April 4, 2011

Stock Rating Overweight Industry View

In-Line

### Tesla Motors Inc.

# The Natural Oil Hedge

A strong case can be made for the value of Tesla rising on higher oil prices: At a \$3.60 gas price per gallon, the average US light vehicle consumes over \$1,700 in fuel cost per year, nearly \$0.5 trillion per year across the 245m unit fleet - roughly 3.5% of US GDP and nearly 10x the US Department of Education budget. For most auto stocks under our coverage, there are few things as disruptive as the threat of higher gas prices. But for Tesla, such a scenario only increases the economic and social rationale for grid-enabled vehicles. Making a number of broad assumptions, and holding net consumer demand destruction stable, we can link Tesla value to several oil and gas price sensitivities:

- A \$10 rise in oil price globally could be worth 5% to Tesla shares based on our est. Tesla 2.6% share of the global xEV market in 2025. This assumes consumers shift 15% of the incremental cost burden to xEVs.
- A \$1 rise in US gas price could be worth 13% to Tesla shares based on our est. Tesla 6.0% share of the US xEV market in 2025.
- **Improves operating cost/benefit.** The typical US driver buys 480 gallons of gas per year. The burden of a \$1 increase in gas price has an NPV cost of \$3,500, equal to 25 to 30% of the cost of a 100-mile-range EV battery (\$12,500).
- Reduces payback period. A \$1 rise in gas price reduces the payback period of an EV battery from 9.5 to 6.9 years at \$500 per KWh and 25mpg for internal combustion engine.

Our Tesla forecasts and \$70 price target assume fuel prices rise, battery costs fall and Model S launch does not breach minimum liquidity levels. Premium offerings like the Model S and its derivatives are important stepping stones to the company's full volume potential of 500k units by 2025. We see a path to a company with \$9.5bn of sales, >\$1.2bn of operating profit and >\$1.0bn of FCF by 2020, based on Tesla capturing 3.6% of the global xEV market by that time.

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### **Key Ratios and Statistics**

Reuters: TSLA.O Bloomberg: TSLA US Autos & Auto-Related / United States of America

Price target	\$70.00
Shr price, close (Mar 31, 2011)	\$27.75
Mkt cap, curr (mm)	\$2,641
52-Week Range	\$36.42-14.98

#### **Recent Reports**

Title	Date
Tesla Motors Inc.: America's Fourth Automaker	Mar 31, 2011
Adam Jonas, CFA / Joshua Paradise, CFA / Ravi Shanker / Yejay Ying	

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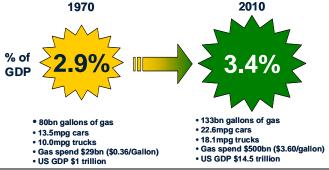
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The political push for EVs: Governments worldwide have a strategic interest in reducing transportation dependence on foreign oil. The statistics speak for themselves. At \$3.60 per gallon, Americans spend roughly \$0.5 trillion on gasoline for personal transport each year. This amount accounts for approximately 3.4% of US GDP. Personal transport accounts for the largest portion of the \$1tn in total US oil demand (half of which is imported). By comparison, the 2010 US Department of Education annual budget was approximately \$50bn. Such an enormous dependence of the US economy on foreign oil alone creates a great incentive for the Federal government to have a hand in creating conditions for grid-enabled-vehicles to thrive. The incentive to create green manufacturing jobs is augmented by sluggish growth and high unemployment.

Exhibit 1

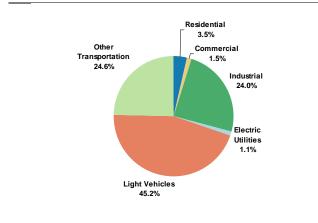
# US economy, environment and national security threatened by dependence on oil (gas spend/GDP)



Source: US Transportation Energy Book, Morgan Stanley Research

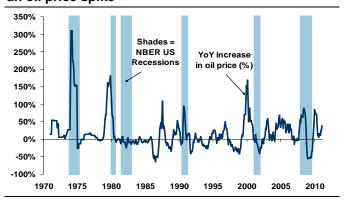
Exhibit 2

# Light vehicles for personal use accounts for nearly ½ of US oil consumption



Source: US Transportation Databook, Morgan Stanley Research.

Exhibit 3
Every recession since 1970 has been preceded by an oil price spike



Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Uses inflation adjusted GDP.

