

Friday 14 August 2026 · Europe afternoon / U.S. premarket · after Thursday's first print through 7,800 and a cooler factory-gate inflation print · written for a smart friend who invests

A 30-second glossary

Word	What it means here
PPI	Producer Price Index. The bill factories pay before you see it in the store. July printed Thursday: headline unchanged vs +0.2% expected.
Pause vs hike	Pause = the Fed leaves rates alone. Hike = they raise them. Close recaps put September pause odds near 63% to 68% after PPI.
Gross / operating margin	Gross = leftover after making the thing. Operating = leftover after running the company. Free cash flow = cash after bills and the gear they need.
NBM / NAND	NBM = a multi-year memory supply deal already signed. NAND = the flash chips in phones, SSDs, and AI storage.
HBM	High-bandwidth memory. The expensive stacked memory sitting next to Nvidia chips.
As-converted / lock-up	As-converted = count options as if they were shares. Lock-up = new IPO shares that cannot be sold for a set time.

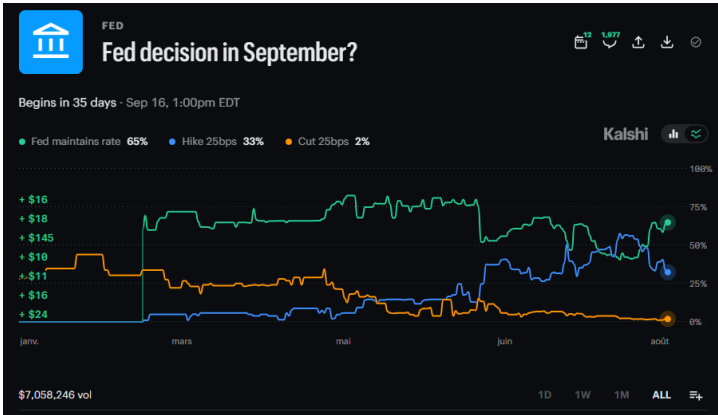
1. The last 24 hours in plain English

Thursday was the session where the year-end party showed up four months early, then the factories argued with each other after the bell. The S&P 500, the basket of the 500 biggest U.S. companies, closed at 7,798.99, basically 7,799, up 0.65%. It printed through 7,800 for the first time. That is a new all-time high. Intraday it tagged about 7,817 and faded into the bell, so the record is real but the last hour was not a melt-up. The Nasdaq finished at 26,803, up 0.81%. The Dow closed at 53,840, up 0.13%. J.P. Morgan and Morgan Stanley had both used 7,800 as a year-end target. The index got there in August.

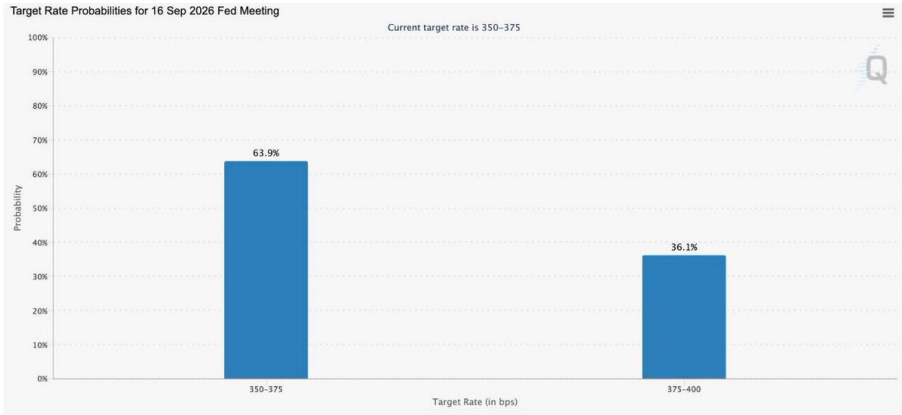
July producer prices, the factory-gate bill, came in cooler than expected. Headline was unchanged on the month versus +0.2% expected, and +4.7% versus a year ago versus +4.9% expected (Deltaone, First Squawk). Core PPI rose 0.2% versus 0.3% expected. Energy at the factory gate fell about 3.1%, gasoline about 5.7%. Jobless claims printed 209,000 versus 200,000 prior. The 10-year yield eased toward 4.645% after Wednesday's 4.683% auction, the highest since 2007. Close recaps put September pause odds near 63% to 68% and hike odds near 32% to 36%.

