

STOCK RESEARCH

Period End Date: 12/31/2013 Closing Price as of 10/21/2014: \$94.24

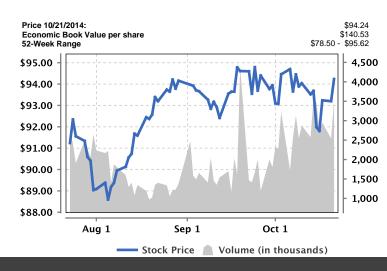
## **Very Attractive**

## The Travelers Companies, Inc. (TRV)

#### NYSE - Financials

#### **Investment Recommendation**

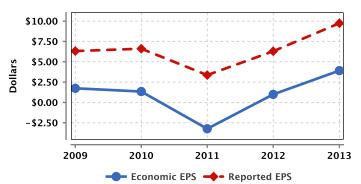
- · We strongly recommend investors buy TRV.
- TRV earns our Very Attractive rating. See Investment Rating Details below.
- A Very Attractive rating means this stock has superior upside potential with low downside risk.
- TRV ranks in the 99th percentile of the 3000+ stocks we cover.
- 14 out of 598 Financials Sector stocks.



#### Investment Rating Details

Overall Beting	Quality of Earnings		Valuation			
Overall Rating	Economic vs Reported EPS	Return on Invested Capital (ROIC)	FCF Yield	Price-to-EBV Ratio	Growth Appreciation Period (yrs)	
Very Dangerous	Misleading Trend	Bottom Quintile	<-5%	> 3.5 or -1 < 0	> 50	
Dangerous	False Positive	4th Quintile	-5%<-1%	2.4 < 3.5 or < -1	20 < 50	
Neutral	Neutral EE	3rd Quintile	-1%<3%	1.6 < 2.4	10 < 20	
Attractive	Positive EE	2nd Quintile	3%<10%	1.1 < 1.6	3 < 10	
Very Attractive	Rising EE	Top Quintile	>10%	0 < 1.1	0 < 3	
Actual Values	\$3.91 vs. \$9.74	12.4%	11.3%	0.67	0	
S&P 500 (SPY)	Neutral EE	20.1%	4.0%	2.51	29	
Russell 2000 (IWM)	Neutral EE	7.6%	(1.2%)	4.47	60	

#### Accounting vs Economic Earnings



#### **Earnings & Valuation Diligence Summary**

- TRV's accounting earnings overstate its economic earnings.
- For TRV, we made 21 income statement and balance sheet adjustments to convert accounting earnings to economic earnings in FY13 for a total value of \$6,094 million.
- We made 3 adjustments equal to \$1,099 million in our DCF valuation of the stock.
- TRV ranks 1,716 of all the companies we cover for the number of earnings adjustments and 445 for the number of valuation adjustments.
- See Appendices 1 and 2 for details on our <u>adjustments.</u>

Stock Performance		Key Market Statistics		Need Help?
Year to Date	5.9%	Enterprise Value (MM)	\$33,073	<ul> <li>Stock Report Tutorial</li> <li>Virtual Tour of all research services</li> <li>Get More Ratings</li> <li>Stock Rating Methodology</li> </ul>
Last 30 Days	(0.4%)	Market Value (MM)	\$31,951	
Last 60 Days	1.1%	Shares Outstanding (thousands)	339,044	
Last 90 Days	3.3%	30 Day Avg Volume (thousands)	2,159	
Last Year	11.2%	<u>EBV per Share</u>	\$140.53	



#### Economic vs Reported Earnings

#### Economic Earnings are Very Attractive

Economic Earnings are almost always meaningfully different than reported earnings. We believe Economic Earnings provide a truer measure of profitability and shareholder value creation than reported earnings because they have been adjusted to remove over twenty accounting distortions.

The majority of data required to reverse accounting distortions is available only in the Footnotes and MD&A, which we analyze rigorously. Our core competency is gathering and analyzing all relevant financial data from filings so that we can deliver earnings analysis that best represents the true profitability of businesses.

Economic Earnings per share (EEPS) for TRV are \$3.91 for the last fiscal year and earn a Very Attractive rating.

#### **Return on Invested Capital (ROIC)**

#### **ROIC vs WACC is Attractive**

<u>ROIC</u> measures a company's return on all cash invested in the business. It is the truest measure of profitability. Stock valuations are more highly correlated to ROIC than any other metric.

