

# Vision 2025

## Leaders Driving Growth

North West England

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# About Vision 2025

**Vision 2025 celebrates the best teams of 2024 backed by private equity and venture capital, awarding portfolio companies and their investors.**

These annual awards take into account growth, competitiveness, innovation, sustainability and the challenges of the year, with a focus on the future and the sustainability of the business as well as past performance.

This year, we introduced new award categories, recognising portfolio companies against the following categories: Early-Stage, Scale-Up, Medium, Large, Exit, and International Expansion.

In this booklet, we profile the winners for North West England, announced at the BVCA's Invest Dinner on 12 November 2025 in Manchester. The national winners will be celebrated at the BVCA Gala on 3 December 2025 in London.

Further information regarding Vision 2025 can be found on the [BVCA website](#).

## The Judging Panel

### Chair:



Jan Rutherford  
Scottish Equity Partners

### Judges:



Rhian Elston  
Development Bank of Wales



Beth Houghton  
Palatine



Matthew Jacobs  
Livingbridge



Chris Kay  
FPE Capital



Sean Longsdale  
Santander



Ewan MacKinnon  
Maven Capital Partners



Andrew Priest  
Inflexion



Peter Terry  
Grant Thornton



Kaja Wilmanska  
Bridgepoint

# Grant Thornton's private equity team provides a full range of services to support private equity and portfolio firms maximise their growth potential

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# Winners & Backers

**RiskSmart**

**MAVEN**

## RiskSmart

Supported by Maven Capital Partners

🏆 Early-Stage Category

📍 Manchester

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**Robiquity**

**gcp**

## Robiquity

Supported by Growth Capital Partners (GCP)

🏆 Scale-Up Category

📍 Manchester

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**Alpine**

**WestBridge**

## Alpine Group

Supported by WestBridge

🏆 Medium Category

📍 Bury

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**Movera**

**inflexion**

## Movera

Supported by Inflexion

🏆 Medium Category

📍 Stockport

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**DAVID  
ROBERTS  
& PARTNERS  
GROUP**

**inflexion**

## David Roberts & Partners (DR&P)

Supported by Inflexion

🏆 Exit Category

📍 Southport

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**The connections you need. It Starts Here.  
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# RiskSmart

Supported by Maven Capital Partners



Early-Stage Category



Manchester

RiskSmart is transforming how SMEs approach risk management through its data and AI-enabled Integrated Risk Management platform. Designed as a modular, 'plug and play' solution, the platform reduces time, cost and complexity associated with traditional risk management processes. By mapping SME data against risk profiles, RiskSmart identifies control weaknesses, emerging risks and mitigation performance, providing real-time insights and AI-driven guidance to strengthen resilience. Accessible via smartphone, tablet and desktop, the platform is democratising access to enterprise-grade risk management tools for smaller businesses traditionally underserved in this space.

Maven Capital Partners first invested in RiskSmart in May 2022, recognising a clear market gap and a founder-led team with deep industry expertise. CEO and Founder Ryan Swann identified that risk management tools were often expensive and unnecessarily complex for SMEs, leaving many without effective systems to meet rising governance standards.

Maven's initial and follow-on investments have provided essential growth and working capital, enabling rapid scaling, accelerating product development and supporting commercial success. Since Maven's investment, the company has more than doubled its customer base, achieved exceptional revenue growth and expanded its footprint across the financial services and legal sectors. Built on AWS, the proprietary platform incorporates no-code functionality, making it highly scalable and simple to adopt. Maven's support has empowered the management team to pursue a bold, customer-centric go-to-market strategy, using targeted marketing and accessible online trials to drive adoption. The close relationship between RiskSmart and its customers continues to inform product evolution, with new AI-powered capabilities developed to meet real-world needs and integration with clients' existing CRMs, ERPs and databases, ensuring seamless functionality.



