

Coforge

Estimate change

TP change

Rating change

Motilal Oswal values your support in the Asiamoney Brokers Poll 2023 for India Research, Sales, Corporate Access and Trading team. We request your ballot.



Bloomberg	COFORGE IN
Equity Shares (m)	61
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	294.1 / 3.6
52-Week Range (INR)	5051 / 3210
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-1/7/15
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1557

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	80.1	94.8	109.0
EBIT Margin (%)	17.5	17.6	18.0
PAT	6.9	10.3	12.2
EPS (INR)	113.6	166.2	197.3
Adj. PAT	8.1	10.4	12.2
Adj. EPS (INR)	130.6	166.0	194.0
Adj. EPS Gr. (%)	15.5	27.1	16.9
BV/Sh. (INR)	504.8	596.5	714.9
Ratios			
RoE (%)	27.1	30.0	29.5
RoCE (%)	23.7	24.9	25.3
Payout (%)	49.0	40.0	40.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	36.7	28.9	24.7
P/BV (x)	9.5	8.0	6.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	20.7	17.2	14.4
Div Yield (%)	1.3	1.4	1.6
Valuations P/E (x) P/BV (x) EV/EBITDA (x)	36.7 9.5 20.7	28.9 8.0 17.2	24

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Mar-23	Dec-22	Mar-22				
Promoter	30.2	40.0	40.1				
DII	32.2	26.7	25.7				
FII	25.4	21.3	22.4				
Others	12.2	12.0	11.8				

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR4,813 TP: INR4,460 (-7%) Neutral

Healthy deal momentum to help deliver FY24 guidance...

...but the strong outlook already priced in

- Coforge (COFORGE) posted 1QFY24 revenue growth of 2.7% QoQ in CC terms, below our estimate of 3.2%. Reported revenue stood at USD271.8m (up 2.8% QoQ/13.9% YoY). The growth was broad-based across verticals and service lines with Insurance/ BFS leading the growth pack at +4.7%/+3.1% QoQ, while TTH was up 1.2% QoQ.
- The company recorded the highest ever TCV wins during the quarter with two large deals in BFS vertical having a TCV of USD300m (for five years) and USD65m, taking the overall deal signed in 1Q to USD531m (BTB of 2.0x). This resulted in a robust 12- month executable order book of USD897m (+20.4% YoY), despite adverse macros. COFORGE maintained its FY24 USD CC revenue growth guidance of 13-16% YoY.
- The growth momentum continued for Insurance and BFS verticals, aided by ramp-up of large deals and robust growth in top accounts. Management indicated that while the demand environment is stressed, the company is winning disproportionately against its peers on differentiated value offerings. The strong delivery is reflected in winning two large deals in 1QFY24, which should support the growth momentum for FY24. Despite the modest revenue miss, COFORGE reported net hiring of 1,000 employees to support the anticipated volumes. We expect the company to deliver revenue growth at the upper end of the guidance band of 13-16% CC YoY, which will result in FY23-25E USD revenue CAGR of 15.2%.
- However, 1QFY24 EBITDA margin came in below our estimate, with 360bp QoQ decline vs. our estimated decline of 90bp QoQ. This was primarily due to the full impact of compensation, bigger bench and continued investment in Sales team. Management, however, remained confident of a margin recovery aided by the margin-accretive large deal ramp ups, increase in utilization and improved offshore mix. COFORGE has guided for a flat YoY Adj. EBITDA margin for FY24. We have cut our FY24/25E EBIT margin by 50bp, resulting in a 22% INR PAT CAGR over FY23-25.
- We believe the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here. Our TP of INR4,460 implies 23x FY25E EPS. We reiterate our NEUTRAL rating on fair valuations.

Miss on both revenue and margins

- COFORGE's USD revenue growth of 2.7% QoQ CC was below our estimates of 3.2% QoQ CC. Reported USD growth was 2.8%.
- Growth was driven by BFS and Insurance with +3.1% QoQ and +4.7% QoQ growth, respectively, while TTH grew 1.2% QoQ.
- EBITDA margin (pre-RSU) of 16.0% was down 360bp QoQ, while EBITDA margin (post-RSU) of 14.9% was down 386bp QoQ below our estimates.
- Adj PAT at INR1.8b declined 21% QoQ vs. our estimates of INR2.7b, on account of a miss on operating margin and higher minority interest.

