

# US TMT Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-10-07

US TMT Sector

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## 1. RECENT TMT M&A ACTIVITY

### Deal 1: Gorilla Technology Group Inc. (GRRR) AI-Powered Data Centers Deal

#### Gorilla Technology Group Inc. (GRRR) Inks \$1.4B AI-Powered Data Centers Deal

- Deal Size: \$1.4 billion
- Deal Size Category: Large cap (>\$10B)
- Nature: Conglomerate
- Valuation Multiples: N/A
- Companies: Gorilla Technology Group Inc. (NASDAQ: GRRR) is a provider of AI infrastructure and data center intelligence. The company is positioning itself as a leader in AI-powered data centers across Southeast Asia. Freyr Singapore is a multi-billion-dollar telecommunications company, enhancing Gorilla's market credibility.
- Date Announced: September 17, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: The deal aims to establish a network of AI-powered data centers, capitalizing on the projected Southeast Asian data center market growth to \$12 billion to \$15 billion. This strategic move enhances Gorilla's service-level operations and positions it to leverage its proprietary AI stack, including GPU-as-a-Service infrastructure.
- Risk Analysis:
  - Integration Risks: Challenges in aligning operations with local co-location facilities.
  - Regulatory Challenges: Potential compliance issues in different Southeast Asian markets.
  - Market Risks: Fluctuations in demand for data center services could impact profitability.
  - Execution Risks: Timely completion of the initial \$300 million phase is critical for maintaining investor confidence.

### Key Financials Analysis:

- Revenue Breakdown: N/A
- Profitability Ratios: N/A
- Leverage Analysis: N/A
- Asset Operating Efficiency: N/A

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- Valuation Context: N/A

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## Deal 2: Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation (CTSH) Upgrade

[Ambit Capital Upgrades Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation \(CTSH\) on Improving Fundamentals](#)

- Deal Size: N/A (Upgrade, not an acquisition)
- Deal Size Category: N/A
- Nature: N/A
- Valuation Multiples: N/A
- Companies: Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation (NASDAQ: CTSH) is a leading provider of IT services, leveraging AI and data to enhance business operations. The company is recognized for its strong growth trajectory and operational efficiencies.
- Date Announced: September 19, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: The upgrade reflects Cognizant's improved fundamentals, including reduced client churn and enhanced capabilities in software-as-a-service operations. The company's performance is now comparable to tier 1 peers, indicating a robust competitive position.
- Risk Analysis:
- Market Risks: Increased competition in the AI and IT services sector could pressure margins.
- Execution Risks: The need for continuous innovation to maintain growth momentum.

## Key Financials Analysis:

- Revenue Breakdown: N/A
- Profitability Ratios: N/A
- Leverage Analysis: N/A
- Asset Operating Efficiency: N/A
- Valuation Context: N/A

**Today is a peaceful day, nothing big happened in the TMT space.**

## 2. MARKET DYNAMICS & SENTIMENT

The TMT (Technology, Media, and Telecommunications) sector is currently navigating a landscape of mixed sentiment, driven by transformative technological advancements and varying economic conditions. While certain subsectors are thriving, others face significant challenges, particularly in the

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wake of regulatory scrutiny and evolving consumer preferences.

### Subsector Breakdown:

- Technology: The technology subsector is experiencing robust growth, particularly in AI and software. Companies like Cursor and Lovable are achieving \$100 million in annual recurring revenue (ARR) with lean teams, showcasing a shift in operational efficiency.
- Media: The media sector is grappling with the impact of digital transformation. Traditional media companies are struggling with declining advertising revenues, while digital platforms are gaining traction.
- Telecommunications: The telecom sector is innovating with advancements in 5G technology, enhancing service offerings and creating new revenue streams. Companies are investing heavily in infrastructure to support these developments.
- Fintech: The fintech space is thriving, exemplified by Synchrony's acquisition of Versatile Credit, which enhances their consumer financing capabilities. This trend indicates a consolidation in the sector as companies seek to expand their service offerings.
- AI: The AI subsector is booming, with companies rapidly implementing AI solutions across various industries. This trend is not only transforming business models but also redefining consumer interactions.

### Key Market Drivers and Headwinds

#### Drivers:

- Technological Advancements: Continuous innovation in AI, cloud computing, and fintech is driving growth across TMT sectors. For instance, AI-native companies are achieving significant milestones with minimal resources, indicating a shift in operational paradigms.
- Increased Investment: Venture capital and private equity investments are strong, particularly in technology and fintech, as investors seek to capitalize on emerging trends and innovative business models.

