

the shale oil and gas industry. It manufactures ceramic and resincoated sand proppants, designed for hydraulic fracturing of natural gas and oil wells. It markets primarily through pumping service companies. Acquired BBL Falcon (10/09). Has 1025 employees.

7.4%; Vanguard, 6.0% (3/14 Proxy). CEO: Gary Kolstad. Incorporated: DE. Address: Energy Center II, 575 N. Dairy Ashford Road, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77079. Telephone: 972-401-0090. Internet: www.carboceramics.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 14.5% 14.5% 8.0% 8.5% 16.0% 16.0% Earnings 15.5% 15.0% 8.5% 15.5% 15.5% 14.0% 13.5% 10.0% 9.0% **Book Value** 

20.0

30.8

50.8

24.6

32.1

56.7

29.8

24.7

54.5

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	150.8	149.7	167.1	158.1	625.7
2012	163.1	177.6	151.2	153.6	645.5
2013	147.7	153.7	201.5	164.5	667.4
2014	148.6	176.6	155.4	174.4	655
2015	160	190	190	195	735
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	1.30	1.29	1.59	1.43	5.62
2012	1.31	1.38	1.04	.89	4.59
2013	.76	.71	1.31	.90	3.68
2014	.80	1.00	.83	1.02	3.65
2015	1.00	1.20	1.50	1.30	5.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.18	.18	.20	.20	.76
2011	.20	.20	.24	.24	.88
2012	.24	.24	.27	.27	1.02
2013	.27	.30	.30	.30	1.17
2014	.30	.30	.33		

CARBO Ceramics' recent results were **disappointing.** Share net came in at \$0.83 for the September period, falling short of our estimate. The company continues to face intense international and domestic competition. What's more, exploration & production (E&Ps) operators are tightening their belts by switching from ceramic proppant to sand. In fact, ceramic volumes dropped roughly 28% for the quarter. We expect this trend to persist, owing to the drop in crude oil prices and E&Ps getting more cautious with capex spending. Meanwhile, CARBO is on track in retrofitting a manufacturing facility for its new KRYPTOSPHERE technology, which is expected to hit the market in

The volatility in the crude oil markets is not helping matters. Like the rest of the industry, shares of CARBO have been battered, thanks to the significant drop in WTI and BRENT crude prices. In fact, the stock price is down some 49% since our last review. Too, the stock has been under pressure since management warned investors that third-quarter sales would be lower than forecasted back in September.

What's more, should crude oil prices not recover, we foresee cuts to overall capex for land-based oil & gas operators.

We are reducing our full-year bottom**line targets.** We are now expecting share net for 2014 and 2015 to come in at \$3.65 and \$5.00, respectively. Too, the recent volatility in the crude oil market poses some downside risk to our earnings targets. All told, we expect intense competition and the shift to sand-based proppant, coupled with macroeconomic uncertainty, to weigh on the company's profits in the next 12 months.

This stock is set to keep pace with the broader market averages in the year ahead. The recent share-price pullback has created a favorable entry point for buy-and-hold investors, based on the 3- to 5-year capital recovery potential. That said, we think there are downside risks to our estimates and would advise investors to take a wait-and-see approach before committing capital. But the issue is suitable for income-oriented accounts. given that the yield is slightly above the *Value Line* median.

(A) Based on yearend diluted share count. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late January

(B) In millions, adjusted for split.
(C) Dividends historically paid mid-Feb., May, Aug., Nov.

(D) Includes intangibles. In '13: \$29.0 million, \$1.27 per share.

Michael Collins

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 15 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 65

November 7, 2014