

# TE Connectivity Ltd.

# **Quick take from investor call with CEO Terrence Curtin**

Maintain Rating: BUY | PO: 155.00 USD | Price: 142.25 USD

# Company's secular growth drivers remain strong

As part of our 'View from the Top' series, we hosted an investor call with TEL CEO Terrence Curtin. Global footprint and local incumbency remains a strength as the company remains levered to secular growth in connectivity for both data and power, and growth of content in EVs & ICE. TEL remains confident in its growth trajectory through two secular drivers in the auto market, Electrification (powertrain specific, EV focus) & Electronification (powertrain agnostic, sensors & features in the car). The growth in auto content per vehicle TEL has seen over the last few years (from \$60 to \$80) can be attributed  $\sim 2/3^{rd}$  from EVs and  $\sim 1/3^{rd}$  from the electronification trend. Rate and pace of EV adoption is stronger in Asia than other parts of the world as companies work to match the tech to consumer demands,  $\sim 14$ mn EVs were produced in Asia alone last year. The heavy lifting for margin improvement is paying off. We maintain Buy as TEL continues to deliver solid overall growth and profitability despite macro pressures.

# Industrial Solutions – destocking impact lingers on

Industrial equipment remains the end-market within this segment facing destocking issues and has seen broad weakness over the last 6 months. Mgmt. noted it's still unclear when the destocking will end. However, Aerospace & Defense, Energy, and Medical end-markets remain strong and Mgmt. expects sequential growth throughout the rest of the year. There remains more work to be done to improve margins in Industrials, which are also impacted by bolt-on deals that can be a headwind in the short term.

# **Communications Solutions - Cloud digestion almost over**

Mgmt. noted  $\sim$ 50% more content in an Al application than Cloud. Industry is in the late innings of the inventory digestion in Cloud. The broader datacom market still has inventory to be worked through but execution can keep segment margins elevated.

# Capital allocation – bolt ons and buybacks

The company's capital allocation policy remains the same, looking for bolt on opportunities but not overpaying, and using buybacks when it makes sense. Mgmt. noted the last few years asset prices have been high compared to return opportunities, but they are looking for more bolt on acquisitions (especially in industrials).

Estimates (Sep) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	7.31	6.73	7.54	7.90	8.37
GAAP EPS	7.46	6.73	7.54	7.90	8.37
EPS Change (YoY)	12.1%	-7.9%	12.0%	4.8%	5.9%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			7.58	8.37	9.30
DPS	2.12	2.30	2.36	2.36	2.36
Valuation (Sep)					
P/E	19.5x	21.1x	18.9x	18.0x	17.0x
GAAP P/E	19.1x	21.1x	18.9x	18.0x	17.0x
Dividend Yield	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
EV / EBITDA*	13.2x	14.2x	13.1x	13.1x	12.6x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	4.8%	5.0%
* For full definitions of <i>iO</i> method <sup>≤M</sup> measures, see page 5.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 6 to 8. Analyst Certification on page 4. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

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#### 01 February 2024

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#### **Stock Data**

 Price
 142.25 USD

 Price Objective
 155.00 USD

 Date Established
 24-Jan-2024

 Investment Opinion
 B-1-7

 52-Week Range
 115.00 USD - 146.84 USD

 Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out (mn)
 44,208 USD / 310.8

Free Float 99.8%
Average Daily Value (mn) 274.37 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange TEL / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters TEL US / TELN

 ROE (2024E)
 18.4%

 Net Dbt to Eqty (Sep-2023A)
 21.9%

 ESGMeter™
 High

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TEL- TE connectivity Ltd.



# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup>TE Connectivity Ltd.

iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Return on Capital Employed	14.1%	12.7%	12.6%	11.8%	11.7%
Return on Equity	22.2%	19.1%	18.4%	16.7%	16.1%
Operating Margin	18.2%	16.7%	18.7%	18.6%	18.9%
Free Cash Flow	1,700	2,400	2,293	2,118	2,200
i <b>Q</b> method <sup>™</sup> – <b>Quality of Earnings*</b>					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Cash Realization Ratio	1.0x	1.5x	1.3x	1.2x	1.2:
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.0x	0.9x	1.0x	1.2x	1.3
Tax Rate	18.8%	19.1%	21.1%	21.0%	21.09
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	28.6%	21.9%	15.6%	9.1%	3.09
Interest Cover	44.9x	33.5x	41.8x	43.4x	45.7
Income Statement Data (Sep)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Sales	16,281	16,034	16,108	16,763	17,358
% Change	9.1%	-1.5%	0.5%	4.1%	3.69
Gross Profit	5,244	5,055	5,515	5,739	5,996
% Change	7.3%	-3.6%	9.1%	4.1%	4.59
EBITDA	3,751	3,471	3,761	3,775	3,912
% Change	8.1%	-7.5%	8.3%	0.4%	3.69
Net Interest & Other Income	(34)	(36)	(30)	(44)	(68
Net Income (Adjusted)	2,381	2,137	2,352	2,433	2,544
% Change	9.8%	-10.2%	10.1%	3.4%	4.5%
Free Cash Flow Data (Sep) US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	2,381	2,137	2,352	2,433	2,544
Depreciation & Amortization	785	794	750	651	624
Change in Working Capital	(940)	8	(251)	(172)	(145
Deferred Taxation Charge	(147)	(77)	(1,217)	0	(
Other Adjustments, Net	389	270	1,385	0	(
Capital Expenditure	(768)	(732)	(725)	(794)	(822
Free Cash Flow	1,700	2,400	2,293	2,118	2,200
% Change	-14.4%	41.2%	-4.4%	-7.7%	3.9%
Share / Issue Repurchase	(1,412)	(945)	(824)	(580)	(580
Cost of Dividends Paid	(685)	(725)	(734)	(727)	(718
Change in Debt	(558)	(591)	(1)	0	(
Balance Sheet Data (Sep)					
US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Cash & Equivalents	1,088	1,661	1,996	2,807	3,710
Trade Receivables	2,865	2,967	2,932	3,051	3,160
Other Current Assets	3,315	3,264	3,382	3,492	3,579
Property, Plant & Equipment	3,567	3,754	3,873	4,016	4,214
Other Non-Current Assets	9,947	10,066	11,776	11,776	11,776
Total Assets	20,782	21,712	23,958	25,142	26,438
Short-Term Debt	914	682	613	613	613
Other Current Liabilities	3,718	3,781	3,401	3,459	3,509
Long-Term Debt	3,292	3,529	3,585	3,585	3,58!
Other Non-Current Liabilities	1,961	2,065	2,226	2,226	2,226
Total Liabilities	9,885	10,057	9,825	9,883	9,933 16,505
Tatal Caultus	10 007				
Total Equity Total Equity & Liabilities	10,897 20,782	11,655 21,712	14,133 23,958	15,259 25,142	26,438

