Strong Net New booking

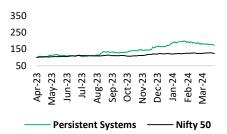
CMP: INR 3,509
Rating: Buy
Target Price: INR 4,377

Stock Info	
BSE	533179
NSE	PERSISTENT
Bloomberg	PERSISTENT IN
Reuters	PERSISTENT.BO
Sector	Computers- Software
Face Value (INR)	10
Equity Capital (INR mn)	770
Mkt Cap (INR mn)	54,252
52w H/L (INR)	4,490/2,113
Avg Yearly Vol (in 000')	762

(As on Mar, 2024)			
Promoters			31.02
FII			24.96
DII			25.87
Public & Others			18.14
	1m	3m	12m
Persistent Systems	-10.6	-10.0	65.6
Nifty 50	0.78	3.23	26.35

Persistent Systems Vs Nifty 50

Shareholding Pattern %



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Jyoti Singh jyoti.singh@arihantcapital.com 022 67114834 Persistent system reported top line and margin are in line with our estimates. Reported revenue of USD 311 Mn (up 3.4% QoQ/13.2%YoY) inline with our estimate of \$310 Mn. Reported revenue of INR 25,905 Mn up 3.7% QoQ/ 14.9% YoY above with our estimate of INR 25,700 Mn. The growth was led by Healthcare & Life Sciences was up (41.5%YoY/15.2% QoQ) owing to large deal wins in this segment followed by BFSI (up 9.2%YoY/2.2% QoQ) and software (7.9% YoY). EBIT margin contraction by 8bps QoQ/ (down 92bps YoY) at 14.45% against with our estimates of 14.7%. Consolidated PAT stood at INR 3,153 Mn, up by 10.2% QoQ/25.4% YoY above with our estimate of INR 2,925 Mn. The order booking for Q4FY24 was at \$447.7M vs in Q3FY24, was at \$ 521 mn in TCV (14.1% de-growth QoQ) and at \$316.8 vs \$392.1 mn in ACV terms (de-growth of 19.2% QoQ).TCV (New) grew by 8.9% to \$302 Mn and ACV (New) up by 0.9% to \$185 Mn. DSO down by 3 to 63 Days. Effort mix: Global Delivery Centers revenue mix increased by 100 bps QoQ to 14.8%. Client Engagement Size increased by 1 in\$30M+, decreased by 2 in \$20M - \$30M, increased by 2 in \$10M - \$20M, increased by 1 \$5M -\$10M. Net employee increased by 514 employees in Q4FY24 to close at 23,850 employees. LTM attrition declined by 40 bps QoQ to 11.5%. Employee utilization decreased by 150 bps QoQ to 80%. The company EPS stood at INR 20.7 vs INR 18.92 in Q3FY24 (INR 16.8 in Q4FY23).

EBIT Margin guidance below expectation: In Q4, the EBIT margin steady at 14.45%, reflecting stability compared to the previous quarter. Factors such as larger vendor consolidation deals and increased on-site presence influenced this margin. However, one-time transition costs, lower utilization, and higher travel expenses impacted the EBIT. Over the next year, amidst a challenging macro environment, the focus remains on sustaining top-quartile growth while preserving current margins.

Emerging as a Challenger in Key Sectors: In BFSI, healthcare life sciences, and technology sectors, PSL is emerging as a strong competitor to larger firms. Dissatisfaction among major clients with their current service providers is creating opportunities for PSL. This has led to significant account wins and ramp-ups, particularly in BFSI, where PSL is scaling up operations after securing sizable clients.

Valuations

PSL aims to enhance its margins by 200 to 300bps over the next three years. It saw a 50bps decline in margin in FY24, the impact was mitigated by one-off gains from the reversal of acquisition-related earn outs in 4QFY24, amounting to ~286bps. To achieve this target, PSL plans to invest in sales and marketing, enhance execution with a utilization target of 83-84%, provide upskilling opportunities in areas such as Generative AI and next-gen technologies. PSL could be among the top quartile performers in terms of revenue and earnings growth in FY25, while remain committed to margin improvement by 200-300bps over the next 2-3 years.

