

Studio Dragon (253450)

Improving Margins Boost Growth Visibility

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Maintain BUY and target price of KRW127,000

We maintain BUY and our TP of KRW127,000 (61.9x 12m fwd P/E) on Studio Dragon. There were no significant revisions to 2021–22 NP (attributable to controlling interests) estimates, but we changed our valuation methodology from the P/E–ROE model to the discounted cash flow model to better reflect the company's long-term growth potential.

Strong profit margins in 1Q21

Studio Dragon turned in 1Q21 revenue of KRW117.1bn (-2.7% YoY) and OP of KRW17.9bn (+53.6% YoY). Distribution revenue was brisk thanks to hit content such as *Vincenzo* and *Mr. Queen*. The company's top-line suffered because of a decrease in no. of episodes aired, but price hikes cut the COGS ratio to 79.8% (-6.4pp YoY). OPM came in at 15.3%, the highest level since 3Q18, which is when *Mr. Sunshine* was aired.

2021 highlight: Global and digital businesses

We believe 2021 will mark the kickoff of the company's global and digital businesses. The company is currently joint producing over 10 global projects, opening up the possibility of increases in production costs and greater access to new IPs. The no. of digital originals produced will increase from two in 2020 to at least nine in 2021, and Studio Dragon's Netflix-centric client base will be expanded to include iQIYI and Tving; the company will produce three series for each company (extra orders possible for Tving). The reduced reliance on TV programming and advances in global operations should have a positive impact on revenue and profit margins.

44,1%

21.4

12.2%

55.9% 6.3%

12M

24.1

-12.2

CLENM and 3 others

3M

-3.3

-3.6

6M

18.1

2.6

Buy Maintain

Target Price (Maintain)	KRW127,000
Dividend yield*	0.0%
Total return	33.1%
Current price (May 12)	KRW95,400
Consensus target price	KRW129,150
Market capitalization	USD2.6bn

* 12-month forward

Earnings Forecast & Valuation				
Fiscal year-end	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenue (KRWbn)	526	561	667	708
OP (KRWbn)	49	71	94	98
NP to control, int. (KRWbn)	30	62	82	72
EPS (KRW)	1,044	2,053	2,735	2,386
EPS growth (%)	10.9	96.6	33.2	-12.8
P/E (x)	88.7	46.5	34.9	40.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.3	18.7	18.9	20.0
P/B (x)	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.5
ROE (%)	5.7	9.6	11.5	9.1
Div. yield (%)	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0

Trading Data Free float

(%)

Absolute

Relative

Foreign ownership Major shareholders

Avg. T/O val. (3m, KRWbn)

Stock Price Performance

1M

-9.1

-6.0

Risk & Total Return (annualized over three years)



Stock Price & Relative Performance

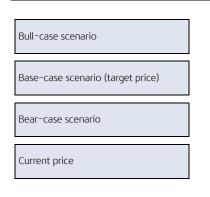


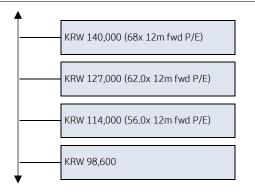
Source(s): Company data, KB Securities

Sharper competitive edge in content to boost OPM

Due to hikes in selling prices, expansion of client base and library accumulation, Distribution revenue is fueling earnings growth. Also, the company's sharper competitive edge in content is expected to boost OPM. Studio Dragon should fare better in 2H21 than in 1H21, turning in 2021 OP of KRW70.6bn (+43.7% YoY).

Investment Opinion & Risks





Base-case scenario: Catalysts

- 1) 2021E Distribution revenue +19.3% YoY
- 2) Global OTTs launch in Korea in 2021

Bull-case scenario: Upside risks

- 1) 2021E Distribution revenue +25.0% YoY
- 2) Global OTTs launch in Korea and Asia in 2021

Bear-case scenario: Downside risks

- 1) 2021E Distribution revenue +15.0% YoY
- 2) Global OTTs fail to launch in Korea in 2021

Revised Earnings Estimates

(KRWbn, %)	Previo	us	Revi	sed	Chai	nge
	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E
Revenue	621.3	744.6	561.3	666.9	-9.7	-10.4
OP	77.2	94.0	70.6	94.0	-8.6	0.0
NP (to control. int.)	64.4	79.5	61.7	82.1	-4.3	3.3

