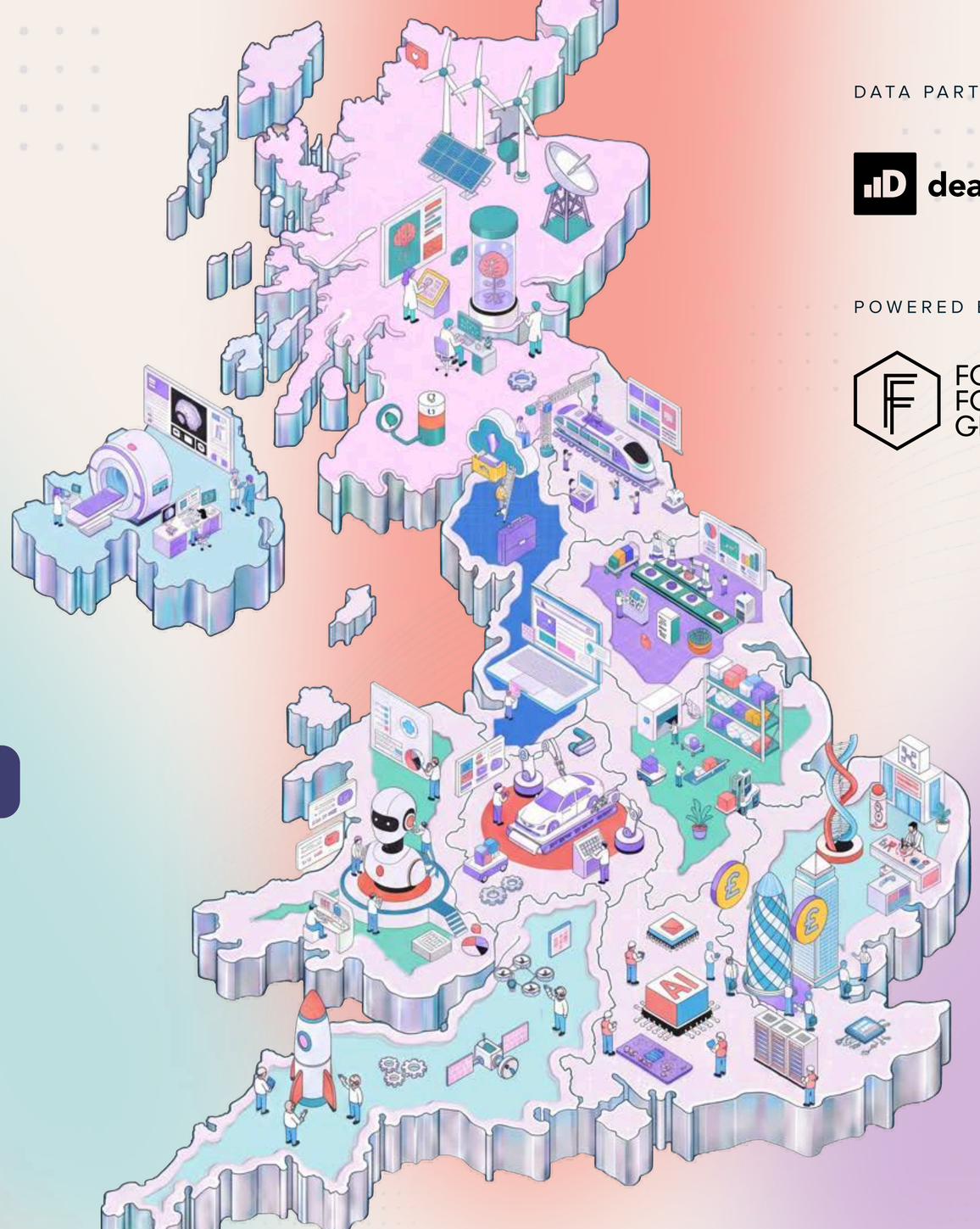
THE TECH NATION REPORT 2026

THE NEXT WAVE OF UK AI

TOP UK SECTORS

The state of the nation report on UK tech.



DATA PARTNER

dealroom.co

POWERED BY

FOUNDERS FORUM GROUP

TOP SECTORS



George Mensah (Sure Valley Ventures)



Harry Briggs (Astanor) &
Rachel Carrell (Koru Kids)



Arizona Muse

The fastest-growing tech sectors in the UK reflect a shift towards AI infrastructure, enterprise software, and frontier technologies.