The key impediment for EVs: Battery costs are too high and today's cars are too good. While the initial uptake of xEVs will be driven by early adopters, long-term demand will depend on whether xEVs can become financially viable. Viability can be defined as (1) upfront cost premium: if the cost of entry is too high, operating cost savings will not even matter. It is encouraging to see many initial EV launches in the \$25-50k range before radical technology breakthroughs. (2) ability to reach breakeven vs. running cost savings.

Prevailing gasoline prices and fuel economy of internal combustion engine will significantly influence the payback period for xEVs. All else equal, a \$1 increase in gas price per gallon would reduce the payback period of purchasing an xEV by roughly 2.5 years. Each 5mpg increase in ICE fuel economy extends the payback by >2 years.

Exhibit 4
Payback (years) at various battery cost vs. gas price at 25.0 mpg of ICE

		Battery Cost (\$/KWh)					
		600	500	400	300	200	100
	1.50	41.7	34.7	27.8	20.8	13.9	6.9
	2.00	25.0	20.8	16.7	12.5	8.3	4.2
	2.50	17.9	14.9	11.9	8.9	6.0	3.0
	3.00	13.9	11.6	9.3	6.9	4.6	2.3
	3.50	11.4	9.5	7.6	5.7	3.8	1.9
Gas Price	4.00	9.6	8.0	6.4	4.8	3.2	1.6
(\$/gal)	4.50	8.3	6.9	5.6	4.2	2.8	1.4
	5.00	7.4	6.1	4.9	3.7	2.5	1.2
	5.50	6.6	5.5	4.4	3.3	2.2	1.1
	6.00	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
	6.50	5.4	4.5	3.6	2.7	1.8	0.9
	7.00	5.0	4.2	3.3	2.5	1.7	0.8
	7.50	4.6	3.9	3.1	2.3	1.5	0.8
	8.00	4.3	3.6	2.9	2.2	1.4	0.7

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research. Assumes electricity cost of \$0.12/KWh, 4 miles/KWh and average annual driving distance of 12,000 miles/year.

#### MORGAN STANLEY RESEARCH

April 4, 2011 Tesla Motors Inc.

A \$10 rise in oil price globally could be worth 5% to Tesla's share price. Each \$10 of oil price per barrel is a projected \$92bn annual operating cost increase to light vehicle owners. Assuming 15% of this burden shifts to xEVs with Tesla taking a 2.6% global xEV share adds \$89m to incremental EBITDA by 2025 and \$1.3 per Tesla share.

Exhibit 5	
Global oil analysis - sensitivity to Tesla value	<del>)</del>
Barrels of oil consumed by light vehicles globally per day (mm)	20.9
2025 projected oil consumption by light vehicles per day (mm)	25.1
Barrels of oil consumed by light vehicles globally per year (bn)	9.2
Oil price per barrel (\$)	110
Global oil expenditure for light vehicles (\$bn)	1,009
Burden of \$10 move in oil price on light vehicle consumers (bn)	92
% of incremental oil burden moving to xEV demand	15%
Value of incremental cost moving to xEV demand	14
Tesla global xEV market share by 2025 (%)	2.6%
Value of incremental Tesla sales in 2025 (\$mm)	358
Incremental margin on Tesla sales (%)	25%

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

Incremental EBITDA for Tesla (\$m)

PV of additional terminal value (\$mm)

Increased value per Tesla share (\$)

% of current Tesla Share price (%)

2025 EBITDA multiple (x)

WACC (%)

Additional terminal value (\$m)

Tesla shares outstanding (m)

Tesla share price (\$)

A \$1 rise in US gas price could be worth 13% to Tesla's share price. Each \$1 of gas price per gallon is a projected \$103bn annual operating cost increase to light vehicle consumers in the United States based on our projection of gasoline consumption for personal transport by 2025.

Assuming 15% of this burden shifts to xEVs with Tesla taking a 6% share of the US xEV market adds \$233m of incremental EBITDA by 2025 and \$3.4 per Tesla share.

Exhibit 6	
US gasoline analysis – sensitivity to Tesla val	ue
Annual gasoline usage for personal transport (bn gallons)	138
2025 projected gasoline usage for persaonal transport (bn gallons)	103
Gasoline price (\$)	3.50
Annual US gasoline expenditure for light vehicles (\$bn)	362
Gas price increment (\$)	1.00
Burden of \$1 move in gas price on light vehicle consumers (bn)	103
% of burden moving to xEV demand	15%
Value of burden moving to xEV demand (\$bn)	15.5
Tesla share of US xEV market by 2025 (%)	6.0%
Value of incremental Tesla sales in 2025 (\$mm)	931
Incremental margin on Tesla sales (%)	25%
Incremental EBITDA for Tesla (\$m)	233
2025 EBITDA multiple (x)	8.5
Additional terminal value (\$m)	1,978
WACC (%)	12%
PV of additional terminal value (\$mm)	361
Tesla shares outstanding (m)	107
Increased value per Tesla share (\$)	3.4
Tesla share price (\$)	27

