



India

REDUCE (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy	0 Hold 0 Sell 1
Current price:	Rs228
Target price:	Rs110
Previous target:	Rs110
Up/downside:	-51.8%
InCred Research / Consen	sus: 0.0%
Reuters:	
Bloomberg:	LXCHEM IN
Market cap:	US\$826m
	Rs59,983m
Average daily turnover:	US\$0.0m
	Rs0.0m
Current shares o/s:	263.7m
Free float:	24.2%
*Source: Bloomberg	



Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	9.5	0.0	0.0
Relative (%)	2.8	0.0	0.0
Major shareholders		9	6 held
Major shareholders Promoter & Promoter 6	Group	9	6 held 75.8
	Group	9	

Laxmi Organic Industries Ltd

Paying for an unproven capability, Reduce

- FY21 PAT was better than our estimate, primarily due to smart raw material inventory build-up by Laxmi Organic Industries.
- Fluorochemicals is an unproven ability, and given the current stage of project (as per 4QFY21 conference call) significant ramp up in FY23F is unlikely.
- We maintain our Reduce rating with 12 months target price of Rs110.

Base margins to decline, fluorochemicals ramp up appears slow

FY21 was a very good year for Laxmi Organics: 1) ethyl acetate spreads expanded, 2) it decided to stock inventory to avoid the negative impact of price rises of ethanol and acetic acid, and 3) despite the decline in domestic ethyl acetate spreads, export spreads remained healthy. At the same time acetaldehyde and acetic anhydride spreads are declining qoq (1QFY22F vs 4QFY21). Going forward we expect margins to decline and profitability to fall. Given the current stage of the fluorochemicals project (Source: 4QFY21 earnings conference call) we do not expect any significant contribution from this project in FY23F. Near-term margin pressures are apparent and the stock price is building in unrealistic expectations from the fluorochemicals business. We retain Reduce with a 12month target price of Rs110.

Market has unrealistic expectations of fluorochemicals business

Historically, as SRF and Navin Fluorine experienced, it takes four to five years to have a significant presence in fluorospecialty chemicals. While the advantages and scope of fluorine chemistry are well known to investors, being a significant player in an already overcrowded market is a challenge. Miteni has provided process know-how as Manchester Organics did for Navin Fluorine in 2011. However, it took Navin close to five years to make any significant presence. While Laxmi may find it easy to make HCFC-22, it may take at least a couple of years after project commissioning to have a successful and commerciallyviable fluorospecialty product suite.

Laxmi is the costliest commodity chemical company, Retain Reduce

We expect Laxmi Organics EPS to remain at Rs4.8 in FY22F as well. While commodity a chemical manufacturing peer like Deepak Nitrite is trading at 28x FY22F EPS, Laxmi Organic is trading at 47.6x FY22F EPS. Investors are building in unrealistic expectations from the fluorochemicals business. We retain Reduce with a one-year TP of Rs110. We value the stock at 20x FY23F EPS. We do not assign any option value to the fluorochemicals business as it remains unproven and will take at least couple of years to add any significant revenue.



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Financial Summary	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Revenue (Rsm)	15,341	17,684	19,453	21,787	24,511
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	1,135	2,167	2,157	2,318	2,822
Net Profit (Rsm)	702	1,271	1,260	1,376	1,705
Core EPS (Rs)	2.0	4.8	4.8	5.2	6.5
Core EPS Growth	(58.2%)	139.0%	(0.8%)	9.2%	23.9%
FD Core P/E (x)	77.00	43.76	47.62	43.59	35.19
DPS (Rs)	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EV/EBITDA (x)	53.53	25.60	25.85	23.93	19.48
P/FCFE (x)	43.91	(12.28)	(80.08)	213.69	120.15
Net Gearing	18.5%	(43.6%)	(36.7%)	(34.9%)	(34.3%)
P/BV (x)	11.99	5.80	5.18	4.63	4.09
ROE	10.9%	17.4%	11.5%	11.2%	12.4%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates				(0.00%)	(0.00%)