Source(s): KB Securities estimates

KB Estimates vs. Consensus

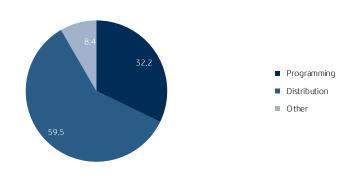
(KRWbn, %)	KB Estim	ates	Consen	sus	Difference		
	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	
Revenue	561.3	666.9	569.1	659.6	-1.4	1.1	
OP	70.6	94.0	68.2	87.3	3.5	7.8	
NP (to control. int.)	61.7	82.1	53.8	69.1	14.5	18.9	

Source(s): DataGuide, KB Securities estimates

Valuation & Target Price Calculation

- 1) Valuation method:
 Discounted cash flow model
- 2) Target price calculation: Target market cap of KRW3.8tn
- 3) Target price range: KRW114,000 - KRW140,000
- 4) Valuation at target price: 61.9x 12m fwd P/E

Revenue Composition (2021E)



Earnings Sensitivity Analysis

(%)	EPS Ch	ange
	2021E	2022E
+1pp rise in interest	+2.1	+2.1
rate		
+1% in FX rate	+0.4	+0.4

Source(s): KB Securities estimates

Peer Group Comparison

(KRWbn, x, %)	Market Cap	Fwd P/E	5y EPS CAGR	12m fwd P/B	12m fwd EV/EBITDA	5y EBITDA CAGR
Studio Dragon	2,862.4	45.2	N/A	4.4	14.8	N/A
Jcontentree	750.4	41.7	N/A	3.5	9.8	-0.8
Walt Disney	365,689.4	48.3	(5.7)	3.5	23.0	(8.4)
Netflix	243,579.6	41.9	95.2	13.3	26.9	68.7

Source(s): Bloomberg consensus, DataGuide, KB Securities estimates

Table 1. 1Q21 Earnings Results (consolidated)

(KRWbn, %, pp)	1Q21P	4Q20	QoQ	1Q20	YoY	KB Estimates	Diff.	Consensus	Diff.
Revenue	117.1	137.7	(15.0)	120.3	(2.7)	131.6	(11.0)	126.6	(7.5)
OP	17.9	4.6	287.6	11.6	53.6	16.2	10.3	14.4	23.8
OPM	15.3	3.3	11.9	9.7	5.6	12.3	2.9	11.4	3.9
NP (to control. int.)	15.6	(2.9)	TTR	8.5	82.2	13.8	12.8	11.4	36.0
NPM	13.3	(2.1)	15.4	7.1	6.2	10.5	2.8	9.0	4.2

Source(s): Quantiwise, KB Securities estimates

Note: TTB=turn to black, TTR=turn to red, RR=remain in red

Table 2. Earnings Forecast (consolidated)

(KRWbn)	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20	1Q21	2Q21E	3Q21E	4Q21E	201	9 2020	2021E	2022E
Revenue	120.3	161.4	106.3	137.7	117.1	136.7	144.0	163.5	468.	7 525.7	561.3	666.9
(% QoQ)	23.5	34.2	(34.2)	29.6	(15.0)	16.7	5.3	13.6			-	-
(% YoY)	7.6	25.9	(19.0)	41.3	(2.7)	(15.3)	35.5	18.8	23.	5 12.2	6.8	18.8
Programming	45.2	65.4	45.7	40.7	43.8	46.5	45.4	45.1	208.	7 197.0	180.7	207.1
Distribution	66.9	75.7	50.9	86.3	63.2	78.0	86.5	106.1	219.	3 279.7	333.8	410.5
Other	8.2	20.4	9.7	10.8	10.1	12.2	12.1	12.4	40.	7 49.0	46.9	49.2
Operating expenses	108.7	144.6	90.3	133.1	99.2	122.1	125.5	144.0	440.	0 476.6	490.8	572.9
(% QoQ)	7.1	33.1	(37.6)	47.5	(25.4)	23.0	2.8	14.7			-	-
(% YoY)	7.8	23.1	(24.9)	31.2	(8.7)	(15.6)	39.0	8.2	29.	5 8.3	3.0	16.7
Operating profit	11.6	16.9	16.0	4.6	17.9	14.6	18.5	19.6	28.	7 49.1	70.6	94.0
(% QoQ)	TTR	44.9	(5.0)	(71.2)	287.6	(18.0)	26.3	5.7			=	-
(% YoY)	5.5	56.3	46.8	TTR	53.6	(13.1)	15.5	324.3	(28.1	71.1	43.7	33.2
OPM (%)	9.7	10.4	15.1	3.3	15.3	10.7	12.8	12.0	6.	1 9.3	12.6	14.1
NP (to control. int.)	8.5	13.4	10.6	(2.9)	15.6	13.2	16.1	16.8	26.	4 29.6	61.7	82.1
(% QoQ)	TTR	56.5	(20.6)	RR	TTR	(15.2)	21.6	5.0			-	-
(% YoY)	(7.3)	82.1	(8.0)	RR	82.2	(1.2)	51.3	TTR	(26.3	5) 12.1	108.2	33.2
NPM (%)	7.1	8.3	10.0	(2.1)	13.3	9.7	11.1	10.3	5.	6 5.6	11.0	12.3

