COMPANY UPDATE

2024.11.8

Tech Team

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AT A GLANCE

Recommend	BUY	
Target price	KRW51,000	26.4%
Current price	KRW40,350	
Market cap	KRW1.2t/USD0.	9b
Shares (float)	30,058,498 (45.2	2%)
52-week high/low	KRW57,300/KR	W34,100
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW2.2b/ USD1.6m	

> ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE

	1M	6M	12M
Studio Dragon (%)	6.6	-6.3	-26.2
Vs Kosdaq (%pts)	13.5	11.3	-17.1

KEY CHANGES

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	BUY	BUY	
Target price	51,000	51,000	0.0%
2024E EPS	901	1,178	-23.5%
2025E EPS	1,478	1,505	-1.8%

SAMSUNG vs THE STREET

No of estimates	14				
Target price	53,357				
Recommendation	3.9				
BUY * * *: 5 / BUY: 4 / HOLD: 3 / SELL: 2 / SELL * * *: 1					

Studio Dragon (253450)

Kindling sparks of hope in difficult times

- Studio Dragon incurred a 3Q operating loss of KRW900m—no surprise given that: 1) the number of its drama episodes broadcast in 3Q fell y-y; 2) only one drama was presold to OTT platforms; and 3) depreciation costs expanded q-q.
- In 4Q, the number of its drama episodes broadcast should also decline y-y but earnings should perk up q-q based on improving presale volume and its dramas' viewership ratings.
- The company should produce more dramas y-y next year thanks to its captive channel reinstating Wednesday/Thursday slots and its strategic alliance with KBS, and to supply dramas for overseas markets. It should also focus on making production structure more efficient. We maintain our BUY rating on the stock.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

3Q review: Studio Dragon reported consolidated 3Q sales of KRW90.3b (down 58.5% y-y) with a y-y turn to an operating loss of KRW900m. The disappointing results were not surprising because: 1) only 59 episodes of its dramas were broadcast in 3Q (38 on TV channels and 21 on OTT platforms); and 2) few of the dramas aired on TV were simultaneously broadcast on global OTT platforms last quarter, with the exception of *Love Next Door* (14 episodes). Sales of old titles were sluggish q-q and the depreciation cost for the dramas aired in 1H24 expanded y-y, driving up the COGS ratio by 6.7%pts y-y to 93.5%. It was positive that OST sales were solid.

Earnings set to improve: Judging from the programming lineups, we believe only 43 episodes of its dramas will be broadcast in 4Q (26 on TV channels and 17 on OTT platforms), way lower than 71 episodes in 3Q23. However, 4Q earnings should pick up q-q as: 1) depreciation cost should contract q-q; 2) weekend drama *Jeongnyeon: The Star Is Born* (simultaneously aired on Tving and Disney+) is doing well; and 3) all of its weekend dramas broadcast on tvN were presold to global OTT service providers. In 2025, things should get better. Its captive channel will likely resume Wednesday/Thursday slots next year. The company should produce more dramas y-y next year based on its strategic alliance with KBS and to supply dramas for overseas markets. It should produce seven or more pieces of tentpole dramas annually to make profits, and should also produce small-budget dramas to diversify genres, discover new actors and writers, and grow its IP business. To curtailing cost, it should center on making production structure more efficient.

Maintaining BUY: The industry has passed the bottom. Studio Dragon's earnings should head north next year, backed by a y-y rise in the number of items of content produced and distribution channel expansion. The firm should start producing dramas for overseas markets (*eg*, Japan). It is high time investors shift the focus of their attention to 'improvement'. We maintain KRW51,000 target price (6.6x forward EV/EBITDA; a 20% discount to three-year average to reflect sluggish industry conditions).

SUMMARY 3Q RESULTS

(KRWb)	3Q24	CI	Chg		f (%)
		(% y-y)	(% q-q)	Samsung	Consensus
Sales	90.3	-58.5	-34.1	-20.6	-30.2
Operating profit	-0.9	nm	nm	nm	nm
Pre-tax profit	-4.1	nm	nm	nm	nm
Net profit	-6.1	nm	nm	nm	nm
Margins (%)					
Operating profit	-1.0				
Pre-tax profit	-4.5				
Net profit	-6.8				

VALUATION SUMMARY

	2023	2024E	2025E
Valuation (x)			
P/E	51.5	44.8	27.3
P/B	2.2	1.7	1.6
EV/EBITDA	6.5	6.0	5.0
Div yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS growth (% y-y)	-40.6	-10.0	64.2
ROE (%)	4.4	3.8	6.1
Per-share data (KRW)			
EPS	1,001	901	1,478
BVPS	23,546	23,583	25,062
DPS	0	0	0

