Environmental & Sustainability Consulting M&A report

July 2023

Equiteq

Growing equity, realizing value



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- 2. Global E&S consulting market and ecosystem
- 3. M&A activity in the space
- 4. **E&S Consulting valuation analysis**
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Executive summary



The market is experiencing significant growth due to the increasing demand for ESG disclosure and the rising investments in climate change initiatives



The focus on ESG is now a top priority at the C-Level, which is expected to lead to increased investments in the field



The ecosystem is dominated by global firms, with a fragmented market providing opportunities for consolidation



16%

2021-2027 sustainability market CAGR

>10%

Projected sustainability projectrelated investment increase⁽¹⁾



88%

Deals where targets have fewer than 100 employees in H1 2023 **197** Total deals since 2019



13.2x

Public markets EV/EBITDA valuation



10.7x Private markets EV/EBITDA valuation



M&A deals are concentrated in Europe and the US, with PE firms driving over 50% of transactions, and smaller deal sizes dominating



The public market rewards sustainability and engineering consulting firms as positioned at the forefront of the energy transition strategy



M&A valuations reflect public markets valuations at an aggregate level, with strategic buyers paying higher multiples than PE firms

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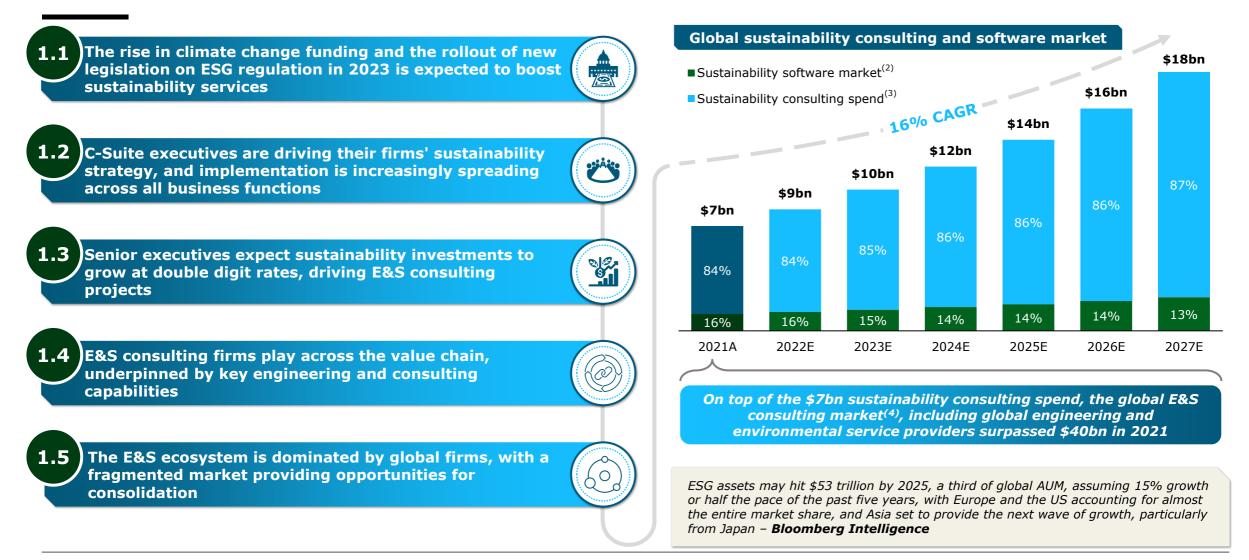
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Market overview - The global E&S market is forecast to grow rapidly, driven by ESG agendas and increasing investments

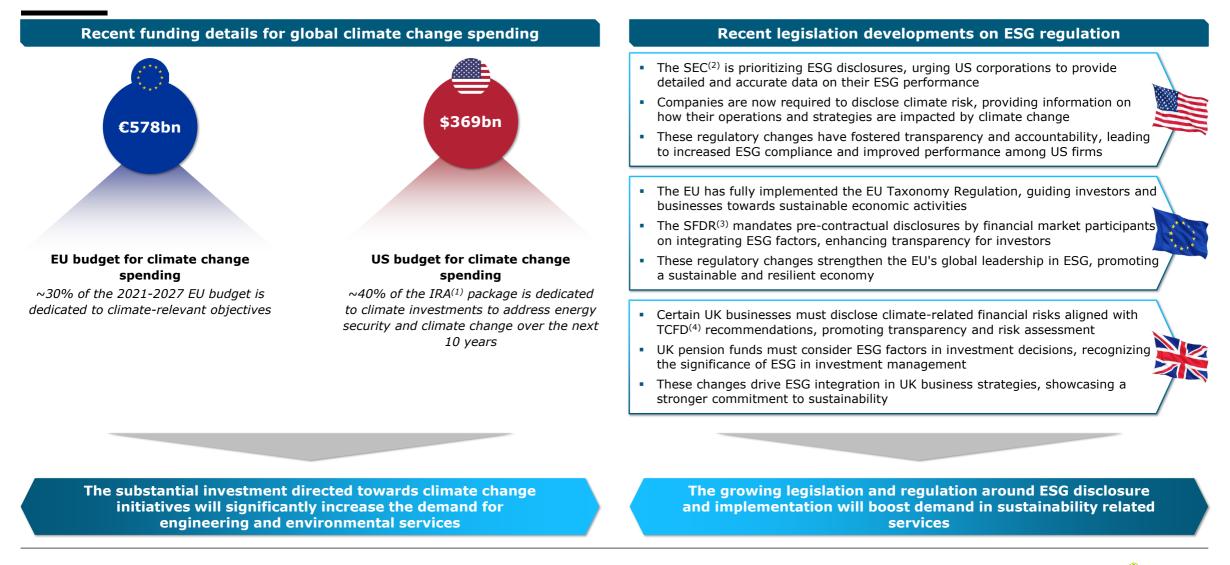


Strictly Confidential Sources: Equiteq research, Environment Analyst, Verdantix, PRI, 360iResearch; Notes: ⁽¹⁾Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool; ⁽²⁾Global Sustainability & Energy Management Software Market; ⁽³⁾Global ESG And Sustainability Consulting Spend; ⁽⁴⁾Measured as revenue of E&S companies identified by the "Environment Analyst"

