# TRANSLINK CORPORATE FINANCE

TRANSLINK SAAS VALUATION INSIGHTS

Q1/2025

## **Translink Corporate Finance SaaS Valuation Insights Q1/2025**

SaaS M&A activity began the year on a slow note, but we expect deal volume to increase in the coming quarters, assuming the macroeconomic backdrop remains relatively stable

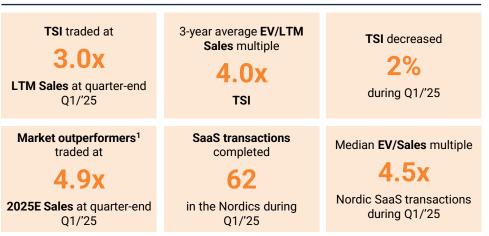
#### Introduction and contributors

- Our quarterly SaaS Valuation Insights centres on the Translink SaaS Index ("TSI"), featuring in-depth analysis of index constituents, SaaS M&A trends, and the broader European SaaS market. This update provides our key observations, insights, and analytical perspectives on the mid-market SaaS valuation landscape
- TSI distinguishes itself from other adjacent indices in terms of constituent characteristics and size. Comprising predominantly Nordic and European small to mid-sized public SaaS companies, our index includes 128 companies, with 43% headquartered in the Nordics, 21% in other parts of Europe, only 29% in the United States, and roughly 7% in other global markets. Notably, our index purposefully excludes large-cap SaaS companies
- We firmly believe that our proprietary index serves as an effective valuation benchmark for small and mid-sized SaaS firms, which are the typical transactional focus within our core European markets
- Our data is meticulously sourced from reputable outlets, including S&P Capital IQ, Mergermarket, in addition to publicly available sources. Should you have any inquiries or require further information regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact us at:



- SaaS valuation multiples have held near two-year averages, with Nordic public valuations largely flat since Q3/2022. The TSI median EV/LTM Sales multiple remains at 3.0x, reflecting weak performance – 74% of constituents reported under 20% year-over-year growth in Q4/2024, highlighting broader challenges
- The Nordic SaaS M&A market in 2025 began slowly, with 62 transactions completed at a median EV/Sales multiple of 4.5x – consistent with typically softer early-year activity. We continue to believe that 2025 will be an active year for M&A, driven by increasing pressure on sponsors to pursue exits – provided the macroeconomic environment remains relatively stable
- Revenue retention in focus: Companies with high Net Revenue Retention (NRR) are commanding premium valuations, driven by strong customer retention, consistent upselling, and reduced perceived investor risk. While most TSI constituents are experiencing declining NRR, those maintaining NRR above 110% are trading at 4.8x EV/Sales – more than 60% higher than the TSI median of 3.0x.

#### **Key statistics**





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Note: 1) Market outperformers are companies who have over 40 scores in the Rule of 40 principle.

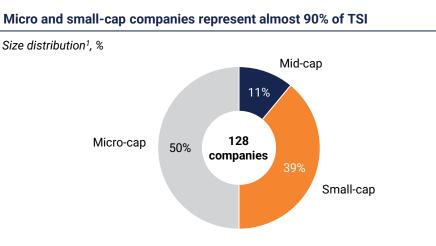


## TRANSLINK SAAS VALUATION UPDATE Q1/2025

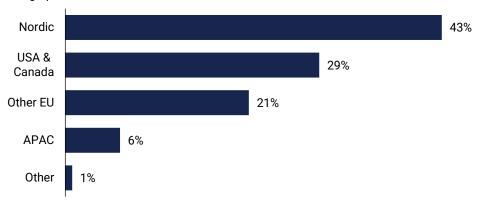


### **Overview of the Translink SaaS Index (I/III)**

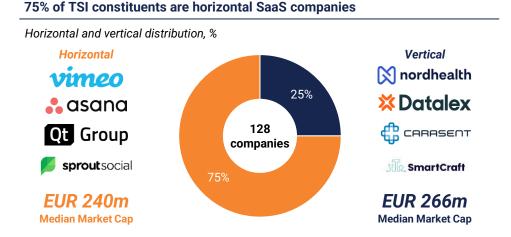
## A strong representation of micro, small, and mid-cap SaaS companies from Europe and USA



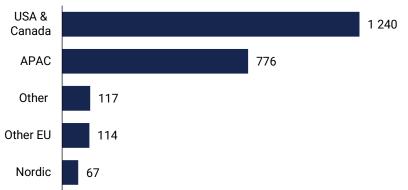
#### Nordic companies have strong representation in the index



Geographical distribution, %



#### Companies from the US and Canada have significantly higher market values



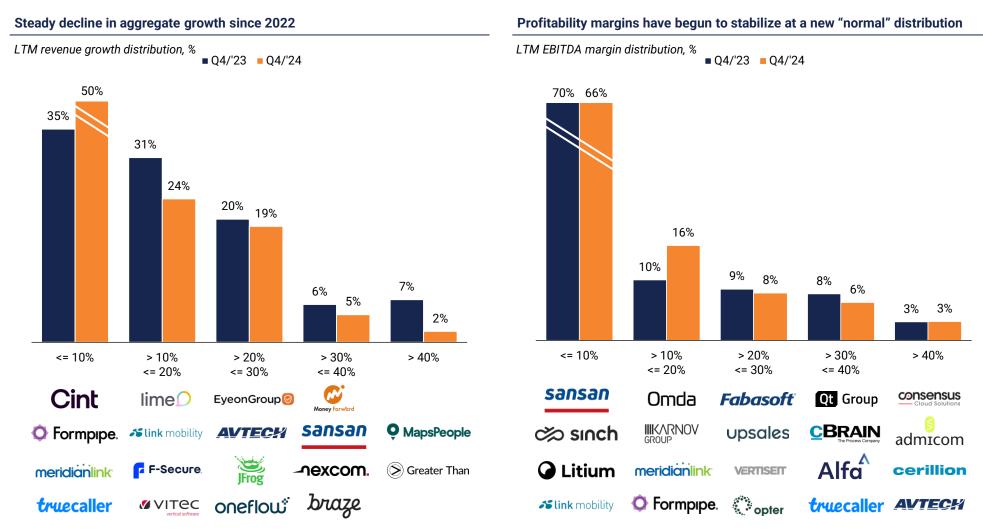
Geographical distribution, median market capitalisation in EUR million

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: 1) Micro-cap: Market value of less than EUR 250 million. Small-cap: Market value between EUR 250 million and EUR 2 billion. Mid-cap: Market value between EUR 2 billion. Mid-cap: Market value between EUR 2 billion. Numbers may not sum 100 due to rounding.