The industrial split is the whole Friday setup. Sandisk (ticker SNDK) held Investor Day and the stock finished about +13.6% to +16% toward \$1,528. This morning X cards still have it about +6% in premarket, with Kioxia in Tokyo up about 8%. Applied Materials (ticker AMAT), the company that sells the machines that make chips, beat and guided higher after the close and the stock was sold. Recaps sit around -2.7% after hours toward \$519, and overnight cards called it about -5%. That is the AI bar now: a great quarter is not enough if the Street already owned the slide.

Friday morning, U.S. cash is still closed. Premarket recaps: S&P futures about +0.04%, Nasdaq about -0.11%, Dow about -0.18%. Oil is the louder move. U.S. crude recaps extended more than 2% toward about \$82.99. Brent tagged about \$88.64. First Squawk: an IRGC drone struck a tanker that tried to pass Hormuz without Iran's authorization. Bloomberg's morning line was stocks churning as U.S. threats against Iran lift crude. Copper is a second squeeze: LME inventories fell for 42 days to 204,975 tons.



Kalshi / wire snapshot after the two-print inflation week · treat as a live book, not an official Fed forecast



X recap card · September pause odds after cooler C P I, then cooler P P I · circulating this week



Factory-gate energy was the cooler in Thursday's P P I · circulating 13 Aug

2. Macro: two cool prints, then oil talks back

Think of the last 48 hours as two movies. Movie one: shopper inflation (Wednesday) and factory inflation (Thursday) both came in no hotter than hoped. That is why stocks could print a record and why the 10-year yield eased. Movie two, Friday morning: a tanker and a drone. Cooler inflation is a tax cut for the Fed story. A Hormuz hit is a tax on drivers and a bid for energy stocks. They can both be true before 9:30 a.m. Eastern.

Item	The number	In English
July PPI (Thu)	Headline 0.0% month vs +0.2% est; +4.7% year vs +4.9%. Core +0.2% vs +0.3%; +4.2% year, in line.	Factories charged less than feared. Cheaper fuel did a lot of the cooling.

Item	The number	In English
Claims (Thu)	209,000 vs 200,000 prior.	Slightly more people filing. Still a tight job market, not a crash.
Fed odds on X	September pause ~63-68%. Hike ~32-36%. Barkin: next move an open question. Hammack still wants a hike.	The market is betting sit-still, not slam-the-brakes.
10-year	Eased toward 4.645% after a 4.683% auction, highest since 2007.	Stocks liked inflation. Long rates are still expensive for the government.
Oil Friday AM	WTI recaps +2% toward \$82.99. Brent toward \$88.64. Thursday settle had been ~\$81.25 / ~\$87.07.	Yesterday's inventory-build dip got overwritten by Hormuz.
Copper	LME inventories 42-day drop to 204,975 tons. Sept-Oct spread >\$260, widest since 2021 squeeze.	Data-center and grid metal is tight. Not a stock print. It is a factory input.
Gold / Bitcoin	Gold after PPI ~\$4,366 to \$4,382. Bitcoin held near \$63,300.	When inflation news is calmer, gold does not have to work as a panic hedge.

"IRGC struck an oil tanker with a drone after it attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's authorization."

@FirstSquawk · 14 Aug

3. Memory sold the future. Equipment sold the beat.

Sandisk (ticker SNDK) told Investor Day what the next few years look like if the plan works, through fiscal 2028 to 2030. Mid-to-high teens sales growth (think 15% to 18% a year). Gross margin, what's left after making the chips, about 80%. Operating margin about 75%. Free-cash-flow margin, spare cash after bills and factory spend, about 50%. They said they will return 100% of excess cash to shareholders. Long NAND contracts, the multi-year deals they call NBMs, were recapped as covering about 50% of planned fiscal 2027 volume and about 67% of fiscal 2028, with about \$94 billion of contracted value and \$16.5 billion of financial guarantees. In English: half to two-thirds of the chips they plan to make are already spoken for, and customers put real money behind it.

High-bandwidth flash samples are pitched for 2027. In company simulations, a flash-only setup delivered the same AI token output with half the GPU capacity of an HBM-only setup. Treat that last line as a slide, not a customer order. TrendForce still expects NAND supply to loosen in the second half of 2027, so the fat years have an expiry date. The stock finished Thursday about +14% to +16%. Overnight Wells Fargo recaps lifted a target to \$1,550 from \$1,400. J.P. Morgan \$2,250 circulated in Tokyo hours. Kioxia, the Japanese partner, was bid about 8%.

