

SEMESTER REPORT

WISE 25/26

NO LIMIT FUND

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Our Mission

“Our mission is to go beyond the theoretical financial concepts of the classroom and create a community of students that share a strong passion for investment management and are dedicated to apply their knowledge in our virtual funds”

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Foreword

Dear Reader,

As we wrap up the Winter Semester 2025/2026, we look back on a period that was as demanding as it was rewarding for ESB Capital. The past months have been defined by a complex market landscape, testing our strategic foresight and adaptability. From the persistent AI-driven rally and the unprecedented boom in precious metals to the sharp downturn in the crypto markets and the SaaS sector's struggle with disruption fears, our teams had to navigate a truly turbulent environment.

What makes this report special is the extraordinary dedication shown by our Analysts and Fund Managers. This semester, we saw an impressive level of independent organization and proactivity. The quality of the portfolios on wikifolio and the depth of the research presented are a direct result of the hard work and ownership our members took over their respective funds.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who was part of ESB Capital this semester. Your decision to take the initiative alongside your studies, to challenge yourselves, and to seize the opportunity for personal and professional growth is what makes this initiative possible.

Beyond the numbers, this initiative continues to be a bridge between academic theory and the high-stakes reality of the financial world. The relationships built and the leadership skills developed here are what truly define the ESB Capital experience.

To those looking to sharpen their financial acumen and join a driven, ambitious team: we invite you to become part of this journey. The challenges of the 2025/2026 markets have only strengthened our resolve to innovate and grow.

Best regards,

Tim Küst

Head of ESB Capital

Team



**Jannik Alexander
Seefried**
Analyst



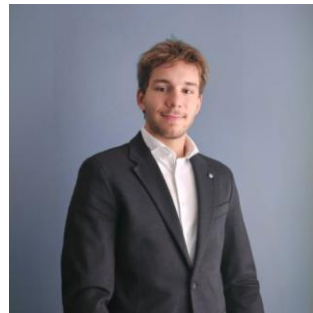
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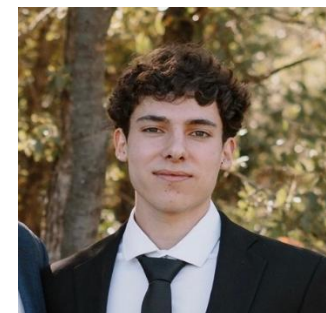
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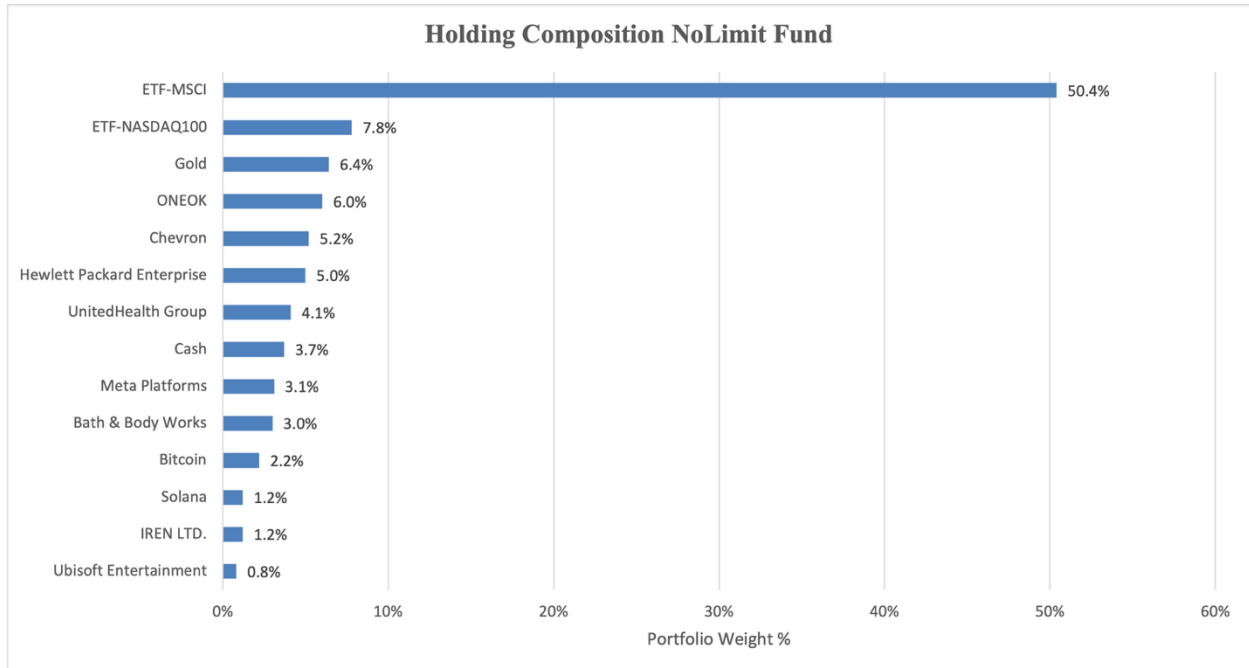


Neven Meß
Analyst

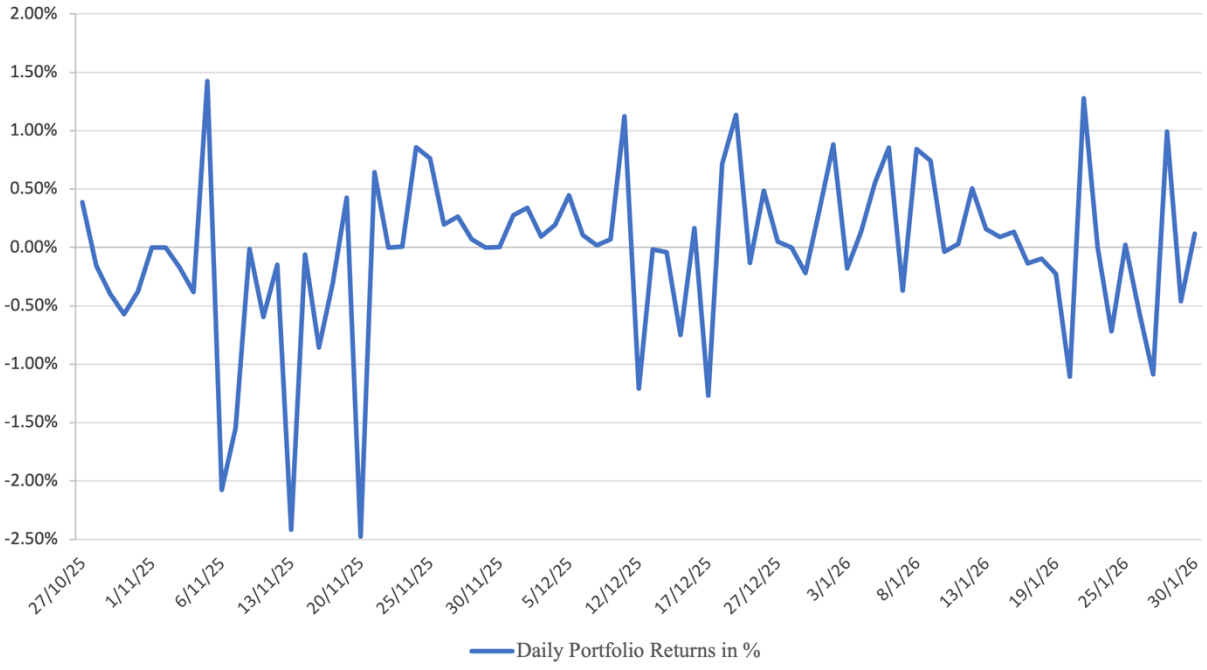


**Marcelo
Giesbrecht Soto**
Fund Manager

Performance and Holdings



Daily Portfolio Returns in %



Stock Picks

Bath & Body Works, Inc. (BBWI)

1. Company Overview

Bath & Body Works, Inc. is a leading specialty retailer of personal care and home fragrance products. Founded in 1963 in Columbus, Ohio, the company operates under the Bath & Body Works and White Barn brands. The company has 1,895 stores across the US and Canada, plus 529 international partner locations. Product categories include home fragrance, body care, and soaps & sanitizers, with a premium positioning and focus on seasonal innovation. The company was spun off from L Brands (formerly Victoria's Secret parent) and operates as an independent publicly traded company.

Key Figures (as of Q2 2025):

Market Cap: ~\$6 billion
Revenue (Q2'25): \$1.55 billion
Operating Margin: 11.1%
P/E Ratio: ~7.6x
Revenue Growth (YoY): +1.5%

Bath & Body Works dominates the US personal care and home fragrance market with premium brand equity and omni-channel presence. The company has a robust loyalty program with 39M+ members driving approximately 80% of sales. CEO Daniel Heaf (appointed May 2025) is driving digital growth, supply chain agility, and off-mall migration with a target of increasing off-mall locations from 57% to 75%+.

