

## Research Report – Update

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

### Air Industries Group

**Speculative Buy**

John Nobile

April 7, 2021

**AIRI \$1.60 — (NYSE MKT)**

	<u>2019A</u>	<u>2020A</u>	<u>2021E</u>	<u>2022E</u>
Revenues (millions)*	\$54.6	\$50.1	<b>\$61.0</b>	<b>\$67.0</b>
Earnings (loss) per share*	\$(0.09)	\$0.05**	<b>\$0.05</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>

52-Week range	\$2.46 – \$0.90	Fiscal year ends:	December
Common shares out as/of 3/19/21	32.0 million	Revenue per share (TTM)	\$1.36
Approximate float	24.5 million	Price/Sales (TTM)	1.2X
Market capitalization	\$51 million	Price/Sales (FY2022)E	0.9X
Tangible book value/share	\$0.47	Price/Earnings (TTM)	32X
Price/tangible book value	3.4X	Price/Earnings (FY2022)E	16X

\* Continuing operations. \*\* Includes \$0.07 per share from the forgiveness of PPP loans.

Air Industries Group, headquartered in Bay Shore, New York, operates primarily in the aerospace and defense industry. The company designs and manufactures structural parts and assemblies, including landing gear, arresting gear, engine mounts, flight controls, throttle quadrants, components for jet engines, and other aerospace components. ([www.airindustriessgroup.com](http://www.airindustriessgroup.com))

#### Key investment considerations:

**Reiterating Speculative Buy rating and raising our twelve-month price target to \$2.50 per share from \$2.25 based on our 2022 sales forecast and expanded sector multiples.**

**Throughout 2020, many of AIRI's suppliers were forced to reduce staffing or temporarily close their facilities due to COVID-19, which impacted delivery schedules and resulted in reduced revenue and operating margins in portions of the company's business. Entering 2021, operating conditions have substantially returned to normal, however, the company continues to face challenges.**

**AIRI had a substantial backlog of \$81.1 million as of December 31, 2020. In 2020, the company made capital investments totaling \$2.5 million in new machinery for four state-of-the-art machines. These investments are expected to increase the volume and efficiency of production, increase the size of product manufactured, and allow the company to offer additional services to its customers.**

**For 2021, we project 21.8% revenue growth to \$61 million and EPS of \$0.05. Our projections are down from prior projections calling for revenue of \$65 million and EPS of \$0.08 due to the lingering effects from COVID-19.**

**For 2022, we project 9.8% revenue growth to \$67 million and EPS of \$0.10. Our projections reflect easing COVID-19 conditions, increased production of military aircraft responsible for a majority of the company's backlog, and an improving commercial aircraft market.**

**4Q20 revenue (10-K released 3/29/21) increased 8.7% to \$14.5 million. AIRI reported EPS from continuing operations of \$0.06 versus a loss of \$(0.04) per share in 4Q19. EPS for 4Q20 included \$0.07 per share from the forgiveness of PPP loans. Excluding the PPP loan forgiveness, AIRI would have reported breakeven per share results. We projected revenue of \$14 million and EPS of \$0.01.**

**\*Please view our disclosures on pages 12 - 15.**

### ***Recommendation and Valuation***

**We are reiterating our Speculative Buy rating on Air Industries Group (AIRI) and raising our twelve-month price target to \$2.50 per share from \$2.25 based on our 2022 sales forecast and expanded sector multiples.**

Throughout 2020, many of AIRI's suppliers were forced to reduce staffing or temporarily close their facilities due to COVID-19, which impacted delivery schedules and resulted in reduced revenue and operating margins in portions of the company's business. Entering into 2021, the company's operating conditions have substantially returned to normal, however, the company continues to face challenges.

AIRI had a substantial backlog of \$81.1 million as of December 31, 2020. In 2020, the company made capital investments totaling \$2.5 million in new machinery for four state-of-the-art machines. These investments are expected to increase the volume and efficiency of production, increase the size of product manufactured, and allow the company to offer additional services to its customers.

Shares of AIRI are currently trading at a multiple of 1.2X trailing twelve-month sales (0.8X previously) while the aerospace and defense industry trades at a multiple of 1.8X trailing twelve-month sales (up from 1.5X previously). With strong sales growth and a forecasted return to profitability over the next two years, we anticipate investors are likely to accord AIRI a price to sales multiple approaching the industry. We applied a multiple of 1.7X (1.5X previously) to our 2022 sales projection of \$1.75 per share, discounted for execution risks, to obtain a year ahead value of approximately \$2.50 per share.

### ***Recent Development***

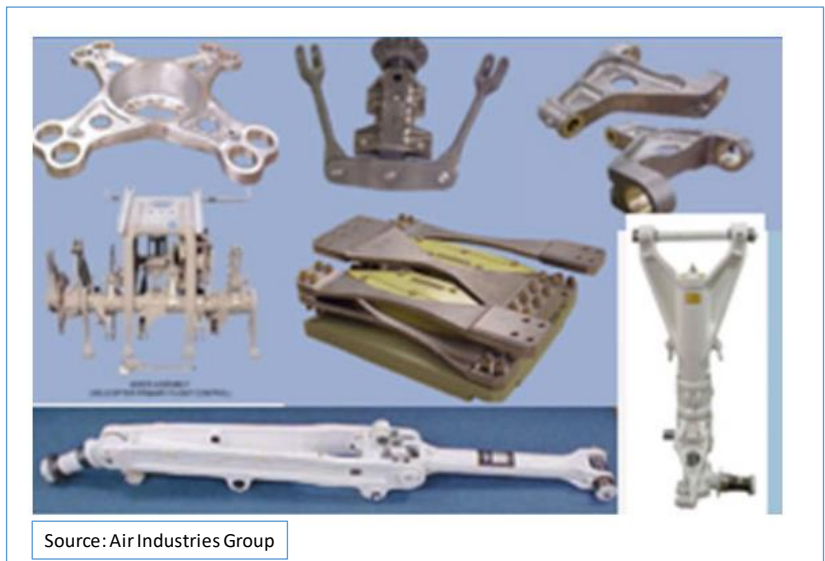
**\$6 Million Purchase Order for F-18 Landing Gear Components** - On April 6, 2021, Air Industries Group announced it received purchase orders totaling in excess of \$6 million to manufacture major landing gear components for the F-18 fighter aircraft. With new variants of the F-18 still in production, and with a significant number in service with the US Navy, Marine Corps and Foreign Militaries, the company expects to continue to receive additional orders for many years to come.

