

# Cyclical Investing: Mr. Market Goes to Rehab

# Bob Robotti

Robotti & Company Advisors

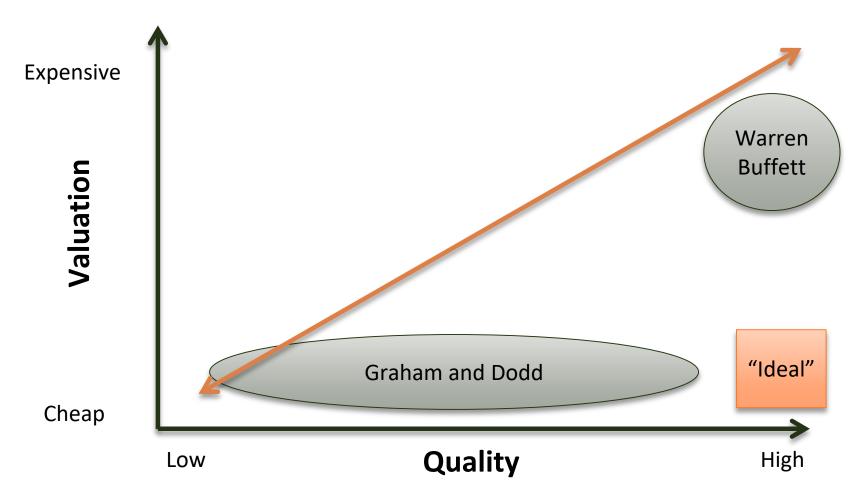
Ben Graham Centre's 2019 Value Investing Conference April 2, 2019

#### Our Foundation

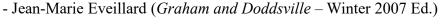
• Valuation is the foundation of our investment process.

• We believe that market prices of securities do not necessarily indicate their true economic worth.

# Commonalities Among Value Investors



"To me, value investing is a big tent that accommodates many different people. At one end of the tent there is Ben Graham, and at the other end of the tent there is Warren Buffett, who worked with Graham and then went out on his own and made adjustments to the teachings of Ben Graham."





#### Common Themes



#### **Ugly Ducklings**

- Many value investors say they look for companies or industries that are beaten-up, out of favor, or out of fashion ugly ducklings.
- However, we find it most common for investors to avoid near-term uncertainty at all cost and only invest once the dust has settled.
- We concentrate on understanding the long-term normalized earning power of a business well before it turns into a swan.

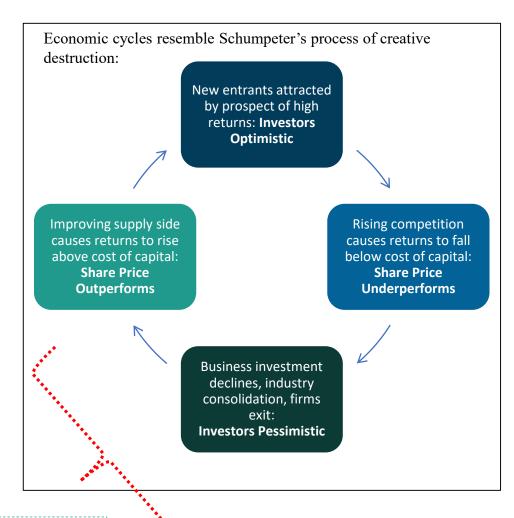
#### **Long Runways**

- Industries facing significant short-term headwinds / "unknowns."
- Individual companies that are certainly not immune to the industry-wide issues and may even have more serious complications.
- The dynamics are in place for very long runways of growth once headwinds dissipate.



# Understanding the Value of Economic Cycles

- Statistically Cheap
- Differentiated business / Competitive advantage
- Large inside ownership
- Ability to be opportunistic through the downturn
- → Improved earning power



Hunting ground for value investors

# Cyclicals Amplify Mr. Market's Manic Depressive Nature

"A business which sells at a premium does so because it earns a large return upon its capital; this large return attracts competition; and generally speaking, it is not likely to continue indefinitely. Conversely in the case of a business selling at a large discount because of abnormally low earnings. absence of new competition, the withdrawal of old competition from the field, and other natural economic forces should tend eventually to improve the situation and restore normal rate of profit on the investment."

Security Analysis (1934 Edition)
Benjamin Graham and David Dodd

# Today's Value Investor Bias

	Investing Checklist
	Is this company cyclical?
X	Is the business tied to commodity prices?
	Is the business capital intensive?
	Is the balance sheet levered?
	Is there potential technological disruption?

"If you want to have a better performance than the crowd, you must do things differently from the crowd."

- Sir John Templeton

#### What Makes Robotti Different

#### **Analytical Edge**

Within the context of a longer-term perspective and 30+ years of experience, we have the ability to develop a different conclusion than that of the market.



Our network of industry relationships, focus on deep primary research, and experience serving on company boards, provides us with more pieces for building our information mosaic.



Leads Us To



# **Behavioral Edge**

We take a longer-term view and have the ability to tolerate market swings.

Our behavioral edge comes from our ability to tolerate market volatility. As a result, our investment process concentrates on understanding the long-term normalized earning power of a business well before the "investing herd" gains interest.

# Stolt-Nielsen Limited (OB:SNI)



- Stolt-Nielsen, the world's largest provider of transportation and storage for bulk liquid chemicals, was founded in 1959 by Jacob Stolt-Nielsen, a pioneer of the parcel tanker industry.
- Stolt's three main business segments include:
  - (1) Stolt Tankers, (2) Stolthaven Terminals, and
  - (3) Stolt Tank Containers.
- Other segments include Sea Farm, and Stolt-Nielsen Gas where the company holds equity investments in Golar LNG & Avance Gas.
- At roughly 50% of book value we believe shares of the stock are cheap.

