**ALTCOINS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

2017 has been a good year for the cryptocurrency space. Although the technology is relatively new, cryptocurrency is already making waves in many industries. The increase in demand increased their prices significantly and many obtained good benefits by investing in them.

Many ask: What is the next cryptocurrency to invest in 2018 besides Bitcoin? Well, here we have selected the best cryptocurrencies with excellent references and forecasts to spend in 2018.

The Best and Most Promising Cryptocurrency To Invest in 2018

BTC: Bitcoin The "king" of cryptocurrencies ranks first on the Top 2018 list.

Bitcoin has a market capitalization of $ 255 billion, which is approximately five times more than Ethereum. It is also the first decentralized cryptocurrency that uses peer-to-peer technology and the SHA-256 POW algorithm to operate. Also, it has a maximum supply of 21,000,000 of which 16,729,825 are currently in quantity or mining.

Besides, it is one of the most commercialized cryptocurrencies in the world of encryption, but prices are volatile since prices go up and down by 10-20% in a single day.

The Bitcoin will undoubtedly be the most commercial currency, and in fact, it is the most well-known is undoubtedly an excellent option to invest.

But we are going to devote more space to other cryptocurrencies with great potential, and that has been demonstrated this year. Among them is one that although it was in the shadow of the BTC had an increase of more than 3000%: the Litecoin. And we also have the Ripple, which seems to have started to take off, when in September it did not pass 0.20 $, and for December its price reached 0.73 $.

**LTC: LITECOIN**

Litecoin is one of the best cryptocurrency alternatives to Bitcoin, which was designed to handle some of the problems that could be holding Bitcoin. It is also one of the first altcoins that exist after Bitcoin.

It was presented in 2011 (BTC in 2009) and is almost identical to Bitcoin.

The Litecoin was created by a former Google employee named Charlie Lee, who is completely transparent on social media about what he is doing with the currency. Charlie still leads his development and is very active in the cryptocurrency community.

Litecoin is very similar to Bitcoin, but through settings in the configuration, it is technically a superior algorithm. Although both Litecoin and Bitcoin are quite same, some differences differentiate them both (see infographic)

Benefits of Litecoin over Bitcoin

* *Faster transaction times. Litecoin can produce blocks for your blockchain much faster than Bitcoin. In fact, Litecoin only takes 2.5 minutes to complete a block (or transaction). While Bitcoin takes 10 minutes.*
* *Less expensive transactions. First to successfully implement the Lightning network for zero rate instant transactions. Litecoin also has a much more straightforward algorithm. The Litecoin does not take as much energy or time to mine.*
* *First to complete a cross-chain atomic swap (with Decree). In the process of adding confidential transactions; and it's faster to adopt new technology, with no internal struggles from the community regarding updates. While the Bitcoin community takes time to agree on something.*

***Why invest in Litecoin?***

Since the beginning of 2017, Litecoin has increased by 7.293% compared to 1.731% of Bitcoin. Litecoin has been the fourth most abundant digital currency by market capitalization. It has been positioned vertically this year, with Litecoin prices that exceed $ 320 for the first time this last month of 2017.

Litecoin has the potential to reach Bitcoin prices, but it will need a boost in popularity to make that happen.

The Litecoin hash encryption algorithm makes it easier for miners to access the system. This could cause a couple of things. First, it could encourage more beginner miners to participate in the Litecoin system. This will help with the widespread use of Litecoin since many users will be miners who never had the opportunity to extract Bitcoin.

Charlie Lee has ambitious plans for Litecoin. Arrangements have already been made for the Lightning Network to be introduced soon to reduce transaction speed further. We all think that Bitcoin would be the first with Lightning Network, but Bitcoin has touched so many obstacles. This is precisely another decisive point of differentiation that Litecoin is more adaptable to progressive change.

We must then begin to consider investing in Litecoin, which is substantially undervalued about Bitcoin, and in this undervaluation is a tremendous opportunity. The supply of Litecoin is four times greater than the amount of Bitcoin and, in theory, Bitcoin will always be worth four times more than Litecoin.

Also, since you can now buy Litecoin directly from exchanges like Coinbase, it's no longer necessary to buy Bitcoin first. The transaction process goes straight from the fiduciary money to Litecoin; this will reduce the need for BTC tokens.

