COMPANY UPDATE

2023.11.9

Tech Team

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► AT A GLANCE

Recommend	BUY	
Target price	KRW74,000	29.1%
Current price	KRW57,300	
Market cap	KRW1.7t/USD1.3	Bb
Shares (float)	30,058,498 (45.2	%)
52-week high/low	KRW88,900/KRV	V46,100
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW5.6b/ USD4.3m	

▶ ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE

	1M	6M	12M
Studio Dragon (%)	15.5	-11.7	-17.3
Vs Kosdaq (%pts)	16.3	-8.3	-27.3

KEY CHANGES

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	BUY	BUY	
Target price	74,000	74,000	0.0%
2023E EPS	1,859	1,623	14.5%
2024E EPS	2,208	2,150	2.7%

▶ SAMSUNG vs THE STREET

Recommendation	4.0
Target price	76,083
No of estimates	12

 $\mathsf{BUY} \bigstar \bigstar \div \mathsf{5/BUY} \div \mathsf{4/HOLD} \colon \mathsf{3/SELL} \colon \mathsf{2/SELL} \bigstar \bigstar \div \mathsf{1}$

Studio Dragon (253450)

Influence in global market growing

- Studio Dragon reported 3Q consolidated operating profit of KRW21.9b (up 15.4% y-y), topping consensus by 24%. It lasts quarter booked some episodes of the dramas that will be aired in 4Q. Overseas sales expanded significantly.
- Its strategy of channel diversification is paying off. The firm is supplying content to major global OTT platforms and has also added new local platforms to boost earnings.
- In 2024, earnings should move up a level as the firm should extend the IP into a variety of media, its studio in Japan should perform well and the industry conditions should perk up. We maintain BUY rating.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

3Q review: Studio Dragon reported 3Q consolidated sales of KRW217.4b (down 5% y-y) and operating profit of KRW21.9b (up 15.4% y-y; beating consensus by 24%). The firm booked sales of Sweet Home S2 (Netflix original; two episodes that will be aired in December) and The Big Door Prize S2 (Apple TV+ original; five episodes). Although the number of episodes aired in 3Q plunged q-q to 75 (comprising 50 episodes on TV channels and 25 on OTT platforms; vs 160 episodes in 3Q22), the company minimized sales reduction and expanded operating profit. This proved its strong bargaining power. Overseas sales made up 77% of 3Q sales, with original content sales from global OTT platforms leaping 41% y-y and overseas sales 30% y-y.

Robust growth on diversified distribution channels: The company's strategy of channel diversification is paying off. It is providing content to major global OTT platforms (eg, Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime) and has added new local platforms to boost earnings. Besides, it is renewing contracts with established clients on better terms and conditions. Its dramas broadcast in 4Q include tentpole dramas Gyeongseong Creature and Sweet Home Season 2 (both Netflix original) and the dramas aired simultaneously on Korean channel and global OTT platforms—eg, Castaway Diva, Maestra: Strings of Truth, and A Bloody Lucky Day (Tving original).

Maintaining BUY: Studio Dragon is enjoying solid earnings momentum based on its well-diversified distribution channels, which include a slew of Korean and global OTT platforms as well as linear channels. Undaunted by unfavorable industry conditions, the company has achieved both top- and bottom-line growth this year. Earnings should move up a level next year on the firm's tentpole drama production and one-source multi-use (OSMU) business model amid improving industry conditions. Its studio in Japan is performing well and should start shooting its first drama next year. We maintain BUY and a target price of KRW74,000 (based on 11.4x EV/EBITDA; a 20% discount to its 2020-2022 average).

SUMMARY 3Q RESULTS

(KRWb)	3Q23	CI	ng	Diff	f (%)
		(% y-y)	(% q-q)	Samsung	Consensus
Sales	217.4	- 5.0	33.0	20.7	20.3
Operating profit	21.9	15.7	34.4	22.9	24.0
Pre-tax profit	25.1	-1.3	58.8	45.3	27.0
Net profit	18.2	1.9	78.3	51.2	33.5
Margins (%)					
Operating profit	10.1				
Pre-tax profit	11.5				
Net profit	8.4				

