Equity Research



Price Target Change — October 20, 2021

Autos and Auto Parts

Tesla, Inc. (TSLA)

TSLA: Outruns Rising Commodity Costs Again

Our Call

Tesla Q3 EPS of \$1.86 beat consensus of \$1.66 (see our <u>flash</u>). The \$0.20 beat vs. consensus was largely driven by auto gross margins (+\$0.21). Auto gross margin ex EV credits of 28.8% was better than consensus of 26.6%. Margins improved despite ASPs falling 6% y/y due to the shift to lower-priced vehicles. TSLA also reached GAAP op margins of 14.6% already exceeding their mid-term op margin target of low teen's. CEO Elon Musk was not on the Q3 call; rather the CFO & VP of Engineering answered investor questions. His absence could raise concerns about his focus on TSLA vs. his other ventures like SpaceX. TSLA was reluctant to guide margins higher in the near term given expected launch inefficiencies as Austin & Berlin ramp and cost uncertainty. Consistent with the cost concerns, we expect auto margins to moderate in 2022 as BEV raw mat contracts roll off or reset. The stock is trading down slightly post market possibly reflect cost concerns.

We are raising our 2021 EPS estimate from \$5.30 to \$6.10 to reflect the Q3 beat (\$0.39) & higher Q4 margins (\$0.41). We are raising our 2022E EPS from \$5.70 to \$6.25 given the stronger underlying margin performance. We also raise our 2023 EPS estimate from \$5.35 to \$5.75, our 2024E EPS from \$5.35 to \$5.60, & our 2025E EPS from \$6.80 to \$7.00. We are raising our price target from \$660 to \$860 to reflect a higher long-term op margin (14% vs. 12% prior) in our DCF model. We maintain our Equal Weight rating.

Raw material headwinds likely delayed not canceled

TSLA's strong Q3 auto margin was impressive in the face of rising battery raw material costs (see Exhibits $1\,\&\,2$). Key commodities like lithium, cobalt, and aluminum are up over 50% y/y. TSLA indicated the raw material cost increases have already had a substantial impact on results; however, the company has many long-term contracts that helped mitigate the full impact. As these long-term contracts expire, the pricing will likely rise. Significant cost-cutting would be needed to offset these headwinds. The shift to iron phosphate based batteries would help manage this risk and likely helped in China in Q3; however, it will take time to shift to this chemistry globally.

TSLA puts positive spin in NHTSA investigation, but risks remain

When asked about the NHTSA investigation, TSLA said it was excited to partner with the regulatory body to help them understand a software-oriented vehicle. However, the NHTSA's investigation into TSLA continues to expand, and NHTSA is reportedly nominating a senior advisor who has previously commented on the need for better regulatory oversight of new technology. We highlighted in our initiation that we see rising risk of regulation of Autopilot and FSD, particularly following the letter from the Chairman of the NTSB. This risk continues to rise.

US BEV credits legislation still in the air

TSLA remains one of the largest beneficiaries of the proposed US EV tax credits. The credits were originally included in the US infrastructure bill; however, they were removed when the size of the bill was reduced. Democrats subsequently reintroduced the EV credits as part of the broader budget plan. The new proposed credits would allow up to

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Rating	Equal Weight
Ticker	TSLA
Price Target/Prior:	\$860.00/\$660.00
Upside/(Downside) to Target	(0.7)%
Price (10/20/2021)	\$865.80
52 Week Range	\$379.11 - 900.40
Shares Outstanding	990,015,158
Market Cap (MM)	\$857,155
Enterprise Value (MM)	\$850,886
Average Daily Volume	19,690,014
Average Daily Value (MM)	\$17,048
Dividend (NTM)	\$0.00
Dividend Yield	0.0%
Net Debt (MM) - last reported	\$(6,269)
ROIC - Current year est.	23%
3 Yr EPS CAGR from current year (unless otherwise noted)	37%

\$	2020A	2021E	2021E 2022E		2022E
EPS		Curr.	Prior	Curr.	Prior
Q1 (Mar)	0.23 A	0.93 A	NC	1.40 E	1.13E
Q2 (Jun)	0.44 A	1.45 A	NC	1.49 E	1.32E
Q3 (Sep)	0.76 A	1.86 A	1.47E	1.64 E	1.56E
Q4 (Dec)	0.80 A	1.85 E	1.45E	1.72 E	1.68E
FY	2.24 A	6.10 E	5.30E	6.25 E	5.70E
P/E	NM	NM		NM	

After hours price (10/20/21): \$851.59 Source: Company Data, Wells Fargo Securities estimates, and Refinitiv. NA = Not Available, Volatility = Historical trading volatility

All estimates/forecasts are as of 10/20/2021 unless otherwise stated. 10/20/2021 22:52:21EDT. Please see page 6 for rating definitions, important disclosures and required analyst certifications. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of the report and investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

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\$12,500 in credits to buy an EV depending on if the vehicle was made in the US and was made with a labor union.

