METHODOLOGY & PROCESS · AI-ASSISTED RESEARCH

AI made the building cheap. The checking is now the job.

Price is what the market pays. Value is what a business earns on the capital its growth requires, and growth creates value only when that return beats the cost of the capital behind it. You can't get somethin' for nothin'. This is how I measure the gap between price and value, in seven stages, with Claude as a research associate.

Twenty-plus years in institutional equity research and investment banking. Now independent research and investing, with a verification process to catch what AI gets wrong.

danmcspirit.com
@danmcspirit

About a dozen published pieces and four live models in five months, across equities, treasury companies and tokens

Different assets, different questions, one way of working underneath.

JUN 2026	JUL 2026	AUG 2026	SEP 2026	OCT 2026
LINEA valuation app	SPCX: four businesses, four costs of capital	ETH: the agentic upside	ETH: network value and agentic finance	IREN: power, pricing and funding
	SPCX valuation app	Hyperscaler capex and ROIC	SBET return contribution	IREN customer prepayments
	ETH valuation app	CRWV & NBIS: depreciation vs funding	SBET discount and return analysis	IREN: October update, at ~$35
		IREN: a landlord with chips on top	LINEA return decomposition	
			SBET valuation app*	

Absolute valuation · What the price assumes · Return decomposition · Capital and funding · Live model

Absolute valuation

Value the business from the bottom up, segment by segment.

SPCX · ETH · IREN · LINEA

What the price assumes

Work back from the market price to what has to be true.

ETH · IREN

Return decomposition

Split what actually moved the price into its sources.

SBET · LINEA

Capital and funding

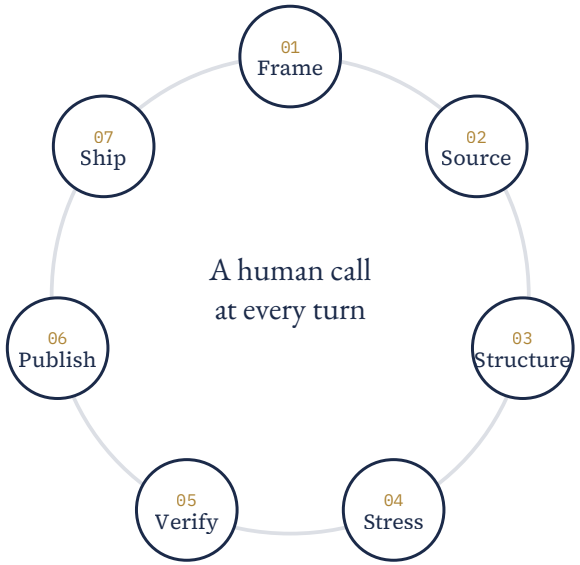
Test whether the capital behind the growth earns its cost.

Hyperscalers · CRWV · IREN

Dated by the month on each piece. *Placed by its earliest dated data. Not shown: the Value Creation Framework and the SBET build-process account (undated), and the RPN Financial Calculator. The author holds SBET and LINEA; positions are disclosed on each piece.

Claude is the research associate, not the analyst

One loop, seven stages, and a different job for Claude at each. It does the construction, retrieval and checking; it does not decide what any number means. The rest of this deck walks the loop, one stage per slide.



	Stage	Claude · the associate	Me · the analyst
01	Frame	Pressure-tests the question as a thought partner	Choose the question the price depends on
02	Source	Retrieves figures from filings and primary data	Decide what counts as a source; keep outside views out
03	Structure	Constructs the workbook and its logic	Set segments, discount rates and overlap rules
04	Stress	Re-runs the model through structural corrections	Decide which results survive and are publishable
05	Verify	A second AI re-derives the first one’s claims	Adjudicate when the two disagree
06	Publish	Drafts slides from my brief	Decide what is shown, and show the range
07	Ship	Claude Design builds the interface; Claude Code packages and ships	Approve what goes live

