



UK Technology M&A Snapshot

Q1 26 - Disruptive influences

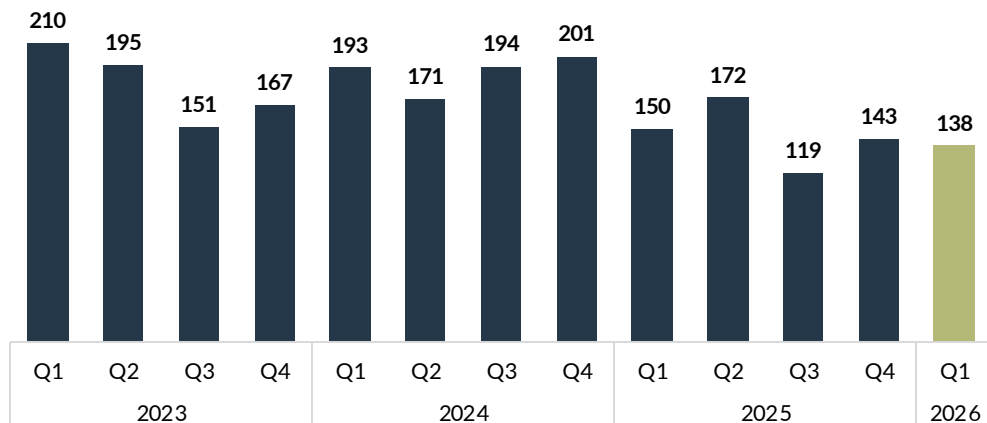
 **ICON** CORPORATE
FINANCE

April

2026

Q1 M&A Snapshot

UK Tech M&A deal count



2025 was a crazy year with chaotic tariff changes from The Donald and rising geo-political tension. Yet, so far, 2026 looks equally disruptive.

The Iran war has stoked inflation and means interest rates are no longer heading down. Yet the NASDAQ is only slightly down YTD and FTSE is actually up 6%. Of greater interest seems to be the impact AI will have on SaaS businesses with listed software sector falling over 20%.

Despite all this, the number of global M&A megadeals in Q1 is at its highest in a decade - although activity is less in Tech and more in Foods, Energy, Media and Financial Services.

In UK tech, the number of M&A deals has fallen to recent lows, yet there are still plenty of notable deals, most of which have an AI angle. They include:

- **Accenture** buying UK AI specialists **Faculty** for \$1bn (or \$2.5m per head or 13x revs) as it pays up to boost its AI capability, in the same way HumanLoop was acquired by Anthropic last year.
- **Leonardo** (the Italian defence giant) acquired **Becrypt**, a cyber security developer aimed at Government and Defence protecting critical infrastructure.
- **Five Arrows** acquired **Totalmobile** for circa £500m and then merged it with Solvares to create a much larger field management software provider.
- **Access Group** acquired **MaxOptra**, a cloud-based route optimisation and delivery management platform. Its AI-driven route planning algorithms have real-time vehicle tracking and electronic proof of delivery.
- In IT services, we continue to see consolidation in a fragmented space and notably telecoms services converging into the IT world with in-fill deals like **OneCom/MatrixIT** and **Talktalk/PlanetIT**.

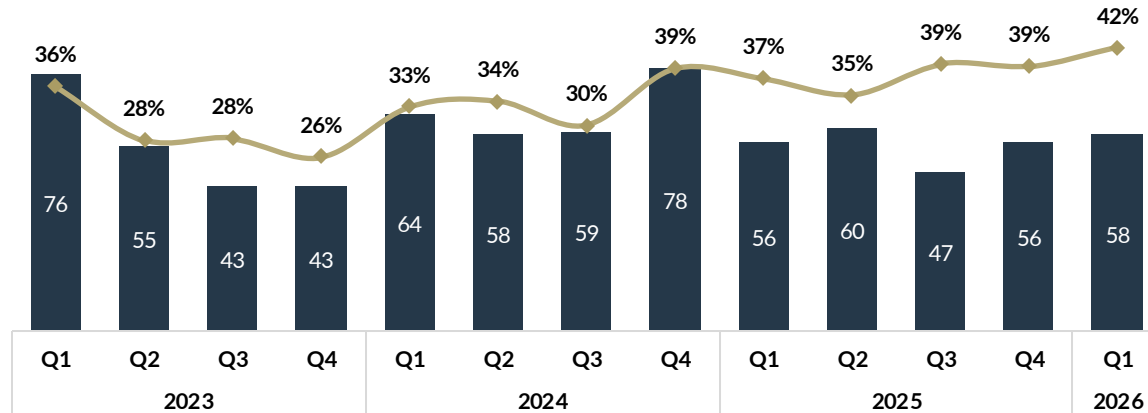
Two very exciting and notable UK fund raises: **Nscale** – the UK AI infrastructure hyperscaler raised \$2bn. Similarly, **Wayve** raised \$1.2bn for its AV platform not just for robotaxis but to deploy its platform for autonomous driving on new cars.

