# COMPANY UPDATE

2025.4.3

#### **Tech Team**

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#### ► AT A GLANCE

Recommend	BUY	
Target price	KRW61,000	23.9%
Current price	KRW49,250	
Market cap	KRW1.5t/USD1.0	Ob
Shares (float)	30,058,498 (45.2	%)
52-week high/low	KRW51,400/KRV	V34,100
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW7.9b/ USD5.4m	

# **▶ ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE**

	1M	6M	12M
Studio Dragon (%)	-4.2	31.3	9.3
Vs Kosdaq (%pts)	4.1	46.2	42.3

### **KEY CHANGES**

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	BUY	BUY	
Target price	61,000	61,000	0.0%
2025E EPS	1,422	1,522	-6.6%
2026E EPS	1,798	1,942	-7.4%

### ▶ SAMSUNG vs THE STREET

No of estimates	13
Target price	55,615
Recommendation	4.0
BUY * * : 5 / BUY: 4 / HOLD: 3 / SELL: 2	/ SELL ★ ★ ★: 1

# Studio Dragon (253450)

Beyond the hurdles, opportunities await

- Studio Dragon's 1Q operating profit likely came in at KRW7b (down 67.7% y-y), falling far short of consensus as the number of episodes that aired in 1Q fell y-y and their viewership ratings were just modest.
- Judging from programming lineups, earnings momentum should strengthen in 2H.
- Earnings should improve as the company produce more dramas y-y, collaborates with management firms, and cut costs.

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

**1Q preview:** We now expect Studio Dragon's 1Q results to show sales down 27.9% y-y to KRW138.5b and operating profit down 67.7% y-y to KRW7b, the latter far below consensus of KRW13.21b. We identify three reasons for the probable miss.

- First, the number of episodes of Studio Dragon dramas broadcast fell from 71 in 1Q24 (54 TV channels and 17 on OTT platforms) to 60 in 1Q25 (40 on TV channels and 20 on OTT platforms)—including *Study Group* (10; Tving), *The Queen Who Crowns: Before Sunrise* (2 preguels; tvN), and *Dear Hong Rang* (8; Netflix).
- Second, When the Stars Gossip put in a poor performance. Its production period was long and it was broadcast simultaneously on tvN and Netflix.
- Third, results were affected by a high base for viewership ratings—several commercial hits aired in 1Q24, including *Marry My Husband* and *Queen of Tears*.

Earnings to pick up steam in 2H: Judging from current programming lineups, we believe investors need to moderate their expectations about 1H earnings, as the number of epsiodes airing in 2Q should also decline y-y, and amortization costs for *When the Stars Gossip* should increase further. Full-year earnings momentum should improve as the company will producing more dramas y-y, though any earnings rebound may be delayed by adjustments to programming schedules. In 2H, captive channel tvN is planning to reinstate its Wednesday/Thursday slots, and several tentpole dramas such as *All the Love You Wish For* should be broadcast on Netflix. Studio Dragon is also scheduled to produce and supply two or more Japanese dramas this year (including a remake of *Marry My Husband*). Production process efficiency improvements should begin to curtail cost from mid-2025.

**Maintaining BUY:** Earnings should improve in earnest from 2H, backed by: 1) a rise in the production of dramas (25 pieces in 2025 vs 18 in 2024); 2) distribution channel expansion; 3) collaboration with entertainment agencies; and 4) greater production process efficiency.

### **SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA**

	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Revenue (KRWb)	550	653	779	867
Operating profit (KRWb)	36	52	66	77
Net profit (adj) (KRWb)	33	43	54	61
EPS (adj) (KRW)	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
EPS (adj) growth (% y-y)	11.3	27.7	26.4	13.2
EBITDA margin (%)	33.3	33.5	30.9	29.2
ROE (%)	4.6	5.7	6.9	7.3
P/E (adj) (x)	38.6	34.6	27.4	24.2
P/B (x)	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.1	6.0	5.3	5.0
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Table 1. Quarterly results and forecasts

(KRWb)	1Q24	4Q24	1Q25E	Chg (% q-q)	Chg (% y-y)	Consensus	Diff (%)
Sales	192.1	130.6	138.5	6.1	-27.9	141.8	-2.4
Operating profit	21.5	5.4	7.0	30.1	-67.7	13.1	-46.7
Operating margin	11.2	4.1	5.0	0.9	-6.2	9.2	-4.2
Pre-tax profit	27.2	-8.1	9.8	nm	-64.0	17.0	-42.5
Net profit (controlling)	20.2	11.3	7.7	-31.7	-61.9	11.6	-33.6

