# COMPANY UPDATE

2023. 6. 29

#### **Tech Team**

Minha Choi Senior Analyst minha22.choi@samsung.com

### ► AT A GLANCE

Recommend	BUY	
Target price	KRW83,000	45.9%
Current price	KRW56,900	
Market cap	KRW1.7t/USD1.	3b
Shares (float)	30,058,498 (45.2	2%)
52-week high/low	KRW88,900/KR\	N54,300
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW10.5b/ USD8.1m	

# **▶ ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE**

	1M	6M	12M
Studio Dragon (%)	-11.1	-34.1	-16.3
Vs Kosdaq (%pts)	-13.5	-47.3	-25.7

### **KEY CHANGES**

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	BUY	BUY	
Target price	83,000	96,000	-13.5%
2023E EPS	1,859	2,158	-13.8%
2024E EPS	2,424	2,838	-14.6%

### **▶ SAMSUNG vs THE STREET**

No of estimates	16
Target price	96,813
Recommendation	4.0

BUY★★★: 5 / BUY: 4 / HOLD: 3 / SELL: 2 / SELL★★: 1

# Studio Dragon (253450)

Holding up in adverse business environment

- We now expect Studio Dragon's 2Q results to show a consolidated operating profit of KRW11.9b (down 56% y-y), missing consensus (KRW19.4b) by a long way—which we would ascribe to q-q and y-y decreases in the number of episodes of its dramas that aired in 2Q, leading to heavy amortization costs.
- Undaunted by the adverse business environment, the Studio Dragon should continue to reinforce its market position through the popularity of its content.
- Factoring in our new estimates, we cut our target price by 14% to KRW83,000.

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

**2Q preview:** We believe Studio Dragon will post 2Q results showing consolidated sales and operating profit down 11.1% and 56% y-y, respectively, to KRW140b and KRW11.9b, the latter missing consensus of KRW19.4b. The company's dramas are becoming increasingly popular worldwide that to its competitiveness in production, but we anticipate disappointing 2Q results for four main reasons. First, it likely recognized sales on 77 episodes in 2Q23, vs 112 episodes in 1Q23 and 107 in 2Q22 (when its captive channel operated Friday/Saturday slots in addition to Saturday/Sunday slots. Second, lackluster sales likely resulted in heavier amortization costs. Third, the Korean drama producer in 2Q22 supplied global OTT platforms with a number of old titles (that had completed amortization), which resulted in massive profitability gains and, therefore, a high base for 2Q23. Fourth, viewership ratings for the dramas it provided in 2Q23 were low, and the ad industry was struggling.

Holding up in adverse business environment: Studio Dragon has delivered stable results thanks to its diversified distribution channels and the popularity of its content. Yet, it is not free from the impact of a worsening business environment. Some TV channels have temporarily closed weekday drama slots, and one global OTT service provider has reportedly dissolved a Korean original content team. Nevertheless, Studio Dragon should keep cementing its market leadership, backed by: 1) its adoption of a season-based production format and the broadcasting of tentpole original content for OTT platforms; and 2) more dramas that will be made available for streaming simultaneously under volume deals with Netflix and Disney Plus.

(Continued on the next page)

### **SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA**

	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue (KRWb)	698	728	873	1,000
Operating profit (KRWb)	65	70	93	118
Net profit (adj) (KRWb)	51	56	73	94
EPS (adj) (KRW)	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
EPS (adj) growth (% y-y)	29.4	10.4	30.4	28.4
EBITDA margin (%)	31.3	29.6	27.3	27.1
ROE (%)	7.5	8.4	10.3	11.8
P/E (adj) (x)	51.1	30.6	23.5	18.3
P/B (x)	3.9	2.5	2.3	2.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.1	8.2	7.4	6.3
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

**Cutting target price**: We reduce our full-year operating profit estimate by 14% and lower our target EV/EBITDA multiple from 12.2x to 11.4x (a 20% discount to the 2020-2022 average) to reflect deterioration of the business environment. Accordingly, our target price drops 14% to KRW83,000. Investor sentiment should pick up slowly, with 2H earnings growing on programing sales from tentpole dramas and the firm's strategy of capitalizing on intellectual property (*eg*, via games).