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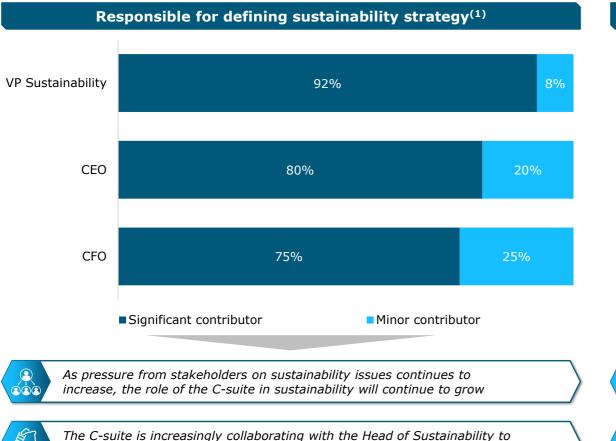
¹The rise in climate change funding and the rollout of new legislation on ESG regulation in 2023 is expected to boost sustainability services



Strictly Confidential Sources: Equiteq research, US State Senate portal; European Commission portal; UK Government portal; Notes: ⁽¹⁾Inflation Reduction Act, ⁽²⁾Securities and Exchange Commission, ⁽³⁾Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, ⁽⁴⁾Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

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²C-Suite executives are driving their firms' sustainability strategy, and implementation is increasingly spreading across all business functions

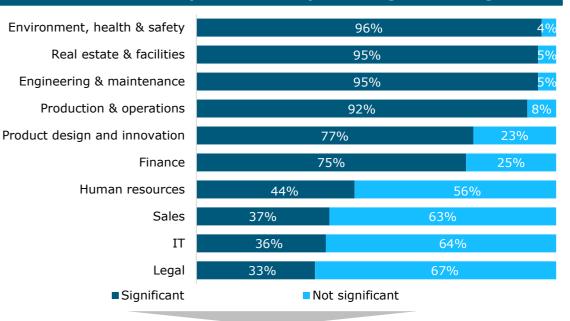


CFOs are increasingly part of sustainability initiatives as they require sizable

investments and the monitoring of performance against some KPIs

articulate the company's sustainability strategy

Business functions responsible for implementing ESG strategies⁽¹⁾





EHS functions play a central role in the implementation of the firm's ESG strategy as they have the "field view"



Operations and engineering functions are central to the implementation as a rethink of how the business operates is required

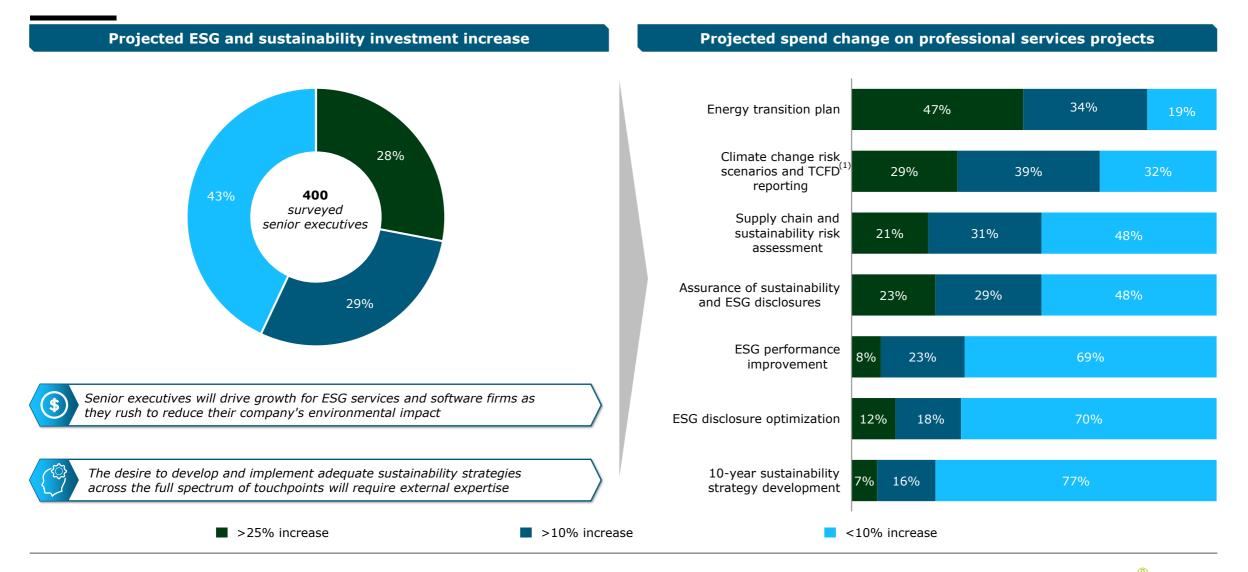


Functions in charge of facilities management have the responsibility to identify and implement energy efficiency solutions



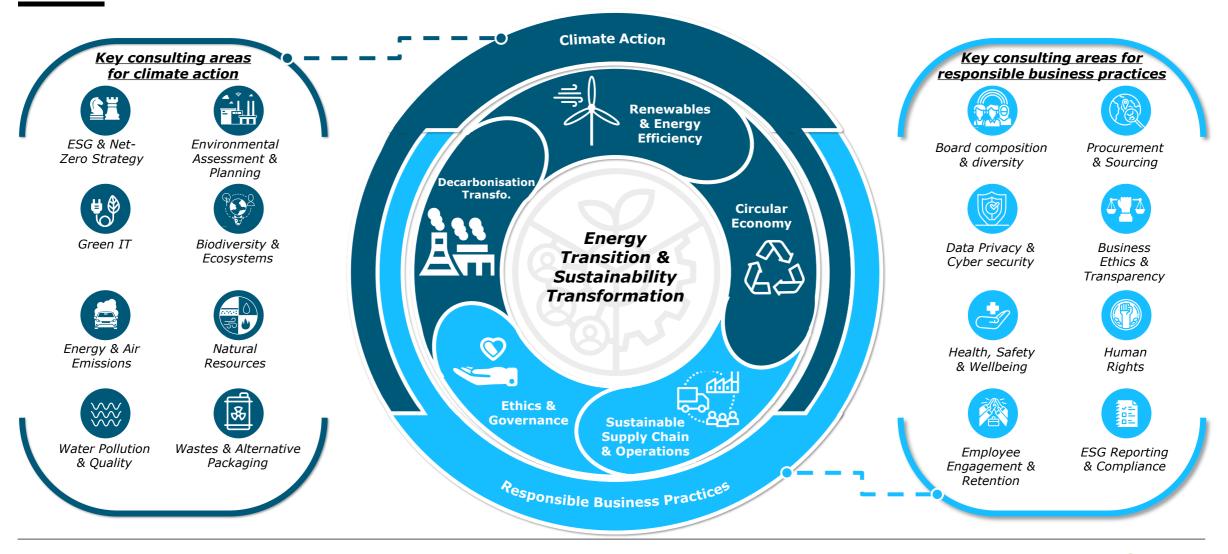
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^{1.3}Senior executives expect sustainability investments to grow at double digit rates, driving E&S consulting projects