Applied Materials (ticker AMAT) is the other factory receipt, and the market treated it like a crime. Q3 sales \$9.12 billion versus about \$9.0 billion expected, up 25% year over year. Cleaned-up profit per share \$3.50 versus \$3.39. The chip-machine business did \$7.04 billion, up 26.5%, and kept 38 cents of operating profit on every dollar. The services arm (spare parts and maintenance after they sell a tool) did \$1.78 billion, up 21.7%. Gross margin 50.4%, the 13th straight year that number improved. Operating margin 34.0% with record operating profit of \$3.10 billion. Free cash flow \$2.33 billion. China was 28% of sales, or \$2.51 billion, down from 35% a year ago: they grew while China shrank as a share.

Q4 they guided sales to \$10.25 billion versus Wall Street at about \$9.48 to \$9.50 billion, and \$4.02 of profit per share versus about \$3.65 to \$3.70. CEO Gary Dickerson said leading-edge logic, DRAM, and advanced packaging are about 80% of tool-spend growth this year, with a similar mix expected in 2027. Growth outlook went from more than 20% in February to more than 30% in May and is now stronger than that. The stock was already down into the print and sold after hours. One overnight card said free-cash-flow growth was the worry. Translation: the quarter was great, and a lot of it was already in the price.

MIZUHO
ANALYST REPORT
August 13, 2024
N/A Daily Research
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Sandisk Corporation (SNK)
Company Commentary

Investor Day: Higher for Longer, 80% GM Floor, ~4Y Visibility, Buybacks and HSF Update

SNK launched its investor day in NYC. Key points: 1) HSF: the report out with C2CE sampling and potentially C2CE volume ramp, driving ~\$400M in backlogs at 1H of the year, while delivering 1H new financial model with mid-to-high teens revenue growth at C2CE, implying C2A C2CE is close, with C2CE, potentially higher with HSF at 80% GM floor, with HSF update as it is not in the model. 2) we saw continued demand being pricing (the price is \$100) vs. some expecting \$110 in the future, with strong AgenticEdge AI, HSF cooking, and memory cost and consumer. 40-100% of excess cash to be returned to shareholders, with \$1.5B in liquidity and ~\$1.5B in cash. 3) C2CE capacity expansion in HSFs, potentially similar to C2A, with ~10% visibility. We re-rated SNK at \$140/share, \$1.5B/SPY as there is enable with strong AI/DC build out, reference networks, and HSF update.

Key Points

HSF driving 1H18 the backdoor at 1.1H GM floor, BECH everything with BECH10 ahead. SNK's road we believe to track HSF could deliver ~\$400M in backlogs at 1H of the year, while delivering 1H the the report at similar rate to HSF, implying the backdoor is C2A C2CE, which potential for revenue in C2CE. We believe HSF may not replace HSF but which design/program/learn (the 12) for AI reference with HSF components including C2CE, HSF, and HSF. SNK's road leading to BECH10, using C2CE-based array (C2A) driving capacity new sampling and BECH10 launched and extending to BECH10.

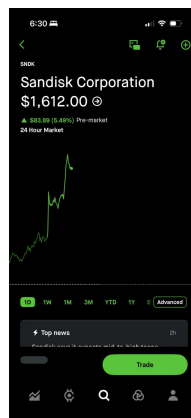
New financial model with 80% GM floor, implied revenue ~\$400M, with HSF driving potentially update and 100% HSF shareholder value. SNK's road 1H18 revenue C2CE for 1H2024, which with common C2CE at ~\$100, implies C2CE revenue to ~\$400M (C2A C2CE common). SNK's targets ~10% GM and ~20% GM with strong operating leverage while HSF is the future plan. In terms of visibility and quantity of demand (C2A) for contract value and a 80% GM floor. SNK's road HSF and extended to HSF 7 model which we believe drive significant update. Management expects to return 100% of excess cash to shareholders with \$1.5B in 7. H7 backlog authorization and potentially growing over time.

