

# **Fastly**

# A slight hiccup, but story still intact.

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 28.00 USD | Price: 23.54 USD

# Revenue miss, EPS beat; FY24 guide likely conservative

Fastly's 4Q revenues missed Street estimates by -2%, or \$3mn, yet the combination of +210bps gross margin outperformance and sequential operating margin expansion of +820bps drove a +3c EPS beat. FY24 guidance of +16% growth (flat YoY) was a touch below Street expectations, however management attributes the softness to conservatism around volatile traffic patterns that drove 4Q weakness. We reiterate our Buy and \$28 PO as we see no change to our positive long-term thesis. We update our estimates based on management guidance.

# Quarter weakness: volatile traffic patterns

Management ascribes the 4Q miss to volatility in international traffic patterns after customers moved traffic out of an expensive region late in 4Q. While this was positive for gross margins, it created a headwind to revenues. Pricing differentials amongst geographies where traffic is sent is not new, however management noted that visibility into rerouting traffic to lower cost regions is low, and therefore the risk was not considered in prior guidance. On the other hand, these risks are accounted for in FY24 guidance, setting lower baselines for expensive regions and removing seasonal spikes, which in our view leaves healthy room for outperformance.

# What we like: demand trends still strong, room for upside,

Key metrics trended in the right direction for Fastly, despite the traffic hiccup in 4Q. Customer acquisition trends are continuing to improve with total customer count up +6% YoY versus +2% quarter prior. Enterprise customers grew by +31 in 4Q after declining by -4 in 3Q, and average Enterprise spend increased +11% YoY to \$880k signaling healthy appetite for Fastly's broader platform. Lastly, management introduced a new compensation structure that requires sales reps to close net new customers in order to hit targets, which should drive further upside to topline growth as soon as 1H.

# Not an easy short-term ride, but worth it

Though Fastly remains volatile, with the stock down 20% AH on the slight miss, after appreciating +32% YTD pre-earnings, we believe CY24 should be a catalyst for further rerating of the stock. We expect revenue to reaccelerate to +19% YoY growth by 4Q, FCF breakeven in CY24 and an additional +300bps of gross margin expansion. We also note that the conservative guide leaves room for outperformance and positive estimate revisions throughout the year.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	(0.59)	(0.17)	(0.01)	0.16	0.28
GAAP EPS	(1.57)	(1.01)	(1.16)	(0.99)	(0.87)
EPS Change (YoY)	-22.9%	71.2%	94.1%	NM	75.0%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			(0.19)	0.20	0.82
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	NM	NM	NM	147.1x	84.1x
EV / EBITDA*	NM	NM	NM	125.1x	24.1x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	-4.8%	-1.3%	0%	0.2%	0.3%
* For full definitions of <i>iQ</i> method <sup>≤M</sup> measures, see page 7.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 10. Analyst Certification on page 6. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 6.

Timestamp: 14 February 2024 10:14PM EST

#### 14 February 2024

### Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
2024E Rev (m)	601.9	588.0
2025E Rev (m)	720.6	700.0
2026E Rev (m)	NA	839.6
2024E EPS	0.29	-0.01
2025E EPS	0.64	0.16
2026E EPS	NA	0.28

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#### Stock Data

Price	23.54 USD
Price Objective	28.00 USD
Date Established	17-Jan-2024
Investment Opinion	C-1-9
52-Week Range	11.61 USD - 25.87 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	2,950 USD / 125.3
(mn)	
Free Float	91.8%
Average Daily Value (mn)	72.39 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	FSLY / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	FSLY US / FSLY.N
ROE (2024E)	-0.1%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	6.8%
ESGMeter™	Medium

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, refer to "BofA ESGMeter Methodology".

