Streamlined Finance

A Streamlined Finance Editorial Report

7 AI Stocks to Invest in Today:

Capitalizing on AI Compute Infrastructure

September 2025

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It’s Clear That AI Will Shape The Coming Decade, But Which Stocks Offer The Best Opportunities?

As artificial intelligence transforms industries, discover the companies poised to deliver exceptional returns for savvy investors.

Data is the new oil of the global economy, and AI is the engine driving it.

The numbers don’t lie. With an expected CAGR of 36% between 2025 and 2030, the sector is hard to ignore. While headlines focus on giants like NVIDIA and AMD, an entire universe of smaller, high-potential companies is quietly working behind the scenes to make AI possible. For investors willing to look beyond the obvious, these hidden gems could offer significant upside.

History offers a clue. During the gold rush, the fortunes weren’t always made by miners searching for gold. Instead, it was the merchants who sold the picks, shovels, and other essential tools. Today’s AI boom is no different. The real winners extend beyond the headline chipmakers to the companies supplying the critical infrastructure that powers this technological rush.

Semiconductors are vital, but they represent only one piece of the puzzle.

AI operates within a vast ecosystem of enablers, including electricity to power energy-hungry data centers, storage systems to hold immense volumes of information, cooling technology to prevent servers from overheating, and networking equipment to transfer data at lightning speed. Each element is indispensable, and each offers opportunities for companies to grow alongside the AI boom.

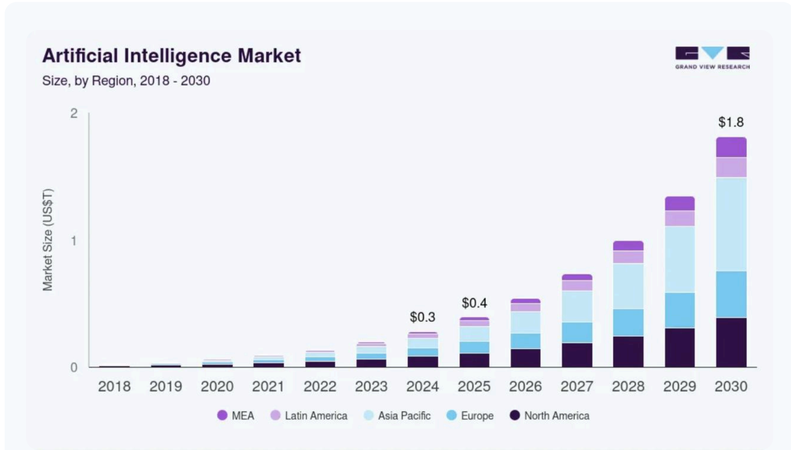
In this report, we delve into that ecosystem. We examine how chip demand is evolving, how data center architecture is being reimagined, and how the energy sector is adapting to unprecedented requirements. We highlight the trends, numbers, and structural shifts that position AI as the defining investment theme of this decade. Most importantly, through rigorous research and careful filtering, our analysts have identified high-potential companies that sit at the heart of this transformation and can deliver superior returns for investors in the years ahead.

The Massive Market for AI: Crazy Growth Numbers

The AI sector is already booming with massive growth potential in the years to come. According to Grand View Research, the AI market is projected to reach ~$1.8 trillion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 35.9% from 2025 to 2030. The USA is anticipated to exhibit a significant CAGR, while the Asia Pacific is considered the fastest-growing market.

Understanding the AI Infrastructure Ecosystem from scratch

Behind every technology lies a network of players, each contributing at different stages to make it a success. AI infrastructure and compute power are no exception.



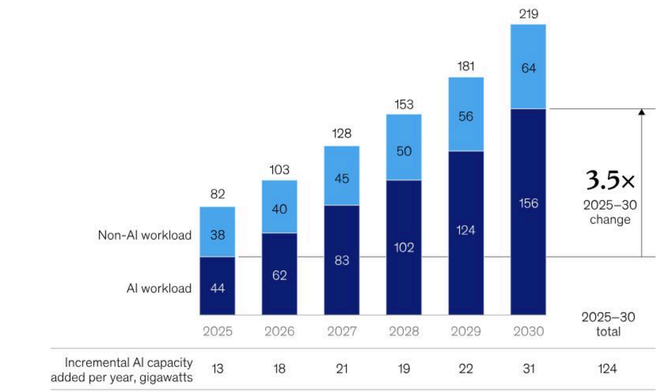
They involve five investor archetypes: builders, energizers, technology developers and designers, operators, and AI architects. Each plays a critical role in shaping the ecosystem.