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Key highlights from the management commentary

- The demand environment continues to be stressed. However, the deep vertical presence and differentiated horizontal offerings are insulating the company against the current environment. COFORGE remained confident on finding the right avenues and achieving growth within the guided band of 13-16%.
- Management was quite confident to get the order backlog executed on time as all these deals are signed contracts and hold integrity. It does not expect any material slippages to have any meaningful impact on its growth trajectory.
- The first quarter recorded higher order intake of USD531m; with that COFORGE has marked the sixth straight quarter of USD300m+ order intake. The intake included a five-year USD300m deal and another USD65m deal (both in BFS space).
- The USD300m deal is originating from a strong three-year old client relationship and it is on the vendor consolidation side, which has USD60m lock-in revenue every year for the next five years. Moreover, the deal is margin accretive.

Valuation and view: guidance maintained; but valuation remains full

- We expect COFORGE's robust growth performance and large deal wins to support growth in FY24.
- Strong execution, robust client mining, and continued investment in S&M have helped the company gain wallet share and deliver industry leading growth.
- However, we believe the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here on. Our TP of INR4,460 implies 23x FY25E EPS. We reiterate our Neutral rating on fair valuations.

Quarterly Performance (Ind-AS)												(INR m)
Y/E March		FY	23			FY	24		FY23	FY24E	Est.	Var.
(Consolidated)	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE	-"		1QFY24	
Rev. (USD m)	239	247	252	264	272	285	294	306	1,002	1,157	275	-1.1
QoQ (%)	2.7	3.4	1.9	5.0	2.8	4.9	3.2	3.9	15.6	15.5	4.0	-117bp
Revenue (INR m)	18,294	19,594	20,558	21,700	22,210	23,369	24,128	25,079	80,146	94,787	22,596	-1.7
YoY (%)	25.2	24.9	24.0	24.5	21.4	19.3	17.4	15.6	24.6	18.3	23.5	-211bp
GPM (%)	30.4	32.0	33.4	34.1	30.7	33.0	34.0	35.0	32.5	33.2	32.8	-214bp
SGA (%)	13.9	13.7	14.9	14.5	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.3	14.8	14.2	50bp
EBITDA (INR m)	2,922	3,449	3,615	4,076	3,329	4,066	4,440	4,865	14,062	16,701	4,029	-17.4
EBITDA Margin (%)	16.0	17.6	17.6	18.8	15.0	17.4	18.4	19.4	17.5	17.6	17.8	-284bp
EBIT (INR m)	2,292	2,835	2,991	3,359	2,572	3,295	3,643	4,038	11,477	13,549	3,284	-21.7
EBIT Margin (%)	12.5	14.5	14.5	15.5	11.6	14.1	15.1	16.1	14.3	14.3	14.5	-295bp
Other income	-76	-150	83	-487	-152	164	169	176	-630	356	113	-234.5
ETR (%)	22.2	17.7	23.3	18.3	20.0	22.5	22.5	22.5	20.4	22.1	23.0	-12.9
Minority Interest	-222.0	-195.0	-77.0	-19.0	-104.0	-103.8	-103.8	-103.8	-513.0	-415.4	49.3	-310.9
Adj. PAT	1,501	2,016	2,282	2,327	1,831	2,577	2,851	3,162	8,126	10,420	2,665	-31.3
QoQ (%)	-29.3	34.3	13.2	2.0	-21.3	40.7	10.6	10.9			14.5	-3583bp
YoY (%)	10.3	32.7	21.1	9.6	22.0	27.8	24.9	35.9	18.0	28.2	77.6	-5555bp
Adj. EPS (INR)	24.2	32.5	36.7	37.4	29.2	41.0	45.4	50.3	130.6	166.0	42.8	-31.9

Key Performance Indicators

Y/E March	FY23				FY24E				FY23	FY24E
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		
Revenue (QoQ CC %)	4.7	6.2	3.7	4.7	2.7					
Margins										
Gross Margin	30.4	32.0	33.4	34.1	30.7	33.0	34.0	35.0	32.5	33.2
EBIT Margin	12.5	14.5	14.5	15.5	11.6	14.1	15.1	16.1	14.3	14.3
Net Margin	8.2	10.3	11.1	10.7	8.2	11.0	11.8	12.6	10.1	11.0
Operating metrics										
Headcount	22,742	22,991	22,505	23,224	24,224				23,224	
LTM Attrition (%)	18.0	16.4	15.8	14.1	13.3				14.1	
Deal Win TCV (USD b)	315	304	345	301	531				1,265	
Key Verticals (YoY USD %)										
BFS	67.2	52.6	24.4	27.3	20.0				40.0	
Insurance	(10.3)	(7.8)	(9.7)	(1.7)	11.4				(7.4)	
Travel and Transport	22.8	20.4	19.8	6.4	8.6				16.8	
Key Geographies (YoY USD %)										
North America	18.9	14.0	4.8	10.1	10.3			_	11.7	
Europe	25.0	37.4	35.8	13.2	19.1				26.9	