Market Position:

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Personal Care & Home Fragrance Retail

The US personal care and home fragrance market exceeds \$50 billion, with global growth projected at 3-5% CAGR (2024-28). Growth is driven by premiumization trends, gifting occasions, and increasing digital penetration. However, the market is maturing in the US with slower growth rates. The company faces competition from both specialty retailers (like Burlington, though in different categories) and broader retail competitors. Q4 represents over 40% of annual sales, making holiday execution critical.

Key Trends:

Premiumization and experiential retail
Growth of loyalty programs and personalized marketing
Off-mall migration and real estate optimization
Omni-channel integration and digital commerce growth

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend Bath & Body Works as a BUY with a target price of \$35.00 (representing +33.7% upside from \$26.18) based on its strong cash generation despite limited top-line growth. The company demonstrates best-in-class profitability metrics with a 17.0% adjusted EBIT margin (vs. peer average of 7.6%) and 12.8% ROIC. The company is expected to generate \$750-850M in free cash flow for FY25, supporting an attractive dividend yield and ongoing buyback program. Key catalysts include: (1) sustained margin expansion from off-mall migration and cost discipline, (2) loyalty program expansion driving higher customer lifetime value, (3) seasonal performance leverage in Q4, and (4) international franchise expansion with limited capital intensity. The 12-month investment horizon reflects a value opportunity at 7.8x EV/EBITDA (vs. peers at 11.7x), trading at a discount due to slower growth outlook despite superior operational metrics.

Risk Considerations:

Key risks include category saturation in the mature US market limiting organic growth potential, SG&A inflation from wage and IT costs outpacing sales growth, tariff and FX exposure from sourcing and international operations, leadership transition execution risk under new CEO Daniel Heaf, and dependence on franchise partners for international growth with limited operational control. The company also faces potential cannibalization risk from brand extensions and intense competition in the value-for-money segment.

Performance since purchase: -17.31%

Analyst: Domenick Wilhelm

Saab AB (SAAB.B-SE)

1. Company Overview

Saab AB is a Swedish aerospace and defense company specializing in military defense, aviation, and security solutions. Founded in 1937 and headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, the company operates across four main business areas: Aeronautics (26% of sales), Dynamics (23%), Surveillance (35%), and Kockums (13%). Key products include the Gripen fighter system, air-to-air missiles, radar systems, and submarines. While originally a car manufacturer, Saab has evolved into a globally recognized defense technology leader serving EU and US markets.

Key Figures (as of 2024):

Market Cap: ~\$30 billion
Revenue (TTM): ~\$7.1 billion (63,751 SEK million)
Gross Margin: ~22%
P/E Ratio: ~59x
Revenue Growth (YoY): 23%

Saab maintains a strong position in the European defense market with technological innovation in fighter aircraft, advanced radar, and surveillance systems. The company has a record order backlog of \$19.8 billion and employs 26,000 people globally. After successful earnings calls, the stock experiences significant quarterly appreciation, consistently outperforming the OMX Stockholm index since 2022.

Market Position:

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Aerospace & Defense

The global defense industry is experiencing heightened demand driven by geopolitical tensions, particularly the war in Ukraine, which has accelerated European defense spending. The market shows strong expansion opportunities in Asia and Latin America. However, the sector faces intense competition from large US contractors like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, who possess greater financial resources and market reach. Emerging technologies in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems are creating new product areas and strategic partnership opportunities.

Key Trends:

Increased European defense budgets due to geopolitical instability
Growing demand for technologically advanced fighter aircraft and surveillance systems
Market expansion in non-traditional defense markets (Canada, Asia, Latin America)

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend Saab due to its exceptional financial performance with strong EBIT improvement of 33% achieving a margin of 8.9%, and projected 18% CAGR from 2025-2027 where EBIT growth is expected to exceed revenue growth. The company has demonstrated robust demand with a record order backlog of \$19.8 billion. A significant catalyst exists with the high probability of a deal with Canada, where the government is reviewing its current F-35 purchase order to reduce reliance on the US, potentially creating a mixed fleet including Saab's Gripen fighters. A delegation is scheduled to be in Canada next week for further negotiations. If successful, this would bring 10,000 new jobs to Canada (addressing their 7% unemployment rate) and represent a major revenue opportunity. Additionally, institutional ownership changes show confidence, with BlackRock, Vanguard, and the Norwegian Central Bank recently increasing their positions.

Risk Considerations:

Despite strong fundamentals, investors should monitor several key risks: smaller scale compared to US competitors limits manufacturing efficiency; vulnerability to supply chain constraints and talent shortages; sensitivity to political decisions and regulatory changes given governmental contract dependence; high R&D requirements (17% of sales) to maintain technological edge; and exposure to global uncertainties including trade tensions, sanctions, and shifting export regulations that could affect foreign sales.

Performance since purchase: +22%

Analyst: Marcelo Giesbrecht & Wessel Romijn

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)

1. Company Overview

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) is a global enterprise technology company specializing in servers, networking, storage, and cloud infrastructure solutions. HPE was created in 2015 when Hewlett-Packard split into two companies: HP Inc. (consumer products and printers) and HPE (enterprise infrastructure). The company is headquartered in Houston, Texas and serves enterprise customers worldwide. HPE has established itself as a leader in AI infrastructure and supercomputing, with strong positioning in high-performance computing for government and commercial applications.

Key Figures (as of Q3 FY2025):

Market Cap: ~\$27 billion
Revenue (Last Quarter): \$9.14 billion
Gross Margin: ~29.9%
Forward P/E Ratio: ~9.2x
Revenue Growth (YoY): +18%

Market Position:

HPE is a global leader in supercomputing and AI infrastructure with long-term US Government contracts and strategic partnerships with industry leaders like NVIDIA. The company completed its acquisition of Juniper Networks in July 2025 for approximately \$14 billion, which doubles its networking business (adding ~\$5-6 billion in revenue) and is expected to generate \$450 million annually in cost savings.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Enterprise IT Infrastructure & Cloud Computing

The enterprise infrastructure market is experiencing strong demand driven by AI adoption, cloud migration, and digital transformation initiatives. Growth drivers include increased demand for AI training and inference infrastructure, hybrid cloud deployments, edge computing expansion, and high-performance computing for research and government applications. The market is highly competitive with established players like Dell Technologies (larger scale at \$23.5B quarterly revenue), Supermicro (fast-growing AI server specialist), and Lenovo. Public cloud providers (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) also compete in infrastructure services.

Key Trends:

Explosive growth in AI infrastructure and GPU-accelerated computing
Government and enterprise investment in sovereign computing capabilities
Hybrid cloud and edge computing expansion
Consolidation in networking and infrastructure markets

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend HPE as a BUY based on strong fundamentals, attractive valuation, and significant near-term catalysts. The company trades at just 9.2x forward earnings despite delivering +18% YoY revenue growth and maintaining industry-leading 29.9% gross margins (vs. Dell at 18.3% and Supermicro at 9.3%). Key investment drivers include: (1) Q4 earnings on December 4th with potential for upside surprise following cautious FY26 guidance that caused a ~9% stock drop in October, creating an attractive entry point, (2) strong AI infrastructure demand with \$3.7 billion order backlog providing revenue visibility, (3) recent \$500-600M US Department of Energy contract for supercomputing supporting American AI leadership, (4) Juniper acquisition synergies with \$450M annual cost savings and doubled networking business scale, and (5) 70% probability of 25bps Fed rate cut in December supporting tech valuations. HPE's ROIC of 12.8% demonstrates superior capital efficiency despite trading at a significant valuation discount to peers.

Risk Considerations:

Key risks include intense competition from larger competitors like Dell Technologies and emerging players like Supermicro with greater scale or specialized focus, some US states challenging the Juniper merger which could delay synergy realization, highly competitive industry dynamics creating margin pressure, execution risk from integrating the large Juniper acquisition, potential AI infrastructure demand normalization or customer spending delays, supply chain constraints for AI accelerators and advanced components, and general technology sector volatility.

Performance since purchase: -0.11%

Analyst: Tom Kemp

Meta Platforms, Inc. (META)

1. Company Overview

Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly Facebook, Inc.) is a global technology conglomerate that builds social media platforms, virtual reality hardware, and artificial intelligence technologies. The company operates the world's largest social networking platforms including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger, collectively reaching over 3 billion daily active users. Founded by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004 and headquartered in Menlo Park, California, Meta has evolved from a social networking company to a diversified technology platform investing heavily in the metaverse through Reality Labs and AI infrastructure.