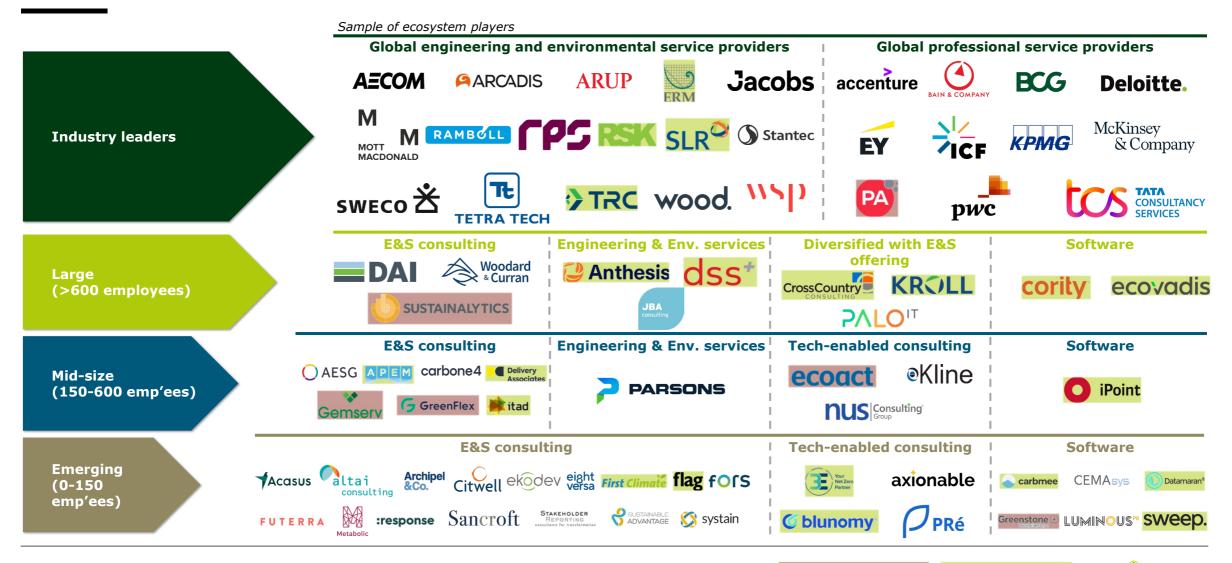


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^{1.4} E&S consulting firms play across the value chain, underpinned by key engineering and consulting capabilities



^{1.5} The E&S ecosystem is dominated by global firms, with a fragmented market providing opportunities for consolidation

