

MCX

**BSE SENSEX S&P CNX** 82,989 25,384

CMP: INR5,593 TP: INR6,500 (+16%)

**BUY** 

# METAL & ENERGY

#### Stock Info

Bloomberg	MCX IN
Equity Shares (m)	51
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	285.2 / 3.4
52-Week Range (INR)	5719 / 1701
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	17/56/189
12M Avg Val (INR M)	3107
Free float (%)	100.0

#### Financials Snapshot (INR b)

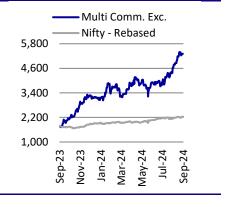
Year End	2025E	2026E	2027E
Sales	10.2	12.9	15.5
EBIT margin (%)	55.5	61.0	63.9
PAT	5.2	7.0	8.7
EPS (INR)	102.2	137.7	170.9
EPS Gr. (%)	527.2	34.7	24.1
BV/Sh. (INR)	290.7	318.3	352.5
Ratio			
RoE (%)	36.4	45.2	50.9
Valuations			
P/E (x)	54.7	40.6	32.7
P/BV (x)	19.2	17.6	15.9
Div Yld (%)	0.6	0.6	0.6

#### Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Dec-23	Sep-23	Dec-22
Promoter	0.0	0.0	0.0
DII	53.0	56.4	52.8
FII	26.8	25.5	26.0
Others	20.2	19.9	21.2

#### FII Includes depository receipts

#### Stock performance (one-year)



# New products to be key growth drivers

- MCX plans to grow volumes by launching new products, such as serial contracts, index options, 10g monthly gold futures, cotton seed wash oil, crude sunflower oil contracts and many more in the pipeline. After future volumes on these products exceed the volume threshold of INR10b, MCX will launch options contracts.
- For MCX, retail participation has increased to ~0.9m participants. Retail participation can strengthen further with new product launches, a change in the transaction rate structure (under true-to-label charges regulation) to make it favorable to traders, strong technology-based offerings from discount brokers, and lower ticket-size contracts from MCX.
- FPIs are showing good traction. MCX currently has around 100 FPIs actively trading on its platform, of which around 90 belong to the CAT I category and 10 to CAT II. With the launch of its direct market access (DMA) facility, along with regulatory support and rising participation, MCX expects strong volume growth.
- Regulatory measures, such as true-to-label charges and the pass-on of interest earned on clearing corporation, will not have much impact on the company's profitability. True-to-label charges have to be implemented and all exchanges have to charge flat fee from 1st Oct'24.
- With all the aforementioned factors and high volatility in the energy basket, we expect ADTV in the options segment to increase to INR1.5t in FY25 from INR940b in FY24 (4QFY24 ADTV was INR1.2t). Our sensitivity analysis yields a ~9% rise in EPS for every 10% rise in ADTV in the options segment or a 10% rise in the options segment's realizations.
- From 1st Oct'24, MCX will start paying the AMC to TCS, which will be fixed in nature, causing no volatility like the previous quarters. This will lead to a marked improvement in profitability. MCX has not charged any penalty to TCS so far. With the completion of this transition, the management's will now focus on scaling up the business.
- We expect MCX to deliver a CAGR of 31%/ 154%/119% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-27E, fueled by a 56% CAGR in options ADTVO. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR6,500 (premised on 42x Sept'26E EPS).

## New products and variations to existing ones to drive volumes

- MCX is preparing to introduce weekly contracts, which are currently undergoing extensive back-testing prior to the submission to SEBI for approval. This rigorous testing process is essential to ensure the new product operates on the new system without any technical issues.
- It is also looking forward to launch 10g monthly gold contract, which was delayed as it was under the testing phase. It is quite similar to the existing 8g monthly gold contract, which MCX does not plan to discontinue. Both the contracts will run simultaneously. The 10g gold contract will be launched in the future segment first and then in the options segment after it meets the INR10b volume threshold.
- Products like crude sunflower and cotton-seed wash oil futures will take at least 5-6 years to mature and contribute good volumes.

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 Currently, MCX will focus more on launching the products that are similar to the existing products.

