State of DePIN 2025

Decentralized Physical Infrastructure Networks

About the Authors

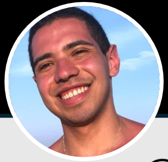
Dylan Bane

Messari

Dylan Bane is a Sr. Enterprise Research Analyst at Messari, where he leads the firm's research on DePIN. He previously worked as a digital assets investment analyst at T. Rowe Price and in venture capital. Dylan is a graduate of Princeton University and co-founded the Princeton Blockchain Club.

Read Dylan's research here

Salvador Gala



EV3

Salvador is the co-founder of Escape Velocity (EV3), a $100M+ AUM venture capital firm focused on crypto-enabled businesses. EV3 raised the first DePIN-focused fund back in 2022. Sal is also a founding contributor at DePIN Pulse, DePIN Summit, and the EV3 Fellowship.

See EV3's DePIN portfolio here

Read past State of DePIN Reports: 2022 2023 2024

The Elephant In the Room: Is DePIN Dying?

mustafa @mustafakqazi · Jan 15
depins in their current form are (arguably) dying, but that's because we keep making the same mistakes. I argue that this is because we're using the wrong framing:

Brian | Life & DePIN @DePIN_Crypto · 2h
Early dilution **is** one of the biggest killers in **DePIN** today, right up there with actually finding product-market fit.
1 · 24

David | www.usd.ai @0xZergs · Jan 13
DePIN died so InfraFi could live

long live infrafi

(capital formation has always been the best usecase of crypto/defi)

Dan Elitzer @delitzer · Jan 14
We at Nascent avoided **DePIN** w the view that it was almost entirely thinly veiled shitcoin ICOs and would lead to less efficient infrastructure deployment and therefore higher total capital requirements than centralized buildouts, just subsidized by the financially illiterate

Meltem Demirors
@Melt_Dem

1/ time for some rage bait

DePIN is dying and i don't see it coming back

the tokenomics of DePIN deny the physics of finance - these teams are trying to build perpetual motion machines (a violation of the laws of thermodynamics)

Jesse @jessem_eth · Apr 24, 2025
Is this a DePIN project?
1 · 74

Austin Federa |
@Austin_Federa

Kind of — but depin is usually low quality, high reach. DoubleZero is the opposite — higher quality than the public internet but lower reach

J_Jun @jjun_991 · Jan 12
I mean, of course they are dying. How many years has it been in DePIN land and the most celebrated revenue is Helium's mid 8 fig that isn't going to token holder anyway.

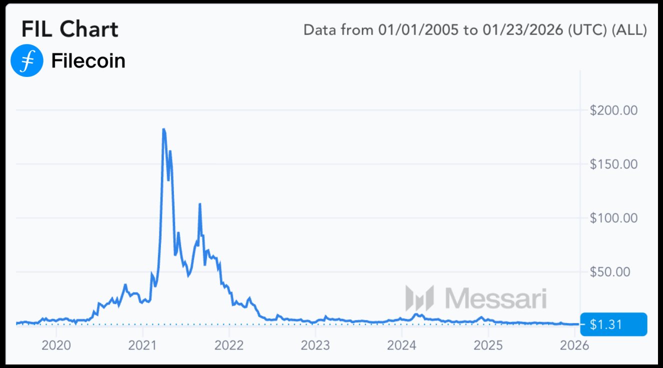
5 Mile Trucker @acouplenomads · Jun 4, 2025
I hate to say it but some of these "**DePIN**" projects exist only to sell you hardware... charging a grand for $100 in computer components is nuts....
7 · 15 · 716

DePIN Connection @DePINConnection · Jan 15
In 2025 many **DePIN** projects hit their stride on PMF/revenue, but price action didn't follow. We now find the overall sector on life support coming into this year.

Is DePIN dead or can it be resuscitated?

Source: X.

The Market Seems to Think So! DePIN Class of 2018-2022 are Down 94-99% from ATH.



Source: Messari.

But Investors Have Major Misconceptions about DePIN: They're Operating on Outdated Data.

DePINs in 2021 **were**:

- Pre-revenue (<$1M ARR), **demand-constrained**
- Unsustainably **unprofitable** (high inflation)
- Unbelievably **overvalued** (>1000x multiples)
- Growth driven by retail **speculation**

DePINs in 2025 **are**:

- Revenue-generating ($72M in 2025), **supply-constrained**
- Sustainably **profitable**, with little or no supply inflation
- **Undervalued** relative to growth, with 10-25x multiples
- Growth driven by **utility and efficiencies**, not subsidies

It's Not All Investors' Fault: Most DePIN Founders are Playing Last Cycle's Games.

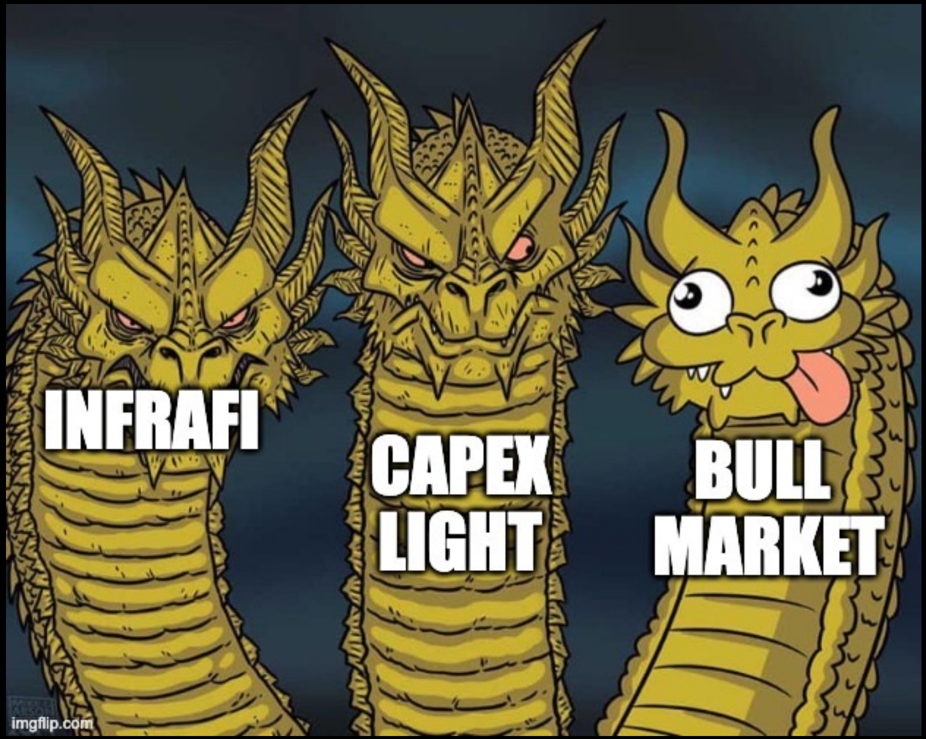
In 2025, (almost) every DePIN has...

- **Supply-side** growth and a "passionate" community
- $1M+ ARR "but our revenue **isn't verifiable** yet"
- An **"ecosystem"** of "partners" for co-marketing
- CEXs **"interested"** to launch the token "next quarter"

...But only the **leading DePINs** have:

- Miners that make money from **paid usage**, not incentives
- Revenues that **benefit tokenholders** and/or stakers
- Customers who **spend more** each month, i.e. net retention
- A **low-cost** of way of financing deployments, i.e. InfraFi

Today, Only ~Three Viable Paths Remain for Scaling a DePIN Globally and Sustainably.



USD.AI GEODNET helium

Daylight grass Filecoin

You can't escape physics: building physical infrastructure requires lots of capital.

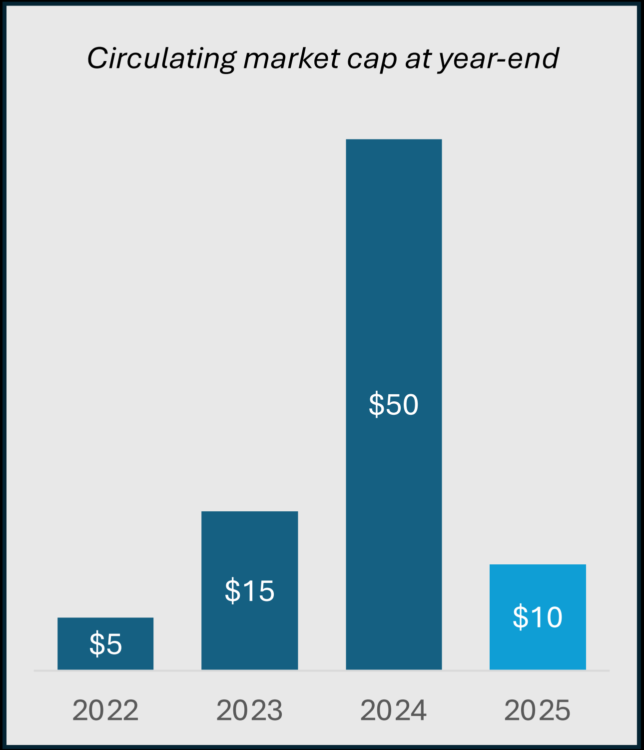
- **Path 1: InfraFi.** Enable stablecoin-holders (with $300B+ of supply outstanding) to earn yield by financing physical infrastructure assets.

- **Path 2: Capex-light.** Focus on infrastructure that requires relatively little capex ($Ms globally, not $Bs), and can be monetized quickly.

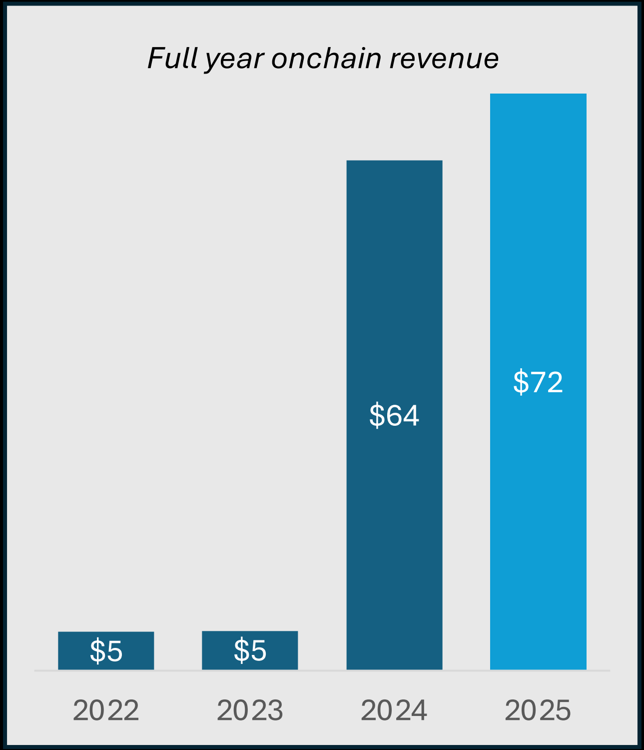
- **Path 3: Bull market timing.** Launch a token during a generational bull market when interest rates are near zero.

DePIN is a $10B Sector Generating $72M in FY25 Onchain Revenues, with Sustainable Economics.

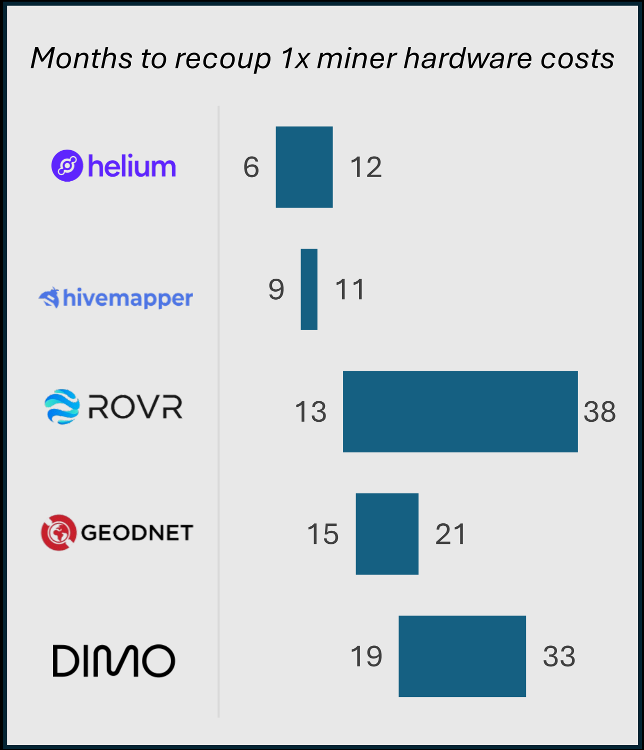
Market Cap ($B)



Onchain Revenue ($M)



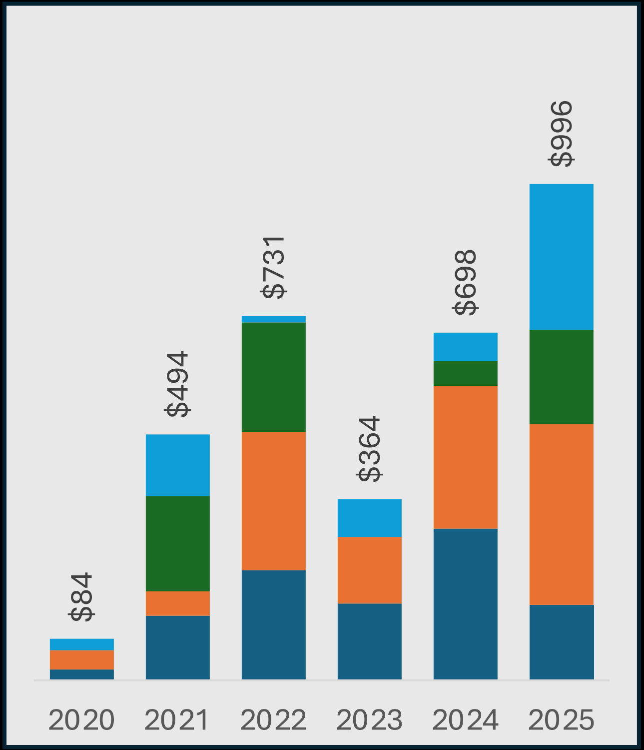
Estimated Payback (Months)



Source: DePIN Pulse.

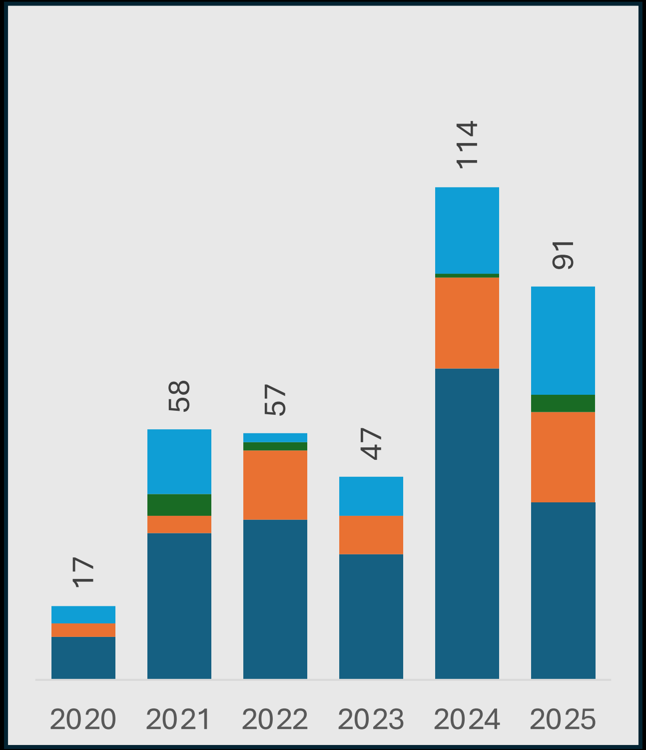
DePIN Raised an All-Time-High $1B in 2025, Primarily at Seed and Series A.

