

tion therapy areas and implantable neuromodulation devices. Has four main operating segments: Cardiac Rhythm Management (61.9% of '08 sales); Neuromodulation (5.8%); Cardiovascular tors, 6.2% (3/09 proxy). Chairman, President, & CEO: Daniel J. Starks, Incorporated: MN. Address: One Lillehei Plaza, St. Paul, MN 55117. Telephone: 651-483-2000. Internet: www.sjm.com.

Past Est'd '06-'08 **ANNUAL RATES** Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 19.0% of change (per sh) to '12-'14 15.0% 16.5% 11.0% 12.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 19.5% 18.0% Earnings 20.5% 13.0% Dividends Book Value 13.0% 16.0% 16.5%

188.2

1205 5

1849.2

455.5

238.3 75.5

714.7

1028.5

178.0

339 6

716.0

1233.6

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal- endar	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Dec.Per				Full Year
2006	784.4	832.9	821.3	863.8	3302.4
2007	887.0	947.4	926.8	1018.1	3779.3
2008	1010.8	1135.8	1084.1	1132.6	4363.3
2009	1133.8	1184.4	1159.6	1197.2	4675
2010	1220	1285	1270	1300	5075
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A F				Full
endar	Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Dec.Per	Year
2006	.36	.38	.38	.38	1.50
2007	.41	.45	.46	.54	1.85
2008	.54	.60	.57	.60	2.31
2009	.58	.63	.59	.62	2.42
2010	.65	.68	.66	.71	2.70
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2005					
2006	NO CASH DIVIDENDS				
2007	BEING PAID				
2008					

St. Jude Medical stumbled a bit in the **September quarter.** It reported net sales of \$1.2 billion, up 7% from the year-earlier (Foreign currency translations figure. decreased the top line by about \$29 million.) The Cardiac Rhythm Management business, which accounts for the lion's share of total sales, managed only a slight top-line gain. The Atrial Fibrillation, Neuromodulation, and Cardiovascular groups all managed to post double-digit revenue advances, though, even before accounting for the impact of currency exchange. Share earnings, excluding onetime restructuring and severance costs that are footnoted below, were \$0.59. This figure was a few pennies below both our target and management's guidance. Operating margins were a bit narrower than expected, as cost cutting did not fully offset higher interest expenses associated with the heftier debt burden.

We have lowered our top- and bottomline targets. The primary reason for the September-quarter disappointment was a slowdown in hospital stocking of certain medical devices. Indeed, the lackluster economic backdrop and the ongoing pres-

surrounding healthcare reform prompted changes in purchasing behavior among some hospital customers. We believe this trend will continue in the coming six to 12 months, and have reduced our 2009 and 2010 top- and bottom-line estimates accordingly.

The company announced another share-repurchase initiative. Indeed, for the second time in as many quarters, the board gave St. Jude the green light to buy back up to \$500 million of its common stock. The company quickly exhausted the previous authorization, so we expect the repurchases to happen in the near future. These shares are no longer ranked favorably for Timeliness. After the thirdquarter earnings announcement, the price of this issue fell sharply. Moreover, earnings comparisons have not been as strong of late. As a result, we lowered the stock's Timeliness rank one notch, to Average (3). The equity does have some appeal, though. Long-term capital gains potential

is well above average, since we believe there is lots of room for St. Jude to grow. The issue also has a solid Safety rank (2). Erik A. Antonson November 27, 2009

(A) Primary shares thru '96; diluted thereafter. Quarterly figures may not sum due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring charges: '94, 9¢; '96 18¢; '97, 12¢; '99, 36¢; '00, 8¢; '01, 9¢; '06, 3¢;

2009

'07, 26¢; '08, \$1.21; '09, d10¢. Next earnings | \$7.18 a share. (D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. (B) Dividend was discontinued in '94 (C) Includes intangibles. In '08: \$2.5 billion,

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 75 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 90

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