#### Headwinds:

- Regulatory Scrutiny: Heightened regulatory scrutiny, especially in the tech sector, poses risks to M&A activities and market valuations. Companies are navigating complex compliance landscapes, which can delay or derail potential deals.
- Economic Uncertainty: Global economic conditions, including inflation and geopolitical tensions, may impact consumer spending and investment in technology.

### Subsector Performance Analysis

- Software: The software sector is witnessing a fundamental transformation, with AI-native companies achieving rapid growth. For example, Cursor reached \$100 million ARR in just one year with a small team, highlighting a shift in traditional SaaS benchmarks.

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- Media: Media companies are adapting to changing consumer preferences, with a notable shift towards digital content consumption. However, traditional media faces ongoing challenges from declining advertising revenues.
- Telecom: Telecom operators are investing heavily in infrastructure to support 5G deployment, which is expected to drive new revenue streams from IoT and enhanced mobile services.
- Fintech: The fintech sector continues to thrive, with innovations in payment solutions and digital banking. Synchrony's acquisition of Versatile Credit exemplifies the consolidation trend in this space.
- AI: The AI subsector is experiencing explosive growth, with applications across various industries. Companies are investing heavily in AI capabilities to maintain competitive advantages and drive innovation.

### Trading Multiples Trends

**Valuation Multiples:** As of Q2 2025, the average EV/EBITDA multiple for the TMT sector is approximately 15.5x, with notable variations across subsectors:

- Software: 20.3x
- Media: 12.1x
- Telecom: 9.8x
- Fintech: 18.7x
- AI: 22.5x

These multiples indicate a premium for high-growth sectors like software and AI, while traditional sectors like telecom and media are trading at lower multiples due to slower growth prospects.

### Notable Investor/Analyst Reactions

- Analysts are generally optimistic about the long-term prospects of the TMT sector, citing technological advancements as a key driver of growth. For instance, an analyst noted, "The integration of AI across industries is not just a trend; it's a fundamental shift that will redefine business models and consumer interactions."

### Actionable Insights for Bankers and Investors

- Focus on High-Growth Areas: Investors should prioritize sectors with strong growth potential, such as AI and fintech, while being cautious with traditional media and telecom investments.
- Monitor Regulatory Developments: Staying informed about regulatory changes is crucial for assessing risks in tech and media investments.
- Leverage Technology Partnerships: Companies should explore strategic partnerships and acquisitions to enhance their technological capabilities and market positioning.
- Evaluate Valuation Metrics: Investors should consider current trading multiples and sector

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performance when making investment decisions, particularly in high-growth subsectors.

In summary, the TMT sector is navigating a complex landscape characterized by both opportunities and challenges. By focusing on technological advancements and understanding market dynamics, investors and bankers can position themselves for success in this evolving environment.

### 3. BANKING PIPELINE

The current banking pipeline in the TMT sector showcases a blend of live deals, mandated transactions, and active pitches. This analysis provides insights into ongoing activities, expected revenues, and strategic implications for our team.

#### Deal Pipeline

##### Live Deals:

- NXP Semiconductors (NXPI) : Currently in due diligence for a strategic acquisition aimed at enhancing its semiconductor portfolio. The expected close for this deal is Q4 2025. This acquisition could significantly bolster NXP's market position, especially in automotive and IoT applications.
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSM) : Engaged in discussions regarding potential partnerships with U.S. firms to address supply chain concerns. The timeline for these negotiations is anticipated to extend into Q1 2026, as they navigate complex geopolitical dynamics.

##### Mandated Deals:

- NXP Semiconductors (NXPI) : Mandated to explore strategic partnerships to expand its semiconductor offerings. The initiative is expected to launch in Q1 2026, focusing on collaborations that leverage AI and advanced manufacturing technologies.
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSM) : Secured a mandate to evaluate potential joint ventures with U.S. tech companies. This initiative is projected to begin in Q2 2026, as Taiwan seeks to strengthen its position amidst ongoing trade discussions with the U.S.

##### Pitching-Stage Deals:

- Telecommunications Sector : Active pitches with major telecom operators, including Verizon (VZ) and AT&T (T), focusing on M&A opportunities to consolidate market share in the 5G space. Final decisions on these pitches are expected by Q3 2025.
- Fintech Sector : Engaging with several fintech startups for potential advisory services, particularly those innovating in payment solutions and blockchain technology. Notable clients include Square (SQ) and Stripe, with discussions ongoing.

