



Canadian & U.S. Morning Comments

September 19, 2017

Scotiabank GBM DailyEdge Summary by Warren Hastings and Sunny Singh

Telecom & Cable – Converging Networks: Network Test Results Caught Our Attention

< It has been a while since we have done a deep dive into network quality. Although network quality and test results do not necessarily affect near-term results, we believe network quality is one the most important leading indicators for medium- to long-term wireless subscriber share, average revenue per user (ARPU), margins, and capex. In late August, we took a snapshot of the Canadian wireless networks using Open Signal's app. Last week, *PCMag* published its annual network tests. The results were similar. In this edition of Converging Networks, we highlight some of our results and the implications for capex and potential for network sharing in Canada.

Global Fertilizers – Fert Rally Lacks Sustainable Support

- < ***Fert stocks were up sharply, with the performance rank of CF/OCI > YAR > other ferts, suggesting a nitrogen-led rally.*** And of course, the market is correct to show more interest in nitrogen (N, soaring) than phosphate plus potash (P+K, ebbs/flows). Urea has just hit \$258/st NOLA, up from \$225 last week, and \$160 in July. The current price would suggest urea is demand-driven. While there may be temporary pockets of regional/seasonal tightness, we all know urea is not even close to a demand-driven commodity.
- < ***It's too early to assess whether the first part of the trade (CF chasing the fall urea rally) is now behind us.*** However, where we do have conviction is that, at current prices, what goes up should come down. Therefore, the next part of the trade is to short CF. We're too scared to do it yet, as we want to see how tight this market could become. With this momentum, why is \$300/st NOLA any more wacky than \$258/st?
- < ***Higher urea is supported by mostly temporary factors:*** (1) Northern hemisphere restocking; (2) urea trader short-covering; (3) higher coal prices in China and increases in Chinese urea pricing; (4) Indian/Egyptian tenders indicating strong international benchmark pricing; and (5) uncertainty about the commissioning of

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Koch's Enid expansion (900K st urea). With the recent rise in anthracite coal and the RMB strengthening, we now see marginal cost support for urea at \$240/st, but ONLY during the high demand season.

- < **What does the N-rally mean for Nutrien, now trading at an implied \$48/sh?** Using spot fertilizer prices and \$350M of synergies (70% realized), we see Nutrien generating ~\$4/sh of FCFE, worth \$50 to \$57/sh, using a 7% to 8% FCF yield. This means upside is winding down for us, given a sub-20% ROR on the high end, and our view that nitrogen has run a little too far and potash has more downside than upside. While we'll take the ~20% rally over the past few months, some of it has likely been for the wrong reasons (i.e., soaring N rather than more confidence in the strategy/outlook).

Summary of target price / rating changes:

- < **Agellan Commercial REIT (ACR.UN, \$11.81, SP, \$12.25)** – Target price increased from \$11.50

In terms of companies reporting results:

- < **None to report**

Outside of earnings related news, we would highlight the following items:

- < **Inter Pipeline Ltd. (IPL)** – Raised to Outperform from Market Perform at BMO Capital Markets
- < **Keyera Corp. (KEY)** – Raised to Outperform from Market Perform at BMO Capital Markets
- < **Cascades Inc. (CAS)** – Raised to Outperform from Sector Perform at RBC Capital Markets
- < **Africa Oil Corp. (AOI)** – Cut to Neutral from Outperform at Credit Suisse

U.S. Market Commentary by Paul Bhangu and Rakesh Gupta

Credit Suisse Research:

Time Warner Inc. (TWX, NEUTRAL, Target Price: US\$ 107.50)

Thanks for the memories; DOWNGRADING to NEUTRAL (from Outperform); Raising Estimates

- < **Downgrade to Neutral:** We believe the T transaction is close to receiving regulatory approval, with objections from Brazilian regulators likely to be surmountable. We refresh our model and modestly increase our 2017/18 EPS forecasts to \$6.09/\$6.63 (from \$5.95/\$6.62), but given limited upside to the value of the deal, we downgrade our rating to Neutral (from Outperform).
- < **Transaction with AT&T likely to be approved:** In the US, we believe it would be difficult for the DOJ to block the transaction on antitrust grounds given its vertical nature and the precedent from Comcast's acquisition of NBCU. The main outstanding antitrust barrier is in Brazil, where the regulator (CADE) has highlighted competition concerns about the merger - however, we note that in the worst case T could divest Sky Brasil to alleviate these concerns.
- < **\$83-\$87 "break price" range:** Time Warner's guidance of "high single-digit" growth in adjusted operating income in 2017 suggests the company is still benefiting from strong organic operating trends, notably in its core Turner cable networks division where the most recent affiliate renewal cycle continues to drive strong revenue growth despite softening subscriber trends. Absent a merger proposal, we argue TWX would likely trade in the 9.3-9.6x 2018 EV/EBITDA range today, based on 8.5-9x for Turner, 11x for HBO and 9.5x for Warner Bros., suggesting fair value if AT&T were to walk away or the deal is blocked of \$83-87. If the deal were to break, we believe the stock would likely trade above fair value given the quality and scarcity value of TWX's assets and their attractiveness to other potential merger partners.
- < **Valuation:** TWX trades at a 5% discount to the current value of the AT&T offer, and at implied multiples of 11.3x 2018 EV/EBITDA, 16.2x P/E, vs peers on 8.5x and 10.9x respectively. The main risks to our thesis are regulatory concerns regarding the merger with AT&T.