### ***Business Overview***

Air Industries Group, headquartered in Bay Shore, New York, designs and manufactures structural parts and assemblies that focus on flight safety, including landing gear, arresting gear, engine mounts, flight controls, throttle quadrants, components for jet engines and other components (see picture at right).

The company conducts its operations through the following wholly-owned subsidiaries: Air Industries Machining (AIM); Nassau Tool Works (NTW); and The Sterling Engineering Corporation (Sterling). AIM and NTW comprise the company's Complex Machining segment and Sterling represents the Turbine Engine Components segment.

AIRI's products are deployed on a wide range of military and commercial aircraft including Sikorsky's UH-60 Black Hawk, Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Northrop Grumman's E2 Hawkeye, Boeing's 777, Airbus' 380 commercial airliners, the US Navy F-18 and USAF F-16 fighter aircraft. The Turbine Engine sector makes



Source: Air Industries Group

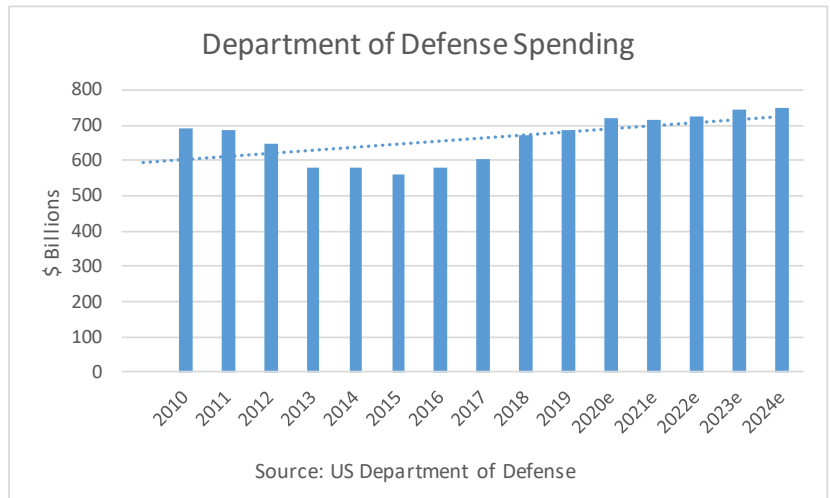
components for jet engines that are used on the USAF F-15, the Airbus A-330 and A-380, and the Boeing 777, in addition to a number of ground turbine applications.

Many of the company’s products influence critical aspects of aircraft performance. Air Industries is required to have advanced certifications for these products as a condition to being a supplier. Many of these products are subject to wear and tear or fatigue and are routinely replaced on aircraft at a time of service or flight cycle basis. Replacement demand should continue so long as an aircraft remains in service.

***Defense Spending Overview***

Since 2001, the Department of Defense (DoD) focused on fighting terrorism and countering violent insurgencies and will continue to do so as long as these threats exist. Today, US military forces are positioned globally, conducting counter-terrorism, stability, and deterrence operations in an effort to protect US interests.

Changes in defense spending are likely to directly impact AIRI’s revenues. US defense spending increased through much of the post-9/11 decade and peaked in 2010 at over \$691 billion. However, budget cuts reduced defense spending by 19% to \$560 billion in 2015 from the peak. Years of budget cuts have led to a depleted US military. In an effort to address the war readiness shortfalls and to help fund the fight against ISIS, defense spending started increasing in 2016 and is projected to continue growing through 2024 (see chart at right).



***Military Aircraft Market and Forecast***

The company operates primarily in the US military aircraft market. IBISWorld estimated the US military aircraft, engine and parts manufacturing market at \$57.3 billion in 2020. IBISWorld observed that the US has the largest defense budget in the world and as a result, is the biggest consumer of defense related products.

Most US defense manufacturers derive more than half of their revenue from sales to the Department of Defense (DoD) or defense-related government organizations. The US Navy is currently the largest domestic defense market as it invests in F/A-18 and F-35 fighters, maritime patrol craft, helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for both itself and the Marine Corps. The US Air Force (USAF) is the second largest market for industry domestic defense sales.

The four largest components of the DoD’s spending budget are in operation and maintenance (largest component), military personnel, procurement, and research, development, test & evaluation. As most of AIRI’s military sales are for the repair and maintenance of existing aircraft, the category with the greatest impact on its sales is operation and maintenance spending. The latest DoD budget calls for operation and maintenance spending to remain relatively flat at \$288.9 billion in 2021.

***Commercial Aircraft Market***

Although the company’s product lines primarily serve the defense market, they also serve the commercial markets. With defense budgets being under pressure since 2013, prime contractors began to shift their focus to the commercial sector. AIRI’s customers (such as Boeing, United Technologies’ Goodrich division, and Lockheed Martin’s Sikorsky division) typically build to both military and commercial specifications.

