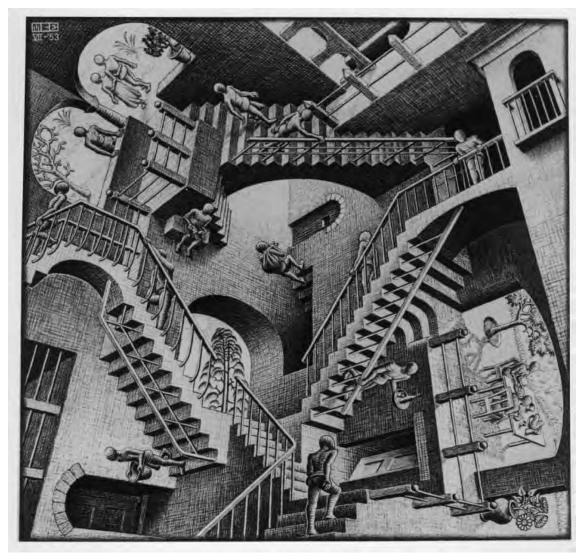
# **2024 Investment Outlook**







## **2023 Brief Recap**



#### **S&P 500 Recovered From 2022 Lows**

**S&P 500 Index (Dec '21 – Dec '23)** 





#### **Economic Growth Was Robust**

#### **US Quarterly GDP**

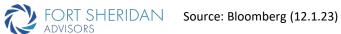




Source: Financial Times (10.26.23)

#### **Inflation Moderated**





#### Federal Reserve Policy Rates Likely Peaked

#### Fed Funds Rate vs CPI and US 10-Year Treasury Yield





Source: Bloomberg (12.1.23)

# **Artificial Intelligence Dominated Headlines & Markets**





Source: Alamy

#### **2024 Investment Outlook**



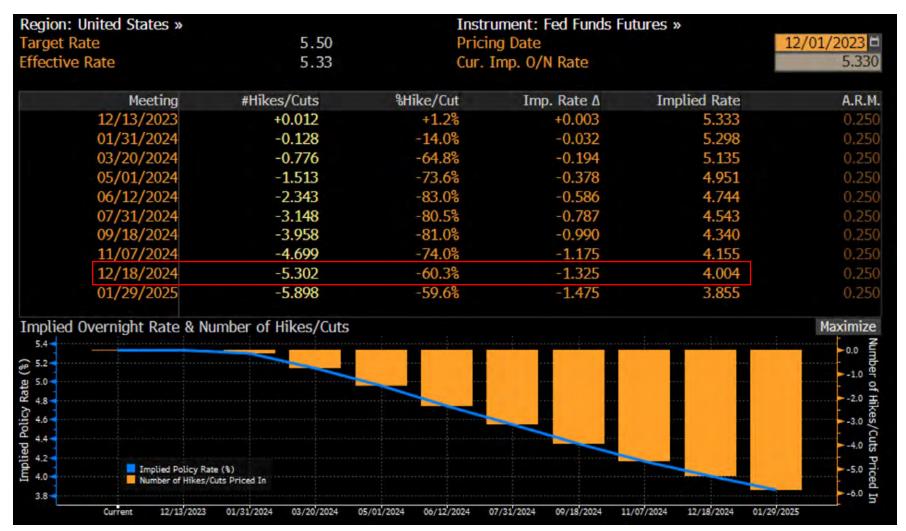
## Will The Economic "Soft Landing" Persist?

