

BIL/SE/2024-2025

30th January, 2025

To,

BSE Limited,

Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, Dalal Street, Mumbai – 400 001.

Scrip Code: 502355 (Equity) Scrip Code: 973556 (Debt)

Dear Sir/Madam,

National Stock Exchange of India Ltd, 5th Floor, Exchange Plaza, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051.

Trading Symbol: BALKRISIND

Subject: Transcript of Conference call with Investors/Analysts conducted on 27th January, 2025 to discuss the Q3 & 9 Months FY25 Results.

In continuation of our letter dated 20th January, 2025 and pursuant to Regulation 30(6) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, please find enclosed the transcript of conference call with Investors/Analysts on Q3 & 9 Months FY25 Results of the Company held on 27th January, 2025. This information will also be hosted on the Company's website at https://www.bkt-tires.com/ww/us/investors-desk.

You are requested to kindly take the above information on record and disseminate.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For Balkrishna Industries Limited

Vipul Shah
Director & Company Secretary
and Compliance Officer
DIN: 05199526

Encl: As Above



"Balkrishna Industries Limited Q3 & 9 Months FY '25 Earnings Conference Call" January 27, 2025

"E&OE - This transcript is edited for factual errors. In case of discrepancy, the audio recordings uploaded on the stock exchange on 27 January 2025 will prevail.





MANAGEMENT: Mr. RAJIV PODDAR – JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR

MR. MADHUSUDAN BAJAJ – SENIOR PRESIDENT, COMMERCIAL AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

MR. RAVI JOSHI – DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

MR. SUSHIL MISHRA – HEAD, ACCOUNTS SGA - INVESTOR RELATIONS ADVISORS



Moderator:

Ladies and gentlemen, good day, and welcome to the Balkrishna Industries Limited Q3 and 9 Months FY '25 Earnings Conference Call. This conference call may contain forward-looking statements about the company, which are based on the beliefs, opinions and expectations of the company as of the date of this call. These statements are not the guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict.

As a reminder, all participant lines will be in the listen only mode and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions after the presentation concludes. Should you need assistance during the call, please signal an operator by pressing star then zero on your touch tone phone. Please note that this conference is being recorded.

I now hand the conference over to Mr. Rajiv Poddar, Joint Managing Director. Thank you, and over to you, sir.

Rajiv Poddar:

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining us today. Along with me, I have Mr. Bajaj, Senior President, Commercial and CFO; Mr. Ravi Joshi, Deputy CFO; Mr. Sushil Mishra, Head - Accounts; and SGA, our Investor Relationships Advisers.

Let me begin with performance updates. Market scenario continues to be challenging. However, our strong product profile, backed by brand investments, has led us to achieve minor sales growth on a year-on-year basis in Q3. We are confident and hold on to our forecast of achieving minor sales volume growth in this financial year.

Post the completion of capex of 30,000 metric tons per annum of high-value advanced carbon material plant in September last year, we are undergoing testing with end customers. This advanced carbon black material is for non-tire grade carbon back to be used in plastics, ink, paint industry.

The capex for 35,000 metric ton per annum of OTR range of tires was announced in August last year. The first phase of this capex is progressing as per schedule, and we expect to complete it in the first half of financial year '26.

In line with our vision to achieve a global market share of 10% in off-highway tire market over the next few years, we are continuously strengthening our senior management team. In this connection, I'm happy to welcome Mr. Satish Sharma to our team as Senior President for Strategy and Business Development. He brings with him a rich experience of over 3 decades in the tire industry.

With this, I now move on to operational highlights.

For the quarter, our volumes stood at 76,343 metric tons, a growth of 5% year-on-year. For nine months, volume stood at 233,211 metric tons, a growth of 11% year-on-year.

Our standalone revenue for the quarter stood at INR2,571 crores, registering a growth of 11% year-on-year. This includes realized gain on foreign exchange pertaining to sales of INR31 crores. For nine months, standalone revenue stood at INR7,778 crores, registering a growth of



16% year-on-year. This includes realized gains on foreign exchange pertaining to sales of INR111 crores.