## **Overview of the Translink SaaS Index (II/III)**

## Aggregate growth has been in decline since 2022, with only about 10% of companies reaching over 30% year-on-year growth

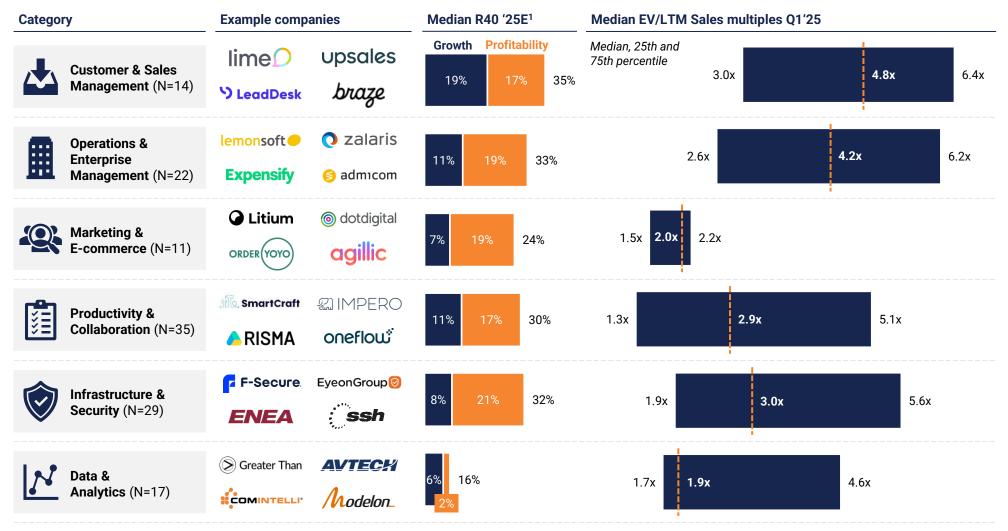


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: Numbers may not sum 100 due to rounding.



## **Overview of the Translink SaaS Index (III/III)**

Customer & Sales Management and Operations & Enterprise Management SaaS vendors command the highest valuation multiples, supported by strongest Rule of 40 performance



Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: 1) Median figures of Growth, Profitability, and Rule of 40 separately.



## **Rule of 40 distribution of TSI**

Valuation disparities are reaching new highs, as the gap between top-performing and underperforming companies continues to grow

Profitability has been the main

Top guartile achieved median 52% Rule of 40 and 5.1x 2025E EV/Sales contributor of Rule of 40 across quartiles Rule of 40 determinants<sup>1</sup>, 2025E EV/Sales multiple, 2025E Fourth quartile **Profitability** Growth Median Rule of 40: Ot The Qt Company AVTECH SmartCraft 52% VITEC ATOSS Vindelon N: 27 19% 52% 5.1x Third guartile Median Rule of 40: 🔽 F-Secure. admicom 35% 12% 35% 3.1x **ኃ** LeadDesk Expensify N: 27 kina**x**is Second quartile Median Rule of 40: eagleeve braze lemonsoft *O* 26% 9% 26% 2.6x N: 27 Quartix IFIRMA 💋 sprout social **First quartile** Median Rule of 40: ij: verimatrix. vimen Amplitude 12% 1.7x 12% 1% **Q** Litium N: 26 fastly Couchbase

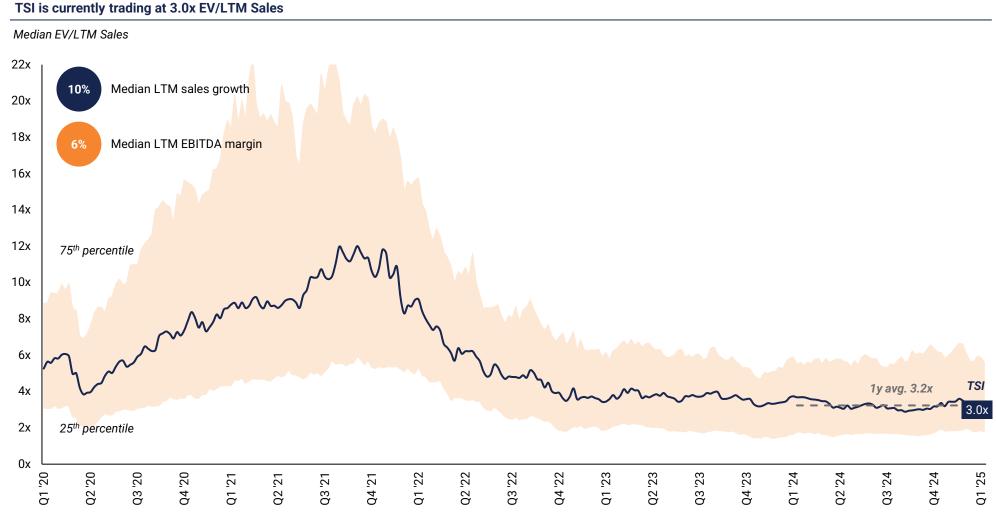
Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: 1) Median figures of Growth, Profitability, and Rule of 40 separately. 21 companies excluded from the analyses due to insufficient data.