- The mini base-metal contract, which was launched recently, is trading at the same level as the main contract and contributing ~10% of the main contract.
- For the index options contract, it is still in the testing phase and MCX will focus more on other existing product launches in the near term. But this would be a huge contributor as MCX would be the first exchange in the world to launch such a product. Accordingly, demand for such products would boost volumes.

#### Impact of SEBI regulations

- As per the exchanges circular, the true-to-label charges regulation will have to be implemented from Oct'24. Under this regulation, the current slab-wise structure of transaction charges has to be moved to a flat fee model. MCX will announce new charges before the implementation date and after taking approval from the board of directors and the regulator.
- As per the circular, the charges have to be in sync with the current net realizations of the exchanges; hence, we do not estimate any hit on revenues. Nevertheless, with only few traders getting benefits of lower realizations, volumes could increase.
- SEBI recently released a consultation paper wherein it has recommended the pass-on of interest income earned on funds for clearing and settlement to end customers. The implementation will be challenging given that identifying the true color of money will be a herculean task at every client level.
- Even if it is implemented, the impact on MCX will not be material. In FY24, the exchange earned INR400m of interest income on clearing and settlement funds. Furthermore, as per our understanding of the consultation paper, only income earned on idle funds would be required to be passed on to customers.
- Faster approvals for new products and variants of existing products can reduce the lead time for MCX.

#### MCX volumes remain strong in Aug'24; both futures and options

- Overall ADTO increased 10.3% MoM to INR2.2t in Aug'24, aided by a 10.4% increase in options ADTO.
- The volumes have started to pick up notably in futures ADTO (up 9.6% MoM in Aug'24 to INR272b) after two consecutive months, mainly driven by 16.3%/32% MoM increase in Silver ADTO/Natural Gas ADTO.
- Options ADTO grew 10.4% MoM in Aug'24 to INR1.9t, led by 10.5%/20.7%/268%
   MoM increase in Crude Oil ADTO/Natural Gas ADTO/Silver ADTO.
- Over FY24-27E, we expect a CAGR of 50% in overall ADTO, 15% in futures ADTO and 56% in options ADTO.

## **Good traction in FPI participation**

- During the year, MCX has started the process of offering DMA to foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) registered with the market regulator to trade in cashsettled contracts.
- They are currently allowed to trade in only two commodities, Crude Oil and Natural Gas. When the list is expanded, the contribution from FPIs will improve (currently contributes around 1% of the overall trading volume).

- It has been only a few months since FPIs have actively started trading on the MCX platform and there is healthy traction from this segment. MCX expects more and more participation going ahead.
- MCX currently has around 100 FPIs actively trading on the platform, of which around 90 belong to the CAT I category and 10 to CAT II.
- The key target audience for FPIs would be high-frequency traders and FPIs with exposure to commodities in Indian currency.

#### Software transition: Fixed costs to kick in from Oct'24

- Over the past couple of years, MCX has been embroiled in transitioning its core operating software from 63Moons to TCS. This transition impeded the launch of new products and demanded extensive management attention. Additionally, due to the necessity of extending the contract with 63moons thrice, MCX's costs escalated significantly.
- In Oct'23, the company successfully completed its transition and the software has been operating smoothly. This is evidenced by the significant increase in volumes to pre-transition levels.
- At the current volumes, we expect the costs (AMC + depreciation) to be lower than the normal run rate in the pre-transition phase. While there will be no AMC costs until 2QFY25, a fixed AMC cost will kick in from 3QFY25 with no linkages to volumes.
- Back-testing the new products on the new software is key to a glitch-free implementation. So far, new product launches have not seen any major issues.

### Premium to notional turnover improving

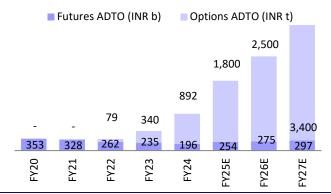
- The premium turnover to notional turnover ratio declined from 2.05% in 3QFY24 to 1.44% in Jul'24. However, it recovered to 1.77% in Aug'24, led by a surge in volumes in gold, silver and natural gas.
- In our assumption, we previously built 1.55% for FY25 and 1.47% for FY26. We now increase the ratio to 1.65%/1.6% for FY25/FY26, resulting in an increase in our EPS estimates by 6%/8%.

