

Vision 2026

Leaders Driving Growth

Midlands & East

Headline Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor



About Vision 2026

Vision 2026 celebrates the best teams of 2025 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's award categories recognise portfolio companies against the following categories: Early-Stage, Scale-Up, Medium, Large, Exit, and International Expansion.

In this booklet, we profile the winners for Midlands & East, announced at the UK Private Capital's Invest Midlands Forum & Reception on 15 October 2026 in Birmingham. The national winners will be celebrated on 1 December at the UK Private Capital Awards in London.

Further information regarding Vision 2026 can be found on the UK Private Capital [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



Sean Longsdale
Santander



Ewan MacKinnon
Maven Capital Partners



Alex Read
Inflexion



Peter Terry
Grant Thornton



Kaja Wilmanska
Bridgepoint

The real dry powder is insight.

Private equity challenges convention. So do we.

Whether you're a PE firm, a portfolio company or a management team, the difference between a good deal and a great one comes down to deep expertise and a global perspective.

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Our team spans advisory, tax and assurance, working as one to support you through every phase of the deal lifecycle. We understand that real insight comes from real partnership, and work alongside our clients to deliver clearer strategy and stronger results.

If you want ordinary, you know where to find it. **Alternatively, Grant Thornton.**

130

PE deals
in 2025

£6bn

cumulative
deal value

27%

had international
involvement



**Unlock our insights on
what's driving the next
wave of PE decisions.**

Speak with our experts

Midlands

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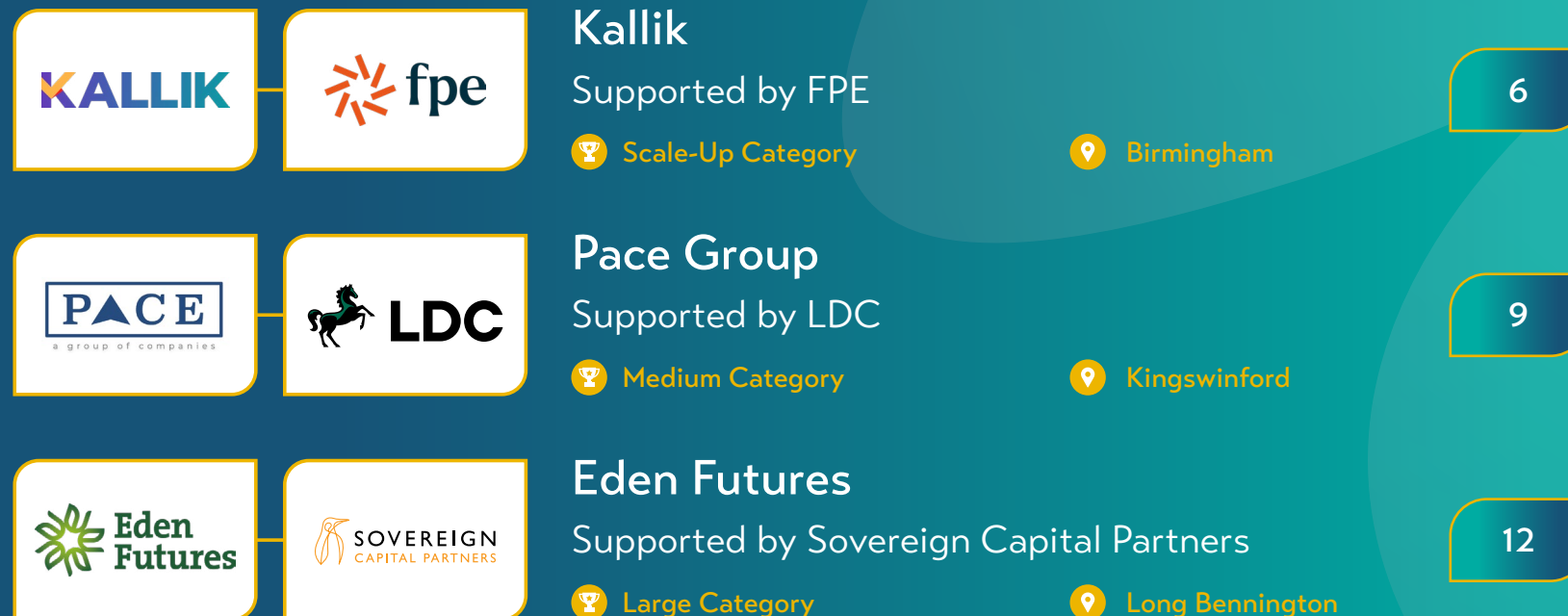
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Winners & backers



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Kallik

Supported by FPE

 Scale-Up Category

 Birmingham



Kallik is a leading UK provider of enterprise labelling and artwork management (LAM) software, helping global organisations manage the creation, approval and production of labels and packaging across highly regulated industries, including medical devices, life sciences and more. Its cloud-based Veraciti™ platform automates complex workflows, improves compliance and reduces costly errors, enabling customers to accelerate product launches and manage global supply chains with greater confidence.