Source: Company data, Fnguide, Samsung Securities estimates

VALUATION SUMMARY

	2022	2023E	2024E
Valuation (x)			
P/E	51.1	30.8	26.0
P/B	3.9	2.6	2.3
EV/EBITDA	12.1	8.6	8.3
Div yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS growth (% y-y)	29.4	10.4	18.7
ROE (%)	7.5	8.4	9.4
Per-share data (KRW)			
EPS	1,684	1,859	2,208
BVPS	21,982	22,416	24,624
DPS	0	0	0

Table 1. Results and forecasts

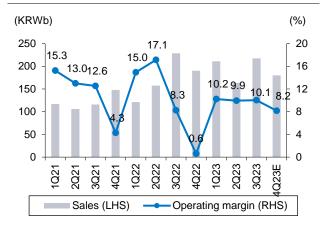
(KRWb)	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23E	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
Sales	117.1	106.0	116.1	147.9	121.1	157.5	228.9	190.5	211.1	163.5	180.2	180.1	487.1	697.9	772.1	883.1
Programing	43.8	28.2	36.2	53.2	35.4	43.8	59.4	54.0	43.2	42.5	36.1	19.9	161.3	192.5	140.6	141.3
Distribution	63.2	67.5	64.9	79.8	77.7	103.9	165.8	132.8	211.1	163.5	180.2	180.1	275.5	480.2	622.2	729.1
Others	10.1	10.3	15.0	14.9	8.0	9.8	3.8	3.7	2.3	2.1	3.2	2.7	50.3	25.2	9.4	12.7
Gross profit	23.7	20.3	21.0	14.8	25.5	35.4	27.4	11.7	30.8	23.9	26.9	25.8	79.8	100.0	109.3	125.0
SG&A	5.8	6.5	6.4	8.4	7.4	8.4	8.4	10.5	9.2	7.7	9.1	11.0	27.2	34.8	34.9	39.0
Operating profit	17.9	13.8	14.6	6.3	18.1	27.0	18.9	1.2	21.6	16.3	17.8	14.7	52.6	65.2	74.4	86.0
Non-operating profit	3.2	0.3	3.9	- 7.9	2.0	3.0	6.5	-18.1	0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-2.1	-0.6	-6.6	1.2	-0.5
Pre-tax profit	21.1	14.0	18.5	-1.6	20.1	30.0	25.5	-17.0	22.1	15.8	17.3	12.6	52.0	58.6	75.6	85.5
Net profit (controlling)	15.6	9.5	14.8	-0.8	15.6	25.6	17.8	-8.5	18.4	10.2	11.1	9.1	39.0	50.6	55.9	66.4
Gross margin	20.2	19.2	18.1	10.0	21.1	22.5	12.0	6.1	14.6	14.6	15.0	14.3	16.4	14.3	14.2	14.2
Operating margin	15.3	13.0	12.6	4.3	15.0	17.1	8.3	0.6	10.2	9.9	9.9	8.2	10.8	9.3	9.6	9.7
Net margin (controlling)	13.3	8.9	12.8	-0.5	12.9	16.2	7.8	-4.4	8.7	6.2	6.2	5.1	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.5
Chg (% y-y)																
Sales	-2.7	-34.3	9.2	7.4	3.4	48.5	97.2	28.8	74.4	3.8	-21.3	-5.5	-7.3	43.3	10.6	14.4
Programing	-3.2	-56.9	-20.8	30.7	-19.1	55.4	64.0	1.5	21.9	-3.1	-39.1	-63.2	-18.1	19.4	- 27.0	0.5
Distribution	-5.5	-10.8	27.7	- 7.5	23.0	53.8	155.2	66.4	171.6	57.3	8.7	35.5	-1.5	74.3	29.5	17.2
Other	24.0	-49.3	54.0	39.3	-21.5	-5.1	-74.8	-75.3	-71.0	-78.4	-14.8	-27.6	2.9	-49.9	-62.6	35.2
Gross profit	42.2	-6.9	-1.3	-1.7	7.8	74.0	30.5	-20.7	20.8	-32.4	-1.6	120.1	6.7	25.4	9.3	14.4
SG&A	14.0	33.6	21.0	-19.1	27.7	28.1	31.7	25.1	24.3	-8.7	8.2	4.9	5.8	27.9	0.3	11.9
Operating profit	53.6	-18.2	-9.0	37.6	1.4	95.7	29.9	-81.4	19.3	-39.8	-5.9	1,148.1	7.0	24.0	14.1	15.5
Non-operating profit	642.7	-20.8	nm	nm	-37.8	1,085.2	67.8	nm	-75.6	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Pre-tax profit	75.3	-18.2	21.3	nm	- 4.6	113.7	37.9	nm	10.0	-47.3	-32.1	nm	25.2	12.7	29.0	13.1
Net profit (controlling)	82.2	-29.1	39.6	nm	0.4	170.2	20.5	nm	17.8	-60.1	-37.6	nm	31.8	29.5	10.5	18.7
Gross margin	6.4	5.7	-1.9	-0.9	0.9	3.3	-6.1	-3.8	-6.5	-7.8	3.0	8.2	2.2	-2.0	-0.2	-0.0
Operating margin	5.6	2.6	-2.5	0.9	-0.3	4.1	-4.3	-3.7	-4.7	-7.2	1.6	7.6	1.5	-1.4	0.3	0.1
Net margin (controlling)	6.2	0.7	2.8	1.6	-0.4	7.3	-5.0	-3.9	-4.2	-10.0	-1.6	9.5	2.4	-0.8	-0.0	0.3

