

Investor.Coffee (12.11.2023): CDN Healthcare Deal, U.S. Dollar Gains Strength on Japan's Nikkei Rebound

written by Tracy Weslosky | December 11, 2023

[DIAGNOS Inc.](#) (TSXV: ADK | OTCQB: DGNOF), a company we have followed for several years out of Montreal, [announced](#) a landmark move for the Canadian healthcare sector this morning. DIAGNOS Inc., a pioneer in artificial intelligence (AI)-driven health solutions, has announced a significant distribution agreement with global ophthalmic leader EssilorLuxottica. This exclusive Canadian contract, unveiled on December 11, 2023, signifies a pivotal moment for DIAGNOS, cementing its place in the market with its cutting-edge retinal analysis technology.

Renowned for its effectiveness in the early detection of eye conditions, DIAGNOS's technology will now reach a broader audience through EssilorLuxottica's expansive network, promising an enhancement in the quality of eye health care. The three-year agreement, which includes a renewal option, entails a per-patient exam payment model to DIAGNOS. André Larente, DIAGNOS' President, highlighted this partnership's role in broadening the accessibility of their innovative technology, aligning with their mission to foster visual health in Canada and globally.

Market Watch: Global and US Economic Indicators

As the business day commences, futures indicate a downtrend, shadowing a dip in commodities like oil and gold. In the U.S.,

we are awaiting the Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting and upcoming inflation data, which will shed light on the possibility of a soft landing for the economy. European shares are also experiencing a downturn, while Japan's Nikkei has seen a rebound. The U.S. dollar is gaining strength against the Japanese yen.

U.S. Central Bank's Interest Rate Decision

The U.S. Federal Reserve is set to release its interest rate decision on Wednesday, following last month's unchanged benchmark rate. Wall Street is increasingly optimistic about maintaining the status quo in December, as efforts to curb inflation without triggering a recession seem fruitful.

In recent global and U.S. economic updates, the market is witnessing a downward trend in futures, mirroring declines in commodities such as oil and gold. Investors in the U.S. are particularly focused on the upcoming Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting and the release of inflation data, which are crucial in assessing the prospects of a soft economic landing. Meanwhile, European shares are experiencing a downturn, in contrast to Japan's Nikkei which has shown a rebound. The U.S. dollar is strengthening against the Japanese yen.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is poised to announce its decision on interest rates this Wednesday, following a period of unchanged rates. There's a growing sentiment on Wall Street that the Fed might maintain the current rates in December, buoyed by successful measures to control inflation without pushing the economy into recession.

Some Business News Highlights:

- In corporate developments, French AI company Mistral AI, founded by ex-employees of Meta and Google, has [raised](#) €385 million in a second funding round, marking a significant milestone. This funding, led by investors such as Andreessen-Horowitz and LightSpeed Ventures, positions Mistral AI as a key player in the global AI landscape. The company also launched Mixtral 8x7B, an AI platform intended to compete with leading AI platforms like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard.
- In the healthcare sector, U.S. insurer Cigna (NYSE: CI) has [ended](#) its merger talks with Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM), citing price disagreements, and instead announced a significant \$10 billion share buyback plan. This development follows several years after regulatory interventions blocked major consolidations in the health insurance sector.
- In the tech industry, NVIDIA Corporation (NASDAQ: NVDA) is [expanding](#) its footprint in Vietnam, partnering with leading tech companies in the country. This expansion, announced by NVIDIA's CEO, focuses on AI and digital infrastructure, aligning with Vietnam's ambitions to advance in chip design and manufacturing, especially in the context of ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions.
- In the energy sector, Occidental Petroleum Corp. (NYSE: OXY) has confirmed its [acquisition](#) of CrownRock, an energy producer in the Permian basin, in a \$12 billion deal. This acquisition is a strategic move for Occidental's growth in the energy sector.
- TC Energy Corp.'s (TSX: TRP | NYSE: TRP) Coastal GasLink project is currently facing legal challenges due to construction delays, which could significantly impact its

financial liabilities. This comes as the C\$14.5 billion project was completed at over double its initial budget.