# RiskSmart

Supported by Maven Capital Partners

 Early-Stage Category

 Manchester

RiskSmart's progress reflects a leadership team committed to scaling responsibly whilst maintaining a strong values-led culture. Their ethos, succeeding together, extends beyond commercial goals to embrace inclusivity, sustainability and good governance. The company has relocated its headquarters to attract diverse talent and remains deeply embedded in its local community. A Pending B Corp, RiskSmart is building its growth strategy around long-term social impact, transparency and accountability. As a purpose-driven organisation, RiskSmart's fully digital platform eliminates paper-based processes, directly supporting environmental sustainability. By embedding automated compliance tools, it enhances corporate governance frameworks and strengthens organisational accountability.

The company also demonstrates meaningful commitment to diversity and inclusion, with experienced female leaders at both board and senior management level, including NED Jennifer Greary and Head of Customer Success Emma Bamford. Their inclusive culture and transparent recruitment practices ensure diversity remains integral to its identity as it continues to grow.

## Judges' comments:

*Under Maven's strategic backing, RiskSmart has combined innovation, strong governance and purpose-driven growth, emerging as a market leader redefining how SMEs manage risk in a digital-first world.*



# RiskSmart

Supported by Maven Capital Partners



Early-Stage Category



Manchester



**Ryan Swann**

Founder and CEO of RiskSmart said:

*"We are absolutely delighted to receive this Early Stage award. This recognition is a tribute to the hard-work, innovative thinking and resilient spirit of the entire RiskSmart team. From our early days we set out to redefine how businesses manage risk and seize opportunity, and to win this honour from the UK's leading private capital community affirms that our mission is resonating."*

*"A special thank you to our investors, partners and customers who have trusted us to grow and scale rapidly; this award motivates us even further as we continue to expand, innovate and deliver value for our region and beyond."*



**Jenny Linney**

Portfolio Director at Maven said:

*"It's fantastic to see the BVCA recognise RiskSmart's progress with this award for the North West. Since Maven invested we've found the RiskSmart team to be ambitious, driven and highly capable – they have significant experience in this sector and have achieved impressive growth to date. With most providers of risk management solutions focussing primarily on larger companies, there is a clear gap in the market for an innovative business like RiskSmart to target both the established market and the underserved SME segment. We look forward to continuing to support the team as they look to scale their technology and expand internationally."*

GP Profile

# MAVEN

## About Maven Capital Partners

Maven Capital Partners is a leading private equity and alternative asset manager, backing growing businesses across a range of sectors. They provide flexible equity funding solutions for entrepreneurial and established businesses, with the ability to invest up to £20 million. Since 2009, Maven Capital have invested 970m+ and backed 590+ growth focused businesses.

[Find out more >](#)

# Robiquity

Supported by Growth Capital Partners

 Scale-Up Category

 Manchester

Robiquity is a specialist technology consultancy at the forefront of artificial intelligence and intelligent automation. It partners with large and medium-sized enterprises to design, implement and manage end-to-end automation and AI solutions that drive measurable transformation and efficiency. Headquartered in Manchester, and with new regional offices in Leeds and London, Robiquity leverages automation, AI and low-code engineering to help clients achieve cost savings and operational excellence. In 2024, Robiquity was recognised with multiple awards, including Best Performing Company: IT Consulting in the Megabuyte100 Awards and the Judges' Entrepreneur Award at the Northern Tech Awards. The business also achieved UiPath Platinum Partner status and became one of Microsoft's first accredited Power Automate partners, solidifying its position as a trusted provider in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Growth Capital Partners (GCP) recognised Robiquity's potential to become a market leader in AI and intelligent automation, and its investment has underpinned a programme of strategic and operational enhancement. GCP has supported leadership development, including introducing a Chair, CFO and Head of People and enabled Robiquity's expansion across the UK, including the establishment of a dedicated Public Sector vertical that serves a growing portfolio of central government.