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS. PRICED AS AT 28 MAY 2021





Paying for an unproven capability, Reduce

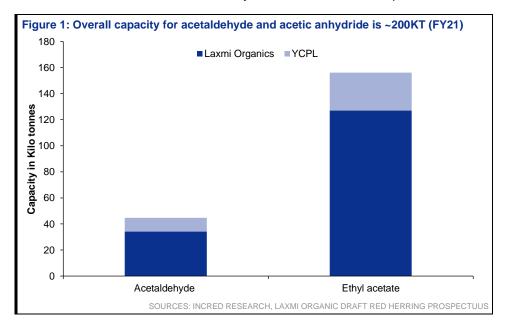
Like all commodity companies, Laxmi Organic's valuations are high due to pricedriven high margins. Laxmi has said it will enter fluorochemicals manufacturing, but this is still an unproven capability. While there is always a first, Navin Fluorine and SRF took more than five years to make significant progress, leading us to believe that Street optimism is misplaced.

FY21 was an abnormal year in terms of commodity margins for Laxmi

FY21 was a very good year for Laxmi Organic as 1) ethyl acetate spreads expanded, 2) its timely inventory-stocking decisions sidestepped the negative impact of the ethanol and acetic acid price rises, 3) despite domestic ethyl acetate spreads declining export spreads remained healthy. Going forward we expect margins to decline and profitability to fall. Fluorochemicals remain an option value, but its value is still in the realm of speculation.

Laxmi Organic's main products are ethyl acetate, acetaldehyde and acetic anhydride ➤

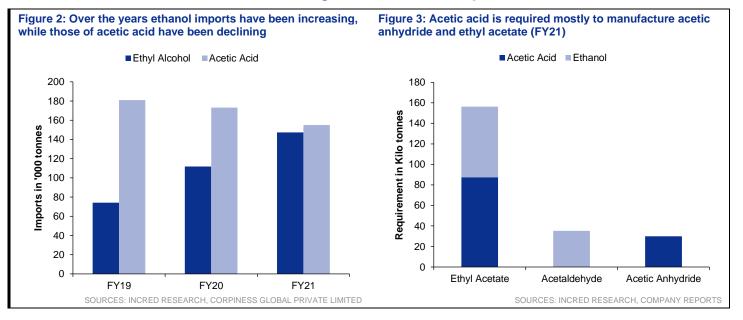
The combined capacity of YCPL (Yellowstone Chemicals Private Limited) and Laxmi Organic for acetaldehyde and acetic anhydride is ~200KT (kilo tonnes). Within ketene and diketene, acetic anhydride is one of the main products.



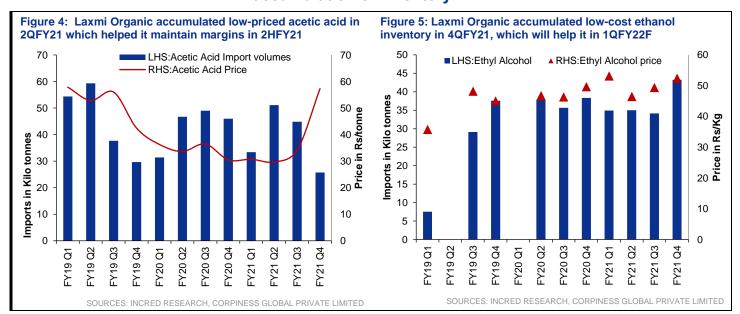




Laxmi Organic works with imported ethanol and acetic acid ▶



Key to maintaining margins in FY21 has been smart accumulation of inventory ▶



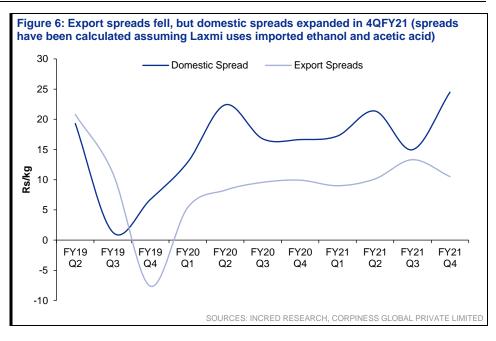
Domestic spreads of ethyl acetate recovered in 4QFY21, but export spreads narrowed ➤

We have calculated domestic and export spreads for Laxmi Organic with the following assumption:

- 1. Laxmi Organic uses imported acetic acid and ethanol to make ethyl acetate for domestic and export markets;
- 2. We have considered FOB realisations for exports, and ex Mumbai price (exclusive of GST) for domestic prices.