United States	Browse	0	Private		Official					
		Actual / Forecasts			Probability of Recession 50.0%				\$0.0	
Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Economic Activity										
Real GDP (YoY%)	1.8	2.5	3.0	2.5	-2.2	5.8	1.9	2.4	1.2	1.7
Industrial Production (YoY	-2.2	1.3	3.2	-0.7	-7.2	4.7	3.4	0.3	0.4	1.3
Price Indices										
CPI (YoY%)	1.3	2.1	2.5	1.8	1.2	4.7	8.0	4.1	2.7	2.3
■ PCE Price Index (YoY%)	1.0	1.8	2.1	1.4	1.1	4.2	6.5	3.8	2.5	2.1
Housing Market										
Housing Starts (000s SAAR							1556	1388	1372	1430
New Home Sales (000s SA							644	688	701	724
Existing Home Sales (Mln							5.1	4.1	4.1	4.8
Building Permits (000s SA							1679	1450	1479	1524
Labor Market										
Unemployment (%)	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.7	8.1	5.4	3.6	3.7	4.3	4.3
Non Farm Payrolls (000s S	194	176	190	163	-774	606	399	218	65	111
Average Hourly Earnings (		2.7	3.6	2.9	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.3	3.4	3.2
External Balance										
Curr. Acct. (% of GDP)	-2.1	-1.9	-2.1	-2.1	-2.8	-3.5	-3.8	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1
Financial Balances										
Budget (% of GDP)	-3.1	-3.4	-4.2	-4.7	-15.2	-10.5	-5.4	-6.2	-6.0	-6.2
Government Debt (% of GD	76.4	76.2	77.6	79.4	99.8	98.4	97.0	97.5	99.8	102.0
Interest Rates										
Central Bank Rate (%)		1.50	2.50	1.75	0.25	0.25	4.50	5.50	4.45	3.40
3-Month Rate (%)				1.57	0.07	0.09	4.59	5.39	4.45	3.46
2-Year Note (%)		1.89	2.49	1.57	0.12	0.73	4.43	4.90	3.82	3.30
10-Year Note (%)		2.41	2.69	1.92	0.92	1.51	3.88	4.54	3.93	3.78
Exchange Rates										
EURUSD		1.20	1.15	1.12	1.22	1.14	1.07	1.07	1.12	1.15



#### Will Fed Cut 5x By Year-End 2024?

#### **Fed Funds Futures**





Source: Bloomberg (12.1.23)

#### Will Earnings Growth Materialize?

#### S&P 500 Trailing EPS (Green) and Year Ahead EPS Consensus (White)





#### **Are Valuations Justified?**

#### S&P 500 '24 P/E & FCF Yield vs US 10-Year Treasury





## **S&P 500 EPS Vs P/E Matrix**

#### **Sensitivity Analysis**

				7	0024 S&D E0	O Earnings	nor Sharo			
					2024 S&P 50	_	-			
	_	222.5	227.5	232.5	237.5	242.5	247.5	252.5	257.5	262.5
	15.0	3,337.1	3,412.1	3,487.1	3,562.1	3,637.1	3,712.1	3,787.1	3,862.1	3,937.1
0	15.5	3,448.4	3,525.9	3,603.4	3,680.9	3,758.4	3,835.9	3,913.4	3,990.9	4,068.4
Ratio	16.0	3,559.6	3,639.6	3,719.6	3,799.6	3,879.6	3,959.6	4,039.6	4,119.6	4,199.6
	16.5	3,670.8	3,753.3	3,835.8	3,918.3	4,000.8	4,083.3	4,165.8	4,248.3	4,330.8
ij	17.0	3,782.1	3,867.1	3,952.1	4,037.1	4,122.1	4,207.1	4,292.1	4,377.1	4,462.1
=arnings	17.5	3,893.3	3,980.8	4,068.3	4,155.8	4,243.3	4,330.8	4,418.3	4,505.8	4,593.3
<b>5</b>	18.0	4,004.5	4,094.5	4,184.5	4,274.5	4,364.5	4,454.5	4,544.5	4,634.5	4,724.5
Price	18.5	4,115.8	4,208.3	4,300.8	4,393.3	4,485.8	4,578.3	4,670.8	4,763.3	4,855.8
	19.0	4,227.0	4,322.0	4,417.0	4,512.0	4,607.0	4,702.0	4,797.0	4,892.0	4,987.0
200	19.5	4,338.3	4,435.8	4,533.3	4,630.8	4,728.3	4,825.8	4,923.3	5,020.8	5,118.3
&P.	20.0	4,449.5	4,549.5	4,649.5	4,749.5	4,849.5	4,949.5	5,049.5	5,149.5	5,249.5
4 S	20.5	4,560.7	4,663.2	4,765.7	4,868.2	4,970.7	5,073.2	5,175.7	5,278.2	5,380.7
05	21.0	4,672.0	4,777.0	4,882.0	4,987.0	5,092.0	5,197.0	5,302.0	5,407.0	5,512.0
7	21.5	4,783.2	4,890.7	4,998.2	5,105.7	5,213.2	5,320.7	5,428.2	5,535.7	5,643.2
	22.0	4,894.4	5,004.4	5,114.4	5,224.4	5,334.4	5,444.4	5,554.4	5,664.4	5,774.4