Capital Raised ($M)



(Pre)Seed Series A Growth Other

Number of Rounds (#)



(Pre)Seed Series A Growth Other

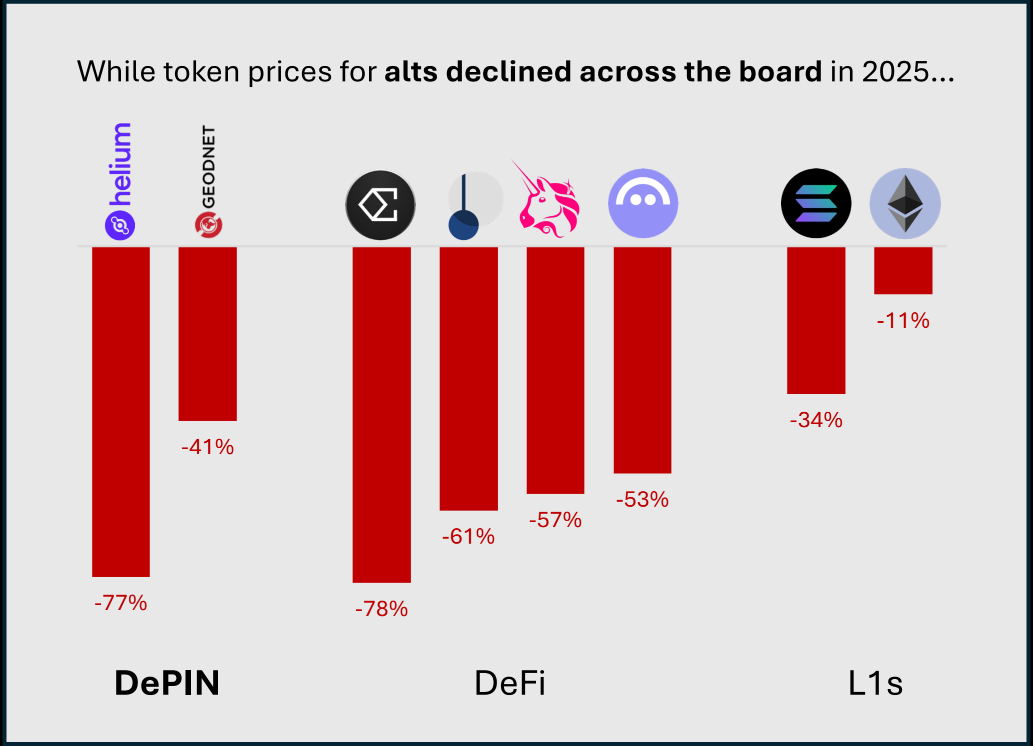
Notable Rounds

Company	Raise	Lead Investor
WALRUS	$140M	STANDARD CRYPTO
Daylight	$75M	Framework; Turtle Hill Capital
Fuse	$70M	Balderton.
Impossible Cloud	$34M	NGP Capital
hivemapper	$32M	PANTERA
DoubleZero	$28M	Multicoin Capital; DRAGONFLY
INVERSION	$27M	DRAGONFLY
DAWN	$13M	POLYCHAIN CAPITAL

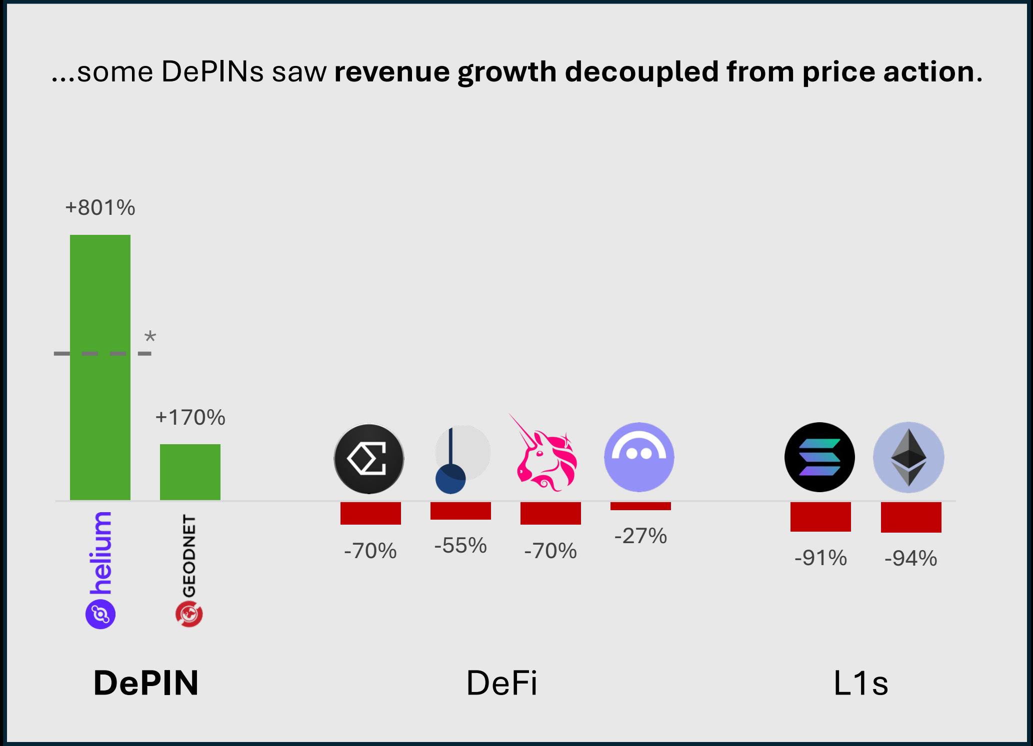
Source: Messari. 'Other' category includes token sales and strategic investments.

We Finally have Proof: DePIN Revenue Growth is More Resilient than DeFi & L1s in Bear Markets.

Price Change: Dec’25 vs Dec’24



Revenue Change: Dec’25 vs Dec’24

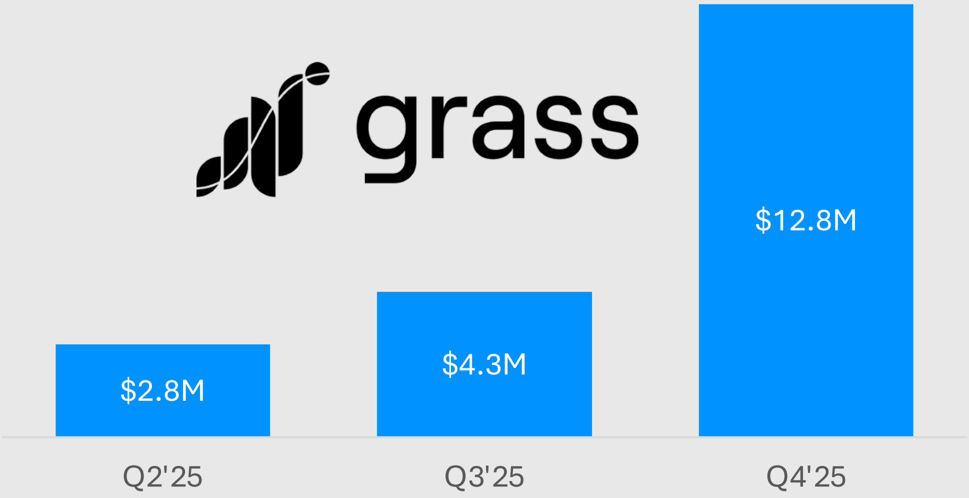


Source: Messari, DeFi Llama, DePIN Pulse. ‘Revenue’ represents token burns for DePIN, protocol fees for DeFi, and REV for L1s.
Note: Helium temporarily burned non-offload revenues related to Helium Mobile from in H2’2025. Even excluding these revenues (shown by dotted gray line), Helium’s Dec’2025 run-rate burn represents >300% growth from Dec-2024.

We Finally have Proof: Top AI Labs are Paying DePINs $10M+ per Quarter—and Growing.

Grass: Quarterly Revenues

While researching for this report, **EV3 reviewed invoices and customer contracts[1]** representing >80% of Grass's publicly-reported revenues for 2025.



Grass's Revenues are Real!

After reviewing the documents, we can attest that:

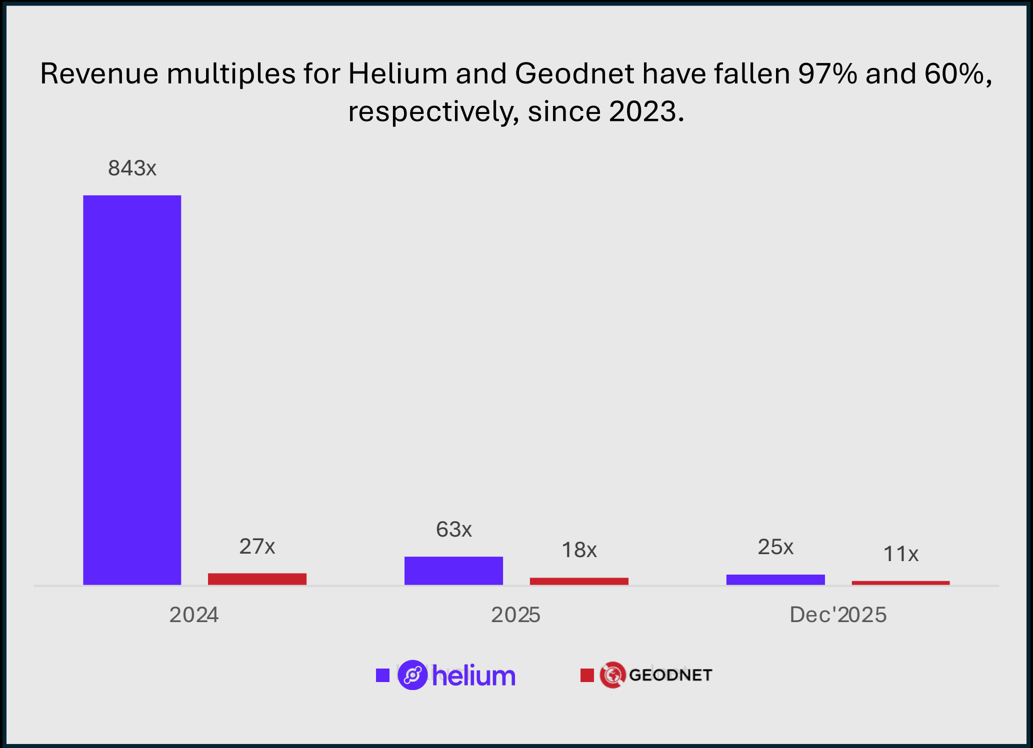
1. Grass's **2025 revenues were at least 80% of the publicly-reported numbers**, i.e. >$10M in Q4'25,

2. The **vast majority of Grass's revenues comes from top AI labs**, including multiple listed below (sourced from Reddit).

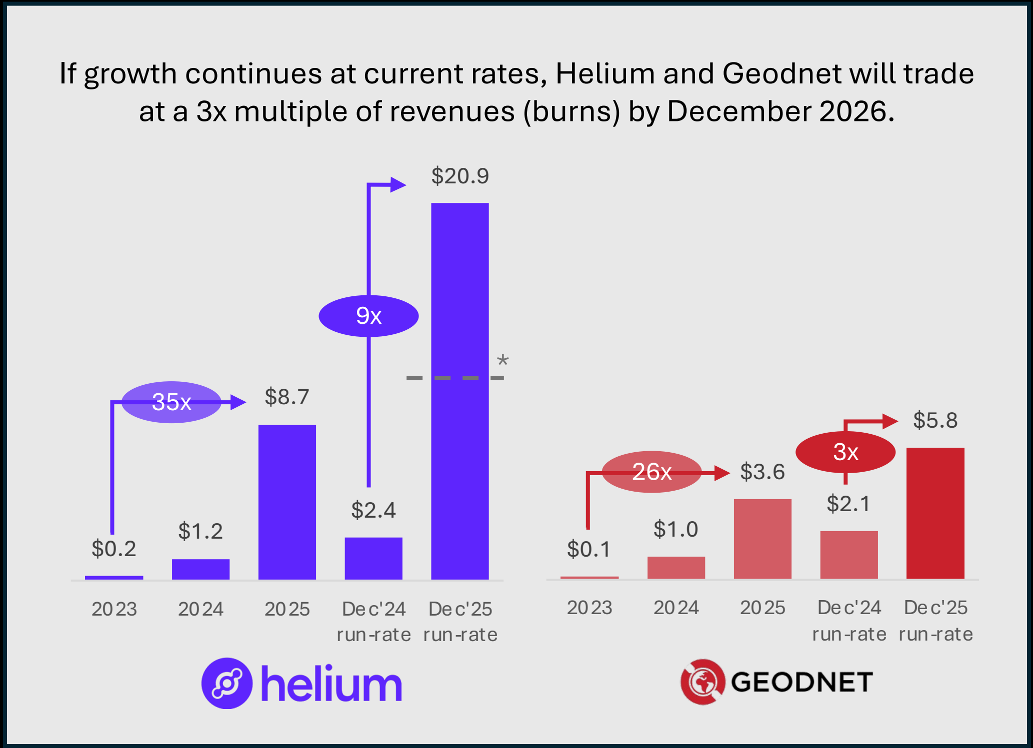
Source: Grass X account, Reddit (r/accelerate), EV3 research.
Note: [1] Under NDA, we reviewed Grass's customer contracts and invoices via a screenshare call with Wynd Labs' management team.

DePINs are Cheaper Than Ever… and Getting Cheaper Every Day with Compounding Growth.

Average Revenue (Burn) Multiple



Onchain Revenue (Burn) & Growth



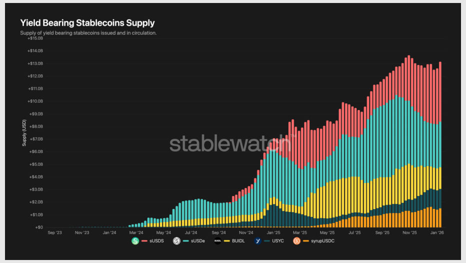
Source: Messari, DePIN Pulse. Note: Helium temporarily burned non-offload revenues related to Helium Mobile from in H2'2025. Even excluding these revenues (shown by dotted gray line), Helium's Dec'2025 run-rate burn of $11M represents >4x Dec'2024 burns. HNT's implied run-rate Dec'2025 revenue multiple is 25x excluding Helium Mobile (shown above), or 15x including.

A Few DePINs (Should We Call Them That?) are Pioneering InfraFi... Combining DePIN + DeFi.

InfraFi: Why?

Historically, DePINs harnessed the **speculative premium on utility tokens** to finance infrastructure buildouts. The math worked in 2020-2021, when the market cap of crypto alts rose from $50B to $950B.

In 2024-2025, the speculative premium on most alts has disappeared. Instead, users minted $175B+ of stablecoins, including **$12B+ yield-bearing stables.**



InfraFi: What?

