

BUSINESS: 3M Company is a diversified manufacturer and technology company with operations in more than 70 countries. It is among the leading manufacturers in many of the markets it serves. The conglomerate currently operates five segments: Industrial (34.3% of 2016 sales); Safety & Graphics (18.8%); Health Care (18.4%); Electronics and Energy (16.0%); Consumer (14.9%).

Elimination of Dual Credit was a 2.4% drag. 2016 R&D: \$1.7 billion, 5.8% of sales. Employs about 91,584. Officers & directors own less than 1.0% of common stock; State Street 7.6%; The Vanguard Group, 7.3%; BlackRock, 6.0% (3/17 proxy). Chairman, President, & CEO: Inge G. Thulin. Incorporated: DE. Address: 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144. Telephone: 651-733-1110. Internet: www.3m.com.

Current Liab. 6219 6598 Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 6.0% 8.0% 7.5% 13.5% -1.5% Sales "Cash Flow" 6.0% 6.0% 6.0% 8.5% Earnings 6.0% 9.5% Dividends Book Value 8.5% 5.0%

10986

1694

2044

3380

11726

1798 972

3449

13656

1824

835

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

| Cal- endar | QU/ Mar.31 | ARTERLY : Jun.30 | SALES (\$ 1 OS.qa2 | | Full Year |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|
| 2014 | 7831 | 8134 | 8137 | 7719 | 31821 |
| 2015 | 7578 | 7686 | 7712 | 7298 | 30274 |
| 2016 | 7409 | 7662 | 7709 | 7329 | 30109 |
| 2017 | 7685 | 7810 | 8172 | 7798 | 31465 |
| 2018 | 8100 | 8275 | 8650 | 8250 | 33275 |
| Cal- | EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2014 | 1.79 | 1.91 | 1.98 | 1.81 | 7.49 |
| 2015 | 1.85 | 2.02 | 2.05 | 1.66 | 7.58 |
| 2016 | 2.05 | 2.08 | 2.15 | 1.88 | 8.16 |
| 2017 | 2.16 | 2.58 | 2.33 | 2.03 | 9.10 |
| 2018 | 2.35 | 2.70 | 2.55 | 2.25 | 9.85 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B= | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2014 | .855 | .855 | .855 | .855 | 3.42 |
| 2015 | 1.025 | 1.025 | 1.025 | 1.025 | 4.10 |
| 2016 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 4.44 |
| 2017 | 1.175 | 1.175 | 1.175 | 1.175 | 4.70 |
| 2018 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring: '01, (5¢); '10, (12¢). Excludes discontinued: '06, 47¢; '07, 60¢. Earnings may not sum due

Shares of 3M preformed very well in 2017 and are likely to continue to do so in the months ahead. The stock, which increased 35% in value last year, is ranked 2 (Above Average) for Timeliness and pegged to outpace the broader market averages for the coming six to 12 months. We suspect that the company closed 2017 in healthy fashion. Earnings for the third quarter easily surpassed expectations, coming in at \$2.33 a share, 8% higher than the year-earlier tally and nearly triple the growth we were anticipating. Although margins continued to benefit from cost controls, the top line rose a better-than-expected 6%, calming some fears we had about the pipeline. Indeed, each of the five business segments reported improve-ment, despite divestitures and currency headwinds. Although domestic growth remained weak relative to other areas of the world, management raised its full-year earnings guidance to \$9.00-\$9.10 a share, from \$8.80-\$9.05. We have upped our forecast to the high end of the revised outlook, and call for an 8% fourth-quarter advance, on a 6% top-line increase.

Management's 2018 guidance is favor
Next earnings report due late January.
(B) Dividends historically paid mid-March,
June, September, and December. ■ Dividend

able, too. It anticipates earnings between \$9.60 and \$10.00 a share this year, the midpoint of which assumes an 8% improvement. Sales growth is expected to remain in the 5%-7% range, with ongoing margin expansion and share repurchases picking up the slack

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Three- to five-Three to five-year appreciation potential took a hit after the stock recently set a new high-water mark for price. That said, appeal is better on a risk-adjusted basis, given the equity's 1 (Highest) Safety rank, and favorable scores for Price Stability and Price Growth Persistence. The dividend is another plus, as are the company's healthy finances and strong cash flow generation. Management continues to streamline the business, and further efforts on this front are likely to prove our current projections conservative in time. Most recently, it agreed to sell the Communication Markets division to Corning for \$900 million. The deal is expected to close by yearend. Also, this stock would probably hold up better than most if the broader market was to cool off. Prospective accounts are advised to buy on dips.

Andre J. Costanza January 12, 2018

Company's Financial Strength A++
Stock's Price Stability 100
Price Growth Persistence 90
Earnings Predictability 100

to rounding or changes in share's outstanding. | reinvestment plan available.

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