

Watchlist Competitive Landscape

Tiger Portfolio Watchlist: Competitive Landscape Analysis

Semiconductor and AI Infrastructure Head-to-Head Competition

Analysis Date: February 16, 2026

Watchlist Companies: ALAB, CRDO, FN, NVT, TSEM, ANET, COHR, PWR

Analysis Style: SemiAnalysis depth with real products, customers, and revenue data

Executive Summary

The Tiger Portfolio watchlist presents a complex web of competitive dynamics that reveal both diversification opportunities and dangerous concentration risks. While these eight names appear to offer broad AI infrastructure exposure, deeper analysis reveals **three fundamental conflicts**:

1. **Direct Product Competition:** ALAB vs CRDO in high-speed connectivity, FN vs COHR in optical manufacturing
2. **Supply Chain Dependencies:** TSEM manufactures for Broadcom, which supplies ANET and competes with ALAB
3. **Customer Concentration Risk:** 6 of 8 companies are heavily exposed to the same hyperscaler CapEx cycle

The portfolio is **less diversified than it appears** - it's essentially "8 ways of saying AI CapEx goes up" with meaningful downside correlation in bear scenarios.

1. Direct Head-to-Head Matchups Within Watchlist

ALAB vs CRDO: Connectivity Wars

Market Overlap: High-speed data center connectivity, but **complementary rather than competitive**

ALAB (Astera Labs) - \$396M revenue, +242% YoY

- **Focus:** PCIe/CXL retimers and switches
- **Products:** Aries retimers (PCIe 5.0/6.0, CXL), Scorpio fabric switches, Leo CXL memory controllers
- **Sweet Spot:** GPU-to-CPU connections, scale-up AI clusters
- **Customers:** Heavy concentration on hyperscalers (customer concentration risk noted in earnings)

CRDO (Credo Technology) - \$796M LTM revenue, +224% YoY

- **Focus:** SerDes IP, Active Electrical Cables (AECs), optical connectivity
- **Products:** HiWire AECs, Seagull retimers, 28G-224G SerDes IP, optical PAM4 DSPs
- **Sweet Spot:** Rack-to-rack connections, scale-out networking
- **Customers:** Top 2 customers = 66% of revenue

Verdict: Complementary, not competitive. ALAB handles the "last mile" PCIe connections to accelerators; CRDO handles the "highway" connections between racks. Both benefit from AI data center build-out.

Portfolio Impact: Double exposure to same trend, minimal hedging benefit.

FN vs COHR: The Optical Manufacturing Paradox

Market Overlap: Optical component manufacturing - **Potential conflict of interest**

FN (Fabrinet) - Contract manufacturer for 300+ customers

- **Business Model:** Contract manufacturing of optical transceivers, modules, lasers
- **Key Customers:** Nvidia, Ciena, Infinera, DZS - and likely others we can't see
- **Thailand-based manufacturing** with multi-facility campus
- **Risk:** Manufactures for COHR's competitors while we hold both stocks

COHR (Coherent Corp) - Formerly II-VI, acquired Coherent in 2022

- **Products:** Silicon photonics, transceivers, optical amplifiers, Steelerton DSPs
- **InP wafer fabrication:** 6-inch wafers in US and European fabs
- **Direct competitor:** Lumentum (35% coherent optics market share)

The Conflict: FN almost certainly manufactures optical components for companies that compete directly with COHR. When FN wins a manufacturing contract from a COHR competitor, it hurts COHR's market position.

Portfolio Impact: Cross-cutting exposure - FN's success may come at COHR's expense in some segments.

ANET vs CRDO: No Direct Competition

Analysis: Arista uses **Broadcom ASICs** (Tomahawk 5, Jericho3-AI), **not Credo products**

ANET's partnership with Broadcom is deep and strategic:

- **Arista provides software** (EOS network OS)
- **Broadcom provides silicon** (switching ASICs)
- **Joint go-to-market** against Cisco (Silicon One) and NVIDIA InfiniBand

CRDO sells primarily to hyperscalers for rack-to-rack connectivity, while ANET sells switching platforms to the same customers. **No overlap in supply chain.**

Portfolio Impact: Independent exposures - both can win simultaneously.

TSEM Supply Chain Dependencies

Key Finding: TSEM manufactures for **Broadcom** (Wi-Fi 7 RF front-end modules, RFSOI technology)

The Chain: TSEM → Broadcom → ANET

- **TSEM** manufactures specialty analog/RF chips for **Broadcom**
- **Broadcom** supplies switching ASICs to **ANET**
- If TSEM loses Broadcom business or faces capacity constraints, it could impact ANET

Revenue Scale: TSEM serves 300+ customers including Broadcom, Intel, On Semi, Samsung, Skyworks

- **TSEM** specializes in analog/RF, not the digital switching chips ANET needs
- **Risk is low but present** - capacity constraints or yield issues could ripple through

Portfolio Impact: Minor supply chain risk linking TSEM and ANET performance.

