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Alio Gold Inc.

ALO-TSX: \$2.54 Rating: Buy Target: \$8.50

Estimates				
	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E
CFPS	0.66	0.57	0.88	1.35
P/CFPS	3.0x	3.5x	2.3X	1.5X
EPS	0.32	0.26	0.39	0.45
P/E	6.16	7.69	5.09	4.38
Au Production (koz)	84	127	192	284
Gold Price (\$/oz)	\$1,261	\$1,308	\$1,300	\$1,300
Costs (US\$/oz)				
Total Cash Costs (\$/oz)	\$832	\$884	\$773	\$776
Sustaining Capex (\$/oz)	\$108	\$54	\$25	\$67
G&A (\$/oz)	\$94	\$75	\$60	\$60
Exploration Expense (\$/oz)	\$0	\$4	\$5	\$5
All-In Sustaining Costs (AISC)	\$1,034	\$1,016	\$863	\$908

Market Data	
Price	C\$2.54
Potential Return (%):	235%
52-Week Range:	C\$2.23 - \$7.99
Market Cap. (C\$MM):	C\$113.5
Shr. O/S-Basic (MM):	84
Shr. O/S-FD (MM):	86
Management and Directors (%):	6.72%
Enterprise Val. (C\$MM):	C\$221
NAVPS:	\$8.0
Cash (US\$MM):	\$30.1
Debt (US\$MM):	\$31.9
Price/NAV:	0.25X
Fiscal Year End	31-Dec



Top Holders (Source: Bloomberg)	
Goldcorp	5.5%
Sentry Investments	2.2%
Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd	2.1%
Renaissance Technologies LLC	2.1%

Company Information	
Flagship Project/Location:	Ana Paula / Mexico
Att. Global Gold Resource (MMoz):	8.30
AMC/oz Valuation (C\$/oz)	\$5

Q1 Results Beat Estimates

May 10, 2018

Q4/18 beat our estimates and consensus driven by lower operating costs that were positively impacted by capitalized stripping and zero cash taxes paid. With management's continued focus on further optimization of operations at the San Francisco mine, we believe the capital investments at the mine will drive increased mining flexibility and cost improvements over the course of 2018. In our view, the Ana Paula growth asset is the primary driver of value for ALO and we believe the ongoing underground exploration program has the potential to provide further upside to the project's already robust economics. We also believe that the Rye Patch acquisition, expected to close May 25, 2018, provides increased asset diversification and higher cash flow generation that should de-risk the ultimate development of Ana Paula. ALO currently trades at ~70% discount to peers and we believe operational execution and development milestones should see the stock rerated. We maintain our **BUY** rating and our target price of \$8.50 per share.

FINANCIAL RESULTS: CFPS of US\$0.12 was ahead of our estimated US\$0.03 and consensus of US\$0.02. The beat on our estimate was driven by the lower operating costs and the zero cash taxes paid. EPS of US\$0.07 was ahead of our estimated (US\$0.01) and consensus of (US\$0.02). The beat to our estimate was driven by lower operating costs and lower tax expense.

OPERATING RESULTS: Companywide production of 17.6k oz was prereported. Total cash cost of US\$884/oz was better than our estimated US\$1,090/oz primarily due to higher than estimated capitalized stripping that resulted in higher than modelled AISC of US\$1,262/oz vs our estimated US\$1,198/oz.

SAN FRANCISCO OUTLOOK: Management implemented the dual cut-off strategy in Dec. 2017 which involves trucking lower grade ROM ore to old heap leach pads while higher cut-off grade material is fed to the crusher. Management now continues to focus on improving recoveries through blasting improvements and lowering grade dilution. Overall, we expect these changes to drive operational efficiencies and lower costs. We have actualized Q1/18 and our estimates for San Francisco remains largely unchanged with production of 95k oz at US\$1,016/oz AISC (prior 95k oz at US\$1,001/oz AISC).

ADVANCING ANA PAULA: Progress on the 1,200m underground decline is underway with first blast taking place in Q1. Results to date have supported the potential of the underground to provide potential upside and management will defer the completion of the DFS for at least the remainder of 2018. In our view, the underground component of the project has the potential to significantly bolster economics and could conceptually support a boost to production of 30 – 50k oz/year to our modeled 110k oz/year. A total of ~16,000m of drilling that includes ~61 diamond drill holes is ongoing to test extension of the underground breccia mineralization below the proposed pit.



