#### Williams, Kelsey

From: Sent: Parmigiani, Ted

To: Cc: Thursday, June 02, 2005 8:04 AM

Subject:

Request for IPC meeting re AMKR upgrade to 2-EW



As per conversation with this morning, would like to schedule IPC meeting on AMKR upgrade as soon as the IPC committee is available - today would be great if possible, otherwise available tomorrow, Monday, etc. I've enclosed the first call note as requested.

Thanks for all your help,

Ted

>

<<AMKR060305.doc>>

> Ted Parmigiani
> Senior Analyst - Semiconductors
> Equity Research
>
> Lehman Brothers
> 555 California Street
> San Francisco, CA 94104
> ph: 415-274
> tparmigi@lehman.com

LBEMAIL 04511

June 03, 2005

#### Amkor Technology (AMKR - \$3.85) 2-Equal weight

North America
Technology
Semiconductors

Recommendation Change

Ted Parmigiani 1.415.274.5241 tparmigi@lehman.com

Upgrade to 2-EW on 2H05 Profitability

□ Based on checks with key suppliers & customers, we blv AMKR's factories have been experiencing increasing levels of util. & mix improvement in Q2. More specifically, our research suggests ASP pressure is <2% & company-wide util. is roughly 80% today (vs. prior est of 75%) & poised to jump to mid-to-high 80's in Q3, 90%+ in Q4 - making 2H:05 profitability a likely scenario, in our opinion. We are upgrading AMKR fm 3-EW to 2-EW & adjusting price tgt fm \$2.75 to \$6.00 to reflect AMKR's return to profitability almost 1-yr earlier than our former ests (see note dtd 6/1/05). We look to become more constructive beyond our new \$6 price target & 2-EW rating after tangible evidence of debt reduction.

#### Summary

- □ We expect high utilization, improving product mix & benign ASP pressure to accelerate profit recovery by 1-yr, or 2H:05 vs prior 2H:06 forecast.
- □ Our new price target of \$6.00 is based on 1.2x C06 EV Target /C06E Sales & 0.4x Price Target/ C06E Sales.

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Stoc	k Rating:	Targe	et:	
New:	2-Equal weight	New:	6.00	
Old:	3-Underweight	Old:	2.75	

Sector View: 1-Positive

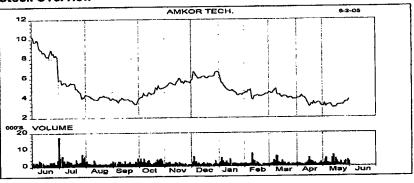
<b>EPS</b>	<b>(\$)</b> (	FY Dec)							
	2004		2005			2006		% Ch	ange
	Actual	Old	News	St. Est.	Old		St. Est.	2005	2006
1Q	0.08A	-0.39A	440 GOV	-0.39A	0.04E	ie tezifa.	-0.18E	-588%	110%
2Q	-0.04A	-0.23E	An 22 E	-0.30E	0.08E	46 (0)3	-0.11E	-475%	135%
3Q	-0.13A	0.00E	10:019	-0.18E	0.14E	15 121	-0.02E	100%	14%
4Q	-0.21A	0.06E	in etal	-0.12E	0.16E	32 (t) E	0.04E	129%	167%
Year	-0.29A	-0.57E	0.57E	-0.99E	0.42E	16.492 F. A.	-0.23E	-97%	174%
P/E	-		M/A			1.12			

Market Data	
Market Cap	0.68B
Shares Outstanding (Mil)	175.70
Float	57.00
Dividend Yield	N/A
Convertible ·	Yes
52 wk Range	10.81 - 2.87

#### Financial Summary

·	
Revenue FY05	1995.0 B
Five-Year EPS CAGR	999.90%
Return on Equity	-112.00%
Current BVPS	1.41
Debt To Capital	89.21%

#### **Stock Overview**



#### Valuation, Rating and Price Target

Upgrading from 3-UW to 2-EW and raising price target from \$2.75 to \$6.00. While our prior \$2.75 price target was driven by our nearer-term concern of balance sheet deterioration, we believe greater certainty with respect to near-term visibility & sooner-than-expected profitability. Our new price target of \$6.00 is based on 1.2x C06 EV Target /C06E Sales & 0.4x Price Target/ C06E Sales — essentially the same multiples AMKR trades at today on our estimated C05 EV & Sales.

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Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decisions.