TSLA insurance soft launch

The company also announced that it started to roll out its TSLA insurance product last week in Texas. This product will enable good drivers to qualify for lower cost insurance. The company is finding a strong correlation between its driver safety rating and accident risk.

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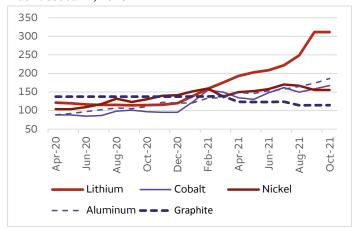
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Exhibit 1 - Weighted EV Battery Raw Material Index 2020-2021E Index Base Jan 1, 2015



Source: Bloomberg; Factset; Wells Fargo Securities LLC estimates

Exhibit 2 - EV Battery Raw Material Index 2020-2021E Index Base Jan 1, 2015



 $Source: Bloomberg; Factset; Wells \ Fargo \ Securities \ LLC \ estimates$

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Financials

Exhibit 3 - TSLA Financials

INCOME STATEMENT	2018	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net Sales	21,461	24,578	31,536	50,144	62,978	63,461	65,298	72,336
Cost of Sales	-17,310	-20,381	-24,625	-37,150	-48,074	-48,403	-50,639	-54,796
Gross Profit	4,151	4,197	6,911	12,995	14,904	15,058	14,660	17,540
Selling, General & Admin.	-3,790	-3,368	-3,183	-5,052	-5,918	-5,553	-5,224	-5,715
% of Sales	17.7%	13.7%	10.1%	10.1%	9.4%	8.8%	8.0%	7.9%
Operating Income	361	829	3,728	7,942	8,986	9,505	9,436	11,825
% Margin	1.7%	3.4%	11.8%	15.8%	14.3%	15.0%	14.5%	16.3%
Interest Income	25	44	30	41	40	40	40	40
Interest Expense	-663	-684	-748	-425	-500	-500	-500	-500
Other Income	22	45	-122	67	0	0	0	0
Pretax Income	-256	233	2,888	7,625	8,526	9,045	8,976	11,365
Income Taxes	-58	-110	-292	-642	-1,279	-2,261	-2,244	-2,841
Tax Rate	-22.6%	47.3%	10.1%	8.4%	15.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Non Controlling Interest	86	-96	-172	-133	-120	-120	-120	-120
Convert/Prd Add Back	0	0	0	12	4	4	4	4
Net Income	-227	28	2,424	6,862	7,131	6,668	6,616	8,408
Basic Shares	853	886	951	1,062	1,073	1,073	1,073	1,073
Diluted Shares	853	901	1,083	1,126	1,141	1,161	1,181	1,201
Diluted EPS	(\$0.27)	\$0.03	\$2.24	\$6.10	\$6.25	\$5.75	\$5.60	\$7.00
Dividends	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE SHEET	2018	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
ASSETS								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,686	6,268	19,384	15,309	15,690	18,723	22,267	27,915
Receivables	949	1,324	1,886	2,465	2,990	2,778	3,186	3,174
Inventory	3,113	3,552	4,101	4,494	5,787	5,266	6,253	6,055
Other Noncurrent Assets	558	959	1,346	1,865	2,402	2,185	2,595	2,513
Total Current Assets	8,306	12,103	26,717	24,133	26,868	28,952	34,300	39,657
Net Property, Plant & Equipment	11,330	10,396	12,747	18,765	25,403	28,658	31,788	35,282
Operating lease vehicles, net	2,090	2,447	3,091	4,387	5,695	6,237	6,255	6,057
Goodwill	351	537	520	470	470	470	470	470
Solar energy systems, leased, net	6,271	6,138	5,979	5,821	5,821	5,821	5,821	5,821
Other Noncurrent Assets	1,391	2,688	3,094	4,920	6,179	6,226	6,406	7,097
Total Assets	29,740	34,309	52,148	58,495	70,435	76,365	85,041	94,385
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY								
Short Term Debt	2,568	1,785	2,132	1,716	1,716	1,716	1,716	1,716
Accounts Payable	3,404	3,771	6,051	7,161	9,221	8,391	9,963	9,649
Other Liabilties & Deferred Revenue	2,094	2,905	3,855	5,201	6,730	6,776	7,089	7,672
Customer Deposits	793	726	752	831	831	831	831	831
Other Current Liabilities	1,133	1,480	1,458	1,801	1,801	1,801	1,801	1,801
Total Current Liabilities	9,992	10,667	14,248	16,710	20,300	19,515	21,401	21,668
Long-term Debt	9,404	11,634	9,556	6,438	6,438	6,438	6,438	6,438
Other Long Term Liabilities	4,030	3,898	4,614	4,764	5,983	6,029	6,203	6,872