<u>Weighted-Average Cost of Capital</u> (WACC) is the average of debt and equity capital costs that all publicly traded companies with debt and equity stakeholders incur as a cost of operating.

Companies must earn an ROIC greater than WACC to generate positive economic earnings and create value for shareholders.

TRV's ROIC of 12.4% compared to its WACC of 7.8% in the last fiscal year earns an Attractive rating.

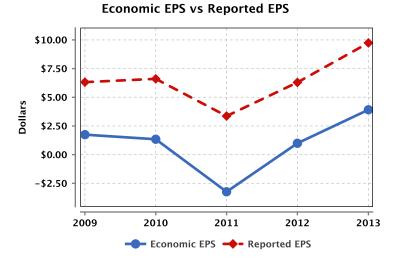
#### Free Cash Flow Yield (FCF Yield)

#### Free Cash Flow Yield is Very Attractive

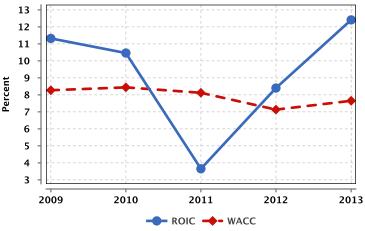
<u>Free Cash Flow</u> reflects the amount of cash free for distribution to all stakeholders (including debt & equity). FCF Yield divides free cash flow by <u>enterprise value</u>.

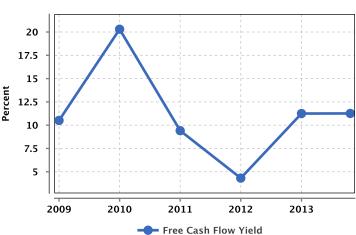
Using Free Cash Flow Yield to pick stocks is not a new strategy. However, our strategy yields superior results because we use a better measure of Free Cash Flow. In the same way our Economic EPS are better measures of profitability than reported EPS, our measure of Free Cash Flow is better than traditional accounting-based Free Cash Flow.

TRV's current FCF is \$3,725 million. The FCF Yield is 11.3% and earns a Very Attractive rating.



ROIC vs WACC







The Travelers Companies, Inc. (TRV)



#### Price-to-EBV Ratio

#### Price-to-EBV Ratio is Very Attractive

Price-to-Economic Book Value (EBV) measures the difference between the market's expectations for future profits and the no-growth value of the stock.

EBV measures the no-growth value of the company based on the company's current Net Operating Profit After Tax (NOPAT).

When prices are higher than EBV, the market predicts the NOPAT of the company will increase and expectations for profit growth are reflected in the stock. If the stock price equals EBV, the market predicts NOPAT will remain the same and there are no expectations for profit growth reflected in the stock. When stock prices are lower than EBV, the market predicts NOPAT will decrease and expectations for permanent profit decline are reflected in the stock.

In general, we like to buy stocks with low expectations for profit growth and sell/short stocks with high expectations for profit growth.

TRV's current Price-to-EBV per share is 0.7 and earns a Very Attractive rating.

#### **Growth Appreciation Period**

#### The Growth Appreciation Period is Very Attractive

The market-implied duration of profit growth or GAP measures the number of years the company must maintain an edge over its competitors by earning ROIC greater than the weighted-average cost of capital on new investments.

We believe TRV embeds a Very Attractive level of market expectations because there is a conservative level of expected financial performance implied by its market price compared to the company's historical performance.

At TRV's current stock price of \$94.24 the market is expecting almost no profit growth over the remainder of the company's life. As a result, expectations in TRV's price are very conservative.

These results are derived using our <u>dynamic discounted cash</u> <u>flow model</u>.

#### Stock Price vs Economic Book Value (EBV) Per Share



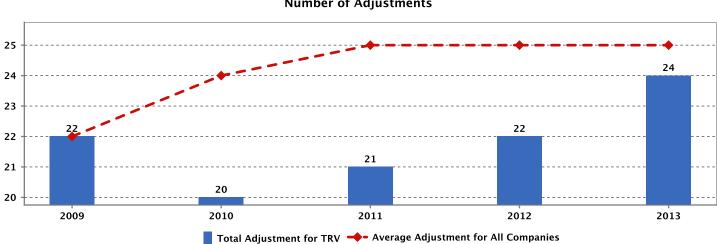
	Histo	rical Perform	Market Expectations	
Performance Hurdles	5 Yr	3Yr	Last FY	Default
				based on current price
Stock Price	\$49.86	\$59.17	\$90.54	\$94.24
Revenue CAGR	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	-
Avg Economic Earnings Margin	1.3%	0.5%	4.8%	-
Growth Appreciation Period	-	-	-	< 1 year