PLEASE SEE ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION(S) ON PAGE 3 AND IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES
BEGINNING ON PAGE 4
LBEMAIL 04512

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Figure 1: AMKR Valuation & Price Target

Current S	tock Price	G777 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Target St	ock Price	Headi,
J. S. T. J. Div. S. E.	C06E	0.3x	7. (28.74 IS )	C05E	0.5x
eriyer)EV/S=7/2	6/05F C06E	1.0x	TO SEVERS	C05E <b>C06</b> E	1.5x
CALANIA BEADANA	C06E	#8xx = 3 4.5x	SA-VANIBBINOVAN	C05E (606E)	9.0x
ामकर <b>(इंका</b> र)	C06E	3.0x	ALANAS VASIONIS CO	C05E C06E	6.1x

Sources: Company Reports and Lehman Brothers Estimates

Figure 2: Amkor Technology P&L Model

Amkor Technology
P&L Model (\$ millions)

Current version: 6/1/05 Last version: 5/5/05

FILE: AMKRWKSH		F	iscal 2004	ŀ			F	Iscal 2005i	5				iscal 2006		
FYE: December	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2004	Q1	QZE	Q3E	Q4E	2005E	Q1E	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E	2006E
Revenue	\$464.6	\$492.5	\$490.8	\$453.3	\$1,901.3	\$417.5	\$471.0	\$535.0	\$571.5	\$1,995.0	\$560.0	\$590.0	\$628.0	\$637.0	\$2,415.0
Sequential Change	1.3%	6.0%	-0.3%	-7.7%		-7.9%	12.8%	13.6%	6.8%		-2.0%	5.4%	6.4%	1.4%	24 48/
Change Vs Year Ago	35.4%	30.3%	15.8%	-1.2%	18.6%	-10.2%	-4.4%	9.0%	26.1%	4.9%	34.1%	25.3%	17.4%	11.5%	21.1%
				****	** ***	\$374.1	\$398.0	\$422.7	\$448.6	\$1,643.4	\$439.6	\$460.2	\$486.1	\$492.1	\$1,878.0
Cost of Goods	\$352.8	\$397.8	\$403.1	\$379.8	\$1,533.4	89.6%	84.5%	79.0%	78.5%	82.4%	78.5%	78.0%	77.4%	77.3%	77.8%
Percent of Revenue	75.9%	80.8%	82.1%	83.8%	80.7%	09.071	04.5%	79.070	10.070	02.470	10.0				
Gross Margin	\$111.8	\$94.8	\$87.8	\$73.4	\$367.8	\$43.4	\$73.0	\$112.4	\$122.9	\$351.6	\$120.4	\$129.8	\$141.9	\$144.9	\$537.0
Percent of Revenue	24.1%	19.2%	17.9%	16.2%	19.3%	10.4%	15.5%	21.0%	21.5%	17.6%	21.5%	22.0%	22.6%	22.8%	22.2%
incremental GM	-41.3%	-61.2%	NM	38.1%		84.0%	55.3%	61.5%	28.8%		21.5%	31.3%	31.9%	33.2%	
					***	40.0	*0.4	***	\$9.0	\$36.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$40.0
R&D	\$9.0	\$9.9	\$8.7	\$9.2	\$36.7	\$8.9	\$9.1	\$9.0 1.7%	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
Percent of Revenue	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%		.2.1%	1.9%	1.7%	1.079	1.070	1.070	1 70	1.575		
Amortization of Acq. Int.	\$1.3	\$1.6	\$1.6	\$1.5	\$6.1	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$8.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$8.0
7(1101)1220017 07 7104° 1111	•	•								4000 B	\$55.0	\$56.5	\$57.5	\$58.0	\$227.0
General, Admin. & Mktg.	\$52.2	\$54.1	\$53.2	\$54.8	\$214.3	\$58.5	\$58.5	\$56.0	\$56.0	\$229.0	\$55.0 9.8%	9.6%	9.2%	9.1%	9.4%
Percent of Revenue	11.2%	11.0%	10.8%	12.1%	11.3%	14.0%	12.4%	10.5%	9.8%	11.5%	9.076	9.076	5.270	0.170	0.476
