



CICC SH-HK Stock Connect

Guangzhou Automobile Group

Share purchase shows strong confidence; good buy on dip opportunity



Company Update

What's new

Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAG) announced that its controlling shareholder, Guangzhou Automobile Industry Group Co. (GAIGC), plans to use propriety funds to purchase GAG's A-shares from now through to end-2018. GAIGC made the decision based on its views about GAG's current market performance and growth outlook.

Comments

- Planned purchase is up to Rmb300mn; purchase price is not fixed
- Compared to investors, GAG's controlling shareholders and management – along with related Guangzhou SOEs – are more confident in GAG's medium and long term development.
- Strong growth momentum, undemanding valuation and confidence of controlling shareholder.

See these comments in full on page 3.

Valuation and recommendation

We maintain our BUY ratings on GAG-A/-H and reiterate our target prices of Rmb28.90/HK\$25.50 (implying 15x/12x 2018e P/E).

Risks

Implementation of the share purchase plan misses expectations; automobile demand plunges.

Ticker	601	238.SH		02238.H		
CICC investment rating		BUY		BU		
Last close		nb20.96		HK\$16.1		
CICC target	Rr	nb28.90		HK\$25.5		
52wk price range	Rmb30.0	HK\$2	HK\$22.05~11.1			
Market cap (bn)	I	Rmb135		HK\$16		
Daily value (mn)	Rm	b214.62		HK\$599.5		
Shares outstanding (mn)		7,295		7,29		
Free float (%)		59		3		
Daily volume (mn sh)		9.54	_	34.4		
Business sector			А	uto & Part		
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9 142 121 100 79 Feb-2017 May-2017	Aug-2017	No	v-2017	Feb-201:		
79	Aug-2017	Non	v-2017	Feb-201:		
79 May-2017	Aug-2017 2016A	Not 2017E	v-2017 2018E			
79 May-2017				2019		
79 Feb-2017 May-2017	2016A	2017E	2018E	2019		
79 Feb-2017 May-2017 (Rmb mn)	2016A 49,418	2017E 76,276	2018E 111,256	2019 136,12 22.49		
79 Feb-2017 May-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-)	2016A 49,418 68.0%	2017E 76,276 54.3%	2018E 111,256 45.9%	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15		
79 Feb-2017 May-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-)	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19		
79 Feb-2017 May-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6%	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0%	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6%	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19		
79 Feb-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2		
79 Feb-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3		
79 Feb-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS CPS	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3 0.6 2.5		
79 Feb-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS CPS P/E	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46 1.06	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59 2.07	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3 0.6 2.5		
79 Feb-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS CPS P/E P/B	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75 16.8	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46 1.06 9.2	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59 2.07 6.6	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3 0.6 2.5 5.		
Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS CPS P/E P/B EV/EBITDA	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75 16.8 2.4	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46 1.06 9.2 1.9	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59 2.07 6.6 1.5	2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3 0.6 2.5 5.		
reb-2017 May-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit (+/-) EPS BPS DPS CPS P/E P/B EV/EBITDA Dividend yield	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75 16.8 2.4 9.3	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46 1.06 9.2 1.9 5.2	2018E 111,256 45,9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59 2.07 6.6 1.5 3.0	2019 136,12 22,49 16,15 15,19 2,2 10,3 0,6 2,5 5, 1, 1, 5,39		
79 May-2017 (Rmb mn) Revenue (+/-) Net profit	2016A 49,418 68.0% 6,288 48.6% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75 16.8 2.4 9.3 1.8%	2017E 76,276 54.3% 11,003 75.0% 1.51 7.25 0.46 1.06 9.2 1.9 5.2 3.3%	2018E 111,256 45.9% 14,041 27.6% 1.93 8.71 0.59 2.07 6.6 1.5 3.0	Feb-2014 2019 136,12 22.49 16,15 15.19 2.2 10.3 0.6 2.5 1. 1. 5.39 11.66 23.33		

