

| Cash Assets | 6658.9 | 7524.9 | 10778.5 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Receivables | 885.4 | 1136.8 | 1442.2 |

Receivables Inventory
Other
Current Assets
Accts Payable
Debt Due
Other
Current Liab.
ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 $\begin{array}{llll}\text { of change (per sh) } & 10 \text { Yrs. } & 5 \text { Yrs. } & \text { to '26-'28 }\end{array}$ "Cevenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Book Value
885.41136 .81442 .2 $\begin{array}{lll}280.8 & 353.1 & 460.6 \\ 308.3 & 545.8 & 553.5\end{array}$ $308.3 \quad 545.8 \quad 553.5$ $155.1 \quad 195.0 \quad 303.9$
$1722.4 \quad 1947.0 \quad 2438.2$ $\overline{1877.5} \quad \overline{2142.0} \quad \overline{2742.1}$

BUSINESS: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. discovers, develops, and commercializes transformative medicines for serious diseases. Current treatments are primarily focused on cystic fibrosis (CF). It also has a pipeline of investigational small molecule drugs for other illnesses, beyond CF, such as pain and kidney disease, and has programs for cell and genetic therapies. Approved CF drugs incl.
We think another record showing is on tap at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in 2023, after last year's outstanding performance. To wit, revenues and earnings surged to their highest levels in 2022, driven by continued rapid sales uptake of Trikafta/(Kaftrio in the EU), a triple-drug blend of elexacaftor, tezacaftor, and ivacaftor approved for treating cystic fibrosis (CF), a debilitating lung disease, in patients ages 12 and up. And results stand to climb further this year. Vertex expects revenues of $\$ 9.55$ billion- $\$ 9.7$ billion in 2023, as label expansions of the key CF therapy (targeting patients ages 6 and up, and pending approval for kids 2-5 years old) gains traction outside the U.S. Despite currency headwinds, clinical development and commercialization investments, and $\$ 300$ million in milestone payments to be made, profits may well set another record. A new drug could soon be launched. Recall that Vertex, together with CRISPR Therapeutics, recently developed a geneediting therapy called exa-cel (formerly CTX001) for beta-thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease. The drug has been moving through the regulatory process in

Kalydeco (ivacattor) (1/12); Orkambi (lumacaftorivacaftor) (7/15); Symdeko (tezacaftor/ivacattor) (2/18); Trikafta (10/19). Has about 4,800 empls. Off./dirs. own less than $1 \%$ of comm. stock; BlackRock, 9.4\% (4/22 proxy). Chrmn.: Dr. Jeffrey M. Leiden. Pres. \& CEO: Dr. Reshma Kewalramani. Inc.: MA. Addr.: 50 Northern Ave., Boston, MA 02210. Tel.: 617-341-6100. Internet: www.vrtx.com.
the EU and the U.K., while in the U.S., Vertex is on track to complete its filing for a biologics license by the end of March.
Efforts to bolster the core CF franchise continue. Indeed, label expansions, reimbursement in new markets, and new drugs are part of Vertex's strategy to treat the underlying disease across a broader, younger patient group. The company currently awaits the regulatory blessing on Trikafta/Kaftrio for kids ages 2-5, in the U.S., EU, and the U.K., and on Kalydeco in some global markets for infants of 1-4 months. Vertex is working with Moderna to explore mRNA therapies for CF, too.
Other R\&D programs beyond CF are making headway, too. Besides beta thalassemia and sickle cell diseases, midand late-stage studies are ongoing, addressing such illnesses/conditions as Type 1 diabetes, kidney disease, pain, protein deficiencies, and muscular dystrophy.
Good-quality Vertex stock is timely. But, while an expanding CF lineup and other pipeline opportunities should boost profits out to 2026-2028, the issue's appreciation potential is unexciting at this price. J. Susan Ferrara

March 3, 2023