The biggest tech event of 2026, is likely to be the listing of SpaceX (should it happen) with a mooted \$1.7trn valuation that has literally rocketed.

“2026 looks to be a tug of war between the uncertainty created by Trump and the excitement of AI. Both look significantly disruptive” says Brian Parker, Head of M&A at ICON.

Type of Acquirers in the UK

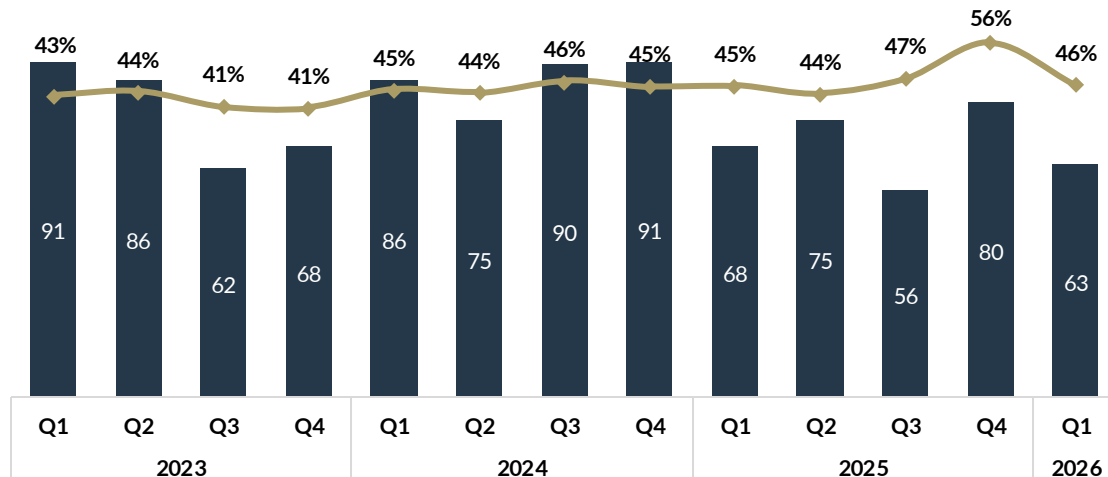
UK Tech M&A - PE/VC-backed acquirer deal count



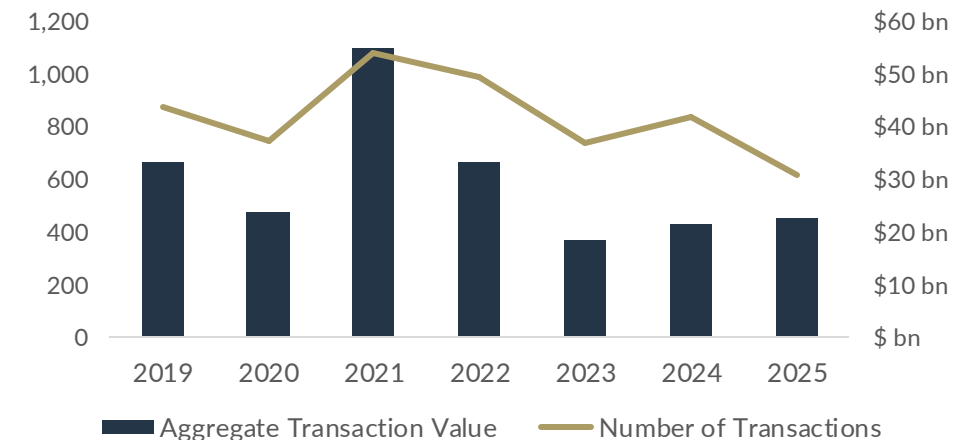
Overseas buying record

- Overseas buyers have consistently accounted for 40-45% of all tech deals in the UK. This jumped in 2H25, reaching 56% of all deals in Q4, the highest we have ever seen over the years we have been tracking M&A activity.
- PE backed acquirers have remained very consistent and continue to be a very important buyer group, accounting for a recent high of 42% of all deals.

UK Tech M&A - Cross-border acquirer deal count



UK Tech M&A deals by Value (\$bn) and Volume



ICON deals



Acquired

Max
Optra

Supply chain



Acquired



AI voice
biometrics



Acquired



eCommerce
accelerator



Funded



Employee
engagement

Canopy

Acquired



Tenancy
management

aries

Acquired

Workspace365

Digital
workspace



Acquired



Supply chain

CLOUDERA

Acquired



Metadata
management



Acquired



E-commerce
DataTech



Acquired

DPOrganizer

Cyber



53 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1K 5JH



Brian Parker
Head of M&A
Brian@iconcorpfin.com

London | San Francisco | Bristol | Nairobi | Bangalore