

Sector Insights

European SecureTech

Q2 2026

Defense Technology and Cyber Security Software

MARKET INTELLIGENCE



www.drakestar.com

1

INTRODUCTION

CONTENTS - WHAT WE COVER IN THIS REPORT

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE ACROSS MARKET TRENDS, VALUATION, FINANCING AND M&A ACTIVITY

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Insights from Industry Leaders

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European Defense Technology Sector Deep Dive

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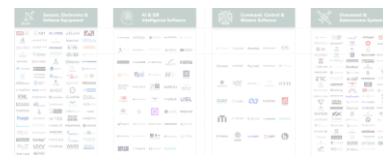


European Cyber Security Software Sector Deep Dive

Introduction to Coverage Framework



Market Map by Sub-Vertical



265 Companies categorized in four distinctive subverticals across 28 European countries

Market Map by Sub-Vertical

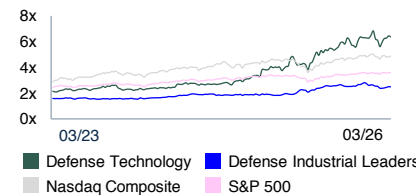


668 Companies categorized in six distinctive subverticals across 30 European countries

Drake Star Defense Technology Event Recap

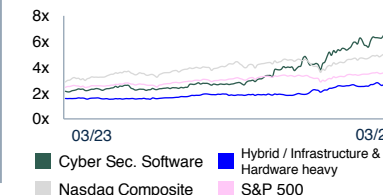


Valuation Development



32 listed companies tracked across 36 months of relative share price performance vs. selected public market benchmarks

Valuation Development



18 listed companies tracked across 36 months of relative share price performance vs. selected public market benchmarks

Expert Interview



Hendrik Kramer
Vice President Land Domain at *Quantum Systems*;
Co-Founder and former CEO of *FERNRIDE*



Deal Activity



70 transactions across 19 European countries showing M&A momentum







Deal Activity



394 transactions across 26 European countries showing M&A momentum

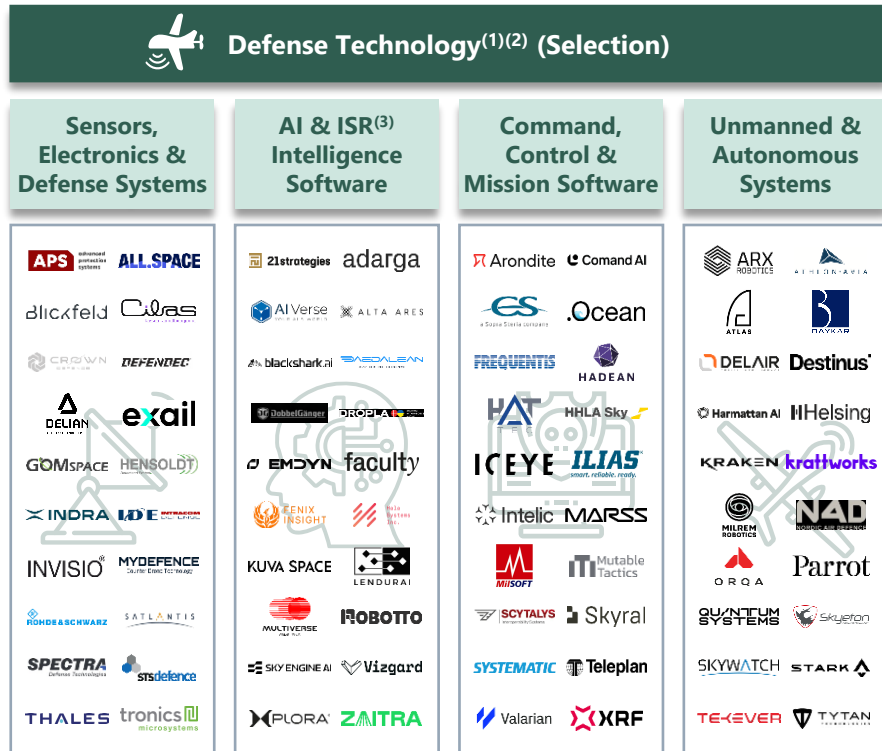
INITIATING COVERAGE: EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY & CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE

EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE HAVE STRUCTURALLY CONVERGED INTO ONE INTEGRATED SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM RESHAPING CAPITAL ALLOCATION AND BECOMING A DURABLE INVESTMENT THEME

 Converging Technology Stacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modern defense systems and enterprise security platforms are built on shared, software-defined foundationsCore layers include AI & decision intelligence, secure data infrastructure and cloud encrypted networks, mission software and cyber capabilities	<i>Both domain's core value creation layers are software-defined</i>
 Converging Capital Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Venture Capital and M&A activity increasingly span dual-use AI, autonomy and cyber platforms across sovereign and enterprise marketsValuations are driven by software economics, AI capability, sovereign exposure and long-term strategic positioning	<i>Investors underwrite security technology ecosystems, not siloed verticals</i>
 Converging Threat Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modern conflicts integrate kinetic, cyber, electronic and information warfare, expanding the scope of national security beyond the battlefieldCritical infrastructure, supply chains, digital sovereignty and enterprise systems increasingly fall within national security priorities	<i>Hybrid threat environment blurs sector boundaries</i>
 Converging Buyers & End Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Governments, critical infrastructure operators and large enterprises are aligning around shared security and resilience prioritiesPolicy money and national programs reinforce convergence across security sectors	<i>Overlapping sovereign and enterprise demand creates expanding and interconnected addressable markets</i>
 Converging Structural Drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Policy-backed spending growth is driving sustained expansion across Defense and Cyber Security Software marketsRising defense budgets, regulatory mandates and AI-enabled modernization programs support durable, non-cyclical demand	<i>Both sectors are supported by durable, policy-backed demand as opposed to cyclical IT spending</i>
	<i>Defense Technology and Cyber Security Software integrated coverage offers a more comprehensive perspective on capital allocation, strategic positioning and transaction opportunities across converging security markets</i>	

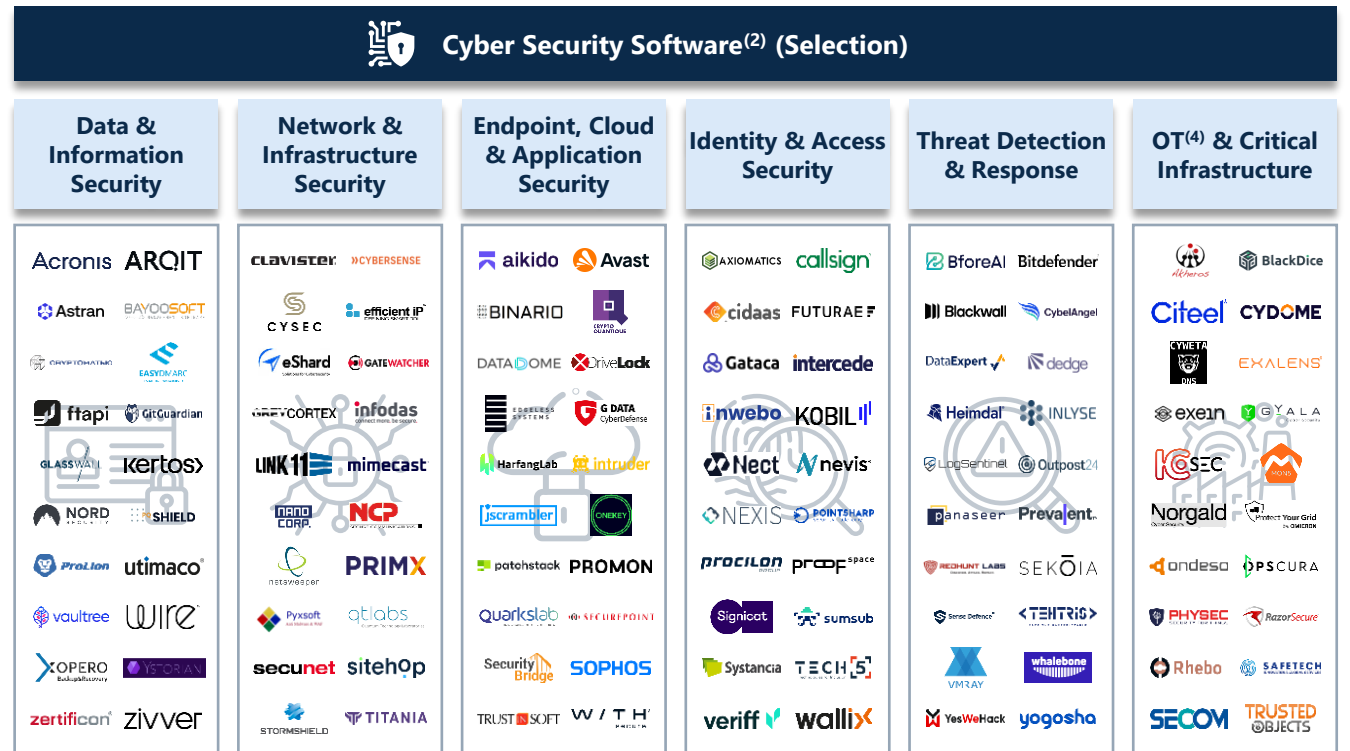
EUROPEAN SECURETECH MARKET LANDSCAPE

DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE OVERVIEW



Companies are classified based on the role their technology plays in modern defense systems, while the focus remains on software-driven and software enabled capabilities, rather than traditional military hardware⁽⁵⁾

(→ refer to pages 14 & 15 for the full vertical taxonomy and market landscape overview)

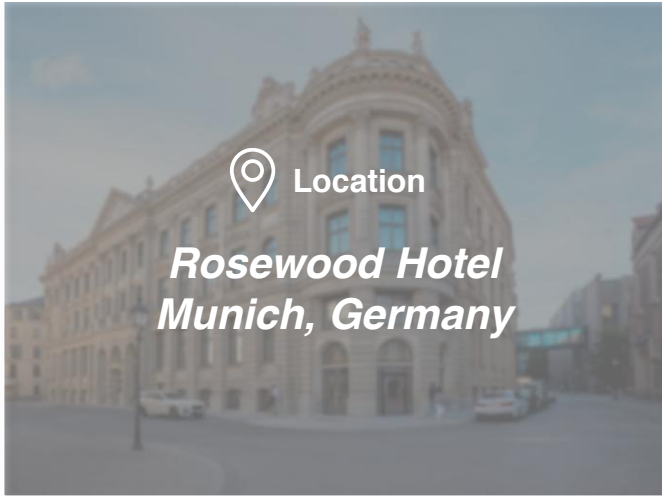


Companies are classified by their primary Cyber Security Software function, grouping vendors according to the core security layer their products protect across data, network, endpoint, identity, threat detection and critical infrastructure

(→ refer to pages 35 & 36 for the full vertical taxonomy and market landscape overview)

DRAKE STAR DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY EVENT RECAP

DRAKE STAR BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADING DEFENSE TECH INVESTORS AND OPERATORS TO DISCUSS THE INDUSTRY'S TRANSFORMATION



Hosts



Ralf Philipp Hofmann
Managing Partner & Co-founder



Frank Henkel
Partner
NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

Guest Speakers



Selected Participants



DRAKE STAR DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY EVENT INSIGHTS (1/2)

EUROPE'S PUSH FOR DEFENSE SOVEREIGNTY IS DRIVING INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION DESPITE PERSISTENT STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES



The war in Ukraine and shifting NATO expectations are exposing **structural capability gaps in Europe**, accelerating defense spending to enhance readiness and strategic autonomy, with defense spending by **European NATO countries projected to increase from \$516bn in 2025A to \$796bn in 2030F**, implying a 9% CAGR



Europe remains dependent on **U.S. systems in critical domains** such as air defense, ISR, space and autonomous systems, with the **share of EU defense spending on non-EU equipment expected to decline from 78% in 2023A to 50% in 2030E and 40% in 2035F** as governments strengthen domestic industrial capacity



The **momentum is not driven by geopolitics alone**, with autonomous systems, drones, AI-enabled decision support and software-defined architectures having reached operational maturity



Structural challenges persist due to fragmented procurement processes, talent shortages and export restrictions remaining complex, but are increasingly **viewed as manageable friction rather than structural growth barriers**



The debate is shifting from whether to invest in Defense Tech **towards building scalable and interoperable European capabilities**



Lena Schorlemer
Partner at
Agora Strategy



Europe faces widespread **capability gaps** across **ISR, air defense, space and autonomous systems**. Some, like drones and software-defined architectures, can be closed quickly, while others will require **U.S. bridging technologies** before **European alternatives** mature. To avoid further **fragmentation**, Europe should focus on common standards, **interoperability** and **joint procurement** where possible [...]



Jens Westernhagen
Partner at
Armira



In defense, progress is often slowed by regulation and bureaucracy, yet urgency on the ground drives us forward, including **investments in areas such as drones** [...]



Frank Henkel
Partner at
Norton Rose Fulbright



Defense Technology is a **demanding market environment**. Customer concentration, extensive regulatory requirements and long procurement cycles require experience, structure and long-term planning [...]

It is precisely at this **intersection of capital, technological capability and execution** that companies must position themselves to operate successfully [...]

DRAKE STAR DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY EVENT INSIGHTS (2/2)

VENTURE-BACKED DEFENSE TECH AND DUAL-USE INNOVATION ARE SCALING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, DRIVING RISING FUNDING VOLUMES AND VALUATIONS



Venture-financed defense companies are scaling rapidly, using targeted acquisitions and partnerships to accelerate certification and approval processes, expand product portfolios and bring export-ready systems to market faster



Innovation is increasingly emerging outside the traditional prime contractor ecosystem, driven by autonomous systems, data-driven decision support and software-defined architectures that are now operational reality



Much of this innovation originates from Defense Technology and dual-use deep tech companies, introducing speed, product focus and scalability into a historically complex market



The industrial landscape is evolving toward hybrid models, combining start-up agility with incumbent expertise in certification, production and global delivery



Capital formation across the sector has accelerated significantly, with rising venture and growth funding volumes and increasing strategic and private equity interest. Germany's share of total EU defense tech fundraising rose from 4% since 2019A to 11% since 2024A, reflecting the sector's maturation and supporting expanding valuations and M&A activity

STARK



Josef Kranawetvogl

SVP at
STARK



When we exported **drones** to Ukraine, we realized how quickly a defense start-up falls under full **regulation** – from the War Weapons Control Act to **dual-use** discussions [...]

In Defense Technology, capabilities alone are not enough. Start-ups are not a silver bullet – progress depends on **partnerships** with established players and their **decades of expertise** [...]

IAV



Jörg Astalosch

CEO at
IAV GmbH



If we want to speed up development and deployment times, we have to start to learn that 95% solutions can help us, while protecting those who serve.

Germany has the talent to lead in Defense Technology. And we can learn. The rapid **software cycles on drones** build engineering capabilities that benefit the wider economy [...]

DRAKE STAR



Ralf Philipp Hofmann

Managing Partner at
Drake Star



From a capital markets perspective, Defense Technology has established itself as a **distinct technology segment**. We observe growing interest from both **strategic acquirers and private equity investors** [...]

As the market matures, valuation levels have adjusted accordingly and **M&A is increasingly used to acquire technological capabilities and strengthen strategic positioning** [...]

INDUSTRY Q&A WITH HENDRIK KRAMER, VICE PRESIDENT LAND DOMAIN AT QUANTUM SYSTEMS

INTEGRATING AIR AND LAND: EUROPE'S PATH TO AUTONOMOUS DEFENSE LEADERSHIP



Hendrik Kramer is Co-Founder and was CEO of *FERNRIDE*, which offers an industry-proven software platform for ground autonomy in the areas of container terminals, defence logistics, yard operations and autonomous driving. *Quantum Systems*, Europe's market leader in AI-powered unmanned systems, announced the acquisition of *FERNRIDE* in December 2025.



What was the strategic rationale behind Fernride's combination with Quantum Systems, and how do remotely operated ground vehicles and drone systems create synergies in a defense or dual-use context?