Source: Company data, FnGuide, Samsung Securities

Table 1. Results and forecasts

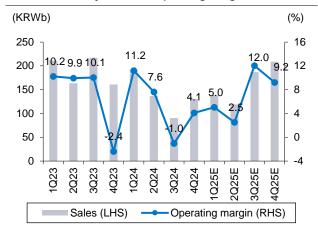
(KRWb)	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	1Q25E	2Q25E	3Q25E	4Q25E	2023	2024	2025E	2026E
Sales	211.1	163.5	217.4	161.1	192.1	137.1	90.3	130.6	138.5	118.9	187.1	208.9	753.1	550.1	653.5	778.6
Programing	43.2	42.5	35.0	33.4	47.3	30.7	21.6	27.6	37.0	17.3	45.7	47.5	154.1	127.2	147.6	173.3
Distribution	211.1	163.5	217.4	161.1	192.1	137.1	90.3	130.6	138.5	118.9	187.1	208.9	588.9	406.5	488.0	586.2
Other	2.3	2.1	2.3	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	10.1	16.4	17.9	19.0
Gross profit	30.8	23.9	28.8	4.3	28.7	18.1	5.9	15.3	14.8	10.8	30.8	28.3	87.9	68.0	84.6	101.7
SG&A	9.2	7.7	6.9	8.2	7.2	7.7	6.8	9.9	7.8	7.8	8.2	9.1	32.0	31.6	32.9	35.3
Operating profit	21.6	16.3	21.9	-3.8	21.5	10.5	-0.9	5.4	7.0	3.0	22.5	19.2	55.9	36.4	51.7	66.3
Non-operating profit	0.5	-0.4	3.3	-22.0	5.7	2.7	-3.1	-13.4	2.8	1.9	3.3	-5.3	-18.7	-8.2	2.7	2.5
Pre-tax profit	22.1	15.8	25.1	-25.8	27.2	13.2	-4.1	<b>-</b> 8.1	9.8	4.8	25.8	13.9	37.2	28.2	54.4	68.8
Net profit (controlling)	18.4	10.2	18.2	-16.7	20.2	8.2	-6.1	11.3	7.7	3.8	20.3	11.0	30.1	33.5	42.7	54.1
Gross margin	14.6	14.6	13.2	2.7	14.9	13.2	6.5	11.7	10.7	9.1	16.4	13.6	11.7	12.4	13.0	13.1
Operating margin	10.2	9.9	10.1	-2.4	11.2	7.6	-1.0	4.1	5.0	2.5	12.0	9.2	7.4	6.6	7.9	8.5
Net margin (controlling)	8.7	6.2	8.4	-10.4	10.5	5.9	-6.8	8.6	5.6	3.2	10.8	5.2	4.0	6.1	6.5	6.9
Chg (% y-y)																
Sales	74.4	3.8	-5.0	-15.4	-9.0	-16.1	-58.5	-19.0	-27.9	-13.3	107.2	60.0	7.9	-27.0	18.8	19.1
Programing	21.9	-3.1	<b>-</b> 41.0	-38.1	9.5	-27.6	-38.4	-17.2	-21.7	-43.6	111.8	72.0	-20.0	-17.4	16.0	17.5
Distribution	171.6	57.3	31.2	21.3	-9.0	-16.1	-58.5	-19.0	-27.9	-13.3	107.2	60.0	22.6	-31.0	20.0	20.1
Other	-71.0	-78.4	-38.3	-7.8	50.7	85.4	85.8	36.4	22.7	13.2	5.7	0.1	-59.7	61.2	9.5	6.3
Gross profit	20.8	-32.4	5.2	-63.1	-7.0	-24.2	-79.5	253.4	-48.5	-40.5	420.9	85.6	-12.1	-22.6	24.5	20.1
SG&A	24.3	-8.7	-17.8	-22.4	-22.5	0.3	-1.5	21.3	9.2	1.5	20.5	-8.3	-8.0	-1.3	4.3	7.3
Operating profit	19.3	-39.8	15.4	nm	-0.4	-35.7	nm	nm	-67.7	-71.4	nm	259.6	-14.3	-34.9	42.1	28.2
Non-operating profit	-75.6	nm	-49.9	nm	1,078	nm	nm	nm	-50.3	-31.0	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	-8.5
Pre-tax profit	10.0	-47.3	-1.3	nm	23.2	-16.8	nm	nm	-64.0	-63.1	nm	nm	-36.5	-24.2	92.8	26.4
Net profit (controlling)	17.8	-60.1	1.9	nm	9.8	-20.0	nm	nm	-61.9	-53.2	nm	-2.7	-40.5	11.3	27.7	26.4
Gross margin	-6.5	-7.8	1.3	-3.5	0.3	-1.4	-6.7	9.0	-4.3	-4.2	9.9	1.9	<b>-</b> 2.7	0.7	0.6	0.1
Operating margin	-4.7	-7.2	1.8	-3.0	1.0	-2.3	-11.1	6.5	-6.2	-5.1	13.1	5.1	-1.9	-0.8	1.3	0.6
Net margin (controlling)	-4.2	-10.0	0.6	-5.9	1.8	-0.3	-15.1	19.0	-5.0	-2.7	17.6	-3.4	-3.3	2.1	0.5	0.4