Table 2. Drama lineup (from 2023)

Year	No.	Channel		Air dates	Episodes	Writers	Director	Days
2023	1	tvN	Alchemy of Souls 2: Light and Shadow	Dec 10, 2022-Jan 8	10	Hong sisters	Park Joonhwa	Sat, Sun
	2		Missing: The Other Side 2	Dec 19, 2022-Jan 31,	. 14	Ban Giri,	Min Yeonhong,	Mon, Tue
	3		Poong, the Joseon Psychiatrist S2	Jan 11-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 14		The Uncaany Cunter S2 Useless Lie	July 29-Sep 3 July 31- Sep 12	12 16	Kim Saebom Seo Jeongeun	Yoo Sundong Nam Sungwoo	Sat, Sun Wed, Thu
			Athdal Chronicles: The Sword of				J	
	15		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		Castaway Diva	Oct 21-Nov 26	12	Park Hyeryeon	Oh Choonghwan	Sat, Sun
	18		Maestra: Strings of Truth	Dec 9 - Jan 14, 2024		Choi Yiyun	Kim Jeongkwon	Sat, Sun
	19	Tving	Island Part 1 (Amazon Prime)	Dec 30, 2022-Jan 13,		Oh Bohyeon	Bae Jong	
	19-(2) 20		Island Part 2 (Amazon Prime) Duty After School Part1	Feb 24-Mar 10 Mar 3	6	Oh Bohyeon Lee Namkyu	Bae Jong Sung Yongil	
	20-(2)		Duty After School Part2	Apr 21	4	Lee Namkyu	Sung Yongil	
	21 ′		A Bloody Lucky Day	Nov 24	10	Kim Minseok	Pill Gamsung	
	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		Song of the Bandits	Sep 22	9	Han Junghoon	Hwang Joonhyuk	
	25		Doona!	Oct 29	9	Jang Yuha	Lee Jeonghyo	
	26 27		Sweet Home 2 Gyeongseong Creature	Dec 1 Dec 22	8 10	Kang Eungyeong	Lee Eungbok Jeong Dongyun	
			Shadow Detective 2				<u> </u>	
	28	Disney+	(supplied in 1H23) The Rig Door Prize	Jul 5	8	Im Changse	Han Donghwa	
	29	AppleTV+	(supplied in 3Q22-4Q22)	Mar 31-May 17	10	David West Read	Anu Valia	
	30	Coupang	Decoy Part 1	Jan 27-Feb 10	6	Kim Jinwook	Kim Hongseon	Fri
	30-(2)	Play	Decoy Part 2 (supplied in 1Q23)	Apr 7-Apr 21	6	Kim Jinwook	Kim Hongseon	Fri
	31	ENA	Lies Hidden in My Garden	Jun 19-Jul 11	8	Ji Anni	Jung Jihyeon	Mon, Tue
TBD	1	TvN	Queen of Tears	2024	16	Park Jieun	Kim Heewon	Sat, Sun
	2		Wedding Impossible When the Stars Gossip	2024 2024	12	Park Seulki Seo Sookhyang	Kwon Yeongil Park Shinwoo	
	4	TBD	The Plotters	TBD		Seo Sooknyang	*Cowork with Unive	real Studio
	5	100	Mastermind	TBD			*Cowork with CBS	
	6	Tving	Study Group	2024		Um Seonho	Lee Janghoon	
	7	Netflix	Sweet Home 3	2024	10		Lee Eungbok	
	8		Hong Rang	TBD	12	Kim Jin-a	Kim Hongsun	
	9		Gyeongseong Creature 2	TBD	8	Kang Eungyeong	Jeong Dongyun	
	10		Whielwind	TBD		Park Kyeongsoo	Kim Yongwan	
	11 12		Hierarchy Trunk (made by Gtist)	TBD TBD		Cho Hyemi Park Eunyoung	Bae Hyunjin Kim Kyutae	
	13		Crash Landing on you (US)	TBD		r ark Euriyoung	Mili Ryulae	
			The Big Door Prize 2		40			
	14		(supply in 4Q23)	2024	10			

