

International Flavors (IFF)

\$121.25 (As of 04/08/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$129.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 03/04/19)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: D

Growth: A

Momentum: C

Summary

For 2020, International Flavors guided adjusted earnings per share at \$6.20-\$6.45 compared with prior year's \$6.17. The global market for flavors and fragrances continues to grow fueled by high demand for consumer products containing flavors and fragrances, which bodes well for the company. The company has entered into a definitive merger agreement with DuPont's Nutrition & Biosciences business unit to form a new entity, focused on creating a leading global integrated solution. The company focuses on accelerating growth through organic investments and strategic acquisitions, while returning significant capital to shareholders. However, higher debt following the acquisition and unfavorable foreign currency impact are likely to hurt results. The company's current year earnings estimates have been stable lately.

Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$152.95 - \$92.14
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	1,615,067
Market Cap	\$12.9 B
YTD Price Change	-6.0%
Beta	0.89
Dividend / Div Yld	\$3.00 / 2.5%
Industry	Consumer Products - Staples
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 34% (87 out of 253)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	2.8%
Last Sales Surprise	0.1%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	0.5%
Expected Report Date	05/04/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	20.7
P/E F1	19.3
PEG F1	NA
P/S TTM	2.5

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021					5,476 E
2020	1,294 E	1,323 E	1,308 E	1,309 E	5,240 E
2019	1,297 A	1,292 A	1,267 A	1,284 A	5,140 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021					\$6.87 E
2020	\$1.60 E	\$1.68 E	\$1.60 E	\$1.41 E	\$6.30 E
2019	\$1.57 A	\$1.30 A	\$1.53 A	\$1.46 A	\$6.17 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 04/08/2020. The reports text is as of 04/09/2020.

Overview

New York-based International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., together with its subsidiaries, engages in the creation and manufacture of fragrance and flavor products in the United States and internationally.

International Flavors acquired Frutarom in October 2018, creating a global leader in natural taste, scent and nutrition with a broader customer base, more diversified product offerings and more exposure to end markets, including those with a focus on naturals and health and wellness. It now has more than 90,000 products within its portfolio, serving customers across 195 countries. The company reports its results in three segments.

Starting in first-quarter 2020, International Flavors will report financial results in two segments, Taste and Scent, incorporating all Frutarom business into the Taste segment.

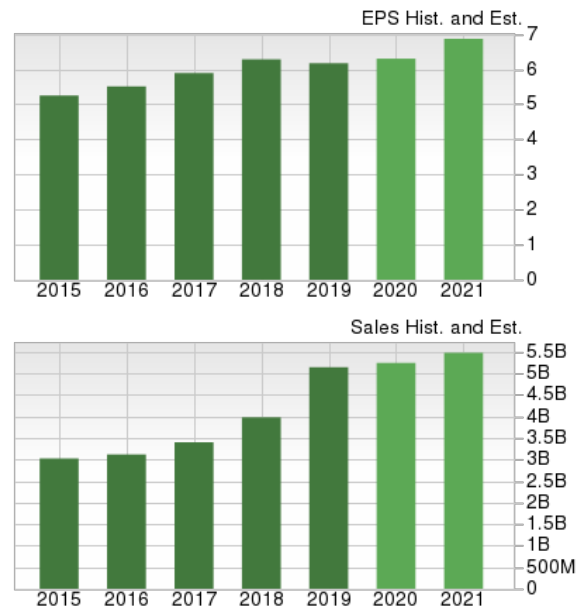
Taste segment (34% of net revenues in 2019) comprises Flavor Compounds which are sold to the food and beverage industries for use in consumer products, such as prepared foods, beverages, dairy, food and sweet products.

Scent (37% of net revenues in 2018) comprises Fragrance Compounds, which are ultimately used by customers in two broad categories — Fine Fragrances, including perfumes and colognes, and Consumer Fragrances, including fragrance compounds for personal care (soaps), household products (detergents and cleaning agents) and beauty care, including toiletries.

Fragrance Ingredients includes synthetic and natural ingredients which can be combined with other materials to create unique fine fragrance and consumer compounds.

Cosmetic Active Ingredients, consisting of active and functional ingredients, botanicals and delivery systems to support our customers' cosmetic and personal care product lines. Major fragrance customers include the cosmetics industry, including perfume and toiletries manufacturers, and the household products industry, including manufacturers of soaps, detergents, fabric care, household cleaners and air fresheners.