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Valuations are increasingly diverging

## **Development of TSI (I/V)**

## The median EV/LTM Sales multiple for the Translink SaaS Index is currently 3.0x

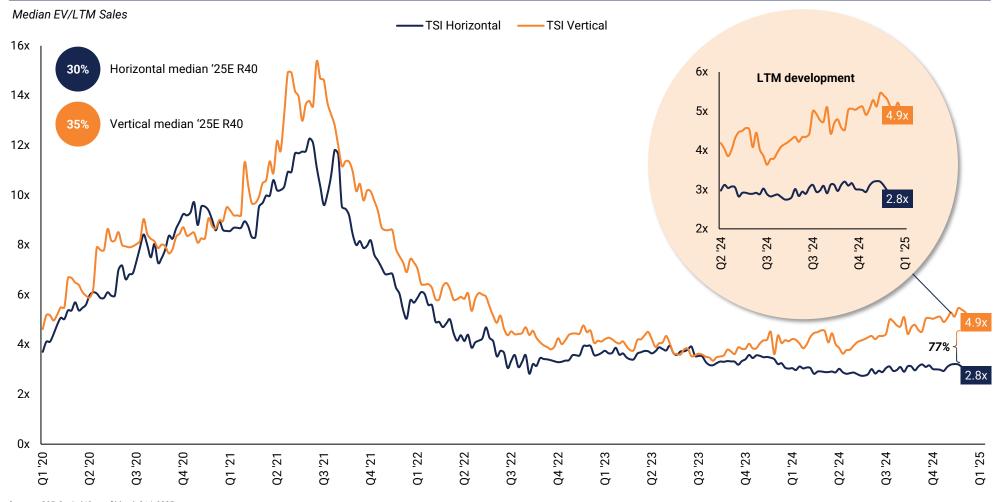


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: Translink SaaS Index shows the Enterprise Value (EV) to last twelve months (LTM) revenue of public B2B SaaS companies from Europe, North America and Asia with EVs capped at EUR 5 billion. Median EV of the index is around EUR 0.3 billion.

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## **Development of TSI (II/V)**

## Horizontal and vertical SaaS valuations have continued to diverge, despite nearly identical median Rule of 40 figures in Q1/2025



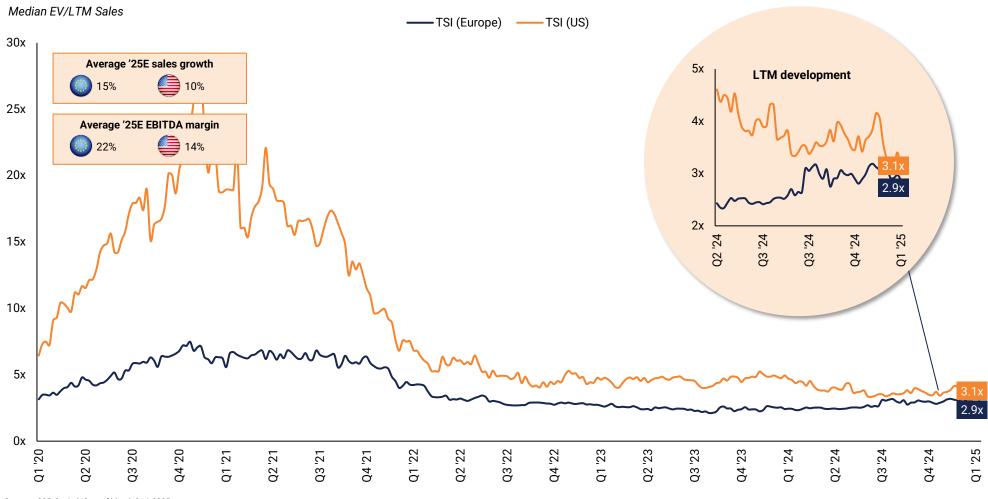
Vertical SaaS companies traded 77% higher in EV/LTM Sales than Horizontal SaaS companies at the end of Q1/'25

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025.



## **Development of TSI (III/V)**

North American SaaS companies still maintain premium valuations, but the gap is steadily narrowing when excluding large and mega-cap US SaaS companies



At the close of Q1/'25, the valuation gap between US and European SaaS companies narrowed to just 7%

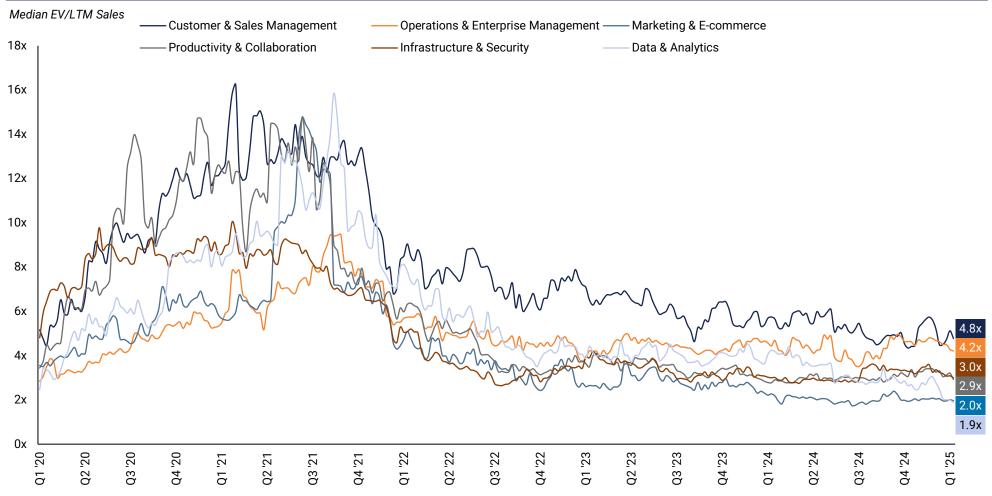
Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025.



## **Development of TSI (IV/V)**

## Customer & Sales Management SaaS firms command the highest EV/Sales multiple at 4.8x

#### EV/Sales multiple development by SaaS category



Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: Translink SaaS Index shows the Enterprise Value (EV) to last twelve months (LTM) revenue of public B2B SaaS companies from Europe, North America and Asia with EVs capped at EUR 5 billion. Median EV of the index is around EUR 0.3 billion.

