

that are connected, responsive, and predictive. Products/services range from aircraft engines to power generation to oil/gas equipment to medical imaging, etc. Its GE Capital finance arm remains in the process of being almost entirely divested (GE Capital Exit Plan).

own less than 1% of common stock; BlackRock and Vanguard, 5.0% (3/18 Proxy). CEO: John Flannery. Incorporated: New York. Address: 41 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210. Telephone: 203-373-2211. Internet: www.ge.com.

79378 Current Liab. 105112 101710 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '15-'17 Past 10 Yrs. -1.5% 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '21-'23 5.5% 7.5% 9.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" -4.0% -0.5% 8.5% -5.0% -4.5% -4.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 2.0%

151993

13680

17777

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

138872

14435 23626

63649

128356

15153

16021

48204

Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31	FERLY REV Jun.30		mill.) F Dec.31	Full Year
2015	29356	32754	31680	33894	127684
2016	27845	33494	29266	33088	123693
2017	27660	29558	33472	31402	122092
2018	27620	29840	33030	33050	123540
2019	28300	30530	33750	33750	126330
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.20	.31	.29	.52	1.32
2016	.21	.50	.32	.46	1.49
2017	.21	.28	.29	.27	1.05
2018	.15	.22	.30	.33	1.00
2019	.18	.24	.33	.35	1.10
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2015	.23	.23	.23	.23	.92
2016	.23	.23	.23	.23	.92
2017	.24	.24	.24	.24	.96
2018	.12	.12			

General Electric shares have fallen to lows not seen since the early stages of this decade. Investors are exiting in droves and cycling into less risky blue chips at a time when the overall market has been dealing with a bout of volatility. The GE story does get some merit long term, and the Street has been a fan of management's attitude toward the drastic changes that need to be undertaken to right the ship. Still, the current situation is far from ideal and clearly not for everyone. Portfolio simplification is still in the works, with the end result being a focus on aviation, power, and healthcare. In that vein, some divestitures, which will lead to more charges cluttering up the earnings figures, are probably in the cards going forward. Cost trimming will also be a primary focus; the goal is set at \$3 billion.

The stock recently got a boost on whispers that Berkshire Hathaway was looking to take a stake. Warren Buffett was keen on helping GE during the great recession from 2007-2009. And with the company's stock price once again battered he may well see a buying opportunity. Reports are that an 11% posi-

tion (\$14 billion) is in play. That amount would make Berkshire the largest shareholder and may be the shot in the arm GE stock needs. Many investors follow Mr. Buffett's ways and if this stake comes to fruition a bounce from the current doldrums would be a distinct possibility.

The next two years are unlikely to show much growth at all as the company's transition wears on. End markets are stagnant and the Baker Hughes venture is not firing on all cylinders by any stretch of the imagination. Stripping out costs and streamlining the portfolio will be the name of the game.

This equity has fallen to the bottom rung of our Timeliness Ranking System. Therefore, investors would be wise to not rush in here at this tumultuous time. However, the long-term investment picture is better looking. Appreciation potential from the lows currently being tested are ample out to 2021-2023. Too, the dividend, even after a 50% cut, is north of 3% due to the low share price. We think brighter days are ahead for this 125-year old industrial titan.

Erik M. Manning

April 13, 2018

R 85

35

75

(A) Operating margin includes all expenses except interest, depr., and taxes. (B) Diluted EPS. Excludes nonrecuring/discontinued items: '02, 10¢; '05, (18¢); '06, 1¢; '07, (3¢);

due April 20th. (C) Divs. paid late January,

'08, (6¢); '09, (2¢); '10, (9¢); '11, (7¢); '15, (\$1.94); '16, (60¢); '17, (\$1.77). Quarterly EPS (D) Includes intangibles. In '17: \$104.2 billion, may not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report \$12.00/share. (E) In millions. (F) Revenues may not sum, as reported.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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