On analysis European	\$62.5	\$65.6	\$63.5	\$65.5	\$257.1	\$69.4	\$69.6	\$67.0	\$67.0	\$273.0	\$67.0	\$68.5	\$69.5	\$70.0	\$275.0
Operating Expenses Percent of Revenue	13.4%	13.3%	12.9%	14.5%	13.5%	16.6%	14.8%	12.5%	11.7%	13.7%	12.0%	11.6%	11.1%	11.0%	11.4%
belceut of greature	10.770	10.074	.2.570									-i	070.4	\$74.9	\$262.0
Operating Income	\$49.4	\$29.2	\$24.3	\$7.9	\$110.7	(\$26.0)	\$3.4	\$45.4	\$55.9	\$78.7	\$53.4	\$61.3	\$72.4	•	
Percent of Revenue	10.6%	5.9%	4.9%	1.7%	5.8%	-6.2%	0.7%	8.5%	9.8%	3.9%	9.5%	10.4%	11.5%	11.8%	10.9%
	/A 41	(040.75)	(620.0)	(\$42.8)	(\$127.9)	(\$42.9)	(\$43.5)	(\$44.0)	(\$45.0)	(\$175.4)	(\$45.0)	(\$45.0)	(\$45.0)	(\$45.0)	(\$180.0)
Other Income (Exp)	(\$32.4)	(\$13.7)	(\$39.0)	(342.6) -9.4%	-6.7%	-10.3%	9.2%	-8.2%	-7.9%	-8.8%	-8.0%	7.6%	-7.2%	-7.1%	-7.5%
Percent of Revenue	-7.0%	-2.8%	-8.0%	-9.476	-0.770	-10.576	-0.2 /4	3.2.7		0.0.0					
Extraordinary Items (tax adj.)	\$2.7	\$22.7	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$25.4	(\$50.0)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$50.0)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
		•								(000.0)	40.4	\$16.3	\$27.4	\$29.9	\$82.0
Profit Before Taxes	\$17.0	\$15.5	(\$14.8)	(\$34.9)	(\$17.2)	(\$68.9)	(\$40.1)	\$1.3	\$10.9	(\$96.8)	\$8.4 1.5%	2.8%	4.4%	4.7%	3.4%
Percent of Revenue	3.7%	3.2%	-3.0%	-7.7%	-0.9%	-16.5%	-8.5%	0.3%	1.9%	-4.9%	1.376	2.0%	4.470	7.170	0.770
	\$1,6	\$0.0	\$6.3	\$1.9	\$9.8	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$7.2	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$8.0
Taxes	9.5%	0.0%	NM	NM	-57.2%	-1.7%	-5.0%	148.1%	18.4%	-7.4%	23.8%	12.3%	7.3%	6.7%	9.8%
Tax Rate	9.U/B	0.070	13101		0.1272		*								
Minority Interest	(\$0.4)	\$0.0	(\$1.3)	\$0.7	(\$0.9)	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1,0	\$4.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	• •							l		(600.0)	***	£14.3	\$25.4	\$27.9	\$74.0
Net Income-Operations	\$15.0	(\$7.2)	(\$22.3)	(\$36.1)	(\$50.6)	(\$69.1)	(\$41.1)	\$0.4	\$9.9	(\$99.9)	\$6.4 1.1%	\$14.3 2.4%	4.0%	4.4%	3.1%
Percent of Revenue	3.2%	(1.5%)	(4.6%)	(8.0%)	(2.7%)	(16.5%)	(8.7%)	0.1%	1.7%	(5.0%)	3.170	2.476	4.070	7.770	3.175
	****	<b>\$</b> 15.5	(\$22.3)	(\$36.1)	(\$25.2)	(\$119.1)	(\$41.1)	\$0.4	\$9.9	(\$149.9)	\$6.4	\$14.3	\$25.4	\$27.9	\$74.0
Net income incl. Extra. Items	\$17.7	\$10.0	(\$22.3)	(\$30.1)	(420.2)	(4119.1)	[ (*,,		<b>4</b>	,,					
Average Shares - Fully Dil. (mil)	180.2	175.9	175.7	175.7	176.9	175.7	175.7	175.7	175.7	175.7	175.7	175.7	176.2	176.7	176.1
						/60.0-1	(40.00)	10.00	\$0.06	(\$0.57)	\$0.04	\$0.08	\$0.14	\$0.16	\$0.42
Operating EPS (fully diluted)	\$0.08	(\$0.04)	(\$0.13)	(\$0.21)	(\$0.29)	(\$0.39)	(\$0.23) NM	\$0.00 NM	\$0.06 NM	(\$0.57) NM	30.04 NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
% Change Y/Y	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM NM	NM NM	NM NM	NM	14141	NM	NM	77.3%	9.5%	
% Change Q/Q	NM	NM	NM	NM		LANA	I MAIN	IAIAI	14141						