C2A C2CE multiple strong demand drivers, FY Cash, HSFs potentially at 2X of this year C2CE and backlogs (HMF) across each market. We believe corporate C2CE cash returns are down 15-20%, as but we see demand (underestimated), and ASP for it is up with strong AgenticEdge AI, HSF, and shared consumer markets. SNK's road HSF at 2.5 X of C2CE, but visibility with C2CE, potentially similar. We estimate SNK's FY ~\$100 for C2CE, ~\$100 for C2CE, with SNK's road 100% excess cash to liquidity: C2A HSF backdoor capacity, ~15% of outstanding growth, driving 10%.

Valuation

We use SNK's outperform with a \$1.5B/SPY, ~10-15% FY26 EPS, conservative on the 10X at ~10x and backlogs from HSFs with strong contract leverage in consumer HMF. AI demand driver for AI/DC driving share gains, and synergies from its AI with Kioxia as BECH10 ramp, suggesting a strong growth outlook.

Sandisk Investor Day take circulating after the +14% to +16% cash session



Sandisk still bid in Friday premarket cards · treat as a live tape, not a close

Third Quarter Results

Applied generated record revenue of \$9.12 billion. On a GAAP basis, the company reported gross margin of 50.3 percent, record operating income of \$3.08 billion or 33.7 percent of revenue, and earnings per share (EPS) of \$3.17.

On a non-GAAP basis, the company reported gross margin of 50.4 percent, record operating income of \$3.10 billion or 34.0 percent of revenue, and record EPS of \$3.50.

The company generated record cash from operations of \$3.04 billion and distributed \$860 million to shareholders through \$440 million in share repurchases and \$420 million in dividends.

"Applied Materials delivered another record-breaking quarter, including the highest sequential revenue growth in the company's history," said Gary Dickerson, President and CEO. "As the rapid global adoption of AI drives unprecedented demand for our materials engineering solutions, we are further raising our Semiconductor Systems revenue expectations for calendar 2026 and are confident we will grow faster than the market this year. Based on the increased demand visibility we are receiving from our customers, we expect another strong growth year for Applied Materials in 2027."

"Applied Materials achieved its 13th consecutive quarter of year-over-year gross margin expansion, demonstrating the increasing value we create by enabling better chips, systems and fab returns," said Brice Hill, Senior Vice President and CFO. "We expect continued strong revenue growth in the second half of the calendar year, particularly in DRAM as well as leading-edge foundry logic and advanced packaging. Looking further ahead, we are making additional manufacturing capacity investments to support projected demand through the end of the decade."

Applied Materials after-hours card · beat and guide, stock still offered



Micron after-hours cards through about \$970 as memory followed Sandisk · circulating 14 Aug

4. Permanent watchlist (into Friday's open)

Company	Heat	What happened, in English
Nvidia (NVDA)	Hot / quiet leader	Thursday close \$225.38, +0.57%, highest daily close since mid-May. Jensen: A100 fleet still useful 2020-2029 because CUDA keeps old chips rentable. Not a new quarter. Iren handed Microsoft a 50 MW hall (see below).
Apple (AAPL)	Quiet / event	No earnings. Tim Cook opened a Houston plant with Commerce Secretary Lutnick. Bloomberg: Mac Mini will be made there. Duration names got a hearing after cooler PPI.
Microsoft (MSFT)	Industrial, not a print	No Microsoft filing. Iren said Microsoft accepted delivery of Horizon 1: 50 MW of liquid-cooled AI computers, built in nine months, three more halls due this year. That is a customer receipt for Azure.
Google (GOOGL)	Quiet	No company print in the window. X experiment posts still name Alphabet as a 5-year hold. Not a catalyst.
Amazon (AMZN)	Soft sibling	Tested about \$265 while the S&P made a record. No Amazon catalyst. AWS remains the long-run AI bill. Chart people talking a flag toward the mid-\$270s. That is a map, not a filing.
Meta (META)	Bounce, no product	Thursday about +2.8% after Wednesday's weakest Mag 7 close. Pause-bid after two cool inflation prints, not a new ads number.
Tesla (TSLA)	Hot / receipts mixed	Thursday about +4% into the \$340s after \$327.50 Wednesday. Nevada robotaxi permit (request 5,000; unsupervised fleet still ~90-100 per Gary Black). China MIIT card: a Giga Shanghai Model Y Performance-style trim, 659 km CLTC, LG battery, 250 km/h. Vanguard Q2 add of 1.17 million shares circulated (treat as a 13F recap).
SpaceX (SPCX)	Hot / digestion	Thursday about \$141, -3%, after +10% Wednesday and +40% in five sessions near \$146. SEC recap: Elon beneficially owns 6.418 billion shares, 48.4% as-converted. Desk cards ~\$908 billion. Class B still the control. Terafab: land clearing is the fact. Fast Entry = index users asked, 12-month lock-up still applies.
Palantir (PLTR)	Quiet / positioning	No new product metric. Still a valuation fight, not the AI-demand thermometer.
Micron (MU)	Hot / second order	Thursday about +4%, through ~930 and as high as ~978. No Micron print. Memory followed Sandisk. After-hours cards through ~\$970 Friday Asia hours.

