

Advanced Energy (AEIS)

\$63.03 (As of 05/11/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$66.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 04/06/20)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: C

Growth: B

Momentum: A

Summary

Advanced Energy reported strong first quarter results wherein both earnings and revenues topped the estimates and grew year over year. Rising investments in foundry/logic and increasing demand in medical and life science space were tailwinds. Also, strengthening momentum across hyperscale customers benefited the company. Further, benefits from Artesyn buyout were positives. The company remains optimistic regarding its power supplies for medical applications and growth prospects in 5G. Also, the company's Chinese factories have started running at full capacity, which is a positive. However, the company continues to expect COVID-19 led government restriction to impact the top line negatively. Also, coronavirus induced supply chain constraints remain concerns. The stock has underperformed its industry on a year-to-date basis.

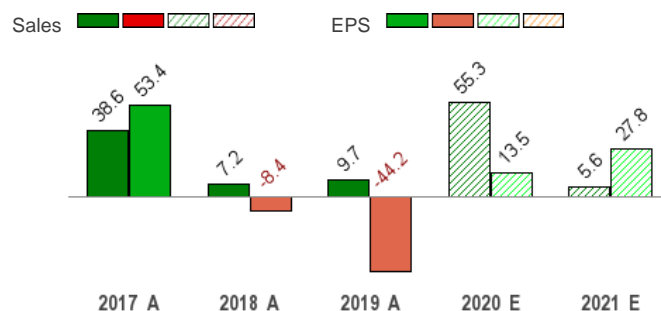
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 52 Week High-Low | \$78.49 - \$33.38 |
| 20 Day Average Volume (sh) | 307,373 |
| Market Cap | \$2.4 B |
| YTD Price Change | -11.5% |
| Beta | 1.54 |
| Dividend / Div Yld | \$0.00 / 0.0% |
| Industry | Semiconductor Equipment - Wafer Fabrication |
| Zacks Industry Rank | Top 32% (82 out of 253) |

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Last EPS Surprise | 42.2% |
| Last Sales Surprise | 1.7% |
| EPS F1 Est- 4 week change | 4.8% |
| Expected Report Date | 08/03/2020 |
| Earnings ESP | 0.0% |
| P/E TTM | 22.8 |
| P/E F1 | 22.8 |
| PEG F1 | 2.3 |
| P/S TTM | 2.5 |

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Annual* |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| 2021 | 296 E | 316 E | 332 E | 351 E | 1,294 E |
| 2020 | 315 A | 314 E | 302 E | 292 E | 1,225 E |
| 2019 | 141 A | 135 A | 175 A | 338 A | 789 A |

EPS Estimates

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Annual* |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2021 | \$0.63 E | \$0.81 E | \$0.94 E | \$1.10 E | \$3.54 E |
| 2020 | \$0.91 A | \$0.79 E | \$0.68 E | \$0.59 E | \$2.77 E |
| 2019 | \$0.58 A | \$0.45 A | \$0.54 A | \$0.87 A | \$2.44 A |

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 05/11/2020. The reports text is as of 05/12/2020.

Overview

Based in Fort Collins, Colorado, Advanced Energy Industries is a power technology company. The company is one of the leading suppliers of power subsystems and process-control technologies to the semiconductor industry.

Advanced Energy had undergone a major restructuring in 2015, exiting the solar inverter business.

The company now focuses primarily on power-conversion solutions, including direct current, pulsed DC, low frequency, high voltage, and radio frequency (RF) power supplies, as well as matching networks and remote plasma sources for reactive gas applications and RF instrumentation to leverage the semiconductor, flat panel display, and industrial markets.

In 2019, the company generated \$788.9 million of revenues.