2. External Competitive Threats

ALAB's #1 Threat: Broadcom (AVGO)

The Incumbent Strikes Back

Broadcom launched world's first 5nm PCIe Gen 5.0/CXL2.0 and PCIe Gen 6.0/CXL3.1 retimers in March 2024 - direct attack on ALAB's core market.

Broadcom Advantages:

- **Scale:** \$50B+ revenue giant vs ALAB's \$396M
- **Integration:** Can bundle retimers with switching ASICs for total solution
- **Customer relationships:** Already supplies hyperscalers with networking silicon

ALAB's Defense:

- **First-mover advantage:** PCIe 6.0 and CXL connectivity leadership
- **Specialization:** Pure-play focus vs Broadcom's diversified portfolio
- **COSMOS software stack:** Differentiated management and analytics

Market Dynamics: Retimer market growing rapidly with AI, room for multiple players, but **Broadcom has resources to undercut ALAB on pricing.**

CRDO's #1 Threat: Broadcom (AVGO)

Same giant, different battlefield

Broadcom competes in:

- **SerDes IP licensing** (CRDO's chiplet business)
- **Optical connectivity** (competes with CRDO's optical DSPs)
- **Switch connectivity** (alternative to CRDO's AEC cables)

CRDO's Edge: Specialization in AEC cables - Broadcom doesn't have equivalent integrated cable solutions. CRDO's "ZeroFlap AEC" and "HiWire" product lines address specific AI networking needs.

FN's #1 Threat: Vertical Integration

Customers becoming competitors

Major optical companies are **bringing manufacturing in-house**:

- **Coherent** has its own InP fabs (US, Europe)
- **Lumentum** has internal manufacturing
- **Nvidia** increasingly uses internal manufacturing for AI products

FN's Defense: Cost advantage from Thailand manufacturing, capacity scale, and IP protection services.

ANET's #1 Threat: NVIDIA InfiniBand + Cisco

The AI networking battle

NVIDIA: Dominates AI training networks with InfiniBand

- **Quantum-X800 switches** for scale-up AI clusters
- **NVIDIA is passing Cisco and rivals Arista in datacenter Ethernet sales**

Cisco: Silicon One ASICs competing with Broadcom

- **8501 switches** with Silicon One G200 ASIC
- Traditional enterprise relationships

ANET's Strategy: Push "Ethernet for AI training" narrative, leverage Broadcom Jericho3-AI to challenge InfiniBand dominance.

COHR's #1 Threat: Lumentum (LITE)

The optical communications duopoly

Lumentum: Claims ~35% market share in coherent optics

- Revenue declined 23% in fiscal 2024 but recovering with AI demand
- Strong in 3D sensing (~40% market share)

Market Structure: Essentially a duopoly in high-end coherent optics between COHR and LITE.

NVT's #1 Threat: Vertiv (VRT)

Data center thermal management competition

Vertiv: \$7.2B revenue (vs NVT's smaller scale)

- **Comprehensive cooling solutions:** From UPS to liquid cooling
- **Established hyperscaler relationships**

NVT's Advantage: Focus and agility - recently sold thermal management business to focus on electrical connection/protection. Partnership with NVIDIA on liquid cooling.

PWR's #1 Threat: EMCOR (EME)

Infrastructure services competition

EMCOR: \$12.8B revenue (vs PWR's scale)

- **M&E (Mechanical & Electrical) focus** for data centers
- **Broader service offerings**

Competition is regional and project-specific - both companies can win simultaneously in different geographies.

3. Supply Chain Interdependencies

The Broadcom Web

TSEM → Broadcom → ANET supply chain creates portfolio correlation

TSEM manufactures RF components for **Broadcom** **Broadcom** supplies switching ASICs to **ANET** **Result:** TSEM capacity issues could theoretically impact ANET, though risk is low (different product lines).

The Hyperscaler Dependency

6 of 8 companies heavily dependent on same customers:

COMPANY	HYPERSCALER EXPOSURE	RISK LEVEL
ALAB	Heavy (noted customer concentration)	HIGH
CRDO	66% from top 2 customers	HIGH
FN	Nvidia + other hyperscalers	MEDIUM
ANET	Meta, Microsoft confirmed	MEDIUM
COHR	AI data center demand	MEDIUM
NVT	NVIDIA partnership noted	LOW

PWR and TSEM have more diversified customer bases.

Revenue Double-Counting Risk

When **hyperscaler builds AI data center**: 1. PWR builds the facility infrastructure 2. NVT provides electrical enclosures and cooling 3. ANET provides networking switches 4. TSEM/COHR/FN provide components for optics/connectivity
5. ALAB/CRDO provide the high-speed connectivity

Same **CapEx dollar** flows through multiple portfolio companies - amplifying both upside and downside.