We believe the near-term impact of COVID-19 on the commercial aircraft industry has been substantial but should gradually improve as COVID-19 pandemic conditions ease.

### ***Competition***

The company's ability to obtain contracts requires providing quality products at competitive prices. In an effort to effectively compete, AIRI strives to continuously improve its capabilities and develop long-term relationships with its customers through establishing and maintaining advanced quality approvals, certifications and tooling investments that are difficult and expensive to duplicate. Despite these barriers to entry, many of the company's competitors are well-established subcontractors engaged in the supply of aircraft parts and components to prime military contractors and commercial aviation manufacturers.

Air Industries' competitors include Monitor Aerospace, a division of Stellex Aerospace, Hydromil, a division of Triumph Aerospace Group, Heroux Aerospace, and Ellanef Manufacturing, a division of Magellan Corporation.

### ***Strategy***

In response to operating losses and their impact on the company's working capital, AIRI repositioned its business through the sale and liquidation of certain businesses acquired since becoming a public company. In 2018 and 2019, the company consolidated its headquarters and the operations of its subsidiaries, AIM and NTW, at its corporate campus in Bay Shore, New York. This consolidation allowed AIRI to re-focus its operations on its core competencies. In 2020, the company made significant capital investments in new equipment and expanded its operations and manufacturing cells in its Connecticut facility where its Turbine Engine segment is located. This should enable increased volume and efficiency of production, an increase in the size of product manufactured, and allow the company to offer additional services to its customers.

As the commercial aerospace and defense industries continue to consolidate and major contractors seek to streamline supply chains by buying more complete sub-assemblies from fewer suppliers, AIRI has sought to remain competitive by providing cost-effective service and increasing its ability to produce more complex and complete assemblies for its customers.

### ***Economic Outlook***

In April 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised its global economic growth estimates to an increase of 6% for 2021 and 4.4% for 2022. In January 2021, the IMF predicted GDP growth of 5.5% for 2021 and 4.2% for 2022. The 2021 upward revision primarily reflects additional fiscal policy support in a few large economies and an anticipated vaccine-powered recovery in 2H21.

The IMF revised its economic growth estimate for the US to an increase of 6.4% for 2021 and 3.5% for 2022. In January 2021, the IMF projected US economic growth of 5.1% for 2021 and 2.5% for 2022.

The third estimate of US GDP growth (released on March 25, 2021) showed the US economy increased at an annual rate of 4.3% in 4Q20, down from the 33.4% increase reported in 3Q20. The 4Q20 US GDP estimate primarily reflects increases in exports, business investment, consumer spending, housing investment and inventory investment, partially offset by a decrease in government spending.

### ***Projections***

Throughout 2020, many of AIRI's suppliers were forced to reduce staffing or temporarily close their facilities due to COVID-19, which impacted delivery schedules and resulted reduced revenue and operating margins in portions of the company's business. Entering into 2021, operating conditions have substantially returned to normal.

## Air Industries Group

AIRI entered 2021 with a substantial backlog of \$81.1 million. In 2020 the company made capital investments totaling \$2.5 million in new machinery for four state-of-the-art machines. These investments are expected to increase the volume and efficiency of production, increase the size of product manufactured, and allow the company to offer additional services to its customers.

2021 – We project 21.8% revenue growth to \$61 million and net income from continuing operations of \$2.1 million or \$0.05 per share. Our projections are down from prior projections calling for revenue of \$65 million and net income of \$2.9 million or \$0.08 per share due to the lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic in 1H21. Our forecast reflects the positive impact of machinery purchases in 2H20 that should increase AIRI's production efficiency and increase the number of parts it can make in-house. The new equipment should alleviate a good portion of the company's bottleneck with suppliers allowing AIRI to ship more product against its 18-month backlog.

Our forecast reflects a sequential ramp in revenue as the company continues to deliver on its firm 18-month backlog and the adverse conditions from COVID-19 begin easing as more people are vaccinated. Gross margins should improve to 18.3% from 13% in 2020 reflecting greater manufacturing overhead coverage.

We forecast a \$349,000 increase in SG&A expenses to \$8.3 million from \$8 million and operating income of \$2.9 million compared to an operating loss of \$1.4 million in 2020. We project operating margin of 4.7% compared to (2.9)% in 2020. Interest and financing costs are projected to decrease to \$1.2 million from \$1.5 million on lower debt levels. We project the company paying minimal taxes due to its large amount of net operating loss carry forwards, which were \$37 million at December 31, 2020.

We project \$3.7 million cash from operations on \$5.6 million of cash earnings offset in part by a \$1.9 million increase in working capital. The increase in working capital should be due primarily to an increase in inventory. Cash from operations should cover capital expenditures and repayments of debt, increasing cash by \$959,000 to \$3.5 million by the end of 2021.

2022 – We project 9.8% revenue growth to \$67 million and net income from continuing operations of \$3.9 million or \$0.10 per share. Our projections reflect easing COVID-19 conditions, increased production of military aircraft responsible for a majority of the company's backlog, and an improving commercial aircraft market.

Gross margins should improve to 20% from 18.3% projected for 2021 reflecting greater manufacturing overhead coverage.

We forecast a \$400,000 increase in SG&A expenses to \$8.7 million from \$8.3 million projected for 2021 and operating income of \$4.7 million compared to \$2.9 million in 2021. We project operating margin of 7% compared to 4.7% projected for 2021. Interest and financing costs are projected to remain at \$1.2 million. We project the company paying minimal taxes.