Since FPE's majority investment in 2019, Kallik has transformed from a founder-led business into a professionally managed, international software company, serving blue-chip customers including ExxonMobil, Honeywell, and P&G. At FPE's entry, Kallik had a limited management structure and technology infrastructure that constrained its ability to scale. FPE introduced an experienced CEO, Chair and CFO, supported founder succession and strengthened governance, creating a more self-sufficient organisation with dedicated sales, marketing, technology, delivery, and

customer support functions. Headcount grew from approximately 51 to 128 across the wider operating model, giving Kallik the expertise and delivery capacity needed to serve complex multinational customers.

A central element of the investment strategy was modernising the technology platform, including migrating customers onto a single, multi-tenant platform hosted on AWS and rearchitect the software into a scalable microservices environment. The development of aToM (Assisted Tool of Migration), an

Kallik

Supported by FPE

AI-enabled tool that automates the conversion of legacy label artwork into structured data has further accelerated customer onboarding and reduced implementation times.

FPE repositioned Kallik's go-to-market strategy, supporting a full rebrand of Veraciti™, stronger relationships with industry analysts such as Gartner, alongside the development of dedicated new-business and account-management teams. A clearer focus on large enterprise customers has encouraged expansion within existing accounts, whilst diversification beyond medical devices has also opened opportunities across chemicals, manufacturing, and consumer goods.

Annual recurring revenue increased from FY19 to FY25, representing approximately 22% compound annual growth. Customer retention remains strong, with 97% gross revenue retention and 113% net revenue retention in 2025. By digitising labelling workflows, Veraciti™ helps customers reduce paper waste, avoid obsolete packaging and prevent mislabelling errors that can lead to product recalls.

Internally, Kallik has strengthened diversity in its leadership, introduced employee-led cultural initiatives and promoted inclusive working practices. Its focus on accessibility, pay equity and flexible working further supports responsible growth.

Judges' comments:

Kallik demonstrates how FPE combined leadership, technology investment and commercial discipline to create a more resilient, scalable software business, with a compelling platform for its next phase of growth.



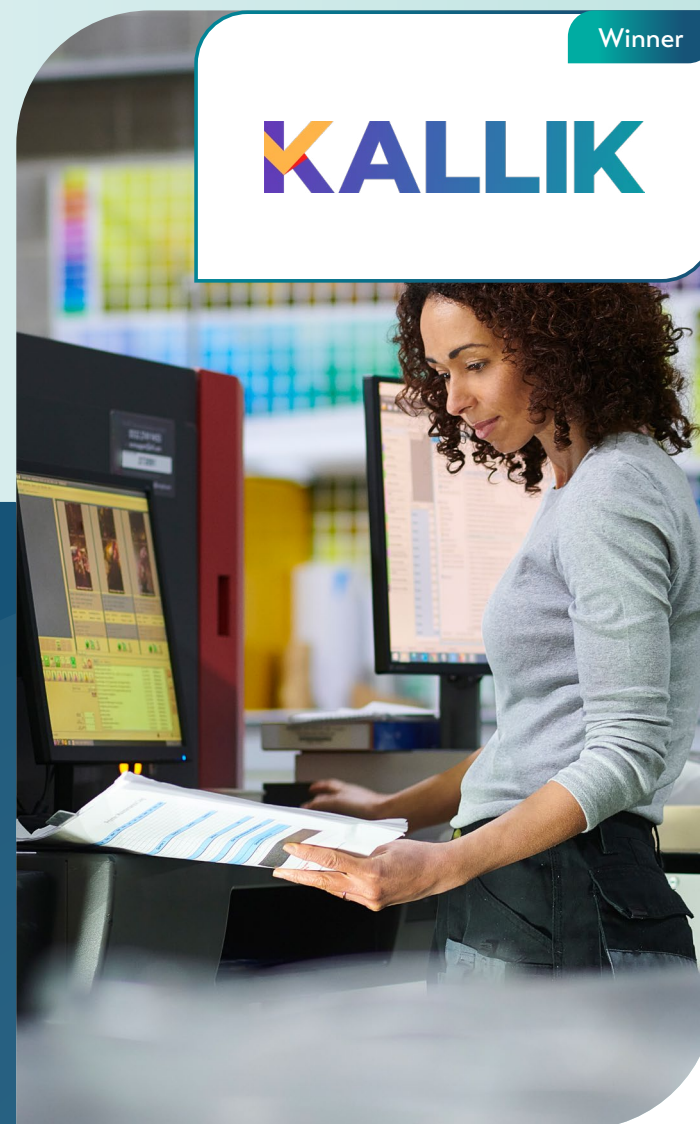
Scale-Up Category



Birmingham

Winner

KALLIK



Kallik

Supported by FPE

“**Gurdip Singh**
CEO, Kallik, said:

“Being named Scale-Up winner for the East & West Midlands and East of England is a proud moment for Kallik, and the credit belongs to our people. Everything the judges recognised comes down to the hard work, passion and dedication our team shows every day.