#### Valuation and view - Maintain BUY

We expect MCX to deliver a CAGR of 31%/154%/119% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-27E, led by a 56% CAGR in options volumes. We highlight several near- to medium-term drivers of volume growth: 1) new product launches - index options, 10g monthly gold futures, cotton seed wash oil, crude sunflower oil contracts and many more in pipeline; 2) continued volatility in key commodity prices (gold, crude oil & natural gas) amid global uncertainties; and 3) a rise in retail participation in the options market. We expect no impact from competition on MCX's volumes, as similar products are currently available on other exchanges. With the technology overhang behind MCX and near-term potential drivers in place, we see meaningful re-rating potential. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR6,500 (premised on 42x Sept'26E EPS).

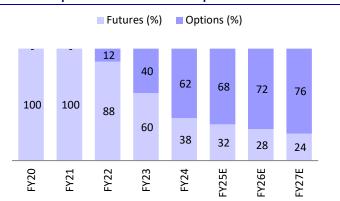
# **Key exhibits**

Exhibit 1: Options volume will continue to increase



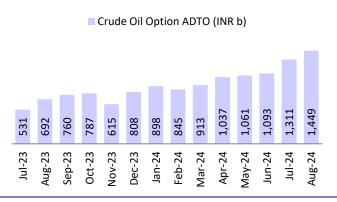
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 2: Options volumes % on an upward trend



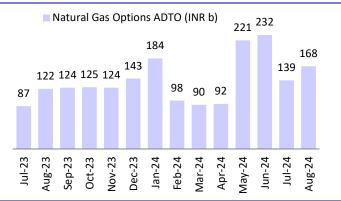
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 3: Crude oil forms the highest share as % of option volumes



Source: MOFSL, Company

**Exhibit 4: Natural Gas ADTO Trend** 



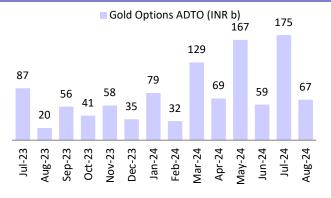
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Silver ADTO pickup in Aug'24



Source: MOFSL, Company

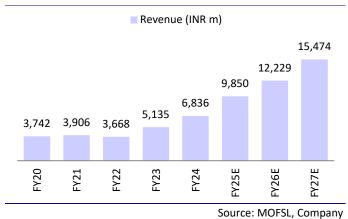
**Exhibit 6: Gold ADTO Trend** 

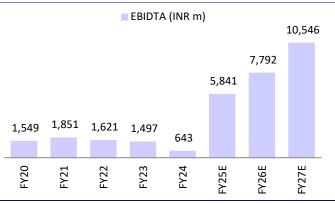


Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 7: Overall revenue is expected to post 31% CAGR over FY24-27E

## **Exhibit 8: EBITDA to increase in the coming years**

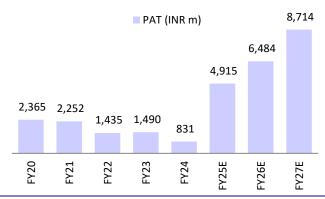


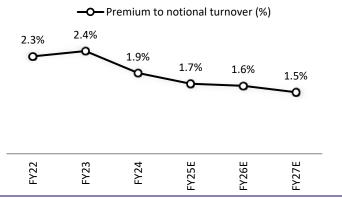


Source: MOFSL, Company

**Exhibit 9: Overall profitability to improve** 

**Exhibit 10: Premium to Notional Turnover (%)** 

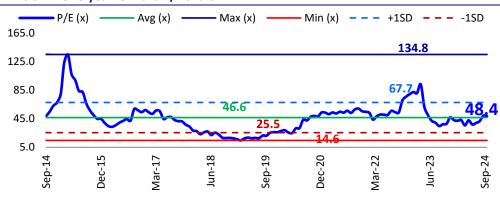




Source: MOFSL, Company

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 11: One-year forward P/E chart