% Change Q/Q NM
Sources: Company reports and Lehman Brothers estimates

Figure 3: Amkor Ted	hnology	Balan	co She	lehoM ter								SEARCE
rigule 3. Allikoi rec	.iiiolog)	, Dalai	ice on	set Model	Balar	Amkor Te ce Sheet M	chnology Iodel (\$ mil	lions)			t version: t version:	6/1/05 5/5/05
FILE: AMKRWKSH		Fisca	2004			Fiscal	2005E			Fiscal		
FYE: December	<u>Q1</u>	Q2	Q3	Q4	<u>Q1</u>	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E	<u>Q1E</u>	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E
Balance Sheet												
ASSETS												
Cash & Securities	\$345	\$295	\$231	\$372	\$287	\$211	\$320	\$330	\$327	\$375	\$412	\$469
Accounts Receivable	\$290	\$277	\$277	\$269	\$265	\$287	\$326	\$320	\$314	\$330	\$352	\$357
Total Inventories	\$112	\$120	\$120	\$112	\$112	\$120	\$120	\$124	\$115	\$120	\$128	\$130
Other Current Assets	\$38	\$37	\$32	\$33	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39
Total Current Assets	\$787	\$728	<b>\$661</b>	\$786	\$703	\$657	\$805	\$813	\$795	\$864	\$930	\$995
Net PP&E	\$1,132	\$1,329	\$1,388	\$1,380	\$1,372	\$1,390	\$1,430	\$1,396	\$1,365	\$1,334	\$1,307	\$1,279
Other Assets	\$797	\$760	\$786	\$799	\$791	\$791	\$791	\$791	\$791	\$791	\$791	\$791
Total Assets	\$2,715	\$2,818	\$2,834	\$2,965	\$2,866	\$2,838	\$3,027	\$3,001	\$2,952	\$2,990	\$3,028	\$3,065
LIAB. & SHRHLDRS' EQUITY	*****	======	554883									
Accounts Pavable	\$280	\$264	\$236	\$212	\$202	\$236	\$268	\$286	\$280	\$295	\$314	\$319
Short-Term Debt	\$23	\$144	\$171	<b>\$</b> 52	\$42	\$42	\$42	\$42	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Current Liabilities	\$165	\$165	\$183	\$175	\$210	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$170	\$185	\$200	\$210
Total Current Liabilities	\$469	\$572	\$590	\$439	\$453	\$463	\$495	\$513	\$450	\$480	\$514	\$52 <del>9</del>
Long-Term Debt	\$1,734	\$1.733	\$1,745	\$2,041	\$2,042	\$2,042	\$2,192	\$2,192	\$2,192	\$2,192	\$2,192	\$2,192
Other Liabilities	\$87	\$91	\$97	\$109	\$118	\$118	\$118	\$118	\$118	\$118	\$118	\$118
Total Liabilities	\$2,291	\$2,397	\$2,432	\$2,589	\$2,614	\$2,623	\$2,805	\$2,823	\$2,760	\$2,790	\$2,824	\$2,839
Minority Interest	\$2	\$2	\$7	\$7	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Shareholders' Equity	\$423	\$419	\$395	\$370	\$247	\$210	\$216	\$172	\$192	\$200	\$204	\$227
Total Liab. and Equity	\$2,715	\$2,818	\$2,834	\$2,965	\$2,866	\$2,838	\$3,027	\$3,001	\$2,952 =====	\$2,990	\$3,028	\$3,065 =====

Sources: Company reports and Lehman Brothers estimates

Figure 4:	Amkor	Technology	Performance	Metrics
Fluure 4.	AHRUL	1 CCI II IOIOUV	1 CHOINGILO	

rigule 4. Allikoi 16	ici ii lology	, i ello	mano				chnology ce <i>Metrics</i>				nt version: st version:	6/1/05 5/5/05
FILE: AMKRWKSH		Fisca	2004			Fiscal	2005E			Fiscal	2006E	
FYE: December	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	<u>Q1</u>	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E	<u>Ω1E</u>	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E
Profitability Ratios												
Return On Equity	14%	(7%)	(23%)	(39%)	(112%)	(78%)	1%	23%	13%	29%	50%	49%
Return on Avg Equity	7%	(3%)	3%	(13%)	(40%)	(48%)	(48%)	(37%)	(11%)	(37%)	27%	37%
Return On Assets	2%	(1%)	(3%)	(5%)	(10%)	(6%)	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	4%
Return On Net Assets	3%	(1%)	(3%)	(6%)	(11%)	(6%)	0%	1%	1%	2%	4%	4%
Return On Sales	3%	(1%)	(5%)	(8%)	(17%)	(9%)	0%	2%	1%	2%	4%	4%
* Avg Over Last 4 Qtrs												
Efficiency Ratios												
Sales / Total Assets	0.68	0.70	0.69	0.61	0.58	0.66	0.71	0.76	0.76	0.79	0.83	0.83
A/R Days Sales Out	57	51	52	54	58	56	56	51	51	51	51	51
Inventory Turns	12.6	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.4	13.3	14.1	14.5	15.3	15.4	15.3	15.2
Days of Inventory	29	27	27	27	27	27	26	25	24	24	24	24
Liquidity Ratios												4.0
Current Ratio	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9 4.1
Quick Ratio	3.6	2.0	1.5	3.0	2.3	2.4	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	
Net Working Capital	\$598	\$420	\$307	\$559	\$451	\$430	\$578	\$586	\$625	\$679	\$730	\$785
Long-Term Debt / Equity	410.2%	413.3%	441.7%	552.3%	827.0%	973.3%	1014.1%	1276.0%	1144.4%	1098.0%	1074.1%	966.5%
Debt/Capital	80.6%	81.7%	82.9%	85.0%	89.4%	90.9%	91.2%	92.9%	92.0%	91.7%	91.5%	90.6%
Total Debt / Equity	415.6%	447.6%	485.0%	566.4%	844.1%	993.4%	1033.6%	1300.6%	1144.4%	1098.0%	1074.1%	966.5%
EBITDA/Interest	3.1	6.4	2,1	1.6	0.8	1.5	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.2
EBITDA- Capex/Interest	-2.1	-2.7	0.3	0.7	-0.3	-0.3	0.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.3
Op Inc / Assets, exc. Cash	8.3%	4.6%	3.7%	1.2%	-4.0%	0.5%	6.7%	8.4%	8.1%	9.4%	11.1%	11.5%
Book & Cash Value											** **	** **
Book Value Per Share	\$2.35	\$2.38	\$2.25	\$2.10	\$1.41	\$1.19	\$1.23	\$0.98	\$1.09	\$1.14	\$1.16	\$1.28
Cash Per Share	\$1.92	\$1.68	\$1.32	\$2.12	\$1.63	\$1.20	\$1.82	\$1.88	\$1.86	\$2.13	\$2.34	\$2.66
Net Cash Per Share	(\$7.84)	(\$9.00)	(\$9.59)	(\$9.79)	(\$10.23)	(\$10.66)	(\$10.90)	(\$10.84)	(\$10.61)	(\$10.35)	(\$10.11)	(\$9.75)