GCP's operational input has helped Robiquity scale, with the firm implementing Microsoft BI dashboards to improve visibility and reporting, introduced HiBob's human capital management system and strengthened its project delivery through resourcing and upskilling initiatives. The business has grown revenue to £17.2 million with a strong c.20% EBIT margin, maintaining profitability every month since investment.



# Robiquity

Supported by Growth Capital Partners

 Scale-Up Category

 Manchester

Robiquity remains driven by innovation and inclusivity, running an active graduate scheme which onboards 10-12 new graduates annually, alongside tailored training and certification programmes. The launch of RobiquiShe and RobiquiMe have been pivotal in embedding DE&I into the company's culture. RobiquiShe promotes women in technology through outreach, representation and education, whilst RobiquiMe fosters inclusion and authenticity across the business. Currently, 23% of employees are female and 24% identify as from ethnic minority backgrounds, with Robiquity setting clear KPIs to improve diversity across all levels. Robiquity has embedded sustainability and social responsibility into its operations. It promotes low-carbon working practices, prioritises local hiring and training and continues to champion diversity in a sector that remains male-dominated.

## Judges' comments:

*Supported by Growth Capital Partners, Robiquity has evolved into one of the UK's most dynamic and resilient technology consultancies. Through its ongoing community engagement, ethical practices and inclusive initiatives, Robiquity demonstrates that commercial success and positive social impact go hand in hand.*



# Robiquity

Supported by Growth Capital Partners

 Scale-Up Category

 Manchester

 **Tom Davies**

CEO at Robiquity said:

*"Robiquity are proud to be born and raised in the North West, and our success is thanks to the network of employees, clients and partners who work together to make this region the amazing place it is to be part of."*

 **Alex Thomson**

Partner at Growth Capital Partners said:

*"Congratulations to the incredible team at Robiquity on winning the BVCA Vision Award for the North West, a well-deserved recognition of their outstanding growth and innovative leadership in the low code and AI services space. Robiquity's strategic partnerships, domain expertise, strong culture and absolute focus on delivering ROI for clients sets them apart in this sector."*

*"We're proud to continue to back Tom and the team, supporting their journey as they scale with ambition and remain committed to building a business that delivers lasting impact."*

GP Profile

**gcp**

## About Growth Capital Partners

With over 26 years of experience and a proven, referenceable track record, Growth Capital Partners (GCP) bring deep sector expertise across the technology and specialist services sectors. GCP invest between £15m and £75m in equity funding in businesses valued between £25m and £150m, across both minority and majority transactions. Their senior-led approach makes them highly deliverable as they provide funding to support growth, enable shareholder liquidity, and align with long-term strategic goals.

[Find out more >](#)