The future of defence is multi-domain. The combination brings together autonomy across air and land into one operational stack. Modern defence and logistics require integrated systems. Drones provide real-time situational awareness, while ground vehicles execute resilient, autonomous operations. The synergy lies in closing the loop: sensing, decision-making, and execution across domains. In dual-use contexts, this translates into safer, more efficient, and scalable operations from civil to contested environments. This combination always beats isolated single-domain approaches.

You have spoken about Europe's urgent need for sovereign autonomy solutions. How significant is the gap between Europe and other regions and what would it take to close it at pace?

Traditionally, Europe was dependent on technology from the US and relied to a large extent on a supply chain from China. The gap is material but not irreversible. Europe has world-class engineering talent and industrial depth. When we combine those skills with the innovation velocity in Ukraine and even do this together with them as one team, Europe can lead globally.

INDUSTRY Q&A WITH HENDRIK KRAMER, VICE PRESIDENT LAND DOMAIN AT QUANTUM SYSTEMS

BUILDING RESILIENT SYSTEMS: SAFETY, REDUNDANCY, AND MISSION-CRITICAL AUTONOMY IN DEFENSE

Fernride was the first company to receive TÜV certification for autonomous trucks in Europe. How transferable is that framework to defense applications?

The core principles, such as safety, redundancy, and verifiability, are highly transferable. However, it is important to decide for which parts of the value chain such a level of rigor is needed. The war in Ukraine has shown that logistics through the killzone is nowadays done solely with UGVs. Those highly attritable systems don't require that level of rigor, while autonomous trucks that move larger masses far away from the frontline, often close to civilians or close to vulnerable road users, require it.

Quantum Systems brings operational experience from Ukraine. What has that revealed about real-world requirements?

Real-world deployment highlights what labs cannot: the importance of resilience over perfection. Systems must operate in GPS-denied environments, under electronic warfare, with limited connectivity, and still deliver value. It reinforces that autonomy must degrade gracefully, remain human-supervised, and prioritize mission continuity over edge-case optimization. Also, we learned that the economics of the war can be changed when unmanned systems can be operated at scale at a fraction of the cost of traditional systems. When robots can do the most dangerous tasks, the most valuable and scarce resource, human soldiers, can be protected and their skills multiplied.

What advice would you give deep tech founders evaluating strategic buyers versus scaling independently?

For us, we started FERNRIDE to have a positive impact on this world. You have to ask yourself regularly, what is the most likely path to achieving that mission. Mission = Impact x Scale x Likelihood. Thus, my advice would be: start your evaluation on an assessment of your mission. If a strategic partner accelerates deployment, access to markets, and impact, it can be the right move. Especially in defence, where scale and integration matter. However, ensure cultural alignment and preserve the velocity of innovation. The key question is: Does this path get your technology into real-world use faster and at scale? As a startup, joining forces with a scale-up usually has a much better cultural fit than the traditional players. I believe the consolidation in defence has just started. As the market is so dynamic, those new Neo-Primes who are winning multi-domain programs at scale will be a magnet for the best talent and can be Europe's best shot to build the next 100 billion company. The technologies developed during this era will not only change defence but also many civilian applications.

2

SECTOR DEEP DIVE:
EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY





EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – KEY TRENDS AND DRAKE STAR TAKEAWAYS

STRUCTURAL REARMAMENT AND VC ACCELERATION ARE RESHAPING EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY INTO A HIGH-GROWTH INVESTMENT VERTICAL

Key Trends

★ DRAKE STAR⁽¹⁾



Structural Rearmament & European Strategic Autonomy

Europe has entered a structurally higher defense spending cycle, with NATO Europe projected to grow from ~\$500bn (2025A) to ~\$800bn (2030E), while procurement shifts toward EU-based suppliers

*“[...] Europe faces gaps in space, drones and autonomous technologies, relying on American systems for immediate needs while **building domestic and European capacities by 2029E.**”*



Acceleration of Venture Capital Into Defense Tech

Defense Tech has become the fastest-growing VC segment in Europe, now accounting for ~4-6% of total VC funding, with mega-rounds driving record investment levels

*“[...] Defense Technology’s share of total tech fundraising in **Germany** has more than doubled in recent years, now accounting for over 10% of overall tech investment, supported by **several large-scale fundraisings.**”*



AI & Software-Defined Warfare

AI-enabled systems, robotics, autonomous platforms and software-defined architectures are reshaping operational capabilities, with AI x Defense emerging as the most funded segment in Europe

*“[...] **Germany** has the **talent** to lead in Defense Technology. In drones, **rapid software cycles** build **engineering capabilities** that benefit the wider economy.”*



Dual-Use Innovation & Civil-Military Convergence

Dual-use companies are accelerating innovation cycles (18-36 months vs. traditional 5-10 years) and bridging commercial tech with defense applications, increasing scalability and investment attractiveness

*“[...] In **Germany**, access to key testing infrastructure often depends on personal connections and accepting 95% solutions can speed deployment and drive **dual-use** innovation - **something we can’t afford to miss.**”*



M&A Consolidation & Industrial Realignment

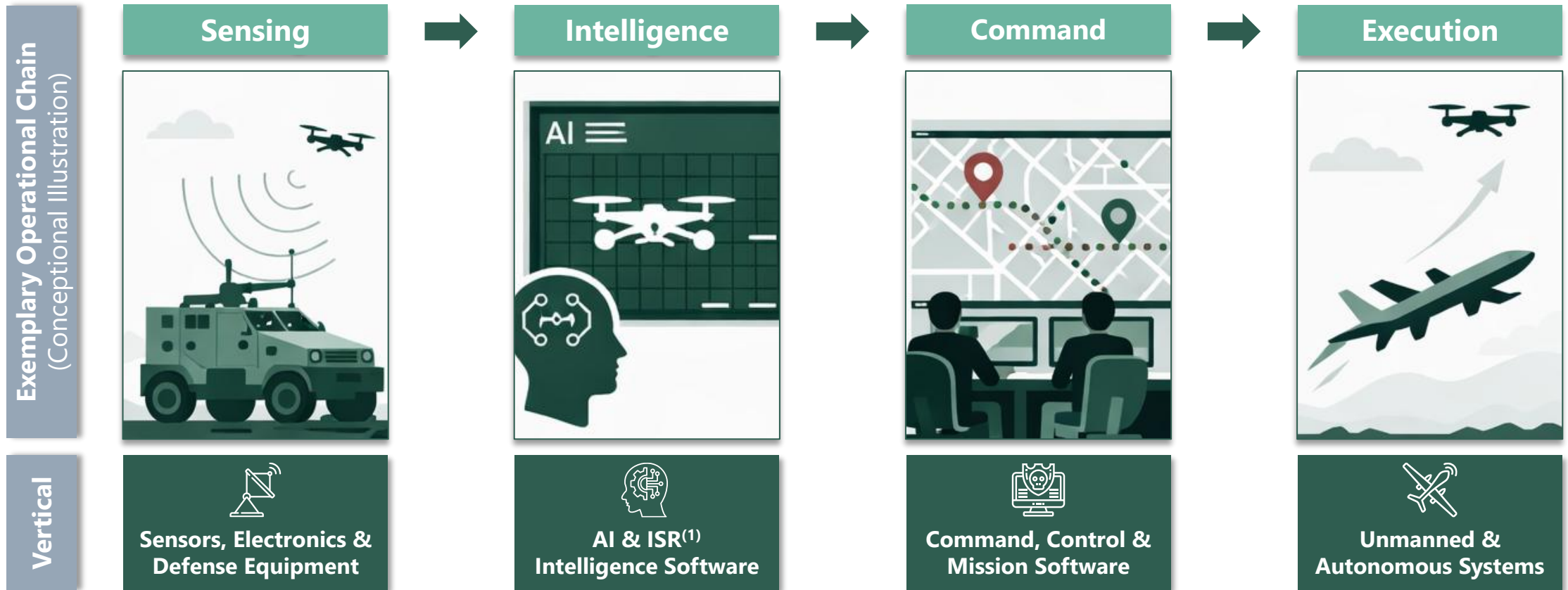
European defense M&A activity and valuation levels have surged, with OEMs and tech players acquiring startups for IP, talent and speed, while multiples have expanded significantly since 2022A

*“[...] In Defense Technology, capabilities alone are not enough. Start-ups are not a silver bullet - progress depends on **partnerships** with established players and their decades of expertise.”*



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – VERTICAL DEFINITION FRAMEWORK

DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES INCREASINGLY OPERATE AS A CONNECTED SYSTEM, LINKING SENSING, INTELLIGENCE, DECISION-MAKING AND AUTONOMOUS RESPONSE



Modern defense capability is increasingly defined by software-enabled integration across all stages of the operational chain



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – VERTICAL TAXONOMY

DRAKE STAR'S TAXONOMY STRUCTURES DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY INTO FOUR CORE VERTICALS SPANNING HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND AUTONOMY

1



Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment

- Advanced sensing and defense hardware where embedded software, signal processing and digital system architecture define functionality, mission relevance and operational performance
- Includes radar, electro-optical sensing, electronic warfare, secure communications, navigation and space-based systems where software increasingly drives differentiation beyond hardware alone

2



AI & ISR⁽¹⁾ Intelligence Software

- Software platforms that process operational, sensor and intelligence data to generate situational awareness and decision support across defense operations
- Competitive advantage is driven by proprietary models, access to mission-relevant data and the ability to improve the speed and accuracy of critical operational decision

3



Command, Control & Mission Software

- Mission-critical software platforms supporting command & control, operational planning, battlefield management, logistics, simulation and secure communications across multi-domain environments
- Value creation stems from interoperability, workflow integration and the ability to unify fragmented systems, assets and users into coherent operational environments

4



Unmanned & Autonomous Systems

- Software-enabled unmanned and autonomous platforms operating across air, land, sea and multi-domain environments, including UAVs⁽²⁾, UGVs⁽³⁾ and maritime systems
- Performance depends on navigation logic, control software, autonomy stacks, sensor integration and reliable operation in contested and data-constrained environments



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – MARKET LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

INNOVATION IN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY IS DRIVEN BY A FRAGMENTED ECOSYSTEM OF INCUMBENTS AND EMERGING SPECIALISTS ACROSS ALL FOUR VERTICALS⁽¹⁾

Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment

A grid of logos for companies in the Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment vertical. The logos include: APS, ART, ALL SPACE, ARCANI, AVANTIX, BACKBONE, beechat, Bittium, Blixfeld, BLUE ATLAS, BROSARM, CAFA, cailabs, CERBAR, Cwas, CIVITANAVI SYSTEMS, CST, CROWN, DEFENDEC, DEFSECINTEL, DELAN, Distance, dronetag, EMDYN, ELTGROUP, ELWAVE, EVPO DEFENCE, Frankenburg Technologies, GEM, geo flex, GET SPT, GOMSPACE, Greener Wave, HENSOLDT, VIRAIWA, INDRA, IDE, INVISIO, KM SENSE, KNL, IlliLightSpace, Living Optics, LookUp, LUNA ROBOTICS, MARDUK, M2 technologies, MediSensonic, METASINE, M(O)NAVA, MYDEFENCE, OKO CAMERA, OPENWORKS, SHIELD, Proengin, QUADSAT, reorbit, TOBIT, ROBOTEYE, RHODE & SCHWARZ, SATLANTIS, SENHIVE, SENSOFUSION, sensrad, Sentinel Photonics, SentiSystems, SPECTRA, stsdelfence, Swatiter, Teletactica, TERMA, THALES, TICRA, tronics, UAV Navigation, UXV TECHNOLOGIES, EUROATLAS, WASS, WEIBEL, ZELIM, and ZVOOK.

AI & ISR⁽²⁾ Intelligence Software

A grid of logos for companies in the AI & ISR Intelligence Software vertical. The logos include: 21strategies, adarga, AI Verse, ALDORIA, ALTA ARES, AXION, blackshark, AEDALEAN, delfox, Disruptive Industries, DabbelGanger, EMDYN, FACULTY, Farsight Vision, FENIX INSIGHT, flai, FLAREBRIGHT, Hite Systems Inc., i2 GROUP, KAPPA ZETA, KUVA SPACE, LENDURAI, MIRAI, MISSION DECISIONS, MULTIVERSE, NEUROBUS, ORUS, OSL, replis, ROBOTTO, satim, scaleout, SE3 Labs, sensmore, SensusQ, SKY ENGINE AI, SKY HUNTER, Space DOTS, traversals, ULTRA, UF, Vizgard, and PLORA. ZAITRA is also listed at the bottom.

Command, Control & Mission Software

A grid of logos for companies in the Command, Control & Mission Software vertical. The logos include: 4C STRATEGIES, Arondite, Auterion, Comand AI, .Ocean, eurostep, Evallic, FREQUENTIS, GYALA, HADEAN, HAT, HHLA Sky, HIVE ROBOTICS, ICEYE, ILIAS, Intelic, MARSS, MiiSOFT, SCYTALYS, Skyrail, SWARMER, SYSTEMATIC, Teleplan, WAYREN, WISER, XRF, and b.

Unmanned & Autonomous Systems

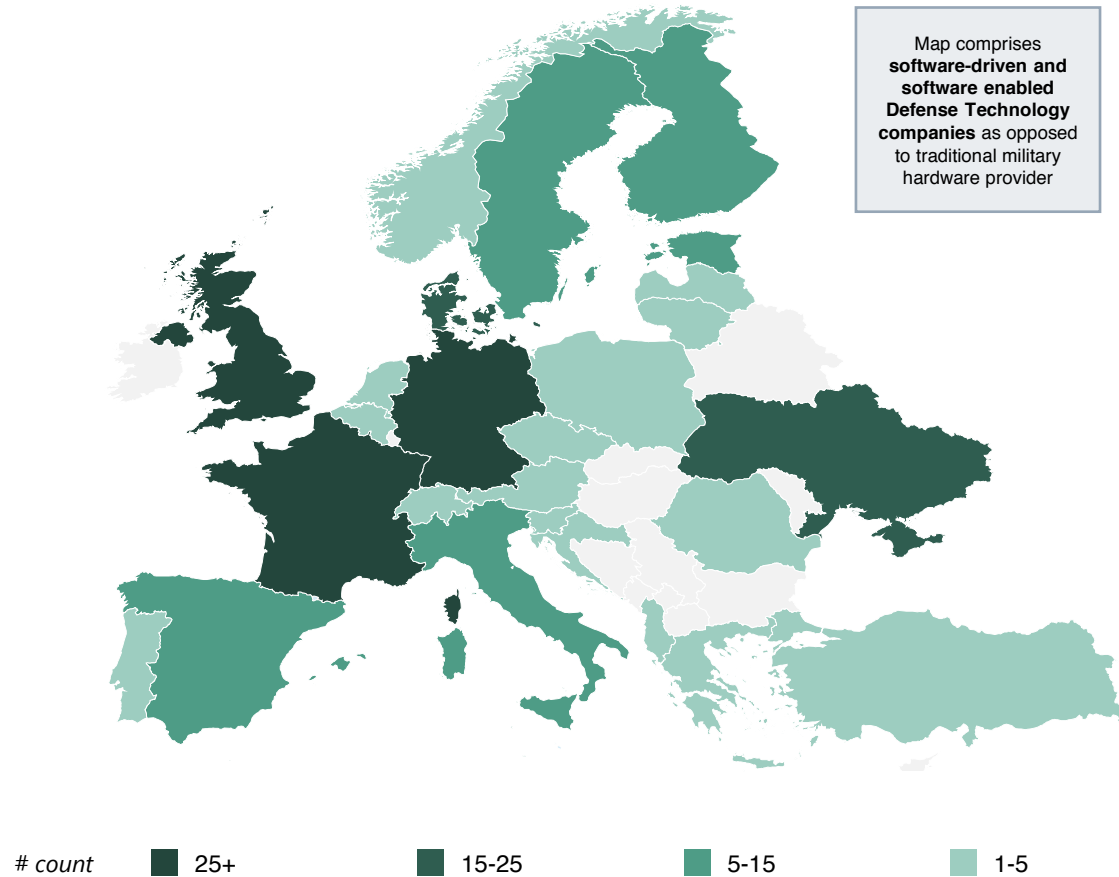
A grid of logos for companies in the Unmanned & Autonomous Systems vertical. The logos include: AIRROBOT, airvolve, ALPHE LAGEL, Airlogix, Airoli, ANAVIA, ARX, ASAX, AUREA, AVILUS, BEYOND VISION, BLUEBEAR, BRASA, BUNTA, DefendEye, DELAIR, DESTINUS, DIODON, EAGLE RAY, eelum, ELISTAIR, ERC, evolve, exail, FERNRIE, FLYBY, Frontline, GRANIA, HARMATTAN AI, HECTO DRONE, HHelsing, HU LESS, KELLUU, KRACKEN, krattworks, MALLOY, NAV, NAD, NORIC WING, Navadem, ORCA, OVERWATCH, Parrot, PILOTIX, PRIMCO UAV, QUANTUM SYSTEMS, RIFT, RODONERO, RPS, RSI Europe, sener, SEA BEER, SKYCORP, SKUJETON, SKYWATCH, STARK, SUBSEA, SUMMA, SWARM, TE-EVER, TEMERLAND, TENCORE, THREOD, TIDAV, TYTAN, UDS, UPTOKO, UKRSPEC SYSTEMS, VOLTRAC, WARG DRONES, WILD HORNETS, and WINGCOPTER.