#### **Company Description:**

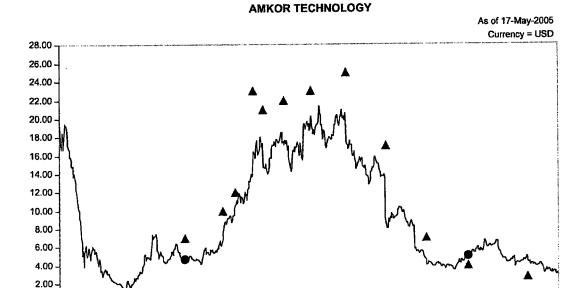
Amkor Technology is the world's leading subcontractor of semiconductor packaging assembly and test services, a sub-segment of the semiconductor industry.

#### **Important Disclosures**

Rating and Price Target Chart: AMKR

0.00

5-02



Source: FactSet

Date	Closing Price	Rating	Price Target
10-Mar-05	4.35		2.75
28-Oct-04	5.00		4.00
28-Oct-04	5.00	3-Underweight	
28-Jul-04	3.98		7.00
28-Apr-04	8.63		17.00
29-Jan-04	17.45		25.00
12-Nov-03	20.32		23.00

8-02

11-02

2-03

5-03

8-03

Closing Price A Price Target
Recommendation Change X Drop Coverage

Date	Closing Price	Rating	Price Target
12-Sep-03	17.57		22.00
29-Jul-03	14.93		21.00
07-Jul-03	16.24		23.00
28-May-03	10.56		12.00
30-Apr-03	7.57		10.00
04-Feb-03	4.64		7.00
04-Feb-03	4.64	1-Overweight	

11-04

8-04

5-04

FOR EXPLANATION OF RATINGS REFER TO THE STOCK RATING KEYS LOCATED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING THE LAST PRICE CHART

**Important Disclosures:** 

The analysts responsible for preparing this report have received compensation based upon various factors including the Firm's total revenues, a portion of which is generated by investment banking activities.

Company Name:

**Disclosures** 

Ticker

Price (06/02)

Rating

Amkor Technology

C,J

**AMKR** 

3.85

2-Equal weight

C - Lehman Brothers Inc. makes a market in the securities of this company.

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- 1-Strong Buy expected to outperform the market by 15 or more percentage points.
- 2-Buy expected to outperform the market by 5-15 percentage points.
- 3-Market Perform expected to perform in line with the market, plus or minus 5 percentage points.
- 4-Market Underperform expected to underperform the market by 5-15 percentage points.
- 5-Sell expected to underperform the market by 15 or more percentage points.

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From: Sent:

Thursday, June 02, 2005 8:51 AM

To:

Midday Notes [MiddayNotes@lehman.com]

Cc:

Subject:

Parmigiani, Ted ;; Upgrade to 2-EW on 2H05 Profitability; For MANUAL INTRADAY Distribution.



AMKR060305.doc (868 KB)

Ticker: AMKR

Note type: Company Note.

Status: APPROVE for MANUAL INTRADAY Distribution.

\*\*HOLD FOR 11AM\*\*

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SA approved. --

#### Williams, Kelsey

> percentage points.

> points.

From: Wednesday, March 30, 2005 10:00 AM Sent: To: Parmigiani, Ted Go to the Moore meeting without me, we have big ratings change looming... Subject: Vice President New York Institutional Equity Sales Lehman Brothers phone: email: > > > Important Disclosures: > The analysts responsible for preparing this report have received > compensation based upon various factors including the Firm's total > revenues, a portion of which is generated by investment banking > activities. > Complete disclosure information on companies covered by Lehman > Brothers Analysts is available at www.lehman.com/disclosures. > Key to Investment Opinions: > Stock Ratings > 1-Overweight - The stock is expected to outperform the unweighted > expected total return of the industry sector over a 12-month > investment horizon. > 2-Equal weight - The stock is expected to perform in line with the > unweighted expected total return of the industry sector over a > 12-month investment horizon. > 3-Underweight - The stock is expected to underperform the unweighted > expected total return of the industry sector over a 12-month > investment horizon. > RS-Rating Suspended - The rating and target price have been suspended > temporarily to comply with applicable regulations and/or firm policies > in certain circumstances including when Lehman Brothers is acting in > an advisory capacity on a merger or strategic transaction involving > the company. > Stock Ratings From February 2001 to August 5, 2002 (sector view did > not exist): This is a guide to expected total return (price > performance plus > dividend) relative to the total return of the stock's local market > over the next 12 months. 1-Strong Buy - expected to outperform the > market by 15 or more percentage points. > 2-Buy - expected to outperform the market by 5-15 percentage points. > 3-Market Perform - expected to perform in line with the market, plus > or minus 5 percentage points. > 4-Market Underperform - expected to underperform the market by 5-15

