

# GLOBAL HR TECH REPORT

Q1 2024

### DRAKE STAR AT A GLANCE

WHY OUR CLIENTS CHOOSE US



100% **TECH-FOCUSED** 

Deep sector expertise in 7 core tech verticals



**LEADER IN MID-MARKET TECH INVESTMENT BANKING** 

Only independent boutique in global top 10



**INDEPENDENT** AND **PARTNER-LED** 

Partner-owned investment bank with an entrepreneurial team



**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

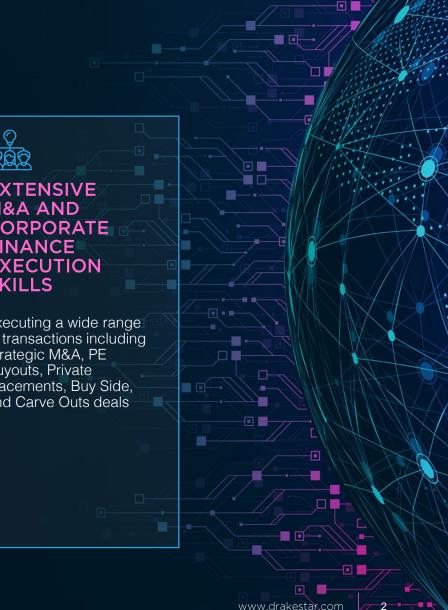


**RECOGNIZED** BY THE INDUSTRY

- 8x investment bank of the year
- 34x deal of the year
- 5x leadership awards



Strategic M&A, PE Buyouts, Private Placements, Buy Side, and Carve Outs deals



## **OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD**

IN HR TECH DEALMAKING



SALE TO

**INVESTCORP** 



— SALE TO -











MAJORITY RECAP BY





—— SALE TO —





STRATEGIC - GROWTH INVESTMENT BY





















capvis



































DIVESTURE OF AMACOM TO

HarperCollinsPublishers

















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<sup>\*</sup> Deals executed by Partners of Drake Star





### AT A GLANCE

#### STRONG MARKET TRACTION WITH APPEALING OUTLOOK FOR 2024

c.200

HR Tech transactions in Q4 2023

\$3.5bn+

Total invested capital in HR Tech in Q4 2023

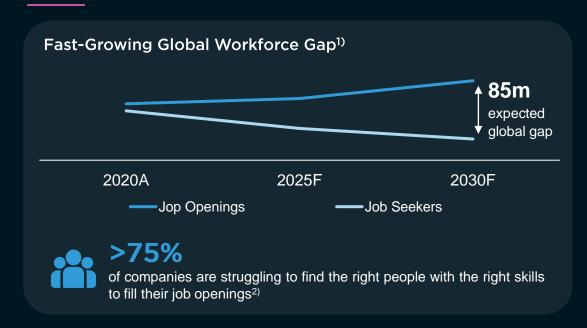
\$28.8bn

Global expected HR Tech market volume in 2024 +13.4%

Expected market growth CAGR until 2027

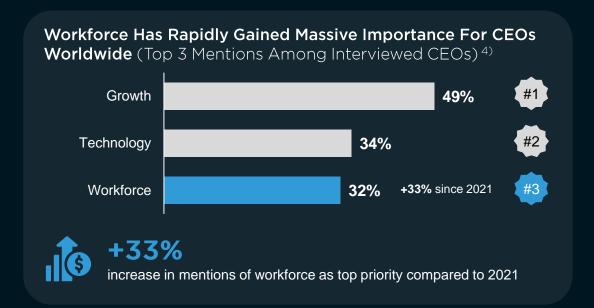


#### GLOBAL TALENT SHORTAGE ENFORCES FOCUS ON DIGITALIZATION OF HR FUNCTIONS





- Retaining talent has become increasingly important, due to a global workforce gap and escalating talent acquisition costs<sup>3)</sup>
- **Delivering a digital experience is crucial** as the new generation of talent consists of digital natives who expect a seamless digital experience<sup>3)</sup>

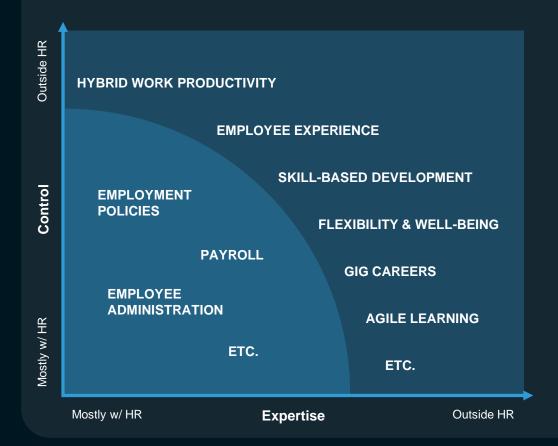


- Increasing importance of digitalization of the HR function is underscored by prioritizing workforce and cost management
- Efficiency improvements, employee communication, and remote work capabilities are key digitalization drivers
- Automation, data-driven decision-making, and consolidation of legacy tech stacks help to optimize cost management



#### HR IS EXPECTED TO MEET NEW BUSINESS DEMANDS AS IT HAS BECOME A STRATEGIC FUNCTION

#### **Expanding Past Traditional HR Responsibilities**





The role of HR has evolved from a traditional administrative function to a new strategic responsibility



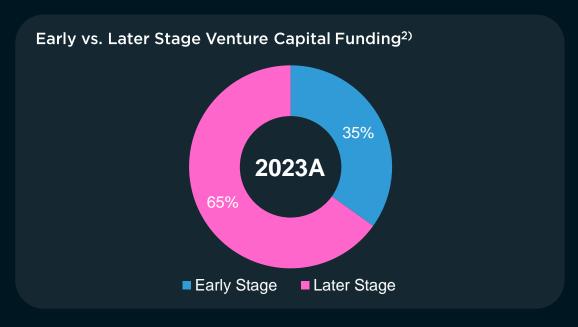
HR initiatives that impact the entire business, such as hybrid working environments, learning and development, and employee experience, are critical for organizations to maintain their competitive edge



The HR department must balance the delivery of business benefits with the associated costs to achieve optimum business value

#### IN 2023 INVESTOR ACTIVITY HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY STRATEGIC INVESTORS







In 2023 strategic buyers made up more then half of the M&A activity in HR Tech, driven by efforts to offer holistic platform HR solutions to provide end-to-end digitalization of the HR function



Around two thirds of invested capital was allocated to later stage venture funding rounds, as investors are increasingly looking for more mature assets with a clear path to profitability

MOST ACTIVE PE-BACKED CONSOLIDATORS IN HR TECH (2020 - 2023)

Strategic Consolidators	PE Sponsors	Deal Count	Acquisitions
<b>◇</b> VISMA	<b>∺</b> GIC <sup>CPP</sup> Investments	14	Beeple Oppical mandü Outsmart Oavalo Calevergia Syntegro Stimem system Se woffu Nmbrs dottie. Kontek FLEX LAUDUS
access	<b>*Hg</b> GIC	9	Sage paycircle webroster CORE HR rotaready FastTrack
.ıIRIS		6	<b>apex</b> Human Capital Management bluese bluese myPay Solutions ⊕ conarc
ÜKG	Hellman&Friedman Blackstone JMI ₩GIC	4	ascentis Quorbit
Tadancy	NMC NEW MOUNTAIN CAPITAL GEMSPRING	3	<b>♦ brazen firstbird ⊘</b> Ascendify