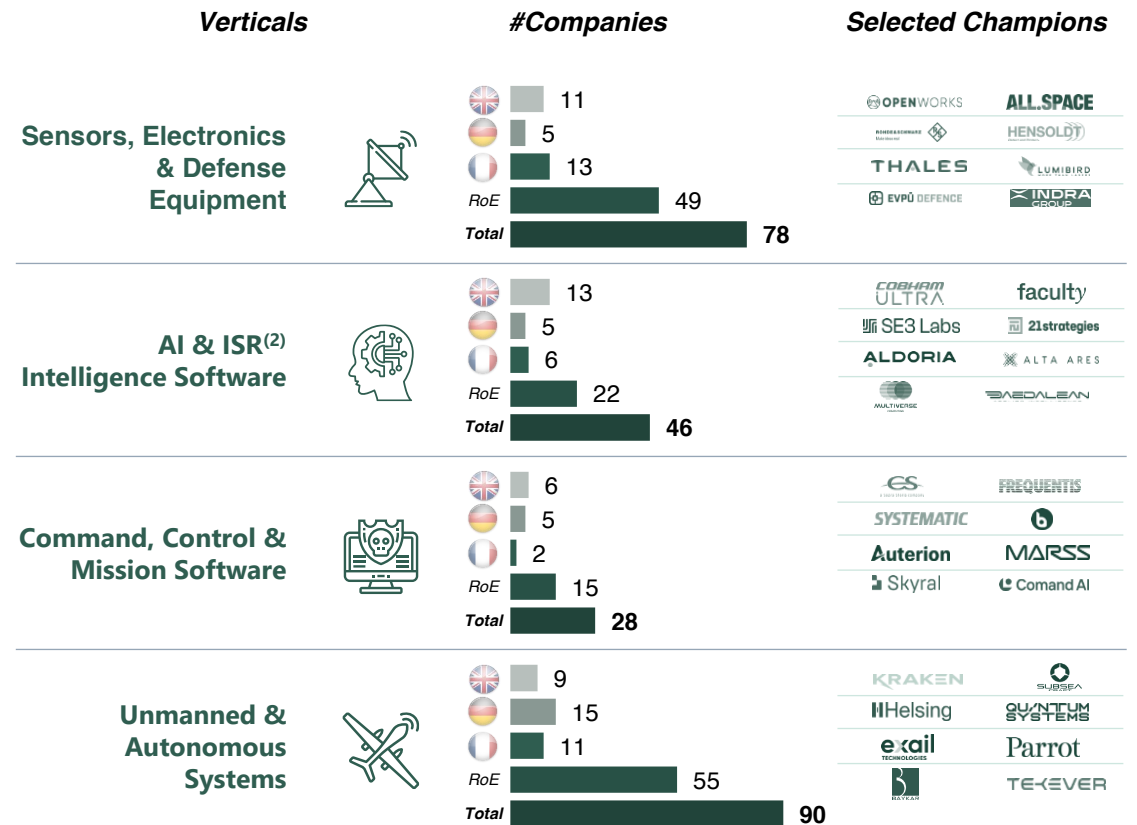
EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – GEOGRAPHICAL AND VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION

EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY IS CONCENTRATED IN A FEW CORE MARKETS, WITH ACTIVITY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS ALL FOUR VERTICALS

Number of Defense Technology Companies per Country⁽¹⁾



Number of Defense Technology Companies per Vertical⁽¹⁾



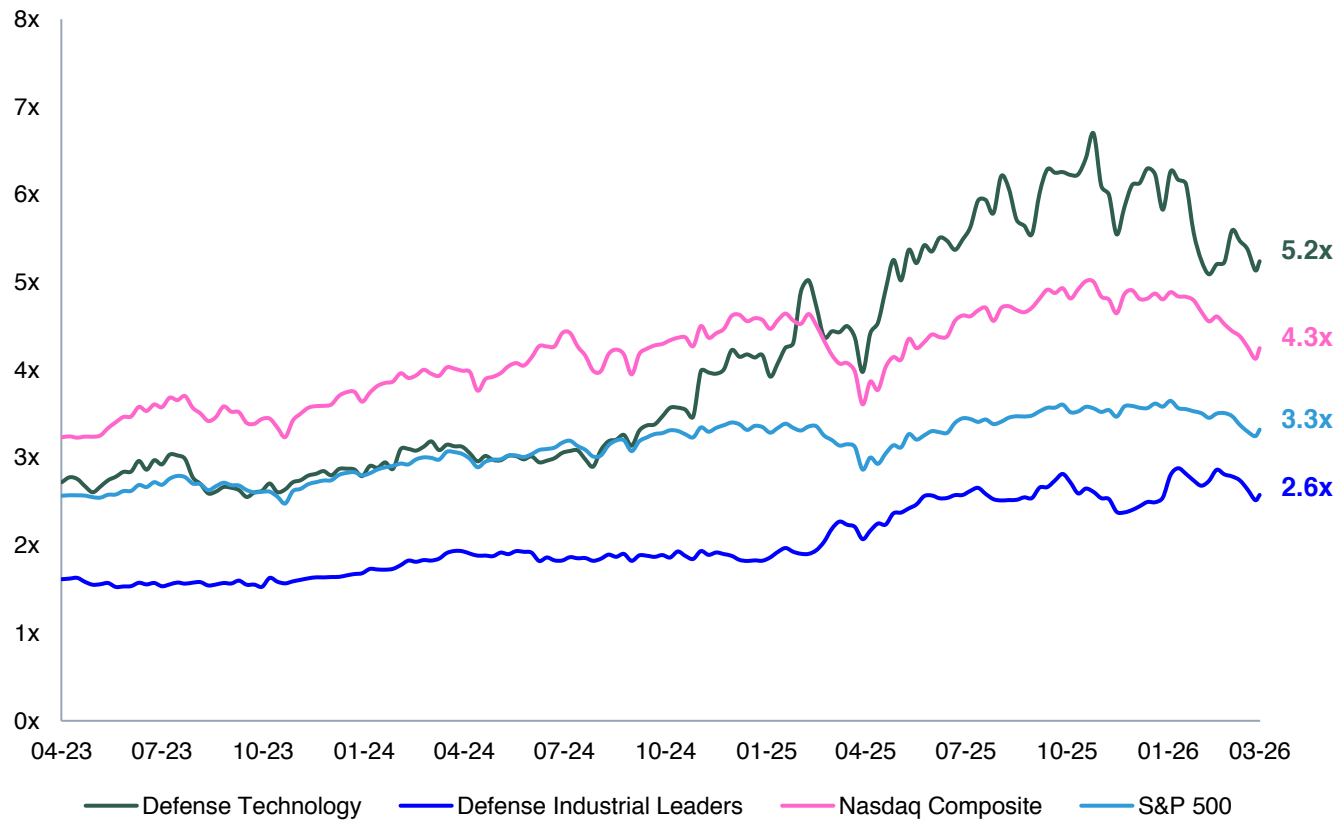


EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – PUBLIC MARKET ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC MARKETS ASSIGN A VALUATION PREMIUM TO DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY OVER BOTH BROADER INDICES AND INDUSTRIAL DEFENSE LEADERS

Public Market Valuation Development – Peer Groups Over Time

Enterprise Value / NTM revenue, weekly data



Implied Median Multiples Over Time

	Last 3 Years			31-03-26
	Low	High	Med.	
Defense Technology	2.6x	6.7x	3.5x	5.2x
Defense Industrial Leaders	1.5x	2.9x	1.9x	2.6x
NASDAQ Composite	3.2x	5.0x	4.2x	4.3x
S&P 500	2.5x	3.6x	3.1x	3.3x

Selected Constituents



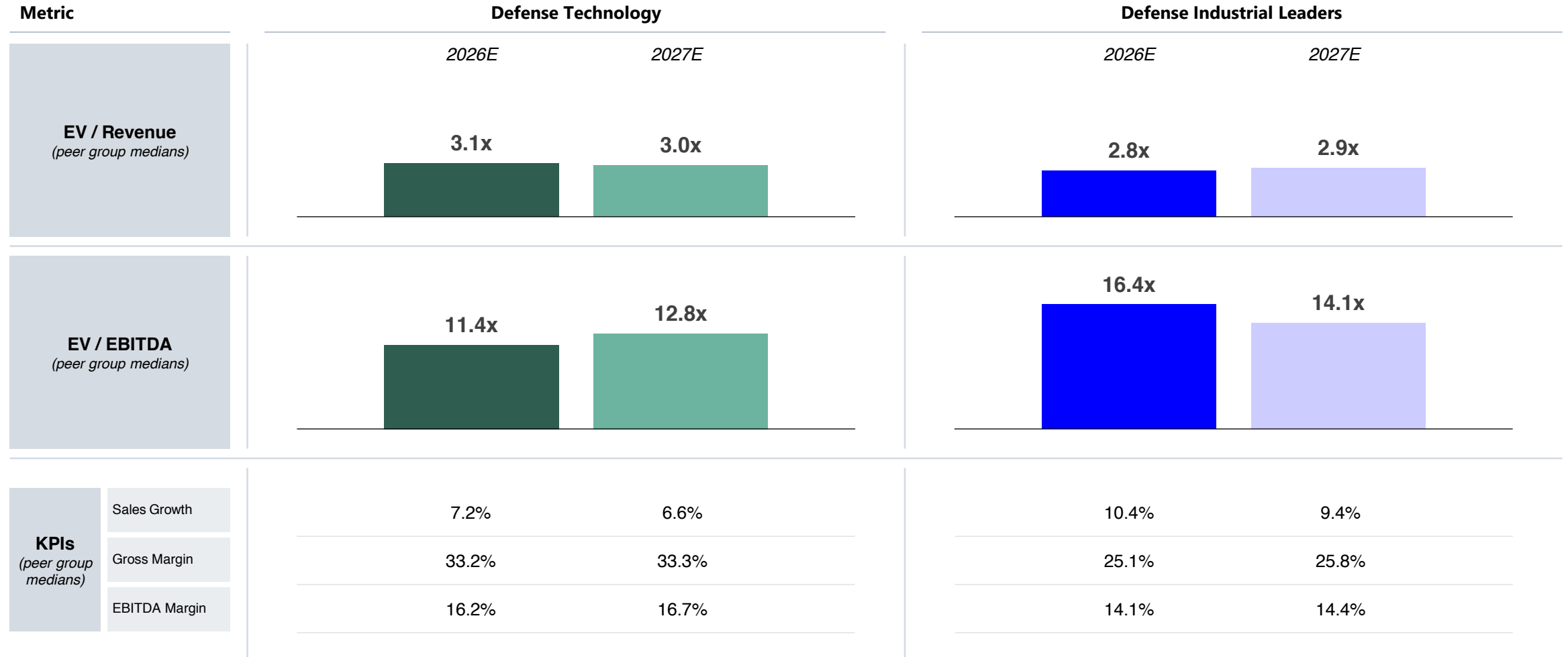
Defense Industrial Leaders





EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – CURRENT VALUATIONS AND OPERATIVE BENCHMARKING

NEAR-TERM EBITDA DISCOUNT REVERSES INTO A FORWARD PREMIUM DRIVEN BY MARGIN EXPANSION

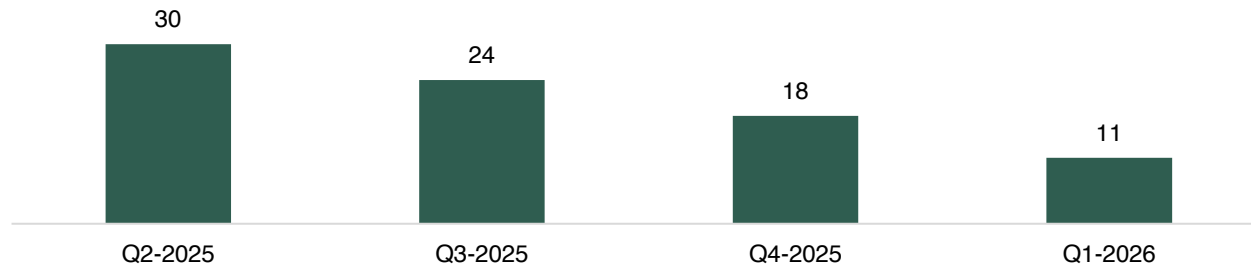




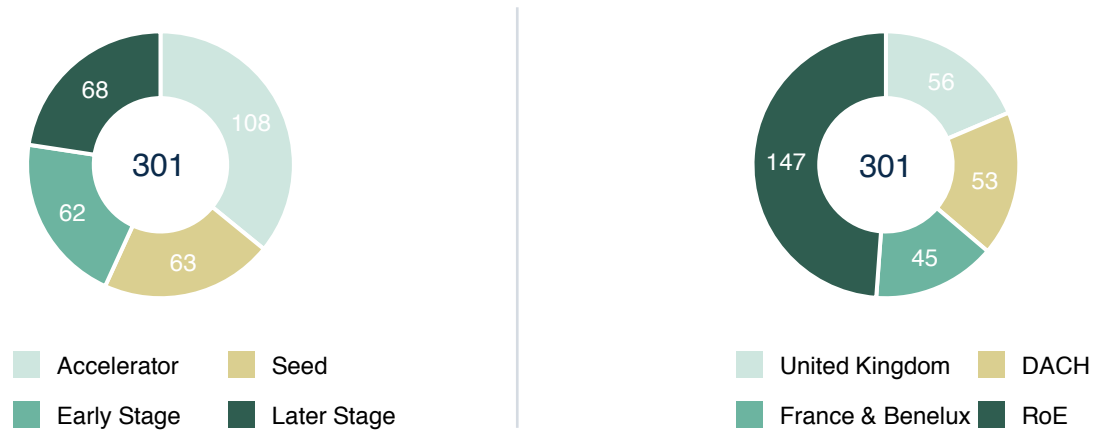
EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – FINANCING ACTIVITY

DEFENSE TECH FINANCING REMAINS RESILIENT, WITH RECENT MODERATION FOLLOWING ELEVATED ACTIVITY LEVELS

Number of Defense Technology VC Transactions (Q1-2026 LTM) – Quarterly Development





Number of Defense Technology VC Transactions (since 2022) – Stage & Region







EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – NOTABLE Q1-2026 PRIVATE PLACEMENTS

PRIVATE MARKET ACTIVITY DEMONSTRATES SUSTAINED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY STACK, FROM EARLY-STAGE TO SCALED PLATFORMS⁽¹⁾

 Received funding from 



Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	13-Feb-2026	n/a ⁽²⁾	Growth Round ⁽³⁾
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- Develops AI-enabled loitering munitions and software-defined strike drones for NATO allies
- Went from founding to confirmed Bundeswehr procurement and live Ukraine deployment in under twelve months
- Total funding received to date: €81m⁽⁴⁾

 Received funding from 



Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	24-Feb-2026	€30m	Series A
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- AI-powered drone interceptor systems capable of neutralizing hostile UAVs at 350 km/h and 5,000m altitude
- Secured Bundeswehr contracts and is scaling to 3,000 interceptors per month from its Munich facility by end-2026
- Total funding received to date: €46m