Key Figures (as of 2025):

Market Cap: ~\$1.4 trillion
Revenue (TTM): ~\$160 billion
Operating Margin: ~35-40%
P/E Ratio: ~25-30x
Revenue Growth (YoY): ~20%+

Market Position:

Meta maintains dominant positions in social media with Facebook (largest global platform), Instagram (leading photo/video sharing), WhatsApp (largest messaging app globally), and Messenger. The company monetizes primarily through digital advertising across its Family of Apps, leveraging sophisticated targeting and measurement capabilities. Meta is making significant investments in AI infrastructure, AR/VR technologies through Reality Labs, and building the metaverse, positioning for next-generation computing platforms while facing regulatory scrutiny and competition from TikTok and other emerging platforms.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Social Media & Digital Advertising

The digital advertising market continues strong growth driven by shifting ad budgets from traditional media to digital channels, mobile-first consumer behavior, and sophisticated targeting capabilities. Social media advertising benefits from high engagement, detailed user data, and proven ROI for advertisers. However, the industry faces headwinds from privacy regulations (GDPR, iOS ATT), increasing competition for user attention and ad dollars, regulatory pressure on data practices and market power, and economic sensitivity during recessions. The metaverse and AI represent potential long-term growth drivers but require massive capital investment.

Key Trends:

AI-driven content recommendation and ad targeting
Short-form video competition (Reels vs. TikTok)
Privacy regulation impacting ad effectiveness
Metaverse and virtual reality adoption in early stages

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

Meta represents a compelling investment opportunity based on its unmatched scale in social networking, strong revenue growth acceleration, and improving profitability from efficiency initiatives. The company benefits from: (1) dominant market position with 3+ billion daily active users providing massive network effects and advertiser reach, (2) successful Reels monetization competing effectively with TikTok and driving engagement growth, (3) substantial operating leverage with improving margins from 2023 "Year of Efficiency" restructuring, (4) significant AI investments enhancing ad targeting, content recommendations, and creating new product opportunities, (5) strong free cash flow generation funding both shareholder returns and metaverse investments, and (6) attractive valuation relative to growth and profitability compared to historical levels and mega-cap tech peers. While Reality Labs generates substantial losses (~\$15-20B annually), the core Family of Apps business demonstrates exceptional unit economics and growth durability.

Risk Considerations:

Major risks include intense regulatory scrutiny globally regarding data privacy, content moderation, and antitrust concerns potentially leading to business restrictions or breakup, competition from TikTok, YouTube Shorts, and emerging

platforms for user time and advertiser budgets, privacy changes (iOS ATT, cookie deprecation) reducing ad targeting effectiveness and ROI, user engagement declines particularly among younger demographics, metaverse investments consuming capital without clear path to profitability or adoption, content moderation challenges and brand safety concerns affecting advertiser spend, dependence on Apple and Google for app distribution and operating system access, and macroeconomic sensitivity with advertising spend vulnerable during recessions. The company also faces reputational risks from misinformation, data breaches, and societal impact concerns.

Performance since purchase: +19.02%

Analyst: Simon Appel

Bumble Inc. (BMBL)

1. Company Overview

Bumble Inc. is a global online dating and social connection platform operating multiple apps including Bumble, Badoo, BFF (friendship), and Geneva (community building). Founded by Whitney Wolfe Herd and headquartered in Austin, Texas, the company went public via IPO in 2021 on Nasdaq. The platform operates on a freemium business model with premium subscriptions and à-la-carte feature monetization. Bumble differentiates itself with a women-first approach where women make the first move in heterosexual matches, and has expanded beyond dating into friendship and professional networking.

Key Figures (as of FY2024):

Market Cap: ~\$1.5 billion
Revenue (FY24): \$1.07 billion
Adjusted EBITDA Margin: Mid-20s% (Q3 2025: 33.7%)
Paying Users: 4.1 million (average)
Monthly Active Users: 42M+

Market Position:

Bumble is a major player in the online dating industry, competing primarily with Match Group (Tinder, Hinge) and Grindr. The company has majority ownership by Blackstone and founder Whitney Wolfe Herd. The Bumble app generated \$866M in revenue (+3% YoY), while Badoo & Other apps contributed \$205M (flat). The company is undergoing strategic restructuring to improve profitability and has eliminated the Tax Receivable Agreement (TRA) liability of \$186M in 2025, creating a cleaner capital structure.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Online Dating & Social Connection

The global online dating market has become mainstream with high mobile penetration and increasing acceptance. Dating apps operate on freemium models with revenue from premium subscriptions, boosts, and feature purchases. The industry is growing at mid-single digits globally with expansion opportunities in friendship and community platforms. Competition is intense with Match Group dominating market share, Grindr serving niche segments with high margins (40-50%), and emerging regional players. The sector shows resilience but faces user engagement challenges and monetization pressure.

Key Trends:

Dating apps now mainstream with broad demographic adoption
Premium tier monetization rising with ARPPU growth focus
Expansion into friendship and community connections (BFF, Geneva)
Increasing regulatory scrutiny (GDPR, DSA, Online Safety Act)

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend Bumble as a BUY for a 12-18 month investment horizon based on its compelling cash generation profile despite revenue headwinds. The company demonstrated resilient free cash flow of \$40.8M in Q1 2025 on just \$247M in revenue, with FY24 operating cash flow of \$128.8M and Q3 2024 FCF of \$91.9M. The company benefits from very low capital expenditure requirements (\$1.6-2.8M/quarter), enabling strong FCF conversion. Key catalysts include: (1) margin expansion via strategic restructuring already visible in Q3 2025 results (33.7% EBITDA margin), (2) path to sustained 30%+ EBITDA margins, (3) cleaner capital structure post-TRA elimination and debt amortizing, (4) aggressive buyback program enabled by improved financial flexibility, and (5) BFF & Geneva monetization offering growth upside beyond core dating. The company trades at a discount to Match on EBITDA and P/E multiples with a competitive FCF yield advantage. Valuation upside is driven by margin expansion and FCF conversion trajectory rather than revenue acceleration.

Risk Considerations:

Primary risks include user and engagement declines (particularly in the Badoo portfolio), intense competitive pressure from Tinder, Hinge, and Grindr, regulatory exposure including GDPR, DSA, and Online Safety Act requirements, cybersecurity incidents and data breach risks affecting platform integrity, leverage risk if FCF weakens with term loans outstanding (\$616M debt vs. \$308M cash in Q3 2025), and potential goodwill impairment write-downs.

Performance since purchase: Not Added

Analyst: Domenick Wilhelm

Adobe Inc. (ADBE)

1. Company Overview

Adobe Inc. is the global leader in digital media and marketing solutions, operating through three core business pillars: Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Illustrator), Document Cloud (Acrobat, Sign), and Experience Cloud (marketing analytics and customer experience management). Founded in 1982 and headquartered in San Jose, California, Adobe has successfully transitioned from perpetual software licenses to a cloud-first, subscription-based SaaS model. The company has embedded its generative AI engine, Firefly, across its entire software suite, positioning itself at the forefront of the AI-driven creative revolution.

Key Figures (as of January 2026):

Market Cap: ~\$148.5 billion
Stock Price: ~\$333.30
Revenue (Q3 2025): \$5.99 billion
Q3 2025 EPS: \$4.18 (GAAP) / \$5.31 (Non-GAAP)
Forward P/E Ratio: ~14.5-15.0x
Dividend Yield: 0% (focused on share buybacks)

Market Position:

Adobe holds a dominant “moat” in professional creative software with industry-standard file formats (PSD, PDF, AI) that create exceptionally high switching costs. The company maintains world-class operating margins exceeding 34% and generates over \$10 billion in annual free cash flow. Adobe’s software has become the professional standard in creative workflows, making it difficult for AI startups to displace despite technological advances. The company is transitioning AI from features to revenue drivers through “Generative Credits” and higher-tier subscription bundles.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) / Creative Software

The SaaS sector is mature but expanding, with Adobe operating in a unique position bridging professional creative tools and enterprise marketing technology. The industry is undergoing a paradigm shift driven by Generative AI and the rise of low-code/no-code design tools democratizing content creation. Competition is intensifying in the “prosumer” segment (social media content creators) with companies like Canva gaining market share. However, the professional creative software market remains highly concentrated with Adobe maintaining dominant market share despite new AI-native competitors.

Key Trends:

AI Monetization: Transitioning from “AI features” to direct revenue drivers via generative credits and premium tiers
Prosumer Expansion: Fighting for market share among social media content creators via Adobe Express
Video & 3D Revolution: Rapid growth in automated video editing and 3D design for the industrial metaverse
Cloud-first Strategy: Continued migration to subscription models with recurring revenue

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend Adobe as a BUY based on significant valuation dislocation and the company’s ability to grow with AI rather than be disrupted by it. The stock has declined approximately 22.6% over the trailing twelve months, reflecting market concerns over AI disruption that we believe are overblown. Key investment drivers include: (1) deep competitive moat with Adobe’s “standard” status in professional workflows (PSD, PDF, AI formats) creating switching costs that AI startups struggle to overcome, (2) exceptional earnings power with operating margins exceeding 34% and \$10B+ annual free cash flow generation despite temporary price volatility, (3) valuation re-rating potential as Adobe trades at forward P/E of 14.5-15.0x, representing a significant discount to its 5-year historical average, (4) successful AI integration with Firefly embedded across products driving monetization through generative credits and premium subscriptions, and (5) Q3 2025 revenue growth of +11% YoY demonstrating resilient demand. If Adobe proves it can grow with AI rather than being replaced by it, a massive valuation re-rating is likely.