- In corporate leadership news, Tellurian Inc. (NYSE American: TELL) has announced a major change by [removing](#) its chairman and co-founder, Charif Souki, from his executive role. This change is part of the company's strategy to improve its prospects, particularly focusing on its Driftwood LNG project.
- Tesla Inc. (NASDAQ: TSLA) is under pressure from Nordic pension funds to [respect](#) collective bargaining rights for its employees. Concurrently, the company is defending its use of "Autopilot" and "self-driving" terminology amid regulatory examination in California.

Globally, the Middle East continues to experience intense conflict with no resolution in sight. The UK's manufacturing sector is showing signs of recovery, which could bolster the sector in the coming year. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces a critical week with a COVID-19 inquiry and a key parliamentary vote on asylum policy. The EU has reached a provisional deal on AI regulation, which includes governing biometric surveillance. Bosch is adapting to changing auto sector demands, leading to significant job cuts. Signa Development Finance's potential insolvency proceedings highlight ongoing market challenges. Lastly, BP Plc's Bilbao Plant sale to Gunvor reflects BP's strategic transformation and commitment to becoming a net-zero company.

We kicked off our morning by tweeting our Top 10 Trending columns and videos for the last week that we encourage you to review:

1. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #1 Position, READ: #TechnologyMetals Week-in-Review: The British Stake

Claim in #Quebec and the #Uranium Boom in North America
<https://bit.ly/47jhbmH> cc: @IN8News @Energy_Fuels
@F3Uranium @Ucore @FirstPhosphate @CriticalMnlInst
#criticalminerals

2. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #2 Position,
READ: The #CriticalMineralsInstitute Report (CMI 11.2023):
#Neodymium price is down 33% over the Past Year, Record
Plug-In #EV Car Sales for September <https://bit.ly/3QV2dfE>
cc: @IN8News #RareEarths #Lithium #ElectricVehicles
@CriticalMnlInst #criticalminerals
3. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #3 Position,
READ: Harris Administration's \$3.5 Billion Investment in
U.S. #Battery Manufacturing and #CleanEnergy Transition
<https://bit.ly/46hagJe> cc: @IN8News #criticalminerals
#Biden @CriticalMetals_ @CriticalMnlInst
4. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #4 Position,
READ: Update on the #Teck and #Glencore deal: "Never Fear,
the Feds are Here" <https://bit.ly/4a1fULR> cc: @IN8News
#MetallurgicalCoal @TeckResources @Glencore
5. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #5 Position,
READ: Exploring the Future of #Battery Technology and
#CriticalMinerals <https://bit.ly/3G4HSQ1> cc: @IN8News
@CriticalMnlInst @FirstPhosphate
6. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #6 Position,
WATCH: Progress in #Pathogen Defense, Dr. Carolyn Myers
Discusses #FendX's Collaboration with Dunmore for
#REPELWRAP™ <https://youtu.be/rLDSZ8KMBqs> via @YouTube
#Nanotechnology #PathogenRepellent #VirusRepellent
#DiseaseControl @FendXTech \$FNDX.C \$FDXTF
7. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #7 Position,
WATCH: Greg Fenton on how #Zentek's Advancement in
#Aptamer Technology is Revolutionizing #Biotech
<https://youtu.be/LJrNda7ZHRQ> via @YouTube
#PathogenDetection #ZenGUARD #HVACFilters @ZentekLtd \$ZTEK

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8. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #8 Position, WATCH Jack Lifton interviews Mark Chalmers on #EnergyFuels Strategic Path to Dominance in the North American #RareEarths Market <https://youtu.be/a1xrRJB5hAw> via @YouTube #Uranium #criticalminerals @Energy_Fuels \$UUUU \$EFR
 9. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #9 Position, WATCH: Terry Lynch on @PowerNickel's collaboration with #CVMR Corporation for developing Canada's first #CarbonNeutral #Nickel mine <https://youtu.be/x0tY6U7ovRE> via @YouTube #CriticalMinerals #BatteryMetals \$PNPN.V \$PNPNF @terrybali
 10. Top 10 Trending on #InvestorNews, in the #10 Position, READ: Who might follow #PatriotBattery Metals #lithium exploration success in Canada in 2024? <https://bit.ly/48fFh1P> via @YouTube #criticalminerals @BrunswickExplo1 @WinsomeRes
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Investor.Coffee (12.08.2023): Canadian futures point towards a rise in the resource-heavy main stock index