InfraFi allows stablecoin holders to **earn yield by financing physical infrastructure** by simply depositing and/or staking stablecoins into a vault.

Funds in the vault are used to **finance the purchase and/or deployment of infrastructure assets** (e.g., GPUs, solar panels, batteries, radios).

Revenues generated (or debt accrued) by the infrastructure are (re)paid into the vault. Depositors redeem stablecoins **plus their share of the yield**.

Key Challenges of InfraFi

Duration mismatch: *infrastructure cannot be liquidated in a hurry if/when stablecoin holders redeem en masse.*

Credit risk: *physical infrastructure get broken, stolen, or otherwise impaired causing a loss of principal.*

Principal-agent problems*: between the underwriters of infrastructure assets and stablecoin depositors/lenders.*

InfraFi: Who?

USD.AI

$17M+ raised from

Framework Bullish

Compute

USDai earns yield on loans secured by GPUs in datacenters.

Since launching in mid-2025, USDai has grown to $685M+ of user deposits (TVL).

Daylight

$27M+ raised from

EV Framework a16z crypto

Energy

Daylight earns yield on energy assets (solar panels & batteries) by selling power to homeowners and to the electric grid.

DAWN

$30M+ raised from

EV DRAGONFLY POLYCHAIN CAPITAL

Bandwidth

Dawn earns yield on wireless assets (radios and servers) by selling Internet subscriptions to homes and businesses.

Source: Messari, TradingView, Stablewatch.

InfraFi Leverages DeFi Primitives to bring Composable Infrastructure Yields Onchain.

Lending — Morpho, Silo, Euler

Derivatives — PENDLE, Spectra, CORK

Stablecoins — Sky, M0, PYUSD, Ethena

RWAs — Centrifuge

Oracles — Chainlink

Bridges — LayerZero., WORMHOLE

Blockchains

One token, available everywhere, that accrues yield from financing real-world infrastructure…

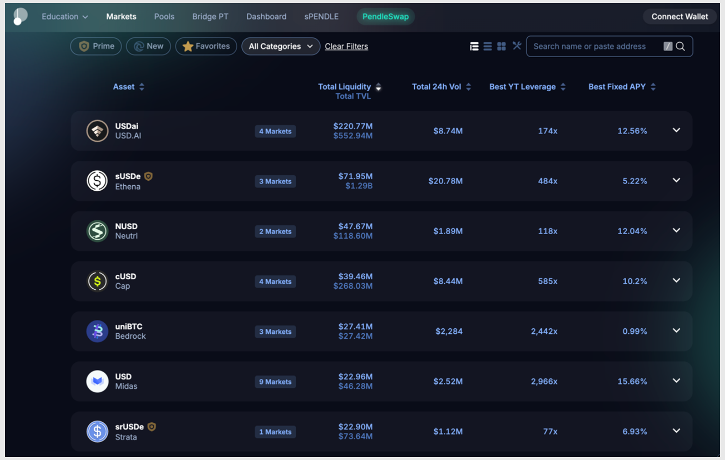
USD.AI	DayFi	DAWN
$sUSDai	$sGRID	$sUSDtel
GPUs	Solar + batteries	Radios + servers

…that can be lent, LP'd, looped, insured, bridged, etc using existing DeFi protocols.

Under the Hood, InfraFi is Already a Key Driver of Growth for DeFi and Stablecoin Players.

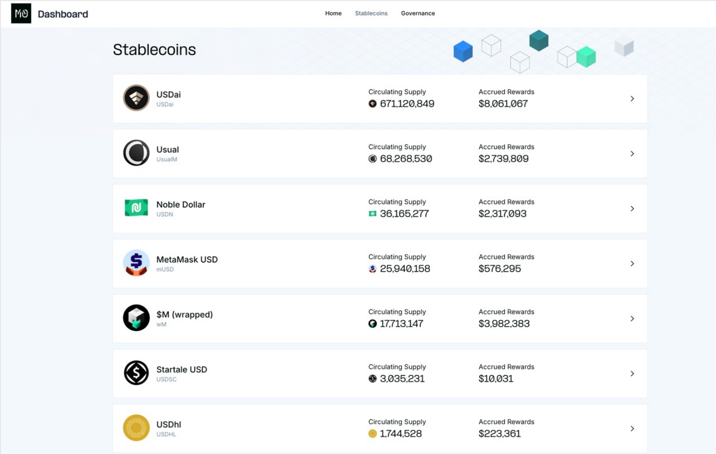
Pendle Finance: Yield Derivatives

USDai is 17% of Pendle's TVL, with 3x more liquidity than #2 Ethena.



M0: Stablecoin Infrastructure

USDai is 77% of M0's TVL, with 10x more distribution than #2 Usual.



Sky Framework LayerZero.

In November 2025, Sky, Framework Ventures, and LayerZero launched the Obex Accelerator to incubate institutional-grade stablecoin lending projects, including InfraFi. Sky concurrently authorized $2.5B of USDS, or 19% of total collateral, to be deployed into Obex-incubated projects.

Source: Pendle Finance, M0 dashboard.

DePIN is Even Unlocking New Value Drivers for Private Equity Buyouts, Led by Inversion.

Inversion's Thesis

Inversion Capital acquires businesses in legacy industries and transforms them on crypto rails, namely DePIN and stablecoins, thereby lowering costs and improving product offerings for end-users.

Santiago R Santos
@santiagoroel

INVERSION

What SaaS did for software, DePIN does for infrastructure.

Integrating DePIN into our portfolio companies is key to our value creation strategy.

We plug in DePIN networks to lower data and infrastructure costs. Networks like @helium and @Hivemapper are reliable and scalable for enterprise use cases.

Thrilled to partner with @EV3ventures the OG DePIN fund

About Inversion

Founded by former ParaFi investor Santiago Roel, Inversion raised a $26.5M seed round led by Dragonfly Capital, with participation from

FACTION, BORDERLESS VENTURES, MIRANA, METALAYER VENTURES, HASHKEY CAPITAL, Race Capital, Portal Ventures, WINTERMUTE VENTURES, MOONROCK CAPITAL, BREED, Topology, ParaFi, BODHI VENTURES, Volt Capital, Lvna Capital, VanEck, EV, Folius Ventures

Inversion is rapidly expanding their team, with open roles across investing, engineering, and operations teams.

FORWARD DEPLOYED ENGINEER	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
PROTOCOL ENGINEER	HEAD OF FINANCE
PRODUCT ENGINEER	INVESTMENT PARTNER
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER	INVESTMENT ASSOCIATE

Source: Inversion Capital website, X.

The Leading DePINs are Now Real, Profitable, and Growing Onchain Businesses...

Bandwidth

helium
grass
DoubleZero
DAWN

Energy

Fuse
Glow
Daylight

Sensors

hivemapper
GEODNET
none

Compute

bittensor
livepeer
akash
IO.NET
Filecoin
Render Network®
IMPOSSIBLE CLOUD NETWORK
USD.AI

Introducing the DePIN Leaders Index

Top 15 DePIN and InfraFi projects that meet one or several of the following criteria: $500K+ ARR, $500M+ FDV, $30M+ raised

...and They're Trading at Prices that Imply Little Chance of Survival, Let Alone Success.

The best DePIN tokens today provide exposure to next-gen infrastructure businesses that have:

- **Proven user demand**, driven by cost + speed advantages...
- **Multi-year track records** of >100% YoY historical revenue growth...
- **End-markets large** enough to compound revenues for decades...
- **Perseverance and growth** through several crypto market cycles...
- In an increasingly **favorable regulatory environment**...
- And trade at **single digit multiples** of 2-3 year forward profits.

Deep Dive into the DePIN Leaders

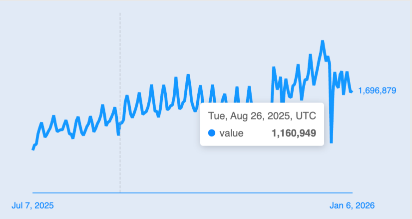
For this section, we randomly assigned ourselves to articulate the bull/bear cases for each DePIN Leader. Views do not necessarily reflect those of the authors.

helium

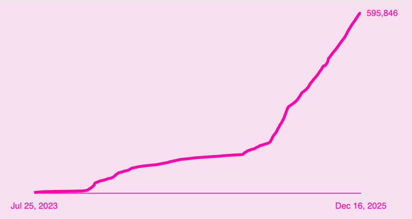
Helium's Wireless Network Serves 2M DAUs with Mobile Connectivity to their Smartphones.

The Users

1.5M T-Mobile and AT&T subscribers use Helium's network daily, without even knowing it



600K subscribers have signed up for a cell phone plan with Helium Mobile

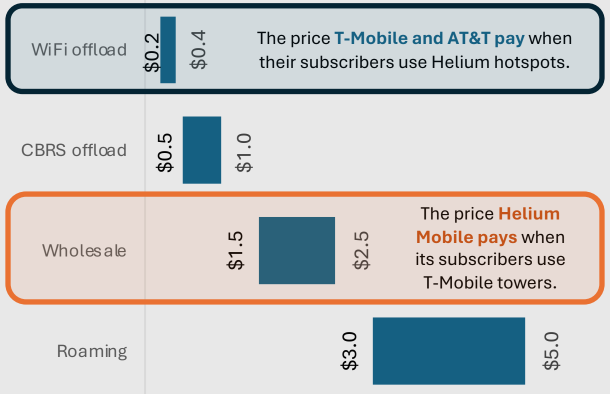


The Business

Telco carriers burned $880K worth of HNT in December ($11M run-rate).

Helium Mobile burned another $980K ($12M run-rate) from subscribers paying up to $30/mo for phone plans.

Typical bandwidth cost per GB



The Token

Key Stats: $HNT

- $290M market cap, $5M ADTV
- 88% circulating, annual inflation <2%
- $11M run-rate revenue (burn), +4-8x YoY[1]

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy US telcos trade at 6-10x EBITDA, with <5% YoY growth

verizon AT&T T Mobile

- SpaceX (Starlink) is targeting an IPO at 100x revenues, with 40-50% YoY growth

STARLINK

- HNT trades at **15-25x burns** (i.e. bottom-line profits), with **25% MoM** (!) growth

Source: Messari, DePIN Pulse, Helium Mobile explorer, EV3 analysis.
Note: Helium temporarily burned non-offload revenues related to Helium Mobile from in H2'2025. Even excluding these revenues (shown by dotted gray line), Helium's Dec'2025 run-rate burn of $11M represents >4x Dec'2024 burns.
HNT's implied run-rate Dec'2025 revenue multiple is 25x excluding Helium Mobile (shown above), or 15x including.

Helium: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

PMF is firmly validated and Helium is now in its scaling phase.

Helium demonstrated strong adoption in 2025 with network DAUs up ~170% (900K to 2.5M) and Helium Mobile subscriptions up ~385% (125K to 600K).

⇒ Growth is not slowing down, suggesting a path to $25-50M revenue in 2026.

Carrier offload is becoming Helium's primary revenue engine.

Carrier offoad revenues – primarily from T-Mobile and AT&T – scaled rapidly in 2025, growing ~14x throughout the year from $2.5K to $35K+ *per day*.

⇒ Even without Helium Mobile-related economics, HNT will soon be deflationary.

International expansion represents massive upside with large TAM.

Helium is expanding internationally to millions of users in Mexico (via Movistar partnership + Inversion Capital) and in Brazil (via Mambo partnership).

⇒ International adoption can drive revenue growth rates even higher than in the US.

Bear Views

What are these, margins for ants?

Helium set pricing at $0.50 per GB in 2021 based on market rates for CBRS. WiFi offload, which Helium pivoted to in 2024, is worth only $0.10-$0.25 per GB.

⇒ HNT's current onchain revenue overstates offload earnings power by 2-5x.

Who actually owns Helium (Mobile)?

Nova Labs controls Helium Mobile and has a fiduciary duty to its shareholders. HM revenues were temporarily burned in H2'2025, but the policy was recently reverted.

⇒ It remains unclear how Nova Labs (equity) and HNT (tokens) will "split the pie".

Customers want RE-bundling, not UN-bundling.

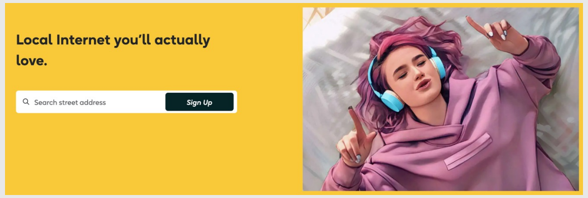
22%+ of Americans buy home + mobile internet in a bundle, up from ~10% in 2017. Customers want one integrated provider that keeps them connected everywhere.

⇒ Helium Mobile's CAC will rise as legacy providers increase lock-in via bundling.

Dawn's Wireless Network Serves 20K+ Subscribers and Covers 5M+ Homes with Fixed Connectivity.

The Users

20K Americans get their home internet from Andrena—the first ISP on Dawn's network.



Dawn's InfraFi Model

Stablecoin holders, in exchange for taking duration and credit risk, can earn yield through financing wireless infrastructure buildouts that are installed, managed, and monetized by whitelisted, tier-1 ISPs.

The Business

Yield-seeking stablecoin holders deposit and stake stablecoins into Dawn's vault.

↓

Approved ISPs (including Andrena) use the funds in the vault to finance buildout of real-world wireless infrastructure.

↓

Tenants pay $30-50/mo to ISPs for reliable, high-speed home Internet.

↓

Subscriber revenues are routed to the vault and can be redeemed by stakers, with liquidity safegaurds for redemptions.

↓

Due to the rapidly-declining cost of radios and software orchestration, wireless infra can generate ***gross yields of 20-30%****.*

The Token

Key Stats:

- Dawn has not launched a token.
- Dawn raised $18M led by Dragonfly in 2024 and $13M led by Polychain in 2025.

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy telcos trade at 6-10x EBITDA, with <5% YoY growth
- Legacy cablecos trade at 4-6x EBITDA, with <2% YoY growth
- SpaceX (Starlink) is targeting an IPO at 100x revenues, with 40-50% YoY growth

Dawn: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Thanks to cheap hardware, yields on wireless infra can reach 20%+.

Programmable, software-defined radios are getting cheaper and more powerful every year, while users' average monthly internet bills are roughly constant.

⇒ Wireless yields can far exceed the 3-6% stablecoin farming yields available today.

Dawn has a 5+ year track record of scaling a profitable ISP.

Through Andrena, Dawn connects 20K+ homes to the Internet with industry-leading NPS and 70% gross margins. Efficient operation means higher yields for lenders.

⇒ Dawn's infrastructure is deployed and managed by experienced ISP operators.

Every investor will be re-underwriting wireless economics in 2026.

Starlink's revenues have grown from $1B to $12B+ in the past three years, with parent company SpaceX targeting an IPO in 2026 at a rumoured $1.5T valuation.

⇒ Seeing Starlink's financials will drive growth investors back to wireless en masse.

Bear Views

Competing frontier technology could render DAWN obsolete.

Starlink, 6G, and other next-gen networks pose long-term competitive threats that could outperform DAWN's fixed wireless architecture in coverage and speed.

⇒ DAWN will need to adapt its infrastructure to future waves of telecom innovation.

Entrenched ISP bundling strategies discourage user migration.

Legacy internet providers are leveraging "triple-play" bundles (home internet, TV, and mobile) to increase switching costs and drive high customer retention.