# **Company Sector**

Connectors, Passive Components & Distribution

# **Company Description**

TEL is the world's largest maker of passive electronic components (75% of sales) led by a leading share (20-25%) in connectors (50% of sales). TEL's biggest served markets have longer cycles, such as auto (30% of sales) & telecom equipment (19% of sales). TEL also produces components for telecom & energy networks (14% of sales) that protect/connect cabling.

### **Investment Rationale**

TEL has significant potential long-term benefit from secular growth in the automobile industry. As OEMs continue to add features to make vehicles safer, greener, and more connected, TEL should benefit from content growth. Strong cash flow, share buybacks and dividends should continue to provide valuation support.

#### **Stock Data**

Average Daily Volume 2,004,415

# **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
Q1	1.53A	1.84E
Q2	1.65A	1.84E
Q3	1.77A	1.92E
Q4	1.78A	1.97E

# Price objective basis & risk

### TE Connectivity Ltd. (TEL)

Our PO of \$155 is based on 20x our C24E EPS estimate. The 20x is within the historical range of 17x to 35x. We believe a target multiple of 20x is justified as it balances risks from high exposure to the cyclical auto market and current macro headwinds from inflationary pressures and supply chain constraints, versus benefits from market outperformance from content growth and secular trends in automotive and industrials.

Downside risks to our PO are a worse-than-expected slowdown in the automotive sector and high exposure to the sector (>40% of sales), a general slowdown in the global economy from impact of COVID-19, and supply chain disruptions.

# **Analyst Certification**

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**US - IT Hardware and Technology Supply Chain Coverage Cluster** 

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		CNXC	CNXC US	. ,
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	Vizio	VZIO	VZIO US	Wamsi Mohan

# *IQ*method<sup>™</sup> Measures Definitions

•		
<b>Business Performance</b>	Numerator	Denominator
Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) × (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Total Assets – Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
		Amortization
Return On Equity	Net Income	Shareholders' Equity
Operating Margin	Operating Profit	Sales
Earnings Growth	Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual	N/A
Free Cash Flow	Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex	N/A
Quality of Earnings	Numerator	Denominator
Cash Realization Ratio	Cash Flow From Operations	Net Income
Asset Replacement Ratio	Capex	Depreciation
Tax Rate	Tax Charge	Pre-Tax Income
Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio	Net Debt = Total Debt - Cash & Equivalents	Total Equity
Interest Cover	EBIT	Interest Expense
Valuation Toolkit	Numerator	Denominator
Price / Earnings Ratio	Current Share Price	Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)
Price / Book Value	Current Share Price	Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares
Dividend Yield	Annualised Declared Cash Dividend	Current Share Price
Free Cash Flow Yield	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares
Enterprise Value / Sales	EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt +	Sales
,	Other LT Liabilities	

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

\*\*Menethod 3\*\*\*is the set of BofA Global Research standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

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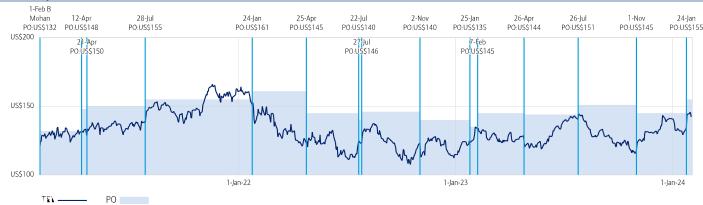
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B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Medium grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Light grey shading indicates the security is not covered. Chart is current as of a date no more than one trading day prior to the date of the report.

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Electronics Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	32	54.24%	Buy	13	40.63%
Hold	11	18.64%	Hold	3	27.27%
Sell	16	27.12%	Sell	4	25.00%

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

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# Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster<sup>R2</sup>

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ /0%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Jnderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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