Market Capitalization				
Price	\$12.51			
Dil Shrs <sup>(1)</sup>	54.3			
Market Cap	\$680			
LT Debt	2,392			
Cash	<u>65</u>			
Enterprise Value	3,007			
Net Debt	2,328			
Net Debt/EBTIDA (ttm)	5.3x			
52 Week Hi	\$16.85			
52 Week Lo	\$11.00			

\$US as of March 28, 2019

			Conser	sus Est.
(Annual)	FY '17	FY '18	FY '19E	FY '20E
Revenue	1,997.1	2,125.5	2,159.6	2,240.0
growth	6.2%	6.4%	1.6%	3.7%
ev/sales	1.5x	1.4x	1.4x	1.3x
EBITDA	447.3	435.3	494.9	544.1
margin	22.4%	20.5%	22.9%	24.3%
ev/EBITDA	6.7x	6.9x	6.1x	5.5x
Diluted EPS	\$0.81	\$0.89	\$1.79	\$3.01
p/e	15.4x	14.1x	7.0x	4.2x

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In 11/2016, 7mm treasury shares were used as collateral for a \$60mm revolver. To comply with Bermuda law, ownership of these shares was transferred to Stolt-Nielsen Finance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary, which holds these shares on behalf of the lender. These shares are no longer included in Treasury shares and are included within Paid-In Surplus. For the purposes of IFRS EPS, these shares are considered as outstanding. Robotti Advisors adjusts for these shares when calculating market cap & enterprise value.



# Stolt-Nielsen Summary

- ✓ Stolt-Nielsen is the world leader of a niche oligopoly.
- ✓ The chemical tanker business has certain dynamics that differentiate it from other segments of the shipping industry.
- ✓ Complex assets necessary for segregated cargo limit the ease of industry entrance.
- ✓ New build activity for chemical tankers is relatively limited.
- ✓ Headwinds over the past ten years cloud underlying structural changes creating an opportunity.
- ✓ The terminal segment and container segment continue to provide high ROCE growth opportunities while creating strong synergies between the three primary segments.

# Strong Synergies Between the Three Main Segments







Same customers

same products

same markets

Stolt-Nielsen Limited is a worldwide leading provider of integrated transportation, storage and distribution of bulk liquid chemical products and veg. oils through its three largest business divisions

#### Shipping

#### **Bulk Liquid Storage**

Door-to-door Transportation

- · Deep sea and regional fleets provide global coverage
- Sophisticated stainless steel specialty tonnage with high number of segregations
- Storage facilities in main distribution locations serving as hubs for tankers
- Worldwide door-to-door logistics service
- Operations supported by 14 depots globally

Specialty chemicals

Organic chemicals

Inorganic chemicals

Vegetable oils

**Electronics** 





**Textile** 

**Packaging** 



**Automotive** 



Construction



**Agricultural** 

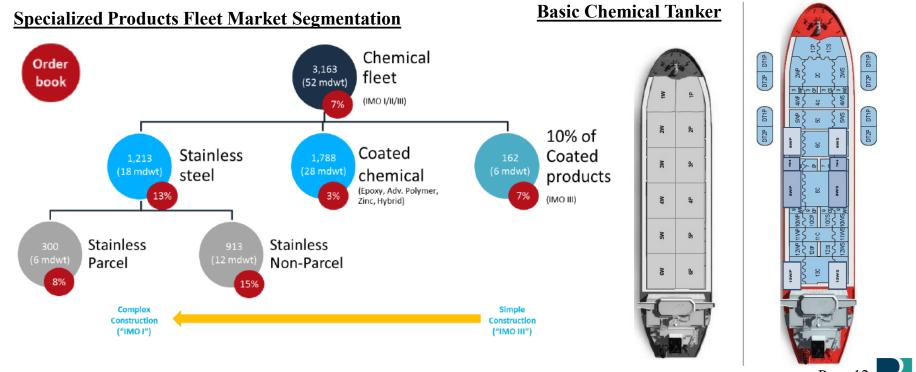




# Chemical Tankers: An Industry Niche

- Specialized chemical tankers are complex and often purpose-built differentiating them from other more commoditized ships.
- Historically, fragmentation created a very competitive environment while the industry's inherent cyclicality led to volatile earnings.

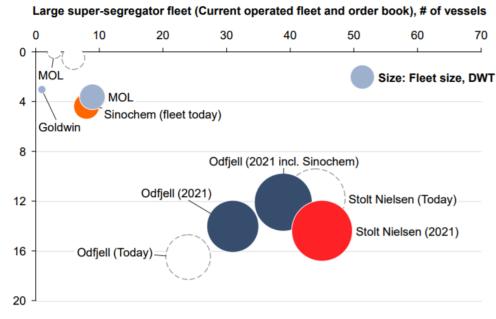
#### **Complex Segregated Tanker**



# Super-Segregated Niche

# Tankers: Sinochem transaction represented another milestone in renewing and growing our core super segregator fleet Large super-segregator fleet (2021)\*

- Odfjell announced a framework agreement with Sinochem Shipping in November. Final completion expected in 1Q 18
- Odfjell will bareboat 4 vessels (super segregators) from Sinochem and form a pool with Sinochem's 4 vessels
- The pool will be exclusively managed by Odfjell and acts as a capital efficient way of growing/renewing our fleet and at the same time consolidate our core markets
- With all our tonnage initiatives in 2017 we have reached our growth and renewal ambitions and have made good strategic progress
- Consolidation in the chemical tanker segment remains high on the agenda
  - Odfjell/Sinochem (Q4 17)
  - Odfjell/CTG (Q2 17)
  - Jo Tankers/Stolt-Nielsen (Q4 16)
  - Crystal Nordic/Essberger Tankers (Q4 17)



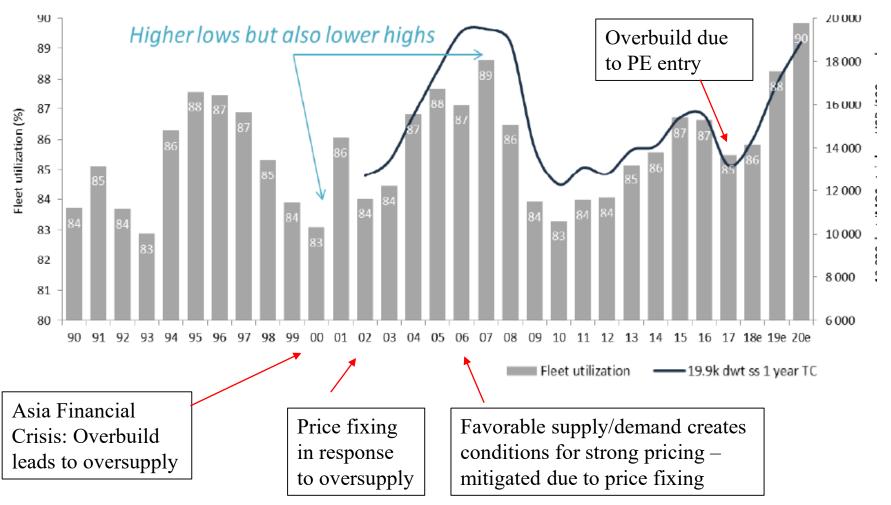
Average fleet age, Years



<sup>\*</sup> Not accounting for scrapping, except Stolt Vestland and Stolt Vinland and 3 NCC Kværner vessels Source: Odfjell fleet overview