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

Note: RR=remain in red, TTB=turn to black, TTR=turn to red

Table 3. Revisions to Earnings Estimates

(KD)M/h = 0/)	2021E							2022E				
(KRWbn, %, pp)	Revised	Previous	Chg.	Consensus	Diff.	Revised	Previous	Chg.	Consensus	Diff.		
Revenue	561.3	621.3	(9.7)	569.1	(1.4)	666.9	744.6	(10.4)	659.6	1.1		
OP	70.6	77.2	(8.6)	68.2	3.5	94.0	94.0	0.0	87.3	7.8		
OPM	12.6	12.4	0.1	12.0	0.6	14.1	12.6	1.5	13.2	0.9		
NP (to control, int.)	61.7	64.4	(4.3)	53.8	14.5	82.1	79.5	3.3	69.1	18.9		
NPM	11.0	10.4	0.6	9.5	1.5	12.3	10.7	1.6	10.5	1.8		

Source(s): Quantiwise, KB Securities estimates

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Table 4. TP Calculation: Discounted Cash Flow Model

(KRWbn, %, '000 shares, KRW)	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E
Cash flow projection											
Adj. FCF		110.3	100.8	113.6	113.5	131.7	155.5	178.4	202.5	222.4	241.3
FCFF	115.8	100.8	113.6	113.5	131.7	155.5	178.4	202.5	222.4	241.3	256.8
NOPLAT	51.3	68.1	71.7	79.8	91.7	107.3	122.3	138.1	149.3	158.4	164.9
(+) Depreciation & amortization	72.1	42.7	34.1	44.4	51.0	59.7	68.1	76.9	86.3	96.6	106.3
(-/+) Changes in working capital	-5.2	-7.6	10.4	-7.7	-7.9	-8.0	-8.1	-8.3	-8.4	-8.5	-8.7
(-) Capital expenditure	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.9
(-) Others	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.6	-1.8	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-2.6	-2.8
PV of cash flow											
WACC	7.29										
Discount		1.00	0.93	0.87	0.81	0.75	0.70	0.66	0.61	0.57	0.53
PV of cash flow		110.3	93.9	98.6	91.9	99.3	109.3	117.0	123.7	126.7	128.1
Terminal growth	2.1								-A\	verage 30y	KTB yield
Terminal value	4,743.7								-2031E F	CFF / (WAC	C - TGR)
PV of terminal value	2,517.3				-	7.29% WA	CC (0.67% i	risk-free ra	te; 7.37% r	narket risk p	oremium)
Valuation											
EV	3,616.2										
(-) Net debt	(197.0)									-	Net cash
Fair EV	3,813										
No. of shares	30,004										
Target price	127,000										
Current price	95,400									-May	12, 2021
Upside	33.1										

Source(s): KB Securities estimates

Table 5. TP Sensitivity to WACC and TGR

(KRW)					Terr	minal Growth	(%)			
		1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9
	6.69	128,493	131,912	135,605	139,606	143,955	148,701	153,899	159,617	165,939
	6.89	123,782	126,910	130,278	133,916	137,858	142,142	146,817	151,938	157,572
_	7.09	119,403	122,271	125,352	128,670	132,255	136,138	140,359	144,964	150,009
WACC (%)	7.29	115,321	117,958	120,784	123,820	127,089	130,620	134,445	138,604	143,141
	7.49	111,508	113,939	116,537	119,321	122,312	125,532	129,011	132,780	136,877
	7.69	107,939	110,184	112,578	115,138	117,881	120,828	124,001	127,428	131,142
	7.89	104,591	106,669	108,880	111,240	113,762	116,464	119,367	122,494	125,871