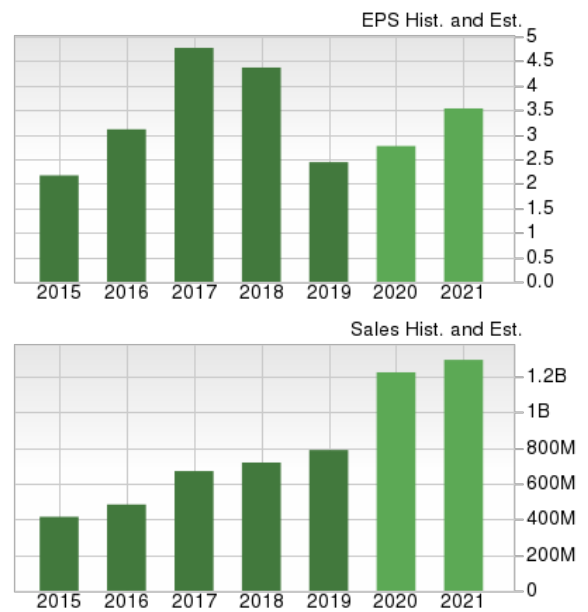
Sales Contribution by product line in 2019 was as follows—Semiconductor Equipment accounted for 51.1%, Industrial & Medical contributed 31.2%, Data Center Computing accounted for 11.6% and Telecom & Networking contributed the remaining 6.1%.

Customers in the semiconductor capital market incorporate products into equipment that make integrated circuits (ICs).

On the other hand, the industrial power capital market is comprised of products for Thin Films Industrial Power and Specialty Power applications.

Further, Advanced Energy made foray into two new growth markets – data center computing, and telecom and networking on the back of Artesyn Embedded Power acquisition.

Additionally, the company maintains its facilities throughout Asia, Europe and North America.



Reasons To Buy:

▲ A number of factors are expected to drive **Advanced Energy's semiconductor revenue** base. The most important factor is growing demand for the company's power solutions in advanced semiconductor applications. Increasing investments in complex 3D NAND devices, DRAM and logic are a big positive for the company. Moreover, NAND manufacturers focus on adding more layers. The additional layers should also drive demand for its power-control modules. Based on its portfolio strength, Advanced Energy is well positioned among the leading players, which should help the company generate strong revenues in the upcoming years.

Advanced Energy's leading market position, strong semi and industrial demand, strategic acquisitions and impressive balance sheet are major positives.

- ▲ Advanced Energy's **Industrial Revenues** should continue to grow in the near future. The increasing international customer base and new design wins in China and Korea, among others, present significant growth opportunity for Advanced Energy's Industrial business. Also, the acquisitions of Trek and Excelsys Holdings add to Advanced Energy's industrial portfolio, further expanding its opportunities in this market.
- ▲ Advanced Energy has been supplementing organizational growth with **strategic acquisitions**. When deciding on a target, management generally looks out for a particular niche expertise, which will complement one of its many product lines or round out its portfolio. Recently, the company completed the buyout of LumaSense Technologies. This has expanded the company's product portfolio with the addition of photonic-based measurement and monitoring solutions. Moreover, the deal provides a wider exposure to Advanced Energy in the power intensive industrial applications space. Further, the company's acquisition of Trek has added high voltage and electrostatic technology products to its specialty power products portfolio. In 2017, Advanced Energy acquired Excelsys Holdings, an electronics manufacturer in Ireland. In 2019, the company acquired Artesyn Embedded Power which helped it in making its foray into two new growth markets – data center computing, and telecom and networking. These deals are expected to continue aiding its top line growth in the near future.
- ▲ Advanced Energy has a solid balance sheet. As of Mar 31, 2020, the company's net cash amounted to \$17.6 million compared with \$7.4 million as of Dec 31, 2019. The strong net cash balance will not only help it pursue strategic acquisitions but will also enable it repurchase shares aggressively in the long haul. Further, debt-to-total capital was 39.5% as of Mar 31, 2020 which decreased from 39.8% as of Dec 31, 2019.
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Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ **Customer concentration** of the company is significant. Advanced Energy's growth profile highly depends on its two large original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), Applied Materials and Lam Research. Advanced Energy generated approximately 51.1% of 2018 revenues from its top two customers. Hence, customer concentration seems to be a perennial problem related to the nature of technology it offers.
- ▼ Advanced Energy is **exposed to fluctuations in foreign-currency rates** as international revenues account for a significant portion of its total revenues. The company generates a significant portion of sales internationally, and relies on international suppliers, manufacturing partners and distributors. Therefore, fluctuations in foreign-currency rates, changes in political or economic conditions and regulatory requirements, among others, could negatively impact the company's operations in the future.
- ▼ Acquisitions are part of Advanced Energy's growth strategy to supplement the top line. However, the company's inability to identify suitable acquisition candidates, unsuccessful execution and integration of new acquisitions, as well as an increase in acquisition costs due to stiff competition could negatively impact sales/margin performance. Large number of acquisitions increases risks of **integration issues**.