# Alpine Group

Supported by WestBridge

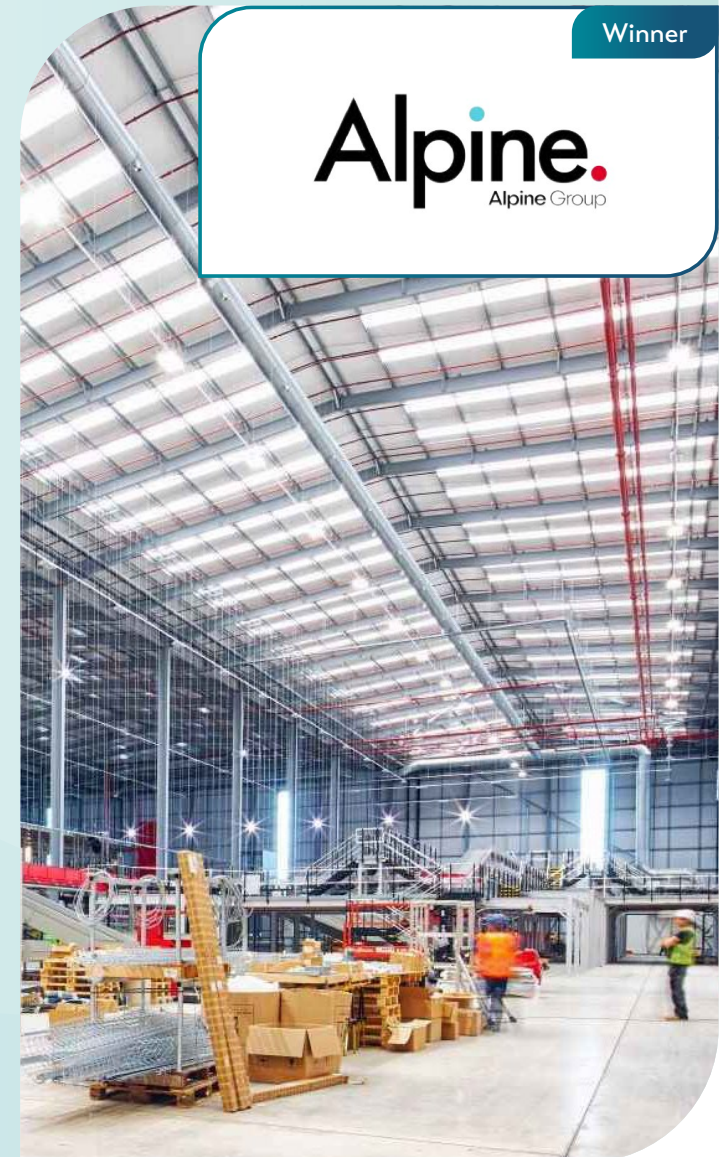
 Medium Category

 Bury

Alpine Group is a Bury-based leader in the design, installation and maintenance of advanced fire detection and suppression systems. Operating across highly regulated and complex environments, from logistics and aerospace to pharmaceutical, food production and data centres, the business delivers compliant, cost-effective and environmentally considerate solutions. With nearly 200 employees and LPC accreditation to the highest level, Alpine Group is now recognised as one of the UK's most innovative and sustainable players in fire safety engineering.

Since WestBridge's investment in 2022, Alpine Group has undergone a period of exceptional transformation. At the time of investment, the company generated EBITDA of around £5 million and by early 2025, this figure had risen to approximately £14 million, an increase of 180%. This growth has been achieved through a combination of strategic acquisitions, operational investment and people-focused development. WestBridge's backing provided the platform for Alpine's first acquisition, DAS Fire in October 2024, a £35 million deal that enabled diversification into the high growth data centre market, contributing roughly £4 million to group EBITDA. To support this expansion, WestBridge helped secure a £70 million refinancing package with Shawbrook Bank and HSBC, positioning the business for sustained long-term growth.

The investment also supported the professionalisation and expansion of Alpine's leadership team, including the appointments of a new Managing Director, Chief Financial Officer and People Director. Working with WestBridge's operating consultants, Sales Blueprint, Alpine doubled its maintenance revenue by strengthening its focus on recurring income. The Group has also launched a 'Grow Your Own' development programme, created new leadership training opportunities and achieved recognition in The Sunday Times Best Places to Work 2025 and The Top 50 Inspiring Workplaces in the UK and Ireland.