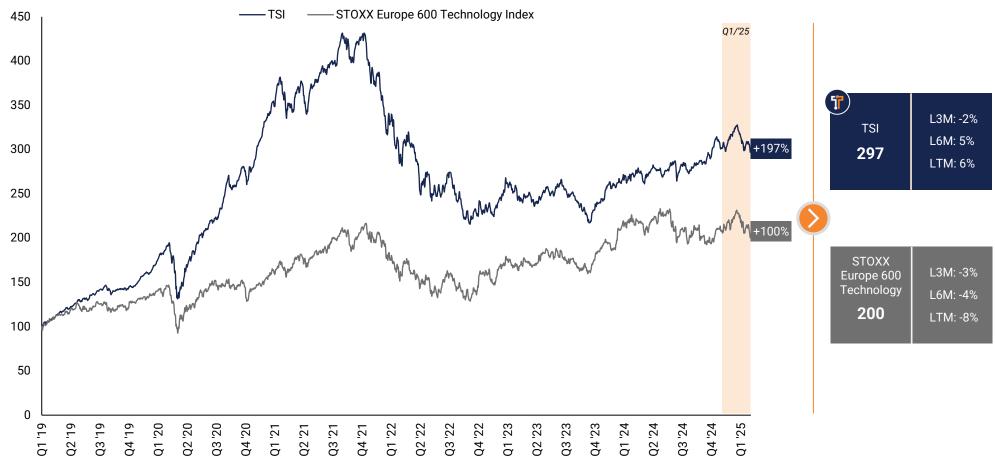
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## **Development of TSI (V/V)**

## The TSI declined by 1.5% in Q1/'25 compared to Q4/'24, amid market concerns surrounding US trade policy and its potential implications

5-year indexed share price development for TSI and STOXX Europe 600 Technology Index

Indexed share price t(0)=100, equally weighted



Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: Translink SaaS Index shows the Enterprise Value (EV) to last twelve months (LTM) revenue of public B2B SaaS companies from Europe, North America and Asia with EVs capped at EUR 5 billion. Median EV of the index is around EUR 0.3 billion.



## Introduction of Growth-adjusted EV/Sales (I/II)

Growth-adjusted EV/Sales is a simple, yet powerful metric used to evaluate valuation relative to expected revenue growth

#### A brief explanation of the Growth-adjusted EV/Sales multiple

The ratio offers a quick overview of how expensive a stock is relative to its expected sales growth. For example, if a company trades at 5x EV/Sales and has 10% sales growth, the Growth-Adjusted EV/Sales is 0.5 (5/10)

- A ratio above 0.3 suggests the stock may be overvalued relative to expected growth
- A ratio below 0.3 implies potential undervaluation
- Benchmark of 0.3 reflects long-term median excl. post-Covid peak

Formula: EV/Sales (NTM) / Sales growth (NTM)

#### Example:

Consider two companies with identical EV/Sales multiples but different growth profiles. As shown in the Table, Company 1 – with stronger sales growth – has a lower Growth-Adjusted EV/Sales, making it the more attractive investment compared to Company 2 all other things being equal

Company	EV/Sales NTM	Sales growth NTM	Growth-adjusted EV/Sales
Company 1	5.0x	30%	0.17
Company 2	5.0x	10%	0.50

#### Top 10 highest and lowest Growth-adjusted EV/Sales multiples in TSI

#	Company	Growth-adjusted EV/Sales	EV/Sales NTM	Sales growth NTM (%)						
Тор	Top 10									
1	DOMO	3.23	1.2x	0.2%						
2	<b>eagle</b> eye	2.55	2.1x	0.8%						
3	oneflou	1.62	2.9x	1.8%						
4		1.50	3.1x	2.0%						
5	IFIRMA	0.05	2.5x	1.7%						
6	<b>SAFETURE</b>	1.44	3.0x	2.2%						
7	Dye & Dirhan	1.30	4.9x	3.6%						
8	e2open	1.22	2.6x	2.0%						
9	SECTRA	1.00	13.3x	13.5%						
10	Fabasoft	0.88	2.0x	2.2%						
Bot	tom 10									
90	SKOLON	0.08	3.5x	46.1%						
91	🎜 link mobility	0.07	0.9x	13.1%						
92		0.06	1.4x	21.9%						
93	💭 unifiedpost	0.05	1.6x	31.1%						
94	🍐 lightspeed	0.05	0.6x	13.3%						
95	W/TH°	0.05	1.1x	24.1%						
96	★> 4C <>> Group	0.04	1.5x	35.2%						
97	VERTISEIT	0.04	2.6x	67.2%						
98	ን LeadDesk	0.04	1.0x	24.7%						
99	Anodelon_	0.02	1.1x	63.3%						

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: No sales growth (NTM) projections for 29 companies.



## Introduction of Growth-adjusted EV/Sales (II/II)

The TSI's Growth-Adjusted EV/Sales multiple is 0.2, signaling that valuations are low relative to expected growth versus the long-term benchmark

Median Growth-Adjusted EV/NTM Sales 1.10 1.00 75<sup>th</sup> percentile 0.90 0.80 0.70 0.60 0.50 0.40 0.30 0.20 0.10 25<sup>th</sup> percentile 0.00 Q1 '25 20 Q4 '20 Q2 '22 Q3 '22 Q4 '22 Q1 '23 Q2 '23 Q3 '23 Q4 '23 Q1 '24 Q4 '24 20 20 Q2 '24 Q3 '24 Q3 '21 22 Q1 '21 Q4 '21 Ň 20 5 g 02 5

TSI's Growth-adjusted EV/Sales has stabilised at pre-COVID levels, hovering around 0.2–0.3 for the past two years