## Large-Cap U.S. Stocks Have Driven Innovation And Returns



Source: Research Affiliates, Antipodes



## Will Growth And Large Cap Stock Dominance Persist?

Russell 1000 Value / Growth Index (Top); Russell 2000 / S&P 500 (Bottom)





## Will U.S Continue To Outperform?

#### **S&P 500 Index vs Various Global & Foreign Stock Indices**

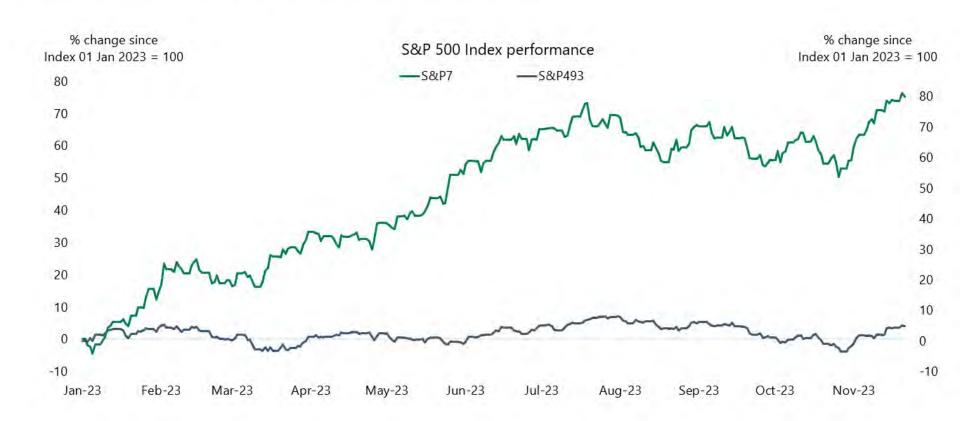




# If Economy Holds Up, The Broader Market Has Room To Catch Up

APOLLO

S&P7 is up 80% in 2023. S&P493 is basically flat.





# If Rates Stabilize, Beaten Down Biotech Stocks May Stage Recovery





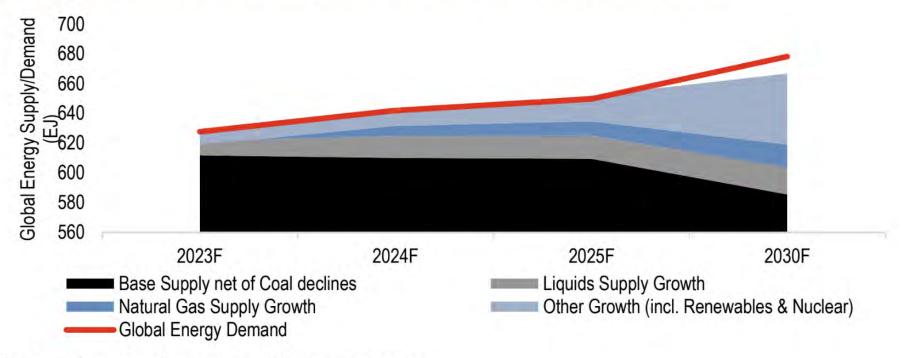
# Which Should Also Benefit Large-Cap Life Science Tools & Services Firms





## **Global Energy Demand Still Growing**

Figure 30: Global energy supply / demand to 2030; Supply gap narrowed but sustained...supply growth now 16% short of demand growth (prev. 20%); 2022-30 avg deficit 6EJ p.a

