

RECOMMENDATION SNAPSHOT				
*CMP	MCap (Rsbn)	Recommendation	Target	Potential Upside
Rs1023	135.6	Hold	Rs1065	4%

*as on 05th Feb, 2026

About the Company:

Started in 2013 with a vision to create a niche in the global chemical industry, Aether Industries Limited is a speciality chemical manufacturer focused on producing advanced intermediates and speciality chemicals. The company has a good blend of creative approach towards chemistry, technology and systems which can help enable sustainable growth. The company has been following distinct criteria for choosing products based on chemical complexity, niche applications, limited competition, scalability and commercial potential. These processes involve complex as well as differentiated chemistries and or technology core competencies. The company in the past has developed (and continues to develop) advanced intermediates & speciality chemicals products with applications in the Pharma, agrochemicals, material science, coatings, high performance photography, additives and oil & gas. The company has an experienced and a senior Management team with extensive domain knowledge spearheaded by Managing Director Mr. Ashwin Jayantilal Desai.

Results: Quick Glance:

- The net sales for the quarter came in at Rs3171mn as compared to Rs2197mn in Q3FY25
- The Ebitda margin for the quarter under review stood at 34.9% as compared to 29.5% in Q3FY25
- The company reported a profit of Rs645mn as compared to Rs434mn in the same quarter last year
- The EPS for the quarter stood at Rs4.86 as compared to Rs3.27 in the corresponding period of last year
- For 9MFY26, the revenues came in at Rs8534mn as compared to Rs5985mn; growth of 42.6% while the PAT stood at Rs1655mn as against Rs1081mn. The EPS came in at Rs12.48 as against Rs8.16 in 9MFY25

Conference Call Highlights:

- During the quarter under review, the company has delivered strong performance across its business verticals driven by healthy demand, strong execution, and improvement in segment mix. The consolidated revenue growth was driven by contract manufacturing and large-scale manufacturing volumes, while profitability improved due to operating leverage and higher contribution from CRAMS and CEM businesses. The overall sales mix in Q3FY26 stood at ~43% from CEM, ~41% from LSM, ~8% from CRAMS and ~8% from others. Sales mix in 9MFY26 stood at ~44% from LSM, ~42% from CEM, ~9% from CRAMS, and ~5% from others
- From a sectoral perspective in terms of revenues in Q3FY26, pharmaceuticals stood at ~31.45%, followed by material sciences at ~18.14%, agrochemicals at ~13.66% and oil & gas at ~21.78%, with smaller contributions from sustainability & renewables ~0.46%, coatings ~3.82%, high-performance photography ~2.14%, and multiple-use segments ~8.55%. In 9MFY26, pharmaceuticals stood at ~34.28%, followed by material sciences at ~18.17%, agrochemicals at ~12.74%, and oil & gas at ~19.99%, with smaller contributions from sustainability & renewables ~1.15%, coatings ~2.73%, high-performance photography ~4.41%, and multiple-use segments ~6.53%. The export demand continued to be strong with a ~35.63% contribution in 9MFY26
- The Management highlighted that pharma and agro combined contribution has reduced compared to earlier periods, while oil and gas and material science segments have shown steady improvement. This shift in segment mix is intentional and aligned with the company's long-term strategy to grow non-pharma and non-agro businesses, which require higher engineering capabilities and offer long-term, stable partnerships
- On the industry front, the Management indicated that chemical manufacturing in Europe is under significant pressure, with multiple plants shutting down due to cost and regulatory challenges. As a result, customers are increasingly looking at India as a preferred manufacturing destination. The discussions with large European chemical companies are progressing well, and several contracts are expected to materialize in the upcoming quarters
- On the segmental front, the LSM business continued to see robust demand during the quarter. Pricing remained stable, while volume growth continues to remain strong. Three new products have been added in the LSM vertical from Site 5, targeted towards pharmaceutical and agrochemical customers. Validation quantities have already been dispatched from existing plants, and commercial production from Site 5 is planned to commence by the end of Q4FY26. All these products are being manufactured for the first time in India and are positioned as import substitutes
- In the CEM segment, the business from key customers continued to grow steadily. This growth is expected to continue in the current financial year and as additional products and higher wallet share opportunities are pursued. The Management also highlighted that the company continues to add new customers across CRAMS and CEM

Conference Call Highlights (contd.):