Company	Heat	What happened, in English
Sandisk (SNDK)	Hottest name	Investor Day +14-16% Thursday. Premarket cards ~+6% Friday. PT raises circulating. The memory expression of the factory week.
AppLovin (APP)	Quiet / damaged	No fresh print. Soft inflation helps a little. Still last week's bank-cut name, not today's object.
Cisco (CSCO)	Sold the beat	Q4 sales +18% to \$17.3B, AI orders \$9.3B, stock about -8% to -9%. Next-quarter gross-margin outlook a touch light. Great business, slightly less perfect tomorrow.
CoreWeave / Nebius	Digesting	No second print. Hunterbrook: Vineland NJ stop-work on an LNG tank and Bloom cells (missing approvals), not on Wednesday's call. Iren's Microsoft handover is the cleaner industrial receipt overnight.



Tesla Thursday session card · +4% into the \$340s after the P P I bid



通用名称	产品名称	纯电动续航里程(km)	整车整备质量(kg)	动力电池组总容量(kWh)	动力电池组总重量(kg)
特斯拉 MODEL Y	纯电动多用途乘用车	659	2027	448	78.4
ID. AURA T6	纯电动多用途乘用车	540	2026	441.5	59.9
ID. AURA T6	纯电动多用途乘用车	660	2126	543	77.5
MG	纯电动轿车	555	1628	378	51.9
MG	纯电动轿车	465	1557	323	42.9
MG	纯电动轿车	555	1628	378	51.9
MG	纯电动轿车	465	1557	323	42.9
黄金合	纯电动多用途乘用车	360 (CLTC)	1685	330	49.92
理想 (P)	纯电动多用途乘用车	705/680	2745/2780	569	101

@Tslachan · China MIIT card on a Giga Shanghai Model Y Performance-style trim · 14 Aug

Thursday			08.14.2026		
Company	Change (%)	Implied (%)	Company	Change (%)	Implied (%)
CISCO	-8.40	6.90	ONDAS	-8.80	11.80
COHERENT	-8.00	9.60	JD.COM	-7.30	4.20
NANO	+7.90	7.30	INTUITIVE	+3.60	11.20
ENOVIX	-6.30	14.90	tapestry	-16.50	8.90
cerebras	-11.80	10.20	Brookfield	+0.90	3.80
Inflection	-1.50	14.40	FERMIAMERICA	-13.20	9.80
PAN AMERICAN	-9.70	4.80	FIGURE	+3.90	11.70
EnerSys	+5.70	7.90	X-ENERGY	+11.70	12.40
CAE	-4.90	11.70	APPLIED	+1.50	4.50
spire	-5.40	15.90	YETI	-10.60	9.90

Earnings tape card · Cisco was the sold-the-beat name Thursday

5. SpaceX filing, Tesla follow-through, one real factory handover

The SpaceX story overnight is still Thursday's S E C recap, not a new launch. Elon Musk beneficially owns 6,418,547,515 shares, or 48.4% as-converted. As-converted means you count the shares he would have if options and other claims turned into stock. Circulating split: about 849.5 million Class A (ordinary), 5.22 billion Class B (super-voting), options on another 350 million. One desk card put the stake near \$908 billion. He votes the control block today even where some economics still vest on later outcomes. Xander Sky circulated a FTSE Russell letter: Fast Entry was requested by index users through 2025-2026, not a backroom deal, and free float uses the standard 12-month lock-up. Joe Tegtmeier, with Tesla's approval, flew a drone over Grimes County and said Terafab is already being built. Land clearing is the fact. "Largest chip plant / more than 1 terawatt" is amplifier language.

Daniel Roberts at Iren (ticker IREN) posted the cleanest industrial receipt of the night: nine months after a contract, Microsoft accepted delivery of Horizon 1, 50 megawatts of direct-to-chip liquid-cooled AI infrastructure. A greenfield hall of that size usually takes two to three years. Three more Horizons due this year. About 3,000 people on site. That is not a tweet about used chips. That is a customer signing for a building that is on.