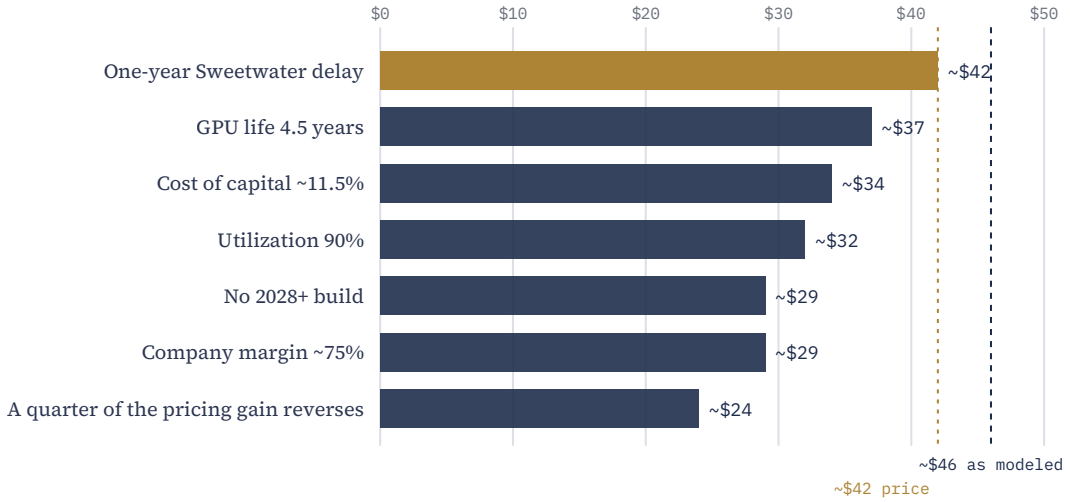
Stage roles are drawn from the AI-provenance note in the SBET Absolute Valuation app, the SBET build-process account and the working records behind the CRWV, SPCX and LINEA work. Tooling varies by piece: Excel throughout; Claude chat, Claude Design and Claude Code; Cursor on the earliest app.

Frame: the headline risk is rarely the one the price depends on

Framing comes first: what does the market price already assume? For IREN, asking it that way turned a news story about the Texas grid into a question about pricing, GPU lives and funding.

01 · VALUE PER SHARE AFTER ONE PLAUSIBLE MOVE

Each bar moves one assumption, with the rest as modeled. The Texas queue, the headline risk, is the smallest move on the chart.



02 · THE TURNING POINT

The question was what ~$42 was discounting, to understand upside and downside. The headlines said Texas: ERCOT paused energization of large data-center loads, and the state froze permits.

The model said otherwise. A one-year delay at Sweetwater costs ~$4 a share. Pricing, GPU life and funding a ~$55bn build each matter more, and today's pricing is only ~1% above breakeven.

CLAUDE

Helped research the ERCOT, TCEQ and filing record, and recalculated the model at every setting.

ME

Framed the question around the price, not the headline, and chose which moves were plausible.

~$46	~$42	~$4	~1%	~$55bn
VALUE PER SHARE IF TODAY'S CONDITIONS PERSIST	IREN CLOSE, 2 OCT 2026	COST OF A ONE-YEAR SWEETWATER DELAY	TODAY'S PRICING ABOVE BREAKEVEN	CASH BURN THE BUILD MUST FUND

IREN Power, Pricing and Funding (Oct 2026). Value per share after dilution, IREN Absolute Valuation Model, fully recalculated at each setting; one assumption moved at a time. Sources: IREN Form 10-K FY2026; FY26 results (27 Aug 2026); IREN 8-Ks; ERCOT; TCEQ. Update, 9 Oct 2026: at ~$35, the price allows ~11% of the gain to reverse (slide 10). Not affiliated with IREN. The author holds no position in IREN.

Source: primary data first, and other people's answers kept out

An AI will happily repeat what it has read. So the inputs are rebuilt from the chain or the filing wherever possible, company language is tested against the company's own documents, and other people's answers are kept out of the room.

