

## **NVIDIA** Corporation

# The \$100bn manifesto: solid FCF = growth optionality, PE expansion

Maintain Rating: BUY | PO: 700.00 USD | Price: 479.98 USD

## \$100bn in CY24/25E FCF generation creates new oppty.

Maintain Buy, top sector pick on NVDA on its genAl dominance that can potentially help generate  $\sim$  \$100bn of incremental free cash flow over the next two years (CY24/CY25E). Of the  $\sim$ \$100bn FCF, we estimate only  $\sim$ \$30-\$35bn could be deployed for buybacks (offset equity dilution), leaving a meaningful \$65-70bn in ammunition for new organic & inorganic growth initiatives. NVDA's relatively depressed trading multiple – just 24x/20x CY24/25E PE versus 67%/26% pf-EPS growth – is partly due to uncertainty in CY25 growth prospects, and partly due to a very hardware dependent business unlike other large-cap software/internet peers that have recurring revenue profiles. In our view NVDA's solid FCF generation creates optionality in addressing these concerns, and in helping to expand its trading multiple back to its historical median 35x-40x.

## Key will be building a recurring revenue profile

We expect NVDA to consider assets that help it create a more meaningful recurring revenue profile. While NVDA has a solid lead in AI, hardware-oriented businesses are not valued as highly as visibility tends to be limited. We don't cite any specific targets but do flag NVDA's prior (unsuccessful) \$40bn bid for ARM as an example of its M&A appetite in software/IP assets. Currently NVDA generates only ~\$1bn or 2% of sales in annualized revenue from software/subscriptions, which we are skeptical can exceed \$5bn at most without inorganic additions to the core AI enterprise suite. We envision NVDA considering more enhanced partnerships/M&A of software companies that are helping traditional enterprise customers deploy, monitor and analyze genAI apps. NVDA is already serving them via on-premise hardware and/or its DGX cloud service, but we believe greater direct recurring software/service channel could be more impactful.

## Unlikely to be cloud provider, but could add hardware

NVDA's Mellanox acquisition has been extremely successful, with annualized revenue 5xing towards \$10bn currently. NVDA already has strong compute & networking assets, so storage could be an area of further investments to round out its profile of becoming an end-end optimized AI systems vendor. On the other hand, we don't see NVDA becoming a specialized AI cloud service provider (CSP) as it can be a hyper-competitive business with large existing incumbents (NVDA customers). Indeed, over the last year we have seen NVDA reduce its capex intensity, while investing in alternative GPU-focused CSP such as CoreWeave, Lambda Labs, Vultr and others who often get early access to latest NVDA products. While NVDA has maintained a strong direct relationship with the larger CSP, the alternative CSP are helping create an alternative/captive channel.

## Key stock catalysts

Upcoming CES (Jan 8-10) tradeshow (see <u>our linked preview</u>) and GTC tradeshow (Mar 18-22) could be important product newsflow catalysts, potentially helping the stock break-out of its \$400-\$500 trading range over the last few months. While NVDA gets clubbed in the "Magnificent 7" or largest market cap US stocks, we note NVDA trades at a 20-30% discount on PE and EV/FCF basis, despite 50% or 2x the FCF margins and despite a 41% CY23-25 or 3x the sales CAGR versus the six other "magnificent" peers.

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#### 04 January 2024

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#### Stock Data

 Price
 479.98 USD

 Price Objective
 700.00 USD

 Date Established
 21-Nov-2023

 Investment Opinion
 C-1-7

 52-Week Range
 140.34 USD - 505.48 USD

 Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out
 1,194,190 USD / 2,488.0

nn)

Free Float 96.0%

Average Daily Value (mn) 19241.79 USD

BofA Ticker / Exchange NVDA / NAS

Bloomberg / Reuters NVDA US / NVDA.OQ

ROE (2024E) 97.3%

Net Dbt to Eqty (Jan-2023A) 34.2%

ESGMeter™ High

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### Glossary

**GPU: Graphics Processing Unit** 

IP: Intellectual Property

DGX: name of NVDA cloud

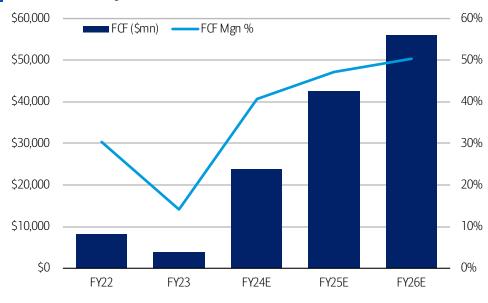
GTC: GPU Tech Conference

**CES: Consumer Electronics Show** 

## The \$100bn growth enhancement opportunity

Exhibit 1: We forecast NVDA to generate nearly \$100bn of total free cash flow in FY25/26E or roughly CY24/25E, implying best-in-class 50%+FCF margins

Annual FCF and FCF margins from FY22 (CY21E) to FY26 (CY25E)



Source: Company reports, BofA Global Research Estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Price objective basis & risk

#### **NVIDIA Corporation (NVDA)**

Our \$700 PO is based on 27x CY25E PE ex cash, within NVDA's historical 26x-69x forward year PE range, justified given stronger growth opportunities ahead as gaming cycle troughs and data center demand potentially faces strong, long-term demand dynamics.

Downside risks to our price objective are: 1) weakness in consumer driven gaming market, 2) Competition with major public firms, internal cloud projects and other private companies in accelerated computing markets, 3) Larger than expected impact from restrictions on compute shipments to China, or additional restrictions placed on activity in the region, 4) Lumpy and unpredictable sales in new enterprise, data center, and autos markets, 5) Potential for decelerating capital returns.

## **Analyst Certification**

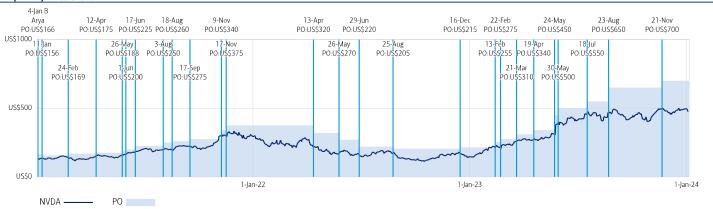
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#### NVIDIA (NVDA) Price Chart



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

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Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	215	53.09%	Buy	111	51.63%
Hold	97	23.95%	Hold	45	46.39%
Sell	93	22.96%	Sell	24	25.81%

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

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Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
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