MOST ACTIVE PUBLIC CONSOLIDATORS IN HR TECH (2020 - 2023)

Strategic Consolidators	Deal Count	Acquisitions
CERIDIAN	5	EXCELITY ideal.  adam = Ascender FUZE
ÆP.	3	∜securtime® ≯sora iDesign™
Paycor	3	Talenya Geese verb
paylocity <sup>*</sup>	3	bluemarble : Samepage  VidGrid



### DRAKE STAR'S HR TECH UNIVERSE

COVERING THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN



### **Talent Acquisition**

Sourcing
Recruitment Marketing
Selection
Suite/Engagement
Onboarding



### **Human Capital Management**

HRIS/Payroll

Benefits
Workforce Management
Contingent Labor

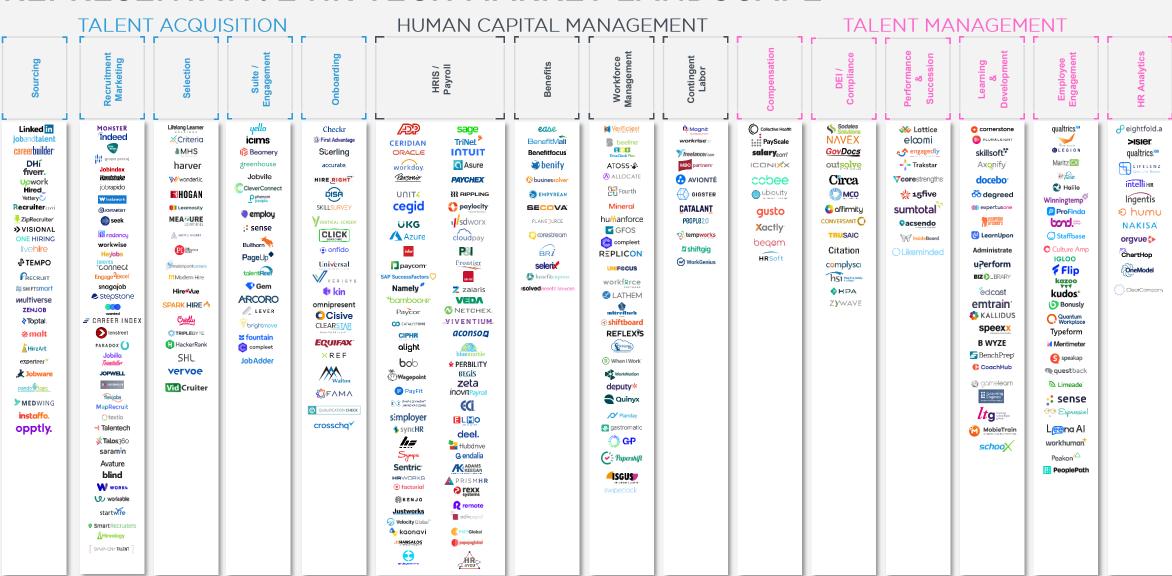


### **Talent Management**

Compensation
DEI/Compliance
Performance & Succession
Learning & Development
Employee Engagement
HR Analytics



### REPRESENTATIVE HR TECH MARKET LANDSCAPE



#### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT

#### LAST 24 MONTHS SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE







Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023 (equally weighted)



### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT

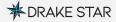
#### LAST 24 MONTHS EV/LTM REVENUE







Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT

#### LAST 24 MONTHS EV/LTM EBITDA







Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023

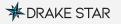


# QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE OF DRAKE STAR HR TECH INDICES

CAPTURING THE LAST EIGHT QUARTERS

		Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
Talent Acquisition Index	Share <sup>(1)</sup> Price	(11.5%)	(30.3%)	(3.5%)	(1.0%)	(0.5%)	3.6%	(10.0%)	25.6%
Tal Acqu Inc	INDEX	89	62	60	59	59	61	55	69
Human Capital Management / Talent Management Index	Share <sup>(1)</sup> Price	(12.4%)	(23.3%)	4.6%	6.6%	9.5%	3.4%	(4.2%)	6.8%
Humai Manag Ta Mana	INDEX	88	67	70	75	82	85	81	87
NASDAQ Composite Index	Share <sup>(1)</sup> Price	(10.2%)	(22.4%)	(4.1%)	(1.0%)	16.8%	12.8%	(4.1%)	13.6%
NAS	INDEX	90	70	67	66	77	87	83	95

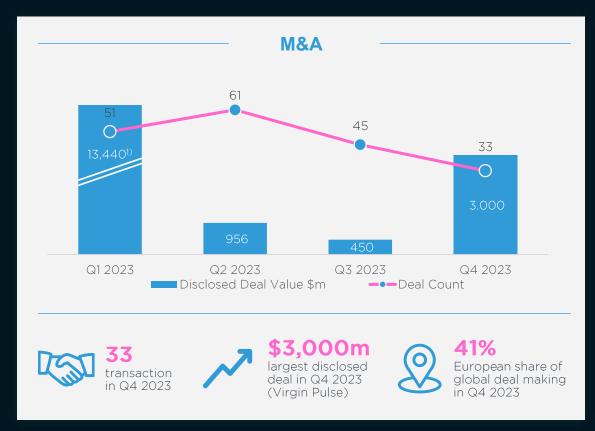
<sup>1)</sup> Performance today vs. end of previous quarter 2) Indexed to 100 in Q4 2021 Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023

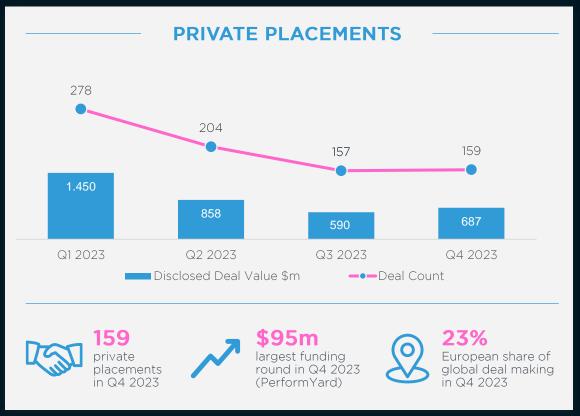


- After a slight dip in Q3 2023, subscription-based HCM / Talent Management continued its upward trend in Q4 2023, driven by very promising earnings releases from large players such as Workday as well as market expectations that interest rates have already peaked
- Transactional Talent Acquisition rebounded even stronger in Q4 after a weaker performance over the past two years. In particular, larger players targeting the enterprise segment such as Recruit Holdings, HireRight and Equifax performed strongly, pushing the index ahead of the broader market

## HR TECH M&A & PRIVATE PLACEMENT ACTIVITY

#### DEVELOPMENT OVER THE LAST FOUR QUARTERS





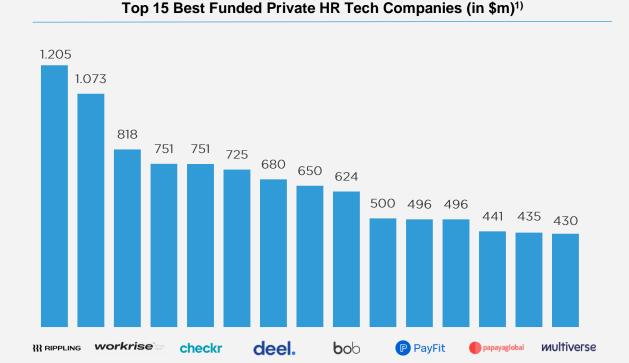
Source: Pitchbook Note: 1) Incl. Qualtrics sale to Silver Lake