Source: Company data, Fnguide, Samsung Securities estimates

Table 1. Results and forecasts

(KRWb)	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24E	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	121.1	157.5	228.9	190.5	211.1	163.5	217.4	161.1	192.1	137.1	90.3	117.7	697.9	753.1	537.2	670.3
Programing	35.4	43.8	59.4	54.0	43.2	42.5	35.0	33.4	47.3	30.7	21.6	22.3	192.5	154.1	121.9	132.4
Distribution	77.7	103.9	165.8	132.8	211.1	163.5	217.4	161.1	192.1	137.1	90.3	117.7	480.2	588.9	399.6	521.0
Other	8.0	9.8	3.8	3.7	2.3	2.1	2.3	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.0	25.2	10.1	15.7	16.9
Gross profit	25.5	35.4	27.4	11.7	30.8	23.9	28.8	4.3	28.7	18.1	5.9	16.2	100.0	87.9	69.0	90.9
SG&A	7.4	8.4	8.4	10.5	9.2	7.7	6.9	8.2	7.2	7.7	6.8	8.3	34.8	32.0	30.0	31.7
Operating profit	18.1	27.0	18.9	1.2	21.6	16.3	21.9	-3.8	21.5	10.5	-0.9	7.9	65.2	55.9	39.0	59.1
Non-operating profit	2.0	3.0	6.5	-18.1	0.5	-0.4	3.3	-22.0	5.7	2.7	-3.1	-4.7	-6.6	-18.7	0.5	-1.6
Pre-tax profit	20.1	30.0	25.5	-17.0	22.1	15.8	25.1	-25.8	27.2	13.2	-4.1	3.2	58.6	37.2	39.5	57.6
Net profit (controlling)	15.6	25.6	17.8	-8.5	18.4	10.2	18.2	-16.7	20.2	8.2	-6.1	4.8	50.6	30.1	27.1	44.4
Gross margin	21.1	22.5	12.0	6.1	14.6	14.6	13.2	2.7	14.9	13.2	6.5	13.8	14.3	11.7	12.8	13.6
Operating margin	15.0	17.1	8.3	0.6	10.2	9.9	10.1	-2.4	11.2	7.6	-1.0	6.7	9.3	7.4	7.3	8.8
Net margin (controlling)	12.9	16.2	7.8	-4.4	8.7	6.2	8.4	-10.4	10.5	5.9	-6.8	4.1	7.2	4.0	5.0	6.6
Chg (% y-y)																
Sales	3.4	48.5	97.2	28.8	74.4	3.8	-5.0	-15.4	-9.0	-16.1	-58.5	-26.9	43.3	7.9	-28.7	24.8
Programing	-19.1	55.4	64.0	1.5	21.9	-3.1	-41.0	-38.1	9.5	-27.6	-38.4	-33.2	19.4	-20.0	-20.9	8.6
Distribution	23.0	53.8	155.2	66.4	171.6	57.3	31.2	21.3	-9.0	-16.1	-58.5	-26.9	74.3	22.6	-32.1	30.4
Other	-21.5	-5.1	-74.8	-75.3	-71.0	-78.4	-38.3	-7.8	50.7	85.4	85.8	18.6	-49.9	-59.7	55.2	7.4
Gross profit	7.8	74.0	30.5	-20.7	20.8	-32.4	5.2	-63.1	-7.0	-24.2	-79.5	276.1	25.4	-12.1	-21.5	31.8
SG&A	27.7	28.1	31.7	25.1	24.3	-8.7	-17.8	-22.4	-22.5	0.3	-1.5	1.7	27.9	-8.0	-6.3	5.9
Operating profit	1.4	95.7	29.9	-81.4	19.3	-39.8	15.4	nm	-0.4	-35.7	nm	nm	24.0	-14.3	-30.2	51.7
Non-operating profit	-37.8	1,085.2	67.8	nm	-75.6	nm	-49.9	nm	1,078.1	nm						
Pre-tax profit	-4.6	113.7	37.9	nm	10.0	-47.3	-1.3	nm	23.2	-16.8	nm	nm	12.7	-36.5	6.2	45.7
Net profit (controlling)	0.4	170.2	20.5	nm	17.8	-60.1	1.9	nm	9.8	-20.0	nm	nm	29.5	-40.5	-10.0	64.2
Gross margin	0.9	3.3	-6.1	-3.8	-6.5	-7.8	1.3	-3.5	0.3	-1.4	-6.7	11.1	-2.0	-2.7	1.2	0.7
Operating margin	-0.3	4.1	-4.3	-3.7	-4.7	-7.2	1.8	-3.0	1.0	-2.3	-11.1	9.1	-1.4	-1.9	-0.2	1.6
Net margin (controlling)	-0.4	7.3	-5.0	-3.9	-4.2	-10.0	0.6	-5.9	1.8	-0.3	-15.1	14.5	-0.8	-3.3	1.0	1.6
Source: Company data, San	nsung Se	curities														