Table 1. Quarterly results and forecasts

(KRWb)	2Q22	1Q23	2Q23E	Chg (% q-q)	Chg (% y-y)	Consensus	Diff (%)
Sales	157.5	211.1	140.0	-33.7	-11.1	170.0	-17.6
Operating profit	27.0	21.6	11.9	-45.0	-56.0	19.4	-38.6
Operating margin	17.1	10.2	8.5	-1.7	-8.6	11.4	-2.9
Pre-tax profit	30.0	22.1	12.1	-45.4	-59.8	20.0	-39.7
Net profit (controlling)	25.6	18.4	9.4	-49.1	-63.4	15.2	-38.3

Source: Company data, WiseFn, Samsung Securities

Table 2. Results and forecasts

(KRWb)	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23 2Q23E 3Q23E 4Q23E			4Q23E	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
Sales	117.1	106.0	116.1	147.9	121.1	157.5	228.9	190.5	211.1	140.0	145.8	230.8	487.1	697.9	727.8	873.3
Programing	43.8	28.2	36.2	53.2	35.4	43.8	59.4	54.0	43.2	39.2	35.3	36.4	161.3	192.5	154.0	162.5
Distribution	63.2	67.5	64.9	79.8	77.7	103.9	165.8	132.8	211.1	140.0	145.8	230.8	275.5	480.2	559.5	695.2
Others	10.1	10.3	15.0	14.9	8.0	9.8	3.8	3.7	180.3	119.6	119.8	199.7	50.3	25.2	14.2	15.6
Gross profit	23.7	20.3	21.0	14.8	25.5	35.4	27.4	11.7	30.8	20.4	26.0	31.1	79.8	100.0	108.3	134.1
SG&A	5.8	6.5	6.4	8.4	7.4	8.4	8.4	10.5	9.2	8.5	9.3	11.2	27.2	34.8	38.2	41.0
Operating profit	17.9	13.8	14.6	6.3	18.1	27.0	18.9	1.2	21.6	11.9	16.7	19.9	52.6	65.2	70.1	93.0
Non-operating profit	3.2	0.3	3.9	<b>-</b> 7.9	2.0	3.0	6.5	-18.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	-0.7	-0.6	-6.6	0.3	0.9
Pre-tax profit	21.1	14.0	18.5	-1.6	20.1	30.0	25.5	-17.0	22.1	12.1	17.0	19.2	52.0	58.6	70.4	93.9
Net profit (controlling)	15.6	9.5	14.8	-0.8	15.6	25.6	17.8	-8.5	18.4	9.4	13.2	14.9	39.0	50.6	55.9	72.9
Gross margin	20.2	19.2	18.1	10.0	21.1	22.5	12.0	6.1	14.6	14.6	17.8	13.5	16.4	14.3	14.9	15.4
Operating margin	15.3	13.0	12.6	4.3	15.0	17.1	8.3	0.6	10.2	8.5	11.5	8.6	10.8	9.3	9.6	10.7
Net margin (controlling)	13.3	8.9	12.8	-0.5	12.9	16.2	7.8	-4.4	8.7	6.7	9.1	6.5	8.0	7.2	7.7	8.3
Chg (% y-y)																
Sales	-2.7	-34.3	9.2	7.4	3.4	48.5	97.2	28.8	74.4	-11.1	-36.3	21.2	-7.3	43.3	4.3	20.0
Programing	-3.2	-56.9	-20.8	30.7	-19.1	55.4	64.0	1.5	21.9	-10.6	-40.6	-32.5	-18.1	19.4	-20.0	5.5
Distribution	-5.5	-10.8	27.7	<b>-</b> 7.5	23.0	53.8	155.2	66.4	171.6	34.7	-12.0	73.7	-1.5	74.3	16.5	24.2
Other	24.0	<b>-</b> 49.3	54.0	39.3	-21.5	-5.1	<b>-</b> 74.8	<b>-</b> 75.3	2,166.3	1,124.5	3,077.3	5,327.5	2.9	-49.9	-43.6	9.8
Gross profit	42.2	-6.9	-1.3	-1.7	7.8	74.0	30.5	-20.7	20.8	-42.4	-5.1	166.0	6.7	25.4	8.3	23.7
SG&A	14.0	33.6	21.0	-19.1	27.7	28.1	31.7	25.1	24.3	1.1	10.0	6.7	5.8	27.9	9.9	7.3
Operating profit	53.6	-18.2	-9.0	37.6	1.4	95.7	29.9	-81.4	19.3	-56.0	-11.8	1,587.2	7.0	24.0	7.5	32.7
Non-operating profit	642.7	-20.8	nm	nm	-37.8	1,085.2	67.8	nm	-75.6	<b>-</b> 94.5	-95.2	nm	nm	nm	nm	202.4
Pre-tax profit	75.3	-18.2	21.3	nm	-4.6	113.7	37.9	nm	10.0	<b>-</b> 59.8	-33.1	nm	25.2	12.7	20.1	33.4
Net profit (controlling)	82.2	-29.1	39.6	nm	0.4	170.2	20.5	nm	17.8	-63.4	-26.0	nm	31.8	29.5	10.5	30.4
Gross margin	6.4	5.7	-1.9	-0.9	0.9	3.3	-6.1	-3.8	-6.5	<b>-</b> 7.9	5.9	7.3	2.2	<b>-</b> 2.0	0.6	0.5
Operating margin	5.6	2.6	-2.5	0.9	-0.3	4.1	-4.3	-3.7	-4.7	-8.6	3.2	8.0	1.5	-1.4	0.3	1.0
Net margin (controlling)	6.2	0.7	2.8	1.6	-0.4	7.3	-5.0	-3.9	-4.2	-9.6	1.3	10.9	2.4	-0.8	0.4	0.7