 Received funding from 



Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	09-Mar-2026	€4m	Seed Round
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- Software-defined autonomous vessels and maritime intelligence platform for ISR and patrol operations
- Secured one of Italy's largest pre-seed robotics rounds, backed by the country's most active early-stage VC
- Total funding received to date: €4m

 Received funding from 



Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	24-Feb-2026	€30m	Series A
--	-------------	------	----------

- Mass-producible counter-drone missiles targeting a tenfold cost reduction versus incumbent defense systems
- Took its Mark I missile from concept to live hard-kill intercept in 13 months using commercially available components
- Total funding received to date: €40m

 Received funding from 

Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	03-Jan-2026	€45m	Series B
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- Finnish defence technology company developing RF-based counter-UAS solutions, with flagship product Airfence enabling passive detection, tracking and takeover of hostile drones and their operators
- Combat-proven across governmental customers in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia
- Total funding received to date: €45m

 Received funding from 

Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	03-Mar-2026	€13m	Series A
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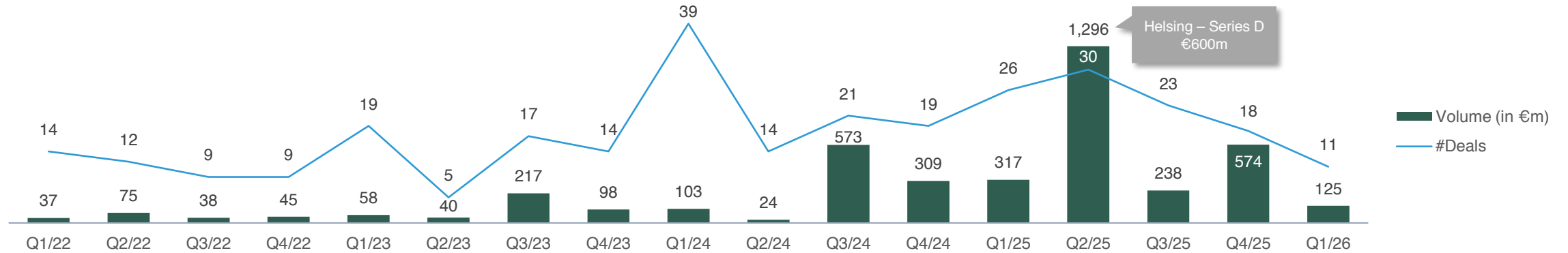
- Croatian vertically integrated FPV drone manufacturer producing NDAA-compliant, China-free tactical UAS and goggles, with in-house capacity of ~280k drones/year in Osijek
- €10m contract with Croatian MoD, supplier to Ukrainian Armed Forces
- Total funding received to date: €20m



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – FINANCING ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

DEFENSE TECH FINANCING HAS STRUCTURALLY INCREASED SINCE 2022, WITH RECENT ACTIVITY NORMALIZING AFTER PEAK LEVELS

Quarterly Defense Technology Financing Rounds⁽¹⁾



Key Defense Technology Late-Stage VC Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Leading investor	Volume (€m) ⁽²⁾
Q1-26	Frankenburg Technologies	Estonia		Plural VC	30
Q1-26	Sensofusion	Finland		Varma Mutal	45
Q4-25	Quantum Systems	Germany		Balderton Capital	180
Q4-25	Iceye	Finland		General Catalyst	150
Q3-25	Auterion	Germany		Bessemer VP	n/a
Q3-25	Iceye	Finland		Vinci SA	10
Q2-25	Helsing	Germany		Prima Materia	600
Q2-25	TEKEVER	Portugal		Baillie Gifford	445


















Key Defense Technology Early-Stage VC Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Leading investor	Volume (€m) ⁽²⁾
Q1-26	TYTAN Technologies	Germany		Armira	30
Q1-26	STARK	Germany		Founders Fund	n/a
Q1-26	Orqa	Croatia		Expeditions Fund	13
Q4-25	Harmattan AI	France		Dassault Aviation	171
Q4-25	STARK	Germany		Sequoia Capital	53
Q3-25	Destinus	Germany		Undisclosed	140
Q3-25	TYTAN Technologies	Germany		10X Capital	16
Q3-25	ARX Robotics	Germany		Speedinvest	42



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – FINANCING ACTIVITY BY VERTICAL

DEFENSE TECH DEAL ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED IN UNMANNED SYSTEMS AND AI-DRIVEN SOFTWARE, WITH SUSTAINED INVESTMENT IN SENSORS AND ELECTRONICS

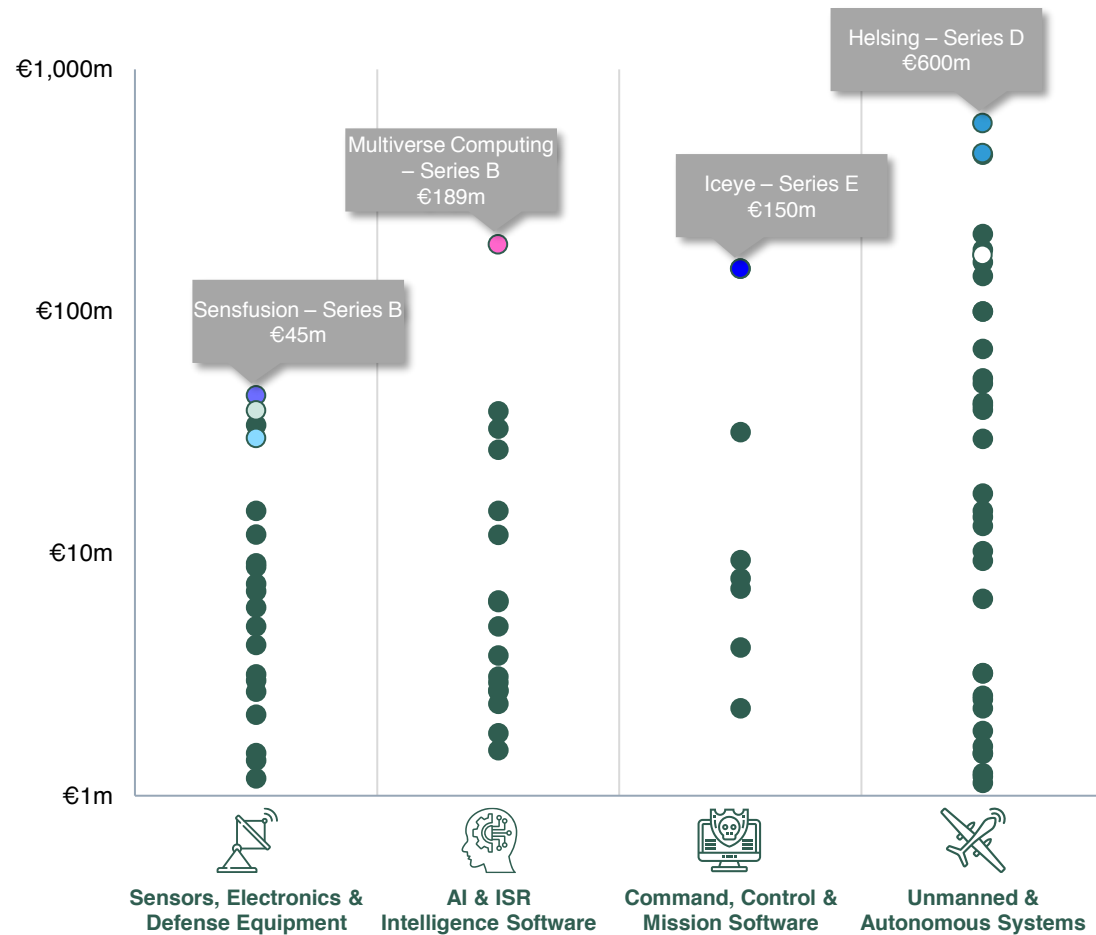
Vertical	Description	Total Number of VC Transactions (Since 2022)	Key Financed Companies (Selection)
 Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	Hardware-enabled systems where embedded software defines functionality and mission relevance	79	  
 AI & ISR Intelligence Software	Software-driven systems enabling intelligence generation, data integration and decision superiority	86	  
 Command, Control & Mission Software	Mission-critical platforms supporting command & control, battlefield management, simulation, secure communications and operational coordination	36	  
 Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	Software-defined autonomous and semi-autonomous systems, including UAVs, UGVs, maritime platforms and embedded autonomy stacks	100	   



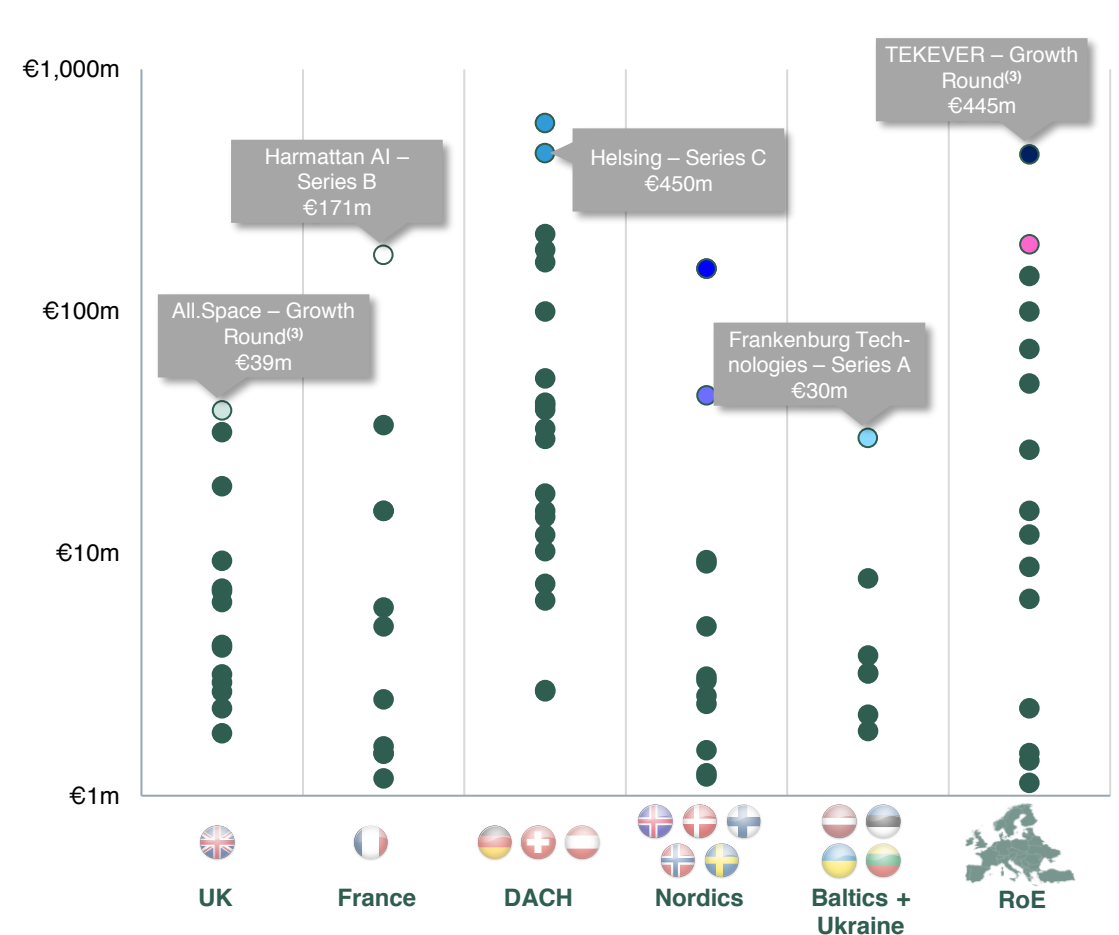
EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – VC FUNDING PATTERNS

LARGE LATER-STAGE ROUNDS ARE EMERGING IN DEFENSE TECH, WHILE EARLY-STAGE ACTIVITY REMAINS BROAD AND ACTIVE

VC Funding Pattern by Vertical (Since 2022)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



VC Funding Pattern by Region (Since 2022)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾





EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – TOP FINANCED PRIVATE COMPANIES

NEW GENERATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECH COMPANIES IS SCALING RAPIDLY AND ATTRACTING SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE CAPITAL⁽¹⁾

Company	Vertical	Country	Last Financing Round	Amount	Selected Investors	Total Amount Raised (in €m) ⁽²⁾
Helsing	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Series D (06/2025)	€600m	Accel, General Catalyst, Lightspeed, Prima Materia, SAAB	1,362
ICEYE	Command, Control & Mission Software		Series E (12/2025)	€150m	BAE Systems, BlackRock, bpifrance, Seron Capital, Draper Associates, General Catalyst, iqt, Molten Move, Seraphim, Solidium, True Ventures	623
TEKEVER	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Growth Round ⁽³⁾ (05/2025)	€468m	Baillie Gifford, Crescent Cove, National Security Strategic Investment Fund, NIF, Ventura Capital	563
QUANTUM SYSTEMS	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Series C Extension (11/2025)	€180m	10x, Airbus, Balderton, National Security Strategic Investment Fund, Bayern Kapital, Hensoldt, HV, Notion Capital, DTCP, DMNES, Porsche SE, Project A, Thiel	487
Destinus*	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Growth Round ⁽³⁾ (09/2025)	€140m	22C, Ace Ventures, Conny & Co, TAV*	316
MULTIVERSE GENOMICS	AI & ISR Intelligence Software		Series B (06/2025)	€189m	Audacia, Columbus Venture Partners, Bullhound Capital, JME Ventures	227
Harmattan AI	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Series B (01/2026)	€171m	atlantic, Dassault Aviation, Firstmark	171
Auterion	Command, Control & Mission Software		Series B (09/2025)	€110m	Armada Investment, Bessemer Venture Partners, Lake Star, Mosaic, Rheinmetall, U.S. Department of War	144
ALL SPACE	Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment		Growth Round ⁽³⁾ (10/2024)	€39m	Boka, Promus Ventures, Seraphim, SES, Vista	114
STARK	Unmanned & Autonomous Systems		Growth Round ⁽³⁾ (02/2026)	n/a ⁽⁴⁾	8VC, Founders Fund, NIF, Project A, Sequoia, Thiel	81

Most recent round undisclosed

Note(s): (1) Deal values based on publicly disclosed transaction information; not all transactions include disclosed values; (2) Excludes debt financing rounds, grants and project financing; (3) Series undisclosed; (4) n/a = Deal Size undisclosed.
 Source(s): S&P Capital IQ; PitchBook; MergerMarket; Company filings; Press releases; Drake Star intelligence per 31-Mar-2026.