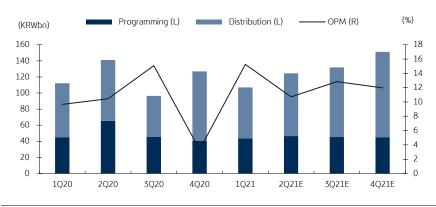
Source(s): Quantiwise, KB Securities estimates

Table 6. WACC Revision

(KRWbn, %)	Previous (Feb 23,	Revised (Mar 13,	
	2021)	2021)	Notes
COE (A) = a + b x c	7.29	7.29	
Risk-free rate (a)	0.67	0.67	-Avg. 1y MSB yield (last three months)
Adj. beta (b)	0.90	0.90	-Adj. beta
Risk premium (c = d - e)	7.36	7.36	
Market (d)	10.97	10.97	-2001-20 annual avg. WMI500 return
Risk-free rate (e)	3.61	3.61	-2001-20 avg. 1y MSB yield
COD (B)		1.45	-YTM of 1y KRW-based bonds
Fair EV		3,813	
Debt		-197.0	-Net debt
Weight of equity value (f)	100.00	100.00	
Weight of debt (g)	0.00	0.00	
(KRWbn, %)	7.29	7.29	

Source(s): KB Securities estimates

Fig 1. Revenue & OPM



Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

6 ★ KB Securities

Income Statement						Statement of Financial Position					
(KRWbn)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	(KRWbn)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
(Reporting standard)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(Reporting standard)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)	(IFRS-C)
Revenue	469	526	561	667	708						
Cost of revenue	409	451	461	539	572	Total assets	582	757	841	944	1,015
	48	75	101	128	136	Current assets	245	228	359	479	572
Gross profit SG&A expenses	19	26	30	34	38	Cash and cash equivalents	60	49	155	248	352
Operating profit	29	49	71	94	98	Current financial assets	57	52	52	52	52
EBITDA	146	165	143	137	124	Trade receivables	84	107	131	157	146
Non-operating accounts	4	-8	143	19	0	Inventory	0	0	0	0	0
Interest income	3	2	22	27	0	Other current assets	44	21	21	22	22
Interest expenses	0	1	5	4	0	Non-current assets	337	529	481	465	443
Profit on equity method	0	0	0	0	0	Investment assets	13	180	187	195	195
Net other non-operating income	1	-9	-4	-4	0	Property, plant and equipment	1	8	8	8	9
Profit before tax	33	42	84	113	98	Intangible assets	233	230	163	125 137	103
Income tax expense	7	12	23	30	27	Other non-current assets	89	111	123		137
Net profit	26	30	62	82	72	Total liabilities	153	148	170	191	190
NP attributable to controlling interests	26	30	62	82	72	Current liabilities	145	132	152	172	171
Adj. net profit	26	30	62	82	72	Trade payables	18	6	10	12	11
Adj. Het profit	20	30	02	02		Short-term financial liabilities	2	2	3	3	3
Operating Statistics & Batios						Other current liabilities	125	124	139	157	157
Operating Statistics & Ratios (%)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Non-current liabilities	8	16	17	19	19
Revenue growth	23,5	12,2	6.8	18.8	6,1	Non-current financial liabilities	8	8	10	11	11
OP growth	-28.1	71.2	43.7	33.2	4.4	Other non-current liabilities	0	8	8	8	8
EBITDA growth	26.4	13.6	-13.7	-4.2	-9.3	Total equity	428	609	671	753	825
*		12,1	108.0		-12.8	Issued capital	14	15	15	15	15
NP growth of parent GP margin	-26.3 10.2	14.2	17.9	33,2 19,2	19.2	Share premium	322	470	470	470	470
OP margin	6.1	9.3	12.6	14.1	13.9	Other equity interest	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA margin	31,1	31.5		20.5	17.5	Accumulated other comprehensive income	-1	2	2	2	2
EBT margin	7.1	7.9	25.4 15.0	16.9	13.9	Retained earnings	94	123	185	267	338
NP margin of parent	5.6	5.6	11.0	12,3	10.1	Controlling interests	428 0	609	671 0	753 0	825 0
The margin of parent	3.0	3.0	11,0	12,5	10.1	Non-controlling interests	U	0	U	U	0
Statement of Cash Flows						Key Ratios					
(KRWbn)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	(x, %, KRW)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Cash flow from operating activities	-12	5	129	117	108	Multiples					
Net profit	26	30	62	82	72	P/E	85.9	88.7	46.5	34.9	40.0
Depreciation & amortization	117	116	72	43	26	P/B	5.3	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.5
Other non-cash adjustments	7	19	23	30	27	P/S	4.8	5.0	5.1	4.3	4.0
Investments in working capital	-143	-144	-5	-8	10	EV/EBITDA	14.9	16.3	18.7	18.9	20.0
Decrease(Increase) in receivables	-22	-31	-24	-26	11	EV/EBIT	75.5	54.7	37.8	27.4	25.2
Decrease(Increase) in inventory	1	0	0	0	0	Dividend yield, ordinary (%)	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase(Decrease) in payables	9	-11	4	2	-1	EPS	941	1,044	2,053	2,735	2,386
Investments in other working capital	-130	-101	15	17	0	BVPS	15,242	20,309	22,362	25,097	27,482
Other operating cash flow	-19	-15	-23	-30	-27	SPS	16,698	18,532	18,708	22,227	23,585
Cash flow from investing activities	-81	-16	-25	-26	-4	DPS (annual, ordinary)	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure	0	-7	-4	-4	-4	Cash dividends payout ratio (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investments in intangibles	0	-1	-1	-1	0	Operating performance					
Changes in investment assets	-57	-9	-7	-8	0	ROE	6.4	5.7	9.6	11.5	9.1
Other investment cash flow	-23	1	-12	-14	0	ROA	4.8	4.4	7.7	9.2	7.3
Cash flow from financing activities	0	0	2	2	0	ROIC	8.8	11.4	17.1	25.6	29.6
Proceeds from (repayment of) debt	-1	-1	2	2	0	Financial structure (%)					
Changes in equity	1	1	0	0	0	Total liab./equity	35.8	24.3	25.3	25.4	23,1
Dividends paid	0	0	0	0	0	Net debt/equity	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash	Net Cash
Other financing cash flow	0	1	0	0	0	Current ratio	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.8	3.3
Other cash flow	0	0	0	0	0	Interest coverage (x)	58.1	84.8	14.9	23.5	0.0
Increase/decrease in cash	-93	-11	106	93	104	Activity ratios					
Cash and cash equivalents at FYE	60	49	155	248	352	Asset turnover (x)	0.9	0.8	0.7	8.0	0.7
Free cash flow	-13	-2	125	113	104	Receivables turnover (x)	6.2	5.5	4.7	4.6	4.7
Net cash flow	-51	-16	104	91	104	Payables turnover (x)	24.7	43,2	70.4	60.4	60,9
	100	00							0.0		