## Protecting You From Misleading Accounting Loopholes

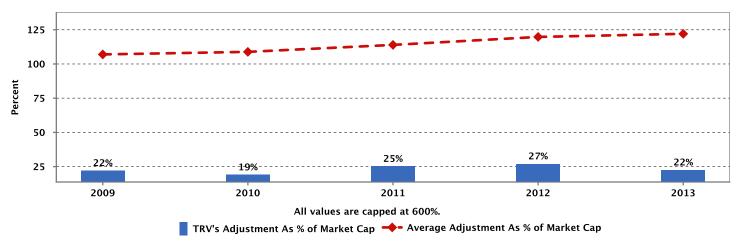
Our experts know where the (accounting) bodies are buried. Since 1996, we have combed through 70,000+ corporate filings. We know how to find what companies may try to hide. We protect clients from the constantly changing landscape of accounting loopholes and hidden items buried deep in footnotes, the Management Discussion & Analysis ("MD&A") and other disclosures. Our experts review thousands of pages of corporate disclosures and filings to ensure that you have the best possible research on earnings quality and valuation.

Values in millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Adjustments Summary for The Travelers Companies	s, Inc.				
Number of Adjustments	22	20	21	22	24
Average for all companies	22	24	25	25	25
Total Value of Adjustments	\$7,039	\$6,056	\$8,031	\$8,615	\$7,193
Total Value of Adjustments as % of market cap	22%	19%	25%	27%	22%
Average for all companies	107%	109%	114%	120%	122%



Number of Adjustments

#### \$ Value of Adjustments As % of Market Cap





#### **Income Statement Adjustments**

We made 10 adjustments to convert The Travelers Companies, Inc.'s reported 2013 earnings to NOPAT, for a net impact of \$135 million. We net 3 income adjustments of \$300 million against 7 expense adjustments of \$435 million.

80% of companies require more adjustments to reported earnings as a percent of revenue than TRV to calculate NOPAT.

The most notable accounting distortion to reported Net Income for TRV in 2013 is \$91 million (less than 1% of revenue) of nonoperating income hidden in operating line items. Non-operating income line items are unusual items that don't appear on the income statement because they are bundled in other line items. Without carefully studying the footnotes, investors would miss these non-operating line items located in operating items, making the company look more profitable then it is.

Our adjustments to reported earnings enable us to calculate an accurate NOPAT, a key component of our ROIC and economics earnings calculations. There are, in general, <u>9 types of</u> adjustments that we make to convert reported net income to <u>NOPAT</u>. NOPAT is the after-tax operating cash generated by the business, excluding unusual items, financing costs and other non-cash items.

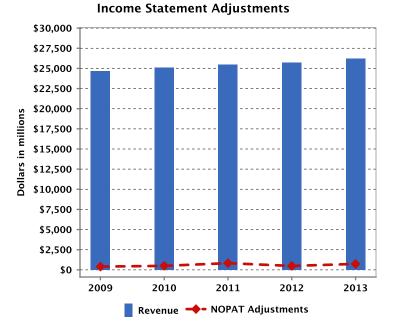
#### **Balance Sheet Adjustments**

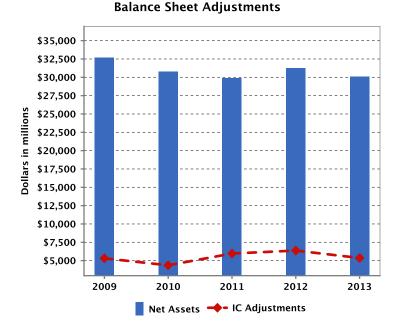
We made 11 adjustments to convert The Travelers Companies, Inc.'s reported 2013 net assets to Invested Capital, for a net impact of \$381 million. We net 4 asset decrease adjustments of \$2,489 million against 7 increase adjustments of \$2,870 million.

85% of companies require more adjustments than TRV to calculate Invested Capital.

The most notable accounting distortion to reported net assets for TRV in 2013 is \$1,834 million in adjustments for Other Comprehensive Income, which is 6% of reported net assets. We remove OCI from our invested capital calculation to (1) better represent the actual capital on hand for management to generate a return and (2) avoid the noise from the fluctuations of OCI.