# *iQ*profile<sup>™</sup> Fastly

iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Return on Capital Employed	-3.4%	-1.2%	-0.1%	2.0%	3.3%
Return on Equity	-7.3%	-2.2%	-0.1%	2.4%	4.1%
Operating Margin	-17.7%	-7.2%	-2.4%	3.2%	5.2%
Free Cash Flow	(143)	(38)	1	5	Ç
<i>iQ</i> method <sup>™</sup> – <b>Quality of Earnings*</b>					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Cash Realization Ratio	NM	NM	NM	2.5x	1.6
Asset Replacement Ratio	0.7x	0.5x	1.2x	1.3x	1.9
Tax Rate	NM	NM	0.7%	NM	NM
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	19.6%	6.8%	6.8%	6.3%	5.3%
Interest Cover	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/
Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Sales	433	506	588	700	840
% Change	22.1%	16.9%	16.2%	19.0%	19.9%
Gross Profit	232	288	360	435	523
% Change	13.3%	24.2%	25.0%	21.0%	20.1%
EBITDA	(39)	(12)	1	25	128
% Change	-50.9%	68.2%	NM	NM	419.8%
Net Interest & Other Income	4	15	12	12	12
Net Income (Adjusted)	(72)	(22)	(1)	23	40
% Change	-28.7%	69.9%	96.6%	NM	72.5%
Free Cash Flow Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	(191)	(130)	(164)	(141)	(125)
Depreciation & Amortization	106	73	39	40	30
Change in Working Capital	(74)	(39)	(19)	(28)	(35)
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/
Other Adjustments, Net	89	93	192	185	195
Capital Expenditure	(73)	(35)	(45)	(52)	(56
Free Cash Flow	-143	-38	1	5	99.400
% Change	-64.5%	73.2%	NM	257.3%	92.4%
Share / Issue Repurchase	0	0	0	0	(
Cost of Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	
Chango in Dobt			0	Λ	
Change in Debt	0	(197)	0	0	C
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)	0	(197)			(
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions)	0 <b>2022A</b>	(197) <b>2023A</b>	2024E	2025E	2026
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents	0 <b>2022A</b> 518	(197) <b>2023A</b> 406	<b>2024E</b> 407	<b>2025E</b> 412	<b>2026</b> 422
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables	0 <b>2022A</b> 518 90	(197) <b>2023A</b> 406 99	<b>2024E</b> 407 118	<b>2025E</b> 412 140	<b>2026</b> 422
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets	0 <b>2022A</b> 518 90 29	(197) <b>2023A</b> 406 99 41	<b>2024E</b> 407 118 45	<b>2025E</b> 412 140 53	<b>2026</b> 422 167
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment	0 2022A 518 90 29 180	(197)  2023A  406  99  41  177	<b>2024E</b> 407 118 45 184	<b>2025E</b> 412 140 53 196	2026 422 167 63 222
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079	(197) 2023A 406 99 41 177 917	<b>2024E</b> 407 118 45 184 917	<b>2025E</b> 412 140 53 196 917	2026 422 167 63 222 917
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671	<b>2025E</b> 412 140 53 196 917 <b>1,718</b>	2026 422 163 63 222 913 1,791
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0	2026 422 166 66 222 917 1,791
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896 0	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0 129	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0 171	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0 205	2026 422 167 63 222 917 1,791
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896 0 152 705	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0 129 473	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0 171 473	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0 205 473	2026 422 167 63 222 917 1,791 ( 245 473
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896 0 152 705 84	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0 129 473 60	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0 171 473 72	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0 205 473 85	2026 422 167 63 222 917 1,791 ( 244 473
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities Total Liabilities	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896 0 152 705 84 941	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0 129 473 60 662	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0 171 473 72 715	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0 205 473 85 763	2026 422 167 63 222 917 1,791 ( 245 473 102
Balance Sheet Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities	2022A 518 90 29 180 1,079 1,896 0 152 705 84	2023A 406 99 41 177 917 1,641 0 129 473 60	2024E 407 118 45 184 917 1,671 0 171 473 72	2025E 412 140 53 196 917 1,718 0 205 473 85	2026 422 166 63 222 917 1,791 ( 244 473

# **Company Sector**

Data Networking

## **Company Description**

Fastly is an emerging technology leader in the high-growth Content Delivery Networking (CDN) market. CDN vendors deliver content for Enterprises and media/content providers, charging per bandwidth delivered. Fastly's network architecture is a combination of best-of-breed hardware and a patented software stack based on open source protocols. This unique stack enables the company to immediately deliver content on a global basis, and provide differentiated edge compute services and programmability.

#### **Investment Rationale**

We have a Buy rating on Fastly as we believe Fastly is positioned to gain share in the CDN market as its differentiated architecture delivers low-latency content, which has become a necessity in a digital world. The company's open-source software stack and security solutions enable Fastly to move into the emerging Edge Compute market, which could provide further upside.

# Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 3,075,340

## **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
Q1	-0.09A	-0.07E
Q2	-0.04A	-0.01E
Q3	-0.06A	0.02E
04	0.01A	0.06E



\* For full definitions of  $\emph{iQ}$  method  $^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 7.

# Financial highlights

**Exhibit 1: Actual versus estimates results** 

Fastly reported mixed 4Q results, missing revenue but beating EPS

A vs. E \$ mn, except EPS	1 Yr ago 4Q22 12/31/22	<b>1Q23</b> 3/31/23	<b>2Q23</b> 6/30/23	<b>1Q ago 3Q23</b> 9/30/23	<b>Actuals</b> <b>4Q23</b> 12/31/23	<b>BofA</b> <b>4Q23E</b> 12/31/23	Delta	QoQ	YoY
Total revenue	\$119.32	\$117.56	\$122.83	\$127.82	\$137.78	\$142.13	(\$4.35)	7.8%	15.5%
QoQ % Chg	10.0%	-1.5%	1.7%	4.7%	11.2%	11.2%			
YoY % Chg	22.1%	14.8%	19.8%	17.8%	15.5%	19.1%			
Cost of goods sold (Non-GAAP)	51.33	52.15	53.31	56.40	56.25	58.37	(2.12)	-0.3%	9.6%
Gross margin (Non-GAAP)	57.0%	55.6%	56.6%	55.9%	59.2%	58.9%	23.9 bps	329.5 bps	218.7 bps
S&M (Non-GAAP)	34.16	34.99	35.35	39.41	38.30	37.61	0.69	-2.8%	12.1%
R&D (Non-GAAP)	25.73	25.95	25.22	26.24	26.16	32.73	(6.57)	-0.3%	1.7%
G&A (Non-GAAP)	20.10	18.54	16.75	18.33	19.34	14.59	4.75	5.5%	-3.8%
Total operating expenses	79.99	79.48	77.31	83.97	83.80	84.92	(1.13)	-0.2%	4.8%
Operating Income / (Loss) (Non-GAAP)	(11.99)	(14.07)	(7.78)	(12.55)	(2.27)	(1.16)	(1.11)	-81.9%	-81.1%
Operating margin	-10.1%	-12.0%	-6.3%	-9.8%	-1.6%	-0.8%	-83.1 bps	817.4 bps	840.6 bps
Other Income/Expense (Non-GAAP)	2.30	3.44	3.04	4.53	4.46	6.00	(1.54)	-1.5%	93.9%
Earnings before taxes (EBT)	(9.69)	(10.64)	(4.74)	(8.02)	2.19	4.84	(2.65)	-127.4%	-122.6%
Tax benefit / (Expense)	0.22	(0.14)	0.12	0.00	(0.47)	0.04	(0.50)	-46600.0%	-308.5%
Net Income (Non-GAAP)	(9.47)	(10.77)	(4.62)	(8.02)	1.73	4.88	(3.15)	-121.6%	-118.3%
Non-GAAP EPS	(\$0.08)	(\$0.09)	(\$0.04)	(\$0.06)	\$0.01	\$0.04	(\$0.03)	-119.8%	-116.0%
Total share count	123.59	125.42	127.86	129.87	141.16	130.00	11.16	8.7%	14.2%
Margin Analysis									
Gross margins (Non-GAAP)	57.0%	55.6%	56.6%	55.9%	59.17%	58.9%	23.9 bps	329.5 bps	218.7 bps
S&M (Non-GAAP)	28.6%	29.8%	28.8%	30.8%	27.8%	26.5%	133.7 bps	-303.0 bps	-83.1 bps
R&D (Non-GAAP)	21.6%	22.1%	20.5%	20.5%	19.0%	23.0%	-404.1 bps	-154.1 bps	-257.7 bps
G&A (Non-GAAP)	16.8%	15.8%	13.6%	14.3%	14.0%	10.3%	377.3 bps	-30.7 bps	-281.0 bps
Total operating expenses (Non-GAAP)	67.0%	67.6%	62.9%	65.7%	60.8%	59.7%	106.9 bps	-487.9 bps	-621.8 bps
Operating margins	-10.1%	-12.0%	-6.3%	-9.8%	-1.65%	-0.8%	-83.1 bps	817.4 bps	840.6 bps
Tax rate (Non-GAAP)	-2.3%	1.3%	1.0%	0.0%	1.9%	-0.1%	205.0 bps	195.1 bps	425.0 bps

