

February 23, 2017

**Markets:** Foreign investors remain net sellers of Japanese stocks and bonds reckoning increased prices in the country's corporate services sector, currency traders said. The Japanese yen is up 3.60% to 112.72 against the greenback year to date with 52-week range from low 99.02 to high 118.66.

The yen rose 2.97% to the euro to 119.29 year to date with 52-week range from low 109.57 to high 128.22.

Japan is reportedly investing 17 trillion yen in public and private funds over ten years, with that pension funds directed to infrastructure projects in US, security, and space exploration. This plan may create 700,000 new US jobs.

In latest co-operation news, Beacon Capital Partners LLC has just formed a joint venture with Asian investors to buy over 2.1 million sq. feet or 195,000 sq. m. in office assets in the Washington DC metropolitan area, so investing more than \$1.05 billion.

**Stocks to Watch:** China National Chemical Corp extended until April 28 its \$43 billion tender offer for Swiss pesticides and seeds group Syngenta AG (SYT). SYT shares added 22 cents to \$84.86 in pre-market.

Cloud Peak Energy Inc (CLD) eased 43 cents to \$5.25 in pre-market after the metals and minerals producer is offering 13.5 million shares at \$5.10 each to fund bonds due 2019. The company has granted underwriters a 30-day option to purchase two million additional shares of its common stock.

Cloud Peak Energy in fourth quarter reported net income of \$24.5 million or 39 cents a share compared to loss of \$156.2 million or \$2.55 a year ago. Revenue fell 12.6% to \$227.9 million on the year.

First Industrial Realty Trust Inc (FR) slid 19 cents to \$26.28 after the industrial properties developer said fourth-quarter sales increased 5.1% to \$97.98 million from a year ago. Quarterly net income plunged 45.6% to \$24.61 million or 20 cents a share from \$45.21 million or 39 cents a year ago.

Full-year sales jumped 3.3% to \$378.02 million on the year. Profit rose to \$125.68 million or \$1.05 a diluted share compared to \$76.71 million or 66 cents a year ago. Funds from operations reached \$132.49 million or \$1.45 a share compared to \$112.77 million or \$1.27 a year ago.

Funds from operations in fourth quarter were \$31.46 million or 38 cents a share compared to \$26.43 million or 37 cents a year ago. Full-year 2017 funds from operations are seen between \$1.46 and \$1.56 a share, and profit at 49 to 59 cents a share.

Genesis Healthcare Inc (GEN) slumped 51 cents to \$3.32 after the respiratory therapies provider said fourth-quarter revenue declined 2.6% to \$1.40 billion from a year ago. Medicare occupancy slowed down while Medicaid services and insurance at facilities increased. Larger cash assets lifted net income to \$41.31 million compared to loss of \$312,640 in prior-year quarter.

Income before taxes dropped in fourth quarter to \$33.2 million from \$39.7 million a year ago. Genesis Healthcare lost \$20.5 million or 23 cents a share in third quarter when adjusted profit was \$47.8 million.

Estimated sales in 2017 will range from \$5.4 billion to \$5.6 billion. The company expects net loss related to chemicals provider GHC Inc between \$74 million and \$85 million.

Nissan Motor Co Ltd (NSANY) appointed new chief executive mandate to Hiroto Saikawa effective April, while Carlos Ghosn will continue to be chairman combining responsibilities at Renault SA (RNO:FP) and Mitsubishi Corp (MSBHY) as well. The stock lost 12 cents to \$19.65 on Wednesday.

The car maker reported third-quarter 2017 earnings of \$13.02 million on 8.4% higher revenue of \$26.88 billion. Sequentially profit in second quarter was \$14.27 million and total sales \$26.05 billion.

Peugeot SA (PUGOY) lost four cents to \$19.70 after the French automobiles manufacturer announced its first dividend in six years and raised its medium-term profitability goal on Thursday after full-year profit almost doubled.

Peugeot in 2016 widened operating margins to 6% from 5% in previous year. Net income rose 92% to €1.73 billion with recurring operating income up 18% to €3.24 billion. Sales fell 1.1% to €54 billion despite increased cash flows.

Public Storage (PSA) gained \$1.51 to \$227.75 in pre-market after the real estate and self-storage business said fourth-quarter revenue rose 6.9% to \$651.43 million from a year ago. Net income jumped to \$352.8 million or \$2.03 per share from \$303.0 million or \$1.74 per share in 2015. Funds from operations surged 12.6% to \$2.77 per diluted share compared to \$2.46 a year ago.

Ultrapar Participações SA (UGP) eased 56 cents to \$21.56 after Brazil's petroleum supplier reported fourth-quarter net income down 12% to R\$436 million but 4% dividend raise to R\$907 million in 2016. The company partners with Chevron Corp (CVX) to produce lubricants, and is expanding in Texas. Its pharmacy subsidiary operates both in retail and wholesale of medicines and personal care products.

Uranium Resources Inc (URRE) dropped 0.52% to \$1.90 after the metals and minerals producer commented on "favorable" lithium concentrations at its Columbus basin project, including total of 369 grid sample locations. Internal laboratory control has included quality standards and replicate sample analysis.