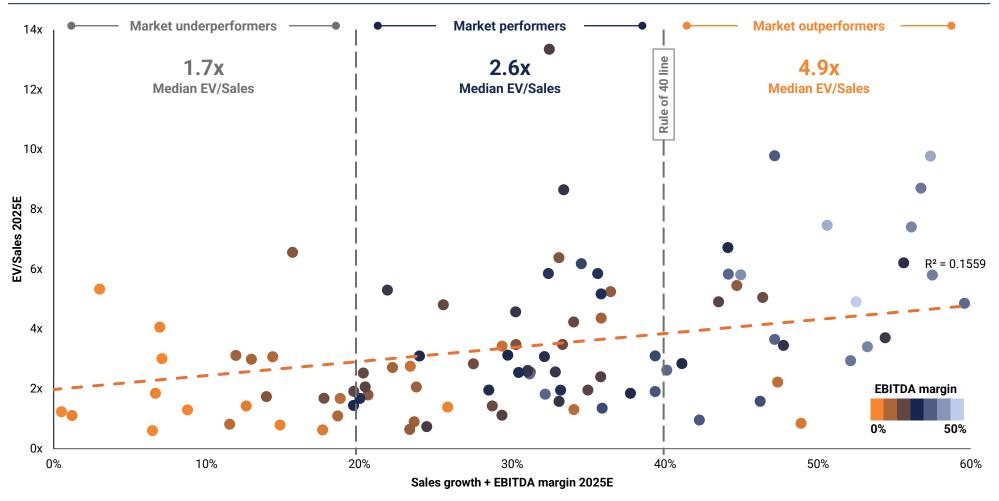
Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: Growth-Adjusted EV/Sales multiple is calculated by EV over NTM sales over NTM sales growth rate.



## Valuation plot: EV/Sales and Rule of 40 (I/II)

## Market outperformers with high profitability and growth prospects trade at around 4.9x 2025E Sales



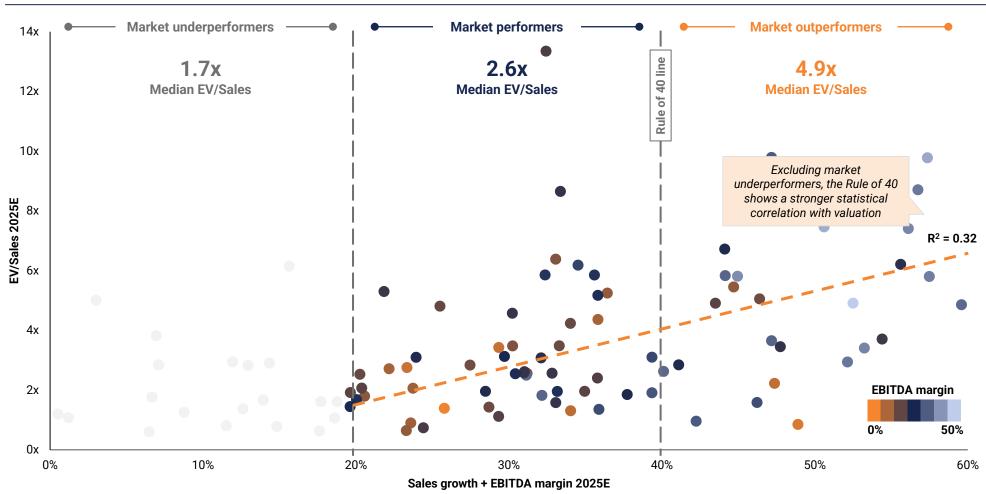


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: 21 companies excluded from the analyses due to insufficient data.



## Valuation plot: EV/Sales and Rule of 40 (II/II)

Excluding market underperformers leads to an improvement in regression accuracy



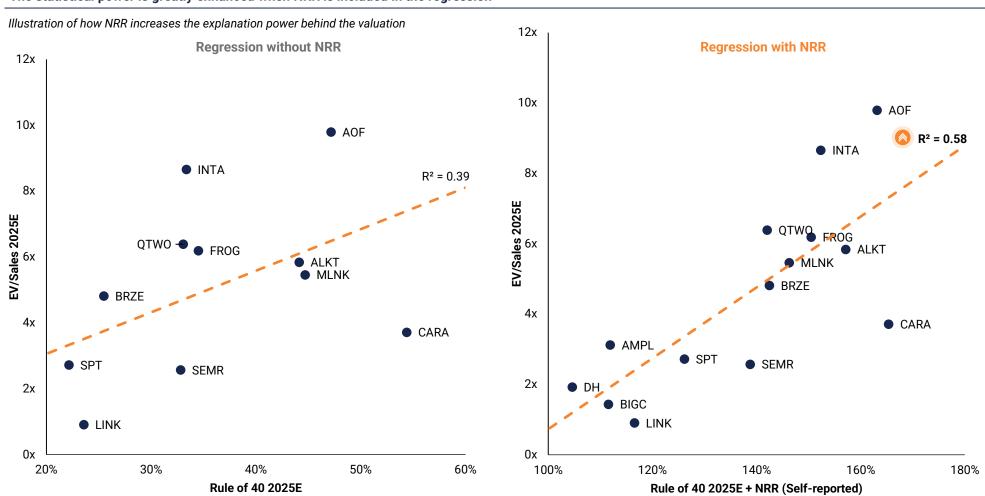
Companies exhibiting a high profitability profile command premium valuations

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Note: 21 companies excluded from the analyses due to insufficient data.



## Valuation plot: EV/Sales with Rule of 40 and NRR

By including net revenue retention in the equation, the explanatory power is enhanced, and we recommend this approach for a more accurate comparison



