

Lam Research Corp. (LRCX)

NDR Takeaways: Through-Cycle Growth, Margin, and Capital Return Profile Intact; Maintain Buy

Buy

LRCX

12m Price Target: **\$434.00**Price: **\$379.86**Upside: **14.3%**

We hosted investor meetings with Doug Bettinger (EVP, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer) and Tina Correia (CVP, Investor Relations and Corporate Finance). Investor questions were focused on, 1) China export controls announced by the Department of Commerce on 10/7, 2) the CY2023 Wafer Fab Equipment (WFE) market outlook, 3) share gain opportunities specific to Lam Research, 4) the attainability of the company's long-term gross margin target following the near-term setback, and 5) opex management. While the shape/depth of the downturn is difficult to predict, we believe significant weakness in memory WFE spending coupled with the China export restrictions will assist the WFE market (and thus the stocks) in forming a cyclical bottom earlier than otherwise. **We reiterate our Buy rating on LRCX as we expect a) continued share gains**, particularly in leading-edge logic and foundry, **b) gross margin expansion**, supported by a normalization in freight, component costs, and factory utilization as well as Lam's pricing actions, and **c) disciplined opex management**, to drive through-cycle earnings growth in excess of the industry average. Please see below for more details.

Key takeaways

China export controls: As stated on last week's earnings call, Lam Research expects a \$2.0-2.5bn hit to revenue in CY2023 as a result of the export controls announced on 10/7 by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) at the Department of Commerce. Based on our industry conversations, we believe the export controls will primarily impact tool shipments to and services revenue derived from, among others, YMTC (i.e. LSD/MSD% market share player in the global NAND market and currently on BIS' Unverified List) and, to a lesser extent, SMIC (i.e. China's largest and the world's fifth largest foundry supplier), while business with Chinese customers on

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Key Data

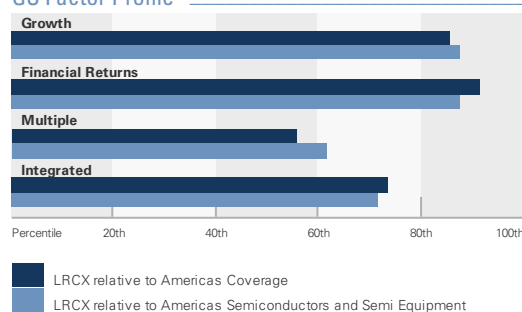
Market cap: \$52.0bn
Enterprise value: \$51.8bn
3m ADTV: \$765.4mn
United States
Americas Semiconductors and Semi Equipment
M&A Rank: 3

GS Forecast

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Revenue (\$ mn) | 17,227.0 | 18,303.0 | 13,890.3 | 17,572.0 |
| EBITDA (\$ mn) | 5,732.2 | 5,934.4 | 3,889.5 | 5,740.1 |
| EBIT (\$ mn) | 5,398.5 | 5,631.4 | 3,586.5 | 5,437.1 |
| EPS (\$) | 33.12 | 35.32 | 23.06 | 37.48 |
| P/E (X) | 17.3 | 10.8 | 16.5 | 10.1 |
| EV/EBITDA (X) | 14.3 | 8.5 | 12.4 | 7.9 |
| FCF yield (%) | 3.2 | 10.2 | 6.1 | 9.8 |
| Dividend yield (%) | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Net debt/EBITDA (X) | 0.2 | (0.0) | (0.1) | (0.2) |

| | 9/22 | 12/22E | 3/23E | 6/23E |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| EPS (\$) | 10.42 | 10.18 | 8.33 | 6.39 |

GS Factor Profile



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.
See disclosures for details.

