

# Vision 2026

## Leaders Driving Growth

Northern Ireland

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 Northern Ireland, announced at the UK Private Capital's Northern Ireland Dinner on 14 May 2026 in Belfast. The national winners will be celebrated in December at our National 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 Capital



Sean Longsdale  
Santander



Ewan MacKinnon  
Maven Capital Partners



Alex Read  
Inflexion



Peter Terry  
Grant Thornton



Kaja Wilmanska  
Bridgepoint



# Winners & backers



## Data Intellect

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

Medium Category

Belfast

5



## Mzuri Group

Supported by BGF

Large Category

Lisburn

8



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It's about who you don't.**

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

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# Data Intellect

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

 Medium Category

 Belfast



**Founded in 2011, Data Intellect is a specialised data engineering and capital markets technology consultancy, serving 40+ global financial institutions, including eight of the world's top 10 investment banks and four of the top 10 hedge funds.**

Data Intellect has built a strong reputation for delivering mission-critical solutions within trading environments, combining expertise in kdb+, Python, cloud infrastructure, and low-latency market data systems. Employing 250+ people across Belfast, North America and Asia Pacific, the business has successfully evolved

from a niche kdb+ consultancy into a broader trading-data and analytics platform.

Sovereign Capital Partners (SCP) invested in Data Intellect in 2021, recognising the strength of its differentiated market position, specialist expertise, and significant international growth potential. The investment was designed to help transition the business from a founder-led operation into a more scalable and professionally structured global platform. Since then, SCP has supported key leadership appointments, including a new CEO and CFO, alongside the implementation of more sophisticated systems

for forecasting, margin analysis, and KPI reporting. These changes have improved commercial discipline across geographies and client accounts, helping the business scale efficiently, whilst maintaining EBITDA margins of around 20%.

Since SCP's backing, revenue has almost tripled from approximately £11.5 million to £30 million. International expansion has accelerated, with successful growth across New York, Toronto, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo, whilst headcount has increased by 100 employees.



# Data Intellect

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

Data Intellect demonstrates continued agility by identifying emerging opportunities early, particularly within trade surveillance and financial crime.

The company has also launched an 'AI-skilled and AI-enabled' programme, positioning itself to support future client demand in areas such as pricing, back-testing, and operational analytics. Innovation remains central to Data Intellect's competitiveness and through combining specialist trading expertise with broader capabilities across cloud, observability and downstream systems, the company has differentiated itself from commoditised IT consultancies. Continued investment in systems, people, and operational infrastructure has further strengthened their ability to win and retain blue-chip clients in highly regulated markets.

ESG has become an increasingly important focus area for Data Intellect, with them completing a second EcoVadis assessment, establishing a formal ESG Forum, and strengthening governance and reporting processes. The company actively invests in employee well-being through mental health support, health

assessments and flexible working initiatives, whilst also supporting regional skills development through graduate recruitment and structured technical training programmes. Diversity and inclusion remain a priority, with women now representing 40% of senior management roles and graduate recruitment operating at close to a 50:50 gender split. Through initiatives supporting neurodiversity, mentoring, and organisations such as Women in Tech and SistersIN, Data Intellect continues to build a sustainable and inclusive culture to support long-term growth ambitions.

## Judges' comments:

*Under Sovereign Capital Partner's strategic backing, Data Intellect has become a more globally positioned, governance-mature platform that has evolved into a global capital markets technology consultancy.*