### Chemical Tanker Fleet Utilization

#### Chemical tanker fleet utilization vs. 12 month TC rates for 19,900 dwt IMO2 stainless steel



#### Chemical Tankers: Demand Outlook

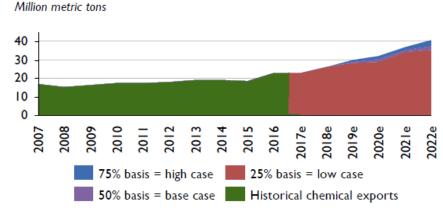
#### Significant Planned Chemical Plant Capacity Additions

# Annual capacity additions Million metric tons Oceania Southeast Asia India/Pakistan China Northeast Asia Middle East Africa Europe Latin America North America O 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 On stream 2016-2021 Base case

- Shifting feedstocks and chemical plant capacity: Continual shift to cheap gas feedstock (ethane) over next 5+ years, with majority of new capacity additions in the U.S. and Middle East
- Incremental chemicals exports primarily going to Asia (long-haul trade) supporting ton-mile demand

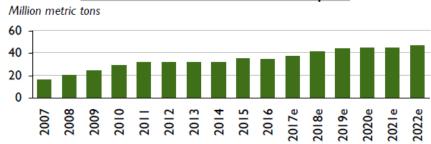
#### Leading to Strong Export Growth in the US...





#### ...and Middle East

#### Middle Eastern seaborne chemicals exports

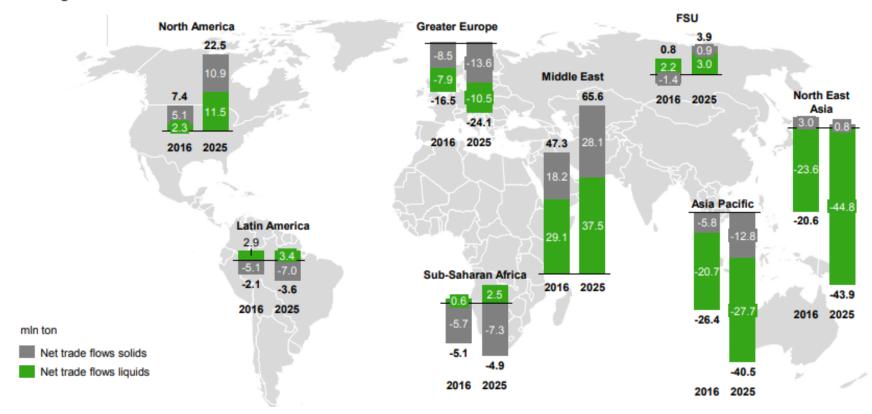


MEG-ASIA and USG-ASIA trade lanes are ~2-3x the average chemical tanker voyage length

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# Demand Tailwinds: Increasing Chemical Trade Flows

Regional imbalances of chemicals will continue to increase



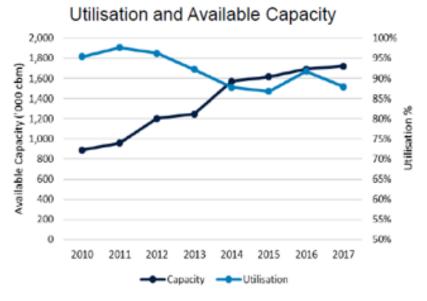
Increasing chemical trade flows will not only benefit the tanker business but will also provide a boost to the terminals and containers segments.



# Stolthaven Terminals: Segment Overview

Stolthaven Terminals is a global provider of high quality storage services for bulk-liquid chemicals, edible oils, acids and clean petroleum products.

- Stolthaven Terminals operates 17 owned & JV terminals with 4.7 million m<sup>3</sup> of capacity.
- With a similar global reach, customer base and handling expertise Stolthaven Terminals benefits from synergies with Stolt Tankers and Stolt Containers.
- Over \$1 billion has been invested in terminals since 2010 adding >800,000 cbm, almost doubling capacity.



# Stolt Tank Containers: Segment Overview

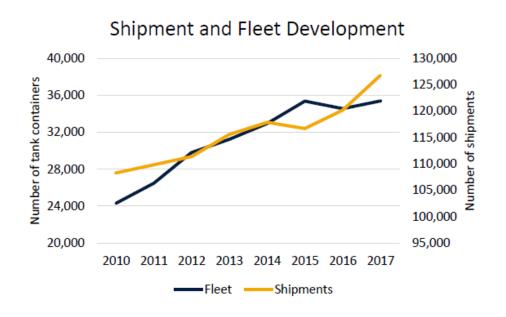
Stolt Tank Containers operates the world's largest fleet of intermodal tanks designed to transport shipments of bulk-liquid chemicals and foodgrade products door-to-door by road, rail and containership.

- Stolt Tank Containers operates 39,000 tank containers across a global network of 21 owned & JV depots.
- The tank containers segment has consistently earned double digit returns on capital employed.



# Stolt Tank Containers: Drivers and Key Metrics

- This has been Stolt-Nielsen's fastest growing segment and still has significant potential for further growth with limited capital investment.
- Growth drivers include the conversion of drums, flexibility and economical pricing.
- Focused on increasing utilization, turns per tank and improving margins to maintain & grow already high returns on capital employed.
- Systems development and implementation of global platforms will increase efficiency and scale, while reducing overhead.



#### Risks To Our Thesis

- ROIC weakness may continue for longer than expected.
- Balance sheet leverage increases liquidity risk.
- Rising interest rates could lead to refinancing risk.
- Corporate governance issues may arise due to family control.
- Entry into the LNG business has hallmarks of prior missteps: An excellent business model but difficult operational execution and insufficient capital lead to the inability to realize profits and increase the risk of over-leveraging the entire enterprise.