@cb_doge · Elon ~48.4% of SpaceX, over 6.42 billion shares · the whale post Thursday night

1	Names of Reporting Persons Elon R. Musk	
2	Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group (see instructions) ☐ (a) ☐ (b)	
3	Sec Use Only	
4	Citizenship or Place of Organization UNITED STATES	
Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person With:	5	Sole Voting Power 6,418,547,515.00
	6	Shared Voting Power 0.00
	7	Sole Dispositive Power 6,418,547,515.00
	8	Shared Dispositive Power 0.00
9	Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 6,418,547,515.00	
10	Check box if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares (See Instructions) ☐	
11	Percent of class represented by amount in row (9) 48.4 %	
12	Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) ...	

Ownership recap card circulating with the S E C filing



SpaceX five-day sprint into Thursday's -3% breather



Terafab / Grimes County land-clearing card · built, not going-to-be-built, is the claim

"Today Microsoft has accepted delivery of Horizon 1: 50MW of direct-to-chip liquid cooled AI infrastructure, built, commissioned and handed over."

@danroberts0101 · Iren · 13 Aug, 175k views

6. Community mood (movers)

Sandisk □. Tokyo and U.S. retail are treating Investor Day as the second coming of a memory cycle. One large holder asked, in public, whether the WeChat-and-timeline pile-on means it is time to sell. That is a late-inning tell, not a filing. Applied Materials □. "Beat plus guide, still red" is the joke. The serious version: the Street is modelling a perfect 2027 and charging AMAT for any doubt on cash conversion. SpaceX □ / Tesla □. Ownership math and the 850-billion effective-float take are still the in-group post. Tesla bulls want Friday green after +4%. Oil □ to □. Hormuz is back in the chat. Treat First Squawk as a wire, not a confirmed casualty report, until pictures and ship IDs settle.

"AI beats are getting harder to impress. Sandisk reset expectations. Applied Materials beat and guided higher, still went red after hours."

@MEXC · 14 Aug

7. What to watch into Friday's cash session

- Does Sandisk keep the bid after +14% cash and +6% premarket, or is this the first digestion day? Watch whether Micron still tags along.

- Applied Materials into the open. If a beat-and-raise opens -4% to -5% and stays there, the AI equipment bar is the story, not the quarter.
- Oil and the 10-year. A Hormuz bid that lifts crude 2% is one thing. A bid that lifts the 10-year back through 4.68% sells the PPI pause.
- SpaceX versus \$140 on real volume. The 48.4% filing is already known. Extra supply into the lock-up still matters.
- Tesla \$340s. Hold vs fade after a +4% PPI day. The China Performance-trim card is product color, not deliveries.
- Iren / Microsoft follow-through. One 50 MW handover does not reprice Azure. It does support "the halls are turning on."

Primary sources: live X (Deltaone, First Squawk, Bloomberg @business, Sandisk IR recaps, Applied Materials print cards, Iren @danroberts0101, Sawyer / Gary Black Tesla notes, S E C ownership recaps) through Friday 14 Aug 2026 about 13:30 Europe / 07:30 Eastern, before the U.S. cash open. Charts from public X media. Asking-price house board is a separate product. Not financial advice. Research and education only.

PART B · HOUSE VIEW (the Friday call)

Same facts as Part A. Different job: I take a stand into the U.S. cash open. Written for a smart friend. Not a telegram. Not a price-target sheet. Not financial advice.

0. My call for today's session

Base case (about 55%): chop around the new high. Memory still leads. Equipment stays offered. Oil is a tax, not a new regime.

Thursday already spent the PPI bid on a record close. I do not expect the S&P to melt up again off the same print. I do expect Sandisk and Micron to keep relative strength unless the open is a gap-and-fade of the whole memory complex. I expect Applied Materials to stay heavy: the Street heard a great 2027 and still sold the stock, which is the tell that AI equipment is now a "prove the cash" name, not a "beat is enough" name. SpaceX can sit near \$140 and still be the better business. Tesla needs the \$340s to be a floor, not a one-day PPI spike. I do not expect a Hormuz drone line, as currently reported, to crash Nasdaq by itself. I do expect it to cap the index bid and help energy.