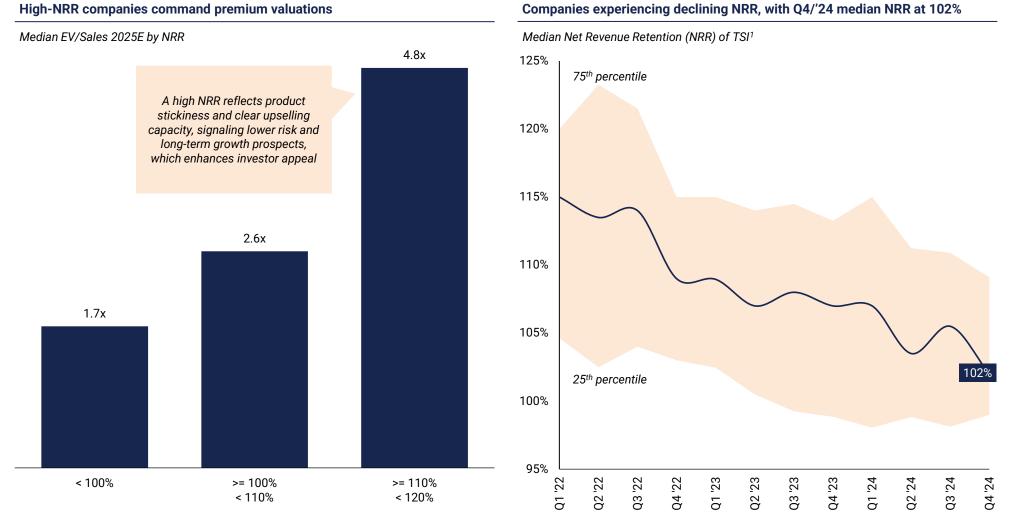
The statistical power is greatly enhanced when NRR is included in the regression

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Companies' earnings reports. Note: Net Revenue Retention figures are self-reported by Companies and are based on the latest figure.

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## **Development of NRR**

## High retention fuels valuation — firms with NRR over 110% are valued at 4.8x, 60% higher than the TSI median of 3.0x



Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025. Companies' earnings reports. Note: Net Revenue Retention figures are self-reported by Companies and are based on the latest figure. 1) Average observations (N) since Q1/'22 is 34.



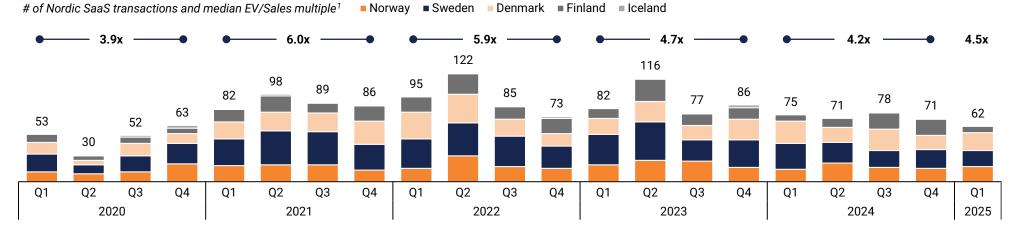
## NORDIC SAAS M&A TRANSACTIONS



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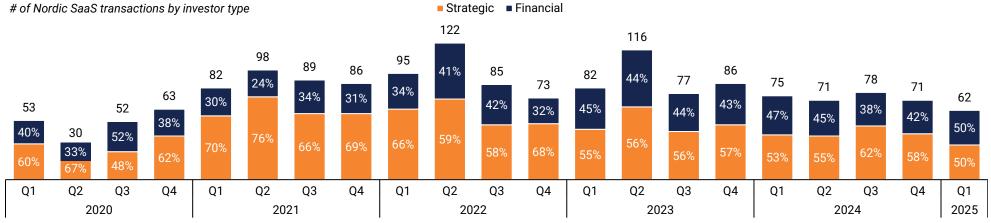
## Nordic SaaS transactions from 2020 to Q1/2025

Despite transaction multiples remaining at 2024 levels, the year 2025 started off slow due to decreased deal activity among strategic investors



Nordic SaaS transaction volumes experienced a slow start to the year in Q1/2025

#### Deal activity among strategic investors decreased in Q1/2025 to the same level as financial buyers

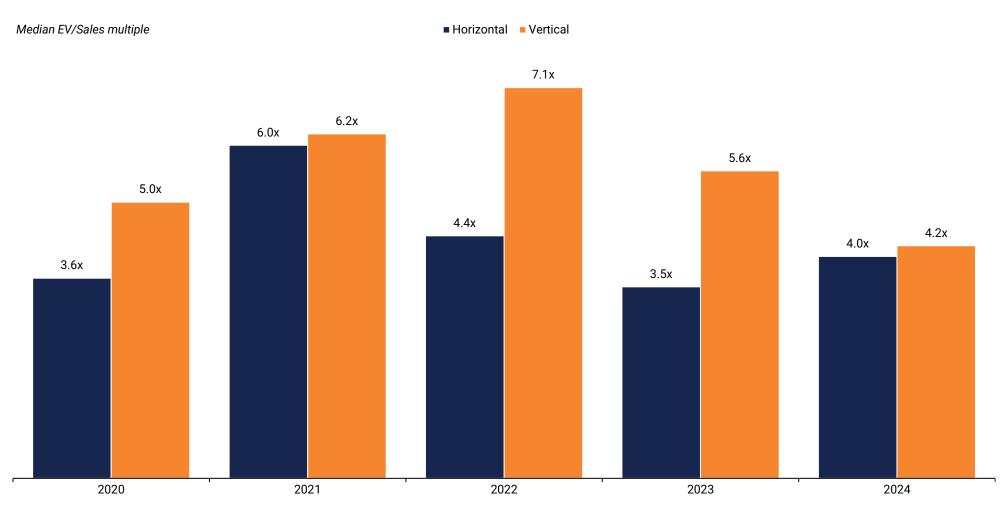


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025, Mergermarket and Valu8. Note: 1) Each transaction has been validated and is based on Mergermarket output of selected sector criteria and free text search "SaaS" or "Cloud" for Nordic countries. Yearly median EV/Sales is only for transactions with publicly available multiples.