The forex headwinds, customer concentration, integration issues and end-market uncertainty may somewhat hamper its revenue growth.

Last Earnings Report

Advanced Energy Beats on Q1 Earnings & Revenues

Advanced Energy Industries reported first-quarter 2020 non-GAAP earnings of 91 cents per share, beating the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 42.2%. Further, the figure was higher than mid-point of management's guided range.

Further, the bottom line improved 56.9% on a year-over-year basis and 4.6% sequentially.

Revenues of \$315.5 million surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$310 million and came within management's guided range of \$280-\$340 million. Notably, the top line soared 124.1% from the year-ago quarter but declined 6.7% from the prior quarter.

The year-over-year improvement in the top line can be attributed to strength across semiconductor equipment, data center and, industrial and medical. Additionally, positive contributions from Artesyn Embedded Power buyout were tailwinds. Further, solid demand for the company's power supplies serving medical applications, owing to growing need for diagnostic and respiratory equipments in the coronavirus pandemic, contributed to the results.

However, the company bore the brunt of coronavirus-induced government restrictions, which impacted the operations of its production facilities during the reported quarter.

The company continues to expect COVID-19 led government restriction to impact the top line negatively in the near term. Also, coronavirus induced supply chain constraints remain concerns.

Nevertheless, the company remains optimistic regarding its power supplies for medical applications. Further, growth prospects related to 5G remain positives. Additionally, the company's Chinese factories have started running at full capacity, which remains noteworthy.

All these are likely to help the stock rebound in the near term.

Top-Line in Detail

Product revenues soared 158.1% year over year to \$289.4 million (91.7% of total revenues) in the first quarter.

Services revenues declined 8.8% from the prior-year quarter to \$26.1 million (8.3% of revenues). This was primarily due to sluggish semiconductor service business.

Product Line in Detail

Semiconductor Equipment revenues improved 46.1% year over year to \$133.6 million (42.4% of total revenues). The company witnessed growing investments in foundry/logic, which remained a tailwind. Also, strong memory investments contributed to the results. Additionally, growing momentum across RF and RPS remained positive.

However, COVID-19 induced capacity constraints in the company's service centres were headwinds.

Industrial & Medical revenues improved 25.7% year over year to \$61.9 million (19.6% of revenues). This can be attributed to increasing demand in medical and life science space.

However, COVID-19 impacted the shipment of certain products during the reported quarter.

Telecom & Networking revenues were \$33.7 million (10.7% of revenues), which decreased from \$12.5 million in the prior quarter. The company witnessed sluggish investments by telecom carriers, which hurt the OEM demand.

Data Center Computing revenues were \$86.2 million (27.3% of revenues), up significantly 10.6% from the previous quarter. Strengthening momentum across hyperscale customers benefited the company. Also, strong design wins contributed to the results.

Operating Results

In first quarter, non-GAAP gross profit was 37.8%, which contracted 920 basis points (bps) from the year-ago quarter.

Non-GAAP operating expenses came in \$74.7 million, up 63.3% year over year.

Further, non-GAAP operating margin was 14.1%, contracting 40 bps from the prior-year quarter.

Balance Sheet & Cash Flow

As of Mar 31, 2019, cash, cash equivalents and Marketable securities were \$355.03 million compared with \$349.1 million Dec 31, 2019.

Long-term debt stood at \$317.3 million at the end of first quarter, down from \$321.5 million at the end of fourth quarter.

During the first quarter, cash flow from operations was \$28.5 million compared with \$19 million in the fourth quarter.

Capital expenditure during the reported quarter stood at \$6.1 million, down from \$9.5 million in the prior quarter.

Guidance

Quarter Ending **03/2020**

| Report Date | May 06, 2020 |
|------------------|--------------|
| Sales Surprise | 1.69% |
| EPS Surprise | 42.19% |
| Quarterly EPS | 0.91 |
| Annual EPS (TTM) | 2.77 |

For second-quarter 2020, Advanced Energy expects non-GAAP earnings between 50 cents and \$1.10 per share.

Revenues are anticipated in the range of \$285-\$345 million.