Our adjustments to reported net assets enable us to calculate an accurate <u>Invested Capital</u>, a key component of our ROIC and economics earnings calculations. There are, in general, <u>12 types</u> of adjustment that we make to convert reported net assets to <u>Invested Capital</u>. Invested Capital is the sum of all cash that has been invested in a company over its life without regard to financing form or accounting name.







#### **Stock Valuation Adjustments**

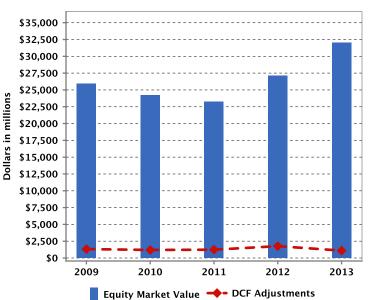
We made 3 adjustments for a net impact of \$1,099 million to our DCF model for The Travelers Companies, Inc. in 2013, consisting entirely of adjustments that decrease value.

95% of companies require more adjustments as a percent of market value to calculate valuation metrics.

The most notable accounting distortion to these valuation metrics for TRV in 2013 was off-balance-sheet operating leases. We adjusted shareholder value by \$704 million, which is 2% of the firm's market value. The fair value of operating leases is subtracted from shareholder value because this is the value of cash that will be paid on these obligations and not available to shareholders.

Our valuation adjustments protect clients from unknowns that could blow stocks up. These adjustments enable us to derive more accurate calculations for Economic Book Value, Enterprise Value and our Discounted Cash Flow Model. There are, in general, <u>10 types of adjustments that we apply to our valuation metrics.</u>

#### **Stock Valuation Adjustments**





## **Appendix 1: Adjustments for Economic Earnings**

Reported earnings don't tell the whole truth of a company's profits. We scour the footnotes and fine print so clients have the whole truth. Full details on our adjustment methodologies are <u>here</u>. See our <u>Company Models</u> <u>tutorials</u> to learn how you can modify adjustments and see where we find them in SEC filings.

Values in millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Income Statement Adjustments					
GAAP Net Income	\$3,593.00	\$3,188.00	\$1,414.00	\$2,454.00	\$3,646.00
Total Non-Operating Expense Hidden in Operating Earnings	(\$13.00)	\$16.00	\$41.00	\$50.00	(\$40.00)
Reported Net Non-Operating Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Change in Total Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Implied Interest for PV of Operating Leases	\$29.74	\$27.69	\$22.40	\$23.30	\$31.40
Non-Operating Tax Adjustment	\$1.97	\$49.80	(\$389.50)	(\$14.14)	\$116.75
Net After-Tax Non-Operating Expense/(Income)	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$12.00	\$19.00	\$27.00
NOPAT	\$3,640.70	\$3,309.49	\$1,099.90	\$2,532.16	\$3,781.16
Balance Sheet Adjustments					
Total Assets (unadjusted)	\$109,560.00	\$105,181.00	\$104,602.00	\$104,938.00	\$103,812.00
Total Current/Investment Liabilities	(\$76,858.00)	(\$74,413.00)	(\$74,701.00)	(\$73,665.00)	(\$73,717.00)
Reported Net Assets	\$32,702.00	\$30,768.00	\$29,901.00	\$31,273.00	\$30,095.00
Short-Term Debt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Excess Cash	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)
Total Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unconsolidated Subsidiary Assets (non-operating)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)
Discontinued Operations Adjustment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deferred Compensation Adjustment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deferred Tax Adjustment	(\$672.00)	(\$493.00)	(\$7.00)	\$0.00	(\$303.00)
Over Funded Pensions (Asset)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)
Off-Balance-Sheet Operating Leases	\$585.41	\$527.34	\$455.23	\$592.82	\$704.11
Accumulated Unrecorded Goodwill	\$775.68	\$775.68	\$775.68	\$775.68	\$775.68
Accumulated Goodwill Amortization	\$257.00	\$257.00	\$257.00	\$257.00	\$257.00
Accumulated Asset Write-Downs After-Tax	\$132.21	\$132.21	\$132.21	\$132.21	\$132.21
Accumulated OCI (Other Comprehensive Income)	(\$1,219.00)	(\$1,255.00)	(\$2,005.00)	(\$2,236.00)	(\$810.00)
Invested Capital	\$32,561.30	\$30,712.23	\$29,509.12	\$30,794.71	\$30,850.99
Average Invested Capital	\$32,174.20	\$31,636.76	\$30,110.67	\$30,151.91	\$30,475.82