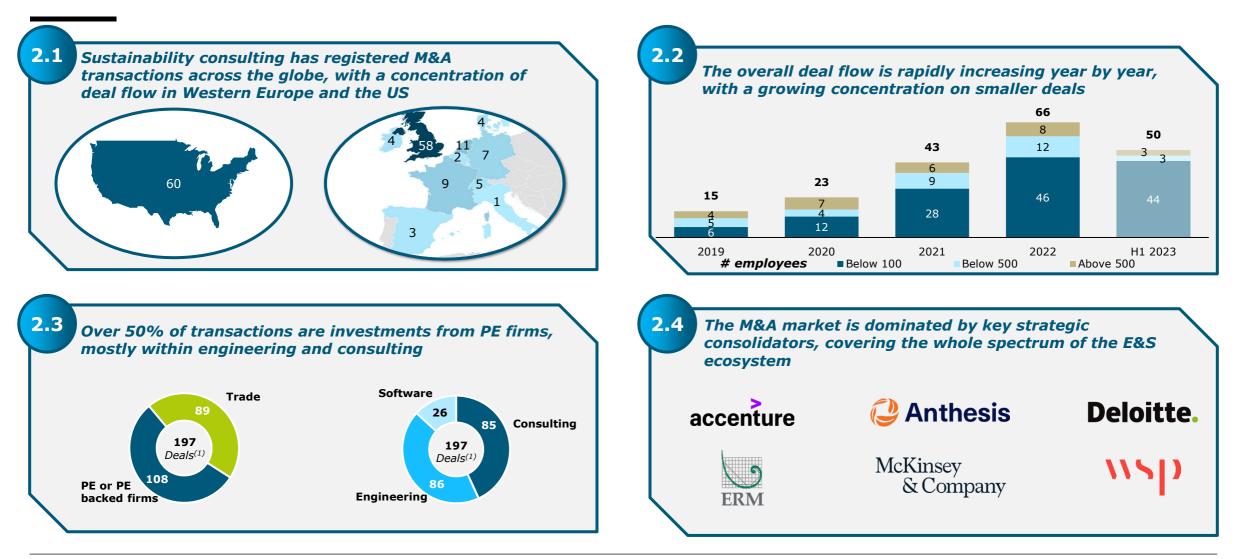




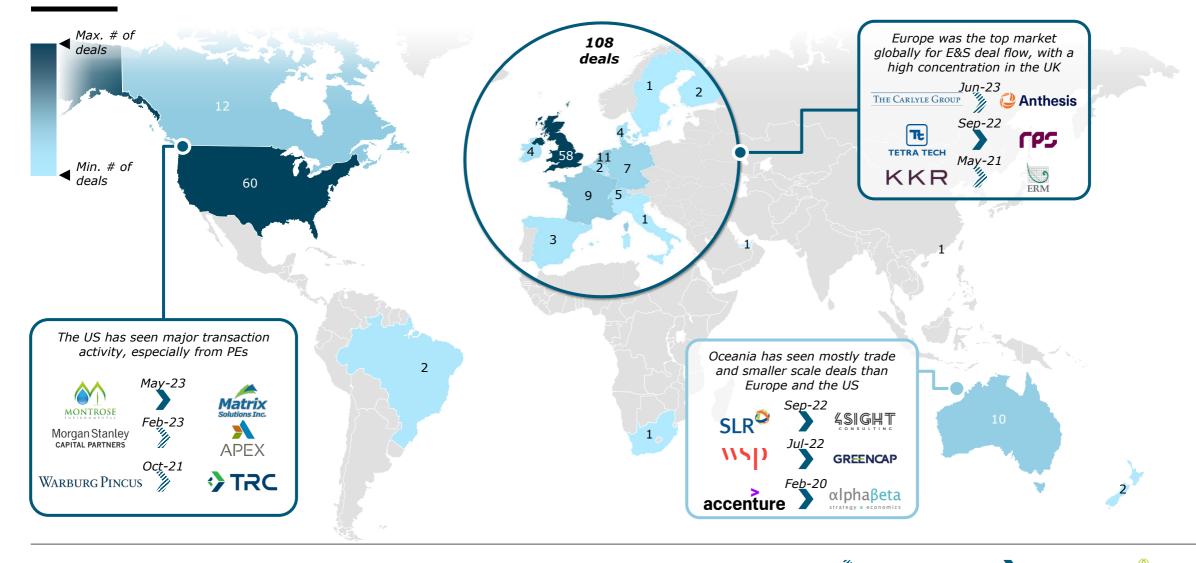
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M&A market overview – The sustainability consulting industry has experienced a rapidly increasing deal flow across the globe



²¹Sustainability consulting has registered M&A transactions across the globe, with a concentration of deal flow in Western Europe and the US



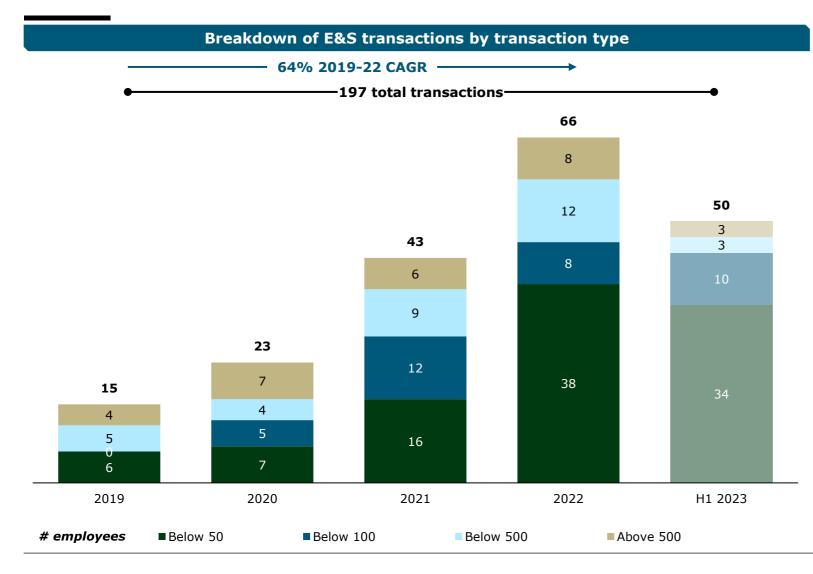
PE firm 🦻 Target Acquirer

Target

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²The overall deal flow is rapidly increasing year by year, with a growing concentration on smaller deals



Key M&A drivers



Private equity firms have been actively acquiring ESG-focused firms, as they seek to participate and reap the rewards of a rapidly expanding market that is providing significant consolidation opportunities



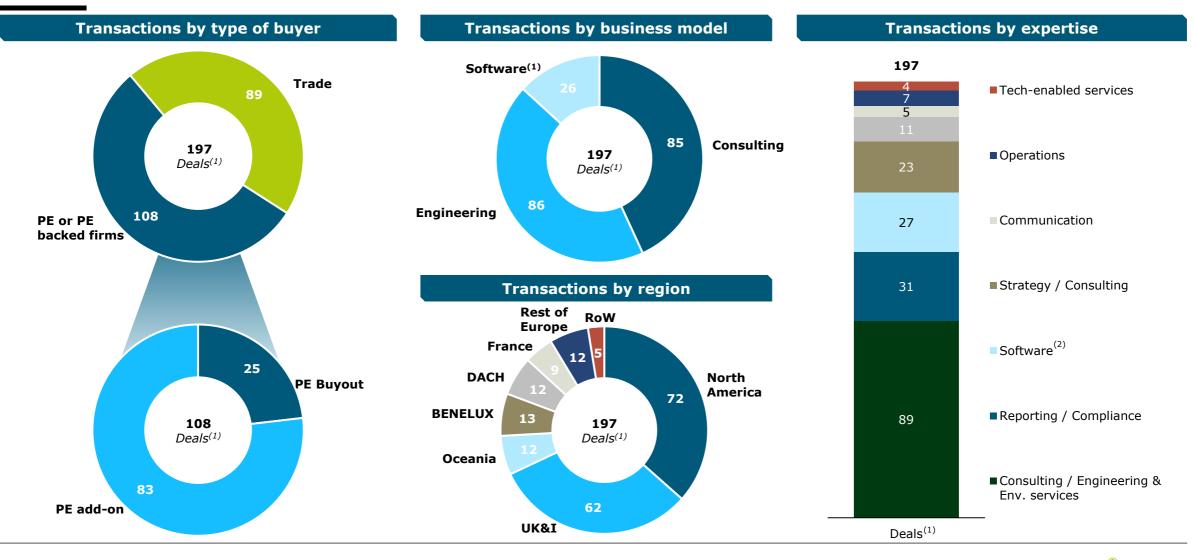
Boutique firms are being acquired by large consultancies, as a mechanism for the latter to bolster their in-house sustainability expertise, and for the former to gain access to global clients and to increase their impact



The rising importance of sustainability at the C-Level has made boutiques ever more attractive for larger firms to gain C-Suite access for greater influence and larger programs