We project \$4.3 million cash from operations on \$7.1 million of cash earnings offset in part by a \$2.8 million increase in working capital. The increase in working capital should be due primarily to an increase in inventory. Cash from operations should be more than offset by capital expenditures and repayments of debt, decreasing cash by \$2.4 million to \$1.1 million by the end of 2022.

### ***4Q20 and FY20 Financial Results***

4Q20 - Total revenue increased 8.7% to \$14.5 million. AIRI reported net income from continuing operations of \$2.3 million or \$0.06 per share versus a net loss of \$1.3 million or \$(0.04) per share in 4Q19. Net income for 4Q20 included \$2.4 million or \$0.07 per share from the forgiveness of PPP loans. Excluding the PPP loan forgiveness, AIRI would have reported a net loss of approximately \$71,000 or \$(0.00) per share. We projected revenue of \$14 million and net income of approximately \$260,000 or \$0.01 per share.

## Air Industries Group

Gross profit increased 20.2% to \$2.1 million and gross margins increased to 14.2% from 12.9%. Operating (SG&A) expenses decreased by 30% to \$1.9 million from \$2.7 million in 4Q19. The decrease in operating expenses on higher revenue resulted in operating income of \$174,000 versus an operating loss of \$983,000. Interest expense decreased to \$324,000 from \$771,000.

*FY20* - Total revenue decreased 8.2% to \$50.1 million. AIRI reported net income from continuing operations of \$1.3 million or \$0.05 per share versus a loss of \$2.6 million or \$(0.09) per share in 2019. Net income for 2020 included \$2.4 million from the forgiveness of PPP loans. Excluding the PPP loan forgiveness, AIRI would have reported a net loss of approximately \$1.1 million or \$(0.03) per share in 2020.

The decrease in total sales was due primarily to a 7.4% decrease in complex machining sales to \$44.7 million and a 14.3% decrease in turbine engine component sales to \$5.4 million. These decreases were primarily attributable to the impact of COVID-19.

Gross profit decreased 28.8% to \$6.5 million while gross margins decreased to 13% from 16.8%. Operating (SG&A) expenses decreased by 6.9% to \$8 million. The decrease in operating expenses on lower revenue resulted in an operating loss of \$1.4 million versus operating income of \$328,000. Interest expense decreased to \$1.5 million from \$3.6 million due to lower interest rates and finance costs under the company's new credit facility.

*Liquidity* - As of December 31, 2020, the company had \$2.5 million cash and a current ratio of 1.6X. Total debt was approximately \$27.3 million (of which \$16.5 million is classified as current) for a debt/equity ratio of 1.8X.

In 2020, cash used in operations was \$1.5 million consisting of \$3.1 million of cash earnings and a \$4.6 million increase in working capital. The increase in working capital was due primarily to an increase in inventory and receivables. Cash used in investing was \$3.8 million consisting solely of capital expenditures. Cash provided by financing of \$6.5 million consisted primarily of increased debt. Cash increased by \$1.2 million to \$2.5 million at December 31, 2020.

In 2020, the company was able to utilize US government programs in order to improve its liquidity to offset the negative impact to its business from COVID-19. These steps included low interest loans from the SBA totaling \$2.4 million at a fixed rate of 1% per annum. In December 2020, AIRI applied for and received forgiveness of the SBA loans and accrued interest. The company also was able to defer certain tax payments in accordance with the CARES Act. These deferred amounts must be repaid 50% on December 31, 2021 with the remaining 50% on December 31, 2022. As of December 31, 2020, the company has deferred \$627,000, which is included in deferred payroll tax liability – CARES Act on its balance sheet. AIRI was also able to receive a net operating loss refund of \$1.4 million pursuant to the CARES Act.

On December 31, 2019, AIRI entered into a new loan facility with Sterling National Bank, (SNB) and paid its outstanding loan facility with PNC. The SNB facility currently provides for a \$16 million revolving loan and a term loan of \$5.7 million. As of December 31, 2020, total debt outstanding to SNB was \$21.2 million consisting of a \$15.6 million revolving credit loan and a term loan in the amount of \$5.6 million.

The terms of the loan facility require the company to maintain a specified fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.25 to 1 at the end of each fiscal quarter beginning with 1Q20 and limits the amount of capital expenditures the company can make. The term loan requires monthly principal installments in the amount of approximately \$45,000 beginning February 1, 2020. Both the revolving credit line and the term loan bear interest equal to 30-day LIBOR, plus 2.5% (with a floor of 3.5%). As of December 31, 2020, AIRI was in compliance with all loan covenants. The SNB facility also restricts the amount of dividends the company may pay to its stockholders.

As of December 31, 2020, finance lease obligations totaled \$6,000, a loan payable related to a financed asset totaled \$48,000, and related party notes payable (to Michael Taglich, President of Taglich Brothers, Inc. and Chairman of Air Industries Group, and Robert Taglich, Managing Director of Taglich Brothers, Inc. and a Director of Air Industries Group) totaled \$6 million (payable at rates ranging from 7% to 12% annually).

## ***Risks***

In our view, these are the principal risks underlying the stock.

*Pandemic concerns* - The likely overall economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be highly negative to the general economy. While Air Industries continues to operate in the normal course (as it has been deemed an essential business), it may be forced to close or reduce operations for reasons such as the health of its employees or because of disruptions in the continued operation of its supply chain and sources of supply.

*Reliance on government spending* - AIRI's sales are primarily derived from products for US military aviation. Reductions in US Government spending on defense or future changes in the mix of defense products required by US Government agencies could limit demand for the company's products, and could adversely impact AIRI's financial results.