Hence, we value the Persistent system at a PE of 35x to its FY27E EPS of 125.1, which yields a target price of INR 4,377 per share. We upgrade our rating to Buy on the stock from Reduce earlier.

Exhibit 2: Q4FY24 - Quarterly Performance (Consolidated)

INR Mn (consolidated)	Q4FY24	Q3FY24	Q4 FY23	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Revenue (Mn USD)	311	301	275	3.4%	13.2%
Net Revenue	25,905	24,982	22,545	3.7%	14.9%
Employee Cost	18,936	18,096	15,787	4.6%	19.9%
Other Expenses	2,426	2,468	2,595	-1.7%	-6.5%
EBITDA	4,544	4,418	4,163	2.8%	9.1%
EBITDA Margin %	17.54%	17.69%	18.47%	-15bps	-93bps
Depreciation	799	787	697	1.5%	14.6%
EBIT	3,744	3,631	3,466	3.1%	8.0%
EBIT Margin %	14.45%	14.53%	15.37%	-8bps	-92bps
Other Income	308	383	88	-19.6%	248.7%
Finance Cost	97	121	148	-19.6%	-34.3%
Exceptional Item	-	-	_		_
PBT	3,954.92	3,893.01	3,406.03	1.6%	16.1%
Tax Expense	801.71	1,031.67	891	-22.3%	-10.0%
Effective Tax Rate %	20.3%	26.5%	26.2%	-623bps	-588bps
PAT	3,153.21	2,861.34	2,515	10.2%	25.4%
MI & Associates	-	-	_		
Consolidated PAT	3,153.21	2,861.34	2,515.31	10.2%	25.4%
PAT Margin %	80.00%	81.50%	11.2%	-150bps	6884bps
EPS (INR)	20.73	18.92	16.83	9.6%	23.2%

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Q4FY24 Conference call Highlights:

In FY25, seeing a demand environment similar to the last 2-3 quarters, remaining unchanged, and are preparing for a status quo in demand dynamics. Regardless of discretionary and non-discretionary factors, the company isn't waiting for demand to materialize; it will perform wherever opportunities arise

Revenue Growth: On YoY this is purely organic growth, the company did not have any acquisitions through the financial year.

Margin: The EBIT margin remained unchanged compared to the Q3FY24. Factors contributing to this stability included a 200bps increase from higher subcontracting, an 110bps increase due to deal ramp-ups (unlike other sectors experiencing reductions), a 50bps decrease due to lower utilization, and a 40bps increase due to higher travel costs. However, these impacts were mostly balanced out by the reversal of earn outs, amounting to 286 bps of sales, which was a one-time event. Additionally, there was a 60bps increase in third-party expenses compared to the Q3FY24.

M&A: Company focus Healthcare Life Sciences, BFSI, and Data-AI, with a particular interest in the payer-provider ecosystem within Healthcare and targeted segments within BFSI.

Geographically: Exploring opportunities in both Western and Eastern Europe, emphasizing Western Europe for business and Eastern Europe for delivery capabilities. In the next several quarters, company do hope to turn the corner on Europe in terms of growth.

Client: Healthy growth across client buckets: top 5 up 7.9% QoQ, top 10 up 5.4%, top 20 up 2.9%; top 50 portfolio grew 4.3% in Q4, surpassing company's overall revenue growth, with 178 customers exceeding US dollar -- in trainee 12M revenue. New customers in \$30M+, \$10M-\$20M, and \$5M-\$10M buckets show scaling potential. Top 10 customers contributed 40% Q4FY24, driven by growth in healthcare life sciences and BFSI; North America revenue grew 16.8% YoY in USD terms for FY24, surpassing company average.

Enterprise: Company is accelerating Gen-Al-powered transformation, investing in and enhancing Gen-Al hub for faster, more efficient and secure experiences at scale, anchored in Responsible Al principles. Enterprises can adopt Gen-Al across large language models and beyond.