01 · REBUILD, DON'T BORROW · LINEA

252,887

TRANSFER EVENTS REPLAYED FROM THE GENESIS MINT

Circulating supply was rebuilt from the token contract on both chains and reconciled to the contract to the wei. Forty addresses were classified, each with a transaction hash or tracing path. No explorer labels, no aggregator figures. Prices were cross-checked against a second venue.

02 · TEST THE COMPANY'S WORDS · SBET

~12%

PREMIUM TO MARKET, NOT TO NAV

Management described its October 2025 raise as priced at a premium to NAV. The pricing release describes a premium to market: $17.00 against the $15.15 close on 15 October. At the disclosed ETH price that week, ETH alone was worth about $17.01 a share, so the raise was roughly a wash. The NAV claim is not repeated as fact.

03 · KEEP OUTSIDE VIEWS OUT · SPCX

0

OUTSIDE VALUATIONS IN THE PROJECT

A widely followed outside valuation of SpaceX was kept out of the project entirely, so it could not anchor the model or the AI. The segment work was built from the IPO filings instead.

CLAUDE

Retrieves the figures, replays the events, reconciles the totals.

ME

Decide what counts as a source, test management's characterization, and keep the project clean of anyone else's answer.

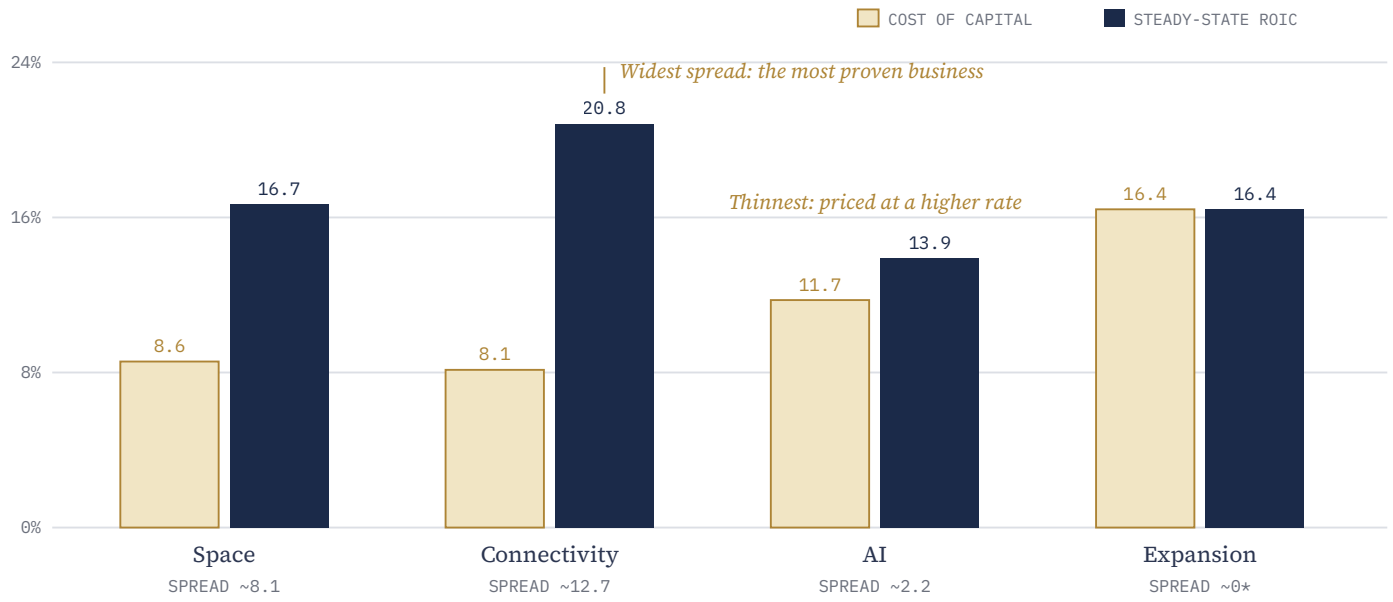
LINEA Return Decomposition and Method, Choices and Limits (Sep 2026): raw JSON-RPC on Ethereum and Linea, two providers; prices from CoinGecko cross-checked against Kraken. SBET Absolute Valuation app, methodology and raise tests, from SBET 8-Ks and pricing releases. SPCX: project working records. The author holds SBET and LINEA; no position in SPCX.