# Subsea 7 S.A. (OB:SUBC)



- Subsea 7 (OB:SUBC) is a global leader in seabedto-surface engineering connecting seabed wellhead structures to surface production facilities.
- Industry headwinds, revenue declines and margin compression in recent years have led to an oligopolistic market with barriers to entry that continue to increase over time.
- Current energy prices are below the long-term sustainable price needed and will likely result in increased project sanctions as the impact of production decline manifests.
- The inventory of deep and ultra-deep water discoveries not yet sanctioned continues to grow creating the potential for significant revenue growth and increased returns on capital.

Market Capitalization			
Price	\$12.26		
Dil Shrs	327.2		
Market Cap	\$4,012		
LT Debt	258		
Minority Interest	38		
Cash	<u>765</u>		
Enterprise Value \$3,544			

703 as 0	Consen	sus Est.			
(Annual)	FY '17	FY '18	FY '19E	FY '20E	
Revenue	3,986	4,074	3,891	4,263	
growth	11.7%	2.2%	(4.5%)	9.6%	
ev/sales	0.9x	0.9x	0.9x	0.8x	
EBITDA	1,035	669	593	708	
margin	26.0%	16.4%	15.2%	16.6%	
ev/EBITDA	3.4x	5.3x	6.0x	5.0x	
Diluted EPS	\$1.36	\$0.56	\$0.23	\$0.52	
p/e	9.0x	21.9x	54.4x	23.4x	

SUS as of March 28 2019

Subsea 7 is our highest conviction energy investment idea. With a durable competitive advantage, long-term dynamics are in place for significant growth.

# Core Business Segments

Subsea 7 provides technical solutions for projects at all water depths and in challenging environments.

#### **SURF and Conventional**

Engineering, construction, installation and procurement of subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines (SURF). Most SURF projects involve fixed price EPIC services agreements. Conventional includes the fabrication and installation of fixed platforms and associated pipelines

#### **Renewables & Heavy Lifting**

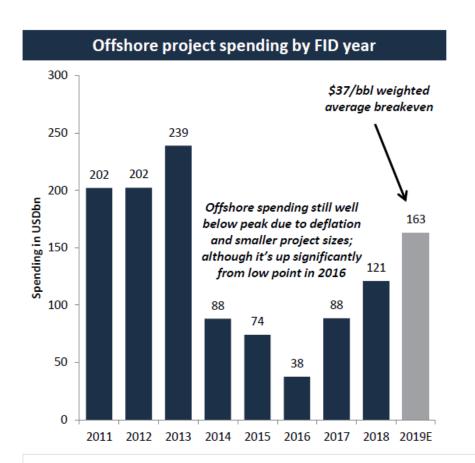
Services over the life of a field's production, including inspection, repair & maintenance

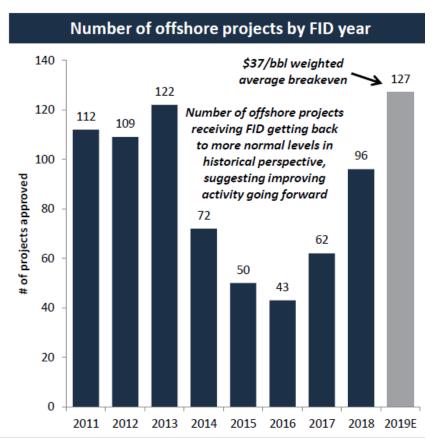
#### i-Tech Services

Inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR) services, integrity management and remote intervention



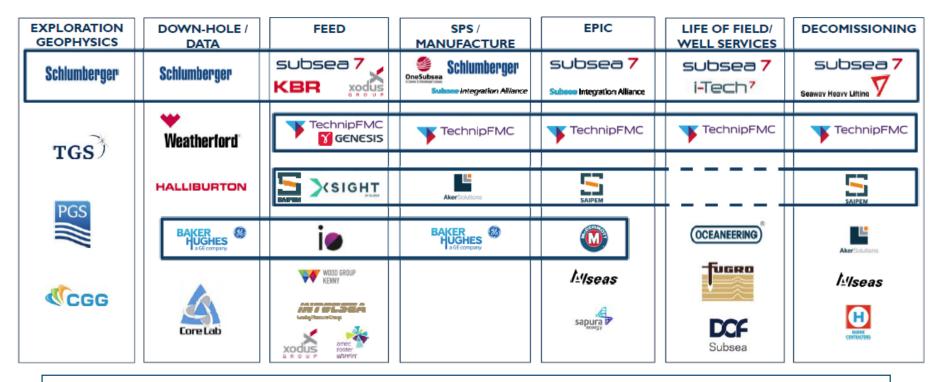
# Offshore Spending Fell Before Oil Prices Did





Higher FID levels suggest rising offshore activity levels as projects move to offshore execution phase

# Competitive Landscape Shifts as Industry Dwindles



#### Competitors that have gone into administration or exited offshore oil services:

- Ceona
- Petrofac (exited SURF)
- Reef Subsea
- Harkand

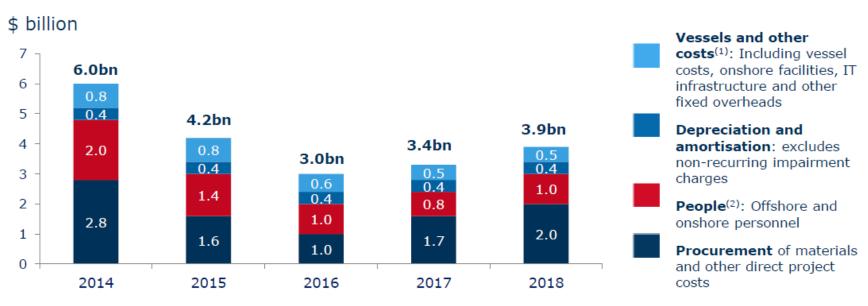
- Hallin Marine
- Specialist Subsea Svc •
- Red7 Marine
- Cal Dive

- Cecon
- Swiber
- EMAS
- Sea Trucks



# Subsea 7: Actively Navigating the Downturn

#### Maintaining cost discipline as the activity levels recover



- (1) Includes impairment charges related to property, plant & equipment and intangibles
- (2) Includes restructuring charges in 2015 and 2016

#### Since 2014 Subsea 7 has:

- Reduced workforce by ~40%
- Returned six chartered vessels
- Stacked four owned vessels
- Retired two owned vessels with two more due to leave in 2017



