



Future Tech Trends, And What Small Caps Will Benefit From Them

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February 14, 2008 (AllPennyStocks.com Media, Inc.) – It's impossible to predict anything, that old philosopher and baseball player Lawrence P. Berra is alleged to have said, especially about the future.

But if small cap investors aim for future growth and an interesting portfolio, perhaps even Yogi himself would urge you to look at several trends that are more in evidence these days, trends investors of all stripes ignore at their peril.

One trend points to a leaning away from traditional fossil fuels. Alternative fuels are coming to the attention of progressive thinkers the world over, and those companies capable of bringing their products to a mainstream market – or can forge alliances to help them do so – may well find themselves with the edge.

If those companies can harness the seemingly inexhaustible energy of the sun, integrating photovoltaics into building materials, they will have applied a technology thought problematic only a few years ago into something practical, and possibly lucrative.

One such company is Solana Beach, California-based Open Energy Corp. ([OTCBB: OEGY](#)), a renewable energy company focused on the development and commercialization of a portfolio of technologies, capable of delivering low-risk, cost-competitive electricity and fresh water and other such commodities on a global basis.

Experts say the market for solar energy has grown by an average of 38 per cent annually since 2000. By 2004, the solar photovoltaic industry was already a \$6.5 billion industry (all figures in U.S. funds unless specified otherwise). Open Energy, with green in its company logo (blue is the other colour) hopes to be one of the industry leaders in making “green” energy.

The company offers building-integrated photovoltaic roofing materials for commercial, industrial and residential markets, and holds the worldwide licence to a solar thermal technology called SunCone™ CSP, now being developed to generate potable water and distributed power.

OEGY may have been considered a bargain even last summer, when its share price hit its 52-week high of 83 cents. The price shrank with much of the market, big and small, until it plumbed 24 cents in late January. The stock traded around 40 cents in mid-February.

With more news coming to light about the development of the human genome and what causes and prevents diseases within our bodies, another trend involves a growing and aging population. The companies that will emerge out of the pack as the leaders of this trend will be those mastering technologies that add to the depth of life and not just the length.

A Canadian company at the helm of this trend is Vancouver-based Med Biogene Inc. ([TSX-Venture: MBI](#)). This life science company is focused on the development and commercialization of genomic-based clinical laboratory diagnostic and screening tests for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

Med BioGene's lead product is LymphExpress Dx™, a genomic-based diagnostic test for lymphoma. MBI is also developing tests for leukemia and cardiovascular diseases through products known as LeukExpress Dx™ and CardioExpress Dx™. The company develops these tests by identifying the genes, known as "biomarkers" which indicate the presence of disease. The hope is to produce more personalized medicines, leading away from the "one-size-fits-all" approach to managing disease. The aim is for more accurate, quicker and less invasive diagnosis, for the tailoring of treatment decisions to the needs of each individual patient, thus making treatment more effective and reducing health-care costs.

MBI has spent recent months securing New Jersey-based JRG Ventures as its strategic business advisor. JRG has helped forge partnering alliances with major drug companies like Aventis, Bayer and Bristol-Myers Squibb, which will work closely with MBI to help the growing company market LymphExpress Dx.

The price has seen a downward trend from a peak of 70 cents Canadian for the last 12 months in March, to a current level of 16 cents Canadian. With more positive news emerging from its expansion plans, and its bargain-basement price, MBI could well attract more buyers in the months to come.

The third key trend involves what we now call "virtual reality", of which the computer-generated electronics field is putting out more sophisticated forms. One of the companies jumping on this bandwagon is mPhase Technologies, Inc. ([OTCBB:XDSL](#)), headquartered in Little Falls, New Jersey. The company develops and commercializes next-generation media-rich entertainment software and nanotechnology solutions. It also provides high-speed Internet access and digital video delivery.

The latest developments out of mPhase concern a "smart" battery, capable of producing current on demand after long-term storage. The company won an industry award last year for a previous version of the "smart" battery and plans to bring nanotechnology out of the lab and into the market with a planned innovative life-long power cell.

With many of its marbles devoted to R&D, mPhase has felt the pain on the bottom line, and stock prices have reflected this trend. The 52-week peak for the stock price of XDSL registered at 27 cents last February, to sink to a low of four cents in November. The stock currently sits around five cents, right where value-conscious small-cap investors could see fit to scoop it up.