# Appendix 2: Adjustments for our Discounted Cash Flow Model, Economic Book Value, and Enterprise Value Calculations

We use a <u>dynamic discounted cash flow (DCF) model</u> to quantify the market expectations for future cash flows in stock prices. This approach, also known as "expectations investing" or "reverse DCF", is the most transparent and objective approach to valuing stocks. More in our <u>DCF model video tutorial</u>.

Values in millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Current
Excess Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Assets from Discontinued Operations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Deferred Tax Liability	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$338.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Deferred Compensation Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fair Value of Unconsolidated Subsidiary Assets (non-op)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fair Value of Total Debt	(\$585.41)	(\$527.34)	(\$455.23)	(\$592.82)	(\$704.11)	(\$704.11)
Fair Value of Preferred Capital	(\$79.00)	(\$68.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)
Fair Value of Minority Interests	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)
Value of Outstanding ESO After-Tax	(\$287.35)	(\$221.54)	(\$163.43)	(\$223.73)	(\$287.30)	(\$309.57)
Pensions Net Funded Status	(\$373.00)	(\$381.00)	(\$616.00)	(\$606.00)	(\$108.00)	(\$108.00)
Total Valuation Adjustments	(\$1,324.75)	(\$1,197.88)	(\$1,234.66)	(\$1,760.55)	(\$1,099.40)	(\$1,121.68)



## **Appendix 3: Explanation of New Constructs' Stock Ratings**

## Ratings

In-depth risk/reward analysis underpins our stock rating. Our stock rating methodology grades every stock according to what we believe are the 5 most important criteria for assessing the quality of a stock. Each grade reflects the balance of potential risk and reward of buying that stock. Our analysis results in the 5 ratings described below. Very Attractive and Attractive correspond to a "Buy" rating, Very Dangerous and Dangerous correspond to a "Sell" rating, while Neutral corresponds to a "Hold" rating.

	Quality of Earnings		Valuation			
Overall Rating	Economic vs Reported EPS	Return on Invested Capital (ROIC)	FCF Yield		Growth Appreciation Period	
Very Dangerous	Misleading Trend	Bottom Quintile	< -5%	> 3.5 or -1 < 0	> 50	
Dangerous	False Positive	4th Quintile	-5% < -1%	2.4 < 3.5 or < -1	20 < 50	
Neutral	Neutral EE	3rd Quintile	-1% < 3%	1.6 < 2.4	10 < 20	
Attractive	Positive EE	2nd Quintile	3% < 10%	1.1 < 1.6	3 < 10	
Very Attractive	Rising EE	Top Quintile	> 10%	0 < 1.1	0 < 3	

## Ratings

Economic earnings and return on capital metrics are significantly more accurate when as-reported financial statements have been adjusted to reverse accounting distortions and Red Flags. The majority of the data required to reverse accounting distortions is available only in the Notes to the Financial Statements, which we analyze rigorously. Our core competency is gathering and analyzing all relevant financial data (from the Financial Statements and Notes) so that we can deliver earnings analysis that best represents the true profitability of businesses. See the figure below for a list of the Red Flag adjustments we make to a company's reported GAAP profits in order to reverse accounting distortions and arrive at a better measure of a firm's profits.

#### Accounting Issues and Red Flags that Distort GAAP

- Employee Stock Options
- Pension Over/Under Funding
- Excess Cash
- Restructuring Charges
- Pooling Goodwill
- Minority Interests
- Discontinued Operations
- Preferred Stock
- Mid-Year Acquisitions

- Off-Balance-Sheet Financing
- LIFO Reserve
- Unrealized Gains/Losses
- Goodwill Amortization
- Unconsolidated Subsidiaries
- Capitalized Expenses
- Deferred Compensation
- Net Deferred tax Assets and Liabilities



## New Constructs® - Profile

Incorporated in July 2002, <u>New Constructs</u> is an independent publisher of investment research that provides clients with consulting, advisory and research services. We specialize in quality-of-earnings, forensic accounting and discounted cash flow valuation analyses for all U.S. public companies.