Let’s have a look at each player and their role in the ecosystem →

Data centers, much like the railroads fueling the Industrial Revolution, are foundational to AI’s explosive growth. The hardware, processors, memory, storage, and energy needed to operate these data centers are collectively known as compute power, and there is an unquenchable need for more. Based on research by McKinsey, by 2030, data centers are projected to require $6.7 trillion worldwide to keep pace with the demand for computing power. Of this, those required to handle AI processing loads are projected to require $5.2 trillion in capital expenditures. Global demand for data center capacity is expected to almost triple by 2030, with AI workloads accounting for approximately 70% of that demand.

Both AI and non-AI workloads will be key drivers of global data center capacity demand growth through 2030.

Estimated global data center capacity demand, ‘continued momentum’ scenario, gigawatts



Note: Figures may not sum to totals, because of rounding.
Source: McKinsey Data Center Demand Model; Gartner reports; IDC reports; Nvidia capital markets reports

McKinsey & Company

The AI Ecosystem:

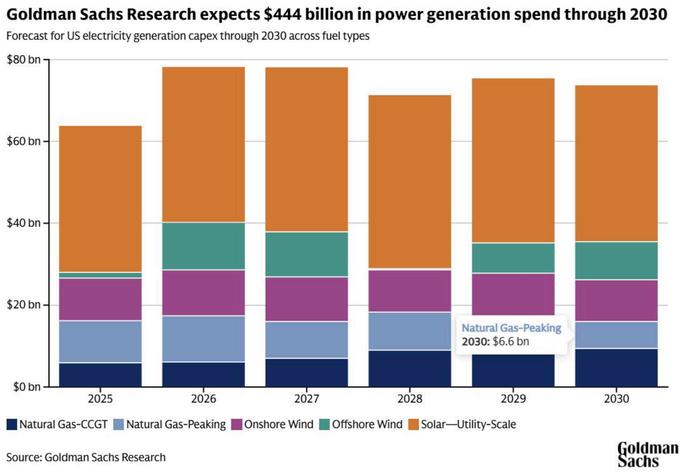
1. Builders **Examples:** Digital Realty, Equinix, QTS Realty, GDS Holdings	**Who they are:**	Physical infrastructure providers such as real estate developers, design firms, and construction companies for data centers.
	Why they matter:	Provide the physical backbone for computing power infrastructure.
	Key investments:	Land acquisition, site develop-ment, real estate, construction services, modular and prefabricated data centers.
	Growth drivers:	Requirement for specialized faci-lities and surging demand for hyperscale and edge data centers.
	Risks:	High capital deployment, Locational-specific requirements for energy and cooling.
2. Energizers **Examples:** NextEra Energy, Schneider Electric, Siemens Energy, ABB	**Who they are:**	Utilities, energy providers, cooling/electrical equipment manufacturers, and telecom operators powering data centers.
	Why they matter:	AI compute workloads are extremely power-intensive, requiring a substantial amount of electricity and cooling power to function smoothly.
	Key investments:	Power generation (plants, transmission lines), Cooling solutions (air cooling, direct-to-chip liquid cooling, immersion cooling), Electrical infrastructure (transformers, generators), Network connectivity (fiber, cable)
	Growth drivers:	Rising demand for sustainable sources of energy that help to optimise costs while ensuring efficiency.
	Risks:	Reliance on local power grids, heat management challenges, rising pressure to switch to sustainable energy, and lengthy grid connection approval processes.
3. Technology developers and designers **Examples:** NVIDIA, AMD, Intel, TSMC, Broadcom, Seagate, Western Digital	**Who they are:**	Companies that design and manufacture the essential hardware and software enabling AI, which includes semiconductors, memory, storage, and specialized AI software stacks
	Why they matter:	Intellectual brain behind AI computing, developing the processors that make everything possible.
	Key investments:	GPUs, CPUs, chip design IP, memory, servers, rack hardware, semiconductor fabrication plants.
	Growth drivers:	Exploding demand for high-performance GPUs, rise of custom silicon (ASICs, TPUs), next-gen semiconductor innovation.
	Risks:	Huge R&D costs, dynamic AI model training methods and workloads making it difficult to predict future demand for specific chips, geopolitical tensions in chip exports.