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – MOST ACTIVE INVESTORS

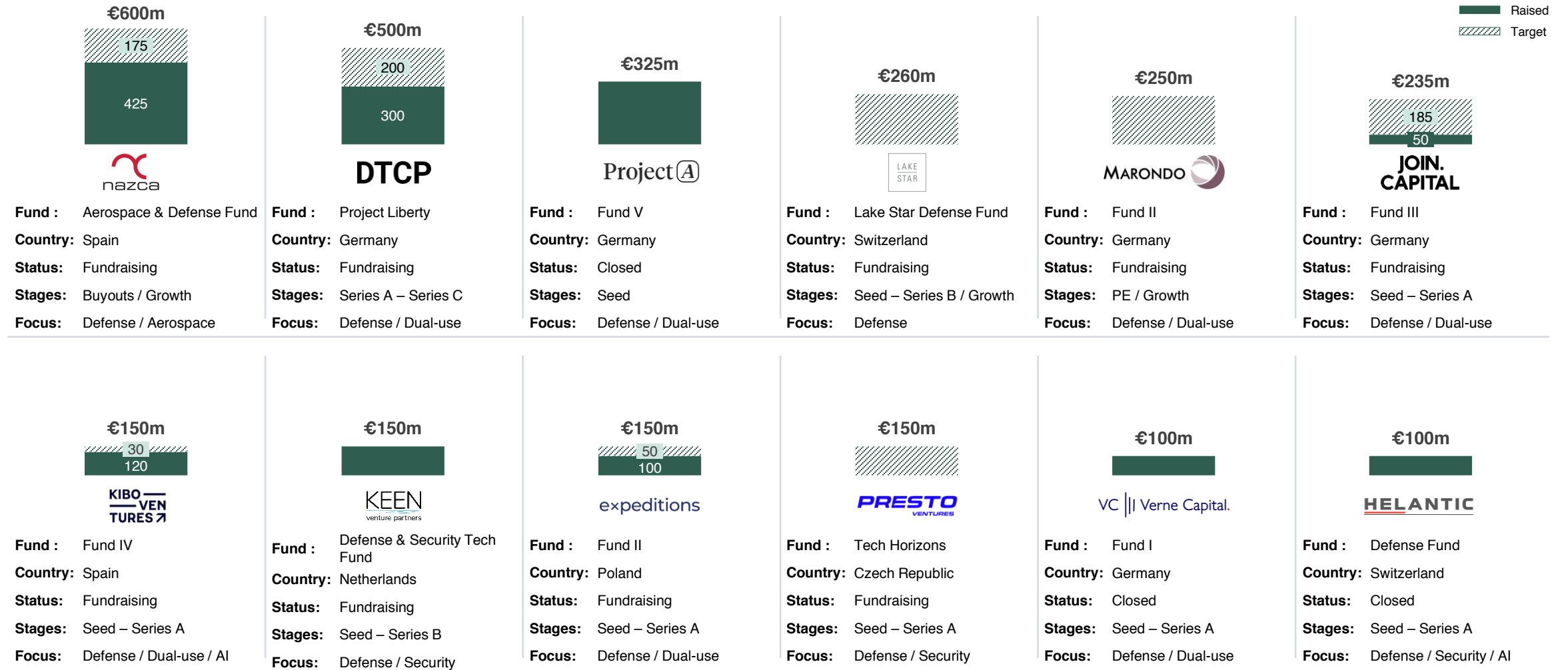
BOTH DEFENSE-FOCUSED AND GENERALIST VCS ARE ACTIVELY INVESTING ACROSS THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY LANDSCAPE⁽¹⁾

#	Investor	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count
1	expeditions	VC		 Disruptive Industries Comand AI	6
2	EXPANSION AEROSPACE & DEFENSE VENTURES	VC		ALDORIA ALTA ARES EIS	5
3	SERAPHIM	VC		ICEYE ALLSPACE	4
4	D3>>-	VC		SWARMER TYTAN TECHNOLOGIES	4
5	Project A	VC		QUANTUM SYSTEMS STARK	4
6	LAKE STAR	VC		ARX ROBOTICS Auterion	4
7	DMNES	VC		ELISTAIR QUANTUM SYSTEMS	4
8	REDSTONE	VC		MULTIVERSE COMPUTING KELLUU	4
9	Britbots.	VC		Vizgard	4
10	MITS	VC		NORDA Teletactica	4

#	Investor	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count
11	UAI	VC		BUNTAR AEROSPACE SWARMER	4
12	SENTRIS	VC		ALPINE EAGLE SWARM BIOCOTICS	4
13	SAFRAN	Corporate VC		Greener wave. blackshark.ai	4
14	GENERAL CATALYST	VC		ICEYE Helsing	3
15	Molten	VC		HADEAN Valarian	3
16	10x	VC		QUANTUM SYSTEMS TYTAN TECHNOLOGIES	3
17	GREEN FLAG VENTURES	VC		SWARMER Teletactica	3
18	BSV	VC		airvolve WAYREN	3
19	Final Frontier	VC		DROPLA Farsight Vision	3
20	IQC Deep Tech Venture Capital	VC		ALPINE EAGLE Valarian	3

EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – RECENT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE-FOCUSED FUND FORMATION IS ACCELERATING, SIGNALING INCREASING INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY INVESTING⁽¹⁾

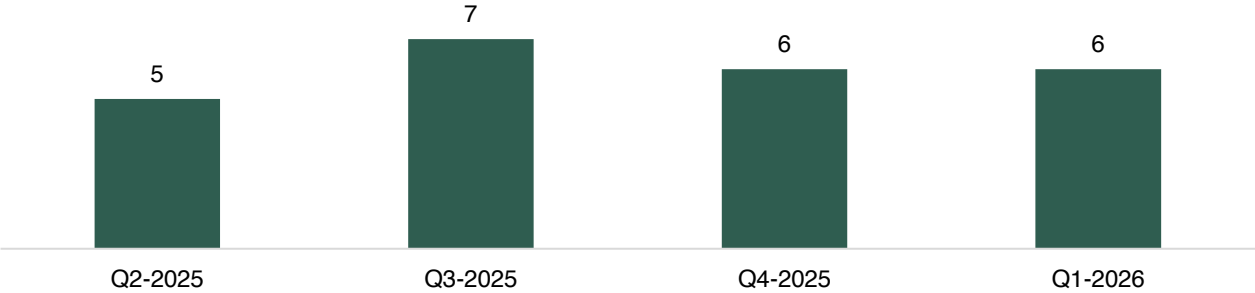




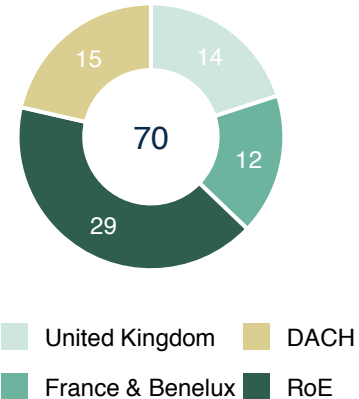
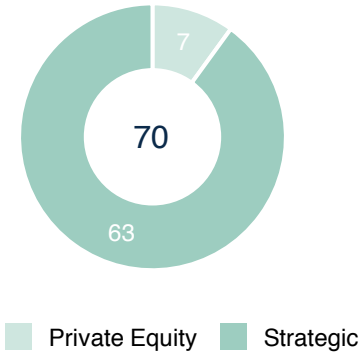
EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – M&A ACTIVITY Q1-2026 LTM

DEFENSE TECH M&A ACTIVITY REMAINS RESILIENT, DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY STRATEGIC BUYERS TARGETING NEXT-GENERATION CAPABILITIES

Number of Defense Technology M&A Transactions (Q1-2026 LTM) – Quarterly Development



Number of Defense Technology M&A Transactions (since 2022) – Type & Region








EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – NOTABLE Q1-2026 M&A TRANSACTIONS



SELECTED NOTABLE M&A TRANSACTIONS HIGHLIGHT GROWING APPETITE FOR DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGIES AND CROSS-BORDER DEFENSE CONSOLIDATION⁽¹⁾

 HENSOLDT <small>Detect and Protect.</small>	Acquired		
Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	05-Mar-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nedinsco is a Dutch electro-optics specialist developing and manufacturing periscopes, driver vision systems and subsystems for optronic sensor units, with sites in Venlo and Eindhoven and c.140 employees The acquisition strengthens HENSOLDT's optronics capabilities, supports production scaling, secures critical supply chains and expands its industrial footprint in Europe, particularly in the Netherlands 			

	Acquired		
Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	17-Feb-2026	EV: €10m	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider of 3D LiDAR sensors and integrated software for security, volume monitoring, industrial and traffic applications Expands Senstar's perimeter security offering with advanced LiDAR capabilities and broadens exposure to transportation and industrial end-markets 			

	Acquired		
AI & ISR Intelligence Software	06-Jan-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty is a UK-based applied AI company providing AI strategy, AI safety and the design, build and implementation of high-performance AI systems for public and private sector clients The acquisition strengthens Accenture's capabilities in safe, secure and outcome-driven AI; it also adds more than 400 AI-native professionals and Faculty's decision intelligence product, Frontier, to Accenture's platform suite 			

	Acquired		
Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	23-Jan-2026	EV: €1,550m	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra PCS provides electronic controls, sensing products, stores ejection and data processing solutions for military and civilian aerospace platforms The acquisition strengthens Eaton's aerospace mission systems offering and expands its capabilities in next-generation defense and commercial aircraft markets 			

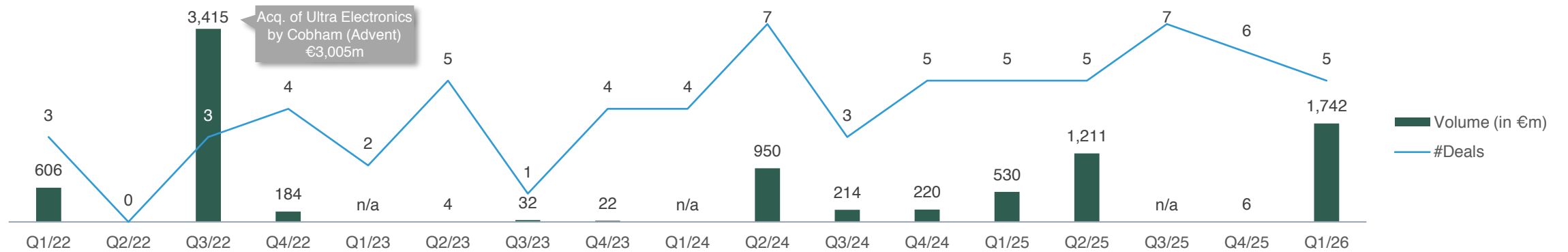
	Acquired		
AI & ISR Intelligence Software	05-Jan-2026	EV: €192m	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daedalean develops safety-critical, certifiable AI avionics software for AI-assisted piloting, visual navigation and GNSS-denied operations The deal strengthens Destinus' AI capabilities for unmanned flight systems and supports expansion across civil and defense autonomy markets 			

	Acquired		
Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	23-Mar-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider of navigation systems, situational awareness technologies, radar, optronic and inertial sensors for naval and coastal defense applications The acquisition enables Leonardo to fully integrate GEM's portfolio and strengthen its radar and systems offering for naval and coastal applications 			

EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – M&A ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

DEFENSE TECH M&A ACTIVITY REMAINS RESILIENT, WITH VISIBLE LARGE TRANSACTIONS REFLECTING STRONG STRATEGIC INTEREST

Quarterly Defense Technology M&A Transactions⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾


















Key Defense Technology M&A and Private Equity Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Buyer	Country	EV (€m) ⁽³⁾	Date	Target	Country	Segment	Buyer	Country	EV (€m) ⁽³⁾
Q1-26	Nedinsco Venlo	Germany		HENSOLDT	Germany	n/a	Q4-25	Spleenlab	Germany		Quantumsystems	Germany	n/a
Q1-26	Blickfeld	Germany		Senstar	Canada	11	Q3-25	Eelum	Norway		Equinor Ventures	Norway	n/a
Q1-26	Ultra PCS	UK		Eaton	Ireland	1,550	Q3-25	Ilias Solutions	Belgium		Patria	Finland	n/a
Q1-26	Faculty	UK		Accenture	Ireland	n/a	Q3-25	GomSpace	Denmark		Hargreaves family	UK	n/a
Q1-26	Daedalean AI	Switzerland		Destinus	Switzerland	192	Q3-25	Rift Dynamics	Norway		Ondas	USA	n/a
Q4-25	Fernride	Germany		Quantumsystems	Germany	n/a	Q3-25	Pleno	Germany		STARK	Germany	n/a
Q4-25	Wake Engineering	Spain		Indra Group	Spain	n/a	Q2-25	MilSOFT Yazilim	Turkey		Forte Bilgi	Turkey	9
Q4-25	OSL Technology	UK		Terma	Denmark	n/a	Q2-25	Summa Defense	Germany		Summa Energy	Finland	225



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – M&A ACTIVITY BY VERTICAL

SENSORS AND ELECTRONICS LEAD DEFENSE TECH M&A ACTIVITY, FOLLOWED BY UNMANNED AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

Vertical	Description	Total Number of M&A Transactions (Since 2022)	Key Transactions (Selection)
 Sensors, Electronics & Defense Equipment	Hardware-enabled systems where embedded software defines functionality and mission relevance	37	 
 AI & ISR Intelligence Software	Software-driven systems enabling intelligence generation, data integration and decision superiority	5	  
 Command, Control & Mission Software	Mission-critical platforms supporting command & control, battlefield management, simulation, secure communications and operational coordination	13	  
 Unmanned & Autonomous Systems	Software-defined autonomous and semi-autonomous systems, including UAVs, UGVs, maritime platforms and embedded autonomy stacks	17	  



EUROPEAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY – MOST ACTIVE ACQUIRERS

STRATEGIC BUYERS LEAD DEFENSE TECH M&A ACTIVITY, SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE EQUITY SPONSORS

#	Buyer	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count ⁽¹⁾
1		Corporation		MALLOY AERONAUTICS	3
2		VC-Backed company			3
3		Corporation			2
4		Corporation			2
5		Corporation		<small>Cyber security</small>	2
6		Corporation			1
7		Corporation			1
8		Corporation			1
9		Private Equity			1
10		Private Equity			1

3

**SECTOR DEEP DIVE:
EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE**





EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – KEY TRENDS AND DRAKE STAR TAKEAWAYS

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE DEMAND IS STRUCTURALLY ACCELERATING AS AI, GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS AND DIGITAL COMPLEXITY RESHAPE THE THREAT LANDSCAPE

Key Trends



Strong Market Growth in European Cyber Security Software

The European Cyber Security Software market is projected to grow from ~\$44bn (2024) to ~\$109bn (2031), reflecting an ~11.8% CAGR, driven by digitalization and stricter Cyber Security Software regulations for enterprises



AI is Accelerating the Cyber Arms Race

Artificial intelligence is rapidly expanding both offensive and defensive cyber capabilities, with 94% of decision-makers identifying AI as the most significant driver of change in Cyber Security Software



Geopolitical Tensions Are Reshaping Cyber Security Software Strategies

Increasing geopolitical fragmentation is pushing organizations and governments to adapt their Cyber Security Software strategies as state-linked cyber threats and digital sovereignty concerns grow



Cyber-Enabled Fraud Is Becoming a Systemic Threat

Fraud driven by phishing, social engineering and digital scams has become one of the most pervasive cyber risks affecting both organizations and individuals



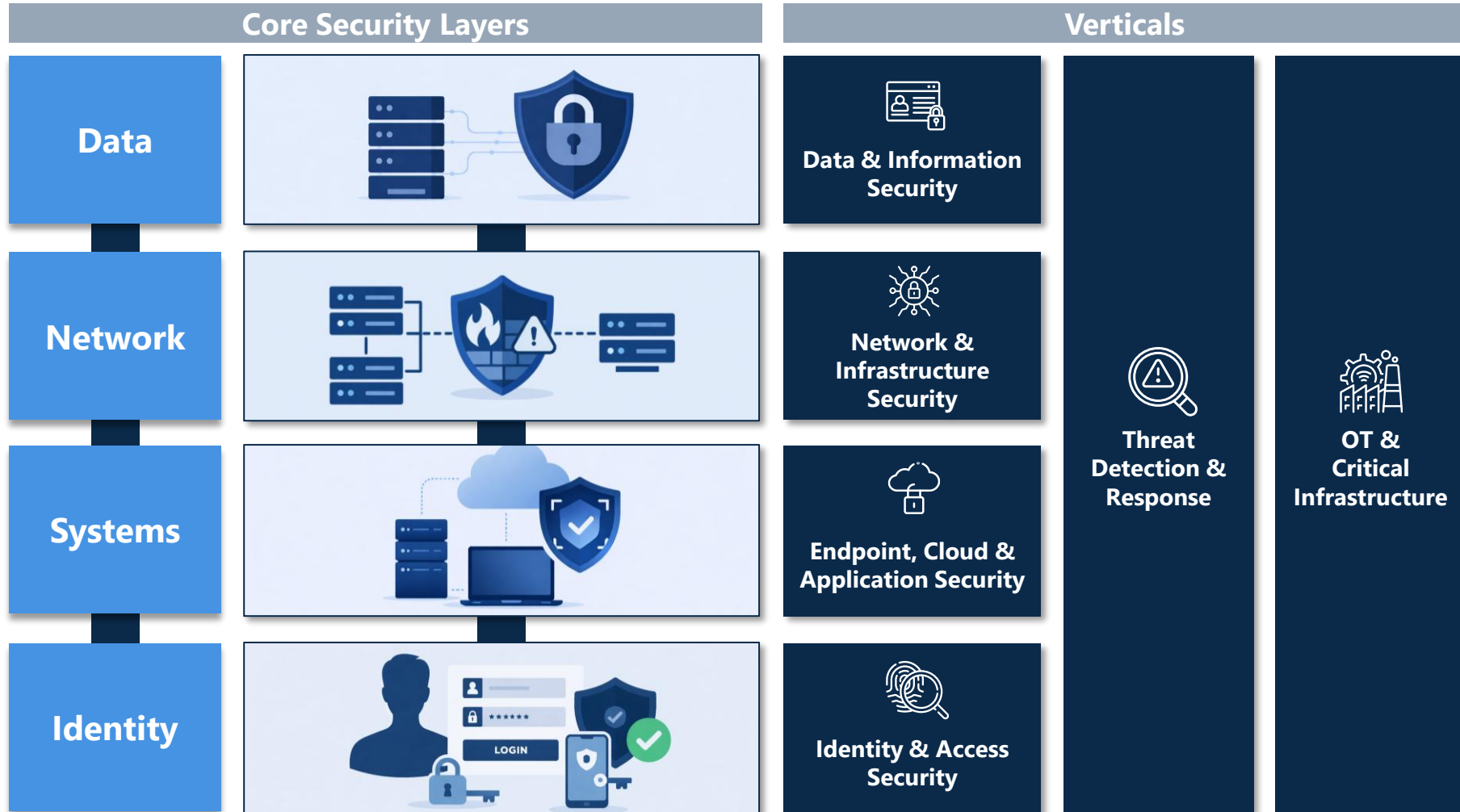
Supply Chain and Third-Party Dependencies Expand the Attack Surface

