

### India

#### ADD (no change)

Sell 1 Consensus ratings\*: Buy 18 Hold 3 Current price: Rs182 Rs225 Target price: Previous target: Rs215 23.6% Up/downside: InCred Research / Consensus: 7.8% EXID.NS Reuters: Bloomberg: **EXID IN** US\$1.906m Market cap: Rs154,573m US\$5.4m Average daily turnover: Rs441.1m Current shares o/s: 850.0m Free float: 54.0% \*Source: Bloomberg

#### Key changes in this note

- ➤ Net sales raised by 3% for FY23F-25F.
- EPS raised by 3-5% for FY23F-25F.



		Source: Bloomberg		
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M	
Absolute (%)	17.9	14.2	0.4	
Relative (%)	10.4	10.5	(2.1)	

46.0
4.9
2.5

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## **Exide Industries Ltd**

## Sales momentum recovery raises hopes

- 2QFY23 EPS rose 9% qoq to Rs2.9, sharply above our/Bloomberg consensus estimates, aided by strong sales growth momentum and margin expansion.
- FY23F-25F EPS raised by 3-5% driven by sales upgrade.
- Stock trades below -1SD on P/E and P/BV basis, extending comfort. We retain ADD rating. New order wins in the li-ion segment can be a trigger to watch out.

#### Sustained strong sales growth momentum is impressive

Exide Industries' or EIL's 2QFY23 EBITDA rose 7% qoq to Rs4.1bn, sharply above our estimate (14%) and Bloomberg consensus estimate (3%). Strong sales growth momentum (8% beat) and a qoq reduction in raw material cost led to EBITDA beat. The sharp qoq reduction of 260bp in raw material cost led to a 120bp qog EBITDA margin expansion to 11.1%. Higher other income (+11% goq) aided the big outperformance on the EPS front.

#### Management conference-call highlights

EIL's management attributed the strong net sales growth momentum to double-digit volume growth, while price hikes have been slow to come by, as per our channel check. The sharp fall in lead prices in recent quarters helped qoq gross margin improvement. Management gave guidance of Rs4bn capex for the lead acid battery business in FY23F, while land purchase for the li-ion battery project subsidiary led the consolidated entity's capex of Rs6.1bn for 1HFY23. EIL plans to start production from its Bengaluru li-ion battery plant in the Dec 2024F quarter with a 6GW capacity and Rs40bn capex. EIL bought Laclanche's stake in Nextcharge li-ion battery assembly operations to make it a whollyowned subsidiary earlier this month.

#### EPS raised by 3-5% for FY23F-25F

Strong sales volume growth momentum shown by battery makers is impressive, leading to our 3% FY23F-25F sales upgrade for EIL. We expect the EBITDA margin to gradually rise to 12.3% by FY25F, aided by lower lead prices and improved product mix. With improved treasury income benefit, we raise EPS estimates by 3-5% for FY23F-25F.

#### Low valuation and expectations provide comfort; retain ADD rating

Despite the stock price improvement since Jun 2022 lows, we feel the valuation is attractive at below -1SD on both P/E and P/BV basis. We feel the increased thrust given by management to reorganize investments and expand into the li-ion battery segment will start benefitting from FY25F, as it takes leadership to establish giga size li-ion battery cell production capacity. With growth expectations being low for the lead acid battery business, we see value at the current juncture. We maintain ADD rating on EIL, with the lead acid business valued at 12x one-year forward EPS and HDFC Life investment valued at 20% holding company discount to CMP, leading to our slightly higher SOTP-based target price of Rs225 (Rs215 earlier). Key downside risk is a sharp slowdown in the lead acid battery sales growth momentum.