Headcounts: Most of the headcount increase in Q4FY24 came from lateral hires. On-site hiring was linked to revenue ramp-up, while offshore hiring is towards revenue ramp-up as well as build-up for capacity for future ramp-ups.

ESG: Company is committed to set near and long-term company-wide emission reductions in line with science-based Net-Zero with the SBT.

Persistent was chosen by a prominent fintech firm in the UK to develop the next-gen banking platform, targeting neo banks and building societies in the UK and emerging markets worldwide. Leveraging Persistent's digital banking solution and BFSI domain expertise, the engagement aims to enhance customer revenue through new acquisitions.

Exhibit 3: Business Matrix

Exhibit 3. Business Watrix								
Revenue	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
Revenue from Operations, USD M	241.5	255.6	264.4	274.6	282.9	291.7	300.6	310.9
% Q - o -Q growth	11.1%	5.8%	3.4%	3.9%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.4%
% Y - o -Y growth	44.8%	40.2%	32.8%	26.4%	17.1%	14.1%	13.7%	13.2%
Revenue from Operations, INR M	18781	20486	21694	22545	23212	24117	24982	25905
% Q - o -Q growth	14.67%	9.08%	5.90%	3.92%	2.96%	3.90%	3.59%	3.70%
% Y - o -Y growth	52.70%	51.61%	45.43%	37.65%	23.59%	17.72%	15.16%	14.90%
Segment Revenue Mix	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
BFSI	33.70%	32.80%	32.60%	32.30%	33.30%	32.30%	31.20%	30.70%
Healthcare & Life Sciences	19.90%	19.70%	19.60%	19.70%	18.60%	19.30%	21.80%	24.20%
Software, Hi -Tech & Emerging Industries	46.40%	47.50%	47.80%	48.00%	48.10%	48.40%	47.00%	45.10%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Geography Revenue Mix	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
North America	78.40%	78.60%	77.40%	77.90%	79.20%	79.20%	79.70%	80.10%
Europe	8.50%	8.30%	9.00%	10.30%	9.70%	9.50%	8.90%	7.80%
India	11%	12%	12.00%	10.00%	9.90%	9.70%	10.00%	10.10%
ROW	1.80%	1.60%	1.60%	1.80%	1.20%	1.60%	1.40%	2.00%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Client Contribution	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
Тор 1	11.7%	8.7%	7.40%	9.30%	10.20%	10.20%	9.30%	8.00%
Тор 5	30.8%	26.9%	24.70%	26.50%	27.90%	28.30%	28.00%	29.20%
Тор 10	40.7%	36.7%	35.00%	37.40%	39.60%	39.50%	39.30%	40.00%
Тор 20	51.2%	48.4%	47.80%	47.90%	50.40%	50.40%	51.40%	51.10%
Тор 50	66.1%	64.0%	63.9%	64.4%	66.1%	66.1%	66.7%	67.3%
Revenue by Delivery Centers	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
Global Development Centers	14.7%	14.4%	14%	13%	13%	12.7%	13.8%	14.8%
India	56.5%	57.4%	57.3%	60.4%	86.9%	87.3%	86.2%	85.2%
Client Billed	340	345	344	359	367	375	375	382
Client Engagement Size	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
\$30M+	3	3	5	5	5	6	5	6
\$20M – \$30M	1	3	2	4	5	3	6	4
\$10M – \$20M	7	6	9	8	7	7	5	7
\$5M – \$10M	15	18	18	17	21	23	22	23
\$1M – \$5M	104	116	118	126	129	136	138	138
People Numbers	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
Technical	20144	20941	21033	21295	21511	21236	21738	22224
Sales and Business Development	367	387	405	414	428	443	465	484
Others	1127	1148	1160	1180	1191	1136	1133	1142
Total	21638	22476	22598	22889	23130	22815	23336	23850
Attrition Rate	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
TTM Basis	24.80%	23.70%	21.60%	19.80%	15.50%	13.50%	11.90%	11.50%
DSO	Q1-FY 23	Q2-FY 23	Q3-FY23	Q4-FY23	Q1-FY24	Q2-FY24	Q3-FY24	Q4-FY24
Days	60	60	67	68	67	66	66	63