Risk Considerations:

Primary risks include AI disruption from open-source models and specialized startups (Midjourney, Sora, Runway) potentially democratizing high-end design and eroding Adobe's premium pricing power, growth deceleration with 2026 guidance showing slight cooling in net new Annual Recurring Revenue suggesting market saturation in core segments, legal and ethical hurdles regarding training AI models on copyrighted data potentially leading to regulatory headwinds and licensing costs, intense competition in the prosumer/creator economy segment from Canva and other low-cost alternatives, and execution risk in monetizing AI features at scale while maintaining professional user satisfaction. The company must also navigate the transition from traditional software to AI-augmented workflows without alienating its core professional user base.

Performance since purchase: -Not Added

Analyst: Simon Appel

TeamViewer SE (TMV.DE)

1. Company Overview

TeamViewer SE is a German software company specializing in remote connectivity, digital workplace, and augmented reality (AR) solutions for enterprises. Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Göppingen, Germany, the company provides remote access, control, support, and collaboration software serving over 600,000 customers globally. TeamViewer operates across multiple segments including its core remote access platform, Frontline (AR-enabled solutions for connected workers in logistics and manufacturing), and enterprise endpoint management through its 1E acquisition. The company has successfully evolved from a simple remote desktop tool to a critical infrastructure provider for enterprise digital transformation.

Key Figures (as of January 2026):

Market Cap: ~€930 million
Stock Price: ~€6.15
Revenue (FY 2025E): €780-795 million
Adjusted EBITDA Margin: ~44%
Forward P/E Ratio: ~8x
Free Cash Flow: €150M+ (strong generation)

Market Position:

TeamViewer is currently trading at a valuation floor with significantly depressed multiples (P/E ~8x, EV/EBITDA ~5x) despite maintaining industry-leading 46% Adjusted EBITDA margins. The market has heavily penalized the stock for a “transition year” in 2025 marked by underperformance of the 1E acquisition and a shift away from aggressive SMB monetization. However, the core Enterprise business remains robust, growing at 18% year-over-year (constant currency). Enterprise ARR now accounts for nearly 30% of total ARR. The company is successfully transitioning from a commodity tool to mission-critical enterprise infrastructure.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Enterprise Software / Remote Access & AR Solutions

The enterprise remote access and digital workplace software market has matured following the pandemic acceleration but continues to evolve toward more sophisticated use cases including augmented reality for frontline workers and AI-powered IT support. The market faces headwinds from reduced IT spending, particularly in the US, but benefits from secular trends toward hybrid work, industrial digitization, and connected worker solutions. Competition is intense from both established players (Microsoft with Intune/Teams, Zoom) and specialized solutions, though TeamViewer maintains technical leadership in complex industrial and multi-platform environments.

Key Trends:

Enterprise focus shift from SMB to high-value enterprise and industrial customers
Frontline & Industrial AR adoption for connected workers in logistics and manufacturing
AI integration with “Tia” (TeamViewer’s AI agent) reducing IT resolution times by up to 25%
Strategic partnerships with SAP and Google Cloud embedding TeamViewer in industrial workflows
Aggressive share buybacks supporting EPS despite modest revenue growth

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend TeamViewer as a BUY with a target price of €10.50 (representing 70% upside) based on significant valuation dislocation and the company’s transformation into a high-margin enterprise infrastructure provider. The market is pricing TeamViewer for terminal decline, yet the company generates massive cash flows and dominates the industrial AR niche. Key investment drivers include: (1) valuation at historic lows trading at forward EV/EBITDA of ~5x and P/E of ~8x, pricing the company like legacy hardware rather than a high-margin SaaS provider, (2) exceptional profitability as a “rule of 40” candidate with 44% adjusted EBITDA margins and strong free cash flow generation (€150M+), (3) enterprise pivot with Enterprise ARR growing at double digits and representing 30% of total ARR, demonstrating successful transition to stickier, higher-value customers, (4) AI catalyst with 2025 launch of “Tia” and Intelligence Suite driving upsell and improving ROI for enterprise renewals, (5) Frontline leadership with best-in-class platform for connected workers creating sticky industrial workflows through SAP and Google Cloud partnerships, and (6) shareholder returns with

aggressive buyback program supporting EPS. We anticipate valuation re-rating in mid-2026 as AI revenue becomes material and 1E integration stabilizes.

Risk Considerations:

Critical risks include 1E integration challenges with the Digital Employee Experience acquisition underperforming in 2025 and leading to Q3 guidance cuts, requiring stabilization in the US market to regain investor confidence, macroeconomic headwinds from reduced IT spending in the US slowing the “large deal” cycle for enterprise contracts, competitive pressure from Microsoft (Intune/Teams) and Zoom encroaching on remote support despite TeamViewer’s technical lead in industrial environments, SMB segment stagnation with flat growth (0%) in late 2025 potentially indicating structural market share loss in the core business, execution risk in monetizing AI features at scale and achieving projected synergies from acquisitions, and currency exposure as a European company with significant US revenue. The company must also demonstrate that the strategic shift toward enterprise can offset SMB weakness while maintaining margin profile.

Performance since purchase: Not Added

Analyst: Domenick Wilhelm

ONEOK, Inc. (OKE)

1. Company Overview

ONEOK, Inc. is a leading midstream energy service provider operating one of the United States' premier natural gas liquids (NGL) systems. The company connects NGL supply in the Rocky Mountain, Mid-Continent, and Permian regions with key market centers through approximately 60,000 miles of pipeline infrastructure. ONEOK provides integrated gathering, processing, fractionation, transportation, and storage services across the energy value chain. Led by CEO Pierce H. Norton II, the company has significantly expanded its operational footprint through strategic acquisitions of EnLink Midstream, Medallion Midstream, and Magellan Midstream, positioning itself as a fully integrated platform with enhanced scale and geographic reach.

Key Figures (as of January 2026):

Market Cap: ~\$47 billion

Stock Price: ~\$72

Revenue (Q3 2025): \$8.63 billion

Q3 2025 EPS: \$1.49

P/E Ratio: 13.58x

Dividend Yield: 5.61%

Market Position:

ONEOK is a top-tier NGL midstream player competing with peers like Enterprise Products Partners (EPD) and Energy Transfer (ET). The company differentiates itself through a business model that is approximately 90% fee-based, substantially insulating earnings from commodity price fluctuations. ONEOK holds strategic footholds in key export markets and high-demand energy corridors, recently reinforced by the decision to construct the Eiger Express Pipeline expanding transport capacity from the Permian Basin to the Gulf Coast. The company is executing on organic growth projects including the Bighorn processing plant to capitalize on increasing volumes.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Energy Infrastructure & Midstream

The midstream energy sector is navigating a complex environment characterized by fluctuating commodity prices and a strategic shift toward growth investments following years of capital discipline. While upstream producers face volatility from supply dynamics, midstream companies like ONEOK benefit from volume-based, fee revenue models that provide cash flow stability. The industry is experiencing persistent growth in global demand for U.S. natural gas and NGLs, driven by international energy needs, LNG exports, coal-to-gas switching, and petrochemical feedstock demand. The sector is also witnessing consolidation as major players seek scale and operational efficiencies.

Key Trends:

AI and Data Center Demand: Surge in natural gas demand to power data centers and AI infrastructure

Volume Growth: 17% projected increase in Rocky Mountain NGL throughput and continued Permian expansion

Capital Discipline: Focus on deleveraging with target debt-to-EBITDA ratio of 3.5x by 2026

Shareholder Returns: Trending toward returning 75-85% of operating cash flow via dividends and buybacks

Export Infrastructure: Expanding capacity to Gulf Coast export facilities supporting global NGL demand

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend ONEOK as a BUY based on significant valuation dislocation following recent stock decline and the company's compelling combination of stable cash flows, growth investments, and attractive shareholder returns. The stock has declined approximately 28% over the trailing twelve months despite strong operational performance and volume growth, creating an attractive entry point. Key investment drivers include: (1) valuation dislocation with strong fundamental growth not reflected in stock performance since November 2024 peak, presenting value opportunity, (2) cash flow resilience with over 90% of earnings from fee-based contracts providing stable, predictable cash flows supporting 5.61% dividend yield, (3) strategic growth initiatives including Eiger Express pipeline and Bighorn processing plant signaling pivot to organic growth and reinforcing long-term infrastructure advantage in high-yield basins, (4) volume momentum with 17% projected increase in Rocky Mountain NGL throughput and continued Permian Basin expansion driven by upstream production growth, (5) AI/data center tailwind from surging natural gas demand for power generation,

and (6) capital allocation discipline targeting debt-to-EBITDA of 3.5x while returning 75-85% of operating cash flow to shareholders. The company's integrated platform from wellhead to market provides competitive advantages and pricing power.