Key highlights from the management commentary

Demand outlook

- The demand environment continues to be stressed. However, the deep vertical presence and differentiated horizontal offerings are insulating the company against the current environment. COFORGE remained confident on finding the right avenues and achieving growth within the guided band of 13-16%.
- Management indicated that Travel, Transport and Hospitality (TTH) vertical is doing significantly well. It has not just sustained the volume from its existing accounts, but also gained higher wallet share from those accounts. However, TTH vertical is facing a supply crunch at this moment due to higher demand.
- Within BFS, the banks are struggling to take decisions in the short- to mediumterm and they are monitoring the macros closely. Outside mortgage, asset wealth management and Retail & Commercial banking remained weak.
- The Mortgage part of the BFS is very small to have any meaningful impact on revenue; it does not foresee any worse from hereon for the mortgage business.
- On the insurance front, P&C is performing well on the Duck Creek side, where the client onboarding is strong and even the revenue stream is widening.
- Management was quite confident to get the order backlog executed on time as all these deals are signed contracts and hold integrity. It does not expect any material slippages to have any meaningful impact on its growth trajectory.
- The first quarter recorded higher order intake of USD531m; with that COFORGE has marked the sixth straight quarter of USD300m+ order intake. The intake included a five-year USD300m deal and another USD65m deal (both in BFS space).
- The USD300m deal is originating from a strong three-year old client relationship and it is on the vendor consolidation side, which has USD60m lock-in revenue every year for the next five years. Moreover, the deal is margin accretive.
- While another USD65m deal was won against one of the incumbents and it has 50% scope of Net New component.

Margin performance and outlook

- During the quarter, the company rolled out annual wage hikes for all the employees and honored all commitments to onboard campus hires. The compensation revision also included annual bonus and ESOP components.
- The margin contraction was in anticipated line of the company. It expects the margins to follow an earlier trend of wage hike cycle, where the impact in 1Q is prominent followed by gradual recovery for the rest of the year.
- It has maintained the full-year EBITDA (Pre-RSU) guidance of 18% in FY24.
- The company reiterated to improve its gross margin by 50bp and reclaim 18% operating margin in FY24.
- The substantial contraction in margin was due to wage hikes, visa cost, continued investment in talent, and increasing bench strength in anticipation of growth in top accounts.
- The cash & cash equivalents reduced by USD41m in 1QFY24 due to acquiring additional stake of 20% in its existing BPM unit (SLK Global).

Exhibit 1: Broad-based sequential growth despite weak macro

Verticals	Contribution to revenue	Growth - QoQ (USD)	Growth - YoY (USD)
BFS	31.1	3.1	20.0
Insurance	22.6	4.7	11.4
Transportation	18.5	1.2	8.6
Others	27.8	2.1	13.1

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Strong growth across geographies; ROW jumps 21% sequentially

Geography	Contribution to revenue	Growth - QoQ (USD)	Growth - YoY (USD)
US	49.7	5.8	10.3
EMEA	38.6	0.2	19.1
ROW	11.7	(0.6)	12.0

Source: Company, MOFSL

Valuation and view: Guidance maintained, but valuation remains full

- We expect COFORGE's robust growth performance and large deal wins to support growth in FY24.
- Strong execution, robust client mining, and continued investment in S&M have helped the company gain wallet share and deliver industry leading growth.
- However, we believe the robust outlook is already factored into the price and we do not see any potential upside from here on. Our TP of INR4,460 implies
 23x FY25E EPS. We reiterate our Neutral rating on fair valuations.

