

## India

## HOLD (no change)

Buy 5 Hold 7 Sell 12 Consensus ratings\*: Current price: Rs699 Rs700 Target price: Previous target: Rs640 Up/downside: 0.1% InCred Research / Consensus: 13.6%

Reuters:

**BRGR IN** Bloombera: US\$9.346m Market cap: Rs678,636m US\$6.3m Average daily turnover: Rs459.3m

971.3m

25.0%

Current shares o/s: Free float: \*Source: Bloomberg

## Key changes in this note

Raise target price to Rs700 from Rs640.



|                   |     | Source: Bloomberg |       |  |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|--|
| Price performance | 1M  | ЗМ                | 12M   |  |
| Absolute (%)      | 3.8 | 11.5              | 3.5   |  |
| Relative (%)      | 2.8 | 4.7               | (7.7) |  |

| Major shareholders          | % held |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Promoter and Promoter Group | 75.0   |
| LIC                         | 1.7    |
| Vanguard Group              | 0.9    |

# **Berger Paints India Limited**

# Steady 1Q; optimistic near-term outlook

- Berger Paints posted 1QFY24 standalone sales value/volume growth of 10%/12.7%, higher than Asian Paints' 7%/10% yoy growth, respectively.
- Margins are expected to remain sanguine. Management raised its guidance to 17-18% for FY24F led by moderate input prices and extended festive season.
- The stock trades at 51x/48x FY25F/26F EPS, respectively, leaving no room for upside. We retain HOLD rating on it with a higher target price of Rs700.

## Healthy volume helps market share gains

Berger Paints' (BRGR) 1QFY24 standalone sales growth stood at 10.1% yoy with volume growth at 12.7%. Both rural and urban markets posted an improvement in 1Q, with BRGR clocking its highest-ever market share at 20.2% (vs.18.6%/19% in FY21/FY22, respectively). The waterproofing segment continued to post strong growth and is likely to see more launches next year as the range is currently c.70-75% complete. Protective coatings & general industrial business clocked a steady growth led by better realization while the automotive business posted a modest growth due to subdued growth of the twowheeler industry. Powder coatings business fell on a high base and slowdown in the fan industry, which is expected to recover from 2QFY24F. Moderate growth is likely for the industry in 2QFY24F (impacted by monsoons) and management is hopeful of stronger growth in 3QFY24F, which will aid in a double-digit growth in FY24F.

## Mixed performance from subsidiaries

BRGR's overseas subsidiaries' sales were driven by Bolix S.A and Russian business while Nepal dragged sales growth due to the macroeconomic slowdown. Berger Becker (JV) posted a decline in sales and profitability due to capacity constraints from a fire at its Goa facility in 4QFY23 (insurance claim expected in there-to-four months). SBL Specialty Coatings and STP (construction chemicals) had a subdued quarter on a high base while profitability saw an improvement aided by moderating input cost. Management expects double-digit sales growth in 2QFY24F.

## EBITDA margin guidance of 17-18% for FY24F

BRGR's consolidated gross margin expanded by 410bp yoy to 39.8%. Consolidated EBITDA grew by 37.5% yoy to Rs5.5bn while the EBITDA margin expanded by 370bp yoy to 18.4%. Given the stable raw material prices and an extended festive season, management expects the consolidated EBITDA margin to be in the range of 17-18% (vs. 16%-17% earlier) in FY24F, notwithstanding the increased spending on advertisements.