Increasing reliance on external vendors and digital ecosystems is expanding the cyber attack surface, driving demand for supply chain and third-party security solutions



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – VERTICAL DEFINITION FRAMEWORK

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE SPANS MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED LAYERS, REQUIRING INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED PROTECTION









Cyber Security Software effectiveness increasingly depends on coordinated protection across interconnected layers of the digital ecosystem



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – VERTICAL TAXONOMY

DRAKE STAR'S CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE TAXONOMY DEFINES THE PROTECTION LAYER ACROSS SIX INTERCONNECTED VERTICALS OF THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

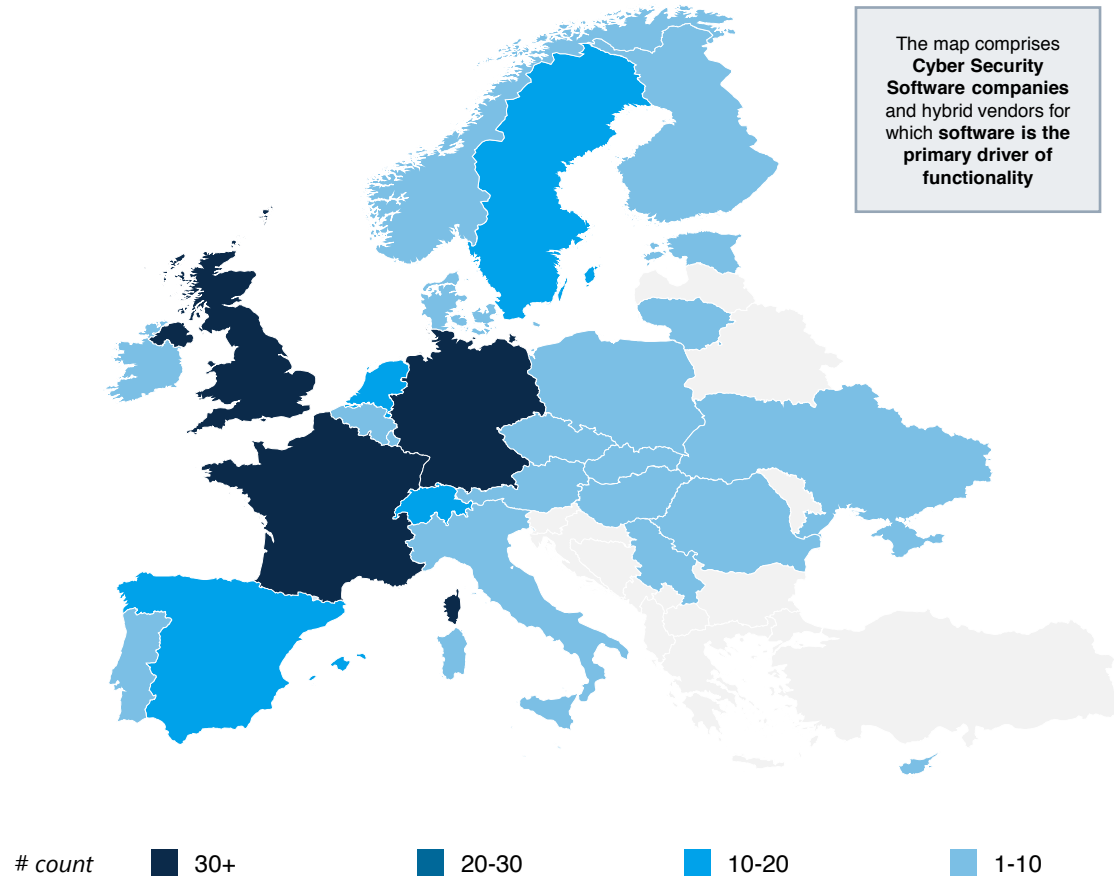
1		Data & Information Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Software-driven solutions protecting sensitive data across its lifecycle including encryption, DLP⁽¹⁾, DSPM⁽²⁾ and privacy-enhancing technologies▪ Positioned at the Data layer, securing the core asset of value and operating independently of infrastructure or perimeter controls
2		Network & Infrastructure Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Systems securing enterprise and cloud infrastructure through traffic inspection, segmentation, SASE⁽³⁾/SSE⁽⁴⁾ architectures, ZTNA⁽⁵⁾, firewalls and NDR⁽⁶⁾ capabilities▪ Operates at the Network & Infrastructure layer, enforcing trust boundaries and limiting lateral movement across hybrid and distributed environments
3		Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protection platforms securing endpoints, servers, cloud workloads, containers and software applications, including EDR⁽⁷⁾, CNAPP⁽⁸⁾, CWPP⁽⁹⁾, runtime protection and software supply chain security▪ Anchored in the Compute / Workload layer, defending distributed execution environments where modern attack surfaces reside
4		Identity & Access Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identity-centric systems managing authentication, authorization and privileged access across enterprise and cloud ecosystems, including IAM⁽¹⁰⁾, PAM⁽¹¹⁾, MFA⁽¹²⁾ and IGA⁽¹³⁾▪ Functions as the Identity Control layer, acting as the cross-stack enforcement plane within zero-trust architectures
5		Threat Detection & Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Operational security platforms aggregating telemetry across data, network, compute and identity layers, including SIEM⁽¹⁴⁾, SOAR⁽¹⁵⁾, MDR⁽¹⁶⁾, XDR⁽¹⁷⁾, incident response platforms and threat intelligence▪ Comprises the Operations & Response layer, correlating cross-layer signals and orchestrating detection, investigation and remediation.
6		OT & Critical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Specialized Cyber Security Software solutions designed to protect industrial control systems, operational technology networks and cyber-physical infrastructure▪ Represents a parallel Operational Environment, replicating the full security stack within industrial and mission-critical domains



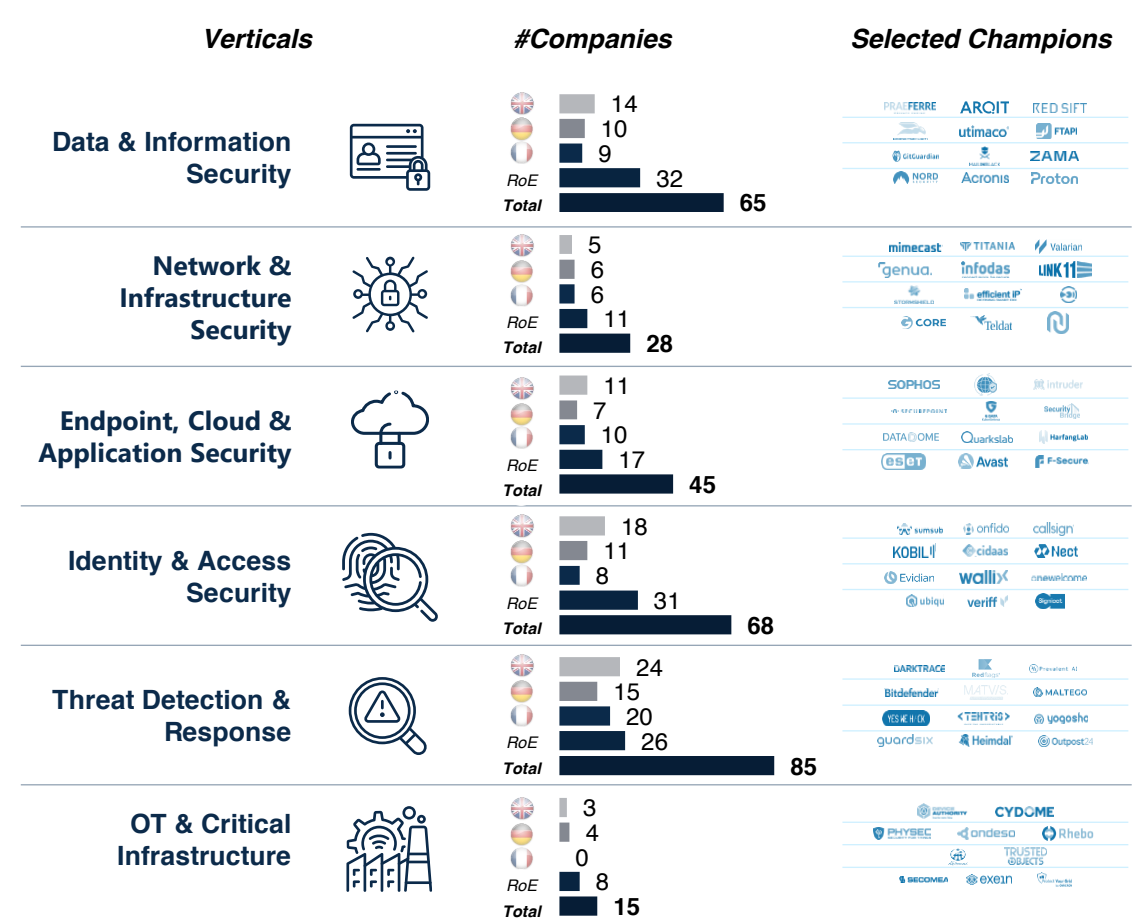
EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – GEOGRAPHICAL AND VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION

EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED IN KEY HUBS LED BY THE UK, FRANCE AND GERMANY

Number of Cyber Security Software Companies per Country⁽¹⁾



Number of Cyber Security Software Companies per Vertical⁽¹⁾



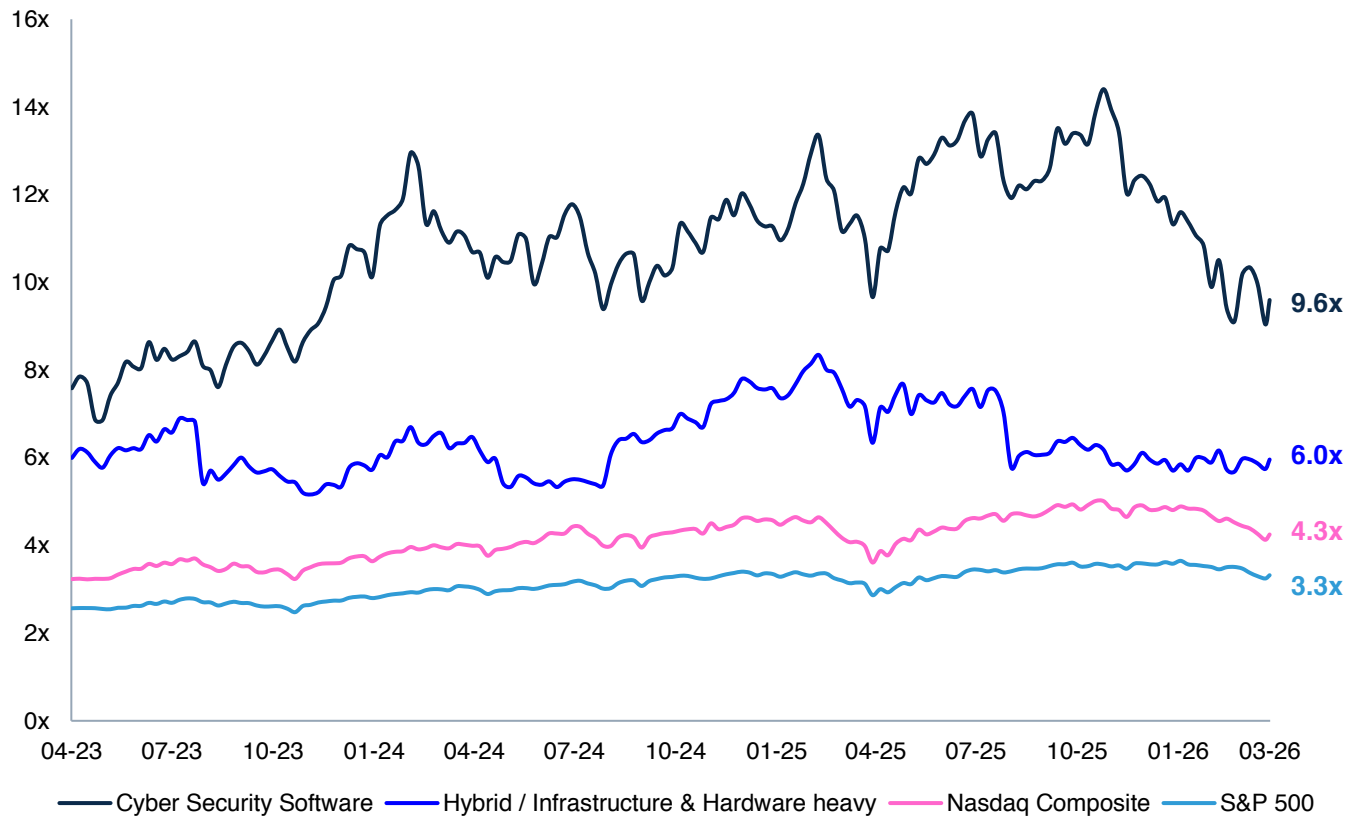


EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – PUBLIC MARKET ENVIRONMENT

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE MULTIPLES HAVE NORMALIZED BUT REMAIN WELL ABOVE HYBRID AND BROADER MARKET LEVELS

Public Market Valuation Development – Peer Groups Over Time

Enterprise Value / NTM revenue, weekly data



Implied Median Multiples Over Time

	Last 3 Years			31-03-26
	Low	High	Med.	
Cyber Security Software	6.9x	14.4x	11.0x	9.6x
Hybrid / Infrastructure & Hardware heavy	5.2x	8.3x	6.2x	6.0x
NASDAQ Composite	3.2x	5.0x	4.2x	4.3x
S&P 500	2.5x	3.6x	3.1x	3.3x