- Hosting, engineering and manufacturing, and telecom are the **fastest-growing sectors** by investment, alongside strong growth in enterprise SaaS, quantum and AI.
- AI and enterprise software are the **biggest tech segments** in the UK, based on VC investment in 2025, followed by fintech and deep tech.
- Transport, climate tech, and energy have seen some of the biggest **funding declines**.

Industries	2025	CAGR (2023–2025) ↓
Hosting	$1.8b	291%
Engineering & Manufacturing	$507m	145%
Telecom	$789m	122%
Enterprise Software	$8.1b	96%
Quantum	$912m	69%
AI	$8.2b	53%
Legal	$334m	47%
Media	$1.1b	43%
Semiconductors	$1.2b	38%
Fintech	$6.8b	36%
Wellness Beauty	$149m	26%
Deep Tech	$5.3b	22%
Health	$4.0b	14%
Security	$741m	11%
Consumer Electronics	$219m	7%
Space	$128m	-6%
Gaming	$134m	-12%
Robotics	$380m	-13%
Real Estate	$501m	-18%
Food	$570m	-20%
Energy	$2.8b	-24%
Climate Tech	$3.3b	-25%
Education	$131m	-28%
Transportation	$1.1b	-40%

Data from Dealroom.

DeepTech

MARKET VALUE IN H1 2026

$500b

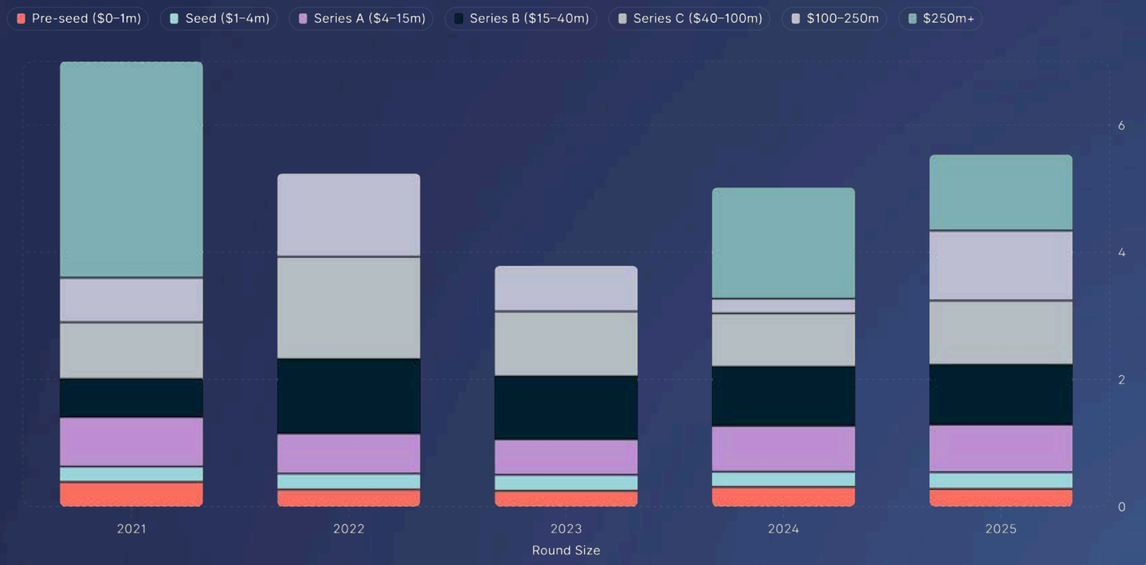
CAGR (2021-2026)

28.8%



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2025

$5.3b



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

$8b

BIGGEST RAISES

Isomorphic Labs

London

$2.1b

Series B · May 2026

Ineffable Intelligence

London

$1.1b

Seed · April 2026

Wayve

London

$1.2b

Series D · Feb 2026

TYPICAL ROUND SIZES

Median round sizes, 2025-2026



EARLY STAGE (>$100K - $15M)

DEEP TECH	OVERALL
$3m	$2m



GROWTH STAGE (>$15M - $100M)

DEEP TECH	OVERALL
$30.5m	$30m



LATE STAGE (>$100M)

DEEP TECH	OVERALL
$200m	$200m

Data recorded April 2026

EXITS IN 2025

27

EXITS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

5

OrganOx
ACQUISITION

$1.5b

AUG 2025 • **TERUMO CORPORATION**

Oxford Ionics
ACQUISITION

$1.06b

JUNE 2025 • **IONQ**

Faculty
ACQUISITION

$1b

JAN 2026 • **ACCENTURE**

UNICORNS

31

NEW UNICORNS

ineffable

recursive

OLIX



“

We’re seeing strong AI adoption in areas like customer service, where the risk is low and the win is big, but many business processes are high-stakes. We’re focused on regulated sectors where mistakes have big consequences. Our technology is the safeguard.