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Buy

Lam Research Corp. (LRCX)

Rating since Jul 21, 2019

Ratios & Valuation

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| P/E (X) | 17.3 | 10.8 | 16.5 | 10.1 |
| EV/EBITDA (X) | 14.3 | 8.5 | 12.4 | 7.9 |
| EV/sales (X) | 4.8 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 2.6 |
| FCF yield (%) | 3.2 | 10.2 | 6.1 | 9.8 |
| EV/DACF (X) | 16.3 | 9.7 | 13.5 | 8.7 |
| CROCI (%) | 45.2 | 44.0 | 28.9 | 39.4 |
| ROE (%) | 75.7 | 68.8 | 38.5 | 55.6 |
| Net debt/EBITDA (X) | 0.2 | (0.0) | (0.1) | (0.2) |
| Net debt/equity (%) | 19.8 | (3.0) | (3.7) | (10.3) |
| Interest cover (X) | 36.5 | 47.1 | 29.9 | 45.3 |
| Inventory days | 129.8 | 142.1 | 185.3 | 157.3 |
| Receivable days | 77.8 | 83.4 | 108.2 | 88.9 |
| Days payable outstanding | 30.0 | 26.9 | 32.2 | 28.3 |

Growth & Margins (%)

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|----------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Total revenue growth | 17.8 | 6.2 | (24.1) | 26.5 |
| EBITDA growth | 16.7 | 3.5 | (34.5) | 47.6 |
| EPS growth | 21.4 | 6.7 | (34.7) | 62.6 |
| DPS growth | 15.4 | 15.0 | 4.3 | 5.6 |
| Gross margin | 45.7 | 44.5 | 43.5 | 46.0 |
| EBIT margin | 31.3 | 30.8 | 25.8 | 30.9 |

Price Performance

Source: FactSet. Price as of 25 Oct 2022 close.

Income Statement (\$ mn)

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total revenue | 17,227.0 | 18,303.0 | 13,890.3 | 17,572.0 |
| Cost of goods sold | (9,359.4) | (10,159.1) | (7,852.7) | (9,493.6) |
| SG&A | (849.1) | (812.8) | (778.2) | (856.4) |
| R&D | (1,620.1) | (1,699.7) | (1,672.9) | (1,785.0) |
| Other operating inc./exp.) | — | — | — | — |
| EBITDA | 5,732.2 | 5,934.4 | 3,889.5 | 5,740.1 |
| Depreciation & amortization | (333.7) | (303.0) | (303.0) | (303.0) |
| EBIT | 5,398.5 | 5,631.4 | 3,586.5 | 5,437.1 |
| Net interest inc./exp.) | (147.9) | (119.7) | (120.0) | (120.0) |
| Income/(loss) from associates | — | — | — | — |
| Pre-tax profit | 5,250.6 | 5,511.7 | 3,466.5 | 5,317.1 |
| Provision for taxes | (587.8) | (768.3) | (520.0) | (744.4) |
| Minority interest | — | — | — | — |
| Preferred dividends | — | — | — | — |
| Net inc. (pre-exceptionals) | 4,662.8 | 4,743.5 | 2,946.5 | 4,572.7 |
| Net inc. (post-exceptionals) | 4,605.3 | 4,739.8 | 2,946.5 | 4,572.7 |
| EPS (basic, pre-exception) (\$) | 33.12 | 35.32 | 23.06 | 37.48 |
| EPS (diluted, pre-exception) (\$) | 33.12 | 35.32 | 23.06 | 37.48 |
| EPS (ex-ESO exp., dil.) (\$) | 34.59 | 37.02 | 24.92 | 39.54 |
| DPS (\$) | 6.00 | 6.90 | 7.20 | 7.60 |
| Div. payout ratio (%) | 18.1 | 19.5 | 31.2 | 20.3 |
| Wtd avg shares out. (basic) (mn) | 140.6 | 133.9 | 128.0 | 122.0 |
| Wtd avg shares out. (diluted) (mn) | 140.6 | 133.9 | 128.0 | 0.0 |

Balance Sheet (\$ mn)