Financial Summary	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue (Rsm)	100,408	123,817	149,617	165,834	181,184
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	13,556	13,956	16,264	19,423	22,254
Net Profit (Rsm)	7,583	7,158	9,605	11,718	13,524
Core EPS (Rs)	8.9	8.4	11.3	13.8	15.9
Core EPS Growth	(10.5%)	(5.6%)	34.2%	22.0%	15.4%
FD Core P/E (x)	20.38	21.59	16.09	13.19	11.43
DPS (Rs)	3.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0
Dividend Yield	1.65%	2.75%	3.30%	3.85%	4.40%
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.08	6.63	5.65	4.48	3.64
P/FCFE (x)	138.38	39.03	37.29	26.12	20.15
Net Gearing	(1.3%)	(1.5%)	(0.7%)	(0.6%)	(1.3%)
P/BV (x)	2.24	1.46	1.40	1.33	1.26
ROE	11.5%	8.2%	8.9%	10.3%	11.3%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			3.20%	4.61%	3.81%
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



# Sales momentum recovery raises hopes 2QFY23 earnings-call highlights

Business scenario update: Management indicated that demand was upbeat across most sectors. It highlighted that the automotive replacement market continues to grow, while the demand from original equipment makers or OEMs recovered as semiconductor chip supplies improved. In the industrial division, it mentioned that overall pick-up in business activity and increase in capex by public and private sectors led to good order inflow for the company. Management expects overall demand to remain healthy going ahead unless geopolitical tensions or any new supply problems impact the business. It mentioned that the company has gained market share from the organized as well as the unorganized players. It mentioned that the QoQ decline in revenue in 2QFY23 was because the home UPS battery business does more seasonal business in the Jun quarter than in the Sep quarter. Management stated that the company won't compromise on the capex for the core lead acid battery business and the same should be in the range of Rs4-5bn p.a. For now, it mentioned that the company has adequate capacity to take care of demand, although it stated that capacity utilization was at 85-90% and there could be possibility of brownfield and debottlenecking projects. The capex will also be utilized towards fine tuning existing products and introducing new products. Capex incurred in 1HFY23 stood at Rs1,560m.

Margins could improve: Margin improvement on a QoQ basis was due to softening of raw material (RM) prices. The company has also carried out cost optimization programs which have been effective, according to management. Management mentioned that fixed cost, as a proportion of sales, in 2QFY23 stood at 19.4% (-80bp yoy) and in 1HFY23 it stood at 18.7% (-180bp yoy). It indicated that digitalization initiatives are also bringing in efficiency in operations as supply chain cost has reduced. Management expects QoQ margin recovery to continue on the back of softened RM cost, although RM cost has increased of late. It indicated that once the prices stabilize, EIL would take three-to-six months for operations to normalize, including taking price hikes, after which the previous normalized margin of ~14% would not be beyond reach.

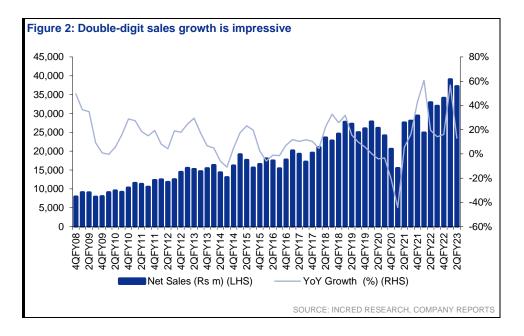
EV battery cell manufacturing update: Management highlighted that the project in Bengaluru for lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing has begun construction, with approvals being worked out and senior management team already hired. It is being conceptualized in two phases. Phase-1 would be for a capacity of 6GWh which should be ready by Sep 2024F, according to management. Phase-2 would add an additional capacity of 6GWh. Capex for Phase-1 would be Rs4bn and for Phase-2 it would be Rs2bn, for which management mentioned that it would be largely funded through internal accruals. It indicated that EIL is likely to be one of the first players to set up a multi-GWh lithium-ion battery cell facility in India and believes that this first-mover advantage is valuable considering the 1-1.5 years' timeframe to homologate the product with customers to get it validated. The company has started reaching out to potential customers and believes that its current business relations with OEMs could help it secure business in the future. It is targeting all segments of the automotive industry as well as stationary applications. Management mentioned that it missed out on the PLI (productionlinked incentive) scheme as it did not bid aggressively enough and treaded cautiously based on the deeper knowledge it has compared to competitors about the building of lithium-ion battery cell plants. The company will start with NCM (nickel-manganese-cobalt) and lithium-ion phosphate batteries, which could be cylindrical or prismatic, and even the blade battery version over a period. It mentioned that margins for the cell-making business would not be very different from the lead acid battery business. The company would also be doing some module and battery packing operations at the Bengaluru plant site. Management stated that the agreement with SVOLT is a standard technology license agreement, with an upfront payment component followed by royalty payment. It



also mentioned that the company has been getting RFQ (Request For Quotation) in respect of the auxiliary battery business for electric vehicles or EVs.