“Together, we’ve significantly grown our recurring revenue and built and delivered the market-leading platform that helps the world’s biggest brands get safe, compliant products to market faster. We’ve almost trebled our team, which now spans the UK, India and the US, and I’m hugely grateful for what we’ve achieved together. My thanks also go to FPE for their continued partnership and backing. This award belongs to everyone at Kallik.”

“**Henry Sallitt**
Managing Partner, FPE, said:

“Congratulations to the Kallik team on winning the Scale-Up Award for the East & West Midlands and East of England. It’s fantastic recognition of the progress the business has made, delivering strong recurring revenue growth while continuing to invest in its product, people and international presence.

“Kallik has built a strong position in a specialist market, helping some of the world’s largest and most highly regulated businesses manage complex labelling and artwork requirements. We’re proud to be working with the team and look forward to supporting the business as it continues to grow.”

 Scale-Up Category

 Birmingham

GP Profile



About FPE

FPE is a specialist private equity investor focused exclusively on software, data and software services businesses in the UK and Ireland. The firm invests in established, profitable companies that have achieved product-market fit and are ready to accelerate their next stage of growth.

[Find out more >](#)

Pace Group

Supported by LDC

🏆 Medium Category

📍 Kingswinford



The Pace Group is a rapidly growing UK lift engineering services business, providing lift maintenance, servicing, repairs, modernisation and installation through a network of specialist companies.

Following LDC's investment in July 2024, the Group has accelerated its transformation from a regional operator into a national platform, combining the scale and resources of a larger organisation with the local expertise, established customer relationships and technical knowledge of its constituent businesses.

LDC's investment supported an ambitious buy-and-build strategy in the fragmented UK lift services market, enabling the Pace Group to expand its geographic reach, broaden its service offering and strengthen its competitive position. During 2025, acquisitions including Abacus Elevators, Total Lift Care, Bourne Lifts and Exel Elevator added customers, engineering expertise and further regional coverage. The strategy focused on preserving the local brands and relationships that underpin each business's success, whilst building a more connected national group. Alongside acquisitions, LDC has supported

investment in the leadership, systems and infrastructure needed to manage growth effectively. The Pace Group has strengthened its senior team across finance, commercial, operations, HR, digital innovation and regional management.

Investment in technology and operational processes has helped support integration across the expanding group, whilst Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation and exploration of Remote Lift Monitoring demonstrate a commitment to improving cybersecurity, service efficiency and preventative maintenance.

Pace Group

Supported by LDC

From its Midlands origins, the business has expanded its national footprint and engineering capabilities, creating a scalable platform in a market characterised by fragmented providers and demand for reliable, specialist maintenance.

The Pace Group has established an emissions baseline of approximately 405,000 kgCO₂e and aims to reduce carbon emissions by more than 50% by 2028. Around 70% of its fleet is hybrid or electric, supported by investment in charging infrastructure and lower-carbon operations. Socially, the Group reports an employee Net Promoter Score of 84% and has introduced initiatives to strengthen employee communication, engagement and progression. Its values and Level-Up colleague programme support a people-focused culture across its growing national workforce, whilst internal progression provides opportunities beyond traditional engineering roles.

Judges' comments:

The Pace Group demonstrates how private capital can combine disciplined acquisitions with investment in leadership, technology and responsible business practices, with LDC's support establishing a stronger national platform and embedded the foundations for sustainable growth.



Medium Category



Kingswinford

Winner



Pace Group

Supported by LDC

“**Scott Haywood and Lukas Schlenker**
Co-Founders and Directors, Pace Group, said:

“Being recognised by the UK Private Capital judging panel is a proud moment for everyone at Pace Group. The judges’ praise across all four recognition themes reflects the commercial growth and operational development our team has worked hard to build, and it’s a credit to every person who has helped us get here.

“We’re grateful to our backers, LDC for their support, and we’re looking forward to celebrating this achievement at the Invest Midlands Forum & Reception.”