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash & cash equivalents | 3,761.7 | 5,220.3 | 5,281.8 | 5,896.1 |
| Accounts receivable | 4,313.8 | 4,050.5 | 4,185.5 | 4,378.8 |
| Inventory | 3,966.3 | 3,945.3 | 4,025.8 | 4,158.1 |
| Other current assets | 347.4 | 305.6 | 305.6 | 305.6 |
| Total current assets | 12,389.2 | 13,521.6 | 13,798.7 | 14,737.7 |
| Net PP&E | 1,647.6 | 1,824.2 | 1,851.5 | 1,878.7 |
| Net intangibles | 1,617.0 | 1,617.2 | 1,607.0 | 1,596.8 |
| Total investments | 147.6 | 133.0 | 133.0 | 133.0 |
| Other long-term assets | 1,394.3 | 1,513.9 | 1,513.9 | — |
| Total assets | 17,195.6 | 18,610.0 | 18,904.0 | 19,860.0 |
| Accounts payable | 820.7 | 679.4 | 707.2 | 764.7 |
| Short-term debt | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Current lease liabilities | — | — | — | — |
| Other current liabilities | 3,736.7 | 4,161.9 | 4,161.9 | 4,161.9 |
| Total current liabilities | 4,564.8 | 4,848.4 | 4,876.2 | 4,933.7 |
| Long-term debt | 4,998.4 | 4,990.8 | 4,990.8 | 4,990.8 |
| Non-current lease liabilities | — | — | — | — |
| Other long-term liabilities | 1,354.1 | 1,259.0 | 1,259.0 | 1,259.0 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 6,352.5 | 6,249.8 | 6,249.8 | 6,249.8 |
| Total liabilities | 10,917.3 | 11,098.2 | 11,125.9 | 11,183.4 |
| Preferred shares | — | — | — | — |
| Total common equity | 6,278.4 | 7,511.8 | 7,778.1 | 8,676.6 |
| Minority interest | — | — | — | — |
| Total liabilities & equity | 17,195.6 | 18,610.0 | 18,904.0 | 19,860.0 |
| BVPS (\$) | 45.50 | 57.69 | 61.66 | 72.88 |

Cash Flow (\$ mn)

| | 6/22 | 6/23E | 6/24E | 6/25E |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net income | 4,605.3 | 4,739.8 | 2,946.5 | 0.0 |
| D&A add-back | 333.7 | 303.0 | 303.0 | 303.0 |
| Minority interest add-back | — | — | — | — |
| Net (inc)/dec working capital | (1,796.2) | 482.5 | (187.7) | (268.2) |
| Others | (43.1) | 105.4 | 238.9 | 250.9 |
| Cash flow from operations | 3,099.7 | 5,630.8 | 3,300.8 | 4,858.4 |
| Capital expenditures | (546.0) | (465.1) | (320.0) | (320.0) |
| Acquisitions | — | — | — | — |
| Divestitures | — | — | — | — |
| Others | 1,158.3 | 12.3 | — | — |
| Cash flow from investing | 612.3 | (452.8) | (320.0) | (320.0) |
| Dividends paid | (815.3) | (891.0) | (919.2) | (925.0) |
| Share issuance/(repurchase) | (3,751.8) | (2,803.5) | (2,000.0) | (3,000.0) |
| Inc/(dec) in debt | — | — | — | — |
| Others | (1.0) | (0.6) | — | — |
| Cash flow from financing | (4,578.9) | (3,701.9) | (2,919.2) | (3,925.0) |
| Total cash flow | (866.9) | 1,476.1 | 61.6 | 613.4 |
| Free cash flow | 2,553.6 | 5,165.7 | 2,980.8 | 4,538.4 |
| Free cash flow per share (basic) (\$) | 18.16 | 38.59 | 23.29 | 37.19 |

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

lagging-edge or mature process nodes is unlikely to be impacted. Note that, in our CY2023/2024 Wafer Fab Equipment (WFE) market forecasts of \$66.5bn/\$72.9bn, we assume a net impact from China export controls of -\$6.0bn/-\$3.5bn or a larger gross impact partially offset by increases in foundry spending, and to a lesser extent NAND spending (i.e. to make up for SMIC and YMTC's challenges to grow leading-edge capacity) outside of China.