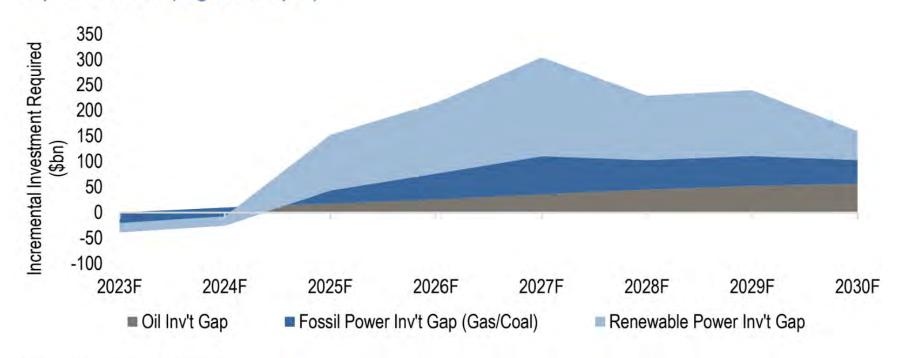


Source: : J.P. Morgan estimates. 1 EJ = 10<sup>18</sup> (a quintillion) Joules.



# Which Requires Significant Continued Investment Across Fossil Fuels And Renewables

Figure 31: To balance 2030 energy S/D, we estimate ~1.3tn of incremental cumulative capex is required 2022-30 (avg \$145bn p.a.)



Source: J.P. Morgan estimates.



## **Conventional Energy Firms Still Offer Attractive Valuations**

#### **S&P 500 Energy Sector Index Valuation Metrics & Fundamentals**

S&P 500 Energy Se	ctor GICS undamentals		Compare <sec< th=""><th>Periodio</th><th>city Annuals</th><th>▼ Cur F</th><th>RC (USD)</th><th><b>₊</b>Q</th></sec<>	Periodio	city Annuals	▼ Cur F	RC (USD)	<b>₊</b> Q
11) Highlights 12) \	/aluation	13) Profitability	14) Leverage &	Liquidity 15)	Market Data	1000	A CONTRACTOR	7.77
		2019 Y	2020 Y	2021 Y	2022 Y	Current	2023 Y Est	2024 Y Est
12 Months Ending		12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/30/2022	12/04/2023	12/30/2023	12/30/2024
Valuation Metri	cs							
Price/Earnings		19.69	71.34	21.23	9.04	10.15	10.92	10.63
Price/Earnings	before	17.31	56.05	28.30	8.40	9.72	10.85	10.60
Price/Earnings	before	26.15		45.10	8.45	9.72		
Price/Book Va	lue	1.61	1.27	1.89	2.53	2.17	2.12	1.96
■ EV/Sales		1.48	1.42	1.55	1.31	1.38	1.38	1.35
■ EV/EBIT		25.49		44.78	6.68	9.28		
■ EV/EBITDA		9.51		9.46	4.91	6.61	6.00	5.80
Dividend Yield		3.82	5.85	4.27	3.77	3.69	3.42	3.52
Fundamentals								
Gross Margin		14.83	7.81	10.58	20.68	20.92	26.21	26.65
Operating Marg	jin 💮 💮	5.63	-14.26	3.28	16.37	15.79	16.20	15.99
Profit Margin		5.86	1.36	5.70	12.58	11.62	11.04	11.23
Return on Asse	ets	2.72	-7.46	2.24	13.54	10.39	9.11	9.01
Return on Equi	ty	5.77	-17.59	5.10	29.00	21.46	19.58	18.48



Source: Bloomberg (12.4.23)

