

Strong growth outlook for FY24

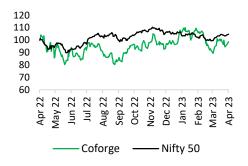
CMP: INR 4,051
Rating: Accumulate
Target Price: INR 4,558

Stock Info	
BSE	533179
NSE	COFORGE
Bloomberg	COFORGE.IN
Reuters	COFORGE.BO
Sector	Computers- Software
Face Value (INR)	10
Equity Capital (INR mn)	611
Mkt Cap (INR mn)	243,955
52w H/L (INR)	4512/3210
Avg Yearly Vol (in 000')	384

Shareholding Pattern % (As on Mar, 2023)	
Promoters	30.16
FII	25.40
DII	32.2
Public & Others	12.24

	1m	3m	12m
Coforge	9.85	-6.9	-0.97
Nifty 50	4.98	1.29	4.66

Coforge Vs Nifty 50



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Jyoti Singh jyoti.singh@arihantcapital.com 022 67114834 Coforge guided for 13-16% revenue growth in FY24 on the base of 22.4% growth in FY23. Revenue for Q4FY23 was up 4.7% QoQ on a CC basis and came much better than our and street expectations. Revenue for the quarter was INR 21,700 Mn & US\$ 264.4 Mn, Up 5.6% in INR terms and 5.0% in US\$ terms QoQ and Up 24.5% in INR terms and 13.8% in US\$ terms YoY. Strong sequential revenue growth performance comes despite headwinds in the BFS sector, particularly in the mortgage portfolio.

Strong vertical growth despite the softness in mortgage portfolio: The BFS vertical grew 4.5% QoQ in CC terms. The insurance vertical grew 5% QoQ in cc terms. The travel vertical grew 2.54% QoQ in CC terms. And the other verticals together grew 6.4%, QoQ in CC terms. Clearly broad-based growth. BFS grew 47% (BFS 47% and is expected to be lower than FY23 with 15% yearly growth rate for the coming year. Travel grew 21.5%, insurance declined 3.7%, and the other segment grew 23.1% in CC terms.

The projected margin guidance was off by 60 basis points; Better outcome in FY24. Adj. EBITDA Margin of 19.6% (up from 18.5% in Q3FY23) and came lower than our expectations and company guidance. The EBIT margin also got further impacted by higher depreciation. The currency movement very sharply led to losses in FY23 of INR 239 Mn vs a gain of INR 224 Mn in FY22. So 60 bps impact on EBITDA.FY24 if the currency is stable then it will be better but if it will continue to decline losses will be huge.

The commentary displayed a sense of assurance and seemed unconcerned about macro-level economic conditions: We believe that Coforge will maintain its growth trajectory in FY24, especially in the areas of Low code-no code, Integration, and Data analytics that continue to experience robust demand. Despite a downturn in macroeconomic factors, the management is confident in its capacity to execute effectively and make bold investments that will further drive growth.

Valuations

We see the company's robust growth performance and improvement in deal wins. The company guided for 13-16% revenue growth in FY24 higher than its peers on the basis of 22.4% growth in FY23. Gross Profit is expected to expand by 50 bps and Adjusted EBITDA is expected to remain flat YoY. We believe the flat EBITDA margin guidance is slightly disappointing as we expected gross margin expansion to flow to EBITDA. However, considering the opportunity the company is seeing it plans to invest in sales expansion which will lead to better performance going forward. We value, Coforge at a PE of 24x its FY25E EPS of 189.9, which yields a target price of INR 4,558 per share (Earlier target price of INR 4,464 per share). We maintain our Accumulate rating on the stock.