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, company report

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# **Exhibit 2: Summary of model changes**

We tweak our estimates to reflect updated guidance

	Revenues			EPS		
	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
FY23						
1Q23	\$117.56	\$117.56	\$0.00	(\$0.09)	(\$0.09)	\$0.00
2Q23	\$122.83	\$122.83	\$0.00	(\$0.04)	(\$0.04)	\$0.00
3Q23	\$127.82	\$127.82	\$0.00	(\$0.06)	(\$0.06)	\$0.00
4Q23	\$142.13	\$137.78	-\$4.35	\$0.04	\$0.01	-\$0.03
Total	\$510.34	\$505.99	-\$4.35	(\$0.14)	(\$0.17)	-\$0.02
FY24E						
1Q24E	\$140.00	\$133.64	-\$6.36	\$0.03	(\$0.07)	-\$0.10
2Q24E	\$143.50	\$140.99	-\$2.51	\$0.04	(\$0.01)	-\$0.06
3Q24E	\$152.40	\$149.74	-\$2.66	\$0.08	\$0.02	-\$0.07
4Q24E	\$165.96	\$163.66	-\$2.30	\$0.13	\$0.06	-\$0.07
Total	\$601.85	\$588.03	-\$13.82	\$0.29	(\$0.01)	-\$0.29



**Exhibit 2: Summary of model changes**We tweak our estimates to reflect updated guidance

	Revenues			EPS		
<u>FY25E</u>						
1Q25E	\$164.30	\$161.21	-\$3.09	\$0.13	\$0.02	-\$0.11
2Q25E	\$170.05	\$166.85	-\$3.20	\$0.14	\$0.04	-\$0.11
3Q25E	\$182.29	\$177.19	-\$5.10	\$0.16	\$0.03	-\$0.13
4Q25E	\$203.99	\$194.74	-\$9.25	\$0.21	\$0.07	-\$0.14
Total	\$720.63	\$699.98	-\$20.65	\$0.64	\$0.16	-\$0.48

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, company report

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**Exhibit 3: Income statement**Summary of updated key financials