#### Maintain HOLD rating with a higher target price of Rs700

BRGR trades at 51x/48x FY25F/26F EPS, respectively, leaving no room for upside. We retain HOLD rating on it with a higher target price of Rs700 (Rs640 earlier), based on 50x Jun FY25F EPS. Key upside/downside risks: Higher-than-estimated/lower-than-estimated sales/EBITDA growth, respectively.

| Financial Summary                 | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue (Rsm)                     | 87,618  | 105,678 | 117,375 | 126,929 | 137,681 |
| Operating EBITDA (Rsm)            | 13,311  | 14,872  | 20,302  | 21,254  | 22,617  |
| Net Profit (Rsm)                  | 8,322   | 8,594   | 12,641  | 13,238  | 14,162  |
| Core EPS (Rs)                     | 8.6     | 8.8     | 13.0    | 13.6    | 14.6    |
| Core EPS Growth                   | 15.6%   | 3.3%    | 47.1%   | 4.7%    | 7.0%    |
| FD Core P/E (x)                   | 81.53   | 78.96   | 53.68   | 51.26   | 47.92   |
| DPS (Rs)                          | 3.1     | 3.5     | 5.0     | 5.2     | 5.5     |
| Dividend Yield                    | 0.52%   | 0.57%   | 0.83%   | 0.86%   | 0.92%   |
| EV/EBITDA (x)                     | 51.44   | 46.23   | 33.40   | 31.66   | 29.33   |
| P/FCFE (x)                        | 488.72  | 282.95  | 79.50   | 61.14   | 43.11   |
| Net Gearing                       | 15.6%   | 19.8%   | (1.3%)  | (9.8%)  | (22.7%) |
| P/BV (x)                          | 17.28   | 15.10   | 13.06   | 11.43   | 10.08   |
| ROE                               | 22.8%   | 20.4%   | 26.1%   | 23.8%   | 22.4%   |
| % Change In Core EPS Estimates    |         |         | 5.49%   | 3.79%   |         |
| InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x) |         |         |         |         |         |

#### SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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# Steady 1Q; optimistic near-term outlook

## Key takeaways from the earnings call

## **Decorative business**

- Decorative business grew at 11.4% yoy led by a 12.7% volume growth (39.9% in 1QFY23). Both urban and rural markets improved in 1QFY24. Management expects stronger growth in 3QFY24F (2QFY24F expected to be slightly lower), leading to a double-digit growth in FY24F.
- The waterproofing segment continued to register strong growth. More products are in the pipeline (70-75% of the range has been introduced), which will be launched next year.
- Industry sales in Jul 2023 were hit by the monsoon season. 2QFY24F is expected to see moderate growth for the industry.
- Market share gains were highest for the industry. The market share (based on standalone results of listed players + domestic subsidiaries) stood at 20.2% in 1QFY24 vs. 19%/19.3% in FY22/FY23, respectively. The market share is higher in North and East India markets, which grew in line with the national average in 1Q, while other markets grew slightly faster, aided by distribution expansion. The focus is on expanding in the western and southern markets.
- Added 1,500+ retail touchpoints and installed 1,300+ tinting machines during the guarter.

## **Industrial business**

- Protective coatings and general industrial business continued to clock a steady growth aided by pricing actions, leading to a marginally better realization.
- The automotive business posted a modest growth due to subdued growth of the two-wheeler industry.
- The powder coatings business posted a decline due to a high base and slowdown in the fan industry, which is expected to recover in 2QFY24F.

## **Subsidiaries**

- Bolix SA posted strong growth in both revenue and profitability led by the UK business.
- BJN Nepal declined on both topline and profitability fronts due to the slowdown in construction industry and inflation.
- STP posted a marginal topline growth on a high base, but profitability improved led by improvement in gross margin. Management expects double-digit growth in 2QFY24F.
- SBL Specialty Coatings posted a marginal decline in sales on a high base and the impact of the fan segment. Profitability remained robust led by softening raw material prices. Management expects double-digit growth in 2QFY24F.
- Berger Nippon (JV) posted robust growth on both sales and profitability fronts led by the passenger car and sports utility vehicle or SUV segments.
- Berger Becker (JV) posted a decline in sales as well as profitability due to capacity constraints following a fire at one of its manufacturing facilities in Goa in 4QFY23.

## **Innovations**

- Decorative: Berger Weathercoat Anti Dust Kool, Berger Silk Glamor Dazzle.
- Roof coatings: PU Elastoseal, Spray applied Polyurea, Brushable Polyurea products.