For the nine months of financial year '25, approximately 43% of the sales came from Europe, 29% from India and 16% from Americasand the balance comes from rest of the world. In terms of channel contribution, roughly 73% was contributed from replacement segment, while OEM contributed to about 25% and the balance came from offtake. In terms of category, agriculture contributed to 59%. OTR, industrial, construction contributed to 38%, and the balance came from other segments.

The standalone EBITDA for the quarter was at INR639 crores, registering a growth of 9% year-on-year. The margin came at 24.8%. For nine months, the standalone EBITDA was at INR1,979 crores, registering a growth of 22% year-on-year. The margin for nine months stood at 25.4%.

Other income stood for the quarter at INR24 crores, while for nine months, it was INR211 crores. Profit after tax for the quarter stood at INR439 crores registering a growth of 42%. For nine months, we have recorded INR1,266 crores, registering a growth of 32%.

Our capex for 9 months of this financial year were at approximately INR968 crores.

Our gross debt stood at INR3,045 crores at the end of 31st December '24. Our cash and cash equivalents were at INR2,942 crores. Accordingly, we have a net debt of approximately INR103 crores.

The Board of Directors has declared a third interim dividend of INR4 per equity share. This brings the total dividend for this financial year to INR12 per share, including the earlier 2 interim dividends.

With this, I conclude my opening remarks and leave the floor open for Q&A.

Moderator:

Thank you very much. We will now begin the question-and-answer session. The first question is from the line of Siddhartha Bera from Nomura.

Siddhartha Bera:

Sir, my first question is slightly more color, if you can give, on the demand outlook across regions. We do see that Europe mix has come down further, implying that it probably has declined in the quarter. So any signs you are seeing there in terms of recovery? By when can we expect growth to sort of come back there?

And second is, similarly, if you look at the other regions, for example, especially the rest of the world, we have seen a very strong growth in that segment. So some color there, which country is probably driving this and how to think about the outlook here?

Rajiv Poddar:

So as I mentioned in my opening scenario, the market scenario continues to remain challenging. And as you have noticed, yes, rightly that Europe has been very challenging, and you are seeing the impact of that. However, Americas has grown and India has grown. So these are the two areas which we have been earlier mentioning in our quarterly calls that these are the areas of concern and focus for us, and you're seeing the response in those two areas.



Siddhartha Bera: And any color on the rest of the world, sir, which country is probably driving that and how

sustainable the growth there is? Any one-offs otherwise?

Rajiv Poddar: So I think it's sustainable in those regions, and that is all part of our overall branding and

investments that we have done across the globe, which is now coming into play.

Siddhartha Bera: Got it. Second, sir, is on the OE side as well, while globally, we have seen companies talking

about channel destocking and weak demand, our OE volumes have grown. So any particular sort of company where we have gained market share? Or do you think this segment also can see

some softness going ahead? So some color there?

Rajiv Poddar: No, I think OE was something that we've been focusing on, and that's why it is there, but there

is no substantial increase of a player or market share. It's just a general business which is

growing.

Siddhartha Bera: Okay. And what about the channel inventory levels now, have they gone down even further?

What are the levels? And how should we think about the ramp-up there?

Rajiv Poddar: It is at same levels. So I think everybody is waiting and watching what happens on the

geopolitical scenarios, what happens on the shipping times and price cost, both. So I think there

is a lot of wait-and-watch scenario for us to comment on that.

Moderator: The next question is from Raghunandhan N. L. from Nuvama.

Raghunandhan N. L.: Sir, firstly, compared to the company expectation of marginal growth in FY '25, we have done

very well. YTD growth for us is at 11%. As you indicated, brand investments have supported growth. One clarification, in opening remarks, did you indicate marginal growth for Q4 FY '25

or full year FY '25?

Rajiv Poddar: Full year. I repeat my statement, we are confident and hold on to our forecast of achieving minor

sales volume growth in the whole financial year '25.

Raghunandhan N. L.: Understood, sir. So you still hold that concern on the challenging environment, as you

highlighted even for the answer in the previous participant.

Rajiv Poddar: Yes.

