

# Affle (India) Ltd.

# Strong revenue growth with margin expansion

In Q2 FY25, Affle (India) Ltd. (Affle) reported a strong topline growth of 26% on a YoY basis, delivering 95 Mn conversions at a CPCU rate of Rs. 57.1. This resulted in CPCU revenue of Rs. 5,416 Mn, reflecting an increase of 35.2% on a YoY basis. During the quarter, developed market revenue showcased a strong growth of 27.5% on a YoY basis, contributing ~27% of total revenue. However, gross margin contracted by 51 bps due to rising inventory costs as the Company continues to refine its platform offerings with premium inventory and deeper ecosystem partnerships. The quarter also marked the highest-ever EBITDA and PAT, growing at 30% and 38% respectively on a YoY basis.

## Margin expansion due to operating leverages

In Q2FY25, EBITDA margin expanded by 65 bps, reaching 20.9%, up from 20.2% in Q2FY24. Similarly, PAT margin increased by 146 bps, rising from ~15% in Q2FY24 to ~17% in Q2FY25. This improvement is attributed to operational leverage as the Company continues to enhance its consumercentric platform offerings, leveraging synergies for overall margin expansion. The adoption of Generative AI (GenAI) has further optimized operations and improved efficiencies. Additionally, employee costs declined by 1% due to past investments in human resources and an integrated team strategy, normalizing HR expenses and contributing to the expansion of operating margins.

### On track to achieve FY25 guidance

The October month showed strong growth momentum, positioning Q3 as the strongest quarter of the financial year. The management is confident in sustaining strong performance in H2FY25. The Company has shown strong performance in H1 FY25 and is on course to achieve 20%+ revenue growth, with even greater increases in EBITDA and PAT projected for the year. As global digitization accelerates, the Company is well-positioned to sustain its growth momentum through FY25 and beyond.

#### View & valuation

Affle achieved strong revenue growth, coupled with margin expansion fueled by operating leverage, resulting in significant gains in EBITDA and PAT. This performance is driven by the Company's continued investment in operational efficiency, leveraging synergies from its consumer platform, and integrating GenAI capabilities into its operations. As digital advertising continues to expand in India and other emerging markets, it is well-positioned to capitalize on this growth, particularly in high-potential sectors such as e-commerce, fintech, gaming, and entertainment. With a unique business model, unmatched network effects, and a prudent acquisition strategy, we have revised our estimate and maintain our BUY rating on Affle with a target price of Rs. 2,538 (60x FY27E EPS).

# 14th November 2024

# BUY

CMP Rs. 1,583

TARGET Rs. 2,538 (60.3%)

## **Company Data**

| Bloomberg Code          | AFFLE IN    |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| MCAP (Rs. Mn)           | 2,12,802    |
| O/S Shares (Mn)         | 140         |
| 52w High/Low            | 1,715 / 990 |
| Face Value (in Rs.)     | 2           |
| Liquidity (3M) (Rs. Mn) | 426         |

## **Shareholding Pattern %**

|                       | Sep<br>24 | Jun<br>24 | Mar<br>24 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Promoters             | 55.09     | 55.14     | 56.92     |
| FIIs                  | 15.55     | 15.30     | 14.79     |
| DIIs                  | 15.59     | 16.21     | 14.72     |
| Non-<br>Institutional | 13.77     | 13.37     | 13.58     |

## Affle vs Nifty



|       | •        | Affle           | — NIF   | ΓΥ      |
|-------|----------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Nov   | , 21     | Nov, 22         | Nov, 23 | Nov, 24 |
| Sourc | се: Кеуі | note Capitals L | td.     |         |

# **Key Financial Data**

| (Rs. Mn)     | FY24   | FY25E  | FY26E  |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Revenue      | 18,428 | 23,633 | 30,141 |
| EBITDA       | 3,600  | 4,609  | 6,088  |
| Net Profit   | 2,973  | 3,592  | 4,471  |
| Total Assets | 33,124 | 37,972 | 43,791 |
| ROCE (%)     | 15%    | 13%    | 15%    |
| ROE (%)      | 15%    | 13%    | 14%    |

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

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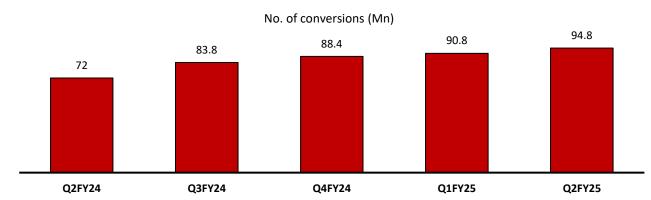
# **Q2 FY25 Result Update**