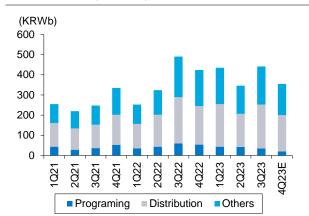
Note: Titles highlighted in green are streamed through Netflix, light blue Tving, and orange Disney+, purple Amazon Prime Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 1. Quarterly sales and operating margin



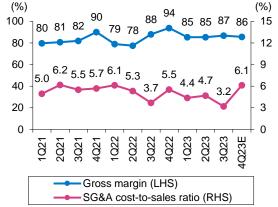
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 3. Quarterly sales, by division



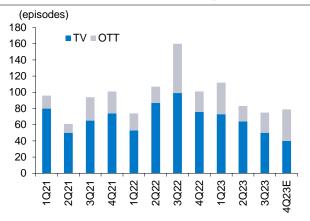
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 2. 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 5. Castaway Diva (tvN; Oct 21)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 6. A Bloody Lucky Day (Tving; Nov 24)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 7. Maestra: Strings of Truth (tvN; Dec 9)



Chart 8. Ambitious 2023 targets



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 9. Athdal Chronicles: The Sword of Aramoon (1) (PC + mobile versions of the game will be released)



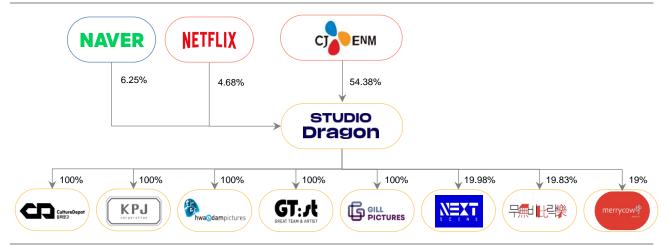
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 10. Athdal Chronicles: The Sword of Aramoon (2)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 11. Ownership structure



Note: As of 2Q23

Table 3. Changes to full-year forecasts

(IZDIA/Is)		2023E				
(KRWb)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)
Sales	741.1	772.1	4.2	884.3	883.1	-0.1
Operating profit	70.4	74.4	5.8	84.1	86.0	2.3
OPM (%, %pts)	9.5	9.6	0.1	9.5	9.7	0.2
Pre-tax profit	69.3	75.6	9.2	83.3	85.5	2.7
NP (controlling)	48.8	55.9	14.5	64.6	66.4	2.7

Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	487	698	772	883	991
Cost of goods sold	407	598	663	758	850
Gross profit	80	100	109	125	142
Gross margin (%)	16.4	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.3
SG&A expenses	27	35	35	39	42
Operating profit	53	65	74	86	99
Operating margin (%)	10.8	9.3	9.6	9.7	10.0
Non-operating gains (losses)	-1	-7	1	-0	1
Financial profit	14	21	19	16	17
Financial costs	10	19	13	10	8
Equity-method gains (losses)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-5	-9	-4	-7	-8
Pre-tax profit	52	59	76	86	100
Taxes	13	8	20	19	23
Effective tax rate (%)	24.9	13.7	26.1	22.4	22.4
Profit from continuing operations	39	51	56	66	78
Profit from discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	39	51	56	66	78
Net margin (%)	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.9
Net profit (controlling interests)	39	51	56	66	78
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	152	219	208	216	238
EBITDA margin (%)	31.1	31.3	27.0	24.5	24.0
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594