4. Operators **Examples:** Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, Oracle Cloud	**Who they are:**	Hyperscalers, colocation providers, GPU-as-a-service platforms, and enterprises optimizing compute capacity
	Why they matter:	Ensuring compute infrastructure is available, scalable, and efficiently utilized.
	Key investments:	Cloud platforms, colocation centers, GPU-as-a-service offerings, AI workload optimization software.
	Growth drivers:	Cloud adoption, AI automation of workloads, expansion of edge and decentralized computing.
	Risks:	Monetization of GPU-as-a-service, AI-driven data center management, growing enterprise demand for hybrid cloud solutions
2. AI Architects **Examples:** OpenAI, Anthropic, Palantir, Databricks, Snowflake	**Who they are:**	AI model developers, foundation model providers, and enterprises building proprietary AI capabilities.
	Why they matter:	Turning raw compute into real-world business value through products and services.
	Key investments:	Model training and inference infrastructure, algorithm research, data analytics tools.
	Growth drivers:	Creating models that balance performance with lower compute requirements, enterprise adoption of GenAI, and rising AI use-cases.
	Risks:	AI governance issues, difficult to achieve success involving high R&D burn, high competition, dependency on infrastructure players for compute.

Why AI Is the Trend of the Decade?

AI, digital infrastructure, and the energy transition are converging into a self-reinforcing cycle that will shape capital spending for the next decade. Global AI software and infrastructure spending is expected to expand from tens of billions today to the hundreds of billions over the remainder of the decade.

The power implications are striking. Goldman Sachs Research forecast that data center electricity demand could rise by as much as 165% compared to 2023 levels by the end of the decade, creating urgent needs for generation, transmission, storage, and efficiency innovations.



To meet this demand, Goldman Sachs Research estimates that the US will need to fill around 510,000 new jobs in power alone, while the EU will require about 250,000.

Across various types of power generation, analysts estimate capital expenditures of $444 billion on US electricity generation through 2030. The US is expected to have 300 gigawatts of additional generation capacity by then, which will require 207,000 new transmission and interconnection workers.

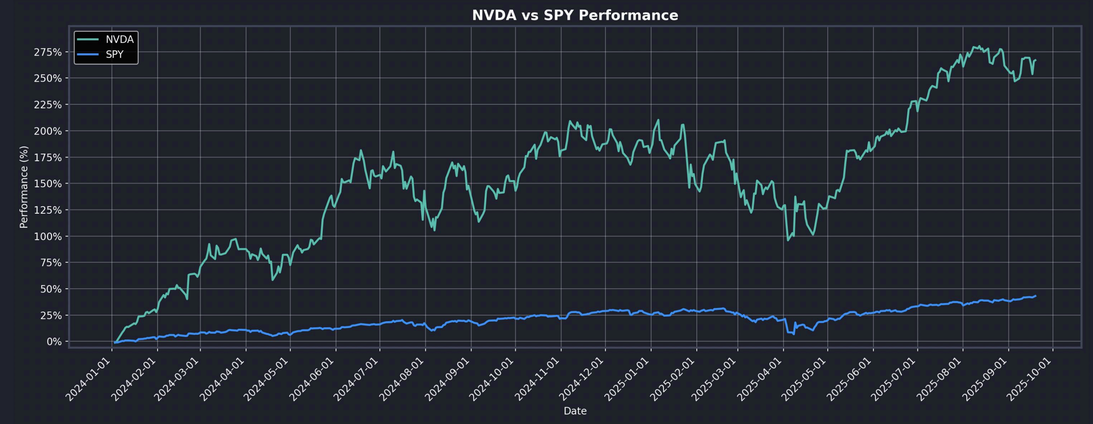
Taken together, these forces are setting the stage for a transformation unlike anything seen in recent decades.

AI is not a passing theme. It is becoming the fabric that will carry the tech economy through the next decade.

High Potential AI Stocks to Deliver Outsized Returns ↠

NVIDIA Corporation

(Nasdaq: NVDA)



Okay we cheated by including NVIDIA in this Report, but it's just a damn good company by all metrics.

The company has delivered outsized returns for investors in the past, growing by ~1300% from a modest $13 share price to $180 in the past 5 years. Revenue, profits, and cash flow have expanded at a blistering pace, supported by a strong competitive moat in graphics and chips.