#### INSTITUTIONALLY BACKED PRIVATE COMPANIES & INVESTORS

*Handshake* 

LIST OF BEST FUNDED PRIVATE COMPANIES AND MOST ACTIVE FINANCIAL INVESTORS IN HR TECH



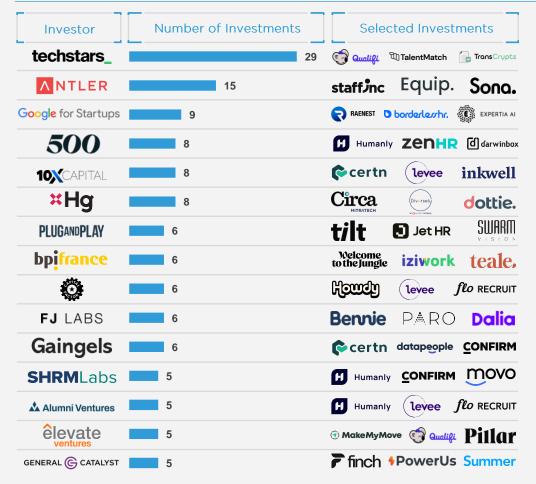
 The top 15 funded private companies have raised \$10.1bn during their lifespan

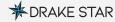
\*solved

Velocity Global

austo

Top 15 Most Active Financial Investors in HR Tech 2023<sup>2)</sup>





**job**and**talent** 

<sup>1)</sup> Numbers display total funding as of Q4 2023 2) By number of investments in 2023 Source: Pitchbook

#### NOTABLE HR TECH M&A DEALS IN Q4 2023









#### Veda was acquired by Investcorp Technology **Partners**

- VEDA offers a holistic endto-end HR software platform enabling customers to utilize payroll, time & security and people management solutions
- Through this partnership VFDA aims to become the number one HR Tech platform for medium-sized companies within the DACH region

#### Syntegro was acquired by Visma

- Developer of a workforce management software. focusing on time & attendance, e-HR workflows and personal planning
- Through Syntegro's acquisition, Visma strengthen its position in the Dutch e-governance space

#### BlueOctopus was acquired by IRIS via its financial sponsor HG Capital

- Blue Octopus Recruitment develops a management software, specialized in talent management tools using advanced technology
- The acquisition completes IRIS' long-term vision to expand its presence in the HR software

#### Virgin Pulse was acquired by HealthComp via its financial sponsor Blackstone

Nov 9, 2023

pulse

EV: \$3,000m

- Virgin Pulse develops an employee health engagement platform to drive well-being, culture and productivity
- This acquisition will create a tech-enabled platform that can develop novel benefit designs while leveraging Al to track and improve outcomes

#### CompXL was acquired by Salary.com via its financial sponsor Accel-KKR

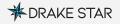
- CompXL offers a cloudbased comprehensive compensation planning tool. providing budgeting, total rewards statements and managing incentives
- Salary.com acquired CompXL to expand its international capabilities

**Talent Acquisition** 

**Human Capital Management** 

Talent Management

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research



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#### NOTABLE HR TECH PRIVATE PLACEMENTS IN Q4 2023





- PerformYard develops a performance management software to focus on quality feedback and effective performance discussion, enabling organizations to manage their workforce
- Updata Partner's funds are used to continue building their organization



#### Jitjatjo raised Series B venture funding from Morningside Group

- Jitjatjo operates a workforce management platform and talent marketplace, enabling user to meet personalized and on-demand staffing needs
- The investment will support the platform's growth, geographic expansion, key initiatives in advancing Jitjatjo's machine learning capabilities

# ● Oct 27, 2023 Intenseye Lightspeed Deal Size: \$61.0m

# Intenseye raised Series B venture funding from Lightspeed Venture Partners

- Intenseye develops an AI platform designed to analyze images and videos at the workplace to mitigate accidents
- The investment will support the platform's growth and expansion





# Traba raised venture funding from Founders Fund and Khosla Ventures

- Traba operates a HR marketplace to connect industrial workers with businesses
- The company plans to expand into new regions and add more product features to its marketplace platform

# Oct 10, 2023 harri ATALAYA Deal Size: \$43.0m

#### Harri received development capital from Atalaya Capital Management

- Harri provides a recruitment platform, offering suite of talent, workforce management, communications, and compliance solutions
- The funds will be used to support the expansion of frontline work employee experience solutions

**Talent Acquisition** 

Human Capital Management

Talent Management

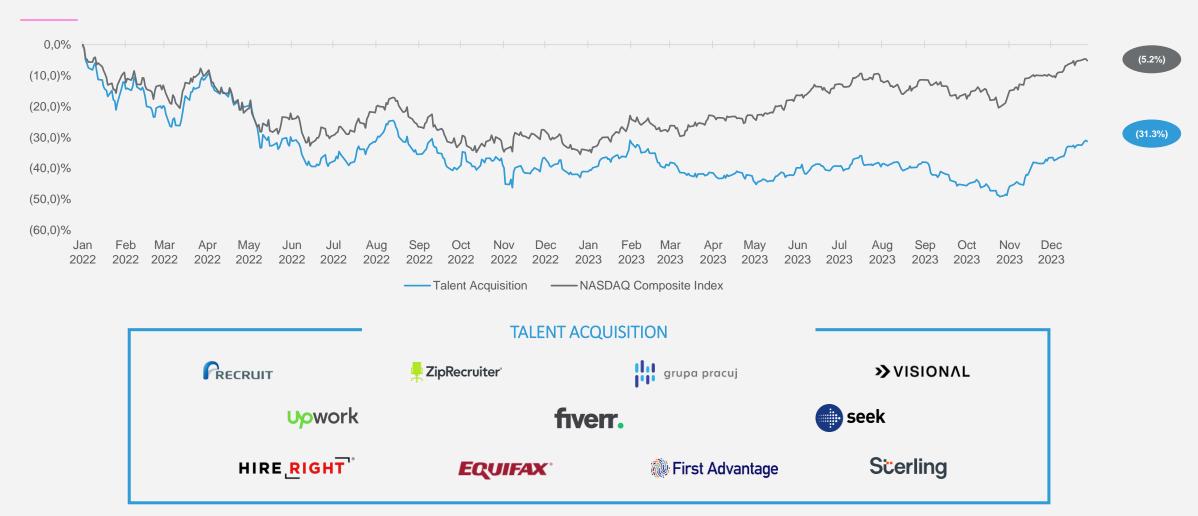
Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research





#### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT - TALENT ACQUISITION

#### LAST 24 MONTHS SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE

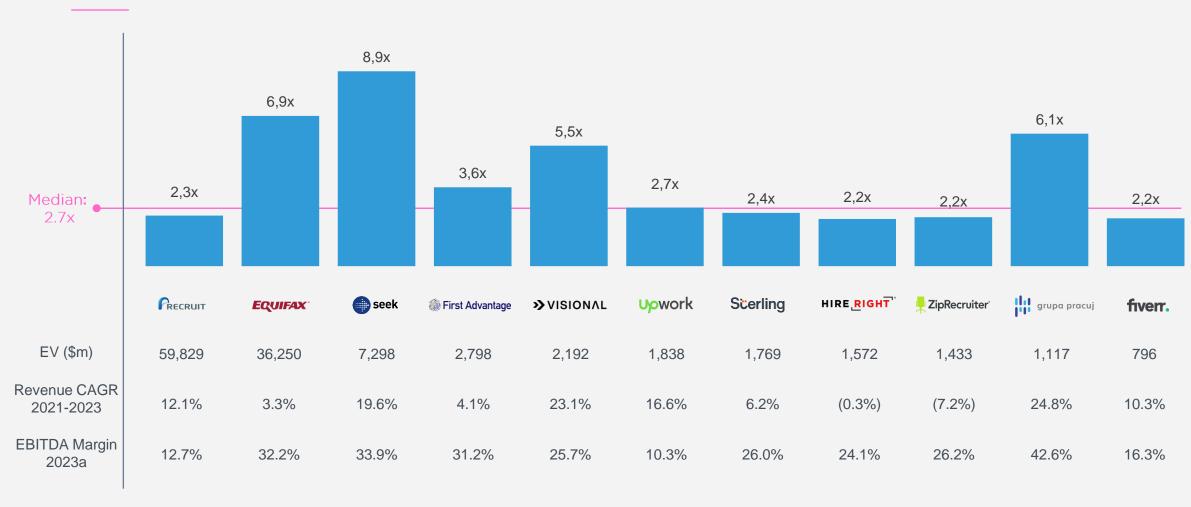


Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023 (equally weighted)



### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT - TALENT ACQUISITION

EV/REVENUE 2023A



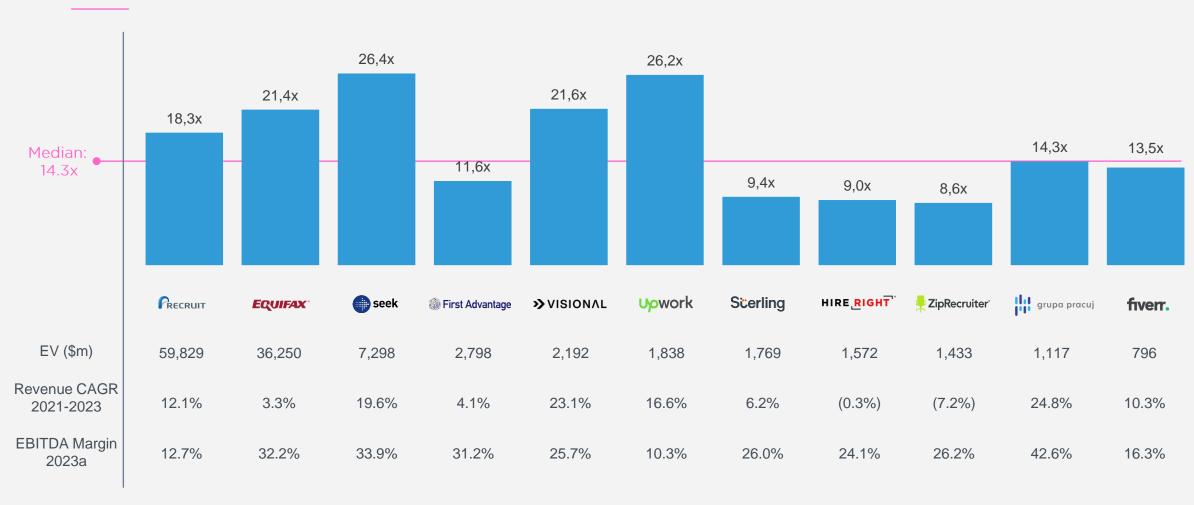
Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



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### CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT - TALENT ACQUISITION

EV/EBITDA 2023A



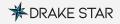
Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



## PUBLIC COMPANY TRADING ANALYSIS - TALENT ACQUISITION

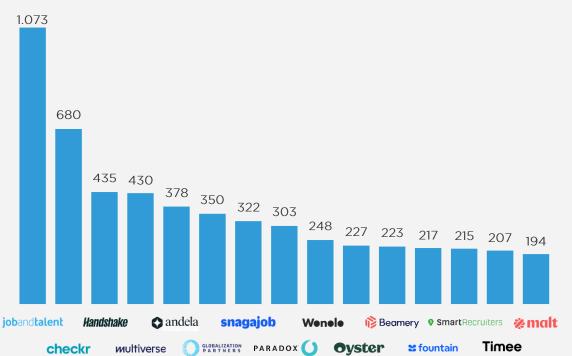
Company	110	Share Price (\$)	Market Cap (\$m)	Enterprise Value (\$m)	Revenue CAGR 22a-24e	EBITDA Margin (%)		EV / Revenue		EV / EBITDA	
	HQ					2023a	2024e	2023a	2024e	2023a	2024e
PRECRUIT	<b>(e)</b>	42.30	65,793	59,829	0.8%	12.7%	16.2%	2.3x	2.5x	18.3x	15.4x
<b>EQUIFAX</b>		247.29	30,470	36,250	5.6%	32.2%	34.5%	6.9x	6.3x	21.4x	18.4x
seek		18.22	6,454	7,298	4.2%	33.9%	44.4%	8.9x	8.7x	26.4x	19.7x
First Advantage		16.57	2,405	2,798	0.9%	31.2%	31.9%	3.6x	3.4x	11.6x	10.6x
<b>≫</b> VISION∧L	<b>(e)</b>	63.71	2,494	2,192	20.1%	25.7%	26.4%	5.5x	4.6x	21.6x	17.5x
<b>Up</b> work		14.87	2,024	1,838	12.1%	10.3%	14.0%	2.7x	2.4x	26.2x	16.9x
Scerling		13.92	1,312	1,769	(0.7%)	26.0%	27.0%	2.4x	2.3x	9.4x	8.7x
HIRE RIGHT		13.45	910	1,572	(2.8%)	24.1%	25.1%	2.2x	2.1x	9.0x	8.2x
ZipRecruiter		13.90	1,374	1,433	(19.8%)	26.2%	25.0%	2.2x	2.5x	8.6x	9.8x
grupa pracuj	$\overline{igo}$	15.77	1,077	1,117	21.5%	42.6%	42.6%	6.1x	5.4x	14.3x	12.8x
fiverr.		27.22	1,045	796	10.1%	16.3%	18.9%	2.2x	1.9x	13.5x	10.3x
MEAN					4.7%	25.6%	27.8%	4.1x	3.8x	16.4x	13.5x
MEDIAN					4.2%	26.0%	26.4%	2.7x	2.5x	14.3x	12.8x

Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



# INSTITUTIONALLY BACKED PRIVATE COMPANIES & INVESTORS - TALENT ACQUISITION





 The top 15 funded private companies have raised \$5.5bn during their lifespan

Top 10 Most Active Financial Investors in Talent Acquisition 2023<sup>2)</sup>



The **top 10** most active financial investors have closed **55 Talent Acquisition transactions** in 2023

<sup>1)</sup> Numbers display total funding as of Q4 2023 2) By number of investments in 2023 Source: Pitchbook

### NOTABLE M&A DEALS IN Q4 2023 - TALENT ACQUISITION









# Truffls was acquired by Funke Digital through an LBO

- Truffls develops a job searching and recruiting application, offering job suggestions based on CV and users can contact interesting companies and HR managers while companies can reach out to candidates directly in a targeted manner
- Funke Digital Investors further expands its working group specializing in job portals

