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### **Research Update**

### Alcoa Inc. (AA-US)

We are reiterating our Strong Buy rating on AA. We believe that Alcoa has come under undue pressure as a result of declining alumina and aluminum prices and negative investor sentiment surrounding the commodity complex as a whole. However, AA has been one of the most proactive operators in the commodity space, reducing its upstream exposure while simultaneously making strategic investments in downstream value-added businesses; the company's Q4 results reflect these strategic decisions. Despite headwinds from continued supply pressures out of China, AA was able to remain profitable and drive growth in its downstream business. We believe that AA is undervalued at these depressed prices and offers significant risk/reward benefits as the company is strongly positioned to capture long-term economic value.

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**Company Notes** 

# Alcoa Inc. (AA-US) Metals & Mining

Philip Van Deusen Director of Research (646) 780-8887 Direct pvandeusen@tigressfp.com

Research Action: Reiterate Rating

Rating: Strong Buy **Prior Rating:** Strong Buy Price 01/11/2016: \$8.00 52 Week High / \$17.10 \$7.81 Key Data: (TTM as of Sep-15) **Excess Cash per Share:** \$1.72 **Annual Dividend:** \$0.12 **Dividend Yield:** 1.50% Ave. Volume (30 Day): 29.6M **Shares Outstanding:** 1,310.1M 1,308.5M Float: **Equity MV:** \$10,481.0M Sales TTM: \$23.623.0M Beta: 1.39 **EBITDAR:** \$4,586.7M NOPAT: \$1,603.1M **Total Invested Capital:** \$24,246.2M **Return on Capital:** 6.74% Cost of Capital: 5.43% **Economic Profit:** \$311.3M Market Value Added: -\$3,638.0M **Current Operations Value:** \$29,974.7M **Future Growth Value:** -\$9,366.4M

- We are reiterating our Strong Buy rating on AA. We believe that Alcoa has come under undue pressure as a result of declining alumina and aluminum prices and negative investor sentiment surrounding the commodity complex as a whole. However, AA has been one of the most proactive operators in the commodity space, reducing its upstream exposure while simultaneously making strategic investments in downstream value-added businesses; the company's Q4 results reflect these strategic decisions. Despite headwinds from continued supply pressures out of China, AA was able to remain profitable and drive growth in its downstream business. We believe that AA is undervalued at these depressed prices and offers significant risk/reward benefits as the company is strongly positioned to create greater long-term economic value.
- Performance metrics pressured, but valuation at rock bottom. We see sales of the company declining 8% over the NTM to \$21.73 billion, reflecting the company's efforts to shutter high cost smelting capacity and the impact of lower aluminum prices. However, we expect minimal margin compression next year and see NOPAT margin declining only slightly from 7.86% this year to 7.38% as a result we are only forecasting a 4% decline in Economic Profit to \$362.1 million over the NTM. Given management's efforts to shield the company from the downturn in commodities and position the company for future growth, we believe the company is undervalued at 4.54x EV/EBITDAR, which is the lowest multiple it has traded at over the past five years.
- Value added business delivering as promised; spinoff will unlock value. Q4 results demonstrated the strength of the Value-add business with auto sheet shipments at its Global Rolled Products increasing 18% y/y, and aerospace revenue in its Engineered Products and Solutions up 34% y/y. Recent contract awards like the \$.1.5 billion deal with GE (GE-US, Netural rated), the \$2.5 billion contract with BA (BA-US, Buy rated), \$1.0 billion with Airbus(AIR-PA, Not rated) and the \$1.1 billion deal with LMT (LMT-US, Not rated) also speak to the ability of this business to capture value. We believe the aerospace industry and the domestic automotive industry represent attractive long term opportunities for Alcoa's future value added business and believe that the separation of this business from its raw commodity business will highlight the growth and solid underlying economics of this segment.
- Management continues to aggressively pursue cost reduction strategies. AA recently announced the closing of two more high cost US facilities, making 80% of the company's upstream business in low cost areas outside the U.S., where energy is less expensive. Once the supply/demand imbalance finds equilibrium and prices stabilize, AA's commodity business will benefit.