Much of its success stems from Jensen Huang's early recognition of AI's potential in 2016, which led to a deliberate pivot toward building the world's leading AI hardware ecosystem. With demand from technology giants still outstripping supply, NVIDIA has maintained pricing power that competitors struggle to match.

Today, it's the market leader in developing AI chips, and between NVIDIA and AMD—NVIDIA outshines in growth, margins and valuation.

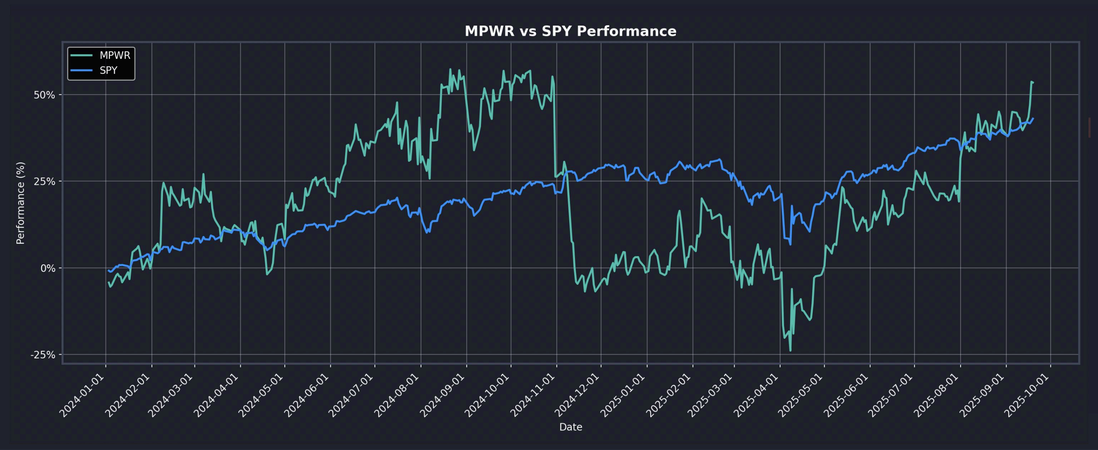
IES Holding
(Nasdaq: IESC)

IES Holdings designs and maintains the electrical systems that datacenters depend on for reliability and uptime.

While not widely recognized by retail investors, it has carved out a critical role in the expansion of electrical infrastructure. Revenue increased by 31.6% in 2024, primarily from a large data center project, and has expanded steadily for eight consecutive quarters, highlighting strong demand visibility

The company's positioning provides investors a differentiated way to gain exposure to the AI infrastructure boom without taking on the risks associated with semiconductor cyclicality. For long-term portfolios, IES offers a steady infrastructure-linked growth profile with clear ties to the AI buildout.

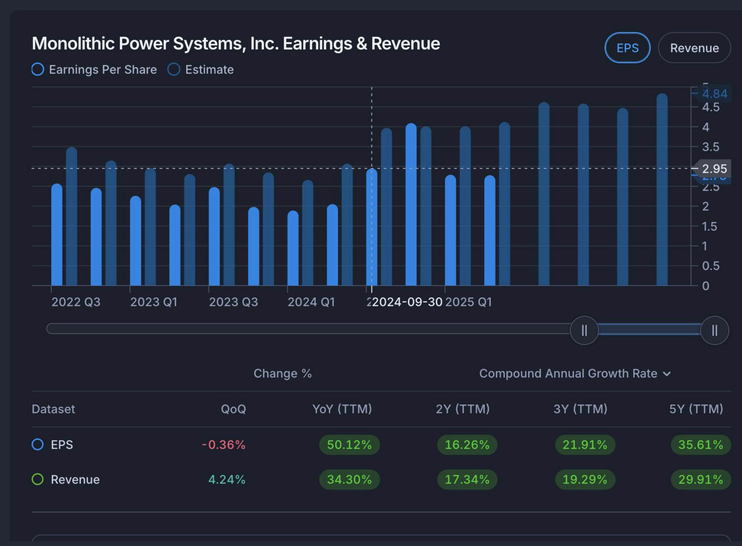
Monolithic Power Systems
(Nasdaq: MPWR)