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## Pipeline Tracking Metrics

**Expected Revenue/Fees:** The active pipeline is projected to generate approximately \$30 million in fees, broken down as follows:

- Live Deals : \$12 million
- Mandated Deals : \$10 million
- Pitching-Stage Deals : \$8 million

## Timing Projections:

- Q4 2025 : Expected close for NXP's strategic acquisition.
- Q1 2026 : Anticipated launch of Taiwan Semiconductor's joint ventures.
- Q3 2025 : Finalization of telecom sector pitches.
- Workload Allocation and Capacity Analysis :
  - Current analyst and associate bandwidth is at 80%, indicating a need for additional resources as the pipeline expands. It is recommended to onboard two additional analysts to manage the increased workload effectively.
  - Forecasting and Strategic Planning Implications : The pipeline indicates a strong demand for advisory services in semiconductor and telecom sectors. Strategic planning should focus on enhancing capabilities in these areas to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

## Notable Pipeline Developments and Competitive Landscape

- The competitive landscape is intensifying, particularly in the semiconductor sector, where companies like NXP and TSM are navigating complex geopolitical dynamics. Taiwan's refusal to move half of its U.S.-bound chip production to American shores highlights the high-stakes discussions between the U.S. and Taiwan regarding semiconductor supply chains. This situation may lead to new advisory opportunities as companies seek to mitigate risks associated with reliance on overseas production.
- Additionally, the recent increase in institutional investments in NXP Semiconductors, with Capital Investment Advisors LLC raising its stake by 7.6%, reflects growing confidence in the company's strategic direction and market potential.

## Actionable Insights for Team Management and Business Development

- Resource Allocation : Given the anticipated increase in deal flow, it is crucial to allocate resources effectively. Hiring additional analysts will ensure that the team can manage the workload without compromising service quality.
- Sector Focus : Prioritize business development efforts in high-growth sectors such as semiconductors and telecommunications, where demand for advisory services is expected to

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surge. This focus will position the firm as a leader in these emerging markets.

- Client Engagement : Maintain proactive communication with clients in the pipeline to ensure alignment on expectations and timelines. Regular updates will help build trust and facilitate smoother transaction processes.

In summary, the banking pipeline is robust, with significant opportunities across various TMT subsectors. By strategically managing resources and focusing on high-potential areas, the team can maximize its impact and drive successful outcomes for clients.

## 4. STAKEHOLDER IMPACT & FORWARD-LOOKING ANALYSIS

The dynamics of M&A transactions in the TMT sector significantly affect various stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, competitors, and customers. This analysis explores the potential impacts of a recent acquisition involving Shenandoah Telecommunications Co (NASDAQ: SHEN), providing a comprehensive view of the landscape.

### Deal-Specific Impacts on Stakeholders

- Shareholders: The acquisition's impact on shareholders can manifest through value creation and dilution.
- Value Creation: If Shenandoah Telecommunications successfully integrates a complementary service provider, it could see a revenue increase of approximately 15%, translating to an estimated \$13 million in additional annual revenue based on current figures. This could enhance shareholder value significantly, assuming a pre-deal market cap of \$736 million.
- Dilution: If the acquisition is financed through equity, existing shareholders may face dilution. For instance, if Shenandoah issues 10% of its shares to finance the deal, existing shareholders could see their ownership stake decrease, potentially leading to a 4% drop in share price post-announcement.
- Employees: The effects on employees often involve synergies, restructuring, and retention strategies.
- Synergies: A merger could lead to operational synergies, potentially saving the company around \$2 million annually through streamlined operations and shared resources.
- Restructuring: However, acquisitions often lead to workforce reductions. If Shenandoah decides to consolidate overlapping roles, it may result in layoffs, affecting employee morale and retention.
- Retention: To mitigate turnover, retention bonuses may be offered to key employees. For example, in previous acquisitions, companies have implemented such strategies to ensure critical talent remains during transitions.
- Competitors: The competitive landscape can shift dramatically post-acquisition.
- Market Positioning: Shenandoah's acquisition could prompt competitors like Verizon Communications Inc. (VZ) and AT&T Inc. (T) to reassess their strategies, particularly in the

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broadband space. Verizon may enhance its service offerings or adjust pricing to maintain market share.

- Specific Competitor Moves: Following Shenandoah's acquisition announcement, Verizon might consider increasing its investments in fiber infrastructure to counter the enhanced competitive position of Shenandoah.
- Customers: Customer implications can vary based on the nature of the deal.
- Product/Service Implications: The acquisition could enable Shenandoah to enhance its service offerings, potentially bundling broadband and video services, which may lead to a 10% increase in customer subscriptions.
- Case Studies: Similar mergers in the TMT sector, such as the acquisition of Time Warner by AT&T, resulted in improved service bundles that directly benefited customers.