Raghunandhan N. L.: Secondly, on the cost side to Mr. Bajaj. Sir, if you can indicate on the Q3, how much was the

impact of raw material cost? And what are your expectation for Q4? Another cost item, freight

cost seems to have reduced in Q3. What is the expectation here for Q4?

Madhusudan Bajaj: So on raw material, we indicated that the price is going up for 100to 200 basis points, it should

impact the margins. But the major impact of that cost will be coming in the coming quarter because of the lag of the shipping time, material comes in this quarter. So that 100 to 200 bps

cost is likely to go up in the next quarter. And coming forward, the raw material prices are stable.

Raghunandhan N. L.: Understood. And on the freight, sir?



Madhusudan Bajaj: Freight cost, whatever has been reduced that we have indicated in last time, now it is on

thestable.

Raghunandhan N. L.: On the freight side. Got it, sir.

Moderator: The next question is from Mumuksh Mandlesha from Anand Rathi.

Mumuksh Mandlesha: Sir, in Europe, particularly, can you speak how has been the growth for the agri and the OEM

segment, sir? And sir, in the near term, considering the base of Q4 last year, do you see Q4 being

flattish? Or do you see some growth in Q4 also, sir?

Rajiv Poddar: So I can't comment on individual breakup of Europe at the moment. I don't have the numbers.

Regarding the upcoming quarter, as I said, the market scenario continues to be challenging. And hence, I would not like to comment on this quarter. But for the whole year, we are confident of achieving minor sales volume growth for this financial year. So we are quite confident of that.

Mumuksh Mandlesha: Got it, sir. Sir, in this quarter, the freight costs have come down. Is there any freight surcharge

also being changed, sir? Has the freight surcharge also been coming down along with the freight

cost, sir?

Rajiv Poddar: -Yes, and the freight cost has been coming down.

Mumuksh Mandlesha: Okay. So the benefit is coming to our numbers?

Rajiv Poddar: Yes.

Mumuksh Mandlesha: Okay. And sir, this quarter, the employee cost has increased by 10% QoQ. Any reason for the

increase, sir?

Rajiv Poddar: So yes, as we mentioned, the capex is done, which has come into play. So that has an added

impact on the employee cost.

Mumuksh Mandlesha: Got it, sir. And lastly, sir, what was the euro-INR rate for the Q3 quarter? And what is expected

ahead, sir?

Madhusudan Bajaj: So it was Rs 91 for the last quarter and the whole of the year. And for the balance period, we

expect Rs 92 to Rs 93.

Moderator: Next question is from Pramod Amthe from InCred Equities.

Pramod Amthe: Sir, first question is, do you see any opportunity to expand into domestic tire sub segments?

Rajiv Poddar: Not at this stage.

Pramod Amthe: Okay. And in that context, the new hirings which are made both in the strategy and in the R&D,

how do they fit in?

Rajiv Poddar: So that has nothing to do with this. So R&D, it's an ongoing business call. And for the new hiring

strategy is, as I mentioned, is towards achieving our vision in off-highway.



Pramod Amthe: Okay. And sir, this is with regard to the carbon black project, what is to be expected in terms of

tonnage or sales contribution for FY '26, the new carbon project? And will it be day one EBITDA

neutral or how to look at it?

Madhusudan Bajaj: So the specialty carbon business is very less, 30,000 tons, and it is initially there -sSamples are

being given and tested. So it will take time to ramp up.

Pramod Amthe: Okay. And anything on the profitability side?

Madhusudan Bajaj: Probably it will be at par with the industry, maybe slightly better.

Pramod Amthe: Okay. And so in that sense, it will be still below the corporate average? Is that the fair

assumption?

Madhusudan Bajaj: Can be.

Moderator: The next question is from Abhishek Jain from AlfAccurate Advisors.

Abhishek Jain: Congrats on a decent set of numbers. Sir, in the US market, we have seen a very impressive

growth in this quarter. So just wanted to understand, what is the outlook? Is there any concern

on the tariff side in the US? And what is the current structure of the tariff?

Rajiv Poddar: So too early to comment. We'll have to wait and watch what comes, then only we can comment.

Otherwise, at the moment, we can't comment what he will do.