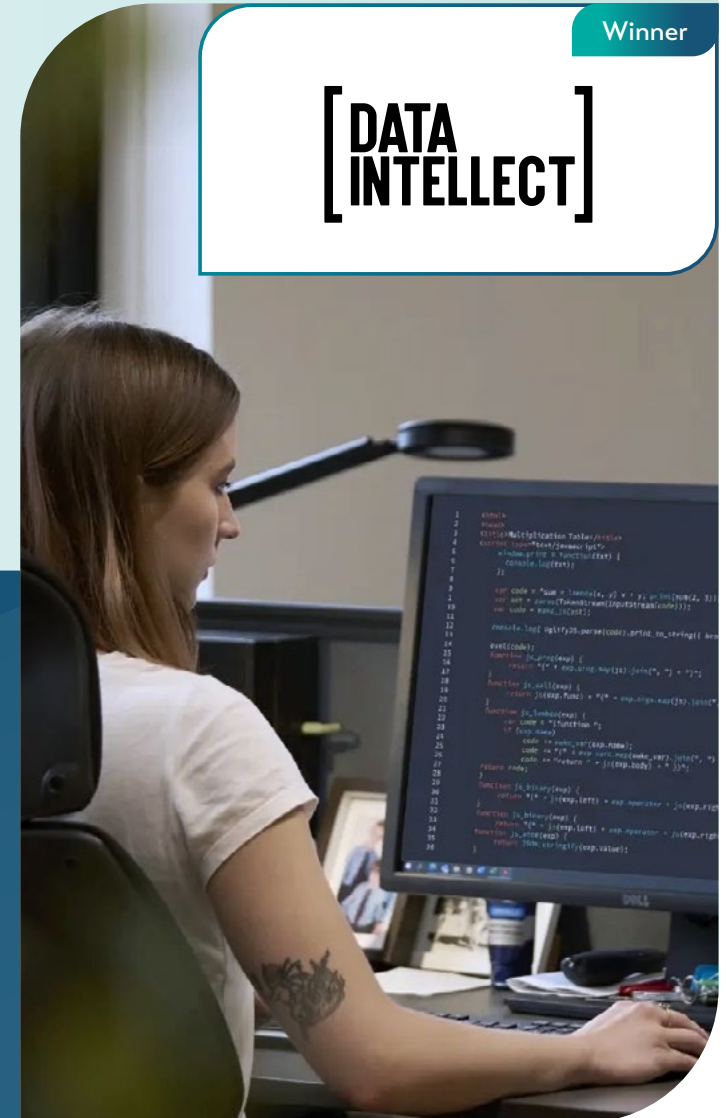
Medium Category



Belfast

Winner

[DATA  
INTELLECT]



# Data Intellect

Supported by Sovereign Capital Partners

“  
**Steve Turner**

*CEO at Data Intellect, said:*

*“We are delighted and honoured to be recognised by UK Private Capital as a category winner for Northern Ireland in the Vision 2026 initiative. This award is a tremendous testament to the talent, dedication and ambition of the entire Data Intellect team, whose expertise and commitment continue to drive our growth and deliver real impact for our clients around the world.”*

“  
**Jonathan Thorne**

*Partner at Sovereign Capital Partners, said:*

*“Winning a UK Private Capital Vision 2026 award is a fantastic achievement and a true reflection of the exceptional business Steve and the team have built at Data Intellect. We invested in Data Intellect because we were attracted to its market position, working with some of the world’s top investment banks and largest hedge funds, and doing work that is absolutely mission critical to their day-to-day operations. Since partnering with them, we have been consistently impressed by their dedication, their people-first culture and their ability to scale. This award validates what we saw when we first invested, a talented management team with the ambition and capability to grow something truly special.”*

 Medium Category

 Belfast

GP Profile



## 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 >](#)



# Mzuri Group

Supported by BGF

 Large Category

 Lisburn



Winner

## MZURI

**Founded in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, Mzuri Group has evolved from a family-owned blinds and shutters business into a rapidly growing international manufacturer and distributor of window coverings.**

Operating across 13 global brands, the Group combines manufacturing, wholesale, trade, and e-commerce channels to serve customers across the UK, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Employing around 2,000 people globally, Mzuri Group manufactures more than 50,000 blinds each week and distributes over 15,000 wholesale products,

supported by vertically integrated supply chain operations in the Far East.

BGF invested in Mzuri in 2020 to support the Group's ambitious long-term expansion plans, recognising both the strength of the management team and the scalability of the platform. At the time of investment, the business generated approximately £19 million in revenue and £6 million EBITDA. Since then, Mzuri Group has transformed significantly, growing to more than £230 million in revenue and around £26 million EBITDA within five years. BGF's backing enabled the Group to pursue an acquisition-

led growth strategy, completing 14 acquisitions that expanded its geographic reach, product capability, and technological expertise. These acquisitions have included businesses such as Illumin8, which added advanced screen-printing technology, and Evans, which strengthened the Group's position in window hardware.

Strategic support from BGF has enabled Mzuri Group to reinforce leadership capabilities, invest in infrastructure, and accelerate its internationalisation strategy.



# Mzuri Group

Supported by BGF

Significant investment has been made into technology, data systems and supply chain integration, allowing the Group to improve stock management, reduce waste, and enhance manufacturing efficiency. Despite challenging market conditions, the Group has remained highly competitive through diversification including expansion into e-commerce and retail partnerships, notably the development of its John Lewis & Partners brand. The Group is now actively pursuing expansion into the United States, with the first-year revenue potential estimated between £50 million and £100 million.

ESG and Sustainability have become an increasingly important part of Mzuri Group's growth strategy, with the company implementing a comprehensive Net Zero strategy, including work around Scope 3 emissions, alongside significant investment in ESG reporting and data capture capabilities. Employee well-being initiatives include health assessments, mental health support, and graduate recruitment.