⇒ Bundling by incumbents increases CAC for single-product ISPs like Dawn.

Regulatory hurdles around spectrum licensing threaten viability.

While Dawn primarily operates in unlicensed bands today, future spectrum congestion or FCC licensing regulations could hinder coverage and unit economics.

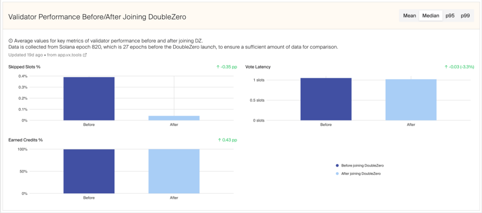
⇒ Home internet requires >30x more bandwidth than mobile, and gobs of spectrum.

DoubleZero

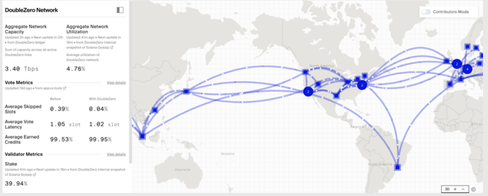
DoubleZero's Fiber Network has 3.4Tbps of Capacity and Powers 40% of Solana Blocks.

The Users

Solana validators use DoubleZero's low-latency network to improve performance of their validators.

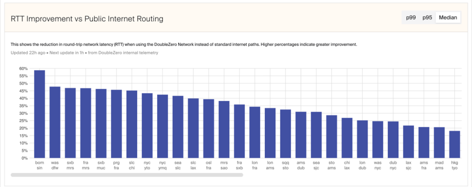


400+ validators, representing 40% of Solana mainnet stake, currently use DoubleZero.



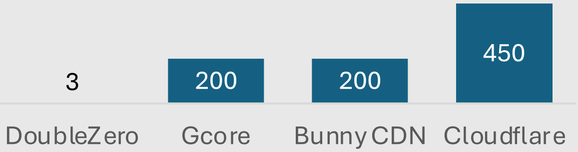
The Business

DoubleZero's network capacity grew to 3.4 Tbps in <1 year. In 20+ cities, DoubleZero is >20% faster than the public internet.



As the network's capacity grows, other latency-sensitive use cases – like high-frequency trading, gaming, or streaming – can run on DoubleZero's infrastructure.

Global Network Capacity in Tbps



The Token

Key Stats: $2Z

- $400M market cap, $9M ADTV
- 35% circulating, annual inflation 60%
- $10M run-rate revenue (not burn)

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy CDNs trade at 10-20x EBITDA, with 5-10% YoY growth
- Next-gen CDNs trade at 30-40x revenues, with 20-30% YoY growth
- 2Z trades at **40x revenues** (115x on FDV), after growing to $10M ARR in <1 year

Source: Double Zero explorer, EV3 research.

DoubleZero: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Extremely high technical and operational moat in fiber.

Coordinating a fiber network with sub-millisecond latency requires massive capital expenditure, high-performance software, and specialized hardware expertise.

⇒ It will be difficult for other DePINs to recreate Double Zero's early moats.

Strong adoption by Solana validators validates demand.

Since its October launch, the network has onboarded 400+ validators representing 40%+ of all staked SOL (~$24B).

⇒ Growth in staking signals product-market fit for low-latency network underlays.

Clear expansion path into non-crypto verticals like HFT.

Double Zero's architecture can create value for any latency-sensitive industry, including high-frequency trading (HFT), real-time gaming, and decentralized CDNs.

⇒ Addresable markets beyond crypto reflects Double Zero's long-term upside.

Bear Views

The right time to buy $2Z is two years from now, not today.

Double Zero trades at a >100x multiple of run-rate revenues, like HNT in 2024. They already have 40% of Solana stake; the next growth driver will take time to develop.

⇒ Double Zero's next big successful use case is already baked into today's price.

Concentrated ownership and high inflation.

At current prices, $15M of $2Z tokens will unlock for team, investors, and insitutional partners every *month* for the next four years (~8% of trading volume).

⇒ If insiders decide to sell early, it will take massive buying pressure in $ to offset.

Trading firms not named Jump will think twice before using 2Z.

Jump Crypto helped develop and owns 28% of $2Z. For the current users, i.e. Solana validators, that isn't a concern. For use cases like HFT, users may feel differently.

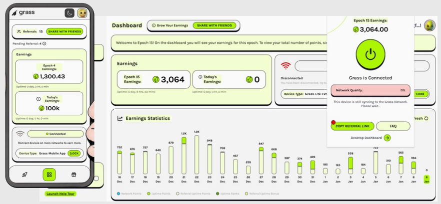
⇒ Double Zero has to clear a high bar of credible neutrality for continued growth.

grass

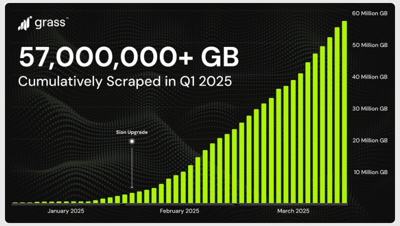
Grass has Scraped 57+ PB of Data from the Public Web and Generates $50M+ Run-Rate Revenue.

The Users

Users earn rewards for sharing their spare bandwidth through Grass's desktop (42%), mobile (38%), or browser (20%) app.



AI labs and other developers use Grass's bandwidth to retrieve and scrape data from the public web.



The Business

Grass customers spent $13M renting bandwidth, data and other services in Q4'25, implying $50M+ run-rate revenue.

Grass revenues are primarily reinvested for growth. Starting in Q4'25, Grass began discretionary token buybacks amounting to $3M run-rate burn at year-end.

The Token

Key Stats:

- $170M market cap, $22M ADTV
- 45% circulating, annual inflation 40%
- $50M run-rate revenue; $3M run-rate burn

Valuation Comparison:

- The leading proxy provider generates $300M+ revenue, with +50% YoY growth

bright data

- Leading CDNs trade at 30-40x revenues, with 20-30% YoY growth

CLOUDFLARE zscaler

- $GRASS trades at **3.3x revenues** (55x burns), with **+200% QoQ** growth

EV

Source: Grass app, X account, and community calls.

Grass: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

The strongest revenue growth in DePIN.

Grass reported (offchain) revenue growth from $3M in Q2 to $13M in Q4. No other DePIN, to our knowledge, has added +$10M of quarterly revenues in a year, ever.

⇒ Grass has room to grow: the leading web2 competitor, BrightData, is 5-10x bigger.

Tokenholders are becoming first-class citizens.

Grass critics cite a lack of transparency and tokenholder rights. In Q4, Grass burned $350K of tokens and explained their capital allocation and reinvestment strategy.

⇒ Grass has a world-class business, and is rapidly becoming a world-class token.

The best is yet to come: Live Context Retrieval (LCR) scales in 2026.

Grass's LCR engine allows agents/LLMs to query web data in real-time data. Today, only Grok has real-time awareness (via X). LCR powers this capability for any AI app.

⇒ If LCR is a success, Grass's revenue growth will accelerate even faster than today.

Bear Views

Unproven long-term demand for decentralized web and AI training.

The market for decentralized web scraping and AI training data is still emerging, with unclear long-term demand from sticky enterprise customers.

⇒ AI labs and model developers alone represent a large, but limited revenue pool.

Weak differentiation in a commoditized data collection.

Bandwidth access and web data collection are largely commoditized, with low technical barriers to entry and limited switching costs for buyers.

⇒ Without sustained differentiation, Grass risks compressing margins with scale.

Regulatory uncertainty around decentralized data collection.

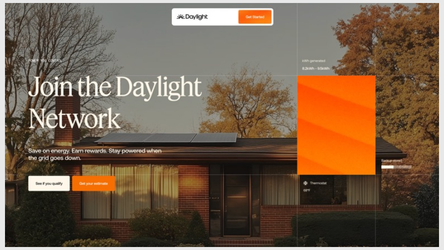
Large-scale, automated web data collection operates in a legally evolving gray area, particularly as AI regulation, data protection, and platform enforcement intensifies.

⇒ Regulators, courts, or platforms could all limit Grass's economics or scale.

Daylight Raised $85M to Buid Integrated Solar + Batteries, Starting in the US.

The Users

US homeowners sign up for a Daylight subscription to get cheaper, greener, more resilient electricity in their homes.



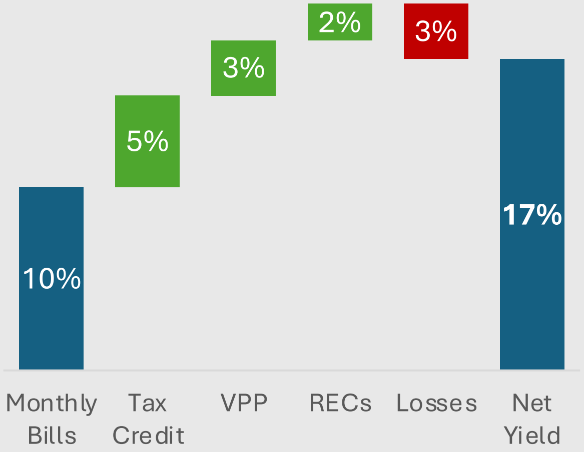
Daylight's InfraFi Model

Stablecoin holders, in exchange for taking duration and credit risk, can earn yield through financing energy infrastructure buildouts that are installed, managed, and monetized by professional operators.

The Business

After monetizing federal tax credits, selling power back to the grid at peak times, and harvesting environmental credits, energy infrastructure can deliver high-teens yields.

Illustrative yields on DayFi assets



The Token

Key Stats:

- Daylight has not launched a token.
- Daylight raised a $9M seed round led by a16z in 2024, followed by a $15M Series A led by Framework and a $60M debt facility led by Turtle Hill Capital in 2025.

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy utilities trade at 9-12x EBITDA, with <5% YoY growth
- Tesla trades at 15x revenues, with 30% YoY growth
- Energy startups Base Power and Fuse Energy raised capital at $4B and $5B valuations, respectively, in 2025

Source: Daylight Energy website, EV3 research.

Daylight Energy: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Energy infrastructure is incredible credit collateral.

Energy bills are the last thing homeowners stop paying, driving <1% historical default rates on solar. Every home represents a $25K+ financing opportunity.

⇒ Residential energy infrastructure can be lent against safely at massive scale.

Daylight stacks every source of energy yield into a single wrapper.

Daylight earns yield from 1) homeowners' monthly energy bills, 2) selling energy back to the grid (VPP), 3) federal tax credits, and 4) renewable energy credits.

⇒ Stacking multiple revenue streams drives energy yields from 8-10% to 15-20%.

Daylight is live in MA + IL and launching in CA + CT + NJ imminently.

Homeowners in these five states, >20% of the US population, will be eligible to get solar + batteries in their home with zero money down and save 30% on energy bills.

⇒ Daylight is a no-brainer for homeowners; deployments likely top $100M+ in 2026.

Bear Views

InfraFi is in its "v1" phase and may struggle to gain traction.

InfraFi remains an experimental model with kinks to work out, and Daylight is using it to target energy infrastructure that's already served by mature capital markets.

⇒ For Daylight to scale, InfraFi must demonstrate superior value over TradFi.

Density and scale is required to make VPPs viable.

Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) require a high density of distributed energy resources (DERs) aggregated in a geographic area to provide meaningful value to the grid.

⇒ Slow regional scaling could weaken network economics and limit growth.

Several layers of regulatory complexity and risk.

Daylight's model is tightly coupled to a wide variety of regulations including those around federal tax credits, utility and grid policies, and lending and tokenization.

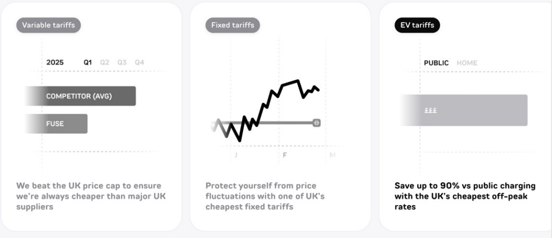
⇒ Daylight may need to pivot its model if regulations change in adverse ways.

Fuse

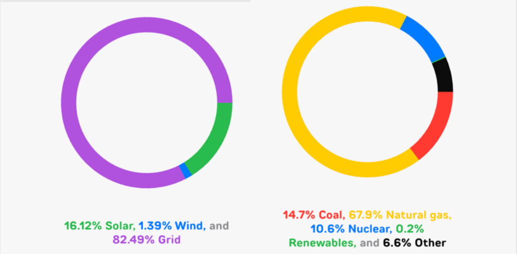
Fuse Generates $400M in Annual Revenues by Providing Energy to 250K+ UK Homes.

The Users

250K+ UK households get their power from Fuse, a licensed REP (retail energy provider).



17%+ of Fuse's energy comes from renewables vs 0.2% for the broader grid.

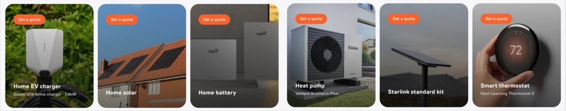


The Business

With 250K+ households paying an average of ~$130/mo, Fuse already generates $400M in annualized revenues.

Fuse Energy operates 22 MW of live energy generation assets and runs demand-side response that shifts household consumption in response to grid / price signals.

After raising $100M in 2025, Fuse plans to expand to the US and continental Europe and to launch its own line of energy hardare and become an OEM in 2026.



The Token

Key Stats: $ENERGY

- Fuse has announced, but not yet launched a token (expected in Q1'26).
- Homeowners earn $ENERGY rewards for helping stabilize the grid, and can redeem tokens for discounts on Fuse hardware.

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy utilities trade at 9-12x EBITDA, with <5% YoY growth

  NEXTera ENERGY · Constellation. · Southern Company

- Next-gen energy companies trade at 15x revenues, with 30% YoY growth

  TESLA · goodleap

Source: Fuse Energy website.

Fuse Energy: the Bull and Bear case.

Bull Views

Demand-side flexibility improves unit economics and margins.

Fuse's infrastructure enables demand-side load shifting, allowing them to both earn revenue and save on costs by move energy consumption away from peak hours.

⇒ Greater operational efficiency directly drives higher retail profit margins.

VPP economics work at existing scale, and beyond.

By aggregating flexible assets across its 250K+ household base, Fuse operates a VPP that monetizes grid services and mitigates exposure to volatile market spikes.

⇒ Fuse turns passive consumers into an active resource that reduces cost-to-serve.

Vertical integration eliminates cold-start and coordination hurdles.

As a fully licensed electricity supplier that owns the customer relationship, hardware, and trading, Fuse avoids the coordination friction typical of decentralized protocols.

⇒ Controling the energy stack enables rapid execution and a smooth user experience.

Bear Views

The closed-loop-rewards model caps token value.

The main value accrual for $ENERGY comes from users burning it for discounts on Fuse's energy-related services and hardware. We have seen this movie before.

⇒ Nubank did this at scale in Brazil and token value topped at ~1% of equity value.

The UK economy is large, but not likely not large enough.

The UK energy market is roughly 25-30% the size of the US. However, note that Fuse plans to expand to Ireland in Q2'2026 and the US and Spain in H2'2026.

⇒ At a $5B val (Fuse's latest raise), further growth require success outside the UK.

Fuse is betting big, and there will be bumps along the way.