RECOMMENDATION: ALO trades at 0.24x NAV and 3.4x 2018E P/CF, a significant discount to peers trading at an average of 0.74x and 6.7x, respectively. We believe the successful integration of Rye Patch and the multiple de-risking milestones ahead over the coming quarters at the compelling Ana Paula growth asset should drive a rerating of ALO. We maintain our **BUY** rating and our target price of **\$8.50** per share.

Figure 1: ALO Q1/18 Actuals vs Clarus Estimates

ALO Q1/2018		Q118 Estimate	Q118 Actual	Variance (%)
San Francisco Mine				
Production				
Strip Ratio (Waste:Ore Milled)	w:o	2.07	2.07	0%
Tonnes processed	kt	1,715	1,715	0%
Grade	g/t	0.53	0.53	0%
Consolidated Gold Production	koz	17.6	17.6	0%
Gold Sold	koz	17.4	17.4	0%
Costs				
Implied Operating Costs	US\$/t	\$11.02	\$8.93	-19%
Cash Costs	(US\$/oz)	\$1,090	\$884	-19%
AISC	(US\$/oz)	\$1,198	\$1,262	5%

Sources: Company Reports; Clarus Securities

Figure 2: ALO Comparable Analysis

5/9/2018									PROD	JCTION						
				Market							3 Yr	P/CF	P/CF		2018	FCF
Company	Ticker	Price	s/o	Cap	Cash I	T Debt	EV	2018E	2019E	2020E	CAGR	2018E	2019E	P/NAV		
			(MM)	(MM)	(MM)	(MM)	(MM)	koz	koz	koz					(MM)	Yield
Argonaut Gold Inc.	TSX:AR	\$2.58	178	\$459	\$36	\$10	\$425	172	210	215	25%	4.6x	3.5x	0.59x	\$25	5.4%
SEMAFO Inc.	TSX:SMF	\$3.78	326	\$1,231	\$249	\$174	\$1,197	253	418	438	73%	8.1x	3.3x	0.89x	-\$121	-9.9%
Kirkland Lake Gold Ltd.	TSX:KLG	\$24.31	211	\$5,128	\$355	\$50	\$4,802	634	720	775	22%	10.1X	8.4x	1.47X	\$172	3.4%
Guyana Goldfields Inc.	TSX:GUY	\$5.27	173	\$913	\$129	\$70	\$842	194	246	276	42%	6.1x	4.7X	o.68x	\$44	4.8%
Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.	TSX:WDO	\$1.89	134	\$254	\$26	\$8	\$235	66	89	182	177%	6.7x	4.2X	O.42X	-\$1	-0.5%
Golden Star Resources Ltd.	TSX:GSC	\$0.91	381	\$346	\$43	\$142	\$450	241	268	231	-4%	5.0x	2.3X	0.39x	\$11	3.1%
Me	ean			\$1,388	\$140	\$76	\$1,325	260	325	353	56%	6.8x	4.4X	O.74x	\$22	1.1%
Med	ian			\$686	\$86	\$60	\$646	217	257	253	33%	6.4x	3.9x	0.64x	\$18	3.3%
Alio Gold Inc.	TSX:ALO	\$2.54	44	\$111	\$65	\$2	\$46	127	192	284	123%	3.5x	2.3x	0.25x	\$15	13.6%

Sources: Factset; Clarus Securities

Price Target Calculator: We value Alio Gold on a blended 50-50 NAV and P/CF based valuation. Our project NAV (50% weighting) incorporates our discounted cash flow valuation for the San Francisco mine at a 3% discount rate and the Ana Paula project at an 5% discount rate. Our P/CF valuation (50% weighting) is based on our estimate of 2018E cash flow per share to which we apply a 8.0x multiple.

Key Risks to Target Price: Please refer to the risks disclosed in the initiating report dated April 19, 2017.



