

voice, and video across geographically dispersed local-areanetworks, metropolitan-area networks, and wide-area networks. Devices are primarily integrated by Cisco IOS Software and include Routers, Switches, New Products, and Other. Provides services as-

75,049 employees. Officers/Directors hold less than 1.0% of stock; BlackRock, 6.2%. (9/14 proxy). Chrmn. & CEO: John T. Chambers. Incorporated: California, Address: 170 W. Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134-1706. Telephone: 408-526-4000. Web: www.cisco.com.

ANNUAL RATES Est'd '12-'14 Past 5 Yrs. 7.5% 11.0% 11.0% 10 Yrs. 12.0% 12.5% of change (per sh) to '18-'20 4.5% 5.5% 6.5% Revenues 'Cash Flow 13.0% Earnings Dividends 12 0% Book Value 10.5% 12.5%

7965

1029

3283

17880

22192

67114

1032 508

18269

19809

67882

18191

20034

988

855

65521

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

Fiscal Year Ends			/ENUES (\$ Apr.Per		Full Fiscal Year
2012	11256	11527	11588	11690	46061
2013	11876	12098	12216	12417	48607
2014	12085	11155	11545	12357	47142
2015	12245	11936	12050	12769	49000
2016	12500	12500	12650	13150	50800
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				_Full _
Year Ends	Oct.Per	Jan.Per	Apr.Per	Jul.Per	Fiscal Year
2012	.43	.47	.48	.47	1.85
2013	.48	.51	.51	.52	2.02
2014	.53	.47	.51	.55	2.06
2015	.54	.53	.53	.55	2.15
2016	.57	.55	.55	.58	2.25
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID E				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011		.06	.06	.06	.18
2012	.06	.08	.08	.28	.50
2013		.17	.17	.17	
2014	.17	.19	.38		.74
2015	.19				

Cisco is doing well. Earnings per share for the January period rose 13% year over year and topped our estimate by a penny (fiscal 2015 ends July 25th). The improvement was partly driven by prior restructuring activity that realigned 40% of employees to priority areas like cloud, mobility, big data, security, and collaboration. The elimination of 30% of its leadership positions also helped. Importantly, demand is up across geographies, categories, and customer segments.

The company has confidence in its ability to maintain gross margins. Sales from the Switching unit rose 11% during the third quarter, which was a surprise to some who believe demand is shifting toward less profitable commoditized switches. These products combine off-theshelf parts and software to create economical software defined networks (SDNs). Although SDN options are cheaper upfront than Cisco's competing Application Centric Infrastructure offering, the company contends that its clients can avoid paying for costly security breaches that may result from using less secure white-box products. Cisco also pointed out that its ability to provide a one-stop shopping experience is resonating with customers.

The order book is in good shape. Overall product orders rose 5% year over year, a nice acceleration over the past few quarters. The U.S. saw bookings advance 7%, versus 3% in the first quarter, aided by strong public sector activity. Orders from global service providers fell 1%, an improvement over the -10% average over the last five quarters. The company expects total service provider capex to decline in the mid-single digits for calendar year 2015, but thinks it can grow market share. Emerging market orders ought to stay weak for a while yet.

Management is optimistic about the future. It thinks the "digitization" countries, cities, homes, and cars is likely forthcoming, and that every electronic device in the world will eventually connect to the Internet, unlocking \$19 trillion in increased profits or cost savings. We believe the company is well positioned to benefit from this trend. As a result, these neutrally ranked shares ought to provide decent risk-adjusted price appreciation. Kevin Downing March 20. 2015

(A) Fiscal year ends on last Saturday in July (four 13-week quarters). (B) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring items: '99, (7¢); '00, (17¢); '01, (38¢); '02, (14¢); '03, (9¢); '04,

forma thereafter. (C) In millions, adjusted for 2011, paid in late Jan., April, July, and Oct.

(14¢). '01 includes \$0.15 inventory writeoff. May not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due mid-May. GAAP egs. prior to 2011, pro-2006. (E) Dividend commenced March 29,

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 60 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85

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