*Reliance on a small number of customers* – Air Industries derives most of its revenues from a small number of customers. In 2020, three customers accounted for 74% of net sales. The loss of one or more of the company's largest customers will likely have a materially adverse impact on AIRI's financial results.

*Reliance on a few aircraft platforms* – The company derives most of its revenues from components for a few aircraft platforms, specifically the Sikorsky BlackHawk helicopter, the Northrop Grumman E-2 Hawkeye naval aircraft, the F-16 Falcon and the F-18 Hornet. A reduction in the production of new aircraft or a reduction in the use of existing aircraft in the fleet (reducing after-market demand) would have a material adverse effect on AIRI's financial results.

*Competition* - The defense and aerospace component manufacturing market is highly competitive. Many of the company's competitors are well-established subcontractors engaged in the supply of aircraft parts and components to prime military contractors and commercial aviation manufacturers. Air Industries' prime competitors include Monitor Aerospace, a division of Stellex Aerospace, Hydromil, a division of Triumph Aerospace Group, Heroux Aerospace, and Ellanef Manufacturing, a division of Magellan Corporation.

*Competitive bidding* – The company obtains many contracts through a competitive bidding process. There can be no assurance that the prices bid will be sufficient to allow Air Industries to generate a profit.

*Regulations* – Air Industries may be subject to US government inquiries and investigations because of its participation in government procurement. Any inquiry or investigation can result in fines or limitations on the company's ability to continue to bid for government contracts and fulfill existing contracts.

*Legal proceedings* – In October 2018, Contract Pharmacal Corp. commenced an action relating to a sublease entered into between AIRI and Contract Pharmacal in May 2018 with respect to the property that was formerly occupied by Welding Metallurgy, Inc. (WMI). In the action, Contract Pharmacal seeks damages for an amount in excess of \$1 million for AIRI's failure to make the entire premises available by the sublease commencement date. AIRI disputes the validity of the claims asserted by Contract Pharmacal and believes it has meritorious defenses to those claims. The Court has ordered AIRI and Contract Pharmacal to complete discovery, which is ongoing.

*Liquidity risk* - Shares of Air Industries Group have risks common to those of the microcap segment of the market. Often these risks cause microcap stocks to trade at discounts to their peers. The most common of these risks is liquidity risk, which is typically caused by small trading floats and very low trading volume and can lead to large spreads and high volatility in stock price. There are 24.5 million shares in the float and the average daily volume is approximately 1.4 million shares.

*Miscellaneous risk* - The company's financial results and equity values are subject to other risks and uncertainties including competition, operations, financial markets, regulatory risk, and/or other events. These risks may cause actual results to differ from expected results.

Air Industries Group

Consolidated Balance Sheets  
(in thousands \$)\*

	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E
Cash and cash equivalents	2,012	1,294	2,505	3,464	1,057
Accounts receivable	6,522	7,858	8,798	8,811	9,306
Inventory	29,051	28,646	32,120	33,210	34,581
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	414	447	173	173	173
Prepaid taxes	49	-	15	-	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>38,048</b>	<b>38,245</b>	<b>43,611</b>	<b>45,658</b>	<b>45,116</b>
Property and equipment, net	8,777	7,578	9,581	8,222	7,179
Operating lease right-of-use-asset	-	3,623	3,510	3,510	3,510
Deferred financing costs	768	1,481	912	912	912
Goodwill	163	163	163	163	163
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>47,756</b>	<b>51,090</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>58,465</b>	<b>56,880</b>
Notes payable and finance lease obligations	19,345	22,544	16,475	15,466	14,457
Operating lease liabilities	-	697	701	701	701
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8,723	8,105	8,682	9,686	10,422
Deferred gain on sale	38	38	38	38	38
Deferred revenue	881	1,011	917	917	917
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale	-	200	200	200	200
Deferred payroll tax liability (CARES Act)	-	-	314	314	314
Income taxes payable	20	27	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>29,007</b>	<b>32,622</b>	<b>27,327</b>	<b>27,322</b>	<b>27,049</b>
Long-term debt	5,721	3,406	10,798	9,886	5,081
Deferred gain on sale	257	219	181	181	181
Operating lease liabilities	-	4,235	3,927	2,847	1,840
Disposition of subsidiary	-	402	122	122	122
Deferred payroll tax liability (CARES Act)	-	-	313	313	313
Other liabilities	1,165	-	-	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>36,150</b>	<b>40,884</b>	<b>42,668</b>	<b>40,671</b>	<b>34,586</b>
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>11,606</b>	<b>10,206</b>	<b>15,109</b>	<b>17,794</b>	<b>22,294</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; stockholders' equity</b>	<b>47,756</b>	<b>51,090</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>58,465</b>	<b>56,880</b>

\* Continuing operations.