Result Highlights (Rs. Mn)

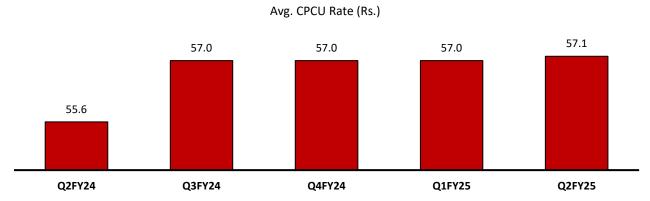
| Particulars             | Q2 FY25    | Q2 FY24 | Change %<br>(Y-o-Y) | Q1 FY25 | Change %<br>(Q-o-Q) | H1 FY25 | H1 FY24 | Change %<br>(Y-o-Y) | FY24   |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Revenue                 | 5,429      | 4,313   | 26%                 | 5,195   | 5%                  | 10,624  | 8,379   | 27%                 | 18,428 |
| Inventory Cost          | 3,315      | 2,611   | 27%                 | 3,200   | 4%                  | 6,515   | 5,094   | 28%                 | 11,254 |
| Gross Profit            | 2,114      | 1,702   | 24%                 | 1,995   | 6%                  | 4,109   | 3,285   | 25%                 | 7,174  |
| Gross Profit %          | <i>39%</i> | 39%     | -51 bps             | 38%     | 53 bps              | 39%     | 39%     | -52 bps             | 39%    |
| Employee Cost           | 567        | 574     | -1%                 | 586     | -3%                 | 1,153   | 1,135   | 2%                  | 2,352  |
| Other Operating Expense | 414        | 256     | 62%                 | 364     | 14%                 | 778     | 496     | 57%                 | 1,223  |
| EBITDA                  | 1,133      | 872     | 30%                 | 1,045   | 8%                  | 2,178   | 1,653   | 32%                 | 3,600  |
| EBITDA %                | 20.9%      | 20.2%   | 65 bps              | 20.1%   | 76 bps              | 20.5%   | 19.7%   | 77 bps              | 19.5%  |
| Depreciation            | 251        | 184     | 36%                 | 193     | 30%                 | 444     | 329     | 35%                 | 715    |
| EBIT                    | 882        | 688     | 28%                 | 852     | 4%                  | 1,735   | 1,325   | 31%                 | 2,885  |
| EBIT %                  | 16%        | 16%     | 31 bps              | 16%     | -15 bps             | 16%     | 16%     | 52 bps              | 16%    |
| Finance Cost            | 36         | 55      | -35%                | 38      | -6%                 | 74      | 90      | -18%                | 189    |
| Other Income            | 288        | 99      | 190%                | 251     | 15%                 | 539     | 198     | 173%                | 572    |
| PBT                     | 1,135      | 732     | 55%                 | 1,066   | 7%                  | 2,201   | 1,433   | 54%                 | 3,268  |
| PBT %                   | 21%        | 17%     | 394 bps             | 21%     | 40 bps              | 21%     | 17%     | 361 bps             | 18%    |
| Тах                     | 215        | 64      | 235%                | 200     | 8%                  | 415     | 103     | 302%                | 295    |
| Profit for the period   | 920        | 668     | 38%                 | 866     | 6%                  | 1,786   | 1,330   | 34%                 | 2,973  |
| EPS                     | 6.55       | 5.01    | -                   | 6.17    | -                   | 12.72   | 9.98    | -                   | 21.91  |

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

# **Quarterly Business Progression**



Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

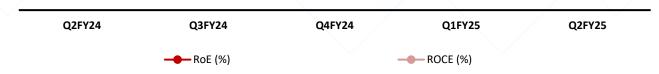


Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.



# Return Ratios (%)





Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd.

