

Why the Big Pause? Balancing Long-Term Value with Near-Term Headwinds. Initiating Coverage of Oilfield Svcs and Equipment

Summary

We are launching coverage of 21 companies in the the Oilfield Services & Equipment sector. Despite short-term headwinds due to transitory Permian takeaway constraints, we believe the risk/reward in several names in our universe is very compelling. We project strong growth to restart in U.S. land activity by mid-2019 and believe international activity is in the early stages of a recovery.

Key Points

- **Crude Outlook Supports Higher Activity:** Stifel's WTI crude oil price forecasts of \$67.25, \$63.50 and \$60.00 in 2018-20, respectively, are supportive of rising worldwide drilling activity. We expect the U.S. rig count to increase about 18%, 8% and 14% in 2018-20, respectively, following 84% growth in 2017. Internationally, we are forecasting annual growth in the mid- to high-single digits in 2018-20.
- **The Permian Pause:** We are expecting takeaway constraints in the Permian basin to lead to a temporary pause in growth, not a material decline in activity. Based on detailed work by Stifel's E&P team, it appears that if completion activity plateaus, production will not overwhelm takeaway capacity. As pipeline capacity begins to come on line in 1Q19, Permian completion activity should rise with more significant growth in 2H 2019. In our view, many of the stocks in our universe are reflecting a material decline in the Permian, not a pause.
- **Short-Term Pressure Pumping Headwinds Should Abate by Mid-2019:** The anticipated pause in Permian completion activity over the next few quarters combined with new pressure pumping capacity additions will likely lead to utilization and pricing softness for U.S. pressure pumpers. We do not expect a dramatic decline in frac pricing, but we do believe spot pricing will fall. As additional Permian takeaway capacity comes on line in 2019, we predict a fairly rapid rebound in demand and solid earnings growth for frac operators in 2020.
- **Frac Sand Outlook:** Demand for sand continues to rise sharply and we are anticipating continued growth over the next several years. However, significant supply growth from in-basin mines have a meaningful delivered cost advantage. While we believe there is a market for high-quality NWS and some operators will shun in-basin sand, the in-basin mines will likely lead to sand price weakness over at least the next several quarters.
- **International Recovery Appears to be on the Horizon:** Following four years of weakness, there have been a few positive signs, including a modest uptick in rig activity, that indicate a rebound internationally is on the horizon. We expect gradual improvement and do not expect meaningful pricing and margin growth internationally until 2H 2019/2020.
- **Oil Service Stocks Have Underperformed E&Ps and Many Names Look "Cheap":** The OSX (Oil Service Index) has underperformed the XOP (Exploration & Production ETF) in 2016, 2017 and thus far in 2018. In addition, despite strong crude oil prices, the OSX has underperformed the S&P 500 in 2017 and year-to-date 2018. In addition, on average, names in our universe are down 33% from 52-week highs, including 26% for the three large caps, 41% for pure-play pressure pumpers and 50% for frac sand companies. On average, names are trading at a 30% discount to median forward EV/EBITDA multiples based on our 2020 forecasts and many sit near the bottom of the historical range, particularly pressure pumpers and frac sand companies.
- **Dealing with the Big Pause:** Over the next few quarters, we believe Permian takeaway constraints will create volatility and keep many stocks in our universe range-bound until visibility improves. In our view, many of our names offer very compelling value for long-term investors but lack positive catalysts in the short term. As it pertains to pressure pumping companies and frac sand providers, we suggest being selective and very valuation sensitive in the near term. Outside of these groups, we are focused on names with solid return on capital profiles, strong growth opportunities, robust free cash flow expectations and potential positive catalysts.
- **Our Favorite Stocks Near-Term:** Our favorite large cap names are **Tenaris** (TS, Buy, \$31.22, Select List), **Baker Hughes, a GE company** (BHGE, Buy, \$31.42, Select List). On the smaller cap side, we prefer **Solaris** (SOI, Buy, \$15.29), **DMC Global** (BOOM, Buy, \$36.95) and **Oil States** (OIS, Buy, \$30.40). We also are recommending **National Oilwell** (NOV, Buy, \$44.24) and **Civeo** (CVEO, Buy, \$3.47).
- **Compelling Risk/Reward Plays:** While there are clearly some short-term headwinds, several names appear to offer a compelling risk/reward for value-oriented investors. These include **Halliburton** (HAL, Buy, \$36.80) among large caps and small- to mid-caps **Keane Group** (FRAC, Buy, \$10.67), **Liberty** (LBRT, Buy, \$16.38), **ProPetro** (PUMP, Buy, \$15.01), and **TETRA** (TTI, Buy, \$4.24).