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Days

Director

Lee Eungbok

Han Donghwa

Kim Hongseon

Kim Hongseon

Kim Jeongkwon

\*Cowork with Universal Studio

\*Cowork with CBS Studio

Park Shinwoo

Lee Eungbok

Jeong Dongyun

Kim Yongwan

Jung Jihyeon

Fri

Fri

Mon, Tue

Anu Valia

Im Changse

Kim Jinwook

Kim Jinwook

Choi Yiyun

Seo Sookhyang

Kang Eungyeong

Park Kyeongsoo

Ji Anni

David West Read

Channel Title

**COMPANY UPDATE** 

Year

2023	1	tvN	Alchemy of Souls 2 : Light and Shadow	Dec 10, 2022-Jan 8, 2023	10	Hong sisters	Park Joonhwa	Sat, Sun
	2		Missing: The Other Side 2	Dec 19, 2022-Jan 31, 2023	14	Ban Giri, Jeong Soyeong	Min Yeonhong, Lee Yerim	Mon, Tue
	3		Poong, the Joseon Psychiatrist S2	Jan 1-Feb 9	10	Park Seulki	Park Wongook	Wed, Thu
	4		Crash Course in Romance	Jan 14-Mar 5	16	Yang Heeseung	Yoo Jewon	Sat, Sun
	5		Our Blooming Youth	Feb 6-Apr 11	20	Jung Hyunjung	Lee Jongjae	Wed, Thu
	6		The Heavenly Idol	Feb 15-Mar 23	12	Lee Chungeum	Park Soyeon	Wed, Thu
	7		Pandora: Beneath the Paradise	Mar 11-Apr 30	16	Hyun Jimin	Choi Younghoon	Sat, Sun
	8		Stealer: The Treasure Keeper	Apr 12-May 18	12	Shin Kyungil	Choi Joonbae	Wed. Thu
	9		Family: The Unbreakable Bond	Apr 17-May 23	12	Jung yoosun	Jang Jungdo	Mon,Tue
	10		Tale of the Nine Tailed 1938 (Amazon Prime)	May 6-Jun 11	12	Han Woori	Kang Shinhyo	Sat, Sun
	11		Delightfully Deceitful	May 29-July 18	16	Han Wooju	Lee Suhyeon	Mon,Tue
	12		See you in My 19th Life	Jun 17-July 23	12	Choi Yeonglim	Lee Najung	Sat, Sun
	13		The Uncaany Cunter S2	July 29-Sep 3	12	Kim Saebom	Yoo Sundong	Sat, Sun
	14		Useless Lie	July 31- Sep 19	16	Seo Jeongeun	Nam Sungwoo	Wed, Thu
	15		Athdal Chronicles: The Sword of Aramoon	Sep 9-Oct 15	12	Kim Yeonghyeon	Kim Kwangsik	Sat, Sun
	16		Twinkling Watermelon	Sep 25- Nov 14	16	Jin Soowan	Son Junghyeon	Mon, Tue
	17		Diva of the Deserted Island	Oct 21~Nov 26	12	Park Hyeryeon	Oh Choonghwan	Sat, Sun
	18		Wedding Impossible	Nov, 2023	12	Park Seulki	Kwon Yeongil	Mon, Tue