Scaling an OEM is capital-intensive and often drives volatility even in the success case. Tesla, for example, has had one >40% and one >70% drawdown since 2021

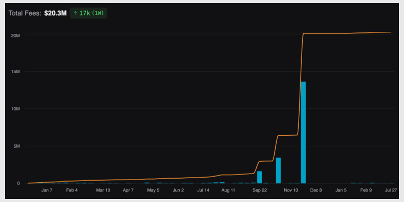
⇒ The best returns are had when the market doubts a story—likely not at launch.

Glow

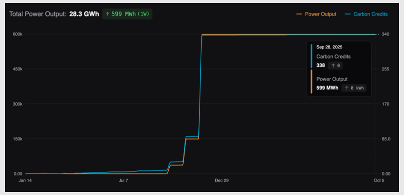
Glow Raised $30M and has Deployed 3.6 MW of Solar Capacity, Generating 16K+ Carbon Credits.

The Users

Governments, NGOs, and retail investors have deposited **$25M** into Glow to maximize the impact of solar subsidies and earn yield.

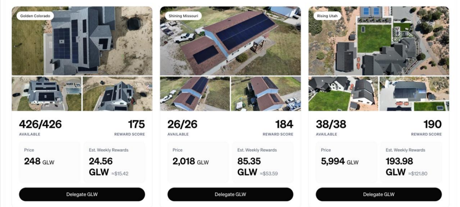


Solar installers have deployed **3.6 MW** of new solar capacity via Glow across 100 farms that would otherwise be unprofitable.

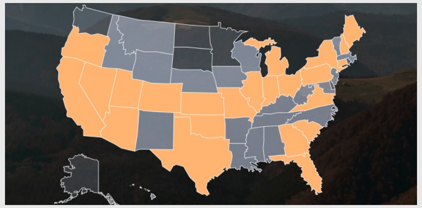


The Business

In November, Glow launched v2, allowing anyone to gain exposure and control where and how solar is built by delegating $GLW.



In October, Glow announcing a partnership with national solar installer GoodPWR to onboard solar farms in 25+ US states.



The Token

Key Stats: $GLW

- $8M market cap, <$100K ADTV
- Uncapped supply, annual inflation 60%[1]
- $500K protocol-owned DEX liquidity
- $18M USDC rewards pool for miners

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy utilities trade at 9-12x EBITDA, with <5% YoY growth

NEXTera ENERGY · Constellation. · Southern Company

- Next-gen energy companies trade at 15x revenues, with 30% YoY growth

TESLA · goodleap

Source: Glowstats.xyz

Note: [1] Glow's annual inflation is 60% when including investor/team tokens, but lower overall.

Glow

Glow Energy: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Accelerating demand for energy creates a massive TAM.

Global electricity demand is surging by 3-4% per year. This "supercycle" in power consumption requires hundreds of gigawatts of new clean generation this decade.

⇒ There are durable and growing tailwinds for Glow's solar infrastructure.

Proven supply-side execution suggests protocol scalability.

Glow has already scaled to 100 solar farms and 42K solar panels, attracting $25M in deposits and eliminating 16K tons of CO_2. Global solar subsidies are >$100B/yr.

⇒ Glow's supply side growth to date validates the scalability of its model.

Best-in-class verification unlocks a premium on carbon credits.

Glow uses a robust, multi-layered auditing system, combining IoT data, satellite imagery, and physical human inspections to solve the "trust gap" in carbon markets.

⇒ By ensuring additionality, Glow credits command a premium over legacy offsets.

Bear Views

Subsidies alone are not enough to sustain network economics.

Glow has designed a hyper-efficient way of allocating subsidies to only *marginally-unprofitable* solar farms. In some cases, Glow serves strategic, non-subsidy goals.

⇒ The bigger opportunity in energy is monetizing capacity, not allocating subsidies.

Glow's next big success will likely take years to play out.

While Glow v1 focused on monetizing via carbon credits (to corporates), Glow v2 aims to directly recieve subsidies from communities, companies, governments.

⇒ Attracting direct subsidies is a much longer sales cycle than carbon credits.

Structural dampeners to token price appreciation.

Glow's 'early liquidity' contract sells 12M tokens (8M remaining) on a bonding curve, used to fund solar subsidies. This pool absorbs buy pressure from the market.

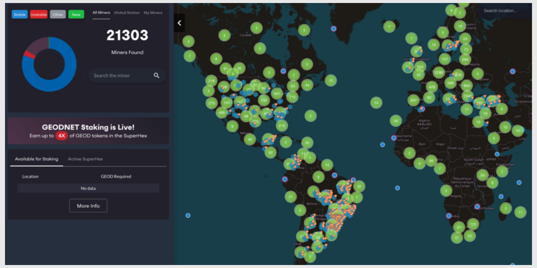
⇒ A larger-than-usual amount of inflows are needed to drive $GLW price higher.

GEODNET

Geodnet's RTK Corrections Network Enhances GPS Accuracy in 5K+ Cities for 130+ Customers.

The Users

21K+ miners have deployed Geodnet 'space weather' (GNSS reference) stations, covering 80%+ of global populated areas.

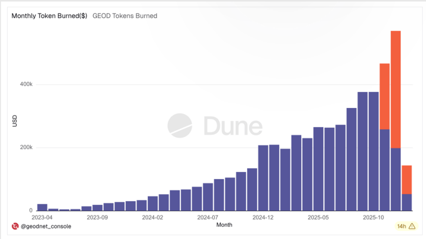


130+ agriculture, manufacturing, robotics, surveying, etc companies use Geodnet data to enhance GPS accuracy by 100x+ across 25K+ unique devices.

The Business

Companies pay $30-50/station/mo for data (RTK corrections) that can improve GPS accuracy from meters to centimeters.

50% of revenues go to distribution partners, 40% is used to buyback and burn $GEOD, and 10% is held for future reserve.



The Token

Key Stats:

- $69M market cap, $400K ADTV
- 69% circulating, annual inflation 5%
- $7M run-rate revenue (burn), +170% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy geospatial companies trade at 20x EBITDA, with 15-20% YoY growth
- Next-gen geospatial trades at 10-20x revenues, with 25-30% YoY growth
- GEOD trades at **11x burns** (15x on FDV), with **45% QoQ** growth

Source: Geodnet website, explorer, and Dune dashboard (@geodnet_console).

GEODNET

Geodnet: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Supply-side is built—revenue growth now drives deflation.

Geodnet has >85% global coverage and no longer requires inflation for speculative deployments. Burns as a percentage of issuance grew from 12% to 75% in 2025.

⇒ Geodnet's future revenue growth will benefit tokenholders… miners are satisfied.

The most consistent track record in ~~DePIN~~crypto.

Geodnet has grown revenue (burns) every quarter, without fail, for the past three years, at a >45% *QoQ* CAGR. In Geodnet's worst quarter ever, revenue grew +18%.

⇒ No other team in DePIN (or in crypto, that we can find) has achieved this feat.

Too many growth levers to count… and none are priced in.

Geodnet's RTK corrections data is critical for physical AI use cases like drones and robots, with live customers *today*. Geodnet is even launching its own drone in 2026.

⇒ At current prices, crypto markets are giving no credit for Geodnet's future growth.

Bear Views

Unproven demand beyond legacy RTK services.

The TAM of the existing market for RTK corrections (data only—not value added software) is <$10B, with relatively entrenched incumbents.

⇒ Geodnet's asymmetric upside relies on frontier use cases like robotics.

Limited supply-side moat in terms of scale.

GEODNET achieves near-global coverage with only ~20K nodes, representing roughly $15M in total deployer CapEx, which can be feasibly replicated.

⇒ If Geodnet grows to >$50M ARR, new competitors will almost certainly appear.

Long enterprise sales cycles slow revenue generation.

B2B adoption often requires sales cycles of quarters or even years, which both creates execution risk and increases capital intensity.

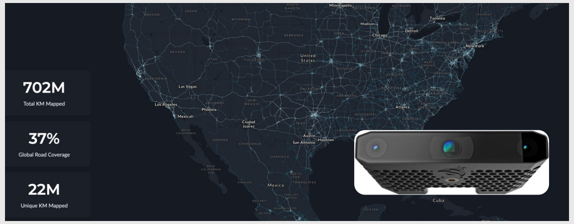
⇒ Geodnet's revenue growth may be too slow to attract growth investors.

hivemapper

Hivemapper's Dashcam Network Covers 37% of Roads and Generates $1M in Run-Rate Revenues.

The Users

~5K drivers and fleets use Hivemapper dashcams to map 37% of global roads.

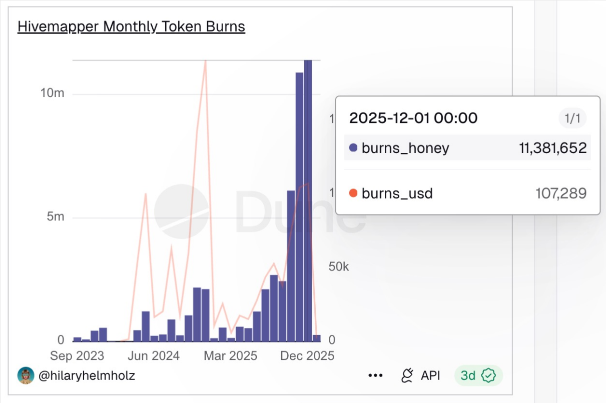


Mapping, ridesharing, and logistics companies pay for real-time map data.

The Business

Enterprise customers pay $0.0075 per map credit, which provides real-time imagery data for one H3 hex for one week.

$107K worth of map credits were bought in December ($1M run-rate), representing +180% QoQ growth.



The Token

Key Stats:

- $52M market cap, $500K ADTV
- 65% circulating, annual inflation 5%
- $1M run-rate revenue (burn), +1% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Legacy geospatial companies trade at 20x EBITDA, with 15-20% YoY growth
- Next-gen geospatial trades at 10-20x revenues, with 25-30% YoY growth
- HONEY trades at **50x burns** (80x on FDV), with **180% QoQ** growth

Source: Hivemapper website, explorer, and Dune dashboard (@hilaryhelmholz).

Hivemapper: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Hivemapper's revenue stability proves some level of PMF.

Hivemapper generated over $500K in revenue in both 2024 and 2025, with several multibillion dollar publicly-traded companies leveraging Hivemapper data.

⇒ Hivemapper's impressive roster of enterprise customers is unique in DePIN.

Massive cost and structural advantages vs legacy mapping.

Crowdsourcing imagery via low-cost "Bee" devices allows Hivemapper to collect data at a fraction of the cost of incumbents like Google Maps.

⇒ Hivemapper's cost-to-produce live data can be 100x cheaper than incumbents.

Real-time data freshness creates a differentiated moat for AI.

Hivemapper's high-frequency, "ground-truth" imagery is significantly fresher than legacy maps, which often remain stale for years—critical for AV training and ADAS.

⇒ AI road data collection expands Hivemapper's TAM beyond just mapping.

Bear Views

Disconnect between customer logos and revenues.

Hivemapper has announced five $10B+ companies (and many mid sized ones) as customers, and yet aggregate spend on map credits was only $1M at year-end.

⇒ Hivemapper users, even the very big ones, aren't spending much on map credits.

Launching the Bee miner failed to grow supply-side.

Hivemapper launched the Bee, a higher-cost (2x) dashcam with integrated LTE and on-device compute. Despite the launch, # of map contributors was flat YoY at ~6K.

⇒ Given flat mapper growth, it's unlikely that many Bees were deployed in 2025.

You couldn't buy it even if you wanted to.

Average daily trading volume in $HONEY is currently below $500K and aggregate DEX liquidity is also below $500K. Trading a $1M position could take a week or more.

⇒ Investors need to account for (and discount) liquidity when trading DePIN tokens.

Bittensor's AI Compute Network Grew +100% YoY and Now Counts 125+ Active Subnets.

The Users

Entrepreneurs (subnet owners) design incentive mechanisms that produce valuable 'digital commodities', such as AI inference, data scraping, or ZK proofs.

0: Root	22: Desearch	44: Score	66: AlphaCore	88: Investing	110: Rich Kids of TAO
1: Apex	23: Trishool	45: Talisman AI	67: Unknown	89: InfiniteHash	111: oneoneone
2: DSperse	24: Quasar	46: RESI	68: NOVA	90: Unknown	112: minotaur
3: тemplar	25: Mainframe	47: Reboot	69: Unknown	91: тensorprox	113: TensorUSD
4: Targon	26: Kinitro	48: Quantum Comp...	70: Vericore	92: LUCID	114: Level 114
5: Hone	27: Nodexo	49: Nepher	71: Leadpoet	93: Bitcast	115: HashiChain
6: Numinous	28: Unknown	50: Synth	72: StreetVision by ...	94: Bitsota	116: TaoLend
7: Unknown	29: Coldint	51: lium.io	73: MetaHash	95: Unknown	117: BrainPlay
8: Vanta	30: Wahoot	52: Dojo	74: Gittensor	96: FLock OFF	118: HODL ETF
9: iota	31: Halftime	53: EfficientFrontier	75: Hippius	97: FlameWire	119: Satori
10: Swap	32: ItsAI	54: Yanez MIID	76: Safe Scan	98: ForeverMoney	120: Affine
11: Dippy Studio	33: ReadyAI	55: Precog	77: Liquidity	99: Neza	121: sundae_bar
12: Compute Horde	34: BitMind	56: Gradients	78: Loosh	100: Plaтform	122: Bitrecs
13: Data Universe	35: Cartha	57: Gaia	79: тaos	101: Unknown	123: MANTIS
14: TAOHash	36: Web Agents - A...	58: Parked (focused ...	80: dogelayer	102: ViewCast	124: Swarm
15: BitQuant	37: Aurelius	59: Babelbit	81: grail	103: HappyAI	125: 8 Ball
16: BitAds	38: Distributed Train...	60: Bitsec.ai	82: Pending	104: for sale (burn to...	126: Tiger Beta
17: 404—GEN	39: basilica	61: RedTeam	83: CliqueAI	105: Unknown	127: Astrid
18: Zeus	40: Chunking	62: Ridges	84: ChipForge (Tatsu)	106: VoidAI	128: ByteLeap
19: Nineteen.ai	41: Sportstensor	63: Quantum Innovate	85: Vidaio	107: KDN-1	
20: Bounty Hunter	42: Gopher	64: Chutes	86: Unknown	108: TalkHead	
21: OMEGA Any-to-...	43: Graphite	65: TAO Private Net...	87: Luminar Network	109: Reserved	

There are 125+ active subnets today. The most valuable, AI inference provider Chutes, does 100B LLM tokens per day and generates $7M of run-rate revenue.

The Business

Miners compete to produce the given commodity at the lowest possible costs (of compute, bandwidth, energy, data...).

Validators determine the distribution of rewards *within* each subnet (based on relative performance of miners).

Stakers determine distribution of rewards *between* subnets (based on relative value of digital commodities being produced).

Rewards for all stakeholders are paid in, or redeemable for, $TAO.

The Token

Key Stats:

- $3.0B market cap, $250M ADTV
- 50% circulating, annual inflation 12%
- BTC-like issuance, 21M hard cap
- 129 subnets registered, +100% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Leading centralized AI labs trade at 30-40x revenues, with 150-250% YoY growth
- Leading L1s trade at 300-500x revenues, with negative or marginal YoY growth

Source: Taostats.io.

Bittensor: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Bittensor is creating a new type of founder: the incentive designer.