Table 2. Drama lineup (from 2025)

Year	No.	Channel	Title	Air dates	Episodes	Writers	Director	Days
TBD	1	tvN	When the Stars Gossip	Jan 4-Feb 23	16	Seo Sookhyang	Park Shinwoos	Sat, Sun
	2		The Queen Who Crowns	Jan 6-Feb 11	12+2	Lee Youngmi	Kim Sangho	Mon, Tue
	3		My Dearest Nemesis	Feb 17- Apr 8	16	Kim Sooyeon	Lee Suhyeon	Mon, Tue
	4		Second Shot at Love	May 12-Jun 17	12	Myeong Soohyeon	Jang Yujung	Mon, Tue
	5		Unknown Seoul	May 24-Jun 29	12	Lee Kang	Park Shinwoo	Sat, Sun
	6		Gyeon U and Fairy	Jun 23-Jul 29	12	Yang Jihoon	Kim Yongwan	Mon, Tue
	7		First, for Love	Aug 4-Sep 9	12	Yang Heesun	Yoo Jaewon	Mon., Tue
	8		The Tyrant's Chef	Aug 16-Sep 21	12	Hapjak	Jang Taeyu	Sat, Sun
	9		New President Project	Sep 15-Oct 21	12	Ban Giri	Sin Gyeongsoo	Mon, Tue
	10		Typhoon Boss	Sep 27-Nov 16	16	Jang Hyunsook	Lee Najung	Sat, Sun
	11		Mean Love	Oct 27-Dec 16	16	Jung Yeorang	Kim Garam	Mon, Tue
	12		Pro Bono	2H25		Moon Yuseok	Kim Sungyoon	Sat, Sun
	13		Asura Balbalta	2H25	12	Ahn Areum	Jung Jeehyun	Wed, Thu
	14		I'll Give You the Universe	2H25	12	Soojin		Wed, Thu
	15	Tving	Study Group (Amazon Prime)	Jan 20	10	Um Seonho	Lee Janghoon	
	16		Dear X	TBD	12	Choi Jaewon	Lee Eungbok	
	17	Netflix	Dear Hong Rang (supply over 4Q24-1Q25)	2Q25	12	Kim Jin-a	Kim Hongsun	
	18		Genie, Make a Wish	4Q25	12	Kim Eunsook	Lee Byeonghun	
	19		The Price of Confession	4Q25	12	Kwon Jongkwan	Lee Junghyo	
	20	Disney+	The Manipulated	2025	10	Oh Sangho	Park Shinwoo	
	21	KBS2	Dear Bandit	2025		Lee Sun	Ham Younggul	
	22	Japan	Marry My Husband (JPN)	TBD			(Japanese drama)	
TBD	1	tvN	The Second Signal	1H26	10	Kim Eunhi	Ahn Taejin	
	2	Tving	Yumi's Cells Season 3	TBD				
	3	Netflix	Slowly and Intensely	TBD	22	No Heekyung	Lee Yunjung	
	4	SBS	Doctor X: Age of the White Mafia	1H26		Pyeon Sungeun	Lee Jungrim	
	5	TBD	I'm Against My Romance	TBD		Kim Eun	Lee Eungbok	
	6		Gold Land	TBD		Hwang Joyoon	Kim Seonghoon	
	7		Becoming a Cooking Soldier Legend			Choi Ryong	Cho Namhyung	
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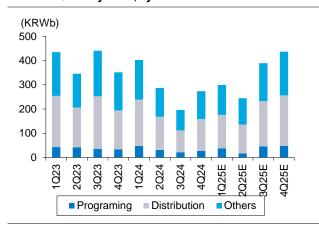
Note: Titles highlighted in green are streamed through Netflix, light blue Tving, and orange Disney+, yellow Amazon Prime The Queen Who Crown's 2 episodes are prequel series (Jan 21, 2025)