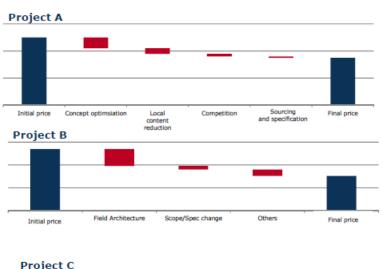
# Full Life Cycle Integrated Solutions Drive Lower Costs

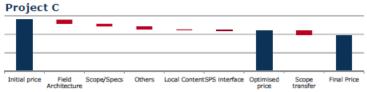
Actively adapt to industry conditions without losing focus on long term strategic priorities

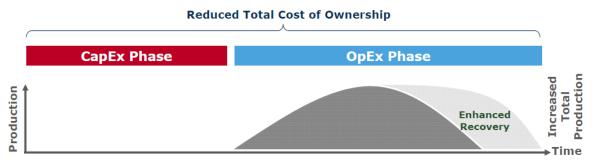


# **Enable projects to progress** in a lower oil price environment

- Integrated optimized design of entire subsea facility
- Lower cost, reduced risk and shorter schedule improves
   EIPC economics
- Integrated technologies to extend tieback distance and improve recovery









# Expanding Already Wide Moat

Туре	Source	Evidence
Supply Advantage:	<ul> <li>Proprietary Technology</li> <li>Engineering and Project Management Process</li> <li>Vessels (especially in certain ultra-deepwater and arctic areas)</li> </ul>	History of increasingly complex engineering needs in deeper water requires a demonstrated track record of successful and safe execution.
Demand Advantage:	<ul> <li>Market Position</li> <li>Skilled Engineers</li> <li>Local Content (Africa, Brazil)</li> </ul>	In this case, the resource is skilled engineering talent.
Economies of Scale:	<ul><li>Size</li><li>Geographic Reach</li></ul>	The tangible and intangible costs of searching for someone who can complete a major ultra-deepwater project at or above the standard of "the big three" are very high.

# Proven Capital Allocation / Balance Sheet Strength



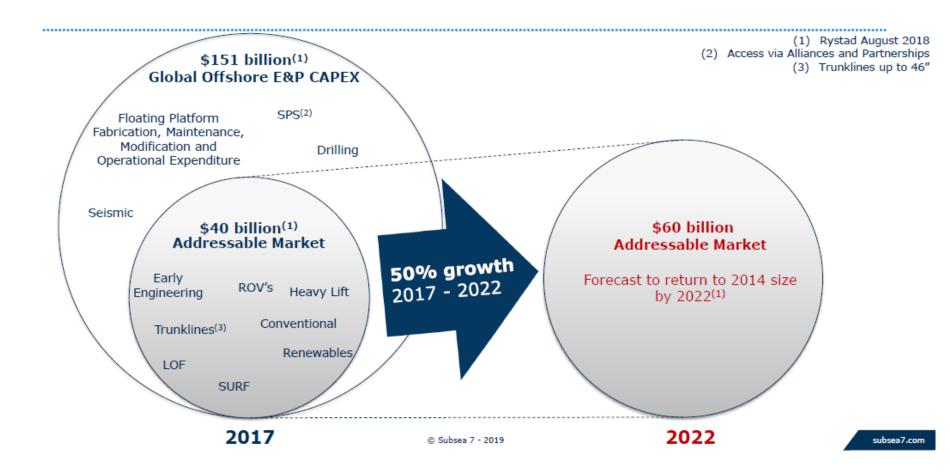
Kristian Siem Chairman

Kristian Siem, and other family members own 20% of Subsea 7's shares through Siem Industries holdings.



- As of December 31, 2018 Subsea 7 had \$507 million in *net*cash and an investment grade rating.
- A 5-year \$650 million revolving credit facility provides further flexibility.
- The board had paid:
  - ➤ Paid a \$200 million (NOK 5.00 / \$0.60 per share) special dividend in April 2017
  - ➤ Paid a \$200 million (NOK 5.00 / \$0.62 per share) dividend in May 2018
  - Declared a ~\$55 million (NOK 1.50 / \$0.17 per share) special dividend will be payable in May 2019
- Subsea 7 has returned over \$1.7 billion to shareholders in the form of cash dividends and share repurchases since the 2011 merger with Acergy.

#### Subsea 7's Addressable Market



# Long-Term Earning Power Valuation

Implied EBITDA minus Maintenance Capex (assumes \$200mm maintenance capex)

			Revenu	ie (USD)		
	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000
18%	520	700	880	1,060	1,240	1,420
20%	600	800	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,600
22%	680	900	1,120	1,340	1,560	1,780
24%	760	1,000	1,240	1,480	1,720	1,960
26%	840	1,100	1,360	1,620	1,880	2,140
28%	920	1,200	1,480	1,760	2,040	2,320

#### **Implied Stock Price at**

#### 8x EBITDA minus Maintenance Capex

			Revenu	ie (USD)		
	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000
18%	\$14.15	\$18.55	\$22.95	\$27.35	\$31.75	\$36.15
20%	\$16.10	\$20.99	\$25.88	\$30.77	\$35.66	\$40.55
22%	\$18.06	\$23.44	\$28.82	\$34.20	\$39.57	\$44.95
24%	\$20.01	\$25.88	\$31.75	\$37.62	\$43.49	\$49.35
26%	\$21.97	\$28.33	\$34.68	\$41.04	\$47.40	\$53.76
28%	\$23.93	\$30.77	\$37.62	\$44.46	\$51.31	\$58.16

#### **Implied Margin of Safety**

			Revenu	ie (USD)		
	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000
18%	15%	51%	87%	123%	159%	195%
20%	31%	71%	111%	151%	191%	231%
22%	47%	91%	135%	179%	223%	267%
24%	63%	111%	159%	207%	255%	302%
26%	79%	131%	183%	235%	287%	338%
28%	95%	151%	207%	263%	318%	374%

#### Risks To Our Thesis

- Oil prices could fall further or remain at current levels for an extended period leading major oil companies to defer capital expenditures and delay deepwater developments.
- Increasing competition in shallower water could result in decreased profitability should well depth not continue to increase.
- The safe and successful execution of large, complex EPIC projects is a primary risk. Supply chain delays can reverberate throughout the entire project.
- Operations in deep water are subject to unpredictable events such as severe weather or harsh ocean environments.

