

RECOMMENDATION SNAPSHOT				
*CMP	MCap (Rsbn)	Recommendation	Target	Potential Upside
Rs763	211.5	Hold	Rs1000	34%

*as on 13th Aug, 2025

About the Company:

HBL Engineering Ltd (HBL), (formerly known as HBL Power Systems Ltd) is engaged in the business of manufacturing batteries and electronics power systems and products. It has more than 30 years of experience in the field of specialized batteries and Data Centre (DC) power systems. The first product selected and successfully developed by the company were aircraft batteries which eventually made it offer the world's widest range of specialized batteries. The products include batteries (including lead acid batteries, Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries) and specialized defence batteries, power electronics, renewable energy and engineering solutions. HBL provides battery and engineering solutions and services to many of the world's leading system integrators, EPC's, railway, aviation and defence companies, Indian Airforce, Indian Navy and MOD labs. The company has gradually moved into other businesses and markets utilizing its batteries offerings, such as industrial electronics, defence electronics, and railway electronic signaling. Dr. A.J Prasad is the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.

Results: Quick Glance:

- The company has reported net sales of Rs6018mn as compared to Rs5201mn in the same quarter last year, growth of 15.7%
- The Ebitda margin for the quarter under review stood at 31.8% as compared to 21.2% in the corresponding quarter last year
- The net profit came in at Rs1433mn as against Rs801mn in the same quarter last year
- EPS for the quarter under review stood at Rs5.16 as compared to Rs2.87 in the corresponding period last year
- On the segmental front, industrial batteries and electronics reported growth of 1.1% and 107% respectively while the defence & aviation batteries reported a drop of 20.1% on a y-o-y basis

Financials:

Performance (Q1FY26)							
Q1FY26 Result (Rs mn)	Jun-25	Jun-24	y-o-y	Mar-25	q-o-q	FY25	FY26E
Total Revenue	6018	5201	15.7%	4756	26.5%	19672	23504
EBITDA	1919	1105	73.7%	795	-	3920	5523
Other Income	196	55	-	68	-	261	399
Interest	63	19	-	37	72.0%	130	251
Depreciation	115	108	6.5%	109	5.8%	442	461
Exceptional Items	(31)	0	-	(11)	-	(10)	(33)
Share of Asso.+Min Int.	22	42	-	(74)	-	143	143
Tax	493	273	80.3%	183	-	974	1406
Net Profit	1433	801	-	450	-	2769	3914

Outlook and Recommendations:

After a muted Q4FY25 and FY25, HBL has reported good set of numbers for Q1FY26; thus indicating a strong start to the financial year. The revenues have reported growth both on a y-o-y as well as on a sequential basis. On the segmental front, the industrial batteries grew marginally by ~1.1% on a y-o-y basis; the key highlight was the electronics business segment which reported more than 2x growth. This improvement was also sustained when compared on a sequential basis. A good growth on the topline alongwith significant expansion seen at the gross margins (both on a y-o-y as well as on a q-o-q basis) has led to strong operational efficiency reported for the quarter under reference; the Ebitda margins stood at ~31.8%; the highest ever Ebitda margins reported so far as compared to the past quarterly trends. The profitability is slightly inflated due to higher other income reported for Q1FY26.

Outlook and Recommendations (contd.):

Recently, the company has garnered 3 LoAs from the West and South Central Railway both for the installation and upgradation of Kavach Version 4.0 for various sections across these routes. Combining all these orders/LoAs, the cumulative total order book as of 12th Aug'25 stands at ~Rs40.83bn. Though there were certain setbacks in the past related to lower Kavach sales (as indicated in our last quarterly update); the recent orders and the quarterly performance portrays certain spill-overs that would have been factored in for the quarter under review. The Indian Railways (IR) is making constant efforts for commissioning of the upgraded version (Kavach 4.0) across major routes in the country which gives visibility for few quarters; but one must also consider the lumpiness in such orders/execution. There are even certain developments in the pipeline in order to install Kavach systems on the western railway line as well towards the end of 2026. The requisite funds have been already made available as per the progress of works to be executed. All these positive developments work in favour of players like HBL Engineering.

From a medium to long term perspective, the focus of the company would be directed towards volume growth under the electronic fuses and electric drive trains business segment (which will have a positive effect once the approvals are in place for these businesses). Apart from this, batteries having an end usage in industries of oil & gas, data centres continue to witness promising traction both from the existing as well as the export markets. A phased manner growth from the recent tender wins of TCAS (Bharat Kavach), defence and aviation lead batteries (with anticipation of better Ebitda margins from these 2 businesses), electronic fuses and electric drive trains are the key growth drivers for the business of HBL. The company continues to lay emphasis on TCAS while gradual upticks are expected from the TMS business (generally regarded as a low value business for HBL) in the medium to long term. A good market positioning, ability to develop technologies without foreign collaborations, repeat orders from existing client base and immense opportunities anticipated from TCAS, defence, aviation batteries, electronic fuses, electric drive train and TMS are some of the factors which will drive the overall performance in the long run. The stock has already become more than a 5-bagger at CMP for the long term shareholders since its initiation at Rs113 in October 2022 and we had also recommended partial profit booking when the market cap was ~Rs139bn. The rationale for investing in HBL have started to fructify and considering all the positive developments entitled for the next couple of quarters, we upgrade our target price to Rs1000.

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