265	110,191	110,282	110,389
Operating EBITDA	17,828	45,172	32,129	30,412	28,696
Depreciation And Amortisation	(6,058)	(8,366)	(6,088)	(6,171)	(6,253)
Operating EBIT	11,770	36,806	26,041	24,241	22,443
Financial Income/(Expense)	(71)	(231)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	1,466	2,974	2,908	1,241	1,426
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	13,165	39,549	28,930	25,463	23,851
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	13,165	39,549	28,930	25,463	23,851
Taxation	(170)	(10,029)	(7,233)	(6,366)	(5,963)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	12,995	29,520	21,698	19,097	17,888
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	12,995	29,520	21,698	19,097	17,888
Recurring Net Profit	12,995	29,520	21,698	19,097	17,888
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	12,995	29,520	21,698	19,097	17,888

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
EBITDA	17,828	45,172	32,129	30,412	28,696
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	4,228	661	(6,658)	(5)	(7)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	507	10,604			
Other Operating Cashflow	473	(9,066)	1,042	1,043	1,043
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(71)	(231)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Tax Paid	(975)	(7,555)	(7,233)	(6,366)	(5,963)
Cashflow From Operations	21,990	39,584	19,262	25,065	23,751
Capex	(11,726)	(9,265)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	324	2,364			
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(2,635)	(19,291)	1,885	217	402
Cash Flow From Investing	(14,037)	(26,192)	(8,115)	(9,783)	(9,598)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	303	(297)			
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	(1,701)				
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(4,606)	(11,020)	(11,563)	(11,563)	(11,563)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	2	(82)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Cash Flow From Financing	(6,002)	(11,398)	(11,582)	(11,582)	(11,582)
Total Cash Generated	1,951	1,993	(435)	3,700	2,571
Free Cashflow To Equity	8,256	13,095	11,147	15,282	14,153
Free Cashflow To Firm	8,024	13,622	11,166	15,301	14,172

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Cash And Equivalents	19,982	37,701	4,333	8,034	10,605
Total Debtors	1,474	753	2,121	2,122	2,123
Inventories	14,763	16,462	21,241	21,252	21,268
Total Other Current Assets	6,828	9,935	9,935	9,935	9,935
Total Current Assets	43,046	64,850	37,630	41,342	43,932
Fixed Assets	92,359	95,780	99,692	103,521	107,268
Total Investments	3,133	3,133	3,133	3,133	3,133
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets	8,551	9,015	9,015	9,015	9,015
Total Non-current Assets	104,043	107,928	111,839	115,669	119,415
Short-term Debt	461	207	207	207	207
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	9,772	14,571	14,060	14,068	14,078
Other Current Liabilities	11,003	16,214	16,214	16,214	16,214
Total Current Liabilities	21,236	30,991	30,480	30,488	30,499
Total Long-term Debt			· · ·		
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	4,153	4,949	4,949	4,949	4,949
Total Non-current Liabilities	4,153	4,949	4,949	4,949	4,949
Total Provisions	14,893	11,292	11,292	11,292	11,292
Total Liabilities	40,282	47,232	46,721	46,728	46,739
Shareholders Equity	106,807	125,546	102,748	110,283	116,608
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	106,807	125,546	102,748	110,283	116,608
Key Ratios	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue Growth	5.7%	58.3%	(9.1%)	0.1%	0.1%
Operating EBITDA Growth	264.4%	153.4%	(28.9%)	(5.3%)	(5.6%)
Operating EBITDA Margin	19.9%	31.9%	24.9%	23.6%	22.2%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	10.47	20.10	2.21	4.20	5.58
BVPS (Rs)	57.27	67.32	55.09	59.13	62.52
Gross Interest Cover	166.24	159.19	1,399.81	1,303.09	1,206.41
Effective Tax Rate	1.3%	25.4%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	35.9%	39.2%	53.3%	60.5%	64.6%
Accounts Receivables Days	5.86	2.87	4.07	6.01	6.00
Inventory Days	442.18	307.32	368.72	416.07	416.54
Accounts Payables Days	243.88	239.59	280.00	275.41	275.72
ROIC (%)	12.2%	26.6%	19.3%	16.3%	14.6%
ROCE (%)	10.4%	29.4%	21.2%	21.0%	18.3%
Return On Average Assets	8.9%	18.6%	13.5%	12.5%	11.2%

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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