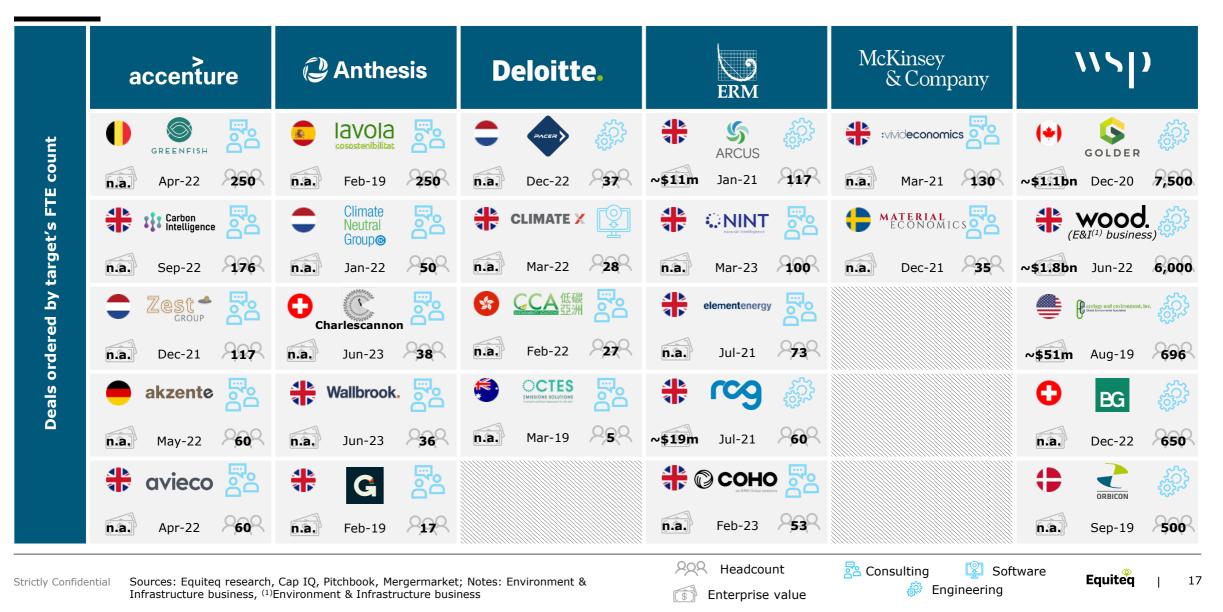
The demand for specialized E&S expertise has led to the establishment of many small boutiques. Market consolidation has resulted in 88% of transactions in H1 2023 involving targets with fewer than 100 employees (compared with only 60% in 2021)

²⁻³Underlying market growth and consolidation opportunities have attracted investment from PE firms, active in over 50% of deals



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The M&A market is dominated by key strategic consolidators, covering the whole spectrum of the E&S ecosystem



Sample of M&A deals in the sector in H1 2023 Strategic buyers

Target		Buyer		Ann. Date ⁽¹⁾	EV ⁽²⁾ (\$m)	Emp's	Target main capability	Buyer rationale
AXIS		RSK		Jun-23	n.a.	120	Engineering	Expands technology for transition to net zero emission by measuring carbon capture and providing storage solutions
gna		STRC		Jun-23	n.a.	50	Consulting	Expands climate solutions with the addition of sustainable transportation solutions
Cesenvolvimento Sustentável	٢	accenture	\bigcirc	May-23	n.a.	34	Consulting	Enhances Accenture's Sustainability Services team with decarbonization strategies
GREENPATH	(*)			May-23	15	30	Consulting	Scales Montrose technical and operational capabilities for multinational corporations to better serve clients of North American portfolio
	(*)			May-23	48	500	Engineering	Creates a platform for consulting business in Canada and expands support across Montrose environmental engineering in North America
	(*)	wsp	(*)	May-23	n.a.	150	Engineering	Expands engineering consulting capabilities in Quebec and in the highly strategic data centre industry
PLANIT GEO regging a green of fure		WAVEROCK SOFTWARE		Apr-23	n.a.	45	Software	Innovates and delivers innovative services and increase customer satisfaction
AITHER	5	RICARDO		Mar-23	22	50	Consulting	Expands capabilities across the water value chain, natural resources and climate adaption
korkia ⁽³⁾	Ð	BearingPoint .		Mar-23	n.a.	64	Consulting	Broadens Bearing Point's consulting capabilities in Finland
ENVIRONMENTAL LLIANCE, INC.		MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL		Feb-23	5	33	Engineering	Increases scale and ability to serve clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region
equity environmental engineering		GZN		Feb-23	n.a.	20	Engineering	Expands capabilities in GZA's existing offerings and increase their ability to serve clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region
Morgan Green Advisory		O Pinsent Masons		Jan-23	n.a.	25	Consulting	Expands Pinsent's Climate and Sustainability business