Selected Constituents

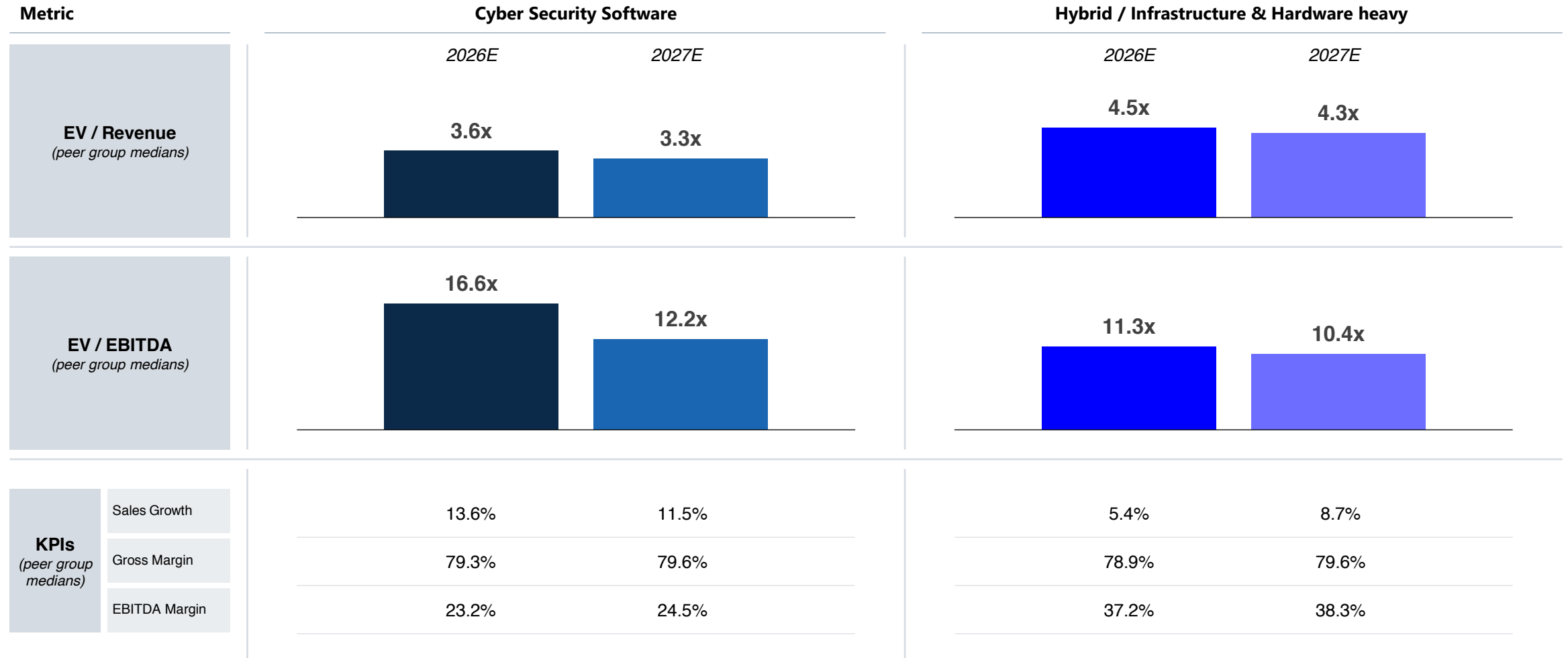
Cyber Security Software

Hybrid / Infrastructure & Hardware heavy



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTW. – CURRENT VALUATIONS AND OPERATIVE BENCHMARKING

HIGHER REVENUE MULTIPLES IN HARDWARE REFLECT STRONGER MARGINS, WHILE SOFTWARE COMMANDS PREMIUM EBITDA MULTIPLES DUE TO SCALABILITY

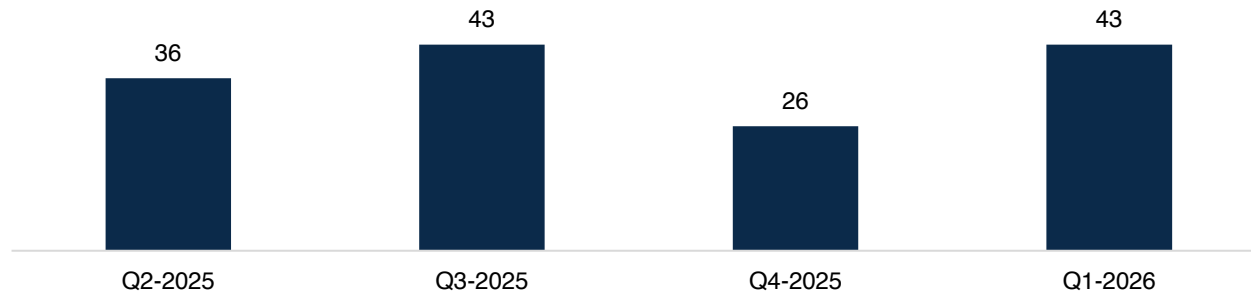




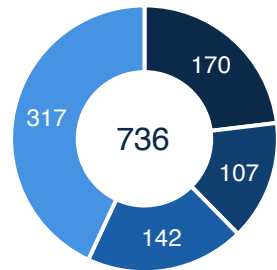
EUROPEAN CYBER SEC. SOFTW. – FINANCING ACTIVITY Q1 '26 LTM

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE VC ACTIVITY REMAINS RESILIENT,
WITH DEAL VOLUMES REBOUNDED IN Q1 2026

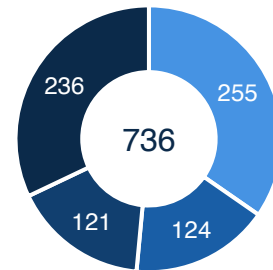
Number of Cyber Security Software VC Transactions (Q1-2026 LTM) – Quarterly Development



Number of Cyber Security Software VC Transactions (since 2022) – Stage & Region



Accelerator Seed
Early Stage Later Stage



United Kingdom DACH
France & Benelux RoE





EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – NOTABLE Q1-2026 PRIVATE PLACEMENTS


RECENT PRIVATE ROUNDS UNDERSCORE INVESTOR FOCUS ON CLOUD-NATIVE, IDENTITY AND NEXT-GENERATION THREAT DETECTION PLATFORMS⁽¹⁾




Received funding from 

Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	14-Jan-2026	€59m	Series B
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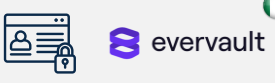
- Unified security platform covering code, cloud and runtime protection in a single developer-centric environment
- Funds enterprise go-to-market expansion and deepening of AI-assisted remediation capabilities across cloud and runtime
- Total funding received to date: €81m




Received funding from 

Data & Information Security	11-Feb-2026	€42m	Series C
-----------------------------	-------------	------	----------

- Security platform focused on secrets detection, secrets posture and non-human identity governance across modern software environments
- Accelerates international expansion and product development in non-human identity governance, the fastest-growing segment of secrets security
- Total funding received to date: €94m



Received funding from 

Data & Information Security	05-Mar-2026	€21m	Series B
-----------------------------	-------------	------	----------

- Payment's security platform enabling businesses to share card data securely with partners while keeping compliance scope low
- Accelerates scale of payment security infrastructure, capitalizing on surging demand for PCI scope reduction among fintechs and payment platforms
- Total funding received to date: €40m



Received funding from 

Threat Detection & Response	17-Feb-2026	€21m	Series B
-----------------------------	-------------	------	----------


- Cyber threat intelligence platform focused on exploit and vulnerability intelligence for faster, more accurate remediation prioritization
- Funds expansion into government and enterprise channels, where real-time exploit intelligence commands a clear pricing premium over legacy vulnerability feeds
- Total funding received to date: €40m




Received funding from 

Threat Detection & Response	19-Jan-2026	€20m	Series C
-----------------------------	-------------	------	----------

- European cyber insurtech combining cyber insurance, prevention software and incident response into a single risk management model
- Supports geographic expansion across Europe and scaling of underwriting capacity to capture a structurally underserved SME cyber insurance market
- Total funding received to date: €75m



Received funding from 

Threat Detection & Response	17-Mar-2026	€17m	Series A
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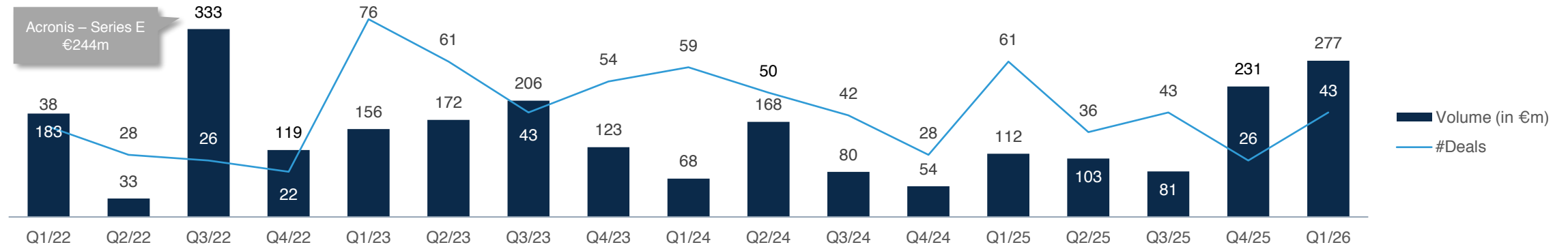
- Cloud detection platform using realistic canaries to identify post-breach activity with high-confidence, low-noise alerts
- Funds product development and initial go-to-market, targeting security teams overwhelmed by alert fatigue from traditional detection tooling
- Total funding received to date: €25m



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – FINANCING ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE FUNDING REMAINS RESILIENT DESPITE VOLATILITY, WITH RENEWED MOMENTUM IN Q1 2026

Quarterly Cyber Security Software Financing Rounds



Key Cyber Security Software Late-Stage VC Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Leading investor	Volume (€m)
Q1-26	Escape Technologies	France		Balderton Capital	15
Q1-26	Evervault	Ireland		Ribbit Capital	21
Q1-26	GitGuardian	France		Insight Partners	43
Q1-26	Stoik	France		Opera Tech Ventures	20
Q4-25	Exein	France		Blue Cloud Ventures	100
Q4-25	Reisistant AI	Italy		DTCP	21
Q4-25	Filigran	France		Eurazeo	58
Q3-25	Labrys	UK		Plural	18































Key Cyber Security Software Early-Stage VC Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Leading investor	Volume (€m)
Q1-26	Tracebit	UK		FirstMark	17
Q1-26	Copla	Lithuania		Iron Wolf Capital	7
Q1-26	Aikido Security	Belgium		DST Global	59
Q1-26	NetBird	Germany		Pace Ventures	9
Q1-26	Qevlar AI	France		Partech	26
Q4-25	Equixly	Italy		33N Ventures	10
Q4-25	Saporo	Switzerland		TIN Capital	7
Q4-25	Acoru	Spain		33N Ventures	10



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – FINANCING ACTIVITY BY VERTICAL

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED IN CORE CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE LAYERS, LED BY DATA SECURITY AND THREAT DETECTION

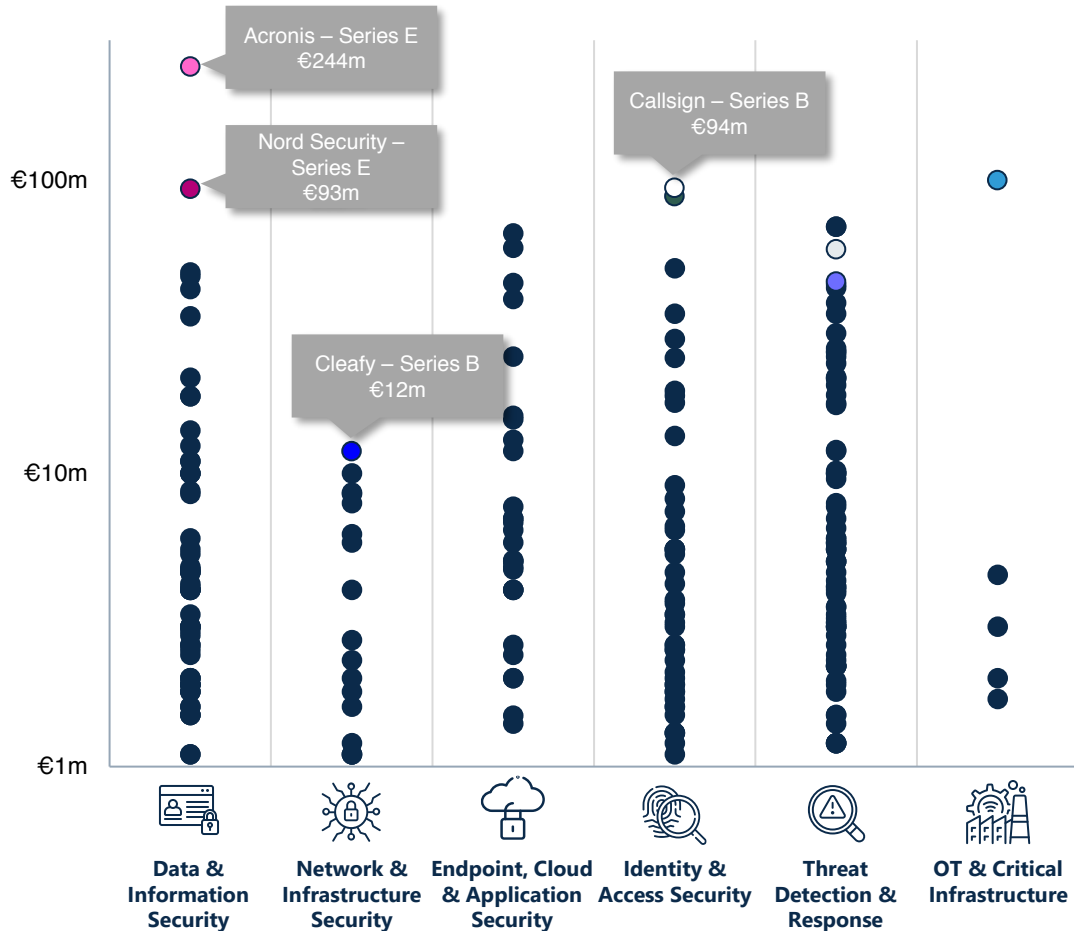
Vertical	Description	Total Number of VC Transactions (Since 2022)	Key Financed Companies (Selection)
 Data & Information Security	<i>Software-driven solutions protecting sensitive data across its lifecycle</i>	 220	  
 Network & Infrastructure Security	<i>Systems securing enterprise and cloud infrastructure</i>	 46	  
 Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	<i>Protection platforms securing endpoints, servers, cloud workloads, containers and software applications</i>	 91	  
 Identity & Access Security	<i>Identity-centric systems managing authentication, authorization and privileged access across enterprise and cloud ecosystems</i>	 155	  
 Threat Detection & Response	<i>Operational security platforms aggregating telemetry across data, network, compute and identity layers</i>	 211	  
 OT & Critical Infrastructure	<i>Specialized Cyber Security Software solutions designed to protect critical infrastructure</i>	 13	  



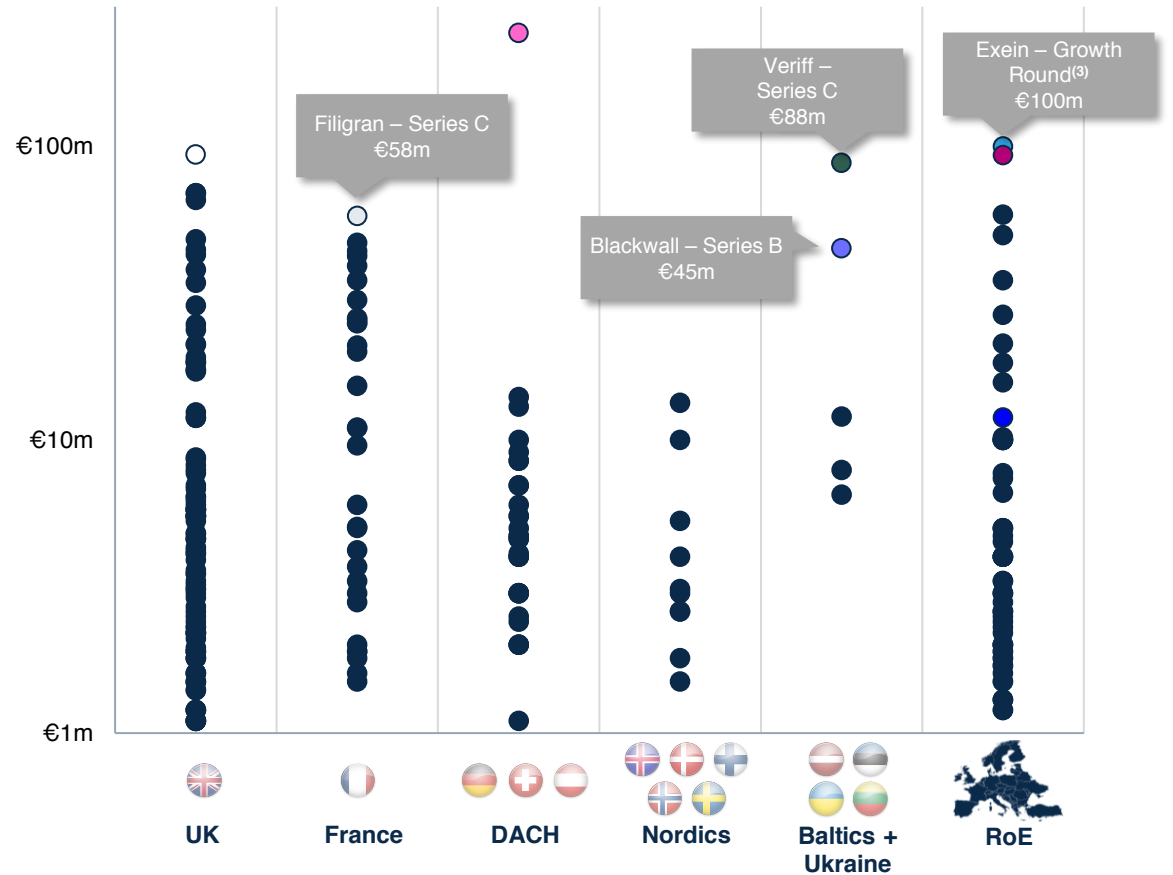
EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – VC FUNDING PATTERNS