Exhibit 1: Financial Performance

March	Revenue (CC Terms) (Mn USD)	Net Sales	EBITD A	PAT	EPS (INR)	EBITDA Margin %		•
FY21	633	46,628	7,795	4,556	75.2	16.7%	19.2%	53.9
FY22	866.5	64,320	11,019	6,617	106.5	17.1%	23.4%	38.0
FY23	1002	80,146	12,807	6,938	111.5	16.0%	24.2%	36.3
FY24E	1163	90,736	15,334	9,964	164.4	16.9%	25.3%	24.6
FY25E	1333	99,940	17,190	11,509	189.9	17.2%	23.3%	21.3

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings,

Exhibit 2: Q4FY23 - Quarterly Performance (Consolidated)

Particulars (in INR million)	Q4FY23 Excl One-Off	Q4FY23 Reported	Q3FY23	Q-o-Q Excl One-Off	Q4FY23	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Revenue (Mn USD)	264.4	264.4	251.7	5.0%	232.4	5.0%	13.8%
Gross Revenue	21,700	21,700	20,558	5.6%	17,429	5.6%	24.5%
Direct Cost	14,306	14,306	13,698	4.4%	11,620	4.4%	23.1%
Gross Profit	7,394	7,394	6,860	7.8%	5,809	7.8%	23.1% 27.3%
GM %	34.1%	34.1%	33.4%	7.6% 70bps	33.3%	70bps	74bps
Selling / General And	341270	5-11270	33.470	70200	33.370	70005	74505
Administration	3,150	3,150	3,063	2.8%	2,260	2.8%	39.4%
SG&A to Revenue %	14.5%	14.5%	14.9%	-2.6%	13.0%	-38bps	155bps
Adj. EBITDA	4,244	4,244	3,797	11.8%	3,549	11.8%	19.6%
Adj.EBITDA margin %	19.6%	19.6%	18.5%	109bps	20.4%	109bps	-81bps
Acquisition related expenses	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Cost of ESOPS	168	168	182	-7.7%	210	-7.7%	-20.0%
EBITDA	4,076	4,076	3,615	12.8%	3,339	12.8%	22.1%
EBITDA margin %	18.8%	18.8%	17.6%	120bps	19.2%	120bps	-37bps
Depreciation and Amortization	717	717	624	14.9%	584	14.9%	22.8%
Other Income (net)	-487	-487	83		-119		
Profit Before Tax	2,872	2,872	3,074	-6.6%	2,636	-6.6%	9.0%
PBT % (Before exceptional items)	13.2%	13.2%	15.0%	-172bps	15.1%	-172bps	-189bps
Exceptional items*	-	523	-		-		
\$1 Bn Milestone celebration cost	-	803	-		-		
Profit Before Tax	2,872	1,546	3,074	-6.6%	2,636	-49.7%	-41.4%
PBT %	13.2%	7.1%	15.0%	-172bps	15.1%	-783bps	-800bps
Provision for Tax	526	379	715	-26.4%	342	-47.0%	10.8%
Minority Interest	19	19	77	-75.3%	171	-75.3%	-88.9%
PAT	2,327	1,148	2,282	2.0%	2,123	-49.7%	-45.9%
PAT margin %	10.7%	5.3%	11.1%	-38bps	12.2%	-581bps	-689bps
EPS (INR)	38.1	18.8	37.4	1.8%	34.1	-49.7%	-44.9%

^{*} Exceptional item includes provision on account of expenses incurred on ADR listing Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Q4FY23 Conference call Highlights:

