ANANDRATHI

**India I Equities** 

**Consumer Durables** 

Change in Estimates ☑ Target ☑ Reco □

**Company Update** 

16 August 2024

## **Finolex Cables**

Slow start to FY25; retaining a Buy

The drop in copper prices from end-May, scorching heat and the general elections affected Finolex Cables' Q1. The company sees OFC as a huge opportunity, thanks to BharatNet, and continues to invest in it, where the pick-up in floating tenders would add to volumes and drive growth in communication cables. Capex for OFC and auto wires would help to capitalise on rising demand from construction, autos and industrials. Besides, the healthy balance sheet and strong cashflows are positives. We maintain our Buy recommendation with a lower 12-mth TP of Rs1,872.

Tepid Q1; PAT fell. Q1 consolidated revenue rose 2.2% y/y to Rs12.3bn. Electric cables revenue grew a meagre 2% y/y, and copper rods 5% y/y. In Q1, peers Polycab/KEI/Havells saw 12/16/2% y/y growth in cables and wires. Communication cable revenue dipped 13% y/y to Rs1.2bn. The EBITDA margin shrank 186bps y/y, aided by a 179bp contraction in the gross margin and the company cutting prices in Jun. PAT declined 29.4% y/y to Rs882m, on the lower EBITDA and higher tax rate (45.6%; 28.4% a year ago); other income rose 19.4% y/y.

Prices fell ~10% in Q1. In Q1, copper prices were volatile, falling substantially from end-May (\$10,857 to \$8,800), which resulted in a 10% price drop in June.

Outlook, estimate revision. We model 14%/20% revenue/net income CAGRs over FY24-26, which could result in the return ratio expanding. At the CMP, the stock trades at 30x/25x the FY25e/26e EPS of Rs50/60. We retain a Buy, with a 12-mth TP of Rs1,872 (Rs1,950 earlier) on a sum-of-parts approach. We assign 35x PE to the company's core business. Risks: Fluctuation in RM prices could dent margins, sharp compression in Finolex Industries' profitability could squeeze the company's net income. Timely commissioning of capex and backward integration are critical to margin expansion in FY25/26.

Key financials (YE Mar)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Sales (Rs m)	37,681	44,811	50,144	56,521	65,289
PAT (Rs m)	2,721	4,343	5,056	5,855	7,222
Net income (Rs m)	5,991	5,043	6,517	7,655	9,222
EPS (Rs)	39.2	33.0	42.6	50.1	60.3
P/E (x)	9.3	44.9	34.7	29.5	24.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	10.9	41.6	34.6	30.5	24.0
P/BV (x)	1.4	5.2	4.6	4.1	3.6
RoE (%)	15.3	11.5	13.2	13.7	14.5
RoCE (%) (post-tax)	5.5	7.5	7.3	7.7	8.5
Dividend yield (%)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7

Rating: Buy
Target Price: Rs.1,872
Share Price: Rs.1,479

Key data	FNXC IN / FNXC.BO
52-week high / low	Rs.1,700 / 831
Sensex / Nifty	79,106 / 24,144
3-m average volume	\$9.5m
Market cap	Rs.226bn / \$2,692.3m
Shares outstanding	153m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Jun'24	Mar'24	Dec'23
Promoters	35.9	35.9	35.9
- of which, Pledged			
Free Float	64.1	64.1	64.1
- Foreign Institutions	11.7	11.6	11.1
- Domestic Institutions	16.8	15.9	15.9
- Public	35.7	36.6	37.1
Estimates revision (%)		FY25e	FY26e
Sales		(2.2)	(2.2)

Relat	ive	pri	ce p	berf	orn	nan	се						
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600													
	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	Aay-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24

-FNXC -Sensex

(5.5)

(4.7)

(2.3)

(3.1)

Source: Bloomberg

FBITDA

Net Income

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> Surbhi Lodha Research Analyst

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# **Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations**