## **Especially the Case for Global Oil/Gas Firms**

#### **Bloomberg Global Integrated Oil Firms Valuations & Fundamentals**

BI Global Integrated Oil  1) Key Stats 2) Fundam		ompare (Sec)	Periodici	ty Annuals	▼ Cur FR	C (USD)	<b>+</b> Q
11) Highlights 12) Valuati		14) Leverage &	Liquidity 15	Market Data		4.000	
The second second	2019 Y	2020 Y	2021 Y	2022 Y	Current	2023 Y Est	2024 Y Est
12 Months Ending	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/30/2022	12/04/2023	12/30/2023	12/30/2024
Valuation Metrics							
Price/Earnings     Pric	13.97	_	11.11	4.79	6.69	6.85	6.97
Price/Earnings before	re 12.99	21.20	10.21	4.76	6.68	6.88	6.88
Price/Earnings before	re 13.46	_	10.75	5.00	6.68		
Price/Book Value	0.98	0.79	0.98	0.97	1.05	1.14	1.08
EV/Sales	0.85	0.99	0.81	0.54	0.65	0.62	0.60
EV/EBIT	12.24	_	8.90	3.50	5.43		
■ EV/EBITDA	5.28	7.20	4.15	2.43	3.56	3.23	3.09
■ Dividend Yield	4.92	5.01	5.01	7.70	6.00	7.04	6.34
Fundamentals							Land S
Gross Margin	18.85	19.69	16.84	-	41.93	32.25	29.44
Operating Margin	6.65	-9.24	9.02	13.53	12.25	12.64	12.58
	4.35	-5.13	5.08	8.86	7.71	7.42	7.21
Return on Assets	3.17	-6.17	3.20	7.67	6.82	6.22	6.47
Return on Equity	6.76	-14.58	8.32	18.27	15.11	16.58	15.69



#### **Renewables Valuations Have Declined**

#### **S&P Global Clean Energy Index**

S&P Global Clean Energy Ind  1) Key Stats  2) Fundamental		iec> Perio	dicity Annuals	▼ Cur	FRC (USD)		<b>+</b> Q
11) Highlights 12) Valuation	13) Profitability	14) Leverage &	Liquidity 15)	Market Data	12.00		
	2019 Y	2020 Y	2021 Y	2022 Y	Current	2023 Y Est	2024 Y Est
12 Months Ending	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/30/2022	12/04/2023	12/30/2023	12/30/2024
Valuation Metrics							
Price/Earnings	32.79	55.93	36.04	73.91	24.23	35.74	19.53
Price/Earnings before	19.71	45.76	23.45	25.76	15.37	20.07	17.13
Price/Earnings before	39.48	72.60	43.21	71.87	37.74		
Price/Book Value	1.84	4.52	2.71	2.45	1.68	1.72	1.60
EV/Sales	2.58	5.71	2.36	2.56	2.46	2.29	2.19
L. EV/EBIT	23.04	29.63	31.20	38.08	30.59		
L <sup>™</sup> EV/EBITDA	11.38	15.94	15.82	17.38	14.62	12.85	10.89
■ Dividend Yield	1.96	0.93	1.67	1.63	1.63	1.82	1.95
Fundamentals	-	-		-			2000
Gross Margin     Gross Margin	25.58	24.60	32.24	27.36	30.50	26.81	26.27
Operating Margin	11.41	10.64	10.42	6.78	7.83	7.65	11.38
Profit Margin     Pro	4.87	6.28	6.61	2.72	6.30	4.36	7.31
Return on Assets	1.63	2.02	1.74	0.98	1.69	4.35	4.86
Return on Equity	5.61	6.93	6.14	3.00	5.01	3.91	7.60



Source: Bloomberg (12.4.23)

#### **As Have Their Stock Prices**





Source: Bloomberg (12.4.23)

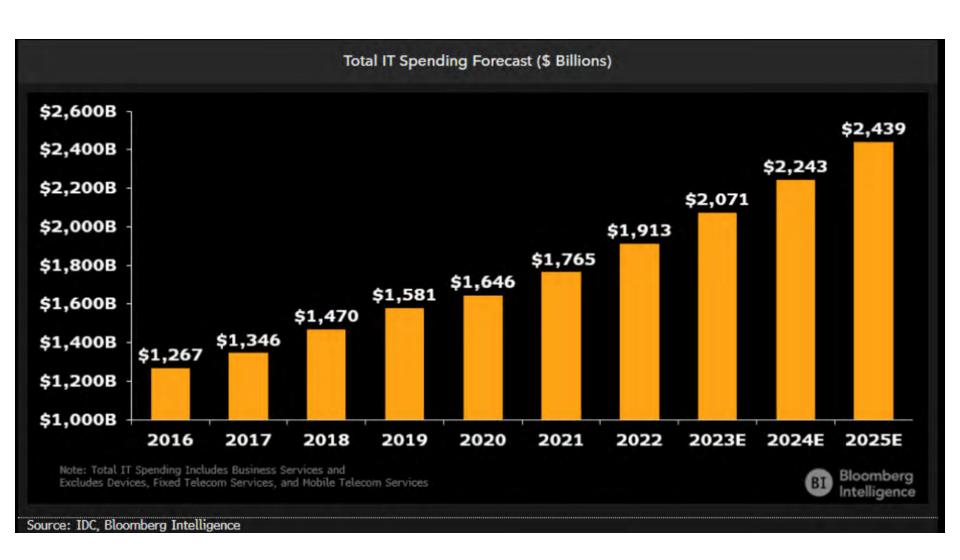
## **Technology Will Remain Central To Economy/Markets**