# Norbord, Inc. (TSX:OSB / NYSE:OSB)



- Norbord is the world's largest producer of oriented strand board (OSB) with 14 mills in North America and 3 mills in the UK and Europe.
- As the leading low cost producer Norbord is well positioned to take advantage of the North America's continued housing recovery.
- A focus on value-added and specialty products, favorable geographic exposure and a history of prudent capital allocation.
- A period of industry consolidation has created favorable supply / demand dynamics that will allow for a period of above average free cash flow generation.

Market Capitalization				
Price	\$26.99	Net Debt	456	
Dil Shrs	86.9	Net Debt/EBTIDA	0.6x	
Market Cap	\$2,345	Interest Coverage	15.8x	
LT Debt	584			
Cash	<u>128</u>	52 Week Hi	\$45.45	
Enterprise Value	2,801	52 Week Lo	\$24.18	

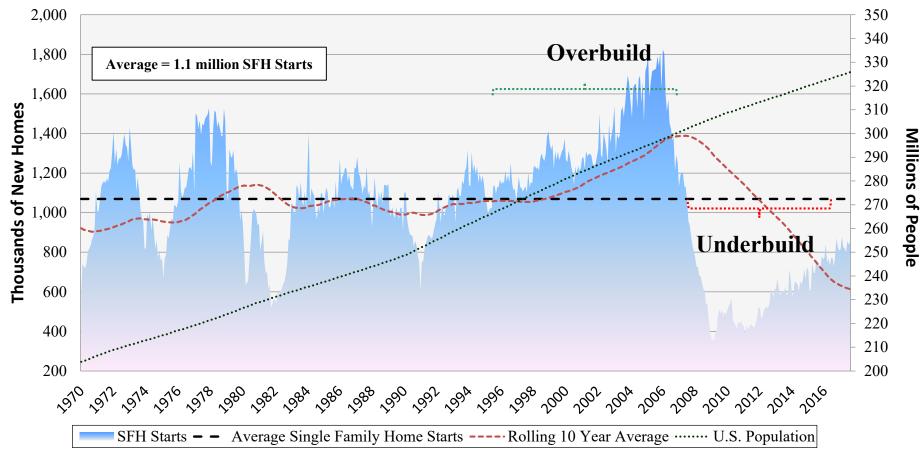
\$US as of March 28, 2019

				Consen	sus Est.
(Annual)	FY '16	FY '17	FY '18	FY '19E	FY '20E
Revenue	1,766.0	2,177	2,424	2,151	2,285
growth	17.0%	23.3%	11.3%	(11.3%)	6.2%
ev/sales	1.6x	1.3x	1.2x	1.3x	1.2x
EBITDA	373.0	667	719	433	495
margin	21.1%	30.6%	29.7%	20.1%	21.7%
ev/EBITDA	7.5x	4.2x	3.9x	6.5x	5.7x
Diluted EPS	\$2.13	\$5.03	\$4.27	\$2.26	\$2.86
p/e	12.7x	5.4x	6.3x	11.9x	9.4x

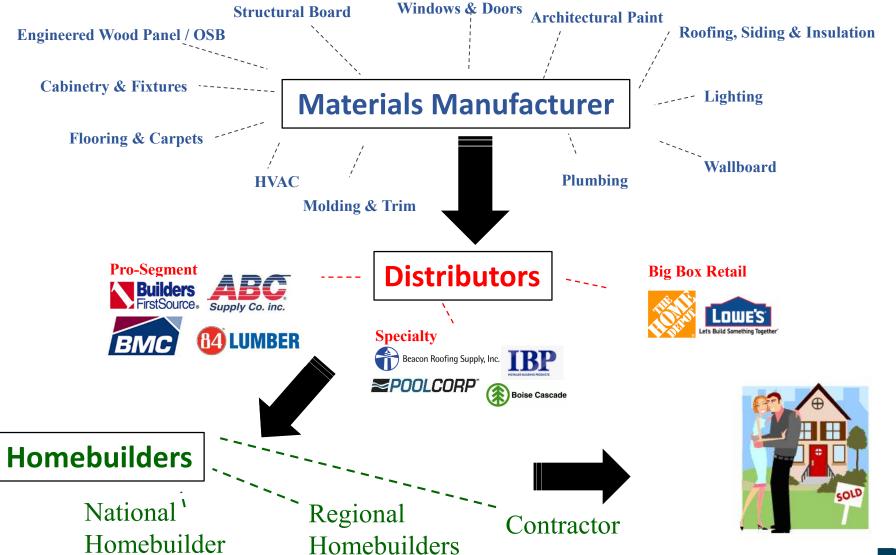
# Capital Cycle Case Study: The U.S. Housing Market

#### **U.S. Single Family Home Starts**

January 1970 to Present



# A Map of the Homebuilding Industry



# **Industry Consolidation**

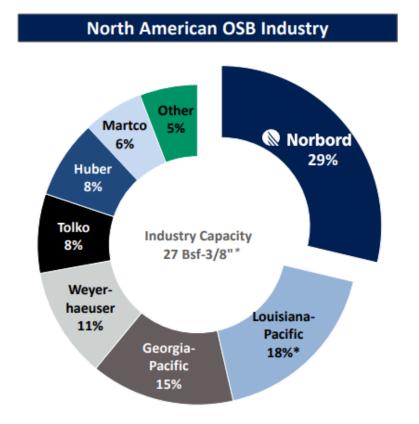
In 2002 the top 5 North American Producers accounted for 69% of North American Capacity.

#### Pre-Housing Crisis (~2006):

- 11 OSB producers in North America
- Top 5 = 74% market share

#### Today:

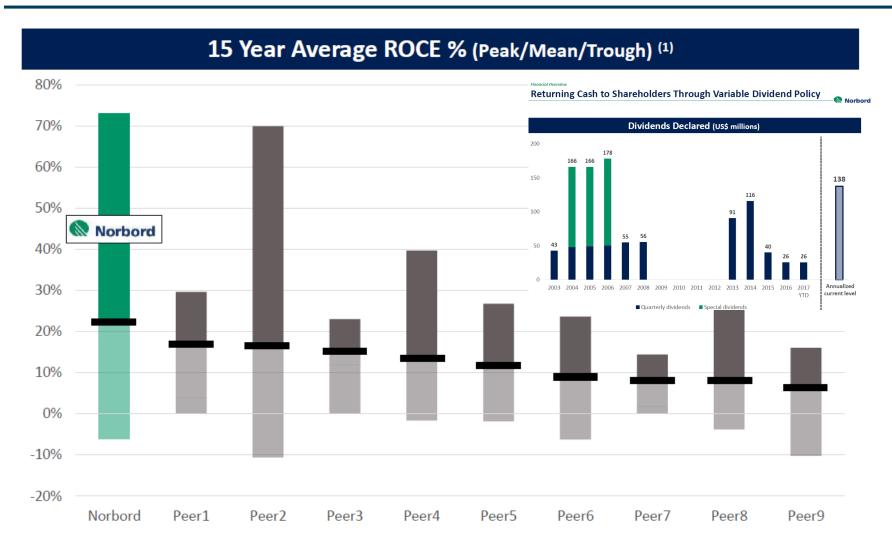
- 9 OSB producers in North America
- Top 5 = 81% market share
- (Top 6 = 89% market share)



<sup>\*</sup> Excluding OSB siding capacity.