Structure: each business at its own cost of capital, and each asset counted once

The structural choices decide the answer before any assumption is flexed. They are mine, and each is written into the model where a reader can see it.

01 · SPCX: FOUR BUSINESSES, FOUR COSTS OF CAPITAL

Each segment priced at its own risk, from the July 2026 model at default settings. A single blended rate would apply one discount rate to all four.



*Expansion's steady-state ROIC equals its cost of capital by construction; its reinvestment rate is defined as g ÷ WACC.

02 · COUNT EACH THING ONCE · ETH

Each unit of ETH does one primary job at a time. Where the same ETH genuinely does double duty, such as liquid staking used as DeFi collateral, the overlap is a calibrated multiplier, not assumed away or counted twice. Agent transactions already priced in the agentic segment are netted out of settlement.

03 · STATE WHAT IS NOT INDEPENDENT

SPCX computes cash taxes on consolidated EBIT, because SpaceX files one return, not four, and says so on the page. SBET treats each warrant tranche by moneyness: treasury stock method in the money, a Black-Scholes deduction out of it.

CLAUDE

Constructs the workbook, and on SBET a script that generates it.

ME

Draw the segment lines, set the discount rates, write the overlap rules.

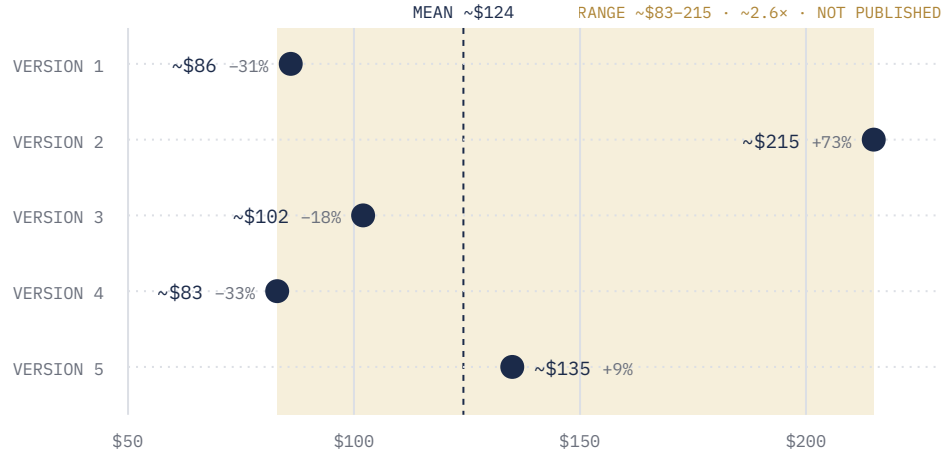
SPCX Valuation Analysis app (July 2026), default settings, rounded; spread is steady-state ROIC less cost of capital. ETH Valuation Analysis app (July 2026), Methodology and Capital Allocation sections. SBET Absolute Valuation app, warrant stack. The author holds no position in SPCX; the author holds SBET.

Stress: CRWV's base case moved five times. What I published didn't.

A model that changes its answer by more than 2.5× under correction is telling you something. The response is not to pick a version, but to find the facts that hold across the range and publish those.

01 · CRWV BASE CASE PER SHARE ACROSS FIVE MODEL VERSIONS, AND ITS DEVIATION FROM THE MEAN

Each version followed a structural correction, not a change of assumption. One example: the observed marginal funding mix (~80% debt, ~20% equity) had been treated as a WACC target weight, which overstated dilution by about three-quarters.