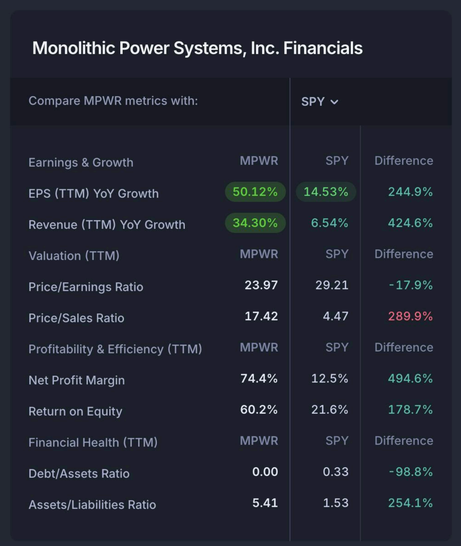


Monolithic Power Systems occupies a specialized yet vital space in the AI economy by providing power management chips essential for semiconductor operations.

Its products enable efficiency gains that scale computing power without proportionally increasing energy consumption, a problem of growing importance. The Company has entered into a long-term supply agreement to secure manufacturing production capacity for silicon wafers over a four-year period.

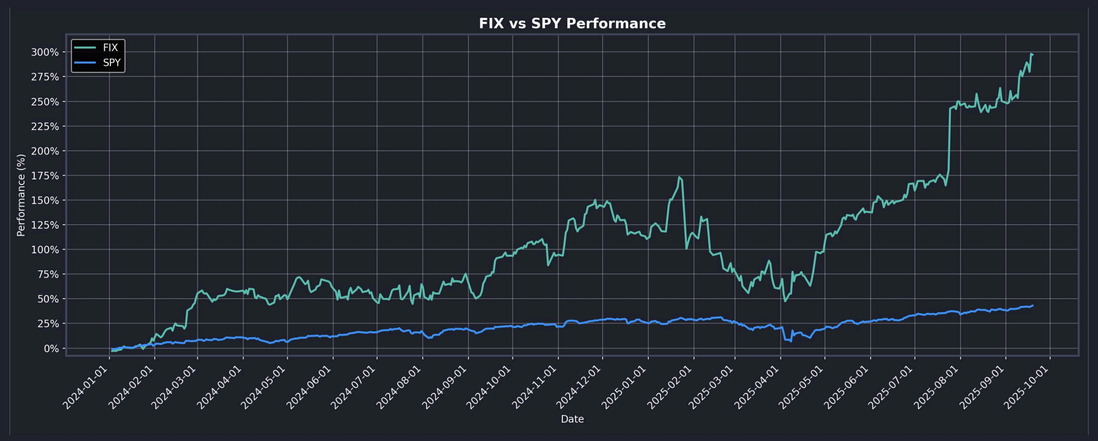
Over the past two years, the company has delivered strong performance across revenue, net income, and cash flow, with its stock nearly doubling in value. Investors are drawn to its innovation pipeline, which consistently generates new high-performance solutions. Unlike large chipmakers focused on mass-market GPUs, Monolithic thrives in a niche that allows pricing discipline and steady growth.





Comfort Systems USA

(NYSE: FIX)



Comfort Systems provides mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, HVAC installation, cooling solutions, and modular construction tailored for data center infrastructure.

This positions the company to benefit from the surge in AI-driven demand for hyperscale facilities, as evidenced by its record $8.12 billion backlog as of June 2025, with a significant portion tied to high-margin industrial and data center projects.

The company's order backlog recently hit USD 8.12 billion, representing a 41% YoY increase, providing investors with strong earnings visibility and reflects management's disciplined execution. For shareholders, the payoff has already been remarkable: the stock has surged from $52 to $680 in the past five years, reflecting more than a twelve-fold increase.

Comfort Systems USA, Inc. Financials

Compare FIX metrics with: SPY

Earnings & Growth	FIX	SPY	Difference
EPS (TTM) YoY Growth	63.17%	14.53%	334.7%
Revenue (TTM) YoY Growth	26.33%	6.54%	302.7%
Valuation (TTM)	**FIX**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Price/Earnings Ratio	40.97	29.21	40.3%
Price/Sales Ratio	3.69	4.47	-17.3%
Profitability & Efficiency (TTM)	**FIX**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Net Profit Margin	8.9%	12.5%	-28.6%
Return on Equity	39.0%	21.6%	80.4%
Financial Health (TTM)	**FIX**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Debt/Assets Ratio	0.06	0.33	-81.1%
Assets/Liabilities Ratio	1.08	1.53	-29.2%

Powell Industries Inc

(Nasdaq: POWL)

Powell Industries operates in the data centers space, specializing in custom-engineered electrical power distribution, control, and monitoring systems essential for hyperscale facilities.