Nasdaq 100 vs Nasdaq 100 Equal Weighted Indices YTD:
Average Tech/Software Stock has Ground to Make up Relative to Index





#### **IT Spending To Remain Robust**





## **Despite The Rebound in Travel...**

#### **US TSA Checkpoint Total Travel Throughput**





#### ...And The Unfortunate Rise In International Conflicts

#### **Council on Foreign Relations, Global Conflict Tracker**





#### **Aero & Defense Firms Are Flat Since Pre-Pandemic**

#### **S&P 500 Aerospace & Defense Industry Index 2020-Present**





#### **Short-To-Intermediate Returns Are A Function Of:**

- 1) Macro
- 2) Results relative to expectations
- 3) Growth and cash flows relative to valuation
- 4) Capital flows

## **Long-Term Returns are a Function of:**

- 1) Fundamentals
- 2) Earnings and cash flow growth



## The Investing Sweet Spot

#### **EITHER**

#### Underappreciated Growth Potential

- Leaders in structural growth markets
- Misunderstood or misvalued assets
- Technological or operational innovators

#### **AND**

#### Attractive Valuation

Relative Valuation (PE, EV to EBITDA, EV to Sales, Price to FCF)

Private Market Comps

**Sum of Parts** 

**DCF** 

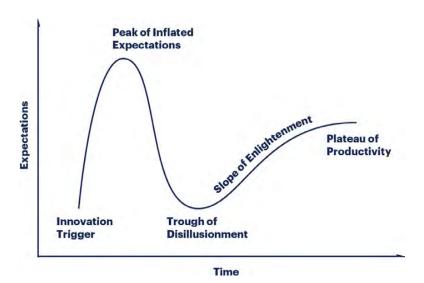
#### **EITHER**

#### Underappreciated Operating Stability

- Stable businesses in unstable macro backdrop
- Industry leaders at cyclical trough
- Overlooked cash flow and/or ROIC consistency



## Picture The Market And Valuations In Gartner "Hype Cycle" Terms



**Innovation Trigger:** A potential technology breakthrough kicks things off. Early proof-of-concept stories and media interest trigger significant publicity. Often no usable products exist and commercial viability is unproven.

**Peak of Inflated Expectations:** Early publicity produces a number of success stories — often accompanied by scores of failures. Some companies take action; many do not.

**Trough of Disillusionment:** Interest wanes as experiments and implementations fail to deliver. Producers of the technology shake out or fail. Investments continue only if the surviving providers improve their products to the satisfaction of early adopters.

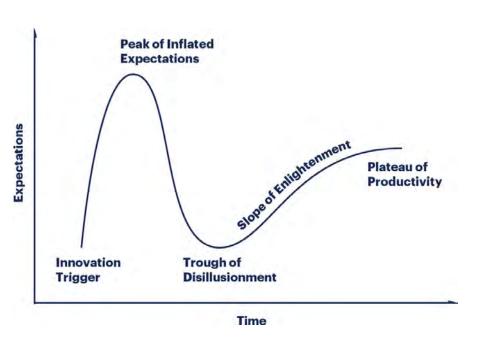
Slope of Enlightenment: More instances of how the technology can benefit the enterprise start to crystallize and become more widely understood. Second- and third-generation products appear from technology providers. More enterprises fund pilots; conservative companies remain cautious.

**Plateau of Productivity:** Mainstream adoption starts to take off. Criteria for assessing provider viability are more clearly defined. The technology's broad market applicability and relevance are clearly paying off.