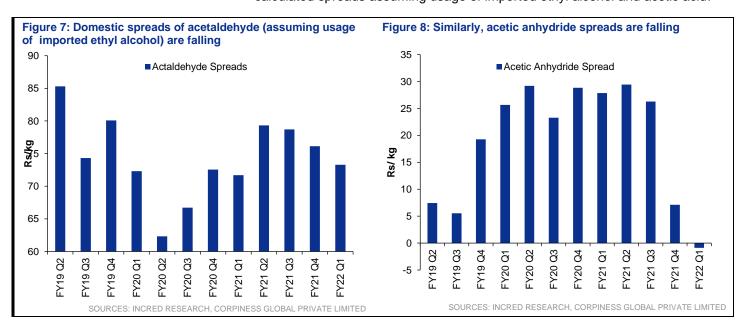






Acetic anhydride and acetaldehyde spreads are falling >

Most of these products are sold mostly in the domestic market. We have calculated spreads assuming usage of imported ethyl alcohol and acetic acid.



Acetic anhydride has mainly industrial applications, falling spreads do not bode well for industrial activity ▶

- Acetic anhydride is mainly used for acetylation leading to commercially significant materials.
- Its largest application is for the conversion of cellulose-to-cellulose acetate, which is a component of photographic film and other coated materials, and is used to manufacture cigarette filters.
- Similarly, it is used to produce aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid), which is prepared by the acetylation of salicylic acid.
- Acetic anhydride is also used as a wood preservative, via autoclave impregnation, to make longer-lasting timber.
- In the starch industry, acetic anhydride is a common acetylation compound, used to produce modified starches.





Acetaldehyde is a declining market globally and the Indian market is no different ▶

- Traditionally, acetaldehyde was mainly used as a precursor to acetic acid. This
 application has declined because acetic acid is produced more efficiently from
 methanol by the Monsanto and Cativa processes.
- Acetaldehyde is an important precursor to pyridine derivatives, pentaerythritol, and crotonaldehyde.
- Urea and acetaldehyde combine to give a useful resin. Acetic anhydride reacts
 with acetaldehyde to give ethylidene diacetate, a precursor to vinyl acetate,
 which is used to produce polyvinyl acetate.
- The global market for acetaldehyde is declining. Demand has been impacted by changes in the production of plasticizer alcohols, which has shifted because n-butyraldehyde is less often produced from acetaldehyde, instead generated by the hydroformylation of propylene.
- Likewise, acetic acid, once produced from acetaldehyde, is made predominantly by the lower-cost methanol carbonylation process. The impact on demand has led to an increase in prices and, thus, slowdown in the market.

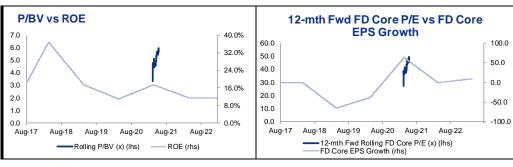
Fluorochemicals will take time to get going. Some takeaways from the recent Laxmi Organic conference call ➤

- Kilo Lab operations, which represents Laxmi's R&D efforts in India, for fluorochemicals have started. Customers have already approved some of the products with the help of samples.
- Dismantling activities of Miteni have restarted, and initial container loads will start in Jun 2021.
- Civil and infrastructure work for fluorochemicals in India is more than 50% complete at Lote.
- A team of more than 40 people are working on projects in India and Italy.
- Laxmi Organic plans to restart R&D work on fluorochemicals in Italy by 2Q FY22.





BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss					
(Rs mn)	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Total Net Revenues	15,341	17,684	19,453	21,787	24,511
Gross Profit	4,376	5,942	6,167	6,580	7,353
Operating EBITDA	1,135	2,167	2,157	2,318	2,822
Depreciation And Amortisation	(489)	(465)	(590)	(604)	(684)
Operating EBIT	647	1,702	1,567	1,714	2,138
Financial Income/(Expense)	(140)	(164)	(20)	(20)	(20)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	45	46	137	146	161
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	551	1,584	1,684	1,840	2,279
Exceptional Items	257				
Pre-tax Profit	808	1,584	1,684	1,840	2,279
Taxation	(106)	(313)	(424)	(464)	(574)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	702	1,271	1,260	1,376	1,705
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	702	1,271	1,260	1,376	1,705
Recurring Net Profit	479	1,271	1,260	1,376	1,705
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	479	1,271	1,260	1,376	1,705

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
EBITDA	1,135	2,167	2,157	2,318	2,822
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	1,006	(707)	(530)	(700)	(890)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	(55)	(1)	(137)	(146)	(161)
Other Operating Cashflow	169	191	137	146	161
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(140)	(164)	(20)	(20)	(20)
Tax Paid	(155)	(261)	(424)	(464)	(574)
Cashflow From Operations	1,960	1,225	1,183	1,135	1,338
Capex	(771)	(1,151)	(1,500)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	2				
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	211	(5,283)	137	146	161
Cash Flow From Investing	(558)	(6,434)	(1,363)	(854)	(839)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(171)	681	(569)		
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	(821)	5,000			
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(21)	(24)			
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(224)	(384)			
Cash Flow From Financing	(1,238)	5,273	(569)		
Total Cash Generated	165	64	(749)	281	499
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,231	(4,528)	(749)	281	499
Free Cashflow To Firm	1,543	(5,045)	(160)	301	519

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS





BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Total Cash And Equivalents	447	5,414	4,580	4,861	5,360
Total Debtors	3,594	4,344	4,921	5,677	6,579
Inventories	1,519	2,033	2,460	3,031	3,750
Total Other Current Assets	910	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,260
Total Current Assets	6,469	13,050	13,221	14,828	16,948
Fixed Assets	3,938	4,642	5,552	5,948	6,264
Total Investments		13			
Intangible Assets	114	88	114	114	114
Total Other Non-Current Assets	186	581	594	594	594
Total Non-current Assets	4,237	5,323	6,259	6,655	6,971
Short-term Debt	336	807	336	336	336
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	4,116	4,750	5,225	5,851	6,583
Other Current Liabilities	834	2,118	2,118	2,118	2,118
Total Current Liabilities	5,287	7,675	7,679	8,306	9,038
Total Long-term Debt	902	99			
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	84	58	58	58	58
Total Non-current Liabilities	985	156	58	58	58
Total Provisions	161	192	168	168	168
Total Liabilities	6,433	8,023	7,905	8,532	9,264
Shareholders Equity	4,269	10,346	11,571	12,947	14,652
Minority Interests	4	5	4	4	4
Total Equity	4,273	10,350	11,575	12,951	14,656

Key Ratios					
	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F	Mar-24F
Revenue Growth	(2.2%)	15.3%	10.0%	12.0%	12.5%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(25.9%)	90.9%	(0.5%)	7.5%	21.7%
Operating EBITDA Margin	7.4%	12.3%	11.1%	10.6%	11.5%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(3.51)	17.10	16.09	17.16	19.05
BVPS (Rs)	18.97	39.23	43.88	49.10	55.56
Gross Interest Cover	4.61	10.38	78.35	85.70	106.91
Effective Tax Rate	13.1%	19.8%	25.2%	25.2%	25.2%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio		10.4%			
Accounts Receivables Days	81.55	81.91	86.92	88.78	91.26
Inventory Days	53.70	55.20	61.71	65.89	72.13
Accounts Payables Days	121.02	137.79	137.00	132.92	132.26
ROIC (%)	9.8%	25.7%	19.3%	17.0%	18.5%
ROCE (%)	11.0%	20.0%	13.4%	13.5%	15.0%
Return On Average Assets	5.4%	9.6%	6.7%	6.8%	7.6%

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Score Range:	90 - 100	80 – 89	70 - 79	Below 70 or	No Survey Result
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Chemicals - Overall | India Laxmi Organic Industries Ltd | May 31, 2021



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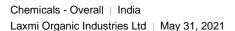
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Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
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