02 · WHAT SURVIVED THE RANGE

The funding need. Roughly $65bn over 2026–28, and it barely moves with the depreciation debate: a five- to eight-year asset life shifts it ~5%.

The shape of the value. Terminal value ~120% of enterprise value; equity a ~60% residual behind ~$45bn of net debt and leases.

A tool dropped. Market-implied asset life barely moved, ~5.4 to ~6.2 years, across a $40 to $160 share price. Uninformative, so not used.

The published deck rests only on facts like these, which survived a wide valuation range. The same discipline caught an SPCX build discounting free cash flow to the firm at an equity-only cost of capital.

CLAUDE
Rebuilt the model after each correction and reported the new result.

ME
Called each correction structural, treated no per-share figure as publishable, and published only what survived.

5	~$83–215	~$65bn	~5%	0
STRUCTURAL CORRECTIONS TO THE CRWV MODEL	RANGE OF THE BASE CASE ACROSS VERSIONS	EXTERNAL FUNDING NEED, 2026–28	FUNDING-NEED SENSITIVITY TO A 5–8 YEAR ASSET LIFE	PER-SHARE FIGURES PUBLISHED

CRWV & NBIS: The Debate Is Depreciation. The Difference Is Funding (Aug 2026), and the working records behind it. Version values are the workbook's base case per share as recorded; none was published. SPCX: project working records. Not affiliated with CoreWeave, Nebius or SpaceX. The author holds no position in CRWV, NBIS or SPCX.

Verify: the arithmetic was never wrong. The claims about it were.

So the checking goes to the claims about the math: that the cell says what the sentence says, that the figure is from this build, and that both sides of a comparison share a basis. The most effective check was two systems disagreeing, with a human adjudicating.

01 · THE SECOND AI, REVIEWING THE FIRST · ERROR 6

The first AI asserted a digit transposition in a correct share count. In fact a verification filter (n > 1000) had silently dropped a 252-share tranche.

> "You confirmed net warrant shares of 533,763 tie to the workbook exactly. Only the inclusive count produces that figure, so the workbook is already counting the 252-share tranche at $7.77 — which is in the money against the $7.91 close."

Recomputed both ways at $7.91: including the tranche, net ~533,763; excluding it, ~533,759.

02 · THE WORST KIND: A FALSE GREEN · ERROR 1

0 failed, 17 passed

Reported by the harness after a set of changes

3 blockers

Re-run against the workbook the build actually wrote

The harness defaulted to the file beside the script; the build wrote elsewhere. The fix was one argument; finding it took doubting a green result.

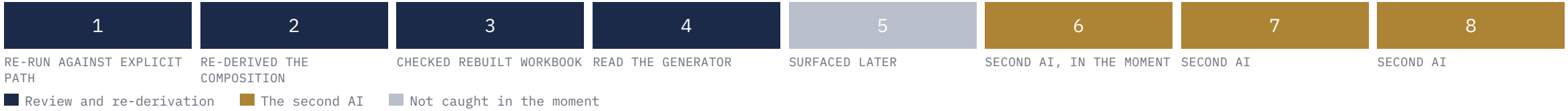
CLAUDE

Built the model and the harness, and stated the results.

ME

Doubted a green result, and adjudicated each disagreement.

03 · EIGHT ERRORS IN ONE BUILD SESSION, BY WHAT CAUGHT THEM · NONE OF THEM A CALCULATION ERROR



What It Actually Takes to Trust AI-Built Analysis (SBET build-process account); quotation is the reviewing system's reasoning as published there. The second AI was involved in four errors: it challenged 6–8 in the moment, and on error 5 had used the correct $11.24 throughout without flagging the divergence, which surfaced later from a screenshot. 18-check harness; build took ~2 days. Not affiliated with Sharplink, Inc. The author holds SBET shares.

FROM THE SBET BUILD · ERROR 6

The second-worst outcome in a model is a wrong number. The worst is a right number removed on purpose.