Year	No.	Channel	Title	Air dates	Episodes	Writers	Director	Days
2024	1	tvN	Maestra: Strings of Truth	Dec 9, 2023- Jan 14	12	Choi Yiyun	Kim Jeongkwon	Sat, Sun
	2		Marry My Husband	Jan 1-Feb 20	16	Sin Yudam	Park Wonkook	Mon, Tue
	3		Captivating the King	Jan 21-Mar 3	16	Kim Seonduk	Cho Namkook	Sat, Sun
	4		Wedding Impossible	Feb 26-Apr 2	12	Park Seulki	Kwon Yeongil	Mon, Tue
	5		Queen of Tears	Mar 9-Apr 28	16	Park Jieun	Kim Heewon	Sat, Sun
	6		The Midnight Romance in Hagwon	May 11-Jun 30	16	Park Kyeonghwa	Ahn Panseok	Sat, Sun
	7		Player S2: Master of Swindlers	Jun 3-Jul 9	12	Park Sangmoon	So Jaehyun	Mon, Tue
	8		The Auditors	Jul 6-Aug 11	16	Choi Minho	Kwon Youngil	Mon, Tue
			O'PENing 2024	Jul 15-	7	One-act play	6 dramas	
	9		Serendipity's Embrace	Jul 22-Aug 13	8	Park Gro	Song Hyeonwook	Mon, Tue
	10		Love Next Door	Aug 17-Oct 6	16	Shin Haeun	Yu Jewon	Sat, Sun
	11		Jeongnyeon: The Star is Born	Oct 12-Nov 17	12	Choi Hyobi	Jung Jiin	Sat, Sun
	12		Love Your Enemy	Nov 23-Dec 29	12	Lim Yejin	Park Joonhwa	Sat, Sun
	13	TVING	Dong Jae, the Good or the Bastard	Oct 14-Nov 12	10	Hwang Hajeong	Park Gunho	
	14	Netflix	Hierarchy (supply in 1Q24)	Jun 7	7	Cho Hyemi	Bae Hyunjin	
	15		Whirlwind (supply over 1Q24-2Q24)	Jun 28	12	Park Kyeongsoo	Kim Yongwan	
	16		Sweet Home 3	Jul 19	8		Lee Eungbok	
	17		Gyeongseong Creature S2	Sep 27	7	Kang Eungyeong	Jeong Dongyun	
	18		The Trunk (supply in 3Q24)	Nov 29	8	Park Eunyoung	Kim Kyutae	
	19	GenieTV	To My Harry (Broadcasted in ENA)	Sep 23-Oct 29	12	Han Garam	Jung Jihyun	Mon, Tue
	20	AppleTV+	The Big Door Prize 2 (supply over 3Q23-4Q23)	Apr 24-Jun 12	10	David West Read	Anu Valia	
ЪD	1	t∨N	When the Stars Gossip	Jan 2025	16	Seo Sookhyang	Park Shinwoos	Sat, Sun
	2		Won Kyung (tvN X Tving)	Jan 2025	13	Lee Youngmi	Kim Sangho	Mon, Tue
	3		My Dearest Nemesis	Feb 2025	16	Kim Sooyeon	Lee Suhyeon	Mon, Tue
	4		Take care of Keumju	2025	12	Myeong Soohyeon	Jang Yujung	Mon, Tue
	5		Typhoon Boss	2025	16		Lee Najung	
	6		Gyeon U and Fairy	2025	12	Yang Jihoon	Kim Yongwan	
	7		The Confidence Man KR	2025	12	Hong Seunghyeon	Nam Kihoon	
	8		Signal 2	2025	10	Kim Eunhi	Ahn Taejin	
	9	Tving	Study Group (Amazon Prime)	1H25	10	Um Seonho	Lee Janghoon	
	10		Dear X	TBD	12			
	11	Netflix	Hong Rang	1H25	12	Kim Jin-a	Kim Hongsun	
	12		All the Love You Wish For	TBD	12	Kim Eunsook	Lee Byeonghun	
	13		The Price of Confession	TBD		Kwon Jongkwan	Lee Junghyo	
	14	KBS	Unknown Seoul	2025	12	Lee Kang	Park Shinwoo	
	15		Dear bandit	TBD		Lee Sun		
	16	Japan	Marry My Husband (JPN)	TBD			(Japanese drama)	
	17		Show Business	TBD	22	No Heekyung	Lee Yunjung	
	18		Mary Kills People	TBD	12	-	Park Joonwoo	
	19		I'm Against My Romance	TBD		Kim Eun	Lee Eungbok	