Fig 1 – Income	statement	(Rs m)	
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Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Net revenues	37,681	44,811	50,144	56,521	65,289
Growth (%)	36.1	18.9	11.9	12.7	15.5
Direct costs	29,663	35,445	39,483	44,369	51,252
SG&A	3,734	4,273	4,779	5,501	5,739
EBITDA	4,285	5,094	5,882	6,651	8,298
EBITDA margins (%)	11.4	11.4	11.7	11.8	12.7
- Depreciation	389	464	439	569	660
Other income	714	1,177	1,753	1,809	2,089
Interest expenses	15	12	20	20	20
РВТ	4,596	5,795	7,177	7,870	9,707
Effective tax rates (%)	40.8	25.1	29.6	25.6	25.6
+ Associates / (Minorities)	3,271	700	1,461	1,800	2,000
Net income	2,721	4,343	5,056	5,855	7,222
Adj. income	5,991	5,043	6,517	7,655	9,222
WANS	153	153	153	153	153
FDEPS (Rs)	39.2	33.0	42.6	50.1	60.3
FDEPS growth (%)	29.8	-15.8	29.2	17.5	20.5
Gross margins (%)	21.3	20.9	21.3	21.5	21.5

## Fig 3 – Cashflow statement (Rs m)

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
7,866	6,495	8,638	9,670	11,707
-40	-584	-1,209	-1,219	-1,409
-3,271	-700	-1,461	-1,800	-2,000
4,555	5,211	5,968	6,651	8,298
1,495	-331	1,402	-2,852	-4,129
-1,320	-1,318	-1,601	-2,015	-2,485
4,731	3,563	5,769	1,784	1,684
-671	-310	-2,185	-3,328	-835
4,060	3,253	3,584	-1,544	849
-838	-915	-1,070	-1,376	-1,529
-	-	-	-1	-
-1,832	-5,063	-6,965	-218	-1,101
-25	-51	-53	1,800	2,000
78	350	257	449	2,288
7,866	6,495	8,638	9,670	11,707
earch				
	7,866 -40 -3,271 4,555 1,495 -1,320 4,731 -671 4,060 -838 - -1,832 -25 78 7,866	7,866 6,495   -40 -584   -3,271 -700   4,555 5,211   1,495 -331   -1,320 -1,318   4,731 3,563   -671 -310   4,060 3,253   -838 -915   - -   -1,832 -5,063   -25 -51   78 350   7,866 6,495	7,866 6,495 8,638   -40 -584 -1,209   -3,271 -700 -1,461   4,555 5,211 5,968   1,495 -331 1,402   -1,320 -1,318 -1,601   4,731 3,563 5,769   -671 -310 -2,185   4,060 3,253 3,584   -838 -915 -1,070   - - -   -1,832 -5,063 -6,965   -25 -51 -53   78 350 257   7,866 6,495 8,638	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$

### Fig 5 – Price movement



Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Share capital	306	306	306	306	306
Net worth	39,221	43,704	49,459	55,737	63,430
Debt	3	3	9	8	8
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	
DTL / (Assets)	2,426	2,487	3,095	3,095	3,095
Capital employed	41,650	46,194	52,563	58,841	66,534
Net tangible assets	3,799	4,335	4,433	7,867	8,242
Net intangible assets	3	14	12	12	12
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	868	210	1,675	1,000	800
Investments (strategic)	11,870	12,642	14,041	14,041	14,041
Investments (financial)	8,273	13,458	21,796	22,014	23,115
Current assets (excl. cash)	31,427	30,846	27,283	31,037	35,814
Cash	379	734	980	1,429	3,717
Current liabilities	3,099	3,403	3,617	4,518	5,167
Working capital	28,328	27,443	23,667	26,519	30,648
Capital deployed	41,650	46,194	52,563	58,841	66,534
Contingent liabilities	2,395	2,472	-	-	