Chart 1. Quarterly sales and operating margin



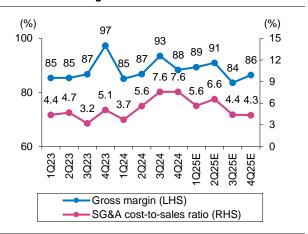
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 3. Quarterly sales, by division



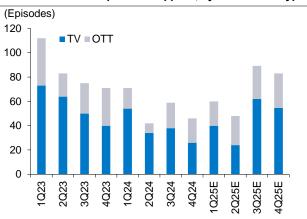
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

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



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 4. Number of episodes supplied, by broadcaster type



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 5. Dramas delivered per year

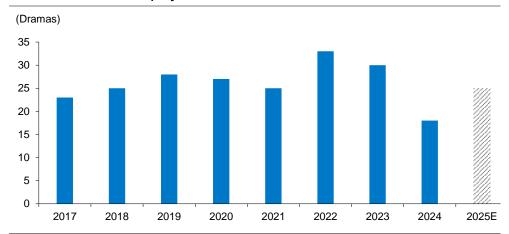


Chart 6. The Queen Who Crowns (tvN; Jan 6)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

Chart 7. Study Group (Tving; Jan 23)



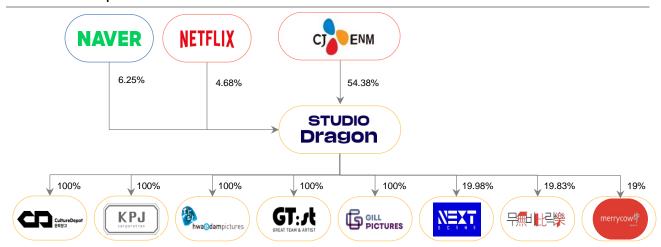
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities When the Stars Gossip

Chart 8. My Dearest Nemesis (tvN; Feb 17)



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

# Chart 9. Ownership structure



Note: As of 4Q24 / Source: Company data, Samsung Securities

# Chart 10. Key strategies

#### Reconstruction of lineup Enhancement of hit-ratio - Total lineup: +25 titles - Fostering internal creators (eg, directors) - tvN Wed-Thurs slot (resumed): +3 titles - Acquiring external S/A-level creators - Terrestrial shows: +2 titles - Advancing production process - Originals with new formats: +2 titles (ie, bidding, production database) Expansion of global projects New business opportunities - Developing content (based on 20 IPs) in - Discovering emerging stars and US by collaborating with top K-creators broadening IP-driven businesses - Developing content (based on 5+ IPs) in - Monetizing in-show content (OST, MD) Japan by localizing popular titles - Exploring new frontiers (short-form, AI)

Table 3. Changes to full-year forecasts

(KRWb) —		2025E			2026E	
(KKWD)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)	Previous	Revised	Chg (%)
Sales	677.5	653.5	-3.6	840.5	778.6	-7.4
Operating profit	56.1	51.7	-7.9	71.8	66.3	-7.7
OPM (%, %pts)	8.3	7.9	-0.4	8.5	8.5	-0.0
Pre-tax profit	58.2	54.4	-6.6	74.3	68.8	-7.4
NP (controlling)	45.8	42.7	-6.6	58.4	54.1	-7.4

# Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Sales	753	550	653	779	867
Cost of goods sold	665	482	569	677	752
Gross profit	88	68	85	102	114
Gross margin (%)	11.7	12.4	13.0	13.1	13.2
SG&A expenses	32	32	33	35	38
Operating profit	56	36	52	66	77
Operating margin (%)	7.4	6.6	7.9	8.5	8.8
Non-operating gains (losses)	-19	-8	3	2	1
Financial profit	15	20	20	21	23
Financial costs	18	8	6	6	5
Equity-method gains (losses)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-16	-20	-12	-12	-17
Pre-tax profit	37	28	54	69	78
Taxes	7	-5	12	15	17
Effective tax rate (%)	19.2	-18.7	21.4	21.4	21.4
Profit from continuing operations	30	33	43	54	61
Profit from discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	30	33	43	54	61
Net margin (%)	4.0	6.1	6.5	6.9	7.1
Net profit (controlling interests)	30	33	43	54	61
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	242	183	219	240	253
EBITDA margin (%)	32.1	33.3	33.5	30.9	29.2
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036