## Nordic SaaS transactions by type (I/II)

Vertical SaaS targets continue to command higher multiples than horizontal counterparts due to tailored, industry-specific product offering

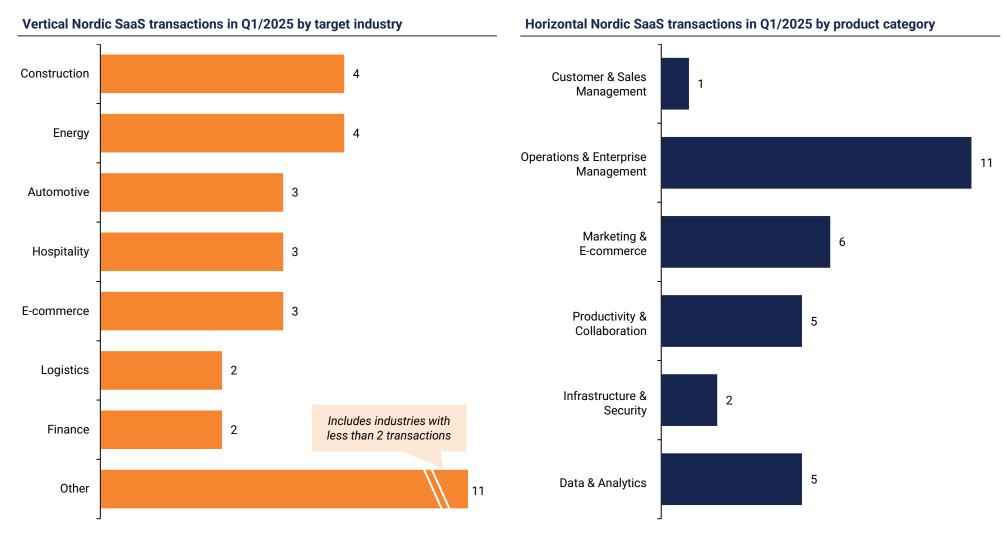


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025, Mergermarket and Valu8.



## Nordic SaaS transactions by type (II/II)

Construction and Energy sectors led the vertical SaaS deal activity, while Operations & Enterprise Management was the top horizontal category in Q1/'25

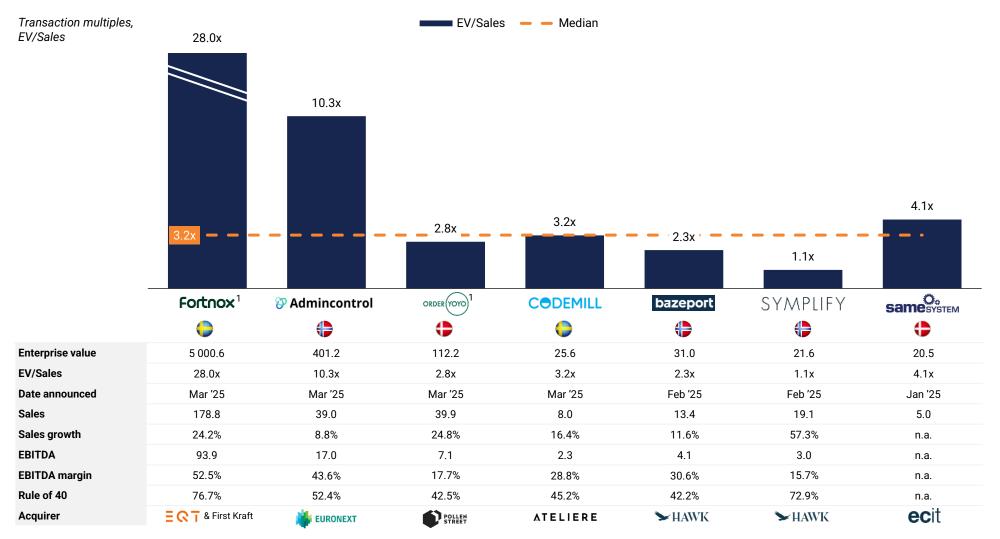


Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025, Mergermarket and Valu8.



## Selected Nordic SaaS transactions in Q1/2025

Fortnox and Admincontrol exemplify how strong profitability paired with steady, high-quality growth can drive double-digit valuation multiples



Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Mergermarket and Valu8. Note: 1) Takeovers announced, not yet completed.



## APPENDIX



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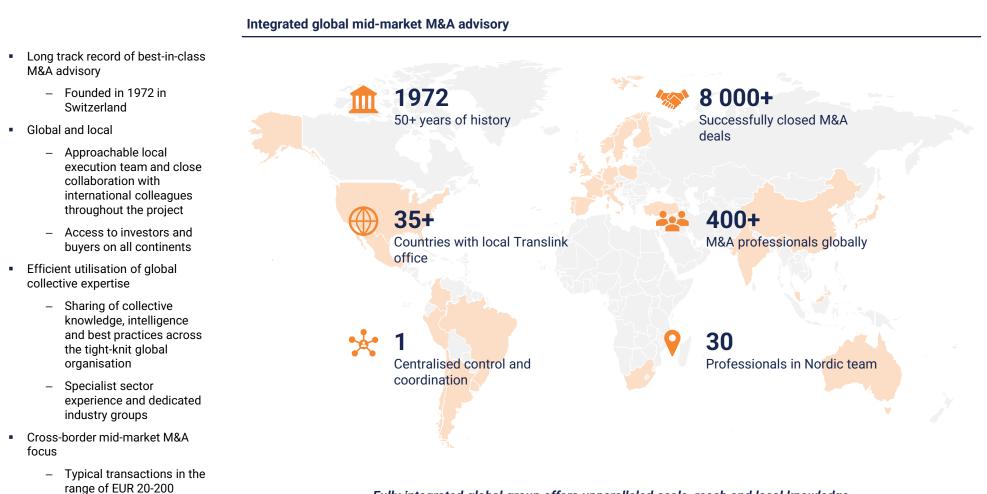
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## **Translink Corporate Finance in brief**

million

CORPORATE EINANCI

## Global mid-market M&A advisory with international reach and local execution



Fully integrated global group offers unparalleled scale, reach and local knowledge

### **Our services**

Extensive financial and strategic advisory with international resources and locally produced services