### Fig 4 – Ratio analysis

Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
P/E (x)	9.3	44.9	34.7	29.5	24.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	10.9	41.6	34.6	30.5	24.0
EV / Sales (x)	1.2	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.1
P/B (x)	1.4	5.2	4.6	4.1	3.6
RoE (%)	15.3	11.5	13.2	13.7	14.5
RoCE (%) (post-tax)	5.5	7.5	7.3	7.7	8.5
RoIC (%) (post-tax)	10.2	15.1	15.8	16.6	19.1
DPS (Rs)	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0
Dividend yield (%)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	15.3	21.2	18.8	18.0	16.6
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
Receivables (days)	17	18	13	15	15
Inventory (days)	63	55	42	45	45
Payables (days)	18	17	17	18	18
CFO:PAT %	79.0	70.7	88.5	23.3	18.3
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Resea	rch				

Fig 6 – Revenue break-up, Q1 FY25

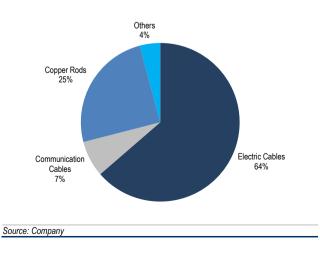


Fig 7 – Financial Summ	ary												
(Rs m)	Q3 FY22	Q4 FY22	Q1 FY23	Q2 FY23	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	% Y/Y	% Q/Q
Income	9,730	11,869	10,157	10,908	11,503	12,243	12,043	11,874	12,217	14,010	12,305	2.2	(12)
Raw material costs	7,636	9,607	8,023	8,861	8,927	9,634	9,500	9,230	9,658	11,096	9,927	4.5	(11)
Employee costs	400	332	408	405	421	393	427	426	451	469	457	7.1	(3)
Other expenses	509	729	535	656	696	759	651	758	771	826	653	0.3	(21)
EBITDA	1,185	1,201	1,191	986	1,459	1,457	1,465	1,461	1,337	1,619	1,268	(13.4)	(22)
Depreciation	101	90	94	107	112	151	105	108	109	117	107	2.0	(8)
Finance costs	1	11	1	1	1	9	3	4	4	9	4	37.9	(55)
Other income	186	200	172	258	330	418	388	418	450	497	463	19.4	(7)
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
PBT	1,270	1,299	1,268	1,136	1,675	1,715	1,745	1,767	1,675	1,991	1,620	(7.2)	(19)
Тах	364	623	339	240	346	528	496	523	468	635	738	48.9	16
PAT	906	676	929	896	1,330	1,188	1,249	1,244	1,207	1,356	882	(29.4)	(35)
Share in JV	524	1,569	267	(342)	213	562	355	298	303	505	1,557	338.7	208
Net income	1,430	2,245	1,196	554	1,543	1,750	1,604	1,542	1,510	1,861	2,439	52.0	31
EPS (Rs)	9.3	14.7	7.8	3.6	10.1	11.4	10.5	10.1	9.9	12.2	15.9	52.0	31
As % of Income												bps y/y	bps q/q
Gross margins	21.5	19.1	21.0	18.8	22.4	21.3	21.1	22.3	20.9	20.8	19.3	(179)	(148)
Employee costs	4.1	2.8	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.7	17	36
Other expenses	5.2	6.1	5.3	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.4	6.4	6.3	5.9	5.3	(10)	(59)
EBITDA margins	12.2	10.1	11.7	9.0	12.7	11.9	12.2	12.3	10.9	11.6	10.3	(186)	(125)
Depreciation	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	(0)	4
Finance costs	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1	(3)
Other income	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.8	54	22
PBT margins	13.0	10.9	12.5	10.4	14.6	14.0	14.5	14.9	13.7	14.2	13.2	(132)	(104)
Effective tax rates	28.6	48.0	26.7	21.1	20.6	30.8	28.4	29.6	27.9	31.9	45.6	1,715	1,368
PAT margins	9.3	5.7	9.2	8.2	11.6	9.7	10.4	10.5	9.9	9.7	7.2	(321)	(251)
Segment revenues (Rs m)												% Y/Y	% Q/Q
Electric cables	8,264	10,255	8,265	8,784	9,468	10,318	10,115	9,885	10,209	12,007	10,318	2.0	(14)
Communication cables	920	1,033	1,336	1,586	1,469	1,400	1,365	1,365	1,303	1,280	1,192	(12.7)	(7)
Copper rods	1,827	3,021	2,993	2,616	3,207	3,862	3,831	4,473	4,334	4,805	4,028	5.1	(16)
Others	496	517	503	483	515	453	465	549	599	639	676	45.4	6
Less: Inter-segmental	1,777	2,958	2,939	2,561	3,157	3,789	3,733	4,397	4,228	4,721	3,907	4.7	(17)
Mix (%)													
Electric cables	71.82	69.17	63.11	65.22	64.59	64.36	64.12	60.75	62.08	64.10	63.64		
Communication cables	8.00	6.97	10.20	11.78	10.02	8.73	8.65	8.39	7.92	6.83	7.35		
Copper rods	15.87	20.38	22.85	19.42	21.88	24.09	24.28	27.49	26.35	25.65	24.84		
Others	4.31	3.49	3.84	3.58	3.51	2.83	2.95	3.37	3.64	3.41	4.17		
Segment EBIT (%)												bps y/y	bps q/q
Electric cables	13.4	11.6	12.8	10.0	13.9	12.8	13.1	14.2	11.7	12.1	11.2	(190)	(85)
Communication cables	(2.6)	(8.2)	2.5	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.5	48	5
Copper rods	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	11	(1)
Others	0.3	(1.6)	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	(36)	(10)
Source: Company													