- Deal pipeline will be resilient in Q1FY24. The client relationship is very strong in Coforge.
- Salary hike cycle remains Q1, on average lower than the number as earlier happen. The margin impact will be more
 or less the same.
- ADR: This expenses for ADR and recoverable from the shareholder given the situation there is no clear visibility so take the provision INR 500 Mn.
- Adj. EBITDA Margin of 19.6% (up from 18.5% in Q3FY23) and came lower than our expectations and company guidance. Margin is driven by a material increase in utilization, a continued increase in offshoring revenue %, and the relative absence of furloughs that were encountered in Q3FY23.
- One-off expenses: 1) On account of expenses linked to the \$1 bn milestone celebrations, primarily the gift of an Apple iPad to each one of 21,000 plus employees to mark the occasion. 2) Provisions done against ADR expenses.
- Crossed the \$1 bn mark. The next revenue milestone of \$2 bn through the very significant investments to enhance the firm's capabilities that the company did make in FY23.
- Geographically: Americas grew 16.3%, EMEA grew 37%, and the ROW grew 7% in CC terms FY23.
- Fifth third bank relationship largely around the operation and no other relationship with any other impacted bank.
- Forex hedge loss: The currency movement very sharply led to losses in FY23 of INR 239 Mn vs a gain of INR 224 Mn in FY22. So 60 bps impact on EBITDA.FY24 if the currency is stable then it will be better but if it will continue to decline losses will be huge.
- Q4FY23, gross margins 34.1% sequentially increased by 71 bps, following an earlier sequential increase of 133 bps in O3
- Deal wins: Signed 11 large deals in FY23, of which 2 in \$50 mn TCV, and 5 in \$30 mn. Deal pipeline continues to be both robust and resilient. The executable order book, which reflects the total value of locked in orders over the next 12 months stands at a record \$869 mn. This number was \$720 mn previously.
- Utilization stood at 81.5%. LTM attrition 14.1% in Q4FY23.
- Outlook: The company will remain focused on execution and remain committed to driving robust, sustained and profitable growth despite the ambient challenges in FY24 as well.

Exhibit 3: Business Matrix

Business Mix	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
Vertical Mix						
Insurance	27.8%	25.7%	23.1%	23.2%	22.1%	22.2%
BFS	28.4%	27.7%	29.5%	31.7%	31.1%	31.0%
Travel and Transport	18.3%	20.1%	19.4%	19.3%	19.3%	18.8%
Others	25.4%	26.5%	28.0%	25.8%	27.4%	28.0%
Total	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Service Line Mix	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
Product Engineering	10.8%	10.7%	10.5%	10.5%	9.9%	9.5%
Intelligent Automation	14.0%	12.7%	12.6%	12.6%	11.8%	11.1%
Data and Integration	20.5%	22.0%	23.3%	23.1%	23.9%	23.6%
Cloud and Infrastructure Management (CIMS)	18.6%	18.0%	18.2%	17.5%	18.6%	19.0%
Application Development and Maintenance (ADM)	24.7%	25.3%	24.2%	25.8%	26.7%	27.7%
Business Process Management (BPM)	11.4%	11.2%	11.1%	10.4%	9.1%	9.0%
Geography Mix	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
Americas	53.3%	49.9%	51.3%	51.3%	49.2%	48.3%
EMEA	33.7%	39.8%	36.9%	38.5%	40.3%	39.6%
ROW	13.0%	10.3%	11.9%	10.2%	10.5%	12.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Billable People	20075	20075	20070	20075	20070	20070
Onsite	54%	53%	52%	50%	50%	49%
Offshore	46%	47%	48%	50%	51%	51%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Client Data	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
New Clients Added	401111		4		401120	4
Americas	8	10	6	5	5	6
EMEA	3	2	4	4	2	2
Rest of World	2		2	2	4	2
Total	13	12	12	11	11	10
Repeat Business %	92%	93%	96%	94%	93%	92%
Client Concentration (% of Revenue)	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
Top 5	25%	23%	23%	23%	24%	23%
Top 10	36%	35%	36%	36%	36%	36%
No. of Clients (by Client Engagement Size)				307		
Above USD 10 Mn	18	18	19	19	21	21
USD 5-10 Mn	21	19	24	26	23	23
USD 1-5 Mn	94	100	98	97	98	101
People Data	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23
By Role	Q01122	<u> </u>	Q	<u></u>	Ψοι 120	<u> </u>
Billable Personnel						
		44000	15,448	15,912	15,721	16,182
	14 122	14 903				10,102
RPS	14,122 6,816	14,903 6 391				
BPS	6,816	6,391	6,046	5,780	5,432	5,633
BPS Total Billable	6,816 20,938	6,391 21,294	6,046 21,494	5,780 21,692	5,432 21,153	5,633 21,815
BPS Total Billable Sales and Marketing	6,816 20,938 281	6,391 21,294 278	6,046 21,494 285	5,780 21,692 291	5,432 21,153 317	5,633 21,815 350
BPS Total Billable	6,816 20,938	6,391 21,294	6,046 21,494	5,780 21,692	5,432 21,153	5,633 21,815