Source: Wind, Bloomberg, company data, CICC Research



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Financial summary

nancial statement (Rmb mn)	2016A	2017E	2018E	2019E	Financial ratios
come statement					Growth ability
Revenue	49,418	76,276	111,256	136,129	Revenue
COGS	-39,558	-59,757	-86,759	-105,709	Operating profit
Selling expenses	-3,370	-4,958	-7,232	-8,848	EBITDA
Administrative expenses	-2,749	-4,577	-6,675	-8,168	Net profit
Other ops income (expense)	-983	-1,250	-486	-286	Profitability
Operating profit	932	2,830	5,867	7,933	Gross margin
Finance costs	-306	-763	-1,113	-1,361	Operating margin
Other income (expense)	-11,966	-18,188	-18,819	-19,511	EBITDA margin
Profit before income tax	7,051	12,221	15,592	17,939	Net margin
Income tax	-754	-1,208	-1,542	-1,774	Liquidity
Minority interest	-8	-9	-9	-9	Current ratio
Net profit	6,288	11,003	14,041	16,156	Quick ratio
EBITDA	9,449	14,793	18,570	21,292	Cash ratio
Recurrent net income	6,288	11,003	14,041	16,156	Liabilities / assets
alance sheet					Net debt / equity
Cash and bank balances	21,317	28,393	42,090	58,278	Return
Trade and bill receivables	1,155	1,782	2,600	3,181	RoA
Inventories	2,494	3,767	6,418	7,820	RoE
Other current assets	10,006	10,238	13,669	16,257	Per-share data
Total current assets	34,971	44,181	64,776	85,536	EPS (Rmb)
Fixed assets and CIP	11,619	14,692	17,921	21,546	BPS (Rmb)
Intangible assets and others	35,502	38,844	42,607	46,174	DPS (Rmb)
Total non-current assets	47,121	53,536	60,528	67,719	Cash flow per share (Rm
Total assets	82,092	97,717	125,304	153,256	Valuation
Short-term borrowings	1,216	1,500	1,784	2,068	P/E
Trade and bill payables	8,999	13,594	19,737	28,672	P/B
Other current liabilities	14,106	12,873	20,447	24,380	EV/EBITDA
Total current liabilities	24,322	27,967	41,968	55,120	Dividend yield
Long-term borrowings	626	835	703	741	
Total non-current liabilities	12,931	15,834	18,737	21,667	
Total liabilities	37,253	43,801	60,705	76,787	
Share capital	6,453	7,293	7,293	7,293	
Retained profit	37,349	45,576	56,251	68,111	
Equity	43,802	52,870	63,544	75,404	
Total liabilities & equity	82,092	97,717	125,304	153,256	
sh flow statement					
Pretax profit	7,051	12,221	15,592	17,939	
Depreciation & amortization	2,100	1,818	1,875	2,000	
Change in working capital	3,177	562	6,691	8,390	
Others	-6,829	-6,885	-9,062	-9,658	
Cash flow from operations	5,498	7,716	15,095	18,671	
Capital expenditure	-5,032	-4,641	-4,640	-5,160	
Others	1,950	4,912	5,420	6,472	
Cash flow from investing	-3,082	271	780	1,312	
Equity financing	275	0	0	0	
Bank borrowings	526	2,808	3,204	3,006	
Others	843	-3,022	-5,393	-6,811	
Cash flow from financing	1,644	-214	-2,188	-3,805	
Foreign exchange gain (loss)	74	0	0	0	
Net changes in cash	4,135	7,773	13,687	16,178	
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68.0% N.M. 45.0%	54.3% 203.6%	45.9%	22.4%
N.M. 45.0%		45.9%	22 40/
45.0%	203.6%		22.4%
		107.3%	35.2%
	56.6%	25.5%	14.7%
48.6%	75.0%	27.6%	15.1%
20.0%	21.7%	22.0%	22.3%
1.9%	3.7%	5.3%	5.8%
19.1%	19.4%	16.7%	15.6%
12.7%	14.4%	12.6%	11.9%
			<u></u>
1.44	1.58	1.54	1.55
1.34	1.45	1.39	1.41
0.88	1.02	1.00	1.06
45.4%	44.8%	48.4%	50.1%
net cash	net cash	net cash	net cash
8.4%	12.2%	12.6%	11.6%
15.3%	22.8%	24.1%	23.3%
0.86	1.51	1.93	2.22
6.01	7.25	8.71	10.34
0.30	0.46	0.59	0.68
0.75	1.06	2.07	2.56
16.8	9.2	6.6	5.8
2.4	1.9	1.5	1.2
9.3	5.2	3.0	1.9
1.8%	3.3%	4.6%	5.3%
	1.9% 19.1% 12.7% 1.44 1.34 0.88 45.4% net cash 8.4% 15.3% 0.86 6.01 0.30 0.75 16.8 2.4 9.3	20.0% 21.7% 1.9% 3.7% 19.1% 19.4% 12.7% 14.4% 1.44 1.58 1.34 1.45 0.88 1.02 45.4% 44.8% net cash net cash 8.4% 12.2% 15.3% 22.8% 0.86 1.51 6.01 7.25 0.30 0.46 0.75 1.06 16.8 9.2 2.4 1.9 9.3 5.2	20.0% 21.7% 22.0% 1.9% 3.7% 5.3% 19.1% 19.4% 16.7% 12.7% 14.4% 12.6% 1.44 1.58 1.54 1.34 1.45 1.39 0.88 1.02 1.00 45.4% 44.8% 48.4% net cash net cash net cash 8.4% 12.2% 12.6% 15.3% 22.8% 24.1% 0.86 1.51 1.93 6.01 7.25 8.71 0.30 0.46 0.59 0.75 1.06 2.07 16.8 9.2 6.6 2.4 1.9 1.5 9.3 5.2 3.0