 Tile adhesives: Epoxy tile grout 3P and 2P in various colours. The route to the market for tile adhesives is via a mix of paint dealers and separate distributors for tiles.

## Input costs and margins

- **Update on one-offs:** 1) Applied for insurance claim for the fire at Goa plant. This process will be completed in three-to-four months. 2) Payment from the Andhra Pradesh government has been provided for and it is expected to come through in one or two months. Rs200m is pending from the government.
- Rebating intensity: In certain categories (enamels; sees higher intensity in 1Q) the discounting has increased, while in others it hasn't increased much (luxury emulsions; sees higher intensity in 2Q).
- The EBITDA margin is expected to remain range-bound (Guidance: 17-18% range vs. 16-18% earlier). The focus is on improving cost efficiency across formulation efficiency and procurement efficiency, which should aid in protecting margins.

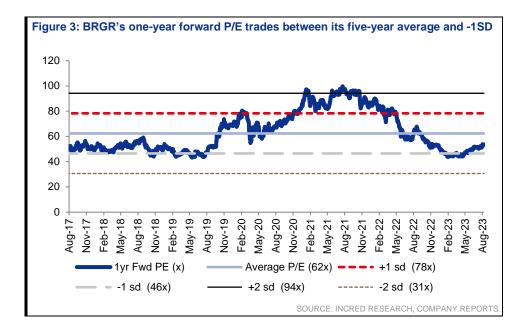
## **Outlook**

- Net debt declined to Rs2430m in 1Q (from Rs6,100m in FY23). No major capacity expansion is planned in FY24F. Scale benefits from the Sandila plant are expected to aid growth in the upcoming festive season (depreciation completed). The focus remains on becoming net cash positive by the end of FY24F.
- Management expects double-digit revenue growth as demand outlook remains healthy in view of positive progress of the monsoons, infrastructure spending and an extended festive season. Profitability is expected to sustain due to moderation in raw material prices.
- Berger Paints will remain in the decorative paints and waterproofing/construction chemicals space only and does not envision expanding into other segments (like home decor, etc).
- Projects business (8-10% of sales in the last two years) is doing well now, growing slightly ahead of the retail segment in the last one-to-two years. Berger Paints is strong in construction chemicals and decorative space in the projects segment, as per management.
- Competitive intensity from regional players: Smaller players have started
  to recover, now that raw material prices have stabilized. Management does not
  expect a price correction in the near term unless the market leader starts taking
  price cuts.



| Y/E, Mar (Rs. m)               | 1QFY23 | 4QFY23 | 1QFY24        | YoY (%)     | QoQ (%)    |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Revenue                        | 27,597 | 24,436 | 30,295        | 9.8         | 24.0       |
| Expenditure                    | 23,549 | 20,539 | 24,728        | 5.0         | 20.4       |
| Consumption of Raw Materials   | 17,731 | 14,702 | 18,231        | 2.8         | 24.0       |
| as % of sales                  | 64.3   | 60.2   | 60.2          |             |            |
| Employee Cost                  | 1,460  | 1,547  | 1,669         | 14.3        | 7.9        |
| as % of sales                  | 5.3    | 6.3    | 5.5           |             |            |
| Other expenditure              | 4,357  | 4,290  | 4,828         | 10.8        | 12.5       |
| as % of sales                  | 15.8   | 17.6   | 15.9          |             |            |
| EBITDA                         | 4,048  | 3,898  | 5,568         | 37.5        | 42.8       |
| Depreciation                   | 628    | 744    | 782           | 24.5        | 5.1        |
| EBIT                           | 3,420  | 3,154  | 4,785         | 39.9        | 51.7       |
| Other Income                   | 130    | 151    | 136           | 4.1         | -9.9       |
| Interest                       | 163    | 293    | 197           | 21.2        | -32.7      |
| PBT                            | 3,388  | 3,011  | 4,724         | 39.4        | 56.9       |
| Total Tax                      | 886    | 719    | 1,213         | 36.9        | 68.6       |
| Adjusted PAT                   | 2,502  | 2,292  | 3,511         | 40.3        | 53.2       |
| (Profit)/loss from JV's/Ass/MI | -32    | 225    | -32           | -           | -          |
| APAT after MI                  | 2,534  | 2,067  | 3,544         | 39.8        | 71.4       |
| Extraordinary Items            | 0      | 0      | 0             | -           | -          |
| Reported PAT                   | 2,534  | 2,067  | 3,544         | 39.8        | 71.4       |
| Adjusted EPS                   | 2.6    | 2.1    | 3.6           | 39.8        | 71.4       |
| Margins (%)                    | 1QFY23 | 4QFY23 | 1QFY24        | (bps)       | (bps)      |
| Gross margin                   | 35.7   | 39.8   | 39.8          | 410         | 0          |
| EBITDA                         | 14.7   | 16.0   | 18.4          | 370         | 240        |
| EBIT                           | 12.4   | 12.9   | 15.8          | 340         | 290        |
| EBT                            | 12.3   | 12.3   | 15.6          | 330         | 330        |
| PAT                            | 9.2    | 8.5    | 11.7          | 250         | 320        |
| Effective Tax Rate             | 26.1   | 23.9   | 25.7          | -50         | 180        |
|                                |        | SOURCE | : INCRED RESE | ARCH. COMPA | NY REPORTS |