# Q1 FY25 call highlights

- The drop in copper prices from end-May, scorching heat and the general elections dented Q1. Revenue grew 2.2% y/y in value. Volume-wise, electrical wires were flat and power cables rose 20% y/y.
- Within communication cables, metal-based volumes fell 8%; optic fibre cable volumes grew 10% y/y. New product categories saw substantial volume growth, contributing to overall turnover.
- The company is optimistic about OFC being a huge opportunity, thanks to BharatNet, and continues to invest in it. This tender will involve a potential of 15m-20m fibre-km. Management expects bids to open in 1.5 months. Meanwhile, the company is building capacity, which would give it better control over pricing and flexibility when it bids for large tenders. The OFC business would grow with greater demand from the ongoing digitilisation drive and 5G rollout.
- Prices fell ~10% in Q1. In Q1, commodity prices were volatile, dropping substantially from end-May (\$10,857 to \$8,800), which resulted in the company cutting prices 10% in Jun.
- Price drops dented Q1, resulting in electrical wire margins down 190bps to ~11%. The company expects demand to return, with commodity prices settling and no more volatility; it therefore sees margins coming back on track. It expects a 13-13.5% EBITDA margin to be sustainable over two years, assuming stable copper prices.
- Rs5bn FMEG revenue targeted in 2-3 years. Q1 saw strong sales growth, led by network expansion and focus on distribution sales. The company expects to break even this year at Rs2.5bn. It has electrical switches, LED lamps, fans, low-voltage MCBs, water heaters and PVC conduit pipes. In Q1, fans and small domestic appliances did better thanks to a favourable season. Strong volume growth in lighting was offset by price erosions.
- At end-Q1, capacity utilisation was 60% in wires and ~70% in OFC.
- Capex on track Mounting demand propelled the company to plan Rs5bn capex over two years. Of this, Rs1.6bn was spent in FY24; the rest would be spent in two years, the bulk in FY25.
- Both e-beam equipment has been installed and commissioned and await final regulatory certifications. The product would then be available in the market within this quarter. The e-beam plant would enhance the company's ability to produce EV cables.
- Communication cable capacity is 8m fibre-km/yr, to be expanded to 10m. Drawing fibres for tower expansions would be expanded from 4m to 8m fibre-km/yr. With rising potential on the 5G rollout, the company is investing in setting up a plant for pre-forms to draw fibre and increase fibre-cable capacity in Pune.