Sample of M&A deals in the sector in H1 2023 PE and PE backed buyers

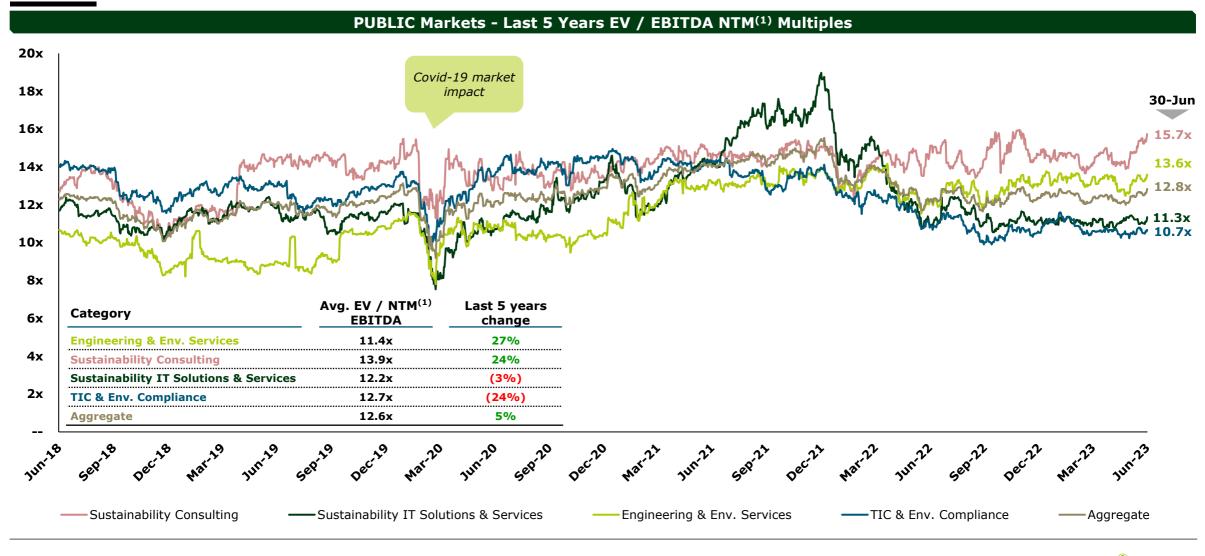
Target		Investor	Ann. Date ⁽¹⁾	EV ⁽²⁾ (\$m)	Emp's	Target main capability	Investment rationale
🔮 Anthesis		The Carlyle Group	Jun-23	508	1250	Engineering	Supports Anthesis growth, expands ESG and sustainability offering and widens its international footprint
IBIS		SLR Øares	Jun-23	n.a.	100	Consulting	Adds competitive advantage in SLR corporate ESG advisory capability
evolutién		Phenna Group KKR	Jun-23	n.a.	73	Engineering	Helps Phenna in scaling the business
RANSOM	١	C A P T A L	May-23	n.a.	80	Engineering	Provides Pinchin an opportunity to scale to northeast US market
Greenstone + A Cority Company		Cority THOMABRAVO	Mar-23	n.a.	81	Software	Allows Cority to deepen company's ESG expertise and customer support
		TØEL	Mar-23	n.a.	52	Software	Accelerates Integrity's product offering and strengthens market positioning in Germany
Sayvol		Phenna Group KKR	Mar-23	n.a.	60	Engineering	Supplements Phenna's existing sustainability offering adding breadth to its services
	٢	ERM <mark>CC</mark> Oakley Capital	Mar-23	n.a.	100	Consulting	Allows ERM to expand their service offering globally
dss*	0	Inflexion	Feb-23	500	1500	Consulting	Supports DSS's management to establish a successful standalone entity
	١	ERM <mark>CC</mark> Oakley Capital	Feb-23	n.a.	53	Engineering	Supports ERM clients to deliver their climate goals and address opportunities presented by decarbonization and water optimization.
APEX			Feb-23	n.a.	800	Engineering	Will enable APEX to accelerate growth in water, environmental, infrastructure and ESG
 aqua consultants waler - environment - energy		Adler& Allan	Feb-23	n.a.	100	Engineering	Enhances Aqua's strategic offering and positioning in the industry



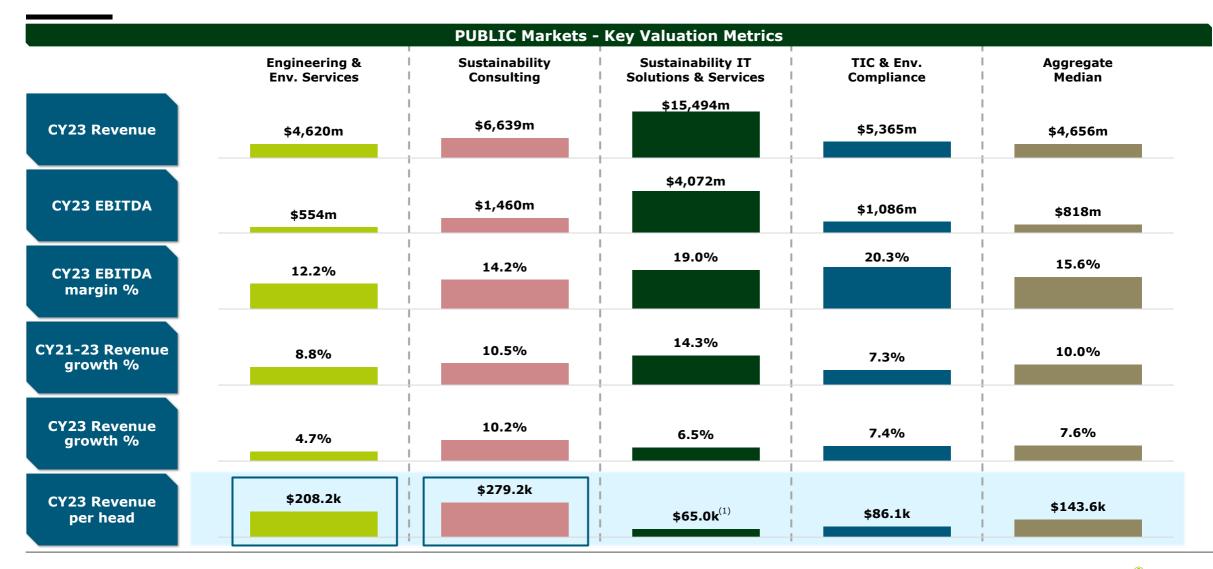
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Sustainability and engineering consulting have seen the largest rise in value over the last five years...