Risk Considerations:

Major risks include integration challenges from aggressive M&A strategy (Magellan, EnLink, Medallion) with execution risks regarding realization of projected cost savings and synergies across the enlarged platform, commodity price volatility where extreme swings can impact producer activity and volume throughput despite fee-based model, potentially narrowing spreads and limiting upside, elevated debt levels following M&A with debt-to-equity ratio of 1.52 creating refinancing risk if deleveraging targets are missed, regulatory and environmental scrutiny regarding methane emissions and the broader energy transition potentially influencing long-term demand for fossil fuel infrastructure and increasing compliance costs, competition from other midstream providers and potential bypassing through direct pipeline connections, and volume risk if upstream production growth disappoints or shifts to other basins outside ONEOK's footprint. The company must also successfully execute on organic growth projects while integrating recent acquisitions.

Performance since purchase: +9.62%

Analyst: Jannik Alexander Seefried

UnitedHealth Group (UNH)

1. Company Overview

UnitedHealth Group is a diversified healthcare enterprise and the largest healthcare company in the United States by market capitalization and revenue. The company operates through two complementary business platforms: UnitedHealthcare (health benefits and insurance serving individuals, employers, and government programs including Medicare and Medicaid) and Optum (health services including care delivery through Optum Healthcare, data analytics via Optum Insight, and pharmacy services through Optum Rx). Founded in 1977 and headquartered in Minnetonka, Minnesota, UnitedHealth serves over 50 million people domestically and has established itself as critical infrastructure in the U.S. healthcare system. CEO Stephan J. Hemsley returned to leadership following Andrew Witty's resignation in May 2025.

Key Figures (as of December 2025):

Market Cap: ~\$430 billion
Stock Price: ~\$340
Revenue (Q3 2025): \$113.2 billion
Q3 2025 Adjusted EPS: \$2.92
P/E Ratio: 17.84x
Dividend Yield: 2.56%

Market Position:

UnitedHealth Group holds a dominant position in the Medicare Advantage market and is the largest managed care organization in the United States. The company maintains critical scale advantages in healthcare data, provider networks, and care delivery infrastructure. Despite recent headwinds including regulatory scrutiny and margin compression, analysts generally rate UNH as a "Strong Buy" due to its diversified revenue streams, scale, and essential role in the healthcare ecosystem. The company generates over \$19 billion in annual free cash flow, supporting both dividends and share buybacks.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Managed Care & Health Services

The managed care sector faced a challenging environment in late 2025, decoupling from the broader healthcare sector's strong performance. While the S&P 500 Health Care sector surged over 9% in November driven by pharmaceutical and biotech gains, managed care stocks lagged due to structural concerns regarding reimbursement rates and regulatory pressures. The industry is grappling with post-pandemic normalization where deferred care is returning as higher medical costs, compressing margins across insurers. The sector also faces political uncertainty regarding Medicare Advantage payment rates and potential policy changes affecting the core business model.

Key Trends:

Regulatory Scrutiny: DOJ intensifying antitrust investigations into vertical integration between insurance and care delivery
Medical Cost Inflation: Sharp rise in Medical Care Ratio (MCR) to 89.9% driven by higher utilization and funding reductions
Star Ratings Volatility: Industry-wide Medicare Advantage Star Ratings declined for 2025 affecting bonus payments
Strategic M&A: Continued consolidation with UnitedHealth acquiring home health provider Amedisys (with DOJ-required divestitures)
Value-based Care Expansion: Growing focus on integrated care delivery models

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We view UnitedHealth as a BUY based on significant valuation dislocation following the November 2025 sell-off that we believe represents an overreaction to cyclical headwinds and political noise. The company has reaffirmed full-year 2025 guidance demonstrating operational resilience despite challenges. Key investment drivers include: (1) value dislocation with the 7% November decline creating attractive entry point for a dominant healthcare infrastructure player, (2) exceptional cash generation with over \$19 billion in estimated 2025 free cash flow providing liquidity to support dividends, buybacks, and growth investments, (3) diversification benefits from dual-platform model with UnitedHealthcare insurance complemented by Optum's care delivery, analytics, and pharmacy services reducing

dependence on any single revenue stream, (4) Medicare Advantage leadership with dominant market position serving 50+ million people and successful lawsuit against CMS securing favorable Star Ratings recalculation potentially stabilizing 2026 bonus payments, (5) Optum growth engine with higher-margin health services providing earnings diversification and vertical integration benefits, and (6) strategic M&A with Amedisys acquisition (despite DOJ requirements) expanding home health capabilities aligned with value-based care trends. The stock offers combination of stability through scale and growth through Optum expansion.

Risk Considerations:

Critical risks include antitrust outcomes where negative DOJ investigation results could force structural changes or divestitures of Optum businesses, fundamentally altering the profitable vertical integration strategy, margin compression with MCR elevated near 90% due to structural shifts in senior healthcare utilization potentially permanently impairing earnings growth if not addressed through pricing or care management, political uncertainty regarding Medicare Advantage reimbursement rate changes under new administration or broader healthcare policy reforms pressuring top-line revenue and profitability, Star Ratings pressure where failure to maintain 4+ star ratings could significantly impact bonus payments and competitive positioning in Medicare Advantage, execution risk from integrating Amedisys and other acquisitions while managing regulatory requirements, competitive intensity from other managed care organizations (Humana, CVS/Aetna) and potential market share loss, and broader healthcare reform risk including potential changes to private Medicare Advantage or Medicaid managed care models. The company also faces reputational risk from utilization management practices and prior authorization controversies.

Performance since purchase: -(16.73%)

Analyst: Jannik Alexander Seefried

Xtrackers Artificial Intelligence & Big Data UCITS ETF (XAIX)

1. ETF Overview

The Xtrackers Artificial Intelligence & Big Data UCITS ETF (XAIX) is a thematic exchange-traded fund providing diversified exposure to global companies driving innovation in artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analytics, and cloud computing infrastructure. Launched by DWS Group and trading on multiple European exchanges (Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Xetra) under ISIN IE00BGV5VN51, the fund holds 106 global AI and big data companies with a total fund size of €5.9 billion, providing excellent liquidity. The ETF employs a physical replication strategy tracking an AI/Big Data index with a competitive expense ratio of 0.35% per annum.

Key Figures (as of December 2025):

Current Price: €152.00

Fund Size: €5.9 billion

Number of Holdings: 106 companies

Expense Ratio: 0.35% p.a.

YTD 2025 Performance: +12.27%

Recent Pullback: -9% from September 2025 highs

Portfolio Position:

Top 5 Holdings represent concentrated exposure to mega-cap technology leaders: Alphabet (6.2%), Apple (5.1%), NVIDIA (5.0%), Microsoft (4.1%), and Meta (3.4%). The fund maintains significant semiconductor exposure (25-30% of portfolio) including Samsung (4.65%), ASML, and TSMC, plus optical networking and enterprise software companies. The diversified portfolio balances AI infrastructure providers, cloud platforms, chip manufacturers, and AI application software companies across the technology value chain.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Thematic Technology ETF / Artificial Intelligence & Big Data

The AI and big data sector is experiencing explosive growth driven by enterprise adoption of generative AI, cloud migration, data center expansion, and digital transformation across industries. The semiconductor industry specifically is in an extended boom cycle through late 2026 according to the Bank of Korea, fueled by insatiable AI demand for GPUs, accelerators, and advanced chips. Cloud providers are scaling infrastructure from 1.2T to 1.6T optical networking to support AI workloads. However, the sector faces risks from concentration in mega-cap tech, regulatory scrutiny of AI applications, geopolitical tensions affecting chip supply chains, and valuation sensitivity to interest rates and growth expectations.

Key Trends:

Semiconductor super-cycle extended through 2026 driven by AI infrastructure demand

H1 2026 optical networking transition (1.6T) for cloud AI workloads benefiting component suppliers

Record AI capital expenditure from cloud giants (Microsoft, Amazon, Google)

Enterprise AI adoption accelerating across software platforms (Salesforce, ServiceNow, Adobe)

Data center GPU demand continuing to outpace supply creating pricing power

3. Investment Rationale

Tactical Investment Thesis (2-3 Month Horizon):

We recommend XAIX as a TACTICAL BUY with target price of €167-175 (representing +6-12% upside from €152) for a 2-3 month trading horizon through March 2026, presenting a favorable 2.5:1 risk/reward ratio. The recent -9% pullback from September highs creates an attractive entry point ahead of multiple near-term catalysts. Key drivers include: (1) Semiconductor cycle extension with Bank of Korea projecting AI-driven semiconductor boom continuing through end of 2026, providing 8-12% semiconductor upside translating to 2-3% XAIX boost given 25-30% fund exposure to NVIDIA, Samsung, ASML, and TSMC, (2) H1 2026 optical networking transition with cloud providers upgrading to 1.6T for AI workloads benefiting Broadcom, Lam Research representing 12-15% of fund with 2-4% upside contribution, (3) Q4 2025/Q1 2026 earnings season (January-March 2026) with cloud giants announcing record AI capex guidance, enterprise software demonstrating AI adoption acceleration, and historical pattern of mega-cap tech earnings beats rallying XAIX by 5-8%, (4) catalyst-rich calendar with 75%+ probability of positive catalysts including Apple/Meta (December), NVIDIA/Microsoft/Google (January critical period), Amazon/Oracle/Salesforce (February), and Q1 guidance season

(March exit window), and (5) attractive valuation entry at €152 with P/E of 26.34x following pullback creating tactical opportunity. Portfolio rebalancing in March 2026 provides natural exit window.