# Milch und Zucker was acquired by Embrace

- Milch und zucker provides a recruitment and employer branding software, offering services for talent acquisition, recruiting with its flat-rate model and integrated artificial technology
- The acquisition strengthen Embrance's technology and solution expertise

# Winnow was acquired by Aya Healthcare

- Winnow provides a recruitment software to provide ideal clients to the health sector
- The acquisition enables Aya to hire locum providers and manage the recruitment and retention of providers through Aya Connect

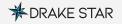
# Brazen was acquired by Radancy

- Brazen develops a virtual hiring and online career fair platform intended to schedule and host online meetups and events
- The acquisition expands Radancy's talent acquisition cloud through advanced event technology

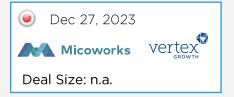
# Pre-Intent was acquired by HCP

- Pre-Intent provides an all-inone applicant outreach and interview scheduling platform that allows you to create, connect, qualify and interview candidates
- The acquisition expands HCP's product and service portfolio, improved support, and innovative technologies

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research



#### NOTABLE PRIVATE PLACEMENTS IN Q4 2023 - TALENT ACQUISITION









# Micoworks raised venture funding led by Vertex Growth

- Micoworks operates a recruitment and communication platform for optimal recruitment communication
- The funds will promote the development of product functions and strengthen Micoworks's organizational structure

# Apploi raised venture funding from Cane Investment Partners

- Apploi develops an HR recruitment software, offering onboarding, and credential software with customizable application templates, and video and audio application questions
- The funding helps to further growth and expand

#### Retorio raised Series A venture funding led by SquareOne Venture Capital

- Retorio provides a cloudbased personality assessment platform, leveraging AI to identify talents by analyzing a candidate's communication behavior and personality from video data
- The funding helps Retorio to further growth and expand geographically

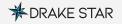
#### Mogul raised later stage venture funding from Black Tech Nation Ventures

- Mogul provides an artificial intelligence-enabled business-to-business recruitment platform, designed to source candidates
- The funds will be used to support the expansion of growth

# Scorability raised funding led by Next Coast Ventures and Silverton Partners

- Scorability operates a recruiting platform for the college sports industry that allows them to efficiently identify, engage and attract the best players for their programs
- The funds will be used to quickly build the Scorability team across multiple departments, develop the company's recruiting tech and user experience

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research





# CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT / TALENT MANAGEMENT

LAST 24 MONTHS SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE



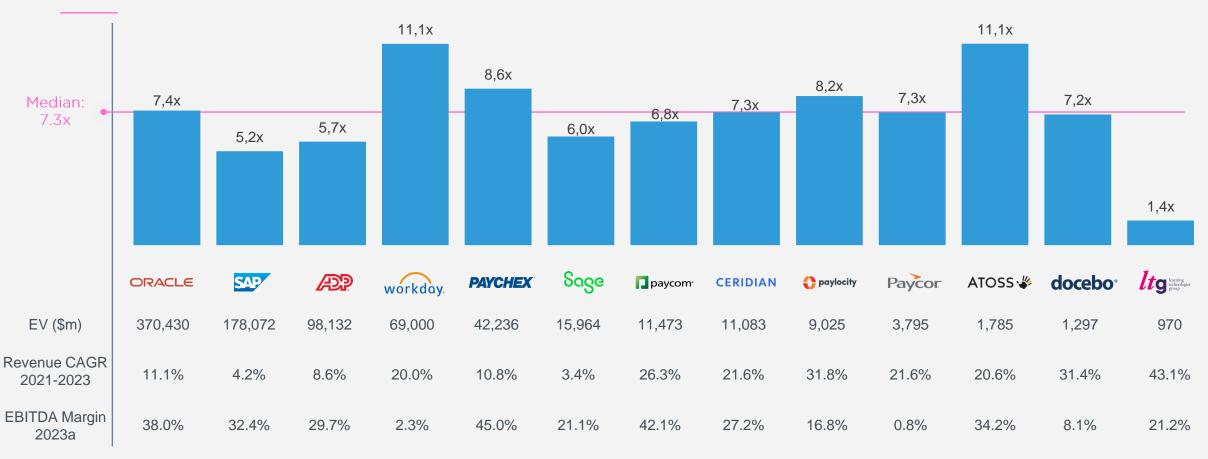
Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023 (equally weighted)



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# CAPITAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT / TALENT MANAGEMENT

EV/REVENUE 2023A



Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



# PUBLIC COMPANY TRADING ANALYSIS - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT / TALENT MANAGEMENT

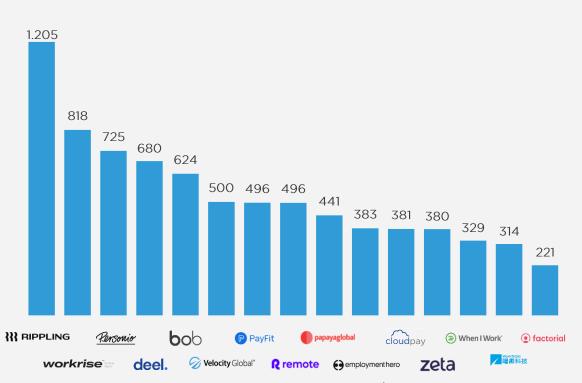
Company		Share Price	Market Cap	Enterprise Value	Revenue CAGR 22a-24e	EBITDA Margin (%)		EV / Revenue		EV / EBITDA	
	HQ	(\$)	(\$m)	(\$m)		2023a	2024e	2023a	2024e	2023a	2024e
ORACLE	<b>(</b>	105.43	289,819	370,430	12.2%	38.0%	46.9%	7.4x	6.9x	19.5x	14.8x
SAP	<del>-</del>	154.17	179,485	178,072	6.5%	32.4%	32.7%	5.2x	4.8x	16.0x	14.5x
AP		232.97	95,822	98,132	9.2%	29.7%	28.9%	5.7x	5.1x	19.2x	17.8x
workday.		276.06	72,604	69,000	18.8%	2.3%	27.7%	11.1x	9.5x	n.m.	34.4x
<b>PAYCHEX</b>		119.11	42,858	42,326	8.1%	45.0%	45.3%	8.6x	8.0x	19.2x	17.6x
Sage	#	14.93	15,249	15,964	18.3%	21.1%	25.1%	6.0x	5.3x	28.4x	20.9x
paycom <sup>,</sup>		206.72	11,928	11,473	16.7%	42.1%	41.1%	6.8x	6.1x	16.2x	14.9x
CERIDIAN		67.12	10,347	11,083	18.2%	27.2%	28.2%	7.3x	6.4x	26.9x	22.6x
paylocity		164.85	9,261	9,025	28.9%	16.8%	33.9%	8.2x	6.4x	n.m.	18.9x
Paycon		21.59	3,834	3,795	23.6%	0.8%	31.5%	7.3x	5.8x	n.m.	18.4x
ATOSS 🐇	<b>(</b>	231.02	1,837	1,785	23.8%	34.2%	33.1%	11.1x	9.6x	32.4x	28.9x
docepo,	•	48.45	1,469	1,297	24.5%	8.1%	13.8%	7.2x	5.9x	n.m.	42.4x
ltg technologies group	#	1.03	816	970	1.4%	21.2%	21.8%	1.4x	1.3x	6.4x	6.0x
MEAN					16.2%	24.5%	31.5%	7.2x	6.2x	20.5x	20.9x
MEDIAN					18.2%	27.2%	31.5%	7.3x	6.1x	19.2x	18.4x