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> 5-Sell - expected to underperform the market by 15 or more percentage

OUITY RESEARCH

March 30, 2005

#### **Commodity Chemicals**

North America Basic Industries Commodity Chemicals

Recommendation Change

First Hill of the Ethylene Cycle

#### **Sector View:**

New: 3-Negative Old: 2-Neutral

#### Investment conclusion

□ Ethylene contract prices settled flat at 41.5 c/lb. in March, according to CMAI. The net result is a 4 c/lb reduction in ethylene cash margins, due to rising cash production costs. With U.S. spot ethylene trading 6.5 c/lb below contract price, we expect to see additional pressure on ethylene cash margin in the forthcoming months.

#### Summary

- PE prices and therefore margins are expected to decline 1-2 c/lb. for March contract (although this has not been settled yet), as discussed in our previous notes on 3/17 and 3/28. The data on the PE producer and consumer inventory indicates that the inventory level is at a 2 year high and is likely to take the next 3-5 months to de-stock, thereby putting further pressure on polyethylene demand and prices. Essentially, U.S. PE producers are faced with a tough choice: to cut operating rates or to cut PE prices. One of the two actions is necessary to bring excess inventory down to a more normal level.
- □ We are lowering our commodity sector rating from 2-neutral to 3-negative, due to the expected pressure on the sector because of weakness amongst the ethylene/PE producers. However, clearly believe that not all commodity chemical product cycles are equal. We remain bullish on the chlor-alkali cycle and stocks.

#### Ethylene cycle at the short-term inflection point

We are lowering our sector ratings on the U.S. Commodity chemicals sector from 2–Neutral to 3–Negative due to the expected near term pressure on ethylene / Polyethylene (PE) producers. The recent data on negative ethylene/PE pricing and margins trends do not signal the end of the chemicals cycle. This short term inflection point in the ethylene cycle could result in a stock price correction amongst most of the ethylene leveraged stocks. This trend relates primarily to the ethylene / PE producers (LYO, NCX, DOW, WLK, HUN). In contrast, cl-alkali chain remains fundamentally very strong and we continue to recommend PPG and GGC (both 1-O.W.).

In the next 6 months, we believe ethylene/PE chain profit momentum will likely reverse from the previous 8 months of upward trend. The ethylene/PE chain is expected to remain weak through the summer until the Aug./Sept. time frame by when the ethylene/PE producers could have worked through their inventory levels. The ethylene prices could be pressured in forth coming months due to the 6.5 c/lb gap between the spot and contract ethylene prices in March and also the producer inventory buildup. If raw materials costs (oil and natural gas) continue to escalate, then ethylene prices might actually stay flat or even increase slightly. Regardless of that, the cash margins ( the true measure of profitability of commodity chemical companies) are likely to be under pressure over the next 6 months, and thus possibly pressure stock prices for the major ethylene producers (LYO, NCX, DOW, WLK, HUN). We are lowering our near term outlook on NCX from 1-Overweight to 2 – Equal weight and our outlook on WLK from 2-Equal weight to 3- Underweight. Please review our individual notes on WLK and NCX for more details.

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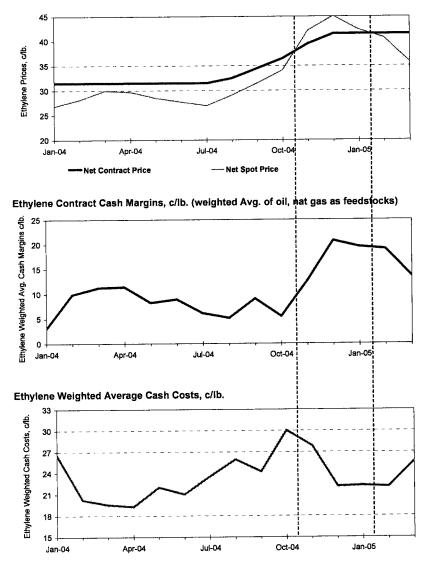
PLEASE SEE ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION(S) ON PAGE 5 AND IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES BEGINNING ON PAGE 6

We view the cl-alkali cycle as inherently longer and stronger due to supply fundamentals, the short product chain, and an inability to store large amounts of caustic, chlorine inventory throughout the chain. This makes the current operating rate of 99% more genuine and more sustainable as long as industrial demand continues to grow in 2005-06 even at a modest pace. Thus, we remain positive on PPG and GGC (both 1–OW).