If Litecoin successfully carries out all planned updates, then the market can respond positively.

The acceleration would not be enough to reach the Bitcoin prices, but it could put Litecoin on par with Ethereum, which is also on this list.

**ETH: ETHEREUM**

Ethereum, other of the most popular solutions for cryptocurrency investors today and will continue in 2018.

Designed by a programmer called Vitalik Buterin, Ethereum works in a completely different way from Bitcoin. It can lot of many same things like Bitcoin; its primary goal is to act as a platform to create decentralized applications.

The main difference between Bitcoin and Ethereum is the use of blockchains. While the Bitcoin blockchain registers the contracts, showing how the digital funds have moved from one place to another, Etherum has extended this concept. The Ethereum blockchain uses a much more complicated scripting language, and its reasonable contracts can form complex applications that have a wide range of potential uses.

***Why invest in Ethereum?***

Vitalik Buterin, the creator of Ethereum, recently released an implementation guide that reveals that network developers will start with a "hybrid" system that will merge Bitcoin-style work proof mining with it is highly anticipated and still experimental test system of participation called Casper, created by Buterin.

With Casper, the name of the game is a sustainable long-term escalation. For the Ethereum network to achieve central adoption, it needs to be able to handle vast amounts of transactions in seconds. To this end, Casper is designed to help Ethereum accomplish this much needed large-scale network scalability.

A long-awaited update of the Ethereum network could be happening earlier than planned by the developers. The Casper update can be extended as soon as the next hard-fork, Constantinople instead of previous plans for it to come with Serenity, the last phase of development, in 2018.

There is still no fixed date for Constantinople, but it should be at the end of this year or early 2018 according to the planned development phase of Ethereum, or the roadmap called Metropolis. The previous hard-fork, Byzantium, was the fifth for Ethereum, which passed without problems on October 16.

Ethereum has the second largest market right behind Bitcoin, and the people who use the platform are not all speculators. They are developers, entrepreneurs, creators and would continue to use it regardless of the price of an Ether.

There are two other fundamental problems beyond the scalability that Casper will focus on addressing:

* *Censorship: Currently, Bitcoin miners enjoy a zero-sum game dynamic: if a miner's block is censored/lost, then each of its competing miners benefits accordingly. The Ethereum PoS will change the network to a "coordination game" dynamic, where everyone helps more if all the miners' blocks are included in the chain.*
* *Costs: through Ethereum's current PoW protocol, adequate security can only be maintained through high operating expenses. Casper will alleviate this dynamic, making the honest validators can validate economically, while the costs of the attackers are, on the contrary, extremely expensive.*

The Casper update will be a very successful update that will fundamentally change the way the Ethereum network works, of course, to a large extent for the better, expect the network developers.

**XRP: RIPPLE**

Previous developers of Bitcoin launched the software company Ripple in 2012 and its digital currency, XRP, which is seen by some industry figures as the logical successor of Bitcoin.

Ripple was created by web developer Ryan Fugger, businessman Chris Larsen and programmer Jed McCaleb.

The New York Times once described Ripple as "a cross between the Western Union and a currency exchange, without the high fees" because not only is it a currency, but it is also a system in which any money, including Bitcoin, it can be negotiated.

"Ripple connects banks, payment providers, exchanges of digital assets and companies through RippleNet to provide a frictionless experience to send money worldwide," explained its creators.

***Why invest in Ripple?***

Ripple has a market capitalization of $ 11.22 billion, and its performance in 2017 is exceeding + 3.803%.

Ripple: for September 2017 its price was at 0.20 US $, and for the second week of December 2017 it exceeded 0.73 US $.

Ripple has licensed its blockchain technology to more than 100 banks. And a new hedge fund recently announced that it would be named in XRP. Recently, its CEO told Fortune: "We are not against banks, we are not anti-government, we are not an anti-trust currency. For a time, he was convinced to stay on course against the most libertarian elements of cryptography. "

The current XRP supply is approximately 38.7 billion of a maximum amount of 100 billion, which is much more than the rest of the crypts in this list.

There are many other cryptocurrencies in circulation. However, those named here have an excellent track record and a promising behavior for the last months, so they stand out to be on this list. No doubt offers good prospects for this 2018. at being the most important for the altcoins.