

Home Stocks in the Spotlight Thursday

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F5 Networks (FFIV)

Strong fiscal-first-quarter earnings and an upbeat outlook sent shares of the cloud-computing firm up 11%. MKM Partners analyst Michael Genovese reiterated a Buy rating, raised estimates and lifted the target price to \$138 from \$120. "Given the strong core application delivery controllers (ADC) business, increasing software module attach rates and the blossoming Security opportunity, we believe F5 can achieve its goal of 20% or greater revenue growth with 82%-83% gross margins in fiscal 2012," Genovese wrote in a research report.

Johnson Controls (JCI)

Shares of the maker of auto parts slid 8.8% after Johnson Controls lowered guidance. Baird analyst David Leiker, who rates Johnson Controls at Outperform, wrote, "We continue to rank Johnson Controls our Top Idea in the auto group. These margin issues, while nagging, should diminish in upcoming quarters."

8x8 (EGHT)

The voice-over-Internet-protocol (VoIP) company saw shares surge 25% after 8x8 reported a strong fiscal-third quarter. B. Riley analyst Mike Crawford, who rates the company at Buy, wrote, "We believe 8x8's hosted data, video, call center, and voice communications suite puts it in the sweet spot to deliver affordable yet scalable unified communications services to business customers who remain in the early stages of VoIP technology adoption."

Sealy (ZZ)

A disappointing fourth-quarter put investors at unease as shares of the mattress maker dove 17%. Raymond James analyst Budd Bugatch downgraded Sealy to Market Perform from Outperform and cut estimates. "While the timing of our downgrade is admittedly unfortunate," Bugatch wrote, "we simply can no longer justify a more optimistic rating given Sealy's deteriorating financial results, highly-dilutive capital structure, and the strategic uncertainties created by the pending chief-executive transition."

The charts record the net change in share price, the high, low and closing trades, and share volume for companies with noteworthy stock activity last week. In addition, the graphs depict last week's daily price activity in detail. The dotted line on some graphs denotes the stock's 200-day moving average; lack of a moving average means the shares have traded for less than that time period.

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