Frutarom (29% of revenues in 2019) creates and manufactures a naturals-focused suite of flavor compounds, functional foods and specialty fine ingredients, largely targeting small, local



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ International Flavors has initiated its guidance for 2020. Sales are projected at \$5.15-\$5.35 billion compared with the \$5.14 billion in 2019. Adjusted earnings per share are expected in the band of \$4.89-\$5.14. Adjusted earnings per share, excluding amortization, are anticipated in the band of \$6.20-\$6.45, compared with prior year's \$6.17. The company has reaffirmed long-term financial targets for 2019-2021. On a currency neutral sales basis, it projects sales growth between 1% and 5% and earnings per share (EPS) growth of 3.5-7.5%, excluding amortization.
- ▲ Robust growth is being witnessed among local and regional customers, almost twice that of global customers, which comprises the company's 50% customer base. Frutarom's tastes and flavor solutions were transitioned under legacy taste business unit. Further, focus to drive greater efficiencies throughout the business through costs and productivity initiatives, margin improvement, acquisition-related synergies and favorable taxes continue to drive overall profits. The company's productivity initiatives will enable the company to check costs, make strategic investments and expand businesses globally.
- ▲ The global market for flavors and fragrances continues to grow propelled by increasing in demand for a variety of consumer products containing flavors and fragrances. The market is projected to grow approximately 2-3% by 2021, primarily driven by anticipated growth in emerging markets. Consequently, International Flavors & Fragrances is focused on gaining share in emerging markets. Over the past five years, the company's currency neutral sales growth rate in emerging markets has outpaced that of developed markets. Backed by the company's global presence, diversified business platform, broad product portfolio, global and regional customer base, it will be able to capitalize on the expansion in flavors and fragrances markets and deliver long-term growth.
- ▲ New business wins and a diversified product portfolio have worked in favor of International Flavors & Fragrances. Over time, the company has made meaningful acquisitions, which have helped expand offerings and in turn profitability. Last October, the company completed the acquisition of Frutarom, the largest deal in the industry to date. Together, International Flavors and Frutarom created a global leader in natural taste, scent and nutrition with a broader customer base, more diversified product offerings and more exposure to end markets, including those with a focus on naturals and health and wellness. It expects to complete the Frutarom integration by the end of this year. Also, the company announced expansion of Tastepoint model in key markets globally to serve faster growing small- and mid-sized customer. The company continues to anticipate generating cost synergies of more than \$145 million over the long haul. Synergies are expected to come from procurement, footprint optimization and streamlining of overhead expenses. In addition, the company identified initial cross-selling opportunities supported by its Tastepoint model to drive top-line growth of \$150 million in the current year. Starting in first-quarter 2020, International Flavors will report financial results in two segments, Taste and Scent, incorporating all Frutarom business into the Taste segment.
- ▲ At the end of 2019, International Flavors entered into a definitive merger agreement with DuPont's Nutrition & Biosciences ("N&B") business unit to form a new entity, focused on creating a leading global integrated solution. The company is well poised to grow on this merger deal. The transaction is likely to close by the end of first-quarter 2021 upon approval by International Flavors' shareholders. Moreover, International Flavors expects to realize cost savings of around \$300 million on a run-rate basis by after closing the transaction.
- ▲ International Flavors & Fragrances continues to maintain a disciplined approach to capital allocation even as it focuses on accelerating growth through organic investments and strategic acquisitions, while returning significant capital to shareholders. At the fourth-quarter end, the company's net debt to EBITDA ratio was 3.2x, down from 3.6x as of the year ago quarter. The company also remains committed to bringing its net debt to EBITDA to less than 3.0x by the end of the current year.

Growing global demand for flavors and fragrances will continue to drive International Flavors' growth. It will also gain on cost cutting efforts, productivity initiatives and acquisitions.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ Continued geopolitical tension and uncertainties regarding trade wars and coronavirus pandemic concerns. Also, unfavorable currency is anticipated to be a headwind on combined sales growth.
- ▼ Over time, the company has been grappling with the adverse impacts of rising costs and expenses. In the last five years (2014-2018), its cost of sales has witnessed a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7% while adjusted selling, general and administrative and research and development expenses together have increased at a CAGR of 8%. We believe, if unchecked, higher costs and operating expenses are likely to prove detrimental to its margins and profitability.
- ▼ A highly leveraged balance sheet can inflate International Flavors & Fragrances' financial obligations, and subsequently, hurt its profitability. Following the debt raised to fund the Frutarom acquisition, the company borrowed \$3.3 billion of debt. The higher interest burden may have a negative impact on earnings.
- ▼ Market for the flavors and fragrances segment is fragmented and highly competitive. The company might not be able to combat the raw material inflation with price increases given the aggressive price competition, which would negatively impact its profits. Further, the company's presence in international markets (accounting for 75% of its net sales) has exposed it to currency-translation risks. Another cause of concern is that increasing awareness of health and wellness are driving changes in the consumer products industry. Consumers in developed economies such as the United States and Western Europe, are now shifting away from products containing artificial ingredients to all natural, healthier alternatives.