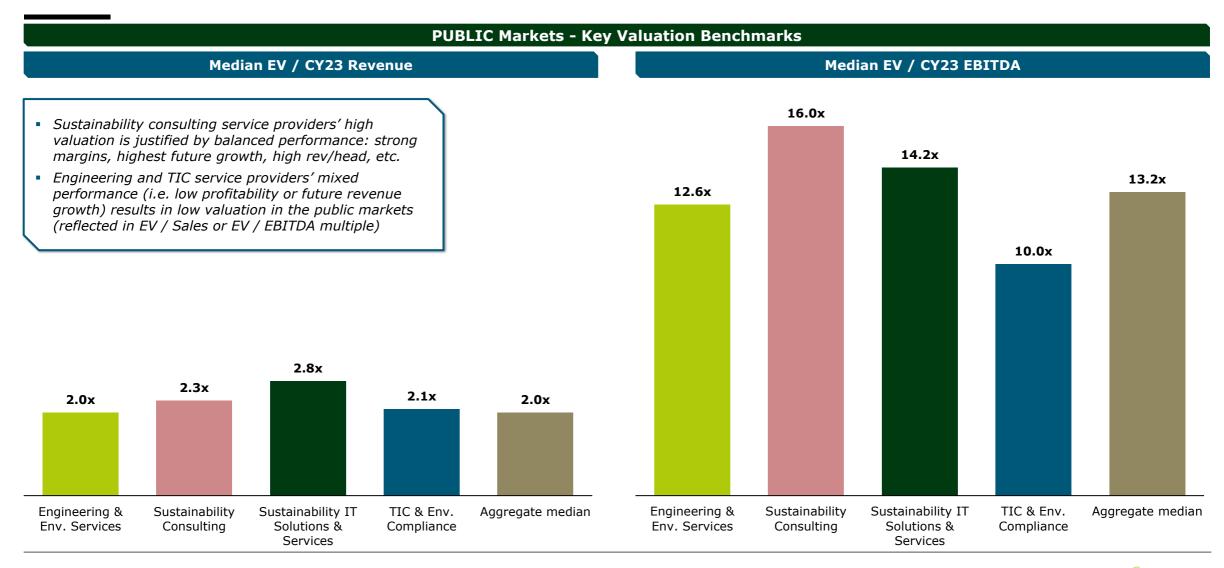


...underpinned by strong and balanced metrics, with the highest revenue per head and implied day rates



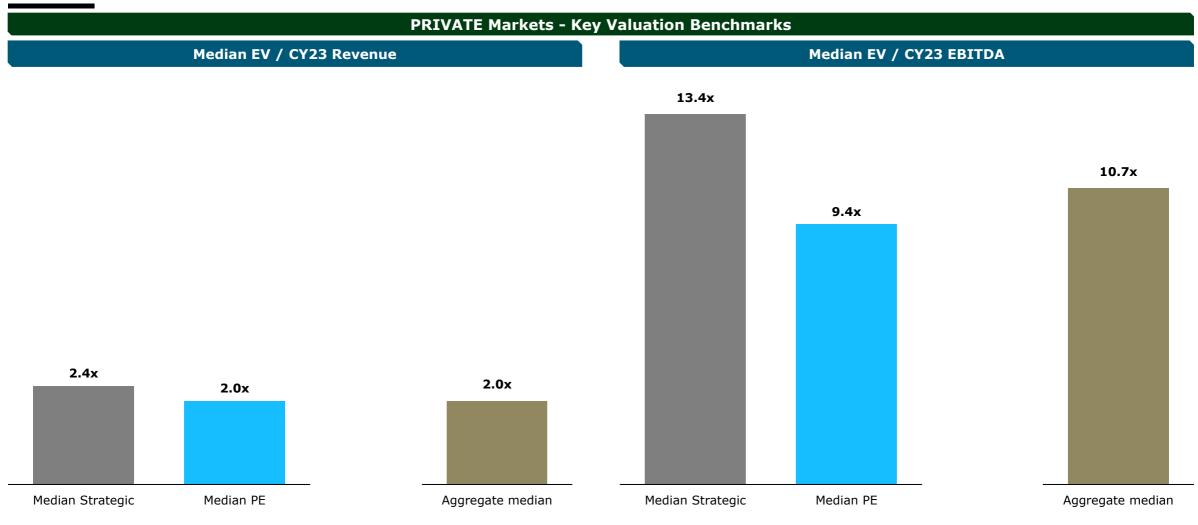
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Favourable metrics for sustainability consulting service providers have translated into premium valuations by <u>public</u> markets





Trade buyers are paying higher multiples than PEs as they can leverage benefits from the realization of financial and commercial synergies

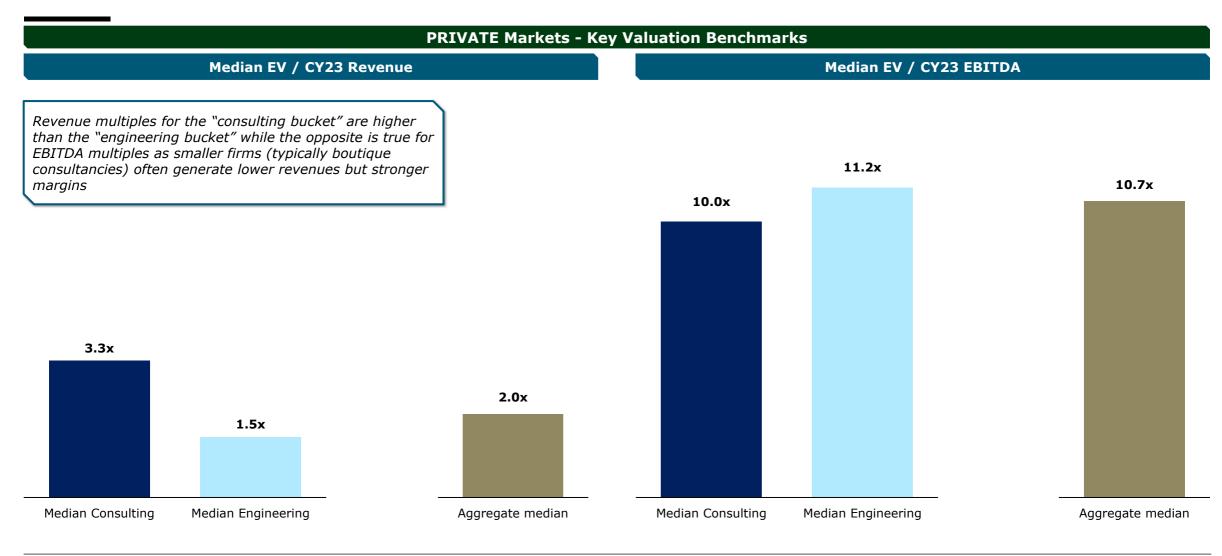


Sources: Equiteg research, Cap IQ, Pitchbook, Mergermarket; Notes: Figures shown represent each category's median values, Transaction multiples reference year is Strictly Confidential associated with each transaction date

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Revenue multiples for the "consulting bucket" are higher than the "engineering bucket" while the opposite is true for EBITDA multiples



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Sample of M&A deals in the sector before 2023 Strategic buyers