Subnet creators tap into a global pool of AI talent and resources relentlessly focused on optimization. The number of active subnets is up +100% YoY.

⇒ The most valuable platforms are built by unlocking a new pool of entrepreneurs.

Several subnets are now generating $5-10M revenues—each.

Three inference-focused subnets (Chutes, Targon, Gradients) are growing quickly. Bittensor subnets may soon generate a substantial portion of DePIN revenues.

⇒ Compute will continue hyper-scaling, while new use cases will emerge in 2026.

Gonna be a big ~~week~~decade.

Grayscale recently filed for a TAO spot ETF and holds TAO on its balance sheet. Barry Silbert is one of the most vocal supporters of TAO.

⇒ With Grayscale IPOing in 2026, Barry has a megaphone to bring TradFi into TAO.

Bear Views

Enterprise demand for decentralized AI remains unvalidated.

It is unproven whether enterprises will favor decentralized AI over incumbents like OpenAI, which offer proprietary data and guaranteed SLAs.

⇒ Failure to reach enterprise-grade performance risks limiting Bittensor's upside.

Benchmark / incentive gaming degrade network intelligence.

The protocol's open reward system encourages miners to optimize for specific benchmarks and validator-driven scores rather than real-world utility.

⇒ Failure to implement robust, anti-collusion verification erodes response quality.

Subnet margin compression and unclear token value accrual.

As the number of subnets expands toward the 1,024 cap, competition for fixed TAO emissions will intensify, compressing margins for subnet owners and miners.

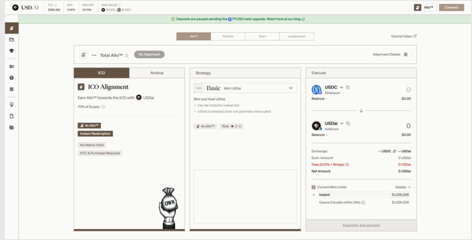
⇒ Competition among subnets fragments the network's focus and liquidity.

USD.AI

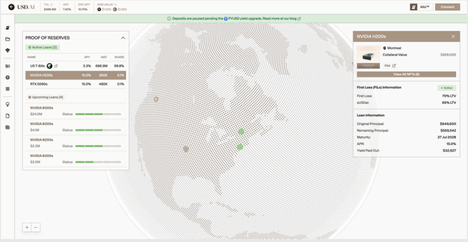
USDai Pioneered the InfraFi Model and has Attracted $675M+ of TVL to Finance GPUs.

The Users

68K+ users have deposited $675M+ of stablecoins into USDai to earn yield.



Neoclouds borrow stablecoins against GPU purchases at 60-80% LTVs.

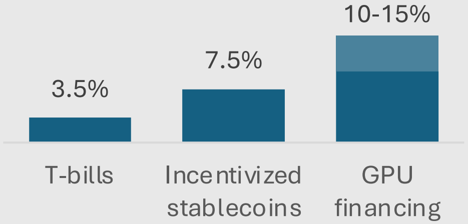


The Business

USDai has financed $1M of GPU purchases to date, with another $32M in final stages pending disbursal.

Capital earns 10-15% once deployed. In the interim, users earn 7.5% yields from T-bills and stablecoin incentives (PYUSD).

Gross yields on invested capital



USDai charges a 3% fee on originations and 10% fee on interest payments. Every ~$33M deployed generates $1M of annual revenue.

The Token

Key Stats:

- $sUSDai is a dollar-denominated, yield-bearing (from financing GPUs) asset.
- There is no governance token yet.
- USDai raised a $13M round led by Framework and a $4M strategic round from Bullish in 2025.

Valuation Comparison:

- Infrastructure financing players trade at 15-20x EBITDA, with 20-30% YoY growth

BLUE OWL DIGITALBRIDGE

- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth

CoreWeave Crusoe

USD.AI

USDai: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

GPU lending has low credit risk and relatively short duration.

If a borrower defaults, datacenters can easily “reposses” (re-allocate) GPUs by renting the capacity to a different customer. Loans typically amortize over 3 years.

⇒ USDai’s design mitigates the risks inherent in InfraFi: credit risk and duration.

USDai pioneered InfraFi, and now has scale advantages.

At $675M TVL, USDai represents 77% of M0’s TVL. USDai recently announced a deal for Paypal to incentivize (subsidize) yields on $1B of USDai’s TVL through PYUSD.

⇒ USDai’s scale allows it to tap into incentives that increase the yield on $sUSDai.

InfraFi looping will become the Ethena-like trade of next cycle.

USDai is approved as collateral on DeFi lending markets including Morpho, Pendle, Euler, Fluid, and Silo, enabling farmers to boost yields on USDai to mid/high teens.

⇒ High levered (looped) yields will drive reflexively more demand for InfraFi assets.

Bear Views

GPU depreciation assumptions could compress yields for USDai.

USDai’s loans typically amortize over 2-3 years. If GPU improvements over the next 2-3 years render prior models obsolete, USDai might not get repaid on its loans.

⇒ USDai’s yield relies on GPU utilization assumptions that might not hold up.

Prior attempts at tokenized private credit RWAs have failed.

Onchain real world private credit experiments have not worked out in the past, as far back as BTCJam (in 2017) to more recently Goldfinch (in 2023).

⇒ Historicaly, adverse selection has driven toxic flow and large defaults for RWAs.

Regulatory hurdles could block out the US market entirely.

Staking USDai for yield is currently limited to non-US or US accredited investors only. So long as this persists, USDai will be blocked out of US retail capital markets.

⇒ Unclear regulatory overhang poses a significant risk to USDai’s capital scalability.

IO.NET

IO.Net's AI Inference Network has Served 2.8B Tokens and Generates $8M Run-Rate GMV.

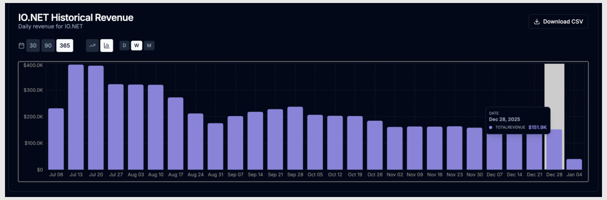
The Users

Compute providers (e.g., datacenters) connect 2.4K+ GPU clusters to IO.Net to monetize underutilized infrastructure.

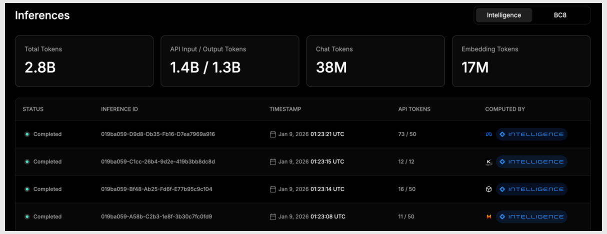
Developers and companies use IO.Net to source low-cost, on-demand compute with enterprise-grade performance.

The Business

IO.Net users spent $150K weekly on compute at year-end, i.e. $8M run-rate GMV.



IO.Net charges a 0.5% platform fee on all compute jobs, plus payment fees for paying in stablecoins (2%) or fiat (3%), implying $50-150K run-rate net revenue.



STATUS	INFERENCE ID	TIMESTAMP	API TOKENS	COMPUTED BY
Completed	019ba059-D9d8-Db35-Fb16-D7ea7969a916	Jan 9, 2026 01:23:21 UTC	73 / 50	INTELLIGENCE
Completed	019ba059-C1cc-26b4-9d2e-419b3bb8dc8d	Jan 9, 2026 01:23:15 UTC	12 / 12	INTELLIGENCE
Completed	019ba059-Bf48-Ab25-Fd6f-E77b95c9c104	Jan 9, 2026 01:23:14 UTC	16 / 50	INTELLIGENCE
Completed	019ba059-A58b-C2b3-1e8f-3b30c7fc0fd9	Jan 9, 2026 01:23:08 UTC	11 / 50	INTELLIGENCE

The Token

Key Stats:

- $42M market cap, $13M ADTV
- 33% circulating, annual inflation 70%
- $8M run-rate revenue (not burn), -50% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Diversified hyperscalers trade at 15x EBITDA, with 10-15% YoY growth
- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth
- IO trades at **5x revenues** (15x on FDV), with **-35% QoQ** growth

Source: IO.Net explorer and website, DePIN Pulse.

IO.Net: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Generational tailwinds in demand for AI compute.

The AI market is projected to surpass ~$5T by 2033, with persistent GPU shortages remaining the primary bottleneck for innovation.

⇒ Sustained hardware scarcity positions IO.Net as a critical "overflow" valve for AI.

IO.Net is the revenue leader among compute DePINs.

With enterprise-grade GPUs 138+ across countries, IO.Net provides a scaled, geo-distributed cluster that is difficult for centralized providers to replicate.

⇒ Global footprint enables on-demand scaling with reduced capital constraints.

Demand-driven tokenomics ensure long-term sustainability.

The Incentive Dynamic Engine (IDE, launching 2026) shifts IO.Net from inflationary bootstrapping to a demand-coupled economics with 50%+ of revenues burned.

⇒ IO.Net is shifting to marketplace economics that are favorable for tokenholders.

Bear Views

A long way to go to grow into the current valuation.

$IO's current valuation is a 5x multiple of network earnings (GMV), on which they charge 0.5-3%. This implies a 150-1000x multiple of net revenues or potential burns.

⇒ $IO would need to 10x+ revenues, with no price growth, to match HNT's multiple.

Declining revenues across the entire DePIN compute sector.

IO.Net's revenue fell >50% in the second half of 2025, mirrored by declines across an increasingly-competitive DePIN compute sector (Filecoin, Akash).

⇒ Unlike HNT & GEOD, compute DePINs haven't grown revenue in the bear market.

Management team turnover.

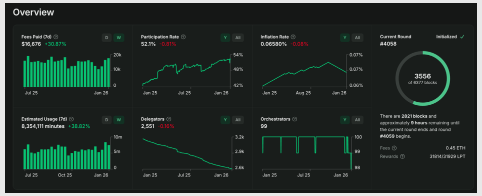
IO.Net has had three CEOs since launching in 2023. That said, the current management team has been in place consistently for over twelve months.

⇒ Leadership changes often require an adjustment period of low growth.

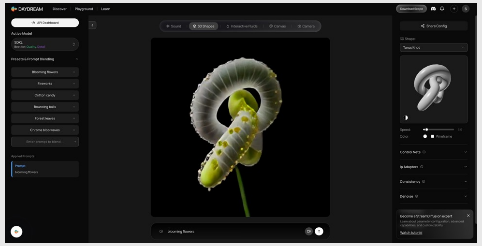
Livepeer's Video Transcoding Network is Now >72% AI Workloads, Generating $0.7M Revenue.

The Users

100 compute providers (orchestrators) host GPUs on Livepeer to earn rewards.

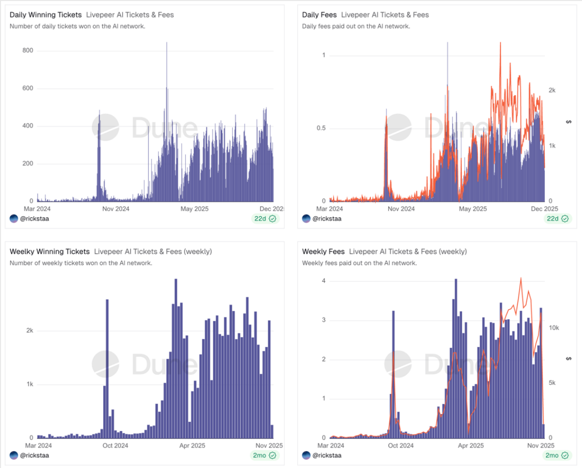


Developers and creators use Livepeer to generate, transcode, and stream videos. 72% of workloads were AI-related in 2025.



The Business

Services are denominated and paid in stablecoins or ETH. Orchestrators and delegators must stake $LPT in order to earn rewards, creating demand for $LPT.



The Token

Key Stats:

- $150M market cap, $13M ADTV
- No max supply, roughly no inflation
- $0.7M run-rate revenue (not burn), >100% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Diversified hyperscalers trade at 15x EBITDA, with 10-15% YoY growth
- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth
- $LPT trades at **215x revenues** with **>100% YoY** growth

Source: Livepeer website, explorer, and Dune dashboard (@rickstaa).

Livepeer: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Strategic pivot to AI video inference triples network revenue.

Livepeer successfully expanded from basic transcoding to high-margin AI video inference, with 72% of revenue now generated by AI workloads vs streaming.

⇒ Revenue ATHs prove that Livepeer is successfully capturing market share in AI.

Cost-efficient decentralized GPUs disrupt centralized pricing.

With 139K+ connected GPUs, Livepeer can offers AI video compute at significantly lower costs than centralized clouds, e.g. text-to-video gen for <5¢ per second.

⇒ Massive, underutilized GPU supply provides a structural cost advantage.

Mature tokenomics and deflationary pressure from protocol fees.

LPT is a fully unlocked asset with no looming VC cliffs. Recent governance reforms focused on improving capital management align staking rewards with revenues.

⇒ Fully vested supply combined with rising revenue drives healthy economics.

Bear Views

A long way to go to grow into the current valuation.

While revenues grew ~3x in 2025, Livepeer has not yet cracked $1M in run-rate revenues. In eight years of mainnet the protocol has generated $2M in lifetime fees.

⇒ Livepeer's 215x revenue multiple prices in years of accelerating growth already.

Indirect value accrual to the $LPT token.

Unlike networks with buybacks and/or burns, $LPT accrues value indirectly, i.e. staking by network participants to secure a limited number of reward-earning slots.

⇒ Livepeer's marketplace revenues don't directly influence buy/sell flows of $LPT.

The DePIN video/rendering space is highly competitive.

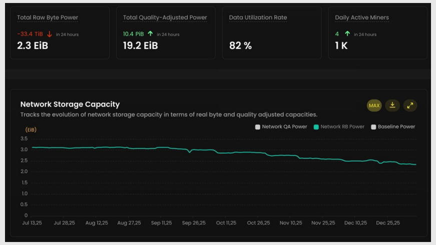
Since Livepeer launched in 2018, several competing protocols have spun up like Render, Huddle01, and Prodia, in addition to the general purpose GPU networks.

⇒ Livepeer built few moats in 7 years and now faces well-capitalized competitors.

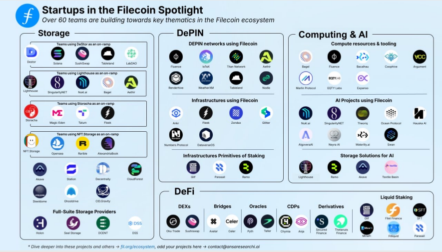
Filecoin Storage Capacity and Usage are Down, but FIL Remains One of the Most Liquid DePIN Tokens.

The Users

1K+ storage providers host 2+ Exabytes worth of storage on Filecoin's network.



180+ developers power their apps with Filecoin's storage and compute capacity.

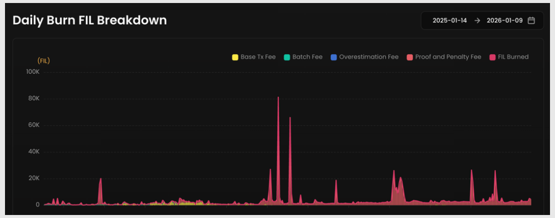


The Business

Storage providers stake $FIL behind their commitment to store data on the network.