Rising costs and unfavorable foreign currency impact are likely to affect International Flavors' near-term results. Higher debt levels to fund the Frutarom acquisition remains a concern.

Last Earnings Report

International Flavors' Q4 Earnings & Sales Top Estimates

International Flavors reported adjusted earnings of \$1.46 per share in fourth-quarter 2019, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.42. The bottom-line figure increased 18.7% from the year-ago quarter's \$1.23.

Including one-time items, earnings per share in the quarter came in at 70 cents compared with the 9 cents recorded in the year-ago quarter.

In the reported quarter, International Flavors' net sales were \$1.3 billion, reflecting year-over-year growth of 5%. In addition, the top-line figure beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.2 billion. In the fourth quarter, the company registered high-single digit currency neutral sales growth and robust double-digit adjusted EPS growth.

Quarter Ending **12/2019**

Report Date	Feb 12, 2020
Sales Surprise	0.06%
EPS Surprise	2.82%
Quarterly EPS	1.46
Annual EPS (TTM)	5.86

Operational Highlights

In the December-end quarter, International Flavors' cost of goods sold was up 5% year over year to \$781.6 million. Adjusted gross profit inched up 0.8% year over year to \$503 million. Adjusted gross margin came in at 39% compared with the 41% witnessed in the year-ago quarter.

Research and development expenses flared up 3% year over year to \$85.6 million. Adjusted selling and administrative expenses during the final quarter of 2019 slipped 5.3% year over year to \$195 million. Adjusted operating profit increased 7% year over year to \$173.5 million. Adjusted operating margin came in at 13.5% compared with the year-ago quarter's 13.3%.

Segmental Performances

Revenues in the Taste segment increased 7%, year over year, to \$429.9 million during the October-December period. On a constant-currency basis, revenues improved 8% year over year driven by double-digit growth in Greater Asia and high single-digit growth in North America. Operating profit climbed 2% year over year to \$78.7 million. The company witnessed stellar growth in Beverage and Savory, led by strong new business win.

Revenues generated in the Scent segment came in at \$478.3 million, up 4% year over year. On a constant-currency basis, revenues grew 6% year over year. Operating profit increased 7% year over year to \$73 million.

The Frutarom segment's revenues came in at \$375.6 million, indicating year-over-year growth of 4.5%. Operating profit was \$32 million during the reported quarter compared with the \$27 million recorded in the year-ago quarter.

Financial Position

International Flavors had cash and cash equivalents of \$624 million as of Dec 31, 2019, down from the \$648 million at the end of 2018. Long-term debt fell to \$3,997 million as of Dec 31, 2019, from \$4,504 million in 2018.

International Flavors generated \$699 million of cash from operating activities during the 12-month period ended Dec 31, 2019, compared with the \$438 million reported in year-earlier period. Capital invested in purchasing property, plant and equipment totaled \$236 million as of Dec 31, 2019. Dividend paid totaled \$313.5 million in 2019.

2019 Results

International Flavors reported adjusted earnings per share of \$6.17 in 2019, up 0.9% from the prior year's \$6.23. Earnings, however, missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$6.18. Including one-time items, earnings per share came in at \$4.00 compared with the \$3.79 recorded in the last year.

Sales increased 29% year over year to \$5.14 billion in 2019. The top-line figure came in line with the Zacks Consensus Estimate.

Outlook

International Flavors has issued its guidance for 2020. Sales are projected at \$5.15-\$5.35 billion. Adjusted earnings per share are expected in the \$4.89-\$5.14 band. Adjusted earnings excluding amortization are anticipated between \$6.20 and \$6.45.

However, currency is likely to erode top-line growth in the current year. Also, the company expects a modest impact from the recent coronavirus outbreak in Asia. It expects to achieve a net debt to EBITDA ratio of less than 3.0x by the end of this year.

Starting in first-quarter 2020, International Flavors will report financial results in two segments, Taste and Scent, incorporating all Frutarom business into the Taste segment. Moreover, in the ongoing year, the company is well poised to grow on the successful merger with DuPont Nutrition & Biosciences.

Recent News

International Flavors Seals Merger Deal With DuPont Arm - Dec 15, 2019

International Flavors has entered into a definitive merger agreement with DuPont's Nutrition & Biosciences ("N&B") business unit to form a new entity, focused on creating a leading global integrated solution. The combined entity is valued at \$45.4 billion on an enterprise basis.