Abhishek Jain: And what is the current structure?

Rajiv Poddar: What is the current?

Abhishek Jain: Structure of the tariff in the US from Indian tariff?

Rajiv Poddar: There is no tariff.

Abhishek Jain: Okay. And sir, how much percentage of the volume comes from the Mexico and Canada in

overall US volume?

Rajiv Poddar: I don't have the breakup of geography, so I can't share that breakup a little bit of Americas, which

I have shared.

Moderator: The next question is from Jinesh Gandhi from Ambit Capital.

Jinesh Gandhi: Yes. So did we take any price hike in Q3?

Rajiv Poddar: No.

Jinesh Gandhi: Any price hikes in fourth quarter so far, in January so far?

Rajiv Poddar: No.



Jinesh Gandhi:

No, okay. Second question pertains to the advanced carbon black 30,000 ton capacity. So what could be the peak revenue potential from this plant? And should we expect that to play out in FY '26 or it will take a little longer to ramp it up?

Madhusudan Bajaj:

It may take a little more time also and difficult to make out currently because there are many products, so which product will be developed fast. So price depends on product to product. So maybe two quarters later, we will be able to give you the projections.

Jinesh Gandhi:

Got it.. And lastly, any sense on what should be the capex for FY '26 or we'll have to wait for finalize it?

Rajiv Poddar:

At the moment, we have got that first phase of the 35,000 metric ton of OTR range of tires, which is ongoing. So at the moment, only that is lined up.

Moderator:

Next question is from Abhinav G. from SBI Pension Funds.

Abhinav G.:

Just wanted some clarification on two things. First is on the ROW market, if you can just mention geographically which countries are these? And also on your channel side, when you say others, are we talking about mining tires? Or what is that, if you can just clarify?

Rajiv Poddar:

On the ROW, it is everything apart from Europe, Americas and India. So it is Africa, Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. So I mean, geography, that is what is covered. On the others, mining is coming under OTR set of tires. But it is your smaller golf carts and ATVs and all of that. So that is all what is -- I mean, some other solids and all which are there, which contribute in that.

Abhinav G.:

Okay. So that is quite clear. One more thing, just wanted to understand, now this on the European deforest regulations, last time we had mentioned that, that has got postponed by 1 year. So are we getting any clarity that it will get applicable Q3 next year? Or is this still work in progress? And do we see any channel fill-in before these regulations kick in? What's the take there?

Rajiv Poddar:

It is not in Q3. It is deferred to 1st Jan of next year. But apart from that, there is no further update on that.

Moderator:

Next question is from Ravi Gupta from InCred Equities.

Ravi Gupta:

So as Trump elected in the USA and the recession fears for the USA. has been eased, also the concern over geopolitical tension also eased, does this give you confidence to achieve double-digit volume in FY '26 as we have done in this nine months?

Rajiv Poddar:

I think it's too early. Let things start rolling out. We are hopeful and we are ready, as I mentioned earlier also, we have production capacity. We are doing all our investments. We are developing products. We are focusing on everything that we can do. As soon as the scenarios improve, we will be able to do. But we are fingers crossed and we are hopeful, everybody prays for things to improve. So let's see. But it's too early what happens in the market scenario, where things get resolved, no other geopolitical scenario should turn up. So it's too early to comment.

Moderator:

Next question is from Ajox Frederick from Sundaram Mutual Fund.



Ajox Frederick:

Sir, my question is on rest of the world. We seem to be doing very well quarter-on-quarter. So can you help me understand what exactly is driving this? And you mentioned that it is sustainable as well. So which country is driving it or some more color, basically, on the rest of the world?

Rajiv Poddar:

I mean it's very difficult to give a breakup of a particular country. It's all over. I mean, as I mentioned, there's a product profile which helped us get these numbers. There is the brand investments which are going on across the globe, we've always mentioned that, that will play up and help us be recognized, which is coming in.

So these are the things. It's very difficult to say A country or B country or C country, it's all over. It's a mix of geographies in the rest of the world which has come. We've always mentioned about Americas being an area of focus for us, and you're seeing the changes. We mentioned India is an area of focus. The branding, because we are based in India, is more visible to all of you. So that is helping us get recognition.