# Alpine Group

Supported by WestBridge

 Medium Category

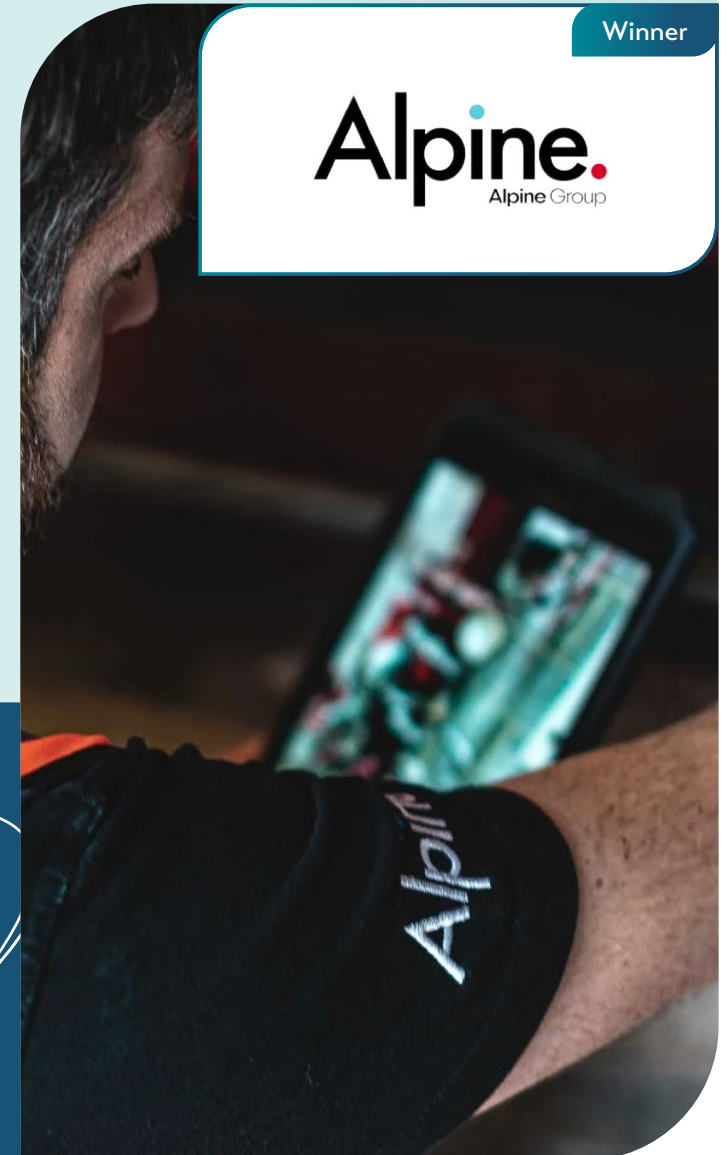
 Bury

Alpine Group's success has also been defined by a strong focus on ESG and sustainability. The company has become the UK's leading ESG-focused fire safety provider, driving innovation through its Alpine Fire Campaign, which tackles the four billion litres of fresh water wasted annually in fire sprinkler testing. Partnering with the London School of Architecture, Alpine developed the first suppression system that recycles all test water. The initiative gained support from former DEFRA Secretary, George Eustice MP, and helped position Alpine as an environmental leader in its sector.

In 2024, the Group reduced emissions by 43%, maintaining its target to become carbon neutral by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2045, five years ahead of the UK Government's goal. Alpine has embedded social responsibility into its operations, introducing a paid volunteering policy offering 15 hours of annual volunteering per employee and contributing over 300 hours in its first year. It raised more than £12,500 for their charity partner, Two Brews, and remains engaged with local communities through school partnerships and fire safety education.

## Judges' comments:

*With a growing diverse workforce of nearly 200 and a dedicated DE&I committee driving inclusivity, Alpine Group combines commercial excellence with genuine purpose. Supported by WestBridge, Alpine has become a model of sustainable growth, operational innovation and societal impact within the UK industry.*



# Alpine Group

Supported by WestBridge

 Medium Category

 Bury



**Claire Ownes**

Group CEO at Alpine Group said:

*"We're proud to be recognised by the BVCA for what has been a defining chapter in Alpine Group's growth. This award reflects our innovation, progress and most importantly, the people who drive our success."*

*"By attracting top talent and encouraging a culture of shared purpose, we've built a high-performing team and strengthened our position as an employer of choice, reinforcing our ambition to shape a responsible and innovative future for the fire protection industry."*



**Thomas Dutton**

Investment Director at WestBridge said:

*"It's been a pleasure to support Alpine Group's ambitious management team through a period of transformational growth, and we're honoured that this has been recognised by the BVCA with this award win. Following our investment, the business has made huge strides in its ESG progress, strengthened its sales and people functions and made a strategic acquisition to enter new, high-value markets."*

*"Working alongside the management team, we are looking forward to continuing on this strong growth trajectory and further bolstering Alpine Group's position as a market leader in the active fire suppression market."*

GP Profile



## About WestBridge

Established in 2008, WestBridge is a UK independent buyout firm focusing on control investments in profitable lower mid-market companies. WestBridge is a leading investor in B2B companies operating in growing niches, with up to £200m of capital to deploy.