DuPont's Nutrition & Biosciences business offers solutions for home and personal care, food and beverage, dietary supplements, energy, animal nutrition and pharmaceuticals markets. It is one of the biggest producers of specialty ingredients. The division accounted for 29% of DuPont's third-quarter 2019 sales.

Transaction in Detail

Under the terms of agreement, DuPont shareholders will own 55.4% of the newly-formed company, while International Flavors shareholders will hold the remaining. Upon closing of the deal, DuPont will get a one-time cash payment of \$7.3 billion. The deal has been approved by the boards of both companies. The combination will be executed through a Reverse Morris Trust transaction.

Detailing of the New Entity

The new entity will be based in New York. It is expected to be a global leader in high-value ingredients and solutions for food and beverage, home and personal care, and health & wellness markets. The newly-formed company will have attractive positions across key growth categories, which include Taste, Scent, Texture, Nutrition, Enzymes, Cultures, Soy Proteins and Probiotics. With expanded global reach and enhanced capabilities, the company will be able to meet customers' increasing preference for natural and healthier products.

Besides, shareholders will benefit from a highly profitable business with strong cash flow. The company expects to register stellar top-line growth as well as enhanced margins, with further benefit from cost synergies and revenue growth.

Financial Benefits

The integrated company will have estimated current-year revenues of more than \$11 billion and EBITDA of \$2.6 billion. The company expects adjusted EBITDA margin of around 23% prior synergies and 26% with run-rate cost synergies based on estimated results for the ongoing year. Over the long term, the company expects mid-single digit revenue growth with solid cash-flow generation. Further, the new company will continue to maintain International Flavors' current dividend policy.

Moreover, International Flavors expects to realize cost savings of around \$300 million on a run-rate basis by the end of the third year after closing the transaction. In fact, these cost synergies will be driven by streamlining overhead, procurement excellence and manufacturing efficiencies. Additionally, the new entity's targeted cost-synergy to deliver more than \$400 million in run-rate revenue synergies would result in EBITDA of \$175 million, spurred by cross-selling opportunities and leveraging the extended capabilities across a broader range of customers. Also, International Flavors continues to maintain investment-grade rating.

Guidance

International Flavors has reiterated its guidance for 2019. Sales are projected at \$5.15-\$5.25 billion. Adjusted earnings per share are expected in the band of \$4.85-\$5.05. Adjusted earnings, excluding amortization, are anticipated between \$6.15 and \$6.35.

DuPont reaffirmed total annual revenue guidance at \$21.5 billion and adjusted earnings per share of \$3.77 to \$3.82. DuPont expects operating EBITDA to be at the lower end of the previously-guided range, due to temporary supply-chain disruptions in Safety & Construction (S&C) and Electronics & Imaging (E&I).

The transaction is likely to close by the end of the first quarter of 2021 upon approval by International Flavors' shareholders. Both companies have obtained fully-committed debt financing from Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse. Upon the deal's closure, the new entity's board will consist of the seven current directors of International Flavors and six appointed by DuPont. International Flavors' chief executive officer Andreas Fibig will run the combined company and also continue to be the board chairman.

Valuation

International Flavors' shares are down 7.1% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in Consumer Products – Staples industry are down 19.5% and the Zacks Consumer Staples sector is down 11.1% over the past year.

The S&P 500 index has lost 5% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 18.74X forward 12-month earnings, which compares with 20.62X for the Zacks sub-industry, 17.96X for the Zacks sector and 17.70X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 26.92X and as low as 15.58X, with a 5-year median of 21.12X.

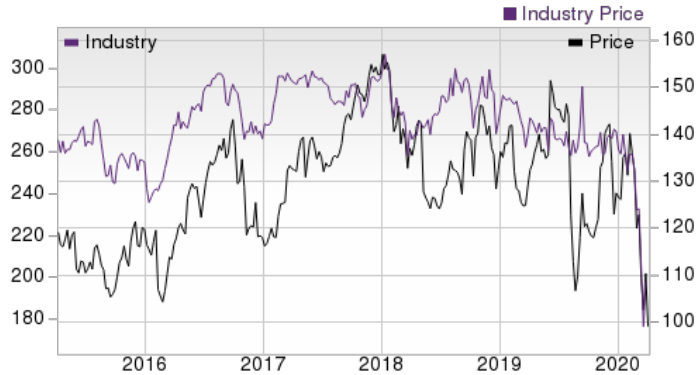
Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$129 price target reflects 19.94X forward 12-month earnings per share.