A small protocol fee is burned at the time of the commitment. A much larger slashing penalty is burned if the storage provider defaults on their commitments (i.e., when user data is lost or corrupted).

Since mid-2025, virtually all of Filecoin's revenue has come from storage provider defaulting on existing commitments.



The Token

Key Stats:

- $1.1B market cap, $100M ADTV
- 45% circulating, annual inflation 10%
- $1.4M run-rate revenue (burn), -70% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Diversified hyperscalers trade at 15x EBITDA, with 10-15% YoY growth
- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth
- $FIL trades at **785x burns** (1750x on FDV), with **-70% YoY** growth

Source: Messari, Starboard Ventures' Filecoin analytics dashboard, DePIN Pulse.

Filecoin: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Network utilization and data quality are surging.

While storage capacity is contracting, network utilization has improved to ~36% driven primarily by 1.1K+ high-value datasets exceeding 1 PB.

⇒ Rising utilization of large-scale, verified suggests genuine commercial demand.

Onchain Cloud and FVM expansion unlock programmable AI data.

The Jan'26 launch of Onchain Cloud transforms Filecoin from a static archive into a programmable decentralized cloud, integrating the FVM with warm storage.

⇒ Filecoin can become critical infrastructure for AI compute workloads.

Tokenomics and supply sinks are moving FIL toward deflation.

The conclusion of investor vesting (Oct'26), combined with increased collateral requirements (FIP-81) and higher burn (FIP-100) will likely reducing sell pressure.

⇒ Tighter supply dynamics reduce sell pressure bring $FIL closer to net deflation.

Bear Views

No one is paying to store files on Filecoin.

>99% of Filecoin's revenues in Q4 were generated from penalty fees on defaulted legacy commitments. Actual storage activity (by deal capacity) fell -85% YoY.

⇒ Despite a $1B+ market cap, Filecoin remains in the 'pre product market fit' stage.

Filecoin devs are starting their own projects instead.

Many Filecoin alumni have moved on to start projects with only a loose, if any, connection to Filecoin—Titan, Glif, Parasail, Bitrobot, Reppo, Akave...

⇒ Talent is a leading indicator, and much of the talent is diversifying away from $FIL.

The Filecoin Virtual Machine (FVM) is not seeing adoption.

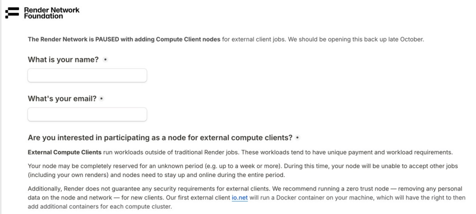
The FVM was the key focus on Filecoin's roadmap in 2023 and 2024. As of year-end 2025, less than 150, or 0.1%, of the 150K+ $FIL holders use the FVM each day.

⇒ Adding programmability has not been enough to drive usage of the storage layer.

Render's AI Compute Network Renders 1.5M+ Frames per Month and Generates $1.7M Revenue.

The Users

GPU owners register and earn rewards for hosting their machines on Render.


Render Network Foundation

The Render Network is PAUSED with adding Compute Client nodes for external client jobs. We should be opening this back up late October.

What is your name? *

What's your email? *

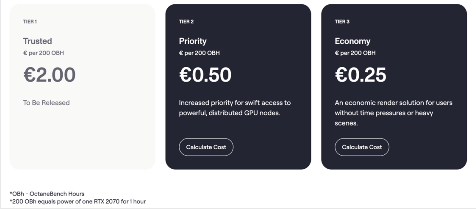
Are you interested in participating as a node for external compute clients? *

External Compute Clients run workloads outside of traditional Render jobs. These workloads tend to have unique payment and workload requirements.

Your node may be completely reserved for an unknown period (e.g. up to a week or more). During this time, your node will be unable to accept other jobs (including your own renders) and nodes need to stay up and online during the entire period.

Additionally, Render does not guarantee any security requirements for external clients. We recommend running a zero trust node — removing any personal data on the node and network — for new clients. Our first external client io.net will run a Docker container on your machine, which will have the right to then add additional containers for each compute cluster.

Artists and developers pay Render to use the GPUs for rendering, inference, etc.

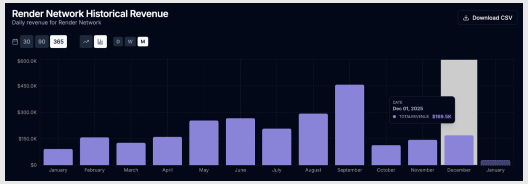


The Business

Render's network rendered 1.5M frames in December and charges a 5% protocol fee, which is used to burn $RENDER.

Key Render Network metrics	December 2025	November 2025	Change MoM
Frames rendered	1,453,215	1,567,304	-7%
RENDER burned (USDC equivalent)	170,538	157,778	8%
RENDER emissions (RENDER)	492,132	492,132	0%
Rewards to Foundation rendering node (RENDER)	88.5	42.5	108%
Foundation rendering node cost to operate (USD)	$7.08	$5.77	23%
Foundation rendering node kilo-watt hours (kWh)	68.11	55.59	23%

Render burned $170K in Dec'25, implying a $2M run-rate and +80% growth in 2025.



The Token

Key Stats:

- $1.2B market cap, $150M ADTV
- 80% circulating, annual inflation 18%
- $1.7M run-rate revenue (burn), +200% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Diversified hyperscalers trade at 15x EBITDA, with 10-15% YoY growth
- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth
- $RENDER trades at **700x burns** (850x on FDV), with **-50% QoQ** growth

Source: Render website and blog, DePIN Pulse.

Render Network®

Render: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

Rare combination of growing revenues + deep liquidity.

Some DePINs have rapidly-growing revenues (Helium, Geodnet, Grass). Others have deep liquidity with $50M+ ADTV (Bittensor, Filecoin, Akash). Only Render has both.

⇒ Render is the most liquid way to get direct exposure to DePIN revenues in size.

Tailwinds on tailwinds on tailwinds.

As the leading rendering network, Render is well positioned to capture outsized growth from the explosion of generative AI, AR/VR, world models, etc.

⇒ Render has the potential for outsized growth from novel use cases.

Render is about more than just rendering.

In 2025, Render passed governance proposals to expand into enterprise-grade, general-purpose AI compute, further expanding their addressable market.

⇒ Render will begin seeing high-volume, recurring usage from enterprise customers.

Bear Views

Hyper-competitive GPU markets threaten long-term pricing power.

Render competes against established cloud hyperscalers and a growing cohort of decentralized compute networks, many of which are equally or better capitalized.

⇒ Competition from centralized and decentralized peers will compress margins.

Pleateauing revenue suggest maturing demand for rendering.

Despite massive tailwinds in AI and high-fidelity graphics, Render's job volume and burn-to-emission ratios in 2025 showed signs of stabilization rather than growth.

⇒ Stagnating volume suggests the market for creative rending remains limited.

Execution risks in transitioning to general-purpose AI compute.

Expanding from 3D rendering into AI model training and inference via subnets like Dispersed puts Render in direct competition with purpose-built AI infrastructure.

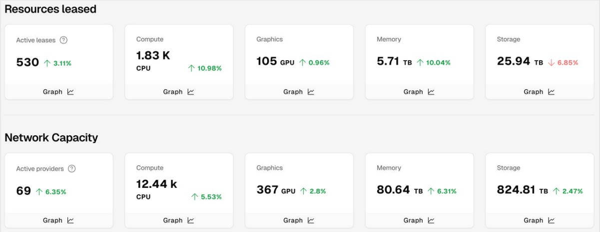
⇒ It remains to be seen if Render can compete as a horizontal AI computing layer.

akash

Akash's AI Compute Serves 700+ New Compute Leases per Day, Generating $1.5M+ GMV.

The Users

69 compute providers (e.g., datacenters) host 12K+ CPUs and 360+ GPUs on Akash.



AI developers rent compute from Akash at lower costs than centralized clouds.

Trusted by Leading Innovators

gensyn · PRIME Intellect · Venice · envision labs · Morpheus · Bagel

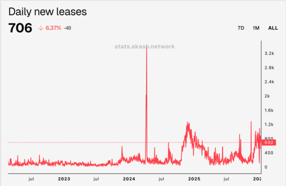
GPU's at Costs That Scale

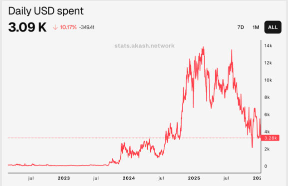
Gpu Type	Akash Network	AWS	Google Cloud	Coreweave
H200	$2.84/hr	$4.33/hr	$3.72/hr	$6.50/hr
H100	$1.15/hr	$3.93/hr	$2.37/hr	$6.16/hr
A100	$0.82/hr	$1.47/hr	$1.57/hr	$2.70/hr

View more GPU pricing

The Business

Akash facilitates 700+ new compute leases and $3K+ in compute spend on a daily basis, implying >$1M run-rate GMV.





In 2026, under AEP-23, Akash will begin charging platform fees between 4% (paid in $AKT) and 20% (paid in stablecoins).

This implies roughly $50-150K run-rate net revenue, which will be used to burn $AKT under a BME-style mechanism.

The Token

Key Stats: $AKT

- $120M market cap, $5M ADTV
- 73% circulating, annual inflation 6%
- $1.6M run-rate revenue (not burn), -60% YoY

Valuation Comparison:

- Diversified hyperscalers trade at 15x EBITDA, with 10-15% YoY growth

Google · amazon

- Leading AI cloud companies trade at 8-10x revenues, with 50-100% YoY growth

CoreWeave · Crusoe

- AKT trades at **75x revenues** (100x on FDV), with **-30% QoQ** growth

EV

Source: Akash website and explorer, DePIN Pulse.

Akash: the Bull and Bear Case.

Bull Views

AkashML just launched, and is scaling quickly.

Akash's managed AI inference product, AkashML, launched in November 2025 and reached 1K+ users in its first month, processing 1B+ tokens in its first week.

⇒ While revenues declined in 2H'25, Akash looks to return to growth in 2026.

Moving off Cosmos = less sell pressure on $AKT.

Today, Akash incurs the costs of economic security (via staking emissions) inherent in Cosmos. The upcoming L1 migration (expected 2026) massively reduces inflation.

⇒ Moving to an established L1 structurally reduces inflation and sell pressure on AKT.

Long history of transparency and decentralization.

Since launching in 2020, Akash has been among the DePINs with the highest level of transparency between protocol developers, miners, and tokenholders.

⇒ History has shown that the Akash community is uniquely aligned behind $AKT.

Bear Views

Intense competition from hyperscalers and specialized neoclouds.

Decentralized compute faces aggressive competition not only from hyperscalers (AWS, GCP, Azure) but also specialized neoclouds like CoreWeave and Lambda.

⇒ Dominant centralized providers may relegate Akash to a niche, low-margin market.

Limited revenue traction and low utilization rates.

Despite a favorable macro backdrop for compute demand, Akash's realized revenue remains modest and historical utilization rates are volatile (ranging from 20% to 80%).

⇒ Miners will leave Akash if cost advantages fail to convert to high-volume demand.

Rapid AI innovation cycles vs slow decentralized governance.

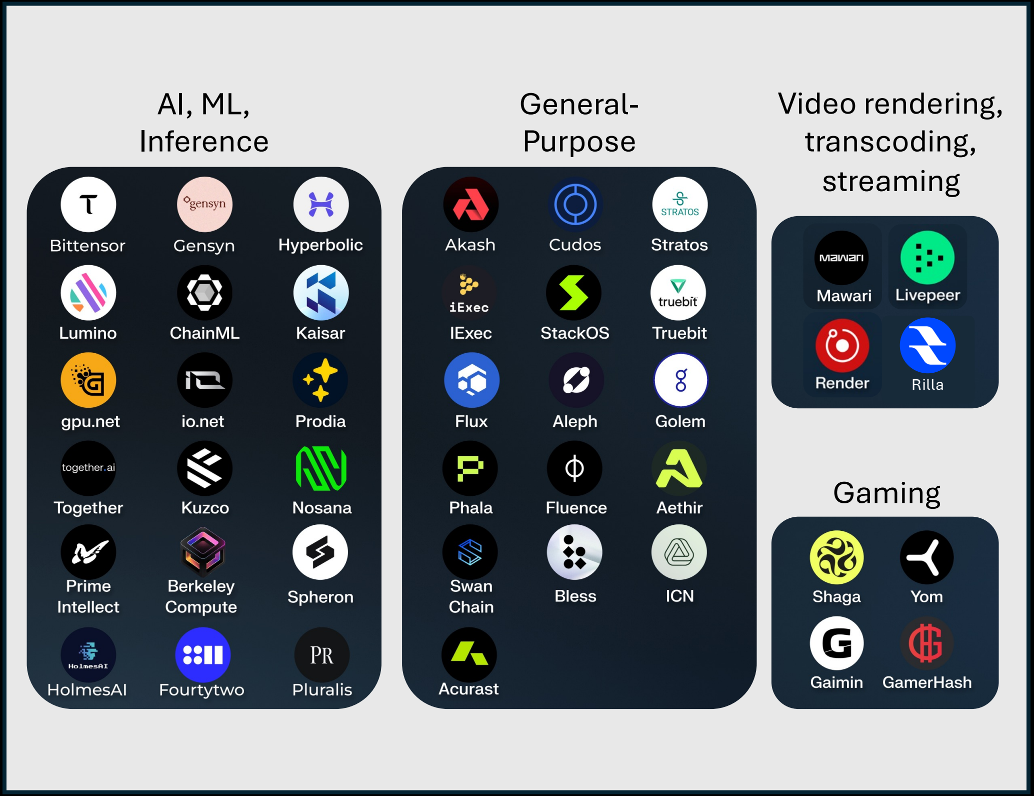
AI model and hardware innovation moves much faster than governance. Centralized platforms can pivot and integrate new hardware or software optimizations instantly.

⇒ Slow execution is causing Akash to fall behind centralized competitors.

Beyond the Leaders: Up-&-Coming DePINs

Compute is the Most Competitive Sector, with 50+ Projects and Relatively Little Differentiation.

