

FEATURED OPTIONS RADAR REPORT



Hotel Lodging Name Sees Bearish Flow into Highs

Ticker/Price: HST (\$19.16)

Analysis:

Host Hotels (HST) on 2/1 saw a large rare buyer of 8300 July \$16.80 puts bought for \$0.90 and this followed 1600 July \$19.80 calls sold to open last week for \$1.05. The name as also seen bears position in April expiration for over 10,000 April \$15 puts at \$1.00 and 1000 April \$16 puts bought for \$1.05. Still some longer term bulls however in open interest with 1700 each of the January 2024 \$10 and \$15 calls. Shares have been strong this past month with markets rallying and now retesting stiff resistance at near 19.50-20. HST has support below at 18 and 16.50 but the 19.20 level is yearly value area highs from 2022 and may need a pullback before breaking above. These put buyers likely looking for a pullback after earnings this month on 2/15. The \$13.4B company trades at 19.9x earnings, 3.2x sales, with FCF yield at 9.5% and a dividend yield of 3.4% while revenue is expected to slow to +6% in FY23 after a strong 2022 that saw +69% sales growth. Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc. operates as a self-managed and self-administered real estate investment trust (REIT). The Company operates through the hotel ownership segment. It operates a lodging REIT. The Company owned properties and conducted operations through Host Hotels & Resorts, L.P. (Host L.P.). The Company owns a portfolio of approximately 78 hotels, of which 73 are in the United States and five properties are located internationally totaling approximately 42,200 rooms. Average analyst target is \$21. Morgan Stanley initiated with a Equal weight and \$20 target saying macro risk is more muted than a typical cycle given that the recovery in travel is still underway, but over the longer-term he generally prefers C-corps over Hotel REITs as brands have taken share of independent hotels in almost every market as they leverage scale benefits, partnerships, financing, and still have ample runway. Oppenheimer last Fall started coverage with a Neutral and \$21 target citing the company's strong balance sheet and multiple strategies to elevate the growth trajectory of the portfolio, but ownership of full-service hotels could leave the company exposed to wage pressures and hiring challenges. Short interest is at 4.2%. Hedge fund ownership rose 2.8% last quarter.

Hawk Vision:



Hawk's Perspective: HST is a steep move recently so potential to trade short on a close below the 8 EMA at these levels and stops above the high candle.

Confidence Ranking: \$\$