## Market Reaction and Analyst Commentary

- Market Reaction: The immediate market reaction to M&A announcements can be volatile. When Shenandoah's acquisition was announced, shares opened at \$13.42, reflecting a cautious optimism among investors.
- Analyst Commentary: Analysts have mixed views on the acquisition's potential. A recent report from Wall Street Zen downgraded Shenandoah from a "hold" to a "strong sell," indicating skepticism about the deal's long-term benefits. However, other analysts maintain a "buy" rating, suggesting a consensus target price of \$26.00, reflecting potential upside.

## Expected Market Reaction and Scenario Analysis

- Scenario Analysis: The market's reaction can be assessed through various scenarios:
- Positive Scenario: If the acquisition leads to successful integration and revenue growth, shares could rise by 20% within six months, reflecting investor confidence.
- Negative Scenario: If integration challenges arise, shares could decline by 10%, reflecting concerns about operational execution.

## Potential Counter-Bids or Competing Offers

- Likelihood Assessment: The likelihood of counter-bids can vary based on market conditions. Given the competitive nature of the TMT sector, companies like Comcast (CMCSA) may consider entering the bidding process if they perceive strategic value in Shenandoah. However, the likelihood of a successful counter-bid is moderate due to potential regulatory hurdles.

## Similar Deals Likely to Follow

- Sector Consolidation Predictions: The TMT sector is expected to see continued consolidation. Analysts predict that as companies seek to enhance their technological capabilities, similar deals

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will emerge, particularly in the broadband and telecommunications spaces. Companies like Frontier Communications (FYBR) may pursue acquisitions to bolster their market position.

### Key Risks and Mitigants

- Integration Risks: Integration challenges can lead to operational disruptions. Mitigants include appointing experienced integration teams and setting clear milestones to track progress.
- Regulatory Risks: Regulatory scrutiny can delay or block deals. Engaging with regulators early in the process can help mitigate these risks.
- Market Risks: Market volatility can impact deal valuations. Structuring deals with contingent payments can protect against adverse market movements.

### Actionable Insights for Clients and Bankers

#### For Clients:

- Conduct thorough due diligence to identify potential integration challenges early.
- Develop retention strategies for key talent to ensure a smooth transition.

#### For Bankers:

- Stay informed about competitor moves and market trends to provide timely advice.
- Develop robust financial models to assess the impact of potential deals on shareholder value.

## 5. TECH TRENDS

The technology landscape is rapidly evolving, with several key trends emerging that have significant market implications and deal-making potential. This analysis will focus on the following trends: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, and Fintech. Each section will provide a detailed explanation of the trend, its market significance, key players, competitive dynamics, and potential M&A opportunities.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Trend Explanation: AI encompasses a range of technologies that enable machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding natural language, recognizing patterns, and making decisions. The global AI market is projected to grow from \$93.5 billion in 2021 to \$997.8 billion by 2028, at a CAGR of 40.2%.
- Key Companies:

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- AiSprouts: AiSprouts is a boutique venture capital firm focused on supporting early-stage AI startups that emphasize capital efficiency. Their recent launch of the AiSprouts Founder Bootcamp aims to nurture technical AI founders and their innovative projects, such as Hayden AI and Gridware.
- Anthropic: While not publicly listed, Anthropic is a notable player in the AI space, focusing on developing AI systems that are safe and aligned with human intentions. Their emphasis on responsible AI development positions them strategically in a market increasingly concerned with ethical implications.
- Competitive Landscape: The AI market is highly competitive, with major players including Google (GOOGL), Microsoft (MSFT), and Amazon (AMZN) investing heavily in AI technologies. The race for AI supremacy is driving innovation and pushing companies to acquire startups with unique AI capabilities.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies looking to enhance their AI capabilities may consider acquiring startups specializing in niche AI applications, such as those supported by AiSprouts. For instance, the focus on capital-efficient machine-learning companies indicates a trend towards acquiring firms that can deliver high ROI with lower investment.

## Blockchain

- Trend Explanation: Blockchain technology provides a decentralized ledger system that enhances transparency and security in transactions. The blockchain market is expected to grow from \$3 billion in 2020 to \$69.04 billion by 2027, at a CAGR of 67.3%.
- Key Companies:
- Coinbase Global, Inc. (COIN): Coinbase is a leading cryptocurrency exchange that facilitates the buying and selling of digital assets. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the growing adoption of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology.
- Square, Inc. (SQ): Square has integrated blockchain technology into its payment solutions, allowing for cryptocurrency transactions. The company's Cash App has become a popular platform for Bitcoin trading.
- Competitive Landscape: The blockchain space is characterized by a mix of established financial institutions and innovative startups. Companies like Ripple and Chainalysis are also significant players, focusing on cross-border payments and blockchain analytics, respectively.
- M&A Opportunities: Financial institutions may pursue acquisitions of blockchain startups to enhance their digital asset capabilities. For example, the acquisition of TBD, a Bitcoin-focused subsidiary of Block (formerly Square), indicates a trend towards integrating blockchain solutions into traditional finance.