Why, in one coffee. Two cool inflation prints lowered the interest-rate tax on future profits. Sandisk then told you the storage for those profits is already sold years ahead. Applied Materials told you the tool cycle is still accelerating, and the stock said "we knew." Iren told you a Microsoft hall is on. Those are three industrial sentences. The index already used the first one to print 7,800. Today is about whether the second and third still pay after a record.

Why not a melt-up as the base case? Applied Materials sold a beat-and-raise. Cisco sold a strong quarter because next quarter's leftover on every dollar was a touch light. Six of seven Magnificent 7 names needed a bounce, not a coronation. Oil is bid. That mix is digestion, not fireworks.

Why not a crash as the base case? Two inflation prints, a Sandisk contract book, an Applied guide to \$10.25 billion, and a Microsoft-accepted 50 megawatt hall are not crash ingredients. A celebrity short is still not a missed Nvidia quarter. Hormuz is a risk premium, not proof the AI factory stopped.

Three paths from the 9:30 open

Scenario	Odds	What I expect into the close
A · Digestion (BASE)	~55%	Index chops near 7,800. Sandisk / Micron lead or digest from high levels. Applied stays offered. Oil bid fades or holds without wrecking 10-year.
B · Hormuz tax	~25%	Crude extends. 10-year backs up. High-beta AI sold with energy up. Memory keeps a relative bid if Investor Day language still sells.
C · Memory extension	~20%	Sandisk holds the +6% premarket and Micron follows. Applied finds a buyer on the guide. SpaceX stabilizes. Friday looks like Thursday part two.

Name by name into the open

Company	Call	In English, plus what would flip me
Sandisk	Still the leader; respect the gap	Contracts are the story. Flip: a fade that takes Micron with it on no new language, or they walk back NBM coverage.
Applied Materials	Offered until cash conversion is believed	Guide is excellent. Stock already voted. Flip: it opens weak and buyers show up on the \$10.25B number.
Micron	Prefer as the second-order ticket	No print of its own. Flip: leftover-chip headlines, or Sandisk fails and memory is just a one-day ETF.
SpaceX	Business strong, tape digesting	48.4% is known. Flip: volume through \$130 on the lock-up, or a real Terafab permit / spend filing.
Tesla	One good PPI day is not a robotaxi fleet	Permit is permission. Flip: \$340s fail and it was only a rates spike, or unsupervised miles look real.
Nvidia	Quiet compounder today	A100-still-useful is the residual-value reply. Flip: toxic used-chip guarantees, or a real capex cliff.
Microsoft / Iren	Receipt, not a re-rate	50 MW on is good. Flip: handover slips on the next three halls.
Nebius / CoreWeave	Sit; watch the permit	Stop-work is a local official, not a cancelled backlog. Flip: Vineland becomes a quarter delay.

1. One-line thesis

The factory is still printing (Sandisk contracts, Applied guide, a Microsoft hall that is on); the index already used cooler inflation to make a high; Friday is whether memory still pays after the party, not whether AI demand vanished overnight.

2. What the crowd is getting wrong

Wrong #1: "Applied went red, so the AI cycle peaked." My take: they guided \$10.25 billion versus about \$9.50 billion and said the fancy end of chip-making is 80% of this year's tool-spend growth. The stock is arguing about how much of 2027 was already in the price, and about cash conversion. That is a high-bar problem. It is not a missed factory.

Wrong #2: "Sandisk +14% means the memory cycle has no expiry." My take: TrendForce still sees NAND loosening in the second half of 2027. The \$94 billion of contracts is why you listen. The 2027 second-half overlap is why you do not marry the slide. A WeChat pile-on is usually late, not early.

Wrong #3: "Elon owns 48.4%, so the float is clean and the IPO is finished work." My take: as-converted plus super-voting Class B is control math. The 12-month lock-up is still how indexes will treat free float. Think of a small parking lot. Knowing the owner does not add spaces.

3. What actually limits the AI factory

Industrial only. Options and single-stock ETFs are how people trade the theme, not what limits output.

#	Bottleneck	This window
1	Power and the grid	Iren just handed Microsoft 50 MW. Nebius still has a Vineland permit mess. You cannot rent a computer you cannot plug in.
2	Memory (HBM + NAND)	Sandisk sold years of NAND. Micron tagged along. High-bandwidth flash is a 2027 sample, not a 2026 order book.