Risk Considerations:

Material risks for the 2-3 month tactical horizon include macro risks (20-25% probability) from rate shock, recession signals, or credit stress negatively impacting high-multiple technology stocks, earnings risks (15-20% probability) from potential NVIDIA miss or cloud capex pullback guidance disappointing expectations, geopolitical/regulatory risks (10-15% probability) from escalating US-China tensions affecting semiconductor supply chains or AI regulation creating uncertainty, concentration risk with top 5 holdings representing 24% of fund creating vulnerability to individual stock disappointments, valuation sensitivity given 26.34x P/E multiple vulnerable to multiple compression if growth expectations moderate, and short-term trading risk inherent in 2-3 month tactical position requiring disciplined exit strategy. Recommended stop-loss at €135 (-5-7% from entry) to limit downside, with break below €140 signaling macro shock or major earnings miss requiring reassessment. The tactical nature requires active monitoring of catalyst developments and willingness to exit if thesis invalidates.

Tactical Entry Strategy: Buy 50% position at €150-152 current levels, add 25% if market weakens in Week 1, final 25% if market stabilizes Week 2. Hold through March 2026 earnings season with exit signals at €167-175 target or stop-loss at €135.

Performance since purchase: Not Added

Analyst: Simone Carreta

Critical Metals Corp (CRML) – European Lithium

1. Company Overview

Critical Metals Corp is a pre-revenue mining company focused on developing the Tanbreez rare earth elements (REE) project in Greenland, one of the world's largest heavy rare earth deposits. Trading on NASDAQ under ticker CRML, the company is positioned as a strategic Western alternative to Chinese-dominated rare earth supply chains. The company's mission is to become a critical source of rare earth minerals essential for defense applications, advanced manufacturing, clean energy technologies, and emerging tech sectors. With only 4 employees, Critical Metals operates as a development-stage company focused on advancing the Tanbreez project toward production.

Key Figures (as of presentation date):

Market Cap: ~\$839 million
Exchange: NASDAQ (CRML)
Stage: Pre-revenue development company
Employees: 4
Key Asset: Tanbreez Project (Greenland)
Resource Size: 4.7 billion tons
Ownership Stake: 42% in Tanbreez project

Market Position:

Critical Metals is a small-cap, pre-revenue rare earth development company with a strategic focus on Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE), differentiating itself from competitors who primarily focus on Light Rare Earth Elements (LREE). The company holds a 42% ownership stake in the Tanbreez project, positioning it to benefit from Western geopolitical interest in diversifying rare earth supply chains away from Chinese dominance. The project benefits from excellent infrastructure with year-round direct shipping access, proximity to airport and shoreline, and access to hydroelectric power from a nearby hydro plant.

2. Industry Overview

Sector: Critical Minerals / Rare Earth Elements Mining

The rare earth elements sector is experiencing heightened strategic importance driven by Western nations' efforts to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled supply chains (China controls ~70% of global rare earth production and ~90% of processing). Heavy rare earth elements are particularly critical for defense applications, permanent magnets, electric vehicle motors, wind turbines, and advanced electronics. The sector faces significant barriers to entry including high capital requirements, complex metallurgy and separation processes, long development timelines, and environmental permitting challenges. However, government support is increasing through strategic financing programs and offtake agreements.

Key Trends:

Western supply chain diversification away from Chinese dominance in critical minerals
Heavy rare earth element scarcity driving premium valuations versus light rare earths
Government strategic financing supporting non-Chinese rare earth projects
Multi-commodity projects gaining favor for diversified revenue streams
Magnetic separation technology reducing processing costs versus traditional methods

3. Investment Rationale

Investment Thesis:

We recommend Critical Metals as a BUY for a short-term tactical holding (recommended 2% portfolio allocation) based on an imminent catalyst and significant valuation upside potential. The company is awaiting release of the Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) for the Tanbreez project in Q4, which will provide detailed CAPEX requirements, production plans, NPV calculations, IRR projections, and payback period analysis. Key investment drivers include: (1) BFS catalyst triggering \$120 million in US EXIM Bank government debt financing upon contractual terms being met, providing non-dilutive project funding and validating the strategic importance, (2) valuation upside with Preliminary Economic Assessment forecasting \$3 billion NPV at 42% ownership (\$1.26 billion pre-tax valuation) implying ~50% upside from current \$839M market cap, (3) strategic HREE positioning unlike many competitors focusing primarily on light rare earth elements, creating differentiated value proposition for defense and advanced technology applications, (4) geopolitical

diversification value as Western governments prioritize non-Chinese rare earth sources for supply chain security, (5) operational advantages including magnetic separation of ores providing lower cost operations than traditional processing methods, and (6) comparable valuation opportunity versus Lynas Mt Weld, the largest non-Chinese REE supplier valued at ~\$10 billion, suggesting material upside if Tanbreez reaches production. The multi-commodity nature and excellent infrastructure further de-risk the development profile.

Risk Considerations:

Critical risks for this pre-revenue mining company include “sell the news” risk where speculators may dump shares immediately upon BFS release if results don’t meet elevated expectations, creating short-term volatility, technical processing risk as Tanbreez ore is eudialyte requiring expensive and complex separation processes that may prove more costly than anticipated, expectation gap risk where BFS numbers (CAPEX, NPV, IRR) could be lower than the optimistic assumptions embedded in current \$839M valuation, pre-revenue execution risk with the company requiring significant capital and operational expertise to transition from development to production, permitting and environmental risk in Greenland with potential delays or restrictions on mining operations, commodity price risk as rare earth element prices are volatile and cyclical affecting project economics, financing risk beyond the \$120M EXIM commitment with additional capital likely required, geopolitical risk from Chinese response potentially including rare earth export restrictions or market flooding to depress prices, technical dilution risk as the company holds only 42% ownership requiring other stakeholders to also fund their portions, and market liquidity risk for a small-cap pre-revenue mining stock. The 4-employee structure also raises questions about organizational capacity to execute on a multi-billion dollar development project.

Performance since purchase: +26.9%

Analyst: Jannik Alexander Seefried

Statistical Arbitrage Strategy: Exxon (XOM) vs. Oil (USO)

1. Strategy Overview

This is a pairs trading statistical arbitrage strategy exploiting the mean-reverting spread between ExxonMobil (XOM) stock and the United States Oil Fund ETF (USO). The strategy eliminates human decision-making by systematically trading the historical relationship between an integrated oil company and crude oil prices. When the spread is low (XOM underperforming oil), the strategy goes long XOM and short USO. When the spread is high (XOM outperforming oil), it reverses to short XOM and long USO. A hedge ratio of 0.5 is employed to balance the positions.

Key Characteristics:

Pair: ExxonMobil (XOM) - Texas-based oil company with ~\$350B revenue (2024) vs. USO (crude oil ETF)
Strategy Type: Market-neutral pairs trading
Hedge Ratio: 0.5
Signal: Mean reversion of XOM/USO spread
Holding Period: Until spread reverts to mean

Strategy Rationale:

The strategy capitalizes on the fundamental relationship between integrated oil companies and crude oil prices while exploiting short-term dislocations. ExxonMobil's operational leverage to oil prices creates a statistical relationship that mean-reverts, generating alpha independent of market direction.

2. Performance Metrics

Backtested Results:

In-Sample Performance: - Sharpe Ratio: 1.77 - Return: 11.93% - Win Rate: 100% - Number of Trades: 4 - Max Drawdown: 5.34%

Out-of-Sample Performance: - Sharpe Ratio: 1.40 - Return: 26.50% - Win Rate: 100% - Number of Trades: 8 - Average Win: 3.37%

Out-of-Sample with 3x Leverage: - Sharpe Ratio: 1.47 - Return: 79.51% - Average Win: 8.51% - Max Drawdown: 11.72%

The strategy demonstrated exceptional consistency with 100% win rate across both in-sample and out-of-sample periods, indicating robust statistical edge.

3. Investment Rationale

Strategy Thesis:

This statistical arbitrage strategy offers uncorrelated alpha generation through systematic exploitation of mean-reverting relationships, eliminating behavioral biases inherent in discretionary trading. The Exxon/Oil pair provides a fundamentally sound relationship with statistical stability demonstrated through backtesting. Key advantages include market-neutral positioning providing downside protection, exceptional risk-adjusted returns with Sharpe ratios exceeding 1.4 across all tested periods, 100% historical win rate demonstrating edge consistency, and low correlation to traditional equity beta enabling portfolio volatility reduction.