This includes integrated power control room substations, medium-voltage circuit breakers, and motor control centers used in data center infrastructure to manage high electrical loads from AI workloads.

The company serves major hyperscalers like Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, as well as co-location operators, positioning it to capitalize on the AI-driven expansion of data centers.

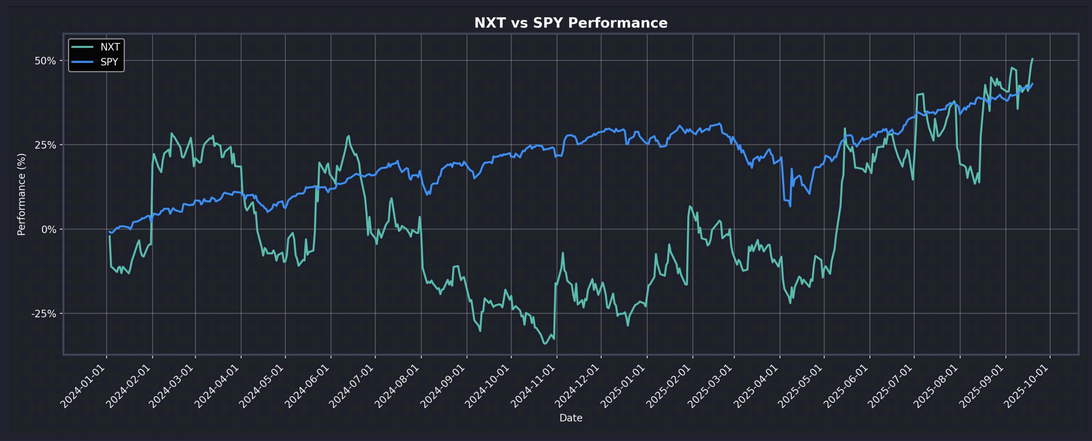
Powell has delivered solid revenue and earnings per share growth while maintaining a clean balance sheet with no debt, making it attractive from both a growth and risk-management standpoint. As both the AI and energy transitions accelerate, Powell stands out as a conservative but high-upside investment in the enabling infrastructure.

Powell Industries, Inc. Financials

Compare POWL metrics with: SPY

Earnings & Growth	POWL	SPY	Difference
EPS (TTM) YoY Growth	34.71%	14.53%	138.8%
Revenue (TTM) YoY Growth	92.26%	6.54%	1311.0%
Valuation (TTM)	**POWL**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Price/Earnings Ratio	20.65	29.21	-29.3%
Price/Sales Ratio	3.35	4.47	-25.0%
Profitability & Efficiency (TTM)	**POWL**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Net Profit Margin	16.2%	12.5%	29.1%
Return on Equity	33.2%	21.6%	53.6%
Financial Health (TTM)	**POWL**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Debt/Assets Ratio	0.00	0.33	-99.6%
Assets/Liabilities Ratio	1.95	1.53	27.5%

Nextracker
(Nasdaq: NXT)



Nextracker develops solar panel tracking systems that increase energy production while reducing costs for significant plant return on investment (ROI).

It generates revenue from the sale of solar trackers and from licensing its TrueCapture software product. With AI datacenters driving unprecedented electricity demand, renewable sources will become an essential part of the energy mix.