4Q23 2Q24E 3Q24E 4Q24E 1Q25E 2Q25E 3Q25E 4Q25E FY23 FY24E FY25E 1Q23 2Q23 3Q23 1024E \$137.78 \$505.99 \$588.03 \$699.98 Total revenue (mn's) \$117.56 \$122.83 \$127.82 \$133.64 \$140.99 \$149.74 \$163.66 \$161.21 \$166.85 \$177.19 \$194.74 19.8% 13.7% 17.1% 18.8% 20.6% 18.3% 18.3% 19.0% YoY%Chg 14.8% 17.8% 15.5% 14.8% 19.0% 16.9% 16.2% 56.25 Cost of goods sold 52.15 53.31 56.40 55.01 55.79 57.12 60.36 61.95 63.66 66.31 72.83 218 228 265 **Total gross profit** \$65.41 \$69.53 \$71.42 \$81.53 \$78.64 \$85.21 \$92.61 \$103.30 \$99.25 \$103.19 \$110.89 \$121.91 \$288 \$360 \$435 Gross margin 55.6% 58.8% 60.4% 61.9% 63.1% 56.9% 61.2% 62.2% 56.6% 55.9% 59.2% 61.6% 61.8% 62.6% 62.6% 39.41 38.30 39.07 37.00 38.92 40.36 41.29 44.38 49.72 148.04 151.31 175.75 Sales & Marketing 34.99 35.35 36.31 25.95 33.92 103.56 Research & Development 25.22 26.24 26.16 34.21 35.76 35.46 34.87 36.10 37.70 38.14 139.35 146.81 General & Administrative 18.54 16.75 18.33 19.34 19.32 19.63 20.98 23.09 21.97 21.72 22.62 24.32 72.96 83.02 90.63 Operating Income / (Loss) (14.07)(7.78)(12.55)(2.27)(13.68)(5.64)(0.44)5.83 2.06 4.07 6.20 9.72 (36.68)(13.92)22.05 Operating margin -12.0% -6.3% -9.8% -1.6% -10.2% -4.0% -0.3% 3.6% 1.3% 2.4% 3.5% 5.0% -7.2% -2.4% 3.2% 3.44 3.04 4.53 4.46 3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00 15.48 12.00 12.00 Interest income (expense) Taxes (0.14)0.12 0.00 (0.47)1.01 0.88 (0.39)(0.32)(1.74)(1.72)(4.84)(2.83)(0.48)1.18 (11.13)Net Income (10.77)(4.62)(8.02)1.73 (9.67)(1.76)2.18 8.51 3.32 5.36 4.35 9.89 (21.68)(0.74)22.92 Non-GAAP EPS (\$0.09)(\$0.04)(\$0.06)\$0.01 (\$0.07) (\$0.01)\$0.02 \$0.06 \$0.02 \$0.04 \$0.03 \$0.07 (\$0.17)(\$0.01)\$0.16 GAAP EPS (\$0.36) (\$0.08) (\$0.42) (\$0.18) (\$0.35) (\$0.31) (\$0.28) (\$0.23) (\$0.26) (\$0.25) (\$0.26) (\$0.22) (\$1.01) (\$1.16) (\$0.99) Total share count 125 128 130 141 141 141 142 142 142 142 142 142 131 142 142 1.04 47.58 19.71 (2.86)46.75 57.32 Net Cash from Operating Activities (8.86)24.99 (8.39)(10.60)37.00 (6.43)15.14 (6.80)(3.17)-7.5% 20.3% -6.6% -7.7% 0.8% 26.2% -4.3% 9.3% -4.2% 28.5% -1.8% 10.1% -0.6% 7.9% 8.2% OCF Margin 25.72 4.52 Free cash flow (16.56)14.31 (13.65)(22.31)(10.32)(16.91)2.87 (19.70)35.24 (15.22)(38.22)1.35 4.83 FCF Margin -14.1% 11.7% -10.7% -16.2% -7.7% 18.2% -11.3% 1.8% -12.2% 21.1% -8.6% 2.3% -7.6% 0.2% 0.7% 395.72 407.39 387.69 422.93 407.39 412.23 Cash & Cash Equivalents 517.97 546.58 397.35 428.36 406.04 421.44 404.53 407.71 406.04 Total debt 70471 472 37 472 82 472 82 472 82 472.82 472.82 472 82 472 82 472 82 472.82 472.82 472.82 472 82 705.38 (60.60) Net cash (186.74)(158.80)(75.02)(44.47)(66.78) (77.10)(51.38)(68.30) (65.43)(85.13) (49.89)(65.11) (66.78)(65.43) **Margin Analysis** 63% 57% Gross margin 56% 57% 56% 59% 59% 60% 62% 62% 62% 63% 63% 61% 62% Sales & Marketing 30% 29% 31% 28% 29% 26% 24% 24% 25% 25% 25% 26% 29% 26% 25% 20% 22% 21% 25% 24% 24% 22% 22% 21% 20% 24% 21% Research & Development 21% 19% 22% 14% 14% 14% 12% 13% General & Administrative 16% 14% 14% 14% 14% 14% 13% 13% 14% 14% 91% 93% 97% 86% 96% 91% 87% 82% 82% 82% 80% 76% 91% 88% 80% Operating Expenses -12% -4% 5% Operating Income / (Loss) -6% -10% -2% -10% 0% 4% 1% 2% 3% -7% -2% 3% Tax rate 1% 1% 0% 2% -2% -2% 1% 1% 5% 5% 15% 10% -9% -4% -6% 1% -7% -1% 1% 5% 2% 3% 2% 5% Net Income YoY Growth Total revenue 15% 20% 18% 15% 14% 15% 17% 19% 21% 18% 18% 19% 17% 16% 19% -2% 5% 16% 18% 11% 16% 5% 9% 13% 15% 1% 13% 8% **Total Operating expenses** 11% 8% Non-GAAP EPS 43% 84% 55% 116% 20% 66% 125% -390% 134% 403% -99% -16% 72% 97% 3173% **QoQ Growth** -1% 2% 5% 11% -3% 6% 6% 9% -2% 4% 6% 10% Total revenue -1% -3% 9% 0% 10% -2% 2% 5% 0% 2% 6% 7% **Total Operating expenses** 