Mzuri Group has also fostered a diverse international leadership structure spanning the UK, Europe and the Middle East, helping to create a more inclusive and culturally diverse organisation. Whilst the board remains predominantly male, the Group continues to invest in the development of future female leaders as part of its long-term commitment to diversity.

## Judges' comments:

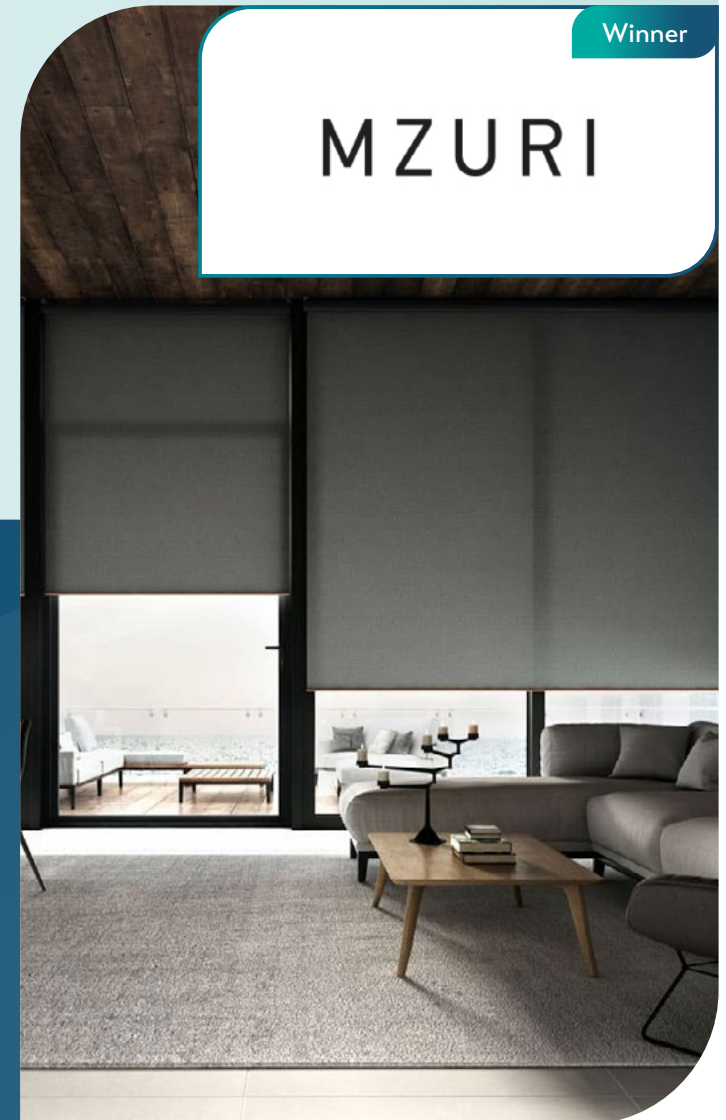
*BGF's backing in Mzuri has been instrumental, providing both growth capital and strategic opportunities to support Mzuri execute acquisitions, strengthen leadership, and transformational growth into a fast-growing international manufacturing group.*

 Large Category

 Lisburn

Winner

# MZURI



# Mzuri Group

Supported by BGF

“  
**John Davison**

*Executive Chairman and Group CEO of Mzuri Group, said:*

*“We are proud to be recognised by UK Private Capital for our compelling international growth story which exemplifies our entrepreneurial ambition. 2025 was a year of exceptional growth despite a challenging economic environment, a testament to the hard work of our talented team at Mzuri Group. Through our commitment to operational discipline, aggressive pursuit of innovation, investment in product design and market expansion, we are well on course to meet our targets for continued exceptional growth in 2026.*”

*“I would like to take this chance to also thank BGF who have been an incredible partner, enabling us to grow from a local, family-owned business to one that is now scaling successfully and sustainably on the world stage, while retaining its Northern Irish roots.”*

“  
**Graham Clarke**

*Regional Portfolio Partner at BGF, said:*

*“We’re delighted to see Mzuri Group recognised with this award – it’s a reflection of the strength of the business and the quality team behind it, who have delivered exceptional results. What sets Mzuri apart is its ability to scale internationally through organic and acquisitive growth while staying true to its entrepreneurial, family-owned roots. It’s a fantastic example of how a Northern Ireland-founded business can build a global platform and one that BGF is really proud to be involved in.”*

 Large Category

 Lisburn

GP Profile

# BGF

## About BGF

BGF was set up in 2011, to address the SME funding gap. Since then, BGF have deployed more than £4.5bn of growth capital and helped over 600 ambitious businesses to scale-up, supporting more than 280 of them through to exit. BGF is a minority, non-controlling equity partner with a patient outlook, based on shared, long-term goals with the management teams they back.

[Find out more >](#)



**UK Private Capital**

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

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