Source: Capital IQ as of 31.12.2023



# INSTITUTIONALLY BACKED PRIVATE COMPANIES & INVESTORS - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

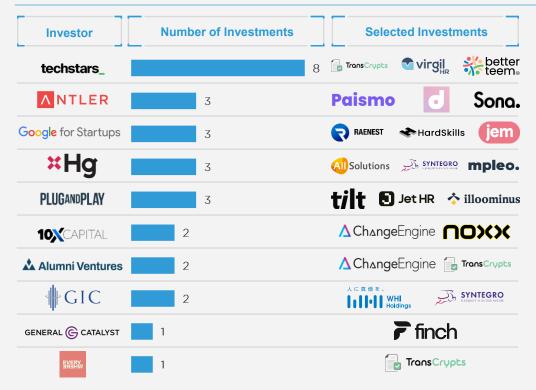
#### Top 15 Best Funded Private Human Capital Management Companies (in \$m)<sup>1)</sup>



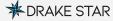
 The top 15 funded private companies have raised \$8.0bn during their lifespan

1) Numbers display total funding as of Q4 2023 2) By number of Investments in 2023 Source: Pitchbook

Top 10 Most Active Financial Investors in Human Capital Management 2022)



The **top 10** most active financial investors have closed **28 Human Capital Management transactions** in 2023



#### SELECTED M&A DEALS IN Q4 2023 - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT











#### Mindsight was acquired by Sankhya Gestão de Negóciosvia its financial sponsor GIC

- Mindsight develops a software platform designed for human capital services, specializes in human resource management, employee management and organization takes
- This acquisition reinforces Sankhya's management, business and people portfolio

# Breitenbach Software was acquired by RLDatix

- Breitenbach Software Solution develops a HR management software, offering time management, personnel planning, production data collection and access control solution
- The acquisition expands RLDatix's workforce management capabilities in the German market while strengthening its global vision for connected healthcare processes

# Ahgora was acquired by TOTVS

- Ahgora develops a HR management platform, providing facial recognitionbased electronic timekeeping validation, schedule management and attendance control
- Through Ahgora, TOTVS
   reinforces its position as a
   platform for HR, and
   expands and strengthens its
   offer of solutions from
   personal department to
   employee experience
   management

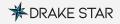
# Smartlinx was acquired by an undisclosed party

 Smartlinx provides an endto-end workforce and human capital management software, providing employee scheduling, time and attendance, payroll, and staffing

# Persis was acquired by proAlpha Group via its financial sponsor Bregal

- Persis develops HR software, offering applicant management, HR management, and digital personnel files
- The acquisition of persis will strengthen the proALPHA portfolio in HCM and creates value added synergy effects

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research



# SELECTED PRIVATE PLACEMENTS IN Q4 2023 - HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT









#### Topia raised venture funding from Orix USA and Notion

- Topia is developing a global talent mobility platform that automates the entire talent mobility process
- This infusion of capital is significant in that it positions Topia to forge ahead with its mission of disrupting traditional paradigms

#### **Payroll Integrations raised** Series A venture funding led by Arthur Ventures

- Payroll Integrations is developing a plug-and-play SaaS technology to connect benefits providers with payroll providers and efficiently automate hours of HR tasks
- The funds will enable Payroll Integration to expand its product range and its relationships with payroll companies and benefit platforms.

#### Tanda raised venture funding form Fireball Capital

- Tanda develops a cloudbased workforce management software, helping users to build roster. track employees, automate timesheets, and pay stuff through its application
- The investment enables Tanda to invest in key strategic partners, accelerate product development, and scale in Kenya and East Africa over the next 15 months

#### Jisr raised Series A venture funding led by **Merak Capital**

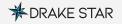
oct 3, 2023

- Jisr offers a HR management platform, offering HR solution, time and attendance, reports, benefits, and payroll services
- · The funding will enable Jisr to advance its HR technology system and develop products

#### Begom raised venture funding from Golub Growth

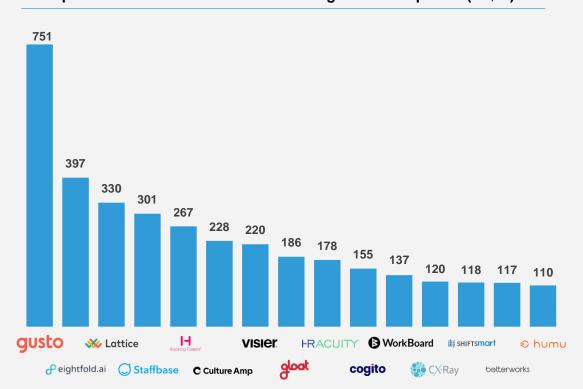
- begom provides a cloudbased compensation management software, offering sales performance service, partner relationship, and sales analysis and crediting
- The company raises an undisclosed amount to boost its operations

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research



# INSTITUTIONALLY BACKED PRIVATE COMPANIES & INVESTORS - TALENT MANAGEMENT

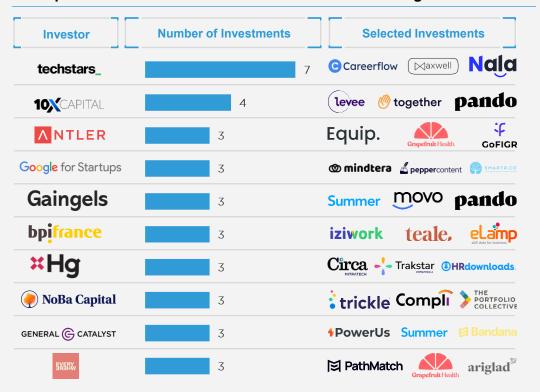




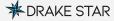
 The top 15 funded private companies have raised \$3.6bn during their lifespan

1) Numbers display total funding as of Q4 2023 2) By number of Investments in 2023 Source: Pitchbook

Top 10 Most Active Financial Investors in Talent Management 2023<sup>2)</sup>



The **top 10** most active financial investors have closed **35 Talent Management transactions** in 2023



### NOTABLE M&A DEALS IN Q4 2023 - TALENT MANAGEMENT









#### TalentKeepers was acquired by Quantum Workplace

- TalentKeepers develops an employee engagement tool, offering onboarding tools, surveys, eLearning leadership programs, performance management and teambuilding tools
- This acquisition will strengthen Quantum Workplace's market position in the HR Tech industry

#### PayAnalytics was acquired by begom

- PayAnalytics develops a compensation software designed to monitor and address gender pay gaps in corporations
- The acquisition will enable begom's platform a consistent and continuous focus on fair pay in the entire talent lifecycle

#### HRBrain was acquired by **EQT**

- Developer of an online performance management platform intended to assist businesses in setting targets and evaluating employees
- The company was acquired by EQT through an LBO for an undisclosed amount

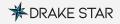
#### Cloud8 was acquired by Benefex

- Cloud8 provides a cloudbased employee benefits software, offering benefit consultancy, financial risk management, and insurers of all sizes to deliver technology-led operations
- Cloud8's acquisition strengthen the product set of Benefex to deliver a better employee benefit experience to employees of SMEs and high growth companies