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Exhibit 1: Valuation Summary

	Ticker	Rating	Mkt. Cap (\$ Mil.)	Price 09/08/18	Target Price	Upside to TP	Price/EPS		EV/EBITDA	
							2019E	2020E	2019E	2020E
Large-Cap Oil Service										
Baker Hughes, a GE Company Class A	BHGE	Buy	34,531	31.42	\$40.00	27.3%	20.9x	13.1x	9.7x	9.2x
Halliburton Company	HAL	Buy	32,380	36.80	45.00	22.3%	17.2x	10.7x	8.9x	6.7x
Schlumberger NV	SLB	Hold	82,632	59.70	69.00	15.6%	23.0x	16.1x	11.5x	9.3x
Average							20.4x	13.3x	10.0x	8.4x
Oilfield Equipment										
National Oilwell Varco, Inc.	NOV	Buy	16,927	44.24	54.00	22.1%	44.0x	20.1x	14.8x	10.1x
Tenaris S.A. Sponsored ADR	TS	Buy	18,428	31.22	41.00	31.3%	16.9x	12.5x	9.7x	7.6x
Average							30.4x	16.3x	12.3x	8.9x
Small/Mid Cap										
Core Laboratories NV	CLB	Hold	4,813	108.87	117.00	7.5%	36.3x	27.6x	26.6x	21.0x
DMC Global Inc.	BOOM	Buy	550	36.95	53.00	43.4%	13.9x	10.6x	7.9x	6.2x
Oil States International, Inc.	OIS	Buy	1,824	30.40	40.00	31.6%	43.3x	20.3x	11.4x	8.6x
Pioneer Energy Services Corp.	PES	Hold	231	2.95	3.00	1.7%	NM	57.7x	6.0x	4.9x
Superior Energy Services, Inc.	SPN	Hold	1,259	8.15	9.00	10.4%	NM	55.4x	5.1x	4.4x
TETRA Technologies, Inc.	TTI	Buy	533	4.24	6.50	53.3%	27.7x	14.1x	6.9x	5.9x
Weatherford International plc	WFT	Hold	2,293	2.30	3.00	30.4%	NM	NM	9.9x	8.1x
Average							30.3x	30.9x	10.5x	8.4x
Pressure Pumpers										
FTS International, Inc.	FTSI	Hold	1,038	9.50	12.00	26.3%	4.6x	3.7x	4.2x	3.4x
Keane Group, Inc.	FRAC	Buy	1,170	10.67	16.00	50.0%	13.4x	8.2x	3.7x	3.1x
Liberty Oilfield Services Inc. Class A	LBRT	Buy	1,936	16.38	21.00	28.2%	7.4x	6.1x	4.0x	3.5x
ProPetro Holding Corp.	PUMP	Buy	1,254	15.01	18.00	19.9%	6.8x	6.1x	3.8x	3.4x
RPC, Inc.	RES	Hold	2,855	13.29	15.00	12.9%	16.5x	12.6x	7.1x	5.9x
Average							9.8x	7.3x	4.6x	3.9x
Frac Sand										
Smart Sand, Inc.	SND	Hold	194	4.67	5.50	17.8%	4.4x	4.7x	3.4x	3.5x
Solaris Oilfield Infrastructure, Inc. Class A	SOI	Buy	719	15.29	20.00	30.8%	5.5x	4.9x	3.7x	3.4x
U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.	SLCA	Buy	1,504	19.41	26.00	34.0%	7.0x	7.2x	4.7x	4.8x
Average							5.6x	5.6x	3.9x	3.9x
Others										
Civeo Corp	CVEO	Buy	583	3.47	5.00	44.1%	NM	NM	9.3x	7.8x

Source: Company reports, FactSet and Stifel estimates.