Exhibit 3: Revisions to our estimates

	Revis	sed	Earl	ier	Change		
	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	
INR/USD	82.0	82.0	82.1	82.0	0.0%	0.0%	
USD Revenue – m	1,157	1,329	1,157	1,316	0.0%	1.0%	
Growth (%)	15.5	14.9	15.5	13.8	0bps	120bps	
EBIT margin (%)	14.3	14.7	14.8	15.2	-50bps	-50bps	
PAT (INR M)	10,420	12,180	11,409	12,470	-8.7%	-2.3%	
EPS	166.0	194.0	183.4	200.4	-9.5%	-3.2%	

Source: MOFSL

Exhibit 4: Operating metrics

	1QFY22	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24
Revenue Mix Geography-wise (%)									
Americas	51.6	52.2	53.3	49.9	51.3	51.3	49.2	48.3	49.7
EMEA	35.3	32.5	33.7	39.8	36.9	38.5	40.3	39.6	38.6
RoW	13.1	15.3	13.0	10.3	11.9	10.2	10.5	12.1	11.7
Revenue mix Vertical-wise (%)									
BFS	21.1	24.1	28.4	27.7	29.5	31.7	31.1	31.0	31.1
Insurance	30.8	29.2	27.8	25.7	23.1	23.2	22.1	22.2	22.6
Transportation	18.9	18.6	18.3	20.1	19.4	19.3	19.3	18.8	18.5
Manufacturing/Media/Others	29.2	28.1	25.5	26.5	28.0	25.8	27.5	28.0	27.8
Revenue Mix (%)									
Top Clients contribution (%)									
Top – 5	24.6	22.5	25.2	23.1	22.9	23.1	23.9	23.0	25.1
Top -10	35.9	33.0	36.1	35.0	35.5	35.8	36.3	35.5	37.7
Fresh order Intake - USD m									
USA	46	123	91	158	123	141	208	130	155
EMEA	227	114	110	104	151	134	113	113	346
RoW	46	48	47	40	41	29	24	58	30
Deals signed - USD m	318	285	247	301	315	304	345	301	531
Executable Order Book (NTM) - USD m	645	688	701	720	745	802	841	869	897
Employee Metrics									
Billable Personnel	18739	19579	20938	21294	21494	21692	21153	21815	22762
Sales and Marketing	258	297	281	278	285	291	317	350	363
Others	1494	910	911	928	963	1008	1035	1059	1099
Total	20491	20786	22130	22500	22742	22991	22505	23224	24224
Utilization	77	78.5	77.1	76.1	76.2	77.3	80.3	81.5	81
Attrition	12.6	15.3	16.3	17.7	18.0	16.4	15.8	14.1	13.3

Source: Company, MOFSL

Financials and valuations

Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	29,914	36,762	41,809	46,628	64,320	80,146	94,787	1,09,007
Change (%)	7.8	22.9	13.7	11.5	37.9	24.6	18.3	15.0
Cost of revenue	19,179	23,907	27,502	31,692	43,736	54,059	63,284	72,490
SGA expenses	5,723	6,402	6,840	6,545	8,527	11,438	14,005	16,024
RSU costs	0	0	17	480	633	587	797	872
EBITDA	5,012	6,453	7,450	7,911	11,424	14,062	16,701	19,621
% of Net Sales	16.8	17.6	17.8	17.0	17.8	17.5	17.6	18.0
Depreciation	1,273	1,248	1,730	1,836	2,272	2,585	3,152	3,597
Other Income	298	476	461	113	-266	-630	356	327
PBT	4,037	5,681	6,181	6,188	8,886	10,847	13,905	16,351
Tax	950	1,404	1,229	1,302	1,468	2,208	3,069	3,761
Rate (%)	23.5	24.7	19.9	21.0	16.5	20.4	22.1	23.0
Minority Interest	0	188	238	104	530	513	415	410
Adjusted PAT	3,087	4,089	4,714	4,782	6,888	8,126	10,420	12,180
Change (%)	9.5	32.5	15.3	1.4	44.0	18.0	28.2	16.9
Extraordinary Items	0	56	128	226	269	1,188	165	0
Reported PAT	3,087	4,033	4,586	4,556	6,619	6,938	10,255	12,180
Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019E	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Share Capital	615	618	625	606	609	611	611	611
Reserves	17,125	20,105	23,340	24,055	26,722	30,214	36,204	43,513
Net Worth	17,740	20,723	23,965	24,661	27,331	30,825	36,815	44,124
Loans	179	100	48	5	3,365	3,382	2,582	1,082
Minority Interest	222	75	0	0	983	874	874	874
Other liabilities	2,710	1,670	2,443	2,043	6,073	4,360	5,156	5,930
Capital Employed	20,851	22,568	26,456	26,709	37,752	39,441	45,427	52,010
Net Block	4,500	4,191	4,013	3,902	4,452	4,455	3,933	4,056
CWIP	7	14	3	2	86	46	46	46
Intangibles	4,293	3,996	5,988	5,690	14,821	16,299	15,669	14,949
Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets	1,719	1,397	2,884	4,245	7,976	9,970	13,035	14,991
Curr. Assets	16,179	17,992	21,510	21,295	22,209	26,064	34,110	40,956
Debtors	5,858	5,877	8,565	8,895	13,894	16,131	17,659	20,308
Cash & Bank Balance	4,102	5,194	8,195	7,999	4,468	5,699	11,459	14,921
Investments	3,733	4,033	976	247	67	88	88	88
Other Current Assets	2,486	2,888	3,774	4,154	3,780	4,146	4,903	5,639
Current Liab. & Prov	5,847	5,833	7,942	8,425	11,792	17,393	21,365	22,988
Trade payables	1,453	1,647	2,634	3,398	6,160	6,481	10,388	11,946
Other liabilities	3,685	3,852	4,979	4,802	5,316	10,552	10,552	10,552
Provisions	709	334	329	225	316	360	426	490
Net Current Assets	10,332	12,159	13,568	12,870	10,417	8,671	12,744	17,968
Application of Funds	20,851	22,568	26,456	26,709	37,752	39,441	45,427	52,010

Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
EPS	51.3	66.5	75.5	77.4	110.9	130.6	166.0	194.0
Cash EPS	72.4	85.9	101.2	103.4	143.2	153.0	213.5	251.3
Book Value	294.7	337.0	384.1	407.0	448.7	504.8	596.5	714.9
DPS	15.0	15.0	31.0	20.5	52.0	64.0	66.4	77.6
Payout %	29.2	22.6	41.0	26.5	46.9	49.0	40.0	40.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	93.5	72.1	63.5	62.0	43.2	36.7	28.9	24.7
Cash P/E	66.2	55.8	47.4	46.4	33.5	31.3	22.5	19.1
EV/EBITDA	56.1	44.3	38.9	35.7	25.5	20.7	17.2	14.4
EV/Sales	9.4	7.8	6.9	6.1	4.5	3.6	3.0	2.6
Price/Book Value	16.3	14.2	12.5	11.8	10.7	9.5	8.0	6.7
Dividend Yield (%)	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	17.6	21.1	21.1	19.7	26.0	27.1	30.0	29.5
RoCE	14.0	17.9	18.6	18.0	23.7	23.7	24.9	25.3
Turnover Ratios								
Debtors (Days)	66	58	63	68	65	68	65	64
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	6.4	8.5	10.2	11.8	15.4	18.0	22.6	27.3
Cash Flow Statement								(INID)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	20245	(INR m)
Y/E March							2024E	2025E
CF from Operations	3,951	5,240	5,633	7,121	9,089	10,532	13,310	15,778
Cash for Working Capital	-128	-713	-2,664	502	-1,433	-1,027	-582	-2,945
Net Operating CF	3,823	4,527	2,969	7,623	7,656	9,505	12,729	12,833
Net Purchase of FA	-838	-676	-703	-757	-1,475	-1,537	-2,000	-3,000
Free Cash Flow	2,985	3,851	2,266	6,866	6,181	7,968	10,729	9,833
Net Purchase of Invest.	-1,866	-1,624	1,826	-1,597	-8,089	-1,179	0	0
Net Cash from Invest.	-2,704	-2,300	1,123	-2,354	-9,564	-2,716	-2,000	-3,000
Proceeds from Equity	66	87	275	18	51	18	0	0
Proceeds from LTB/STB	0	-64	-133	-697	2,139	-1,315	-800	-1,500
Dividend Payments	-810	-1,086	-1,469	-4,852	-3,748	-4,285	-4,168	-4,872
Cash Flow from Fin.	-744	-1,063	-1,327	-5,531	-1,558	-5,582	-4,968	-6,372
Net Cash Flow	375	1,164	2,765	-262	-3,466	1,207	5,761	3,461
Exchange difference	224	-72	236	66	-65	24	0	0
Opening Cash Bal.	3,502	4,101	5,193	8,194	7,998	4,467	5,698	11,458
Add: Net Cash	599	1,092	3,001	-196	-3,531	1,231	5,761	3,461
Closing Cash Bal.	4,101	5,193	8,194	7,998	4,467	5,698	11,458	14,920

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing

NOTES

Explanation of Investment Rating						
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)					
BUY	>=15%					
SELL	< - 10%					
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%					
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change					
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation					

*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall be within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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