For more information or a copy of our complete report, please contact us at (212)430-8730 or research@tigressfp.com

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### **Ratings History**

Alcoa Inc. (AA-US)					
Item #	Date	Research Action	Rating	Price	
#6	10/12/2015	Reiterate Rating	Strong Buy	\$10.08	
#5	07/09/2015	Reiterate Rating	Strong Buy	\$10.59	
#4	04/14/2015	Reiterate Rating	Strong Buy	\$13.37	
#3	01/14/2015	Reiterate Rating	Strong Buy	\$14.95	
#2 #1	10/10/2014 09/23/2014	Upgrade Initiation of Coverage	Strong Buy Buy	\$14.71 \$15.70	





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### **Tigress Research Methodology Overview**

We employ proprietary quantitative valuation models combined with dynamic fundamental analysis based on the principles of Economic Profit to formulate timely and insightful investment ratings, analysis, strategies and recommendations.

We make key adjustments to reported financial data eliminating GAAP-based accounting distortions and measuring all companies on a cash operating basis.

Our proprietary research framework is a multi-factor model that scores and ranks companies based on their risk-adjusted ability to create Economic Profit relative to their current market value focusing on three key components:

Business Performance: Measuring economic profitability, growth and operating efficiency.

Risk: Measuring business sustainability, volatility, strength and consistency.

**Valuation:** Linking business performance to market value. Measuring value created relative to capital employed and enterprise multiples of economic profit and cash flow.

We score and rank 24 key measurements of performance, risk and value into relative market and industry investment recommendations.

For more information on our research methodology, please review the Tigress Investment Research Guide to Company Valuation and Analysis.

### **Glossary of Key Terms and Measures**

Excess Cash per Share: Excess Cash per Share is the amount of excess cash divided by basic shares outstanding. Excess Cash consists of

all cash and short-term securities less operating cash needed to run the business. Operating Cash is 5% of TTM net

sales revenue.

EBITDAR: Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, Amortization, and Restructuring and Rent Costs. This is especially

important when comparing companies that use a significant amount of leased assets like restaurants and retailers.

**NOPAT:** Net Operating Profit after Tax. Represents a company's after-tax cash operating profit excluding financing costs.

Total Invested Capital: Total Invested Capital the total cash investment that shareholders and debt holders have made during the life of

company.

Return on Capital: Return on Capital equals NOPAT divided by Total Invested Capital. It is a key measure of operating efficiency. ROC

quantifies how well a company generates cash flow relative to the capital invested in its business.

Cost of Capital: Is the proportionately weighted cost of each category of capital – common equity, preferred equity and debt.

Economic Profit: Economic Profit is the net operating income after tax less the opportunity cost of the total capital invested. It is the

most important driver of shareholder value.

Current Operations Value:

Current Operations Value is the portion of market value based on the discounted present value of the current

earnings stream assuming it remains constant forever.

Future Growth Value: Future Growth Value is the portion of market value based on un-earned Economic Profit

For more information on the key terms and measures, please review the Tigress Investment Research Guide to Company Valuation and Analysis.



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#### **Contacts**

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### **Analyst Certification**

I, Ivan Feinseth, hereby certify that the views expressed herein accurately reflect my personal views about the subject company and their securities and that I have not been and will not be directly or indirectly compensated for expressing specific recommendations or views in the report.

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Tigress Research employs a five-tier rating system for evaluating the investment opportunity and potential return associated with owning the common equity of rated firms within our research

Rating	Dietribution	(01/11/2016)

universe. The potential return is measured on a relative basis to the general market which is represented by the S&P 500 and to the subject company's industry peer group as indicated.		Companies Under Cove			Companie Under Co	•	
Rating:	Meaning:		#	%	#	%	
Strong Buy:	Expect significant price gains in the price of the stock relative to its industry peer group and general market over the next 12 months.		22	17%	0	0	
Buy:	Expect out-performance for the price of the stock relative to its industry peer group and general market over the next 12 months.		54	41%	4	67%	
Neutral:	Expect little or no outperformance opportunity over the next 12 months.		50	37%	2	33%	
Underperform:	Expect underperformance for the price of the stock relative to its industry peer group and general market over the next 12 months.		7	5%	0	0	
Sell:	Expect price decline or significant relative market and industry underperformance over the next 12 months.		0	0%	0	0	
Partners LLC or or	npanies under research coverage are companies in which Tigress Financial ne of its affiliates has received compensation for investment banking or nong services from the company, affiliated entities and / or its employees within the	Total	133	100%	6	100%	

past twelve months or expects to do so within the next three months.

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### Specific Disclosures for the companies that are the subject of this Report

Company:	Disclosure:
Alcoa Inc. (AA-US)	14
Key Disclosure:	

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