Source: Company filings and Taglich Brothers estimates



Air Industries Group

Income Statements for the Fiscal Years Ended  
(in thousands \$)\*

	<u>2018A</u>	<u>2019A</u>	<u>2020A</u>	<u>2021E</u>	<u>2022E</u>
Net sales	44,530	54,573	50,097	61,000	67,000
Cost of sales	<u>39,085</u>	<u>45,431</u>	<u>43,585</u>	<u>49,815</u>	<u>53,600</u>
Gross profit	5,445	9,142	6,512	11,185	13,400
Impairment of goodwill, asset abandonment	-	275	-	-	-
Operating expenses	<u>8,315</u>	<u>8,539</u>	<u>7,951</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>8,700</u>
Operating income (loss)	(4,913)	328	(1,439)	2,885	4,700
Interest and financing costs	(3,916)	(3,561)	(1,491)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Other (expense) income	<u>278</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
Income (loss) before taxes	(8,551)	(2,561)	(86)	2,085	3,900
Income tax (benefit)	-	37	(1,412)	-	-
Net income / (loss)	<u>(8,551)</u>	<u>(2,598)</u>	<u>1,326</u>	<u>2,085</u>	<u>3,900</u>
EPS*	<u>(0.32)</u>	<u>(0.09)</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.10</u>
Shares Outstanding	26,898	28,852	36,747	38,200	38,200
EBITDA	(548)	4,002	3,975	5,444	6,943
Adjusted EBITDA	1,898	5,207	4,494	6,044	7,543
<u>Margin Analysis</u>					
Gross margin	12.2%	16.8%	13.0%	18.3%	20.0%
Operating margin	(11.0)%	0.6%	(2.9)%	4.7%	7.0%
Net margin	(19.2)%	(4.8)%	2.6%	3.4%	5.8%
Tax rate	0.0%	(1.4)%	NMF	0.0%	0.0%
<u>Year / Year Growth</u>					
Total Revenues		22.6%	(8.2)%	21.8%	9.8%

\*Continuing operations.

Source: Company filings and Taglich Brothers estimates

## Air Industries Group

### Quarterly Income Statements (in thousands \$)\*

	<u>3/20A</u>	<u>6/20A</u>	<u>9/20A</u>	<u>12/20A</u>	<u>2020A</u>	<u>3/21E</u>	<u>6/21E</u>	<u>9/21E</u>	<u>12/21E</u>	<u>2021E</u>	<u>3/22E</u>	<u>6/22E</u>	<u>9/22E</u>	<u>12/22E</u>	<u>2022E</u>
Net sales	13,447	8,494	13,662	14,494	50,097	14,000	15,000	15,500	16,500	61,000	16,000	16,500	17,000	17,500	67,000
Cost of sales	<u>11,266</u>	<u>7,880</u>	<u>12,006</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>43,585</u>	<u>11,760</u>	<u>12,300</u>	<u>12,555</u>	<u>13,200</u>	<u>49,815</u>	<u>12,800</u>	<u>13,200</u>	<u>13,600</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>53,600</u>
Gross profit	2,181	614	1,656	2,061	6,512	2,240	2,700	2,945	3,300	11,185	3,200	3,300	3,400	3,500	13,400
Operating expenses	<u>2,262</u>	<u>1,906</u>	<u>1,896</u>	<u>1,887</u>	<u>7,951</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,050</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>8,700</u>
Operating income (loss)	(81)	(1,292)	(240)	174	(1,439)	240	650	845	1,150	2,885	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	4,700
Interest and financing costs	(380)	(428)	(359)	(324)	(1,491)	(300)	(300)	(300)	(300)	(1,200)	(300)	(300)	(300)	(300)	(1,200)
Other (expense) income	<u>105</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>2,481</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>400</u>
Income (loss) before taxes	(356)	(1,584)	(477)	2,331	(86)	40	450	645	950	2,085	900	950	1,000	1,050	3,900
Income tax (benefit)	<u>(1,414)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(1,412)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income / (loss)	<u>1,058</u>	<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(477)</u>	<u>2,329</u>	<u>1,326</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>2,085</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>3,900</u>
EPS*	<u>0.03</u>	<u>(0.05)</u>	<u>(0.02)</u>	<u>0.06</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.03</u>	<u>0.03</u>	<u>0.10</u>
Shares Outstanding	36,521	30,552	30,621	36,747	36,747	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200	38,200
EBITDA					3,975					5,444					6,943
Adjusted EBITDA					4,494					6,044					7,543
<u>Margin Analysis</u>															
Gross margin	16.2%	7.2%	12.1%	14.2%	13.0%	16.0%	18.0%	19.0%	20.0%	18.3%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Operating margin	(0.6)%	(15.2)%	(1.8)%	1.2%	(2.9)%	1.7%	4.3%	5.5%	7.0%	4.7%	6.9%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.0%
Net margin	7.9%	(18.6)%	(3.5)%	16.1%	2.6%	0.3%	3.0%	4.2%	5.8%	3.4%	5.6%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	5.8%
Tax rate	397.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	NMF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<u>Year / Year Growth</u>															
Total Revenues	(3.1)%	(36.5)%	(2.4)%	8.7%	(8.2)%	4.1%	76.6%	13.5%	13.8%	21.8%	14.3%	10.0%	9.7%	6.1%	9.8%

\*Continuing operations.

