

May 6, 2025 10:00 AM GMT

### Tesla Inc | North America

# AI and Manufacturing: An Odd Yet Perfect Couple

Al diffusion makes it necessary to re-shore manufacturing. At the same time, Al diffusion makes it possible to re-shore manufacturing. In this way, Al is both the cause and the effect of a US manufacturing revival.

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang's recent visit to the White House highlighted the seemingly strange yet absolutely essential relationship between AI and manufacturing. Mr. Huang's May 1st impromptu remarks on US manufacturing captured much of the spirit of what we have tried to convey to investors about Tesla's relative advantages that drive the name as our 'Top Pick.' The direct quotes from Mr. Huang say it best:

"Manufacturing isn't about low cost manufacturing anymore. Manufacturing is about technology."

"And most of the factories that build these systems today are the most advanced factories of the future. And we're going to use artificial intelligence and robotics and omniverse digital twin technology to make it possible for us to create the factories of the future. And we have to build it right here."

"And this new industry is a manufacturing industry in itself... [gesturing towards the supercomputer] that's a factory machine."

**Exhibit 1:** NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang providing remarks on 'Investing in America' on April 30th



Source: White House

The following is an excerpt from our recently published Embodied AI video

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#### Tesla Inc (TSLA.0, TSLA US)

#### Top Pick

Autos & Shared Mobility | United States of America

 Stock Rating
 Overweight Industry View

 Incline Price target
 \$410.00

 Shr price, close (May 5, 2025)
 \$280.26

 Mkt cap, curr (mm)
 \$986,795

 52-Week Range
 \$488.54-167.41

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#### explainer:

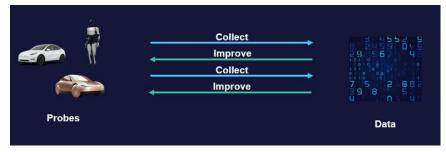
We're often asked what is Tesla's secret sauce? What's its moat? Well - it's not really 1 thing but the combination of 6 attributes that set Tesla apart from its peers. Let's look at each of them...

- 1. Data. 7 million cars on the road today. Over 100mm by 2040.
- 2. **Robotics.** In-house electric motors & actuators. Just the hands of Optimus have 22 degrees of freedom.
- 3. Energy. Leading battery storage solutions at scale.
- 4. **AI.** A world class AI team developing FSD, Dojo and custom silicon.
- 5. **Manufacturing.** The most vertically integrated, US-local sourced auto company in the world.
- 6. **Space.** Redundant, resilient, cyber secure comms. SpaceX is the data transport layer the connective tissue of the AI ecosystem.

So... out of Tesla's DREAMS... what does Elon Musk think is the single most critical component of the company's moat? Without any doubt... Manufacturing. You need to make the probes, to collect the data to improve the probes to collect more data to improve the probes... (you get the idea here).

Data defines the software, software defines the hardware, hardware defines the manufacturing. Elon Musk has used the car industry as a laboratory to develop competency in other areas... The car is to Tesla what the book was to Amazon.

**Exhibit 2:** The Importance of Manufacturing: You need to make the probes, to collect the data, to improve the probes, to collect more data to improve the probes... (you get the idea here)



Source: Shutterstock, Morgan Stanley Research

**Exhibit 3:** The car is to Tesla what the book was to Amazon



Source: Tesla, Amazon, Shutterstock, Morgan Stanley Research

Knowledge and atoms (thinkers and makers). Lesson from Alexandria... To help illustrate the diffusion of AI from the digital economy - the economy of bits and bytes - to the physical economy - the economy of atoms and photons - I refer to H.G. Wells's 1922 book "A Short History of the World," Chapter 27: The Museum and Library at Alexandria. It is meant to convey how, despite representing the most comprehensive collection of knowledge in the ancient world, that its progress was ultimately limited by a separation of the 'thinkers' and the 'makers.'

#### H. G. Wells writes:

"Here we have the systematic gathering and distribution of knowledge. The foundation of this museum and library marks one of the great epochs in the history of mankind."

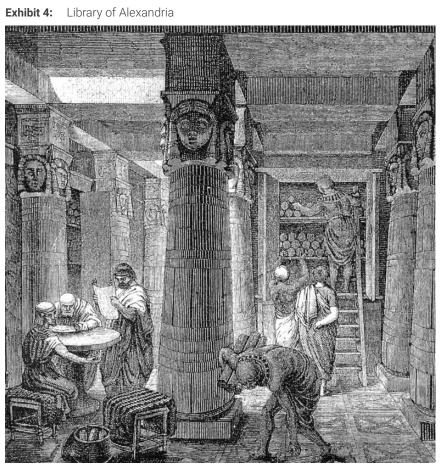
"Both the work of research and the work of dissemination went on under serious handicaps. One of these was the great social gap that separated the philosopher, who was a gentleman, from the trader and the artisan."

"There were glass workers and metal workers in abundance in those days but they were not in mental contact with the thinkers. The glass worker was making the most beautifully colored beads and vials and so forth but he never made a Florentine flask or a lens. Clear glass does not seem to have interested him."

"The metal worker made weapons and jewelry but he never made a chemical balance. The philosopher speculated loftily about atoms and the nature of things but he had no practical experience of enamels and pigments and filters and so forth. He was not interested in substances."

"So Alexandria in its brief day of opportunity produced no microscopes and no chemistry.

And though Hero invented a steam engine it was never set either to pump or drive a boat or do any useful thing."