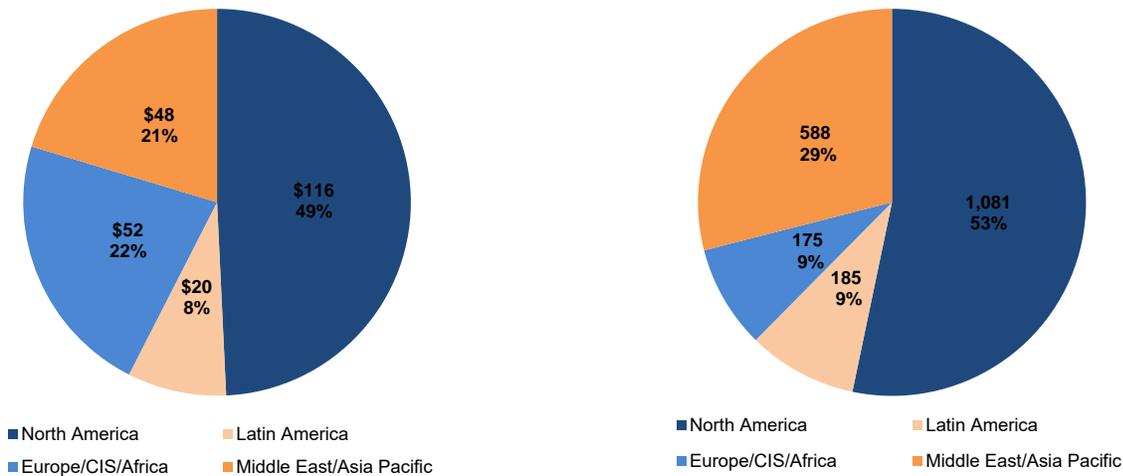
Overview

The Global Oilfield Services and Equipment market includes a wide array of products and services ranging from commodity products like simple tubulars to highly engineered, advanced technologies used to access hydrocarbons buried deep below the Earth's surface. We estimate the worldwide Oilfield Services and Equipment market currently stands at approximately \$250 billion, well off its 2014 peak of close to \$450 billion. In general, the primary driver of the market is the upstream capital spending budgets of oil and gas companies, ranging from major National Oil Companies (NOCs, e.g. Saudi Aramco, Petrobras) to global integrated major oil companies (IOCs, e.g. ExxonMobil, BP) to small "mom-and-pop" operators in the U.S. land market.

From a geographic perspective, historically the rule of thumb was that roughly 75% of the market was driven by international activity and 25% by the U.S. market. This has shifted, at least in the near term, owing to the improved economics of U.S. oil production and the increasing role of the United States in world oil markets. In fact, over the past two years the U.S. rig count has more than doubled from the bottom (404 rigs in May 2016) to more than 1,000 rigs while the international rig count has been essentially flat. Looking ahead, we expect the U.S. rig count to continue to rise in 2019-20 (albeit at a slower pace) and it appears we are finally beginning to see improvements in the international rig count after several years of anemic activity.

We believe the first step to evaluating an oil service company is to clearly understand the primary markets it has exposure to and the key drivers of those markets. Spears & Associates estimates that North America accounted for 49% of the \$230 billion of global oilfield spending in 2017 versus 36% in 2016 and well above the historical norm of around 25%. As highlighted in **Exhibit 2**, Latin America is estimated to be about 9% of the global oilfield market and the Eastern Hemisphere 42-43%. While there are signs that international activity is gradually improving, we expect the U.S. land market to be the fastest growing segment over the next one-to-two years.