[Find out more >](#)

# Movera

Supported by Inflexion

 Medium Category

 Stockport

Movera is the UK's leading technology-enabled, vertically integrated provider of property legal services. Delivering conveyancing and remortgage solutions through seven complementary brands, Movera supports approximately 650,000 property transactions each year, partnering with nine out of ten of the largest direct lenders and all major introducers. The business operates across the entire home-mover value chain, combining legal expertise with advanced technology to bring consistency, efficiency and transparency to what has traditionally been a fragmented sector.

Inflexion first invested in Movera in 2018, recognising the opportunity to consolidate and modernise a market ripe for disruption. Under Inflexion's ownership, five strategic acquisitions have been completed, creating a unified, multi-brand platform with a differentiated, scalable operating model. Movera's vertically integrated structure and proprietary technology has transformed performance. By automating routine legal and administrative tasks, the business delivers completion times and service quality well above market averages, while achieving EBITDA margins exceeding 30% in a sector typically limited to single-digit returns. Annual EBITDA growth of around 70% underscores the success of this model. Inflexion's backing has also fuelled continued innovation, including the 2024 acquisition of Collaborative Conveyancing, which accelerated the integration of AI into core processes.

Winner

movera

# Movera

Supported by Inflexion

 Medium Category

 Stockport

Movera places strong emphasis on culture, talent and inclusion, with more than half of its workforce being female and with women representing 45% of senior leadership roles. A centralised recruitment and training academy provides structured development pathways for future fee earners, ensuring consistent service quality and sustained capability growth.

Movera demonstrates a clear commitment to ESG principles, partnering with Sustainable Advantage to monitor and reduce its carbon footprint and has established a pathway to net zero. To date, over 5,300 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been avoided through sustainable printing practices and reducing flight emissions by 90% through a shift from air to rail travel. ESG considerations extend into Movera's technology strategy, by digitising workflows and minimising paper-based processes, the company is reducing waste and improving the sustainability of legal service delivery.

## Judges' comments:

*Under Inflexion's ownership, Movera has evolved into a high growth, high-margin market leader defined by innovation, inclusivity and impact. Combining data-driven efficiency with a human-centred culture, the company is reshaping property legal services in the UK.*

Winner

**movera**



# Movera

Supported by Inflexion

 Medium Category

 Stockport



**Nick Hale**

CEO at Movera said:

*"This award is welcome recognition of our team's incredible work in transforming the moving experience. Tripling our EBITDA while achieving NPS scores in the 70s proves that doing right by customers drives business success."*

*Our rebrand to Movera marks a new era for UK moving, but we're just getting started in many ways. We pride ourselves on being grounded, ambitious. But the clay is still wet. Together, we're shaping the future of this sector for consumers and really are one to watch."*



**Andrew Neville**

Partner at Inflexion said:

*"Inflexion is proud to support Movera, a company focused on transforming UK home moving through vertically integrated, tech enabled legal services. By uniting five acquisitions and harnessing advanced legal tech, including AI, Movera now completes over 500,000 property transactions each year with leading partners across major lenders and introducers. This scale, innovation and customer focus have driven exceptional growth and set a new standard in a sector ready for disruption."*

GP Profile

**inflexion**

## About Inflexion

Inflexion is a leading European mid-market private equity firm, investing in high growth, entrepreneurial businesses with ambitious management teams to accelerate growth. With over 200+ employees and 20% average portfolio EBITDA growth, Inflexion helps businesses achieve the next stage of growth through international expansion, mergers & acquisitions, digital enhancement, commercial strategy, talent management, ESG, and access to Inflexion's global network.