“**Matt Newbold**
Investment Director, LDC in the West Midlands, said:

“This award is thoroughly deserved recognition for the Pace Group team. Since we partnered with the business in 2024, Scott, Lukas and the wider team have continued to execute an impressive growth strategy, completing 20 complementary acquisitions and more than doubling revenue from c.£19m to c.£40m. They have also continued to invest in their people and operations, increasing headcount to over 240 and enhancing service levels to existing and new customers.

“We’d like to congratulate Scott, Lukas and the team on this achievement and look forward to supporting their continued success.”

 Medium Category

 Kingswinford

GP Profile



About LDC

For over 40 years, LDC has been the trusted investment partner for ambitious management teams. Part of Lloyds Banking Group, their experience, scale, and relationship-based approach have helped hundreds of management teams across the UK to grow their businesses, their way. In the last decade, the businesses LDC supports have grown 3.3x more than the national average, and the businesses they’ve exited in that period have increased in enterprise value by £10.3bn.

[Find out more >](#)

Eden Futures

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners



Large Category



Long Bennington



Winner



Eden Futures is a specialist adult social care provider, delivering high-quality, person-centred supported living services to people with learning and physical disabilities, autism, acquired brain injuries and mental health conditions. With more than 30 years' experience, the organisation supports nearly 1,000 individuals to develop independence and confidence through tailored care, ranging from a few hours of support each week to 24-hour assistance.

Since Sovereign Capital Partners' majority investment in 2021, Eden Futures has

pursued an ambitious growth strategy, whilst maintaining its focus on improving outcomes for the people it supports. Initially focused on establishing strong operational foundations following the challenges of COVID-19, the partnership has supported refreshed executive leadership, the appointment of an experienced Chair and an equity participation scheme for the wider management team. CEO Helen Stokes has exceeded the original ambition to double the business within five years, with the number of people supported growing from approximately 600 to 1,000.

With Sovereign Capital's support, Eden has moved from paper-based processes towards digital care records, app-based employee rostering and improved cloud infrastructure, overall strengthening compliance, risk management and operational efficiency. Alongside this, the acquisitions of Care Wish in 2025 and Complezzo in 2026 expanded Eden's workforce, service-user base and geographical reach, whilst creating opportunities to broaden its offering and adopt innovative approaches to care.

Eden Futures

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

Dedicated integration management has supported this expansion with EBITDA increasing by approximately 55-57% from FY25 to FY26.

Working closely with local authorities and specialist accommodation partners, Eden delivered 36 additional units of specialist accommodation and is building a development pipeline extending to 2030. These projects deliver tangible social impact, with eight people moving out of long-term hospital placements into community settings, with a further 12 moving into their own homes for the first time.

Sustainable design is embedded in its accommodation partnerships, whilst its people strategy promotes wellbeing, inclusion, development and colleague engagement. Initiatives such as the Eden Influencers Network, inclusive recruitment practices and comprehensive wellbeing support help foster a workplace where colleagues feel valued, reducing staff turnover from 39% to 15%.

Judges' comments:

Eden Futures, with support from Sovereign Capital, demonstrates how aligned private equity investment can combine sustainable expansion, digital transformation and disciplined acquisitions with measurable improvements in care and workforce outcomes.



Large Category



Long Bennington

Winner



Eden Futures

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

“
Helen Stokes

CEO, Eden Futures, said:

“I’m incredibly proud that Eden Futures has been recognised as a winner of the Vision 2026 Award, and particularly that our social impact was scored so highly across all four recognition themes. As a truly people-first organisation, making a positive difference is at the heart of who we are.

“We’re proud not only of what we achieve, but importantly, how we achieve it. This recognition belongs to our fantastic colleagues across Eden Futures, whose care, commitment and compassion make that impact possible every day. We’re also incredibly grateful for the continued support of Sovereign Capital, who share our belief in the importance of creating meaningful and lasting social impact. It’s a wonderful recognition of what we can achieve together.”

“
Matthew Rowe

Investment Director, Sovereign Capital, said:

“I am pleased to see Eden being recognised once again with this prestigious award. As investors, we take pride in Eden’s continuous growth under the leadership of Helen, which is a testament to her skill, vision, and determination. All of us at Sovereign are delighted to have supported Eden’s transformation from a regional market leader to one of the largest and most respected care providers in the UK, achieving outstanding CQC ratings and delivering exceptional outcomes for the people it supports.”



Large Category



Long Bennington

GP Profile



SOVEREIGN
CAPITAL PARTNERS

About Sovereign Capital Partners

Sovereign Capital Partners is a leading UK mid-market private equity firm, specialising in Buy & Build strategies. They have deep and historic expertise of investing across four sectors: business and technology services, healthcare and pharma services, financial services and insurance, and education and training. They partner with businesses that have a differentiated market position and have the potential for expansion in the UK or internationally.

[Find out more >](#)

UK Private Capital

(Formerly the British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association - BVCA)

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