Northrop Grumman Corporation (NOC)

Updated May 11th, 2020 by Prakash Kolli

Key Metrics

Current Price:	$329	**5 Year CAGR Estimate:**	11.4%	**Market Cap:**	$54,804M
Fair Value Price:	$330	**5 Year Growth Estimate:**	10.0 %	**Ex-Dividend Date:**	02/21/20
% Fair Value:	100%	**5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:**	0.1%	**Dividend Payment Date:**	03/11/20
Dividend Yield:	1.6%	**5 Year Price Target**	$531	**Years Of Dividend Growth:**	16
Dividend Risk Score:	A	**Retirement Suitability Score:**	C	**Last Dividend Increase:**	2.3%

Overview & Current Events

Northrop Grumman Corporation is one of the five largest U.S. aerospace and defense contractors based on revenue. The company reports four business segments: Aerospace Systems (aircraft and UAVs), Mission Systems (radars, sensors and systems for surveillance and targeting), Defense Systems (information technology, sustainment and modernization, directed energy, tactical weapons), and Space Systems (missile defense, space systems, hypersonics and space launchers). Northrop Grumman completed its acquisition of Orbital ATK in June 2018. Northrop Grumman makes the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and E-8C JSTARS. The company also provides content on the F-35 Lightening II and F/A-18 Super Hornet. It also won the contract for the B-21 Raider. In addition, the company makes the RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-4C Triton and MQ-8B/C Fire Scout UAVs. The company had revenue of over $33.8B in 2019.

Northrop Grumman released results for Q1 2020 on April 2020. Companywide revenue increased 5% to $8,620M from $8,189M and diluted adjusted earnings per share increased 2% to $5.15 from $5.06 on a year-over-year basis. All four business segments had increases in sales. Revenue for Aerospace System increased 1% to $2,843M from $2,818M from the prior year due to higher volumes in restricted programs and Global Hawk. Revenue for Defense Systems increased 6% to $1,881M from $1,7868M in comparable quarters on the strength of higher sales Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, Advanced Ant-Radiation Guided Missiles, and other missile products. Revenue for Mission Systems increased 6% to $2,347M in the quarter from $2,210M in the prior year due higher volumes in marine systems, space and restricted programs, and airborne radar programs. Revenue for Space Systems increased 8% to $1,948M in Q1 2020 from $1,801M in Q1 2019 due higher sales in Next Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared Radar, Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission program, and hypersonic programs.

Companywide backlog remains strong at $64.2B down slightly from last quarter. COVID-19 did not impact Northrop Grumman much in the first quarter, but the company expects an impact on earnings going forward. Guidance was reduced to $21.80 - $22.20. The company is not expecting an impact on cash flow or operating margins.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
EPS	$5.80	$7.41	$7.81	$8.35	$9.75	$10.39	$12.19	$11.47	$21.33	$21.21	***$22.00***	***$35.43***
DPS	$1.84	$1.97	$2.15	$2.38	$2.71	$3.10	$3.50	$3.90	$4.70	$5.16	***$5.28***	***$7.76***
Shares[1]	291	253.9	237.1	216.7	198.4	181.3	175.1	174.1	170.7	167	***164***	***148***

Northrop Grumman's earnings has increased substantially over time driven by top line growth from contract wins, modernization and upgrades, and services. A significant reduction in share count has helped drive earnings per share gains as well. Looking forward, the company will achieve both revenue and EPS growth through its involvement in the F-35, B-21, E2-D and other platforms. We expect average annual EPS growth of 10% out to 2025. We expect share buybacks to slow as the company pays down debt after the Orbital ATK acquisition. Northrop Grumman has paid a growing dividend for 16 years. The payout ratio is currently low at approximately 24% so there is room for further increases.

[1] Share count in millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.

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Valuation Analysis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Now	2025
Avg. P/E	10.5	8.3	8.2	10.4	12.9	16.1	17.4	23.0	16.8	***17.9***	***15.0***	***15.0***
Avg. Yld.	3.0%	3.2%	3.4%	2.7%	2.1%	1.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.7%	***1.7%***	***1.6%***	***1.5%***

Northrop Grumman's stock price declined along with the rest of the market, but it has rebounded from its recent lows. The stock now trades at our long-term fair value multiple of 15.0 based on the mid-point of 2020 guidance. The company lowered estimates due to COVID-19. Our current fair value is $330. Our current 5-year price target is $531.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