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Exhibit 4: In line top line

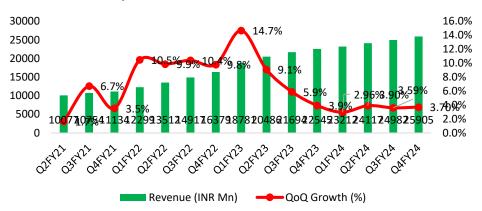


Exhibit 5: In line top line

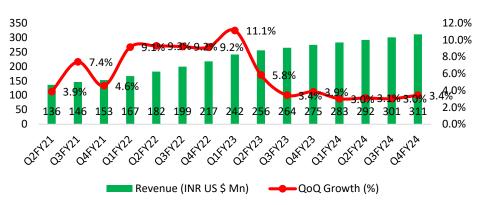


Exhibit 6: PSL remain committed to goal of improving EBIT margins by 200-300 bps over the next 3 years.

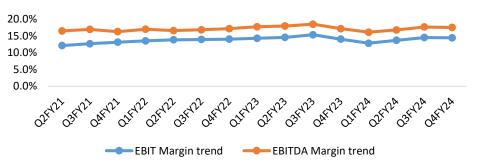
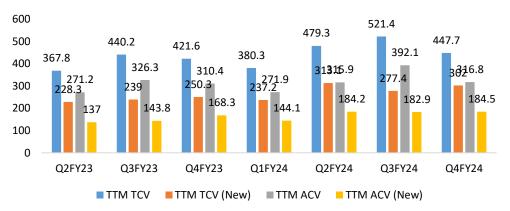


Exhibit 7: Strong deal wins



Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Key Financials

	Incom	e Statem	ent			
Income Statement (INR Mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	Balance Shee Sources of Fu
Revenues (US\$ mn)	1036	1186	1343	1559	1768	Share Capital
Change (%)	35.3%	14.5%	13.3%	16.1%	13.3%	Reserves & Si
Revenues	83,506	98,216	113,256	133,637	153,421	Net Worth
Change (%)	46.2%	17.6%	15.3%	18.0%		Loan Funds
Total Expenses	68,315	89,594	93,425	109,449	124,578	MI, Deferred
EBITDA	15,191	17,243	19,831	24,188	28,843	Liabilities
EBITDA Margin (%)	18.2%	17.6%	17.5%	18.1%	18.8%	Capital Emplo
Depreciation	2,719	3,094	3,511	3,742	4,296	Application of
EBIT	12,472	14,149	16,320	20,446		Net Block
EBIT Margin (%)	14.9%	14.4%	14.4%	15.3%	16.0%	CWIP
Other Income	1,003	1,129	1,166	1,204		Other Non-cu
Latarast					-	Deferred Tax Net Fixed Ass
Interest	-	-	-		-	
PBT	12,882	15,278	17,486	21,650	25,791	Investments
Extra-ordinary Provision for export incentives	473.40	-	-	-	-	Debtors Inventories Cash & Bank
PBT after ext-ord.	12,409	15,278	17,486	21,650	25,791	Loans & Adva
Tax	3,198	3,541	4,546	5,478		CA
Rate (%)	25.8%	23.2%	26.0%	25.3%	25.3%	Total Current
PAT	9,210.9	11,737	12,939	16,173	19,266	
NAI O Associatas						Provisions
MI & Associates	-	-				Net Current A
Consolidated PAT	9,210.9	11,737	12,939	16,173	19,266	Total Assets