WILLIAM TUNSTALL-PEDOE

UnlikelyAI

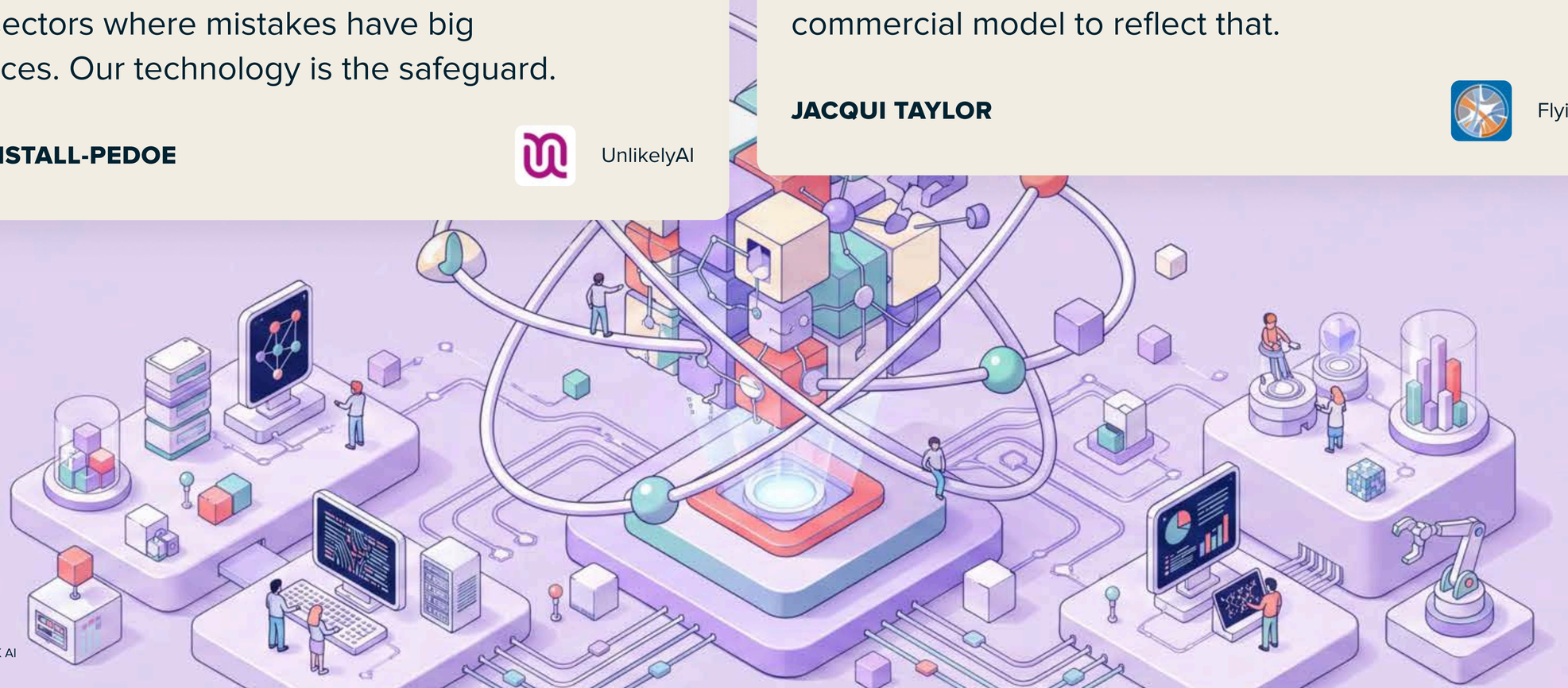


“

Commercialising deep tech requires scientific understanding and an engineering approach to delivery. We have changed both our business model and our commercial model to reflect that.