#	Bottleneck	This window
3	The machines that make the chips	Applied's guide says the tool cycle is still accelerating. The stock says prove the cash. Both can be true.
4	Packaging and leading-edge wafers	Dickerson: logic + DRAM + advanced packaging = ~80% of WFE growth. No relief headline on CoWoS-class lines.
5	Permits, not just megawatts	Hunterbrook stop-work on Nebius's New Jersey site is the unglamorous limit. Local approvals are now a stack constraint.

4. Capital and financing

Think of the AI build as a giant equipment-lease market sitting on top of a still-expensive 10-year. Cooler PPI eased the rate a few basis points. It did not make CoreWeave's interest bill disappear, and it did not turn SpaceX lock-up shares into freely tradable float. What would make me more comfortable: more Microsoft-style acceptances (the hall is on, not promised), Sandisk-style contracts with cash guarantees, and Applied actually converting the \$10.25 billion guide into free cash. What would make me more cautious: equipment names that guide up and still lose the cash-flow debate, or neoclouds that print backlog while a town hall stops the concrete.

5. Who wins one step down the chain

If Sandisk's contract book is real, the next winners are the other memory names (Micron, Kioxia, SK Hynix on the HBM side) and the people who wire the halls (Cisco already printed \$9.3 billion of AI orders and got punished anyway). Applied is the pickaxe. Iren / CoreWeave / Nebius are the landlords. Microsoft is the tenant who just took keys. Tesla and SpaceX are a different movie: one is a car-and-robot multiple, the other is a control-and-float stock that also owns the model lab. Do not use Palantir as the demand thermometer. Do not use AppLovin as a factory receipt.

6. Scorecard

Company	Stance	Why / flip
Sandisk	Constructive on the book / hot as a trade	NBM coverage is the receipt. Flip: they walk it back, or the gap fades with the whole sector.
Applied Materials	Constructive cycle, offered tape	Guide is the tell. Flip: buyers show up on \$10.25B, or FCF really stalls.
Micron	Prefer as second order	No print. Flip: leftover-chip headlines.
Nvidia	Long-cycle, quiet today	A100-still-useful answers used chips. Flip: toxic residuals or a capex cliff.
Microsoft	Tenant with keys	Horizon 1 is on. Flip: the next three halls slip.
SpaceX	Business strong, float messy	48.4% is control, not a clean free float. Flip: unlock smash, or spend with no revenue bridge.
Tesla	Better tape, still a homework multiple	Permit ≠ 5,000 cars. Flip: \$340s fail, or unsupervised miles look real.
Nebius / CoreWeave	Demand printed; permits matter	Stop-work is the new homework. Flip: a quarter delay, or a second clean receipt.

7. Trading read (not advice)

Regime: post-PPI risk-on sitting under a Hormuz headline, into a Friday open. Already priced: 7,800, cooler factory prices, Sandisk Investor Day, Elon's 48.4%. Under-discussed: Applied cash conversion; Nebius permits; whether oil can lift the 10-year enough to tax the high. Decision rule: if Sandisk and Micron still lead after the first hour and Applied stops going down, the factory won Friday. If oil and the 10-year rise together and memory dumps with Nasdaq, it was a rates-and-Hormuz day; wait for session two.

8. How I would know I am wrong

Before the close: crude extends, the 10-year back through Wednesday's auction yield, and Sandisk gives back the whole premarket with Micron. That kills the digestion-with-memory-lead base case. This week: Applied's guide gets walked down, or Sandisk's NBM coverage is restated. Over weeks: halls that were "accepted" slip, or residual-value losses show up in private credit.

9. What I am watching next

- Sandisk versus Thursday's close through the first hour, then Micron as confirmation.
- Applied Materials opening print versus the \$10.25 billion guide, not versus last night's after-hours tick.
- WTI and the 10-year together. Oil alone is energy. Oil plus yields is a tax on 7,800.
- SpaceX on volume around \$140. The filing is known.
- Tesla \$340s: floor or PPI spike.
- Any second source on the Hormuz tanker (ship ID, photos) before treating it as a regime change.

Bottom line, in one coffee

Thursday made a high because factories charged less than feared and Sandisk said the storage is already sold. Applied said the tool cycle is still accelerating and the stock yawned. Iren handed Microsoft a hall that is on. Friday is not "is AI dead." Friday is whether memory still leads after the party, and whether a tanker can tax the 10-year enough to spoil it. Do not confuse a sold beat with a missed factory.

Not financial advice. Research and education only.