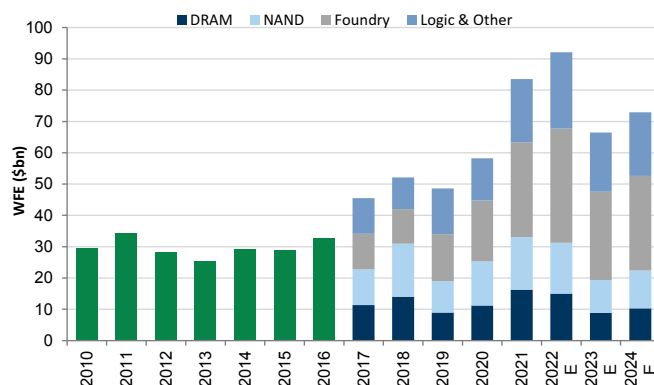
Exhibit 1: We estimate that export controls will reduce 2023 WFE by ~\$6bn on a net basis

| \$bn | 2022E | | | 2023E | | | 2024E | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Absent Export Controls | With Export Controls | Impact of Controls | Absent Export Controls | With Export Controls | Impact of Controls | Absent Export Controls | With Export Controls | Impact of Controls |
| Total WFE | 94.1 | 92.1 | -2.0 | 72.4 | 66.5 | -6.0 | 76.4 | 72.9 | -3.5 |
| yoy | 13% | 10% | -2% | -23% | -28% | -5% | 5% | 10% | 4% |
| DRAM | 15.6 | 15.0 | -0.6 | 10.4 | 8.9 | -1.6 | 12.1 | 10.3 | -1.8 |
| yoy | -5% | -8% | -4% | -33% | -41% | -8% | 16% | 16% | 0% |
| NAND | 17.1 | 16.3 | -0.8 | 12.8 | 10.5 | -2.3 | 13.3 | 12.1 | -1.2 |
| yoy | 1% | -3% | -5% | -25% | -36% | -11% | 4% | 15% | 11% |
| Foundry | 36.9 | 36.5 | -0.4 | 29.5 | 28.2 | -1.3 | 30.7 | 30.2 | -0.4 |
| yoy | 22% | 21% | -1% | -20% | -23% | -3% | 4% | 7% | 3% |
| Logic & Other | 24.6 | 24.4 | -0.2 | 19.7 | 18.9 | -0.8 | 20.3 | 20.3 | 0.0 |
| yoy | 22% | 21% | -1% | -20% | -22% | -2% | 3% | 7% | 4% |

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

WFE market outlook: While Lam typically awaits for the current calendar year to conclude before providing its WFE market outlook for the subsequent year, management took a different approach this year and shared its preliminary view of the CY2023 WFE market (i.e. more than a 20% yoy decline off of a low \$90bn range base in CY2022) to address growing investor questions and concerns. The company is not sharing specific estimates by application at this time, but has indicated that memory will drive the majority of the decline in CY2023, while leading-edge logic/foundry and other device types are expected to fare better, based on customer input and their own market intelligence. Note, in our October 13 industry note ([here](#)), we reduced our CY2022/2023 WFE market forecast from \$94bn/\$78bn to \$92bn/\$66bn, respectively, as we reflected recent industry datapoints, particularly those related to the memory market, as well as the China export controls. For CY2024, we currently model a 10% yoy increase in WFE demand, driven by a mid-teens (%) increase in memory WFE spend, and HSD (%) growth in logic and foundry. We continue to expect WFE intensity to trend flat or evolve with a slight positive bias as architectural transitions drive higher levels of process complexity. Furthermore, the headwinds that historically weighed on WFE intensity - specifically, the industry's transition from 200mm to 300mm, and consolidation of the customer base - are no longer a force and, if anything, there could be more fragmentation of semiconductor market share and capex dollars could sustain in response to localization initiatives and government funding.