	19		Queen of Tears	Dec, 2023	16	Park Jieun	Kin Heewon	Sat, Sun
	20	Tving	Island Part1 (Amazon Prime)	Dec 30, 2022-Jan 13,	6	Oh Bohyeon	Bae Jong	
	20-(2	)	Island Part2 (Amazon Prime)	Feb 24-Mar 10	6	Oh Bohyeon	Bae Jong	
	21		Duty After School Part1	Mar 3	6	Lee Namkyu	Sung Yongil	
	21-(2	)	Duty After School Part2	Apr 21	4	Lee Namkyu	Sung Yongil	
	22	Netflix	The Glory Part 2	Mar 10	8	Kim Eunsook	Ahn Gilho	
	23		Celebrity (supplied in 4Q22)	Jun 30	12	Kim Yiyoung	Kim Chulkyu	
	24		Thief: Sound of the Sword	2023		Han Junghoon	Hwang Joonhyuk	
	25		Gyeongseong Creature	2023	10	Kang Eungyeong	Jeong Dongyun	
	26		The Girl Downstairs	2023	8	Jang Yuha	Lee Jeonghyo	
						-		

2023

July 5

Mar 31-May 17

Jan 27-Feb 10

Apr 7-Apr 21

Jun 19-Jul 11

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

2024

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

2024

10

6

6

8

Air dates

**Episodes Writers** 

Note: Titles highlighted in green are streamed through Netflix, light blue Tving, and orange Disney+, purple Amazon Prime Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

27

28

29

30

31

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

TBD

30-(2)

Disney+

AppleTV+

Coupang

Play

**ENA** 

tvN

TBD

Tving

Netflix

Sweet Home 2

Decoy Part 1

Maestra

The Plotters

Mastermind

Study Group

Whielwind

Hierarchy

Sweet Home 3

Shadow Detective 2

(supplied in 3Q22-4Q22)

Lies Hidden in My Garden

When the Stars Gossip

Gyeongseong Creature 2

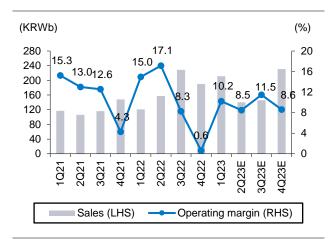
Crash Landing on you (US)

The Big Door Prize 2

Decoy Part 2 (supplied in 1Q23)

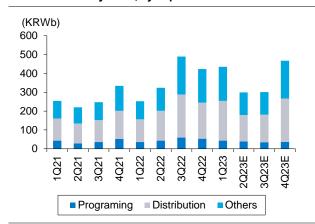
(supplied in 1H23)
The Big Door Prize

Chart 1. Quarterly sales and operating margin



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 3. Quarterly sales, by department



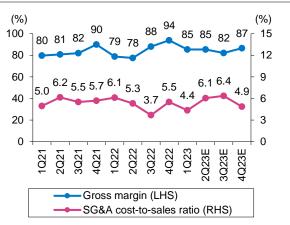
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 5. Tale of the Nine Tailed 1938 Chart 6. See you in My 196