JACQUI TAYLOR

FlyingBinary



FinTech

MARKET VALUE IN H1 2026

$432b

CAGR (2021-2026)

7%



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2025

$6.8b



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

$1.2b

BIGGEST RAISES

9fin

London

$170m

Series C · Feb 2026

Allica Bank

London

$155m

Series D · Feb 2026

Elliptic

Stroud

$120m

Series D · May 2026

TYPICAL ROUND SIZES

Median round sizes, 2025-2026



EARLY STAGE (>$100K - $15M)

FINTECH	OVERALL
$2.7m	$2m



GROWTH STAGE (>$15M - $100M)

FINTECH	OVERALL
$24.9m	$30m



LATE STAGE (>$100M)

FINTECH	OVERALL
$175m	$200m

Data recorded April 2026

EXITS IN 2025

64

EXITS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

18

BVNK
ACQUISITION

$1.5b

MARCH 2026 • **MASTERCARD**

Reward
ACQUISITION

$1.06b

FEB 2026 • **REZOLVE AI**

Flock
ACQUISITION

$1b

FEB 2026 • **ADMIRAL GROUP**

UNICORNS

59

NEW UNICORNS

9fin

FLOCK

Reward



“

Think of AI organisationally like a colleague or co-pilot; you need to use it to do your best work. Make sure your entire organisation understands that AI usage is expected and lessons learned are to be shared and adopted.

NICOLAS CARY

Blockchain.com



“

AI has accelerated our infrastructure, improved how we optimise content and helped us build more intelligently, but we’ve had to stay disciplined about keeping the human experience at the centre.

GRACE ALMENDRAS CASTILLO

Gifftid



Health Tech

MARKET VALUE IN H1 2026

$172.4b

CAGR (2021-2026)

6.8%



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2025

$4b



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

$3.4b

BIGGEST RAISES

Isomorphic Labs
London
$2.1b
Series B
May 2026

CellCentric
Cambridge
$220m
Series D
May 2026

Immutrin
Cambridge
$86m
Series A
March 2026

TYPICAL ROUND SIZES

Median round sizes, 2025-2026



EARLY STAGE (>$100K - $15M)

HEALTH TECH	OVERALL
$2.1m	$2m



GROWTH STAGE (>$15M - $100M)

HEALTH TECH	OVERALL
$32m	$30m



LATE STAGE (>$100M)

HEALTH TECH	OVERALL
$140m	$200m

Data recorded April 2026

EXITS IN 2025

31

EXITS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

8

Huel
ACQUISITION

€1b

MARCH 2026 • **DANONE**

OrganOx
ACQUISITION

$1.5b

AUG 2026 • **TERUMO CORPORATION**

Verona Pharma
ACQUISITION

$10b

JULY 2026 • **MERCK & CO**

UNICORNS

30

NEW UNICORNS

Isomorphic Labs

Verdiva Bio

SheMed



“

We shifted our strategy from static tracking tools to building a dynamic AI companion. We now treat AI as our most scalable employee; one that turns messy, subjective patient anecdotes into clean, objective clinical data, 24/7, without ever burning out.