Exhibit 2: We expect the WFE market to contract ~28% yoy in 2023 before growing 10% in 2024

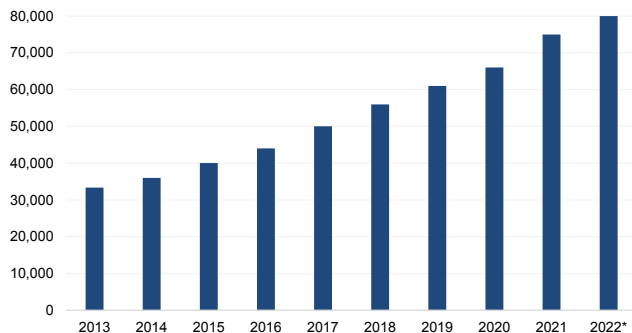


Source: SEMI, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Market share growth opportunities that are idiosyncratic to Lam: While the progression in Lam's market share in CY2023 is likely to be flat at best given our expectation for WFE spending in memory to decline far more than logic/foundry, we remain constructive on Lam's medium- to long-term opportunities in or associated with **1) leading-edge logic** (to which the company remains under-indexed in Etch), **2) future architectural transitions** particularly across leading-edge logic/foundry (i.e. finFET to Gate-All-Around) and DRAM (i.e. 3D DRAM, albeit likely several years away from mass production) that will drive an increase in Etch and Deposition intensity, in our view, and **3) the ramp of relatively nascent products or technologies** including Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) and Dry Resist. Recall that Lam shared its goal to gain 4-8% points of market share in Etch and Deposition by 2023 at its 2020 Analyst Day.

CSBG could be marginally more cyclical than in past downturns: The Customer Support Business Group (CSBG), which accounts for ~35% of total revenue per CY2022 GSe, consists of four segments; 1) spares, 2) Reliant (i.e. equipment business primarily targeting mature process nodes), 3) upgrades, and 4) services. Notably, Reliant has outgrown the overall segment over the past several quarters and, per management, is currently the second largest revenue contributor within CSBG. While we expect the growth in Lam's installed base ([Exhibit 3](#)) to support a revenue trajectory in CSBG that is much more resilient than the company's equipment business (ex Reliant), we nonetheless model a 15% yoy decline in segment revenue in CY2023, driven by a) the China export controls (i.e. a ~\$700-800mn hit to CY2023 revenue, per our estimation), 2) a decline in Reliant revenue, albeit a more modest decrease compared to overall WFE, and 3) inventory dynamics in spares.

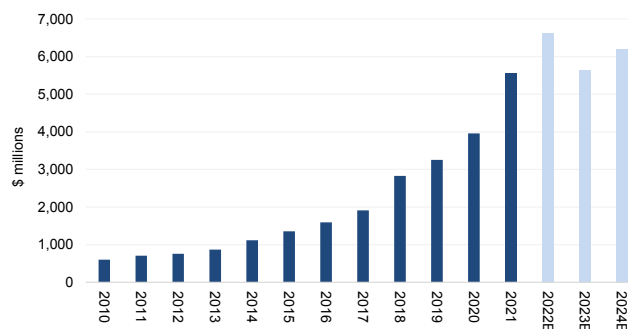
Exhibit 3: Lam's installed base is approaching ~80k chambers, up >30% since the last WFE cycle in 2019