## **Q2 FY25 Conference Call Takeaways**

- The India and emerging markets, including Brazil, Indonesia, and Africa, experienced a YoY growth of 25.3%, contributing 73.4% of total revenue. This growth trend is consistent across verticals E, F, G, and H, driven by an increase in new smartphone users and existing users upgrading to higher-quality devices as their income levels rise. Consumers in these regions are engaging in higher transaction volumes and increasing the average value of each transaction. Digital platform transactions are boosting user acquisition, retargeting, and online-to-offline conversions, trends expected to sustain long-term growth in these markets, benefiting companies like Affle.
- The developed markets, which contribute 26.6% of total revenue, saw a YoY growth of 27.5%. The USA remains the largest market, and if its growth trajectory continues over the next three years, it is expected to have a significant impact on the Company's overall performance.
- During the quarter, the Company was granted two additional patents in the USA. These patents focus on enhancing user interaction with live streams, such as podcasts, through ML, and optimizing user identification using unique IDs. Both innovations aim to improve consumer engagement and the overall quality of digital advertising.
- In the USA, Fintech is a key vertical for the Company, with growing emphasis on gaming and e-commerce. It is pursuing a balanced strategy to expand its customer base across these sectors while maintaining a positive outlook on all verticals. It also sees significant growth potential in developed markets, including the USA, across all categories.
- Affle has integrated Gen AI capabilities into many of its product use cases, enhancing functions such as ad and content creation. These AI-driven solutions are also being utilized to optimize operational efficiency. As the Company grows its revenue, it expects Gen AI to drive operating leverage by improving productivity without proportionally increasing operating costs, leading to potential margin expansion through enhanced employee efficiency.



- The Company has developed a product roadmap focused on the future of advertising with personal AI bots and agents. As part of this strategy, it has filed 15 unique intellectual property patent applications, which are on record as of December 2024. These patents aim to address advanced AIdriven innovations in consumer engagement and personalization.
- Advertisers typically allocate separate budgets for Google and Meta, as well as for non-walled garden adtech platforms like Affle, with distinct strategies for each. The Company is observing a more optimistic outlook towards non-walled garden platforms due to increasing antitrust scrutiny and data privacy regulations affecting larger players like Google and Facebook. These regulations pose less of a challenge for Affle compared to major platforms such as Meta, X, and Google, allowing the Company to capitalize on the shifting landscape.
- In H1 FY25, the Company generated operating cash flow of Rs. 1,459 Mn, with an OCF to PAT ratio of ~81.7%. It continues to prioritize efficient working capital management, and there has been no material change in collection risk.
- The increase in intangible assets over the past two years is primarily attributed to the Company's investment in the YouAppi platform, which began in Q2 FY24, and the development of GenAl capabilities. The Company has its professional capital for GenAl development by 50% over time, though current Al investments remain moderate. This has led to a YoY increase of over 10% in intangible assets. The capitalization trend observed in H1 FY25 is expected to continue for the next 2-3 quarters.
- In terms of verticals, categories E, F, and G are showing strong performance, while category H is still gaining traction. E-commerce leads in category E, Fintech in category F, and gaming in category G. These verticals are expected to experience sustained long-term growth across various geographies, with only minor fluctuations in individual quarters or countries.
- The Company remains well-positioned across all key regions and verticals in which it operates. Its broad-based presence in global markets, coupled with a diversified portfolio across multiple verticals, provides a natural hedge against underperformance of single geography or vertical.
- Following the successful integration of YouAppi within a year, the Company is confident in its ability to fully integrate future acquisitions within a similar timeframe and achieve a 20% EBITDA margin within the first-year post-acquisition. While not actively seeking acquisitions, it remains open to opportunities, adopting a calibrated approach. Any potential acquisition will be evaluated based on strategic alignment, bottom-line impact, and integration capabilities. If the Company is not confident in achieving a 20% EBITDA margin within a year, it will refrain from pursuing the acquisition.
- The Real Money Gaming (RMG) ad spend in India has not yet returned to pre-2024 levels, but the Company is comfortable with its current position.
  From this point, it sees a clear path for growth and does not anticipate any significant setbacks in the near future.
- In the markets where the Company is expanding its presence, ~10-15% of inventory costs are allocated towards forward-looking strategies to better understand and adapt to those markets at any given time.

Walled garden platforms: A closed digital ecosystem where platform owners like Meta or Google has full control over the data, content, and advertising within that environment.