Exhibit 2: 2017 Global Oilfield Spending by Region (Dollars in Billions) and 2017 Rig Count by Region

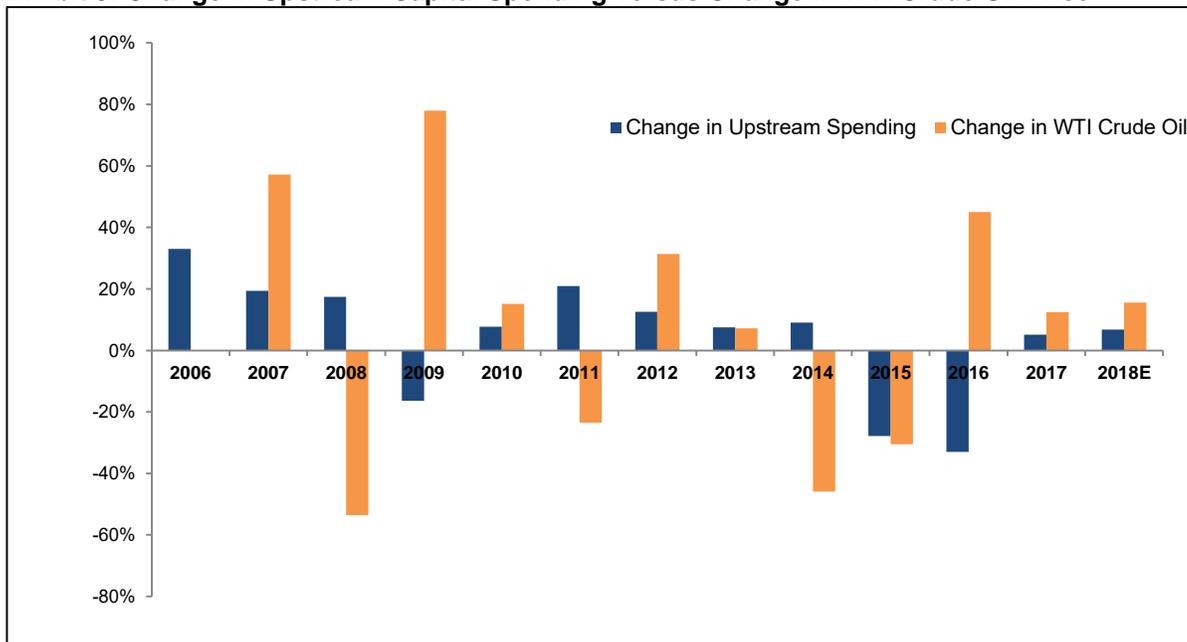


Source: Spears & Associates (left) and Baker Hughes, a GE company (right)

It's a Cyclical Business and Crude Matters

The global oilfield services market is unquestionably a cyclical business with sharp swings in activity driven by several macro factors. As shown in **Exhibit 3**, industry spending tends to follow fluctuations in crude oil prices, and over the last 10+ years, the smallest percentage change in global oilfield spending was roughly 5% in 2017. This rather small change was the net effect of a very sharp rise in U.S. land revenue growth offset by anemic international land markets and weak offshore activity. While 2018 is shaping up to be a strong year in the U.S. land markets and possibly a transitional year internationally, it might be a bit optimistic to declare 2019 as the year of a synchronized global oilfield recovery, but we do expect higher activity in most areas around the globe.

Exhibit 3: Change in Upstream Capital Spending versus Change in WTI Crude Oil Price