- The business related to converge polyols continued to see increased sales during the quarter under review. The customer inquiries for this product are increasing, and acceptability across applications is improving. Also, the contract with Otsuka Chemicals is progressing as planned and is expected to start generating revenues by Q4FY26
- The company has entered into electronic chemicals related to the semiconductor industry under the CEM business model. The customers for these products are based in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, and validation batches have already been dispatched. Additionally, the new CEM contract has been entered into with a large European chemical company in the material science segment. While the initial scale is small, the Management indicated that this contract is expected to grow meaningfully by FY27E. One production line at Site 3 is being modified to accommodate this contract, which will improve capacity utilization and reduce incremental capital requirements
- The construction and installation activities for Site 3++ and the first two production blocks of Site 5 have been completed, and water and solvent trials have commenced. The commercial production from these facilities is expected to commence by the end of Q4FY26 for a strategic high value product for Milliken
- On the R&D front, both short-term and long-term R&D expansion plans are underway. In the short term, ~20 additional fume hoods are being installed in the existing R&D facility, with a focus on engineering labs
- In the long term, a significant R&D expansion is planned with the addition of ~15 new laboratories with ~150 new fume hoods including 5 dedicated engineering labs and advanced analytical equipment such as NMR spectroscopy. These investments will strengthen capabilities in chemical engineering, process development, and help scale-up non-pharma and non-agro segments like oil and gas and material science
- In 9MFY26, ~15 new customers have been added across the business models and multiple customer certification audits have been successfully completed. The working capital cycle increased sequentially due to inventory build-up ahead of the commissioning of Site 3++ and Site 5. The Management clarified that this is planned and temporary, and overall working capital remains under control. Capacity utilization will improve as new capacities ramp up. Capex during the period was largely related to ongoing expansion projects, with further capitalization expected as sites become operational. Capex continue to remain in the range of ~Rs4500-5000mn over the next 6-8 quarters which is largely linked to Site 3++ and Site 5 expansions. The company has spent ~Rs606.09mn towards R&D which accounts for ~7.01% of revenues in 9MFY26. The insurance claims related to the fire incident, including loss of fixed assets and loss of profit, have been submitted and are expected to be settled within the current financial year

Financials:

Performance (Q3FY26)									
Q3FY26 Result (Rs mn)	Dec-25	Dec-24	y-o-y	Sept-25	q-o-q	9MFY26	9MFY25	y-o-y	FY26E
Total Revenue	3171	2197	44.4%	2801	13.2%	8534	5985	42.6%	11030
EBITDA	1106	647	70.9%	880	25.7%	2793	1615	72.9%	3364
Other Income	1	136	(99.2%)	87	(98.8%)	114	366	(68.9%)	124
Interest	39	32	22.0%	32	21.5%	120	78	53.2%	161
Depreciation	173	111	56.2%	165	4.5%	480	320	50.0%	651
Exceptional Items	23	27	(13.2%)	27	(12.7%)	77	90	(15.3%)	77
Tax	227	180	26.1%	203	11.7%	576	411	40.1%	680
Net Profit	645	434	48.6%	540	19.5%	1655	1081	53.0%	1920

Outlook and Recommendations: During the quarter under review, Aether has entered a stronger phase of execution, where growth is no longer dependent on only one business model but is supported by multiple verticals working together. The improvement in quarterly performance indicates better demand visibility, improved utilization, and a healthier business mix. The company is gradually moving away from heavy dependence on pharma and agro and is consciously building scale in oil and gas, material science, and advanced chemical applications. This shift improves earnings quality and reduces cyclical risk over time. The near-term growth is driven by the commissioning of new manufacturing assets that have already completed construction and trial stages, which means revenue contribution is expected to rise as these facilities stabilize. The LSM business is anticipated to remain steady as volumes have recovered and pricing pressure has eased, while new products being introduced add incremental depth rather than dependence on a single product.

Outlook and Recommendations (contd.):

CEM is likely to be the key long-term growth driver as customers prefer integrated partners who can support research, scale-up, and commercially supply from a single platform. The company's growing focus on non-pharma and non-agro chemistry strengthens its competitive position, as these segments demand higher engineering capability. The expansion of research facilities improves the company's ability to convert early-stage projects into commercial contracts and also increases customer stickiness. Global developments, especially the decline of chemical manufacturing competitiveness in Europe, are structurally favourable for the company, as customers are actively looking for reliable Indian partners rather than building their own capacity; this creates a multi-year opportunity pipeline rather than short-term demand spikes. The company's disciplined approach to customer selection, long contract life, and transparent pricing mechanisms reduce the risk of sudden margin erosion. Overall, the company is transitioning from a growth phase driven by expansion to a phase driven by execution, utilization, and deeper customer integration, which should support sustainable growth; thus, we maintain our target price of Rs1065.

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