Source: Company reports, Clarus Securities estimates

Rating 12-Month Return	BUY 235%			rget Price ious Close	C\$ 8.50 C\$ 2.54	Basic Sha Market Ca			83.7 C\$212.
USD MM except per share data and unle	ss otherwise n	oted							
VALUATION					FINANCIAL SUMMARY				USI
NET ASSET VALUE (50% WEIGHT)	ı	Discount rate	US\$MM	US\$/share	Calendar Year	2017Å	2018E	2019E	2020
San Francisco (100.0%), Mexico		3.0%	\$166	\$1.94	Gold Price (US\$/oz)	\$1,261	\$1,308	\$1,300	\$1,300
Ana Paula (100.0%), Mexico		5.0%	\$309	\$3.61	Realised Gold Price (US\$/oz)	\$1,260	\$1,304	\$1,300	\$1,300
Florida Canyon (100.0%), Nevada, US	iA .	5.0%	\$182	\$2.13	*Realised Gold Price due to Gold Stream				
Sub-Total			\$658	\$7.68					
Multiple to NAV		1.00X	\$658	\$7.68	0500	4-11	A	4- 00	A
Corporate Adjustments			* /-	.	CFPS D/CFFORE	\$0.66	\$0.57	\$0.88	\$1.35
Basic Working Capital			\$63	\$0.74	P/CFFOPS	3.0x	3.5X	2.3X	1.5
Long-term Debt Value of ITM Instruments			-\$32	-\$0.37	Target/CFPS	10.0x	11.6x	7.5x	4.9
Sub-total			\$0 \$ 32	\$0.00	Income Statement Revenue	4105	* -//		t-1
Total Corporate NAV	US\$/share		\$ 32 \$689	\$ 0.37 \$8.05	Operating Expenses	\$105 (\$70)	\$166 (\$112)	\$249 (\$148)	\$369 (\$220
Total Corporate NAV	O3#/ Silare		\$009	\$6.05	Depreciation	(\$5)	(\$18)	(\$146) (\$29)	(\$60
CASH FLOW VALUATION (50% WEIG	HT)				General & Adm.	(\$9)	(\$9)	(\$12)	(\$17
CFPS	,	2018E	\$42	\$0.57	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$c
Multiple to Cash Flow		8.0x	\$333	\$4.58	Exploration Exp.	\$0	(\$1)	(\$1)	(\$:
			1000	1404	Net Interest Expense	\$1	(\$0)	(\$9)	(\$9
BLENDED VALUATION	US\$/share	,	\$511	\$6.31	Taxes Expense	(\$9)	(\$8)	(\$17)	(\$2:
Target Price	C\$/share		\$675	\$8.50	Other	(\$3)	\$0	\$0	\$0
P/NAV				0.25x	Net Income	\$12	\$18	\$33	\$39
PRODUCTION ESTIMATES					Cash Flow				
Calendar Year	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E	Operating CF	\$25	\$42	\$75	\$116
San Francisco koz	84	95	113	109	Dividend	\$0	\$o	\$o	\$c
Ana Paula koz				97	Borrowings	\$0	\$124	\$3	\$0
Florida Canyon koz		33	79	79	Repayments	(\$0)	\$0	\$0	(\$
Consolidated Gold Sales koz	84	127	192	284	Share Issuance	\$37	\$15	\$0	\$c
COST ESTIMATES					Financing CF	\$40	\$139	\$3	(\$3
Calendar Year	2017Å	2018E	2019E	2020E	Investing CF	(\$56)	(\$30)	(\$171)	(\$25
Total Cash Costs US\$/		\$884	\$773	\$776	Change in Cash	(\$2)	\$143	(\$93)	\$88
Sustaining Capex US\$/		\$54	\$25	\$67	San Carlo Slave (but discount Carlo	A -	A	(4-1)	.
G&A US\$/ Exploration Expense US\$/		\$75 *,	\$60	\$60	Free Cash Flow (bef div and fin.)	\$2	\$12	(\$96)	\$9:
Exploration Expense US\$/ All-In Sustaining Costs (AISC) US\$/		\$4 \$1,016	\$5 \$863	\$5 \$908	Balance Sheet				
All-III Sustaining Costs (AlSC) 0347	02 \$1,034	\$1,010	4003	#906	Cash & Equivalents	\$31	\$175	\$82	\$170
-					Current Assets	\$87	\$244	\$151	\$239
Opera	ting Forecasts				Current Debt	\$0	\$0	\$3	\$c
²⁵⁰ 7				\$1,200	Current Liabilities	\$25	\$44	\$47	\$44
\$1,034					Long-term Debt	\$0	\$0	\$121	\$12/
200		\$908	\$8/.5	- \$1,000	Shareholder Equity	\$197	\$303	\$336	\$374
, ko	- I		\$845 97	#800 G					
5 150	\$863	97	_	\$800 [3	MODELLED OUNCES				Mine
700 duction (602)				- \$800 (zo/\$sn)	Gold Assets	Mt	g/t	koz	Life (yr
ਰ ਏ 100				CL	San Francisco (100.0%), Mexico	39.5	0.50	635	7.0
<u> </u>				- \$400 X	Ana Paula (100.0%), Mexico	13.5	2.36	1021	8.0
50 05	113	109	110		Florida Canyon (100.0%), Nevada, USA	59.3	0.44	848	8.8
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Alio Gold Inc.