Total Liabilities	23,426	26,199	28,418	27,911	32,720	31,982	34,042	34,978
Noncontrolling Interests	1,390	1,492	1,505	1,441	1,441	1,441	1,441	1,441
Total Stockholders' Equity	4,923	6,618	22,225	29,143	36,274	42,942	49,558	57,965
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	29,740	34,309	52,148	58,495	70,435	76,365	85,041	94,385
Check	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CASH FLOW	2018	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net Income	-1,063	-775	862	5,391	7,131	6,668	6,616	8,408
Depreciation & Amortization	1,901	2,154	2,322	2,554	2,810	3,091	3,400	3,740
Stock Comp	749	898	1,734	1,563	0	0	0	0
Other Non-Cash Charges	452	477	841	322	0	0	0	0
Net Earnings Adjusted for Non-cash Charges	2,040	2,754	5,759	9,830	9,941	9,758	10,015	12,147
Working Capital Adjustment	58	-349	184	-1,745	-114	-379	58	734
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	2,098	2,405	5,943	8,085	9,827	9,380	10,074	12,881
Capital Expenditures	-2,101	-1,327	-3,157	-6,778	-9,447	-6,346	-6,530	-7,234
Solar & grants	-219	-59	48	-22	0	0	0	0
Net Sales & Acqusitions	-18	-50	-23	-1,258	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-2,337	-1,436	-3,132	-8,058	-9,447	-6,346	-6,530	-7,234
Collateralized lease borrowings / repayments	-559	-389	-240	-9	0	0	0	0
Common share issuance	0	848	12,269	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in Debt	929	1,508	-1,910	-4,637	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Stock Options Exercised	296	263	417	253	0	0	0	0
Principal payments on finance leases	-181	-321	-338	-196	0	0	0	0
Distributions paid to noncontrolling interests in sub	-227	-311	-208	0	0	0	0	0
Other	416	-69	-17	81	0	0	0	0
Cash Flow from Financing Activities	574	1,529	9,973	-4,018	0	0	0	0
FX	-23	8	334	-221	0	0	0	0
	311	2,506	13,118	-4,212	380	3,033	3,544	5,648
Increase (Decrease) in Total Cash	011							
Free Cash Flow	(3)	1,078	2,786	1,307	380	3,033	3,544	5,648

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Price Target Basis and Risk

Price Target for TSLA: \$860.00 from \$660.00

Our \$860 price target reflects the output of our 3-stage DCF analysis of the core auto business assuming an 11.5% WACC, 20% 5-10 year growth, 15% 11-15 year growth, and a 10.25% terminal growth rate. We also include \$28bn in value associated with solar/storage, insurance, and an option on the autonomous ride-share business.

Risk for TSLA

Downside Risks: New EV competition and regulatory risk associated with Autopilot remains a key risk for Tesla in our view. Commodity inflation and increases in tension in China could also negatively impact the stock. Like all automakers, any costly product recalls could also impact TSLA's brand.

Upside Risks: Any positive news around new capacity additions, the positive reviews of the FSD update, the addition of a US EV credit within the proposed stimulus bill, and a decline in commodity prices would benefit the shares. In addition, the announcement of new market expansion like solar or storage in the past could be a positive catalyst.

Investment Thesis

TSLA

We have an Equal Weight rating on TSLA. We see modest upside near term from deliveries and likely benefits from added US EV credits. However, we see near-term risks around rising raw material costs and possible increased US regulation on Autopilot. Mid-term we are cautious TSLA will have sufficient Model 3/Y demand to meet the large amount of added capacity.

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- 2=Equal Weight: Total return on stock expected to be 0-10% over the next 12 months. HOLD

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As of October 20, 2021

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