Table 2. Drama lineup (from 2024)

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

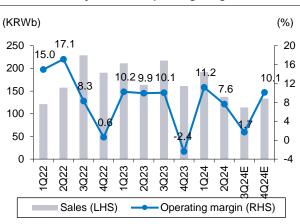
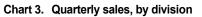
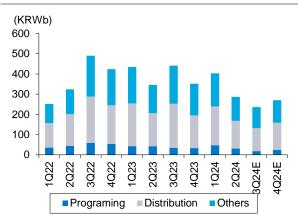


Chart 1. Quarterly sales and operating margin

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities





Source: Company data, Samsung Securities





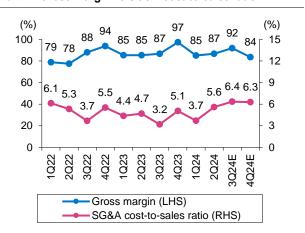
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 1. Love next door (Netflix; Aug 17)



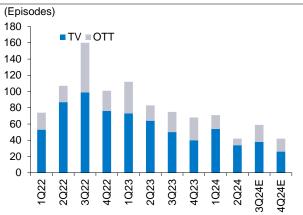
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

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 2. To My Harry (ENA; Sep 23)



Chart 3. Gyeongseong Creature S2 (Netflix; Sep 27)

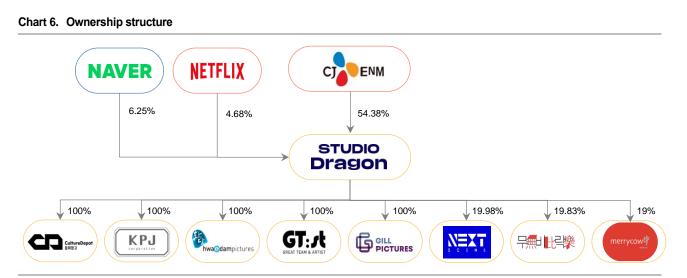
- Chart 4. Dong Jae, the Good or the Bastard (Tving; Oct 10)
- Chart 5. Jeong Nyeon (tvN; Oct 12)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities



Note: As of 2Q24 / Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

	2017-2023	2024-	
Non-captive portion of projects	13%	50%-	
In-house portion of production	26%	50%-	
Major strategies for platforms	Volume deals	More volume deals	
Programming strategies	Mainly programming/distribution; a smaller portion of IP development	Equal parts programming/distributio and IP development	

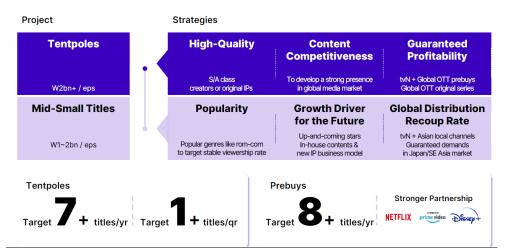
Table 3. 2024 strategies to facilitate transition to major global studio

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 7. Key strategies

/ KEY STRATEGIES

Growth of Q&P based on Portfolio Optimization Strategy



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Table 4. Changes to full-year forecasts

		2024E			2025E	5E	
(KRWb) —	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)	
Sales	576.2	537.2	-6.8	694.9	670.3	-3.5	
Operating profit	47.4	39.0	-17.8	62.2	59.1	-5.0	
OPM (%, %pts)	8.2	7.3	-1.0	9.0	8.8	-0.1	
Pre-tax profit	49.4	39.5	-20.0	58.6	57.6	-1.8	
NP (controlling)	35.4	27.1	-23.5	45.2	44.4	-1.8	

Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	698	753	537	670	800
Cost of goods sold	598	665	468	579	692
Gross profit	100	88	69	91	108
Gross margin (%)	14.3	11.7	12.8	13.6	13.5
SG&A expenses	35	32	30	32	34
Operating profit	65	56	39	59	74
Operating margin (%)	9.3	7.4	7.3	8.8	9.2
Non-operating gains (losses)	-7	-19	1	-2	-3
Financial profit	21	15	17	13	14
Financial costs	19	18	11	11	12
Equity-method gains (losses)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-9	-16	-6	-4	-5
Pre-tax profit	59	37	40	58	71
Taxes	8	7	12	13	16
Effective tax rate (%)	13.7	19.2	31.5	22.8	23.0
Profit from continuing operations	51	30	27	44	55
Profit from discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	51	30	27	44	55
Net margin (%)	7.2	4.0	5.0	6.6	6.8
Net profit (controlling interests)	51	30	27	44	55
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	219	242	188	228	268
EBITDA margin (%)	31.3	32.1	35.1	34.0	33.6
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820

Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash flow from operations	-63	45	197	213	267
Net profit	51	30	27	44	55
Non-cash profit and expenses	176	216	163	181	210
Depreciation	3	3	2	2	1
Amortization	150	183	147	167	193
Other	23	30	13	12	15
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-280	-179	20	-0	19
Cash flow from investments	-43	-1	-66	-204	-230
Change in tangible assets	-4	-3	0	0	0
Change in financial assets	0	-4	2	-1	0
Other	-39	6	-69	-204	-230
Cash flow from financing	165	-9	-11	-9	-9
Change in debt	172	-1	-2	0	0
Change in equity	3	0	0	0	0
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-9	-8	-9	-9	-9
Change in cash	59	35	98	-5	24
Cash at beginning of year	65	124	158	256	251
Cash at end of year	124	158	256	251	274
Gross cash flow	226	246	190	226	265
Free cash flow	-67	42	197	213	267

Note: * Excluding one-off items ** Fully diluted, excluding one-off items *** From companies subject to equity-method valuation

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Balance sheet

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Current assets	400	405	417	420	454
Cash & equivalents	124	158	256	251	274
Accounts receivable	142	149	93	101	106
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	135	97	68	69	74
Fixed assets	691	688	612	662	711
Investment assets	150	175	172	178	183
Tangible assets	11	12	10	9	7
Intangible assets	378	359	295	329	375
Other long-term assets	152	141	135	146	146
Total assets	1,091	1,092	1,029	1,082	1,166
Current liabilities	416	368	306	313	341
Accounts payable	16	11	11	13	16
Short-term debt	170	170	170	170	170
Other current liabilities	230	187	125	130	155
Long-term liabilities	14	16	15	15	17
Bonds & long-term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term liabilities	14	16	15	15	17
Total liabilities	430	384	320	329	358
Owners of parent equity	661	708	709	753	808
Capital stock	15	15	15	15	15
Capital surplus	473	473	473	473	473
Retained earnings	213	242	269	314	368
Other	-40	-23	-49	-49	-49
Non-controlling interests' equity	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	661	708	709	753	808
Net debt	59	23	-76	-71	-95

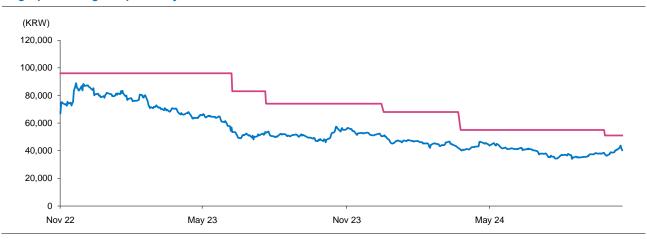
Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Growth (%)					
Sales	43.3	7.9	-28.7	24.8	19.4
Operating profit	24.0	-14.3	-30.2	51.7	24.9
Net profit	29.5	-40.5	-10.0	64.2	23.1
Adjusted EPS**	29.4	-40.6	-10.0	64.2	23.1
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820
EPS (consolidated)	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820
Adjusted EPS**	1,684	1,001	901	1,478	1,820
BVPS	21,982	23,546	23,583	25,062	26,882
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	51.1	51.5	44.8	27.3	22.2
P/B***	3.9	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.5
EV/EBITDA	12.1	6.5	6.0	5.0	4.2
Ratios (%)					
ROE	7.5	4.4	3.8	6.1	7.0
ROA	5.1	2.8	2.6	4.2	4.9
ROIC	12.1	8.5	5.5	9.9	11.5
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	8.9	3.3	-10.8	-9.4	-11.7
Interest coverage (x)	13.2	6.4	4.5	6.8	8.6

Compliance notice

- As of 11/7 2024, the covering analyst(s) did not own any shares, or debt instruments convertible into shares, of any company covered in this report. - As of 11/7 2024, 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	2022/10/6	2023/6/29	8/11	2024/1/8	4/15	10/16
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
Target price (KRW)	96000	83000	74000	68000	55000	51000
Gap* (average)	-24.88	-38.39	-30.14	-32.59	-27.80	
(max or min)**	-7.40	-35.30	-22.57	-24.71	-15.55	

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 2024.09.30

BUY(81.3%)·HOLD(18.7%)·SELL(0%)

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