Source: Company data, CICC Research

Company description

Guangzhou Automobile Group is the sixth largest PV manufacturer in China and owns several famous subsidiaries and affiliates such as GAC Passenger Cars, GAC Honda, GAC Toyota. The company's sales volume increased from 0.74mn in 2011 to 1.65mn in 2016, realizing a 17% CAGR, which is higher than the industry average. GAC Trumpchi is growing rapidly, with the monthly sales volume of its popular SUV model, the GS4, ranked in the top three of all SUV models by volume.





Comments in full

- ► The planned purchase could be up to Rmb300mn and the purchase price is not fixed. GAIGC's planned buying scale is between Rmb30mn and Rmb300mn. It currently owns 3.91bn of GAG's shares (3.71bn A-shares and 208mn H-shares), accounting for 53.64% of GAG's total share capital (as of January 31, 2018). GAIGC will not fix the purchase price in order to more flexibly deal with market performance and GAG's share price volatility.
- Compared to investors, GAG's controlling shareholder, management team and other Guangzhou state-owned companies are more confident in GAG's medium and long-term development. GAG raised Rmb15bn through issuing 753mn shares at Rmb19.91/sh in the form of a private placement in 2017; these shares have a 36-month lockup period. In December 2017, GAG also granted its first batch of options to >2,300 executives & key employees as part of its equity incentive plans; these options have a strike price of Rmb28.4/sh and can be exercised after 12 months. GAG-A is now trading at Rmb20.96, slightly above the private placement price, but still lower than the strike price. GAIGC's planned share purchase again shows its strong confidence in GAG's growth outlook, and may support GAG-A's stock price.
- Strong growth momentum, undemanding valuation and confidence of controlling shareholder: In January 2018, demand for mid-range/low-end PVs weakened again due to tight monetary policies and rising inflationary expectations. We expect the automobile industry's growth to be marginal and automakers to diverge in 2018. However, GAG focuses on mid-range/high-end MPVs for household applications, mid-sized SUVs and mid-range sedans that face strong market demand. And what's more, it also increased spending on alternative-fuel vehicles and intelligent connected cars, which we believe will help ensure strong growth momentum. In addition, GAG-A/-H is now trading at 11x/7x 2018e P/E, historical troughs and cheaper than the sector averages. We believe that the planned share purchase reflects the controlling shareholder's strong confidence in GAG's growth outlook, and that the company is one of the best auto stocks and should be bought on dips amid plunges in the broader market.





Figure 1: Subscription of the A-shares issued by GAG in the form of private placement

No.	Price of private placement (Rmb)	Issuing object	Subscribed amount (Rmb mn)	Number of shares subscribed (mn)
1		Guangzhou Huiyin Tianyue Equity Investment Fund Management Co.	6,000	301.36
2		Guangzhou State Capital Development Holding Co., Ltd.	3,000	150.68
3	19.91 (adjusted price)	1(adjusted price) Guangzhou Finance Holdings Asset Management Co., LtdYouxuan Fund No. 3		150.68
4		Guangzhou light industry and Trade Group Co., Ltd.	1,500	75.34
5		Suiyong Holding Co., Ltd.	1,500	75.34
Total			15,000	753.39