The company expects strong momentum across semiconductor equipment market and data center space.

However, industrial and telecom markets are expected to be sluggish in the near term. Further, COVID-19 related headwinds are major concerns.

Recent News

On **Jan 7, 2020**, Advanced Energy's Artesyn Embedded Power unveiled a new 1300-watt quarter-brick dc-dc converter, BDQ1300. The latest converter is likely to aid the company's momentum across 48-volt data center and communications network equipment as it is capable of accepting an input voltage range from 40 to 60 volts.

On **Dec 10, 2019**, Advance Energy announced the opening of its Advanced Materials Processing (AMP) Showcase Lab near Frankfurt for plasma deposition and materials characterization.

On **Oct 22, 2019** Advanced Energy introduced AE's PowerInsight, a big data analytics enabling solution for critical power delivery systems.

Valuation

Advanced Energy shares are down 11.7% in the year-to-date period but up 33.1% over the trailing 12-month period. While stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are down 3.2%, the same in the Zacks Computer & Technology sector are up 1.5% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is up 50.7% and the sector is up 17.5%.

The S&P 500 index is down 9% in the year-to-date period but up 3.9% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 21.69X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 22.08X for the Zacks sub-industry, 23.77X for the Zacks sector and 21.15X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 33.89X and as low as 8.04X, with a 5-year median of 17.33X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$66 price target reflects 22.71X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for AEIS

| Valuation Multiples - AEIS | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|--------|---------|
| | | Stock | Sub-Industry | Sector | S&P 500 |
| P/E F 12M | Current | 21.69 | 22.08 | 23.77 | 21.15 |
| | 5-Year High | 33.89 | 22.46 | 23.77 | 21.15 |
| | 5-Year Low | 8.04 | 12.36 | 16.71 | 15.19 |
| | 5-Year Median | 17.33 | 17.24 | 19.26 | 17.45 |
| P/S F12M | Current | 1.94 | 6.4 | 3.64 | 3.3 |
| | 5-Year High | 5.58 | 6.44 | 3.64 | 3.44 |
| | 5-Year Low | 1.03 | 3.63 | 2.32 | 2.54 |
| | 5-Year Median | 3.16 | 4.85 | 3.1 | 3.02 |
| EV/EBITDA TTM | Current | 17.54 | 26.34 | 11.4 | 10.63 |
| | 5-Year High | 32.12 | 30.6 | 12.71 | 12.86 |
| | 5-Year Low | 3.75 | 9.4 | 7.56 | 8.28 |
| | 5-Year Median | 12.36 | 19.8 | 10.62 | 10.77 |

As of 05/11/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 32% (82 out of 253)



Top Peers

| Company (Ticker) | Rec | Rank |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------|
| Applied Materials Inc (AMAT) | Neutral | 3 |
| AMETEK Inc (AME) | Neutral | 3 |
| ASML Holding NV (ASML) | Neutral | 3 |
| KLA Corporation (KLAC) | Neutral | 3 |
| Lam Research Corporation (LRCX) | Neutral | 3 |
| MKS Instruments Inc (MKSI) | Neutral | 3 |
| Teradyne Inc (TER) | Neutral | 3 |
| Brüker Corporation (BRKR) | Underperform | 4 |

