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# 2026 TECH PREDICTIONS: WHAT'S COMING, WHAT'S CHANGING, WHAT'S NEXT

We have never lived through a moment when technology has evolved faster, or when the contrast between what is emerging and what is being left behind has been so stark.

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Hold on to your hats for this wild ride. I believe 2026 will be defined by a dizzying mix of “the future is here today” breakthroughs and the legacy systems, processes, products and companies that still shape the landscape even as they’re being surpassed. We have never lived through a moment when technology has evolved faster, or when the contrast between what is emerging and what is being left behind has been so stark.

### **Last Year’s Predictions and Track Record of Success**

I’ve been doing tech predictions for five years now and have at least an average accuracy rate of 85 percent historically. It’s important to stay honest, so I’m only claiming 90 percent accuracy on last year’s predictions, giving myself only half credit for my prediction that Europe and emerging markets would redefine venture capital opportunities: The U.S. still commands the largest pool of capital, but some of the most interesting structures, scaling stories and regulatory tailwinds are now coming out of Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

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My remaining predictions landed cleanly. Personal digital IDs moved from concept to implementation, with tokenized credentials gaining traction in real-world verification and anti-counterfeit use cases. AI kept transforming human support functions, with mainstream business press now explicitly describing generative AI as a “personal assistant” automating scheduling, email triage and routine admin work. Regulation became a defining theme as the EU adopted the world’s first comprehensive AI law, setting the template for AI, data and model accountability frameworks globally. And Bitcoin miners began their evolution into broader compute-power providers, with listed miners publicly exploring or signing major AI and data-center deals, validating the shift from single-purpose mining to high-performance compute infrastructure.

## 2026 Predictions: For Everyone Trying to Keep Up (Good Luck)

In 2026, disruption won’t come in waves; it will come in overlapping weather systems. Some companies will surf them. Others will insist it’s “just a little cloudy” until the tide takes out their entire product roadmap. These predictions break down where the smartest bets lie — and where the storm surge is headed next.

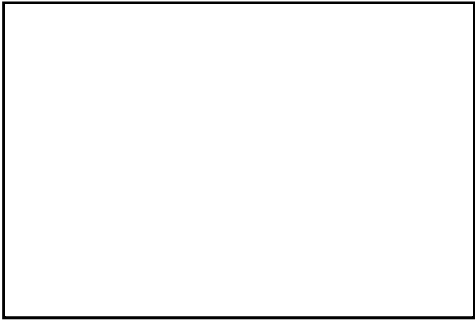
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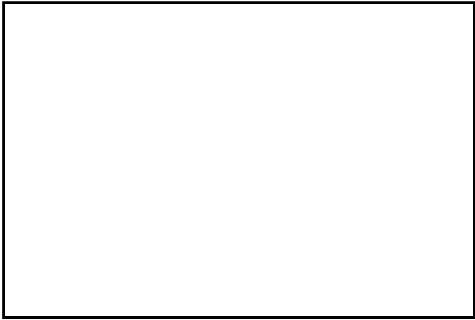
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## 1. A 10 Percent to 20 Percent Market Correction Followed by a Recovery before the End of the Year

In 2026, I expect a 10 percent to 20 percent correction in the public markets as “AI bubble” concerns hit a fever pitch. The irony is that this pullback will likely arrive just as commentators begin insisting that there is no bubble at all—that the current valuation environment is simply the new normal. I expect this correction will reset expectations, flush out excess and ultimately strengthen conviction in the companies generating real, durable value from AI. The recovery that follows will be real but gradual, driven not by sentiment but by fundamentals.

As I argued in [Rolling Stone earlier this year](#), the meaningful metric in an AI-driven economy isn't jobs—it's compute and how effectively companies convert it into productivity. Markets will begin rewarding exactly that. Companies generating tangible output gains from AI will stabilize first, while those surviving on AI halo narratives alone will reset.

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## 2. Agentic AI Begins Replacing and Displacing

In 2026, agentic AI becomes the clearest competitive divider. The shift will be quiet but obvious. In 2026, investors and operators should watch for one thing above all: Is the AI doing the work, or is it just answering questions?

## 3. Quantum Quietly Becomes an Infrastructure Advantage, NOT Esoteric Theory

In 2026, quantum begins plugging into classical compute as a **hybrid co-processor**. Leaders should ask themselves, “If our cloud provider turned on quantum access tomorrow, which workflows could we send to it?”

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The smart move now is to pinpoint one or two workflows that could realistically benefit from quantum acceleration, such as generating new battery materials, simulating new chemical reactions for manufacturing, optimizing transportation routes during peak demand or running thousands of financial scenarios for risk modelling overnight instead of weekly. If your compute stack can flex to support hybrid quantum workloads, you'll be ready the moment the commercial gains become tangible.

### 4. Defense Tech Is Noisy Right Now — But the Real Signal Is in “Small, Smart Things”

There's plenty of hype around defense tech right now, most of it orbiting big platforms and glossy demos that look impressive but don't scale. The real breakthrough is coming from a very different thesis: small, smart, fewer systems that can be deployed in swarms, upgraded quickly and repurposed for commercial use. Think micro-drones that handle reconnaissance *and* infrastructure inspection, edge-AI sensors that secure bases *and* energy facilities or lightweight autonomous units that support military logistics *and* reduce operational friction in industry.

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This approach matters because it scales. Small, smart systems create dual-use advantages: defense gets adaptable tools that can be fielded fast, while commercial sectors gain access to technology that leapfrogs their current capabilities. In a landscape full of buzz, this is the thesis to watch.

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## 5. Learning Systems Become Your Secret Weapon (and Your Team's Lifeline)

In 2026, everyone will chase shiny AI tools, but the real advantage will come from something far less glamorous: a good learning system. Upskilling becomes the cheapest and fastest way to keep your team from feeling like technology is sprinting past them. The hopeful part? You don't need everyone to be an AI expert. You just need systems that help people learn almost as fast as the world is changing.

## Conclusion: The Only Wrong Move Is Standing Still

The next year will reward leaders who experiment, upgrade and bring their teams along for the ride. Everything else — market cycles, new tech, surprise breakthroughs — is just weather. Move with intention, learn fast and don't get too attached to whatever worked yesterday. Fortune differs from luck. Luck is random. Fortune implies a confluence of luck, hard work and acting at the opportune moment. Therefore, I wish you all good fortune in 2026.

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