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Comment on the Performance:

- The BFS vertical grew 4.5% QoQ in CC terms. The insurance vertical grew 5% QoQ in cc terms. The travel vertical grew 2.54% QoQ in CC terms. And the other verticals together grew 6.4%, QoQ in CC terms. Clearly broad-based growth. BFS grew 47% (BFS 47% and is expected to be lower than FY23 with 15% yearly growth rate for the coming year. Travel grew 21.5%, insurance declined 3.7%, and the other segment grew 23.1% in CC terms.
- Clients: Top 10 clients grew 23.9% and 26.6% YoY, respectively. And they contributed 23% and 35.5% respectively to overall revenue in Q4FY24. Strong sequential revenue growth performance comes despite headwinds in the BFS sector, particularly in mortgages portfolio.
- Europe exposure 40% more than the other competitor. The company will keep investing. The company see clear
 opportunity in Airline and hospitality. The company will continue investing even gross margin going up.

Exhibit 4: Healthy Executable Order Book over next 12 month

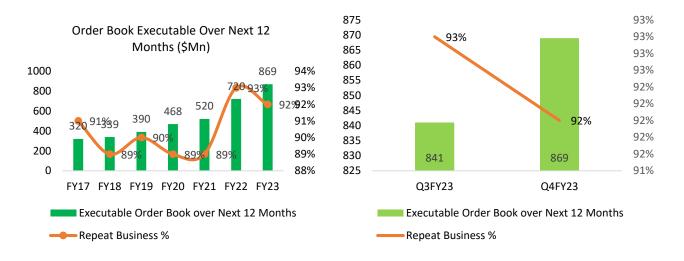
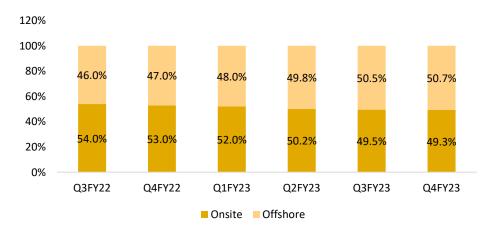


Exhibit 5: Adj EBITDA Margin trend



Exhibit 6: Location Mix (IT Revenues Only)



Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Key Financials

Income	Income Statement (INR Mn)						
Year End-March	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E			
Revenue (CC Terms) (Mn USD)	866.5	1002	1163	1333			
Change (%)	37.0%	15.6%	16.1%	14.6%			
Revenues	64,320	80,146	90,736	99,940			
Change (%)	37.9%	24.6%	13.2%	10.1%			
Operating Costs	1,724	551	3,539	3,898			
Gross Profit	62,596	79,595	87,197	96,043			
Employee Costs	38,346	48,280	54,441	59,964			
Other Expenses	13,231	18,508	17,421	18,889			
Total Expenses	53,301	67,339	75,401	82,751			
EBITDA	11,019	12,807	15,334	17,190			
EBITDA Margin (%)	17.13%	15.98%	16.90%	17.20%			
Depreciation	2,272	2,585	3,089	3,187			
EBIT	8,747	10,222	12,245	14,003			
EBIT Margin	13.60%	12.75%	13.50%	14.01%			
Interest	650	806	854	906			
РВТ	8,615	10,035	12,117	14,097			
Extra-ordinary	-	523.00	-	-			
PBT after ext-ord.	8,615	9,512	12,117	14,097			
Тах	1,468	2,061	2,666	3,101			
Rate (%)	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%			
PAT	7,147	7,451	9,451	10,996			
MI & Associates	-530	513	513	513			
Consolidated PAT	6,617	6,938	9,964	11,509			
Change (%)	39.7%	12.8%	33.6%	15.5%			