#### eLamp was acquired by 360Learning

- eLamp provides a skill management and staffing platform, featuring staffing tools, resume recognition, planning, and reporting
- The acquisition is part of 360Learning's mission to be the go-to learning platform for global businesses

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research



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### NOTABLE PRIVATE PLACEMENTS IN Q4 2023 - TALENT MANAGEMENT









# ANKAA VENTURES Deal Size: \$4.8m

#### Inclusively raised venture funding led by Firework Ventures

- Inclusively develops a human-first employment platform, providing a technology that offers employers insight, access, training and support
- The capital is used to accelerate the company's access to its new workplace personalization product, Retain

#### Masterplan.com raised venture funding from The **Riverside Company**

- Masterplan.com provides a learning platform, offering practical lessons on varied content, short learning sessions, and e-learning videos
- The funding will enable Msaterplan.com to empower more employees and businesses in the future. expanding on skill-based learning and Al-powered learning transfers

#### Kahuna raised venture funding led by Resolve **Growth Partners**

- Kahuna provides a skill management platform to create a more competitive and skilled workforce
- The funding enables strategic growth in product innovation and development. operational capabilities, and team members

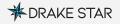
#### Cogito raised venture funding led by Schechter **Private Capital and Goldman Sachs**

- Cogito develops an Al coaching system designed to evaluate human connections in real time
- The funds will be used to accelerate innovations aimed at reducing employee and customer complexities and improving overall customer satisfaction

#### Klara raised venture funding led by Ankaa Ventures

- Klara develops a talent management platform. offering a tool for enhancing employee skills development and deploying skill development strategies
- The funds will allow Klara to double its workforce by the end of 2024, strengthen its sales and marketing teams to gain more market share in France and Europe

Sources: Pitchbook, Mergermarket, Capital IQ, DS Research







**Dr. Ralf Gräßler** CEO

VEDA

STRONG EXPERTISE IN ALL ASPECTS, 24/7-COMMITMENT, CREATIVITY AND PROFOUND ANALYTIC SKILLS LED US FINALLY TO INVESTCORP AS OUR NEW PARTNER TO FULLY RAISE OUR GROWTH POTENTIAL.



**Dr. Martin Grentzer**CFO & Co-Founder

aconso.

RALF HOFMANN AND THE ENTIRE DRAKE STAR TEAM HAVE DONE A FANTASTIC JOB IN SUPPORTING US TO GET A TOP-TIER SOFTWARE GROWTH INVESTOR ONBOARD.

WE ABSOLUTELY MADE THE BEST DECISION WITH DRAKE STAR - THEY MASTERFULLY PREPARED US AND HELPED US CONFIDENTLY NAVIGATE THROUGH THE COUNTLESS SUBTLETIES AND NUANCES IN A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TYPE OF TRANSACTION.



Tom Shieh CEO



WE WERE BLOWN AWAY BY THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARKET, CONNECTIONS TO KEY DECISION MAKERS IN THE INDUSTRY, THE QUALITY OF THEIR ANALYSIS AND WORK PRODUCT, AND THE TEAM'S DEDICATION.



Brian Cameron
CEO
HIREtech

## REACTIONS TO OUR HR TECH RESEARCH

INDUSTRY LEADERS ARE FOLLOWING DRAKE STAR'S RESEARCH REPORTS.



Alex Kouchev Lead Product Engineer



Melanie Powell Marketing Specialist



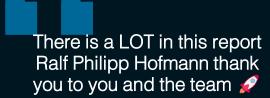
Kate Graham Director Competitive Intelligence

Wow, this post really hit the HR tech bullseye! I couldn't agree more that the future of work lies in technology and talent acquisition



















### ACTIVE MINDSET LEADER IN THE TECH INDUSTRY (1/3)

#### SECTOR RESEARCH AND MARKET UPDATES

#### SELECTED HR TECH RESEARCH









Just downloaded the report. Awesome stuff!



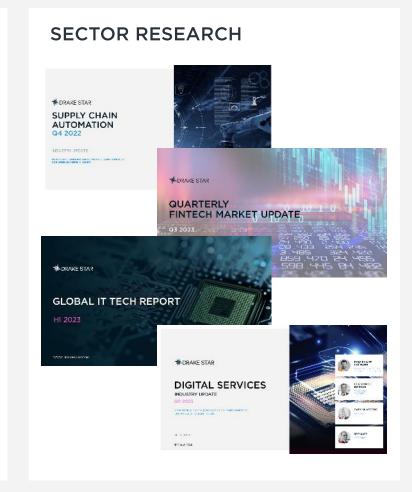
#### **Q&A WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS**







CEO & Co-Founder



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### ACTIVE MINDSET LEADER IN THE TECH INDUSTRY (2/3)

THOROUGH INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE

#### RECENT PANEL DISCUSSIONS, INTERVIEWS AND CONVENTIONS



Global panel on Enterprise Software M&A at McDermott Will & Emery's Conference



Managing Partner & CEO Gregory Bedrosian on BBC News



Managing Partner Ralf Philipp Hofmann as guest speaker in Ben Eubank's HR Tech Podcast



Managing Partner Ralf Hofmann at Unleash in Paris together with Ryan Wong, CEO Visier Inc.



Managing Partner Michael Metzger on CNBC



Managing Partner Jim Holzer on the judge panel at Unleash Las Vegas Lightning Round 2023

### ACTIVE MINDSET LEADER IN THE TECH INDUSTRY (3/3)

DEDICATED AND AWARD-WINNING INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

#### **AWARDS AND EVENTS**









M&A ADVISOR AWARDS PANEL

M&A ADVISOR AWARDS

M&A ATLAS AWARDS

#### TRUSTED INDUSTRY PARTNER

34x Bank of the Year | Deal of the Year

ATLAS WINNER European Middle Market Deal of the Year SysEleven

THE M&A ADVISOR AWARD WINNER Information Technology Deal of the Year SysEleven

2023

ATLAS WINNER Deal of the year Middle Market 2022

THE M&A ADVISOR AWARD WINNER M&A European Investment Banking Firm of the Year

2022

THE M&A ADVISOR AWARD WINNER Corporate / Strategic Deal of the Year

WINNER

Investment Bank of the Year

2021

Cross-Border

WINNER

6 Country Awards 2020 Best Practice Operator of the Year (Investment Banking)

\*DRAKE STAR STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

### **VEDA**

#### MAJORITY RECAPITALIZATION OF LEADING GERMAN CORE HR SOFTWARE PROVIDER WITH INVESTCORP



MAJORITY RECAPITALIZATION WITH

#### INVESTCORP

AND REINVESTMENT BY MANAGEMENT

#### **KEY VALUE-ADD**

- > Majority recapitalization of German HR Tech pioneer with industry-leading software investor
- Drake Star leveraged its extensive HR Tech industry expertise to win the perfect partner to support the company's next growth stage
- Highly attractive outcome for founders and management

#### Situation & Objectives

- VEDA is a pioneer in the German HR Tech Market, offering a holistic end-to-end HR Software platform ("VEDA HORIZON") that enables customers to utilize Payroll, Time & Security and People Management solutions within one integrated system.
- The company complements its product offering by best-in-class full-service payroll outsourcing.
- Founders and management were searching for a high-quality partner to accompany VEDA in the next phase of its growth journey.