|          | FY24F                                |   |   | FY25F   |   | FY26F   |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Earlier  | Revised                              | % Change  | Earlier   | Revised   | % Change  | Introduced  |
| 1,17,580 | 1,17,375                             | -0.2  | 1,28,691  | 1,26,929  | -1.4  | 1,37,681  |
| 19,436   | 20,302                               | 4.5   | 20,632  | 21,254  | 3.0   | 22,617  |
| 16.5     | 17.3                                 | 80 bp   | 16.0  | 16.7  | 70 bp   | 16.4  |
| 11,983   | 12,641                               | 5.5   | 12,754  | 13,238  | 3.8   | 14,162  |
| 12.3     | 13.0                                 | 5.5   | 13.1  | 13.6  | 3.8   | 14.6  |
|          | 1,17,580<br>19,436<br>16.5<br>11,983 | Earlier         Revised           1,17,580         1,17,375           19,436         20,302           16.5         17.3           11,983         12,641 | Earlier         Revised         % Change           1,17,580         1,17,375         -0.2           19,436         20,302         4.5           16.5         17.3         80 bp           11,983         12,641         5.5 | Earlier         Revised         % Change         Earlier           1,17,580         1,17,375         -0.2         1,28,691           19,436         20,302         4.5         20,632           16.5         17.3         80 bp         16.0           11,983         12,641         5.5         12,754 | Earlier         Revised         % Change         Earlier         Revised           1,17,580         1,17,375         -0.2         1,28,691         1,26,929           19,436         20,302         4.5         20,632         21,254           16.5         17.3         80 bp         16.0         16.7           11,983         12,641         5.5         12,754         13,238 | Earlier         Revised         % Change         Earlier         Revised         % Change           1,17,580         1,17,375         -0.2         1,28,691         1,26,929         -1.4           19,436         20,302         4.5         20,632         21,254         3.0           16.5         17.3         80 bp         16.0         16.7         70 bp           11,983         12,641         5.5         12,754         13,238         3.8 |