| Industry Comparison Industry: Semiconductor Equipment - Wafer Fabrication | | | | Industry Peers | | |
|---|---------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------|-----------|
| | AEIS | X Industry | S&P 500 | KLAC | MKSI | TER |
| Zacks Recommendation (Long Term) | Neutral | - | - | Neutral | Neutral | Neutral |
| Zacks Rank (Short Term) | 3 | - | - | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| VGM Score | B | - | - | A | B | B |
| Market Cap | 2.41 B | 43.83 B | 19.55 B | 26.17 B | 5.53 B | 10.46 B |
| # of Analysts | 5 | 6 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Dividend Yield | 0.00% | 1.18% | 2.13% | 2.01% | 0.80% | 0.63% |
| Value Score | C | - | - | C | D | D |
| Cash/Price | 0.15 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.07 |
| EV/EBITDA | 26.46 | 20.05 | 11.85 | 16.92 | 16.86 | 15.09 |
| PEG Ratio | 2.24 | 1.33 | 2.60 | 1.42 | NA | 1.55 |
| Price/Book (P/B) | 3.53 | 7.05 | 2.71 | 11.26 | 2.69 | 6.75 |
| Price/Cash Flow (P/CF) | 21.12 | 18.26 | 10.71 | 17.22 | 14.67 | 17.22 |
| P/E (F1) | 22.42 | 19.90 | 19.55 | 17.12 | 20.55 | 20.50 |
| Price/Sales (P/S) | 2.50 | 3.63 | 2.01 | 4.67 | 2.80 | 4.18 |
| Earnings Yield | 4.39% | 5.13% | 4.85% | 5.84% | 4.86% | 4.88% |
| Debt/Equity | 0.60 | 0.57 | 0.76 | 1.48 | 0.40 | 0.29 |
| Cash Flow (\$/share) | 2.98 | 5.81 | 7.01 | 9.80 | 6.86 | 3.66 |
| Growth Score | B | - | - | A | B | B |
| Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs) | 11.18% | 26.99% | 10.82% | 26.96% | 30.00% | 22.47% |
| Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0) | 13.52% | 13.37% | -9.99% | 16.55% | 8.27% | 7.65% |
| Curr. Cash Flow Growth | -35.66% | -30.45% | 5.83% | 18.14% | -27.42% | 9.31% |
| Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs) | 8.19% | 14.24% | 8.52% | 18.07% | 24.72% | 3.50% |
| Current Ratio | 2.84 | 2.78 | 1.27 | 2.61 | 4.53 | 3.31 |
| Debt/Capital | 37.55% | 36.40% | 44.41% | 59.70% | 28.56% | 22.29% |
| Net Margin | 7.02% | 20.32% | 10.59% | 18.26% | 9.99% | 21.80% |
| Return on Equity | 15.06% | 28.82% | 16.36% | 57.76% | 13.64% | 38.16% |
| Sales/Assets | 0.70 | 0.74 | 0.55 | 0.62 | 0.58 | 0.91 |
| Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0) | 55.24% | 10.08% | -2.41% | 25.84% | 4.96% | 13.09% |
| Momentum Score | A | - | - | A | B | A |
| Daily Price Chg | 0.16% | 0.08% | -0.95% | -1.59% | -1.11% | -3.04% |
| 1 Week Price Chg | 18.47% | 13.84% | 3.23% | 14.13% | 10.57% | 12.52% |
| 4 Week Price Chg | 24.79% | 9.67% | 4.49% | 10.97% | 15.93% | 3.53% |
| 12 Week Price Chg | -17.99% | -18.60% | -20.09% | -4.25% | -14.78% | -10.05% |
| 52 Week Price Chg | 33.34% | 38.71% | -7.00% | 55.09% | 26.42% | 37.92% |
| 20 Day Average Volume | 307,373 | 1,624,018 | 2,530,553 | 1,434,069 | 388,234 | 2,444,287 |
| (F1) EPS Est 1 week change | 23.07% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1.28% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| (F1) EPS Est 4 week change | 4.81% | 2.59% | -6.07% | 1.17% | -3.96% | 3.27% |
| (F1) EPS Est 12 week change | -17.18% | -12.57% | -15.69% | -3.33% | -20.60% | -6.17% |
| (Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg | 23.73% | 11.86% | -12.45% | -1.85% | -9.69% | 41.15% |

Zacks Stock Rating System

We offer two rating systems that take into account investors' holding horizons: Zacks Rank and Zacks Recommendation. Each provides valuable insights into the future profitability of the stock and can be used separately or in combination with each other depending on your investment style.

Zacks Recommendation

The Zacks Recommendation aims to predict performance over the next 6 to 12 months. The foundation for the quantitatively determined Zacks Recommendation is trends in the company's estimate revisions and earnings outlook. The Zacks Recommendation is broken down into 3 Levels; Outperform, Neutral and Underperform. Unlike many Wall Street firms, we have an excellent balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

Zacks Rank

The Zacks Rank is our short-term rating system that is most effective over the one- to three-month holding horizon. The underlying driver for the quantitatively-determined Zacks Rank is the same as the Zacks Recommendation, and reflects trends in earnings estimate revisions.

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Value Score | C |
| Growth Score | B |
| Momentum Score | A |
| VGM Score | B |

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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