As a follow-up to our previous notes (published on March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>), this report aims to provide an updated view of the current ethylene / PE market, based on review and analysis of similar previous situations. For example, based on review of the past 20 years, it is apparent that inflection points (larger than normal gaps on the plus or minus side) between ethylene spot and contract prices can be leading indicators to the near-term directional changes in ethylene cash margins.

So far in 2005, the U.S. ethylene market has seen some softness. Through industry sources, we have confirmed that last week (when oil price was \$56/barrel) the spot price of ethylene traded at 35 c/lb, 6.5 c/lb LOWER than the March contract price which settled flat to the previous month at 41.5 c/lb. While spot market is only about 10-15% of the total volume, the change in US ethylene spot price does serve as a leading indicator for the contract prices. With the delta between the contract and spot price is so large at 6.5 c/lb (or 15%), it is reasonable to expect the ethylene prices and (much more importantly) cash profit margins to be under pressure in April and possibly through the summer.

US Ethylene Contract vs. Spot Prices, c/lb.



Source: CMAI

The Current Ethylene Peak of 2004-06. The chart above shows our expectations for the inflection points in the current ethylene cycle. The first cross-over point in late 2004 (spot is above contract price = very tight market), followed by the second

inflection point in early 2005, with spot ethylene dropping below the contract price, indicating sequential weakness. We expect this to lead to lower contract prices and cash margins through mid-2005.

We believe that if after a 3-4 months adjustment of producer inventories the end-market PE demand remains strong, we could see yet another inflection point where spot prices are once again higher than contract prices, suggesting a positive momentum in higher prices and profit margins. Obviously, all the above considerations assume fairly stable energy prices (i.e. oil prices within \$50-58 range). A larger decline in oil prices could either accelerate a downtrend in PE prices, while sharp increase could put provide support to higher PE prices, while eating into profit margins.

So far, ethylene and PE demand in 2005 has been weaker than expected by the market. U.S. PE inventories have increased 750 M lbs over the past 4 months and are currently at their highest level in 2 years. It appears that U.S. producers have recently been undisciplined in their high rates of production and have significantly overestimated the amount of export demand to the Asian region. The result has been lower than expected total demand and increased producer-level inventories. Data on US polyethylene producer and consumer inventory data is available upon request.

#### Impact of US HDPE Producer Inventory on Prices and Cash Margins

	Highest PE Producer Inventory Level	HDPE Price, c/lb.	Margin, c/lb.	Oil, WTI \$/barrell	Nat Gas \$/mBtu
Apr-03		51	8.0	28.3	5.2
May-03	***	49	6.0	28.1	5.2
Jun-03		47	5.8	30.7	6.0
Jul-03		46	6.5	30.7	5.4
Aug-03		46	6.6	31.6	4.8
Oct-04		59	11.3	53.2	5.7
Nov-04		65	12.9	48.4	7.6
Dec-04		65	10.9	43.2	7.4
Jan-05		65	11.2	46.8	6.1
Feb-05	***	65	11.8	47.9	6.2
Mar-05		64	10.8	54.4	6.3

Source: Lehman Brothers Estimates

What do we believe this means to the near-term direction of ethylene and PE prices and cash margins? DOWN. For example, the table above shows that the last time of high producer inventories in April-May '03, the price of PE decreased 5 c/lb over 3 months, despite flat-to higher energy prices. Hence, we believe PE contract prices will settle DOWN 1-2 c/lb in March as opposed to increasing the proposed 3-5 c/lb, which were announced a few months ago, but then went sideways a couple of months without actual implementation.

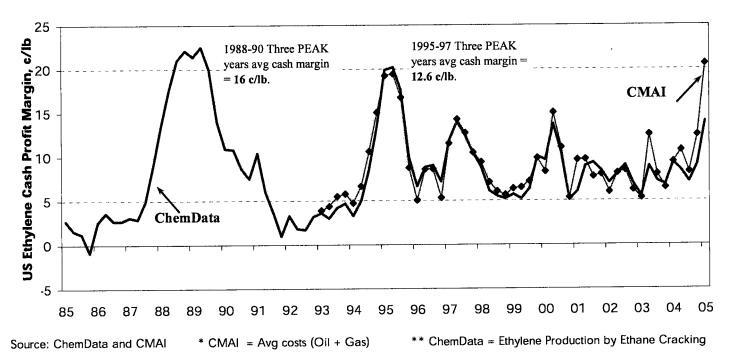
To summarize, the two main causes for concern for the ethylene/PE cycle are the currently high level of PE producer inventory and a large delta between contract and spot ethylene prices. Obviously, the two factors are interrelated. Despite a slowdown in PE demand since December 2004, US producers continued to run facilities at high operating rates. Producers expected the PE demand to pick up in February, with the Chinese buyers returning after the Lunar year holidays and US packaging companies increasing purchases in anticipation of 5+4 c/lb price increases. As both demand assumptions did not play out, the PE producers faced higher inventories.

