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Today's new *Capital Ideas Digest* features one of those companies that happens to be nicely situated with a much-needed and in-demand **killer technology to battle the coronavirus.**

We also update a **previous software idea with a big-name partner that's gained a mere 250% with**

further gains ahead.

And research from a closely followed strategist who refutes the effectiveness of stay-at-home orders.

Look out for your email alert at 7 pm eastern time.

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## Morning Need to Know

Getting you ready for your investing day

May 26, 2020

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## CANADIAN ANALYSTS' CALLS

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Meta Growth (TSXV:META) Echelon Wealth Partners reiterates "speculative buy" on the cannabis retailer with a target of \$0.30 (Canadian), which projects to a gain of about 150%.

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## U.S. ANALYSTS' CALLS

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Southwest Airlines (LUV-N). UBS upgrades to

a “buy” and raises its price target to \$41 (U.S.) from \$37, saying the company's balance sheet position is “*remarkably clean.*”

**Workday (NASDAQ:WDAY)** gets its target raised to \$195 from \$170 by Evercore ISI.

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## STOCKS THAT MAY MOVE

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**Scotiabank (TSX:BNS)** has kicked off bank earnings season with a profit drop of 41% compared to last year as it increased loan loss provisions by \$1 billion, bringing the total 111% higher than a year ago.

**Merck (NYSE:MRK)** is buying Themis Bioscience of Austria and will collaborate with a non-profit to develop two coronavirus vaccines.

**Roots (TSX:ROOT)** has taken the interim tag off the title of Searchlight Capital Partners' Meghan Roach to make her CEO. Roach will forgo her salary and potential bonus payments for the remainder of 2020 “*given the unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.*”

**Sprott (TSX:SII)** will conduct a 1-for-10 share consolidation as of May 28, and has applied to list on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Uber (NYSE:UBER)** will cut 600 jobs in India as part of its plan to eliminate about 23% of its global workforce.

## MARKETS

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**S&P/TSX and U.S. equity futures** are sharply higher with optimism over reopening economies and perceived progress for coronavirus treatments and vaccines offsetting tensions between the U.S. and China.

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## CURRENCIES

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**The Canadian dollar** is surging 1.2% at 0.7236 (U.S.).

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## COMMODITIES

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**West Texas Intermediate crude oil** is up 4% to \$34.62 a barrel with the U.S. oil rig count at a record low of 318 as of May 22, and Russia predicting supply and demand balance by the summer.

**Gold** is down by 0.6% to \$1,723 an ounce.

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Find out why [Spotify's \\$100-million deal](#) with Joe Rogan means "game, set, match" in its fight with Apple.

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Please email questions, comments or concerns to:

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Access, insight and ideas.

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