# Top Quartile ROCE Among Peers Over Cycle



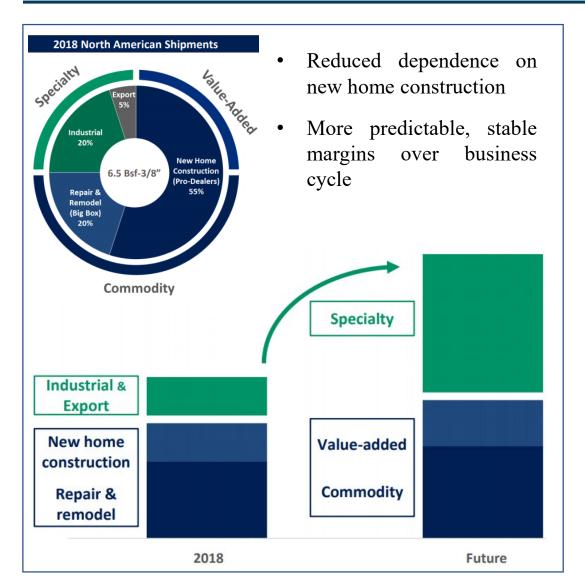
<sup>(1)</sup> Return on capital employed (ROCE) is a measure of financial performance focusing on cash generation and the effective use of capital.

ROCE is calculated as Adjusted EBITDA divided by average capital employed (operating working capital, PP&E, goodwill, intangibles, timberlands & licences).

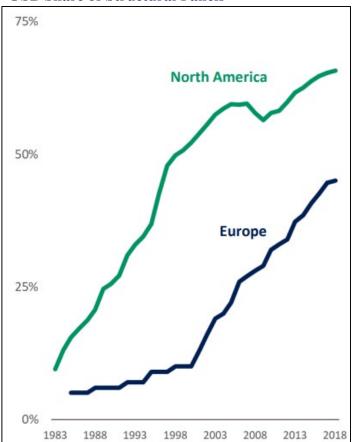
Source: Capital IQ

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# Opportunity to Drive Further Substitution

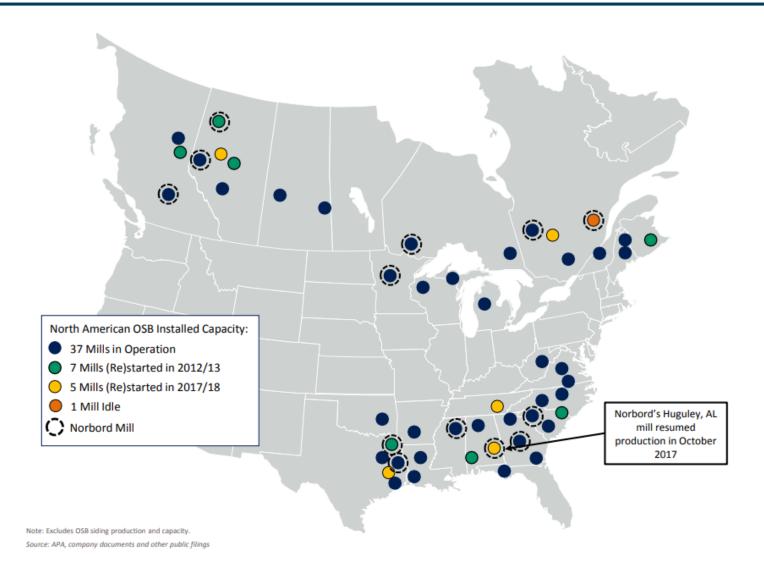


#### **OSB Share of Structural Panels**

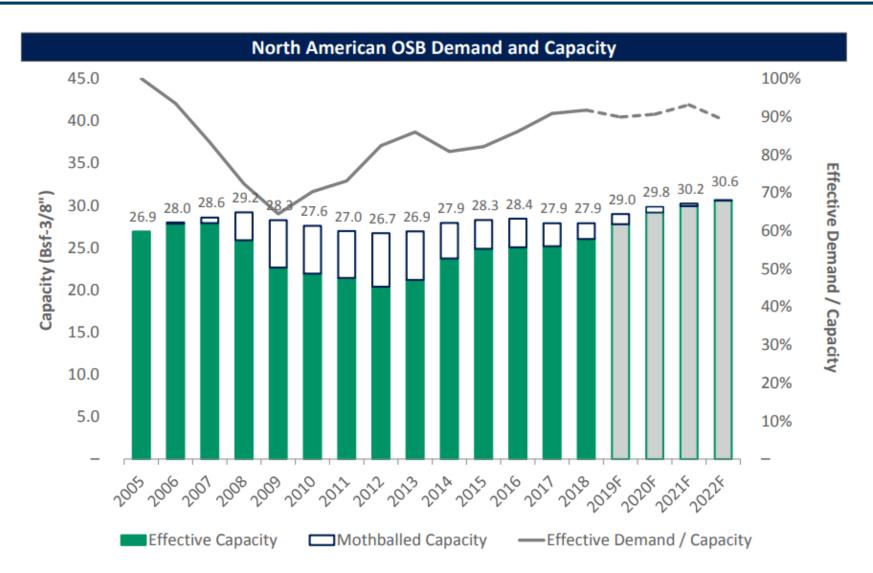




# North American OSB Industry Capacity



# Long-Term OSB Supply/Demand Analysis



#### Relentless Focus on Cost: "Control the Controllables"

#### MIP has delivered \$319 million of margin improvements over the past 13 years

 Margin Improvement Program (MIP) gains help offset impact of industry-wide rising input costs:

- Increased productivity
- Reduced overhead costs
- Reduced raw material usage
- Improved product mix
- MIP has delivered \$331 million of margin improvements over the past 15 years

Margin Improvement Program Gains<sup>(1)</sup> (US\$ in millions)

"In Control of Our Controllables"



Measured relative to prior year at constant prices and exchange rates.