## **Translink Corporate Finance references**

Selected Nordic SaaS transactions



### **TSI constituents**

## Index constituents and respective stock tickers

Sprout Social, Inc.	NASDAQCM:SPT	Cybozu, Inc.	TSE:4776	GetBusy plc	AIM:GETB	Carasent AB	014.04.04
Asana, Inc.	NYSE:ASAN	Expensify, Inc.	NASDAQGS:EXFY	PCI-PAL PLC	AIM:PCIP	msg life ag	OM:CARA
Braze, Inc.	NASDAQGS:BRZE	Coveo Solutions Inc.	TSX:CV0	essensys plc	AIM:ESYS	4C Group AB	HMSE:MSGL
Kinaxis Inc.	TSX:KXS	Couchbase, Inc.	NASDAQGS:BASE	Agillic A/S	CPSE:AGILC	Skolon AB	OM:4C
Varonis Systems, Inc.	NASDAQGS:VRNS	Vimeo, Inc.	NASDAQGS:VME0	Ifirma SA	WSE:IFI	Datalex plc	OM:SKOLON
DigitalOcean Holdings, Inc.	NYSE:DOCN	F-Secure Oyj	HLSE:FSECURE	Mapspeople A/S	CPSE:MAPS	Vertiseit AB	ISE:DLE
PagerDuty, Inc.	NYSE:PD	Agora, Inc.	NASDAQGS:API	Nepa AB	OM:NEPA	Physitrack PLC	OM:VERT b
Lightspeed Commerce Inc.	TSX:LSPD	Domo, Inc.	NASDAQGM:DOMO	Briox AB	NGM:BRIX	CodeLab Capital AS	OM:PTRK
Jamf Holding Corp.	NASDAQGS:JAMF	dotdigital Group Plc	AIM:DOTD	Crimson Tide plc	AIM:TIDE	Opter AB	OB:CODE
JFrog Ltd.	NASDAQGS:FROG	Lime Technologies AB	OM:LIME	OTRS AG	DB:TR9	Itim Group Plc	OM:OPTER
Sprinklr, Inc.	NYSE:CXM	ReadyTech Holdings Limited	ASX:RDY	Litium AB	OM:LITI	Omda AS	AIM:ITIM
AvidXchange Holdings, Inc.	NASDAOGS:AVDX	Fabasoft AG	XTRA:FAA	Clavister Holding AB	OM:CLAV	Karnov Group AB	OB:OMDA
Rapid7, Inc.	NASDAQGS.AVDA	WithSecure Oyj	HLSE:WITH	BIMobject AB	OM:BIM	Sectra AB	OM:KAR
Money Forward, Inc.	TSE:3994	LINK Mobility Group Holding ASA	OB:LINK	Enea AB	OM:ENEA	Nexcom A/S	OM:SECT B
E20pen Parent Holdings, Inc.	NYSE:ETWO	Sidetrade SA	ENXTPA:ALBFR	Generic Sweden AB	OM:GENI	OrderYOYO A/S	CPSE:NEXCOM
Intapp, Inc.	NASDAQGS:INTA	Tecnotree Oyi	HLSE:TEM1V	Sinch AB	OM:SINCH	Impero A/S	CPSE:YOYO
Truecaller AB	OM:TRUE B	Shoper S.A.	WSE:SHO	Zalaris ASA	OB:ZAL	RISMA Systems A/S	CPSE:IMPERO
C3.ai, Inc.	NYSE:AI	Eagle Eye Solutions Group plc	AIM:EYE	nCino, Inc.	NASDAQGS:NCNO	Konsolidator A/S	CPSE:RISMA
	NYSE.AI	<b>3 1 1</b>				Safeture AB	CPSE:KONSOL
Amplitude, Inc.		Unifiedpost Group SA	ENXTBR:UPG	Q2 Holdings, Inc.	NYSE:QTWO	Modelon AB	OM:SFTR
ATOSS Software SE	XTRA:AOF TSE:4443	Lemonsoft Oyj NFON AG	HLSE:LEMON XTRA:NFN	Vitec Software Group AB	OM:VIT B NASDAQGS:ALKT	Teneo Al AB	OM:MODEL
Sansan, Inc.			OB:PEXIP	Alkami Technology, Inc.		AVTECH Sweden AB	OM:TENEO
Qt Group Oyj	HLSE:QTCOM SEHK:9959	Pexip Holding ASA Oneflow AB	OB.PEXIP OM:ONEF	Definitive Healthcare Corp.	NASDAQGS:DH NYSE:OLO		OM:AVT B
Linklogis Inc.				Olo Inc.		SSH Communications Security Oyj	HLSE:SSH1V
NSFOCUS Technologies Group Co., Ltd.		Checkin.Com Group AB	OM:CHECK	Vobile Group Limited	SEHK:3738	Comintelli AB	NGM:COMINT
MeridianLink, Inc.	NYSE:MLNK	Upsales Technology AB	OM:UPSALE OM:FPIP	Dye & Durham Limited	TSX:DND	Eyeon Group AB	NGM:EOID
Fastly, Inc.	NYSE:FSLY	Formpipe Software AB		Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC	LSE:ALFA	Neovici Holding AB	OM:NEO B
Learning Technologies Group plc	AIM:LTG	Greater Than AB	OM:GREAT	cBrain A/S	CPSE:CBRAIN		
Tanla Platforms Limited	NSEI:TANLA	Verimatrix SA	ENXTPA:VMX	Blend Labs, Inc.	NYSE:BLND		
Semrush Holdings, Inc.	NYSE:SEMR	Bambuser AB	OM:BUSER	Cerillion Plc	AIM:CER		
Consensus Cloud Solutions, Inc.	NASDAQGS:CCSI	ActiveOps Plc	AIM:AOM	CS Disco, Inc.	NYSE:LAW		
GB Group plc	AIM:GBG	Growens S.p.A.	BIT:GROW	SmartCraft ASA	OB:SMCRT		
Cint Group AB	OM:CINT	Vantea SMART S.p.A.	BIT:VNT	Admicom Oyj	HLSE:ADMCM		
Yext, Inc.	NYSE:YEXT	LeadDesk Oyj	HLSE:LEADD	Nordhealth AS	OB:NORDH		
BigCommerce Holdings, Inc.	NASDAQGM:BIGC	Zenvia Inc.	NASDAQCM:ZENV	Quartix Technologies plc	AIM:QTX		

Sources: S&P Capital IQ as of March 31st, 2025.



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