

Current Liab. 30340 33037 37930 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '15-'17 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues "Cash Flow" 0.5% 1.0% -4.5% -3.0% 4.5% 3.5% -8.0% 11.5% 3.0% -11.5% 4.0% 1.5% 7.5% Earnings **Book Value** 

19593

2645

21232

3453

22501 7190

Accts Payable Debt Due

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 30937 2016 32171 30532 32340 125980 2017 29814 30548 31717 33955 26034 2018 31772 32203 32607 34281 30863 2019 32250 32600 33000 34550 132400 2020 32615 32970 33375 34940 133900 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2016 1.06 .94 1.01 .86 3.87 2017 .95 .96 .98 .85 3.74 1.17 1.22 2018 1.20 4.71 1.12 2019 1.16 1.18 1.20 1.11 4.65 4.80 2020 1.22 1.22 1.24 1.12 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B. endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Year Dec.31 2015 2.23 .55 .55 .565 .565 2016 .565 .565 .58 .58 2.29 2017 .58 .58 .58 .59 2.33 2018 .59 .59 .59 .6025 2.37 2019 .6025

BUSINESS: Verizon Communications was 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 and provides service to nearly 98.2 million. Acquired MCI, 1/06; Alltel, 1/09; Verizon Wireless, 2/14. Also the largest provider of print and on-line directory information. Has a wireline presence in 28

Verizon rung up strong results in the recently completed year. The telecommunications giant and Dow-30 component reported full-year earnings of \$4.71 a share, a hefty 26% year-over-year advance, on a 3.8% top-line improvement. As is typically the case, Verizon Wireless was the fair-haired boy during the final stanza of last year, with the division reporting a 2.7% increase in fourth-quarter revenue, the fifth time the company has reported year-over-year wireless revenue growth in two years. In addition, services revenues, which had been declining earlier in the year, grew 0.1% in the December quarter, thanks to the combined effects of ongoing customer growth, step-ups to unlimited plans, and the benefits of customers customizing their accounts through mixand-match plans. And VZ Wireless added 1.22 million retail postpaid net additions during the interim, bringing Verizon Wireless' total number of retail connections to 118.0 million, up 1.5% year over year.

But the outlook for this year is not quite as rosy. As per management's recent financial guidance, we now look for Verizon to post a modest 1.2% uptick in

states & Washington, D.C.; a wireless presence in 50 states & D.C.; operations in 19 countries. 2018 revenue breakdown: wireline, 23%; domestic wireless, 69%; corporate & other, 8%. Has about 144,500 employees. Chairman: Lowell McAdam; CEO: Hans Vestberg. Inc.: Delaware. Addr.: 1095 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10036. Tel.: 212-395-1000. Internet: www.verizon.com.

year-over-year revenues, as elevated competition in a mature industry may stymie the company's ability to attract new customers. Separately, the new lease accounting standard will certainly do Verizon no favors, with its adoption likely to have a one to two cent per quarter negative impact on the full-year bottom line. Finally, capital spending this year and next should be up about \$1 billion, to the \$17 billion to \$18 billion range, due, in large part, to the expanded commercial launch of its 5G network. Hence, we look for 2019 earnings to come in around \$4.65 a share, with a 3% improvement in the cards for 2020.

At this juncture, we recommend bluechip Verizon stock to investors of all ilks. Based on recent price and earnings momentum, the equity is currently pegged to best the year-ahead market averages. What's more, at the recent quotation, the issue offers above-average appreciation potential through the early years of the coming decade. And on a final note, VZ's dividend yield is almost twice that of the Value Line median, making it the darling of the income-seeking crowd.

Kenneth A. Nugent March 15, 2019

(A) Based diluted shares. Excl. n/r gains (losses): '03, (\$1.51); '04, \$0.08; '06, (\$0.42). Next earnings report April 23rd. (B) Div'd paid in early Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv.

plan avail. **(C)** In mill. **(D)** Including financial subsidiary. **(E)** '06 MCI pro forma.

Company's Financial Strength
Stock's Price Stability
95
Price Growth Persistence
25
Earnings Predictability
65