written by Tracy Weslosky | December 11, 2023

In the pre-opening phase, **Canadian futures pointed towards a rise in the resource-heavy main stock index**, while Wall Street

futures were subdued as investors awaited the monthly payrolls report for insights into the Federal Reserve's monetary policy stance. European shares showed gains, driven by luxury and energy stocks, following Germany's inflation data. In contrast, Japan's Nikkei experienced its worst weekly decline since mid-September, attributed to speculations about the end of the Bank of Japan's stimulus measures. Concurrently, gold prices remained flat amidst a strengthening U.S. dollar.

In the United States, Apple Inc. (NASDAQ: APPL) is [shifting](#) its iPad product development resources to Vietnam, partnering with China's BYD Co. Ltd. (OTC: BYDDF) for this initiative. This marks the first time Apple has moved such critical (mineral) resources to Vietnam. The company is [also](#) planning to significantly increase iPhone production in India. BlackRock Inc.'s (NYSE: BLK) CEO commented on the firm being targeted in a political debate, highlighting the \$4 billion loss in assets under management in 2022 due to its ESG policies. Blackstone Inc. (NYSE: BX) and Digital Realty Trust Inc. (NYSE: DLR) [announced](#) a joint venture to develop data centers worth \$7 billion. The Boeing Company (NYSE: BA) [communicated](#) a delay in ramping up production of its 737 jets, pushing back its pre-pandemic production goals. FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) faces a [lawsuit](#) alleging illegal business practices, potentially impacting its restructuring plans. Marathon Petroleum Corp. (NYSE: MPC) reported a return to normal operations of a crude distillation unit in its Texas refinery. MarketAxess Holdings Inc. (NASDAQ: MKTX) and Tradeweb Markets Inc. (NASDAQ: TW) [abandoned](#) plans for a bond prices tape in Britain and the EU, citing complexities. Microsoft Corp. (NASDAQ: MSFT) faces a [review](#) by Britain's antitrust regulator over its partnership with OpenAI. NVIDIA Corporation (NASDAQ: NVDA) is in [talks](#) with Malaysia's YTL for a data center collaboration and plans to discuss semiconductor deals in Vietnam. Spotify Technology

(NYSE: SPOT) [announced](#) the departure of its CFO, Paul Vogel, next year. United Parcel Service, Inc. (NYSE: UPS) (UPS) faces labor challenges, with the Teamsters union considering action against the company for firing newly organized workers.

Internationally, China and the European Union discussed a more balanced trade relationship at a summit. In the UK, lawmakers criticized the slow progress in boosting the financial sector post-Brexit. Shell PLC (NYSE: SHEL) [expressed](#) interest in a \$5 billion oil investment in Nigeria and plans to increase natural gas production. The United Auto Workers union reported significant support for unionization at Volkswagen's Tennessee plant. ArcelorMittal SA sold its Kazakh assets to a state-owned fund and a local tycoon. Tata Motors lobbied against reducing import taxes on electric vehicles in India. Indian banks and lenders curtailed small personal loans following regulatory clampdown. India's fuel consumption decreased in November, and the government directed sugar mills to prioritize sugar production over ethanol.

AI Stocks to Watch as Investors Look to Ride the Next Technology Wave

written by InvestorNews | December 11, 2023

Fears of artificial intelligence in androids, massive computer facilities, and other devices taking over the world are not stopping investors from searching for ways to make prudent investments.

From AI and automation to robotics, nearly every industry is undergoing disruption. Over the past few months, the world has witnessed significant advancements in AI technology, such as the release of chatbots and image, art, and music generators for public use.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) is a branch of artificial intelligence that uses machine learning algorithms to create new and original content, such as computer code, images, music, speech, or text. It works by using a training algorithm and 'learning' on a large dataset of examples, then using that training to generate new content that is similar to the original examples.