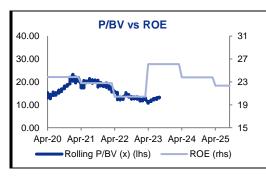








## **BY THE NUMBERS**





| (Rs mn)                            | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Net Revenues                 | 87,618  | 105,678 | 117,375 | 126,929 | 137,681 |
| Gross Profit                       | 33,327  | 38,373  | 46,038  | 49,673  | 52,899  |
| Operating EBITDA                   | 13,311  | 14,872  | 20,302  | 21,254  | 22,617  |
| Depreciation And Amortisation      | (2,265) | (2,640) | (3,112) | (3,324) | (3,495) |
| Operating EBIT                     | 11,046  | 12,232  | 17,190  | 17,930  | 19,121  |
| Financial Income/(Expense)         | 139     | (477)   | (53)    | 11      | 64      |
| Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.   | 33      | (132)   | (90)    | (90)    | (90)    |
| Non-Operating Income/(Expense)     |         |         |         |         |         |
| Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)         | 11,217  | 11,623  | 17,047  | 17,851  | 19,095  |
| Exceptional Items                  |         |         |         |         |         |
| Pre-tax Profit                     | 11,217  | 11,623  | 17,047  | 17,851  | 19,095  |
| Taxation                           | (2,893) | (3,019) | (4,406) | (4,613) | (4,933) |
| Exceptional Income - post-tax      |         |         |         |         |         |
| Profit After Tax                   | 8,324   | 8,604   | 12,641  | 13,238  | 14,162  |
| Minority Interests                 | (1)     | (10)    |         |         |         |
| Preferred Dividends                |         |         |         |         |         |
| FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax          |         |         |         |         |         |
| Other Adjustments - post-tax       |         |         |         |         |         |
| Net Profit                         | 8,322   | 8,594   | 12,641  | 13,238  | 14,162  |
| Recurring Net Profit               | 8,322   | 8,594   | 12,641  | 13,238  | 14,162  |
| Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit | 8,322   | 8,594   | 12,641  | 13,238  | 14,162  |

| Cash Flow                        |         |         |          |         |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| (Rs mn)                          | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F  | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
| EBITDA                           | 13,311  | 14,872  | 20,302   | 21,254  | 22,617  |
| Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.    |         |         |          |         |         |
| Change In Working Capital        | (5,378) | (2,172) | 1,939    | (3,052) | 495     |
| (Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions  |         |         |          |         |         |
| Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense  |         |         |          |         |         |
| Other Operating Cashflow         |         |         |          |         |         |
| Net Interest (Paid)/Received     | (507)   | (992)   | (591)    | (576)   | (576)   |
| Tax Paid                         | (2,893) | (3,019) | (4,406)  | (4,613) | (4,933) |
| Cashflow From Operations         | 4,532   | 8,688   | 17,244   | 13,013  | 17,603  |
| Capex                            | (8,801) | (9,072) | (2,500)  | (2,500) | (2,500) |
| Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries    |         |         |          |         |         |
| Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments |         |         |          |         |         |
| Other Investing Cashflow         | 1,859   | 1,028   | 539      | 587     | 640     |
| Cash Flow From Investing         | (6,941) | (8,044) | (1,961)  | (1,913) | (1,860) |
| Debt Raised/(repaid)             | 3,798   | 1,754   | (6,747)  |         |         |
| Proceeds From Issue Of Shares    |         |         |          |         |         |
| Shares Repurchased               |         |         |          |         |         |
| Dividends Paid                   | (3,524) | (3,892) | (5,609)  | (5,831) | (6,215) |
| Preferred Dividends              |         |         |          |         |         |
| Other Financing Cashflow         | 754     | 881     | (90)     | (90)    | (90)    |
| Cash Flow From Financing         | 1,028   | (1,256) | (12,446) | (5,921) | (6,305) |
| Total Cash Generated             | (1,381) | (613)   | 2,837    | 5,178   | 9,437   |
| Free Cashflow To Equity          | 1,388   | 2,398   | 8,536    | 11,099  | 15,742  |
| Free Cashflow To Firm            | (1,902) | 1,636   | 15,874   | 11,675  | 16,318  |