# **Financial Statement Analysis**

| Income Statement                |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn                 | FY23   | FY24   | FY25E  | FY26E  | FY27E  |
| Net Sales                       | 14,340 | 18,428 | 23,633 | 30,141 | 38,518 |
| Growth %                        |        | 29%    | 28%    | 28%    | 28%    |
| Raw Material Expenses           | 8,860  | 11,275 | 14,535 | 18,386 | 23,304 |
| Employee Expenses               | 1,872  | 2,352  | 2,836  | 3,557  | 4,430  |
| Other Expenses                  | 719    | 1,201  | 1,654  | 2,110  | 2,696  |
| EBITDA                          | 2,888  | 3,600  | 4,609  | 6,088  | 8,089  |
| Growth %                        |        | 25%    | 28%    | 32%    | 33%    |
| Margin%                         | 20%    | 20%    | 20%    | 20%    | 21%    |
| Depreciation                    | 494    | 715    | 900    | 1,029  | 1,194  |
| EBIT                            | 2,393  | 2,885  | 3,709  | 5,060  | 6,895  |
| Growth %                        |        | 21%    | 29%    | 36%    | 36%    |
| Margin%                         | 17%    | 16%    | 16%    | 17%    | 18%    |
| Interest Paid                   | 114    | 189    | 198    | 198    | 198    |
| Other Income & exceptional      | 543    | 572    | 980    | 1,100  | 1,200  |
| PBT                             | 2,823  | 3,268  | 4,490  | 5,961  | 7,897  |
| Tax                             | 361    | 295    | 898    | 1,490  | 1,974  |
| PAT                             | 2,462  | 2,973  | 3,592  | 4,471  | 5,923  |
| Others (Minorities, Associates) | 9      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Net Profit                      | 2,471  | 2,973  | 3,592  | 4,471  | 5,923  |
| Growth %                        |        | 20%    | 21%    | 24%    | 32%    |
| Shares (Mn)                     | 133.3  | 140.2  | 140.0  | 140.0  | 140.0  |
| EPS                             | 18.37  | 21.22  | 25.66  | 31.93  | 42.30  |

| Cash Flow                           |        |         |        |        |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn                     | FY23   | FY24    | FY25E  | FY26E  | FY27E  |
| Pre-tax profit                      | 2,823  | 3,268   | 4,490  | 5,961  | 7,897  |
| Adjustments                         | 661    | 420     | 118    | 127    | 192    |
| Change in Working Capital           | -471   | -721    | 412    | 242    | 297    |
| Total Tax Paid                      | -403   | -345    | -898   | -1,490 | -1,974 |
| Cash flow from operating Activities | 2,610  | 2,623   | 4,122  | 4,840  | 6,412  |
| Net Capital Expenditure             | -922   | -1,156  | -1,891 | -2,411 | -3,081 |
| Change in investments               | -231   | -1,488  | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Other investing activities          | -822   | -3,129  | 980    | 1,100  | 1,200  |
| Cash flow from investing activities | -1,974 | -5,773  | -911   | -1,311 | -1,881 |
| Equity raised / (repaid)            | -81.08 | 7412.19 | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Debt raised / (repaid)              | -451   | 590     | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Dividend (incl. tax)                | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Other financing activities          | -58    | -170    | -198   | -198   | -198   |
| Cash flow from financing activities | -590   | 7,832   | -198   | -198   | -198   |
| Net Change in cash                  | 45     | 4,682   | 3,013  | 3,330  | 4,332  |

| Balance Sheet                 |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Y/E Mar, Rs. Mn               | FY23   | FY24   | FY25E  | FY26E  | FY27E  |
| Cash, Cash equivalents & Bank | 6,457  | 12,365 | 15,379 | 18,709 | 23,041 |
| Debtors                       | 2,452  | 3,174  | 4,018  | 5,124  | 6,548  |
| Short Term Loans & Advances   | 1,269  | 2,545  | 2,545  | 2,545  | 2,545  |
| Other Current Assets          | 1,447  | 1,660  | 1,660  | 1,660  | 1,660  |
| Total Current Assets          | 11,625 | 19,743 | 23,601 | 28,037 | 33,793 |
| Net Block & CWIP              | 7,859  | 11,444 | 12,434 | 13,817 | 15,705 |
| Long Term Investments         | 0      | 373    | 373    | 373    | 373    |
| Other Non-current Assets      | 777    | 1,564  | 1,564  | 1,564  | 1,564  |
| Total Assets                  | 20,261 | 33,124 | 37,972 | 43,791 | 51,435 |
|                               |        |        |        |        |        |
| Creditors                     | 2,522  | 3,831  | 5,087  | 6,435  | 8,156  |
| Provision                     | 100    | 195    | 195    | 195    | 195    |
| Short Term Borrowings         | 510    | 1,052  | 1,052  | 1,052  | 1,052  |
| Other Current Liabilities     | 901    | 1,351  | 1,351  | 1,351  | 1,351  |
| Total Current Liabilities     | 4,033  | 6,429  | 7,685  | 9,033  | 10,754 |
| Long Term Debt                | 521    | 726    | 726    | 726    | 726    |
| Deferred Tax Liabilities      | 27     | -18    | -18    | -18    | -18    |
| Other Long Term Liabilities   | 1,009  | 1,007  | 1,007  | 1,007  | 1,007  |
| Total Non Current Liabilities | 1,557  | 1,715  | 1,715  | 1,715  | 1,715  |
| Paid-up Capital               | 266    | 280    | 280    | 280    | 280    |
| Reserves & Surplus            | 14,384 | 24,700 | 28,292 | 32,763 | 38,686 |
| Shareholders' Equity          | 14,651 | 24,980 | 28,573 | 33,044 | 38,966 |
| Non Controlling Interest      | 21     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |

20,261

| 0               | Valuation Ratios               |      |      |       |       |       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5,923           |                                | FY23 | FY24 | FY25E | FY26E | FY27E |
| 32%             | Per Share Data                 |      |      |       |       |       |
| 140.0           | EPS                            | 18   | 21   | 26    | 32    | 42    |
| 42.30           | Growth %                       |      | 16%  | 21%   | 24%   | 32%   |
|                 | Book Value Per Share           | 110  | 178  | 204   | 236   | 278   |
|                 | Return Ratios                  |      |      |       |       |       |
| FY27E           | Return on Assets (%)           | 13%  | 11%  | 10%   | 11%   | 12%   |
| 23,041          | Return on Equity (%)           | 19%  | 15%  | 13%   | 15%   | 16%   |
| 6,548<br>2,545  | Return on Capital Employed (%) | 18%  | 15%  | 13%   | 14%   | 16%   |
| 1,660           | Turnover Ratios                |      |      |       |       |       |
| 33,793          | Asset Turnover (x)             | 0.7  | 0.7  | 0.7   | 0.7   | 0.8   |
| 15,705          | Sales / Gross Block (x)        | 1.6  | 1.5  | 1.6   | 1.8   | 1.9   |
| 373             | Working Capital / Sales (%)    | 44%  | 57%  | 62%   | 58%   | 55%   |
| 1,564           | Receivable Days                | 61   | 56   | 56    | 55    | 55    |
| 51,435          | Inventory Days                 |      |      |       |       |       |
|                 | Payable Days                   | 105  | 103  | 112   | 114   | 114   |
| 8,156           | Working Capital Days           | -44  | -47  | -56   | -59   | -59   |
| 195             | Liquidity Ratios               |      |      |       |       |       |
| 1,052           | Current Ratio (x)              | 2.9  | 3.1  | 3.1   | 3.1   | 3.1   |
| 1,351<br>10,754 | Interest Coverage Ratio (x)    | 25.7 | 18.3 | 23.6  | 31.0  | 40.8  |
| 726             | Total Debt to Equity           | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.0   |
| -18             | Net Debt to Equity             | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.5  | -0.5  | -0.5  |
| 1,007           | Valuation                      |      |      |       |       |       |
| 1,715           | PE (x)                         | 68.6 | 59.4 | 62.3  | 50.0  | 37.8  |
| 280             | Earnings Yield (%)             | 1%   | 2%   | 2%    | 2%    | 3%    |
| 38,686          | Price to Sales (x)             | 9.2  | 7.9  | 9.5   | 7.4   | 5.8   |
| 38,966          | Price to Book (x)              | 9.0  | 5.8  | 7.8   | 6.8   | 5.8   |
| 0               | EV/EBITDA (x)                  | 43.7 | 37.6 | 47.7  | 36.1  | 27.2  |
| 51,435          | EV/Sales (x)                   | 8.8  | 7.4  | 9.3   | 7.3   | 5.7   |

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd. estimates

# **KEYNOTE Rating History**

**Total Equity & Liabilities** 

| Date                           | Rating | Market Price at recommendation | Upside/Downside |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024  | BUY    | 1,580                          | +59.6%          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 | BUY    | 1,516                          | +60.3%          |

43,791

37,972

Source: Company, Keynote Capitals Ltd. estimates



# **Rating Methodology**

| Rating   | Criteria  |
|--|---|
| BUY  | Expected positive return of > 10% over 1-year horizon   |
| NEUTRAL  | Expected positive return of > 0% to < 10% over 1-year horizon   |
| REDUCE   | Expected return of < 0% to -10% over 1-year horizon   |
| SELL   | Expected to fall by >10% over 1-year horizon  |
| NOT RATED (NR)/UNDER REVIEW (UR)/COVERAGE SUSPENDED (CS) | Not covered by Keynote Capitals Ltd/Rating & Fair value under<br>Review/Keynote Capitals Ltd has suspended coverage |

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