Most recently, the chatter around Gen AI has been brought to the forefront by the web-based Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, or as it is more widely known, ChatGPT, from [OpenAI, L.L.C.](#) OpenAI is a privately-held company with investors including [Microsoft Corporation](#) (Nasdaq: MSFT), [Khosla Ventures](#), [Y Combinator](#), and Guangzhou Cornerstone Asset Management Co.

It has many applications and benefits for various industries, such as entertainment, education, finance, health care, marketing, media, pharmaceuticals, and security.

Some of the leading public companies by market cap that operate in the broader AI and Gen AI industry are:

Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq: MSFT) – Market Cap US\$2.20 Trillion

[Microsoft](#) offers cloud computing, software, and hardware products and services, such as Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Cognitive Services. Microsoft's Azure AI is a collection of AI

services that offers developers and data scientists the ability to build and deploy their own AI solutions using high-quality vision, speech, language, and decision-making AI models through simple API calls, and create their own machine learning models using familiar tools and open-source frameworks

Alphabet Inc. (Nasdaq: GOOGL) – Market Cap US\$1.32 Trillion

[Alphabet](#), best known for its Google search engine, provides internet-related products and services, such as Google Cloud and Google AI. Google Cloud recently announced generative AI offerings that let developers tap into Google's foundation models, search expertise, and conversational AI technologies to create enterprise-grade generative AI applications. Google also offers its own [Bard chatbot](#).

Amazon.com, Inc. (Nasdaq: AMZN) – Market Cap US\$1.08 Trillion

[Amazon](#) operates e-commerce, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence platforms, such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Amazon Alexa, and offers pre-trained AI Services to integrate into customer applications and workflows.

NVIDIA Corporation (Nasdaq: NVDA) – Market Cap US\$664.7 Billion

[NVIDIA](#) produces graphics processing units (GPUs) and artificial intelligence platforms, such as NVIDIA Omniverse and NVIDIA Clara. According to a report by research firm TrendForce, ChatGPT will require as many as 30,000 NVIDIA GPUs to operate, which costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for each GPU. As AI becomes more mainstream, NVIDIA looks to benefit from the GPU

demand.

Meta Platforms, Inc. (Nasdaq: META) – Market Cap US\$537.2 Billion

[Meta](#) operates social media platforms and applications, such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. It also develops artificial intelligence products and services, such as Facebook AI Research and Facebook Reality Labs.

Adobe Inc. (Nasdaq: ADBE) – Market Cap US\$116.5 Billion

[Adobe](#) provides software products and services for digital media creation and marketing, such as Adobe Creative Cloud and Adobe Sensei. Adobe Sensei is an artificial intelligence and machine learning technology developed by Adobe that powers its Creative Cloud suite of applications and uses AI and machine learning to automate tasks such as organizing, editing, and producing content.

International Business Machines Corporation (NYSE: IBM) – Market Cap US\$114.3 Billion

[IBM](#) provides IT solutions and services, such as IBM Cloud and IBM Watson. It also develops artificial intelligence products and services, such as IBM Project Debater and IBM AutoAI. In 2011, IBM's supercomputer Watson beat competitors on the popular game show Jeopardy!

Final thoughts

The AI field is growing rapidly and has numerous applications in various industries. Major players offer a range of AI products and services, from cloud computing to chatbots and image, art,

and music generators. NVIDIA, in particular, is poised to benefit from the increasing demand for GPUs as AI becomes more mainstream. Despite concerns about AI taking over the world, investors are eagerly searching for ways to invest in this space.

Monetizing the Metaverse: Where's the money?

written by Stephen Lautens | December 11, 2023

Last week some of the major players in the Metaverse joined together to form the [Metaverse Standards Forum](#), which, as the name suggests, aims to set compatibility to make it easier for developers to build across platforms. Standards are important in the early days of tech development to prevent niches and dead-ends (think Betamax and Laserdiscs), which is why Meta (Facebook), Microsoft, Epic Games, Adobe, Nvidia, Sony and others have joined together to create industry standards. Conspicuously absent is Apple, which may yet adhere to the Forum's standards, or may – as Apple does – choose to go its own way.