*as of 3Q22

Source: Company data

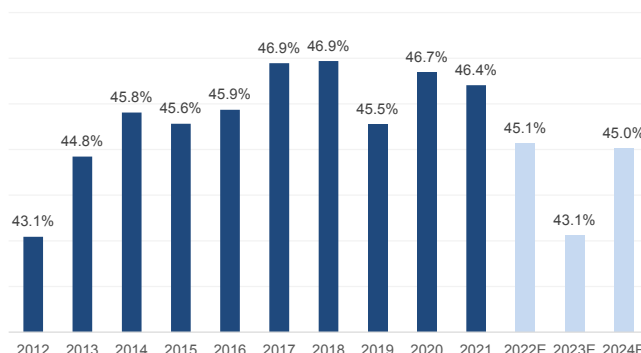
Exhibit 4: We expect CSBG revenues to contract 15% yoy in 2023 before rebounding ~10% yoy in 2024



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Gross margin outlook: Per Lam's guidance, China export controls and the resulting deterioration in customer mix are expected to drive a ~150bps sequential decline in non-GAAP gross margins to 44.5% (mid-point) in the December quarter. Looking ahead, we expect there to be a mix of tailwinds and headwinds – the tailwinds being a) a reversion in semiconductor pricing (note Lam procures a whole host of device types for their tools including MCUs, PMICs, and FPGAs), b) a decline in freight rates, and c) price actions to offset permanent cost inflation. While the bar in hitting its long-term profitability goals presented by Lam at its March 2020 Analyst Day is now higher, we believe management remains committed to its published targets and expect the company to take incremental actions to counter what is likely a permanent shift in customer mix. Lastly, we expect the ramp of its manufacturing facility in Malaysia will also, over time, be accretive to corporate gross margins given reduced labor cost and lower freight costs (i.e. closer to customers in Asia).

Exhibit 5: We expect non-GAAP gross margins to contract to 43% in 2023 but to rebound to 45% in 2024

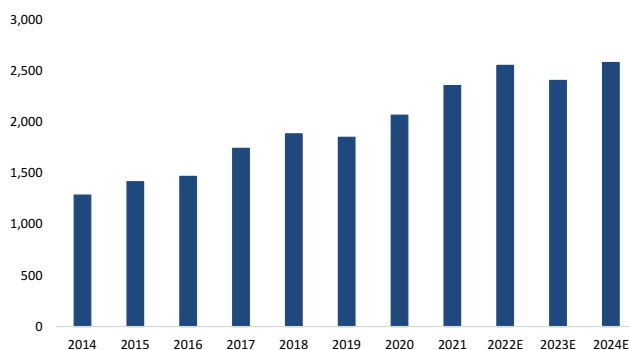


Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Opex management: The company's implied opex guide for the December quarter is \$663mn or +2.4% qoq. Consistent with statements from last week's call and execution during prior cyclical downturns, we expect Lam to adjust its opex (particularly, SG&A)

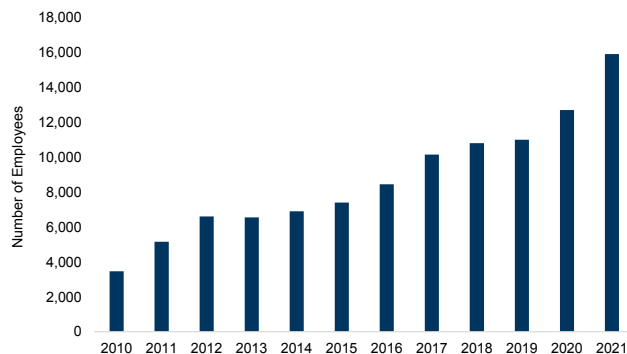
spend in accordance with the new demand environment. Recall, in CY2019, when revenue declined 12% yoy, the company reduced SG&A by 6% while R&D was kept essentially flat. In our current earnings model, we forecast CY2023 opex of -6% yoy within the context of a potential revenue decline of 23% yoy. We model a more significant decline in opex this cycle given the higher base (note the total number of employees has increased 88% over the past 5 years) and arguably a permanent decline in China business.