**Update on Nexcharge JV:** With regards to the buyout of Leclanche's stake in the Nexcharge joint venture, management mentioned that the company has absorbed all the technology and the experience it got through this JV gives it a better understanding of the lithium-ion battery cell business as compared to competitors in India. Nexcharge's production will take some time to stabilize, and it has launched products for buses, telecom and two-wheelers or 2Ws. Management indicated that the JV can be better leveraged only when the company starts making its own battery cells.

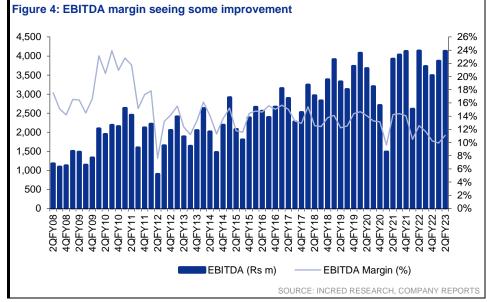
FYE Mar (Rs m)	2QFY23	2QFY22	yoy % chg	1QFY23	qoq % chg	1HFY23	1HFY22	yoy % chg	Comments for the quarter
Revenue	37,189	32,900	13.0	38,994	(4.6)	76,183	57,764	31.9	8% above our estimate.
Raw Materials	25,846	22,115	16.9	28,111	(8.1)	53,957	39,156	37.8	
RM as % of revenue	69.5	67.2	228.1	72.1	(259.2)	70.8	67.8	303.9	50bp above our estimate.
EBITDA	4,125	4,134	(0.2)	3,866	6.7	7,991	6,740	18.6	14% above our estimate on the back of lower operating costs.
EBITDA margin (%)	11.1	12.6	(147.3)	9.9	117.5	10.5	11.7	(117.8)	59bp above our estimate.
Depn & amort.	1,120	1,012	10.7	1,091	2.7	2,211	2,020	9.4	
EBIT	3,005	3,122	(3.8)	2,776	8.3	5,780	4,719	22.5	
Interest expense	62	86	(27.7)	64	(2.7)	126	195	(35.5)	
Other Income	356	109	225.7	322	10.5	678	261	159.9	78% above our estimate
Pretax profit	3,298	3,145	4.9	3,034	8.7	6,332	4,785	32.3	
Tax	836	802	4.3	771	8.5	1,607	1,187	35.3	
Tax rate (%)	25.3	25.5	(15)	25.4	(5.1)	25	25	56	
Normalised Net profit	2,462	2,344	5.1	2,263	8.8	4,726	3,598	31.4	22% above our estimate aided by higher other income.
Reported net profit	2,462	2,344	5.1	2,263	8.8	4,726	3,598	31.4	
Normalised EPS (Rs)	2.9	2.8	5.1	2.7	8.8	5.6	4.2	31.4	
Reported EPS (Rs)	2.9	2.8	5.1	2.7	8.8	5.6	4.2	31.4	



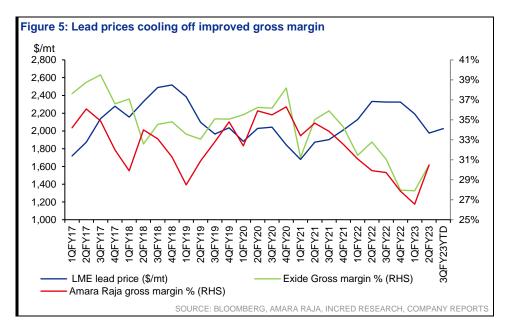




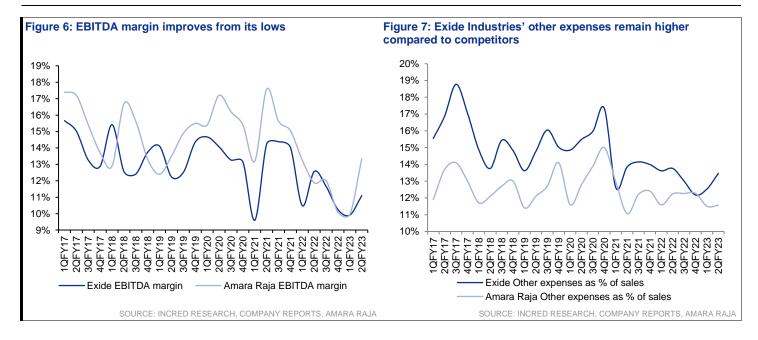
EBITDA margin has seen some improvement in 2QFY23, and management expects it to improve further as demand remains healthy and the benefits of softening raw material prices should provide a positive impact.