Cash Flow Statement (INR Mn)						
Year End-March	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E		
РВТ	8,615	9,512	12,117	14,097		
Depreciation	2,272	2,585	3,089	3,187		
Interest & others	-398	662	641	419		
Cash flow before WC changes	10,489	12,759	15,847	17,703		
(Inc)/dec in working capital	1,126	2,777	52	-2,532		
Operating CF after WC changes	11,615	15,536	15,900	15,171		
Less: Taxes	-1,468	-2,061	-2,666	-3,101		
Operating Cash Flow	10,147	13,475	13,234	12,070		
(Inc)/dec in F.A + CWIP	-2,780	-13,704	10,967	-697		
Cash Flow from Investing	-2,656	-13,704	10,967	-697		
Free Cash Flow (FCF)	9,447	12,776	12,536	11,373		
Loan raised/(repaid)	3,362	17	143	149		
Equity raised	3	2	0	0		
Interest & others	-13,654	2,612	-11,427	-3,508		
Dividend	-788	-1,151	-909	-909		
Cash Flow from Financing Activities	-11,077	1,480	-12,194	-4,268		
Net inc /(dec) in cash	-3,586	1,251	12,007	7,104		
Opening balance of cash	8,122	4,536	5,787	17,794		
Closing balance of cash	4,536	5,787	17,794	24,898		

Balance She	et (INR	Mn)		
Year End-March	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Sources of Funds				
Share Capital	609	611	611	611
Reserves & Surplus	26,722	30,214	38,756	48,843
Net Worth	28,314	30,825	39,367	49,454
Loan Funds	3,365	3,382	3,525	3,673
MI, Deferred Tax & other Liabilities	1,864	1,918	1,918	1,918
Capital Employed	33,543	36,125	44,810	55,045
Application of Funds				
Gross Block	20,667	21,366	22,064	22,761
Net Block	18,395	18,781	18,975	19,574
CWIP	168	46	46	46
Other Non-current Assets	1,045	1,364	1,364	1,364
Deferred Tax Assets	2,736	3,757	3,757	3,757
Net Fixed Assets	22,344	23,948	24,142	24,741
Investments	-	-	-	-
Debtors	15,585	17,903	17,903	22,452
Inventories	-	-	1	-
Cash & Bank Balance	4,536	5,787	17,794	24,898
Loans & Advances & other CA	4,808	4,858	4,858	4,858
Total Current Assets	24,929	28,548	40,555	52,209
Current Liabilities	14,507	19,835	19,887	21,905
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets	10,422	8,713	20,668	30,304
Total Assets	33,543	36,125	44,810	55,045

Key Ratios						
Year End-March	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E		
Per share (INR)						
EPS	106.5	111.5	164.4	189.9		
CEPS	146.7	157.1	215.4	242.5		
BVPS	467.2	508.7	649.6	816.1		
DPS	13.0	19.0	15.0	15.0		
Div. Payout (%)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1		
P/E	38.0	36.3	24.6	21.3		
P/CEPS	27.6	25.8	18.8	16.7		
P/BV	8.7	8.0	6.2	5.0		
EV/EBITDA	6.4	5.4	3.8	3.0		
Dividend Yield (%)	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%		
Return ratio (%)						
EBIDTA Margin	17.1%	16.0%	16.9%	17.2%		
EBIT Margin	13.6%	12.8%	13.5%	14.0%		
PAT Margin	10.3%	9.3%	11.0%	11.5%		
ROE	23.4%	24.2%	25.3%	23.3%		
ROCE	26.1%	28.3%	27.3%	25.4%		
Leverage Ratio (%)						
Total D/E	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Net D/E	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4		
Turnover Ratios						
Asset Turnover (x)	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.8		
Receivable Days	88	82	82	82		
Payable days	82	90	80	80		

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Stock Rating Scale	Absolute Return
BUY	>20%
ACCUMULATE	12% to 20%
HOLD	5% to 12%
NEUTRAL	-5% to 5%
REDUCE	-5% to -12%
SELL	<-12%

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