

SMALL CAP TECHNOLOGY SECTOR INNOVATIONS

Nine Growth Catalysts for 2025



Nancy Prial, CFA Co-CEO Senior Portfolio Manager The year 2025 promises to provide a dynamic landscape for the small-cap technology sector, fueled by federal initiatives and emerging market trends that prioritize innovation. From the revolution in generative AI to the resurgence of domestic semiconductor production, small-cap firms are participating fully in shaping the future of technology. With the multiple tailwinds of policy support and breakthrough innovation, these companies are poised to capitalize on growth in critical areas such as data security, smart infrastructure, and energy efficiency.

1. Federal Support for Al and Technology:

Federal policies under the new administration are likely to accelerate technological innovation through increased R&D funding, tax incentives, and grants. These initiatives foster collaboration provide the environment as well as financial initiatives that will enable advancements in critical areas such as AI, IoT, and cybersecurity. **By aligning with these priorities, small-cap firms are well-positioned to benefit from the administration's emphasis on innovation and sustainability.**

2. Regulatory Implications:

Stricter data privacy laws and cybersecurity regulations are reshaping the technology landscape. **Small-cap firms with compliance-focused solutions are seeing increased demand within enterprise and government sectors.** Companies are seeking to adapt to new standards, especially in the areas of finance, healthcare and identity management.

3. Generative Al and Software Applications

Al is revolutionizing software development, opening new avenues for innovation in enterprise tools and customer-focused applications. Generative AI enhances productivity, predictive analytics drives smarter decision-making, and automated coding tools accelerate development cycles. Agentic AI is one example of an application that is reshaping the way companies manage their sales and customer relationships. **Companies are upgrading their software stacks for data preparation and training to take advantage of the benefits of Generative AI**.

"...The nine growth catalysts outlined here not only explain the forces driving this transformation but also highlight how small-cap firms are both beneficiaries and drivers of these trends to innovate and thrive......"

4. Semiconductors as Innovation Cornerstones

Semiconductors are foundational to technological progress, enabling advancements in AI, IoT, robotics, space, and consumer applications. The CHIPS Act is revitalizing domestic semiconductor production, reducing reliance on foreign supply chains and bolstering the small-cap ecosystem. **Specialized chip designers and manufacturing equipment providers are poised to thrive in this environment of increased demand.**

5. 5G Expansion and Connectivity

The rollout of 5G networks and upgrade of broadband networks is a key driver of investment in communications infrastructure, offering transformative opportunities for small-cap firms. **Companies producing 5G hardware, antennas, and fiber optic solutions are some of the uses that are enabling faster, more reliable connectivity.** This expansion supports the development of Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, and smart cities, creating long-term growth prospects.



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6. Data Management and Cybersecurity

As data volumes grow exponentially, securing and optimizing data transmission has become a top priority, especially as AI presents both a threat and solution to data security. **Small-cap firms offer targeted and innovative solutions in cybersecurity, data integrity, and network optimization.** With increasing reliance on digital infrastructure, this segment presents fertile ground for sustained growth.

7. Infrastructure Investment

Domestic Infrastructure modernization initiatives offer small-cap firms the chance to lead in technology integration. Companies specializing in "Internet of Things" (IoT) sensors, grid management systems, data center connectivity and energy-efficient solutions are well positioned to participate in large-scale projects. These technologies are central to achieving AI capabilities, sustainability and resilience goals in infrastructure planning.

8. Smart Grid Integration and Electrification

Widespread EV adoption as well as the electrification of transportation and industrial systems requires significant upgrades to energy infrastructure, including smarter grids, charging networks and enhanced storage solutions. **Companies developing advanced metering technologies and grid management systems are enabling efficient energy distribution.** These innovations are supported by both government initiatives and private-sector investments aimed at building sustainable energy ecosystems.

9. Valuation

Small-cap technology stocks are currently trading at significantly lower valuations compared to their large-cap counterparts, with many small caps having price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios below 20, while some mega-cap tech stocks have P/Es exceeding 50. This disparity suggests that small-cap tech stocks are undervalued relative to large caps, presenting potential opportunities for investors seeking growth at more reasonable valuations. The valuation gap between small-cap and large-cap technology stocks offers compelling opportunities for investors. As small-cap firms leverage growth catalysts like generative AI, 5G expansion, and semiconductor innovation, they are poised to deliver outsized returns, further underscoring their potential as undervalued growth leaders.

Summary

Investing in small cap growth stocks presents a double-edged sword of lucrative opportunities and inherent risks. These stocks, while often residing under the radar, can deliver impressive returns. However, the potential for short-term volatility requires a well-structured investment strategy that emphasizes deep fundamental research, strict stock selection, and prudent diversification.

Those who venture into this dynamic sector should find that small cap growth stock investing is not only about capitalizing on underappreciated assets, but also the ability to identify transformative companies just as they are on the cusp of their positive growth trajectory.

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