Had error 6 gone unchallenged, correct code would have been edited to satisfy a defective check. Verification is not only catching wrong numbers. It is refusing to “fix” right ones.

Publish: the range is the finding, and it moves with the price

Asked a week apart, the same question gave a different answer because the price moved. A point estimate would have hidden that. Two grids show which assumptions carry the value, and how much room the price leaves them.

01 · 2 OCTOBER · IREN AT ~$42

Shaded above ~$42. Only ~4% of the pricing gain can reverse at a 5-year GPU life.

GPU life · gain reversed	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%
6 years	~$59	~$50	~$42	~$33	~$24
5.5 years	~$53	~$44	~$35	~$27	~$18
5 years	~$46	~$37	~$28	~$20	~$11
4.5 years	~$37	~$28	~$20	~$11	~$3
4 years	~$26	~$17	~$9	~$1	<$0

02 · 9 OCTOBER · IREN AT ~$35

Shaded at or above ~$35. The same model now allows ~11%, at ~$8 a share per 10 points.

GPU life · gain reversed	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%
6 years	~$58	~$49	~$40	~$32	~$24
5.5 years	~$52	~$43	~$34	~$26	~$18
5 years	~$44	~$36	~$27	~$19	~$11
4.5 years	~$36	~$27	~$19	~$11	~$4
4 years	~$25	~$17	~$9	~$2	<$0

NAME NOTHING "BASE CASE" · SBET

A grid labeled bear, base and bull tells you which column to believe before you have read it. The SBET app leaves the pairing to the reader.

PUT A NUMBER ON EVERY JUDGMENT CALL · LINEA

Beta to ETH measured tightly, ~0.89 ± 0.06; token drift loosely, ~−133% ± 70 points a year. A wallet classification moves ~0.36 log points, total unchanged.

CLAUDE

Re-ran every cell of both grids, a full recalculation each.

ME

Asked the question again when the price moved, and published the range, not a point.

~4%
PRICING GAIN REVERSAL THE PRICE ALLOWED AT ~$42

~11%
REVERSAL THE PRICE ALLOWED AT ~$35, A WEEK LATER

5 → 8
OF 25 GRID CELLS CLEARING THE PRICE

~$8
VALUE LOST PER 10 POINTS OF GAIN REVERSED

~$46 → ~$44
VALUE IF TODAY'S CONDITIONS PERSIST

IREN Power, Pricing and Funding (2 Oct 2026) and October Update (IREN at $35.19, 9 Oct 2026 close). Value per share after dilution, fully recalculated at every cell. Value if conditions persist falls from ~$46 to ~$44 because new equity is priced at the lower close. SBET Absolute Valuation app; LINEA Method, Choices and Limits (Sep 2026). Not affiliated with IREN, Sharplink or Consensys. The author holds SBET and LINEA; no position in IREN.

Ship: the model becomes something a reader can challenge

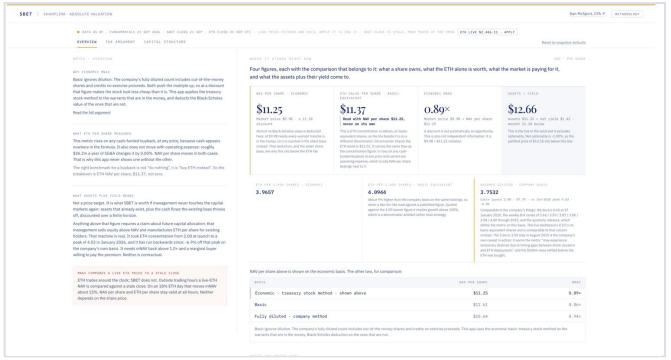
A spreadsheet asks to be trusted. A live model invites a reader to move the assumptions and see what breaks. Each app sets out its own methodology and resets to its defaults.

CLAUDE

Claude Design builds the interface from the workbook; Claude Code packages, audits and ships it to Vercel.