Source: MOFSL, Company

# **Financials and valuations**

Income statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	3,742	3,906	3,668	5,135	6,836	10,222	12,901	15,474
Change (%)	25	4	(6)	40	33	50	26	20
Cost of Services	1,463	1,388	1,440	2,880	5,052	2,179	2,353	2,541
SG&A Expenses	730	667	607	759	1,140	1,830	2,084	2,387
Provisions								
EBITDA	1,549	1,851	1,621	1,497	643	6,213	8,464	10,546
% of Net Sales	41	47	44	29	9	61	65.61	68.15
Depreciation	182	221	227	216	359	539	595	651
EBIT	1,367.1	1,630.7	1,394.5	1,281.0	284	5,674	7,869	9,895
Interest	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3
Other Income	1,289	1,038	665	677	754	821	911	1,001
EO Item (net)	-	-	204	-	-	-	-	-
PBT	2,654	2,667	1,853	1,956	1,035	6,492	8,777	10,892
Tax	389	415	406	416	189	1,298	1,755	2,178
Rate (%)	15	16	22	21	18	20	20	20
PAT before MI	2,266	2,251	1,447	1,540	846	5,194	7,022	8,714
Minority Interest	(99)	(1)	12	50	15	(19)	-	-
PAT	2,365	2,252	1,435	1,490	831	5,213	7,022	8,714
Extraordinary								
Net Income	2,365	2,252	1,435	1,490	831	5,213	7,022	8,714
Change (%)	62	(5)	(36)	4	(44)	527	35	24
Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share Capital	510	510	510	510	510	510	510	510
Reserves	13,084	13,672	13,671	14,283	13,275	14,317	15,722	17,464
Net Worth	13,594	14,182	14,181	14,793	13,785	14,827	16,232	17,974
SGF	4,098	4,692	5,256	5,898	7,806	7,806	7,806	7,806
Loan & other long term liab.	546	576	658	561	656	668	679	691
Capital Employed	18,237	19,451	20,095	21,252	22,246	23,300	24,717	26,471
Net Block	1,820	1,857	2,513	3,172	3,938	4,309	4,759	5,209
CWIP	5	12	434	519	79	79	79	79
Other LT Assets	149	185	3,018	2,543	11,561	11,833	12,119	12,419
Investments	10,508	11,885	4,440	8,441	6,025	6,146	6,269	6,394
Curr. Assets	15,028	11,283	18,225	16,259	14,504	15,031	15,830	16,955
Current Investments	6,618	5,985	7,135	2,024	3,114	4,114	5,114	6,114
Debtors	65	90	115	146	679	693	707	721
Cash & Bank Balance	7,593	4,261	9,755	11,779	9,656	9,149	8,913	9,002
Loans & Advances	2	1	222	1,328	543	554	565	576
Other Current Assets	751	948	998	983	511	522	532	543
Current Liab. & Prov	9,109	5,575	7,911	8,976	11,842	12,079	12,320	12,567
Net Current Assets	5,919	5,709	10,314	7,283	2,662	2,953	3,510	4,389
Application of Funds	18,401	19,647	20,719	21,958	24,266	25,320	26,736	28,491
E: MOESI Estimatos								

E: MOFSL Estimates

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	46.4	44.2	28.1	29.2	16.3	102.2	137.7	170.9
Cash EPS	50.4	49.2	33.6	34.3	24.6	114.9	151.7	186.2
Book Value	266.6	278.1	278.1	290.1	270.3	290.7	318.3	352.5
DPS	30.0	27.7	30.0	19.1	-	35.0	35.0	35.0
Payout %	83.0	77.1	129.6	63.2	-	80.0	80.0	80.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	114.7	120.4	189.0	182.1	326.4	52.0	38.6	31.1
Cash P/E	105.4	108.2	158.5	154.9	216.0	46.3	35.1	28.6
Price/Book Value	20.0	19.1	19.1	18.3	19.7	18.3	16.7	15.1
Dividend Yield (%)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	-	0.7	0.7	0.7
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	18.1	16.2	10.1	10.3	5.8	36.4	45.2	50.9

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16 September 2024

# NOTES

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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

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