Balance sheet

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Current assets	233	400	360	368	373
Cash & equivalents	65	124	104	100	117
Accounts receivable	124	142	153	153	150
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	44	135	103	115	106
Fixed assets	652	691	729	796	869
Investment assets	241	150	152	156	159
Tangible assets	8	11	9	7	6
Intangible assets	298	378	426	483	545
Other long-term assets	105	152	142	150	159
Total assets	884	1,091	1,089	1,164	1,242
Current liabilities	184	416	402	410	410
Accounts payable	17	16	25	27	34
Short-term debt	0	170	170	170	170
Other current liabilities	167	230	207	213	205
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	415	424	423
Owners of parent equity	684	661	674	740	818
Capital stock	15	15	15	15	15
Capital surplus	470	473	473	473	473
Retained earnings	162	213	268	335	413
Other	37	-40	-83	-83	-83
Non-controlling interests' equity	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	684	661	674	740	818
Net debt	-54	59	75	79	62

Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Cash flow from operations	-8	-63	200	199	235
Net profit	39	51	56	66	78
Non-cash profit and expenses	119	176	160	155	167
Depreciation	4	3	2	2	1
Amortization	95	150	132	129	138
Other	20	23	25	25	28
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-155	-280	4	-4	12
Cash flow from investments	27	-43	-167	-190	-205
Change in tangible assets	-2	-4	0	0	0
Change in financial assets	0	0	0	0	0
Other	28	-39	-167	-190	-205
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	-20	-4	17
Cash at beginning of year	49	65	124	104	100
Cash at end of year	65	124	104	100	117
Gross cash flow	158	226	215	222	245
Free cash flow	-11	-67	200	199	235

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Growth (%)					
Sales	-7.3	43.3	10.6	14.4	12.2
Operating profit	7.0	24.0	14.1	15.5	15.6
Net profit	31.8	29.5	10.5	18.7	17.5
Adjusted EPS**	24.6	29.4	10.4	18.7	17.5
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594
EPS (consolidated)	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594
Adjusted EPS**	1,301	1,684	1,859	2,208	2,594
BVPS	22,785	21,982	22,416	24,624	27,218
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	69.9	51.1	30.8	26.0	22.1
P/B***	4.0	3.9	2.6	2.3	2.1
EV/EBITDA	17.7	12.1	8.6	8.3	7.5
Ratios (%)					
ROE	6.0	7.5	8.4	9.4	10.0
ROA	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.9	6.5
ROIC	10.9	12.1	9.8	10.8	11.4
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	11.2	10.7	7.6
Interest coverage (x)	67.6	13.2	8.1	9.4	10.9

Note: * Excluding one-off items

** Fully diluted, excluding one-off items

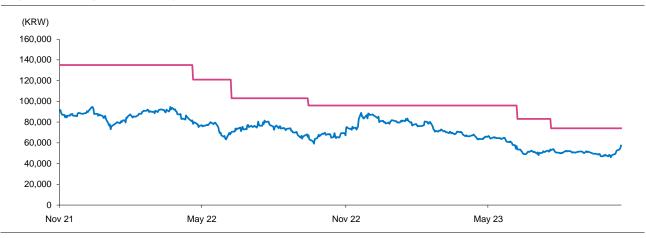
*** From companies subject to equity-method valuation

COMPANY UPDATE

Compliance notice

- As of 11/8 2023, the covering analyst(s) did not own any shares, or debt instruments convertible into shares, of any company covered in this report.
- As of 11/8 2023, Samsung Securities' holdings of shares and debt instruments convertible into shares of each company covered in this report would not, if such debt instruments were converted, exceed 1% of each company's outstanding shares.
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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	8/11
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
Target price (KRW)	135000	135000	121000	103000	96000	83000	74000
Gap* (average)	-33.60	-39.75	-39.04	-28.47	-24.88	-38.39	
(max or min)**	-25.78	-39.56	-33.88	-20.87	-7.40	-35.30	

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

Samsung Securities uses the following investment ratings*

Company		Industry	
BUY	Expected to increase in value by 15% 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 15% within 12 months		5% within 12 months
SELL	Expected to decrease in value by 15% or more within 12 months	UNDERWEIGHT	Expected to underperform market by 5% or more within 12 months

^{*} Note: Effective Jul 27, 2023, BUY, HOLD, and SELL criteria are based on expectations of share-price moves of 15% or more within 12 months

Percentage of ratings in 12 months prior to 2023.09.30

BUY(80.4%)·HOLD(19.6%)·SELL(0%)

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General

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