Source: Company announcement, CICC Research

Figure 2: Conditions for exercising of incentive stock options

			Performance target							
Exercise		Unlock				Proportion				
price	Exercise Period		ROF	of main	Others	Payout				
price			rear	Growth rate of fiet medific	NOL	business	Others	ratio		
						income				
	24-36 months	1/3	2018	2018 vs. 2016: ≥ 12%	≥6%		The former three			
Rmb28.4/sh	36-48 months	1/3	2019	2019 vs. 2016: ≥ 22%	≥ 6.5%	≥96%	ratios ≥ 75 quantile	≥ 25%		
	48-60 months	1/3	2020	2020 vs. 2016: ≥ 41%	≥ 7%		of industry peers			

Source: Company announcement, CICC Research

Figure 3: Actual awarding of incentive equity options

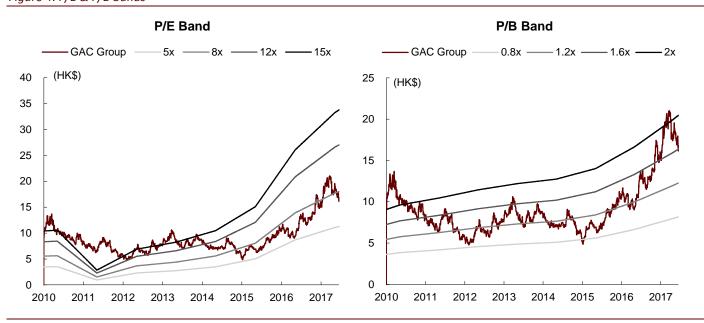
No	No. Name	Position	Number of registration	Proportion of	Proportion of total	
NO.	Name	rosition	(10,000)	registration	shares outstanding	
1	Qinghong Zeng	Chairman	800	0.20%	0.01%	
2	Xingya Feng	Director, general manager	760	0.19%	0.01%	
3	Zhuangli Yan	Director	760	0.19%	0.01%	
4	Maoshan Chen	Director	720	0.18%	0.01%	
5	Song Wu	Deputy General Manager	720	0.18%	0.01%	
6	Shao Li	Vice General Manager	720	0.18%	0.01%	
7	Dan Wang	Deputy general manager and financial officer	720	0.18%	0.01%	
8	Hanjun Chen	Vice General Manager	720	0.18%	0.01%	
9	Qingsong Zhang	Vice General Manager	720	0.18%	0.01%	
10	Li Sui	The Secretary of the board of directors	720	0.18%	0.01%	
Other m	nanagers, core techno	ogy (business) and key personnel (2,348 in total)	395,975.4	98.18%	5.44%	
Total			403,335.4	100.00%	5.54%	