#### **Innovation Trigger Through Peak Expectations**

As an innovative technology or new investment theme emerges and ascends to peak expectations, there is usually more capital willing to invest than there are good ideas to invest in. Hence, valuations reach extreme levels and early investors can reap substantial gains.

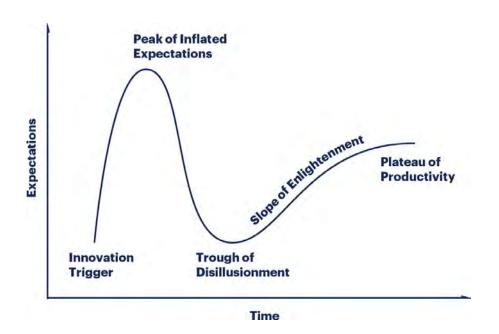


Investment Ideas/Themes Yet to Reach Peak Expectations	Investment Ideas/Themes With Inflating to Peak Expectations				
(High Risk/High Reward)	(High Risk/Low Reward)				
Synthetic Biology	GLP-1 Weight Loss Drugs				
Precision Medicine					
Quantum Computing					
Advanced Materials     Sciences/Manufacturing					
Nuclear Power & Fusion					
Artificial Intelligence					



## **Trough Of Disillusionment**

As themes decline into a trough of disillusionment, there are usually more quality ideas worthy of investment consideration than there is capital willing to invest. Hence, valuations crash and an entire industry may become fertile grounds for lucrative investments so long as one is patient and — more importantly — correct in their investment analysis.



## Investment Ideas/Themes In the Trough of Disillusionment

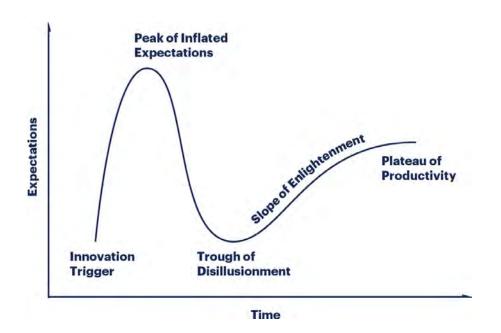
#### (Moderate Risk/High Reward)

- Biotechnology
- Large-Cap Biopharma (ex-GLP-1 Drugs)
- Renewable Energy
- Foreign Developed and Emerging Markets
- Online and Console-Based Video Games
- Commercial Office Space



## Slope Of Enlightenment Through Plateau

As industries mature, the evolution of a theme reaches a balance with investor capital and the driver of returns shifts from ascending or descending "hype" to industry fundamentals and company operational performance (i.e., company cash flows, sales, earnings).



#### **Maturing and Balanced Ideas/Themes**

#### (Reasonable Risk/Reward)

- Conventional Energy
- Aerospace & Defense Firms
- Semiconductor Manufacturing
- Cloud Computing
- Life-Science Tools & Diagnostic Firms
- Application Software Firms



#### **Fort Sheridan Advisors Overview**



#### **Fort Sheridan Advisors**

#### **History and Platform**

- Founded in 2009 to provide customized services to institutional investors
- Built out wealth management business focused on HNW
- Internal AUM of ~\$750m
- Specialize in SMAs
- Accounts typically custodied at Fidelity
- Complete transparency and liquidity

#### <u>Services</u>

- Institutional asset management & advisory
- Retail asset management (focused on HNW)
- Creating client-tailored portfolios spanning all asset classes (with primary focus on equities & fixed income)
- Sophisticated hedging & options
- Inquire for asset management fees
- Negotiable advisory/consulting fees

#### **Capabilities**

- Macroeconomic & market analysis
- Fundamental company & investment analysis
- Equities, fixed income, commodities, currencies, futures, options
- Internal portfolio management (no allocations to outside managers, unless requested)
- Risk-management & portfolio analytics
- Long/short, but strongly prefer long-only (with options for hedging)

#### **Investment Philosophy**

- Clients always come first
- Long-term investment horizon & client relationships
- Research-intensive
- Valuation and risk-sensitive approach
- Favor firms with sustainable competitive advantages & exploiting market inefficiencies
- Prefer concentrated portfolio holdings (15-25 positions with limited turnover)



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