

RIM, On Deck, Still Flailing

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NEW YORK ([TheStreet](#)) -- **Research In Motion (RIMM)** is expected to beat fiscal first-quarter earnings targets when it reports after the bell Thursday.

Savor the moment.

Wall Street is looking for an adjusted profit of \$1.32 a share on \$5.1 billion in sales. Anything better than that may mark the last positive development RIM investors will see for quite a while.



RIM Co-CEO Jim Balsille

The BlackBerry maker's ability to clear the [outlook it lowered on April 28](#) is hardly cause for celebration. In fact, it looks to be just another bittersweet moment as RIM follows up with another forecast adjusted for delays to key new products like the touchscreen BlackBerry Bold.

Weak guidance will once again draw attention to RIM's ineffective attempt to keep up with the smartphone industry duo made up of **Apple (AAPL)** and **Google (GOOG)** Android. It will also raise concerns about just how far and how fast RIM will fall out of contention before it introduces a new generation of QNX-powered devices sometime next year.

Analysts have not been kind to RIM lately. Some have pointed to the company's [squandered resources](#), others see it as a [complete misread](#) of the smartphone market. Investors haven't held out any hope that a quick fix is in the works.

RIM shares are down 50% from a high of \$70.54 in February. And the pace of the selloff isn't showing any sign of slowing. RIM has hit a new two-year low each day this week.

CEO Jim Balsille will have the task once again of pointing to a bright future while those tuning to the earnings report have greater concerns about RIM dimming prospects.

"Quarterly reassurances from management notwithstanding, we expect RIM to continue flailing in high-end smartphones as it plows more resources into operating system development, trying to catch Google or rival Apple," Charter Equity Research analyst Ed Snyder wrote in a research note Monday.

Snyder, who has a sell rating on the stock, said RIM is broken and unable to fix itself.

"The expertise and resources required to execute on its current business model are probably beyond the company's potential," Snyder said.

--Written by Scott Moritz in New York.

EVENT HAS ENDED

Research In Motion Q1 Results

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