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Focused on Improving Operations in Remainder of 2018

Recommendation

While Alio's 1Q18 results were impacted by weaker production (pre-released), lower production costs drove a beat over RJL and consensus estimates. With the merger with Rye Patch Gold set to close in 2Q18, we maintain our cautious view on Alio in the near-term as it could face an overhang due to the share issuance and will require time to improve operations at Florida Canyon. We reiterate our view that if Alio can deliver strong operating results from Florida Canyon and San Francisco post the merger, it could be positioned for a market re-rating later in 2018.

Analysis

- Financials Beat, But Driven by Inventory Adjustment Alio reported EPS of US\$0.07, which included a US\$7 mln inventory adjustment to production costs, above RJL and consensus estimate of US\$(0.02). Adjusted CFPS for the guarter of US\$0.09 also beat our estimate of US\$0.01 and consensus estimate of US\$0.02. Excluding the US\$7 mln adjustment, earnings from mining operations would be ~US\$(1) mln.
- San Francisco Budgeted to Improve through 2018 Production of 17.6 koz was prereleased and was below our estimate of 18.6 koz and 1Q17 production of 26 koz driven by lower head grade. AISC of US\$1,262 was below our estimate of US\$1,412/oz, largely on the back of the inventory adjustment, but well above 1Q17 AISC of US\$848/oz and 2018 guidance of US\$1,000-US\$1,100/oz. Alio expects production to improve at San Francisco through the year and reiterated project guidance of 90-100 koz Au at AISC of US\$1,000-US\$1,100/oz. We have adjusted our estimates to reflect guidance that higher dilution has continued into early 2Q18.
- Rye Patch Acquisition On Track to Close in 2Q18 Alio is set to close the Rye Patch transaction in late May 2018. Guidance for Florida Canyon is expected to be provided in 2H18 post the close of the transaction. Our valuation already incorporates the Florida Canyon project and the related share dilution.
- Cash Balance Remains Strong Alio ended the quarter with US\$39.3 mln in Cash and Marketable Securities compared with our estimate of US\$44.2 mln. After the merger with Rye Patch, we expect Alio to carry a debt of US\$15 mln with only a small addition to the cash balance as a large portion of the Rye Patch cash will be consumed on property and debt payments and transaction costs.

Valuation

Our target is based on a 30-70 blend of 1.0x our fully funded NAV5% and 6.0x NTM OCF. Our NAV also considers an exploration credit of US\$50 mln for AP and FC (see Exhibit 2). Our NAV multiple is in-line with junior producing peers. Our CF multiple is below these peers to reflect the higher cost structure and recent operating challenges.

С	FPS	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Full	Revenues	NAV
		Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Year	(mln)	
	2017A L	JS\$0.25	US\$0.18	US\$0.14	US\$(0.05)	US\$0.51	US\$105	
Old	2018E	0.01	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.41	170	C\$6.46
New	2018E	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.45	173	C\$6.20
Old	2019E	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.67	225	
New	2019E	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.63	225	

Source: Raymond James Ltd., Thomson One

May 10, 2018 | 7:40 am EDT **Company Comment**

C\$2.54

Market Perform 3 C\$5.00 target price

Current Price (May-09-18)

Total Return to Target 52-Week Range Suitability	99% C\$7.99 - C\$2.23 High Risk/Growth
Market Data	
Market Capitalization (mln)	C\$112
Current Net Debt (mln)	-C\$26
Enterprise Value (mln)	C\$86
Shares Outstanding (mln, basic)	44.7
10 Day Avg Daily Volume (000s)	131
Dividend/Yield	C\$0.00/0.0%

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Company Description

Alio Gold is a junior gold producer focused on its 100% owned San Francisco mine and its Ana Paula development project, both of which are in Mexico.