BEATRICE ZATORSKA

PD Buddy

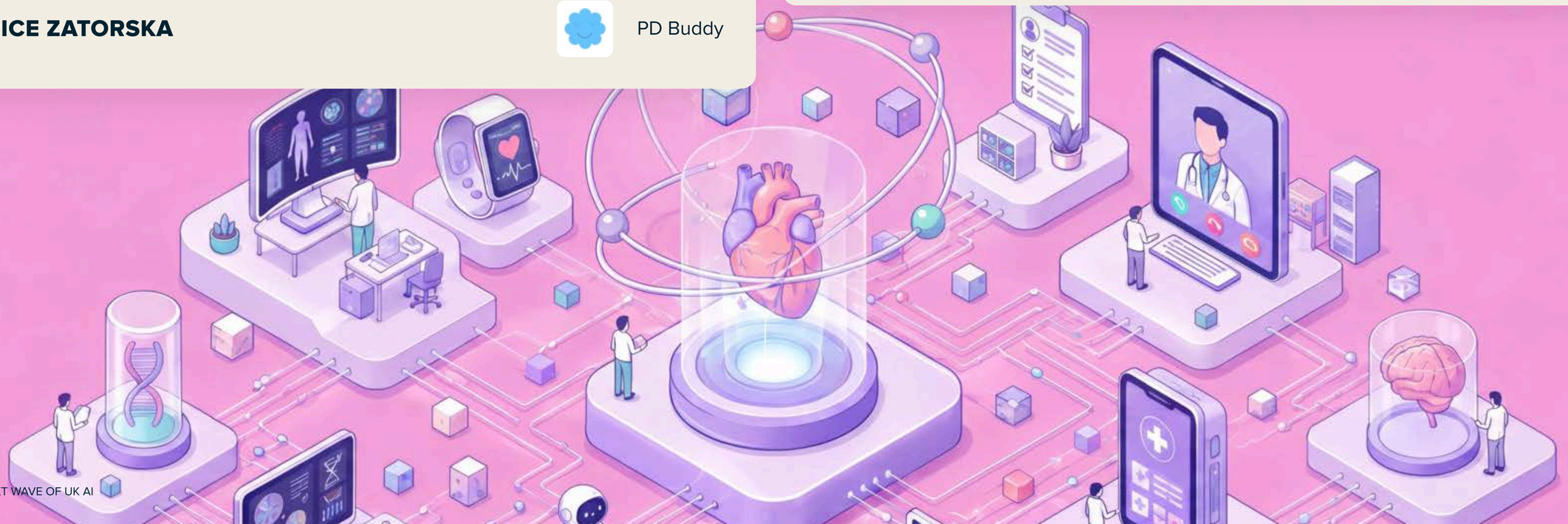


“

We use AI to build faster and with fewer resources, but the real moat still comes from strong distribution, customer insight, and domain expertise.

LAURA TOWART

Vivan Therapeutics



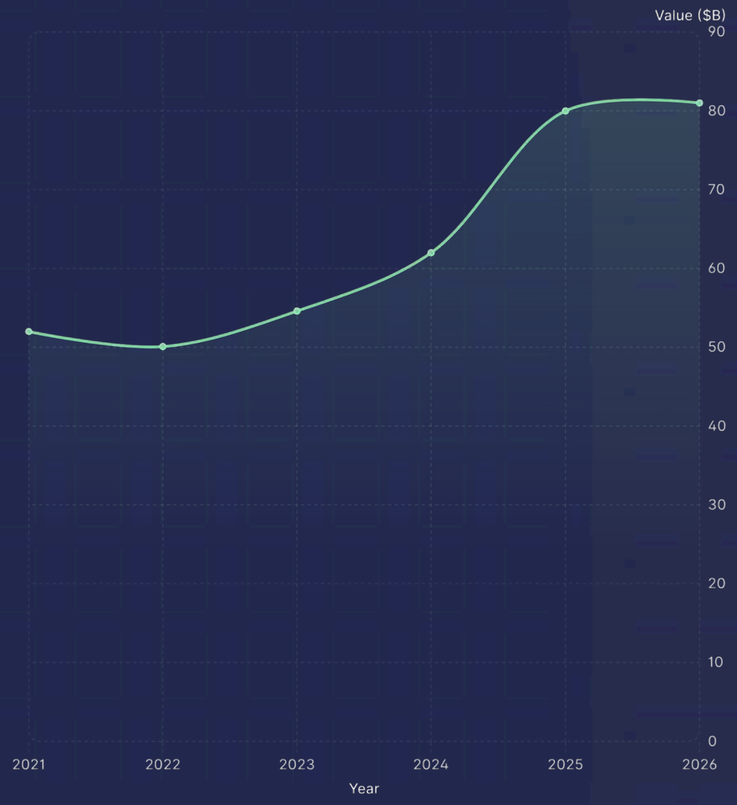
Climate Tech

MARKET VALUE IN H1 2026

$81b

CAGR (2021-2026)

9.3%



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2025

$3.3b



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

$1b

BIGGEST RAISES

CuspAI
Cambridge
$200m
Late VC
April 2026

Tropic Biosciences
Norwich
$105m
Series C
March 2026

Oxa
Oxford
$103m
Series D
March 2026

TYPICAL ROUND SIZES

Median round sizes, 2025-2026



EARLY STAGE (>$100K - $15M)

CLIMATE TECH	OVERALL
$2.3m	$2m



GROWTH STAGE (>$15M - $100M)

CLIMATE TECH	OVERALL
$27.5m	$30m



LATE STAGE (>$100M)

CLIMATE TECH	OVERALL
$132.5m	$200m

Data recorded April 2026

EXITS IN 2025

20

EXITS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

12

Wild Cosmetics
ACQUISITION

$285m

FEB 2025 • **UNILEVER**

Flexitricity
ACQUISITION

$48m

AUG 2026 • **DRAX GROUP**

SaveMoneyCutCarbon
ACQUISITION

$22.5m

JULY 2026 • **HAYDALE GRAPHENE INDS.**

UNICORNS

15

NEW UNICORNS

Fuse

ZENOBĒ

BeZero



AI adoption at scale isn't a tools problem, it's a systems problem. We built a multi-pronged change strategy: AI champions in every team, financial bonuses, 50% of our OKRs focused on AI transformation, and messaging that tied AI to our mission – responsible decarbonisation, not just efficiency.