All these countries, the base is also lower than in Europe. So that is also helping see the numbers in percentage go up.

Ajox Frederick: Understood, sir. So your branding budget for rest of the world has increased phenomenal versus

the others?

Rajiv Poddar: No, no, no. It is what we have always had the same branding. But it takes a few years for it to

start getting recognized.

Ajox Frederick: Okay., sir. Got it. And sir, secondly, on the overall outlook, you mentioned the marginal growth.

But right now, we are running at very strong rates, right? So I mean, again, except for Europe,

others are also doing well. So where is this concern coming from for the year?

Rajiv Poddar: So as you can see, our largest geography yet continues to be Europe. And the concern is from

Europe, how that will play out.

Moderator: Next question is from Viraj from SiMPL.

Viraj: Just two questions. First, and I think you made a commentary on the OE demand in Europe and

the rest of the markets, North America, I missed that. Can you just give some perspective what else that you're reading in terms of OE demand in Ag and the mining, construction space? That is one. And second, the concern for Europe, can you just elaborate more in terms of what are the

dynamics playing out there?

Rajiv Poddar: So if I've understood your question correctly, you're asking me for what is my breakup. So I'll

repeat my commentary. For the nine months, 43% of sales has come from Europe, 29% has come from India, 16% has come from Americas and balance has come from rest of the world. In terms of channel contribution was your second question. So 73% came from replacement

segment, 25% came from OE and the balance came from offtake.

Viraj: No, sir. Actually, I was asking what is the OE demand trends you're seeing currently across

major markets, Europe and North America? That is the first question.



Rajiv Poddar: Stable and flattish.

Viraj: So going forward, what is the communication you're giving both in the aftermarket and the OE

demand in major markets, North America, Europe, in both agriculture and construction, mining

segments?

Rajiv Poddar: As I said in my opening commentary, the market scenario continues to be challenging. We are

hoping that same thing. So we are also waiting and watching to comment on anything in the

future.

However, that said, we are confident to hold to our forecast that we have made at the start of the

year of achieving minor sales volume growth in this financial year.

Viraj: And in terms of the whole supply chain lead times being longer because of the Red Sea, given

that, that is now easing, do you see any issues in terms of higher inventory levels or any of that? Because the last few months, we've also seen a lot of higher order placement from the channel.

So do you see any of those issues surfacing again?

Rajiv Poddar: No, not at this stage.

Moderator: Next question is from Ganesh Nagarsekar from Bharat Bet Research.

Ganesh Nagarsekar: So my question was regarding our Americas demand. So broadly, you said you've been seeing

some improvement there. So could you kind of highlight the top 2 drivers for that? And going into the next few quarters, do you see that trend continuing? Or what's your kind of visibility

into that?

Rajiv Poddar: So the top two drivers has been the focus that we've been doing over the years in terms of product

for Americas, in terms of infrastructure for Americas. So that is now kicking in. Going forward, we are quite hopeful that this should stabilize and continue to grow over there. I mean the

American market should stabilize, and we should see some growth from whole of America.

Ganesh Nagarsekar: Understood. And just one second question. So on capex for the year, I think we had guided

INR800 crores to INR1,000 crores. And I think nine months, we are at INR970 crores. So broadly for the year, what is the kind of spend that we're looking at? And for next year, if you

could kind of provide some guidance as such?

Rajiv Poddar: Roughly about between INR1,100 crores and INR1,200 crores for next year.

Moderator: Next question is from Ankit Kanodia from Smart Sync Services.

Ankit Kanodia: Most of my questions have been answered. Sir, I just had one question. What I mean is that over

the last 3 and 3.5 years, our stock price has almost been plateaued. We are at the same level. And from a business perspective, from peaking the volumes in FY '23, the volumes came down, and now we are slowly seeing the volumes inching up. And given that the strong cash flows we

have, the kind of cash we have on books and the high dividend payout, at the Board level, do we

also discuss about a possible buyback at some point of time?



Rajiv Poddar: No, not at this stage.