Source: Company filings and Taglich Brothers estimates

## Air Industries Group

### Statement of Cash Flows for the Periods Ended (in thousands \$)\*

	<u>2018A</u>	<u>2019A</u>	<u>2020A</u>	<u>2021E</u>	<u>2022E</u>
Net income (loss)	(10,992)	(2,732)	1,096	2,085	3,900
Depreciation	2,877	3,002	2,570	2,159	1,843
Stock compensation expense	598	622	519	600	600
Legal expenses paid by issuance of stock	200	126	-	-	-
Non-cash other income	-	(282)	(402)	-	-
Non-cash interest expense	-	85	122	-	-
Abandonment of lease	-	275	-	-	-
Non-cash deferred payroll expense-CARES Act	-	-	627	-	-
Amortization of right-to-use asset	-	470	482	482	482
Amortization of gain on sale of real estate	(38)	(38)	(38)	(38)	(38)
(Gain) loss on sale of equipment	-	136	60	-	-
Amortization of debt discount	941	510	233	233	233
Amortization of capitalized engineering costs	668	-	-	-	-
Bad debt expense (recovery)	49	311	105	-	-
Loss on impairment of goodwill	109	-	-	-	-
Amortization of deferred financing costs	212	-	126	126	126
Change in useful life of capitalized engineering costs	2,043	-	-	-	-
(Gain) loss on sale of subsidiary	340	-	-	-	-
Forgiveness of notes payable - SBA loan	-	-	(2,414)	-	-
Loss on assetss held for sale	386	-	-	-	-
Cash earnings (loss)	<u>(2,607)</u>	<u>2,485</u>	<u>3,086</u>	<u>5,647</u>	<u>7,146</u>
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>					
Accounts receivable	(561)	(1,647)	(1,045)	(13)	(494)
Inventory	1,395	405	(3,474)	(1,090)	(1,371)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	39	(33)	274	-	-
Prepaid taxes	-	49	(15)	15	-
Deposits and other assets	(1,112)	(713)	168	(819)	(785)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(1,569)	(970)	275	504	736
Operating lease liabilities	-	(601)	(673)	(546)	(907)
Deferred rent	3	-	-	-	-
Deferred revenue	2,076	130	(94)	-	-
Other liability	-	-	-	-	-
Income taxes payable	-	7	(27)	-	-
(Increase) decrease in working capital	<u>271</u>	<u>(3,373)</u>	<u>(4,611)</u>	<u>(1,949)</u>	<u>(2,821)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operations</b>	<b><u>(2,336)</u></b>	<b><u>(888)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,525)</u></b>	<b><u>3,698</u></b>	<b><u>4,325</u></b>
Capitalized engineering costs	(523)	-	-	-	-
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,264)	(764)	(3,797)	(800)	(800)
Proceeds from sale of subsidiary	5,472	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing</b>	<b><u>3,685</u></b>	<b><u>(764)</u></b>	<b><u>(3,797)</u></b>	<b><u>(800)</u></b>	<b><u>(800)</u></b>
Note payable-revolver-Sterling National Bank	-	12,543	3,106	-	-
Note payable-revolver-PNC	(2,415)	(14,043)	-	-	-
Proceeds from notes payable-term loan-Sterling	-	3,800	2,337	-	-
Payments of notes payable-term loan-Sterling	-	-	(579)	(812)	(4,805)
Payments of notes payable-term loan-PNC	(1,899)	(1,572)	-	-	-
SBA loan proceeds	-	-	2,414	-	-
Proceeds from sale of future proceeds from subsidiary	-	800	-	-	-
Transaction costs	-	(3)	-	-	-
Payment of finance lease obligations	(1,286)	(1,764)	(18)	(18)	(18)
Share issuance costs	-	(113)	(145)	-	-
Proceeds from notes payable - related party	2,803	1,500	-	-	-
Payments of notes payable - related party	-	(28)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Payments of loan payable - financed assets	-	(186)	(385)	(9)	(9)
Proceeds from notes payable-third party	70	-	-	-	-
Payments of notes payable - third party	-	-	(100)	(100)	(100)
Deferred financing costs	(125)	-	(81)	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of stock, net	2,885	-	984	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing</b>	<b><u>33</u></b>	<b><u>934</u></b>	<b><u>6,533</u></b>	<b><u>(1,939)</u></b>	<b><u>(5,932)</u></b>
<b>Net change in cash</b>	<b><u>1,382</u></b>	<b><u>(718)</u></b>	<b><u>1,211</u></b>	<b><u>959</u></b>	<b><u>(2,407)</u></b>
<b>Cash - beginning of period</b>	<b><u>630</u></b>	<b><u>2,012</u></b>	<b><u>1,294</u></b>	<b><u>2,505</u></b>	<b><u>3,464</u></b>
<b>Cash - end of period</b>	<b><u>2,012</u></b>	<b><u>1,294</u></b>	<b><u>2,505</u></b>	<b><u>3,464</u></b>	<b><u>1,057</u></b>

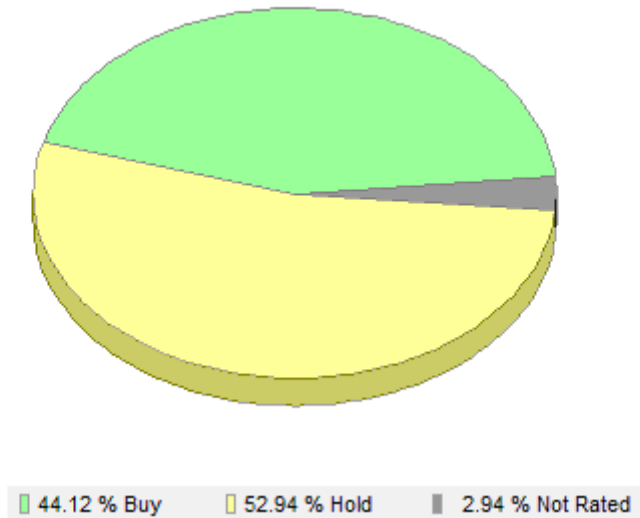
\* Continuing operations.