Target	Buyer	Ann. Date ⁽¹⁾	EV ⁽²⁾ (\$m)	Emp's	Target main capability	Buyer rationale
BG 🗘	- \\SD 🛞	Dec-22	n.a.	650	Engineering	<i>Gains a foothold in the French-speaking regions while also enlarging its presence in German-speaking areas</i>
rps 🟶	тетка тесн	Sep-22	749	5,000	Engineering	Expands its global operations, and advances consultancy in water, environment, and sustainable infrastructure
Quantis 🔂	BCG 👙	Sep-22	n.a.	302	Consulting	Expands its climate and sustainability expertise and transformation capability
(E&I ⁽³⁾ business)	- \\S) 🛞	Jun-22	1,801	6,000	Engineering	Strengthens capabilities in the fast-growing environmental and water sectors, and expands world-class multidisciplinary services
	accenture 🌔	Apr-22	n.a.	250	Consulting	Reinforces the provision of global Sustainability Services, helping clients improve their ESG performance and embed sustainability in their operations
HOARE LEA (H.)	тетка тесн	Jul-21	n.a.	900	Engineering	Advances Tetra Tech's sustainable building solutions for their commercial and government clients
:vivideconomics 🛟	McKinsey & Company	Mar-21	n.a.	130	Consulting	Expands the existing capabilities in climate and nature-related risk and development of environmentally and socially sustainable strategies
💊 GOLDER (🍁)	_\\sp (€)	Dec-20	1,087	7,500	Engineering	Adds significantly to its capabilities by incorporating earth sciences and environmental consulting services
WENCK	🕥 Stantec (🍁	Dec-20	n.a.	254	Engineering	Adds depth and breadth to Stantec's environmental services team, especially in the US Midwest
PA 👬	Jacobs	Nov-20	2,458	4,000	Consulting	Solidifies its position in providing end-to-end solutions for climate change, cyber, urbanization and the ongoing healthcare crisis
	M⁄RNINGSTAR 🚔	Apr-20	185	650	Consulting	Adds security-level ESG Risk Ratings – an integrated solution for institutional investment processes
ecovadis 🌔		Feb-20	n.a.	700	Software	Enables further integration of sustainability, fair labour practices and ethics into enterprise supply chains and business commerce

Sample of M&A deals in the sector before 2023 *PE buyers*

Target	Investor	Ann. Date ⁽¹⁾	EV ⁽²⁾ (\$m)	Emp's	Target main capability	Investment rationale
	INVESTCORP	Dec-22	n.a.	934	Consulting	Allows CrossCountry to expand their service offering and grow the team
Delivery Associates		Dec-22	152	195	Consulting	Will drive the next stage of DA 's growth to meet increasing demand for impact consulting from governments and NGOs across the world
Wood Mackenzie	VERITAS CAPITAL	Oct-22	3,300	1,800	Software	Provides Wood Mackenzie with the investor's deep sector knowledge and with the liquidity to accelerate the company's growth
	BRIDCES	Oct-22	n.a.	200	Software	Facilitates Evora's ability to support their client base and to improve their technology and advisory services globally
SLR 🗘 👫	Øares 🚔	Jun-22	n.a.	2,000	Engineering	Allows SLR to take advantage of the acceleration of trends in climate transition
ecovadis 🌔	astorg. 🌔	Jun-22	n.a.	700	Software	Allows EcoVadis to execute its vision of becoming a sustainability impact unicorn for sustainability intelligence
👌 TRC 👙	WARBURG PINCUS 🕮	Oct-21	n.a.	4,800	Engineering	Supports growth initiatives including scaling the company's compliance focused engineering and consulting services
🔇 sphera [®] 🚔	Blackstone	Jul-21	1,400	1,000	Software	Supports Sphera's global expansion and broaden its end-market reach
ERM IF	KKR 🚔	May-21	2,850	5,500	Engineering	Allows ERM to expand and accelerate its client impact, and bring new capabilities and technologies to the business of sustainability
Anthesis	Palatine	Mar-21	n.a.	500	Engineering	Will help Anthesis to rapidly scale the business
	KELSO	May-19	975	600	Engineering	Will enable the company to accelerate growth by deepening its bench of expertise and expanding global operations.
DuPont Sustainable Solutions	Gyrus 🗘	Apr-19	n.a.	700	Consulting	Adds new intellectual property, methodologies, tools, and capabilities in sustainability management

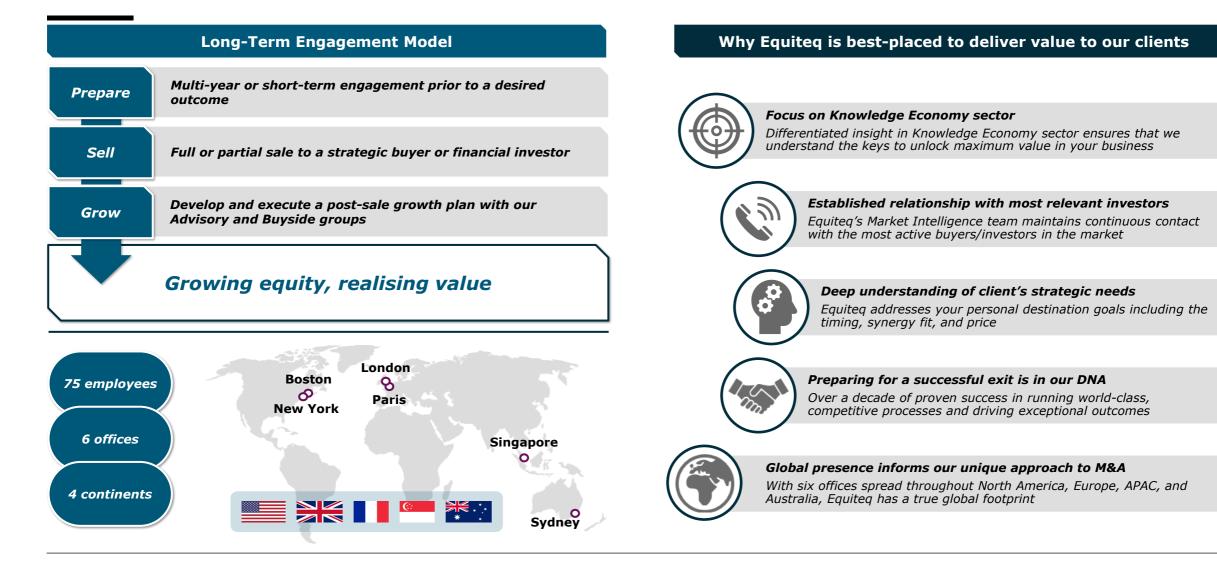
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We are the most active M&A advisor for the Knowledge Economy globally

Selected Completed Transactions



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