

dustrial automation power, control and information solutions for manufacturers. It has two operating segments: Architecture & Software (includes all components of integrated control and information architecture) and Control Products & Solutions (includes portfolio of control products and related managerial offerings). In 2014, sales

R&D: 4.1% of '14 sales. Has about 22,000 employees. Officers and directors own 1.56% of common stock (12/14 proxy). Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer: Keith Nosbusch. Incorporated: Delaware, Address: 1201 South Second Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204. Telephone: 414-382-2000. Web: www.rockwell.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 Past 10 Yrs. 7.5% 11.0% 16.5% 5 Yrs. 6.0% 10.0% 12.0% to '18-'20 5.5% 8,0% 9.0% of change (per sh) Sales "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.5% 13.5%

3679.9

546.7

179.0

819.0

1544.7

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

28<u>3.1</u>

520.6

325.0

846.5

1692.1

3932.5

479.6

508.0

783.2

1770.8

3934.2

| DOOK VAIGE 0.576 3.576 | | | | | 5.570 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ends | QUA Dec.31 | RTERLY S Mar.31 | ALES (\$ m Jun.30 | ill.) ^A Sep.30 | Full Fiscal Year |
| 2012 | 1473 | 1561 | 1560 | 1664 | 6259.4 |
| 2013 | 1489 | 1522 | 1624 | 1715 | 6351.9 |
| 2014 | 1592 | 1601 | 1650 | 1780 | 6623.5 |
| 2015 | 1574 | 1605 | 1640 | 1781 | 6600 |
| 2016 | 1650 | 1700 | 1750 | 1800 | 6900 |
| Fiscal | EARNINGS PER SHARE A BFull | | | | |
| Year Ends | Dec.31 | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Fiscal Year |
| 2012 | 1.27 | 1.16 | 1.33 | 1.37 | 5.13 |
| 2013 | 1.14 | 1.24 | 1.45 | 1.53 | 5.36 |
| 2014 | 1.41 | 1.28 | 1.43 | 1.79 | 5.91 |
| 2015 | 1.56 | 1.40 | 1.65 | 1.84 | 6.45 |
| 2016 | 1.70 | 1.55 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 7.00 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID =C | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2011 | .35_ | .35 | .425 | .425 | 1.55 |
| 2012 | .425 | .425 | .47 | .47 | 1.79 |
| 2013 | .47 | .52 | .52 | .58 | 2.09 |
| 2014 | .58 | .58 | .58 | .65 | 2.32 |
| 2015 | .65 | | | | |

Rockwell Automation reported solid bottom-line growth in the first quarter (fiscal year began October 1st). Earnings of \$1.56 a share during the period, while slightly below our expectation, increased nearly 11%, year over year. Net profit margins continued to display strength, expanding on a solid showing in fiscal 2014. A favorable product mix and improving organic sales buoyed the figure. We are revisiting our fiscal 2015 financial outlook, however. The company now expects greater headwinds from unfavorable currency translations, a generally challenging macroeconomic environment, and lower oil prices (discussed below). As a consequence, we are shaving \$300 million and \$0.40 from our fiscal 2015 revenue and earnings estimates, to \$6.6 billion and \$6.45 a share, respectively. That, said, fiscal 2016 should see growth come back into the picture.

Struggling oil and gas markets give us pause. Management noted no negative impact on sales from lower oil prices in the first quarter, contrary to prior expectations, yet this will likely not ring true for the next several periods. Indeed, softer capital expenditures from companies in these areas, most notably weaker exploration projects, may be a drag on the top line in the current year, hence our downward revision

Rockwell's relatively diverse revenue streams help calm the nerves a bit. Specifically, the Architecture and Software segment ought to deliver consistent organic growth over the next several years. We like the company's prospects in China and Latin America, as well. Moreover, the long-term nature of industrial investments from individual companies should help spending stay the course, as near-term fluctuations in the operating landscape will likely have a minimal impact on spending decisions further out.

Rockwell Automation shares

ranked to outperform the broader market over the coming six to 12 months (Timeliness: 2). However, at the recent quotation, total return potential over the pull to 2018-2020 is only average. Therefore, we recommend investors with a long-term bent remain on the sidelines, for now.

Nicholas Patrikis

April 3, 2015

(A) Fiscal yr. ends Sept. 30th. (B) Dil. egs. 2012 earnings don't sum due to rounding. Excl. n/r gains (losses): '99, (11¢); '00, 35¢; '01, 71¢; '02, (30¢); '03, 37¢; '04, 24¢; '05, 14¢; '08,

(21¢); '09, (29¢). Excl. disc. op.: '03, 2¢; '04, 32¢; '05, 11¢; '06, (2¢); '07, \$5.70; '09, 2¢; '10, 17¢. Next egs. rpt. due late April. **(C)** Div'ds historically paid in March, June, Sept., and

Dec. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (D) Inc. 2014 intangibles: \$9.48/sh. (E) In mill.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 55 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 55

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