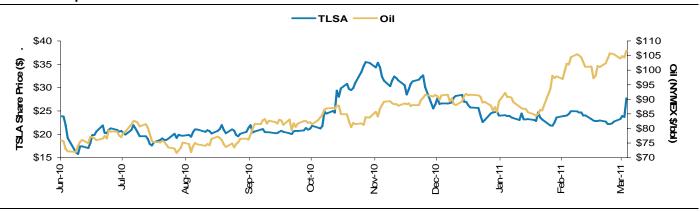
Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

% of current Tesla Share price (%)

Valuation methodology and risk discussion. We argue Tesla cannot be valued on near-term multiple metrics like traditional auto companies given that we expect Tesla to multiply revenues by over 20x from 2010 to 2015, by more than 80x by 2020 and over 150x by 2025. We have thus chosen a 15-year time horizon for our DCF which captures the full utilization of Tesla's manufacturing capacity in Fremont, the full maturation of the Model S, Model X (and top-hat derivatives) and also the ramp up of its mass market electric vehicle (the Gen 3). We have applied a 12% WACC with a range of 10% to 14%. The terminal value accounts for around 60% to 70% of the total DCF value across the range of methodologies we have applied to arrive at our \$70 PT. The risks of lagging EV adoption, launch delays and balance sheet difficulties make Tesla a highly speculative investment.

Exhibit 7

Tesla share price vs. NYMEX Crude



89

8.5

760

12%

139

107

1.3

27

5%

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

13%

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(as of March 31, 2011)

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·		% of		% of %	% of Rating	
Stock Rating Category	Count	Total	Count	Total IBC	Category	
Overweight/Buy	1195	42%	469	47%	39%	
Equal-weight/Hold	1153	40%	406	40%	35%	
Not-Rated/Hold	114	4%	22	2%	19%	
Underweight/Sell	389	14%	108	11%	28%	
Total	2,851		1005			

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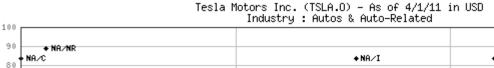
broad market benchmark, as indicated below.

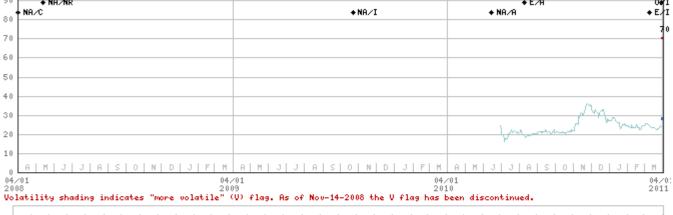
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Stock Rating History: 4/1/08 : NA/C; 5/13/08 : NA/NR; 10/22/09 : NA/I; 6/14/10 : NA/A; 8/9/10 : E/A;

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### Industry Coverage: Auto- & Auto-Related

Company (Ticker)	Rating (as of) Price* (03/31/2011)		
Adam Jonas, CFA			
Ford Motor Company (F.N)	O (10/04/2010)	\$14.91	
General Motors Company (GM.N)	O (12/28/2010)	\$31.03	
Tesla Motors Inc. (TSLA.O)	O (03/31/2011)	\$27.75	
Ravi Shanker			
AutoNation Inc. (AN.N)	U (03/10/2011)	\$35.37	
BorgWarner Inc. (BWA.N)	O (10/22/2009)	\$79.69	
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company	O (03/16/2010)	\$25.75	
(CTB.N) Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (GT.N)	O (03/10/2011)	\$14.98	
Group 1 Automotive, Inc (GPI.N)	U (10/22/2009)	\$42.8	
Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI.N)	O (06/14/2010)	\$41.57	
Lear Corporation (LEA.N)	U (09/23/2010)	\$48.87	
Magna International Inc. (MGA.N)	U (03/10/2011)	\$47.91	
Meritor Inc (MTOR.N)	O (09/23/2010)	\$16.97	
Penske Automotive Group, Inc (PAG.N)	U (10/22/2009)	\$20.02	
TRW Automotive Holdings Corp. (TRW.N)	O (09/10/2010)	\$55.08	
Tenneco Inc. (TEN.N)	U (09/23/2010)	\$42.45	

Stock Ratings are subject to change. Please see latest research for each company. \* Historical prices are not split adjusted.