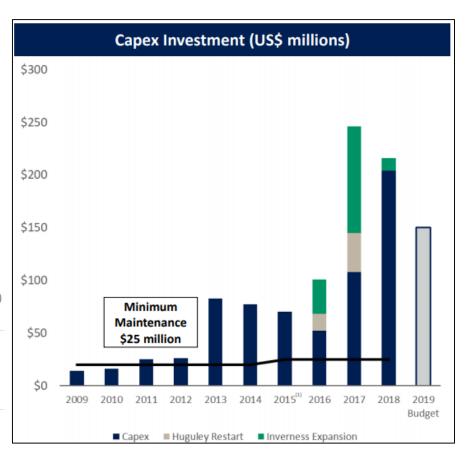
<sup>(2)</sup> The benefits from richer product mix and improved productivity were offset by higher maintenance-related costs. In addition, 2018 MIP was negatively impacted by higher raw material usages and costs associated with executing on strategic capital and sales growth initiatives. Further, the excellent ramp up of the Huguley, Alabama and Inverness, Scotland mills were excluded from 2018 MIP calculation.

 <sup>2015</sup> onwards reflects Norbord following completion of merger with Ainsworth. Pre 2015 reflects Norbord excluding Ainsworth.

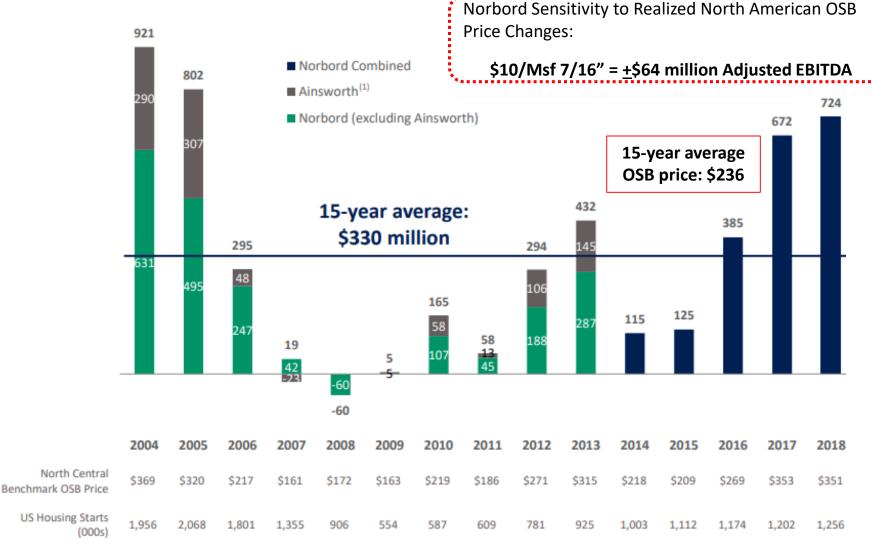
# Disciplined Capital Expenditures

- 2018 Capex = \$204 million
- 2019 Capex Budget = \$150 million
  - ➤ Includes investments to restart Chambord (when warranted by customer demand) and Phase 2 of Inverness, Scotland project.

	• Quebec mill exchange (2016)
	Ainsworth merger (2015)
Countercyclical M&A	Acquired Genk, Belgium mill (2004)
IVIQA	• Acquired remaining 50% of Bemidji, Minnesota mill (2004)
	Acquired Texas and Georgia mills (2002)
Investment in capacity	<ul> <li>Modernization / expansion of Inverness mill (2016-17)</li> <li>Twinned Cordele, Georgia line (2006)</li> </ul>
Disciplined capital expenditure	<ul> <li>\$25 million annual maintenance capex</li> <li>Additional investment to debottleneck capacity and lower manufacturing costs</li> </ul>



# Total Adjusted EBITDA Over the Cycle

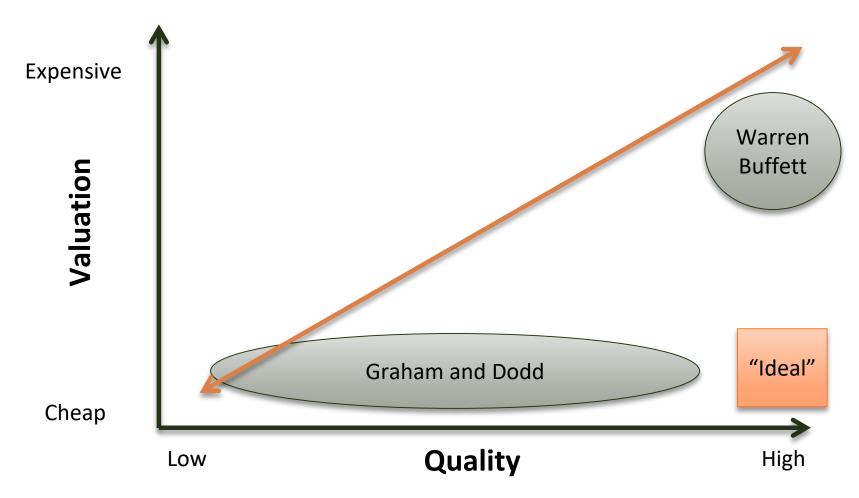




#### Risks To Our Thesis

- The housing recovery could stall or reverse causing liquidity issues as high interest debt is repaid and free cash flow falls.
- Management teams are unable to realize merger synergies.
- Commodity prices could fall for an extended period of time and pressure cash flow.
- Supply / Demand assumptions could be poorly timed or wrong.

# Commonalities Among Value Investors



"To me, value investing is a big tent that accommodates many different people. At one end of the tent there is Ben Graham, and at the other end of the tent there is Warren Buffett, who worked with Graham and then went out on his own and made adjustments to the teachings of Ben Graham."

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<u>Disclosures</u>	Norbord (NYSE:OSB)	Subsea 7 (OB:SUBC)	Stolt-Nielsen (OB:SNI)
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# Questions

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