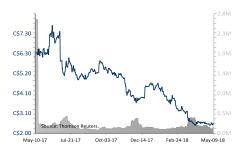


Exhibit 1: 1Q18 Quarterly Summary

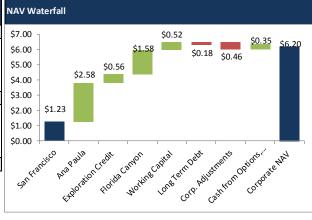
		Quarterly S	Summary	Q/	Q	Y/Y		
	Units	Estimate Q1 2018	Actual Q1 2018	Actual Q4 2017	% Δ	Actual Q1 2017	% Δ	
Total Revenue	US\$mln	23.2	23.3	20.6	13%	32.3	-28%	
Cost of Sales (excl. D&D)	US\$mln	21.2	15.5	16.9	-8%	19.4	-20%	
Depreciation and Depletion	US\$mln	1.3	1.3	1.1	20%	1.8	-31%	
Earnings from mine operations	US\$mln	0.7	6.6	2.7	146%	11.1	-41%	
Corporate G&A	US\$mln	1.8	2.9	3.2	-10%	1.3	119%	
Earnings before taxes	US\$mln	(1.0)	4.3	0.3	1221%	8.2	-48%	
Net Income	US\$mln	(1.0)	3.2	(2.9)	213%	6.0	-47%	
EPS	US\$/sh	(0.02)	0.07	(0.06)	213%	0.17	-57%	
Operating CF (Before WC)	US\$mln	0.5	5.3	1.0	420%	11.7	-55%	
Investing CF	US\$mln	(7.9)	(10.5)	(17.3)	-39%	(4.8)	116%	
Financing CF	US\$mln	0.0	0.0	2.8	-	(0.0)	-	
Reported Op. CFPS	US\$/sh	0.01	0.12	0.02	419%	0.33	-64%	
Adj. Op. CFPS	US\$/sh	0.01	0.09	(0.05)	295%	0.25	-62%	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	US\$mln	44.2	39.3	51.6	-24%	39.2	0%	
San Francisco								
Gold Production*	000 oz	17.6	17.6	16.1	10%	26.0	-32%	
Cash Costs/oz Sold	US\$/oz	\$1,218	\$884	\$1,041	-15%	\$735	20%	
AISC Cash Costs/oz Sold	US\$/oz	\$1,412	\$1,262	\$1,357	-7%	\$848	49%	

^{*} Denotes Previously Reported Data

Source: Alio Gold Inc., Raymond James Ltd.

Exhibit 2: NAV Breakdown

Projects	(Cdn\$mln)	(Cdn\$mln) Per Sh.		Adj. Per Sh.
Net Asset Value - DCF				
San Francisco	\$133.0	\$1.23	1.00x	\$1.23
Ana Paula	\$278.4	\$2.58	1.00x	\$2.58
Exploration Credit	\$60.7	\$0.56	1.00x	\$0.56
Florida Canyon	\$170.2	\$1.58	1.00x	\$1.58
Project NAV	\$642.2	\$5.95		\$5.95
Working Capital	\$56.5	\$0.52		\$0.52
Long Term Debt	-\$19.0	-\$0.18		-\$0.18
Corp. Adjustments	-\$49.1	-\$0.46		-\$0.46
Cash from Options, Warrants	\$38.1	\$0.35		\$0.35
NAV	\$668.7	\$6.20		\$6.20



Source: Raymond James Ltd.

IMPORTANT INVESTOR DISCLOSURES

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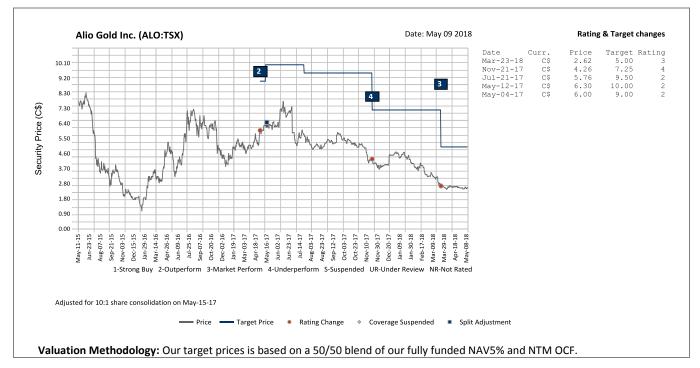
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Risks - Alio Gold Inc.

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