

Investor Jana Partners pushes Qualcomm on stock buyback

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Activist investor firm Jana Partners says Qualcomm should speed up a stock repurchase, look for ways to cut costs, and consider splitting itself up.

In a letter sent to investors, Jana Partners said Qualcomm has two "excellent" businesses in its [chip design](#) and wireless intellectual property units, but it described Qualcomm's [stock performance](#) as underwhelming.

Qualcomm said in March that it would buy back \$10 billion in [stock](#) over the next year and possibly another \$5 billion afterward. Jana said the \$10 billion [stock repurchase](#) should happen sooner, and it said Qualcomm should reduce its expenses at the same time and then buy back another \$5 billion in shares.

The New York firm also said Qualcomm should consider changing its corporate structure, possibly by combining its chipset and IP licensing business or considering a partial or full separation of those businesses.

It said Qualcomm should also shrink its board and bring in new directors.

Qualcomm said in a news release that its combination of businesses creates more value for shareholders. The San Diego company said its board of directors reviews its corporate structure on a regular basis.

Jana Partners said it has invested more than \$2 billion in Qualcomm and described itself as one of the company's largest shareholders. That suggests the company has acquired a much bigger stake in the company in 2015. The firm owned 4.4 million shares of Qualcomm at the end of 2014, which would be worth about \$300 million as of Monday's close. That's good for a 0.3-percent stake in the company.

Shares of Qualcomm lost 43 cents to \$68.73 on Monday. The stock has fallen 7.5 percent in 2015.

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