Source: Company filings and Taglich Brothers estimates

**Price Chart**



**Taglich Brothers' Current Ratings Distribution**



<b>Investment Banking Services for Companies Covered in the Past 12 Months</b>		
Rating	#	%
Buy	3	16
Hold		
Sell		
Not Rated		

### **Important Disclosures**

As of the date of this report, Taglich Brothers, Inc. and/or its affiliates, own more than 1% of AIRI common stock. Michael Taglich, President of Taglich Brothers, Inc. and Chairman of Air Industries Group, owns or has a controlling interest in 4,156,517 shares of AIRI common stock, 2,254,664 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of convertible notes, 427,849 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants, and 49,000 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of stock options. In September 2015, April, May, and August 2016, March and May 2017, June and October 2019, Michael Taglich loaned the company monies. Robert Taglich, Managing Director of Taglich Brothers, Inc. and a Director of Air Industries Group, owns or has a controlling interest in 2,527,868 shares of AIRI common stock, 1,821,331 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of convertible notes, 283,416 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants, and 49,000 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of stock options. In April and May 2016, February, March, and May 2017, and in June 2019, Robert Taglich loaned the company monies. Doug Hailey, Director of Investment Banking at Taglich Brothers, Inc., owns or has a controlling interest in 56,042 shares of AIRI common stock and 19,508 shares of AIRI common stock that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants. Robert Schroeder, Vice President of Investment Banking at Taglich Brothers, Inc. and a Director of Air Industries Group, owns or has a controlling interest in 102,481 shares of AIRI common stock, 49,000 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of stock options, and 47,698 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants. Richard Oh, Managing Director of Taglich Brothers, Inc., owns or has a controlling interest in 10,513 shares of AIRI common stock that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants. Other employees at Taglich Brothers, Inc. also own or have controlling interests in 1,000 shares of common stock and 19,395 shares that may be acquired upon the conversion of warrants. Taglich Brothers, Inc. owns 239,946 shares of AIRI common stock. Taglich Brothers, Inc. had an investment banking relationship with the company mentioned in this report. In April and May of 2007, Taglich Brothers Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of convertible preferred stock for the company. In June 2008, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of junior subordinated notes for the company. In September and October of 2008, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of junior subordinated notes and convertible preferred stock for the company. In October 2013 and May 2014, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of common stock for the company. In May and June 2016, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of convertible preferred stock for the company. In August, November and December 2016, and in February and March 2017, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as the placement agent in the sale of convertible notes for the company. In May 2017, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as a placement agent in the sale of convertible notes and warrants for the company. In January 2018, Taglich Brothers, Inc. served as a placement agent in the sale of common stock and warrants for the company.

All research issued by Taglich Brothers, Inc. is based on public information. The company paid a monetary fee of \$1,500 (USD) in October 2013 for the creation and dissemination of research reports. After the initial publication, the company pays a monthly monetary fee of \$1,500 (USD) to Taglich Brothers, Inc., for a minimum of six months for the creation and dissemination of research reports.

### **General Disclosures**

The information and statistical data contained herein have been obtained from sources, which we believe to be reliable but in no way are warranted by us as to accuracy or completeness. We do not undertake to advise you as to changes in figures or our views. This is not a solicitation of any order to buy or sell. Taglich Brothers, Inc. is fully disclosed with its clearing firm, Pershing, LLC, is not a market maker and does not sell to or buy from customers on a principal basis. The above statement is the opinion of

Taglich Brothers, Inc. and is not a guarantee that the target price for the stock will be met or that predicted business results for the company will occur. There may be instances when fundamental, technical and quantitative opinions contained in this report are not in concert. We, our affiliates, any officer, director or stockholder or any member of their families may from time to time purchase or sell any of the above-mentioned or related securities. Analysts and members of the Research Department are prohibited from buying or selling securities issued by the companies that Taglich Brothers, Inc. has a research relationship with, except if ownership of such securities was prior to the start of such relationship, then an Analyst or member of the Research Department may sell such securities after obtaining expressed written permission from Compliance.

### **Analyst Certification**

**I, John Nobile, the research analyst of this report, hereby certify that the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers; and that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly, or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views contained in this report.**

#### Public companies mentioned in this report:

Boeing (NYSE: BA)  
CPI Aerostructures Inc. (NYSE MKT: CVU)  
Heroux-Devtek, Inc. (OTC: HERXF)  
Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT)  
Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC)  
Triumph Group, Inc. (NYSE: TGI)

### **Meaning of Ratings**

**Buy** – The growth prospects, degree of investment risk, and valuation make the stock attractive relative to the general market or comparable stocks.

**Speculative Buy** – Long term prospects of the company are promising but investment risk is significantly higher than it is in our BUY-rated stocks. Risk-reward considerations justify purchase mainly by high risk-tolerant accounts. In the short run, the stock may be subject to high volatility and could continue to trade at a discount to its market.

**Neutral** – Based on our outlook the stock is adequately valued. If investment risks are within acceptable parameters, this equity could remain a holding if already owned.

**Sell** – Based on our outlook the stock is significantly overvalued. A weak company or sector outlook and a high degree of investment risk make it likely that the stock will underperform relative to the general market.

**Discontinued** – Research coverage discontinued due to the acquisition of the company, termination of research services (includes non-payment for such services), diminished investor interest, or departure of the analyst.

#### **Some notable Risks within the Microcap Market**

**Stocks in the Microcap segment of the market have many risks that are not as prevalent in Large-cap, Blue Chips or even Small-cap stocks. Often it is these risks that cause Microcap stocks to trade at discounts to their peers. The most common of these risks is liquidity risk, which is typically caused by small trading floats and very low trading volume which can lead to large spreads and high volatility in stock price. In addition, Microcaps tend to have significant company specific risks that contribute to lower valuations.**

**Investors need to be aware of the higher probability of financial default and higher degree of financial distress inherent in the microcap segment of the market.**

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From time to time our analysts may choose to withhold or suspend a rating on a company. We continue to publish informational reports on such companies; however, they have no ratings or price targets. In general, we will not rate any company that has too much business or financial uncertainty for our analysts to form an investment conclusion, or that is currently in the process of being acquired.