Verizon Communications Inc.

Verizon Communications Inc. was a spin-off created by the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE in June of 2000. It is a diversified telecom company with a network that covers a population of about 298 million. Acquired MCI, 1/06; and several smaller carriers in 2001, including AirTouch Communications. Acquired 77% of Qwest Communications in 2011. The company also owns 52% of Vodafone, Europe's largest telecom company. Verizon owns reps and wholesale customers in more than 130 countries and territories. 2013 revenue breakdown: wireline (including FiOS) (51%); wireless (42%); media and telematics (7%); and network (9%).

Verizon has been quite busy over the last month or so. Indeed, the company has agreed to two significant asset divestitures and earmarked a portion of the proceeds to bolster shareholder value. More specifically, in early February, VZ inked a definitive agreement to sell its local wireline operations serving customers in CA, FL, and TX to Frontier Communications for approximately $10.54 billion. The sale includes FiOS, which was not a part of the agreement, and is expected to close in mid-2015, while the ASR is expected to close in 2016.

Verizon completed the December period with roughly $10.6 billion in cash on its balance sheet and long-term debt of $11.5 billion. Verizon stock has something for everyone. The issue is pegged to outperform the market over the coming year. What's more, at the current quotation, its long-term capital appreciation potential is well above average. Finally, Verizon stock could well be the darling of income-seeking investors, as its dividend yield is more than twice that of the Value Line Median. Kenneth A. Nugent.

In the meantime, the company seems poised for record performances both this year and next. To wit, VZ has seen impressive momentum in wireless customer growth and strength for 4G smartphones and tablets and on its More Everything shared data plans. This growth has put a bit of pressure on short-term margins, but will certainly be a boon over the long haul. Separately, the Wireline divestiture program. The two divestitures are expected to close in mid-2015, while the ASR is expected to close in 2016. The divestitures are expected to close in mid-2015, while the ASR is expected to close in 2016.

Now the long-term capital appreciation potential is well above average. Finally, Verizon stock could well be the darling of income-seeking investors, as its dividend yield is more than twice that of the Value Line Median. Kenneth A. Nugent.

In the meantime, the company seems poised for record performances both this year and next. To wit, VZ has seen impressive momentum in wireless customer growth and strength for 4G smartphones and tablets and on its More Everything shared data plans. This growth has put a bit of pressure on short-term margins, but will certainly be a boon over the long haul. Separately, the Wireline divestiture program. The two divestitures are expected to close in mid-2015, while the ASR is expected to close in 2016. The divestitures are expected to close in mid-2015, while the ASR is expected to close in 2016.