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Entegris Stock Hits Buy Point Following Upbeat Earnings Report

By Patrick Seitz, Investor s Business Daily, February 6, 2019

Semiconductor equipment supplier Entegris (ENTG) saw its shares reach a buy point on Wednesday, a day after the company posted better-than-expected quarterly results. Entegris stock has been consolidating for 34 weeks.

On the stock market today, Entegris stock rose 2.2% to 34.05. Earlier in the session, it crossed a buy point of 34.38 out of a cup-with-handle base. It climbed as high as 34.48 before retreating. Trading volume was above average.

On Tuesday, the Billerica, Mass.-based company reported fourth-quarter results. It earned an adjusted 47 cents a share on sales of $401.6 million in the December quarter. Analysts expected Entegris to earn 46 cents on sales of $396 million.

On a year-over-year basis, earnings rose 12% and sales climbed 15% in the fourth quarter.

For the current quarter, Entegris said it expects sales and adjusted earnings per share to be about the same as in the fourth quarter. In the year-earlier March quarter, Entegris earned 47 cents a share on sales of $367 million.

Entegris Touts Unmatched Breadth Of Capabilities

Entegris is a leader in specialty chemicals and advanced material systems for the microelectronics industry. Its customers include chipmakers like Samsung and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSM) as well as chip equipment makers.

Entegris has three business units: specialty chemicals and engineered materials, microcontamination control systems, and advanced materials handling systems.

We are the only company in the world that has that breadth of capabilities, Chief Executive Bertrand Loy told Investor s Business Daily. What that means for the customers is that we can develop comprehensive solutions faster than any one of our competitors.

Versum Materials Acquisition To Provide Scale

Last week, Entegris announced its plan to buy Versum Materials (VSM) in an all-stock deal worth about $4 billion. The transaction will combine two chemical companies that supply critical components for the semiconductor industry.

The deal is structured as a merger of equals. Holders of Entegris stock will own 52.5% of the combined company, while Versum shareholders will own 47.5%.

While chip and chip-equipment industries have consolidated, chemical and materials suppliers to the semiconductor field remain fragmented, Loy said.

That s a problem because it is getting more expensive to develop the next generation of process technology, Loy said. Our customers are expecting their suppliers to increase the level of R&D spending. They re expecting us to make bigger commitments to continue to invest in better labs next to their fabs. You cannot do that as a subscale company.

The addition of Versum will give Entegris the financial means to make the expected investments in research and development and manufacturing capabilities, he said.

Scale matters in this industry, Loy said.

Forward Looking Statements

This communication contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are subject to risks and uncertainties and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1993, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Where a forward-looking statement expresses or implies an expectation or belief as to future events or results, such expectation or belief is expressed in good faith and believed to have a reasonable basis. The words believe, continue, could, expect, anticipate, intends, estimate, forecast, project, should, may, negative thereof and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are only predictions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond Entegris and Versum Materials control. Statements in this communication regarding Entegris, Versum Materials and the combined company that are forward-looking, including projections as to the anticipated benefits of the proposed transaction, the impact of the proposed transaction on Entegris and Versum Materials business and future financial and operating results, the amount and timing of synergies from the proposed transaction, and the closing date for the proposed transaction, are based on management s estimates, assumptions and projections, and are subject to significant uncertainties and other factors, many of which are beyond Entegris and Versum Materials control. These factors and risks include, but are not limited to, (i) weakening of global and/or regional economic conditions, generally or specifically in the semiconductor industry, which could decrease the demand for Entegris and Versum Materials products and solutions; (ii) the ability to meet rapid demand shifts; (iii) the ability to continue technological innovation and introduce new products to meet customers rapidly changing requirements; (iv) the concentrated customer base; (v) the ability to identify, effect and integrate acquisitions, joint ventures or other transactions; (vi) the ability to protect and enforce intellectual property rights; (vii) operational, political and legal risks of Entegris and Versum Materials international operations; (viii) Entegris dependence on sole source and limited source suppliers; (ix) the increasing complexity of certain manufacturing processes; (x) raw material shortages and price increases; (xi) changes in government regulations of the countries in which Entegris and Versum Materials operate; (xii) the fluctuation of currency exchange rates; (xiii) fluctuations in the market price of Entegris stock; (xiv) the level of, and obligations associated with, Entegris and Versum Materials indebtedness; and (xv) other risk factors and additional information. In addition, material risks that could cause actual results to differ from forward-looking statements include: the inherent uncertainty associated with financial or other projections; the prompt and effective integration of Entegris businesses and the ability to achieve the anticipated synergies and value-creation contemplated by the proposed transaction; the risk associated with Entegris and Versum Materials ability to obtain the approval of the proposed transaction by their shareholders required to consummate the proposed transaction and the timing of the closing of the proposed transaction, including the risk that the conditions to the transaction are not satisfied on a timely basis or at all and the failure of the transaction to close for any other reason; the risk that a consent or authorization that may be required for the proposed transaction is not obtained or is obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated; unanticipated difficulties or expenditures relating to the transaction, the response of business partners and retention as a result of the announcement and pendency of the transaction; and the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues. For a more detailed discussion of such risks and other factors, see Entegris and Versum Materials filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including under the heading Risks Factors in Item 1A of Entegris Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed on February 15, 2018, and Versum Materials Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018, filed on November 21, 2018 and in other periodic filings, available on the SEC website or www.entegris.com or www.versummaterials.com. Entegris and Versum Materials assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements or information, which speak as of their respective dates, to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this communication, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as may be required under applicable securities laws. Investors should not assume that any lack of update to a previously issued forward-looking statement constitutes a reaffirmation of that statement.

Additional Information about the Merger and Where to Find It

This communication does not constitute an offer to buy or sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. This communication relates to a proposed business combination between Entegris and Versum Materials. In connection with the proposed transaction, Entegris intends to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include a joint proxy statement of Entegris and Versum Materials that also constitutes a prospectus of Entegris. Each of Entegris and Versum Materials also plan to file other relevant documents with the SEC regarding the proposed transaction. No offering of securities shall be made, except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Any definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus (if and when available) will be mailed to stockholders of Entegris and Versum Materials. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY IF AND WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION. Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of these documents (if and when available) and other documents containing important information about Entegris and Versum Materials, once such documents are filed with the SEC through the website maintained by the SEC at http://www.sec.gov. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Entegris will be available free of charge on Entegris website at http://www.entegris.com or by contacting Entegris Investor Relations Department by email at irelations@entegris.com or by phone at 978-436-6500. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Versum Materials will be available free of charge on Versum Materials website at investors.versummaterials.com or by phone at 484-275-5907.

Participants in the Solicitation

Entegris, Versum Materials and certain of their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies in respect of the proposed transaction. Information about the directors and executive officers of Entegris is set forth in Entegris proxy statement for its 2018 annual meeting of shareholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 28, 2018, and Entegris Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, which was filed with the SEC on February 15, 2018. Information about the directors and executive officers of Versum Materials is set forth in its proxy statement for its 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, which was filed with the SEC on December 20, 2018, and Versum Materials Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018, which was filed with the SEC on November 21, 2018. Other information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be contained in the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC regarding the proposed transaction when such materials become available. Investors should read the joint proxy statement/prospectus carefully when it becomes available before making any voting or investment decisions. You may obtain free copies of these documents from Entegris or Versum Materials using the sources indicated above.