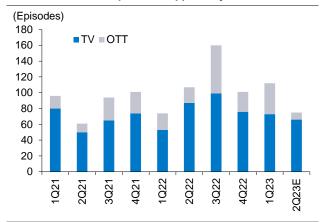
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 2. Quarterly gross margin vs SG&A cost-to-sales ratio



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 4. Number of episodes supplied, by channel



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 6. See you in My 19th Life (tvN; Jun 17)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 7. Shadow Detective 2 (Disney+; Jul 5)



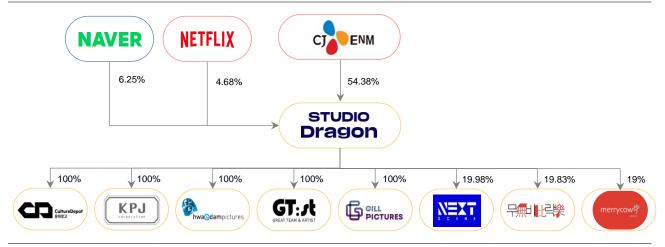
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

# Chart 8. Ambitious 2023 targets



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

# Chart 9. Ownership structure



Note: As of 1Q23

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Table 4. Changes to full-year forecasts

(IZDIA/IL)		2023E		2024E				
(KRWb)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)		
Sales	803.4	727.8	-9.4	943.5	873.3	-7.4		
Operating profit	81.6	70.1	-14.1	106.6	93.0	-12.7		
OPM (%, %pts)	10.2	9.6	-0.5	11.3	10.7	-0.6		
Pre-tax profit	82.0	70.4	-14.1	109.9	93.9	-14.6		
NP (controlling)	64.9	55.9	-13.8	85.3	72.9	-14.6		

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

# Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	487	698	728	873	1,000
Cost of goods sold	407	598	619	739	838
Gross profit	80	100	108	134	162
Gross margin (%)	16.4	14.3	14.9	15.4	16.2
SG&A expenses	27	35	38	41	44
Operating profit	53	65	70	93	118
Operating margin (%)	10.8	9.3	9.6	10.7	11.8
Non-operating gains (losses)	-1	-7	0	1	3
Financial profit	14	21	19	18	19
Financial costs	10	19	14	11	9
Equity-method gains (losses)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-5	-9	-5	-6	-7
Pre-tax profit	52	59	70	94	121
Taxes	13	8	15	21	27
Effective tax rate (%)	24.9	13.7	20.6	22.4	22.4
Profit from continuing operations	39	51	56	73	94
Profit from discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	39	51	56	73	94
Net margin (%)	8.0	7.2	7.7	8.3	9.4
Net profit (controlling interests)	39	51	56	73	94
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	152	219	215	239	271
EBITDA margin (%)	31.1	31.3	29.6	27.3	27.1
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113

# **Balance sheet**

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Current assets	233	400	358	399	438
Cash & equivalents	65	124	117	134	180
Accounts receivable	124	142	144	152	151
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	44	135	97	113	107
Fixed assets	652	691	718	769	828
Investment assets	241	150	152	156	159
Tangible assets	8	11	9	7	6
Intangible assets	298	378	415	456	504
Other long-term assets	105	152	142	150	159
Total assets	884	1,091	1,075	1,168	1,266
Current liabilities	184	416	388	407	412
Accounts payable	17	16	23	27	35
Short-term debt	0	170	170	170	170
Other current liabilities	167	230	195	210	207
Long-term liabilities	17	14	13	14	14
Bonds & long-term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term liabilities	17	14	13	14	14
Total liabilities	200	430	401	421	426
Owners of parent equity	684	661	674	747	840
Capital stock	15	15	15	15	15
Capital surplus	470	473	473	473	473
Retained earnings	162	213	268	341	435
Other	37	-40	-83	-83	-83
Non-controlling interests' equity	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	684	661	674	747	840
Net debt	-54	59	62	46	-1

# Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Cash flow from operations	-8	-63	212	219	263
Net profit	39	51	56	73	94
Non-cash profit and expenses	119	176	165	172	185
Depreciation	4	3	2	2	1
Amortization	95	150	143	144	152
Other	20	23	20	26	32
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-155	-280	6	-5	12
Cash flow from investments	27	-43	-167	-190	-204
Change in tangible assets	-2	-4	0	0	0
Change in financial assets	0	0	0	0	0
Other	28	-39	-167	-190	-204
Cash flow from financing	-3	165	-13	-9	-9
Change in debt	0	172	-3	0	0
Change in equity	0	3	0	0	0
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-4	-9	-9	-9	-9
Change in cash	16	59	-7	17	47
Cash at beginning of year	49	65	124	117	134
Cash at end of year	65	124	117	134	180
Gross cash flow	158	226	221	245	279
Free cash flow	-11	-67	212	219	263

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

# Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Growth (%)					
Sales	-7.3	43.3	4.3	20.0	14.5
Operating profit	7.0	24.0	7.5	32.7	26.6
Net profit	31.8	29.5	10.5	30.4	28.4
Adjusted EPS**	24.6	29.4	10.4	30.4	28.4
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
EPS (consolidated)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
Adjusted EPS**	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,424	3,113
BVPS	22,785	21,982	22,416	24,839	27,953
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	69.9	51.1	30.6	23.5	18.3
P/B***	4.0	3.9	2.5	2.3	2.0
EV/EBITDA	17.7	12.1	8.2	7.4	6.3
Ratios (%)					
ROE	6.0	7.5	8.4	10.3	11.8
ROA	4.8	5.1	5.2	6.5	7.7
ROIC	10.9	12.1	10.0	12.1	14.2
Payout ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend yield (common)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net debt to equity	-7.8	8.9	9.3	6.1	-0.1
Interest coverage (x)	67.6	13.2	7.6	10.2	12.9

Note: \* Excluding one-off items

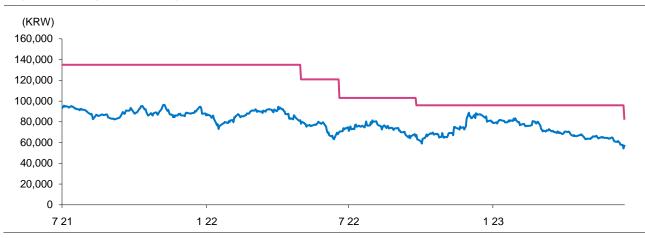
\*\* Fully diluted, excluding one-off items

\*\*\* From companies subject to equity-method valuation

### Compliance notice

- As of 6/28 2023, the covering analyst(s) did not own any shares, or debt instruments convertible into shares, of any company covered in this report.
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# Target price changes in past two years



# Rating changes over past two years (adjusted share prices)

Date	2021/5/7	2022/5/7	2022/5/12	6/30	10/6	2023/6/29
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
Target price (KRW)	135000	135000	121000	103000	96000	83000
Gap* (average)	-33.60	-39.75	-39.04	-28.47	-24.88	
(max or min)**	-25.78	-39.56	-33.88	-20.87	-7.40	

# Samsung Securities uses the following investment ratings.

Company		Industry	
BUY	Expected to increase in value by 10% or more within 12 months and	OVERWEIGHT	Expected to outperform market by 5% or more within 12 months
	is highly attractive within sector	NEUTRAL	Expected to outperform/underperform market by less than
HOLD	Expected to increase/decrease in value by less than 10% within 12 months		5% within 12 months
SELL	Expected to decrease in value by 10% or more within 12 months	UNDERWEIGHT	Expected to underperform market by 5% or more within 12 months

# Percentage of ratings in 12 months prior to 2023.03.31

BUY(78.1%)·HOLD(21.9%)·SELL(0%)

Note: \* [(average, maximum, or minimum share price over duration of target price minus target price) / target price] x 100%

\*\* Maximum/minimum share price if new target is higher/lower than market close on the business day prior to target price change

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