Source: Wikipedia

# Valuation Methodology and Risks

#### Tesla Inc (TSLA.O)

Our PT of \$410 is comprised of 5 components: **(1)** \$75/share for core Tesla Auto business on 4.7mm units in 2030, 9.0% WACC, 14x 2030 exit EBITDA multiple, exit EBITDA margin of 16.1%. **(2)** Network Services at \$160, 65% attach rate at \$200 ARPU by 2040 **(3)** Tesla Mobility at \$90 on DCF with ~7.5mn cars at ~\$1.46/mile by 2040. **(4)** Energy at \$67/share, & **(5)** Tesla as a 3rd party supplier at \$17/share.

#### **Risks to Upside**

- Disclosure on service revs
- Increased FSD attach rate
- Cost milestones on new battery
- New model intro (Cybertruck, multivan, Semi)
- 3rd party battery win
- Geographic penetration & new capacity

#### **Risks to Downside**

- Competition: legacy OEMs/Chinese players/big tech
- Execution risk: multiple factory ramps
- Market does not recognize Dojo-enabled services op, lower than expected attach rate
   & RPU
- China risk
- Dilution
- Valuation



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(as of April 30, 2025)

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	Coverag	je Universe	Inves	stment Banking Clients	s (IBC)		nvestment Services ts (MISC)
Stock Rating Category	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total IBC	% of Rating Category	Count	% of Total Other MISC
Overweight/Buy	1501	40%	377	46%	25%	691	40%
Equal-weight/Hold	1667	44%	375	45%	22%	796	46%
Not-Rated/Hold	3	0%	0	0%	0%	1	0%
Underweight/Sell	603	16%	76	9%	13%	229	13%
Total	3,774		828			1717	

Data include common stock and ADRs currently assigned ratings. Investment Banking Clients are companies from whom Morgan Stanley received investment banking compensation in the last 12 months. Due to rounding off of decimals, the percentages provided in the "% of total" column may not add up to exactly 100 percent.

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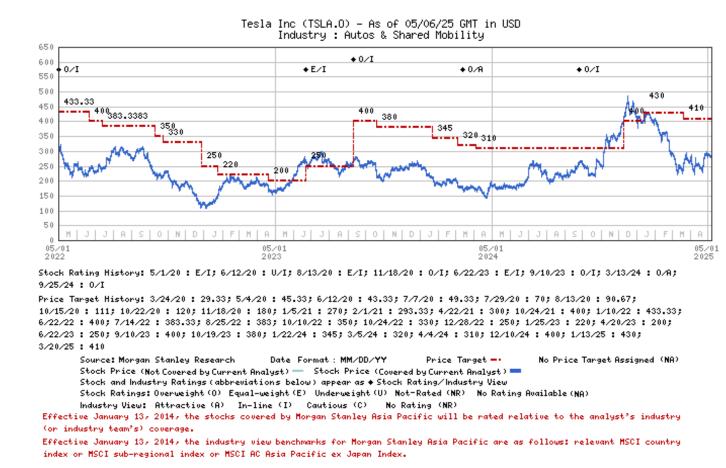
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#### **INDUSTRY COVERAGE: Autos & Shared Mobility**

COMPANY (TICKER)	RATING (AS OF)	PRICE* (05/05/2025)
Adam Jonas, CFA		
Adient PLC (ADNT.N)	U (03/17/2021)	\$12.87
American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings Inc (AXL.N)	0 (02/28/2022)	\$4.29
Aptiv Plc (APTV.N)	U (02/06/2024)	\$58.78
Avis Budget Group Inc (CAR.O)	0 (06/20/2023)	\$96.30
BorgWarner Inc. (BWA.N)	0 (05/15/2023)	\$29.45
Carmax Inc (KMX.N)	0 (07/10/2018)	\$66.29
Carvana Co (CVNA.N)	O (03/25/2025)	\$259.57
Ferrari NV (RACE.N)	O (05/09/2019)	\$466.46
Ford Motor Company (F.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$10.17
General Motors Company (GM.N)	E (12/10/2024)	\$45.38
Hertz Global Holdings Inc (HTZ.0)	E (02/08/2024)	\$6.20
Lear Corporation (LEA.N)	O (05/10/2024)	\$88.37
Lucid Group Inc (LCID.0)	E (03/17/2025)	\$2.36
Magna International Inc. (MGA.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$33.28
Mobileye Global Inc (MBLY.O)	E (08/02/2024)	\$14.55
PHINIA INC (PHIN.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$41.94
Quantumscape Corp (QS.N)	NR (11/21/2024)	\$3.87
Rivian Automotive, Inc. (RIVN.O)	E (09/25/2024)	\$13.55
Tesla Inc (TSLA.0)	O (09/10/2023)	\$280.26
Visteon Corporation (VC.0)	E (06/01/2022)	\$80.54
Daniela M Haigian		
Asbury Automotive Group Inc (ABG.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$220.71
AutoNation Inc. (AN.N)	O (09/25/2024)	\$175.84
Group 1 Automotive, Inc (GPI.N)	O (09/25/2024)	\$411.81
Lithia Motors Inc. (LAD.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$298.44
Penske Automotive Group, Inc (PAG.N)	O (09/25/2024)	\$156.23
Sonic Automotive Inc (SAH.N)	E (09/25/2024)	\$62.74
Shaqeal A Kirunda		
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (GT.O)	E (06/13/2024)	\$11.04



Stock Ratings are subject to change. Please see latest research for each company.

\* Historical prices are not split adjusted.

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