RAPHAEL GUELLER

Sweep



AI is only as good as the data you feed it. We've focused on applying AI where it can have a meaningful impact without exposing us to significant risk, while training our team to use it safely and compliantly.

BRITTANY HARRIS

Qualis Flow



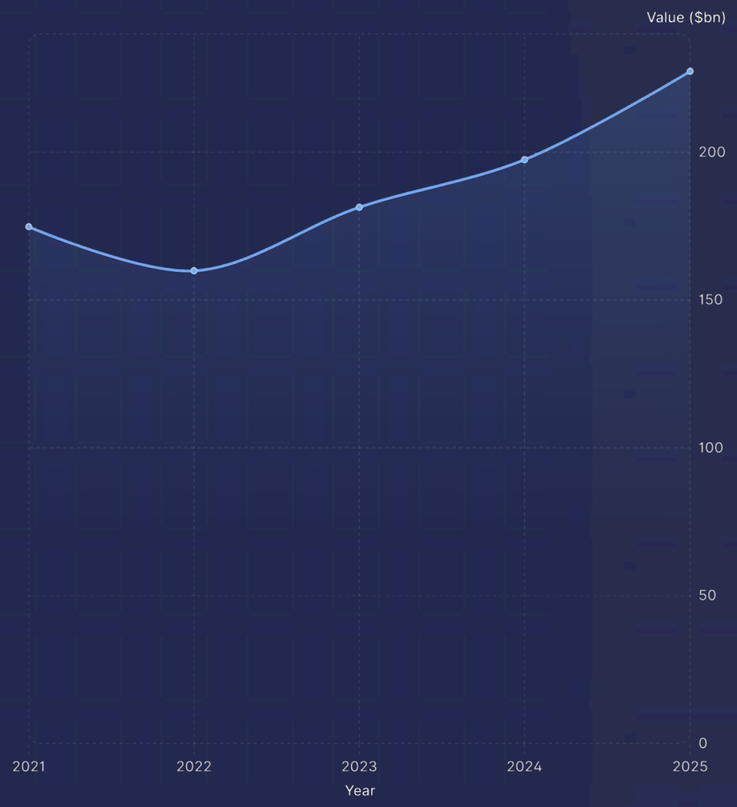
Enterprise Software

MARKET VALUE IN H1 2026

$252.8b

CAGR (2021-2026)

7.6%



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2025

$8.1b



RAISED BY STARTUPS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

$5b

BIGGEST RAISES

Nscale
London
$2b
Series C
March 2026

Ineffable Intelligence
London
$1.1b
Seed
April 2026

Recursive Superintelligence
London
$650m
Seed
May 2026

Data from Dealroom

TYPICAL ROUND SIZES

Median round sizes, 2025-2026



EARLY STAGE (>$100K - $15M)

ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE	OVERALL
$2.7m	$2m



GROWTH STAGE (>$15M - $100M)

ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE	OVERALL
$30m	$30m



LATE STAGE (>$100M)

ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE	OVERALL
$316.5m	$200m

Data recorded April 2026

EXITS IN 2025

57

EXITS IN 2026 (JAN-MAY)

19

Faculty
ACQUISITION

$1b

JAN 2026 • **ACCENTURE**

Blis
ACQUISITION

$175m

MARCH 2025 • **T-MOBILE**

Convergence
ACQUISITION

£120m

MAY 2025 • **SALESFORCE**

UNICORNS

33

NEW UNICORNS

NSCALE

with. Intelligence

lighthouse



Conventional SaaS will become increasingly commoditised. Instead, we're focusing on adding value through workflow understanding and context management. Context is important because it allows systems to understand how different parts of an organisation interact. These new layers – context, agent workflows, and automation – become the differentiated moat.

EMMA BURROWS

Rezonant



LLMs enable teams to deliver more efficiently, but that productivity is not a moat or a USP. The fundamentals of running a good business still come down to the people in it.

JAMES HIRST

Tyk