#### Drake Star Services & Support

- Drake Star organized a competitive process for VEDA to select its preferred partner from a range of top-tier financial and strategic investors.
- The deal team generated extensive transaction documentation, including a compelling equity story, a fully comprehensive financial model, as well as an elaboration of different growth levers for VEDA.
- VEDA's leading position as a one-stop shop for HR software solutions and services for medium-sized companies within a ~€3bn market was clearly emphasized and pivotal for the transaction outcome.

- With Investcorp as a new investor, Drake Star found a high-profile partner for VEDA, which is now ideally positioned to emerge as the leading HR Tech platform for SMEs in the DACH region.
- Drake Star executed a highly effective process within the envisaged timeline exceeding the expectations of founders and management.
- Management made a significant re-investment, underscoring their dedication to leading and expanding the business going forward in collaboration with the new partner.

### **ACONSO**

MAJORITY RECAPITALIZATION OF GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY LEADER IN HR DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT WITH KEENSIGHT CAPITAL



#### **KEY VALUE-ADD**

- Majority recapitalization of global technology leader in HR Document Management and inventor of the Digital Personnel File through highly competitive process
- Leveraged extensive sector experience and in-depth knowledge to find the perfect partner with extensive enterprise software experience to support further international growth
- > Drake Star managed to achieve a highly attractive outcome for aconso's management

#### Situation & Objectives

- aconso is the global technology leader in HR Document Management and inventor of the Digital Personnel File
- aconso offers best-in-class cloud-based HR DMS software, enabling end-to-end automation of document storage, creation, and processing
- With aconso's highly scalable solution, customers achieve substantial efficiency gains derived from the digitalization of their workplace, addressing key pain points in HR departments
- Management aimed to find the best partner to further scale the business internationally

#### Drake Star Services & Support

- Drake Star orchestrated a highly competitive process that enabled aconso to choose their preferred partner from a range of renowned financial and strategic investors
- Clearly highlighted aconso's unique position offering a highly scalable solution at the intersection of two fast growing markets, HR Tech and DMS
- Drake Star guided management and shareholders throughout the final negotiations in order to achieve the best financial result, while choosing the preferred party to drive further growth

- Successfully executed one of the largest HR Tech transactions in DACH in Q3 2023
- The new partnership with Keensight enables aconso to further leverage its highly scalable product offering and accelerate its international expansion with an experienced partner
- The substantial reinvestment of the four cofounders underscores a firm commitment to further expand the business in collaboration with Keensight

### **INGENTIS**

#### SALE OF A LEADING GERMAN HR TECH AND WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE



SALE TO



#### **KEY VALUE-ADD**

- > Highly competitive process with a large number of first round offers
- Highly attractive outcome for Ingentis' shareholders
- Won the right partner to initiate next growth stage for Ingentis

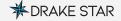
#### Situation & Objectives

- Ingentis is a leading German HR Tech and Workflow Management software company. Ingentis provides solutions to over 2,000 customers across more than 100 countries worldwide
- The company's flagship product "org.manager" is the leading org charting solution in the DACH region, supporting a highly loyal customer base in visualizing, analyzing, and structuring their organizations
- Founder & management aimed to find the best partner and key shareholder to support the Company in its next stage of expansion

#### Drake Star Services & Support

- Drake Star Partners acted as the exclusive financial advisor to Ingentis and its shareholders on this transaction
- Drake Star Partners guided management in their financial planning, renewed the company's positioning and created attractive future value creation initiatives that were key investor discussions
- The team created extensive transaction documents including a compelling equity story, a financial model and a new growth plan

- Highly competitive and global process
- Involving financial and strategic investors
- Delivered during COVID-19
- Ingentis received 30 term sheets/LOIs from prominent financial and strategic investors allowing management to choose the optimal future partner
- Final closing price was significantly higher than management expectations at start of process



### CRIMCHECK

### SUCCESSFUL, COMPETITIVE PROCESS WITH A SELECT SET OF STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL BUYERS



#### SALE TO



Portfolio company of



#### **KEY VALUE-ADD**

- Sale of a technology focused CRA with proprietary platform and unique data capabilities to fastgrowing PE-backed provider of drug testing & occupational health services
- Leveraged extensive sector experience and in-depth knowledge of established as well as emerging strategic and financial buyers
- Customized positioning generated interest from a broad group of qualified buyers in a changing market environment

#### Situation & Objectives

- Crimcheck Holdings (Crimcheck) is a techenabled background screening solutions company
- The Company also provides data checks, reference checks, drug testing, and occupational healthcare products & services through its proprietary technology platform
- SMBs and mid-size enterprise client focus in PEO, Staffing and Healthcare.
- Crimcheck's proprietary technology and focus on client engagement has made it a leading independent background screening provider with exceptional client retention

#### Drake Star Services & Support

- Drake Star Partners acted as exclusive financial advisor to Crimcheck in this successful sell-side transaction
- Targeted process to a well vetted group of strategic and private equity buyers looking to enhance their offering, technology and industry footprint
- Received multiple actionable LOI's, which provided Drake Star significant leverage to deliver a premium outcome

- Premium valuation to public comparable companies with favorable deal terms
- Attractive post-transaction career opportunities for Crimcheck team
- High value-add to the buyer who is able to leverage Crimcheck's technology capabilities and enhance its service offerings

### **HIRETECH**

#### SUCCESSFUL TARGETED PROCESS, WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF LOGICAL STRATEGIC AND PE BUYERS

#### HIREtech

SALE TO



#### **KEY VALUE-ADD**

- Sale of an innovative HR tech and data solutions company by a public multinational data, analytics, and technology company
- Leveraged extensive track record and strong financial and strategic investor relationships within the HR Tech sector
- Managed fast-paced, tailored process generating significant investor interest from a large group of suitable parties

#### Situation & Objectives

- HIREtech is a technology-focused HR Tech solutions firm
- Provides software and services to help companies save time, money, and reduce compliance risk
- Technology platform enables businesses to access the real-time data and intelligence to make important financial and hiring decisions
- Services include I-9/E-Verify, Employment & Wage Verification, Tax Credits, and Unemployment Claims Management

#### Drake Star Services & Support

- Drake Star Partners acted as exclusive financial advisor to HIREtech in this successful sell-side process
- Limited process that marketed to best-fit group of HR tech-focused strategics and private equity firms
- Closed in less than 4 months
- Received multiple actionable IOIs, which provided Drake Star significant leverage to increase the valuation during negotiations
- Managed a buyer team of 100+ external consultants and full-time employees

- Premium SaaS purchase multiple, with favorable deal terms
- HIREtech leadership team have assumed roles with Equifax as part of the new Houston, Texas-based division of Equifax Workforce Solutions
- HIREtech's capabilities strengthen Equifax's Workforce Solutions' Work Number income and employment verification and HR services, enabling the merged company to accelerate innovative offerings to employers

### DRAKE STAR HR TECH TEAM

#### GLOBAL EXPERTISE WITH LOCAL PRESENCE



**Jim Holzer** Managing Partner (New York)



Connor Cunningham Associate (New York)



**Gaby Silvestris**Partner
(London)



Mathilde Deschamps Associate (London)



Ralf Philipp Hofmann
Managing Partner & Member of
the Global Executive Committee
(Munich)



Pablo Lundershausen Associate (Munich)



Maximilian Hönig Analyst (Munich)



Bruno Tourme Senior Advisor (Paris)



Antoine Pigneux Associate (Paris)

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### GLOBAL HR TECH REPORT

Q1 2024

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