Nick Clegg, Meta's President of Global Affairs, wrote last month in [a blog post](#): "Like the internet, the metaverse will be an interconnected system that transcends national borders, so there will need to be a web of public and private standards, norms and rules to allow for it to operate across jurisdictions."

There are clearly big plans for the Metaverse, but how big is the Metaverse business? There are lots of estimates to choose

from. A [recent study](#) projected the global Metaverse market to grow from US\$100.27 billion in 2022 to US\$1,527.55 billion by 2029. If you still think the Metaverse is just a gaming platform or just for kids, keep in mind that the Metaverse Standards Forum founding members Meta, Microsoft, Epic Games, Adobe, Nvidia, and Sony have a combined market cap of over \$3 trillion and have invested billions of dollars in Metaverse development and commercialization.

That is a lot of money going into the Metaverse, but how do you get money out of it? Investors can always buy stock in companies that are themselves investing heavily in Metaverse development. At the moment the biggest name is unquestionably Meta Platforms, Inc. (NASDAQ: FB), previously known as Facebook. Another is 3D content creation leader – and Metaverse Standards Forum founder – NVIDIA Corporation (NASDAQ: NVDA) with its own Omniverse Enterprise. Another is Roblox Corporation (NYSE: RBLX), with a \$20 billion market cap and its own version of a metaverse platform that has already hosted virtual concerts that have attracted as many as 33 million viewers to Lil Nas X's show on their platform.

The Metaverse is essentially an event space, whether it is games or concert events. According to Forbes, concerts in the Metaverse are already making artists millions – as much as [\\$20 million for a single show](#). And for those who dismiss “games” as a serious source of revenue, the gaming industry generated almost [US\\$201 billion in revenue in 2021](#) and is anticipated to reach about \$435 billion by 2028. Metaverse Standards Forum founder Epic Games just completed a \$2 billion fundraising round for games development that included Sony Group and LEGO Group owner Kirkbi.

There are hundreds of companies now selling virtual “real estate”. Much like the millions a good [internet domain name](#) can

cost, companies are staking out and building Metaverse destinations. In just the month of November 2021 alone, two of the leading digital real estate companies – Sandbox and Decentraland – earned [revenues of about \\$180 million](#) from virtual land sales in the Metaverse.

On a smaller scale, there is a new, growing service sector to support the Metaverse. There are world-builders and studios that create and trade in virtual assets, such as custom Metaverse locations, avatars, wearables, virtual real estate and the now notorious NFTs. NFTs, or non-fungible tokens for unique digital art and assets, seem to have peaked last year and are now on the decline, however in 2020/21 investors reportedly [spent US\\$183 million on the top 10 NFTs](#), with the most expensive single NFT selling for over \$69 million. The era of NFT art as an investment seems to have passed, or at least suffered a sharp decline, leaving many owners wondering what were they thinking.

Notwithstanding the apparent faddishness of NFTs, the Metaverse will require an army of content creators and back-end e-commerce support, much like the early days of web commercialization. It will be an emerging platform for companies to showcase their products, engage shareholders, promote their brands and share news and corporate development. It can be a 24/7 interactive trade show. Like any other promotional asset, it will require updating, new content, and support to keep it fresh and meet changing corporate and stakeholder needs.

Like any new corporate tool, the Metaverse will initially be seen as an annoyance and cost center by many who will reluctantly be forced to adopt it, the way the telephone, fax, email, websites, and recently Zoom, were seen as necessary evils before they became staples of corporate existence.

Will early adopters profit from the Metaverse? Some certainly

will, however, like the early days of the internet and e-commerce, it can be hard to pick winners this early in the race. Remember Amazon and Facebook were widely dismissed early on as having no business model and years of unprofitability. The adoption of Metaverse standards will help sharpen the focus for both investors and early adopter companies looking to the future.