Ankit Kanodia: Any reason you would want to share why you are not looking at...

Rajiv Poddar: We are constantly investing in the capex and the growth of the company, whether it is in terms

of promotion, in terms of product mix, in terms of setting up new capacities, so which will

continue. So we will use the money for those purposes.

Moderator: Next question is from Sonal Gupta from HSBC Mutual Fund.

Sonal Gupta: Just overall on the European market side, could you give us a sense of like on a calendar year,

say, CY '24 versus '23, what sort of a decline would you have seen in the market on the

underlying basis?

Rajiv Poddar: Minor degrowth is there. I don't have the exact numbers, but it is a very minor degrowth, what I

recollect.

Sonal Gupta: Okay.. And in terms of channel inventory also, I mean, is it above normal? Or where do you see

it currently?

Rajiv Poddar: It is at normal levels.

Sonal Gupta: Normal levels. And just lastly, on the India side, I mean like we continue to do extremely well

in India. So I mean like in the markets that we are catering to, I mean, roughly, what sort of

market share would we now have in India?

Rajiv Poddar: So overall in both the off-highway would be similar to international levels of 6% to 7%. Agri

would be closer to 10%, and the others are growing up. So approximately 6% to 7%, I would

say, for the whole off-highway business.

Sonal Gupta: Got it. So off-highway and agri, what is the others? Sorry, which are the segments you're looking

at?

Rajiv Poddar: So industrial, construction, mining is there in the off-highway business. So those sectors is lower.

Agri is at 10%, and those sectors would be between 3% and 4%. But cumulatively, in the whole

Indian market, we would be at about 6% roughly, between 6% and 7%, but closer to 6%.

Moderator: The next question is from Lokesh Manik from Vallum Capital.

Lokesh Manik: My question was in 2015, India, we were doing sales volume of about 20,000 tons, 25,000 tons,

and we've been able to scale that successfully today to about 80,000 tons, 90,000 tons. 3 to 5 years down the line, do you see the same trajectory for rest of the world or for US, whichever

your focus area is?

Rajiv Poddar: For Americas, for sure, we are focusing, and we believe there is tremendous area of growth

which will continue. Rest of the world, we are looking at it geography by geography. So it will

be difficult to give you a generic answer for that.



Lokesh Manik: Would it be fair to understand US would be implemented first and then rest of the world would

follow after 5 years?

Rajiv Poddar: Both are going to happen simultaneously. It's not that we'll do this first and that second. Both

are going to happen simultaneously.

Lokesh Manik: But 5 years, you see the market for 80,000 tons for each of these geographies for BKT?

5 years down the line, yes, US and rest of the world.

Rajiv Poddar: Rest of the world, we'll have to club it up separately. I mean we can't give you a clubbed answer

because so many geographies put together. If any one particular geography becomes big, then

we will separate that out into another one and leave the rest of the world separate.

Lokesh Manik: Fair enough. Just a corollary to that, within the rest of the world, do you see any market having

that size potential like India or US in your view?

Rajiv Poddar: Yes. I mean Asia has, Australia has, also Africa. There are all the geographies have, so it's very

difficult to say this one or that one. But all the geographies have, but it's just where we are

working on all, so which one reacts faster is what we can do.

Moderator: Next question is from Chirag from Keynote Capitals.

Chirag: Most of my questions are answered. Just a couple of them. One is that, sir, what is our revenue

for 9M from carbon black?

Madhusudan Bajaj: Approximately 9%. Less than 10%.

Chirag: Okay. And secondly, just wanted to know, currently from the advanced carbon black, we are

targeting three industries, right, plastic, ink and paint. Any thoughts of getting into -- or the carbon black that we are going to manufacture, are there any usage of this product into lithium-

ion batteries?

Rajiv Poddar: Not yet.

Moderator: We'll take that as the last question. I would now like to hand the conference back to the

management team for closing comments.

Rajiv Poddar: Thank you once again to everybody for your time, and we look forward to meeting you in the

next quarter. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. On behalf of Balkrishna Industries, that concludes the conference. Thank

you for joining us. Ladies and gentlemen, you may now disconnect your lines.