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



## BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

| Balance Sheet                       |         |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| (Rs mn)                             | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
| Total Cash And Equivalents          | 4,002   | 2,977   | 5,813   | 10,991  | 20,429  |
| Total Debtors                       | 10,537  | 12,431  | 13,439  | 14,969  | 15,917  |
| Inventories                         | 23,158  | 23,191  | 21,548  | 23,189  | 25,169  |
| Total Other Current Assets          | 5,018   | 5,302   | 5,302   | 5,302   | 5,302   |
| Total Current Assets                | 42,715  | 43,901  | 46,102  | 54,451  | 66,816  |
| Fixed Assets                        | 25,169  | 31,601  | 30,988  | 30,164  | 29,169  |
| Total Investments                   | 1,471   | 1,302   | 1,302   | 1,302   | 1,302   |
| Intangible Assets                   | 2,756   | 2,817   | 2,817   | 2,817   | 2,817   |
| Total Other Non-Current Assets      |         | 41      | 240     | 271     | 308     |
| Total Non-current Assets            | 29,395  | 35,760  | 35,347  | 34,553  | 33,595  |
| Short-term Debt                     | 7,332   | 8,466   | 1,719   | 1,719   | 1,719   |
| Current Portion of Long-Term Debt   |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total Creditors                     | 21,605  | 21,409  | 22,912  | 23,062  | 26,521  |
| Other Current Liabilities           |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total Current Liabilities           | 28,937  | 29,875  | 24,631  | 24,781  | 28,240  |
| Total Long-term Debt                | 2,803   | 3,424   | 3,424   | 3,424   | 3,424   |
| Hybrid Debt - Debt Component        |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total Other Non-Current Liabilities |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total Non-current Liabilities       | 2,803   | 3,424   | 3,424   | 3,424   | 3,424   |
| Total Provisions                    | 1,033   | 1,343   | 1,343   | 1,343   | 1,343   |
| Total Liabilities                   | 32,773  | 34,642  | 29,397  | 29,547  | 33,007  |
| Shareholders Equity                 | 39,270  | 44,941  | 51,973  | 59,380  | 67,327  |
| Minority Interests                  | 72      | 81      | 81      | 81      | 81      |
| Total Equity                        | 39,342  | 45,023  | 52,055  | 59,461  | 67,408  |

| Key Ratios                |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                           | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
| Revenue Growth            | 28.5%   | 20.6%   | 11.1%   | 8.1%    | 8.5%    |
| Operating EBITDA Growth   | 12.0%   | 11.7%   | 36.5%   | 4.7%    | 6.4%    |
| Operating EBITDA Margin   | 15.2%   | 14.1%   | 17.3%   | 16.7%   | 16.4%   |
| Net Cash Per Share (Rs)   | (6.31)  | (9.18)  | 0.69    | 6.02    | 15.74   |
| BVPS (Rs)                 | 40.43   | 46.26   | 53.50   | 61.13   | 69.31   |
| Gross Interest Cover      | 21.78   | 12.33   | 29.06   | 31.13   | 33.20   |
| Effective Tax Rate        | 25.8%   | 26.0%   | 25.8%   | 25.8%   | 25.8%   |
| Net Dividend Payout Ratio | 42.3%   | 45.3%   | 44.4%   | 44.1%   | 43.9%   |
| Accounts Receivables Days | 43.19   | 39.66   | 40.22   | 40.85   | 40.94   |
| Inventory Days            | 132.17  | 125.68  | 114.46  | 105.68  | 104.09  |
| Accounts Payables Days    | 132.99  | 116.63  | 113.39  | 108.60  | 106.73  |
| ROIC (%)                  | 24.5%   | 22.7%   | 33.4%   | 33.4%   | 36.7%   |
| ROCE (%)                  | 24.8%   | 23.1%   | 30.1%   | 29.4%   | 27.9%   |
| Return On Average Assets  | 12.5%   | 12.0%   | 15.8%   | 15.5%   | 14.9%   |

| Key Drivers             |         |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         | Mar-22A | Mar-23A | Mar-24F | Mar-25F | Mar-26F |
| Domestic revenue growth | 28.6%   | 22.3%   | 10.7%   | 7.0%    | 7.8%    |
| EBIDTA margins          | 15.2%   | 14.1%   | 17.3%   | 16.7%   | 16.4%   |

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Building Materials | India Berger Paints India Limited | August 10, 2023

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