Exhibit 6: We forecast a 6% yoy decline in opex in CY2023 to reflect management's disciplined approach to profitability



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

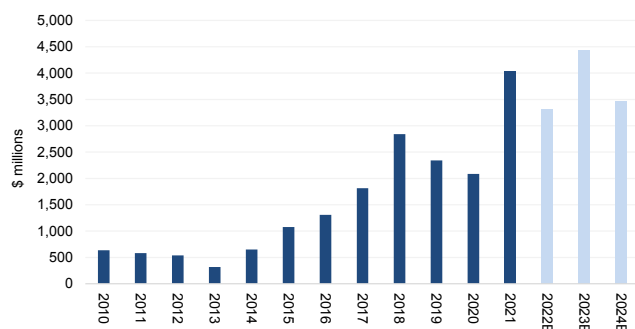
Exhibit 7: Total headcount has grown rapidly over the past few years, particularly in 2021, with the number of employees increasing by ~25% yoy



Source: FactSet

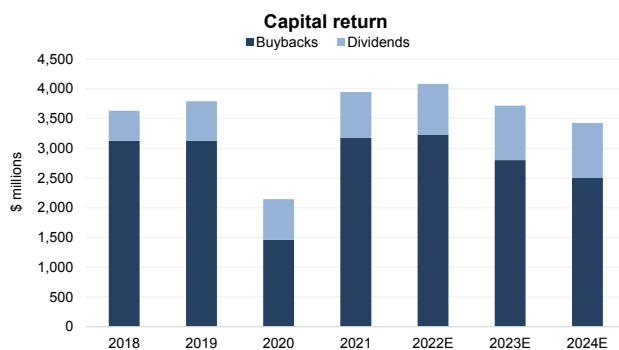
Capital return policy unchanged: Despite elevated macro uncertainty and the negative WFE market outlook, Lam's stated policy of returning 75-100% of FCF to shareholders in the form of dividends and buybacks is unchanged. We believe the combination of steady FCF generation (note FCF typically improves or is resilient during cyclical downturns as working capital requirements decline) and Lam's strong balance sheet will support this. Looking ahead, we model a gradual increase in Lam's dividend and \$3.2bn/\$2.8bn/\$2.5bn in share repurchases in CY2022/2023/2024, respectively. Importantly, we expect these share repurchases to translate into a steady decline in Lam's share count as illustrated in [Exhibit 9](#) below.

Exhibit 8: We envision robust FCF generation from Lam even during next year's expected downturn



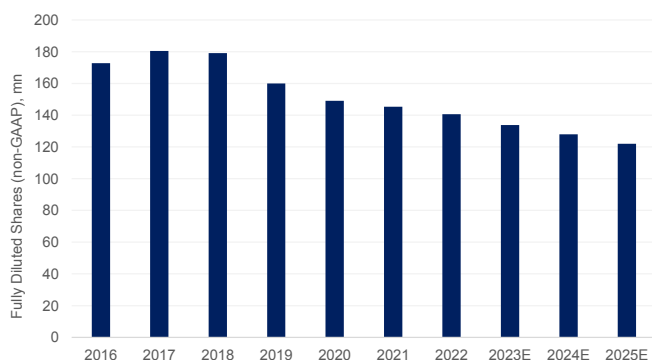
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Company data

Exhibit 9: We expect Lam to remain committed to returning a healthy amount of FCF to shareholders over the next few years



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Company data

Exhibit 10: We expect diluted share count to decline by ~13% between FY22 and FY25



By fiscal year, June-end

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Investment thesis, price target methodology, and key risks

We reiterate our Buy rating on LRCX as we believe the market is under-appreciating the company's superior through-cycle growth prospects associated with the architectural transitions that are ongoing or await across leading-edge Logic and Foundry (i.e. Gate-All-Around transistor structures), NAND (i.e. increase in layer count), and DRAM (i.e. 3D DRAM), as well as Lam's improving competitive position in the leading-edge Logic and Foundry markets. Furthermore, we expect management's execution power to be on full display over the next several quarters as the WFE industry experiences in 2023 what we expect to be its worst yoy decline since 2009.