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, company report

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# Price objective basis & risk

### Fastly (FSLY)

Our PO of \$28 is based on 5.5x CY25E EV/Sales. This multiple is above that of other Content Delivery Networking (CDN) and Networking Services peers that trade at approximately 5x, as Fastly is expected to grow roughly 35% per annum (per mgmt's LT estimates), while Street consensus calls for 8-12% annual growth for CDN peers. We compare Fastly instead to SaaS peers that have a similar growth profile (trade at 23x), and to infrastructure software peers (trade at 5-11x) which also have similar growth expectations (by consensus estimates) and which, like Fastly, expect to grow revenues in-line with their customers' levels of activity.

Upside risks to our PO are: 1) higher growth rates on greater adoption of Fastly's platform, 2) broad adoption of Fastly's Security and Edge Compute offerings, and 3) margin uplift from bandwidth and colocation costs scaling sooner than expected.

Downside risks to our PO are: 1) lower margin ramp and push-outs in time to profitability, 2) more intense competition from Cloud titans like Google and Amazon, and 3) price erosion from the commoditization of basic CDN features, and 4) another risk is the potential that Fastly could default on their outstanding debt due in 2026, as they do not have the cash balance to cover the principal amount.

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I, Madeline Brooks, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

**US - Telecom and Data Networking Equipment Coverage Cluster** 

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Akamai	AKAM	AKAM US	Madeline Brooks
	Amdocs	DOX	DOX US	Tal Liani
	Arista Networks	ANET	ANET US	Tal Liani
	Check Point Software Technologies	CHKP	CHKP US	Tal Liani
	Ciena	CIEN	CIEN US	Tal Liani
	CrowdStrike Holdings Inc.	CRWD	CRWD US	Tal Liani
	CyberArk	CYBR	CYBR US	Tal Liani
	Fastly	FSLY	FSLY US	Madeline Brooks
	Fortinet	FTNT	FTNT US	Tal Liani
	Gen Digital, Inc.	GEN	GEN US	Jonathan Eisenson
	InterDigital, Inc.	IDCC	IDCC US	Tal Liani
	Motorola Solutions	MSI	MSI US	Tomer Zilberman
	Qualcomm	QCOM	QCOM US	Tal Liani
	SentinelOne, Inc.	S	SUS	Tal Liani
	Zscaler	ZS	ZS US	Tal Liani
NEUTRAL				
NEOIRAL	Cellebrite	CLBT	CLBT US	Tomer Zilberman
	Cisco Systems	CSCO	CSCO US	Tal Liani
	Palo Alto Networks	PANW	PANW US	Tal Liani
	Faio Aito Networks	FAINV	PAINW 03	Tai Liatti
UNDERPERFORM				
	Cloudflare	NET	NET US	Madeline Brooks
	CommScope	COMM	COMM US	Tal Liani
	F5 Inc	FFIV	FFIV US	Tal Liani
	Okta Inc	OKTA	OKTA US	Madeline Brooks
	SecureWorks	SCWX	SCWX US	Tal Liani



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

Business Performance	Numerator	Denominator
Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) × (1 – Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Total Assets – Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
Datum On Fauitu	Net Income	Amortization
Return On Equity		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 + Other LT Liabilities	Sales
	Outer Et Franklings	

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

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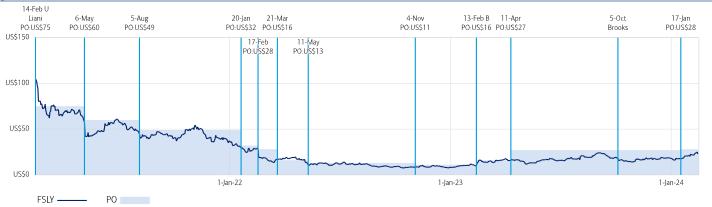
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# **Important Disclosures**

#### Fastly (FSLY) Price Chart



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: Telecommunications Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	57	51.82%	Buy	43	75.44%
Hold	27	24.55%	Hold	17	62.96%
Sell	26	23.64%	Sell	12	46.15%

#### 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%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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