Softening lead prices improved gross margin of both the major lead acid battery makers, with a lag, in 2QFY23. However, lead prices have seen a slight uptick in 3QFY23YTD.







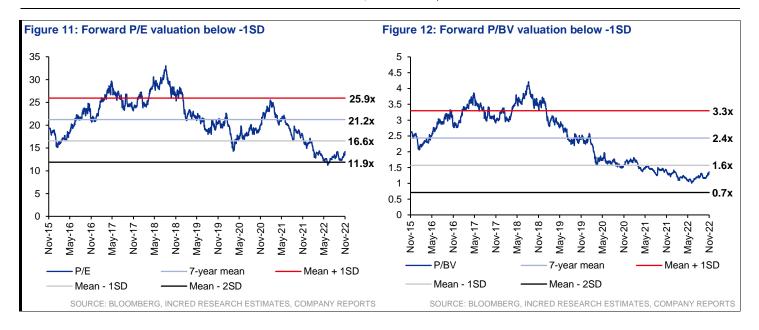
		FY23F		FY24F		FY25F
Rs m	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Net Sales	1,45,253	1,49,617	1,61,010	1,65,834	1,75,931	1,81,184
Change (%)		3.0%		3.0%		3.0%
EBITDA	16,122	16,264	18,916	19,423	21,674	22,254
Change (%)		0.9%		2.7%		2.7%
EBITDA Margins	11.1%	10.9%	11.7%	11.7%	12.3%	12.3%
Change (bp)		-23		-4		-4
PAT	9,307	9,605	11,202	11,718	13,027	13,524
Change (%)		3.2%		4.6%		3.8%
EPS (Rs)	10.95	11.30	13.18	13.79	15.33	15.91
Change (%)		3.2%		4.6%		3.8%

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F
Gross Revenues						
4W OEM	8,394	8,801	11,224	14,159	16,527	18,452
% Growth	-23%	5%	28%	26%	17%	12%
4W Replacement	35,015	41,199	52,602	61,913	68,835	76,531
% Growth	2%	18%	28%	18%	11%	11%
2W OEM	7,599	7,725	8,167	9,862	11,411	12,741
% Growth	-22%	2%	6%	21%	16%	12%
2W Replacement	13,828	16,123	19,864	23,167	24,803	26,554
% Growth	5%	17%	23%	17%	7%	7%
Total Auto	64,835	73,848	91,858	1,09,100	1,21,575	1,34,277
% Growth	-5%	14%	24%	19%	11%	10%
Industrial	33,677	26,436	31,826	40,356	44,088	46,737
% Growth	-10%	-22%	20%	27%	9%	6%

	Methodology	Amount in Rs m	Per share	Value pe share (Rs
Core battery business	12x 1 year forward P/E		15.12	181
Holding in HDFC Life	Value post 20% holding discount	36,758	43.2	43.2

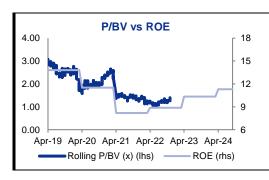








#### **BY THE NUMBERS**





(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Net Revenue	100,408	123,817	149,617	165,834	181,184
Gross Profit	34,613	38,065	45,732	53,696	59,953
Operating EBITDA	13,556	13,956	16,264	19,423	22,254
Depreciation And Amortisation	(3,794)	(4,126)	(4,796)	(5,254)	(5,734)
Operating EBIT	9,762	9,830	11,469	14,169	16,519
Financial Income/(Expense)	(238)	(384)	(200)	(300)	(400)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	654	803	1,205	1,350	1,444
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	10,179	10,249	12,474	15,219	17,564
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	10,179	10,249	12,474	15,219	17,564
Taxation	(2,596)	(3,091)	(2,869)	(3,500)	(4,040)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	7,583	7,158	9,605	11,718	13,524
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,605	11,718	13,524
Recurring Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,605	11,718	13,524
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,605	11,718	13,524