Source(s): Company data, KB Securities estimates

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Classification and Standards for Investment Rating

Investment Rating for Company

(based on estimation of 12-month absolute returns)

Buy: +15% or beyond	Hold: Between 15% and -15%	Sell: -15% or beyond

Note: KB Securities' classification of investment ratings has shifted from four stages (Strong BUY, BUY, Marketperform, Underperform) to three stages (Buy, Hold, Sell) based on Korean reports since February 23, 2017.

KB Securities' standards for stock rating shifted starting on Feb 10, 2020 from an estimation of six-month absolute returns to an estimation of 12-month absolute returns.

Investment Rating for Industry

(based on estimation of 12-month absolute returns)

Positive:	Neutral:	Negative:
To outperform market	To match market performance	To underperform market

Notes: The industry rating system of KB Securities has shifted from (Overweight, Neutral, Underweight) to (Positive, Neutral, Negative) as of Jun 28, 2017.

KB Securities' standards for industry rating shifted starting on Feb 10, 2020 from an estimation of six-month absolute returns to an estimation of 12-month absolute returns.

Studio Dragon (253450)

Date	Rating	Target Price	Differential (%)			
		(KRW)	Avg.	Max/Min		
May-09-2019	Buy	120,000	-34.46			
May-29-2019	Buy	100,000	-32.68	-26.20		
Aug-09-2019	Buy	86,000	-21.88	-6.86		
Nov-08-2019	Buy	100,000	-20.81	-13.00		
Mar-30-2020	Buy	97,000	-15.46	-4.64		
Nov-30-2020	Buy	100,000	-9.63	3.70		
Jan-18-2021	Buy	120,000	-15.59	-9.00		
Feb-23-2021	Buy	127,000				

Proportion of investment rating (as of March 31, 2021)

Buy	Hold	Sell
79.9	20.1	=

^{*} Note: Based on reports presented with investment ratings over the past one year

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