Balance Sheet					
Balance Sheet (INR Mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sources of Funds					
Share Capital	764	770	770	770	770
Reserves & Surplus	38,887	48,807	59,071	72,034	87,403
Net Worth	39,651	49,577	59,842	72,805	88,173
Loan Funds	4,285	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073
MI, Deferred Tax & other					
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	_
Capital Employed	43,936	51,650	61,915	74,878	90,246
Application of Funds					
Net Block	11,605	14,395	18,194	21,992	25,789
CWIP	161	335	335	335	335
Other Non-current Assets	17,076	16,901	16,901	16,901	16,901
Deferred Tax Assets	1,129	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,360
Net Fixed Assets	29,971	32,991	36,790	40,588	44,385
Investments	6,396	8,266	8,266	8,266	8,266
Debtors	15,830	17,491	20,170	23,799	27,323
Inventories	-	-	-	-	_
Cash & Bank Balance	9,033	10,229	18,865	29,765	43,021
Loans & Advances & other CA	8,562	11,515	11,515	11,515	11,515
Total Current Assets	36,569	42,946	50,550	65,080	81,859
Current Liabilities	23,978	21,976	29,813	35,178	40,386
Provisions	5,022	3,878	3,878	3,878	3,878
Net Current Assets	7,569	17,092	16,860	26,025	37,596
Total Assets	43,936	51,650	61,915	74,878	90,246

	Ke	ey Ratios			
Key Ratios (INR Mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Per share (INR)					
EPS	123.7	144.9	84.0	105.0	125.1
CEPS	77.4	91.1	106.8	129.3	152.9
BVPS	257.4	321.8	388.5	472.6	572.4
DPS	50.0	26.0	35.0	42.0	51.0
Div. Payout (%)	83.6%	36.6%	41.7%	40.0%	40.8%
Valuation (x)					
P/E	28.4	24.2	41.8	33.4	28.1
P/CEPS	45.3	38.5	32.9	27.1	22.9
P/BV	13.6	10.9	9.0	7.4	6.1
EV/EBITDA	35.3	30.9	26.4	21.2	17.3
Dividend Yield (%)	1.4%	0.7%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%
Return Ratio (%)					
EBIDTA Margin	18.2%	17.6%	17.5%	18.1%	18.8%
EBIT Margin	14.9%	14.4%	14.4%	15.3%	16.0%
PAT Margin	11.0%	11.1%	11.4%	12.1%	12.6%
ROE	23.2%	22.1%	21.6%	22.2%	21.9%
ROCE	28.4%	27.4%	26.4%	27.3%	27.2%
Leverage Ratio (x)					
Total D/E	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Net D/E	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5
Turnover Ratios					
Asset Turnover (x)	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7
Receivable Days	69	65	65	65	65
Payable days	127	96	96	96	96

Cas	h Flow	Statemen	t		
Cash Flow Statement (INR Mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
РВТ	12,409	14,476	17,486	21,650	25,791
Depreciation	2,719	3,094	3,511	3,742	4,296
Interest & others	(1,003)	(1,129)	(1,166)	(1,204)	(1,244)
Cash flow before WC changes	14,125	16,441	19,831	24,188	28,843
(Inc)/dec in working capital	(267)	(8,213)	5,158	1,735	1,685
Operating CF after WC changes	13,858	8,228	24,989	25,924	30,528
Less: Taxes	(3,198)	(3,541)	(4,546)	(5,478)	(6,525)
Operating Cash Flow	10,660	4,687	20,443	20,446	24,003
(Inc)/dec in F.A + CWIP	(8,123)	11,796			
(Pur)/sale of investment	1,828.97	(1,870.02)	_	_	-
Cash Flow from Investing	(10,604)	(7,633)	(10,446)	(10,445)	(10,444
Free Cash Flow (FCF)	6,339	1,896	16,644	16,648	20,206
Loan raised/(repaid)	(40.25)	(2,211.91)	-	_	-
Equity raised	_	6.00	-		-
Interest & others	2,083	10,432	2,722	4,982	3,781
Dividend	(2,981)	(4,084)	(4,084)		
Cash Flow from Financing Activities	(938)	4,143	(1,361)	899	(303)
Net inc /(dec) in cash	(882)	1,196	8,636	10,900	13,256
Opening balance of cash	9,145	9,033	10,229	18,865	29,765
Closing balance of cash	9.033			29.765	

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings,

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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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