

BUSINESS: AT&T Inc., formerly SBC Communications, is one of the world's largest telecom holding companies and is the largest in the U.S. Its traditional (SBC only) wireline subsidiaries provide services in 13 states, including California, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Connecticut, Indiana, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Nevada. Also owns Cingular (now AT&T Wire-

less). Acquired PacTel, 4/97; SNET, 10/98; Ameritech, 10/99; AT&T Corp., 11/05; BellSouth, 12/06; DirecTV, 7/15. '16 sales mix: Service, 91%; Equip., 9%. Has about 260,500 empl. BlackRock, 5.8% of common; Off./Dir., less than 1% (3/17 Proxy). Chrmn. & CEO: Randall Stephenson. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 208 S. Akard St., Dallas, Texas, 75202. Tel.: 210-821-4105. Internet: www.att.com.

Past Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 4.0% 3.0% 4.0% 2.5% 6.5% 5.0% 2.0% 4.5% Revenues "Cash Flow 4.0% 4.0% 5.5% 4.0% Dividends **Book Value** 1.0% 6.5% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 32447 2014 32575 32957 39091 42119 46801 2015 32576 33015 2016 40535 40520 40890 41841 63786 39365 2017 39837 39668 41130 160000

30372

47816

602%

7636

31138

50576

496%

9832

28928

8551

10214

47693

380%

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fix. Chg. Cov

Other

2018 40500 40700 41100 42700 65000 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2014 2.50 2015 .69 .74 .63 2.69 .63 2016 .72 .72 .74 .66 2.84 2017 .74 .79 .74 .66 2.93 .79 2018 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 2013 2014 .46 .46 .46 1.84 .46 2015 .47 .47 .47 .47 1.88 .48 .48 .48 2016 .48 2017 .49 .49 .49 .49

AT&T's proposed \$85 billion acquisition of Time Warner has hit a stumbling block. Indeed, the Justice Department has sued to block the media tie-up on antitrust grounds, leading investors to question whether the deal, first announced in October of 2016, will ever be consummated. The DOJ has green-lighted similar transactions in the recent past, most notably when it allowed Comcast to buy NBCUniversal. But the regulatory body, concerned that an AT&T-Time Warner merger would harm consumers and give it an unfair leg up on smaller rivals like Netflix and T-Mobile, now seems to be taking a harsher position. In response, AT&T plans to aggressively defend the union in court, mainly by arguing that the two parties are not direct competitors, and that the public would ultimately benefit via more attractive bundles of wireless plans and digital content. It will also remain in settlement talks with the DOJ, we think, in the hopes of clearing up any antitrust concerns. Still, the transaction is far from a certainty at this point. And the merger deadline has been pushed out to late April.

The carrier's operating climate, meanwhile, remains chilly. The video business is being hampered by cord-cutting, while wireless pricing continues to be hurt by heavy promotional activity in the space. Given these factors, we are reducing our 2017 share-net estimate to \$2.93 (from \$2.95) and our 2018 call to \$3.00 (from \$3.05). Still, cash flow remains ample, which is supporting network upgrades and the generous dividend payout. And . . .

The fundamental picture here generally appears solid. Even without Time Warner, AT&T should benefit from stepped-up bundling initiatives, with more packages featuring DirecTV Now, its popular streaming television service. The company also seems likely to emerge as a leader in the 5G broadband market. And wireless pricing should eventually stabilize, which would be a plus for margins.

We continue to like this high-quality issue for cautious, income-oriented investors. The Time Warner acquisition would probably be immediately accretive to earnings and free cash flow, though it's not yet factored into our projections.

Justin Hellman December 15, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains/(losses): '03, \$1.04; '04, \$0.32; '05, \$(9.30); '06, \$(90.45). Next earnings report due late Jan. (B) Div'ds paid in Feb., May, Aug.,

and Nov. Incl. one-time div'ds: In '03, \$0.25. ■ no longer incl. in top line. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. goodwill: '16: \$105207 mill., \$17.14/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Starting in '03, proportionate rev. from Cingular