Execution Plan:

Portfolio allocation sized as (Max Acceptable Fund Loss) / (Strategy Max Drawdown of 11.72% at 3x leverage). The strategy can be traded with leverage to enhance returns while maintaining risk controls. Recommended implementation with systematic rebalancing and strict adherence to spread signals.

Risk Considerations:

Risks include regime change where historical correlations break down due to fundamental shifts in oil markets or Exxon's business model, execution slippage and transaction costs eroding edge particularly with frequent rebalancing, leverage risk amplifying losses if drawdowns exceed historical patterns, model overfitting despite out-of-sample validation, liquidity risk in USO during extreme market stress, and operational risk from execution errors or system failures. The strategy requires continuous monitoring and may face capacity constraints as position size grows.

Performance since purchase: -13%

Analyst: Jannik Alexander Seefried

Gold

1. Product Overview & Description

Gold is a precious metal commodity traditionally serving as a store of value, inflation hedge, and safe-haven asset during periods of economic and geopolitical uncertainty. Investors gain exposure through physical gold, gold ETFs (such as GLD or IAU), gold futures, or gold mining equities, with ETFs providing liquid, cost-effective access to spot gold prices without storage concerns.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

At the end of October 2025, gold was in the midst of a historic rally driven by extreme stock market volatility and heightened global uncertainty. Multiple risk factors were converging including anticipated Trump administration tariffs threatening trade wars, ongoing geopolitical conflicts, concerns over elevated AI stock valuations creating bubble fears, and persistent inflation worries driving investors toward traditional safe-haven assets.

3. Investment Rationale

We purchased gold at the end of October 2025 as a portfolio hedge during a period of exceptional market volatility and uncertainty, expecting the rally to continue into early 2026. The investment thesis centered on gold's safe-haven characteristics benefiting from multiple tailwinds: Trump's threatened tariffs creating trade uncertainty, active military conflicts (Ukraine, Middle East), fear of AI stock valuation corrections, and gold's historical performance during risk-off environments, all suggesting continued upward momentum in the near term.

Performance since purchase: +21.80%

Analyst: Jannik Alexander Seefried

Bitcoin (BTC) & Solana (SOL)

1. Product Overview & Description

Bitcoin is the original and largest cryptocurrency by market capitalization, serving as digital gold and a store of value with limited supply (21 million coins), while Solana is a high-performance blockchain platform designed for decentralized applications and smart contracts, known for fast transaction speeds and low fees. Both represent exposure to the cryptocurrency asset class and blockchain technology adoption, accessible through spot purchases, crypto ETFs, or exchange trading.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

At the start of December 2025, the cryptocurrency market experienced a significant selloff following a strong rally earlier in the year, creating attractive entry points for both established assets like Bitcoin and higher-growth altcoins like Solana. The correction provided an opportunity to enter at lower valuations while the longer-term thesis around institutional crypto adoption, potential regulatory clarity, and blockchain infrastructure growth remained intact.

3. Investment Rationale

We purchased Bitcoin and Solana at the start of December 2025 following a substantial crypto market selloff, believing both assets would recover over the subsequent 2-3 months as the correction presented oversold conditions. The investment served a dual purpose: capitalizing on the expected near-term recovery bounce and achieving greater portfolio diversification into alternative assets, aligning with our mandate as a no-limit fund to explore opportunities beyond traditional equities and fixed income.

Performance since purchase: BTC = -10.15%, SOL = -17.49%

Analyst: Neven Meß

Ubisoft Entertainment SA

1. Company Overview & Description

Ubisoft is a French video game publisher and developer known for major franchises including Assassin's Creed, Far Cry, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six, and Just Dance, operating across console, PC, and mobile platforms. The company generates revenue through game sales, downloadable content, subscriptions (Ubisoft+), and in-game monetization across a diversified portfolio of AAA titles and live-service games.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

At the time of purchase, Ubisoft's stock price had reached historic lows despite the company maintaining relatively strong cash flow generation from its established franchise portfolio and recurring revenue streams. The gaming industry was experiencing uncertainty around consumer spending, game development costs, and the success rate of new releases, creating valuation pressure across the sector even for fundamentally sound companies.

3. Investment Rationale

We purchased Ubisoft when the stock price had declined to extremely depressed levels while the company's cash flow generation remained quite strong, suggesting a disconnect between market valuation and fundamental business performance. Our investment thesis centered on a value play at what we believed was rock bottom pricing, supported by solid underlying fundamentals including strong franchises and cash generation, even though future growth prospects remained uncertain given industry headwinds and execution risks on new releases.

Performance since purchase: -29.91%

Analyst: Domenick Wilhelm

Chevron Corporation (CVX)

1. Company Overview & Description

Chevron is a major American integrated energy company engaged in oil and gas exploration, production, refining, and marketing operations globally, with strategic assets in the United States, Latin America, Africa, Middle East, and Asia. The company is one of the world's largest publicly traded oil and gas companies with extensive upstream production, downstream refining capacity, and chemical manufacturing operations.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

Following the capture of Venezuelan leader Maduro, the geopolitical landscape in Venezuela underwent dramatic change with significant U.S. Navy activity in the region creating uncertainty about the future of Venezuela's oil industry and American corporate involvement. Chevron held a unique strategic position as the only major American oil company with existing operations and relationships in Venezuela, having maintained presence even during the sanctions period through special U.S. government licenses.

3. Investment Rationale

We purchased Chevron immediately after the Venezuela episode and Maduro's capture, recognizing the company's uniquely advantageous position as the sole American operator able to capitalize on potential stabilization and reopening of Venezuelan oil production under new political circumstances. The investment thesis centered on Chevron's exclusive access to Venezuela's massive oil reserves (largest proven reserves globally) at a critical inflection point, with potential upside from increased production volumes, asset revaluations, and favorable operational terms as the only established American partner during a period of political transition and uncertainty shaped by U.S. Navy presence.

Performance since purchase: +6.47%

Analyst: Wessel Romjin

IREN (Iris Energy Limited)

1. Company Overview & Description

Iris Energy (IREN) is a technology infrastructure company focused on providing sustainable, low-cost power and data center capacity for high-performance computing applications including AI training and cryptocurrency mining. The company operates Bitcoin mining facilities powered primarily by renewable energy while expanding into AI infrastructure services, leveraging its expertise in energy procurement, cooling systems, and data center operations to serve the growing demand for compute-intensive workloads.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

At the time of purchase, AI stock valuations were increasing at a rapid rate as markets recognized the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, creating strong demand for the underlying infrastructure required to train and deploy AI models. Companies providing the essential power, cooling, and data center infrastructure to enable AI computing were increasingly viewed as critical picks-and-shovels plays in the AI boom, positioned to benefit from sustained capital expenditure by major tech companies.

3. Investment Rationale

We purchased IREN during a period of rapidly escalating AI valuations, recognizing the company's strategic positioning as an infrastructure enabler providing the power and data center capacity essential for AI workloads rather than direct AI application exposure. The investment thesis was strengthened by circulating rumors of an upcoming deal with Microsoft, which would validate IREN's AI infrastructure capabilities and provide a major enterprise anchor customer, potentially transforming the company from primarily a Bitcoin miner into a diversified high-performance computing infrastructure provider serving the AI industry's insatiable demand for scalable, energy-efficient computing capacity.

Performance since purchase: -21.37%

Analyst: Marcelo Giesbrecht

MSCI World Index

1. Product Overview & Description

The MSCI World Index is a broad global equity benchmark tracking large and mid-cap stocks across 23 developed markets, representing approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. Investors gain exposure through MSCI World ETFs (such as URTH, ACWI, or iShares MSCI World) providing diversified access to developed market equities across North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific with automatic rebalancing and capitalization weighting.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

As a globally diversified equity index, the MSCI World serves as a standard benchmark for international equity performance, providing broad exposure to developed market economies and benefiting from the growth of the world's largest publicly traded companies. The index captures the performance of established markets while maintaining disciplined exposure across sectors and geographies, making it a core holding for passive global equity allocation strategies.

3. Investment Rationale

We allocated a majority of our portfolio to the MSCI World Index because it served as our official benchmark, ensuring we maintained broad market exposure and could keep pace with the benchmark's performance while our individual stock selections aimed to generate outperformance. This strategic allocation provided a foundation of diversified market returns, reducing the risk of significant underperformance relative to our benchmark, while allowing our alpha-generating individual positions (active stock picks) to create excess returns on top of the index baseline for overall portfolio outperformance.

Performance since purchase: +0.50%

Analyst: Marcelo Giesbrecht Soto

NASDAQ-100 Index

1. Product Overview & Description

The NASDAQ-100 Index tracks the 100 largest non-financial companies listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange, providing concentrated exposure to technology, consumer services, and growth-oriented sectors with heavy weighting toward mega-cap technology leaders. Investors access the index through ETFs such as QQQ (Invesco QQQ Trust), offering liquid exposure to innovative companies including Apple, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Amazon, Meta, Tesla, and Alphabet that dominate the modern digital economy.