ME

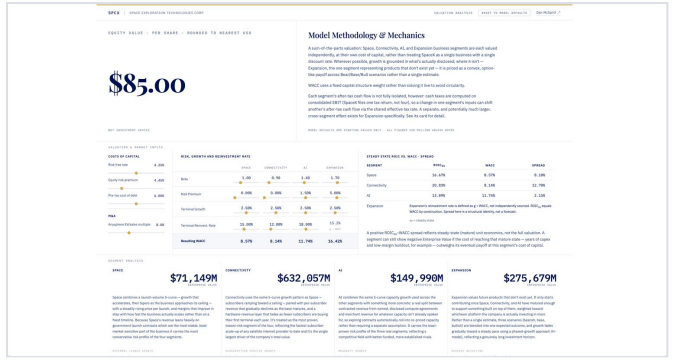
Decide which assumptions a reader can move, and what the model must say about its own limits.



SBET Absolute Valuation

sbet-absolute-valuation.vercel.app

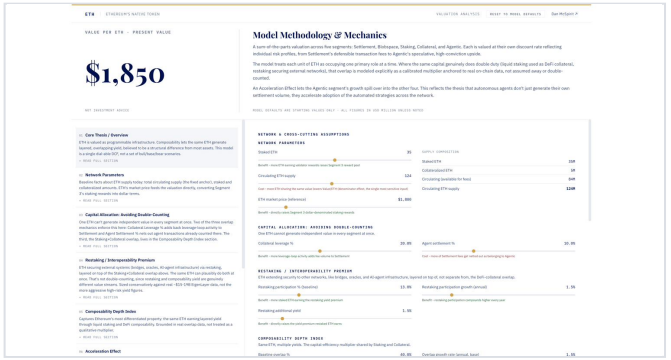
Economic NAV, the warrant stack and the justified multiple, with an 18-check harness behind every build.



SPCX Valuation Analysis

spcx-valuation-analysis.vercel.app

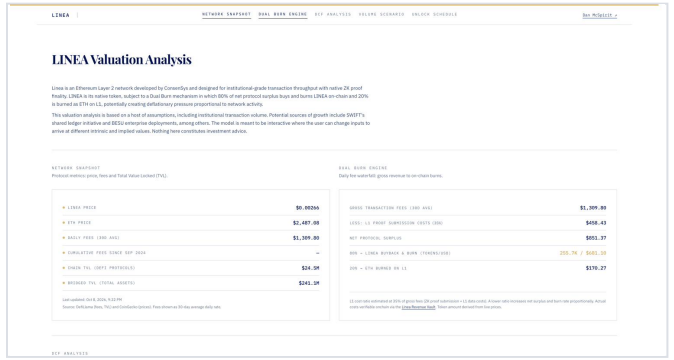
Four segments at four costs of capital, with net cash, share count and unlock bridges.



ETH Valuation Analysis

eth-valuation-analysis.vercel.app

Five segments, overlap netting and an acceleration effect, as one dial-able value.



LINEA Valuation Analysis

linea-valuation-analysis.vercel.app

DCF, dual-burn engine, volume scenario and unlock schedule; 15+ adjustable assumptions.

Screenshots October 2026, default settings. Model defaults are starting values only. Each model was rebuilt from Excel. Not affiliated with Sharplink, SpaceX or Consensys. The author holds SBET and LINEA; no position in SPCX.

THE TRADE

AI offers enormous leverage on construction, in exchange for a verification burden most people building with it have not yet priced. The leverage is real. So is the burden. The method is how I pay for one with the other.

You can’t get somethin’ for nothin’.

The golden rule of finance. Risk and return are inextricably linked; if you can’t see the risk, you haven’t looked hard enough.

Provenance: this deck was drafted with Claude from the author’s published work and working records, and checked by the author. Analysis is for informational purposes only and is not investment advice. The author holds SBET and LINEA, and no position in SPCX, IREN, CRWV or NBIS.

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