[Find out more >](#)

# David Roberts & Partners (DR&P)

Supported by Inflexion



Exit Category



Southport

David Roberts & Partners (DR&P) is one of the UK's leading independent insurance brokers, providing specialist risk management and insurance solutions to clients across the UK and Europe. Founded in 1977, the firm has built a strong reputation for its entrepreneurial culture, client-centric approach and deep sector expertise. With nearly 400 employees operating from 25 offices and managing £620 million in gross written premium (GWP), DR&P combines local relationships with national scale, serving clients in 46 countries and achieving a 95% client retention rate.

In 2021, Inflexion invested in DR&P to support its next phase of growth, recognising the company's potential to consolidate and modernise a fragmented regional broking market. Over the course of the partnership, Inflexion's Value Acceleration Plan helped the business execute an ambitious buy-and-build strategy, completing 13 acquisitions and transforming from a regional commercial lines broker into a full-service risk management with complementary wholesale and Managing General Agent (MGA) capabilities. With Inflexion's support, DR&P quadrupled its GWP and increased EBITDA by 360%, while headcount grew from 91 to nearly 400.

Strategically, DR&P leveraged Inflexion's sector expertise and international networks to expand into new markets, including the United States, and to diversify across multiple industries. The firm's five-year plan was achieved in just two, culminating in a highly successful sale to BMS Group in 2024 at a £450 million valuation, delivering an 11.1x return for Inflexion.



# David Roberts & Partners (DR&P)

Supported by Inflexion



Exit Category



Southport

DR&P strengthened its ESG credentials, embedding sustainability, inclusivity and responsible governance at the core of its strategy. The firm mapped its activities against the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Decent Work and Economic Growth, committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Environmentally, DR&P has taken measurable steps to reduce its carbon footprint and increase efficiency across its offices.

Socially, DR&P launched a comprehensive diversity and inclusion initiative, appointing a senior DE&I lead to advance gender equity and inclusive workplace policies. With 53% of its workforce being female, the business is actively addressing representation at senior levels and has introduced measures to close the gender pay gap. A 90% participation rate in staff surveys represents strong employee engagement and sustained charitable partnerships have reinforced a culture of collaboration, responsibility and community impact.

## Judges' comments:

*Through its partnership with Inflexion, DR&P has evolved into a pre-eminent independent insurance broker that has diversified, expanded internationally and become digitally enabled, with a clear commitment to sustainable growth and social responsibility.*

Winner

DAVID  
ROBERTS  
& PARTNERS  
GROUP



# David Roberts & Partners (DR&P)

Supported by Inflexion



Exit Category



Southport



**John Page**

CEO at DR&P said:

*"We are proud of what has been achieved with the support of Inflexion over the past three years. Their investment has allowed us to build a market leading business in the UK insurance market. We believe there are significant opportunities for further growth ahead of us."*



**Carl Wormwald**

Partner at Inflexion said:

*"Our partnership with DR&P has been both highly productive and richly rewarding for all involved, a testimony to the tremendous skill and energy of such a talented management team in delivering industry leading organic performance alongside thoughtful and impressive acquisitive led growth. We would like to thank the entire team for their hard work and wish them all the best for the future."*

GP Profile

**inflexion**

## About Inflexion

Inflexion is a leading European mid-market private equity firm, investing in high growth, entrepreneurial businesses with ambitious management teams to accelerate growth. With over 200+ employees and 20% average portfolio EBITDA growth, Inflexion helps businesses achieve the next stage of growth through international expansion, mergers & acquisitions, digital enhancement, commercial strategy, talent management, ESG, and access to Inflexion's global network.

[Find out more >](#)

## British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (BVCA)

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