2. Industry/Product Trends at the Time

The technology sector was experiencing strong momentum driven by artificial intelligence adoption, cloud computing growth, digital transformation acceleration, and the dominance of mega-cap tech companies leading market performance. The NASDAQ-100's tech-heavy composition positioned it to capture these secular tailwinds, with the index benefiting from the ongoing technology bull market and investor enthusiasm for innovation-driven growth stocks across software, semiconductors, e-commerce, and digital platforms.

3. Investment Rationale

We allocated to the NASDAQ-100 Index as an ETF holding to achieve portfolio diversification while gaining direct exposure to the powerful technology industry tailwinds and ongoing bull market in innovation stocks. The investment provided efficient access to the highest-quality technology and growth companies driving market returns, complementing our MSCI World benchmark position with targeted sector exposure that could enhance overall portfolio performance through participation in tech sector outperformance while maintaining the diversification benefits and liquidity of a broad-based index approach.

Performance since purchase: -4.24%

Analyst: Marcelo Giesbrecht Soto

Reflection & Learnings

This past semester we navigated a complex and dynamic global market environment characterized by significant macroeconomic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions. The threat of sweeping tariffs under the new Trump administration, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and concerns over elevated AI stock valuations created a landscape of heightened volatility and investor caution. These uncertainties affected not only supply chains and commodity prices but also consumer spending patterns and corporate investment decisions across all sectors we monitored.

Despite these headwinds, global equity markets demonstrated remarkable resilience. The technology sector in particular experienced explosive growth driven by artificial intelligence adoption, while energy infrastructure and defense stocks benefited from geopolitical realignments. We witnessed historic rallies in safe-haven assets like gold, significant volatility in cryptocurrency markets, and a notable rotation between growth and value stocks as interest rate expectations shifted throughout the semester.

As the No Limit Fund, we embraced the challenge of navigating this environment across all asset classes and geographies. With seven dedicated analysts and a mandate to invest without sector or asset class restrictions, our focus centered on identifying compelling opportunities while managing risk through diversification and disciplined position sizing. Operating as a continuation fund, we inherited a portfolio from the previous semester's team, which presented both opportunities and unique challenges as we worked to understand existing positions while developing our own investment theses.

Our team held regular in-person meetings every Monday afternoon in an empty classroom on campus, creating a collaborative environment where all seven analysts could freely express ideas, debate investment merits, and make collective decisions. This consistent weekly cadence proved invaluable for maintaining portfolio awareness, discussing market developments, and ensuring all team members remained engaged with our holdings. The in-person format fostered genuine camaraderie and more efficient decision-making compared to virtual alternatives, contributing significantly to both our analytical rigor and team cohesion.

Throughout the semester, we benefited tremendously from the educational workshops offered by the Investment Club, which provided valuable insights into macroeconomic analysis, behavioral finance, DCF valuation methodologies, and multiples-based analysis techniques. These sessions enhanced our analytical capabilities and gave us frameworks to approach investment decisions more systematically. A sincere thank you to the organizers and instructors who made these learning opportunities available.

Key Learnings & Recommendations

1. Wikifolio Platform Verification

One of our most important procedural learnings was the critical need to verify that any proposed investment is actually available on the Wikifolio platform *before* conducting extensive research and preparing presentations. We experienced several frustrating situations where analysts invested significant time researching and pitching compelling opportunities, only to discover during or after the presentation that the security was not tradeable on our platform.

Recommendation: Establish a mandatory first step in the pitch process requiring analysts to confirm Wikifolio availability before beginning detailed analysis. This simple check can save dozens of hours of wasted effort.

2. Strategic Use of Benchmark Allocation

A significant learning came from our portfolio construction approach. Rather than starting the semester with cash or immediately deploying capital into individual positions, we should have allocated 100% of the portfolio to our MSCI World benchmark position at the outset. This would have ensured we captured market returns during the initial weeks while waiting for quality pitch ideas to develop, rather than experiencing tracking error from holding cash.

Additionally, this approach allows the fund to closely track the benchmark while using smaller position sizes (1-5%) in high-conviction individual stock picks to generate alpha and outperformance. The bulk of the portfolio maintains market exposure through the benchmark, reducing the risk of significant underperformance while giving active selections the opportunity to add value.

Recommendation: Begin each semester with 100% allocation to the benchmark index, then trim the benchmark position as compelling individual opportunities are identified and added to the portfolio.

3. Inherited Portfolio Challenges

We began the semester holding all positions from the previous team's portfolio, assuming we could efficiently monitor and manage these inherited holdings. This proved more challenging than anticipated, as none of our current analysts had been involved in the original investment decisions or possessed deep familiarity with the investment theses, catalysts, or risk factors for these positions.

The workload required to research and understand existing holdings (essentially reverse-engineering the investment rationale while monitoring ongoing developments) was substantial and diverted attention from identifying new opportunities. Without the institutional knowledge from analysts who had originally pitched these stocks, we struggled to make informed hold/sell decisions.

Recommendation: Only retain inherited positions if at least one analyst from the previous semester who deeply understands those investments remains on the team to cover them. Otherwise, consider liquidating inherited positions and starting fresh, or require a "re-pitch" process where current analysts must research and present the bull case to maintain existing holdings.

4. Workshop Value & Skill Development

The educational workshops provided throughout the semester proved invaluable for developing our analytical capabilities. Sessions covering quantitative versus qualitative analysis, macroeconomic frameworks, valuation methodologies, and presentation skills directly improved the quality of our pitch decks and investment decision-making.

These structured learning opportunities helped standardize our approach and gave less experienced analysts frameworks to develop comprehensive investment theses. The workshops also fostered knowledge sharing across different fund teams, creating a broader learning community.

Recommendation: Continue and expand the workshop program, and encourage all analysts (especially newer members) to actively participate and apply learnings to their research process.

5. In-Person Meeting Effectiveness

Conducting all meetings in person with our group of seven analysts created a dynamic, engaging environment that significantly enhanced both efficiency and team morale. The Monday afternoon sessions in our dedicated classroom allowed for spontaneous discussions, whiteboard brainstorming, robust debate on investment merits, and genuine relationship building that would have been difficult to replicate virtually.

The in-person format enabled us to read body language, build on each other's ideas more fluidly, and make faster decisions through immediate feedback and discussion. It also created accountability... analysts were more prepared and engaged knowing they would be presenting to teammates face-to-face.

Recommendation: Prioritize in-person meetings whenever feasible, particularly for pitch presentations and portfolio review sessions. The marginal effort to coordinate schedules is more than offset by improved decision quality and team cohesion.

6. Coverage Challenges as a No Limit Fund

One of our most persistent challenges was maintaining adequate coverage across the diverse range of industries, asset classes, and geographies represented in our portfolio. As the No Limit Fund with the mandate to invest across all sectors (including equities, commodities, cryptocurrencies, ETFs, and alternative strategies) we needed to monitor developments in technology, healthcare, energy, financials, consumer sectors, defense, mining, digital assets, and more.

Even with seven analysts, keeping current with daily market developments, earnings reports, industry trends, regulatory changes, and macroeconomic shifts across such a broad universe proved demanding given other academic and personal obligations. The breadth of our mandate, while exciting and differentiating, created genuine bandwidth constraints.

Recommendation: Consider assigning sector or asset class specializations to analysts, creating designated "coverage areas" where specific team members develop expertise and monitor relevant developments. This creates accountability while building deeper analytical capabilities in specific domains.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges posed by macroeconomic uncertainties, inherited portfolio complexities, and the breadth of our No Limit mandate, I am genuinely proud of what our team accomplished this semester. We demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to rigorous analysis while maintaining the collaborative spirit that made our Monday meetings something to look forward to rather than an obligation.

Every analyst contributed meaningfully: bringing diverse perspectives, conducting thorough research, engaging in constructive debate, and approaching the responsibility of managing real capital with the seriousness it deserves. We learned not just about valuation methodologies and market dynamics, but about teamwork, decision-making under uncertainty, and the discipline required to manage a portfolio through volatile periods.

The learnings documented here represent our collective wisdom gained through both successes and mistakes. If given the opportunity to do this again, I would eagerly accept, armed now with these insights to implement from day one. More importantly, I believe we've built a foundation of knowledge and relationships that will serve us well in future investment endeavors, whether in academia or professional careers.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all analysts on our team this semester for your dedication, intellectual curiosity, and positive energy. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented individuals, and I look forward to staying connected as we all continue our journeys in finance and investing.

To future teams: embrace the challenges, learn from every decision (especially the wrong ones), leverage your teammates' diverse perspectives, and remember that the best investment is often the time you spend truly understanding a business before deploying capital.

Thank you all for an unforgettable semester.

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Contact

If you are interested in learning more about the ESB Capital Student Fund, you can find out more on our website <https://www.esb-investmentclub.de/esb-capital>.

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