# **Balance sheet**

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Current assets	405	394	384	433	444
Cash & equivalents	158	178	174	209	229
Accounts receivable	149	101	102	108	104
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	97	115	108	116	111
Fixed assets	688	532	543	570	613
Investment assets	175	156	160	166	171
Tangible assets	12	12	9	8	6
Intangible assets	359	205	227	253	288
Other long-term assets	141	159	146	144	148
Total assets	1,092	926	927	1,003	1,057
Current liabilities	368	169	153	173	164
Accounts payable	11	5	9	10	12
Short-term debt	170	2	2	2	2
Other current liabilities	187	163	143	162	151
Long-term liabilities	16	16	17	20	21
Bonds & long-term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term liabilities	16	16	17	20	21
Total liabilities	384	186	171	193	185
Owners of parent equity	708	740	756	810	872
Capital stock	15	15	15	15	15
Capital surplus	473	473	473	473	473
Retained earnings	242	275	318	372	433
Other	-23	-24	-49	-49	-49
Non-controlling interests' equity	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	708	740	756	810	872
Net debt	23	-169	-166	-201	-221

# Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Cash flow from operations	45	180	192	230	232
Net profit	30	33	43	54	61
Non-cash profit and expenses	216	159	172	182	186
Depreciation	3	4	2	2	1
Amortization	183	143	164	172	176
Other	30	12	5	8	9
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-179	4	-12	9	1
Cash flow from investments	-1	10	-167	-189	-206
Change in tangible assets	-3	-1	0	0	0
Change in financial assets	-4	0	1	-1	0
Other	6	11	-168	-189	-207
Cash flow from financing	-9	-175	-2	-0	-0
Change in debt	-1	-172	-2	0	0
Change in equity	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-8	-3	-0	-0	-0
Change in cash	35	20	-5	36	20
Cash at beginning of year	124	158	178	174	209
Cash at end of year	158	178	174	209	229
Gross cash flow	246	192	215	236	247
Free cash flow	42	178	192	230	232

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

# Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Growth (%)					
Sales	7.9	-27.0	18.8	19.1	11.3
Operating profit	-14.3	-34.9	42.1	28.2	15.4
Net profit	-40.5	11.3	27.7	26.4	13.2
Adjusted EPS**	-40.6	11.3	27.7	26.4	13.2
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
EPS (consolidated)	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
Adjusted EPS**	1,001	1,114	1,422	1,798	2,036
BVPS	23,546	24,606	25,165	26,963	28,999
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	51.5	38.6	34.6	27.4	24.2
P/B***	2.2	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.7
EV/EBITDA	6.5	6.1	6.0	5.3	5.0
Ratios (%)					
ROE	4.4	4.6	5.7	6.9	7.3
ROA	2.8	3.3	4.6	5.6	5.9
ROIC	8.5	9.7	10.7	12.8	13.9
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	3.3	-22.8	-21.9	-24.9	-25.4
Interest coverage (x)	6.4	7.8	124.1	178.0	205.5

Note: \* Excluding one-off items

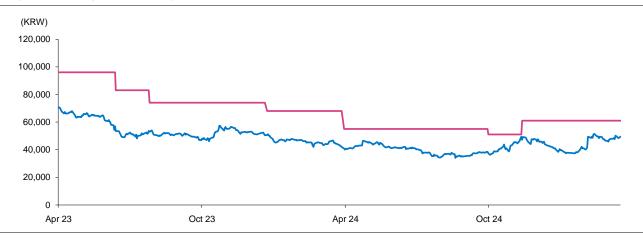
\*\* Fully diluted, excluding one-off items

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

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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	11/28
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY
Target price (KRW)	96000	83000	74000	68000	55000	51000	61000
Gap* (average)	-24.88	-38.39	-30.14	-32.59	-27.80	-18.23	
(max or min)**	-7.40	-35.30	-22.57	-24.71	-15.55	-3.14	

# 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

<sup>\*</sup> 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 2025.03.31

BUY(79%)·HOLD(21%)·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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