FUNDING ACTIVITY IS SKEWED TOWARD EARLY-STAGE ROUNDS, PUNCTUATED BY SELECTIVE LARGE-SCALE GROWTH FINANCINGS

VC Funding Pattern by Vertical (Since 2022)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



VC Funding Pattern by Region (Since 2022)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾





EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – TOP FINANCED PRIVATE COMPANIES

TOP CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE COMPANIES ATTRACT GLOBAL CAPITAL, REINFORCING EUROPE'S POSITION IN THE SECTOR⁽¹⁾

Company	Vertical	Country	Last Financing Round	Amount	Selected Investors	Total Amount Raised (in €m) ⁽²⁾
Acronis	Data & Information Security		Series E (07/2022)	€244m	IEQT Majority Acquisition in 05/2025 for est. €1.9bn	606
DARKTRACE	Threat Detection & Response		Series E (09/2018)	€43m	THOMABRAVO ⁽⁴⁾ Acquisition in 10/2024 for €4.9bn	208
callsign	Identity & Access Security		Series B (02/2021)	€94m	J.P.Morgan	199
exe1n	OT & Critical Infrastructure		Undisclosed ⁽³⁾ (12/2025)	€100m	BLUECLOUD GEODESIC CAPITAL HV CAPITAL J.P.Morgan	193
NORD SECURITY	Data & Information Security		Undisclosed ⁽³⁾ (09/2023)	€93m	BurdaPrincipal Investments GENERAL CATALYST WARBURG PINCUS	184
veriff	Identity & Access Security		Series C (01/2022)	€88m	Accel ALKEON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT TIGERGLOBAL	166
Filigran	Threat Detection & Response		Series C (10/2025)	€58m	Accel EURAZEO INSIGHT PARTNERS T Capital	110
GitGuardian	Data & Information Security		Series C (02/2026)	€42m	Balderton capital EURAZEO INSIGHT PARTNERS	94
aikido	Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security		Series B (01/2026)	€59m	DST GLOBAL NOTION CAPITAL PSG	81
DataDome	Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security		Series C (03/2023)	€39m	elephant INFRAVIA isai	72



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – MOST ACTIVE INVESTORS

BOTH VC AND PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTORS ARE ACTIVE, REFLECTING INCREASING MATURITY OF THE CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE ECOSYSTEM⁽¹⁾

#	Investor	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count
1	auriga cyber ventures	VC			
2	TIKEHAU CAPITAL	PE			
3	eCAPITAL ENTREPRENEURIAL PARTNERS	VC			
4	TIN CAPITAL	VC			
5	OSNEY CAPITAL	VC			
6	NOTION CAPITAL	VC			
7	Balderton capital	VC			
8	ANDREESSEN HOROWITZ	VC			
9	ANTLER	VC			
10	Amadeus Capital Partners	VC			

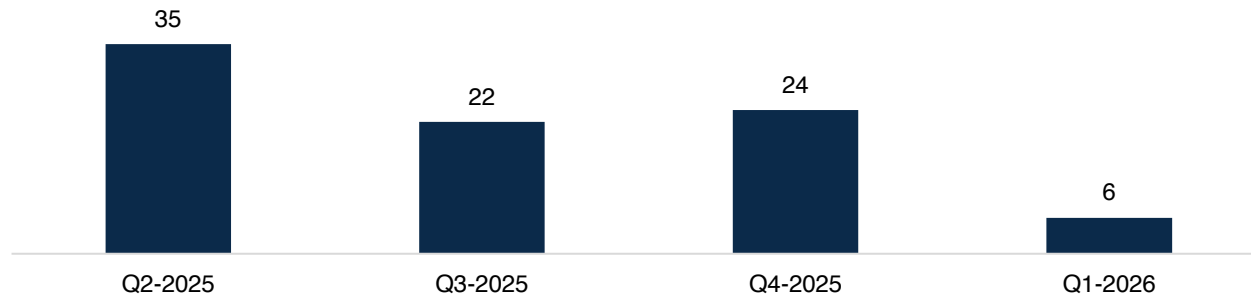
#	Investor	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count
11	INSIGHT PARTNERS	PE			
12	MMC	VC			
13	Crane	VC			
14	Accel	VC			
15	TENELEVEN	VC			
16	evo/ution EQUITY PARTNERS	PE			
17	WINTON VENTURES	VC			
18	Index Ventures	VC			
19	BrightPixel Sonae	Corporate VC			
20	Acequia Capital	VC			



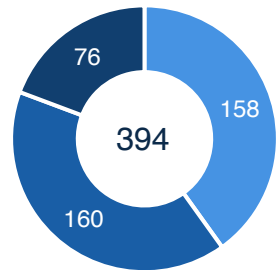
EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFT. – M&A ACTIVITY Q1-2026 LTM

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE M&A REMAINS STRUCTURALLY STRONG DESPITE SHORT-TERM VOLATILITY IN QUARTERLY DEAL ACTIVITY

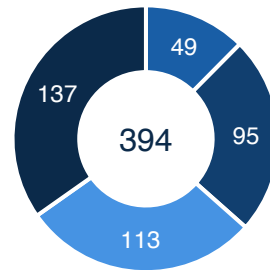
Number of Cyber Security Software M&A Transactions (Q1-2026 LTM) – Quarterly Development



Number of Cyber Security Software M&A Transactions (since 2022) – Type & Region



■ Private Equity ■ Strategic
■ Undisclosed



■ United Kingdom ■ DACH
■ France & Benelux ■ RoE







EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – NOTABLE Q1-2026 M&A TRANSACTIONS

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE M&A IS FOCUSED ON ACQUIRING TARGETED CAPABILITIES TO BUILD INTEGRATED SECURITY PLATFORMS⁽¹⁾

 *Acquired* 

Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	23-Jan-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
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- Microsoft-focused Cyber Security specialist spanning security, compliance, identity, endpoint management and Azure cloud environments
- Supports organisations in building secure IT and OT environments through consulting, implementation and Microsoft security expertise

 *Acquired* 

Data & Information Security	31-Jan-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
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- UK information security consultancy providing penetration testing, red teaming, technical assurance and incident response services
- NCSC-approved CHECK company and CREST-accredited provider helping clients protect data, systems and business-critical assets

 *Acquired* 



Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	25-Jan-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Private Equity
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- Pure-play Cyber Security provider offering software solutions, managed security services and professional services for enterprise environments
- Serves large corporates and state organizations, with strength in Microsoft security and 24x7 security operations

 *Acquired* 

Threat Detection & Response	17-Feb-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Private Equity
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- Access security software focused on Active Directory logins, file access monitoring and MFA across hybrid enterprise environments
- Helps IT teams enforce access policies, track user activity and improve compliance with real-time visibility into users and data

 *Acquired* 

Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	08-Jan-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
--	-------------	------------------------	-----------

- Secure-by-design platform for AI-assisted threat modeling, helping teams identify design risks and define tailored countermeasures early
- Embeds threat modeling into software delivery workflows to improve architecture security and reduce remediation delays

 *Acquired*

Threat Detection & Response	10-Feb-2026	EV: n/a ⁽²⁾	Strategic
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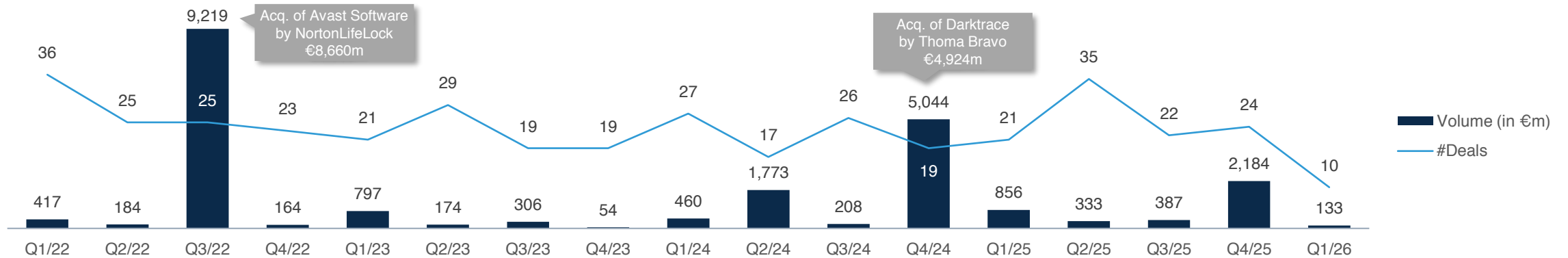
- Cyber Security data platform that aggregates and normalizes outputs from multiple tools into one unified view of security posture
- Designed to eliminate tool silos and spreadsheet-heavy reporting, giving security teams clearer prioritization and control visibility



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – M&A ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE M&A REMAINS RESILIENT DESPITE VOLATILITY, WITH ONGOING CONSOLIDATION TOWARD LARGER PLATFORMS

Quarterly Cyber Security Software M&A Transactions⁽¹⁾



Key Cyber Security Software Private Equity Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Buyer	Country	EV (€m) ⁽²⁾
Q1-26	IS Decisions	France	🔍	Aries Global	UK	n/a
Q1-26	IriusRisk	Spain	🔍	Invictus Growth Partners	USA	100
Q1-26	Evertrust	France	🔍	Elephant Partners	USA	10
Q1-26	Outpost24	Sweden	🔍	Vitruvian Partners	UK	n/a
Q4-25	Phonexia	Czechia	🔍	Crescendo Equity	KOR	n/a
Q4-25	TinyMDM	France	📄	BID Equity	Switzerland	n/a
Q4-25	HWG Sababa	Italy	🔍	Investcorp BSC	Bahrain	240
Q3-25	TinyMDM	France	📄	BID Equity	Switzerland	n/a













Key Cyber Security Software M&A Deals (LTM)

Date	Target	Country	Segment	Buyer	Country	EV (€m) ⁽²⁾
Q1-26	Arco Cyber	UK	🔍	Sophos Group	UK	n/a
Q1-26	Cyberis	UK	📄	Reply	Italy	8
Q1-26	Hornetsecurity	Germany	🔒	Proofpoint	USA	1,800
Q3-25	Safeweb	UK	🔍	Eyeonid Group	Sweden	20
Q3-25	SSH Communications	Finland	🔍	Leonardo	Italy	20
Q2-25	GroupTalk Sweden	Sweden	🔍	AddSecure	Sweden	18
Q2-25	ID Quantique	Switzerland	☀️	IonQ	USA	107
Q2-25	Comforte	Germany	🔍	Nera Digital	Germany	60



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – M&A ACTIVITY BY VERTICAL


THREAT DETECTION & RESPONSE DOMINATES M&A ACTIVITY, REFLECTING ITS ROLE AS THE CENTRAL AGGREGATION LAYER IN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE

Vertical	Description	Total Number of M&A Transactions (Since 2022)	Key Transactions (Selection)
 Data & Information Security	<i>Software-driven solutions protecting sensitive data across its lifecycle</i>	 47	Acronis ARQIT egress
 Network & Infrastructure Security	<i>Systems securing enterprise and cloud infrastructure</i>	 30	IDQ Avast MAILINBLACK
 Endpoint, Cloud & Application Security	<i>Protection platforms securing endpoints, servers, cloud workloads, containers and software applications</i>	 44	snyk mimecast HORNETSECURITY
 Identity & Access Security	<i>Identity-centric systems managing authentication, authorization and privileged access across enterprise and cloud ecosystems</i>	 63	onewelcome onfido efecte
 Threat Detection & Response	<i>Operational security platforms aggregating telemetry across data, network, compute and identity layers</i>	 187	Namirial DARKTRACE kape
 OT & Critical Infrastructure	<i>Specialized Cyber Security Software solutions designed to protect critical digital infrastructure</i>	 23	Sababa Security seclab NETACEA



EUROPEAN CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE – MOST ACTIVE ACQUIRERS

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS ARE THE PRIMARY DRIVERS OF CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE M&A, EXECUTING PLATFORM-FOCUSED BUY-AND-BUILD STRATEGIES

#	Buyer	Type	Country	Selected Investments	Total Deal Count ⁽¹⁾
1	 THOMABRAVO	Private Equity		 DARKTRACE  SOPHOS	 6
2	 TIKEHAU CAPITAL	Private Equity		 HORNETSECURITY  FTAPI	 3
3	 TA	Private Equity		 HORNETSECURITY	 3
4	 MAIN CAPITAL PARTNERS	Private Equity		 PRIMX  POINTSHARP  Procilon	 3
5	 ENTREPRENEUR INVEST	Private Equity		 inwebo  MAILINBLACK	 2
6	 Apax	Private Equity		 SOPHOS  utimaco®	 2
7	 ESSLING CAPITAL	Private Equity		 utimaco®  inwebo	 2
8	 MARLIN EQUITY PARTNERS	Private Equity		 Heimdal®  Silobreaker	 2
9	 LEONARDO	Corporation		 GYALA Cyber security  AXIOMATICS	 2
10	 proofpoint.	Corporation		 TESSIAN  HORNETSECURITY	 2

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DRAKE STAR PARTNERS**



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8 core tech verticals



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investment bank with
an entrepreneurial team



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transactions including
Strategic M&A, PE
Buyouts, Private
Placements, Buy Side
and Carve Out deals



GLOBAL REACH COMBINED WITH LOCAL PRESENCE

One of the largest tech
teams with over 100
professionals in the US,
Europe and Middle East



STRONG TRANSACTION TRACK RECORD

Over 500 transactions
completed incl. numerous
tech landmark deals



RECOGNIZED BY THE INDUSTRY

- 11x investment bank
of the year
- 48x deal of the year
- 8x leadership awards

GLOBAL REACH COMBINED WITH LOCAL PRESENCE

ONE OF THE LARGEST TECH TEAMS WITH 100+ PROFESSIONALS IN THE US, EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

5
countries



500+
transactions



+70%
cross-border
transactions



8
offices



3
continents



100
professionals

100% TECH-FOCUSED

DEEP EXPERTISE IN 8 CORE TECH SECTORS⁽¹⁾

FINTECH

SOFTWARE/SAAS

DIGITAL SERVICES

DIGITAL MEDIA

HR TECH

CONSUMER & RETAIL TECH

INDUSTRIAL TECH

MOBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

STRONG TRANSACTION TRACK RECORD ACROSS THE GLOBAL TECH LANDSCAPE

OVER 500+ TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED



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▶ **M&A advisory**

▶ **Growth financings**

Deep sector expertise

▶ **100% Tech focus**

Leading track-record in global technology deals



>60%

of our sell-sides were founder exits



>70%

of our deals were cross-border

Global reach with deep local execution expertise and relationships

- New York, US
- San Francisco, US
- Los Angeles, US

- Munich, DE
- Berlin, DE
- London, UK
- Paris, FR
- Dubai, AE

8 offices across 5 countries

13 partners with decades of experience

~100 professionals with pure tech focus



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 USA Deal of the Year (lower mid-markets) 2025 *KERR CONSULTING	 Growth Equity Deal of the Year 2025 *GFOS	 PE Deal of the Year 2025 *VEDA	 Equity Deal of the Year 2025 *FL/GHTKEYS

EUROPEAN SECURETECH REPORT

Q2 2026

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