

Lonza

1H25 results beat expectations, forward guidance upgraded

Company Overview

Lonza Group AG is a Switzerland-based holding company offering development and manufacturing of biological drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients. The company operates in four segments by FY24 revenue: (1) Biologics (c.56%); (2) Small Molecules (c.15%); (3) Cell & Gene (c.10%); and (4) Capsules & Health Ingredients (c.16%).

Investment Overview

Global leader in biologics drug contract services. Lonza is the largest biological drug Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) globally in terms of revenue and is one of the top three globally in terms of biologics capacity. It has long held a reputation as the leader in biologics CDMO and has been the main CDMO of choice for biologics drug makers for the past two decades. It provides services such as drug discovery, active pharmaceutical ingredient development and manufacturing, and large-scale drug manufacturing. Lonza's general strategy is to enter new upcoming fields and be the main provider of active pharmaceutical ingredients and manufacturing services for pioneers of drugs which use new technologies such as antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), cell & gene, and mRNA. Revenues from its project mix includes c.15% phase 1, c.15% phase 2, and c.70% commercial.

Strong CDMO growth and margin discipline drove earnings beat in 1H25. Adjusted EPS came in at CHF6.08, up 32% y/y from CHF4.61 in 1H24, underpinning strong operational momentum. Group sales advanced 17% y/y to CHF3.6bn, led by the CDMO segment's 23% growth, propelled by high utilisation of mammalian and small-scale assets and ongoing integration of the Vacaville facility. Core EBITDA margin climbed to 29.6%, up 0.4ppts y/y, reflecting improved operational efficiencies, favourable product mix, and cost-saving actions within the CDMO business. The CHI (Capsules & Health Ingredients) segment delivered stable sales and a modest margin uplift of 1.4ppts y/y, indicating some resilience despite flat volumes. Free cash flow generation remained robust, supporting the company's continued emphasis on strategic capital allocation—balancing reinvestment into capacity expansion, especially bioconjugation and Visp/Stein site development.

Earnings outlook bolstered by upgraded CDMO guidance. The earnings outlook appears encouraging, with management raising full-year CDMO guidance to 20%-21% sales growth and a core EBITDA margin target of 30%-31%, signalling confidence in sustained demand and margin expansion through the year. Management also reaffirmed that CHI guidance remains unchanged—with low-to-mid single-digit. Sales growth and mid-twenties core EBITDA margin is anticipated. Key upside catalysts include strong backlog, continued high utilisation of CDMO assets and ramp-up of new facilities. In contrast, risks persist around raw material cost fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, currency volatility (especially a strong CHF), and broader geopolitical uncertainty—all of which could weigh on volumes or margin delivery.

We have a BUY rating on Lonza, with a TP of CHF690. Our TP is based on a 36.9x 25F PE, 0.2SD above its five-year average. We like Lonza as it will ride on the ADC uptrend as it places focus on ADC services.

Risks

Lonza is at risk of losing market share to players that have better growth potential. The forecasted EPS CAGR for Lonza in 2024-27F is 15.4%, lower than peer Samsung Biologics (207940 KS) with 22.8%. The lower earnings growth is mainly due to higher cost of labour and raw materials in Europe compared to Asia. Net margin sits at 14.2%, lower than Samsung Biologics with 23.8%. This has led to competitors having more available cash flow for capacity expansion, with Samsung Biologics' capacity recently overtaking Lonza.

Analyst

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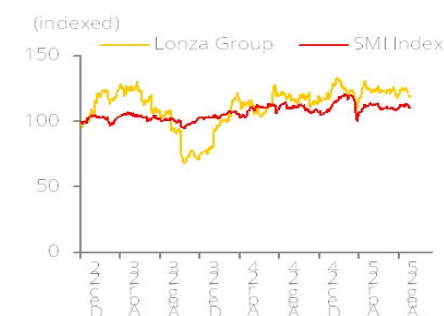
Key Financial Data (FY Dec)

Bloomberg Ticker	LONN SW
Sector	Health Care
Share Price(CHF)	545.80
DBS Rating	BUY
12-mth Target Price (CHF)	690.00
Market Cap (USDbn)	48.52
3m Avg. Daily Val (USDmn)	74.22
Dividend yield (%)	0.73
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.35
Fwd. P/E (x)	29.18
P/Book (x)	4.17
ROE (%)	11.32

Closing Price as of 17/09/2025

Source: Twelve Data, DBS, Visible Alpha

Lonza Share Price



Source: Thomson Reuters

Financial Summary

FY Dec (CHFmn)	FY2022(A)	FY2023(A)	FY2024(A)	FY2025(F)	FY2026(F)
Sales	6,223	6,717	6,574	7,583	8,358
% y/y	15.0	7.9	(2.1)	15.3	10.2
Gross Profit	2,466	2,275	2,288	2,800	3,160
% y/y	15.5	(5.5)	0.8	23.2	12.8
EBITDA	1,995	1,999	1,908	2,239	2,555
% y/y	19.8	0.2	(4.6)	17.3	14.2
Net Profit	1,097	1,022	1,070	1,169	1,384
% y/y	28.6	(15.5)	4.6	14.3	18.6
FCF	(810.0)	(265.0)	(107.0)	101.0	315.8
% y/y	(1,064.3)	(132.7)	(140.4)	(25.9)	120.7
CAPEX	1,830	1,653	1,381	1,571	1,553
% y/y	40.7	(9.7)	(16.5)	11.8	(1.6)
EBITDA Margin (%)	32.1	29.8	29.0	29.6	30.6
Net Margin (%)	17.6	15.2	16.3	15.4	16.6
ROA (%)	6.5	6.0	5.9	5.8	6.6
ROE (%)	10.7	10.1	11.3	12.1	13.5
Tax Rate (%)	15.9	17.1	15.5	17.5	17.4

Source: Visible Alpha

Valuation Metrics

FY Dec	FY2022(A)	FY2023(A)	FY2024(A)	FY2025(F)	FY2026(F)
P/E (x)	27.7	39.8	60.1	37.0	30.6
P/B (x)	3.2	2.8	4.1	4.0	3.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	15.8	14.0	23.9	19.2	16.7
FCF Yield (%)	(2.4)	(1.0)	(0.4)	0.3	0.8

Source: Visible Alpha

Credit & Cashflow Metrics

FY Dec	FY2022(A)	FY2023(A)	FY2024(A)	FY2025(F)	FY2026(F)
Debt / Equity	21.4	29.8	54.5	50.5	47.0
Net Debt / Equity	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3
Debt / Assets	13.2	16.8	23.9	24.3	23.4
Net Debt / Assets	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
EBITDA / Int Exp	20.1	20.9	18.5	14.5	14.2
ST Debt / Total Debt	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Debt / EBITDA	1.1	1.4	2.5	2.2	2.0
[Cash + CFO] / ST Debt	4.4	13.5	5.8	7.4	7.1
Receivables Days	68.3	64.0	73.7	83.6	82.8
Days Payable	28.0	25.4	26.2	25.8	25.8
Inventory Days	106.7	86.1	95.9	90.0	88.9

Source: Visible Alpha

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#	Date of Report	Closing Price	12-m Target Price	Rating
1	24 Sep'24	534.00	640.00	BUY
2	13 Feb'25	598.60	710.00	BUY
3	26 Aug'25	572.80	690.00	BUY

Source: DBS HK
Analyst: Nico Chen

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BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)
HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)
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*Share price appreciation + dividends

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