4. Scenario Analysis

Bull Scenario: Hyperscaler CapEx +40% in 2026

Winners (Ranked by Leverage):

1. **ALAB** (+50-70% revenue) - Pure AI connectivity play, high operating leverage
2. **CRDO** (+40-60% revenue) - AEC cables directly scale with AI cluster size
3. **NVT** (+30-50% revenue) - Liquid cooling demand accelerates
4. **ANET** (+20-40% revenue) - Ethernet-for-AI gains market share from InfiniBand
5. **PWR** (+20-30% revenue) - More data centers to build

Moderate Winners:

- **FN** (+15-25% revenue) - Benefits but capacity-constrained
- **COHR** (+10-20% revenue) - Optical demand up, but competitive pressure

Laggards:

- **TSEM** (+5-15% revenue) - Least direct AI exposure, more diversified

Bear Scenario: CapEx Pullback -20%

Most Exposed (Downside Risk):

1. **ALAB** (-30-50% revenue) - High customer concentration, AI-specific
2. **CRDO** (-25-40% revenue) - AEC business directly tied to hyperscaler spend
3. **NVT** (-20-35% revenue) - Data center-specific products

Moderate Impact:

- **ANET** (-15-25% revenue) - Some enterprise/cloud buffer
- **PWR** (-10-20% revenue) - Grid modernization provides some offset

Best Defensive Names:

- **TSEM** (-5-15% revenue) - Diversified across automotive, industrial, mobile
 - **FN** (-10-15% revenue) - Diversified manufacturing base
 - **COHR** (-10-20% revenue) - Industrial laser business provides buffer
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Shift Scenario: Ethernet Beats InfiniBand

If Arista/Broadcom successfully push “Ethernet for AI training”:

Winners:

- **ANET** (+30-50% revenue) - Direct beneficiary of protocol shift
- **ALAB** (+20-40% revenue) - PCIe/CXL becomes preferred over NVLink
- **CRDO** (+15-30% revenue) - Ethernet clusters need more AECs

Losers:

- **None in portfolio** - NVIDIA InfiniBand not held

Neutral:

- **Others** - Optical transceivers needed regardless of protocol
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Custom Silicon Scenario: Hyperscalers Go Full ASIC

If Google TPU model spreads (custom ASICs vs GPU):

Winners:

- **TSEM** (+20-40% revenue) - Specialty foundry for custom silicon
- **PWR** (+10-20% revenue) - Still need data centers

Losers:

- **ALAB** (-20-40% revenue) - Less need for GPU connectivity
- **CRDO** (-15-30% revenue) - Custom silicon may have integrated connectivity
- **ANET** (-10-20% revenue) - Custom ASICs may bypass traditional networking

Mixed:

- **FN/COHR** - Still need optical connectivity, but different form factors
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5. Portfolio Correlation Matrix

Correlation Analysis (During Market Stress):

	ALAB	CRDO	FN	ANET	COHR	NVT	TSEM	PWR
AI CapEx Sensitivity	0.95	0.90	0.70	0.75	0.60	0.80	0.40	0.65
Hyperscaler Dependency	0.90	0.85	0.60	0.70	0.50	0.60	0.30	0.45
Supply Chain Risk	0.70	0.65	0.80	0.60	0.75	0.50	0.60	0.30

True Diversification Score: 4/10

The portfolio is highly correlated around:

1. **AI/Cloud CapEx cycles** (7 of 8 companies)
2. **Hyperscaler customer concentration** (6 of 8 companies)
3. **Taiwan/Asia manufacturing exposure** (5 of 8 companies)

Only PWR and TSEM provide meaningful diversification from the core AI data center theme.

Key Recommendations

Portfolio Construction Insights:

1. **ALAB + CRDO = Complementary Exposure** - Keep both, they serve different parts of AI networking stack
2. **FN vs COHR = Potential Conflict** - Consider reducing one position due to manufacturing vs product competition
3. **Overweight Defensive Names** - TSEM and PWR provide best diversification benefits
4. **Monitor Customer Concentration** - ALAB and CRDO have dangerous single-customer dependencies
5. **Scenario Planning Critical** - Portfolio acts like leveraged AI CapEx play, not diversified infrastructure basket

Missing Exposures:

- **Power Infrastructure** (utilities, transformers)
 - **Memory/Storage** (not just connectivity)
 - **European/Non-Asian Supply Chain** alternatives
 - **Software Infrastructure** (beyond hardware)
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The Bottom Line: The Tiger Portfolio watchlist provides excellent AI infrastructure exposure with some defensive characteristics, but investors should understand they're making a concentrated bet on hyperscaler CapEx growth, not a diversified infrastructure play. The interdependencies and correlations are higher than they initially appear.

Analysis based on latest earnings reports, product specifications, and competitive intelligence as of February 2026. Revenue figures from most recent fiscal year or LTM data.