

Services & Cloud Platforms, 43%; Global Business Services, 21%; Systems, 10%; Cognitive Solutions, 23%; Financing & Other, 3%. Geographic mix: Americas region, 48% of revenue; EMEA, 31%;

Business

Machines

Street, 5.6% (3/18 proxy). Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Address.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com

37363 Current Liab. 36275 36822 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '15-'17 Past 10 Yrs. 3.0% 6.0% 7.5% 5 Yrs. -1.0% -.5% -.5% of change (per sh) to '21-'23 1.5% 1.0% -.5% 4.5% 17.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 13.5%

43888

6209

49735

6451 6987

<u>23</u>925

48257

5384 10932

20506

International

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30			Full Year
2015	19590	20813	19280	22059	81741
2016	18684	20238	19226	21771	79919
2017	18155	19289	19153	22542	79139
2018	19072	20003	18756	21829	79650
2019	18800	19900	18800	22000	79500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	2.44	3.58	3.02	4.59	13.60
2016	2.09	2.61	2.98	4.73	12.39
2017	1.85	2.48	2.92	4.79	12.04
2018	1.81	2.61	2.94	4.34	11.70
2019	1.80	2.65	2.95	4.40	11.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B■				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.95	1.10	1.10	1.10	4.25
2015	1.10	1.30	1.30	1.30	5.00
2016	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.40	5.50
2017	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	5.90
2018	1.50	1.57	1.57	1.57	

plans to acquire Red Hat. It is offering \$190 a share in cash for the provider of open-source software for cloud computing, in a transaction valued at \$34 billion. Directors of both companies have approved the deal, which is also subject to a vote by Red Hat shareholders and regulatory approval. IBM intends to finance the deal with cash and debt, and will suspend its stock-buyback program in 2020 and 2021. **The purchase is strategic.** IBM hopes the acquisition will assist it in helping businesses transition to cloud computing. should he cross-selling portunities. Too, Red Hat has an extensive developer ecosystem. IBM expects the combination to add 200 basis points to its annual compound five-vear revenue growth rate; be gross-margin and cashflow accretive in year one of the merger; and to add to earnings per share at the end of year two (but we assume it will dilute reported earnings in late 2019 and 2020). Our estimates and projections won't

include Red Hat until the acquisition is completed in the latter half of 2019. Meanwhile, IBM is facing some head-

winds. Currency shifts, which provided a revenue tailwind in the first half, turned into a headwind in the September quarter, clipping two percentage points from revenue growth. But global business services and strategic business revenues rose. Meanwhile, systems revenues, which advanced 10% in the year-earlier period, rose a modest 2%, as the rollout of IBM's new z14 mainframe computer in late 2017 annualized. The gross margin was flat, but selling expenses moderated.

We think IBM ended 2018 on a weak note, and look for slight earnings progress in 2019. Absent another major new product introduction, systems revenues probably will fall back to a more sustainable level. It is also taking time for revenues from strategic imperatives (like cloud computing) to offset declines in more mature offerings. But efficiency initiatives

might support better margins.

IBM's dividend yield is attractive. But the company continues to struggle to reignite revenue growth, and the stock has below-average 3- to 5-year potential. It is also ranked unfavorably for Timeliness. Theresa Brophy December 28, 2018

(A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. gains (losses) from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06, \$0.05; '14. (\$3.65). In 17, excludes \$5.90 charge related to tax

shs. Next earnings report mid-January. (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of 9/30/18, \$39.7 bil(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, lion, \$43.64/sh. (E) In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retire-June, September, and December. ■ Dividend | ment benefit plan loss.

reform. Quarters may not sum due to change in shs. Next earnings report mid-January. (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of 9/30/18, \$39.7 bil-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 85 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 90

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