The table below shows summary valuation data for IFF:

Valuation Multiples - IFF					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	18.74	20.62	17.96	17.7
	5-Year High	26.92	21.93	22.37	19.34
	5-Year Low	15.58	13.74	16.49	15.19
	5-Year Median	21.12	17.97	19.66	17.45
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	13.69	11.16	33.22	10.09
	5-Year High	20.49	19.73	45.9	12.87
	5-Year Low	11.27	3.64	27.88	8.27
	5-Year Median	14.94	12.61	39.07	10.78
P/B TTM	Current	2.08	8.83	10.94	3.66
	5-Year High	7.33	24.63	20.29	4.55
	5-Year Low	1.62	3.08	9.07	2.84
	5-Year Median	5.77	6.69	16.79	3.63

As of 04/08/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 34% (87 out of 253)



Top Peers

The Clorox Company (CLX)	Outperform
e.l.f. Beauty Inc. (ELF)	Outperform
Conagra Brands Inc. (CAG)	Neutral
Church & Dwight Co., Inc. (CHD)	Neutral
Campbell Soup Company (CPB)	Neutral
The Estee Lauder Companies Inc. (EL)	Neutral
Hershey Company (The) (HSY)	Neutral
The Kraft Heinz Company (KHC)	Underperform

Industry Comparison Industry: Consumer Products - Staples				Industry Peers		
	IFF Neutral	X Industry	S&P 500	CAG Neutral	CHD Neutral	CPB Neutral
VGM Score	B	-	-	B	B	B
Market Cap	12.95 B	2.81 B	19.05 B	15.25 B	16.86 B	13.93 B
# of Analysts	3	5	13	8	11	6
Dividend Yield	2.47%	0.00%	2.23%	2.71%	1.40%	3.03%
Value Score	D	-	-	B	D	B
Cash/Price	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.00
EV/EBITDA	16.02	9.16	11.47	15.67	18.09	13.17
PEG Ratio	NA	3.15	2.00	2.03	3.12	2.39
Price/Book (P/B)	2.08	2.46	2.56	1.94	6.31	5.57
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	12.66	12.66	10.14	12.40	21.05	12.17
P/E (F1)	19.89	18.73	16.97	14.18	25.65	17.09
Price/Sales (P/S)	2.52	1.16	2.01	1.47	3.87	1.68
Earnings Yield	5.20%	4.78%	5.81%	7.06%	3.89%	5.85%
Debt/Equity	0.64	0.73	0.70	1.16	0.68	1.97
Cash Flow (\$/share)	9.58	2.31	7.01	2.52	3.26	3.79
Growth Score	A	-	-	C	B	C
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	3.38%	3.38%	10.92%	-2.98%	11.40%	-1.52%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	2.11%	1.89%	-0.64%	9.89%	8.28%	17.47%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	40.43%	5.95%	5.93%	10.04%	12.70%	-12.42%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	15.13%	4.69%	8.55%	-0.87%	9.63%	0.50%
Current Ratio	1.90	1.38	1.24	0.87	0.88	0.61
Debt/Capital	39.67%	51.84%	42.36%	53.63%	40.42%	66.31%
Net Margin	8.87%	1.73%	11.64%	7.37%	14.13%	17.46%
Return on Equity	10.78%	13.40%	16.74%	12.08%	24.16%	50.69%
Sales/Assets	0.39	1.06	0.54	0.47	0.67	0.64
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	1.95%	4.98%	0.61%	15.33%	6.23%	-12.23%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	B	A	A
Daily Price Chg	6.34%	2.49%	4.33%	2.82%	2.39%	-1.24%
1 Week Price Chg	-10.27%	-5.91%	-4.40%	11.78%	9.17%	12.08%
4 Week Price Chg	8.96%	-2.02%	-1.70%	16.78%	0.29%	-8.54%
12 Week Price Chg	-6.69%	-11.86%	-20.64%	-1.94%	-4.50%	-3.39%
52 Week Price Chg	-7.08%	-10.03%	-12.97%	6.53%	-6.30%	17.97%
20 Day Average Volume	1,615,067	708,521	4,016,075	7,205,591	2,596,387	4,292,918
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	-0.26%	0.00%	0.07%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	0.48%	-0.37%	-5.64%	8.73%	0.00%	3.78%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-3.93%	-4.05%	-7.49%	3.91%	-0.41%	6.53%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	0.00%	-0.71%	-9.90%	41.77%	0.55%	10.32%

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	D
Growth Score	A
Momentum Score	C
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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