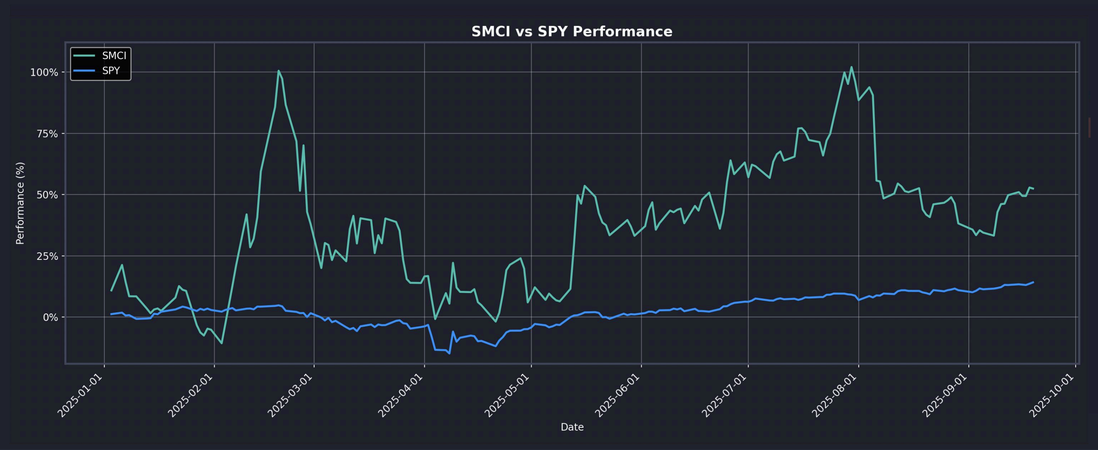
Nextracker is positioned to capture this demand through its growing global installation pipeline and its reputation for best-in-class technology. With governments and corporations pushing for clean energy, it should be noted that many solar companies operate on thin margins, while Nextracker offers 17.9% net margin and a growth story aligned with the long-term trajectory of AI infrastructure. At a current price-to-earnings ratio of around 16, the stock also offers a valuation that appears favorable relative to its expansion opportunities.

Nextracker Inc. Financials

Compare NXT metrics with: SPY

Earnings & Growth	NXT	SPY	Difference
EPS (TTM) YoY Growth	-2.91%	14.53%	-120.0%
Revenue (TTM) YoY Growth	13.26%	6.54%	102.8%
Valuation (TTM)	**NXT**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Price/Earnings Ratio	13.68	29.21	-53.2%
Price/Sales Ratio	2.42	4.47	-45.8%
Profitability & Efficiency (TTM)	**NXT**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Net Profit Margin	17.6%	12.5%	40.4%
Return on Equity	36.0%	21.6%	66.5%
Financial Health (TTM)	**NXT**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Debt/Assets Ratio	0.03	0.33	-91.4%
Assets/Liabilities Ratio	2.17	1.53	41.8%

Super Micro Computer, Inc.
(Nasdaq: SMCI)



Super Micro Computer (SMCI) stands out as the nimble innovator delivering high-performance, liquid-cooled servers that fuel NVIDIA's Blackwell GPUs and beyond

Super Micro Computer (SMCI) holds immense investment potential as a key enabler in the AI compute boom, specializing in energy-efficient servers and storage optimized for AI training and inference.

With FY2026 revenue guidance of at least $33 billion—implying over 50% year-over-year growth from FY2025's $22 billion—SMCI is capitalizing on surging demand for edge AI and high-density datacenters, bolstered by partnerships like Ericsson for 5G integration.

Risks include margin erosion from aggressive pricing and NVIDIA dependency, but its direct liquid-cooling edge positions it for outsized returns in a market where AI hardware shortages persist.

Super Micro Computer, Inc. Financials

Compare SMCI metrics with: SPY

Earnings & Growth	SMCI	SPY	Difference
EPS (TTM) YoY Growth	-50.14%	14.53%	-445.1%
Revenue (TTM) YoY Growth	111.41%	6.54%	1603.9%
Valuation (TTM)	**SMCI**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Price/Earnings Ratio	28.10	29.21	-3.8%
Price/Sales Ratio	1.34	4.47	-70.1%
Profitability & Efficiency (TTM)	**SMCI**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Net Profit Margin	4.6%	12.5%	-63.1%
Return on Equity	17.6%	21.6%	-18.7%
Financial Health (TTM)	**SMCI**	**SPY**	**Difference**
Debt/Assets Ratio	0.25	0.33	-22.9%
Assets/Liabilities Ratio	4.80	1.53	214.2%

Conclusion

AI is redefining technology, but it rests on something very tangible. Behind every breakthrough model are chips, servers, cables, and power plants quietly working in the background. The data is oil analogy holds true. But oil had to be drilled, stored, and transported before it could fuel economies. Similarly, data and AI computing must be stored, processed, and powered somewhere.

That somewhere is becoming the real arena of opportunity. Companies that build and run the infrastructure, from chips and cooling systems to data centers and energy grids, will form the backbone of this new economy. They are the modern picks and shovels of the AI gold rush.

For investors, the story is clear. Betting only on the flashy names risks missing the quiet compounders. In the years ahead, fortunes may not just favor the AI miners but also reward the builders who power and equip the revolution.