# J.P.Morgan

## **NanoString**

### Prosigna adopted by LabCorp and Quest - ALERT

As we noted in our email yesterday, NanoString (NSTG) announced that the Prosigna Breast Cancer assay will be commercially launched in 1Q14 (in line with expectations) and that leading U.S. Clinical Labs including LabCorp and Quest (LH and DGX, both covered by JPM analyst Lisa Gill) will be offering the test. This announcement is particularly important as we estimate that LabCorp and Quest make up approximately two-thirds of Prosigna's addressable market. While LabCorp was widely expected to be an early adopter due to CEO Brad Gray's employment history with the company (and Genzyme Genetics before that), seeing Quest (and ARUP Labs) adopt the test validates that the test can compete with Genomic Health's Oncotype DX. Along with the national labs, NSTG also announced that the Cancer Centers at University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of North Carolina will be among the initial wave of adopters which shows that a de-centralized model also works with Prosigna.

- Additional thoughts on revenue expectations. Management hosted a conference call this morning to discuss the news and focused on keeping revenue expectations reasonable, commenting that there will not be significant uptake in revenue in 1Q, as labs come online and that it will not be until 2H, when reimbursement and guidelines are established, that Prosigna revenues may see an inflection point. On reimbursement, management noted that the company's goal is to obtain reimbursement at, or near, the reimbursement rate for comparable tests, which is >\$3,000 per test. Management remains confident in achieving a similar reimbursement level due to Prosigna's FDA clearance, peer-reviewed publications and new relationships with clinical labs. While that is the anticipated reimbursement level, management also noted that the initial ASP will be below the list price of \$2,050 (likely \$1,500-\$2,000), as the company will offer volume discounts and introductory pricing during the period which reimbursement is being established. The company also views inclusion in treatment guidelines as significant to Prosigna uptake and will be applying for inclusion during 1H14, with expectation to be referenced in NCCN guidelines in the next scheduled update in 2H14.
- More thoughts on sales force roll out. NSTG expects to initially hire ~15 field based oncology sales reps in 1Q14 and expand this sales force (we expect it to double) once milestones such as reimbursement and guidelines are achieved.
- New commentary on Europe. On the call, management also briefly discussed Europe, commenting that the company continues to focus on establishing broad reimbursement in the region over the longer term. Management expects to experience accelerated growth in the region once reimbursement is established (likely after 2014), but until then, expect the pace of instrument placements and kit sales to remain measured. We expect consensus revenue expectations for Europe in 2014 may be high and will come down over the next few months.
- **Maintain Overweight rating.** Following this positive development for the Prosigna assay, we reiterate our Overweight rating.

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### Overweight

**NSTG, NSTG US** 

Price: \$15.97 (intraday - 11:56 AM)

11 December 2013

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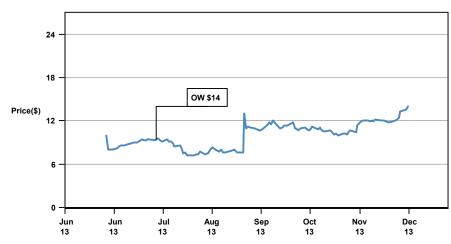
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#### NanoString (NSTG, NSTG US) Price Chart



Date	Rating	Share Price (\$)	Price Target (\$)
22-Jul-13	OW	9.44	14.00

Source: Bloomberg and J.P. Morgan; price data adjusted for stock splits and dividends. Initiated coverage Jul 22, 2013.

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