Our 12-month price target of \$434 is based on 14x our normalized EPS estimate of \$31. Key risks to our estimates and constructive investment thesis include: 1) further deterioration in demand for end applications (e.g. smartphones, servers, and PCs), 2) a decline in memory spending above/beyond what we already model, 3) increased competition in Etch and Deposition, and 4) changes in the geopolitical backdrop, including the evolution of export controls, that adversely impact Lam's ability to conduct business, for example, in China.

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

We, Toshiya Hari and Mark Coates, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect our personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

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GS Factor Profile

The Goldman Sachs Factor Profile provides investment context for a stock by comparing key attributes to the market (i.e. our coverage universe) and its sector peers. The four key attributes depicted are: Growth, Financial Returns, Multiple (e.g. valuation) and Integrated (a composite of Growth, Financial Returns and Multiple). Growth, Financial Returns and Multiple are calculated by using normalized ranks for specific metrics for each stock. The normalized ranks for the metrics are then averaged and converted into percentiles for the relevant attribute. The precise calculation of each metric may vary depending on the fiscal year, industry and region, but the standard approach is as follows:

Growth is based on a stock's forward-looking sales growth, EBITDA growth and EPS growth (for financial stocks, only EPS and sales growth), with a higher percentile indicating a higher growth company. **Financial Returns** is based on a stock's forward-looking ROE, ROCE and CROCI (for financial stocks, only ROE), with a higher percentile indicating a company with higher financial returns. **Multiple** is based on a stock's forward-looking P/E, P/B, price/dividend (P/D), EV/EBITDA, EV/FCF and EV/Debt Adjusted Cash Flow (DACF) (for financial stocks, only P/E, P/B and P/D), with a higher percentile indicating a stock trading at a higher multiple. The **Integrated** percentile is calculated as the average of the Growth percentile, Financial Returns percentile and (100% - Multiple percentile).

Financial Returns and Multiple use the Goldman Sachs analyst forecasts at the fiscal year-end at least three quarters in the future. Growth uses inputs for the fiscal year at least seven quarters in the future compared with the year at least three quarters in the future (on a per-share basis for all metrics).

For a more detailed description of how we calculate the GS Factor Profile, please contact your GS representative.

M&A Rank

Across our global coverage, we examine stocks using an M&A framework, considering both qualitative factors and quantitative factors (which may vary across sectors and regions) to incorporate the potential that certain companies could be acquired. We then assign a M&A rank as a means of scoring companies under our rated coverage from 1 to 3, with 1 representing high (30%-50%) probability of the company becoming an acquisition target, 2 representing medium (15%-30%) probability and 3 representing low (0%-15%) probability. For companies ranked 1 or 2, in line with our standard departmental guidelines we incorporate an M&A component into our target price. M&A rank of 3 is considered immaterial and therefore does not factor into our price target, and may or may not be discussed in research.

Quantum

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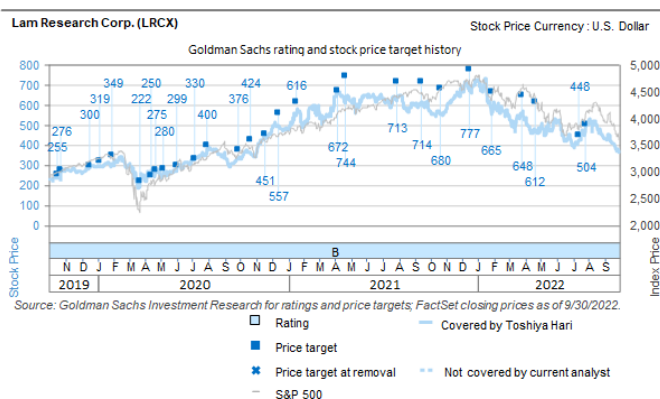
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