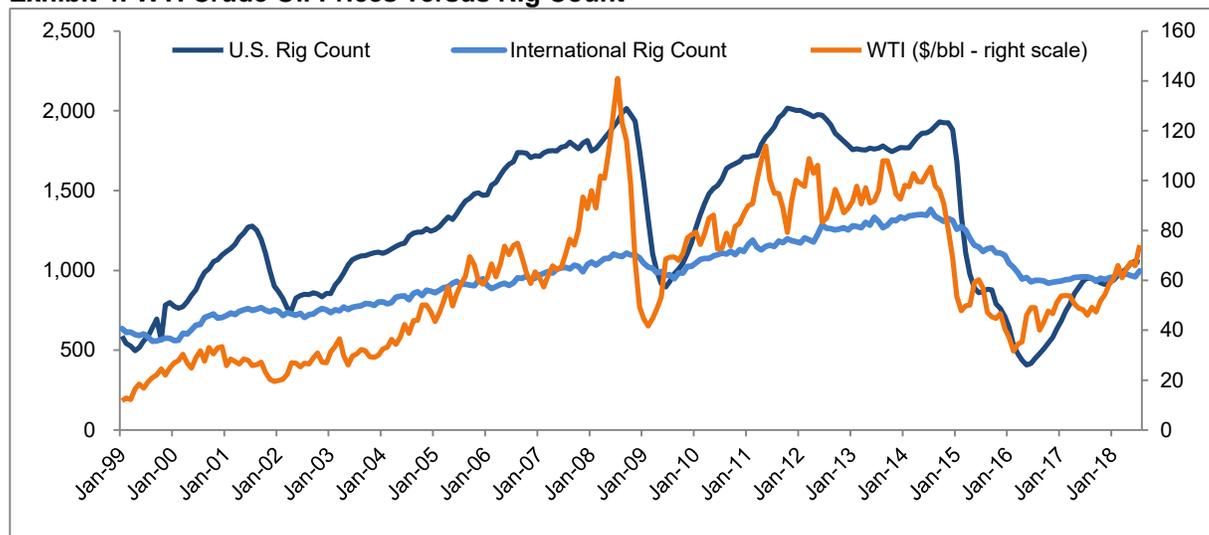


Source: Spears & Associates, FactSet and Stifel estimates

Crude oil prices have a significant impact on worldwide drilling and completion activity, and on oil service stocks. In the short term, fluctuations in crude oil prices tend to create volatility in stock prices and potentially create short-term trading opportunities. Importantly, near-term oil price swings are common given the abundance of noise from both expected data (weekly crude inventory data, monthly oil reports, etc.) and unexpected news (geopolitical events, rumblings from OPEC, weather, etc.).

Our investment thesis is largely driven by our expectation for crude oil prices over the next 12-24 months coupled with our view on whether the crude futures curve is too bearish, bullish or reasonable. We believe WTI crude oil prices will remain in the mid- to high-\$60s per barrel level over the next several quarters and normalize to \$60 longer term. In our view, this backdrop supports strong activity levels in the U.S. land market and rising drilling in intentional land markets. **Exhibit 4** highlights WTI crude oil prices relative to the U.S. rig count and the international rig count.

Exhibit 4: WTI Crude Oil Prices versus Rig Count



Source: FactSet and Baker Hughes, a GE company

As noted above, we continue to be fairly bullish on WTI crude oil prices and expect prices to remain in a range that supports rising drilling activity, particularly in the U.S. land market. Furthermore, it appears international activity will gradually rise over the next several quarters supported by increased confidence in oil prices over the next few years. We currently expect the U.S. count to rise roughly 18% in 2018 fueled by a 31% increase in the Permian and a 19% increase in the overall oil rig count. In 2019, we are forecasting an 8% rise in the U.S. rig count owing to a pause in the Permian followed by low- to mid-teens growth in 2020. Internationally, after several anemic years, we expect around a 5% increase in 2018 and likely 6-9% growth in 2019-20, respectively. Our rig count assumptions are summarized in **Exhibit 5**.

Exhibit 5: Rig Count Assumptions

	2014	2015	2016	Average				Percentage Change			
				2017	2018E	2019E	2020E	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
United States	1,861	979	509	875	1,020	1,100	1,250	71.9%	16.6%	7.8%	13.6%
U.S. Horizontal	1,275	744	400	737	867	957	1,088	83.9%	17.7%	10.4%	13.6%
% U.S. Horizontal	68.5%	76.0%	78.7%	84.2%	85.0%	87.0%	87.0%				
Permian Basin	538	277	182	355	465	490	575	95.1%	31.0%	5.4%	17.3%
% Permian	28.9%	28.3%	35.8%	40.6%	45.6%	44.5%	46.0%				
U.S. Oil	1,527	750	408	703	836	891	1,025	72.3%	18.9%	6.5%	15.0%
% U.S. Oil	82.0%	76.6%	80.2%	80.4%	82.0%	81.0%	82.0%				
U.S. Gas	335	229	101	171	184	209	225	70.0%	7.2%	13.8%	7.7%
% U.S. Gas	18.0%	23.4%	19.8%	19.6%	18.0%	19.0%	18.0%				
Canada	380	192	131	206	205	225	250	58.1%	-0.8%	9.9%	11.1%
International	1,337	1,169	955	948	991	1,055	1,140	-0.7%	4.5%	6.5%	8.1%

Source: Baker Hughes, a GE company and Stifel estimates

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