Market Map



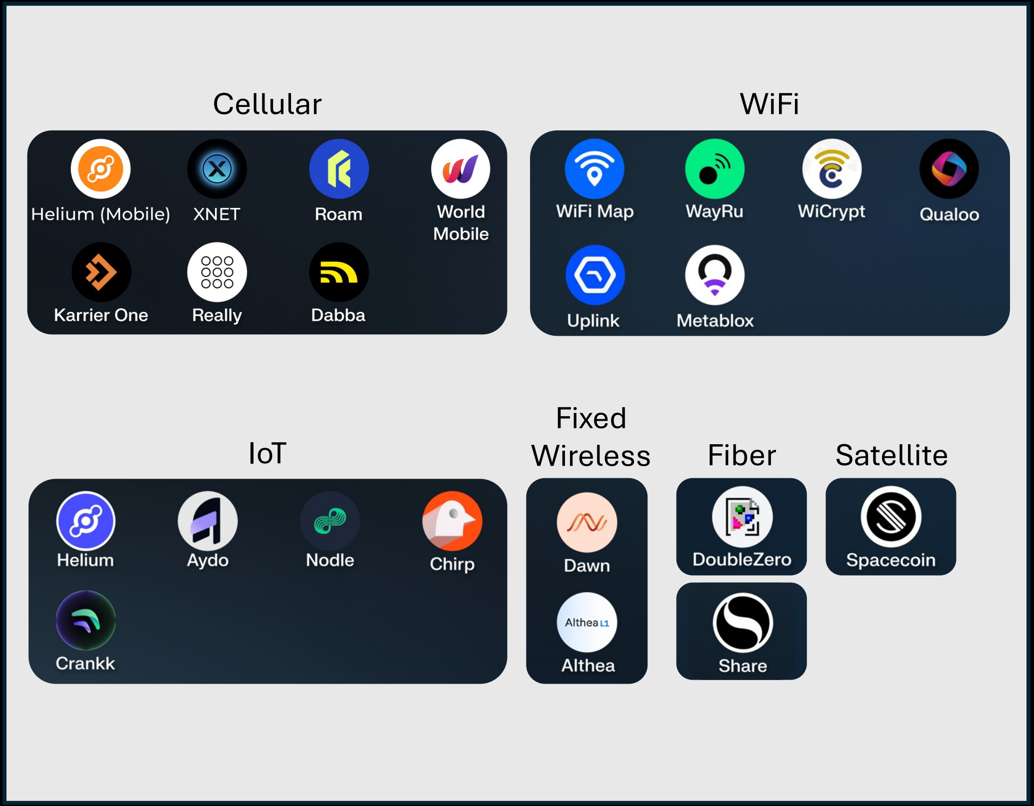
Notable Milestones

Project	Milestone
Fortytwo	Swarm inference beating centralized AI labs on key benchmarks
Chakra	Launched Dojo: collaborative RL environment for computer use agents
NodeOps	Grew to 600 MAUs and $250K ARR; launched $NODE ($10M FDV)
BEAMABLE NETWORK	Grew to 2.5M MAUs and $900K ARR; launched $BMB ($10M FDV)
IMPOSSIBLE CLOUD NETWORK	Grew to 29K nodes; launched $ICNT ($260M FDV) and onchain revenue
golem	Partnered with Salad.com to serve enterprise-grade GPU compute
fluence	Launched GPU compute; VMs and bare metal launching in 2026
RILLA	Delivering 60%+ cost reductions for global broadcasters
INFERENCE	Raised $12M seed round led by Multicoin and a16z Cryptoa
PRIME Intellect	Raised $15M led by Founders Fund, released 100B parameter model
Shaga	Captured 259K hours of video game streaming data valued at $26M
XYO	Launched data-focused Layer 1 with Proof of Perfect mechanism
sia	Completed V2 hardfork introducing Utreexo for faster syncing

Source: Messari.
Note: Market landscape is not comprehensive.

Bandwidth Likely has the Biggest Moats at Scale, but Getting to Global Scale is Extremely Difficult.

Market Map



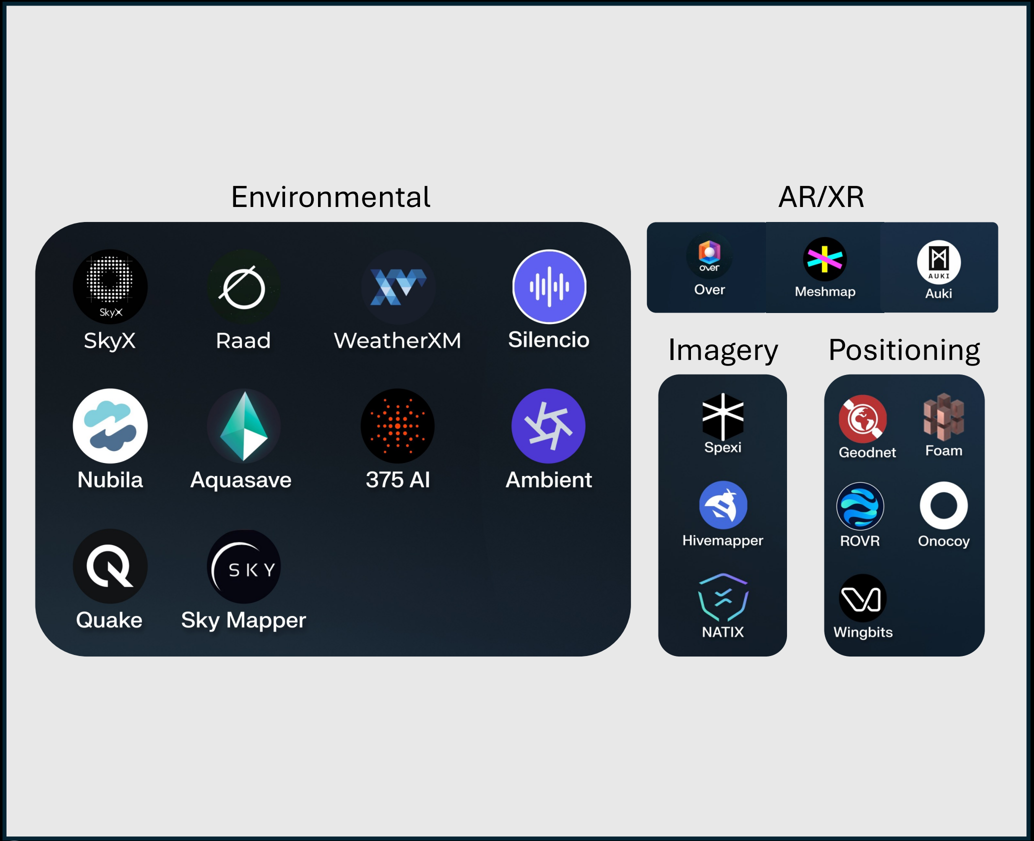
Notable Milestones

Project	Milestone
XNET	2.8K active WiFi nodes; partnered with Cambium (Nasdaq: CMBM)
Share	Lauched home internet in Mombasa; hosted DePIN Summit Africa
ARO	Grew to 385K nodes and 1.2 Tbps global capacity
Dabba	Grew to 90K hotspots, 450K active users, and 1 PB daily data usage
Roam	Grew to 6M nodes and introduced eSIM plans
Titan Network	Grew to 3.5M nodes and signed CDN offload deals with enterprises
World Mobile	Grew to 93K nodes and 1.25 PBs of daily data traffic
SPACECOIN	Launched 3 satellites; partnered with Cambodian ISP MekongNet
QUALOO	Launched mobile app and completed 45K Internet surveys
WiFi Map	Reached 200M cumulative users and 15M map contributors
KARRIERONE	Partnered with Ericsson Canada; strategic investment from ADYA

Source: Messari.
Note: Market landscape is not comprehensive.

Sensor Networks are Relatively Capital-Light, but Often Struggle with Monetization.

Market Map



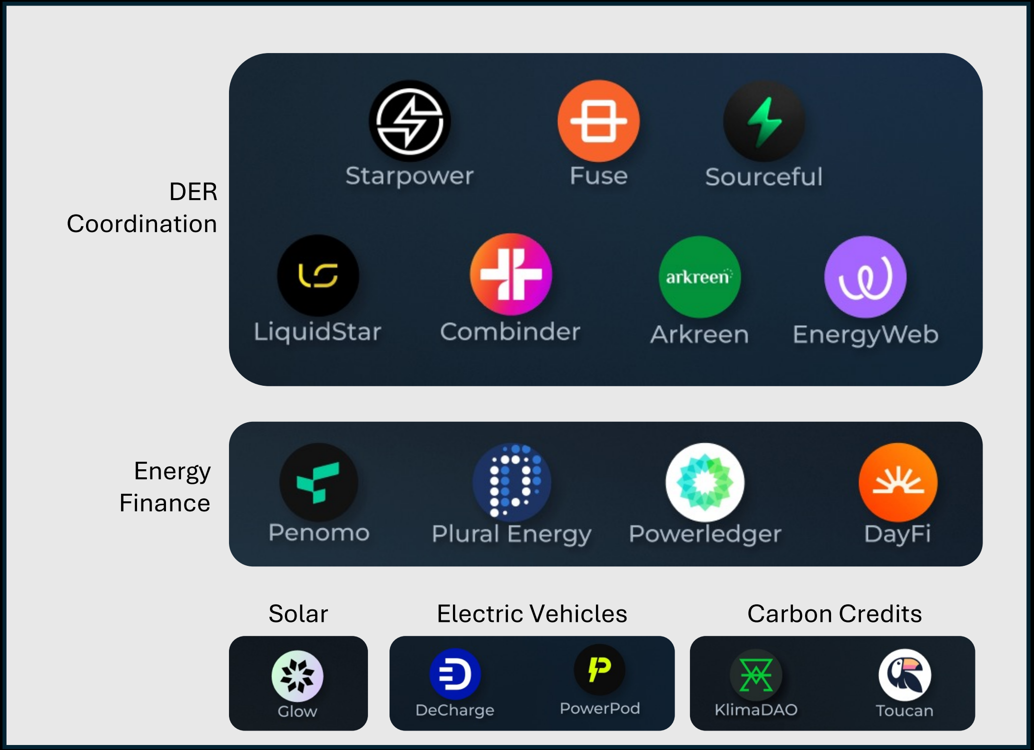
Notable Milestones

Project	Milestone
NATIX Network	Collected 1 PB multimodal data from 1.2K Teslas; partnered with Grab
SKYMAPPER	Collected 4 TB space data from 50 telescopes; partnered with SETI Inst
375ai	Monitored 1.5M vehicles daily; launched $EAT ($30M FDV)
ROVR	Grew to 2K LIDAR nodes and $300K ARR; launched $ROVR ($80M FDV)
DIMO	Grew to 190K connected vehicles (+42% YoY) , 800 devs, $250K ARR
silencio	Grew to $3M in miner earnings for recording 11M hours of sound data
RAAD	Grew to 5K verified drone pilots and raised seed round led by Coinfund
LAYERDRONE	Collected 5.5M acres drone imagery across 180K drone missions
over	Collected 800 TB of real-world image data across 178K locations
AUKI	Signed multi-million dollar deals with grocery chains in Sweden and US
MeshMap	Launched multi-player AR experiences in NYC and Puerto Rico
Wingbits	Grew to 5K nodes and announced research partnership with Korean Air
IoTeX	Launched Real-World AI Foundry; doubled Quicksilver agent usage
peaq	Established Machine Economy Free Zone and tokenized robo-farms
SkyX	Partnered with DroneDash and Farmsent for agriculture in Malaysia
WEATHERXM	Grew to 7K active stations and launched $WXM ($3.5M FDV)

Source: Messari.
Note: Market landscape is not comprehensive.

Energy DePINs are the Most Capital-Intensive, but Often have Structurally High Margins.

Market Map

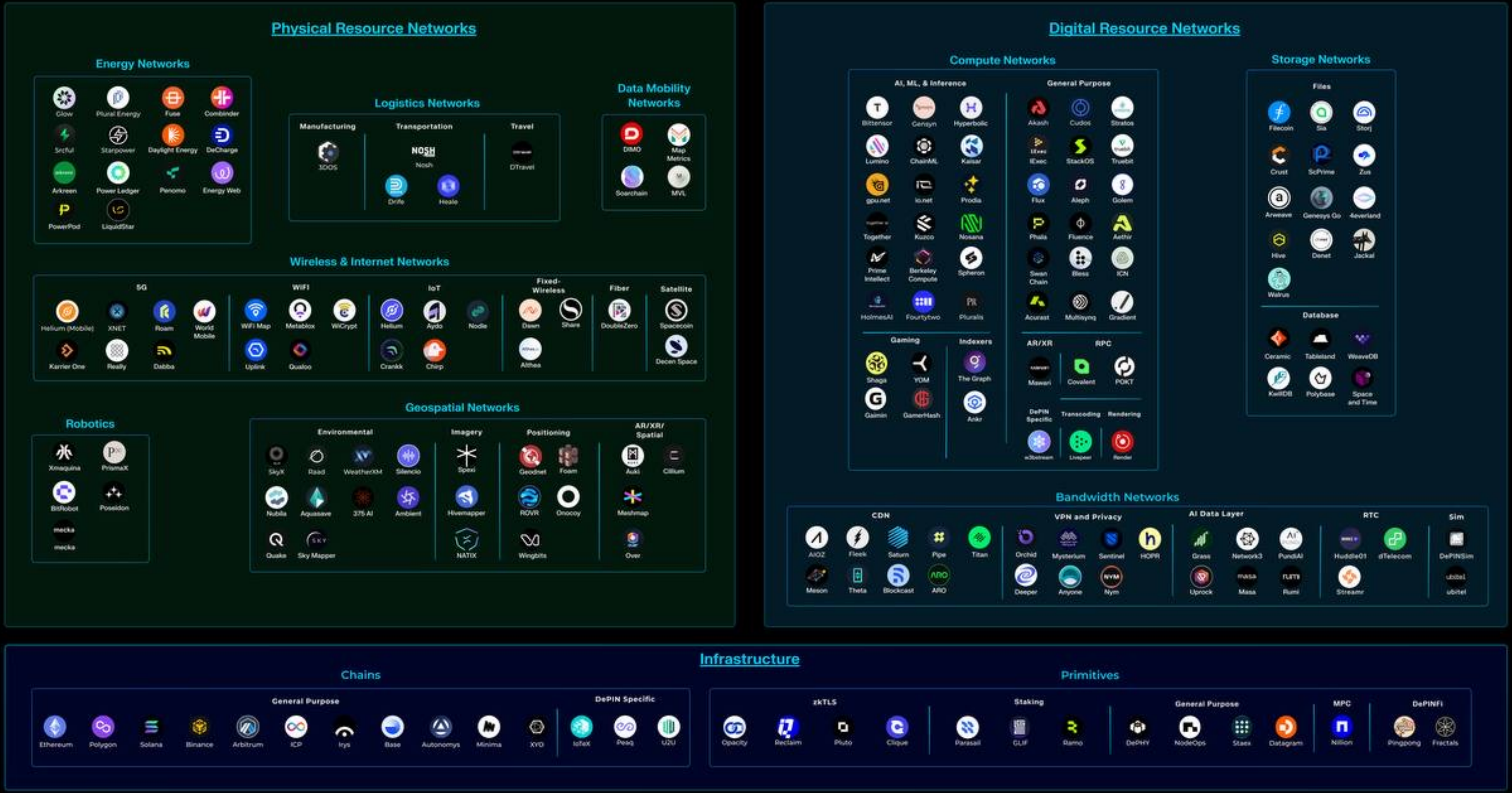


Notable Milestones

Project	Milestone
DeCharge	1.5K+ electric vehicle chargers with 40K hours of charge time
Sourceful Energy	Partnered with Swedish utility Kalmar; grew to 300 DERs and 100 kWh
STARPOWER	Launched smart home battery and home EV charging products
arkreen	Announced "Power Yield" InfraFi strategy
combinder	Grew to 1.6K+ connected devices and raised $500K preseed round
Plural Energy	Raised $7M seed round led by Paradigm; acquired broker-dealer

Source: Messari.
Note: Market landscape is not comprehensive.

Messari’s DePIN Sector Market Map (Jan 2026)



Source: Messari.
Note: Market landscape is not comprehensive.

State of DePIN is co-written by Messari and Escape Velocity (EV3).

EV3 is a $100M AUM investment firm focused on backing crypto-enabled startups disrupting real-world industries at pre-seed and seed.

For more info on EV3, check out our research theses on crypto-enabled wireless, advertising, compute, identity, and lending.

Disclaimers

No contributors paid to be included in this report.