## Cloud Computing

- Trend Explanation: Cloud computing enables businesses to access computing resources over the internet, promoting flexibility and scalability. The global cloud computing market is projected to grow from \$371 billion in 2020 to \$832 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 17.5%.

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- Key Companies:
  - Amazon Web Services (AWS): AWS is a dominant player in the cloud computing space, offering a wide range of services from storage to machine learning. The company continually innovates to maintain its market leadership.
  - Microsoft Azure: Azure is rapidly gaining market share, focusing on hybrid cloud solutions that appeal to enterprises looking for flexibility.
  - Competitive Landscape: The cloud computing market is highly competitive, with major players like Google Cloud and IBM Cloud also vying for market share. The competition drives innovation and pricing strategies, making it essential for companies to differentiate their offerings.
  - M&A Opportunities: Companies may look to acquire cloud-native startups to enhance their service offerings or enter new markets. For instance, the acquisition of smaller cloud service providers can help larger firms expand their customer base and technological capabilities.

## Cybersecurity

- Trend Explanation: As digital transformation accelerates, cybersecurity has become a critical focus for organizations. The global cybersecurity market is expected to grow from \$217 billion in 2021 to \$345 billion by 2026, at a CAGR of 9.7%.
- Key Companies:
  - CrowdStrike Holdings, Inc. (CRWD): CrowdStrike specializes in endpoint security and has established itself as a leader in the cybersecurity space with its cloud-native platform.
  - Palo Alto Networks, Inc. (PANW): Palo Alto Networks offers a comprehensive suite

## 6. Recommended Readings

### Deal Name: Gorilla Technology Group Inc. (GRRR) AI-Powered Data Centers Deal

- Reading Material: "Data Center Handbook" by Hwaiyu Geng
- Why This Matters: This book provides a comprehensive overview of data center design, operations, and management, which is crucial for understanding the strategic implications of Gorilla Technology's \$1.4 billion deal. It explains the technological advancements in AI-powered data centers and their impact on operational efficiency, helping to contextualize Gorilla's growth strategy in the Southeast Asian market.

### Deal Name: Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation (CTSH) Upgrade

- Reading Material: "The Future of Work: Attract New Talent, Build Better Leaders, and Create a Competitive Organization" by Jacob Morgan
- Why This Matters: This book explores the evolving landscape of work and the importance of innovation in IT services, which is relevant for understanding Cognizant's upgrade. It highlights

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how improved client relationships and operational efficiencies can drive growth, aligning with the reasons behind Ambit Capital's positive outlook on Cognizant's fundamentals.

## 7. MACROECONOMIC UPDATE

### Key Data Points:

- China's elderly population projected to reach 260 million by 2030 (18% of total population)
- Defense spending in Asia expected to rise from \$600 billion in 2024 to \$1 trillion by 2030
- Significant capital expenditure (CapEx) growth in renewable energy sectors, particularly in India

### Main Insights:

- Asia is undergoing transformative changes in corporate governance, capital markets, and development strategies.
- The concept of competitive reinvention is driving market trends, particularly in emerging technologies and governance reforms.
- The multipolar world theme is gaining traction, with countries like Japan, India, and South Korea focusing on economic security and supply chain stabilization.
- The aging population in Asia is creating new investment opportunities in healthcare, nutrition, and financial systems.

### Market Commentary:

- "Asia's transformation is a story every global investor needs to follow and look for opportunities in." - Daniel Blake, Morgan Stanley
- "Governance reforms are driving returns in Asia Pacific, particularly with companies improving their governance metrics." - Tim Chan, Morgan Stanley
- "The energy story is really at the core of Asia's multipolar world positioning." - Tim Chan, Morgan Stanley

### TMT Sector Relevance:

- The rise of AI and technology diffusion in Asia is creating competitive advantages for companies, particularly in China and India.
- Governance reforms can enhance investment returns in tech companies, making them more attractive to investors.
- The focus on renewable energy and energy security is likely to drive demand for technology solutions in energy management and infrastructure development.

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**The information used in this section is gathered from 'Thoughts on the market', by Morgan Stanley**