#### The shape of the next Ethylene Peak: a Tale of Two Camels

In recent discussions with numerous investors, we faced the questions about the shape, timing and magnitude of the next cyclical peak. The chart below should provide a useful reference to the two previous peaks: a large, single peak of 1988-89 and a smaller, "double-hump" peak of 1995-97. Ten years ago, the 1995 peak was fairly similar in form to the current peak, followed by a sequential weakness in 1996 (due to an economic slowdown), and then another peak in 1997, caused by an improving economy and a large extended shutdown of Shell Chemical plant (2.4% of ethylene capacity shut down for more than 10 months).

So the question is whether the current peak will resemble a one-hump camel of 1988 or a two hump-camel of 1995-97? While the exact answer will not be known until after the peak is seen in the rear-view mirror, a two hump-camel scenario is more likely, in our view. The incremental data points over the next six weeks (contract and spot prices, consumer and producer PE inventory, run-rate of PE demand and export trends) should provide a bit more clarity for the formation of the first hump of this cycle.

#### **U.S. Ethylene Cash Profit Margin**



- Will the current peak be similar to 1988 (single) or 1995-97 (double) shape?
- •What will be the timing and duration of the peak?

The answers to the above questions will be critical for peak EPS, and thus valuation of DOW, HUN, LYO, NCX and WLK.

We continue to believe it is time to lock-in the profits in LYO and WLK.

At this time, our RELATIVE ranking of ethylene stocks (from top pick to least attractive) is as follows:

We believe NCX (2-EW) is the best stock in the group but the stock price could see pressure along with the rest of the group; DOW, HUN, (both rated as 2-EW), while WLK and LYO (both, rated as 3-UW) has the highest risk and lowest forward return, in our view. For LYO, the arguments are stretched valuation, very high financial leverage and hence risk. Meanwhile, WLK has enjoyed a very rich run-up from the IPO. Although WLK has a strong chlor-alkali contribution, relatively low leverage and thus modest risk, a very shallow liquidity in the stock would make the stock vulnerable to sharp downward correction.

### Producers' Sensitivity Analysis and Outlook for Major Chemical Commodities

		Ethylene	HDPE	LLDPE	LDPE	CI-alkali	VCM	PVC	Styrene	PS	PET	PP
Historical Pe	erspective								U8 30			
Peak margins, 1995 Trough margins, 2001 Next Expected Peak		17.4 7.2 (2002) 2006	7.5 (0.4) 2006	6.9 (2.7) 2006	8.6 (0.2) 2006	\$257 14 (1999) 2005	2.7 (2.1) 2005	4.8 0.4 2005	11.1 8.1 8.7 0.9 (2002) 2006 2006	8.1	27.8 2.4 (2003) 2007	10.5 3.1 2006
										0.9 (2002)		
										2006		
PRODUCER LEV	ERAGE	Ethylene	HDPE	LLDPE	LDPE	Cl-alkali	VCM	PVC	Styrene	PS	PET	PP
DuPont	EPS, in cts		<del></del>		0.5	_		-	_	-	<b></b>	
PPG	EPS, in cts					6.6	2.7	-	-			
Dow Chemical	EPS, in cts	14.9	4.0	2.9	2.5	4.4	4.3		2.8	2.9		1.3
AVON	EPS, in cts	37.9	8.3	14.2	2.2	-	_		20.8	24.6		-
Huntsman	EPS, in cts	13.6		2.1	1.2				0.7	8.0		3.1
New Lyondell	EPS, in cts	28.4	8.6	2.9	3.9	-			7.3			-
Vestlake	EPS, in cts	28.2		14.4	8.4	3.6	13.4	9.9	4.6			-
Eastman	EPS, in cts			3.5	5.4						27.6	
Wellman	EPS, in cts			_		_	_		_		27.1	
Georgia Gulf	EPS, in cts	_		-		9.1	61.1	50.8				
-						1					1	

Source: CMAI, company reports, Lehman Brothers

EPS, in cts

Please see our company-specific research notes on WLK and NCX for stock-specific analysis and implications.

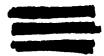
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Du Pont	DD	51.24	2-Equal weight
Dow Chemical	DOW	51.10	2-Equal weight
Eastman Chemical	EMN	59.38	3-Underweight
Georgia Gulf Corp	GGC	47.88	1-Overweight
Huntsman Corp.	HUN	23.73	2-Equal weight
Lyondell Chemical	LYO	28.86	3-Underweight
Monsanto Co	MON	60.10	3-Underweight
NOVA Chemicals	NCX	43.50	2-Equal weight
NL Industries	NL	23.27	3-Underweight
Nalco Holding	NLC	18.50	2-Equal weight
Olin Corp	OLN	22.77	2-Equal weight
PPG Industries	PPG	70.62	1-Overweight
Praxair Inc.	PX	47.95	1-Overweight
Rohm & Haas	ROH	47.83	2-Equal weight
Ultrapar Participacoes S.A.	UGP	16.24	3-Underweight
Valspar Corp	VAL	46.51	1-Overweight
Westlake Corp.	WLK	32.40	3-Underweight

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