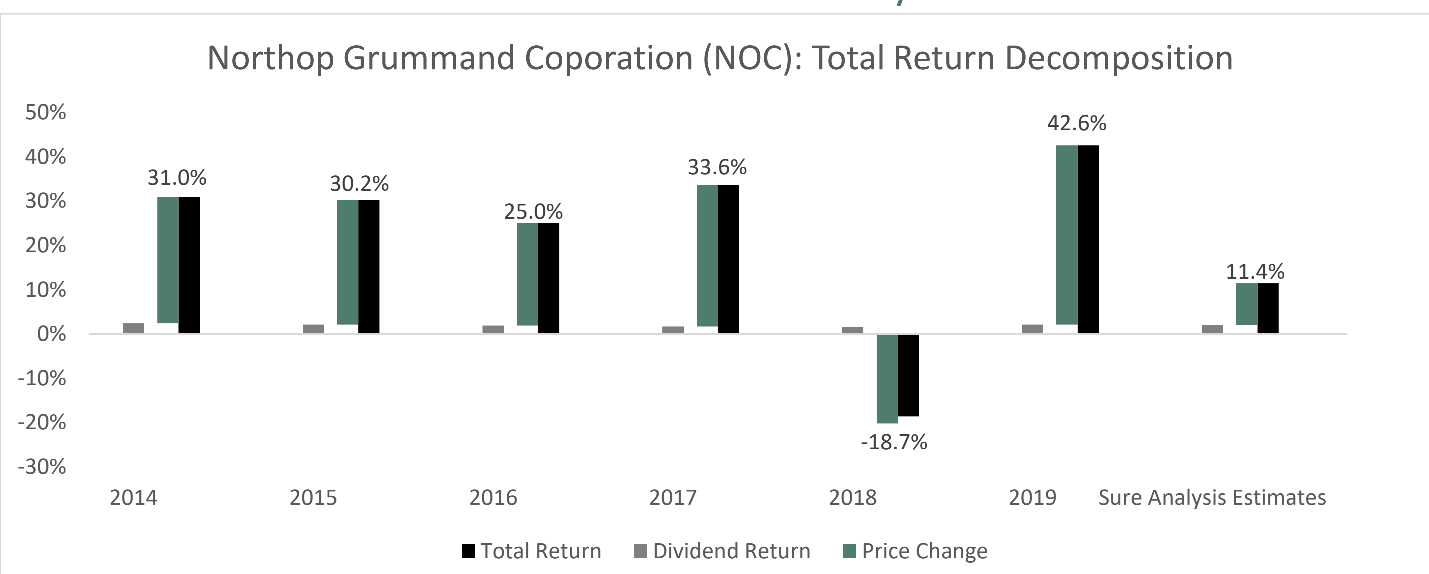
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2024
Payout	32%	27%	28%	29%	28%	30%	29%	34%	25%	24%	***24%***	***22%***

As a prime U.S. defense contractor, Northrop Grumman has an entrenched position in many of its end markets. Of note are the B-2, B-21, E-2D, E-8C, Global Hawk and Triton platforms. These platforms have decades long life cycles and Northrop Grumman has the expertise and experience to perform sustainment and modernization. These characteristics lead to a good degree of recession resistance. However, the company does face risks in program cuts that could lead to revenue declines. Another risk is that Northrop Grumman has exposure to Information Technology and cybersecurity. These are competitive fields. Traditional IT companies are moving into government contracting focusing on DoD and cybersecurity. These companies often have broader and deeper expertise in IT compared to Northrop Grumman. Debt has increased due to the acquisition. Long-term debt is now at $14,299M offset by $3,278M in cash and equivalents.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

At present we are forecasting an 11.4% annualized total return through 2025. Northrop Grumman's businesses are performing well, and the company has a strong portfolio of platforms. This should bode well for future earnings. Further, defense spending remains strong. With that said, the stock is trading near our fair value estimate and the dividend yield is low. We think that new investors should wait for a better entry point. We rate this stock as a hold.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue	28143	26412	25218	24661	23979	23526	24706	26004	30095	33841
Gross Profit	5294	5626	5580	5379	5601	5642	5909	5930	6791	7259
Gross Margin	18.8%	21.3%	22.1%	21.8%	23.4%	24.0%	23.9%	22.8%	22.6%	21.5%
SG&A Exp.	2467	2350	2450	2256	2405	2566	2632	2712	3011	3290
D&A Exp.	555	544	510	495	462	467	456	475	800	1018
Operating Profit	2827	3276	3130	3123	3196	3076	3277	3218	3780	3969
Op. Margin	10.0%	12.4%	12.4%	12.7%	13.3%	13.1%	13.3%	12.4%	12.6%	18.8%
Net Profit	2053	2118	1978	1952	2069	1990	2043	2869	3229	2248
Net Margin	7.3%	8.0%	7.8%	7.9%	8.6%	8.5%	8.3%	11.0%	10.7%	10.7%
Free Cash Flow	1868	1623	2309	2119	2032	1691	1893	1685	2578	3033
Income Tax	462	997	987	911	868	800	638	1360	513	300

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Assets	31421	25411	26543	26381	26572	24424	25614	35128	37653	41089
Cash & Equivalents	3701	3002	3862	5150	3863	2319	2541	11225	1579	2245
Acc. Receivable	4057	2964	2858	2685	2806	2841	3299	1054	1448	1326
Inventories	1185	873	798	698	742	807	816	398	654	783
Goodwill & Int.	14296	12374	12431	12438	12466	12460	12450	12507	20044	19748
Total Liabilities	17864	15075	17029	15761	19337	18902	20355	27996	29466	32270
Accounts Payable	1846	1481	1392	1229	1305	1282	1554	1661	2182	2226
Long-Term Debt	4829	3935	3930	5928	5925	6386	7058	14399	13883	12770
Total Equity	13557	10336	9514	10620	7235	5522	5259	7132	8187	8819
D/E Ratio	0.36	0.38	0.41	0.56	0.82	1.16	1.34	2.02	1.70	1.45

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Return on Assets	6.7%	7.5%	7.6%	7.4%	7.8%	7.8%	8.2%	9.4%	8.9%	5.7%
Return on Equity	15.6%	17.7%	19.9%	19.4%	23.2%	31.2%	37.9%	46.3%	42.2%	26.4%
ROIC	11.6%	13.0%	14.3%	13.0%	13.9%	15.9%	16.9%	17.0%	14.8%	10.3%
Shares Out.	291	253.9	237.1	216.7	198.4	181.3	175.1	174.1	170	167
Revenue/Share	93.47	93.79	99.52	105.43	113.06	122.79	136.88	148.09	172.37	199.06
FCF/Share	6.20	5.76	9.11	9.06	9.58	8.83	10.49	9.60	14.77	17.84

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.