Cash Flow					
(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
EBITDA	13,556	13,956	16,264	19,423	22,254
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	3,862	(4,480)	(5,080)	(1,846)	(1,531)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions	1,956	1,189	450	388	517
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	14	(979)			
Other Operating Cashflow		39,678			
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	417	419	1,005	1,050	1,044
Tax Paid	(2,858)	(3,466)	(2,744)	(3,348)	(3,864)
Cashflow From Operations	16,947	46,316	9,895	15,667	18,421
Capex	(5,812)	(6,543)	(4,000)	(4,500)	(5,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	(10,017)	(35,813)	(1,750)	(5,250)	(5,250)
Other Investing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Investing	(15,830)	(42,355)	(5,750)	(9,750)	(10,750)
Debt Raised/(repaid)					
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(2,550)	(4,250)	(5,100)	(5,950)	(6,800)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Financing	(2,550)	(4,250)	(5,100)	(5,950)	(6,800)
Total Cash Generated	(1,433)	(289)	(955)	(33)	871
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,117	3,961	4,145	5,917	7,671
Free Cashflow To Firm	1,355	4,345	4,345	6,217	8,071

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



## BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Cash And Equivalents	914	1,612	769	686	1,606
Total Debtors	10,153	13,115	15,647	16,948	17,485
Inventories	23,462	24,585	29,513	30,895	32,762
Total Other Current Assets	2,449	1,962	2,100	2,400	2,600
Total Current Assets	36,978	41,273	48,029	50,928	54,453
Fixed Assets	28,724	31,140	30,344	29,590	29,356
Total Investments	30,586	60,434	61,934	66,934	71,934
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets					
Total Non-current Assets	59,310	91,574	92,279	96,524	101,290
Short-term Debt					
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	16,483	16,175	18,446	19,082	19,856
Other Current Liabilities	6,856	8,009	8,410	8,830	9,272
Total Current Liabilities	23,338	24,185	26,856	27,913	29,128
Total Long-term Debt					
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities					
Total Non-current Liabilities					
Total Provisions	4,015	2,607	2,891	3,211	3,563
Total Liabilities	27,353	26,792	29,747	31,124	32,690
Shareholders' Equity	68,935	106,056	110,561	116,329	123,053
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	68,935	106,056	110,561	116,329	123,053

Key Ratios					
	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue Growth	1.9%	23.3%	20.8%	10.8%	9.3%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(0.7%)	3.0%	16.5%	19.4%	14.6%
Operating EBITDA Margin	13.5%	11.3%	10.9%	11.7%	12.3%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	1.07	1.90	0.90	0.81	1.89
BVPS (Rs)	81.10	124.77	130.07	136.86	144.77
Gross Interest Cover	41.07	25.58	57.34	47.23	41.30
Effective Tax Rate	25.5%	30.2%	23.0%	23.0%	23.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	33.6%	59.4%	53.1%	50.8%	50.3%
Accounts Receivables Days	30.95	30.66	32.05	32.79	31.56
Inventory Days	125.89	102.25	95.04	98.31	95.83
Accounts Payables Days	74.46	69.50	60.82	61.08	58.62
ROIC (%)	21.5%	23.7%	24.6%	27.9%	31.8%
ROCE (%)	13.9%	10.8%	10.3%	12.2%	13.4%
Return On Average Assets	8.8%	6.6%	7.2%	8.4%	9.2%

Key Drivers					
	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Unit sales grth (%, main prod./serv.)	4.9%	8.1%	11.8%	9.8%	8.4%
Unit sales grth (%,2ndary prod/serv)	(21.5%)	20.4%	26.8%	9.2%	6.0%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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	Analyst/ Relative	Entity/ Associates
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actual/beneficial ownership of 1% or more in securities of the subject company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of the research report or date of the public appearance;	NO	NO
any other material conflict of interest at the time of publication of the research report or at the time of public appearance	NO	NO
received any compensation from the subject company in the past twelve months for investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services or investment advisory or depository or distribution from the subject company in the last twelve months for products/services other than investment banking or merchant banking or broker- age services or investment advisory or depository or distribution from the subject company in the last twelve months	NO	NO
managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company in the last twelve months	NO	NO
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