This is part of backward integration, 4m fibre-km/yr in phase I and 4m in phase II. Phase I of the pre-form plant (a vital component to produce optic fibres) is expected to be operational by Jan'26 and the main machine would be installed in Oct/Nov. Besides, the company is adding a compounding plant in Goa, to be operational by May-Jun next year.

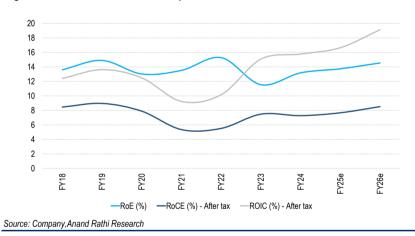
It is also expanding capacity for auto cables at Roorkee, expected to be operational by mid-Oct-Nov.

# **Outlook and Valuations**

**Outlook, estimate revision**. We are optimistic regarding Finolex Cables, thanks to strong demand for cables and wires and a volume boost from tenders floated by BharatNet and the 5G rollout. Also, expanding capacities in each business vertical and backward integration could lead to higher margins. We have factored in the Q1 figures and tweaked our estimates. FY25e/26e revenue/EBITDA/PAT are 2%/5%/5%, down 2%/2%/3%. We model 14%/20% revenue/net income CAGRs over FY24-26, which could result in return ratios expanding.

Fig 8 – Estimate	revision						
	New		Old		Variance (%)		
(Rs m)	FY25e	FY26e	FY25e	FY26e	FY25	FY26	
Revenue	56,521	65,289	57,794	66,766	(2.2)	(2.2)	
Y/Y (%)	13	16	15	16			
EBITDA	6,651	8,298	7,036	8,493	(5.5)	(2.3)	
EBITDA (%)	11.8	12.7	12.2	12.7			
РВТ	7,870	9,707	8,256	10,013	(4.7)	(3.1)	
PAT	5,855	7,222	6,143	7,450	(4.7)	(3.1)	
Net income	7,655	9,222	8,043	9,550	(4.8)	(3.4)	
Source: Company							

### Fig 9 – Finolex's return ratio to expand in FY25 and FY26



**Valuation and rating.** At the CMP, the stock trades at 30x/25x the FY25e/26e EPS of Rs50/60. We maintain a Buy, with a lower 12-mth TP of Rs1,872 (earlier Rs1,950), based on a sum-of-parts approach. To the company's core business we assign a PE of 35x.

Fig 10 – Sum-of-parts valuation			
(Rs m)	FY26e		
Core business	7,222		
PE (x) assigned	35		
Value of core business	252,769		
Finolex Industries' M.cap	172,275		
Holding discount (%)	40		
Value, post-discount	103,365		
Value of 32.39% stake	33,480		
Total value	286,249		
Finolex Cables' M.cap	226,213		
Difference (%)	27		
No. of shares (m)	153		
Derived value	1,872		
CMP (Rs)	1,479		
Upside (%)	27		
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research			

## Key risks

- Timely commissioning of capex and backward integration are critical to margin expansion in FY25/26. Major delays could pose a risk to our FY25e/26e.
- Any fluctuation in RM prices may impact the company's ability to supply products at competitive rates, which may hurt market share and margins.
- A sharp compression in Finolex Industries' profitability could lower Finolex Cables' net income. This is an important risk factor.

#### Appendix

#### Analyst Certification

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Ratings Guide (12 months)							
	Buy	Hold	Sell				
Large Caps (Top 100 companies)	>15%	0-15%	<0%				
Mid Caps (101st-250th company)	>20%	0-20%	<0%				
Small Caps (251st company onwards)	>25%	0-25%	<0%				

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