#### How New Constructs Creates Value for Clients

- 1. Superior Recommendations Our <u>stock-picks</u> consistently outperform. See our track record in our <u>stock-picking accolades</u> and <u>Proof Is In</u> <u>Performance</u> reports.
- 2. More Accurate Research Our <u>patented Research Platform</u> for <u>reversing accounting distortions</u> and <u>discounted cash flow analysis</u> leverages better data to deliver smarter research.
- 3. **Time Savings** We check the fine print in thousands of corporate filings so you don't have to. As reported by <u>Barron's</u>, our expertise in analyzing SEC filings delivers <u>Hidden Gems and Red Flags</u> that drive long-term stock-picking success.
- 4. **Transparency** We are proud to share the results of our analysis of over 50,000 10-Ks. See the <u>Corporate Disclosure Transgressions</u> report we provided to the SEC. Our reports detail all data and assumptions. Company Models enable users to change them.
- 5. **Objectivity** New Constructs is an independent research firm, not tied to Wall Street or investment banking services. See our presentation to the Senate Banking Committee, the SEC and many others in DC.

### **Our Philosophy About Research**

Accounting data is not designed for equity investors, but for debt investors. Accounting data must be translated into economic earnings to understand the profitability and valuation relevant to equity investors. Respected investors (e.g. Adam Smith, Warren Buffett and Ben Graham) have repeatedly emphasized that accounting results should not be used to value stocks. Economic earnings are what matter because they are:

- 1. Based on the complete set of financial information available.
- 2. Standard for all companies.
- 3. A more accurate representation of the true underlying cash flows of the business.

## **DISCLOSURES**

New Constructs®, LLC (together with any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, 'New Constructs') is an independent organization with no management ties to the companies it covers. None of the members of New Constructs' management team or the management team of any New Constructs' affiliate holds a seat on the Board of Directors of any of the companies New Constructs covers. New Constructs does not perform any investment or merchant banking functions and does not operate a trading desk.

New Constructs' Stock Ownership Policy prevents any of its employees or managers from engaging in Insider Trading and restricts any trading whereby an employee may exploit inside information regarding our stock research. In addition, employees and managers of the company are bound by a code of ethics that restricts them from purchasing or selling a security that they know or should have known was under consideration for inclusion in a New Constructs report nor may they purchase or sell a security for the first 15 days after New Constructs issues a report on that security.

New Constructs is affiliated with Novo Capital Management, LLC, the general partner of a hedge fund. At any particular time, New Constructs' research recommendations may not coincide with the hedge fund's holdings. However, in no event will the hedge fund receive any research information or recommendations in advance of the information that New Constructs provides to its other clients.

## **DISCLAIMERS**

The information and opinions presented in this report are provided to you for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities or other financial instruments. New Constructs has not taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in this report are suitable for any particular investor and nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice. This report includes general information that does not take into account your individual circumstance, financial situation or needs, nor does it represent a personal recommendation to you. The investments or services contained or referred to in this report may not be suitable for you and it is recommended that you consult an independent investment advisor if you are in doubt about any such investment services.

Information and opinions presented in this report have been obtained or derived from sources believed by New Constructs to be reliable, but New Constructs makes no representation as to their accuracy, authority, usefulness, reliability, timeliness or completeness. New Constructs accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of the information presented in this report, and New Constructs makes no warranty as to results that may be obtained from the information presented in this report. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information and opinions contained in this report reflect a judgment at its original date of publication by New Constructs and are subject to change without notice. New Constructs may have issued, and may in the future issue, other reports that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them and New Constructs is under no obligation to insure that such other reports are brought to the attention of any recipient of this report.

New Constructs' reports are intended for distribution to its professional and institutional investor customers. Recipients who are not professionals or institutional investor customers of New Constructs should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to making any investment decision or for any necessary explanation of its contents.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would be subject New Constructs to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This report may provide the addresses of websites. Except to the extent to which the report refers to New Constructs own website material, New Constructs has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to New Constructs own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and the information and content of the linked site do not in any way form part of this report. Accessing such websites or following such hyperlink through this report shall be at your own risk.

All material in this report is the property of, and under copyright, of New Constructs. None of the contents, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, copied, or distributed or transmitted to any other party without the prior express written consent of New Constructs. All trademarks, service marks and logos used in this report are trademarks or service marks or registered trademarks or service marks of New Constructs.

Copyright New Constructs, LLC 2003 through the present date. All rights reserved.