The Gap, Inc. (GPS, NEUTRAL, Target Price: US\$ 30)

Proprietary Analysis Highlights Attractive Real Estate Positioning; UPGRADING to NEUTRAL (from Underperform); Raising Ests and TP to \$30 (from \$23)

- < We upgrade shares of GPS to Neutral from Underperform given: 1) the surprising top 10 score in our proprietary brick-and-mortar real estate analysis; 2) the recent announcement of an additional ~200 low quality store closures; 3) improvements in the supply chain at the Gap brand starting to materialize across pricing structure, resulting in lower markdown intensity; and 4) an attractive valuation. We adjust our estimates and raise our Target Price to \$30 from \$23.
- < CS Brick-And-Mortar Analysis Indicates GPS Is Better Positioned Than We Thought. The biggest surprise in our analysis was The Gap Inc.'s top 10 score. GPS scored 57.1% versus the group average of 50%, and well above other mall-based specialty retail companies (LB 50%, ANF 50%, and KORS 44%). GPS pulled ahead by scoring higher in the mall exposure and mall quality categories.
- < GPS Focused On Further Fleet Rationalization. We are encouraged by GPS's recent announcement to shutter ~200 low quality Gap brand and Banana Republic locations, and focus on Old Navy and Athleta concepts. We believe the move to a healthier fleet and an increased focus on digital is prudent as sales continue to shift online.
- < Adjusting Estimates. We adjust our FY17 comp, revenue and EPS estimates to 1.1%, \$15,517M, and \$2.06 from 0.9%, \$15,512M, and \$2.02. Our FY18 estimates go to 1.6%, \$15,912M, and \$2.27 from 0.8%, \$15,765M, and \$2.15. We upgrade our rating to Neutral and raise our Target Price to \$30 from \$23, reflecting an equal weighted average of:

1) comparable multiples (\$32); 2) DCF (\$35); and 3) a long-term growth model (\$23). Risks include a deteriorating traffic environment and continued consumer shift to lower margin eCommerce sales.

Rating Changes:

CVS (CVS) — Analysts at RBC initiated both CVS and WBA with "outperform" ratings. For Walgreens, RBC said the company is primed for accelerating earnings growth as it "appears ready to harvest the rewards" of its efforts from the past two years. For CVS, RBC said the company is "at an inflection point in its corporate life cycle, as well as in the life cycle of the industry."

Tesla (TSLA) — Analysts at Jefferies initiated coverage of the stock with an "underperform" rating and a price target of \$280 per share. That target represents a 27.3 percent downside potential from Monday's close of \$385. Jefferies said in a note it expects losses to continue until 2020, adding Tesla still faces challenges in scaling its business.

Michael Kors (KORS) — Oppenheimer upgraded the stock to "outperform" and raised its price target \$55 from \$45 a share. "Margins seem to be finding the bottom, while sentiment is extremely negative," it said in a note.

Nike (NKE) — The Dow component fell 1.5 percent before the bell after analysts at Susquehanna lowered their rating to "neutral" from "positive." The analysts cited concerns that Nike's North America and Europe businesses are "decelerating as some key items, especially in the basketball category, have underperformed, leaving excess inventory in the marketplace."

News:

Kohl's (KSS) — Kohl's said Tuesday it is offering free Amazon returns in 82 stores starting in October.

Fixed Income

Morning Comment

BoC Comments Halt Selling

Yields ended lower after BoC commentary sparked bidding. Absent any market-relevant data, Canadian and U.S. yields spent most of the day continuing last week's reflation trade. U.S. yields ended in that position, but it was Canadian yields that reversed course following comments from Bank of Canada Deputy Governor Timothy Lane. In the Q&A session following his speech the Deputy Governor indicated the BoC is watching currency movements "closely" and "taking that into account pretty strongly in making our decisions." His answer took 0.56% off the value of the Canadian dollar (in USD terms) and 4.5bps from the 2-year benchmark yield.

Canadian manufacturing and U.S. housing starts are on the docket this morning. At 8:30am ET, Canadian July m/m manufacturing sales are expected to post a decline for the second month in a row following weak export data. South of the border August housing starts are released at the same time. The result is expected to show only the third m/m increase in 2017 as the beginning of the year marked a break from a multi-year upward trend. However, it is unlikely the U.S. reacts to the data as it waits for news from the FOMC tomorrow.

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Research Analyst Gavin Wylie visited Block 10BB in Kenya, an exploration well, on October 2-4, 2012. Partial payment was received from the issuer for the travel-related expenses incurred by the Research Analyst to visit this site. **Africa Oil Corp.**

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