Source: Company announcement, CICC Research





Figure 4: P/E & P/B bands



Source: Wind info, CICC Research



Figure 5: Valuations of comparable companies

Company	Category	Price	Market Cap		P/E			P/B		E	V / EBITD	A
		2018/2/10	US\$ mn	16A	17E	18E	16A	17E	18E	16A	17E	18E
China A-Share Listcos												
CICC Coverage		Rmb										
Chang'an Auto A	PV	11.89	9,066	5.6	7.2	7.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	36.7	39.4	37.2
Great Wall Motor	PV	12.32	17,853	10.7	23.2	13.7	2.4	2.3	2.0	7.1	12.2	8.2
SAIC Motor	PV	32.01	59,378	11.7	10.6	9.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	11.6	10.5	9.4
BYD	PV	56.65	24,538	30.6	37.8	25.0	3.3	2.8	2.5	15.6	15.5	12.4
Jianghuai Auto	PV/CV	7.30	2,194	11.9	40.6	26.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	12.5	15.2	14.1
Weichai Power A	Parts/CV	7.75	9,840	25.4	9.6	8.8	2.0	1.7	1.5	12.0	7.9	7.7
CNHTC Jinan Truck	CV	14.73	1,569	23.6	10.1	9.8	2.0	1.7	1.5	29.1	12.5	12.2
Yutong Bus	CV	22.88	8,042	12.5	15.8	12.0	3.7	3.8	2.9	12.1	10.7	9.7
King Long Motor	CV	11.01	1,061	n.a.	28.2	15.5	2.2	1.8	1.6	19.0	31.5	21.2
BAIC Foton Motor	CV/PV	2.46	2,605	28.9	17.6	16.4	0.9	0.8	0.8	16.5	13.6	13.5
Jiangling Motor	CV/PV	18.36	2,516	12.0	17.5	15.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	4.7	8.4	7.9
Huayu Automotive	Parts	25.20	12,614	13.1	12.1	11.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	12.9	8.3	7.5
Fuyao Glass	Parts	25.35	10,097	16.5	14.2	15.2	3.5	3.3	3.0	15.6	13.0	10.8
Zhejiang Yinlun	Parts	8.44	1,073	26.3	21.1	15.9	3.0	2.5	2.1	16.8	15.1	12.0
Weifu Hi-tech	Parts	22.34	3,579	13.5	9.4	9.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	11.9	7.8	7.4
GAC	PV	20.96	24,276	24.3	13.9	10.9	3.5	2.9	2.4	15.4	9.5	7.0
Joyson Electronics	Parts	27.13	4,089	56.8	20.7	18.5	2.0	1.9	1.7	16.9	9.8	9.0
Fulin P.M.	Parts	15.52	1,257	34.6	15.4	12.1	2.3	2.1	1.8	26.6	12.1	9.5
Xingyu Automotive Lighting	Parts	43.75	1,918	34.5	26.2	20.8	3.2	3.0	2.8	25.7	21.0	17.4
Aotecar New Energy Technology	Parts	3.59	1,785	25.2	25.6	22.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	17.8	13.8	11.7
WLY 3,	Parts	7.70	1,650	33.3	13.1	10.8	1.9	1.7	1.5	16.7	9.1	8.0
Tuopu	Parts	19.17	2,214	22.7	17.6	14.2	4.1	3.3	2.8	18.3	14.4	11.9
China Grand Auto	Dealer	6.75	8,728	19.6	13.5	11.1	2.3	2.0	1.8	18.0	11.4	9.8
Wind Consensus			,									
Dongfeng Automobile	CV	4.91	1,559	44.9	22.8	12.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	29.9	n.a.	n.a.
FAWAY	Parts	15.18	1,020	15.0	10.5	8.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	8.9	7.9	6.5
Median	Median		,	25.3	17.6	13.9	2.1	1.9	1.7	15.6	12.2	10.6
HK Listcos												
CICC Coverage		HK\$										
Brilliance Auto	PV	18.78	12,117	20.7	14.7	9.8	3.2	2.8	2.3	26.8	15.1	10.2
Geely Auto	PV	21.50	24,669	30.4	14.9	11.0	6.3	4.5	3.3	37.7	10.7	8.3
GAC	PV	16.14	15,057	16.8	9.2	6.6	2.4	1.9	1.5	9.3	5.2	3.0
BYD	PV	66.65	23,253	29.0	35.8	23.6	2.9	2.6	2.3	13.1	10.4	8.4
Dongfeng Motor Group	PV/CV	9.41	10,369	4.9	4.6	4.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	4.6	3.5	3.3
Great Wall Motor	PV/CV	8.60	10,038	6.0	13.1	7.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	7.9	10.9	7.3
Weichai Power H	Parts/CV	8.70	8,898	23.0	8.7	8.0	1.8	1.5	1.3	7.8	4.1	4.0
Sinotruk	CV	8.97	3,167	37.5	6.6	6.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	11.6	3.3	3.2
Minth Group	Parts	41.40	6,056	22.2	18.0	14.1	3.6	3.1	2.7	18.7	12.0	9.4
Fuyao Glass	Parts	30.30	9,721	19.5	19.1	15.1	3.4	3.2	2.9	5.4	11.3	9.4
Zhongsheng Holdings	Dealer	17.84	5,172	17.5	10.3	8.1	2.5	2.1	1.7	21.7	4.8	3.9
Zhengtong Auto	Dealer	6.32	2,014	25.7	10.0	6.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	15.1	6.5	4.3
Yonda Auto	Dealer	8.41	1,974	14.6	8.1	6.4	2.0	1.8	1.4	8.3	4.4	3.6
Grand Baoxin Auto	Dealer	2.94	1,067	16.1	7.4	6.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	4.6	2.9	2.5
Wind Consensus	2 00.0.	2.51	2,007	20.1	7.1	0.1			3.5	1.5	2.5	2.3
DCH Holdings	Dealer	3.55	839	11.6	5.7	n.a.	0.7	0.5	n.a.	2.5	2.3	n.a.
Median	Median	3.33		17.2	10.0	7.1	1.9	1.8	1.4	8.8	5.0	4.0

Source: Wind info, CICC Research





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